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Cadets' Car Wash

The 734 Air Cadets held their annual car wash fundraiser at the Alliston Legion on Saturday, June 14. In addition to getting your car washed, there was a barbecue and an opportunity to throw a pie at a volunteer's face. The cadets had a steady stream of cars throughout the day.

BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO



PAUL JAMESON
BROKER

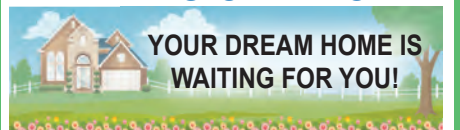
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County of Simcoe seeking public input through Transit Review

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The County of Simcoe has launched a county-wide Transit Review and has invited residents, stakeholders, and partners to help shape the future of public transit across the county.

The goal of the Transit Review is to explore opportunities to improve access to public transit across the county, identify potential service integration, and better understand the needs and priorities of the region.

Phase one of the review includes a public survey, available online at www.simcoe.ca/transitreview, from June 11 to July 4.

“LINX has been a big success, providing affordable and reliable transportation to residents,” said Simcoe County Warden Basil Clarke. “Outside of the pandemic, ridership has increased year over year, and the County continues to receive requests for additional stops, routes, and community connections. County Council is encouraged by this steady growth and the positive impact of public transit on our communities. This review process

is an opportunity to explore further improvements and help shape the future of transit in Simcoe County. Please weigh in and have your voice heard.”

Currently, only some of the County’s 16 member municipalities, along with the cities of Barrie and Orillia, operate local municipal transit services.

Several other local municipalities do not have local transit systems. The County also operates LINX Transit, an inter-community service with six routes that connect local communities and major service and employment hubs, including hospitals, educational institutions, GO Transit, Ontario Northland, and employment centres.

LINX currently serves seven of the 16 County municipalities, as well as Barrie and Orillia.

Three public open house meetings are being held, where residents can attend and learn more.

The first one happened on Wednesday, June 18, at the North Simcoe Sports and Recreation Centre.

The second one takes place today, Thurs-



UNDER REVIEW – A Transit Review is taking place at the County of Simcoe, with the goal of improving access to the system, identifying areas of potential service integration and better understanding the needs of transit users. **FILE PHOTO**

day, June 19, at Wasaga Beach RecPlex (meeting room), 1724 Moseley St., Wasaga Beach, from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

The final meeting will occur on Wednes-

day, June 25, in the New Tecumseth Recreation Centre (Meeting Room), 7300 Industrial Parkway, Alliston, from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

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Humane Society breaks ground on long-awaited expansion

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Alliston & District Humane Society has broken ground to start construction of its long-awaited Second Chances Shelter expansion.

Shovels were in the ground on Monday, June 9, to start the project.

This project will double the size of the existing facility and include important new spaces, including a dedicated cat area, exam rooms, an isolation unit, and an exercise room. There will also be more dog kennels, increased intake capacity, and a multi-purpose community room.

The addition is essential to better meet the needs of vulnerable animals in South Simcoe and surrounding areas.

Over the years, ADHS has outgrown the current shelter. The community room – meant for public events – is now filled with overflow animals. Foster homes are at full capacity.

Wait-lists for surrendered animals continue to grow. With more animals being abandoned, surrendered, or found lost than ever before, the need to expand is urgent.

Each year, the shelter takes in hundreds of dogs, cats, rabbits, and small animals. Many have been neglected, struggle with medical or behavioural issues, and are simply victims of circumstance.

The ADHS is a no-kill shelter that offers a safe haven for animals in need in the area and increasingly from beyond the area.

Animals thrive in an environment where they feel safe and comfortable. The goal of the Second Chances Shelter Expansion is to reduce stress, speed up adoptions, and give every animal the best chance at a new beginning.

It will also allow the shelter to restore vital programs in animal welfare educa-



DOUBLING IN SIZE – The Alliston & District Humane Society has started a new construction project that will see the facility double in size to accommodate the growing number of animals that come to the shelter each year. An artist's rendering shows how the new building will look upon completion. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

tion, especially for children and families.

Construction of the project, managed by Bertram's Construction of Barrie, will continue through January 2026. The expansion will take place on the north side of the current facility and represents a major leap forward in the shelter's mission to protect, care for, and re-home animals in need.

The shelter is also offering naming opportunities as part of the expansion project, including sponsorship of individual rooms and areas within the shelter.

There is also an opportunity to purchase a few remaining essential items needed such as a washing machine, dishwasher and more.

To learn how to become part of this project, visit: www.allistonhumane.com

Two-vehicle collision in New Tecumseth claims life of 51-year-old Alliston man

Officers from the Nottawasaga Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) are investigating fatal collision on Highway 89.

Nottawasaga OPP and emergency crews responded to a two-vehicle collision involving a tractor trailer and passenger vehicle on Highway 89, at County Road 56, in New Tecumseth, on June 16, shortly before 2:30 p.m.

The driver of the passenger vehicle, a 51-year-old of Alliston, was pronounced deceased at the scene. No other injuries were

reported.

Highway 89 between 6th Line and County Road 56 was closed for several hours while the OPP Technical Collision Investigators and Reconstructionist assisted with the investigation.

Anyone who may have witnessed the collision or has dashcam footage is asked to contact Nottawasaga OPP at 705 434-1939 or 1-888-310-1122. You can also call Crime Stoppers anonymously at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or submit your information online at www.crimestoppersdm.com.

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Editorial, Letters & Opinion

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

~ Stanislaw Jerzy Lec

Justice denied

During the period of November 1957 to January 1958, 19-year-old Charles Starkweather, accompanied by his 14-year-old girlfriend Caril Ann Fugate, murdered 11 people in Nebraska and Wyoming.

No one is really sure why Starkweather became a mad dog killer.

Caril Ann later claimed she was an unwilling hostage, however, prosecutors pointed out she had many opportunities to escape from her so-called captor.

As killers go, it doesn't get much worse than Starkweather. His first murder was a shopkeeper who refused to sell him something on credit. Starkweather kidnapped the man and shot him to death.

After meeting Caril Ann and becoming infatuated with her, he turned up at her family home asking for her. Caril Ann's mother and stepfather weren't too keen on having a 18-year-old man they didn't like, pursuing their young daughter, and they told him to go away.

Starkweather responded by fatally shooting both of them and then clubbing Caril Ann's two-year-old sister to death.

The pair then went on a murderous rampage over several months, killing seven more innocent people.

He was finally captured. During his trial, he claimed Caril Ann had been the killer in several murders.

That seems unlikely, and Caril Ann claimed she didn't kill anyone.

Both Starkweather and Caril Ann were tried on murder charges. Caril Ann was convicted on charges of being an accomplice to murder and served 18 years behind bars.

Starkweather went on trial for his murders. He was found guilty and sentenced to death on May 23, 1958.

Just over a year later, Starkweather was executed in the electric chair at the Nebraska State Penitentiary.

The entire process from arrest to trial, and the final result, took just under a year and a half.

It doesn't matter if you're a proponent of or against the death penalty in this case. The point is, that there was a speedy and fair trial, and justice was carried out swiftly. That is the way the justice system is supposed to work.

I usually don't care what happens in the U.S. justice system, but what is going on down there sure demonstrates why a federal criminal system, like we have here, is superior.

This past week in the U.S. state of Alabama, the state executed a man for the murder of his girlfriend. That in itself is not surprising. He was the 15th person executed in Alabama over the last five years.

However, the man committed the crime in 1988 – 37 years ago.

Most of the executioners in the death chamber wouldn't have even been born when the crime was committed.

On the same day, in Florida, the state executed a man convicted of murdering a nursing student and mother of two children – in 1994. That was 31 years ago.

This is not surprising. Over the past two and a half years, Florida has executed 13 people, including six in 2025 alone.

In Utah, this past week, a state judge ruled that a convicted killer is competent enough to be executed, despite the fact that the 67-year-old man has developed dementia while on death row. His lawyer describes him as a 'severely brain-damaged, wheelchair-bound man with dementia and significant memory problems.'

The state plans to execute him by firing squad.

Utah is a lightweight in the execution business, having executed only one person since 2010.

The man they are going to strap to a chair and shoot committed his crime in 1988 – 37 years ago.

In Texas, where executions are a sport, the state has executed nine men in the past year and a half. Three of those men were on death row for more than 20 years.

One languished on death row for 34 years before being executed by lethal injection.

None of these men were Boy Scouts. They all committed heinous crimes and deserved severe punishment.

However, carrying out a death sentence almost 40 years after a crime was committed is not justice. It's a broken system.

In most countries, after serving 40 years, an inmate would likely be up for parole consideration and no longer considered a threat to society.

The long process it takes to execute someone is blamed on the appeals process.

When a man's life is hanging in the balance, having a judge say, "I'll get back to you with my decision in three years," just isn't acceptable.

That decision is then appealed, and several years go by before another decision is made.

If a judge takes that long to make a decision, perhaps being in a profession where decisions determine the course of a person's life, isn't the right place for them.

Justice is supposed to be blind.

In these cases, justice is totally disabled.

BRIAN LOCKHART
FROM THE SECOND ROW



Caring communities

I don't care.

Well, I do – but, that's one of those phrases we say all too often, usually without a second thought, but almost always with a dismissive wave of the hand. Most of us do care, but such are the phrases we utter out of little more than reflex without really thinking about it as it leaves our lips.

“What do you want for dinner tonight?”

“I don't care.”

“What do you want to watch?”

“I don't care.”

Boil it down, you really do care, whether your tastebuds have a hankering, whether your favourite show might be on that night, or, you know, you have a conception of how your words and actions might impact others.

So, why has it become such a reflexive thing to say? Maybe it's just a matter of trying to move a conversation along, or to wade through conversational waters without making too many waves of your own. On the other hand, maybe it's a symptom of something a little bit deeper.

There might occasionally be some

instances from time to time when the person who utters those three ridiculous, flippant words when a person genuinely doesn't care, but, in my experience, those who say it with regularity or, at the very least, disproportionate conviction, are usually the ones who very much care – or even care the most.

How many times have you thrown caution to the wind and stumbled against your better judgement into the comments section of an article, thread, or social media post, only to find yourself knee-deep in a sea of I-Don't-Cares on any number of subjects?

I don't know about the rest of you, but it seems that those who are most insistent on not caring, even taking time out of their oh-so-busy schedules to type out and register their lack of interest for posterity and, at the risk of undermining my own argument here, in the mistaken assumption that others had the slightest concern whether they cared or not.

In my own spare time – time which has, over the years, unfortunately become more

sparing – I help run a social media account for a particular fandom. A co-moderator with two of my closest friends, it's a forum that engages thousands of people every day, can spur some decent discussions, but rare are the times our usually celebratory posts make waves.

That all changes, however, as June approaches as we take the time to wish our followers a Happy Pride. It's a fandom that appeals to a wide cross-section of our populace, transcends all demographic boundaries, and boasts followers across six continents, for which we're all truly grateful. But it is also a fandom that has a significant appeal to members of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community, so nothing could be more natural than wishing this particular demographic a Happy Pride when the month rolls around.

We're a welcoming bunch and ignoring a part of the year that celebrates inclusivity is simply not in our natures. And yet, whenever we post a message as simple as that, we're flooded with, at best, variations of “I don't care”, at worst, comments that are

nothing short of hateful, and, at funniest, replies from people who don't even follow us, that they were going to “unfollow” us for daring to post such a thing. Some have even gone as far as following us and, after a lull of a few minutes, unfollowing us in an apparent effort to make some kind of point.

It's clear to us that this particular demo doesn't really care about the fandom at all; rather, they are seeking out places to vent their respective spleens on this issue, which suggests that, despite their protestations, they really do care – and how!

This job is often something of a respite from that hotbed of negativity. That's not to say that the issues that face our communities are all sweetness and light – these issues can sometimes be as difficult to write about as it is to read about – but there's just so much good happening out there to keep the balance.

Continued on Page 19

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Netanyahu's Wars

GWYNNE DYER
OUR WORLD TODAY



Israel's war with Iran is definitely the war that Prime Minister Binyamin 'Bibi' Netanyahu has wanted all along, but he may have bitten off more than he can chew.

In the past three months Israel has bombed Syria, Lebanon, Yemen and now Iran. It has an open-ended war involving tens of thousands of Israeli troops in the Gaza Strip, and a lower-intensity counter-insurgency war in the occupied West Bank that also soaks up lots of Israeli troops. And now it is also at war with Iran, a country of 90 million people.

This is less of a burden on the 7.5 million Jewish Israelis than it would seem, since geography decrees that the wars with Iran and Yemen do not require ground troops. (Neither country has a land border with Israel.) However, the air wars will hurt Israel's population and damage its infrastructure, and its reservist soldiers are already exhausted by twenty months of war.

So is the civilian population of Israel, which is emo-

tionally drained by the long-running drama of the hostages. It is also deeply divided by Netanyahu's decision to use this moment of maximum Israeli power to try to wipe out every potential challenge to the country's status as the Middle East's dwarf superpower.

Netanyahu has declared that Iran is on the brink of getting nuclear weapons half a dozen times in the past twenty years, always in the hope that he could get the US military to do the heavy lifting in a war to 'disarm' it. And each time, after the US president of the day declined to do so, the Iranian 'threat' magically receded – only to be revived for the next president.

Bibi made some headway with Trump in his first term, convincing the latter that he should pull out of the treaty putting strict controls on Tehran's nuclear activities that Barack Obama had signed with Iran in 2015. But it turned out that Trump wasn't up for an actual war with Iran; he was just on a mission to destroy all the achievements of his predecessor.

Nobody could have been more pro-Israeli than Joe Biden, but he wouldn't go to war with Iran for Netanyahu either. Initially the Israeli prime minister thought that he was making more headway with Trump 2.0, but Trump's promises are as empty as his threats; by May he was negotiating with Iran for a thinly disguised return to the treaty he had cancelled in 2018.

At this point Netanyahu took the decision he had probably always promised himself never to make: he gave the order to attack Iran without a guarantee of full American support. He forgot that Trump, almost uniquely among post-1945 US presidents, has never committed the United States to a war overseas.

True to form, Trump posted on his Truth Social platform that "The U.S. had nothing to do with the attack on Iran

tonight." That may not be strictly true, in the sense that he certainly must have known Netanyahu's plans, but it's accurate in the sense that he did not approve of them. Indeed, Bibi was deliberately preempting a possible revival of the 2018 treaty.

Saving face always comes first with Trump, so he was soon trumpeting "If we are attacked in any way, shape or form by Iran, the full strength and might of the U.S. Armed Forces will come down on you at levels never seen before." But he says that every time, to any country he disagrees with, and they are all still here. TACO.

The reality is that Netanyahu has broken his lifelong rule and attacked Iran without Washington's full support because he cannot bear to miss this opportunity to attack his enemies when they are all far weaker than ever before. He cannot actually lose this war he has begun with Iran, but he may find it almost impossible to end in a satisfactory manner.

There are three problems for which he has no apparent solution. One is that he lacks the specialised bombs that would enable him to destroy the Iranian centrifuges, labs and enriched uranium that are buried deep inside mountainsides. Trump would have to give them to him.

The second is that Trump is extremely petty and vindictive when defied or 'disrespected'. If he decides that he no longer wants to deal with Netanyahu, he holds such power over the country's fate that a different prime minister would be found to replace him.

Finally, Iran has a 'nuclear option' that has nothing whatever to do with nuclear weapons. It can cut the world's oil supply by 20% and cause a global recession simply by closing the Strait of Hormuz. And a recession is what Donald Trump fears above all else.



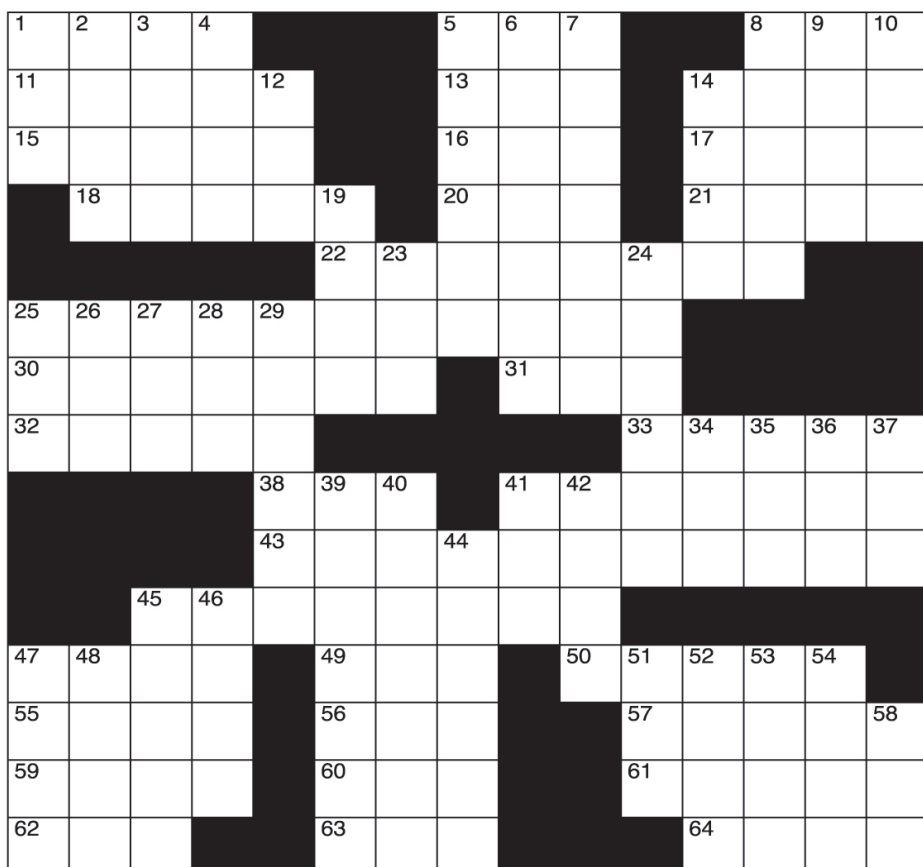
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- Computer manufacturer
- Noted space station
- Kurt Russell film "Captain"
- Automaton
- Everyone has one near Dead Sea
- Incline from the vertical
- Fights
- Dunn & Bradstreet (abbr.)
- Finishes off
- Places to store things
- Dutch painter Gerard ___
- Smaller quantity
- There's a North, South and Central of these
- In an early way
- More spacious
- Short-term memory

- One who possesses
- Sesame
- Forbid
- A way to explain
- Not around
- Evoke or suggest
- Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea
- Dekameter
- Fencing sword
- "Luther" actor Idris
- Affirmative (slang)
- Afflicted
- One point north of northeast
- Born of
- Arabic name
- Hong Kong food stall: ___ pai dong
- Not the start
- Post
- Creative expression
- Fiber from the outer husk of a coconut

- City in ancient Syria
- College army
- More disturbed
- Pays no attention to
- Restored
- Competitions
- Lyric poems
- Famed American lawman
- Expression of disappointment
- Scars
- Satisfy
- Central European river
- Brass instrument
- One who gets paid to perform
- Propel with oars
- Long period of time
- Woman (French)
- Type of plane
- Pitching stat
- Pointed end of a pen

- Pro sports league
- Body part
- Inoffensive
- Yellowish cotton cloth
- Feline
- Does not tell the truth
- Set out to attract
- Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation
- Abba __, Israeli politician
- Repair
- Genus of flowering plants
- Tributary of the High Rhine
- Prejudice
- C. European river
- Restrain
- Father

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

COMMUNITY VOICE

Monthly Message: Supporting our community, one family at a time

In the heart of Alliston, the Alliston Food Bank stands as a vital community hub, providing food support with compassion, dignity, and respect. Each week, hundreds of local residents walk through our doors—not just for a grocery bag, but for a sense of stability in uncertain times.

What we do is simple in purpose but significant in impact: we ensure that individuals and families facing food insecurity have access to nutritious, fresh, and culturally appropriate food. On Wednesday, June 4, we served 89 households—supporting 142 adults and 87 children, including four new families. The following day, during two Thursday sessions, we supported another 91 households, representing 152 adults and 80 children. These numbers are not unusual—they reflect a steady increase in need that we've witnessed over the past several years.

At the Alliston Food Bank, we believe food is a basic human right. That's why



we offer a “client shopping model,” allowing people to select the items that best suit their family’s dietary and cultural needs. With a mix of non-perishable items, fresh produce, dairy, and proteins, our shelves are stocked thanks to generous donations from individuals, local businesses, schools, churches, and community organizations. Perishable foods are kept safe with the help of our walk-in cooler and freezer, and our refrigerated van allows us to rescue quality food from local grocery stores that would otherwise go to waste.

We are more than a food distribution site.

We are a team of dedicated volunteers who welcome every person with empathy and confidentiality. We provide a calm, respectful space where clients can feel seen and supported, not judged or rushed.

Though today’s operation is robust and modern, our roots remain important. The food bank began humbly in 1994 when local resident Guy Belanger began distributing garden produce to neighbours in need. With help from fellow community members, his garage operation grew into a formal charity and eventually into today’s Alliston Food Bank. In 2023, we changed our name from The Good Shepherd Food Bank to better reflect our identity and the community we serve.

The growth of our services mirrors the increasing pressures faced by families in our region. Rising housing costs, reduced government benefits, and inflation continue to push more people toward food insecurity—many for the first time in their lives. In 2023

alone, demand increased by 90%. To meet that demand, we’ve expanded our facilities, invested in infrastructure, and deepened our partnerships with Feed Ontario and local supporters.

Our work is only possible because of the extraordinary generosity of the people of New Tecumseth. From students to service groups organizing food drives, our entire operation runs on community spirit. Whether you donate groceries, funds, or time, you are part of a network of care that strengthens our town.

As we move forward, our mission remains clear: to reduce hunger and food insecurity in Alliston and surrounding areas. We are committed to being there for those in need—for as long as we are needed. Because when one of us struggles, we all have a role to play in lifting each other up.

To learn more, get involved, or donate, visit allistonfoodbank.com. Together, we feed hope.

New supervisor appointed to oversee operations at Stevenson Memorial Hospital

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Ministry of Health has appointed a new supervisor for Stevenson Memorial Hospital (SMH) to oversee the hospital’s operations and strengthen its governance and accountability.

The new supervisor is Carmine Stumpo.

Stumpo will replace Eric Hanna who was appointed as the supervisor of the hospital on

Sept. 26, 2024.

Stumpo brings over 25 years of healthcare experience as a clinician and leader in a wide range of clinical and support services. Since July 2018, Stumpo has served as president and CEO of Orillia Soldiers’ Memorial Hospital and has been a strong advocate for high-quality, local healthcare, providing strategic leadership in transforming care through integration in close partnership with primary care and community service providers.

The appointment of a new supervisor for the hospital was in response to the final report submitted by Janice Skot. Skot was appointed as investigator for Stevenson Memorial Hospital in February 2024 to review concerns that were raised about the hospital’s governance, management, and patient care.

Before his departure, Hanna will work with Stumpo to ensure a smooth transition.

Stumpo will provide the Ministry of Health and Ontario Health with regular updates

on his work that will help strengthen and improve the hospital’s governance, accountability, finances and ability to deliver the best possible care to patients and their families.

During Stumpo’s tenure as supervisor, regular operations at Stevenson Memorial Hospital will continue, including progress on the hospital’s redevelopment project.

People needing care at SMH will continue to be able to access all regular programs and services.

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Ontario

New Seniors Active Living Centre announced for Beeton by MPP

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

A new Seniors Active Living Centre in New Tecumseth will be located in Beeton.

MPP for Simcoe-Grey, Brian Saunderson made the announcement at a special ceremony at the New Tecumseth administration building when a flag was raised to recognize Seniors Month by Community & Home Assistance to Seniors (CHATS).

Joining MPP Saunderson at the event was Scarborough North MPP Raymond Cho, Minister of Seniors and Accessibility.

This is one of 100 new Seniors Active Living Centre (SALC) programs opening across the province this year to help improve seniors' quality of life and build community engagement.

"The new CHATS' Seniors Active Living Centre, in partnership with the town of New Tecumseth, will be a great addition to the community," MPP Saunderson said. "Keeping active and interacting with others is vital to a healthy life, especially as we age. This program will bring seniors together and

introduce them to new activities that promote wellness and fitness, with the goal of maintaining their independence and improving their quality of life."

Senior Active Living Centres help keep seniors fit, active, healthy, and socially connected in their communities and close to their homes.

"Through the Seniors Active Living Centre program, we are helping protect the well-being of seniors by providing opportunities to reduce social isolation, keep active, improve mental health and ensure that older adults remain connected to their communities," said Minister Cho. "CHATS' dedication to promoting community identity and supporting seniors is commendable, and we are honoured to contribute to their continued success."

SALC programs offer seniors and older adults learning opportunities such as financial management and elder abuse prevention and a variety of recreational and social activities including fitness, healthy lifestyle and wellness classes that are important supports in communities.



BEETON SENIOR CENTRE COMING – With June being Seniors Month, CHATS, along with local dignitaries held a special flag-raising at the New Tecumseth Administration Centre on Monday, June 9, to recognize the significance of seniors in the community. Simcoe—Grey MPP Brian Saunderson also announced a new Seniors' Active Living Centre will be in Beeton. From left, MPP Brian Saunderson, New Tecumseth Deputy Mayor, Stephanie MacLellan, Scarborough North MPP Raymond Cho (Minister of Seniors and Accessibility), New Tecumseth Mayor Richard Norcross, CHATS CEO Christina Bisanz, New Tecumseth Councillor Alan Masters, and CHATS Vice President of Philanthropy and Communications Kelly Broome, raise the flag to honour Seniors' Month.
BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO



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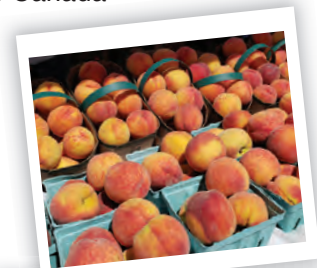
Day Trips: (Price includes meal, admission ticket & HST)

July 30 - Steel Magnolias at the Capitol Theatre in Port Hope

Includes: lunch at "The Railside Restaurant" followed by the 2:00p.m. performance, orchestra level seating. **Cost:** \$184.00

August 6 - Little Canada & Ripley's Aquarium, combining 2 of Toronto's most popular attractions

Includes: a morning visit to Ripley's, lunch at the "Duke of York Pub" & afternoon visit to Little Canada
Cost: \$179.00 for adults & \$160.00 Youth

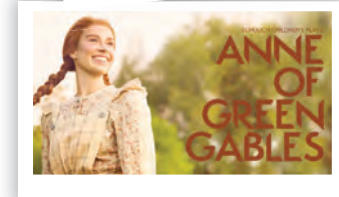


August 9 - Peach Festival, Niagara-on-the-Lake

Includes: free time to stroll the beautiful Main Street, a visit to Pickard's Peanuts & dinner at "Betty's Restaurant" in Chippewa.
Cost: \$128.00

September 11 - Anne of Green Gables at the Avon Theatre, Stratford Festival

Includes: lunch at "Anna Mae's Restaurant & Bakery" followed by the 2:00p.m. performance, orchestra level seating at the Avon Theatre. **Cost:** \$223.00

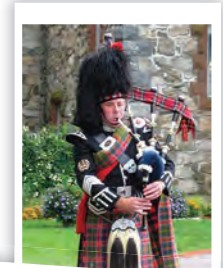


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Arts & Local Events

United Church of Canada celebrates 100 years since historic union

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The United Church of Canada is celebrating 100 years as a church in 2025.

The church was founded in 1925 with a membership of around 600,000, when the Methodist Church Canada, the Congregational Union of Canada, and 70 per cent of the Presbyterian Church in Canada entered into a union.

Over the years, various other congregations have joined the union to make the United Church the largest Protestant denomination in Canada with 2,451 congregations.

Each of the founding churches had a long history in Canada prior to 1925.

The idea of a church union began early in the 20th century when the main Protestant denominations in Canada were Presbyterian, Methodist, and Congregational churches. Many small towns and villages across the county had all three churches with the town's

population divided among them.

It was difficult to find clergy to serve all these churches. At times, a minister would serve his congregation but would also perform pastoral care of the other congregations that lacked a minister.

In the prairie provinces, a movement to unite all three major Protestant denominations began, resulting in the Association of Local Union Churches.

This began a slow process of talks that formed the basis of a larger union.

The United Church of Canada was inaugurated at a large worship service at Toronto's Mutual Street Arena on June 10, 1925.

St. John's United Church in Alliston held a special joint service with Holy Communion on Sunday, June 8, to celebrate the 100th anniversary.

Ministers and congregations from St. John's, Trinity Centennial United Church in Rosemont, and Tottenham United Church, attended.



CENTURY OF THE CHURCH – The United Church of Canada is celebrating 100 years in 2025. The United Church was created in 1925 with the amalgamation of three main Protestant denominations. St. John's United Church in Alliston held a joint service and Holy Communion to celebrate the anniversary on Sunday, June 8. From left: Rev. Dyanne Marlok (Minister at Tottenham United Church), Rev. Stacey Mortson (Minister at Trinity Centennial United Church in Rosemont), and Rev. Sungmin Jung (Minister at St. John's United Church in Alliston) lead the special service and communion. **CONTRIBUTED PHOTO**

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Charlotte studies piano with teacher Alyssa



Aubrey studies guitar with teacher Dustin



Aubrey studies piano with teacher Sarah



Harris on guitar, with accompaniment by John, Aislynn and Sarah

Hot Summer Sounds at RSMA Recital

Students of Alliston's Rising Star Music Academy showed off their talents at the school's Spring recital on Saturday at the Alliston Christian Reformed Church. Over 70 students participated, and the audience enjoyed a wonderful day of music, with everything from classical piano to mini rock bands. The teachers at Rising Star are very proud of their young musicians!



Rising Star Music Academy is a family run music school, providing a fun, positive, creative place for training in vocals, guitar, piano, ukulele, drums and more. They are located at 562 Victoria St. E., Alliston phone 705-250-STAR (7827) email RSMAAlliston@gmail.com www.risingstartmusicacademy.ca

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Simcoe County Museum reopens after renovations with modified access

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Simcoe County Museum re-opened on Monday, June 9, as Phase 1 of its major renovation and expansion project nears completion.

Some areas of the building will remain closed as construction continues, however, as of June 9, the public will have access to the outdoor area of the Museum grounds daily from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., with half-price admission.

As progress continues, access to additional galleries is expected to be available in July when renovations are completed.

The museum has been closed to the public for several months in order to accelerate construction efforts on the \$16.6 million Matthews Innovation and Transportation Gallery expansion. The full closure allowed for

approximately two per cent in cost savings, more efficient progress on the upgrades, and greater safety.

The upgrades and renovations include significant expansions to exhibit space, the integration of a zero-carbon, environmentally sustainable design, and the addition of new areas for curatorial work and collections storage.

The Matthews Innovation and Transportation Gallery project is expected to be completed by summer 2026.

This is the first of three major construction phases that will be completed by 2030 in time to celebrate the Museum's 100th anniversary.

PHASED PROCESS – The Simcoe County Museum has reopened to the public. Some of the areas in the building will remain closed as construction work continues on Phase 1 of major renovations. **FILE PHOTO**



County approves \$1 million for Stevenson, receives immigration funding, update on recycling

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Simcoe County Council has released a summary of actions taken at recent meetings to keep the public informed of decisions and new developments in the region.

Council approves funding for Stevenson Memorial Hospital

In 2024, Stevenson Memorial Hospital requested \$1 million in capital funding from the County under the Hospital Alliance Funding Policy. Before approving payments, the County reviewed each hospital's ambulance offload times to ensure compliance with the 30-minute target set in the 2014 Memorandum of Understanding.

To support long-term healthcare planning, the County awarded a contract to Ernst & Young LLP to lead a regional review of hospital capital needs. This strategic project, running through 2025, will assess current infrastructure, engage stakeholders, and recommend a coordinated, sustainable funding approach.

The \$1 million allocation for Stevenson Memorial will be drawn from the Hospital Reserve Fund, which will retain a balance of over \$8.6 million after disbursement.

2025 – 2028 IRCC grant agreement

The County has received a new three-year agreement with Immigration, Refugees, and

Citizenship Canada (IRCC) to support the Local Immigration Partnership (LIP) from April 2025 to March 2028. The latest funding application emphasizes employer support, talent retention, and applied research, backed by strong community support.

The new agreement includes annual activities such as partnership meetings, anti-racism initiatives, and the development of a multicultural centre. With a total funding allocation of over \$738,000, the initiative aligns with Simcoe County's strategic goals to enhance social and educational opportunities.

Update on the status of recycling services in the County

As a provincial-directed change (outside the control of the County and other municipalities), starting January 1, 2026, the County of Simcoe will stop collecting recycling. A new company, Emterra Environmental, will take over recycling collections for homes, schools, and not-for-profit long-term care homes.

People who don't get curbside pickup now won't be able to use County depots for free recycling anymore. The County is waiting to hear from the new recycling program about where these residents can drop off their recycling for free.

County staff are also pushing for rule changes so more places can be included in the recycling program.

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MUSKOKA FOREST

Batavia HOMES

County of Simcoe continues employment survey across the region

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The County of Simcoe is continuing its two-year pilot project to conduct an employment survey.

The project was launched in the spring of 2024.

The employment survey will gather information and capture data about the number of businesses and jobs in the County of Simcoe.

Data collected will help the County of Simcoe and local municipalities gain a better understanding of employment areas, establish a baseline of existing businesses, identify employment trends, and acquire a deeper knowledge of the local economy.

The results of the employment survey will offer valuable insights that can significantly improve local municipalities' decision-making abilities related to future employment planning, while influencing

growth strategies and infrastructure investments.

Findings will help gain a better understanding of the County's economy and support the achievement of sustainable economic growth which will benefit local communities for years to come.

Data collected will be strictly confidential. Only local municipalities and the County of Simcoe will have access to it. Aggregated data and analysis will be posted to Simcoe.ca for the general public to view.

ca for the general public to view.

Dedicated County staff will visit businesses across the region to seek participation in the survey.

Businesses that operate within the County of Simcoe are also encouraged to send an email to employsimcoe@simcoe.ca to receive a unique survey link for their workplace.

For full details on the survey, visit www.simcoe.ca/employmentsurvey.

Rosemont firefighters gear up for wildfire season after receiving Emergency Preparedness Grant

BY JAMES MATTHEWS

Just west of Alliston, the Rosemont District Fire Department has grown in a couple of ways.

Fire Chief Mike Blacklaws told Mono Town Council when it met on June 10 that two new firefighters joined the ranks and have completed training since January 2024. The department also put a new pumper truck

on the road at that time.

The department services some communities in Dufferin and Simcoe counties.

A Community Emergency Preparedness Grant was put toward readying the department to tackle any wildfire, should they occur.

"We see that as a current (challenge) and (one that) can only get worse (with the) type of exposure that we're going to have in this area," Blacklaws said.

The biggest purchase to increase wildfire readiness was a drone that will be used for high-level observations of fire scenes, he said.

"It's also equipped with thermal imaging so it can be used for search and rescue at night or at any time, really," Blacklaws said. "With zoom lenses and everything, we can sort of pick up objects at a distance."

To that end, there are three firefighters who

have been trained to pilot the drone. The chief said others will be trained as well.

"This drone is of a size that you have to be certified to an advanced level to fly it," Blacklaws said.

Public education continues to be a major initiative, he said. A component of that is the distribution of an annual fire safety calendar.

Continued on Page 14

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SPORTS

NEW TECUMSETH TIMES



TURNING ON THE JETS – The TNT Thunder U11 AA team takes on the Barrie Baycats on the diamond at Coventry Park in Tottenham on Tuesday, June 10. A Thunder base runner turns on the speed to make it safely to first base. TNT Minor Baseball has several divisions on the diamonds this year and they will be playing all summer long. The Thunder took a 10-1 loss in this game.

BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

Tottenham Railers announce coaching staff for 2025/26 season

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Tottenham Railers have announced their coaching staff for the upcoming season.

The Club has secured the services of head coach Anthony Pullicino for a second year.

Coach 'Chino' guided the team to the South Conference final last season before they succumbed to a dominant North York Renegades.

Chino's passion for developing players comes from his experience in playing in the GOJHL, NOJHL, and FPHL, playing in Sweden, and with Sault College.

Assisting Anthony on the bench will be former head coach Vito Scaringi. Scaringi was

the first head coach of the Railers and has agreed to come back as the defensive coach. He spent last season as an assistant with the Sioux Lookout Bombers in the SIJHL and brings a standout playing career including five seasons in the GOJHL and pro stints in Sweden, Finland, and the FPHL.

General manager Michael Prock will be combining his duties with those of assistant coach.

Michael's background is in the GMHL with the old Thunder organization and he has also played as a pro in Finland. He has also stepped in when needed as a temporary head coach for the team when necessary.

Also returning to the bench as an assistant

coach is player favourite, Ed Edskes.

'Opa,' as he is known among the players, brings a positive presence and is a superb mentor to the boys, especially the younger ones who find themselves a long way from home for the first time.

The players need a great trainer to keep them in top shape. Jessie Capua, who is returning for a second year, is a dedicated Registered Massage Therapist (RMT) and keeps the team in top form during a long and gruelling season. It doesn't matter if the guys need a massage or just some taping, she is there week in and week out to keep them going.

Outside of the arena, the Railers have announced their first annual Slo-Pitch Tour-

namment to be held at Beeton Community Park on July 12.

The cost is \$400 to register a team. Registration can be done through the PlaySloPitch app. The tournament is sanctioned by the SPN.

The Railers' player roster is building and players for this coming season will be announced in the next few weeks.

The organization is also looking for volunteers to help with the upcoming season alongside some paid positions.

If interested, you can contact Beth Prock at beth@railershockey.com, or game day manager Andy Wilson at andy@railershockey.com.

Are you part of a sports team?

Are you an individual athlete?

Do you have an upcoming event or a recent accomplishment?

Share the details with us!

Email us at newtectimeseditorial@gmail.com



NVCA and BILD establish working group in support of Ontario’s housing goals

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER



The Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority (NVCA) and the Building Industry and Land Development Association (BILD) have launched a new working group to strengthen collaboration between the conservation authority and the development industry, with a shared focus on supporting Ontario’s home-building targets and local economic development in a safe, sustainable manner.

In the development review process, NVCA’s focus is on ensuring that development moves forward in a safe manner and avoids the loss of life and damage to property due to flooding, erosion, and other natural hazards.

The initiative reflects NVCA’s ongoing work to ensure modern, timely, and coordinated review processes. The new working group will focus on improving service timelines, clarifying technical expectations, and

ensuring a consistent and efficient approach to development applications.

“BILD appreciates NVCA’s leadership in establishing this new forum,” said Paula Tenuta, Senior Vice President of Policy and Advocacy of BILD. “We are encouraged by the NVCA’s commitment to work directly with our industry to help get more housing and employment lands built, faster and more predictably. We all have a role to play in reaching Ontario’s housing goals while protecting our natural environment. This partnership is a strong step in that direction.”

The NVCA-BILD Working Group will

meet regularly, bringing together NVCA staff, BILD members, and municipal leaders to proactively identify and resolve issues, modernize internal systems, and ensure that review processes keep pace with the growth pressures facing communities across the watershed.

“This is about getting things done in a positive way,” said Councillor Jonathan Scott, Chair of NVCA’s Board. “We’re focused on working constructively with the development industry to meet the challenges before us. That means improving timelines, reducing red tape, and being clear and consistent in our

technical reviews, all while ensuring we protect people, property, and the planet.”

The working group aligns with broader efforts to modernize NVCA operations and reflects a growing culture of outcome-focused service delivery.

“This partnership reinforces our commitment to working alongside industry, municipalities, and stakeholders to help communities grow responsibly,” said Jennifer Vincent, Chief Administrative Officer of the NVCA. “We know that home building and economic development depend on timely approvals. Our goal is to help projects move forward efficiently and without compromising public safety.”

The initiative supports the province’s broader housing and economic priorities while demonstrating how conservation authorities and the development sector can work together in good faith to get things done.

“Ontarians want housing, jobs and livable communities — and they want systems that work,” said Scott. “This is



On Saturday, May 3rd, 2025, the Tottenham Community Recreation and Improvement Committee (Tottenham C.R.I.C.) hosted its 47th Annual Draw, Dinner, and Dance at the Tottenham Community and Fitness Centre. With music brought to attendees by DJ SamO and the band Your New Neighbors, C.R.I.C. gave away over \$41,000 in prizes. The Tottenham C.R.I.C. committee would like to congratulate all winners of this year’s draw, along with the grand prize winner Orangeville Honda, who won \$20,000 funded by C.R.I.C.

**CRIC would like to thank all of our volunteers!
Your help is very much appreciated!!**

Community Volunteers • Student Volunteers from St. Thomas Aquinas High School (STA) • Student Volunteers from Banting Memorial High School • Western Financial Group Schomberg • Tottenham Home Hardware • Seasons Floral Studio Schomberg • Town of New Tecumseth • Tottenham Scouts • Tottenham Ladies Lob-ball • Tottenham Firefighters

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450	85	\$300 Donated by Tottenham Village Dentistry	Kristin Harrison
500	101	\$300 Donated by Natural Innovations Landscape	John & Rita Miller
550	352	Dr. Matthew Lim - Affordable Optical, One Set of Designer Sunglasses and \$100	Aron & LaDawn Cristan
599	917	\$750 Donated by HONEYFIELD COMMUNITIES	Debbie & Brian Donn
600	714	Weber BBQ co-funded with Tottenham Home Hardware (Value \$1582)	Paul O’Neill
650	378	GreenLeaf Mechanical HVAC Ecobee Pro Thermostat w/WiFi Smart Controls (Installation included)	Susan Sayewell
700	955	\$300 Donated by Flex-N-Gate	Merv McDowell
750	794	Nottawasaga Resort - Ridge Golf Course Foursome w/Cart (Value \$350)	Connor Gilmore
800	177	\$300 Donated by Milligan Heating & Cooling and CPK Accounting	Raghav Patel
850	670	\$300 Donated by Well Health Pharmacy and Kawigga Pet Products (GC)	Megan Clarkson & Tim Hill
900	552	Harding Drafting and Design Inc. and Fire & Ice Goldsmithing (gift) Value \$400	Simon Smith
1000	78	\$1000 Donated by HONEYFIELD COMMUNITIES	Matt Foerster
1050	36	\$500 Donated by Canadian Industrial Cycles	Don Crawley
1100	512	\$500 (GCs) Donated by Tottenham Foodland	Dave & Colleen Moore
1150	764	\$500 Donated by Meadowood Tree Service	Ken Parps
1190	148	\$500 Donated by The Fireplace Stop	Kirsten Barton
1191	583	\$500 Donated by Zanelli Engineering	Niki Grbic Duncan
1192	337	\$500 Donated by McGoey Brothers Insurance	Ashley & Rod Dickson
1193	263	“Taste of Town” (\$700 GCs), A Taste of Freedom (\$300), Cedar Kitchen (\$150), McDonald’s (\$100), Bar Burrito (\$100), FEEBs Pub & Grill (\$50)	Mike Toutant
1194	48	\$750 Donated by Western Financial Group - Schomberg	Stu Tyler
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1197	273	\$750 Donated by Albion Hills CSN Collision	Andrea Gilbert
1198	344	\$1000 Donated by Orangeville Honda	Jason & Susan Dow
1199	798	Generator (A-Power 3450W Running/4300 Peak Dual Fuel Inverter) Donated by Tanner Self Storage Value (\$1170)	Sandra Sosnowski
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Keep being you **Love your ears**

Continued from Page 11

Rosemont firefighters gear up for wildfire season after receiving Emergency Preparedness Grant

“That’s our primary focus, getting the fire safety message out to the community,” he said. “We also hold open houses throughout the year and that’s another way of reaching out.”

Nineteen per cent of their calls in 2024 were for motor vehicle accidents, 43 per cent were medical responses, 26 per cent of the calls were actual fires, and 13 per cent were categorized as other.

These could include but are not limited to carbon monoxide investigations, burn complaints, public hazards like downed power lines, hazardous material incidents, search and rescue, and mutual aid calls where we are requested to provide stand-by coverage in a neighbouring fire department’s coverage area but not respond to the emergency scene itself, according to a report to council.

“This category also includes assisting other agencies as required such as police should the incident not be covered in one of the above categories,” the report said.

Mono Deputy Mayor Fred Nix said fire-fighting governance is top of mind in Dufferin County. Adjala-Tosorontio Township considered breaking from the Rosemont fire board. The Rosemont department would still be serving those homes near the town line, even if the township broke away.

“Would you be doing it on the basis of mutual aid, in which case there would be no revenue for that service?” Nix said. “Or would you be charging Adjala-Tos for the calls?”

If Adjala-Tosorontio took over that part of the geography, Rosemont would only be

called for mutual aid, Blacklaws said.

“And there is no fee for mutual aid,” he said.

“So they can leave the fire board and still get your trucks to come for mutual aid, but they wouldn’t pay a cent,” Nix said. “That concerns me.”

“Yes,” Blacklaws said.

“I know it’s died down now, but it does concern me,” Nix said.

Mike Dunmore, the town’s CAO, said the 911 emergency call service would identify the township by address in the event of a call and reach out to the appropriate department.

Councillor Ralph Manktelow said he believes the frequency of wildfire incidents will increase in the future. He said he’s encouraged the fire department is concerned about that.

“Because a wildfire in a forest is a different matter,” he said.

“I’ve been trying to raise the alarm now for years about fire protection in the provincial lands within the Town of Mono,” Mayor John Creelman said. “In particular, what is the fire plan for, say, Mono Cliffs Park or the Hockley Reserve.”

Whenever he put such questions to provincial officials, Creelman said the response would be to put it in the hands of local fire departments.

“Parts of Mono Cliffs would be completely inaccessible to virtually everything but a water bomber,” he said.

Blacklaws said teams from the Ministry of Natural Resources are available to local fire departments.

Get ready for summer by ensuring your child’s immunizations are up to date

As families gear up for a fun and active summer, the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit (SMDHU) is reminding parents to make sure their children’s immunizations are up to date. Keeping up with routine immunizations is one of the best ways to help protect kids’ health and ensure they’re ready for activities like camps, sports and family travel.

In June, students born in 2016 and 2017 (Grades 2 and 3) from across Simcoe Muskoka, that were missing required immunizations were sent home with letters from their schools. Parents who received one of these letters are encouraged to act soon to help keep their children healthy and protected.

“Summer is a great time to book a checkup with your child’s health care provider and catch up on any missed vaccines,” says Dr. Colin Lee, associate medical officer of health at SMDHU. “They can help you find out if your child is on track with well-child checkups and routine immunizations”.

Families who do not have a healthcare provider can book an immunization appointment at one of the health unit offices in Barrie, Collingwood, Cookstown, Gravenhurst, Huntsville, Midland or Orillia.

“With summer camps and group activities just around the corner, keeping children protected against preventable diseases is more important than ever,” said Dr. Lee. “Camps provide great experiences, but they also mean kids are in close contact with other kids, which can increase the risk of spreading illness. Vaccines are a safe and effective way to prevent serious diseases like whooping cough, meningococcal meningitis and measles.”



Parents can also check their child’s immunization record online at smdhu.org. Please note that vaccines provided by healthcare professionals outside the health unit may not appear on the vaccination record as they are not usually reported by healthcare providers. To ensure your child’s record is accurate and up to date, don’t forget to submit any missing information. This can easily be done online at smdhu.org or by calling the health unit at 705-721-7520 ext. 8827.

To help manage your family’s immunization records, consider using CANImmunize — a free mobile app that serves as a digital version of the traditional yellow card. It’s a convenient way to keep everything organized and accessible. The app offers an extra time-saving feature: you can share your records directly with the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit.

For more information about routine immunizations or to book an appointment at a health unit clinic, visit smdhu.org or contact the immunization team at 705-721-7520 ext. 8827 (toll-free 1-877-721-7520).

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Police request help identifying suspects in distraction theft investigation

Nottawasaga Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) officers responded to a report of a distraction theft at the Zehrs grocery store in Alliston, on June 1, shortly after 12 p.m., members of the

Police received information about an incident involving two male suspects who allegedly stole a wallet from a senior victim while he was shopping inside the store. The wallet contained personal identification and financial items.

The suspects are described as follows:

- Suspect 1: Wearing a black baseball cap, surgical mask, grey sweater, white T-shirt,

black pants, and black shoes with a white base.

- Suspect 2: Wearing a Black baseball cap, a black puffer jacket, black pants, and black, red and white sneakers.

The investigation indicates that this incident is part of a broader, ongoing pattern of organized distraction thefts targeting vulnerable individuals across the region.

“We urge all citizens to remain vigilant in public spaces, especially in crowded areas where distraction thefts are more likely to occur,” said Nottawasaga OPP in a press release.

“Please keep your personal belongings

secure and be aware of your surroundings at all times. If you witness any suspicious behavior or believe you may have been a victim of a pickpocketing incident, do not hesitate to report it to contact the Nottawasaga OPP Detachment. Your information could help prevent further crimes and assist in ongoing investigations.”

The Nottawasaga OPP are seeking public assistance to identify the suspects involved in this incident. Anyone with information, including dash camera or surveillance footage from the area of the Zehrs grocery store in Alliston on June 1, between 11:30 a.m. and 12:15 p.m., is asked to contact the Nottawasaga

OPP at 1-888-310-1122, reference report number (E250698576) Information can also be provided anonymously to Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477), or online at www.crimestoppersdm.com.

In addition, the Nottawasaga OPP encourage businesses and residents to register their security cameras with the CamSafe program at www.camsafe.ca. This voluntary registry helps police identify potential video footage during investigations. Police do not have live access to registered cameras, and participants retain full control, providing footage only upon request.

Cases of steak, chicken, a meat grinder stolen from store located in New Tecumseth

Nottawasaga Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) officers are investigating a break and enter of a business in Alliston.

Officers were dispatched to a report of a break and enter at a store located at 33 Paris Street, New Tecumseth on May 30, shortly before 3 p.m. Upon arrival, officers observed no signs of forced entry, and the suspects fled

the scene prior to police arrival.

The preliminary investigation revealed that between May 29 at 5 p.m. and May 30, at 2:15 p.m., the suspects made entry through the rear of the store and stole several items.

The stolen items include cases of steak, cases of chicken, an Epson printer ET 3830, one HP laptop, one Dell computer monitor,

one food seal vacuum, a meat grinder, two food weight scales, a meat slicer, and kitchen knives.

At this time the investigation is ongoing, Police are encouraging residents to review their camera footage or dash cam for any suspicious activity that may be helpful in this investigation between May 29 at 5 p.m., and

May 30 at 2:15 p.m.

If you have any information in relation to this incident, please contact the Nottawasaga OPP at 1-888-310-1122 (Reference #E250688558).

You can also provide information anonymously by contacting Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or www.crimestoppersdm.com.

Police charge Essa man with operation while impaired following traffic complaint

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

Nottawasaga OPP officers responded to a traffic complaint in the area of Mill Street, in

the Essa on June 11, shortly after 12:30 p.m.

The vehicle was described as being operated in a concerning manner and the driver was unable to remain standing when entering into a business. 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, leading to the driver’s arrest.

As a result of the investigation, Kevin Whitehouse, 31, of Essa, was charged with operation while impaired - alcohol and

drugs.

The accused is scheduled to attend the Ontario Court of Justice in Bradford on July 10, 2025, to answer to the charge.

The operation while impaired charge has not been proven in court.



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

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708 OBITUARIES

Verecke: Marino
September 6, 1957- June 12, 2025

Suddenly and unexpectedly in Tottenham, Ontario, Marino went to be with his Lord and Saviour on June 12, 2025. He was 67 years old.

Cherished husband of Deborah (née Teller), Marino was a devoted family man who loved the Lord Jesus. He was a source of strength and kindness to all who knew him. Loving father of Sarah (Grant) Boyer, Rachel (Justin) Vlietstra, Michaela (Devin) Straatsma, and Joshua Verecke (Jason Tavares). Proud and much-loved Papa to Rylie, Chelsie, Charlie, Bobby, Mckenna, Oscar and Peyton. Adored son of Georgette Verecke and the late Andre Verecke. He will be lovingly remembered by his sister-in-law Claudia Teller (Gary McQuillan). He leaves behind nieces and nephews, dear friends and extended family members in Belgium.

Professionally, Marino served with integrity as a Chartered Accountant for over 40 years, but his passion was to serve the Lord as Pastor of Churchill Baptist Church, in Palgrave, for over 33 years. He was known for his compassion, humility, unwavering faith and dedication in service.

Although the family mourns, we take great comfort in knowing that by faith, he lives, and we will one day see him again. We thank our God for Marino's example of a godly life lived well.

The family received friends at Rod Abrams Funeral Home, 1666 Tottenham Rd., Tottenham (905-936-3477), on Monday, June 16, 2025, from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. A second visitation took place on Tuesday, June 17, 2025, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., immediately followed by a funeral service in the Chapel at 11:00 a.m.

A reception followed in the funeral home's Cliffside Hall. Interment took place afterward at Morningside Cemetery, 32 Pine Ave., Palgrave, Ontario. Donations in Marino's memory may be made to Alliston Community Christian School or to Matthews House Hospice. Online condolences or memories may be shared with the family at www.RodAbramsFuneralHome.com.



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Continued from Page 4

Brock's Banter: Caring communities

Reporting on those individuals and groups who do so much "good" in our community always warms my heart, not only for the benefits our communities reap from such "good", but how much it undercuts the idea that the dreaded "I don't care" is nothing short of a juggernaut.

We see it in actions large and small – and, in some cases, examples where people don't really think of what they do as "doing good"; rather, they're just living their lives as they've always done, leaving positivity in their wake.

Perhaps the best, and most varied, examples of this can be found in our schools where week-in and week-out students, often guided by passionate and dedicated teachers who have their eyes on the big picture, find new ways to make a difference in their

communities, whether they define their respective community by their school walls, the towns and cities in which they live, or as global citizens.

It's clear when they take on large-scale fundraisers for organizations like the Canadian Cancer Society, to pick but one of myriad examples, to give a hand-up to underserved and remote communities to help them be the best they can be, or it can be as simple as extending a hand of friendship to a peer who might be shy, bullied, othered, or simply have more difficulty than others in forging a genuine human connection.

Large or small, these grand or simple acts, can make a world of difference – immediately, or even down the road.

Through the 2025 Give Back Awards, a scholarship program administered by Magna

International, to recognize students who have made valuable contributions to their communities rather than simply academic prowess alone, offered myriad examples of students making real, tangible differences in our communities, collectively dedicating thousands upon thousands of hours to issues, concerns, and initiatives beyond themselves.

We've also seen students recognized for exceptional advocacy work on the international stage. Even more have found their way into the spotlight, even reluctantly, for just being the change they want to see in the world.

As the school year winds down over the next week for many students, they, in my view, deserve a round of applause for what they've been able to take on above and

beyond their day-to-day school work. This round of applause should also be extended to dedicated teachers and other faculty members who go above and beyond to provide or identify opportunities for students to make a real difference, even taking time out of their already busy days to foster these opportunities in house.

For those of you who are on the cusp of graduation this week or next, standing at the start of a new chapter of untold possibilities, you're closing another chapter with a job well done, and you should all be congratulated.

Having interviewed many of you over the last four years of your high school careers, I know that you will continue to seek out opportunities to continue your work, further your passions, and exercise the simple act of caring wherever you land.

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6⁴⁹

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4 Varieties

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Sausage Rolls
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16 PIECES 384 g

SALE

Chicken Spring Rolls
6 PIECES 432 g

SALE

BETTER WITH BACON

19⁹⁹ SALE

Bacon Wrapped Chicken
4 PIECES x142 g/5 oz

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MIX AND MATCH

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2 Varieties

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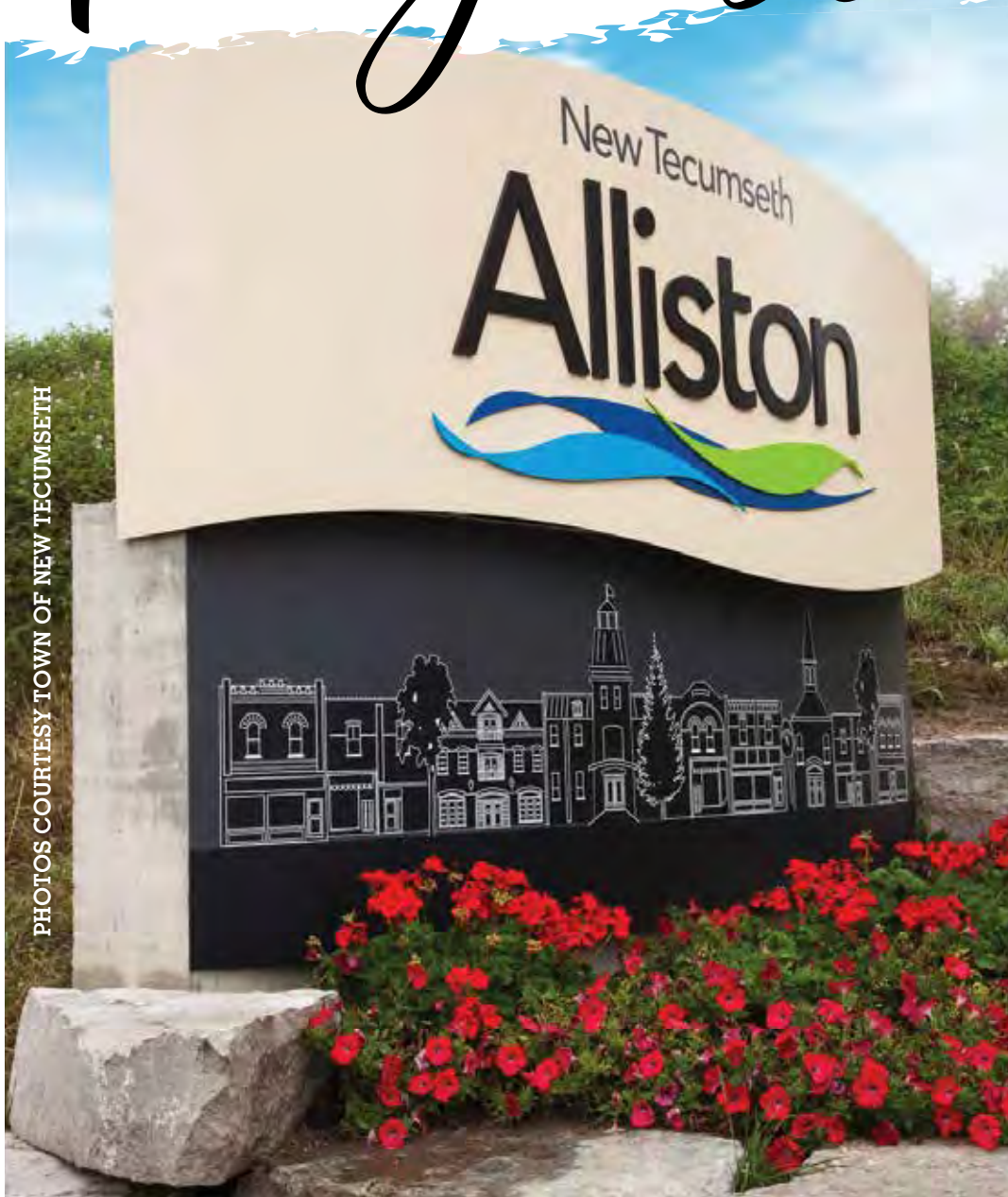


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New Tecumseth
The Times

Progress Edition



PHOTOS COURTESY TOWN OF NEW TECUMSETH

AN ANNUAL REPORT HIGHLIGHTING LOCAL BUSINESSES IN
NEW TECUMSETH AND AREA
SUMMER 2025



A message from the Mayor of New Tecumseth

As Mayor of the Town of New Tecumseth, I am proud to recognize and celebrate the incredible contributions of our local businesses. They are the heart of our community — driving our economy, creating jobs, and enriching the daily lives of our residents in countless ways.

From family-run shops and innovative startups to long-standing establishments that have served generations, our local businesses reflect the spirit, resilience, and creativity that defines New Tecumseth. They are more than just places to shop or dine — they are gathering places, community builders, and proud supporters of local events, charities, and initiatives that bring us together.

Supporting local means investing in

our neighbours, our friends, and our future. Every dollar spent in our community helps strengthen the local economy and ensures that New Tecumseth remains a vibrant and welcoming place to live, work, and visit. It's a simple act that has a powerful impact.

The Town remains committed to fostering a business-friendly environment. We continue to work closely with entrepreneurs and business owners to ensure they have the tools, resources, and support they need to thrive. Whether through streamlined services, community partnerships, or strategic planning, we are focused on sustainable growth that benefits everyone in our Town — now and for generations to come.

I encourage all residents to explore the incredible variety of goods and ser-

vices offered right here at home. Let's continue to champion our local businesses — not just during special events or holidays, but every single day of the year.

Thank you to the New Tecumseth Times for highlighting the importance of our local business community through this special annual section. And thank you to all the business owners and employees whose hard work and dedication make New Tecumseth such a special place.

Together, we are building a stronger, more connected, and more resilient community.

Warm regards,
Mayor Richard Norcross
Town of New Tecumseth



THE FIREPLACE STOP:

Delivering home comfort with heart since 1987

Based in Schomberg, The Fireplace Stop is your trusted, one-stop destination for premium home comfort solutions. Family-owned and operated since its founding by Andy Leonard in 1987, the company has proudly served the community from its location at Highway 9 and 27 since 1990.

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

Together with its sister company, ABL Air Heating & Air Conditioning, The Fireplace Stop has earned a reputation for tackling challenging projects with professionalism and precision. From all types of fireplaces and premium barbecues to full-scale HVAC systems, their experienced team has you covered.

"If it contributes to your home's comfort, we're involved," Leonard adds.

The Fireplace Stop proudly serves a wide area across Ontario, including Toronto and cottage country, with some installations completed at properties accessible only by snowmobile or boat—

highlighting their commitment to getting the job done, no matter the challenge.

Service That Sets Them Apart

Customer satisfaction is the top priority at The Fireplace Stop. Each project benefits from personalized service and a team passionate about excellence in sales, service, and installation. The business proudly carries a curated selection of premium brands, including Napoleon, Marquis, Fireplace Xtordinair, Da Vinci, Kozy Heat, Tempest Torch, Enviro, Regency, Valcourt, RSF, Lopi, Delta Heat, Pacific Energy, Twin Eagle, Spartherm, and STUV America—

ensuring long-lasting quality and comfort.

As industry technology continues to evolve, so does The Fireplace Stop's commitment to offering efficient, innovative, and affordable solutions that enhance your living space.

A Team Like Family

The team at The Fireplace Stop operates like a close-knit family, many of whom have been with the company for decades.

Head installers Scott Leonard and Eric Newton lead an elite installation team, with Eric's brother, Daniel Newton, adding further expertise. Corey Hillier oversees service operations, while Richard "Tricky Ricky" McAnsh is renowned for han-

"You can't build a great business without GREAT PEOPLE"



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

dling the most complex jobs with ease. Mateusz Welna manages shipping and receiving while also supporting the install team, and Lucas Dowdle contributes to installs alongside talented co-op students Alexander Lord, Bobby Worth, and Aaron Hwang—each showing great promise in their careers.

Custom cabinetry is expertly handled by Glen Rueda, adding a distinctive finishing touch to many projects.

Sales are led by Andrew Leonard, working alongside seasoned professionals Ron Rice, Cristina Ventresca, and

Andy Leonard himself. Kelsey Leonard heads administration, supported by Kevin Snell, Renee Noble, and Jennifer Russell. Jody Koerssen oversees the accounting department.

These dedicated professionals are the heart and soul of The Fireplace Stop. Their teamwork, experience, and passion for excellence are what truly set the company apart.

To book an appointment or request a quote, email info@fireplacestop.com or call **905-939-8758**. Experience the difference a great team makes.



The Fireplace Stop's administration team of Kelsey Leonard, Kevin Snell, Renee Noble, Jody Koerssen and Jennifer Russell keeps the business running smoothly and clients happy. (Contributed photo)



The Fireplace Stop's courteous and highly skilled installation team—including Alexander Lord, Bobby Worth, Daniel Newton, Aaron Hwang, Eric Newton, Scott Leonard, Lucas Dowdle, Richard McAnsh, Corey Hillier, and Mateusz Welna—is dedicated to completing your project with precision, professionalism, and complete customer satisfaction. (Zachary Roman photo)

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Taste the difference at M&M Food Market

Passionate about providing quick and convenient high-quality meals

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

It is the one-stop location when you need a nutritious meal that offers variety, quality, and easy preparation.

M&M Food Market is a proudly Canadian company that is Canadian-owned and operated. Its easily identifiable logo is a familiar sight at many events and charity barbecues around the community and everyone knows you're going to have a quality burger when someone from M&M is behind the grill.

The Alliston M&M Food Market is owned and operated by Colin Oake – a local resident actively involved in the community. Colin was a part of the food industry for years before embarking on a career in the insurance industry for five years. His personable approach to meeting clients and working with the public guided him back to the food industry, and when the opportunity to take over the Alliston M&M Food Market became available in 2019, he knew it was the right move for him.

"I had worked in restaurants and managed restaurants for most of my life," Colin explained. "I put myself through university working in restaurants. I really like a job where I am working with people. I have really enjoyed this experience. It's great getting to know local people and the community."

At a time when many Canadians want to support local businesses and industries, M&M Food Market is at the forefront of the 'Shop Canadian' initiative.

M&M Food Market was started in 1980 under the old name, M&M Meat Shops. The company re-branded under the new name in 2014 with a fresh new perspective and way of meeting the needs of its customers.

M&M has also made a change in the food products it carries. When you walk into the Alliston store, you are greeted by a sign that states, "Absolutely no artificial colours, flavours or sweeteners in any of our food."

M&M Food Market provides ready-made food that makes life easier for many people. Whether it is a single person looking for a meal after a long day at work or a family trying to balance a meal between activities, the refrigerators and freezers at M&M Food Market have something for everyone.

"We're not just meat specialists anymore," Colin explained. "We have eight categories of food. We have appetizers, butcher, prepared foods, single serves, seafood, desserts, vegetables, and breads. We can be part of a person's regular shopping experience. Our single serves are very popular with people who have smaller appetites or are living independently. Our prepared section is very popular with people who are busy and just want to relax when they get home. They do not want to spend another hour making dinner.

"The vetting process for our products is very extensive. The M&M Innovations Team identifies a need for our shelves, and they find something that not only tastes good but also has consistently good quality. We have quality food that tastes right and has natural ingredients."



Alliston store owner Colin Oake



looking to make money from those, I'm just looking to get out in the community and be recognized as someone who's involved. I enjoy working with local people and volunteers and seeing people, especially kids, having a good time. A lot of kids at the schools get excited looking forward to this year's barbecue. It becomes an annual tradition."

As a member of the business community and resident of the Town, Colin enjoys having M&M Food Market be involved in community events. "One thing I really love about this store is that it allows me to become more involved with the community," Colin explained. "M&M has a tradition of offering charitable barbecues. I have a trailer with two barbecues and catering equipment. That allows me to engage with the community. I help out with several school barbecues for fundraisers for the schools. We'll be helping out a few charities. I'm not

At a time when many Canadians want to support local businesses and industries, M&M Food Market is at the forefront of the 'Shop Canadian' initiative. Over 85 per cent of M&M Food Market branded products are made in Canada from domestic and imported ingredients or a product of Canada.

The M&M Food Market in Alliston is located at the Young King Plaza at 37 Young Street. You can learn more by visiting the M&M Food Market website at www.mmfoodmarket.com.



M&M FOOD MARKET



mmfoodmarket.com

37 Young Street, Alliston 705-435-1405

BRISCO FURNITURE & APPLIANCE LTD. AND BRISCO MATTRESS WORLD: *Quality home furnishings and superior customer service*



By Brian Lockhart

Your home is where you spend a good deal of your time, and it's also the place where you feel most comfortable.

Having the right décor in your home creates your own personal space, reflects your personality, and makes you feel good about where you live.

Brisco Furniture & Appliance in Alliston is the region's top spot for home furnishings and appliances.

They have a solid reputation based on decades of providing quality furniture and appliances, superior service, and treating their customers fairly and in a friendly manner.

Brisco Furniture & Appliance opened



its doors in 1983, after taking over from a previous store at their Victoria Street location.

In 1998, Ken and Heidi Brisco bought the business from Ken's parents and they have operated the store ever since.

Ken said their policy when dealing with customers is simple and straightforward.

"We treat our customers the same way we would like to be treated ourselves," Ken explained. "That's one of the reasons we are still here."

This philosophy means a pleasant shopping experience whenever you visit the showroom. Ken and his salespeople provide you with the information you need, quality service, and a friendly environment with no high-pressure sales tactics.

They are so certain of the quality of their products and the service they provide, they know that even if customers are just comparison shopping or not sure of what they want, they will likely return when it's time to purchase.

Most of Brisco Furniture & Appliance's customers are local residents from Alliston, Tottenham, Beeton, Angus, and Shelburne, who appreciate what the



store has to offer and the variety of products on display.

In the furniture section of the showroom, there is a huge variety of home furnishing that will appeal to everyone's taste whether you like traditional or modern styles.

This includes sofas, chairs, coffee tables, end tables, kitchen tables and plenty of accent pieces.

Popular furniture brands include Paliser, Superstyle, Decor Rest, and Aurora. Most of the products in the showroom are from Canadian furniture manufacturers.

Kitchen appliances are something every homeowner will eventually need to purchase. Whether you are moving into your first home, or have been in your house for several years, styles change and eventually appliances will wear out.

Brisco Furniture & Appliance has a full array of stoves, refrigerators, dishwashers, and microwaves.

They have models to suit any budget and lifestyle. Whether you require a small compact unit to fit into a smaller space, or a large unit with a lot of features, there is something available for your home.

As large and bulky items, many homeowners can be intimidated by the thought of what to do with their old appliances. However, Brisco Furniture & Appliances customer service has an easy solution.

"When we deliver new appliances, we will take away the old ones, we will take away what we replace," Ken explained. "There is no charge for delivery."

The showroom features popular appliance brands including Whirlpool, Maytag, Kitchenaid, Frigidaire, and Electrolux.

Brisco's delivery people are experts at what they do and they have the skills and techniques to deliver appliances easily and remove the old ones from your home.

In 2012, Ken and Heidi recognized a need for quality bedroom furnishings in the region.

They opened Brisco Mattress World

on Victoria Street.

The store features a wide variety of quality bedding including mattresses, boxsprings, and bedroom furniture and accessories.

Popular brands in the store include Serta, Simmons, Tempur-Pedic, Kingsdown, and Sealy.

Finding the right mattress for you is an important step in getting a good night's sleep.

"We treat our customers the same way we would like to be treated ourselves... That's one of the reasons we are still here."

At Brisco Mattress World you are encouraged to try different mattresses to see which one feels right.

When you purchase your new mattress and boxspring, delivery is free and the expert delivery people will take it into your home and place it in your bedroom for you.

"We want to make sure you get the right mattress because it is something you will be sleeping on for a long time," Ken said.

If you require an old mattress or boxspring to be taken away, they will take care of that for you.

There is a \$25 fee for mattress removal that is charged through municipal environmental fees.

Brisco Furniture and Appliance and Brisco Mattress World serve customers in the region with quality products, superior customer service, and a convenient central location, meaning you won't have to drive to a larger centre to find what you need.

Brisco Furniture & Appliance is conveniently located at 43 Victoria St. W., Alliston.

Brisco Mattress World is located at 1 Victoria St. W., in Alliston.



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GIBSON CULTURAL CENTRE:

A centre for the arts in a beautiful heritage building

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

It is a gem of a historic building in the centre of Alliston that provides a place for artistic expression in a heritage setting.

The Gibson Cultural Centre building has been many things over more than 120 years. Built in 1889, it is a former factory, warehouse, and feed store that's transformed into a stunning, vibrant, and aesthetically pleasing building, becoming the centre of artistic creativity and culture in Alliston and the surrounding area.

The Gibson Cultural Centre was created as a labour of love. It was opened in 2007 by local residents who made the effort to turn an old building into a modern centre for art, music, social gatherings, and learning.

This impressive three-story structure has maintained its original charm with heavy hand-hewn wooden beams and 19th-century brickwork. The bell tower holds the bell from the original Alliston Town Square and it chimes on the hour during the day.

"We are an arts and cultural centre and a venue for all varieties of artistic expression in a heritage building," explained Jennifer Fortin, executive director of the Gibson Cultural Centre. "The Gibson Centre is alive with culture and rich in heritage."

On the main floor, there is the Gibson Centre art gallery. This fascinating space hosts art exhibits featuring both art groups and individual shows by noted artists.

The gallery is spacious and bright and is a popular attraction for art lovers who want to view pieces ranging from traditional to ultra-modern. There are several new exhibits each year.

The Honda Performance Hall occupies the east wing of the arts centre. A venue for both music and stage productions, this intimate 150-seat theatre offers a space for theatre groups as well as professional bands and top-name performers.

On the second floor, there are two gathering spaces suitable for a variety of parties, weddings, company events, and social gatherings.

Rotary Hall occupies the west wing of the building, while Holmstrom Hall is in the east wing. Both halls are large enough to accommodate 150 people.

The Gibson Centre is a beautiful venue for a wedding. The boardroom doubles as a private space for

wedding couples to take a moment to reflect on their ceremony and take in the day. The private dressing rooms offer a place for the bridal party to get ready for the big event.

In the basement, the Mercer Pub offers live entertainment for a great casual night out.

The Gibson Cultural Centre places a lot of emphasis on education and programming for kids.

"We have the Gibson School of the Arts," Jennifer explained. "The Gibson Centre offers a variety of artistic expressions including culinary arts, theatre, mixed media, and visual arts. Our theatre group uses Honda Hall for rehearsals and performances. It's primarily after school programming for kids from Grade 1 to Grade 8 as well as a full time summer program. We're now expanding to include adult programming. We have summer programming through the entire summer. Our building comes alive when all the students are here. We have professional facilitators, such as Red Seal chefs and accomplished artists. These programs are truly driven by professionals – that's what makes us different from other summer camps."

There are several different types of camps available. Kids can sign up for a beginner-level camp, or a more advanced camp depending on their experience and previous programs they have been involved with.

The theatre camp runs for a month and ends with the production of a play that participants have been working on.

"Through the summer, we have visual arts, yoga, in-tune with nature, dance, music, and culinary," Jennifer explained of the variety of programs available to youth at the Gibson Centre.

Private individuals can rent rooms at the Gibson Centre for special events. The arts centre is very popular for weddings, wedding showers, baby showers, celebrations of life, retirement parties, and birthday parties.

You can rent a room for a small private affair or a larger room for a fantastic gala.

The Gibson Cultural Centre is Alliston's most




unique venue for everything arts-related in a beautiful heritage setting. Over the years, it has attracted many groups from other areas who host events at the Gibson Cultural Centre because they appreciate all it has to offer.

The arts centre is a registered charity that is operated by the Gibson Cultural Centre Corporation and run by a Board of Directors.

You can drop in to visit the Gibson Centre from Tuesday to Friday, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

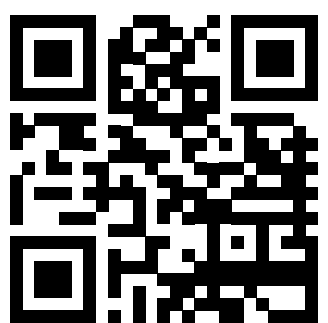
For more information, visit the website at www.gibsoncentre.com.





The
GIBSON
Centre for Community, Arts & Culture

63 Tupper St. W., Alliston
CALL 705-435-2828
OR VISIT
GIBSONCENTRE.COM





Plan for your future with Sandra Phekoo and her team

Your local experts on investments and insurance

Phekoo Financial Services Inc. Sandra is a licence insurance agent, specializing in home, auto, life, disability, farm, travel and commercial insurance. Sandra is also a licenced mutual funds specialist whose expertise contribute to her clients achieving financial stability through sound, thoughtful and sensible investment planning, tailored to meet the client's goals. "We are a grassroots Canadian company and are proud to be involved with our local community nonprofit agencies," says Sandra of her involvement in the process of

helping residents achieve financial stability. Sandra and her team take pride in being involved with a company whose mission it is to not only help Canadians achieve financial security but to build a stronger community.

Sandra began her career as an insurance agent in 1999 and rapidly moved up the ranks to underwriting two years later. Shortly thereafter, Sandra completed the requirements to earn the CIP designation as a Certified Insurance Professional. As a perpetual student, her insatiable appetite to learn facilitated her need to broaden her horizons into many different facets of the insurance and investment fields, culminating in her current role with the Co-operators. Sandra surrounds herself with a group of talented, committed and highly motivated individuals. You can be rest assured you will receive the most current data and advice with respect to insurance and investment products when dealing with her team of experts.

Provincial legislation directs every automobile driver/owner in the province to obtain auto insurance to facilitate there being legally authorized to drive on its roads and highways. This applies to not only personal passenger vehicles but to other motorized vehicles such as ATV's, motorcycles, snowmobiles as well as heavy trucks and commercial vehicles. This provincial legislation is designed to protect drivers and pedestrians alike against accidents, collision and

bodily injury. The Co-operators insurance company addresses this provincial obligation by providing a multiplicity of coverages for all drivers. Meeting their legal responsibilities while safeguarding against occurrences is of paramount importance to the Co-operators and a duty they take very seriously.

Furthermore, for property owners, whether personal or commercial, Sandra has a variety of insurance options to protect against hidden perils. For such risks, building, liability and property content insurance protection is available for tenants and condo owners. These types of policies include coverage for property damage as well as liability coverage for personal actions from lawsuits anywhere around the world. Other types of policies the Sandra's Alliston Co-operators office advance include business, travel, farm, individual, health and dental group benefit plans, life, critical illness, group investments and income replacement.

In addition to the previous mentioned policies, the Co-operators offer specialty coverages for one-time events for golf and hockey tournaments, weddings, anniversaries or other special events. Sandra and her team take pride in not only offering the best products available in the market but also providing excellent customer service to all their clients irrespective of their background or knowledge level. Sandra explains, "We really enjoy building relationships with our clients. That's what makes us truly different and sets us apart from other agencies. We take time and care to perpetually nurture these relationships."

Most people are hesitant about investing their hard-earned money for a variety of reasons due primarily to a lack of knowledge or confidence in investing. As licenced professionals, Sandra and her team takes their duties and responsibilities seriously and strive to adhere to high ethical and professional industry standards. Her philosophical outlook consists of presenting consumers with the most pertinent information specific to their unique circumstances, establishing a mutually beneficial relationship based on respect, understanding and openness. Sandra takes a holistic approach with her clients. In addition to educating her clients on significant investment and insurance matters, she takes it a step further by devising and incorporating a detailed portfolio analysis which addresses the clients long- and short-term goals. Her analysis considers, retirement, home purchases, future investment, saving for the kid's education, and long-term monetary growth, to name just a few.

Her team recognizes change is a fact of life. As a consequence, her team conduct regular client reviews to identify material changes in the client's situation and make recommendations to address the change

and whether adjustments are necessary. Apart from insurance, Sandra Phekoo Financial Services provides a wide range of investment options, such as Tax Free Savings Accounts (TFSA), First Home Savings Account (FHSA), Registered Retirement Savings Plan (RRSP), a Registered Retirement Income Fund (RRIF), Locked-in Retirement Accounts (LIRAs), and Life Income Funds (LIFs), as well as all other registered and non-registered investments. If you are saving for a particular goal such as buying a house or looking toward funding a child's post-secondary education, Sandra's team can advise you on a Registered Education Savings Plan (RESP), or a First Home Savings Account (FHSA).

As remarked earlier, the Co-operators Alliston office is actively involved in the local community and participates as a sponsor of many events, trade

shows and nonprofit organizations fund raisers. Their unbridled commitment to the community advances and aligns with the Co-operators mission by nurturing strong

connections based on trust between her office and its residents. Sandra's team have a passion for what they do and believe deeply in the products and services they provide. By extension, they take delight interacting with these nonprofit organizations and the causes they promote. Working closely within the community, their knowledge level increases, allowing them to understand the issues and areas of concerns requiring support with greater clarity of which the Co-operators could be of service. These collaborations are personally and professionally rewarding to the team. It provides another dimension of their official duties while promoting a stronger community, broadening their experiences and building bridges. Regardless of the group, the team will work diligently with any organization and provide assistance to ensure their principled noble causes is advanced.

As Sandra Phekoo Financial Services Inc. continues to grow, the team makes themselves available to inform and educate clients in a variety of ways about the products and services they provide. The means of communicating such information includes but are not limited to, in person or over the phone meetings, Zoom meetings, through seminars, presentations, information sessions and/or workshops. Sandra is always looking at ways to improve service levels and appreciate receiving feedback from clients who desire to learn and engage in a meaningful way. Selecting qualified staff members is always a priority.

Co-operators Alliston is located at 46 Wellington St. W. Unit 4A, on the second floor. You can call 705-435-6294, email:phekoo_financial_services@cooperators.ca, website: <https://local.cooperators.ca/phekoo-financial-services-en>
www.cooperators.ca

Investing in
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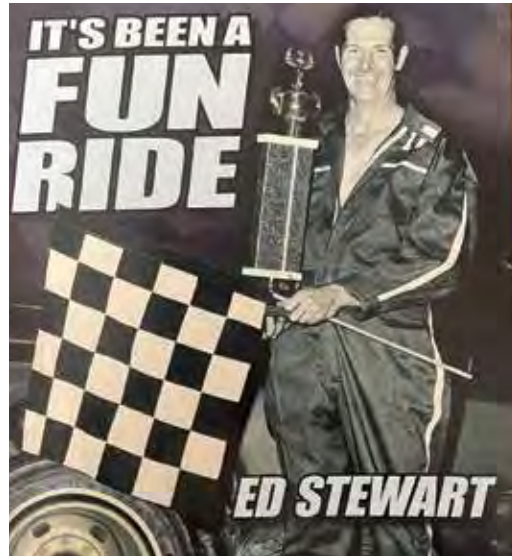
Sandra Phekoo Financial Services Inc.

HOME • AUTO • LIFE • INVESTMENTS • GROUP • BUSINESS • FARM • TRAVEL

46 Wellington St. W., Unit 4A, 2nd Floor, ALLISTON | 705-435-6294 | Phekoo_Financial_Services@cooperators.ca

Celebrating a real milestone – 70 years in business

At the core of Stewart's Equipment lies a dedicated team of professionals who bring expertise, commitment, and passion to their work every day.



Founder of Stewart's Equipment, Ed Stewart's passion for machinery existed in many areas of his life, from operating his business to racing cars and snowmobiles.

Staying in business for 70 years is a real milestone. Operating a company for 70 years is an outstanding achievement.

Stewart's Equipment in Erin is celebrating an incredible 70 years in business in 2025 making it one of the region's most successful, long-lasting, and respected businesses.

Stewart's Equipment President Jeff Stewart said that the quality of the products they sell, along with superior customer service, is what makes them so successful.

Jeff, along with his brother Randy, own and operate Stewart's Equipment and grew up learning the business from the ground up.

The business was started on Thanksgiving weekend in 1955 when Jeff and Randy's father, Ed Stewart, took over a single-bay garage in Ospringe where he had a repair shop and feed supply business helping local farmers.

From there, the enterprise grew over the years and now includes dealerships across the region, with locations in Erin, Cookstown, and Stayner.

While Ed had a knack for entrepreneurship that took him far in the business world, he also had a passion for cars, horses, and racing.

In 1974, Ed participated in the biggest stock car race in Canada at the time – the Carling Red Cap 250 at Cayuga. He didn't have enough horsepower to qualify with his own car, but his friend Bruce Bennett, who owned Sauble Speedway, had a Super Late – good enough to enter the race. Ed worked out a deal with Bruce and was off to Cayuga to compete.

The qualifiers saw 60 cars competing for 30 spots and Ed came 13th overall.

Without power steering or power braking – 250 laps seemed like a daunting task but at age 41, Ed had been training and felt he was in good shape.

He ended up in 10th place and took home a \$1,200 prize to be split with Bruce.

Between tractor pulling, racing cars, and racing snowmobiles, Ed had over 100 trophies, with a couple from horse racing as well.

His passion for vehicles and agricultural equipment complimented his work at Stewart's Equipment over the years and kept him focused.

At the core of Stewart's Equipment lies a dedicated team of professionals who bring expertise, commitment, and passion to their

work every day. The dealership's employees are not just knowledgeable about the latest machinery and technology, they are also deeply invested in ensuring that every customer finds the right equipment for their needs.

From the sales team who provide personalized consultations, to the service technicians who maintain and repair equipment with precision, each member of the team plays a crucial role in the company's success. Their dedication to customer satisfaction and their ability to go above and beyond in every interaction makes them the true backbone of our dealership.

Stewart's Equipment is proud to have such a talented and hardworking group of individuals who strive for excellence and contribute to a positive and supportive work environment. Their collective efforts not only drive the business forward, but also foster lasting relationships with their valued customers.

Stewart's Equipment represents companies that are the best in their field and are market leaders in innovation and technology. The quality support they receive from manufacturers is passed on to the customers who benefit from the superior service and expertise in the field.

Inventory includes Kubota residential, recreational, commercial, agricultural, and industrial products, New Holland AG and construction, along with many other lines of equipment like Honda, Stihl, and Yamaha.

They have a lot of snow service equipment like snow plows, tractor-snow plow combinations, and snow blowers.

The wide selection of quality products means Stewart's Equipment is the dealership of choice for people who need power products for a job around the home, up to large farm operations that require heavy-duty equipment that can stand the test of rigorous work in the fields.

"We have equipment for residential customers, construction, landscapers, and farmers," Jeff explained.

There is also a full line-up of quality pre-owned equipment for sale.

The difference between Stewart's Equipment and the typical big-box store is the expertise of the staff and their customer service.

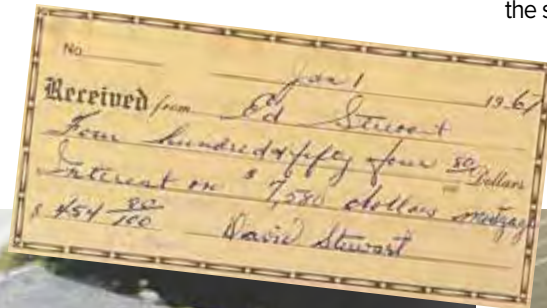
"We have sales, parts, and service," Jeff explained. "When we sell a new product we service it and support it. If you buy a new chainsaw, for example, and you damage it, we can provide parts and repair the unit. We are a full-service dealership. If you buy a product at a big box store, and something goes wrong, typically they won't repair it. They will either send it out, or send you to another repair place. When you come to our store, we look after you with all parts and service. Our parts and service staff are some of the best around. They are well trained and experienced to handle any issues you may encounter."

Stewart's Equipment has three locations to serve you from, for all your sales and service needs.

Visit us at www.stewartsequip.com



Ed's father sold him his first garage for \$10,000, a huge sum in 1961, and took back the mortgage. Ed paid him monthly until it was his free and clear.



The Shop That Started it All: Aerial shot of Ed's Garage on the Ospringe corner as it looked in the 1950s.



Stewart's Equipment continues to operate as an independent family-owned business run by Ed's sons, Jeff and Randy. Since 1955.



Sales - Parts - Service - Rentals

Stewart's Equipment

Erin Location:
9410 Wellington Rd 124,
Erin,
Corner of 124 & 24
ON, N0B 1T0
519-833-9616

Cookstown Location:
4321 Line 13,
Cookstown,
Corner of 27 & line 13
ON, L0L 1L0
705-458-0871

Stayner Location:
6837 ON-26, Stayner,
Corner of 26 &
center line rd
ON, L0M 1S0
705-428-3132

STEWARTSEQUIP.COM



Ripleys Auto Service

Auto repairs and superior service in the heart of Alliston

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

Quite often during conversations about cars, the question of ‘Do you know a good local mechanic?’ comes up.

Almost everyone drives a vehicle, and sooner or later, you will require either repairs or maintenance to keep your vehicle running properly and safely.

You will want to find an auto service centre that provides expert repairs and superior customer service.

In addition, it is imperative that an auto service facility stays on top of the changes that are made to cars and trucks each year and is knowledgeable of the current technology that keeps an automobile performing at optimum levels.

At Ripley’s Auto Service in Alliston, there is a fully qualified staff of technicians who can service any car or truck.

Shop owner and Master Mechanic, Rick Ripley is well equipped to deal with all kinds of automotive repairs, with decades of experience working on almost every kind of car.

After working as a mechanic for years in Toronto, the King St. location in Alliston became available, and it made sense for Rick to open an automotive shop in the town where he lives.

“I’ve been in this location for 12 years,” Rick explained. “I had a couple of Shell Gas Stations with bays in Toronto. I’ve lived here for 25 years. Eventually, when Shell announced they were closing the shops, I decided to find something closer to home. Since I live in town, this location was perfect.”

Rick’s decades in the industry and time spent keeping up with his training has provided him with extensive knowledge on all vehicle repairs.

He began professionally as an apprentice and then achieved his certification as a Class A Mechanic.

“I’m licensed to do anything that’s on the ground,” Rick explained. “If it has four wheels and hits pavement, I can fix it – I’m certified to do that.”

Rick is not only a certified Auto Technician, he has also achieved certification as a Truck and Coach Technician. This certification makes him qualified to work on vehicles like semi-trucks and dump trucks.

This experience has provided Rick with an intuitive ability to diagnose and repair all sorts of vehicles.

At the shop he and his team can repair pickup trucks up to a 350 medium-duty model. This includes certifying trucks for a commercial operation that uses one for business purposes.

Sooner or later, every vehicle will require repairs or maintenance. Rick and his team welcome local residents who need a variety of repairs on their every-day vehicle.

“We service everything from small cars that people use to get around town, all the way up to pickup trucks,” Rick explained. “We do suspension, brakes, exhaust, and tune-ups. If you have a problem with your vehicle, we can fix it. We do general service auto repair.”

They also do computer diagnostics, oil changes and lube, coolant flush, tire repair, and complete A/C repair and service.

Cars and trucks are constantly being updated with new technology and new ways of engineering and design. This means the auto repair world has to stay current with the changes in the way automobiles are designed in order to effectively do repairs.

Rick and his team are knowledgeable of changes in auto design and have the experience to work on newer model vehicles.

Every vehicle will require regular maintenance to keep running properly. Parts wear out and will need to be replaced.

Regular maintenance will keep a vehicle safe and improve reliability and perfor-

mance, saving you money on expensive repairs down the road.

Rick routinely inspects vehicles that come into the shop and can advise his clients on pending issues that may need to be addressed in the future.

“I teach all my service technicians to look at a vehicle, address the concern, and be as honest and thorough as possible,” Rick explained. “No one wants to have a breakdown. When I look at a car, I’ll tell a customer you need this today, you need this tomorrow, and you will need this down the road. It’s to keep you safely on the road. People trust me and my opinion on what they need for their vehicle.”

It is this attention to detail, expert work, and superior service that have given Ripleys Auto Service a solid reputation in the region as a top-notch, reliable, and honest auto and truck repair facility.

Ripleys Auto Service is conveniently located right in the middle of Alliston at 29 King St. S.

You can visit the website at www.ripleysauto.ca for more information, or call 705-434-1061.



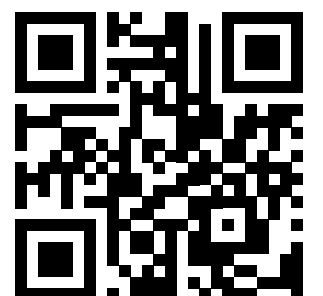
Brian, Ellen, Rick and Martin



29 King Street South,
Alliston

705-434-1061

www.ripleysauto.ca



THE HEATING SOURCE

Your Local experts in Heating and Cooling Installation and Maintenance



From left: Estimator/Lead Service Technician Michael Barroso, President Robert Cook, Showroom Assistant Patricia Hyman and Showroom Manager Belinda Facciol.

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

If you live in Canada, you know how important it is to have reliable heating and cooling systems for your home.

You also know how important it is to find a trusted expert to not only install these systems, but also to provide service and regular maintenance to ensure they operate efficiently and safely.

The Heating Source is a professional and certified heating and cooling contractor that specializes in providing a large range of gas, wood, pellet and ductless options that suit both modern and traditional aesthetics.

the corner of Airport Road and Dufferin County Road 17, the showroom boasts a large range of wood and gas-burning fireplaces, fireplace inserts and stoves, as well as electric fireplaces and pellet and ductless options.

“There is a lot to consider when choosing a unit for your home and we are here to help guide our clients and provide custom solutions to suit their needs,” says Robert. “Lately, we are seeing an increased demand for energy-saving options such as ductless heat pumps.”

Heat pumps are a relatively recent introduction to home heating. Highly efficient, heat pumps can both heat and cool a home. Government rebates including the Home Renovation Savings program encourage homeowners to take advantage of this technology, which can replace some current heating systems.

“The government’s push for heat pumps

is great for homeowners who have hot or cold spots in their home, additions or baseboard heat,” Robert explains. “There are many homeowners who use wood, propane, oil and electricity as a primary source to heat their home, who need supplemental heat and can really benefit from these substantial rebates.”

Another energy-saving option that is becoming more popular, according to Robert, are pellet stoves. Pellet stoves are self-feeding units that use pellets made from upcycled sawdust wood waste as fuel.

“Pellet stoves are a relatively new technology in Canada, but they are very popular in Europe,” Robert explains. “They provide steady heat with up to 90 per cent efficiency and they are very convenient for someone who isn’t around to feed a wood stove. You can leave it unattended and it will work up to 40 hours before the hopper needs to be refilled.”

In addition to installation services, Robert and his team provide repair services and offer annual maintenance programs to ensure efficiency and safety.

“Annual chimney sweeps and cleanings are essential to prevent chimney fires and extend the life-span of heating and cooling units,” Robert says. “We offer annual memberships to help homeowners stay on top of regular maintenance. Our membership programs entitle customers to a 15 per cent discount every year for chimney sweeps, fireplace cleanings and ductless unit cleanings.”

Ensuring wood-burning appliances are safe to use is especially important when buying or selling a home, as insurance companies require Wood Energy Technology Transfer (WETT) Reports to verify that fireplaces and stoves meet industry safety standards. The Heating Source has certified WETT technicians who can perform thorough inspections, issue WETT Reports and provide peace of mind for homeowners.

The Heating Source also provides plenty of options for outdoor living including outdoor gas fireplaces and heaters, barbeques, wood firepits and gas lines that bring gas from the home directly to the barbeque. In addition, they install, start up and service pool heaters.

“By popular demand, we began offering an annual pool heater start up program membership, so homeowners don’t have to worry about remembering to schedule us when they open their pool every year, because we re-



member for them!”

Robert and his team at The Heating Source are the local experts in heating and cooling. They offer superior service, knowledgeable advice, and a friendly and welcoming showroom.

The Heating Source showroom is located at 588283 Dufferin County Road 17 (Airport Rd.), in Mansfield.

You can visit them online at www.theheatingsource.ca for more information and to book your free in-home consultation. You can also contact the business by email at info@theheatingsource.ca or by telephone at 705-250-0498.



The Heating Source President Robert Cook is a licensed Gas Technician and a certified Residential Air Conditioning Systems Mechanic with 20 years of expertise and experience in home heating and cooling systems. He leads a team of trained and certified installers, technicians and chimney sweeps servicing New Tecumseth, Dufferin County, and beyond.

“We strive to provide a client-focused approach to heating and cooling,” Robert says. “We offer free in-home consultations where we really get to know our customers and determine their needs and preferences for their space. This includes everything from the size of the space to the client’s lifestyle and design style.”

As part of the selection process, clients are encouraged to visit The Heating Source’s spacious and bright Mansfield showroom, which opened in 2023. At





McGoey Insurance Brokers – Celebrating 125 years of serving the region from the same location

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

It is something you hope you will never have to use, however, when an accident happens or disaster strikes, the first call you will make will be to your insurance broker.

Having a fully insured home, automobile, business, or farm, provides peace of mind knowing that if misfortune does happen, you are covered for your losses.

In the business world, 20 years of operation is considered outstanding. Being able to last 30 years is an incredible milestone.

For a company to still be in business after 125 years is an incredible achievement that proves they offer a needed service, superior customer support, and the dedication that clients rely on.

Not only has McGoey Insurance Broker been in business continually for over a century, but they are one of the region's oldest successfully operating businesses.

Their success and longevity mean

they have the confidence of their clients and the support of many local residents who trust their advice and knowledge of the insurance industry.

A family business, McGoey Insurance Brokers began operating in 1900 when T.Q. McGoey, a local farmer and teacher realized there was a need in the area for insurance coverage – especially among local farmers.

“That’s when a lot of the farm mutuals started back then to protect local farmers,” explained current McGoey Insurance Brokers president, Tod McGoey, T.Q. McGoey’s great-grandson.

“T.Q. McGoey was living and farming on the 7th Line of Adjala. They moved to this location around 1915. Back then, it was a one-man show. Eventually, my grandfather Peter Ambrose McGoey took it over. From there, my dad Thomas, and his brother Bernard, took over. When I came into the company, my cousin Mike McGoey joined me five years later.”

The McGoey family has now seen five generations involved with the business.

Chad McGoey worked at the business as a fifth generation family member, and Alexandra McGoey is also still with the company.

The McGoey Insurance Brokers’ building on Mill Street is one of the town’s most visible and

The McGoey family has now seen five generations involved with the business.

well-known businesses. It is located in one of the oldest buildings in town and was left unscathed during the devastating town fire of 1895. Inside, the building has been beautifully renovated for a modern appeal and is decorated with many historic pieces of Tottenham and the surrounding area.

McGoey Insurance Brokers has worked through many local situations where natural disasters caused major

headaches for local residents. This includes flooding, a huge wind storm, and the tornado that ripped through the area and much of Ontario in 1985.

As an insurance broker, Tod and his team serve clients in a large region who appreciate their knowledge, dedication, and superior customer service.

As brokers, they deal with many different insurance companies and can find a suitable company to meet a customer’s needs.

When dealing with an insurance company as an individual, you are only going to be receiving information on the products that the company has available.

An insurance broker will save you time and the frustration of dealing with multiple companies by doing the legwork for you and offering you the best information based on your personal needs as a consumer.

“We help our clients by finding the right fit for them,” explained Tracy Gravelle, general manager of McGoey Insurance Brokers. “We work for our clients. We offer insurance for automobiles, home insurance, commercial, and farms. We also offer insurance for motorcycles, boats, and recreational vehicles.”

In today’s world, many events, gatherings, and festivals require insurance coverage in case someone is injured. This is especially true when town facilities are used to host an event so the town cannot be held liable in case an unfortunate incident occurs.

McGoey Insurance Brokers can also provide temporary policies to help with special circumstances.

If your golf tournament is planning a big payout for a hole-in-one, they can help organizations obtain an insurance policy in case one lucky golfer makes the shot of a lifetime.

As a new homeowner, you may be considering your options when choosing an insurance policy to cover your most valuable asset. McGoey Insurance Brokers can guide you through the entire process and help you find coverage to keep your home and your family protected in case of an accident or crisis.

McGoey Insurance Brokers’ success is built on a dedicated and knowledgeable team that provides superior service to their clients. Their local team prioritizes your needs above everything and they will represent you and manage claims and coverage on your behalf.

McGoey Insurance Brokers is located at 10 Mill Street E., Tottenham, in a beautifully restored 19th-century original town building. You can call them at 905-936-3441 or visit the website at www.mcgoyinsurance.com for more information.



 **McGOEY**
INSURANCE BROKERS
OUR FAMILY, PROTECTING YOURS

“Servicing this community since 1900”

AUTO. HOME. FARM. COMMERCIAL. GENERAL INSURANCE



10 Mill St. East, Tottenham ON L0G 1W0

905-936-3441

info@mcgoeyinsurance.com

DAVENPORTS AUTO PARTS

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

It has been a trusted name in auto parts supply for over 50 years, and Davenport's Auto Parts is now in Alliston.

The company was started in 1972 when Gord Davenport opened the first store at the Mono Plaza near Orangeville. The store became such a success that Mr. Davenport soon opened a second location, and over the years, the operation has continued to grow while remaining a family business.

The business is now run by a third generation, Steve Kallay and Kim Noseworthy.

Knowledgeable of the market needs in the region, Davenport's Auto Parts knew there was demand for their services in New Tecumseth.

When an existing auto parts store owner in Alliston decided to retire, Davenport's Auto Parts knew it was a good fit for them and they took over the Church Street location and rebranded to provide both residents and the automotive repair industry with a reputable and knowledgeable place to find auto parts and maintenance supplies.

For the auto repair industry, Davenport's Auto Parts provides a huge inventory of parts and fast delivery.

They are a Car Quest supplier. Many of the parts are readily available in the on-site warehouse.

If they don't have a particular part in stock, they can order it for you.

Customers include repair shops, auto dealerships, and any location that repairs cars and trucks and needs replacement parts.

Auto repair shops rely on Davenport's for their fast response time and expert knowledge of aftermarket parts.

Many employees have achieved long-term success with Davenport's and have gained the experience and knowledge to advise customers on what they need for a particular vehicle.

"When we took over this location, all the staff stayed with us," explained Davenport's Auto Parts Alliston branch manager, Janice Williams. "You build a relationship with your customers. We have customers who will call us and ask to speak specifically to a certain employee because they trust them and have dealt with them before."

Every car and truck will require a replacement part or maybe several during its lifespan.

Having a reliable, professional, and knowledgeable company backing you up as a parts supplier means you have the confidence of relying on their advice and the products they sell.

"We have our do-it-yourself backyard mechanics that come here, and we have a lot of shops we deliver to. A lot of them order online or they will call in their orders," Janice explained. "We do a lot of shops here in Alliston as well as Beeton and Tottenham. We have many customers who just walk in looking for parts. We also have many regular customers and we get to know their names."

In the store, the shelves are fully stocked for consumers who want to service their own vehicles with regular minor maintenance. This includes oil, windshield wiper fluid, lubricants, and windshield wipers. There is engine oil, anti-freeze and all the fluids customers like to keep in the garage for when a vehicle needs a top-up.

If you are very particular about your vehicle and want to keep it looking its best, there is a full lineup of car wax and specialized cleaners that take care of things like vinyl, leather, and tires.

You may attempt a repair on your vehicle, only to find you don't have the right tool for the job. Davenport's Auto Parts has a full line-up of quality tools that will help you get your home auto repair done right.

The staff at the store are all knowledgeable about the products and can advise you on the right product for your car.

They can also offer help and advice if you need a replacement part for your car or truck.

Many customers take advantage of the store's online inventory which is always being updated and provides detailed information. You can view available products online and order. You can pick up your order at whichever Davenport's Auto Parts location you specify.

In addition, the store's flyers are online and provide information about current sales and specials that can save you money.

There are plans to improve the Alliston store this summer with renovations to create a whole new look and make your shopping experience even better.

Davenport's Auto Parts is the leader in the region for auto parts for automotive repair shops, auto dealerships, custom shops, and consumers, and they are backed by a knowledgeable and experienced staff who know auto parts and the auto industry.

Davenport's Auto Parts has locations in Alliston, Orangeville, Shelburne, and Bradford.

The Alliston location is conveniently located at 239 Church St.

You can visit online at www.davenportscars.com, or call them at 705-435-4374.

The leading supplier of aftermarket car parts in the region





DAVENPORTS
AUTO PARTS

The Community Parts People Since 1972





239 Church St. S., ALLISTON 705-435-4374

Bringing a strong vision to the community:

Specsavers aims to improve local eye health

Specsavers is all about helping you see the world clearly while maintaining the health of your eyes.

An international company with roots in the UK, Specsavers has built its reputation on a business model unlike any other store that provides eyewear or eye examinations.

Specsavers' philosophy is that expert eyecare and quality eyewear should be affordable for all.

Alliston Specsavers opened its doors in April 2024 and provides superior customer service, quality eyewear, and eye examinations seven days a week.

Franchise owners, James Griffiths and Dr. Bhavesh Mistry realized that Alliston and the surrounding area needed an affordable eyewear and eyecare centre that provides daily eye examinations. Many eyecare centres are limited to examinations on only one or two days each week.

think an eye exam just tells you how far you can see, and here's a pair of glasses. One thing we do here that most optometry practices don't do is we take a photo and scan of the back of the eye at no additional charge. We try to give our clients the most thorough and affordable eye care. Hopefully, we can help Canadians see better for a longer period of time and if something is detected, we're detecting it faster and getting it solved before it affects your vision."

Dr. Mistry is the full-time Optometrist at Specsavers Alliston and meets with clients five days each week.

When he is not available, the store has other qualified Optometrists who make sure weekend visits are accommodated.

Dr. Mistry and his associates offer military, police, or any other occupational eye exam.

Specsavers is qualified to do annual testing for both police and military who require yearly testing of their members.

On the retail side, Specsavers has a huge assortment of frames in many different styles. They can take your prescription and help you find frames that not only fit your eyesight needs, they will help you find a style that looks good and enhances your appearance

"After you have an appointment with Dr. Mistry, all the details from the eye exam like prescription changes and any eye health recommendations gets passed on to my team and me," James explained. "We help people choose glasses or contact lenses. One of our main selling points for glasses is that we have a two-for-one offer. Everything for \$149 and above, you will get a second pair of glasses which includes single vision lenses. Once someone has chosen some glasses, we look at their prescription needs. We look at their lifestyle to see if they need anything more precise, like a polarized lens or an anti-glare coating."

The team at Specsavers can help you



Dr. Bhavesh Mistry and James Griffiths



decide which frames are suited to both your lifestyle and your face. The store carries everything from day-to-day type frames to exotic designer frames.

The type of lenses you choose can play a big part in how you view daily life. If you spend a lot of time in front of a screen or considerable time driving, an anti-reflection coating can help you see clearer.

People who spend a lot of time outdoors will likely benefit from a lens with a good quality tint.

Specsavers staff will help a person decide on frames based on different features and designs. There are plastic frames, metal frames, and different shapes of frames that will enhance a person's appearance.

For those who have jobs working with machinery or any type of activity where there is a possibility of flying debris, Specsavers has safety glasses that will protect you from an eye injury.

Specsavers takes its commitment to providing glasses and eye care to everyone seriously. Most of their services are provided at a cost lower than other eyewear clinics

or stores to make eyecare affordable for everyone.

When it's time to get your eyes checked or your new prescription filled, James and Dr. Mistry and their team at Specsavers offer professional advice, service and products in a bright and welcoming store with a friendly staff and welcoming environment.

Specsavers Alliston is conveniently located at 36 Young Street in the Alliston Mills Shopping Centre.

You can visit Specsavers and book an appointment online at www.specsavers.ca or call them at 705-502-0587.



Your eyes are your window to the world.

James is the store's Retail Director and helps customers when choosing their new frames or getting a new prescription.

Bhavesh is a Qualified Optometrist who conducts eye examinations and helps clients maintain their eye health.

Specsavers market research found that around 60 per cent of Canadians do not have a regular eye examination. Dr. Mistry is trying to change that.

"This is something I'm trying to encourage in this area," Dr. Mistry explained. "Routine eye care is so important. If you come in on an annual basis, which is recommended, we can detect minor changes in your eyes – and not just in your eyes – we can detect other health issues as well. Many people



36 Young St.,
Alliston, ON L9R 1P8
(705) 502-0587



Alliston Mills Shopping Centre

Beeton Family Dental Centre

Expert and friendly dental care in the heart of Beeton

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

A beautiful smile will always create an impression, make those around you feel welcome, win you new friends, or just light up someone's day.

If your teeth aren't looking their best, it can hinder your confidence and put a damper on your social life. Missing or damaged teeth can make eating difficult.

Good dental hygiene can positively impact your body in numerous ways, promoting overall well-being.

At Beeton Family Dental Centre in Beeton, Dr. Rosanna Porretta and her team provide expert dental care to keep your smile looking its best while maintaining the health of your teeth and gums through routine check-ups.

Dr. Porretta has maintained a practice in Bolton since 2000 and opened her Beeton office in 2018. She is available in both practices different days of the week.

A recipient of the William Cummings Award, Dr. Porretta graduated from Boston University in 1999.

Patients appreciate her caring, straightforward approach to oral health.

During your first visit, Dr. Porretta will do a general examination and check-up to look for any problems or potential areas that may need further treatment to repair or maintain your teeth.

They work as a team from your first call with our receptionists. Our two dental hygienists and assistant offer a full range of care to help maintain your smile.

They also have Dianne the denturist, with over 30 years of experience who is proficient in making full and partial dentures.

As a side note, the Federal Dental Plan instantly covers full dentures after

one has signed up for the program.

The clinic provides full-service dental care from routine examinations to more involved procedures like fillings, crowns, and bridges.

Dr. Porretta uses white fillings rather than the old style silver fillings which provide a more natural look when a cavity needs to be taken care of and filled.

If you have problems with crooked, missing, or chipped teeth, Dr. Porretta can help restore your smile.

Bonding can repair a chipped tooth while crowns and bridges can replace missing teeth. If you want an implant for a more permanent solution to a missing tooth, Dr. Porretta can refer you to a periodontist who can start the procedure and she will apply the final crown to complete it.

They also do Invisalign braces. This type of procedure straightens teeth but uses clear aligning trays that are practically invisible.

This helps patients who may be self-conscious about having the old-style metal braces on their teeth and are reluctant to smile.

Many people find a visit to the dentist to be an intimidating experience, and dread a necessary visit.

At Beeton Family Dental Centre, they do their best to provide a stress-free and calming atmosphere for patients.

"We have a good sense of humour – we're a fun place," Dr. Porretta explained. "I find we have a lot of patients who come in a little stressed for their first appointment, but after that, they're fine. Our patients appreciate the fact that we tell the truth about the work they need on their teeth. We like to keep the mood light and instill confidence in our patients when they are here. We like to make



them feel at ease. After all, we see our patients every three or six months. We try to make dentistry fun and trustworthy. We never try to push things on people that they don't need, but I do push good oral health. I want your teeth to look good all the time. I've done my job if you go to any other dentist and they can't find anything that needs to be done. I want your teeth to be good and your gums to be healthy."

The staff at Beeton Family Dental can advise you on how to maintain your smile and achieve better dental health through preventative dentistry by offering procedures that will eliminate future problems.

Beeton Family Dental Centre provides emergency care for instances where a patient is suffering from a medical condition or a sudden impact type of injury.

"They can give us a call and we will put them in the schedule," Dr. Porretta explained. "We will try to do it the same day."

For those who may have trouble affording the cost of dental care, the clinic does have a payment plan so you can get your work done, and take time paying so it doesn't create a sudden financial burden.

They accept the new Dental Federal

Building Relationships, "One Smile at a Time"

Plan, CDCP for which you have to apply online through the CRA to be eligible. It's very easy to do.

Beeton Family Dental Centre provides full service for your teeth in a professional and friendly clinic.

They have gained the trust of many local residents who rely on them for regular dental care right in the heart of Beeton.

Beeton Family Dental Centre is conveniently located in the heart of Beeton at 29 Main Street West, Suite 100.

New patients are always welcome.

You can visit online for more information at www.beetonfamilydentist.com, or call for an appointment at 905-729-7272.



Call Us Today to book Your Appointment

29 Main Street West, Suite 100, Beeton

905-729-7272

Email info@beetonfamilydentist.com

www.BeetonFamilyDentist.com



“(The award) was a great honour... I never expected anything like that.”



Beeton-based WD Potato Ltd. pushes forward multi-generational legacy of supporting Canada’s potato farmers and processors

By Sam Odrowski

A longstanding business in New Tecumseth, WD Potato Limited, continues to have a positive impact on the region’s local economy and farmers throughout Canada.

The \$150 million family-owned and operated, third-generation business employs more than 80 people locally through its large storage and transportation facility on a 150-acre site in Beeton.

WD Potato has 60 trucks and 80 trailers on the road, transporting potatoes to processing plants throughout Ontario, Quebec, PEI, Nova Scotia and the United States.

Walter Davidson, the founder of WD Potato, served in the British Army during his teenage years. He had the opportunity to immigrate to Canada from Aughton, Lancashire, England in 1956 and came to the country with just \$15 to his name.

“Upon arrival, Walter began working on a farm that dealt primarily with cattle and grain, but eventually moved on to growing potatoes on 1,500 acres,” said Amanda Davidson, Walter’s granddaughter, who works at WD Potato. “When the Crang family decided to sell, Walter and his wife Linda started his dream and bought the farm. From there they grew his dream to what it is today – WD Potato Limited.”

While Walter started out as a potato farmer, he pivoted to managing supply and building potato storages for his largest processing customer. This move assisted other potato farms who were not building them locally.

From there, WD Potato steadily grew, and over the following five decades, it has expanded to provide transportation, storage, grading and washing services for over 20,000 acres of potatoes, producing over 600 million pounds annually.

WD Potato also procures 40 million pounds of proprietary and public seed potato varieties. This ensures the company’s growers receive the highest-quality seeds for planting, every season.

“Walter has always been a man of his word; he be-



lieves a handshake seals a deal. He has built a relationship with a network of 45 processing chips and seed growers, increased storage and wash capabilities and has a dedicated fleet of trucks to solidify the business,” said Amanda.

Roughly half of all potatoes grown in Ontario are processed into chips, making WD Potato an important organization for the country’s potato industry.

Walter was one of nine individuals at the World Potato Conference in Australia last year who received the Industry Award for his lifetime of work with WD Potato. The award is in recognition of Walter’s “significant contribution and dedication to the growth and development of the global potato industry.”

“That was a great honor,” he said about receiving the award. “I never expected anything like that.”

WD Potato also received the “Going the Extra Mile” Award from Frito Lay in February at the 2025 Frito Lay Potato Growers Summit in Frisco, Texas. It is the second consecutive year that the local business has received the award, which is in recognition of outstanding dedication, teamwork and passion.

Walter attributes much of WD Potato’s success to the people he works alongside.

“I don’t think we would be where we are without the great team we have, and the growers as well,” he noted.

WD Potato is a strong supporter of local not-for-profit organizations and charitable initiatives.

Locally, the business supports Stevenson Memorial Hospital, the Alliston Hornets, Matthews House Hospice, charity golf tournaments, minor sports, the Coldest Night of the Year, and other charities that make a positive impact in New Tecumseth.

“Walter and his wife Linda are true believers in giving back to the community in which they have prospered. The vision of WD Potato Ltd. is to work together and build long-lasting, beneficial and rewarding relationships. Walter and Linda have carried this same vision into their community by supporting the local memorial hospital and the people in which it serves, along with supporting local sports organizations and charities,” said Amanda.

WD Potato’s mission is to be a “Best in Class” potato company, providing dedicated transportation services and always going the extra mile for employees, growers and suppliers.

Looking to the future of WD Potato, Amanda said the next generation of Davidsons – Paul, Kim, herself, Jon, Ryan, Ronnie and Lucas – will take the reins and continue the company’s multi-generational legacy of being family-owned and operated.

“We want to keep going and give the consumer what they want – the best quality – and we have the best growers in Ontario, Nova, Scotia, PEI and Quebec,” said Walter.



Working & Growing with the Community

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A FAMILY RUN BUSINESS - GROWING SINCE 1972

Norm Depta of **Desjardins Insurance** brings personalized approach to New Tecumseth residents

By Sam Odrowski

Accidents, illness, natural disaster – no matter the situation – Norm Depta’s Desjardins Insurance office in New Tecumseth has you covered.

Locally owned and operated by Depta since 2002, he and his team are very client-focused. They take the time to get to know the people they serve and understand their needs, whether it’s for home, auto, business or life insurance.

“We spend time with them to understand their concerns, what sort of risks they may be facing and what’s important to them. We find out what keeps them up at night, so we can address those things,” said Depta. “Our clients receive the same advice we would appreciate somebody telling us if we were on the other side of the desk.”

Depta and his team prioritize providing a personalized approach to clients and going the distance to ensure they receive the best service possible.

“With the majority of the clients I have with me, I’ve sat at their kitchen tables, I’ve been to their homes, and I’ve walked their properties with them,” he explained. “I think that’s what makes us different – that personal touch and spending the time with each person individually.”

Depta’s background is in management consulting, where he specialized in finance, which familiarized him with the insurance industry.

But what led him to open his insurance office 23 years ago was the sense of community he found in Alliston.

Depta used to travel all around North America for his previous job and was looking to settle down and join the business community within a small to medium-sized town.

“I thought, that’s the gig, just being part of the community, being a part of something bigger than yourself, and providing a great service for people who need it,” Depta said.

“Because I played hockey in Orangeville growing up, I had been to Alliston a number of times. I always loved the town; it just has such a great feel to it.”

Depta is a familiar figure in the community and enjoys making face-to-face connections with potential clients.

Several months before he opened his business in Al-



“We try to really give the client the best service we can, and we all honestly believe that the best service is from somebody in town who understands the community.”

liston, he knocked on the doors of roughly 75 per cent of New Tecumseth households to introduce himself and encourage folks to give him a call if they ever find themselves in need of insurance.

“Those are some of the strongest relationships I still have to this day,” Depta noted.

Whether or not potential clients move forward with insurance services from Desjardins, Depta and his team are happy to discuss what their needs are so they can best serve them.

Whether accessing insurance from Depta or another insurer in town, he noted the importance of New Tecumseth residents utilizing local businesses that contribute to the community’s wellbeing.

“When I first opened, I remember walking into the other insurance offices and introducing myself because I know it’s important that these relationships in town are maintained,” he said. “I want all of us to thrive in town, and so if I can’t help you, then I certainly hope that somebody in town can help you because that’s what makes for a strong town and a strong community – we’re here to support each other.”

He continued, “We try to really give the client the best service we can, and we all honestly believe that the best service is from somebody in town who understands the community.”

Similar to other businesses in the community, Depta’s Desjardins office sponsors local not-for-profits and funds charitable projects in the community.

The business sponsors and donates to minor sports teams, movie nights for families, the Alliston Humane Society, My Sister’s Place, the Rotary Club, Stevenson Memorial Hospital Foundation, breakfast programs at schools and other programs in need of support locally.

Depta currently serves 2,500 to 3,000 families and is always welcoming new customers.

“I’m really proud of that fact, that we’re growing and we’re able to connect with more and more people,” he said. “I really enjoy building relationships with people, and that’s what really resonates with our team. I always tell my team when I bring people on. I can teach anybody how to how to talk about a product, how

to best run a spreadsheet or calculate this premium – those sort of things – but I can’t teach you to care, and that’s the most important thing to me.”

Depta said he’s blessed to have a team that truly cares.

“We’ll spend time talking about all of our clients, the good, the challenges, the triumphs – all those things. We love celebrating with our clients and we also want to be there for them when they’re struggling, when they’re having their challenges,” he said. “I have such a soft spot for my team, because they care so much, and I appreciate it more than I can articulate to them.”

Depta said he’s looking forward to bringing more people onto his team as his Alliston-based Desjardins Insurance office continues to expand.

“I think there’s tremendous opportunity for us to get more involved with the community and offer more services to some of the folks in town,” he enthused. “I want to increase the visibility of the office. I want to increase the visibility of my team, so that people know we’re here and what we have to offer. I want people to know – you should be here!”

Create peace of mind for yourself and your family with Desjardins Insurance, so if or when disaster strikes, you and your family are prepared.

Desjardins is the largest financial cooperative in North America and is a wholly owned Canadian company, with deep roots, as it celebrates its 125th anniversary this year.

Desjardins is also one of the top three insurers in Canada. Depta said being backed by an organization that shares the values of client focused care while achieving such strong financial result year over year, gives him tremendous confidence in protecting each of his clients.

Depta’s insurance office is located at 22 Church Street South, Alliston, and is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday to Friday. Appointments can also be made during the evening or on weekends.

Contact the business at 705-435-1434 to learn more and discover how Desjardins can help you today!



Depta Insurance Agency Inc.
 Norm Depta, Agent
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 norm.depta@desjardins.com
 deptainsurance.ca

Trillium Ford Lincoln: local supporter, top employer



Red on Friday's – Trillium Ford Lincoln Ltd. (Alliston) employees wear red every Friday in support of active Canadian Troops. The initiative began in January 2025, as a show of respect for Parts Advisor Stephen Flynn and has continued.

If you live north of Highway 9, chances are you'll need a vehicle — and Trillium Ford Lincoln Ltd. has got your back.

Vehicles are people's third most important and expensive investment (after their homes and education), and as such, it pays to know a great mechanic too.

Trillium Ford Lincoln Ltd. in Alliston (and Shelburne) has been serving the communities of South Simcoe and Dufferin County for almost 50 years. The dual flag, full-service dealership sells new Ford and Lincoln vehicles, and used vehicles of all makes and models. The business also has stock and genuine OEM Ford or Lincoln parts and accessories (with aftermarket options too). The dealership has Ford-trained service technicians with bays capable of accommodating trucks up to an F-550.

The dealership now offers full detailing services, complete with retail details, protect films, graphene coatings, window tint (done on-site and cut specifically for each make or model), headlamp restoration and scratch removal.

Basically, Trillium Ford Lincoln is a one-stop shop for "all things automotive." And they pride themselves on being there for their customers throughout the vehicle ownership journey.

Trillium Ford Lincoln is owned and managed locally by Eric Vant Spyker and Len Rice. The dealership employs about 85 local residents — many of whom spend their entire careers with the business, from automotive school at Georgian College to top management.

Trillium Ford Lincoln supports the community in many ways — from major financial contributions to local not-for-profit groups, schools, sports teams, private individuals, and the Stevenson Memorial Hospital Foundation (SMHF).

In 2025, Trillium Ford Lincoln pledged an additional \$125,000 over the next five years, in addition to a previous donation of

\$50,000 to SMHF.

Looking a little closer at the different teams, in sales Trillium Ford Lincoln has Nolan Newhook, general sales manager — Alliston; Peter 'Big Pete' Hayward, commercial specialist and sales associate; Edward Drew, Lincoln sales specialist and sales associate; Mike Lynn, sales associate; Miguel Betz (offering sales in English and Spanish); and Benjamin Smith, sales associate.

The Finance & Insurance or F&I department team gets your financing approved and offers protection for your vehicle with anti-theft devices, rust-proofing, pre-paid maintenance and extended warranties.

The department is led by financial services manager Shannon Lemay and her advisors, Grace Hawkes and Kassandra Durrant. In service, Trillium Lincoln Ford is fortunate to have two full-time service managers — Jim Croft (with 38 years experience at the dealership) and Gary Carvin. Both local gentlemen have dedicated their lives to automotive and are licensed mechanics themselves.

Also on the service team are advisors Madelaine Oglesby, Olivia Abernethy and Lisa Welburn. In the fully staffed back shop is a team of Ford-trained and certified technicians, each with their own specialty, from transmissions to diesel trucks. The dealership also brings in co-op students just starting their careers as automotive and lube technicians, and they help with every aspect of vehicle service — from rolling tires to getting parts.

In the service department, the big months happen twice a year during the industry-accepted "Tire Season," where sudden changes in weather can cause chaos in the shop. But this isn't the case at Trillium Ford Lincoln, where Tire Season has been tame and everyone gets winter (or all-season) tires in a calm and organized manner.

Where would any company be without a support team — answering phones and greeting guests is administrator Cindy Tobin,

in accounting is controller Linda Swackhamer, and working alongside her are accounting clerks Ann-Marie Ramdas and Edwin Heringa. Irene Byrne rounds out that team on special projects.

In the parts department, the team is led by manager David Brooks, and staffed by parts advisors Stephen Flynn, Brad Baker and Quinn Corey — who fulfill customer orders (headed to wholesalers, other Ford stores and the general public) and supply the technicians. On the road, repping Trillium Ford Lincoln is parts driver Thomas Lynch. Detailing is managed by Jonathan San-Pedro and his team of expert detailers, Eric Huebl and Mason Baker.

The dealership's marketing manager Wendy Gabrek oversees the dealership's social media content, and website and is their voice on the radio.

In addition to its more public philanthropic works, Trillium Lincoln Ford also quietly supports the local community by hosting events at the dealership, such as Ladies' Night, Agricultural Appreciation Night, Contractors Night, All-Wheels Show & Shine, Bronco Roundup and more!

The dealership is also a member of both the Tottenham-Beeton & District Chamber of Commerce and the Alliston Chamber of Commerce. It has hosted networking mixers at the dealership as a way to allow local business owners to network and connect.

As a Lincoln store as well, Trillium is the only luxury dealership in South Simcoe. Lincoln owners are entitled to special privileges, including pick-up & delivery service, Lincoln Loaners, and Lincoln Wash (with ev-

ery service). All of this is coordinated by the dealership's dedicated Lincoln team, including a concierge, dedicated service advisor, sales specialist and drivers.

If you're thinking about getting into a Lincoln, ask the Trillium Team about 'Discovery Drives' — a 24 or 48-hour test drive with no obligation, and a \$200 gift card for conquest shoppers.

Trillium Ford Lincoln also offers a loyalty points program for Ford and Lincoln owners. Points add up quickly and are awarded for sales and service visits. They can be redeemed for anything the company sells, including new vehicle purchases, oil changes, detailing services and even Ford-licensed merchandise.

Since the future is electric, Trillium currently has two EV charging stations and carries an array of fully electric or hybrid models, such as the Ford F-150 Lightning and Mustang Mach-E. Extended test drives are available for these models.

Lastly, Trillium honours all Ford Canada special incentive programs, including First Time Buyer, Recent Graduate, Newcomer and Ford Mobility.

So if you have a vehicle or if you're in the market for a new or new-to-you vehicle, reach out to Trillium Ford Lincoln Ltd. — Alliston. Chances are they have what you're looking for.

Trillium Ford Lincoln Ltd. is located at 4589 Industrial Parkway, Alliston, Ont.

Call the dealership at 705-435-7609, email info@trilliumford.com or visit them online at www.trilliumford.com or www.trilliumlincoln.com to learn more.



Trillium Ford Lincoln supports several non-profit groups and special community programs. Top left: sharing a smile and a few cookies with members of the Nottawasaga OPP. Top right: Representatives from the Stevenson Memorial Hospital Foundation with Team Trillium during a cheque presentation for \$25,000 installment of the \$125,000 total pledge. Bottom: on McHappy Day Trillium Ford Lincoln supports Ronald McDonald House Charities by ordering (and eating) fifty Happy Meals — it's a win/win!





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