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## Finger Licking Fun

There was lots to do and plenty to eat when Alliston Ribfest took over PPG Park in Alliston from June 6 to 8. Some of the best ribbers in North America offered their succulent ribs with their own special barbecue sauce. Thousands turned out for the event to hear some music and enjoy a lunch or dinner of ribs cooked over an open flame. See more photos on page 9.

BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

**PAUL JAMESON**  
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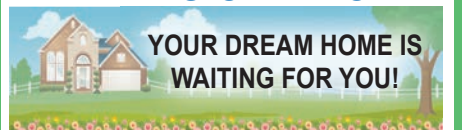
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# Nominations open for County of Simcoe’s age-friendly champions

BY BRIAN LOCKHART  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

As June is Seniors’ Month, the County of Simcoe has announced that nominations are now open for the Age-Friendly Business and Age-Friendly Individual Recognition and Achievement Awards.

The awards celebrate those who help create welcoming and accessible communities for older adults.

The Age-Friendly Business Recognition Awards recognize local businesses and organizations that have taken steps to improve services for older adults. By completing a self-assessment checklist, businesses can evalu-

ate their age-friendliness and access county resources to enhance their services.

Award-winning businesses will receive a mention in a county press release, social media, and a website feature, along with a certificate and window decal, and a complimentary digital marketing package valued at over \$350.

The Age-Friendly Awards for Individual Recognition honours individuals of all ages who have demonstrated leadership, kindness, and a commitment to supporting older adults.

Categories include Individual Champion, for someone who advocates for older adults, enriching their lives through leadership and dedication.

The Older Adult Champion award recognizes older adults (60+) for their selfless service and commitment to volunteerism.

The Youth Champion Award is new this year and celebrates young individuals who have made a meaningful impact on older adults through service and education.

“Our Age-Friendly Recognition Awards showcase the incredible efforts of businesses and individuals who are helping to make Simcoe County a more inclusive and welcoming place for older adults,” said Simcoe County Warden, Basil Clarke. “Their commitment to improving accessibility and services reflects the very values our region is striving for.”

The Age-Friendly Community Program was

established in 2016 to increase awareness of the county’s aging population and help businesses or organizations evaluate their environment and service delivery.

“Creating an age-friendly community is about fostering respect, inclusion, and support for older adults,” said Jane Sinclair, the county’s general manager of health and emergency services. “Whether it’s a business improving services or an individual making a meaningful impact, these awards celebrate the champions of positive change.”

Nominations for the Age Friendly Awards are open until Aug. 31.

For more information visit [www.simcoe.ca/agefriendly](http://www.simcoe.ca/agefriendly).

## Alliston resident charged in connection to distraction theft after search warrant executed by OPP

Members of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) Central Region Intelligence Unit and the Nottawasaga Community Street Crime Unit (CSCU), have arrested an individual in connection with a series of distraction thefts in the Nottawasaga area and surrounding com-

munities.

On June 6, a search warrant was executed at a residence in Alliston. As a result of the investigation, Pimentel Gonzales, 40, of Alliston, was arrested and charged with:

- Theft of credit card

- Possession, use, or trafficking of a stolen or forged credit card

- Possession of property obtained by crime
- Laundering proceeds of crime
- Fraud under \$5,000
- Fail to comply with probation order

Anyone who believes they may have been a victim of a distraction theft, or anyone who has information regarding these thefts, is encouraged to contact the Nottawasaga OPP at 1-888-310-1122. To remain anonymous, call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS).

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# South Simcoe Business Excellence Awards celebrates local leaders

BY BRIAN LOCKHART  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Businesses in South Simcoe were honoured at the 250th annual South Simcoe Business Excellence Awards held at the Community Hub in Bradford on Thursday, May 22.

The event was hosted by the Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury in partnership with Nottawasaga Futures.

Representatives from the provincial and federal governments, mayors, deputy mayors, town councillors, and community leaders attended to show their support and recognize the tremendous accomplishments of these businesses.

Nottawasaga Futures is a community economic development agency serving the South Simcoe area, which includes the communities of Adjala-Tosorontio, Bradford West Gwillimbury, Essa, Innisfil, and New Tecumseth.

At the ceremony, the Agricultural Award was presented to Lisle Livestock & Fresh Market.

The Business Excellence Award, sponsored by NT Temps, was presented to Addictive Design of Bradford West Gwillimbury.

Vince's Market in Tottenham received the Community Excellence Award.

Side Door Studio in Essa was presented with the Community Wellness Award.

Two Customer Service Awards were presented. Recipients were Trooper Pet Veterinary Nursing Inc. in Innisfil and Magic in Moments Performing Arts in Bradford West Gwillimbury.

Hitch Haul in Innisfil was presented with the New Business Award.

The Youth Entrepreneur Award, sponsored by Addictive Design, was presented to Lucas Bobala, owner of Bobala Lawn Care, in Bradford West Gwillimbury.



**HONOURING ENTREPRENEURS** – The South Simcoe Business Excellence Awards sponsored by Nottawasaga Futures and the Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury, were presented at the Community Hub in Bradford on Thursday, May 22. Several local businesses were honoured for their accomplishments. **CONTRIBUTED PHOTO**

# Simcoe County Council approves programs, bylaw changes, during May meeting

BY BRIAN LOCKHART  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Simcoe County Council has released highlights from its regular meeting on May 27 and Committee of the Whole meeting on May 13.

### Voluntary multi-residential organics program approved

Council approved a new voluntary organics collection program for multi-residential properties, set to roll out in the spring and summer of 2026.

Currently, there are approximately 9,600 multi-residential units that do not have

access to the County's curbside collection programs. This new initiative aims to close that gap by offering participation to all interested properties.

### Council updates recorded and weighted voting procedure

Council approved the following changes regarding recorded votes and weighted votes in its Procedure By-law:

- Council voted to split recorded votes and weighted votes. It means that on any vote, a council member can request a recorded vote (when voting outcomes appear in the official minutes) while not necessarily prompting a weighted vote.

- Council voted to require that a weighted vote be requested only immediately prior to a vote taking place. This removes the ability to request a weighted vote following the result of a regular vote.

- Council voted to maintain weighted votes going forward with three exceptions where it can no longer be utilized.

These exceptions include:

- Voting on Council appointments
- On votes that require two-thirds approval such as waiving notice or making a last-minute change to an agenda.

- On the final vote for a By-law changing Council composition Council directed staff to report back with draft amendments

to the Procedure By-law and a plan for the approved changes to take effect.

### Progress continues at Simcoe Village Campus

Harsh weather conditions during the winter temporarily slowed construction on the Simcoe Village Campus in Beeton, but crews are now focused on regaining momentum throughout the summer months.

The projected move-in date for the long-term care home, village centre, and supportive or affordable housing units remains unchanged at this time.

Completion is still targeted for the end of 2026.

# Tottenham man charged after vehicle found in ditch

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

On June 9, shortly after midnight, Nottawasaga OPP responded to a single vehicle in the ditch on Tottenham Road in New Tecumseth. Officers located the vehicle and met with the driver. During the interaction, grounds were formed that the driver's ability to operate a motor vehicle was impaired by alcohol,

leading to the driver's arrest.

As a result of the investigation, Karim Davies-Benghabrit, 36, of Tottenham, was charged with:

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

The accused is scheduled to attend the court on July 10, 2025, to answer to the charges.

None of the listed charges have been proven in court.

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# Editorial, Letters & Opinion

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

~ Stanislaw Jerzy Lec

## Blame the cows

A few years ago, a news story made the rounds claiming that cattle were major contributors to climate change because of their natural ability to create methane gas.

There were a few follow-up stories, and then suddenly that crisis disappeared from the headlines and you don't hear any more about cows fouling the atmosphere.

It seems cattle aren't the atmospheric polluters some groups thought they were. Methane gas from a cow just dissipates in the air in a natural process.

Any person with common sense should have just tossed the methane cow story in the trash and realized it was ludicrous Hollywood Tabloid nonsense to begin with.

By the way, there are 8 billion people on the planet that also produce methane gas but I've never heard anyone accuse their grandmother of being an environmental polluter because she eats a lot of beans.

Climate change enthusiasts and some scientists started claiming that ocean levels were rising due to glaciers melting at the polar ice caps.

That's hard to disprove from a layperson's perspective because most people will never go to the North or South Poles to see how the weather is. Most people have never even seen a glacier or an ice-

berg.

A few enterprising people from around the globe did their own study.

They found old photographs of famous oceanside places and then made an exact duplicate of the same location 125 years later.

Photos from circa 1900, and 2025, at various locations around the globe showed – you guessed it – the ocean water level was at exactly the same point it was over a century ago. Exactly the same.

Now, stories in the news about rising ocean levels have conveniently seemed to have gone away as environmental alarmists can't explain why two swimmers in the same ocean, in the exact same spot, 125 years apart, are both standing in water up to their knees when the latter should be wading hip deep.

Much has been published over the last few years about the dangers of carbon dioxide (CO2) levels in the atmosphere.

It's a well-established fact that the earth's atmosphere is (rounded ) 78 per cent nitrogen, 21 per cent oxygen, 0.93 percent Argon, and 0.04 per cent carbon dioxide, and other trace gases like neon, helium, and methane.

At .04 per cent, carbon dioxide could be considered a trace gas.

Ontario is considered a natural 'sink'. A sink is an area that produces oxygen.

Due to its heavy forests, wetlands and green spaces, Ontario produces far more oxygen than CO2.

There are plenty of climate science experts who dispute the claims of climate change and have made their data available.

However, their reports aren't published and they do not receive media attention. Some experts have been disciplined for producing reports with scientific data that show that dangerous climate change isn't happening.

One scientist published a report about climate change saying the mainstream media published only reports by scientists using 'obscure metrics and highly speculative models' which can be skewed in any way to produce different results.

The same scientist produced hard data – actual facts – to back up his claims.

Currently, every time there is a tornado, hurricane, drought, windstorm, flood, or severe lightning, the mainstream media is quick to point out that these storms are a result of climate change.

And yet the hard data provided by this same scientist show that severe weather patterns have remained the same over the past 30 years with no increase in

severe weather. The number of deaths due to severe weather has actually gone down, and the cost of damage due to storms has remained the same over that time period.

I have always been an 'environmentalist' type of person. I don't litter — ever. I dispose of toxic chemicals in the proper way, and when visiting natural areas, the only thing I ever leave behind are footprints.

Judging from the amount of litter and garbage that is on our streets and especially rural roadways, a lot of people are lying about wanting to protect the environment and think nothing of drinking a can of Bud Light while behind the wheel and tossing the empty can into a ditch.

If there are environmental issues we should be aware of, I want to know the actual facts, not the media hype produced by some agencies and government sources.

If you are truly concerned about the environment, give it some thought the next time you are at the cottage enjoying a bonfire with your family and friends.

True pollution is when all that smoke drifts downwind and lands on your neighbour.

**BRIAN LOCKHART**  
FROM THE SECOND ROW



## Creature comforts (and discomforts)

A couple of weekends ago, I made the mistake of dressing for typical May weather.

Setting out that Saturday, I thought nothing of wearing a short-sleeved button-up – after all, spring was allegedly in full swing.

It was an early start, so when I made my sartorial selection, I figured it would warm significantly once the sun came out to play and felt confident leaving the house with my selection, with a cardigan just in case.

Except, amid the flurry that resulted from nearly forgetting my camera before setting out, the cardigan didn't join me for the complete journey. The sun, as it happened, didn't join me, either, so there I sat in an outdoor tent in single-digit degrees, in short sleeves, waiting for a military parade to begin as I daydreamed diving into a large swimming pool of warm tea to get full feeling back into my limbs.

Needless to say, I didn't quite feel my best the next day and whether or not it was psychosomatic, I felt a little bit fluish and went back to bed midday for a nap. Sleep, apparently, wasn't in the offing, so after

about an hour of staring at the ceiling hoping to bore myself into slumber, I popped in a DVD of a favourite TV show and not only did I feel almost instantly better, I was lulled into a bit of a nap soon enough.

It was, to me, a prime example of just how nice it is to have a "comfort show" in your life.

A comfort show is generally described as a piece of entertainment one can turn to for solace, joy, or, as the name suggests, simple comfort – and that's nothing to sneeze at.

Some criticize such things as an escape hatch that keeps you from dealing with important, challenging things in life, but that's not always the case.

There's nothing wrong with having a warm blanket to envelope you when it's needed, even if it's about as far removed from a quilt or duvet as you can possibly be. And I'd wager we all have just such a blanket in one way or another, whether we realize it or not – a favourite book, a favourite film, a favourite television show, a favourite nature walk, sport, or drive.

As beneficial as these outlets can be, it's important to remember that seeking comfort doesn't necessarily mean being complacent to whatever is causing you to seek it in the first place.

That said, however, some can seek comfort with a bit too much zeal.

On Thursday, I had the pleasure of attending a screening of *Walking Through the Fire*, a remarkable "visual album" led by the Sultans of String, in collaboration with Indigenous musicians, artists and storytellers, created in response to one of the 94 Calls to Action outlined by the National Commission on Truth and Reconciliation ten years ago.

The "visual album," which can be described as a collection of evocative music videos, each woven into the last through a very strong narrative, touched upon a several difficult subjects, and was followed by a question-and-answer session with three of the participating artists – Shannon Thunderbird, Kate Dickson, and Chris McKhool, the latter of whom led the project

Their words were uniformly insightful, but one of Dickson's comments struck a particular chord with me.

On the subject of each individual's perception, she shared: "You tap into an ancient brain going back generations and generations. We've all done it. You realize that you're allowed to feel what you feel. You know, there's that old phrase, 'Knowing sets you free.' I'm not so sure how it sets you free. However, you have to know about just about everything, no matter how awful it might be, no matter how unpleasant it makes you feel, because being unsettled spurs you to action." Dickson might have been speaking about the very difficult and harrowing experiences of our Indigenous peoples, experiences that many of us of non-Indigenous descent can't begin to fully understand, but I feel the sentiments she expressed are universal.

Continued on Page 19

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# Where shall we put the Palestinians?

**GWYNNE DYER**  
OUR WORLD TODAY



Reckless people fling accusations of attempted genocide in Gaza at the Israeli coalition government and the Israel Defence Force (IDF) every day, but the scale of the operation is not remotely big enough to justify that word.

IDF snipers and/or civilian American gunmen of the so-called Gaza Humanitarian Foundation (GHF) pick off dozens of the starving Palestinians who show at the food distribution points in southern Gaza almost every day. However, barely a hundred of them were killed outright at the feeding stations in the whole first week.

A far larger number of Palestinians are killed by bombs or shells in their own homes (also known as ' Hamas command and control centres ' by IDF spokespersons), but even that much bigger death toll does not currently amount to as much as a thousand a week. At that rate it would take 42 years to 'clear' all the Palestinians out of the Gaza Strip.

Donald Trump will be dead much sooner than that, so that's clearly not what he had in mind when

he talked about 'clearing' all the Palestinians out of the Strip. Indeed, we can go further and say that he wasn't thinking of starving them all to death either, even though that would be much quicker.

No food at all went into the Gaza Strip for eleven weeks before the four IDF/GHF feeding centres set up shop about ten days ago, so some people (mostly very old or very young) will have starved to death already. Their bodies are not riddled with bullets or shell fragments, they won't be brought to hospitals, and most of them will not be counted.

The number who starve to death will now go up steeply, because Israel has only opened four feeding centres where there used to be four hundred. Someone from each family has to make a dangerous journey on foot (up to ten km.), and wait in a queue of hundreds of thousands of others each time to collect maybe a week's rations. (Actually, they're too desperate to queue.)

As Israel's Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu recently pointed out to his colleagues, the problem with starving people is that the country's allies cannot tolerate "images of mass famine". But just a little bit short of that is probably okay and will put just as much pressure on the Palestinians of Gaza to abandon their wrecked homes and leave.

That is the current Israeli strategy, but it cannot work unless there is also somewhere else for the Palestinians to go. None of Israel's immediate neighbours would dream of accepting two million Palestinians even if they didn't care about 'betraying the cause'. Jordan and Lebanon in particular have had huge problems with similar populations of Palestinian refugees.

The destination has to be farther away and confident that it can control a big Palestinian minority even over the

long run. Very large bribes would also be needed. Only two places spring to mind, and both have reportedly already been contacted by US and Israeli emissaries. (Such contacts are routinely denied by all the parties involved.)

The first candidate is Libya, more than a thousand km. west of Gaza, where two rival governments have long been mired in a stalemated civil war. The weaker side, based in the east of the country, is more in need of money and arms, but either side could probably be bought if the bribes and other inducements were big enough.

The other is Somaliland, about a thousand km. in the other direction, whose biggest problem is that it is not recognised as legitimate by any other country. It is a poor but reasonably well-run democratic country that was once a British colony, but it was swept into a union with the former Italian colony of Somalia in the heady first days of independence.

The Somalilanders have regretted their choice ever since and Somalia has no real power over them, but they are still legally trapped into the union. If the United States recognised Somaliland's independence, everything else would follow. The price would be accepting two million Palestinians. (Somaliland's current population is about six million.)

There was a time when I would not have believed such a deal possible, but those times are gone and I no longer say 'never'. I do say it would be a terrible mistake for either Somaliland or Libya to make that deal, but ancient empires shuffled ethnic groups around like this all the time.

And you know what? If Netanyahu, Smotrich, Ben Gvir et al. manage to do this they would still technically not be guilty of genocide; just of a crime against humanity. With good behaviour, ten or twenty years and they'd be out on the street again.



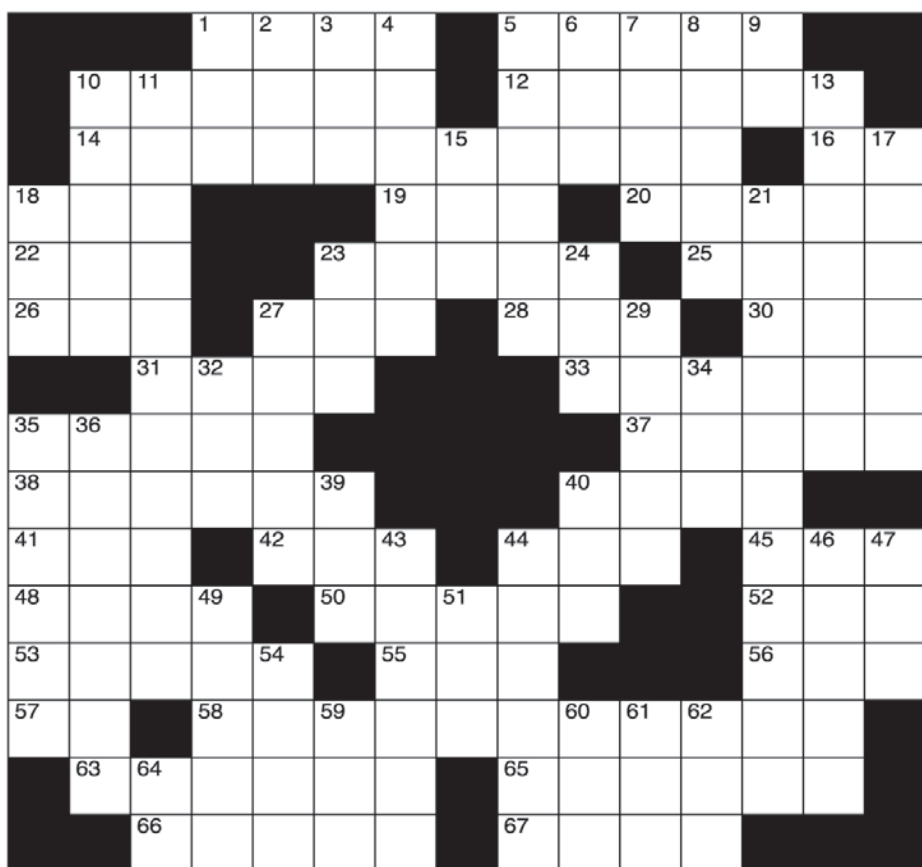
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- Type of bread
- Range of mountains
- Ended
- Musical forms with a recurring theme
- On the nature of being
- Law enforcement agency
- Australian flightless bird
- Subway rodent
- More dried-up
- A beaver might build one
- Suggestive of the supernatural
- Art \_\_\_, around 1920
- American rocker Snider
- Not or
- Earliest human: \_\_\_-Magnon Man
- Firearm
- Tough outer skin of fruit
- Alternative form of

- a gene
- Low shrub some call "fat pork"
- Plants in the chamomile tribe
- Revolutionary War era spy
- Portion of a book
- Hoover's office
- Title of respect
- Tax collector
- Cool!
- Real estate
- Boy's name
- Airborne (abbr.)
- Strongly recommends
- Hit lightly
- Bar bill
- Atomic #54
- Devotes again
- Fish sauce
- French stock market
- Things that consist of two elements or parts
- Tense

- Retired game show host Sajak
- Equal (prefix)
- Israeli city \_\_\_ Aviv
- Loved
- A type of analyst
- Ad \_\_\_
- Gasteyer and de Armas are two
- Ran without moving
- Opposite of yes
- Diffuse clouds of gas
- Mentioning one by one
- Instruments used to dilate
- Freshwater fish
- Remotely-manned flying objects
- Doctor of Education
- Renews
- Not the start
- Pitching stat
- Small water buffaloes
- Ceramic jars
- I (German)
- Something to toss on a fire
- The process of flowing in
- A series of acts at a night club
- Egg of a louse
- Inquire too closely
- Travelers
- Drink
- Behave in a way that degrades
- Electronic music style
- Northern Ireland city
- Upset
- Stiff structure resembling a hair
- Father
- North Atlantic fish
- 8th month (abbr.)
- Make an effort
- Commercial

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

# COMMUNITY VOICE

## Monthly Message: CONTACT Community Services shares story of transformation

When I took on the role of community engagement and development manager at CONTACT Community Services, I had a lot to learn.

I had no idea of the impact that CONTACT was making in our community. I quickly conducted an impromptu (and informal) survey of friends, local businesses and acquaintances. Turns out, I wasn't the only one. I discovered that the role CONTACT plays in our community is one of the best-kept secrets.

Here's what I now know.

In 1977, in response to a survey that revealed a profound lack of support agencies in the area, a small group of dedicated South Simcoe community members established CONTACT Community Services, providing free information and referrals, friendly call services to isolated seniors, and an informal listening ear for anyone needing help.

Over the next few years, CONTACT gained momentum, establishing a walk-in Community Information Centre in downtown Alliston. It also launched a job board and resume collection service, and opened

The Clothes Line, an affordable community thrift store.

Here we are, 48 years later, and the need for support of our most vulnerable community members has skyrocketed. Today, CONTACT provides in-depth personal support to over 3,500 people annually through our award-winning Employment Services in Bradford, our Housing Support team throughout South Simcoe, the Clothes Line stores in Allison and Bradford, and our free community programming for seniors.

Last year, with the support of the County of Simcoe, CONTACT took the lead in providing 24/7 wraparound services to unhoused seniors, providing a home and a path to a brighter future at our Supportive Rapid Rehousing Program in Collingwood.

This story isn't about us though. It's about our community coming together to care for our neighbours when they need it most.

### RODGER'S STORY

When we met Rodger, he was nearly 60 and living in a tent in Innisfil during the coldest

months of winter. He called it a "living hell" — sleeping in the snow, going days without food, and sharing scraps with his only companions, two raccoons and a skunk.

Then, he met a Housing Access Worker from CONTACT Community Services.

Thanks to support from our community, CONTACT helped Rodger connect with support services and reconnect with family.

Later, he was brought into our Supportive Rapid Rehousing Program (SRRP) in Collingwood.

Just days after arriving, he was rushed to the hospital with a serious heart condition — one that would have taken his life if he were still out in the cold.

Today, with CONTACT's support, Rodger is rebuilding — he is safe, healing, and living in his own apartment in Simcoe County. He says the team at CONTACT "literally saved my life."

Thanks to the support of the New Tecumseth Times, Rodger's is just one of many transformational stories we will be sharing with you monthly. They are testaments to

resiliency, strength, and perseverance, but they're also powerful demonstrations of love from a community that refuses to leave its most vulnerable behind.

As I continue on this journey with CONTACT Community Services, I am filled with gratitude. Gratitude for living in a compassionate community; gratitude for having the opportunity to learn — and continue learning — how we can help families and individuals who have fallen on hard times; And gratitude for the small group of dedicated community members who saw the need in 1977 and did something about it.

To learn more about CONTACT Community Services and how you can support the need, please visit our website [contactcommunityservices.ca](http://contactcommunityservices.ca), follow us on Facebook and Instagram @contactcommunityservices.

Until next month.

*This monthly submission for our "Community Voice" column was written by Brenda Pufek, manager of Community Engagement and Development at CONTACT Community Services.*

## Annual Toot n' Holler town-wide garage sale returning to New Tecumseth streets this weekend

It's that time of year when residents will be cruising the streets of Tottenham and Beeton looking for a bargain or special item.

One person's castaway is another person's treasure and the annual Toot n' Holler garage sale this weekend (June 14) gives you a chance to find that treasure.

The Tottenham Beeton District Chamber of Commerce has provided a list of addresses

that will be participating this year.

The Toot n' Holler will take place on Saturday, June 14.

**Tottenham:** 17 Lionel Stone Ave East, 11 Lionel Stone Ave East, 3 McCurdy Dr., 96 McCurdy Dr., 38 Sydie Lane, 57 Sydie Lane, 14 McKnight Cres., 41 Laverock St., 39 McKay Ave, 7329 Cty Rd 14, 45 Martin Trail, 1 Metcalf Cres., 29 Sharpe Cres., 7

Gunning Cres., 28 Alphonsus Court, 47 Lionel Stone Ave., 162 Mogahey Street, 6866 6th Line, 4 Pettit Court, 5 Hummingbird Grove, 34 Lionel Stone Ave E, 57 Pierce Place, Tottenham Legion, Tecumseth Pines

**Beeton:** 6482 7th Line, 51 Maple Ave E., 107 Centre St N., 97 Maple Ave W., 2 Elm Court, Smyth Cres.

**Alliston:** Alliston Legion



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# SCDSB approves budget of \$768 million for 2025-26 school year

BY BRIAN LOCKHART  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Simcoe County District School Board has approved a balanced budget of \$768 million for the 2025-26 school year in compliance with the Ministry of Education's mandate.

The budget was approved by the Board of

Trustees at its May 28 meeting.

The budget focuses on meeting the needs of students guided by the board's Strategic Priorities.

"Developing and maintaining a balanced and compliant budget is a collaborative effort between the Board of Trustees, director of education, senior administrative team, and financial reporting team," said Corry

Van Nispen, the school board's superintendent of business and facility services.

"Fiscal responsibility and accountability have long been a focus for the SCDSB, positioning the board well to operate effectively with a conservative budget," he added.

Funding is allocated to school boards from the Ministry of Education using a

funding model designed to be easily understandable and strengthening accountability, while balancing the need for flexibility, based on local school board needs.

The initiative links directly to the SCDSB Strategic Priorities in the areas of well-being, diversity, equity and inclusion, community, and excellence in teaching and learning.

# Vince's Market honoured at recent South Simcoe Business Awards ceremony

BY BRIAN LOCKHART  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Vince's Market in Tottenham was honoured

with the Community Excellence Award at the 25th Annual South Simcoe Business Awards, held at the Community Hub in Bradford on Thursday, May 22.

The event brought together business leaders, elected officials, and community champions to celebrate what makes South Simcoe thrive – its people and the businesses that support them.

Many deserving nominees were recognized during the evening.

Vince's was proud to be honoured for its community contributions.

The grocery store believes that for businesses to be strong, communities must be strong. That's why it created Vince's Community Support – a program dedicated to

charitable giving.

Every year, Vince's invests \$45,000 to support local charities, house league sports teams, the arts, and grassroots initiatives that make a difference in the community.

Since the program was launched in 2018, it has raised over \$180,000 for organizations that are improving lives every day.

"Vince's is very proud to be recognized in the Town of Tottenham," said Maria Ciarlandini, Vince's community ambassador. "Thank you for acknowledging and highlighting our team's efforts to support this wonderful community."



**COMMUNITY AMBASSADORS** – Vince's grocery store in Tottenham was honoured at the 25th Annual South Simcoe Business Awards held at the Community Hub in Bradford on Thursday, May 22. Vince's was honoured for its contributions to the community. Vince's president Giancarlo Trimarchi (third from right) and Maria Ciarlandini (right) are joined by New Tecumseth Deputy Mayor Stephanie MacLellan, Simcoe-Grey MPP Brian Saunderson, New Tecumseth-Gwillimbury MP Scot Davidson and New Tecumseth Councillor Chris Rapin, during the award ceremony.

BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

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# Arts & Local Events

## Prison isn't all that bad for the Delval Divas in Blackhorse Theatre production

BY BRIAN LOCKHART  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

They may be behind bars doing long prison sentences, but life in a country club-style institution isn't so bad for a group of women in the Blackhorse Village Players' production of Delval Divas.

Written by Barbara Pease Weber, produced by Jo-Anne Pulfer, and directed by Lee Clements, the stage is set in Delval prison where a group of non-violent offenders enjoys a rather easy life considering they are being punished by society for their crimes.

The group of women are all high achievers who found themselves in the prison system after committing white-collar crimes of embezzlement, money laundering, and financial fraud.

When inmate Beth, played by Cathy Montgomery, learns she is being paroled, she is very upset at the thought of being sent out to society and leaving her good friends and cushy lifestyle at the prison behind.

In the role of Lucille, the prison guard, Karen Fogleman is a friend to the inmates

and treats them with dignity. However, much of her friendly demeanour comes from the fact that the inmates have been paying her way through school on the ill-gotten gains from their crimes, which they have cleverly hidden away from authorities.

In return, Lucille makes sure the women have access to gourmet food, spa treatments, and a rather good life behind bars.

**'When inmate Beth, played by Cathy Montgomery, learns she is being paroled, she is very upset at the thought of being sent out to society and leaving her good friends and cushy lifestyle at the prison behind.'**

Puneet Kuldeep Bajwa takes on the role of Linda, a medical doctor, who found herself on the wrong side of the law.

In the role of Stella, Amanda Tessier is a



**DOING TIME** – Life behind bars isn't all that bad for a group of inmates in the Blackhorse Village Players' production of Delval Divas. The women enjoy a rather cushy lifestyle considering they are in prison for white-collar crimes. That all changes when they find out the prison is closing and they will be sent to other institutions in this comedy about doing time. **BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTOS**

former financial whiz who played around with the market and found herself in prison for her efforts.

Taking on the role of Rosemary, Jacquie Moore also found herself in prison after making a lot of money, but not in a legal way.

After Beth leaves, the women find out they will be having a new roommate. They are horrified to learn the new inmate has been charged with murder.

The inmates regard themselves as better people than anyone charged with a crime of violence and they are concerned about having a murderer among them.

At the same time, they find out that the prison is going to be closed and they will all be shipped to different prisons, further complicating their lives behind bars.

When they reach out to the prison warden, they learn he has been absent and no one knows where he is.

When the new inmate Sharon, played by

Lauren Tiesma, arrives, she spends the first few days sobbing uncontrollably in her cell.

The inmates eventually reach out to her and calm her down. Sharon explains her situation and insists she is not guilty of the crime she has been accused of.

As the women discuss Sharon's criminal case with her, they start to realize there is more going on with both her and the missing warden.

They use the skills that they had in their former lives to investigate all that is going on.

Rounding out the production staff are stage manager Mike Hunter, assistant stage manager Norah Ruffolo and Mark Hayward is in charge of lighting.

Delval Divas is on stage at the Blackhorse Village Players Theatre at Highway 9 and Mount Wolfe Road through to June 22.

For ticket information, visit the theatre's website at [www.blackhorsetheatre.ca](http://www.blackhorsetheatre.ca).



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**BRIAN SAUNDERSON**  
MPP, Simcoe-Grey





**AWARD-WINNING RIBS** – The Alliston Ribfest returned to PPG Park from June 6 to 8 for saucy ribs, live music, cold drinks and some good old fashioned family fun. The event is in support of Stevenson Memorial Hospital Foundation, Ontario Football and the Banting Marauders.  
**BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTOS**



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# Health Unit offers tips on how to stay healthy during poor air quality events

BY BRIAN LOCKHART  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Wildfire smoke from fires in Northern Ontario has been drifting into the region, resulting in poor air quality.

For the first time this year, Environment and Climate Change Canada issued a special air quality statement.

Breathing in wildfire smoke can cause immediate symptoms and may also increase

long-term health risks.

Some people are more at risk, including babies and young children, older adults, pregnant women, people living with chronic health conditions or existing illnesses, people who smoke, and people who work or exercise outdoors.

You can take steps to protect your health and reduce exposure to poor air quality.

Check the Air Quality Health Index (AQHI) alerts to help you make informed decisions.

Air quality conditions can change quickly, so check the AQHI frequently.

Monitor yourself and those around you for symptoms and health effects of air pollution and know when to seek medical attention.

You should reduce your exposure to air pollution. Consider reducing or rescheduling outdoor activities during poor air quality events. Protect your indoor air quality and create cleaner indoor air spaces in your home by keeping windows and doors closed during

times of high air pollution.

Take care and listen to your body. Drink lots of water as this helps your body cope with air pollution. Stop or reduce activity levels if you are experiencing symptoms such as difficulty breathing or feeling unwell.

Poor air quality events can overlap with hot temperatures and humid air.

Extreme heat is usually more dangerous than short-term exposure to poor air quality – even wildfire smoke.

# Walking Through the Fire highlights Truth & Reconciliation through collaboration

BY BROCK WEIR

Collaboration between Indigenous and non-Indigenous artists to light a path forward together was one of the 94 Calls to Action in the final report of the National Truth & Reconciliation Commission.

While Indigenous leaders give all levels of government a failing grade in truly addressing the Calls to Action, action achieved unspooled at Aurora Town Square on Thursday evening as it played host to Walking Through the Fire, an album and film produced by the Sultans of String and more than a dozen Indigenous collaborators.

Walking Through the Fire brings diverse Indigenous voices – First Nations, Inuit and Métis – together in a musical collaboration that explores many of the toughest issues in the way of Truth & Reconciliation, including Residential Schools, Indigenous-Crown relations, repercussions of the Indian Act, and much more.

The film, the brainchild of Sultans violinist Chris McKhool, features artists Marc Meriläinen (Nadjiwan (Ojibwe)); Crystal Shawanda (Ojibwe Potawatomi); Raven Kanataktak (Anishinaabe Algonquin /Onkwehón:we

Mohawk); Leela Gilday (Dene); Leanne Tanton (Dene); Northern Cree (Cree); Shannon Thunderbird & Kate Dickson (Ts'msyen); Dr. Duke Redbird (Chippewa/Anishinaabe); The North Sound (w/ Forrest Eaglespeaker – Blackfoot); Kendra Tagoona & Tracy Sarazin (Inuit); Don Ross (Mi'kmaw) and M.J. Dandeneau (Métis); and the Métis Fiddler Quartet.

It was presented by McKhool, joined by Thunderbird and Dickson, in the ATS Performance Hall on June 5 to coincide with National Indigenous History Month and while the music resonated with the more than 70 audience members, it also raised tough questions and tough responses from the trio.

“Out of the fire comes a few ways of being, of thinking, of seeing,” said Thunderbird in reference to questions on Ontario’s controversial Bill 5 and ongoing wildfires in the Prairies. “When you look at the fire as a bit of a metaphor, there’s always new growth, and even with the devastation that is going on in the Prairies, there will be new growth that comes out of that, as horrifying as it is to watch right now. But fire is powerful and when I looked at Walking Through the Fire... I have been on a fire walk all my life, coming through many things. There’s warmth and

there’s goodness about fire, but there’s also great, deep knowledge about it.”

For McKhool, the spark that resulted in Walking Through the Fire was stoked by Dr. Duke Redbird, who questioned how the Sultans would follow up their Refugee Project, which shone a light on new immigrants.

“Nobody says no to Duke Redbird,” joked Thunderbird.

“It was about two years of writing and connecting with Indigenous artists and the whole recording process,” McKhool continued. “Then, we only ever thought it was going to be a CD. We thought, okay, we’re going to make a beautiful piece of art – it’s going to be a statement and people can learn from it, but we never imagined that it would actually turn into a live show [and film] but that really caught fire and we spent the last two years doing it.”

“I’ll just say from my point of view, because I grew up in the Ontario school system, I thought I knew a lot. Through this experience, I realized I knew nothing about the actual Indigenous experience, that everything I was taught in school was a lie.”

A lot was accomplished in a comparatively short period of time with the project, both per-

sonally and professionally, but, the presenters agreed, the same can’t be said regarding the 94 Calls to Action in the last decade since they were published.

“It’s a complete failure,” said Thunderbird. “This is the tenth anniversary of the release of the Commission Report and the 94 Calls to Action, and to this date, 13 Calls to Action have been completed out of 94, and they were the simple ones, actually.”

“When I am asked to do a land acknowledgement, I refuse,” she continued. “What am I acknowledging? That it was okay for the Crown to take the land? Really? What Kate (Dickson) and I do is what’s called a Land Statement in which we explain our relationship with the land, with the environment, and how that is the bedrock of our spirituality and our cultures.”

Dickson noted it’s important to “feel what you feel.”

“There’s that old phrase of knowing sets you free,” she said. “I’m not sure how that sets you free, however you have to just know about everything, no matter how awful it might be, no matter how unpleasant it makes you feel, because being unsettled spurs you to action...”

Continued on page 11



Final Release

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# Chairs, vice chairs representing communities across Simcoe County confirmed

BY BRIAN LOCKHART  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The leadership of committees and boards representing County of Simcoe Council has officially been confirmed.

These positions will be held until the next municipal election in fall 2026.

County Council has created several committees and boards that include both Council members and community members, who are able to bring varied perspectives and expertise.

Committees and boards play an important role in Council’s decisions by carefully reviewing proposed policies and research, before making recommendations to the Com-

mittee of the Whole.

The Lake Simcoe Regional Airport board chair and vice-chair positions were confirmed, helping lead an important strategic investment and growth strategy to support the area community.

Here is a list of the 2025-2026 Committee and Board Chairs:

**Lake Simcoe Regional Airport**

- Confirmed May 23, 2025
- Chair – Councillor Richard Norcross (Mayor of New Tecumseth)
- Vice-Chair – Councillor Lynn Dollin (Mayor of Innisfil)

**Affordable Housing Advisory Committee**

- Confirmed June 3, 2025

- Chair: Councillor Keith Bell (Deputy Mayor of Ramara)

- Vice-Chair: Councillor Stephanie MacLellan (Deputy Mayor of New Tecumseth)

**Grant Program Task Force**

- Confirmed May 18, 2025
- Chair – Councillor Michael Smith (Deputy Mayor of Essa)
- Vice-Chair – Councillor David Evans (Mayor of Tiny)

**Accessibility Advisory Committees**

- Confirmed January 21, 2025
- Chair – Membre Doug Mein
- Vice-Chair – Member Lisa Cohen

**Economic Development Sub-Committee**

- Confirmed January 14, 2025

- Chair – Councillor Kenneth Fowler (Deputy Mayor of Innisfil)

- Vice-Chair – Councillor Yvonne Hamlin (Mayor of Collingwood)

**Simcoe County Housing Corporation Board**

- Confirmed November 2024
- Chair – Councillor Doug Measures (Mayor of Clearview)
- Vice-Chair – Councillor Bran Smith (Mayor of Wasaga Beach)

The following committees will elect their respective chairs and vice chairs at their next Agricultural Liaison Committee, Bursary Committee, and Planning Advisory Committee meetings.

*Continued from Page 10*

## Walking Through the Fire brings diverse Indigenous voices together through musical collaboration

We need help to find our way. We’re refusing to give up. We will never give up, and regardless of who they think are the fathers of this country, we will not go away. But because you’re now looking at

the collaboration between Indigenous and non-Indigenous, which is a partnership now, we can give you solace, we can give you philosophy that goes back to help your soul, and you can help us with the politics.

How does that work for you?

“The fact that you sit here, and the fact that you listen to us, the fact you’re taking it in, and the fact that there is a communal sympathy here in the room means

absolutely everything. It means everything to us.”

For more information, visit [sultansofstring.com/2023/08/walkingthroughthefire](https://sultansofstring.com/2023/08/walkingthroughthefire).

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# SPORTS

NEW TECUMSETH TIMES

## Midland Mariners take an early lead in NDBL's senior division

BY BRIAN LOCKHART  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The North Dufferin Baseball League's senior division schedule is well underway with 12 teams entered in competition this year and some very exciting games being played on diamonds around the region.

There's a lot of new blood in the division this year as junior players move into the senior ranks this season.

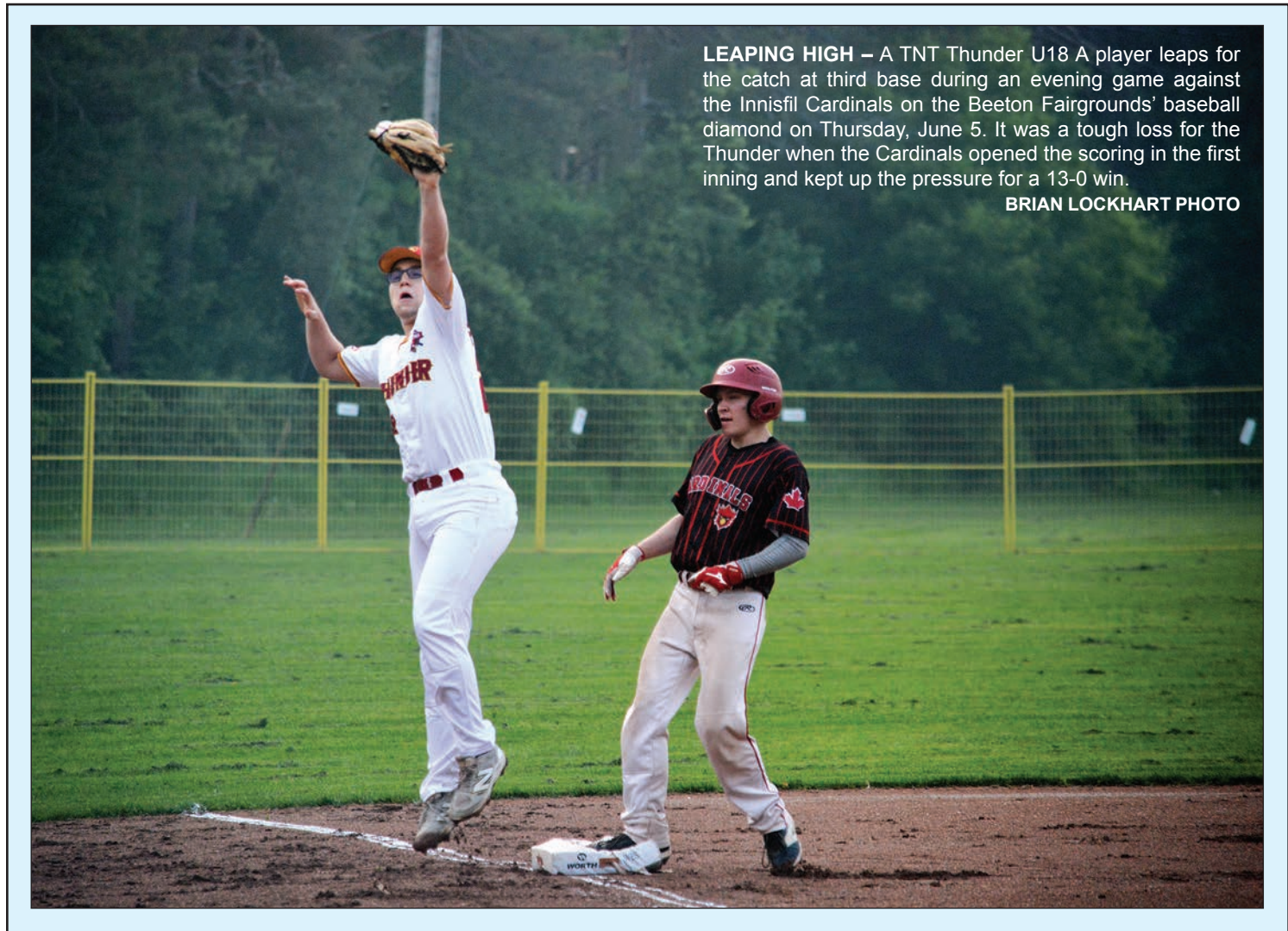
In the early going, the Midland Mariners have moved into the lead in the standings. The Mariners have a 6-1-1 record and have averaged over nine runs per game so far this season.

The defending champion Owen Sound Baysox has started the season with good results. The team has a 6-2 record after eight games played. The Baysox have also had a high-scoring season, averaging over 8 runs per game.

In third place, the Ivy Rangers have taken two losses after eight times on the field.

The Barrie Angles are currently in the fourth spot with a 5-3-2 record, averaging six runs per game this season.

The Bolton Brewers, who have won the Strother Cup championship nine times over the past 16 seasons, are in fifth place with a 5-3-1 record. They have been averaging almost eight runs per game this year.



**LEAPING HIGH** – A TNT Thunder U18 A player leaps for the catch at third base during an evening game against the Innisfil Cardinals on the Beeton Fairgrounds' baseball diamond on Thursday, June 5. It was a tough loss for the Thunder when the Cardinals opened the scoring in the first inning and kept up the pressure for a 13-0 win.

BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

In sixth place, the Lisle Astros are having a good season with a 5-4-1 record.

The rest of the teams, in order in the standings, are the New Lowell Knights, Mansfield Cubs, Creemore Padres, Clarks-

burg Blues, Orillia Majors, and the Caledon Cardinals.

The Cardinals are the League's newest team, playing their inaugural season with the NDBL this year.

The Mansfield Cubs have started off well with three wins behind them. The team has brought up a new contingent of talented players from the junior division and they are hoping to have a lot of success this season.

## Alliston Humane Society Woof Walk brings canines together for a fun day for a good cause

BY BRIAN LOCKHART  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

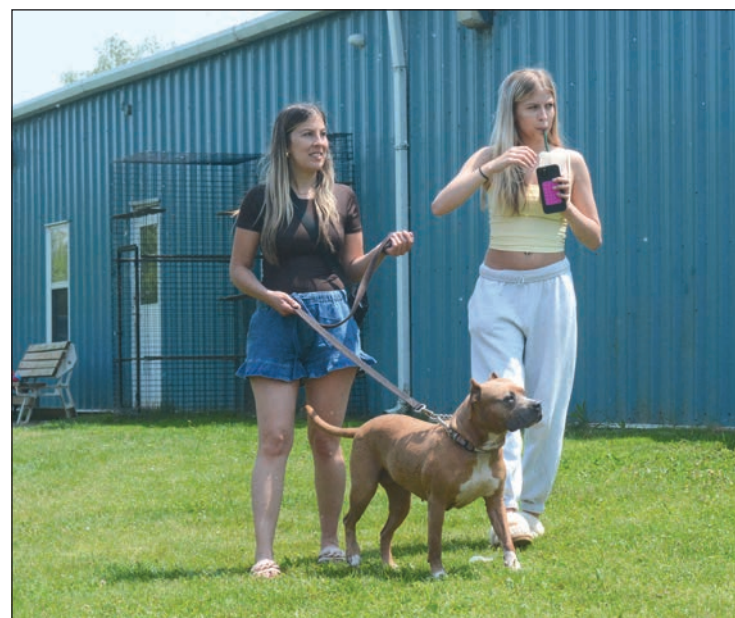
The Alliston & District Humane Society held its annual fundraising Woof Walk on Saturday, June 7, and celebrated a good turnout of people and their pets who had the opportunity to walk the trails around the property.

This year featured a lot more vendors and a pet sport area where dogs could test their jumping and coordination skills. There was also a free barbecue with food donated by local grocery stores.

"Every year it's gotten bigger and bigger," said Tania Perrier, the Humane Society's outreach coordinator, of the Woof Walk. "Our supporters are so amazing; they always show up for it. Last year we made \$27,000, and we're definitely going to break that record this year. It's really amazing – the community that we have that helps us. Zehrs donated food, and we have a photographer here who is doing pet photography."

The event got underway with registration at 11 a.m. followed by the walk. You didn't have to bring a dog with you to enjoy the event. Everyone was welcome.

"This is our annual Woof Walk and it's a big fundraiser for us," explained shelter



**WOOF WALK** – The Alliston & District Humane Society held its annual Woof Walk fundraiser on Saturday, June 7, at its Concession Rd. 4, location. The walk raises funds to help the shelter pay for veterinary bills. Brandi and Alyssa take their friend Harlow out for a walk around the grounds.

BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

president Jane Clarke. "The funds raised go toward the medical care of the animals. It pays the vet bills. We had a walk with all these dogs. People register online or they come out here with funds and visit the vendors and have some food. We have 52 acres here. We have a one-kilometre walk and a

two-kilometre walk. We've had people come without a dog and they pet all the dogs when they're here."

The Humane Society has been a very busy place. Currently, it is at capacity with abandoned and surrendered dogs, cats, and other small animals.

The Woof Walk had already raised \$25,000 through online pledges before the walk and it is expected they will reach close to \$30,000 on the day of the walkthrough donations.

The funds will all be used to help care for the animals at the shelter.

# Ryan Fox survives four-hole playoff over Sam Burns to capture RBC Canadian Open

BY JIM STEWART

Ryan Fox captured the RBC Canadian Open on Sunday afternoon in a four-hole playoff with Sam Burns.

Both were tied at 18 under par after 72 holes of play.

The 2025 champion offered a self-deprecating view of his playoff versus Burns—a five-time winner on the PGA Tour: “To be honest, Sam and I had a bit of a pillow fight for three holes. But that shot I hit on 18—that 3-wood—was probably the best shot I’ve ever hit.”

The New Zealander’s impressive approach from the 18th fairway set him up for an eagle putt, but he settled for a birdie to vanquish Burns—the clubhouse leader and LSU product who held a one-stroke lead over the field for over two hours.

Burns shot a sizzling -8 on Sunday and it appeared that the Canadian Open Trophy would have his name inscribed on it. However, Fox birdied 13 and 14 on his way to the 18th where he rolled in his pressure-packed third birdie in six holes to force the two-man playoff.

Fox’s gutsy charge and dramatic win at TPC Toronto Osprey Valley was his second PGA victory in five weeks. He captured the Myrtle Beach Classic in May—also in a playoff.

Nick Taylor of Abbotsford, BC was awarded The Rivermead Cup as the lowest-scoring Canadian at TPC Toronto. Taylor cobbled together a 3-under par 67 on Sunday to tie for 13th at 13 under par.

The 2023 Canadian Open champion expressed disappointment about his final round performance, but was appreciative of the award.

“I’ll take some pride in that. It stings with the finish today, but I’m happy I gave it a run. It didn’t pan out this time, but if that’s a consolation prize, it’s nice. I thought 17-under would be in a playoff potentially, but being given a chance with a few holes to go is what you’re looking for.”

The RBC Canadian Open at TPC Toronto Osprey Valley was all a golf fan could be looking for, even though a native son such as Taylor did not hoist the trophy in 2025. It was a thrill to watch eight Canadians march up the 18th fairway to appreciative applause from the thousands of fans ringing the final hole.

A record-tying number of Canadians made the cut and their play showed the depth of golf

talent in this country.

Matthew Anderson of Mississauga, ON, was the first Canuck to embrace the 18th hole “homecoming.”

The fans assembled around the green and the three adjacent grandstands were not as rowdy as “The Rink” denizens over on the 14th, but they were equally enthusiastic at welcoming each of the Canadian players to their 72nd green of the tournament.

Anderson—after his playing partner Jeremy Paul dialed in his approach within two feet of the pin—wedged his approach less than 8 feet of the target. The 24-year-old made no mistake on his putt—jarring his birdie with Mounties Nicole Noonan and Murray Farrow overseeing his fine effort and offering their congratulations as he exited the sun-drenched 18th. Anderson’s birdie pulled him even for a Final Round of 70 and he tied for 47th place at 7 under par.

Listowel’s Corey Conners strolled up the 18th to much louder applause and responded in kind by firing a dart to within two feet aside the pin. Conners did not disappoint the crowd—he jarred his birdie to finish the day on a high note.

The PGA veteran finished the Final Round with a 68 and tied for 28th place at 10 under par.

Ben Silverman of Thornhill followed Conners’ lead, flew his approach on 18 exactly two feet from the hole and rolled in his birdie, too—punctuating the made putt with a wee fist pump that endeared the 37-year-old to the Canadian fans. Silverman’s birdie gave him a -1 final round and he accrued a -9 over the tournament to finish in a tie for 36th.

Richard T. Lee—who is not a PGA player but is currently ranked third on The Asian Tour—followed Conners and Silverman in a parade of Canadians up the 18th.

The 34-year-old, born in Richmond Hill and raised in Vancouver, created a birdie opportunity with his approach shot, but his 18-footer leaked left for a tap-in par. Lee rose as high as a tie for third place after the second round of the Canadian Open during which he fired a 66 and exploded into the consciousness of Canadian golf fans. His score of 70 on Sunday dropped him into a tie with Silverman for 36th with a 9 under par for the tournament.

As Shane Lowry meandered up the 18th, Steve the Leprechaun stirred to life in his front row, greenside chair, but there was no luck of the Irish on Sunday as Lowry bogeyed both 17

and 18 to fall out of contention.

The combustible Lowry’s playing partner on Sunday was Taylor, who rocketed a fairway wood to within ten feet above the 18th pin. The crowd saluted Taylor’s long effort with hearty applause, but the 2023 champ rolled his birdie effort a little left for a tap-in par.

The crowd reserved its loudest cheer for the Dynamic Canadian Duo of the day. Playing partners Adam Hadwin of Abbotsford, BC and Taylor Pendrith of Richmond Hill, both parred the 18th and finished Round Four with 70. Hadwin and Pendrith finished in a tie for 28th at 10 strokes under par.

MacKenzie Hughes rounded out the Canadian contingent of eight and was greeted with warm applause as he stepped on to the green at 18 and tapped in his par to end a frustrating day on the links. The Dundas, ON, native shot a +1 on Sunday and finished at -11 for the tournament in a tie for 24th.

Although no Canadian made a big final round charge nor finished in the Top Ten at this year’s national professional tournament, it’s evident that there is a Golden Age of Golf



**GOLF CANADA CHAMPION** – Ryan Fox won the RBC Canadian Open on Sunday, June 8. **CONTRIBUTED PHOTO**

emerging in Canada.

It was equally evident that TPC Toronto at Osprey Valley is a perfect place to host the RBC Canadian Open with its sprawling, picturesque, and hilly track.

Golf Canada seems to have a similarly favourable impression of the golf course and its splendid facilities. Luckily for locals, the RBC Canadian Open is slated for a return to northwest Caledon in 2026—a delightful turn of events for golfers, spectators, and media alike.

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# Police looking to identify suspects involved in alcohol theft

BY BRIAN LOCKHART  
 LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Nottawasaga Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) officers are currently investigating a shoplifting incident and are requesting the public's assistance to identify two people.

On June 3, Nottawasaga OPP responded to a shoplift incident at 7 Commerce Road in Essa. Shortly after 12:30 p.m., two individuals were seen entering the store and taking two bottles of alcohol worth \$120 then exiting the store with no attempt to pay.

Officers are looking to identify the two individuals.

If you know either of the pictured individuals, please call 1-888-310-1122 (reference number E250708484). You can also provide information anonymously by contacting Crime Stoppers to remain anonymous at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS) or [www.crimestoppersdm.com](http://www.crimestoppersdm.com).

When you contact Crime Stoppers you stay anonymous, and you never have to testify.



**PLEASE REPORT** – The Nottawasaga OPP is looking to identify two suspects following a theft in Essa, where two bottles of alcohol worth \$120 were stolen. Anyone with information on these two individuals is asked to contact the police at 1-888-310-1122 or Crime Stoppers.

BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

# South Simcoe Police wrap up Canadian Road Safety Week Campaign

The South Simcoe Police Traffic Unit recently wrapped up Canadian Road Safety Week.

During the campaign, nearly 100 tickets were issued to motorists.

"The national initiative is an annual campaign focused on making our roadways the safest they can be for everyone across the country. It is designed to increase public awareness and encourage safe driving, reduce injuries on our roadways and save lives," said South Simcoe Police in a press release dated June 5.

"The goal continues to be the elimination of impaired driving, distracted driving, aggressive driving, and driving without a seatbelt.

Throughout the campaign, which ran from May 13 to 19, 2025, South Simcoe Police focused enforcement efforts on these offences, while also conducting RIDE (Reduce Impaired Driving Everywhere) spot checks."

As a result of the campaign, South Simcoe Police observed that motorists are responding positively to safety measures, with more drivers using hands-free technology with a noticeable decline in distracted driving, and a greater awareness around seatbelt safety with an increase in seatbelt use, including passengers.

Speeding continues to be a significant concern, especially on South Simcoe roadways with posted speed limits of 80 km/h.

According to the 2020 Transport Canada

Road Safety in Canada Report, the leading contributing factor for fatalities was speeding (25 per cent). Speeding was the offence most observed during the weeklong campaign. South Simcoe Police issued 59 speeding tickets, charged 4 drivers with stunt driving, and issued 8 tickets while investigating motor vehicle collisions where aggressive driving was a factor.

Here are the South Simcoe Police Campaign results:

- 7 RIDE spot checks conducted, with approximately 300 vehicles checked.
- 4 impaired operation charges,
- 4 vehicle impoundments related to impaired operation charges,

- 59 speeding tickets,
- 4 stunt driving charges,
- 4 seatbelt offences,
- 8 tickets related to collisions where aggressive driving was a factor.

"While this year's annual national campaign has concluded, South Simcoe Police remain vigilant, continuing to proactively enforce, and patrol our community roadways year-round to maintain public safety," reads South Simcoe Police's press release. "It's important that we all continue to do our part to reduce injuries on our roadways. Safer roads start with us! Together, we can help to ensure every journey ends with a safe arrival on every road, every day, for everyone."

Don't go fishing for your news, community highlights, current events and more!

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## 708 OBITUARIES

### WILCOX, Charles Harry Edward

Charlie peacefully went home to be with his Lord and Saviour on Friday, June 6, 2025 at the age of 95 surrounded by his loving family at Matthews House Hospice, Alliston.

Devoted husband of Barbara (née Richardson) for almost 70 years. Loving father of Craig (Wenda Lea) Wilcox and Jane (Scott) Lesperance. Proud papa of Andrew (Brittany) Wilcox, Jordan (Olivia) Wilcox, Daniel (Lindsay) Wilcox, Kelsey (Kyle) Vandekleut, Madison (Luke) Shaule; Leah (Canaan) Marche and Rachel (Eric) Engelsman. Cherished great papa of Cayden, Dallas, Declan, Nolan, Jamie, Elisabeth, Emmaline, Oliver, William, Riley and Hallie. Dear brother of Douglas, late Victor and late Evan (DorothyAnn). Charlie will also be fondly remembered by his nieces, nephews and friends.

Charlie spent all of his 95 years on the beloved Beaver Vale Farms, the land where he was born and where his heart remained even after his peaceful transition to Matthews House Hospice in March 2025.

From a young age, Charlie developed a deep-rooted love for farming, a passion that would define his life. He had a special fondness for working with registered Holstein cattle and remained actively involved on the farm well into his 95th year—driving tractors, helping with daily tasks, or simply enjoying the view from beneath a favorite tree watching as the farm activities unfolded around him.

In October 1955, Charlie married the love of his life, Barbara. This fall would have marked their 70th wedding anniversary – a testament to their enduring love and shared journey. Together, they shared a heartfelt passion for Gospel music, attending countless concerts and events that brought them so much joy.

Charlie loved the various churches he was a part of throughout his life – Bond Head United Church, Bradford Baptist Church and was a faithful member of Emmanuel Barrie for the past 15 years, rarely missing a Sunday service or seniors gathering. His quiet strength and warm presence made him a cherished part of the church community. Charlie had deep love for Jesus which was evident in the ways he loved those around him, in his commitment to the local church, and his awareness of his deep need for God's grace.

Above all, Charlie treasured time with his family. He found his greatest joy in the company of his children, grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren, creating lasting memories filled with love and laughter.

Charlie will be deeply missed by his devoted family, his church family, and the farming community he so dearly loved.

Visitation was held at Skwarchuk Funeral Home, 30 Simcoe Road, Bradford on Wednesday, June 11, 2025 from 3-7 p.m. Funeral Service will be held at Emmanuel Baptist Church, 374 Salem Road, Barrie on Thursday, June 12, 2025 at 11 a.m. Interment to follow at Bond Head United Church Cemetery.

In Charlie's memory, donations may be made to Matthews House Hospice, Alliston.

Online condolences may be made at [www.skwarchukfuneralhome.com](http://www.skwarchukfuneralhome.com)

### Glover: Christian David Brent "Chris"

Peacefully with his loving family by his side at Matthews House Hospice Alliston, on June 3, 2025. Chris Glover at the age of 50 years, beloved son of Cindy Brent (Michael Kollhosser) and Dave Glover (Young Glover). Loving brother of Brett Glover (Cory Aston and Ethan Danby) and step-brother of Christopher Kargel (Tina). Sadly missed by his nieces Abigail and Kalise, and nephew Kaius. Dear nephew of Jim Brent (Agnes), the late Ron, the late Mance, and the late Gary. Loving nephew of Janet Glover (Sheldon Button). Forever in the hearts of his friend and guardian Dawn West, his cousins, extended family, and many many friends.

The family wish to send a special Thank you to the Community of Tottenham for all their love, friendship, and support shown to Chris over the years.

The family received friends at Rod Abrams Funeral Home, 1666 Tottenham Rd., Tottenham 905-936-3477 on Friday, June 6, 2025 with Visitation from 4-7pm. Funeral service was held in the chapel at 1pm on Sunday, June 8, 2025. Followed by cremation. Reception celebrating Chris' life was held in the Funeral Home's Cliffside Hall immediately following the service.

Donations in Chris' Memory to Matthews House Hospice or C.L.A.S.S. would be appreciated. Condolences and memories of Christian may be left at [www.RodAbramsFuneralHome.com](http://www.RodAbramsFuneralHome.com).

### Ransom: Sondra Jane

It is with enormous sadness, we announce the sudden passing of Sondra Jane on Friday, March 7, 2025.

Beloved husband Art, loving mom late Stacy and Kathy (Rob). Loving nannie Connor, Codyn, Tianna. Loving sister Karen (Morris) Wanda (Gary) Late David. Cremation has taken place.

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Continued from Page 4

## Brock's Banter: Creature comforts (and discomforts)

One of my favourite comfort shows, *Bewitched*, has an episode where the neighbours, mostly concerned mothers, are hand-wringing about the impending closure of their kids' favourite park; a prevailing sentiment amongst the general population – at least until a few nose-twitches got involved – was, "you can't fight city hall!"

Thankfully, in my experience, this sentiment has largely faded into the ether as residents of our communities rarely shy away from filling Council Chambers to fight for the issues close to their hearts. In other areas, however, the quest for action quite often takes a hit in the quest for comfort.

Books that have educated, informed, and indeed entertained readers for generations, and have had profound

impacts on the way we've thought and seen the world for decades, are being tossed aside after a chapter or two – or, worse, being left on the shelf altogether – because they're products of their time and some of the sentiments contained within their covers can make some readers feel "uncomfortable" through modern sensibilities.

If it makes you think about where we are today, versus the time in which it was written, it sounds to me like the book is still doing exactly as it was intended to do.

Films continue to experience a similar phenomenon.

A couple of years ago, a friend of mine set a challenge for himself to watch every single film to win the Academy Award for Best Picture since

Oscar's inception in 1929. Things were going great until they got to 1939 and that year's winner, *Gone with The Wind*, and its highly romanticized view of the American south before, during, and immediately after their Civil War. I'm not sure what they were expecting given the fact it's one of the most famous and widely-seen movies of all time, and its themes have been widely known (and criticized) for more than 80 years, but that was the end of achieving a clean Best Picture sweep – all in the name of "discomfort."

To my mind, rather than discomfort, it was an opportunity for a critical viewing that was ultimately lost. Alas.

We're living in an increasingly challenging and divided world, and, inevitably, this is reflected in our news and cur-

rent affairs, no matter where you happen to tap into them. If you happen to tap into them at all.

There are no shortage of things happening right now at home and abroad that can be disheartening, discomfoting, and perhaps overwhelming. You might feel a desire to close the paper, turn off the TV news, close your apps, and power down your devices, to wrap yourself in the warm metaphorical blanket of your choice, but knowledge, if not fully emancipating, is power indeed.

And who knows? Armed with knowledge, and the example of others, you could too be inspired to make a difference – if only you give yourself a chance.

It would be easier with a nose twitch, of course, but we can all make due with what's inside all of us.

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TO ADVERTISE CALL  
**519-278-1700**

### TREE SERVICES



Tree Removal • Trimming • Stump Grinding  
Land Clearing • Storm Damage • 24 hr Emergency Services

**519-938-6996** branchmanagertreecare@gmail.com

### WINDOWS & EXTERIOR CLEANING

**REX**

Exceptional window & eaves cleaning

interior - exterior - commercial

(647) 393 7397

info@rexwindows.ca

Contact for a free quote

### WINDOWS & EXTERIOR CLEANING

**SCENIC**



Professional Services

- ✓ Interior / Exterior Window Cleaning
- ✓ Siding Cleaning
- ✓ Construction Cleans
- ✓ Exterior Eavestrough / Soffits / Fascia Cleaning
- ✓ Eavestrough Gutting
- ✓ Pressure Washing

Cell: 705-241-7861

Email: info@scenic-cleaning.ca

Website: scenic-cleaning.ca

5+ Years of Professional Experience  
Fully Insured



Free Estimates



## BORA TREE SERVICE

**CLEAN TREE REMOVAL & MORE**

CALL or TEXT: **(416) 820-4050**

**WILL BEAT ANY QUOTE**



Together, we can make a difference.

TO ADVERTISE, PLEASE CONTACT VICKI AT 1-519-278-1700 OR VICKI@LPCMEDIA.CA

37 Young Street, Alliston 705-435-1405

# M&M FOOD MARKET



**INCREDIBLE PRICE**  
**17<sup>99</sup>**

**SAVE \$11**

**2 lb of Wings**

Louisiana Style  
Salt & Pepper  
Honey Barbecue

Fully Cooked Chicken Wings  
907 g/2 lb

CHOOSE FROM 6 VARIETIES. GREAT FOR THE GRILL!

**BONELESS, SKINLESS CHICKEN BREASTS 8-12 BREASTS 1.36 kg/3 lb**

**4 DAYS ONLY**

THURSDAY **12** JUNE  
FRIDAY **13** JUNE  
SATURDAY **14** JUNE  
SUNDAY **15** JUNE

**INCREDIBLE PRICE**  
**25<sup>99</sup>**

**SAVE \$14**

Boneless, Skinless Chicken Breasts  
8-12 BREASTS 1.36 kg/3 lb

Also available, Boneless, Skinless Chicken Breasts  
4-6 BREASTS 680 g/1.5 lb \$14.99 **SAVE \$8**

**NEW!**

**SmashHouse Angus Beef Burgers**  
8 BURGERS x 113 g/4 oz

**SAVE \$5**

**14<sup>99</sup> each**

**BURGERS 6 BURGERS x 142 g/5 oz**

Angus Beef  
Sirloin Beef  
Gourmet Chicken  
Prime Rib Beef

**SAVE \$9**

**9<sup>99</sup>**

Italian Style Beef Meatballs  
89-95 PIECES 907 g

Other size available,  
130-140 PIECES 1.36 kg \$14.99 **SAVE \$11**

**SAVE \$4**

**12<sup>99</sup>**

Garlic Shrimp  
12-13 PIECES 340 g

**SINGLE SERVES 275 g - 340 g**

**4<sup>99</sup> each** **SALE**

Lasagna  
Macaroni & Cheese  
Butter Chicken  
Homestyle Shepherd's Pie  
Sesame Japchae Noodles  
Six Cheese Tortellini  
Cabbage Rolls  
Chicken Teriyaki

Choose from 21 varieties.

**FATHER'S DAY MEAL**

**SAVE \$5** **23<sup>99</sup>**  
Bacon Wrapped Beef Top Sirloin Steaks  
4 STEAKS x 142 g/5 oz

**SAVE \$5** **24<sup>99</sup>**  
Lobster Tail Skewers  
4 PIECES 200 g

**SAVE \$2** **15<sup>99</sup>**  
Key Lime Pie  
800 g

**SAVE \$2** **10<sup>99</sup>**  
Stuffed Potatoes  
4 PIECES 560 g  
4 Varieties

**PARTY PACKS**

Indian Party Pack 32 PIECES 740 g  
Asian Party Pack 38-46 PIECES 632 g

**SAVE \$2**

**15<sup>99</sup> each**

Also available, Puff Pastry Quartet 40 PIECES 720 g \$19.99 **SAVE \$3**

**NEW!** Korean Appetizer Party Pack 21 PIECES 462 g

**NEW!** Pub Party Pack 32 PIECES 576 g

**BUY 1 GET 1 50% OFF**  
Regular price \$18.99 each

**Fall Off the Bone® Back Ribs**  
1 FULL RACK OF RIBS  
510 g - 680 g

**SAVE \$9.50**

**MIX AND MATCH**

**NEW!** Cherry Cola Style

5 VARIETIES LIMITED TIME ONLY

**MULTI BUY**  
Buy 2 or more for \$10 each  
Regular price \$12.99 each

**MIX AND MATCH**

**SAVE AT LEAST \$5.98**

Gourmet Double Pepperoni  
Hot Honey & Chicken

**Flatbreads**  
440 g - 515 g

5 VARIETIES

**SWEET FINISH**

**SALE** **5<sup>99</sup> each**

Mini Eclairs 12 PIECES 200 g

**7<sup>99</sup>**

**SALE**

Caramel Cream Puffs 240 g

Mini Cream Puffs 250 g

Fruit Bars 6 PIECES 534 mL

Strawberry  
Tropical

LIMITED TIME ONLY

To view the full flyer, scan the QR code or go to [mmfoodmarket.com](http://mmfoodmarket.com)

**PROUD CANADIAN COMPANY**

ALL PRICES IN EFFECT THURSDAY, JUNE 12 TO WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18, 2025 UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED.

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