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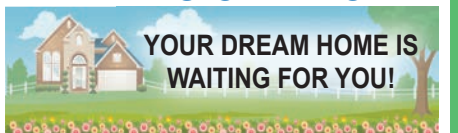
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Beats from the Bluegrass

The sound of fiddles, banjos, guitars, and mandolins took over the Tottenham Conservation Area from June 20 to 22, as the annual Tottenham Bluegrass Festival got underway with a full line-up of music over the weekend. Bands as close as Kitchener-Waterloo to all the way from Virginia, U.S. performed on the mainstage. See more photos on Page 8.

BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

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Kevin Lord Memorial Foundation gifts annual scholarship

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Kevin Lord Memorial Foundation has given its annual Memorial Award and Scholarship to a deserving New Tecumseth Ball Hockey League (NTBHL) player.

This year's recipient is William Hopcraft, a U19 player who has completed his Junior year in ball hockey.

The award is given to a player who is going on to post-secondary education and has brought distinction to the sport through outstanding individual athletic achievement. The player also best exemplifies excellence in leadership, character, sportsmanship, and selfless contribution to the NTBHL.

"This is ball hockey championship night for the juniors," explained Al Lord, Chair of the Kevin Lord Memorial Foundation. "Every year, there is one player who will receive the Kevin Lord Scholarship Award. It's for a Junior player who is 18 years old. After that, they go on to the men's League. Every year, we make this presen-

tation for \$1,000. The funds are raised through the Kevin Lord Foundation and our golf tournament."

Recipient Hopcraft has been playing ball hockey for almost his entire life.

"I've been playing ball hockey as long as I've been playing ice hockey, so since I was around three years old, playing in New Tec all my life," Hopcraft said. "It's all about being with your friends in the summer and having a blast."

He will be attending Georgian College in the fall to study in the Police Foundations program.

Hopcraft said he will continue with ball hockey in the men's league and hopes to play for Team Canada in the future.

RECOGNIZING EXCELLENCE – Al Lord, chair of the Kevin Lord Memorial Foundation, presents William Hopcraft with the annual Kevin Lord Memorial Award and Scholarship after a New Tecumseth Ball Hockey League semi-final game at the Tottenham Community Centre on Monday, June 16. **BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO**



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Construction of new 12,600 sq. ft. fire hall underway in Alliston

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Shovels are in the ground as construction of a new fire hall in Alliston has begun.

New Tecumseth Fire Station #4 will be located on the 14th Line near the Briar Hill subdivision and Nottawasaga Resort.

The 12,600 sq. ft. facility will meet the need for expanded fire and rescue service as the town grows.

A groundbreaking ceremony was held at the construction site on June 17, to officially start the new project, with local dignitaries, firefighters, town employees, construction personnel, and local residents in attendance.

“This new fire station represents a major investment in the safety and well-being of our growing community,” said New Tecumseth Mayor Richard Norcross at the groundbreaking ceremony. “As New Tecumseth continues to expand, so too must our emergency services. Fire Station 4 will help ensure faster response times, improve coverage, and provide stronger support for our firefighters and residents alike.”

The design for the new building will be similar to the redesigned fire station in Tottenham with a modern look and red building accents.

“Fire Station #4 is a vital addition to our town’s emergency services and infrastructure,” said New Tecumseth Fire Chief Dan Heydon. “This groundbreaking marks more than just the start of construction, it represents a commitment to our public safety. As our town continues to grow, so does the need for a timely, reliable, and effective emergency response. The new fire station is a direct response to that



DESIGN FOR NEW STATION – The concept design for a new fire hall in Alliston, pictured here, is similar to the redesigned fire station in Tottenham, with a modern look and red building accents. **CONTRIBUTED PHOTO**

need. It will help us reduce response times, expand coverage in the high-growth areas, and enhance the safety of every resident.”

The new facility will have three bays, firefighter dormitories, training and meeting rooms, administrative offices, a kitchen and dining area, and dedicated spaces for equipment and maintenance.

The new fire station is expected to open in the fall of 2026 with the completion of the building and the arrival of the new fire trucks and apparatus.



BREAKING GROUND – Local dignitaries, construction team members, and town staff gather for a groundbreaking ceremony at the site of the future New Tecumseth Fire Station #4. The new fire station will help with faster response times in the growing town. **BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTOS**



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~ Stanislaw Jerzy Lec

Canada Day

It will be our nation’s birthday celebration in just under a week.

This is a day to celebrate your country, your culture and heritage, and revel in what has been accomplished in the past, and what will be accomplished in the future.

It is astounding to realize how much of North America has evolved and changed in just 200 years.

During most centuries in history, you would live your entire life and see no change at all.

But we have built huge cities, highways, railroads, created hydroelectric power, and connected a country from sea to sea to sea, that is larger than all of Europe, in a very short period of time.

Our forefathers did an excellent job of forging a nation that only a few years earlier had largely been almost 1 million square kilometers of undeveloped land, and creating what is now one of the most successful countries on the planet.

No matter what you accomplish, there is always that one person who will point out a negative.

I had a friend who had never learned the concept of giving a compliment — ever.

If you just spent two days painting the entire interior of your house, she would be the one who would come over, look around, and point to a place on the wall and say, “you missed a spot.”

Our forefathers were not perfect. However, they worked hard for the benefit of the nation.

A few years ago, it became popular to criticize the first Prime Minister, Sir John A. Macdonald, because he had involvement in the start of the residential school system.

Some buildings and streets were renamed, and the current ‘woke’ culture started broadcasting what an evil monster he was.

Of course in our phony ‘woke’ times, no one would point out the good things he did, because they knew if they spoke in his favour, they would be labeled a ‘fascist’ or ‘nazi.’ So the mainstream media went along with the Macdonald bashing.

In his early days, Macdonald became a lawyer and for a brief time, served in the local militia during the Rebellion of 1837.

He began his political career as an Alderman in Kingston. In 1844, he was

elected to be a representative in what was then, the Province of Canada.

Macdonald rose through the ranks of government, taking on several important positions over the years.

By the late 1850s, the concept of breaking from colonial rule and creating a nation of its own started to take shape.

In October 1864, delegates for Confederation met in Quebec City for the Quebec Conference, where they agreed to the Seventy-Two Resolutions, the basis of the first constitution.

A new nation was declared on July 1, 1867, and Macdonald was appointed the first Prime Minister.

He faced a lot of troubling issues during his first year as Prime Minister.

Macdonald decided that westward expansion, right to the Pacific Ocean, would be the fate of the new nation.

His political career fell apart at one point, and people thought he was done as a politician.

However, he made a successful comeback and was elected to a third term.

Macdonald served as Prime Minister for nearly 19 years, and in polls, has consistently been ranked as one of the

greatest prime ministers in Canadian history.

Macdonald and his contemporaries had the herculean task of creating an entirely new nation.

They provided the foundation where citizens have documented freedoms and the ability to choose who will run the country through free elections.

It is this early history of our country that decided the fate of the nation and what we have today.

Along with the pioneering spirit of the early settlers who forged ahead into wild territory and created the mills and farms where there had been nothing before, a great nation was born.

This Canada Day, don’t just wear the red and white T-shirt and have a hot dog at a local celebration, take a few moments to reflect on the work and sacrifice that went into building this nation.

That hard work, dedication, and sacrifice paved the way for your current lifestyle, your freedom to travel, gather, and speak freely, and determine who represents you in municipal, provincial, and federal government.

BRIAN LOCKHART
FROM THE SECOND ROW



They desire a better country

Who are we as Canadians?

It might seem like a simple question at first blush, but the more one thinks about it – and the more we think about it as a collective – the more complex a question it becomes.

Several years ago, while one of our main national parties was in the middle of a contentious leadership race, a middle-of-the-pack contender for the party’s top job suggested that all those looking to secure Canadian citizenship should not only pass the regular questions on a citizenship test – such as those on our structure of government, geography, and the responsibilities that go along with citizenship – but also a test to affirm they share Canadian values.

Again, it seemed like a simple sentiment at the outset, but the deeper people delved into the merits of such a test, or an evaluation at the very least, the more complex, contentious, and ultimately nonsensical the suggestion seemed.

Sure, we as Canadians, have many things in common from coast to coast

to coast, but in a Confederation like ours, the devil is truly in the details. What might be a core value for a citizen of Prince Edward Island, for example, might be wildly different from a citizen of Alberta. And this was always the case well before Wild Rose Country renewed their sabre-rattling efforts to divorce the rest of us for an uncertain future.

What it means to be Canadian, and the very idea of Canada itself, has become more overtly complex in recent years, a fact that can be attributed to many factors, including heritage, geography, resources, and sometimes an appreciation of what we aren’t rather than what we are.

Around this time of year, I almost invariably find myself thinking back to 1992, when Canada was celebrating its 125th anniversary as a nation.

While I wasn’t born in time enough to experience what appears to be a near-ecstatic level of patriotism when Canada celebrated its centennial in nation-building projects, Expo 67, and so much more – I’ve had to content myself with

second-hand thrills through the memories and memorabilia my parents have shared with me – 1992 comes pretty darn close through my own then-youthful lens.

My elementary school in Newmarket embraced the anniversary wholeheartedly. In fact, much of the lessons and activities Prince Charles Public School offered that year seemed tailor-made to give students – at least those of us in the younger grades – a complete immersion in what was considered Canadian culture at the time.

In this environment, not unlike Ontario, Canada was essentially ours to discover.

We had a full menu of electives we could enjoy and there were far too many offerings to sample each and every one. We had to be a bit judicious in what we wanted to fit in. Where to start? Well, our once ubiquitous Heritage Minutes on television gave me a few ideas on where I wanted to start.

I can’t, of course, remember every single option that was available to us, but they offered walking tours of Toronto

landmarks – hey, to students living in the ‘burbs, that was a glamorous, exotic, hot-ticket elective – as was a stroll to

our local museum to learn about seminal moments in Canadian history that could be traced back to Newmarket in one way or another. There were crafting workshops designed to give us the fundamentals of Laura Secord and what she accomplished during the War of 1812 (some of my peers were quite surprised she was not, in fact, a chocolatier), an afternoon learning some of Canada’s quirkier folk songs (although, in retrospect, most of these were decidedly maritime numbers), a chance to sample some of our national dishes (poutine hadn’t really hit yet in these parts, if memory serves), and an opportunity to pour out some tempera paint and learn the basics of what was presented to us as Indigenous art.

Continued on Page 23

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Strikes in Iran

GWYNNE DYER
OUR WORLD TODAY



He didn't take two weeks to make up his mind whether or not to bomb Iran; only two days. Donald Trump is not a patient man. But he has just started another American 'forever war' in the Middle East, so he will have plenty of time to work on his self-control.

Let's start with the immediate issue. Assume for a moment that Iran was really working to build nuclear weapons, allegedly to destroy Israel. Did the US bombing of the Fordow, Natanz and Esfahan nuclear enrichment sites really blast down through 90 metres of rock and permanently eliminate any skulduggery the Iranians were up to there?

Wrong question. If there really was a large stock of highly enriched uranium stored under all that rock, the Iranians have had a week to divide it up into dozens or hundreds of packets and hide it at safe sites all over the country. What would you do if you knew somebody was coming to bomb you in a few days?

Then there's this business about how highly enriched

Iran's uranium is. 90% is 'weapons-grade', and Iran had already enriched a lot of uranium to 60%, so the American B-2s have to start bombing right now. No time to lose. No time even to think.

Nonsense. The 'gun-type' atomic bomb just fires one chunk of enriched uranium at another chunk, and so long as the two chunks add up to a 'critical mass' the bomb explodes. That critical mass can be quite small if the uranium is highly enriched, but it will still work at 60% although the package will be heavier and bulkier. There was no deadline.

That type of nuclear weapon is so simple and fool-proof that there is no real need to 'test' it, but how was Iran going to deliver it? A ballistic missile, presumably, because drones and cruise missiles can't handle the weight or the range, but very few of Iran's ballistic missiles get through Israel's missile defences.

However, just for the sake of argument imagine that one of Iran's putative nine or ten nuclear missiles does make it through and destroys an Israeli town or city. We are piling improbable on top of implausible here, but what would Israel do then?

Israel would probably respond by leveling Iran, which it is more than capable of doing. It has the full 'triad' of nuclear weapons, at least 100 of them but up to 400, of all sizes up to the thermonuclear. Israel can sterilise the whole of Iran if it chooses (although the fallout and the climatic effects would be a major inconvenience for everybody).

None of these stories we are told makes much sense, so let's try a different approach. What did the 18 US intelligence agencies tell the Director of National Intelligence, Tulsi Gabbard, about Iran's nuclear weapons last March?

They told her that Iran was not building nuclear weapons. Indeed, they explained that Teh-

ran only created a nuclear weapons programme (which never got very far) after Saddam Hussein's Iraq invaded Iran with US help in the 1980s.

After Saddam was overthrown in 2003 it became clear that there had never been any Iraqi nuclear weapons: it was all a bluff. Thereupon Iran closed its own nuclear weapons programme down, and has never resumed it since.

Why did Iran start enriching uranium past the 3.5% limit that it accepted in the 2015-2030 deal negotiated by Barack Obama? Because Donald Trump tore up that deal in 2018 and re-imposed sanctions on Iran, which had observed the agreement faithfully up to that point.

Tehran waited two years, then started gradually raising the level of enrichment – AND DID NOT HIDE IT. It was trying to exert some pressure on the other signatories to drop the sanctions and restore the 2015 deal. Iran had no other leverage, and those who try to use this as proof that it was seeking nuclear weapons are deliberately ignoring the history of the affair.

It's all just history now. Trump has fallen for Israel's Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu just as hard as he fell for Russia's President Vladimir Putin (both strong men with criminal tendencies), and the die is cast. It is likely to be a long, ugly war, conducted mostly by aircraft and missiles at first, but there will be 'boots on the ground' if it goes on long enough.

An anti-clerical revolution in Iran could take the country down another road (though not necessarily a smoother one), but if the regime survives the war could last for many years.

'Persia' was the rival superpower in Roman times, and one thousand years later it was the other superpower during the Ottoman times.

It's not a superpower any more, but then neither is the United States.



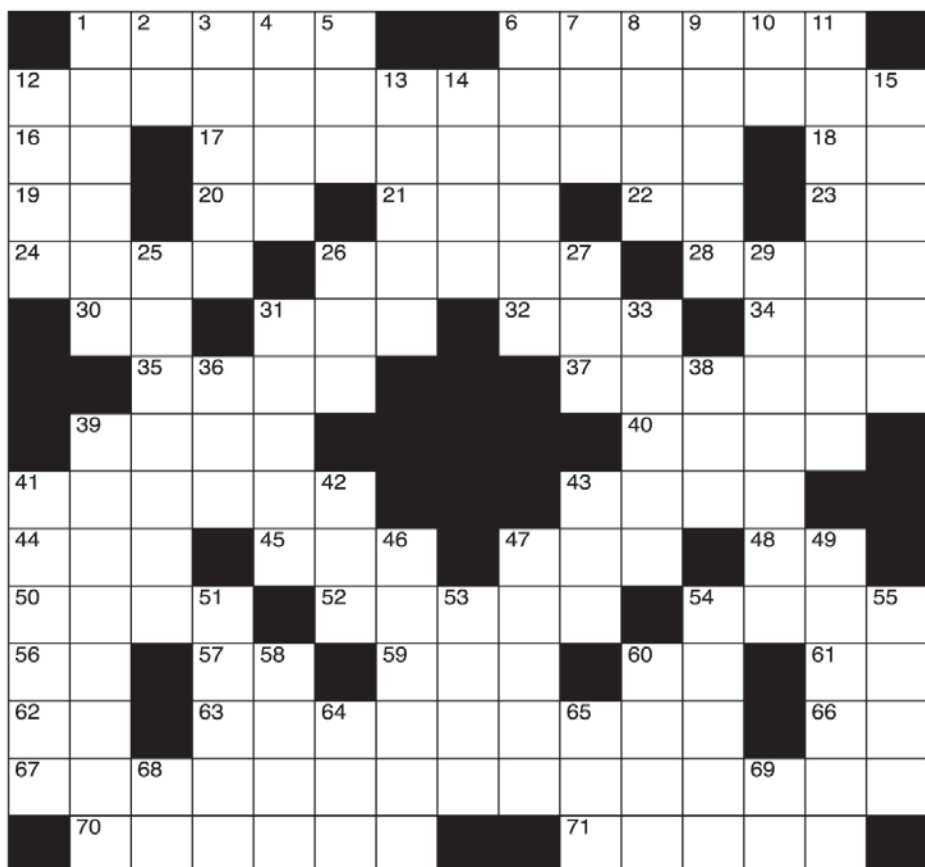
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- Actor Pacino
- On your way: ___ route
- Fifth note of a major scale
- Companies need it
- News agency
- Faces of an organization
- Ponds
- Samoa's capital
- Partner to "Pa"
- Adult male
- Cool!
- Used of a number or amount not specified
- No No No
- Hosts film festival
- British place to house convicts
- Made of fermented

CLUES DOWN

- honey and water
- Chief
- College army
- Thyroid-stimulating hormone
- Consume
- One point north of due east
- For instance
- Brews
- Alaskan river
- Not soft
- Atomic #22
- "The Golden State"
- "The world's most famous arena"
- Larry and Curly's pal
- One billion gigabytes
- Conducts inspections
- Malaria mosquitoes
- Unit to measure width
- Features
- Affairs
- Letter of Semitic abjads

CLUES DOWN

- Follower of Islam
- Trauma center
- French young women
- Norse god
- U.S. commercial flyer (abbr.)
- Merchant
- Peyton's younger brother
- Jungle planet in "Star Wars" galaxy
- Tree-dwelling animal of C. and S. America
- "Pollack" actor Harris
- Stuck around
- Put on
- Influential Norwegian playwright
- Christian ___, designer
- Fulfills a debt
- Style
- More (Spanish)
- A baglike structure in a plant or animal
- Remedy
- Disturbance
- "The Martian" actor Matt
- Express delight
- Brooklyn hoopster
- 1900 lamp
- Motionless
- One's mother (Brit.)
- Relative biological effectiveness (abbr.)
- Compels to act
- Gardening tool
- Ancient country
- Frightening
- Wimbledon champion Arthur
- Popular plant
- Database management system
- Gasteyer and de Armas are two
- Where soldiers eat
- Tenth month (abbr.)
- Illuminated
- Atomic #18
- Adults need one to travel

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

COMMUNITY VOICE

Monthly Message: My Sister's Place, who we are and what we do

Our mission is that we are dedicated to providing a safe environment for women and their dependents while empowering women to live free from violence and oppression.

We are a not-for-profit organization that provides residential and outreach services and have served the communities of South Simcoe County since 1987.

We are a registered charity under the name "People In Transition (Alliston) Inc." -- however, we are best known as My Sister's Place.

At My Sister's Place we provide three stages of housing, the shelter, second stage housing and third stage housing.

The shelter is a woman's first stop, it is comprised of a shared kitchen and common space with women having their own bedroom. We have 12 beds in shelter and in 2024 we served 77 women and children.

Second Stage Housing provides affordable, one-bedroom apartments for a period of six months for women and their child(ren). This time period may be extended up to 364 days. The program offers a safe environment with outreach and support staff available by appointment.

Women are encouraged to connect with the many community agencies and organizations that can assist with employment, educational upgrading, childcare, and securing long-term affordable housing. Since it was built in 2011 we have supported 95 women, 71 children and 3 service animals.

Third Stage Housing offers women and their child(ren) continued support. Since



opening in 2014 we have supported five women and eight children in our long-term affordable housing.

Our crisis line is manned by caring professional employees trained in women and children's services that like our shelter can be accessed 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. In 2024 we received 1,249 calls on the crisis line.

In 2024 we also served 129 women through our outreach teams.

Our in-shelter services include:

- Crisis counselling for women and children
- Structured programs for children and parenting support
- Safety planning
- In - house support groups for women and children
- Housing advocacy and assistance
- Legal advocacy and support

- Referrals to other community agencies
- Transitional support to assist women in re-establishing violence-free lives in the community including Second & Third Stage Housing.

Our outreach services include:

- Crisis support
- Short-term individual counselling
- Community support groups
- Safety Planning
- Legal advocacy and support
- Housing advocacy, assistance, and follow-up support
- Second Stage Housing
- Community referrals and resources
- Community presentations (as requested) on topics such as violence, healthy dating relationships, self-esteem, etc.

Our largest funder is the Ministry of Children, Community & Social Services (MCC-SS) with 80 per cent of our budget.

This money is used for the running of the shelter and all of the services offered therein (such as utilities, building maintenance, food, etc.), transportation, staff salaries, upkeep of the office and administration.

All other funding is grant/fundraised based and goes to filling in the funding gaps -- about 20 per cent of our basic budget (approximately \$300,000 annually).

These expenses range from utility bills, food for three meals a day for those in shelter, snack items, upkeep of the shelter and the two other tiers of housing, furniture for all three tiers of housing, cleaning supplies, toiletries, housing supplies (towels, sheets, dishes, small kitchen appliances, cutlery,

pots, pans etc.), schools supplies for children in shelter, taxi or gas money for a client to get to work or for their child to get to school or appointments and the list goes on.

To help ease the burden of these costs we have started a program called Under One Roof. With this program we are working to secure funding to help with the day to day running of the shelter, outreach services and programming when expenses exceed our government funding. To cover the unexpected expenses that come up and ensure that we can always deliver the best service possible.

Our Moving Forward Program helps women and children who have utilized our services in the last 2 years get off to a good start in an independent life. Our aim is that this program will be funded by corporate community funds and grants and our goal is to create a successful sustainable program that helps as many families as possible on this journey. Expenses for this program may vary by situation but we are dedicated to serving as many women as possible with the support they need to Move Forward.

We work every day to create a support system in our community and to provide the best programming, services, facilities and care we can give to our women and their children. By supporting My Sister's Place, you are helping us move towards a stronger community, where women and their children can live free from oppression and abuse and look forward to a brighter future.

For more information log onto www.mysistersplace.ca



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Alliston McDonald's manager receives prestigious national award

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Michelle Hancock, a manager supporting the Alliston and Angus McDonald's restaurants, has been recognized as one of the top performing restaurant managers in the country.

Michelle received the 2025 Outstanding Manager of the Year Award from McDonald's Canada.

This prestigious award is given to the top five per cent of restaurant managers from across the over 1,450 McDonald's restaurants in Canada. It is awarded to managers who have displayed exceptional leadership and achievement in their local community.

Michelle works diligently beside her crew members each day to ensure that each team member feels welcomed, engaged, and has the tools they need to serve quality food with excellent service and a warm smile to guests in Alliston and Angus.

Michelle started her career at McDonald's in 1998, working in the drive-thru. Eventually, she became a crew trainer and found her calling in teaching crew members and helping them grow both in the restaurant and beyond.

"When I found out that I won Outstanding Manager of the Year, I was shocked, I'm very touched and honoured to receive this award," Hancock said. "None of us is as good as all of us' – our team lives by this mantra. While the award was presented to me this year, I would not be able to accomplish what I do without the support and efforts of the whole team."

Every year, McDonald's franchisees and regional management nominate restaurant managers across the country for the Outstanding Manager of the Year award to recognize their hard work, dedication and commitment to McDonald's Canada and its guests.

"Michelle is being recognized as an outstanding Market People Leader, she has

been able to inspire others and execute the implementation of the Labour Scheduling Management program, which will benefit McDonald's as a whole," said Rory MacKinnon, Alliston McDonald's Franchisee.

"She has helped so many others evolve their presence in the people space, and 90 per cent of what we do is focused on people, ensuring that they have a positive experience behind the counter and in-restaurant. Over my 51-year career with McDonald's, I have always believed that McDonald's is a people business first and foremost, and Michelle is a role model for those values."

TOP FIVE – Alliston and Angus McDonald's manager Michelle Hancock received the 2025 Outstanding Manager of the Year Award from McDonald's Canada for being among the top five per cent of restaurant managers in the country. There are over 1,450 McDonald's restaurants in Canada, making the award a significant accomplishment. **CONTRIBUTED PHOTO**



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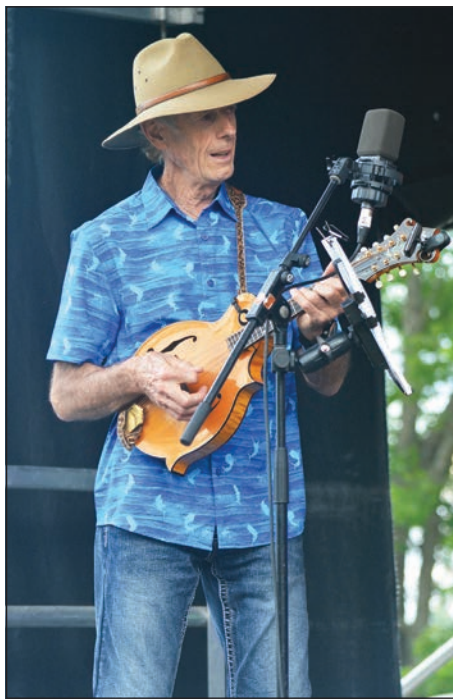
HearWell BeWell
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Arts & Local Events



JAMMIN' OUT – There was non-stop music over the three days at the Tottenham Conservation Centre for the Annual Tottenham Bluegrass Festival. The event ran from June 20 to 22 and a kid's talent contest got the younger folks involved and offered a chance for them to show their talent. **BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTOS**



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CANADA DAY TRADITIONS

WHAT IS CANADA DAY?

Canada Day is a federal statutory holiday that celebrates the formation of the Canadian Confederation on July 1, 1867. On this date, three separate colonies named the Province of Canada (an area later known as Ontario and Quebec), Nova Scotia and New Brunswick were united into a single dominion within the British Empire called Canada. The holiday originally was known as Dominion Day, but was later renamed Canada Day in 1982 when the Canada Act severed legal attachment to the Parliament of the United Kingdom.

FIREWORKS AND FUN

Massive celebrations honouring Canada Day, affectionately known as “Canada’s Birthday,” take place each year. Ottawa, which is Canada’s capital city, is one of the best places to see

fireworks and enjoy revelry near Parliament Hill. This year, everyone will celebrate the 158th anniversary of Canada Day. Nearly every Canadian city hosts Canada Day events and celebrations.

PARADE ROUTE

Many Canadian towns host Canada Day parades. Major cities like Montreal, Vancouver, Toronto, and Ottawa are known for large-scale parades. However, even smaller towns will organize parades for their residents as part of Canada Day festivities. Cobourg, Niagara Falls, Sittsville, and Brantford host parades.

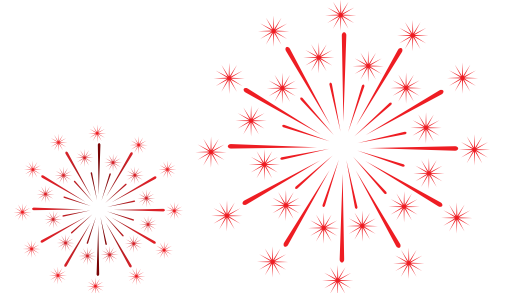
TRUE COLOURS

Red and white are on full display for Canada Day. Canadians also have an extra thing to celebrate during 2025 Canada Day festivities, as the year marks the 60th anniversary of the Canadian flag. The flag, with its iconic maple leaf and red and white stripes, is arguably the most recognizable symbol of Canada. Those who want to promote the flag and Canada Day can use this official digital toolkit: www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/campaigns/national-flag-canada-day/toolkit.html.

BARBECUE BONANZA

Of course, what would Canada Day be without friends and family gathered by the grill for a summertime cookout? Plan plenty of red-and-white menu items and turn up a favourite summertime music playlist.

Canada Day is a time for celebration each July 1. Since July 1 falls on a Tuesday this year, chances are most people will be enjoying a four-day weekend and celebrating the nation even more.





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Canada Day celebrations at Tottenham Conservation Area

By Brian Lockhart



It's time to celebrate our nation, heritage, and culture when Canada Day takes place on Tuesday, July 1.

Local celebrations will be held at the Tottenham Conservation Area and will feature a full line-up of fun activities.

The day will kick off at 4 p.m. with opening ceremonies.

Family-friendly games and activities will run from 4 to 8:30 p.m. This includes carnival games and face painting, while mascots roam the grounds and meet with children.

A vendor's market will provide an opportunity to find some unique and handcrafted items and gifts.

When you get hungry, there will be food vendors on site.

As well, live entertainment will be happening on the main stage.

The big finale will take place when the sun goes down and the night sky will burst alive with day-ending fireworks.

There will be a shuttle service available from Coventry Park so you can leave your car and get a ride to the Conservation Area.

This will be one of the biggest outdoor celebrations of the year and will provide fun for the entire family.



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New Tecumseth resident shares Canada Day poem

Local resident Eva Bradley arrived in Canada on Dec. 24, 1956, as a 15-year-old refugee from Budapest, Hungary, fleeing the violence of the Hungarian revolution.

Alone and unable to speak English, she faced many challenges in her new home.

Eva is very appreciative of the way she was welcomed to Canada. Over the years, she has raised thousands of dollars for charity, as a thank-you to the country she calls home. Eva penned a special poem to celebrate the nation's 158th birthday.

Happy birthday Canada,
We love your caring faces,
Thank you for having us,
In your free and open spaces,

We love your colour of red and white,
Your waters blue and clear,
Also your stone, jade of green,
Standing guard forever,

Thank you for accepting me,
With your arms so warm and gracious,
Happy birthday Canada,
For having all us, in your warm embraces.



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HAPPY CANADA DAY

5 UNIQUE FACTS ABOUT Canada

Canada Day is a federal holiday celebrated annually on July 1. Canadians have much to celebrate come July 1, and here are five things that make the Great White North unique.

1. Canada is the second-largest country in the world, spanning a total area of over 9.9 million square kilometres. In fact, according to Worldometer, Canada takes up 6.1 percent of the world's land mass, making it just one of six countries across the globe to count more than 5 percent of the global land mass as its own.

2. Canadians love their maple syrup, and perhaps some love it a tad too much. The first season of the Netflix documentary series "Dirty Money" included an episode about the Great Canadian Maple Syrup Heist. That theft, during which 3,300 short tons of maple syrup valued at nearly \$18 million CAD were stolen from a storage facility over 2011 and 2012, is the most significant heist in Canadian history. The heist was discovered during an inventory of the Federation of Quebec Maple Syrup Producers' strategic reserve. During the inspection, an investigator realized several barrels at the facility were empty, prompting a wider investigation and realization of the scope of the crime. Various individuals

were ultimately found responsible for the theft and sentenced to prison.

3. Canada is surrounded by the Atlantic Ocean to the east, the Arctic Ocean to the north and the Pacific Ocean to the west. That undoubtedly contributes to Canada having the longest coastline in the world. According to the World Population Review, the Canadian coastline stretches more than 202,000 kilometres, which easily bests Indonesia, which has the second longest coastline at roughly 99,000 kilometres.

4. Though it's the second-largest country in the world, Canada is the twelfth least densely populated nation across the globe. Estimates indicate that Canada's population stood at around 41 million people in 2024. By comparison, the Japanese city of Tokyo is estimated to have more than 37 million people living in its metro area in 2024.

5. Roughly two-thirds of the world's polar bears call Canada home. According to Polar Bears in Canada, the global population of polar bears is divided into 19 subpopulations, and 13 of those are managed or co-managed by Canada. All told, roughly 16,000 polar bears reside in Canada, with just 10,000 residing beyond Canadian borders.



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Strawberry SHORTCAKE

VANILLA POUND CAKE

- 1 cup unsalted butter
- 1/2 cup vegetable oil
- 3 cups sugar
- 3 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 1/2 tsp baking powder
- 5 large eggs
- 1/4 cup milk
- Dash of salt



Preheat oven to 325°F.

In a separate bowl, combine flour, baking powder and salt.

Cream butter until fluffy, add sugar and mix until well combined.

Mix in vegetable oil.

Beat in eggs one at a time to butter and sugar mixture. Mix well after each addition.

Alternately add flour mixture and milk to the butter and sugar mixture.

Stir in vanilla.

Pour the mixture into a greased and floured tube pan. Bake at 325°F for 1 hour and 15 minutes or until a cake tester or toothpick comes out clean.

Rest on a cooling rack for 10 minutes, then invert the pan and cool completely before releasing from the pan.

STRAWBERRIES

- 1-1/2 quarts Ontario strawberries
- 3 tbsp of sugar
- 1 tbsp lemon juice

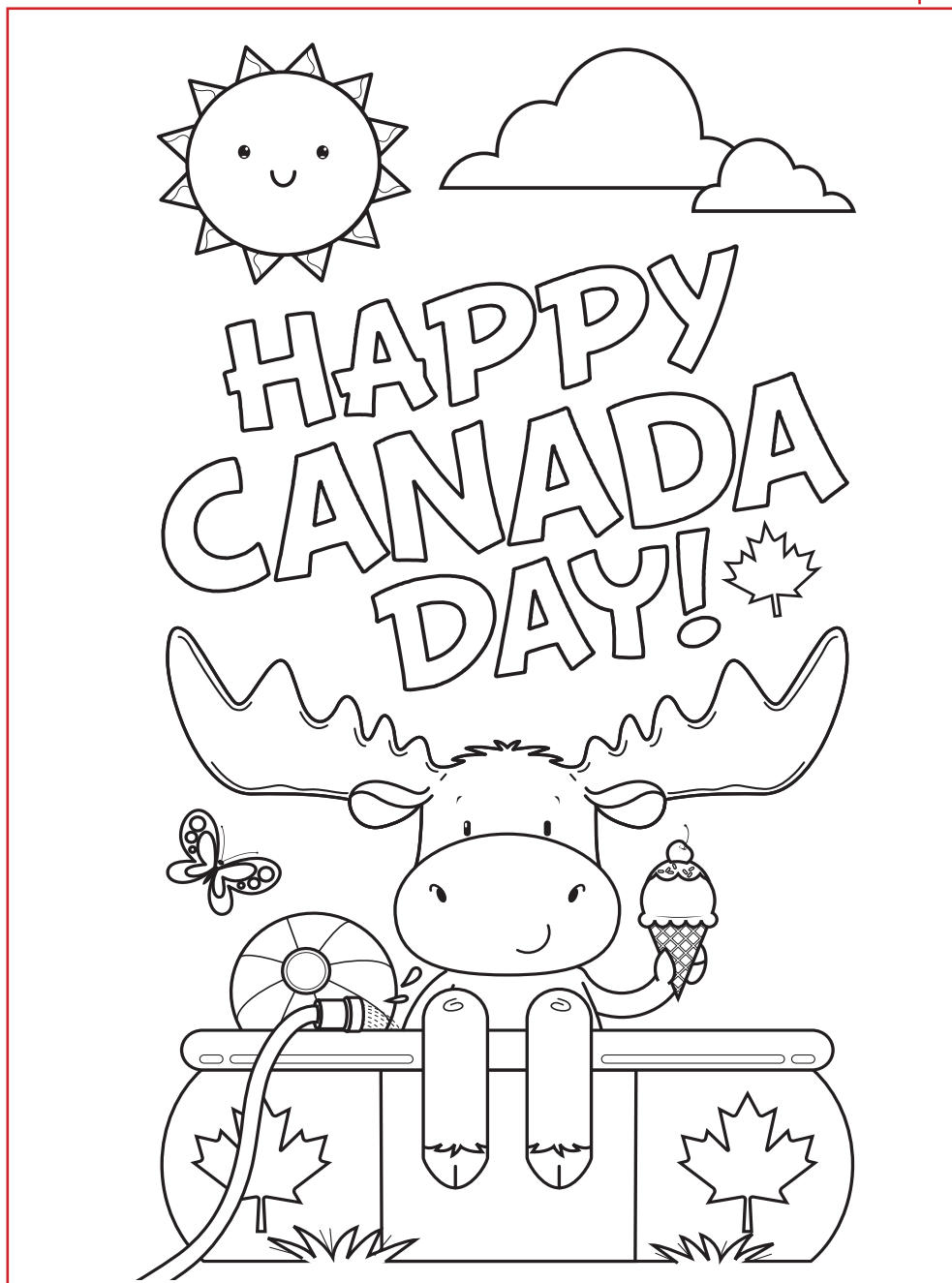
Wash and quarter strawberries into a bowl. Stir in sugar and lemon juice and let sit for a minimum of 30 minutes up to 1 day before.

WHIPPED CREAM

- 1 cup heavy whipping cream
- 2 tsp icing sugar
- 1 tsp vanilla extract

Place whipping cream in a mixing bowl and beat at high speed until soft peaks form. Add icing sugar, vanilla extract and whip until stiff peaks form.

- Submitted by: Sarah Didycz



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HAPPY CANADA DAY

Plan the perfect weekend barbecue with local food options

(NC) In Canada, we love to spend our spring, summer and even fall days eating outside whenever possible. The fresh air and sunshine are the perfect backdrop to delicious, local foods—and nothing tops off a relaxing weekend quite like a backyard barbecue with family or friends.

Regardless of what main dishes you cook, there's no shortage of fresh Ontario produce that will round out your meal. Asparagus can be grilled or steamed as a side dish. Locally grown lettuce, cucumbers, carrots, onions, and tomatoes can be combined into nutritious and delicious salads – with some locally grown herbs to add flavour and seasoning.

Ontario-grown potatoes can be baked on the grill or turned into mashed, scalloped, fried or roasted side dishes. Meanwhile, greenhouse peppers are a great ingredient for fresh salads or vegetable platters but can also be baked, stuffed, grilled or roasted into delightful recipes of their own. Enjoy both potatoes and peppers in this tasty sal-

ad recipe from Foodland Ontario. Full of flavour and featuring a bounty of fresh produce grown right here in our province, it's perfect for your next weekend barbecue.



POTATO SALAD WITH CORN, TOMATOES AND CHARRED PEPPERS

Serves: 6-8

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 sweet red pepper
- 1 sweet yellow pepper
- 1 1/2 lb (750 g) redskin potatoes, unpeeled and halved
- 3 cobs sweet corn, cooked
- 3 medium tomatoes, seeded and diced
- 3 green onions, sliced
- 1/4 cup (60 ml) fresh coriander, chopped
- 1/3 cup (80 ml) olive oil
- 2 tbsp (30 ml) red wine vinegar
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 tsp (10 ml) ground cumin
- 1/2 tsp (2 ml) each salt and black pepper

DIRECTIONS:

1. Broil red and yellow peppers until charred and blackened on all sides,

about 20 minutes. Place in metal bowl; cover and let cool. Peel, seed and cut into 1/2-inch (1 cm) pieces.

2. Meanwhile, in large pot of boiling salted water, cook potatoes until tender, about 15 minutes. Drain and let cool enough to handle. Cut into chunks.

3. With a sharp knife, cut kernels from corn cobs and place in large bowl. Add potatoes, charred peppers, tomatoes, green onions and coriander.

4. To make the dressing, combine oil, vinegar, garlic, cumin, salt and pepper in a small bowl. Add to potato mixture and gently toss to coat. Chill before serving.

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SPORTS

NEW TECUMSETH TIMES

Beeton Lawn Bowling Club to host Lawn Summer Night

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Beeton Lawn Bowling Club will be hosting its 2nd annual Lawn Summer Night to raise funds for a good cause.

The event is a fundraiser for Cystic Fibrosis (CF) Canada.

Organizer Andrea Torlone is the mother of a three-year-old boy who suffers from cystic fibrosis.

Last year, the event raised \$22,000, and they are hoping to raise even more this year.

For club member Walton Prime of Beeton, the event is part of a personal experience and he urges others to help raise funds.

“In 1974, my 15-month-old daughter was diagnosed with CF,” Walton explained. “Her life expectancy was stated to be age 13. With research and new drugs for treatment, she lived until 2001, age 27. In the past 24 years since her death, major breakthroughs in drug research is continuing to improve the wellbeing and lifespan of those affected by CF.”

There are 4,513 Canadians living with



READY FOR RETURN – The 1st annual Lawn Summer Night fundraiser was held last year by the Beeton Lawn Bowling Club, with a great turnout. The event is returning for the second time, in support of Cystic Fibrosis Canada, on Friday, July 4, from 6 to 10 p.m. A rain date is scheduled for July 11, if needed. **CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS**

cystic fibrosis. That’s an increase of 42.6 per cent since 2003. Just over one-third of Canada’s cystic fibrosis population are children.

More than one-third of people with cystic fibrosis in Canada travel over 100 kilometres to receive care.

Today, half of Canadian both with cystic fibrosis are expected to live beyond 62

years. This is a 2.5-year improvement over the life expectancy of 2022, and the median age of death rose to 41.2 years of age.

Since life-changing CFTR modulator therapies were introduced in Canada, there has been a drop in the number of lung transplants.

Lawn Summer Night will take place on Friday, July 4, with a rain date of July 11 if needed.

The event runs from 6 to 10 p.m. However, attendees are invited to join early at 4:30 p.m. to mingle and grab a bite to eat.

The event will take place at the Beeton Lawn Bowling Club at 60 Prospect St., Beeton.

There will be more than 80 bowlers on the green at one time as matches are played.

Those wishing to donate can make a donation on the night of the event or directly through the club’s website at www.lawn-summernights.com.

If you have any questions about the event, contact Andrea Torlone at 416-578-6018.



SUPER SAVE – A goalie makes a big save in the final seconds of a New Tecumseth Ball Hockey League U19 Junior semi-final game at the Tottenham Arena on Monday, June 16. Ball hockey is wrapping up with the final championship games. The Yellow Team won this game 6-4 over the Black Team to advance to the championship.

BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO



County of Simcoe creates new Assertive Street Outreach Program

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The County of Simcoe is creating new opportunities for adults and youth living unhoused in the region including New Tecumseth, to find secure and stable housing.

The County's new Assertive Street Outreach Program engages and supports individuals and families living without stable housing, including those in encampments or at imminent risk of homelessness. The program's goal is to secure long-term, sustainable housing for people who need it.

After initiating a Request for Proposals (RFP), a consortium led by Waypoint Centre for Mental Health Care has been selected to oversee and operate the program for the County of Simcoe.

The consortium includes valuable community partners who have a deep understanding of the issue surrounding homelessness and knowledge and experience working in the field.

These include Waypoint Centre for Mental Health Care, Busby, Lighthouse, Home

"This flexible approach allows us to meet people where they are, building trust and creating pathways to stable housing. By expanding how we reach those in need, we're opening doors for everyone in our community"

Horizon, Youth Haven, and S.H.I.F.T. in Alliston.

"Our new Assertive Street Outreach Program represents a bold step forward in connecting with our most vulnerable residents," said Simcoe County Warden Basil Clarke. "This flexible approach allows us to meet people where they are, building trust and creating pathways to stable housing. By expanding how we reach those in need, we're opening doors for everyone in our community."

This new Assertive Street Outreach Pro-

gram will engage individuals who are experiencing homelessness but not currently connected to services or are reluctant to access traditional services, such as shelters or warming centres. It looks to minimize the harmful effects of sleeping rough while working with individuals to prepare for, and ultimately find, long-term housing solutions.

It will be fully integrated into Simcoe County's Coordinated Access System and will serve as an access point to engage unsheltered people.

"Addressing homelessness is not the work of one organization. This program reflects what's possible when a community comes together with compassion and purpose," said Dr. Kevin Young, vice president of medical affairs and chief of staff at Waypoint Centre for Mental Health Care. "By building trust with those who are often hardest to reach,

we're not just offering services – we're offering hope, connection and the belief that everyone deserves a place to call home."

The program is low-barrier and targets vulnerable persons across Simcoe County's 16 member municipalities and in the cities of Barrie and Orillia. Assertive Street Outreach continues to engage and build rapport with unsheltered individuals even if they decline housing and other services.

The County of Simcoe's 10-point Homelessness Prevention Strategy is a data-driven plan that aims to help vulnerable residents and communities. The strategy includes a considerable added investment toward the goal of preventing and ending chronic homelessness.

For further details and ongoing updates to the homelessness prevention plan, visit simcoe.ca/HomelessnessSystem.

EV chargers coming to Recreation Centre

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Town of New Tecumseth is installing electric vehicle (EV) chargers at the New Tecumseth Recreation Centre (NRTC) parking lot.

Eight new electric vehicle chargers will be installed at the southeast corner of the parking lot at the NRTC.

This is the Town's contribution to stepping toward a greener future.

Residents and visitors will soon be able to conveniently charge their EVs while enjoying the wide range of programs, events, and amenities offered by the popular local recreation centre.

The chargers are expected to be operational in the coming days, in time for the busy summer recreation season.

Whether you are attending a hockey game, fitness class, or community event, you can now plug in and power up your vehicle while visiting the NRTC.



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ontario.ca/measles

Paid for by the Government of Ontario

NVCA and BILD collaborate to support home-building targets

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority 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 developments move forward in a safe manner that avoids loss of life and damage to property due to flooding, erosion, and other natural hazards.

The initiative reflects NVCA’s ongoing work to ensure a modern, timely, and coordinated review process. 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 partner-

ship 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 the review process keeps pace with the growth pressure facing communities across the watershed.

“This is about getting things done in a positive way,” said Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury Councillor Jonathan Scott, chair of the NVCA’s Board of Directors. “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 con-

sistent 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.”

County of Simcoe receives Age-Friendly designation from World Health Organization

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The World Health Organization has officially recognized the County of Simcoe as an Age-Friendly community for its commitment to fostering healthy and active communities for residents of all ages.

In achieving this designation, the County joins a growing global network of cities and communities that have demonstrated excellence in age-friendly planning and implementation.

“According to the most recent census, nearly 20 percent of the County’s population is aged 60 and older, which is why we are committed to fostering a welcoming and supportive environment for older adults,” said Simcoe County Warden Basil Clarke. “By building up programs, services, and

“Being recognized as an age-friendly community recognizes the efforts that have been made to showcase the County of Simcoe as a great place for older adults”

Jane Sinclair, general manager of health and emergency services

infrastructure, we are ensuring our residents can remain active, engaged, and independent at every stage of life. This designation reflects our dedication to building a commu-



nity where all our residents can thrive.”

The Age-Friendly Simcoe County initiative was established in 2016 to increase awareness of the County’s aging population as well as help businesses and organizations evaluate their environment and service delivery.

The County continues to provide resources and assessment tools to help organizations implement age-friendly goals and strategies and adapt to our aging population.

“Being recognized as an age-friendly

community recognizes the efforts that have been made to showcase the County of Simcoe as a great place for older adults,” said Jane Sinclair, general manager of health and emergency services. “Positive aging depends on strong connections, and accessible resources. We are proud to stand alongside municipalities from across the world in championing inclusivity and the well-being for our aging population.”

The World Health Organization’s Age-Friendly Cities and Communities Program supports communities worldwide in becoming more age-friendly to tap into the potential that older people represent for humanity.

The program encourages cities and communities to adapt their structures and services to be accessible to and inclusive of older people with varying needs and capacities.



Final Release

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Two charged after parking lot altercation at Tottenham Foodland

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Members of the Nottawasaga Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) have laid multiple charges against two individuals following a serious altercation in the Foodland parking lot in Tottenham.

Shortly after 2 p.m. on June 18, officers responded to reports of a disturbance at the Tottenham Foodland on Queen Street North.

Upon arrival, police observed a large group

of students from a nearby high school gathered at the scene and noted several damaged vehicles.

An investigation, supported by video surveillance, revealed that an altercation had occurred involving three vehicles: an Acura, an Audi, and a Volkswagen.

The incident escalated when the driver of a blue Acura intentionally struck the passenger side of a black Audi, injuring an occupant who was later transported to a nearby hospital with minor injuries.

The Acura then continued to drive recklessly

through the parking lot, striking a second vehicle with an occupant inside, before fleeing the scene.

The suspect vehicle was located in Alliston where officers found the accused walking alongside it.

During the arrest, a 16-year-old individual fled the scene in the Acura but later turned himself in to police.

As a result of the investigation, Matthew Zadrán, 19, of Alliston, was charged with Dangerous Operation, Failure to Stop After an Accident, and two counts of Assault

with a Weapon.

A 16-year-old youth from Bradford, whose name is being withheld under the Youth Criminal Justice Act, was also charged with Dangerous Operation, Flight from Peace Officer, Failure to Stop After Accident, and two counts of Assault with a Weapon. The accused individuals have been held for a bail hearing and the investigation is ongoing.

Anyone with additional information is asked to contact Nottawasaga OPP at 1-888-310-1122 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222TIPS (8477).

Seven charges laid in connection to impaired driving arrest made against Tottenham man

Members of the Nottawasaga Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) have charged one individual with impaired driving following a traffic complaint for a driver in New Tecumseth.

On June 12, shortly after 9 a.m., Nottawasaga OPP responded to a traffic complaint in Tottenham heading southbound on Tottenham Road. The vehicle was described as being oper-

ated in a concerning manner, failing to stop for red lights.

Officers were able to quickly locate the vehicle on Tecumseth Pines Drive, where they 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, Steven Hob-

son, 60, of Tottenham was charged with:

- Operation while impaired - alcohol and drugs
- Operation while impaired - blood alcohol concentration (80 plus)
- Uttering Threats - Cause death or bodily harm
- Having care or control of a motor vehicle with open container of liquor

- Red light - fail to stop - community safety zone
- Fail to surrender insurance card
- Fail to surrender permit for motor vehicle
- Driver fail to surrender licence

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

The charges have not been proven in court.

Perjury charge laid against witness, Nottawasaga OPP claim conflicting testimony provided in court

The Nottawasaga Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) has charged a witness with perjury following an investigation into testimonies provided during a court proceeding.

During a recent criminal trial, the Nottawasaga OPP entered into a perjury investi-

gation. During court proceedings, a witness under oath provided conflicting and unreliable information.

As a result of the investigation, a 37-year-old from Bradford was charged with perjury.

The accused is scheduled to appear at the Ontario Court of Justice in Bradford at a later

date to answer to the charge.

"The OPP reminds everyone that providing false testimony under oath is a serious criminal offence that undermines the integrity of the justice system," said Nottawasaga OPP in a press release.

Under section 131(1) of the Criminal

Code of Canada, perjury happens when someone knowingly lies under oath, or in a sworn statement, with the intention of misleading the court or another legal authority.

The perjury charge against the Bradford resident has not been proven in court.



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708 OBITUARIES

708 OBITUARIES

708 OBITUARIES



EMIL V KOLB 

JANUARY 1936 – JUNE 2025


Retired Owner of Embercrest Farm
Past Councillor, Peel County
Former Mayor of Caledon (1985-1991)
Retired and longest serving Peel Regional Chair (1991 – 2014)
Retired and long serving Peel Police Services Board

At Southlake Regional Health Centre, Newmarket, on Wednesday, June 18, 2025, Emil Kolb, at the age of 89 years, beloved husband of Beryle. Loving father of Paul and Marion, Jean, Mary and David (deceased), Susan and Bob. Cherished grandfather of John and Kim, Karen and Brad, Robert and Kelly, Amanda and Dean, Jessica, Ryan, Amelia and JoeBob. Proud great-grandfather of Colby, Erica, Della, Zack, River, Rebel, Reed, Emmett, Kurtis, Everett, Vaida. The family received their friends at the Egan Funeral Home, 203 Queen St. S. (Hwy. 50), Bolton on Monday afternoon and evening. Funeral Mass was held in St. John the Evangelist Roman Catholic Church, 16066 The Gore Road, Caledon on Tuesday morning, June 24 at 10 o'clock with a reception following at Glen Eagle Golf Club, Caledon. Private family interment Morningside Cemetery, Palgrave. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Bethell Hospice Foundation or Headwaters Health Care Foundation. Condolences for the family may be offered at www.EganFuneralHome.com

PUBLIC SERVICE AND LEGACY

In 1965, Emil began a long and distinguished career in Public Service as County Councillor, Peel Region Councillor, Mayor of Caledon and finally as the longest serving Chair of both the Region of Peel and Peel Police Services Board. Emil was a visionary leader, a true collaborator who lived and served his values of fiscal accountability by leading Peel Region in becoming debt free, building financial reserves, establishing funding for the protection of environmentally sensitive lands, and ensuring long term sustainability for a rapidly growing Region. Under his leadership Peel opened state of the art water and wastewater treatment plants, developed a future forward innovative waste diversion program, launched long term care, newcomer services and affordable housing strategies. Emil championed the multi-million-dollar redevelopment of Peel Art Gallery and Museum Archives (PAMA) to ensure that the history, art, and historical archives of Peel were available to the public, and not lost to time. Emil continued in this endeavor in recent years by working with residents and local historians on the Caledon Trailway, Building the Dream Book Project, celebrating the history of the trailway through Caledon. Emil Kolb was the long-serving Chair of the Peel Police Services Board and early in his tenure during the "social contract" Emil saw an opportunity to change the budgeting practice of Peel Region Police which resulted in Peel Police Service erasing its capital debt in short order and then becoming the best financed police service in Canada. Emil was a passionate believer in the civilian governance of police and spearheaded a number of initiatives that modernized police governance in Canada. His contributions to policing were recognized and honoured with the naming of the Emil V. Kolb Centre for Police Excellence in Peel Region and with honours from the Canadian Association of Police Service Boards. Hazel McCallion said of Emil at his retirement "If you want something done, give it to a farmer". Emil used his knowledge and experience as a farmer in meeting immediate needs while keeping an eye to the future. And the future was never far from his thoughts, through his annual Emil Kolb Hootenanny he raised over 2 million dollars in support of Children's Charities in Peel Region. Emil was revered by Mayors, Regional Chairs, and leaders across the Country, but it was in the way he was respected by residents, staff at every level and community groups and organizations that set him apart from many others, he was a Gentleman Politician.

In Loving Memory of
Ronald Gordon Fearon



It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Ronald Gordon Fearon, in his 87th year, on June 15th, 2025. Beloved husband of the late Lynda Fearon. Cherished father to Kimberley and Nicholas Zincone, Mary-Lyn and Greg Cook, and the late David Fearon. Deeply loved and missed by his grandchildren: Mitchell and Nicole Zincone, Matthew and Dawson Fearon, and Kayla and Amanda Cook. Ron spent over 30 years as a Budget Manager with the Ministry of Transportation, after graduating from Ryerson University with a degree in Accounting. In his later years, he pursued his passion for travel by running a franchise with Connection Key Travel alongside his wife. Known for his warm presence and active spirit, Ron participated in many community and social groups, including Curling, Lawn Bowling, Square Dancing, Business Network International, Probus, and his beloved church family. He was admired and adored by all who know him and will be truly missed. Visitation was held Monday, June 23rd, 2025 at 1:00 p.m. at St. John's Presbyterian Church, 2940 10th Sideroad, Bradford, Ontario. Funeral Service took place at 2:30 p.m. at the church, followed by a reception with food and refreshments. Donations to St. John's Presbyterian Church, Bradford, the Heart and Stroke Foundation, or Oakville Trafalgar Memorial Hospital would be appreciated by the family.

Smith: Peter Allan,
March 16, 1945 - June 15, 2025

Passed away peacefully on Sunday, June 15th, 2025, at the Good Samaritan Seniors Complex in Alliston, Ontario. Peter was the beloved husband of Denise (née Herman), a devoted father to Owen (Lorrie) and Jennifer, and a proud grandfather to Mirabella. He is predeceased by his brothers Tom (survived by Dee) and Bob (survived by Jan), and will be fondly remembered by his close friend Carlos. Forever loved, forever missed. The family wishes to thank the staff at Good Samaritan Seniors Complex, for the care and compassion. Arrangements entrusted to Rod Abrams Funeral Home. Cremation has taken place. For those who wish, donations in memory of Peter to The Good Samaritan Society, would be appreciated. Condolences and memories may be left for the family at www.RodAbramsFuneralHome.com.

709 IN MEMORIAM

Lee Christian Carlos Braund
July 11th 2000 - June 29th 2002

A gentle soul, a heart so true, Lee, you shone in rainbow colours new. Too precious for this world to keep, Now in heaven, you softly sleep. We traced your hands, we knew your smile, Held you close for just a while. Oh, how the days moved much too fast— We still long for moments that have passed. Yet love endures, though time moves on, Your laughter lingers in the dawn. In whispers soft, the breeze reminds, You are still here, in heart and mind. Little footsteps, fleeting bright, A star that glows in endless night. Though gone, you are never far away— Lee, in love, you'll always stay.

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Continued from Page 4

Brock's Banter: They desire a better country

It was a very European-centric view of what it meant to be Canadian 33 years ago, including the art session. It certainly was not led by an Indigenous instructor and to our sensibilities some three decades on, that was not the appropriate approach to take in imparting the characteristics of such traditional art forms.

We, as students, were not yet in a position to know better, yet our teachers were – but, as loath as I am to say about a time period in which I grew up purely due to vanity, it was a different time.

A quarter century on from Canada 125 came Canada 150, an anniversary that was significantly more muted by comparison for many reasons, not the least of which was the fact we are (and were) a nation that was coming to grips on some hard truths about

our heritage.

The more we learned, the more that came to light, the more we were forced to challenge some of the idyllic, peaceful, and bucolic notions that were sold to us early on.

It was an uncomfortable process for some, but necessary, and I think we're collectively stronger for it.

But even today there's still much we have to do.

Last week, Premier Ford sparked a controversy when, in a press conference on Bill 5 and its impact on First Nations, he said he told his Minister of Indigenous Affairs, "When I first came into office [I said] treat them well, give them what they want, but there is going to be a point where you can't just keep coming hat in hand all the time to

the government. You have to be able to take care of yourselves."

It didn't take long for the Premier to apologize for his remarks, unfortunately made just days before National Indigenous People's Day, an apology which Grand Council Chief Linda Debassinge said felt sincere.

It was something of a tempest in a tea pot, but, in many ways, it was indicative that we, as a nation, still have to travel a fair bit of road ahead.

There is a misconception I've never truly understood that recognizing our weaknesses is a weakness in itself. To my mind, recognizing our respective weaknesses – whether as individuals or as a collective – is a really a show of strength as it identifies areas in need of improvement and catalyses us to get off our duffs and do something

about it.

It's there, in my view, where one of Canada's main strengths lies: our ability to grow and move forward together, always striving to improve and build upon who we are. It's no accident that the motto of the Order of Canada is "Desiderantes meliorem patriam" – or, "They desire a better country."

We all do, and it's an objective we all have a duty to work towards.

We're going into this Canada Day riding a wave of "Elbows Up" patriotism as we look to a future of strength amid uncertainty. But out of this uncertainty comes opportunity – not only to redefine ourselves on the world stage, but here at home, too, as we look to bolster our domestic bonds in the face of pressures from outside.

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- 17⁹⁹ SAVE \$2** Bacon Wrapped Scallop Medallions 9-13 PIECES 300 g
- 12⁹⁹ SAVE \$2** Apple Butter Pork Tenderloin 400 g
- 15⁹⁹ SAVE \$2** Pulled Pork 2 POUCHES x 340 g
- 19⁹⁹ SAVE \$3** Beef and Bacon Skewers 15 SKEWERS 360 g
- 9⁹⁹ SAVE \$4** Battered Cheese Curds 280 g
- 9⁹⁹ SAVE \$2** Buffalo Chicken Dip 450 g **NEW!**

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- 9⁹⁹ SAVE \$5** each Mozzarella Sticks 15-21 PIECES 454 g
- 9⁹⁹ SAVE \$5** each Jalapeño Cheese Sticks 13-16 PIECES 454 g

BURGERS

- 14⁹⁹ SAVE \$2** Cheddar & Bacon Stuffed Beef Burgers 4 BURGERS x 170 g/6 oz
- 17⁹⁹ SAVE \$2** SmashHouse Angus Beef Burgers 8 BURGERS x 113 g/4 oz **NEW!**

GREAT FOR THE GRILL

- 9⁹⁹ SALE** North Atlantic Salmon 142 g
- 17⁹⁹ LIMITED TIME ONLY** Maplewood Smoked Bacon Wrapped Salmon 2 PIECES 284 g
- 13⁹⁹ SAVE \$2** Boneless Rib Style Pork Cutlettes 6 PIECES 680 g
- 12⁹⁹ SALE** Herbed Red Skin Potatoes 685 g
- 17⁹⁹ SAVE \$2** Sausages 8-9 PIECES 900 g
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