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\$1.50 per copy (\$1.43 + 7¢ G.S.T.)

Thursday, May 22, 2025

Volume 51, Issue 21

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

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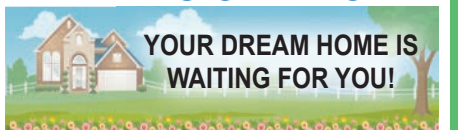
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FANCY FOOT WORK

The St. Thomas Aquinas Stingers (STA) girls' senior soccer team take on the St. Peters Catholic High School Panthers from Barrie on the pitch at STA on Tuesday, May 13. The Stingers won this game 7-1 and now have a 5-1 record for the season. The team is now in second place in the standings.

BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

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County increasing licensed child care spaces across the region

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The province has increased the region’s licensed child care space allotment by an additional 1,778 spaces by 2026.

This local increase delivers on the Federal-Provincial Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care agreement, helping Ontario reach its target of creating 86,000 spaces for children under five by the end of 2026.

With the increase, the County of Simcoe will be able to create up to a total of 4,859 new spaces across the region, including those that have been created since 2022.

To date, the County has approved 2,519 spaces for creation since 2022 and intends to develop 2,340 more by December 31, 2026. Of these remaining spaces, 303 are reserved for pre-determined, school-based programs and 2,037 will be created in community-based locations.

With an additional \$16.5 million, these spaces are created through cost-based

funding and start-up grants.

A \$4.6 million commitment has been made to support infrastructure improvements.

Pre-qualified operators were invited to apply for these additional spaces with the application accepted from Apr. 16 to May 5, 2025. Spaces will be awarded with consideration given to system stabilization, location, provincial expectations, program size, and viability of the proposed program.

To enhance accessibility and transparency, a Children’s Services Dashboard was created on the County’s open data portal, found at open.simcoe.ca.

Year	Original Spaces	New School Spaces	New Community Spaces	New Total Spaces	Variance
2022	355	0	0	355	0
2023	806	0	0	806	0
2024	776	127	675	802	+26
2025	698	49	1,869	1,918	+1,220
2026	446	127	851	978	+532
Total	3,081	303	3,395	4,859	+1,778

GROWING CHILD CARE – This County of Simcoe graph shows the space increasing for child care by the end of 2026 after the province increased the region’s space allotment. **COUNTY OF SIMCOE GRAPHIC**

The Children’s Services Dashboard provides insights into the region’s early years and child care system. It allows residents and community partners to access data on licensed child care, EarlyOn Child & Family Centres, CWELCC-directed growth

approvals to date, and the Early Development Instrument.

The dashboard offers a valuable perspective on both the growth and demand for early years and child care services throughout Simcoe County.

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Honda delays \$15 billion electric vehicle project investment

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

It was only a year ago that then Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Ontario Premier Doug Ford arrived at the Honda plant in Alliston for the announcement of a \$15 billion investment to create an electric-vehicle supply chain.

The premier and prime minister were there to announce that the federal and provincial governments were going to subsidize the project to the tune of \$5 billion.

The feds were ready to give the automaker around \$2.5 billion through tax credits, while Ontario committed to providing up to \$2.5 billion in support directly and indirectly.

Honda has not yet received any of those funds.

The project was expected to create 1,000 jobs on top of the existing 4,200 jobs at the Honda assembly plant.

However, Honda has now announced that it will delay the project for at least two years. The auto manufacturer made the announcement on Tuesday, May 13.

“Due to the recent slowdown of the EV market, Honda Motor has announced an approximate two-year postponement of the comprehensive value chain investment project in Canada,” a spokesperson for Honda said in a statement. “The company will continue to evaluate the timing and project pro-

“Due to the recent slowdown of the EV market, Honda Motor has announced an approximate two-year postponement of the comprehensive value chain investment project in Canada.”

gression as market conditions change.”

The original plan called for the plant to produce up to 240,000 vehicles per year when it became operational in 2028.

When U.S. tariff threats were first brought up, Honda issued a statement on April 15, 2025, saying that they were confident it would get through any challenges it faced with potential U.S. tariffs.

However, Honda will be shifting some production of its popular CR-V model that is intended for the U.S. market to its Ohio plant because of tariffs.

Honda said it has no plans to cut overall production or any jobs in Canada, and that the postponement of the project will have no impact on Honda workers who are currently employed at the Alliston plant.

Several other automakers in North America have scaled back on EV production as sales have not been as predicted and the public doesn't seem to be warming up to the



INVESTMENT DELAYED – The Honda plant in Alliston won't be receiving a previously announced investment of \$15 billion to create an electric vehicle supply chain anytime soon, as Honda recently announced the project will be delayed for at least two years. **FILE PHOTO**

idea of driving a fully electric vehicle.

New Tecumseth Mayor Richard Norcross issued a statement on the project postponement on Tuesday, May 13.

“For over 40 years, Honda has been a valued and trusted partner to New Tecumseth, contributing significantly to our community and local economy,” Mayor Norcross said. “We are pleased that Honda remains committed to its operations in Alliston and to New Tecumseth's future. While we are disappointed by the delay in the project, we

remain optimistic that the transition to electric vehicles will reinvigorate this important initiative in the near future. The Town of New Tecumseth stands ready to work collaboratively with Honda, as well as our partners in the provincial and federal governments, to support and advance this significant investment when the time is right. We thank Honda for its continued presence in our community and look forward to the next chapter of innovation and collaboration.”

County of Simcoe's LINX Transit sees increase in ridership year over year

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

A report released by the County of Simcoe shows that LINX Transit ridership continued to grow in 2024, with a 12.32 per cent increase in conventional transit ridership and a 25 per cent increase in specialized transit use.

The report states that while operational challenges persisted, key initiatives and performance indicators continue to be maintained.

In total, there were 295,340 riders on conventional LINX transit routes in 2024.

In July 2024, the County applied for Baseline Transit Funding from the Government of Canada to support ongoing transit infrastructure needs. The application was approved, securing \$893,073 annually over 10 years, totalling \$8,930,730 in dedicated funding.

These funds will be used to refurbish the existing fleet, ensuring that buses remain

in a state of good repair and meet industry standards for safety and performance. The refurbishment program will include engine and transmission overhauls, structural repairs, interior upgrades and accessibility.

Investing in fleet rehabilitation enhances service reliability, safety, and operational efficiency while reducing the environmental impact by maximizing existing resources, ensuring that rural and regional transit services remain dependable and cost-effective.

The current conventional LINX transit service operates along six corridors:

Route 1 – Barrie – Springwater – Tay – Tiny – Midland – Penetanguishene.

Route 2 – Barrie – Essa – Clearview – Wasaga Beach.

Route 3 – Barrie – Oro-Medonte – Orillia.

Route 4 – Wasaga Beach – Collingwood.

Route 5 – Bradford West Gwillimbury – New Tecumseth.

Route 6 – Midland – Tay – Severn – Oro-

Medonte-Orillia.

The most heavily used route was Collingwood to Wasaga Beach with a total ridership of 85,924.

The Alliston to Bradford route had 23,775 riders.

Specialized transit services saw a 25 per cent increase over 2023, indicating a growing demand for LINX Plus and its ability to meet the needs of persons with disabilities in our community. The total ridership was 2,141, with an 18 per cent increase in applications.



RISING DEMAND – The number of riders on the County of Simcoe's LINX Transit buses increased by 12.32 per cent in 2024 for conventional transit riders. Specialized transit users increased by 25 per cent. **BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO**

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Editorial, Letters & Opinion

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

~ Stanislaw Jerzy Lec

Strong mayor powers

The province has extended strong mayor powers to more municipalities across the province, giving the leaders of municipalities more control of what happens in their jurisdiction – sort of.

I'm not sure we need a 'strong mayor' policy in place. It seems a lot of mayors aren't so sure about it either.

There hasn't been any rallying cry of change, or any mayor going nuts with power – at least not yet.

Most of the mayors that have made a statement on the issue seem pretty cautious and reserved regarding how they are going to proceed – and rightly so.

I'm not sure anyone in any town wants a mayor doing what he or she, alone wants. That's why there is a town council.

Even when kings and queens ruled Europe with impunity, they didn't do it alone. There was always a council for the king or queen, filled with advisors who were more educated or experienced on some matters.

A wise ruler would make decisions based on what the majority of a council was suggesting to be the proper course of action.

A king or queen who thought they could truly call all the shots may find themselves with their head on a chopping block.

Running a municipality is fairly straightforward.

You have to make sure there is clean water, treatment for wastewater, garbage pickup, maintenance of town streets and that potholes are filled.

Council creates parks and takes care of things like recreation centres. They make bylaws to avoid common nuisances like people who park junked cars on their front lawn or street or place unsightly commercial signs in inappropriate areas.

Most municipalities across the country are well-run and organized. Tax money is spent appropriately, even though not everyone always agrees when a council decides to create a new project.

However, if you want a new swimming pool or recreation centre in your town, it costs money, and sometimes a council will go ahead and vote to build one, even though there's always that one group who will oppose it.

The truth is, towns are maintained by people behind the scenes. There is a Department of Parks and Recreation, a Department of Infrastructure, a Department of Planning, and a department that takes care of the streets and roads.

All those departments are run by competent people and staffed by crews who

do a very good job at maintaining the town.

One of the new powers is that of a veto given to the mayor for certain bylaws that go against provincial priorities. This is not a good thing. Who wants a mayor to veto a bylaw that is good for the town, in favour of a provincial priority that is not good for the town?

The strong mayor powers are fueled by the province's quest to build 1.5 million homes across the province.

This is a major concern for a lot of people, especially those who care about the environment and the current structure of their town.

The province is pushing municipalities to build – anywhere – with little concern for environmentally sensitive areas, farmland, or the existing aesthetics of a town.

According to the province, strong mayor powers are “related to provincial priorities to support housing,” including “transit, roads, utilities, servicing.”

Of course, a lot of mayors are not embracing this ideology of being a strong mayor. They know very well the tide of public opinion will quickly turn against them when someone makes a decision to build a new housing development on a public park or environmentally sensitive

wetland to satisfy the province's insistence that a municipality meet a home-building quota.

Due to the rising cost of houses in the province, many younger people have resigned themselves to believing they will never own a home. They have been priced out of the market.

Do you think most people really want to live with their parents until they are 50?

Building 1.5 million new homes doesn't mean they will be affordable homes. There will just be 1.5 million homes being sold at the current inflated price, which many people can't afford.

You will never see a developer build a subdivision and sell the homes at a lower price than the developer down the street. Real estate prices never go down.

Strong mayor powers won't solve anything. Most mayors won't take advantage of them because they know that will be a surefire way to get on the wrong side of the public.

A mayor's job is to run the town along with the duly elected town council.

If the province wants to build on environmentally sensitive wetlands, then let your MPP take the heat for that, not the town council.

BRIAN LOCKHART
FROM THE SECOND ROW



Giving yourself a mental vacation

Despite the cold snap, it was an outdoorsy weekend.

It started off with our first lengthy beach day of the season and despite it still being a bit too chilly to dip more than a foot in a water, the experience always helps recalibrate body and soul after a long and busy week.

Living in a world that's more connected than ever before, it's always a balm to be able to disconnect just for a little bit and take a break from what sometimes feels like a constant bombardment from all angles.

Things aligned just right to finish surprisingly early on Friday, so the beach was an unexpected treat, and not the worst way to set the tone for the rest of the weekend, even if Friday's heat was the last we'll have for a week or two.

Outdoorsiness continued on Sunday with another seasonal first: the inaugural visit to an outdoor antique market in Wellington County that's always been a favourite destination for our family.

It's invariably a great opportunity to get some fresh air while indulging in a bit of...

well, not quite retail therapy, but close enough. It's also a fun way to step back in time just a little bit.

The history enthusiast in me is always interested in seeing what has survived the decades, and even the centuries, to entice the customers of 2025. As one might expect, there is plenty of furniture to be found, ranging from rustic-looking tables and benches made for the pioneer homestead, to gold-leafed numbers that would not have been too out of place in some of Versailles' more humble salons.

There are paintings that had been passed down through the generations now just waiting to catch the eye of a new connoisseur. There are jewellery vendors, those who specialise in pottery of all ages and cultures, some who specialise in products and mementos from very specific periods of time, and vinyl vendors galore.

Heck, from a personal perspective, I had a bit of a reality check when the toys and tchotchkes of my own childhood, including some of the more creative toys that were once part and parcel of a 1990s

McDonalds Happy Meal, were the focus of a “vintage” booth... But, time does march on. I guess. A prolonged linger in the booth, however, sadly did not provide any insight on whether their primary customers are people my age looking to recapture an element of youth, or comparative kids for whom our stuff is now their kitsch.

What's always particularly caught my eye, however, is the ephemera – that is, by definition, things that are intended to be used or enjoyed for just a little while, but have somehow beaten the odds to survive as cherished items.

You can find old pop bottles from long-lost Ontario and Canadian pop and beer companies somebody kept and passed down for reasons known only to them, which now command a hefty price. On the other hand, there are bins and baskets of old photographs spanning a good 150 years, the identities and stories of the sitters now lost to time. This last example always saddens me as, if they had survived until now, they were once cherished mementos of loved ones but became meaningless dust collectors down the line.

Amid these baskets of anonymity, I found one treasure – a beautiful, but tiny framed hand-tinted snapshot of Queen Elizabeth (later the Queen Mother) taken in Fredericton in 1939 during her coast-to-coast tour with George VI. It was a fitting find given the present King's plans to open Parliament in Ottawa this coming Tuesday, but it also told a story; on the back of the frame was the stamp of a female entrepreneur – photographer and artist – who became a consequential figure in Canadian art and a key documentarian of New Brunswick's history through to the late 1970s. Everything has a story if you know where to look!

Scrapbooks of days gone by are another draw. It's always interesting to see what people clipped from their newspapers and magazines and why. Some volumes might simply be a collection of pretty pictures, but others can be perfect time capsules of the era.

Continued on Page 19

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<p>Simcoe-York Printing & Publishing Limited, publisher of the New Tecumseth Times and the King Weekly Sentinel. Published every Thursday</p>			

When appliances die, consider going green

There is never a good time for a furnace to break down or an appliance to die. But, with every problem, there lies an opportunity. When you need to replace an air conditioner, furnace or washer, it's the perfect time to explore options that could turn into a good investment for both your wallet and the planet.

Take a furnace, for example. Replacing an old gas furnace with a heat pump is a much better solution. Heat pumps are powered by electricity to transfer heat rather than creating it, so they use less energy than a traditional furnace.

According to the Canadian Climate Institute, heat pumps are highly energy efficient, run without burn-

ing fossil fuels, and double as air conditioning, which is becoming increasingly important as extreme summer heat becomes more frequent.

If your oven just died, this is the time to switch to an induction cooktop. If you are using a gas stove, new research finds that they emit methane, a potent greenhouse gas, even when turned off. The noxious fumes that get trapped in our homes are harmful, especially for children. The latest models of induction cooktops offer unmatched power, precision and responsiveness, burn no fossil fuels, and are an absolute breeze to clean.

If you are tired of looking through a foggy window because the seal is broken, you'll be pleased with advancements in technology. Windows are a significant source of heat loss and solar gain. Double-pane windows are a minimum requirement for Canada but comparatively, triple pane windows are 20 to 40 per cent more energy efficient. According to Green Building Canada, replacing old, non-efficient windows with ENERGY-STAR-rated low-E glazed, triple-pane windows can save up to 33 percent on heating and cooling costs. Low-E film options that reduce heat loss and heat

gain and can be applied to windows in good condition are also available

Upgrades like these require a financial investment but they may also qualify for rebates. Ontario's Home Renovation Savings Program offers rebates of up to 30 per cent for home energy efficiency renovations and improvements, including new windows, doors, insulation, air sealing, smart thermostats, heat pumps, as well as rooftop solar panels and battery storage systems.

The program will expand later this year to include energy efficient appliances, including refrigerators and freezers. Some upgrades require a home energy assessment and professional installation.

Among the list of rebates: up to \$12,000.00 for cold-climate air or ground-source heat pumps, up to \$3,600.00 for exterior wall insulation and up to \$10,000.00 for rooftop solar panels. You may also be eligible for federal loan funding and rebates together. The federal Canada Greener Homes Loan program offers 10-year, interest-free financing to help make homes more energy efficient, up to \$40,000.00.

If you need to replace something that has stopped working, rest assured there are many options to reduce fossil fuel use, improve energy efficiency and save you money.

Louise is a member of Greys for Green in New Tecumseth. She is interested in helping others learn how to make sustainable living the norm. Contact Greys for Green at contactus@greysforgreen.org or follow on social media.

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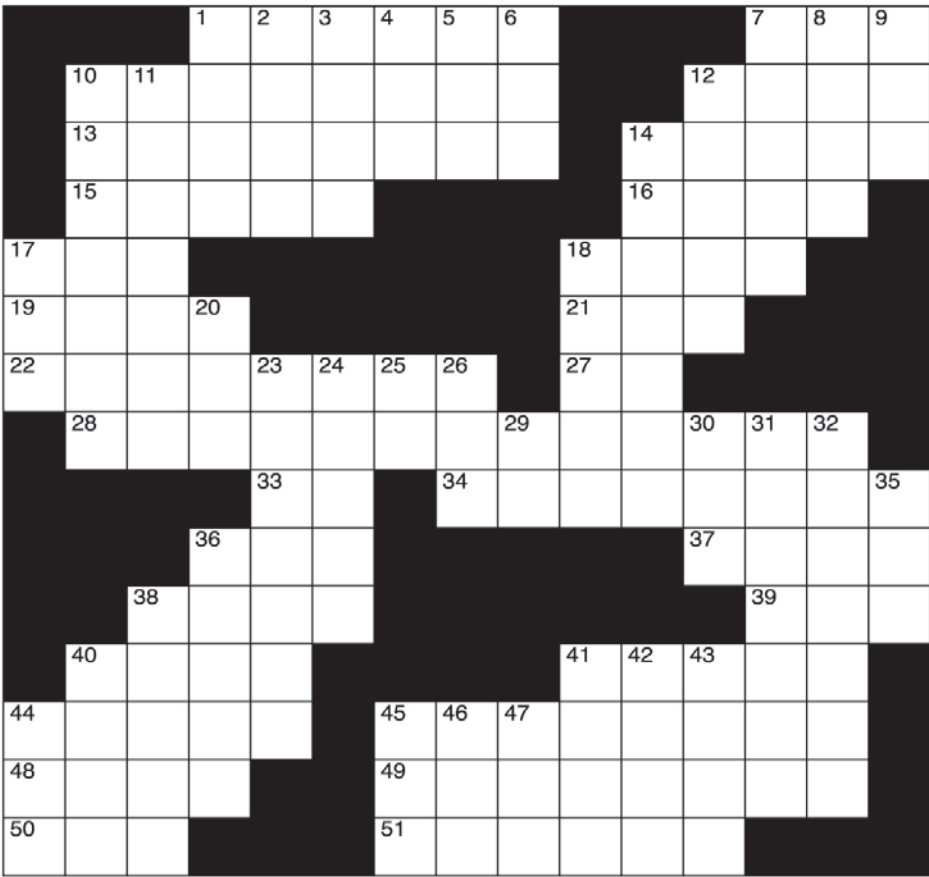
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No one has more self-confidence than the person who does a crossword puzzle with a pen.

Norcross assures transparency with new strong mayor powers

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

New Tecumseth mayor Richard Norcross has issued a statement on the new strong mayor powers given to mayors in municipalities across the province.

The province originally bestowed strong mayor powers to several larger municipalities in the province. On May 1, the province gave the nod to 170 more municipalities who have now been given strong mayor powers. This gives mayors a lot of latitude when it comes to making local decisions.

The announcement was met with mixed reviews across the province.

While a few mayors view it as an opportunity to 'get things done,' others are reluctant as it may seem as an opportunity to navigate around the democratic process.

Most mayors seem to be taking a rather

conservative approach to the new rules of leadership.

New Tecumseth mayor, Richard Norcross issued a statement regarding strong mayor powers on May 17.

"On May 1, 2025, the Province expanded Strong Mayor powers on 170 additional municipalities, including New Tecumseth. I am optimistic that our Council and staff will continue to be a cohesive team that collaborates to serve our community," Mayor Norcross said in the statement. "I remain steadfast in my commitment to lead with cooperation and efficient decision-making at the Council table, notwithstanding the new "strong mayor" powers conferred upon me. As such, and as permitted by legislation, I have delegated specific responsibilities provided to me as a strong mayor as follows and effective immediately; I have delegated authority of organizational struc-

ture and employment matters to our CAO, decisions regarding the appointment of a CAO as well as matters related to Committees of Council have been delegated to Council as a whole.

There are some strong mayor powers I simply cannot delegate, such as the need to present the annual budget. While the next budget will be referred to as "the mayor's budget," it will still be a collaborative effort by staff and the entire Council; a method that has worked well in the past.

Together, we will continue to serve our community and build a strong and prosperous municipality through accessible leadership, partnerships, and well-managed services.

Any Mayoral decisions and directives that may come through use of the Strong Mayor Powers will be available for public viewing and shared through our website."



MAYOR'S STATEMENT – New Tecumseth Mayor Richard Norcross said while the next budget will be called the "mayor's budget" under the new strong mayor powers, it will still be a collaborative effort with town staff and Council. **BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO**

Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit advising of potential measles exposure in Collingwood

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit is advising the public of possible exposure to a case of measles at Collingwood General and Marine Hospital on Sunday, May 4, 2025.

The Health Unit will be contacting people by letter, phone call, or text message who were registered at Collingwood General and Marine Hospital's emergency department including the 'see and treat' area between 11:14 a.m. and 8:28 p.m. on May 4, 2025.

The Health Unit as confirmed four cases

of measles in the region this year.

Anyone who believes they may have been exposed to the measles virus at this location is advised to watch for symptoms which can appear 7 to 12 days after being exposed. Even individuals who are up to date with the measles vaccine should watch for symptoms up to 21 days after exposure.

Symptoms include fever, runny nose, cough, and red eyes. Small white spots inside the mouth may occur.

Three to seven days after symptoms start, a red blotchy rash begins on the face and spreads down the body.

If you develop symptoms call your health care provider right away and isolate – do not go to school or work and avoid contact with others.

Do not go directly to a hospital or your health care provider without calling first. You must inform them that you have been exposed to someone with measles and are now experiencing symptoms.

You are considered protected if you have had two doses of the measles vaccine. If you were born before 1970, you likely had measles as a child and are generally considered immune and protected.



Save The Date!
2025 Town Halls

June 9th Beeton Arena Upstairs Hall 6pm-8pm	June 12th Tottenham Legion- Upstairs 6pm-8pm
June 19th N.T.R.C Main Floor (former pro shop) 6pm-8pm	

Deputy Mayor
Stephanie MacLellan

Communication is the key to good, effective government and too often we find it hard to meet and share ideas and listen to each other. I want to hear directly from you about your concerns, your ideas and discuss how we can make this town even better!

smaclellan@newtecumseth.ca 705-890-5655

Impaired driving charges laid following single vehicle collision on 25th side road in Essa

BY SAM ODROWSKI

Nottawasaga Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) officers recently charged a Clearview man with impaired driving following a motor vehicle collision in Essa.

Officers attended a single motor vehicle collision on 25th Side Road, Essa, and formed grounds that the driver's ability to operate a motor vehicle was impaired by alcohol, leading to his arrest.

Adam May, 47, of Clearview, faces several charges:


- Operation while impaired - blood alcohol concentration (80 plus)
- Operation while impaired - alcohol
- Driver fail to surrender licence
- Driving motor vehicle with open container of liquor

The accused is scheduled to attend the Ontario Court of Justice in Bradford on June 19, 2025, to answer to the charges.

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

The charges have not been proven in court.

adopt a cat




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Adoption fee is \$275.

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

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Tottenham Conservation Area officially opens, now welcoming visitors

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Tottenham Conservation Area is now open to campers for the 2025 season.

This popular park is a fun place enjoyed by both local residents and visitors from across the province.

Opening on May 16, the park will be available all summer long and will close on Sept. 28.

There are a few changes at the park this year.

Adhering to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation, and Parks report, there will be a reduced capacity this year.

For day use, the park welcomes drop-in visitors. Residents of New Tecumseth can enter for free with proof of residency. Non-residents must pay a day-use entry fee.

There are a limited number of campsites available for daily booking. Residents of New Tecumseth can pre-book campsites online from May 21 to June 17.

Campsites will not be available for online

booking from June 18 to 23, to accommodate the Tottenham Bluegrass Festival.

The online reservation system will reopen to the public on June 24, with a 30 per cent non-resident fee.

If you are planning to attend the Tottenham Bluegrass Festival and camp, on-site rentals will be accepted on June 18 to 19, at the park gatehouse. Bookings from June 20 to 22 must be reserved through the Tottenham Bluegrass Festival.

There are a limited number of seasonal campsites available exclusively to residents of New Tecumseth. These are expected to sell out quickly.

Interested residents should visit newtecumseth.ca/TCA to submit a season campsite request form.

The Town offers various pavilion rental opportunities for visitors, including the pavilion at the Tottenham Conservation Area.

At the pond, you can relax and enjoy the water. You can bring your canoe or pedal boat and explore the pond. Note, the beach



SEASON OPENER – The Tottenham Conservation Area is now open for the 2025 season. Residents of New Tecumseth can enter for day use for free with proof of residency.

BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

swim area is unsupervised.

The Tottenham Conservation Area has an abundance of wildlife including blue herons, red foxes, pheasants, trumpeter swans,

Canada geese, and a large variety of birds.

There is an 18-hole disc golf course at the park. Discs are available for a rental fee of \$5.70 plus HST at the gatehouse.

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Hearing Clinics



Arts & Local Events

Annual Woof Walk raises funds for Alliston Humane Society

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

This is not only a chance to help a local organization continue its good work, it's also an opportunity for your best friend to meet others in a social setting.

The Alliston & District Humane Society is hosting its annual Woof Walk to raise funds so they can continue to help animals stay healthy and care for abandoned pets.

The Humane Society is currently experiencing an all-time high level of animals that are being brought to them. This includes many animals that have been abandoned at the side of the road by their owners.

Animals include dogs, cats, rabbits, and other small animals.

The Woof Walk is the shelter's annual fundraiser to support homeless animals. All funds from the Woof Walk will be

used for animal health care and veterinarian costs.

Many animals at the shelter arrive with serious health concerns after being on their own.

The Woof Walk will wind around the ponds and beautiful property at the shelter.

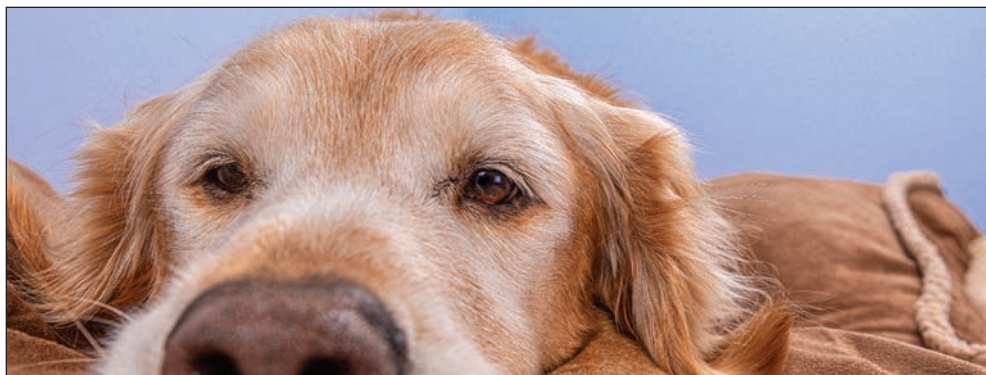
After the walk, you can enjoy a free barbecue and dog games, a vendor's market, and door prizes.

While you are there, you can take a tour of the shelter and see the valuable work that is done there every day.

Participants can raise funds by collecting online donations on CanadaHelps or by using the printable pledge form.

The Woof Walk will take place on Saturday, June 7, 2025, at the Alliston & District Humane Society at 5545 Concession Road 4, Everett.

Registration begins at 11 a.m. with the walk getting underway at 11:30 a.m.



Gearing up for Hike for Hospice events

BY BROCK WEIR

Communities across Canada are gearing up for Hike for Hospice, a cross-country event that gets people moving to help support hospice care. On May 31, Margaret Bahen Hospice and Doane House Hospice will host their annual Hike for Hospice event at Newmarket's Fairy Lake. Everyone is invited to participate in memory or honour of a loved one, or to simply support York Region families.

According to Andrea Interior, Manager of Philanthropy for Better Living Health, which manages both the residential Margaret Bahen Hospice and the community care-focused Doane House Hospice, hundreds of local families are impacted by the organizations each year – but the ways they can have that impact are contingent on community support.

“Over 236 families per year are touched through Margaret Bahen Hospice in terms of the residents we have come through, and some of them will be with us for days, some for weeks, and then there are some who are with us for a few months,” she says. “This year, we have set an \$85,000 fundraising goal.

“In terms of what we do fundraising for, we actually have a funding gap of \$850,000 per year that we need to raise through events like this, through grants, through donations in general that come to just the two hospices themselves. That allows us to run other benefits and values to families for the Hospice. Of course, nurses and the operating costs are covered by the Ministry, but funding of things such as food – that's one of the things we are very careful to provide. We've got multiple volunteers that come in daily and will just cook and bake. There's always food in the fridge, there's always coffee on, there's baked goods around the clock because we have families that come in 24/7 and a lot of them stay with their loved ones as well. As a caregiver, you're caring more about the resident and not yourself, so this is one of the things we make sure to provide...they say it's always lovely to have a hot bowl of soup that is always on, or a place where they can go into the kitchen at a long dining table with family members...

“Our recreational therapists, our art therapists, those are all paid through donations, and these are pieces we bring in that make our hos-

pice feel like a home, so it doesn't feel like an institution. It's outside of what you would get at palliative care at the hospital, and it really seems to be the differences that go above and beyond for families that use our services.”

It's often these personal touches that go above and beyond for families caring for loved ones at end-of-life that keep families engaged in the Hospice and supporting it through events like Hike for Hospice.

“It's very close-to-heart for people and that's why they walk in honour of a loved one, but that means we just want to get more of those families to come out to the event as well,” says Interior. “We are hoping to have I think 150 to 200 people this year come out for the walk. We're just over 100 for participants, but then, of course, there's staff and volunteers and other people that are involved. We are hoping to reach that goal, but that's always weather-dependent because it's an outdoor event.”

For those who might want to participate but have not been directly touched by hospice care, Interior says that the types of care offered by both Hospices is “an essential part of our health-care system.”

“It really is part of that end-of-life journey that supports people, but we need the community to be more aware of what this is, hopefully before they really need those services,” she says, adding Hospice care also provides support services for those who are left behind. “Doane House has been around for over 30 years in York Region, helping with treatment, advanced care planning, and then the grief of it as well that happens for the loved ones that are really left behind, to allow for them to have that support as well.

“We're hoping this [event] is also an opportunity for people to learn about these kinds of staples in our community, whether it is our wellness program, caregiver support, or the kind of grief and bereavement [services. Margaret Bahen] makes a space in a very difficult time for people's lives, usually the most difficult time, and makes it feel like home. People hike because their loved ones want that to keep going, they want to give back. Hospice, of course, is something they don't have to pay for and, in just speaking with the families, that is always very shocking because there's just a lot of the population who didn't know what Hospice was until you had a loved one in hospice.”

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South Simcoe Railway to honour a long-time member posthumously

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The South Simcoe Railway will honour one of its members who was an important part of the team that kept the railway running.

Eric Smith, known by just about everyone as ‘Smitty,’ passed away on Dec. 15, 2024, and will be missed by his family, friends, and everyone at the Railway.

Smitty knew just about everything there was to know about Engine 136, the Railway’s vintage steam locomotive.

Smitty got his start in the world of mechanics when he served in the Queen’s York Rangers at Base Borden where he

qualified as a tank mechanic.

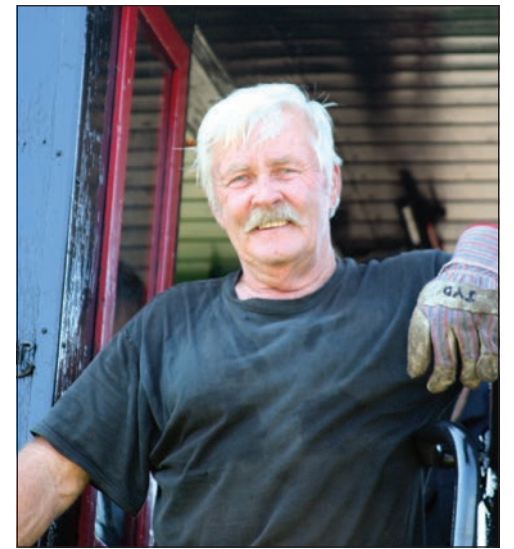
He had a lengthy career as a long-haul trucker, he opened a mechanic shop in his backyard and specialized in both tractor-trailers and diesel engines.

Smitty joined the South Simcoe Railway as the master mechanic in 1991 and was responsible for all of the equipment.

He was elected to the Railway Board of Directors and was ultimately made president.

His work with the volunteers made the South Simcoe Railway a success.

There will be a memorial service held in his honour at the South Simcoe Railway on Mill St. in Tottenham, on Saturday, May 31, from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m.



CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF ‘SMITTY – There will be a memorial service on Saturday, May 31, at the South Simcoe Railway in honour of Eric ‘Smitty’ Smith. Smitty was a long-time member of the railway and made a big contribution to its success.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Three arrested, two individuals outstanding following armed robbery at Alliston retail store

Three young individuals face several charges related to a robbery at a retail establishment on Young Street in Alliston.

Police arrived to the retail location on May 16, shortly after 5 p.m., after receiving a call advising that it had just been robbed by five individuals brandishing a firearm.

No injuries were sustained as a result of the incident and the suspects fled prior to officers’ arrival.

Electronics were taken valued at nearly \$30,000 and an employee Louis Vuitton purse. Officers were provided descriptions of the individuals as well as the vehicle they were using.

A short time later, officers located a vehicle matching the description and were able to safely bring it to a stop in Toronto. Three of the five suspects were placed under arrest and turned over to the Nottawasaga OPP.

Two replica firearms were also seized.

Jahshai Cooper, 18, of Brampton, was charged with:

- Possession Property Obtained by Crime Over \$5,000
- Robbery with Weapon
- Mischief - destroys or damages property
- Possession of Weapon for Dangerous Purpose
- Disguise with Intent
- Flight from peace officer
- Conspiracy to Commit Indictable Offence

The second accused, a 15-year-old from Brampton, was charged with:

- Disguise with Intent
- Possession Property Obtained by Crime Over \$5,000 - in Canada
- Robbery with Weapon
- Mischief - destroys or damages property
- Possession of Weapon for Dangerous Purpose
- Flight from peace officer

The third accused, a 17-year-old from Mississauga, charged with:

- Conspiracy to Commit Indictable Offence
- Failure to comply with undertaking
- Possession Property Obtained by Crime Over \$5,000 - in Canada
- Robbery with Weapon
- Mischief - destroys or damages property
- Flight from peace officer
- Possession of Weapon for Dangerous Purpose

All three accused are being held for bail. Due to the age of two accused parties, their names will not be released as per the Youth Criminal Justice Act.

Two suspects remain outstanding in this ongoing investigation. Nottawasaga OPP ask that anyone who was in the area at the time and who may have dashcam video or any sort of surveillance



video, to please contact the Nottawasaga OPP Crime Unit at 1-888-310-1122.

If you have information that may assist in this investigation but wish to remain anonymous, you may submit your tips anonymously through Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS) or online at www.stopcrimehere.ca.

Use report #E250619268 when providing a tip.

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SPORTS

NEW TECUMSETH TIMES

North Dufferin Baseball League kicks off their 2025 season

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The boys of summer are back on local diamonds and the North Dufferin Baseball League has a full schedule of senior league and junior league action this year.

In the Junior Division there are seven teams entered this season.

Teams include Barrie Baycats, Bradford Tigers, Creemore Padres, Orillia Royals, Richmond Hill Phoenix, with the Innisfil Cardinals fielding two teams this season.

The first game of the season got underway on Friday, May 9, between the Richmond Hill Phoenix and the Barrie Baycats.

The Junior regular season will continue to July 13, before heading into the playoffs.

The Creemore Padres are the defending Junior Champions.

In the Senior division, there are 12 teams on the schedule this year.

The Owen Sound Baysox are the defending Senior League champions.

Along with Owen Sound, Senior teams include the Barrie Angels, Bolton Brewers, Caledon Cardinals, Clarksburg Blues,

Creemore Padres, Ivy Rangers, Lisle Astros, Mansfield Cubs, Midland Mariners, New Lowell Knights, and Orillia Majors.

The 2025 Senior season got underway on Sunday, May 4, with the opening game between the Mansfield Cubs and the Lisle Astros.

That game ended with a 3-3 tie to start the season.

An Evening with Jim Lang generates much timely talk about the rise and fall of the Maple Leafs

BY JIM STEWART

Host Andrew Applebaum and Special Guest Jim Lang entertained an appreciative crowd at Richmond Hill's Central Branch Library on Thursday night.

"An Evening with Jim Lang" was enjoyed by dozens of guests and generated much discussion about a team near and dear to the hearts of hundreds of thousands: the ill-fated Toronto Maple Leafs.

Lang's insights on Thursday evening into the Leafs' ongoing woes proved to be prescient as Toronto lost 6-1 to Florida on home ice in Game 7 on Sunday night.

The long-time Morning Man from The Region FM 105.5 pulled no punches regarding the root causes of the NHL squad's malaise and bemoaned a significant Game 5 mistake.

"Marner's behind the back pass that cost the Leafs a goal would have been ridiculed in our beer league."

He predicted with prophetic accuracy the outcome of Games 6 and 7: "Here's what's going to happen. The Leafs need to counter what the Panthers have been doing to them in Florida, but they can't play like they did in Game 5 if they come back for Game 7. To lose and play like that with no heart was so embarrassing."

In a post-event interview, Lang was asked if the Leafs have become the Chicago Cubs (circa 1908-2016) of hockey.

"They are. Both franchises are beloved and both make money from the TV coverage. The similarities are eerie. Both franchises have found ways to break your heart for decades, but the stadiums remain full and the fans remain loyal."

Applebaum was even more pointed in his criticism of the beloved Leafs.

When asked why the Leafs can't seem to win the Big Game, the Toronto Legends host cited Toronto's problems between the pipes.

"Since they last won in 1967, 93 different goalies have played for the Leafs. Goaltending wasn't an issue this year until it was when Stolarz got hurt. Also, we don't have a Captain that plays like a Captain. They've brought in guys that were captains, but nothing works. The issue remains the disappearance of The Core Four in the playoffs."

The congenial host noted how much he enjoyed "getting all kinds of great stories from Jim about great athletes" and Applebaum spurred Lang to roll through the high-

lights of his illustrious broadcasting and writing career, including insights into his entry level job at Q107 where he worked with legendary radio voices including Steve Warden, John Gallagher, John Derringer, and Joey Vendetta.

"I was surrounded by broadcasting all-stars and my job was to 'show up, keep up, and shut up.'"

Lang discussed his transition from radio to television when he moved to Montreal just in time to cover the Canadiens' 1992-93 season that culminated with a charmed Stanley Cup victory.

"It was a magical Spring in Montreal and we enjoyed a very memorable beer-soaked parade. All the players were paraded in flatbed trucks and when I looked over the sides inside the flatbeds, there were over 200 empty cans of beer. One of the players explained to me that they had been drinking since 8 a.m. in celebration and had to pee into their beer cans due to the length of the parade. As the flatbeds rolled by—the sun was gleaming off the Stanley Cup—it was a special day."

In addition to eliciting commentary from Lang about The Magical Spring of 1993—the last time a Canadian-based team won the Stanley Cup—Applebaum moved the featured guest seamlessly into his era at Sportsnet as a Leafs beat reporter in 1995.

Lang noted that "In the 90s, Print Media was King and there was an etiquette. Milt Dunnell, Jim Hunt—the legendary reporters all asked their questions first and TV waited its turn."

The veteran broadcaster was also reminded about his Super Bowl coverage by Applebaum and Lang recalled "Eli Manning's amazing performance to defeat Tom Brady."

"It was one of the craziest things I've ever witnessed. It showed that anything is possible in sports."

One of the more charming segments of Thursday night's event was a game initiated by Applebaum entitled Internet—True or False. Lang engaged the audience with a number of true responses to getting a production credit on the Tragically Hip's Wheat Kings album, bonding with Jesse Palmer and enjoying night life venues in New York that only Palmer had exclusive access to, and dressing up as Q-107's bear mascot.

In a smooth segue out of fun facts into writing non-fiction, Applebaum explored Lang's writing career that sprung from the broadcaster's many connections with Leafs

players that resulted in books about Wendel Clark, Tie Domi, Max Domi, and Brian Berard.

Lang spoke warmly about Clark and noted that "Wendel never lost a tooth fighting in the NHL. He was a legend as a Toronto Maple Leaf. He's such a good example of being humble and how to behave. He would arrive early for treatments from the training staff and he learned about early starts to the day and the importance of a good work ethic when he would be up at 5 a.m. doing chores on his family's farm in Saskatchewan."

In Lang's book on Tie Domi, entitled Shift Work, he described the famous Leaf enforcer's "333 fighting majors that he picked up over his career."

"Domi rarely lost a fight and teammate Adam Graves explained why. Graves described Tie as freakishly strong. His neck size was 19 inches. When he got hit, his head didn't move. He could pick up a 100-pound dumb bell with one hand."

After sharing insights into Max Domi—"How many people get the chance to write books about a father and a son?"—Lang

moved his focus to valiant defenseman Brian Berard who lost the sight in one eye after an accidental high stick by Marian Hossa.

Berard's famous self-effacing humor was most evident when he apologized to his teammates on losing coverage on a forward by saying, "Sorry guys—I didn't see him."

Applebaum shifted the focus on books about hockey players to Lang's more recent works that celebrate the sport itself. In the best-selling series Everyday Hockey Heroes (Volumes 1, 2, and 3), Lang expressed his intent to "tell the stories of all the heroic people who have made hockey accessible for so many people. Hockey is for everyone and I wanted to tell their stories."

In My Day with the Cup—which climbed to #2 on the Canadian Non-Fiction Best-Sellers List—Lang described the protocols surrounding Lord Stanley's Mug: "The rule is you have to have won the Cup to touch it." At that moment, the animated Lang knocked over an amplifier—causing Library tech staff to scurry to his aid and eliciting a warning from Applebaum: "If you do that again, you're going to lose your library privileges."



IN THE NICK OF TIME – Out at third. A player makes the catch at third base for the out during a Tottenham Ladies Slo-pitch game at Conventry Park in Tottenham on Saturday, May 17. Slo-pitch is now in full swing in the town and is one of the most popular local sports.

BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

Chamber's B.O.L.D summit raises tough questions on Mental Health Month

BY BROCK WEIR

Fresh out of university, Rebecca Shields took on the role of Director of Development for the Greater Vancouver Food Bank.

It was situated in a part of the city that, she says, is “the most open drug-using community in Canada” but, on the flip-side, is “known as the friendliest place in the world.”

Tasked with raising money for the cause, she encountered one woman every week who had clearly spent time living on the streets.

One day, however, the same woman came in carrying two cans of baby formula.

The food bank, as it happened, changed the woman's life for the better and she came back to help pay it forward for other community members in need.

“She said to me, ‘If the food bank hadn't been there for me when I was a new mom, I would never have survived for my baby, and I never want another mother to experience that,’” Shields recalls. “I learned dignity at that moment; I learned that it doesn't matter where you come from in life, you can make the world less of a hell for the person coming behind.”

It was a chance encounter that changed the trajectory of Shields' life, one that led her to her current role as CEO of the Canadian Mental Health Association of York Region and South Simcoe, an organization that has had an indelible impact on the communities it serves.

Shields was among six female leaders in our community who came together on Thursday morning for the Aurora Chamber of Commerce's annual Women's Summit, which was held at the Royal Venetian Mansion.

The theme of this year's summit was BOLD – Believe It, Own It, Love It, Do It – and the Chamber brought together an impressive array of speakers who live up to the theme.

Among the speakers were entrepreneurs Zuly Matallana, founder and owner of TIARA; Andrea DeGasperis-Ronco, Principal of Opus Homes; Janis Showers of The Car Girls; and fittingly for Mental Health Awareness Month, entrepreneur and mental health advocate Cherry Rose Tan, Serena Thompson, founder of Aurora's Lighthouse Learning & Development Centre, and Shields.

Fresh off celebrating the tenth anniversary of the CMHA-YRSS' mobile mental health unit – MOBYSS – in Bradford earlier in the week, Shields focused on her role of being a communicator in an often-challenging health field.

“We treat youth as young as twelve all the way up to people who are in their elder years, and one thing I have learned is that it's not the illness itself, it's the stigma attached to it, and that makes it so hard to recover,” she said. “It's so pervasive and...the reason we know that a lot of people don't access the care they need, but it's also the reason people don't understand that they need to access the care that they need.”

Underscoring the issue of stigma, she shared a story of a friend who was reluctant to share that he lived with anxiety and panic attacks, despite the fact she was working in the mental health field by that point. It highlighted just how much work was needed to break down stigma like this and, most importantly, find a cure for mental illness.

Finding a cure, she stressed, is not just a dream – very real progress is being made to better address and treat mental health, including a focus on neuroplasticity, the long-term impacts of brain injury, and the development of Rapid Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation (RTMS) as a treatment.

“Thirty-five years ago, if you had a child with paediatric cancer, the mortality rate was over 95 per cent,” she said. “It was devastating, and government, doctors, researchers, hospitals, care donors, rallied. Do you know that today, if you have a child with paediatric cancer, the mortality rate is less than two per cent? [In] July 2024, less than a year ago, the second cure by the World Health Organization was announced for HIV and AIDS. Just stop and think about that: the most stigmatized virus in the world. Millions of people are dying because of it, and now USAID has been cancelled, now we can't even provide life-saving medication.

“If we could get that cure, we wouldn't have to worry about USAID anymore, and we can save lives all across the continent of Africa. If they can do it for such a stigmatized disease, why are we not doing this for mental illness?... It's actually possible.”

A local solution that will go a long way for people living with mental health challenges will be the completion of York Region's first community-led mental health community care centre in Newmarket – “I wanted to call it the mental health and addiction crisis centre...and then we had to, for zoning reasons, call it the ‘community care centre’ – we'll talk about stigma later, but that will be a circular conversation,” said Shields.

Created for individuals aged 12 and up, it's intended to be an alternative to visiting the emergency room. It will have 20 stabilization and withdrawal management beds, walk-in services for those in crisis, and more.

“We have a single goal for that centre: what needs to change so that somebody's first mental health crisis will be their last? We are building and we're inviting everyone in the community to answer the question: what needs to change so that somebody's first mental health crisis is their last? We have over 20 partners, we are working with police, we are working with paramedics, we are working with primary care, we're working with the school boards, and we want to work with the Chamber [to] understand, for all of us, what needs to be changed?”

“If you have a loved one that is in crisis, what do you want to know before you even walk in the door? Instead of actually triaging and treating, our job is going to be to de-escalate that crisis and connect you on to the right next level of care. Whether you're 12-years-old, and then go back to school... how do we integrate you back into school and university? We're working with Southlake and all of the hospitals, and we need to work together.

“We bring applied solutions in order to solve real-world problems together to those root causes, because if you just say, ‘Okay, here's medication,’ we haven't solved the root cause of why somebody's in there in the first place and you're going to be in that cycle of crisis.... I need you to come and tell me what needs to change. We're trying to connect with as many diverse communities as we can – and [we] can't do it alone.”

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Keep being you **Love your ears**

County to host celebration for National AccessAbility Awareness Week

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The County of Simcoe is celebrating National AccessAbility Awareness Week, taking place from Sunday, May 25 to Saturday, May 31, 2025.

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the enactment of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA).

The County will commemorate the week by hosting an event open to the public at the County Administration Centre in Midhurst on Tuesday, May 27, 2025.

During this event, various local accessibility groups will be present at the Simcoe County Administration Centre to provide

information about their services and missions.

These groups aim to support individuals with disabilities and promote inclusivity within the community.

Those attending this event will have a chance to interact with representatives from the groups, learn about the services they offer including assistive technologies, support programs, and advocacy efforts, and discuss accessibility challenges and solutions with experts.

Leanne Taylor, a Paralympic medallist from Wasaga Beach, will deliver a keynote speech. She will share her inspiring journey to the Paralympic Games in Paris and discuss how the County of Simcoe can

enhance accessibility for everyone.

Taylor was paralyzed from the waist down in a biking accident in 2018. Incredibly, she completed her first paratriathlon just eight months after being injured and began working her way toward being a Paralympian.

Over the past six years, Leanne has won multiple medals in races sanctioned by World Triathlon, and most recently won a bronze medal in the PTWC event at the 2024 Summer Paralympics in Paris, becoming the first Canadian woman to win a Paralympic medal in paratriathlon.

National AccessAbility Awareness Week celebrates Canadians with disabilities, raises awareness for the critical need for accessibility and inclusion in our work-

places and communities, and recognizes the work continually being done to remove barriers.

The County of Simcoe has an Accessibility Advisory Committee whose purpose is to advise County Council on ways to improve opportunities for people with disabilities when accessing County programs, services, and facilities. The Accessibility Advisory Committee provides advice for Council's consideration regarding the identification, removal, and prevention of barriers to persons with disabilities.

Throughout the week, the County of Simcoe will highlight a number of its initiatives, including the recent approval of a multi-year accessibility plan for 2024-2028.

Pride Festival begins busy month of music, heritage and Indigenous celebration at Town Square

Aurora's inaugural Pride Festival will begin a busy month of programming at Aurora Town Square, a June that will showcase music, heritage and Indigenous celebrations.

The Aurora Pride Festival, an initiative of the Aurora Community Band in partnership with York Pride and Aurora Town Square, will end May in a celebratory note on the eve of Pride Month.

The May 31 extravaganza will begin in the outdoor plaza with opening ceremonies at 6.30 p.m., before shifting to the Aurora Town Square performance hall for an evening of music by the Aurora Community Band, a Drag performance, and more than a few surprises.

"With Town Square opening freshly in September and Town Square just being a cultural hub where we want the community to come, feel inclusive, feel like they belong, and feel like this is their home to celebrate who they are, it's very exciting to be able to host this here," says Nichole Campsall, Cultural Development Coordinator for the Town of Aurora. "It's very exciting the fact that it is such a collaborative event and there's participation from so many Aurora organizations [like] York Pride. It's just such a wonderful way for us to come together and celebrate such an important part of the year. It's perfect for us to host it at Town Square and to be a part of it, so we're very excited for this."

HERITAGE COLLABORATIONS

Heritage collaborations will help kick

off June programs as local historian David Heard of Dave's Vinyl Party and Aurora Town Square come together to celebrate Aurora's built and musical heritage.

On June 3, at 7.30 p.m., the Aurora Museum & Archives and Dave's Vinyl Party will present a screening of the documentary "Who's a Good Boy?" It's a documentary shot by Heard on location of Aurora's Happy Woodland Pet Cemetery, for which he's been a long-time proponent.

A ticketed event, admission is \$8.

A free event is planned for June 14 as Heard presents the Great Canadian Songbook on Vinyl from 7 – 11 p.m. in the Outdoor Square.

"It will just be a great time for everyone to come out to enjoy the Outdoor Square itself," says Campsall. "Dave is so passionate about music, so this is a great time to enjoy. We're finally in June with some beautiful weather and, of course, with Canada Day coming up, it's all Canadian music. It's a great, great time all around."

INDIGENOUS CELEBRATIONS

June is Indigenous History Month and this history will be explored through music on June 5 from 6.30 – 8.30 p.m. when the Sultans of String present Walking Through the Fire: A Visual Album.

Billed as a "journey where cultures collide, boundaries dissolve, and the universal language of music unites us all," it's the brainchild of Chris McCool who Campsall

says "absolutely puts on an incredibly captivating show."

"He works with artists from all different backgrounds, so Walking Through the Fire is brought on by the 94 Calls to Action [coming from the National Truth & Reconciliation Commission] that called for Indigenous and non-Indigenous artists to work together to show a path forward," she says. "They created Walking Through the Fire and it's a collection of collaborations between First Nations, Metis and Inuit artists from across Turtle Island. It will have songs, music, discussions, and then, after the film, there's a Q&A talkback session with the director, Chris McCool, and Indigenous artist Shannon Thunderbird.

"We're very excited to bring that to Town Square as a celebration of National Indigenous History Month."

GRUNGE FEST

Closing out the month on June 28 will be the Town's first Grunge Fest, a three-concerts-in-one show that promises, "relive the raw energy of 90s grunge as top tribute bands bring Pearl Jam, Foo Fighters, and Nirvana to life."

"We just thought it would be such a great time to celebrate Grunge," says Campsall. "We have had great experiences with the Pearl Jam band, Pearl Jamming, in the past and that led us to think, why not do a Grunge Fest? We have this amazing building now open, let's test it out and see. We're trying to

make sure we have something for everyone, right?"

"The response has been fantastic and we're very excited. It will start off at 6.30 p.m. with Monkey Wrench, the Foo Fighters tribute band, and then we have Lounge Act Band and their tribute to Nirvana, which will be coming on at 8 p.m.; and the final band will be Pearl Jamming, a great way to kind of relive the 90s and rock it out to top grunge songs that we all remember and love."

Programming the spaces of Aurora Town Square is "one of the most incredible experiences of my entire career," says Campsall, noting that the community response has been fantastic.

Since the complex's opening last September, they have had a number of opportunities to see what works from a programming standpoint and are excited for all the opportunities that lie ahead – not just for the Town Square team, but for the other groups that call Town Square home and what they're able to do together: the Aurora Cultural Centre, Aurora Public Library, and the Aurora Museum and Archives.

"Town Square was sort of an idea and a plan, but now it's real and being able to see people in there enjoying it, sitting in the café, out in the outdoor square, dancing to the music – it just brings on more ideas to grow and expand what we've already done, and new things. It's been the most amazing experience and we just have the best community in Aurora."

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3. Do you feel tired or irritable after a long conversation?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
4. Do you feel the need to turn up the volume on your TV or radio such that it is too loud for others?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
5. Do you often need to ask others to repeat themselves?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
6. Has someone close to you pointed out you may have a hearing problem?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
7. Do you find it difficult to pinpoint where a noise comes from?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

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Area residents charged with trafficking cocaine, possession of stolen Mercedes

An Essa man and Beeton woman have been charged with trafficking cocaine after a search warrant was executed by Nottawasaga Ontario Provincial Police in Essa on May 15.

Members of the Nottawasaga Community Street Crime Unit (CSCU) with the assistance of the Central Region Emergency Response Team (ERT) and Central Region Canine of the Ontario Provincial Police conducted the search at a residence on Talsi Street.

Police located and seized a 2016 Mercedes GLE 350 SUV valued at \$40,000 that was reported stolen out of the Nottawasaga area back in 2024.

Officers also seized 10 grams of cocaine and other drug trafficking packaging, scales and paraphernalia. As a result of the investigation:

Colton Murphy, 30, of Essa, was arrested and charged with:

- Possession property obtained by crime over \$5000
 - Possession of a Schedule I substance for the purpose of Trafficking - Cocaine
- Kathryn Davenport, 23, of Beeton, was arrested and charged with:
- Possession property obtained by Crime Over \$5000
 - Possession of a Schedule I substance for the purpose of Trafficking - Cocaine

The accused parties are to appear before the Ontario Court of Justice at a later date.

None of the listed charges have been proven in court.

Anyone having knowledge of drug or property related investigations is asked to contact the OPP at 1-888-310-1122, or by calling Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or online at www.crimestoppersdm.com.

Innisfil man charged with impaired operation after speeding more than 49 kilometers over limit

Nottawasaga Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) officers recently charged an individual with impaired driving after being stopped for speeding in Essa.

A Nottawasaga OPP Traffic Unit was conducting speed enforcement on County Road 90 in Essa when they observed a vehicle travelling more than 49 kilometers over the speed limit

An officer conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle for speeding and during the interaction, the officer formed grounds that the driver's ability to operate a motor vehicle was impaired by alcohol.

This led to the driver's arrest. James White, 57, of Innisfil, was charged with:

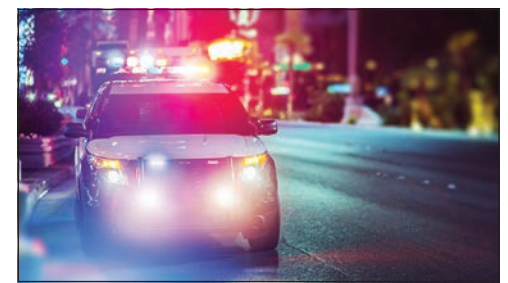
- Operation while impaired - blood alco-

hol concentration (80 plus)

- Speeding 1 - 49 Km/h over posted limit

The accused is scheduled to attend the Ontario Court of Justice in Bradford on June 12 to answer to the charge. The driver's licence was also suspended for 90 days, and the vehicle impounded for seven.

The charges have not been proven in court.



South Simcoe Police lay impaired driving charges against man travelling with child passenger

The South Simcoe Police recently laid impaired driving charges against a 44-year-old man who was driving with a child passenger.

South Simcoe Police observed a black Honda Pilot parked in a shopping plaza on Innisfil Beach Road in Innisfil on May 15, at approximately 8:25 p.m. Police witnessed a male exiting the convenience store with a child and carrying alcoholic beverages.

The male entered the driver's side of the vehicle with the alcohol purchased while the child entered the passenger side. As the driver exited the plaza, police followed the vehicle and initiated a traffic stop.

South Simcoe Police conducted an investigation and found the unopened alcoholic beverages and detected a strong odour of alcohol coming from the driver. After further investigation, two breath samples were

provided and as a result, a 44-year-old male from Innisfil was arrested and charged under the Criminal Code with:

- Adult Operation While Impaired – Blood Alcohol Concentration of 80 mg of alcohol per 100 mL of blood or higher – C.C. Section 320.14(1)(b)

Under Provincial Offences, the Innisfil man was charged with:

- Drive motor vehicle no currently vali-

dated permit S. 7(1)(a) HAT

- Owner Operates Motor vehicle on a highway with no insurance S. 2(1)(a) CAIA

The child was returned home safely. The driver's licence was suspended for 90 days, and his vehicle was impounded. The accused is scheduled to appear in court on May 29, 2025.

None of the listed charges have been proven in court.

Female Tesla driver collides with three parked cars in Bradford West Gwillimbury, no injuries reported

BY SAM ODROWSKI

South Simcoe Police responded to a report of a motor vehicle collision involving four vehicles in a parking lot on John Street West

in Bradford West Gwillimbury on the morning of May 13.

Upon arrival on the scene at approximately 9:20 a.m., South Simcoe Police conducted an investigation and determined

the driver of a silver Tesla lost control of the vehicle and collided with three parked vehicles. Police obtained video footage of the incident and as a result, a 39-year-old female from Bradford was charged with

Careless Driving contrary to Section 130 of the Highway Traffic Act.

Emergency Services attended the scene to assist with clearing the area.

No injuries were reported.

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612 AUCTIONS/FLEA MARKETS

Important On Site Live Auction for the Kathryn Thomson Estate on Saturday May 24/2025 at 10a.m. 23 Grand View Road Amaranth

Sale to include: Household contents, handmade blown glass and wood items, numerous woodworking tools, antiques and collectibles, artwork and many interesting items. **Atworks:** McLaren, Morrisseau. **Antiques:** antique beds, dressers, rocking chairs, sofa, tables, cabinets, writing desk, carpenter's box, lamps, book end collection, glassware, tin ceiling tiles, wardrobe, wrought iron garden items, sculptures, books, numerous pieces of stained glass, windows, mirrors etc. **Glassware:** Numerous pieces of hand-blown glass including handmade masks, vases, bowls, display and storage cabinets related to the craft, kiln. **Tools:** Inca planer, Craftex band saw, Phaff industrial sewing machine, Craftex dust collector, work table, extensive amount of hand and power tools, woodworking tools, bar clamps, drills, jig saws, De Walt mitre saw, Ridgid tools, skill saws, routers, wrenches, screwdrivers, ext cords, ladders, scaffolding, floor jack, Homelite and Husqvarna chain saws, motorcycle lift, etc; etc; etc. **Special Interest:** Stunning Live Edge table, handcrafted wooden bird lights, large scale chess set, Stunning Tip Galle lamp antique sword, cane collection. **Outdoors:** Husqvarna 924 HV walk behind snowblower, Troy Built TB210H XP push mower, Workx weed eater, wheel barrow, extension ladders, garden swing, lawn bench, garden tools, metal garden ornaments. **Notes:** This is a partial list only. The Late Ms. Thomson was a well known artist and her partner well known for his woodworking skills. This sale is a tribute to their incredible talents and features and celebrates some of their popular work. There are many very interesting items at this auction so plan to attend. Sale will be outside so come prepared for inclement weather. Possibly 2 auctioneers selling as there are numerous items. Not responsible for accidents, property loss or deletions in conjunction with this sale.

Terms: Cash or known cheque w/ID only, e-transfers under \$1000.00. Please register upon arrival.

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708 OBITUARIES

CAREN CHRISTINE DIGASPARRO (NÉE COULTER)


Passed away peacefully on Friday, May 9, 2025.

Caren is lovingly remembered by her husband Kenny Digasparro, daughters Krystal Shaw (Brad) and Shirley Digasparro (Trevor), grandchildren Aubrey, Evelyn, and Anthony, brother Casey Coultter (Jutta), nieces Christine, Jessica (Clint), and their families. She will be deeply missed by all who knew her, including her cherished quilting guild.

A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date. Details to follow.



709 IN MEMORIAM



MORTON - BETTY

In loving memory of a dear mother, mother-in-law, grandmother and great grandmother who passed away May 21, 2020.

We had a Mom with a heart of gold, Who was more to us than wealth untold; Without farewell she fell asleep With only memories for us to keep. Sadly missed and never to be forgotten by daughter Carol, son-in-law Larry, granddaughter Cheryl, grandson Mike and great grandson Mason.

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Continued from Page 4

Brock's Banter: Giving yourself a mental vacation

This past Sunday there were, for whatever reason, copious time capsules to explore.

Some held clippings from the 1953 Coronation. Others, the 1963 assassination of John F. Kennedy and the subsequent mourning period. Others still were reasonably comprehensive narratives of Canadian elections in the 1960s and American presentational campaigns of the 1950s and earlier. Some scrapbookers were drawn to glamorous cut-outs of figures from the Golden Age of Hollywood; others, tomes of Sunshine Girls and Sunshine Boys the curators were evidently saving for a rainy day.

As evocative as those last examples may have been, it was the political ones that fascinated me most. While they show-

cased the victor and their subsequent spoils, they also shed light on the issues of the day, differences of opinion, and how they were handled. Editorials contained therein, of course, were firm in stating their views, particularly if they didn't align with the power(s) that were.

They pulled no punches in skewering their political opponent, but surprisingly enough they did largely give credit where credit is due. It was a peek behind the curtain to our not-so-distant past, and, in some ways, it was a refreshing retrospective.

I always leave the market feeling like I've come away richer from the experience, even if the wallet is almost always a little bit lighter afterwards. That feeling this time around, however, was slightly tempered by the realization how far civility has slipped

from our public discourse.

It didn't help that less than an hour after we left, news broke that former U.S. President Joe Biden was living with advanced prostate cancer that had metastasised to his bones.

As much as my first thoughts were of genuine sympathy for Biden and his family, the reality is my second thought was hope his political opponents would put partisanship aside, offer their support and, in short, simply avoid being horrible about it all.

Those hopes were dashed almost immediately online.

I've never been the type to long for what's often described as "the good old days," because no matter which time period you're referring to, they were never as "good" as our rose-coloured memories

would tell us.

But maybe there's something to be said for nostalgia.

Perhaps it's a mental vacation from the stressors so many of us experience each and every day, a reminder not necessarily of "good old days" writ large, but of very personal happy memories, or even the kind of society we can cultivate if we truly put our minds to it.

Now, mind you, I don't think I'm likely to pick up and admire any Happy Meal toys that might still be lingering in my storage unit, but doing so is no less valid a brain break than feeling sand between your toes, turning off, or even going on a treasure hunt, excavating one box of antiques at a time.

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