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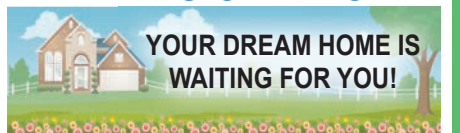
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A 'Buzz' in Beeton

The annual Beeton Honey and Garden Festival took over the Main Street of Beeton on Saturday, May 25, with a huge turnout of visitors. Area artist Christine displayed her beautifully created bee paintings at her booth. She happily greeted the many visitors who strolled along the street to take in all the sights and sounds of the day. See more photos on page 8.

BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

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New medical officer of health, CEO appointed at Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Board of Health for the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit has announced the appointment of Dr. Lisa Simon as the next medical officer of health and Chief Executive Officer (CEO).

The appointment is currently pending approval by the Minister of Health.

Dr. Simon will formally begin her new role on Oct. 1, 2025, following the retirement of Dr. Charles Gardner on Sept. 30.

Dr. Gardner has served in the position since 2005.

“This appointment marks a significant milestone and a promise of continued strength and excellence in our service to community,” said Ann-Marie Kungl, Chair of the Board of Health. “The Board has the utmost confidence in Dr. Simon and we are positioned for an effective leadership transition this fall that maintains the health unit’s legacy of excellence. Dr. Simon’s expertise, integrity and passion for health equity will contribute to the ongoing deliv-

ery of trusted, responsive, and impactful service across our region.”

Dr. Simon brings over a decade of service to the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit. A public health and preventive medicine specialist, she joined the unit as an associate medical officer of Health (AMOH) in 2012.

Her primary responsibilities have included health equity and Indigenous engagement, including medical leadership for these SMDHU strategic directions; substance use prevention and harm reduction, including co-leadership of the multi-sector Simcoe Muskoka Opioid Strategy; actively supporting emergency response, including as lead for planning and engagement efforts for the COVID-19 pandemic response; and chronic disease prevention, child and youth health, and health data.

Dr. Simon’s commitment to upstream, population-based approaches to health improvement has shaped her career locally and abroad. She has worked in clinical and public health capacities with diverse communities across Canada and internationally.

She holds an MD from the University of Calgary and a Master of Public Health degree from the University of Toronto. Dr. Simon also completed her residency training in public health and preventive medicine, as well as family medicine at McMaster University.

Dr. Simon also serves as a faculty member of the public health and preventive medicine residency program at the University of Toronto’s Dalla Lana School of Public Health.

“I’m very excited to be taking on the role of the next MOH and CEO for SMDHU,” said Dr. Simon. “I am passionate about working in partnership with communities to help improve health and well-being, and I look forward to leading SMDHU’s skilled and committed team towards



NEWLY APPOINTED – Dr. Lisa Simon (left), who is the current associate medical officer of health for the Simcoe Muskoka District health Unit is replacing current medical officer of health Charles Gardner on Oct. 1. **CONTRIBUTED PHOTO**

that goal.”
In the coming months, the Health Unit will work closely with both Dr. Gardner and Dr. Simon to ensure a seamless transition of leadership.

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Pilot project aimed at reducing speed limits launches in some neighbourhoods

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

If you have a bit of a lead foot, it may be time to re-think your driving habits when you are cruising the streets of Alliston.

A new speed limit pilot project has been launched, aimed at reducing speed limits in residential areas.

A new maximum speed limit of 40 kilometers per hour is now in place across several neighbourhoods.

The project will assess the effectiveness of these reduced speed limits in enhancing road safety.

As of May 2017, the Highway Traffic Act allows speed limits other than 50 kilometers per hour to be established without street-by-street signage in bounded zones. Signs stating '40 km/h Area Begins' will be installed on the streets that enter the neighbourhood area and '40 km/h Area Ends' signs will be installed on the streets that exit the neighbourhood, in the boundary of the designated area.

Aside from the '40 km/h Area' signs at the entrances and exits of the neighbourhood, the 40 km/h speed limit will not be

signed along the streets within the neighbourhood area except where existing for school and park zones.

The roads at the boundary of the neighbourhood are including young Street, King Street South, an Industrial Parkway will remain at their current speed limit.

During the pilot project, the necessary enforcement measures will be coordinated with the local detachment of the OPP to ensure compliance with the new speed limit. Traffic data will also be collected in collaboration with the OPP and the Town's contractor to evaluate the effectiveness of the 40 km/h neighbourhood and speed limit.

The effectiveness of the pilot project will be reviewed with the Town's Traffic Advisory Committee to determine the next steps.

If this pilot project is successful, neighbourhood area speed limits may be adopted in other neighbourhoods.

Speed is a major cause of accidents, injury, and death.

While speeding a driver's situational awareness is drastically reduced. The faster you are driving, the greater your stopping



SPEED ZONE – A new pilot project in Alliston is reducing the speed limit in some neighbourhoods to 40 kilometers per hour. The project is designed to make residential neighbourhoods safer. **BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO**

distance when braking. This causes an increase in the risk of a collision.

Higher speeds cause stronger impacts increasing the risk of injury or death. This especially applies to a cyclist or pedestri-

Signs indicating the 40 km/h speed limit have been installed at key neighbourhood boundaries including Young Street, King Street South, and Industrial Parkway.



SPRING COLOURS – Murphy's Farm Market and Bakery held its Tulip Festival at its Simcoe Road 10 location beginning on May 18. The festival was so popular it was extended until May 23. Visitors could tour the farm and pick some tulips to take with them to brighten up their home. Sue and Sara enjoyed the field of tulips on Tuesday, May 20. **BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO**

Save The Date!

2025 Town Halls

 <p>Deputy Mayor Stephanie MacLellan</p> <p><i>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!</i></p>	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; background-color: #333; color: white; padding: 5px;">June 9th</td> <td style="width: 50%; background-color: #333; color: white; padding: 5px;">June 12th</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="background-color: #eee; padding: 5px;">Beeton Arena Upstairs Hall 6pm-8pm</td> <td style="background-color: #eee; padding: 5px;">Tottenham Legion- Upstairs 6pm-8pm</td> </tr> </table>	June 9th	June 12th	Beeton Arena Upstairs Hall 6pm-8pm	Tottenham Legion- Upstairs 6pm-8pm
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Editorial, Letters & Opinion

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

~ Stanislaw Jerzy Lec

He sailed the ocean blue

Exactly who were the first Europeans to set foot on North American soil?

In Canada, it is common knowledge that Leif Erikson and his band of Norsemen landed on Newfoundland shores and built a village over 1,000 years ago.

His travels to the New World weren't an accident. In 985, another Norseman named Bjarni Herjólfsson and his band of merry men on a small ship were lost at sea.

They stumbled upon land that they realized was different from what they were used to. He decided not to go ashore and instead returned to Greenland where he reported his findings.

Leif Erikson did find Newfoundland. In fact, he and his band of adventurers built a small village. The remnants of that village are still there.

It is not known exactly how long they remained in that village. Some historians estimate that there were people there for one year.

However, Leif Erikson didn't really have a vision of what could be accomplished on these newfound shores. Living in a remote place with nothing to do, just wasn't for the Vikings.

They eventually packed things up and returned home.

In the US, they teach that the explorer Christopher Columbus discovered America. They make a big deal about this, even having a national holiday called Columbus Day in October.

Columbus, in fact, never set foot in the continental United States.

Recently U.S. President Donald Trump made a declaration to remove the recognition of Indigenous Peoples Day from the holiday to 'restore what he argues are traditional American icons.'

But why the obsession with a man who found new land totally by accident? At the time, Europeans had no idea that two massive continents were on the other side of the Atlantic.

Columbus wasn't looking for land, he was looking for a shipping route to the Far East.

When he did find land, he behaved like a pirate and a criminal.

A look back into history reveals why the U.S. celebrates Columbus Day and glorifies a murderer and slave trader.

At the time of the American Revolution, the country was new - brand new. Because of that, the U.S. did not really have any national heroes. The Founding Fathers wanted to find someone they could use to rally public support. They

needed a hero.

At the time, Columbus was just considered another explorer who sailed around the world looking for gold and new places. He was not considered a stand-out as an explorer.

At that time in history, several great explorers were sailing the seven seas and two oceans.

The Founding Fathers decided to make him a national hero and promoted him as the 'discoverer of America.'

During Columbus' first contact with people in the West, he immediately took some of them prisoner and insisted they lead him to the source of their gold.

He wrote in his journal: 'I could conquer the whole of them with fifty men, and govern them as I please.'

On his next stop, he took more prisoners. He presented some of them to royalty as trophies.

On his second voyage, Columbus ordered some of his men to go across the island of Hispaniola and force it under Spanish control.

His men proceeded to murder, rape, and enslave some of the people on the island. Columbus waged war on the island until they finally surrendered and paid tribute.

They rounded up 1,500 of the locals and

around 500 were sent to Spain as slaves. He treated the locals in a brutal fashion.

There is no doubt that Columbus had a great impact on the world and how history evolved after his voyages, however, there were a lot of other notable explorers of the era who managed to sail oceans without killing and robbing everyone they met.

For the first 100 years after his death, Columbus' legacy was buried in history.

He somehow became this hero despite the atrocities he committed against innocent people.

At one point in the 19th century, some Catholics tried unsuccessfully to promote him for canonization to be declared a saint.

The Vatican realized that bestowing sainthood on a man who clearly was no saint, was not a good idea.

Some heroes need to be remembered for what they did, but not necessarily celebrated.

Columbus may have been an intrepid explorer, but I can't see having a national holiday for a man who murdered, took slaves, and abused the people he 'discovered.'

BRIAN LOCKHART
FROM THE SECOND ROW



Deploying the crown

"I feel thankful Canadians have been so successful in establishing a vigorous democracy, well-suited to a proud and free people," said the monarch from the Senate throne, which so rarely has its intended occupant in place.

"Surrounded in this historic Chamber by the symbols and records of generations of Canadian legislators, I am very conscious of what Parliament has achieved by transforming these visions and ideals of a great country into the enduring law of the land."

Ahead of this week's blink-and-you'll-miss-it Royal Visit to Ottawa, a quick 24-hours that apparently has quite a lot riding on it, I wanted to do a bit of a deeper dive into what one might expect at Tuesday's Speech from the Throne, which will be formally carried out by the Canadian monarch for the first time in nearly 50 years.

Because this is anything but a typical Throne Speech.

I'm writing this on Sunday evening as the final details of King Charles and Queen Camilla's trip are announced.

The above excerpt was from the Throne Speech made by Queen Elizabeth II in 1977, an event planned to coincide with her Silver Jubilee – or the 25th anniversary of her ascension to the throne.

Forty-eight years on, the themes so many Canadian politicians expect the King to deliver this week are remarkably similar to the broad strokes in the last speech delivered by the big boss.

It's widely expected that the King, acting on the advice of his Canadian ministers, particularly Prime Minister Mark Carney in the first throne speech of his fledgling government, will emphasize Canada's role as a strong, independent, sovereign nation.

When the late Queen delivered the speech to mark her quarter-century milestone, she marvelled "a generation of Canadians has been born and grown to maturity during my reign. I know you will understand when I say that I have a special interest in these young men and women, contemporaries of my own children.

"They are made strong by the achieve-

ments of their parents and grandparents, but not imprisoned by the prejudices of the past; in that sensitivity towards other people, an essence of justice, the generosity and goodwill lie not only in lessons for us all, but the best and surest hope for unity and understanding among Canadians everywhere."

By her death in 2022, in her Platinum Jubilee year, marking a whopping 70 years on the throne, two to three further generations had been born and grown to maturity during her reign. I'm not sure how we fared on the unity and understanding front, but many of the contemporaries of her own children referred to in 1977 are eyeing retirement or even enjoying it as I write, the eldest is now in the role and preparing for a speech which, by the time you read this, could have been a reign-defining moment in his so-called "Maple Kingdom."

But, who is the intended audience for the speech?

Speeches from the Throne, regardless of whether it is delivered by the Monarch in person, or by the Governor General, their

day-to-day representative in the country, are not generally events that are all that exciting or chock full of surprises to those who actively follow politics.

Most Canadians, prior to Carney's invitation to the King to deliver his government's agenda, probably haven't lost a whole lot of sleep over whose mouth the words ultimately come from.

The consensus of most pundits is the Prime Minister invited the King to open parliament for the first time in his reign in a bid to send a message to the United States President, who has been rattling his sabres on annexing the Great White North, to underscore Canada's sovereignty by having the actual sovereign in place.

The Prime Minister's words following the announcement the King would be doing just that, didn't exactly throw cold water on this theory.

Continued on Page 15

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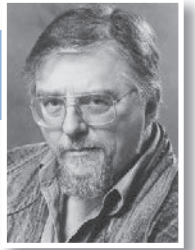
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Israel: The impossible dream

GWYNNE DYER
OUR WORLD TODAY



A zombie dream has taken over Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's government, or at least the extreme right part of it, which is the tail that wags the rest. It is the dream that was once called 'transfer' and is now known as 'relocation.' In its broadest form it includes the expulsion of all Arabs from the lands now controlled by Israel.

Bezalel Smotrich, Israel's current finance minister, is the most articulate exponent of this dream, and he sees the war in Gaza as a heaven-sent opportunity to make it real.

In February he threatened to bring down the coalition if the prime minister did not break the cease fire and stop all food, fuel, water and humanitarian aid to Gaza. The Palestinians should see only "fire and brimstone" from Israel until the Strip was completely occupied and its population expelled. Netanyahu complied.

In March Smotrich expanded his ambition to include the West Bank as well, warning its three million residents that if they continued to defy Israeli authority, they would face

the same fate as the Palestinians of Gaza. "Their cities too will be uninhabitable ruins," he said. "Their residents will be forced to migrate and seek a new life in other countries."

And in May he hailed the new Israeli ground offensive to seize control of all of Gaza, saying that in six months Gaza would be "totally destroyed." The Palestinians there would be "despairing, understanding that there is no hope and nothing to look for in Gaza, and will be looking for relocation to begin a new life in other places."

A thoroughly nasty man, then, and so are a number of his cabinet colleagues, but they are not being realistic. All that is very unlikely to happen.

Israel's only real chance to create a Jewish state in all the territory between the Jordan River and the sea was in the Independence War of 1948. Jewish fighters did manage to grab five-sixths of the territory of the former British mandate of Palestine (the UN partition had given Israel only half), but the Egyptian and Jordanian armies managed to hold on to the other sixth.

That other sixth became the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, populated by resident and refugee Palestinians. It was conquered by Israel in the 1967 war, but it was already too late to incorporate those territories into Israel. By then the ban on changing borders by force, already included in the 1945 UN Charter, had been accepted by almost every country in the world.

Ignorant people mock international law, claiming that it is powerless, but it is the reason that the Gaza Strip and the West Bank are still separate territories 'occupied' by Israel. Well, half the reason. The other half is that they are full of Palestinian Arabs, five million of them, and Israel only wants the ter-

ritory, not the Palestinians.

The dream of a Jewish Israel 'from the river to the sea' never entirely died on the right of Israeli politics, and the apocalyptic tone of much Israeli political discourse these days has brought it roaring back to life. It is, however, just as delusional as ever.

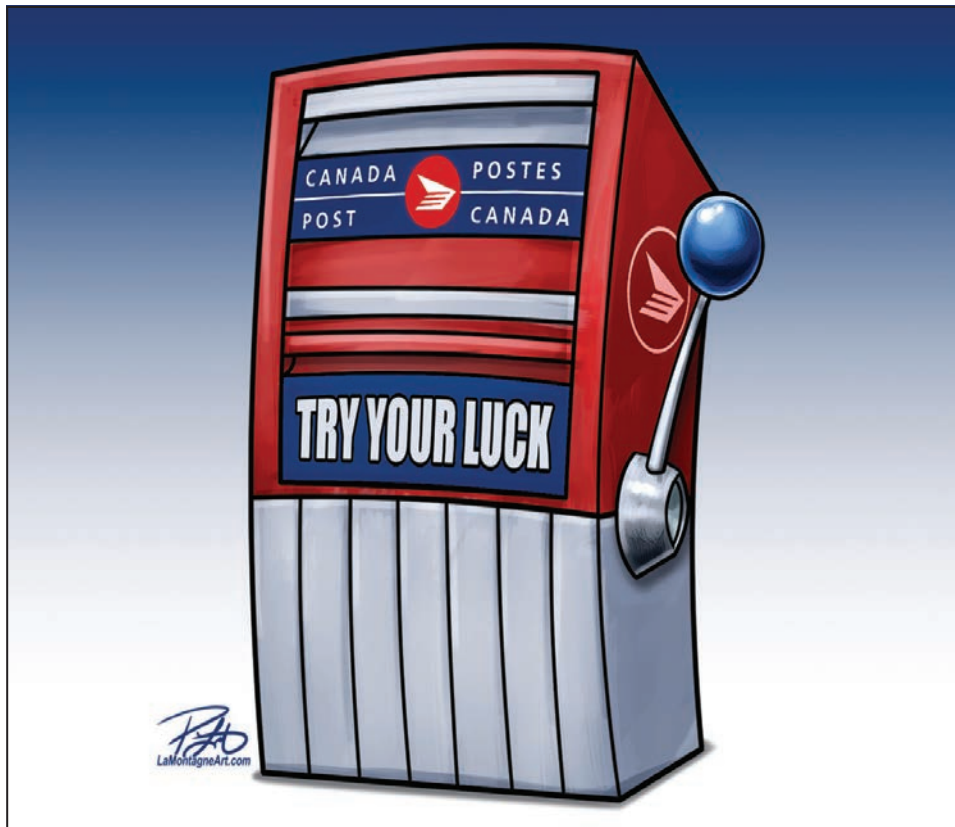
The current strategy of the Israel Defence Force (IDF), if such an incoherent wish-list is worthy of the name, involves starving the Palestinians of the Gaza Strip into leaving the entire territory.

First the two million inhabitants must be reduced to desperation by allowing no food into the Strip (11 weeks, done). Then, on the verge of starvation, they will all be forced down to a small piece of land in the far south of the Strip near the Egyptian border. No food will be delivered elsewhere; they will have to move south to get it. This phase is now beginning.

There will be a "minimal" amount of food available there, in Netanyahu's words, distributed by Israeli contractors and guarded by IDF soldiers. Rather than stay in such dreadful circumstances, the starving Palestinians will then vanish across the border, leaving the Strip free for Israeli resettlement (or Trump's 'Riviera on the Mediterranean', if he still wants it).

This is a cruel fantasy, not a strategy. Egypt, well aware of Netanyahu's intentions, will seal the border tight and allow no Palestinians to cross. If Israel holds two million people there for long, the death toll from hunger and disease will soon reach a thousand a day. Even Israel's closest friends and strongest supporters will rebel.

It's already starting. France, Britain and Canada have condemned Israel's behaviour and threatened sanctions. The European Union is 'reviewing' its free trade agreement with Israel. Even Donald Trump has voiced some concern. Israel will have to change course, or it will become an international pariah. And still the Palestinians won't leave.



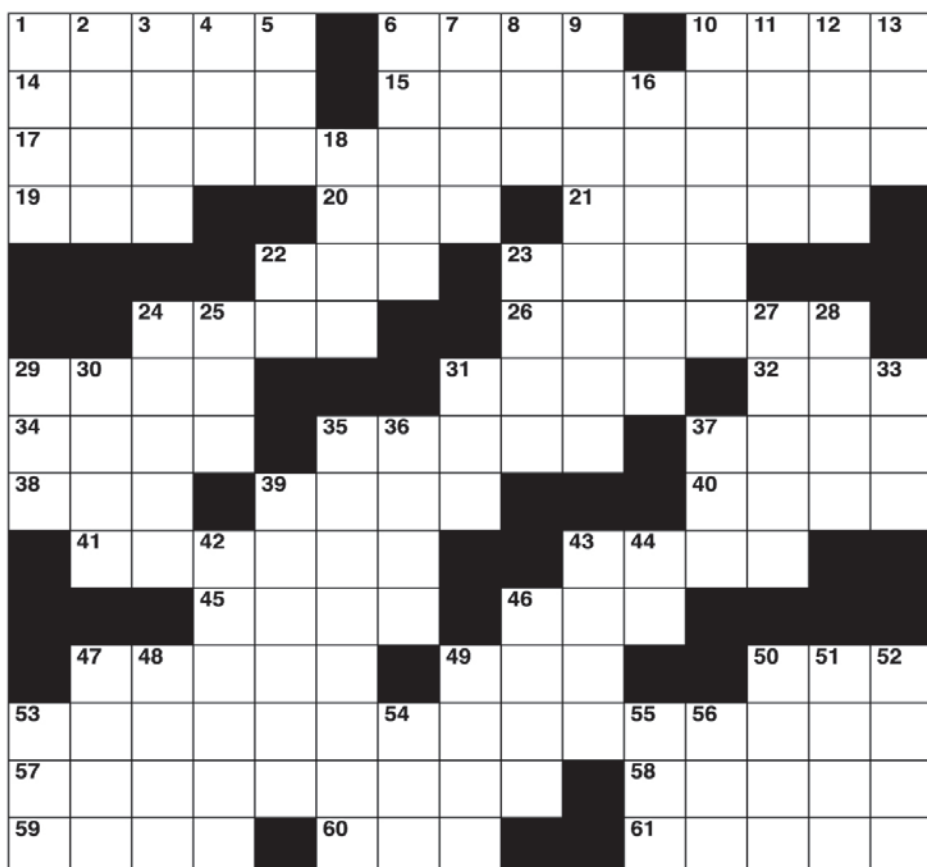
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CLUES ACROSS

- Marsh plant
- Southern constellation ("The Peacock")
- Fogginess
- Home to Fools' Day
- Absence of the sense of pain
- Popular November holiday
- Consume food
- Buddy
- Long-haired goat-antelope
- Japanese honorific
- Actor Malek
- One point south of southeast
- Illegal acts
- As fast as can be done
- Prevents harm to young
- Exclamation of satisfaction
- African nation
- Slow-moving animal

- Oh, goodness!
- A team's best pitcher
- Cleanser
- Radioactivity units
- Expectorated matter
- Cover a wide range
- The central area of a church
- California capital (abbr.)
- Dutch painter Klaver
- 007's creator
- Impression of dishonesty
- Northeastern sports rivalry
- Cloths
- Stalin's police chief
- Hostelries
- Bitterly regret
- Anwar ___, Egyptian statesman

CLUES DOWN

- Satisfy
- European health advocate
- Expression of

- annoyance
- Strong liquor
- Large red deer
- Holder of less common religious beliefs
- West Indian shrub
- Family of proteins
- Wealthy, influential business leader
- Low spirits
- Approves food
- Monetary unit of Iran and Oman
- Mary ___, cosmetics
- Expressed in pithy maxims
- Relaxing spaces
- The NFL's big game
- Proof of payment (abbr.)
- Starchy preparation of dried orchid tubers
- Indicates near
- Minneapolis suburb
- Herring-like fish
- Doctors' group
- Pouches
- Bread dipping in sauce
- Commercials
- A reminder of past events
- Affected by injury
- Geological time
- Stationary part of a motor
- Brings together
- Of sound mind
- Personal computer
- Without (French)
- A bank might give you one
- Agricultural testing organization
- A small island
- Type of gene
- Murres
- Card game
- A measure of human health
- Australian airline (abbr.)
- One point south of due west
- Affirmative

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

Regional tourism gets a boost from provincial funding

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Several festivals and events in the region are getting support from the province through funding to help support local tourism.

A total of \$150,000 will go to six events.

The funding is part of nearly \$20 million the province is giving to festivals and events across Ontario to help organizers expand programming, draw visitors to their area, and encourage longer stays in local accommodations. The funding is also meant to encourage people to eat at local restaurants, shop at local retailers, and support main street businesses.

Events that are receiving funding include:

- Blue Mountain Film & Media Festival - \$55,000.
- Collingwood Music Festival 2025: Timeless Journeys - \$20,000
- Collingwood Fashion Week - \$20,000
- Creemore Festival of the Arts - \$20,000

- Collingwood Pride - \$20,000
- 2025 Stonebridge Wasaga Beach Blues - \$20,000

“Festivals and events showcase the best of Ontario, its people and its culture, all while inviting people near and far to experience and enjoy our province. They help create local jobs, provide economic benefits and bring communities together,” said Stan Cho, Minister of Tourism, Culture and Gaming. “Now more than ever, it is important that we come together to take part in made-in-Ontario experiences that celebrate our collective identity and support local communities.”

In total, Experience Ontario 2025 is supporting more than 350 festivals and events across the province.

“In our riding the calendar is full of events. From cutting-edge film and fashion, to foot-stomping rhythm and blues, there is something for everyone to enjoy,” said Brian Saunderson, MPP for Simcoe-Grey. “Provincial funding to support these fantastic events in Clearview, Colling-

wood, The Blue Mountains and Wasaga Beach is not only an investment in culture, but also an investment in the local economy as families from across Ontario make the trip to the South Georgian Bay region to stay, play and make plans to return.” Tourism plays a big role in the Ontario economy. In 2023, visitors to Ontario spent \$33 billion and supported more than 325,000 jobs.



FESTIVAL SEASON – A handful of festivals in the region are receiving \$150,000 in provincial funding to help cover costs associated with hosting them. The festivals include the Blue Mountain Film & Media Festival, Collingwood Music Festival 2025: Timeless Journeys, Collingwood Fashion Week, Creemore Festival of the Arts, Collingwood Pride and 2025 Stonebridge Wasaga Beach Blues. **BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO**

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GETTING UP CLOSE – The Town of New Tecumseth hosted Touch a Truck Day at the Alliston Memorial Arena on Friday, May 23. The event was part of Public Works Week being celebrated across the province. The public was given the opportunity to meet town staff and see the different trucks and machines they use to keep the town clean and safe. Logan takes the wheel of a big truck and is excited to blow the horn. He was helped by his mom Ashley and town public works employee Nathan. **BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO**

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BRIAN SAUNDERSON

MPP, Simcoe-Grey

Essa receives provincial funding for emergency response

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The provincial government is providing the Township of Essa with \$46,111 to prepare for and respond to emergencies.

Funding is being delivered through the Community Emergency Preparedness Grant, and was announced by Brian Saunders, MPP for Simcoe-Grey on May 21.

The grant allows the community to strengthen emergency preparedness by funding local emergency management training, purchasing critical equipment, and improving infrastructure to make communities more resilient.

“Here in Simcoe-Grey, we certainly know first-hand the damage and destruction that events like severe weather can cause,” said MPP Saunderson. “During the recent ice storm, trees were toppled, and power was lost. This investment in a generator will help ensure power can always flow to the Township of Essa’s Municipal

Office, which also serves as their Emergency Operations Centre. This will better enable staff to share vital information and provide important services to impacted residents.”

This year, 114 municipalities are receiving funding through the 2024-25 Community Emergency Preparedness Grant (CEPG) to help them purchase critical equipment and deliver emergency management training to increase local emergency readiness.

“On behalf of the Township of Essa, I would like to sincerely thank the Ford government and our MPP Brian Saunderson for their continued support and commitment to community safety,” said Essa Mayor Sandie Macdonald. “The Emergency Preparedness Grant we have received is a vital investment in protecting our residents and enhancing our readiness to respond effectively to emergencies. This funding strengthens our ability to plan, prepare, and act with resilience, ensuring that

Essa remains a safe and secure place for everyone who calls it home.”

The CEPG grant supports municipalities, local services boards, First Nations communities, Tribal Councils, Indigenous service organizations and non-governmental organizations with mandates or responsibilities in emergency preparedness.

Recipients were selected through a rigorous and competitive review process.

“A safe and prepared Ontario comes when communities and organizations have the resources they need to respond efficiently and effectively in times of crisis,” said Jill Dunlop, Minister of Emergency Preparedness and Response. “I saw first-hand, during the recent ice storms, how our community and the entire province is stronger when we have the capacity to come together to support each other and respond quickly when disaster strikes.”

Last year, 113 recipients received the 2023-24 Community Emergency Preparedness Grant.



EMERGENCY FUNDING – Simcoe-Grey MPP Brian Saunderson has announced over \$46,000 in funding for Essa Township to better prepare and respond to emergencies.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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Arts & Local Events



HONEY HAVEN – Everyone had a sweet time at the annual Beeton Honey & Garden Festival on Saturday, May 24. Main Street in Beeton was closed to traffic as thousands of people made their way to the popular local festival. This year's festival was bigger than ever with over 190 vendors lining the entire length of the street. There was music, entertainment and a kid's zone.

BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTOS



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Smile Cookie campaign raises record numbers for local charities

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Tim Hortons has announced that a record-breaking \$22.6 million was raised through the sales of Smile Cookies this year.

Smile Cookie sales support over 600 charities and community groups across Canada and in the United States.

Locally, Matthews House Hospice and the Stevenson Memorial Hospital were the recipients of this year's funds raised during the campaign.

In Alliston, Tim Hortons restaurant owners John and Meagen Lewandowski, and Amit and Rachana Seth raised \$41,502.68 from the 2025 Smile Cookie campaign.

Matthews House Hospice Foundation and the Stevenson Memorial Hospital Foundation were each gifted \$20,751.34.

"We're so grateful for the outpouring of sup-

port for this year's Smile Cookie campaign from Tims guests across Canada. Thanks to your incredible generosity we topped our previous Smile Cookie record," says Tim Hortons President Axel Schwan. "A huge thanks to every single Tim Hortons restaurant owner, team member and volunteer who collectively helped to bake and hand-decorate millions and millions of cookies. Your dedication and enthusiasm represents the kind of deep care for our local communities that Canadians can rely on from Tim Hortons."

Since the first-ever Smile Cookie campaign in 1996, the annual charitable campaign has raised a total of more than \$151 million for charities and community groups, which are selected every year by Tim Hortons restaurant owners.

Recipients include local hospitals, community care organizations, food banks and schools.



SWEET DONATION – Tim Hortons restaurant owners, Alliston, John & Meagen Lewandowski, and Amit & Rachana Seth raised an astounding \$41,502.68 from the 2025 Smile Cookie Campaign. On May 21, 2025, Matthews House Hospice Foundation and the Stevenson Memorial Hospital Foundation were each gifted \$20,751.34. Celebrating the achievement are local dignitaries and representatives from Matthews House Hospice, Nottawasga OPP, and Stevenson Memorial Hospital. **CONTRIBUTED PHOTO**

Local resident asks New Tecumseth council to reject climate change programs

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

A long-time Alliston resident appeared before New Tecumseth Town Council during its regular meeting on Monday, May 26, to request that the Town avoid involvement in climate action programs designed to lower its carbon footprint.

Ken Stouffer, who has lived in the town for 45 years, said that programs cost municipalities money, but do not provide the benefits.

"These (programs) are marketed as progressive climate initiatives, but they often impose significant financial burdens on

municipalities without yielding proportional benefits," Mr. Stouffer stated. "I say this as a taxpayer who is alarmed by out of control spending at every level of government."

Mr. Stouffer said that money is wasted when trying to reduce the carbon footprint because Ontario, due to its vast forests, wetlands, and agricultural lands naturally absorbs more carbon dioxide (CO2) than it emits.

Mr. Stouffer went on to say that there is no shared liability when it comes to programs and municipalities, as municipalities face financial and legal liability while funding partners explicitly disclaim responsibility.

Getting out of these programs, Mr.

Stouffer said, will give taxpayers better value for their dollars.

Mr. Stouffer received an agreeable round of applause from those attending the council meeting when he claimed that scientific data shows there is no climate crisis and CO2 is not even close to being a problem.

"The whole climate crisis perspective hinges on CO2," Mr. Stouffer said. "If the premise that the man-made CO2 is a problem is wrong, all these climate-related programs are a colossal waste of resources. Earth's climate history shows that the premise is dead wrong."

Mr. Stouffer cited several scientific reports demonstrating major climate change during

the period before fossil fuels were used. The reports, he claimed, showed that climate change was more dramatic during earlier periods when fossil fuels were not common than it is in the modern era.

He also quoted well-known climate scientists who say CO2 is not now or has ever been a problem, however, they do not receive mainstream media coverage.

Mr. Stouffer wrapped up his deputation by giving the scientific figures of the true amount of CO2 in the atmosphere, which amounts would be considered 'trace amounts' of the gas.

Council made a motion to receive the deputation which was carried by a vote.



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SPORTS

NEW TECUMSETH TIMES

Alliston Hornets honour players at annual awards banquet

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Alliston Hornets honoured players at the local hockey club’s annual awards banquet held at the Alliston Legion on Saturday, May 29.

The Hornets had a stellar year, winning 40 games over the regular season and taking only two losses on shoot-outs.

Unfortunately, the team’s goal of claiming a provincial title this year fell apart when the Hornets lost the Carruthers Division final series to the Orillia Terriers in a series that went five games.

The loss was a shock to fans who had fol-

lowed the Hornets’ winning season.

Club president Ken Cowen thanked the players for their hard work and dedication, the coaches, trainers, and other club personnel, as well as the volunteers who helped keep the club running.

“The Hornets are a non-profit community team,” Cowen said. “That means that all the money from sponsors, the fan base, and fundraising events by the team go directly back into the organization.”

He noted, “The costs of hockey go up every year.”

Cowen thanked the executive of the club, as well as the staff, including those who do everything from selling tickets to keeping

the dressing room clean, with a special nod to Hornets general manager Travis Chapman.

“Our GM Travis Chapman spends hours on the telephone every day looking for players, working out issues, and talking to the PJHL,” Cowen said.

The Hornets honoured their graduating players who have completed their junior hockey careers.

Graduating players are #11, Jaeden French, #17, Cole Turcotte, and #47, Jacob Holmes.

Awards were presented to players for their efforts during this past season.

The Rookie of the Year award was presented to Will Hopcraft.

Jacob Holmes was named MVP as well as the Best Defenceman.

The Dougie Award for team spirit was awarded to Aiden Landers.

The Most Improved Player Award was presented to Will Millington.

Seth Ronan was honoured as Best Goalie.

The Most Sportsmanlike Player Award was presented to Cole Turcotte.

Jax Bellwood was named Playoff MVP.

The Hornets have announced a new head coach for the 2025/26 season.

Dan Schaly, a former professional hockey player and a recent assistant coach with the Innisfil Spartans, will take over coaching duties for the upcoming season.



PROPER SEND OFF – The Alliston Hornets hosted their annual awards banquet held at the Alliston Legion on Saturday, May 24. Graduating players who have now finished their junior hockey careers were honoured at the banquet. Graduating players include, #47 Jacob Holmes, #17 Cole Turcotte, and #11 Jaeden French (not in photo). **BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO**



AWARDING PLAYERS – The Alliston Hornets held their annual awards and season-end banquet on Saturday, May 24, at the Alliston Legion. Several players were honoured for their dedication and efforts for the 2024/25 season. Jacob Holmes was honoured as Best Defenceman as well as MVP. Will Millington received the award for Most Improved Player. The Best Defensive Forward award was presented to Ben Smith. The Rookie of the Year award went to Will Hopcraft. Seth Ronan received the award for Best Goalie. The Most Sportsmanlike Player Award went to Cole Turcotte. Jax Bellwood was honoured as Playoff MVP. The Dougie Award for Team Spirit went to Aiden Landers (not in photo). The players are seen here with Hornets assistant coach Spencer Franklin and general manager Travis Chapman. **BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO**

ADVANCING ON – A Banting Memorial High School Marauders player makes the catch for an out at first base during a play-off game against Twin Lakes Secondary School from Orillia at Riverdale Park in Alliston on Tuesday, May 20. The Marauders won the game 3-1 and will advance to the playoffs.

BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO



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Fraud charges laid against individual following incident at Alliston RBC

As a result of an ongoing police investigation, members of the Nottawasaga Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP), have arrested and charged an individual in connection to a fraud investigation.

On May 21, shortly after 12 p.m., officers

responded to a report of a fraud in progress at the Royal Bank of Canada located at 4 King Street North, Alliston.

The complainant reported that an individual came into the branch and provided a fake ID, as well as a social insurance number letter attempting to open an account.

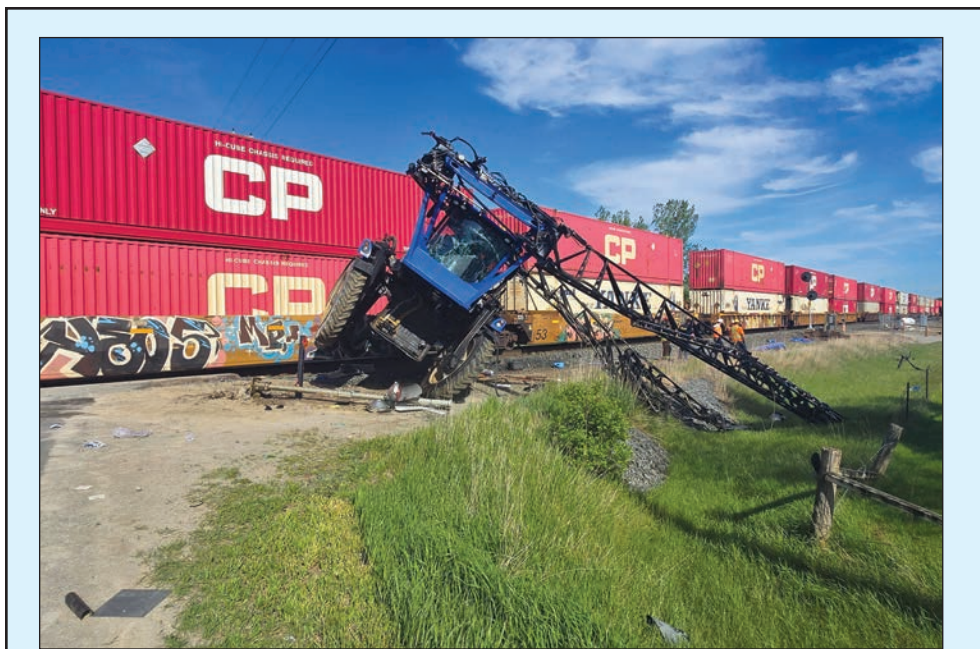
Officers arrived on scene and as a result of the investigation, Gage Hill, 30, of Collingwood, was arrested and charged with:

- Possession of an identity document
- Forgery
- Possession of a forged document with intent

- Obstruct Peace Officer
- Personation with Intent (Identity Fraud)

The accused has been released and is to appear before the Ontario Court of Justice on June 19 2025.

None of the listed charges have been proven in court.



MASSIVE COLLISION – A man was transported by air ambulance to a trauma hospital in Toronto with life-threatening injuries after a collision between a CP train and a farm tractor. The accident occurred on Tuesday, May 20. The train came to a stop blocking the 11th Line and 12 Line crossings for several hours. No injuries were reported among the crew on the train.

PHOTO COURTESY NOTTAWASAGA OPP

New Tecumseth man charged with impaired driving after vehicle rollover

Nottawasaga Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) officers charged one individual with impaired driving following a motor vehicle collision in New Tecumseth.

Officers responded to a vehicle rollover in the area of 8th Avenue, New Tecumseth, on May 23, at 6 p.m.

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.

Robert Hiltz, 33, of New Tecumseth, was charged with:

- Operation while impaired - alcohol
- Operation while impaired - blood alcohol concentration (80 plus)
- Driving motor vehicle with open container of liquor

The accused is scheduled to attend the Ontario Court of Justice in Bradford on June 26, to answer to the charge.

The listed charges have not been proven in court.



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2. When in a crowd or in a busy restaurant, is it hard for you to follow the discussion?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
3. Do you feel tired or irritable after a long conversation?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
4. Do you feel the need to turn up the volume on your TV or radio such that it is too loud for others?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
5. Do you often need to ask others to repeat themselves?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
6. Has someone close to you pointed out you may have a hearing problem?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
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708 OBITUARIES

Dorothy Joan Agnew

Dorothy Agnew, 91, of Nobleton, passed away on May 20th, 2025, while in Palliative Care at Southlake Hospital with family members present during her final weeks. We extend our sincere appreciation for the attentive and thoughtful care provided by the palliative care team at Southlake Hospital. Beloved wife of the late Ronald Agnew. Devoted mother of Brian (Darlene), Stephen, JoAnne (Al), Barb (Eric). Cherished Grandmother to Amanda, Jason, Brenda, Jesse, Jamie, and Thomas. Loving Great Grandmother to Ethan, Mya, Morgan, Jackson, Payton, and Sawyer. Dear sister to Beverly Martin and family.

The family will receive their friends at St. Paul's Church, 5750 King Road, Nobleton on Saturday morning, May 31 from 10:30 a.m. until time of funeral service at 11:00 a.m. Followed by a luncheon in the church, and family interment at Nobleton Cemetery. If desired memorial donations can be made in memory of Dorothy to St. Paul's Nobleton. Condolences for the family may be offered at www.EganfuneralHome.com



Querin: Luciano "Lou"


Peacefully, with his family by his side, Luciano "Lou" Querin passed away at Stevenson Memorial Hospital in Alliston on May 18, 2025, at the age of 87.

Beloved husband of the late Joan Querin (née Deaffie). Loving father of Richard (Rebecca) and Robert (Stacey) Querin. Cherished grandfather of Emily. Lou will be deeply missed by his brother Frank and fondly remembered by his extended family and dear friends. He is predeceased by his sister Gina.

Lou's warmth, dedication to family, and kind spirit will be remembered always by all who had the pleasure of knowing him.

The family received friends at Rod Abrams Funeral Home, 1666 Tottenham Rd., Tottenham (905-936-3477), on Wednesday, May 28, 2025, from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., immediately followed by a service in the chapel. A reception was held in the funeral home's Cliffside Hall, with interment following at St. James Cemetery, 2118 Adjala Tecumseth Townline, Colgan.

For those who wish donations in Lou's Memory to the Humane Society would be appreciated. Online condolences and memories may be shared with the family at www.RodAbramsFuneralHome.com.



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708 OBITUARIES

Lott: James "Jim"

James (Jim) Lott passed away peacefully in Barrie on May 17, 2025, at the age of 93.

Jim grew up in Orangeville and worked as a teacher and principal in Brampton where he met his wife Joan and raised his family. Jim and Joan built a cottage at Sand Lake shortly after they were married and spent all of their summers there. They moved to Tottenham in retirement and relished more than 20 winters in Florida as well as extensive travel with friends and family. Jim enjoyed curling, golf, watching his Blue Jays, Leafs and playing card games ("count on your partner for 2") with friends and family. One of his many claims to fame was winning the Sand Lake three-legged race for 20 years straight with daughter, Mern.

Jim will be missed by his wife Joan of 65 years, daughters Wendy and Marianne (Greg), grandsons Brett (Kari) and Dustin (Liz) and 4 great grandchildren, as well as his extended family and friends.

A very special thank you to the staff on the Maple floor at Grove Park Home.

Cremation has taken place. Donations in Jim's memory may be made to the Sand Lake Log Church by e-transfer to wglogchurch@gmail.com. Please include your complete mailing address in the message box in order to receive your tax receipt.

Condolences and memories may be shared with the family at www.RodAbramsFuneralHome.com.

708 OBITUARIES

McGoey: Chad Edward

Chad passed away suddenly at his home in Alliston, Ontario on Friday, May 16, 2025. Chad was 34 years old, beloved son of Tod and Donna McGoey. Loving brother of Mitch McGoey and his wife Susannah Vander Zaag, and loving uncle to Rooney. Cherished grandson of Marie and Stan Jones, and the late Tom and Marj McGoey. Forever in the hearts of his many aunts, uncles, cousins, extended family, friends, and neighbours. Sadly missed by his buddy Inis.

Chad graduated from Sir Wilfred Laurier with an Honours Degree in Business and Economics. He then joined the family business, becoming the 5th generation to work at McGoey Insurance. Chad was an avid reader. He enjoyed football, baseball, squash, and tennis, and spending time with family and friends. Chad was known for his quick wit and cheeky demeanor. He loved meeting new people and made lasting connections. To know him was to love him. We would like to celebrate his life, not mourn his death.

The family received friends at Rod Abrams Funeral Home, 1666 Tottenham Rd., Tottenham 905-936-3477 on Sunday, May 25, 2025 from 1-4pm and 6-8pm. Mass of Christian Burial was held at St. James Church Colgan, 2118 Adjala Tecumseth Townline Tottenham on Monday, May 26, 2025 at 11am. Cremation followed. After the funeral mass, a reception celebrating Chad's life took place at the funeral home's Cliffside Hall.

Donations in Chad's honour may be made to Epilepsy Canada, Headwaters MRI Fund SMART Campaign, or the charity of your choosing. Condolences and memorials may be left for the family at www.RodAbramsFuneralHome.com.

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**NEW TECUMSETH
RECYCLES!**

Continued from Page 4

Brock's Banter: Deploying the Crown

"This historic honour matches the weight of our times," he said. "Canada has a steadfast defender in our sovereign."

Indeed.
As a long-time admirer of the King through the initiatives and causes he promoted prior to his ascension, and as one who sees the value of an institution such as the monarchy in Canadian life, I'm thrilled that the current government is taking advantage of the resources we have in the Crown and putting it to good use. After all, as the saying goes, if you don't use it, you lose it – and if the government of the day doesn't utilize the monarchy to either of its advantage, the latter will wither in apathy.

I never quite expected the Crown to be used as a middle finger to our southern

neighbours, though – but, as we're constantly reminded, we do live in perpetually unprecedented times.

A May 24 piece by Benjamin Lopez Steven for the CBC quotes royal writer Patricia Treble with a particularly apt metaphor. "King Charles is 'not a foreign king. When he comes to Canada, he is the Canadian king. He's invited by the government in Ottawa.' Treble described the Canadian Crown as a fire extinguisher that gets dusty and is only used in an emergency. 'It has been tested and it's coming down off the wall,' Treble said. 'And we are going to see it on Monday and Tuesday.'"

The article offers another insight from Professor Philippe Lagassé: "We should also remember our institutions – whether we like them or not, whether or not we want

to change them – for now, this is what they are and they are quite significant at this moment."

But we should not simply think this event is being hosted for an audience of one. In this, his first significant act as King of Canada, it will also be an important milestone in the relationship between the monarch and the people, re-establishing a relationship he honed as heir to the throne, but now in a very different constitutional lens and level of service.

"In ten visits together to Canada, spread over a quarter of a century, seven in the last decade alone, Prince Philip and I have met many thousands of Canadians in all walks of life, of all ages, in every province and territory," said our monarch of 48-years-ago and three-years-ago. "My

happiest memories of our travels throughout Canada have been these individual contacts, which have revealed the enormous strength and astonishing diversity of this nation.

"I have always been full of admiration for what Canada is. The new generation fill me with confidence for what Canada can become."

I'm not sure what she would make of our present situation, but, by my estimation the enormous strength and astonishing diversity of this nation endures and supports one another. Let's hope this week's visit is the first of many, and that the King has many official opportunities ahead to forge these bonds that strengthen the very institution within the country in which it will be dusted off and deployed this week.

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