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# Testing Out The New Track

Brothers Dario and Fabian cruise along the new pump track at Riverdale Park in Alliston during an event marking its opening on Thursday, July 10. The new track features hills and curves that provide a fun ride for bicycles, skateboards, scooters, and rollerblades. Read a full story on Page 3.

BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

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# Two New Tecumseth residents face murder-related charges

BY BRIAN LOCKHART  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Two years after an Alliston man went missing, charges are being laid in connection to his disappearance.

Two New Tecumseth residents have been arrested and face charges related to murder.

Alliston resident, Derek Perry, 34 at the time, was reported missing on July 17, 2023. He had mysteriously vanished from Alliston in

June of that year and had not been seen since.

The Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) began an investigation into his disappearance. At that time, investigators were concerned for Perry's well-being.

Over the course of two years, the OPP requested information from the public regarding Perry's whereabouts.

After a two-year investigation, police announced they have made arrests in the case.

A 30-year-old man and a 36-year-old woman

have been arrested and charged. The case is now considered a homicide investigation.

Police say they are not releasing any more information on the investigation to preserve the integrity of the case.

The investigation is being conducted by the Nottawasaga OPP under the direction of the OPP Criminal Investigation Branch.

Police have not indicated whether a body has been found, but reports indicate no body has yet been located.

Eddy Gagnon, 30, of New Tecumseth, has

been charged with Second Degree Murder and Indignity to a Dead Body.

Krystal Carleton, 36, of New Tecumseth, has been charged with Indignity to a Dead Body and Accessory After the Fact to Murder.

Both accused remain in custody pending a bail hearing.

Anyone with information about this case is asked to contact the OPP at 1-888-310-1122, or anonymous tips can be submitted through Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477.



**JAMMING OUT** – The Sunday Music in the Park took place under bright sunny skies on Sunday, July 13. Acoustic opening performer Kyle Wouchope performs a mix of original and cover tunes for an appreciative audience. **BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO**

## Donation box stolen from local business

BY BRIAN LOCKHART  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

An Essa man decided he was in need of some charity when he allegedly stole a donation box from a local business in Angus.

Officers from the Nottawasaga Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police arrested and charged one individual in connection with a charity box theft in Essa Township.

On July 9, shortly after 9 a.m., Nottawasaga OPP responded to a theft incident

at a business on Mill Street.

Video footage obtained by police determined that the male suspect entered the store the night before, stealing a charity box before fleeing the store.

As a result of the investigation and assistance from the public, police were able to identify the suspect.

Christopher Lang, 28, of Essa, was charged with Theft Under \$5,000 and Failure to Comply with Probation Order.

The OPP noted its appreciation of Essa residents for their proactive engagement and support regarding this matter.

## Town of New Tecumseth considers introducing Municipal Accommodation Tax to boost tourism

BY BRIAN LOCKHART  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Town of New Tecumseth is considering a Municipal Accommodation Tax (MAT), which is a fee applied to visitors who stay in commercial accommodations within a municipality.

Introduced in Ontario in 2017, the MAT serves as a revenue tool for municipalities to support tourism-related activities and projects.

In November 2024, New Tecumseth Council received a staff report that approved public and industry consultation on the potential introduction of a MAT. The consultation will help identify existing needs, challenges, and opportunities related to the tax.

Most Ontario municipalities set the tax at 4 per cent, however, rates vary. For example, Toronto increased its MAT from 4 per cent to 6 per cent in May 2023.

At least 50 per cent of net MAT revenue must be allocated to an eligible not-for-profit tourism entity for tourism promotion and development. The remaining funds are used at the municipality's discretion.



Generally, a MAT tax applies to stays of 30 days or less in hotels, motels, bed and breakfasts, and short-term rentals.

Some accommodations are exempt. These include hospitals, post-secondary dormitories, shelters, and treatment centres.

The MAT applies only to the cost of accommodations. Additional services such as meals, parking, or other hotel amenities are not subject to the tax.

All single-tier and lower-tier municipalities in Ontario have the authority to introduce a MAT.

Currently, over 40 municipalities have adopted this tax.

The Town is seeking public feedback regarding the possible implementation of a MAT.

You can complete an online survey on the Town of New Tecumseth's website.

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# New all-wheel pump track opens at Riverdale Park in Alliston

BY BRIAN LOCKHART  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

If you have wheels, there is an exciting new way to have fun in Alliston.

A new all-wheels pump track has officially opened at Riverdale Park.

The track is open for bikes, scooters, skateboards, and rollerblades. It features a smooth, hilly ride over bumps and curves.

The track officially opened on Thursday, July 10, with an opening ceremony attended by local dignitaries, Nottawasaga Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) officers, and town residents.

Kids cruised around the track as opening comments were made by dignitaries.

The track was built by a company in Kitchener and is designed to be weather-resistant. With a textured surface, the track is designed to allow for wheels to get some traction.

The pump track was also built to be mobile, so it will also be placed in parks in Beeton and Tottenham at times.

The idea for the track came from Ward 1 Town Councillor Chris Rapin, who led the initiative to bring the pump track to town.

There was already money set aside by the Town that was going to be used to build a new skate park. However, after several years, the money was still there, and there was no plan underway to build the park.

Councillor Rapin said that by not building



**OPENING CEREMONY** – Local dignitaries and Nottawasaga Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) officers cut the ribbon to officially open the new all-wheels pump track at Riverdale Park in Alliston. The pump track is mobile and will also be taken to parks in Beeton and Tottenham.

BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

the park, some kids would never benefit from it.

“I thought we needed to spend the money now, because if we wait, they won’t be kids anymore,” Councillor Rapin said.

“This is a space that reflects the energy,

creativity, and spirit of the youth of our community,” said New Tecumseth Deputy Mayor Stephanie MacLellan. “I want to do a special shout-out to Councillor Rapin for getting the wheels in motion for this project. This pump track is designed for different ages and abili-

ties and as an added bonus it is mobile, so you will see this in other parts of our municipality as well.”

The track is designed for human-powered motion only, and motorized vehicles are not allowed on the track.

## Blood donors needed for upcoming clinics

BY BRIAN LOCKHART  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Canadian Blood Services will be holding two blood donation events in Alliston and Tottenham in July.

Canada’s healthcare system is evolving with advancements in medicine, shifting demographics, and greater diversity.

This means that patient needs are changing. Canadian Blood Services has an ambitious goal: 1 million new donors over the next five years.

Every day, patients across Canada rely on blood, plasma, stem cells, and organ and tissue donations to survive.

Only two per cent of eligible people in Canada donate.

However, donors report that giving has a

profound impact on them. Giving helps them feel connected to the world and their community. It boosts mental health and provides a deep sense of purpose, value, and contribution.

You can book a time to donate by downloading the GiveBlood app or by calling 1-888-2Donate.

If you make an appointment, please make sure you are on time and keep your commitment.

**Blood donation events:**

- Alliston: Alliston Memorial Arena (49 Nelson Street West, Alliston) on Thursday, July 24, from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m.
- Tottenham: Tottenham Community Centre (139 Queen Street North, Tottenham) on Saturday, July 26, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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# Editorial, Letters & Opinion

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

~ Stanislaw Jerzy Lec

## Rule of thumb

Several years ago, a person I worked with used the phrase ‘rule of thumb’ when referring to a project we were working on.

One of the women in the office, who was known to be offended by just about everything, became quite incensed at his wording.

‘Rule of thumb,’ she declared, was an old law in the UK that determined the thickness of a rod in which a husband could legally beat his wife. She referred to my co-worker as misogynistic and a few other choice words.

He had no idea what she was talking about.

I explained to the woman that the law she was referring to never existed, and someone just made it up a few years earlier. The phrase ‘rule of thumb’ was used in the same way as ‘feet’ were determined for a measurement, and ‘hands’ were used to measure the height of a horse. It never had anything to do with a man beating his wife.

She gave me a blank stare and stormed away – again offended because she was wrong and couldn’t think of another name to call someone.

There are plenty of old phrases or occurrences in history that never happened or have had their meaning or real

history changed so much that they have no relation to the original event.

Prima Nocta was supposedly the right of a feudal lord during medieval times to have sexual relations with any female in his jurisdiction, particularly on her wedding night.

I was actually taught this by an English teacher in high school when we were studying a Shakespeare play.

However, it never happened, and there was no such law.

It occurred in Mel Gibson’s movie, “Braveheart,” when the Lord showed up and took a young bride away from her soon-to-be husband. However, ask any Scotsman what he thinks about Braveheart.

Braveheart was a fun movie to watch, a real epic, but it is also one of the most wildly historically inaccurate movies ever made. Most of the events in the movie never happened, and the kilt, as worn by every man in the film, had not yet been invented.

Even if Prima Nocta really existed, no feudal lord in his right mind would think of doing something like that to the peasants who lived on his land.

Showing up at a wedding with the intent of taking the bride away for an evening of his pleasure would have likely

ended with a sword thrust into his chest or the local village rising up and burning his house to the ground with him in it.

There is a myth that diamonds are both rare and a good investment.

Diamonds are not rare. There are plenty of them.

The myth was started by the De Beers company, which at the time had a monopoly on the diamond industry and still controls a large share of the diamond production in the world.

They started one of the most successful advertising campaigns in the world and convinced people that diamonds are the proper stone for an engagement ring.

They also used the phrase, “It is said you should spend three months’ salary on an engagement ring.”

The implication in the advertisement was that if you didn’t spend that kind of money, you were cheap.

A lot of people bought into that idea. Many guys struggled to come up with that kind of money to buy a ring so their future wife and her family wouldn’t think he was too cheap to buy the real thing.

What De Beers didn’t tell you was that they, themselves, came up with the three-month rule.

That’s a clever way to get people to spend more money on your product –

and it worked.

Diamonds are not an investment. I don’t know anyone who bought a diamond and later sold it for a profit.

The wild, wild west did not have a lot of gunfights on the streets. There are only two recorded movie-style gunfights.

One was the gunfight at the OK Coral between the Earps and the Clantons, and the other involved a showdown between Wild Bill Hickok and a local gambler. And that gunfight was more a duel than a gunfight.

Wild Bill was sober, stood sideways, carefully aimed his pistol and shot the man dead at 75 yards.

Many towns actually had an ordinance against firearms within town limits.

Any gun play that took part was usually fuelled by alcohol, and the chance of a bystander being wounded or killed by a stray bullet fired by a drunk cowboy was actually the likely outcome of firing a six-shooter in a crowded saloon.

However, reality doesn’t make for a great Western movie.

There are all sorts of historical myths that have been created over time.

Sometimes it’s just fun to believe they really happened.

**BRIAN LOCKHART**  
FROM THE SECOND ROW



## Learning resilience

Are you at an age where you now look back at some of the things you got up to growing up and wonder how you survived it all?

My generation is not quite old enough to remember the apparently halcyon days of our parents’ generation, who often recall playing in the great outdoors all day and nearly all night, with the streetlights coming on in the evening the only cue to head home. Nor are we quite of the generation that remembers leaving the front door unlocked day in and day out, sure in the knowledge that we would be safe and there was little danger of anything disrupting our day-to-day lives too badly.

Yet, at the same time, mine is probably the youngest generation to remember the regular use of rotary phones, a time when all the world’s information was not consistently at your fingertips, before social media reached its current level of ubiquity, and the luxury of not being connected to everyone, everywhere, all at once, at all hours of the

day.

Now, admittedly, I wasn’t too adventuresome in my youth and don’t have many harrowing tales of getting into trouble, straying too far from the straight-and-narrow, or, in short, not too many stories of how I “survived” it all. But, for my generation of 1985 babies in Ontario, one shared element of resilience is surviving a rough few years in the education system.

For reasons which were never quite clear to me, it often seemed like we were the “experimental” year when the Ministry of Education looked at implementing new ways of learning, evaluation, and more, ostensibly designed to either improve or streamline the system.

We were the class that got to test-drive new grading systems every couple of years, systems which were often done away with before too long, leaving many of us unclear on just what was expected of us. The constant change had the benefit of a steady stream of brand-new, up-to-date textbooks com-

ing our way in elementary school, but, by the time we got to high school, we were brought back down to earth with textbooks that had been making the rounds for the previous 10 to 15 years, regardless of whether the books were crumbling or had a foothold in the curriculum of the day.

Then, by the time we had weathered all that, we Grade 12s faced a final hurdle: grappling for post-secondary places amid greater demand than ever as the Province eliminated OAC, resulting in the so-called “Double Cohort.”

For those of us who landed on our feet, it was yet another exercise in resilience, which probably served us well come March of 2020, but I’m sure it was also responsible for the vast majority of premature grays that sprang up a year or two later.

Yet, we persevered. We did our best. We did what we needed to do to secure our spots, if indeed post-secondary is the path we chose – and several of my friends even decided to do a “victory

lap” of Grade 12 to not only improve their grades for the university and college battle ahead but wait until the Double Cohort bottleneck had largely cleared.

And we did so because, despite all these challenges, the importance of education was instilled in us by our teachers, parents, and guardians, every step along the way.

The importance of education is still instilled in today’s students by our teachers, parents, guardians – and, indeed, our school boards, who typically take this summer downtime to celebrate the myriad successes of its students throughout the year that was.

At the same time, however, it often feels that the importance of education is continually being diluted in other realms.

Continued on Page 15

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# Today Tuvalu; Tomorrow the world

Some big changes arrive with a bang, but usually they sort of sneak in and you barely notice them at first. Last week's big change saw the creation of the world's first climate-change visas. It's a way of giving potential climate refugees some hope and some dignity, and it would certainly be an improvement on the current migration mess.

In late June all ten thousand residents of the South Pacific Island state of Tuvalu were invited to enter a lottery whose 280 lucky winners will get a special climate-change visa that entitles them to work, study and live in Australia indefinitely. Over 3,000 – almost a third of the population – put down their \$25 to register for a chance to leave.

Tuvalu is actually a nice place to live, although jobs are scarce and the entertainment is limited. The main drawback is that its nine coral atolls are very low-lying (two are already mostly flooded). They will all be underwater by 2080, or a good deal sooner if sea level rise speeds up as melting Antarctic and

Greenland glaciers slide into the sea.

But that's all right: there will be another 280 Australian visas every year, and New Zealand is providing another 75, so everybody should be safely off the islands long before they disappear. Pity about the slow loss of the language and culture as the Tuvaluans are dispersed among populations thousands of times bigger, but at least they will survive.

The Australian government is quite proud of its innovation: "This is the first agreement of its kind anywhere in the world, providing a pathway for mobility with dignity as climate impacts worsen." It's entitled to its little boast, but numbers matter. The hard truth is that this would not be happening if there were a million Tuvaluans in the same plight.

The key fact in any discussion about climate refugees is that the tropical countries will be hit sooner and harder than those closer to the poles. Yet the countries in the temperate zone created most of the warming, because

they industrialised and began emitting greenhouse gases over a century ago.

The blame and the pain are both unequally distributed, and everybody in the poorer countries nearer to the equator knows that. As Atiq Rahman of the Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies put it: "From now on we need to have a system where, for every 10,000 tonnes of carbon you emit, you have to take a Bangladeshi family to live with you."

But that isn't going to happen voluntarily, is it? Yet thirty million Bangladeshi families will be losing their land and their homes to flooding in the coming generation (rising sea levels to the south and great rivers filled with water from melting Himalayan glaciers to the north and west). They have to go somewhere, and nobody will be giving them climate-change visas.

I'm only picking on Bangladesh because it has more articulate scientists than most places. Forty per cent of the planet's human population lives in the tropics, and as many as half of them will be facing situations so dreadful that they will have to move in the next generation.

A few tens of millions will probably have to start moving within the next ten years, and the remaining gates to safe havens elsewhere will slam shut against them. (They're mostly closed already.) In most cases it will be ugly, and in some places it will be bloody.

No country is remotely prepared for this. The vast majority have not even acknowledged that it is coming. Even most scientists cling to utterly unrealistic expectations of sudden changes of heart and vastly accelerated decarbonisation that will somehow save us at the next-to-last moment.

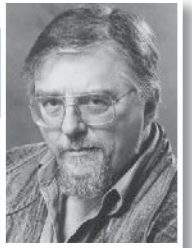
That's not going to happen. All human history and all current experience tell

us that it won't happen. Even if we halved our carbon dioxide and methane emissions next year, crashing the global economy in the process, the momentum of the warming is such that almost nothing would change in the climate forecasts of the next ten years.

The only action that could change that future now (and it doesn't come with a guarantee) is geoengineering to cool the planet. It's only treating the symptoms, of course, but heat is the ultimate cause of all the other climate disasters and it must be kept down while we work as fast as we can at ending our emissions.

Geoengineering (also known as climate repair) is feasible, not impossibly expensive, and probably safe as it largely mimics or expands upon existing atmospheric processes. Introduce it gradually, monitor it closely, and hope it works well, because we are running out of options.

**GWYNNE DYER**  
OUR WORLD TODAY



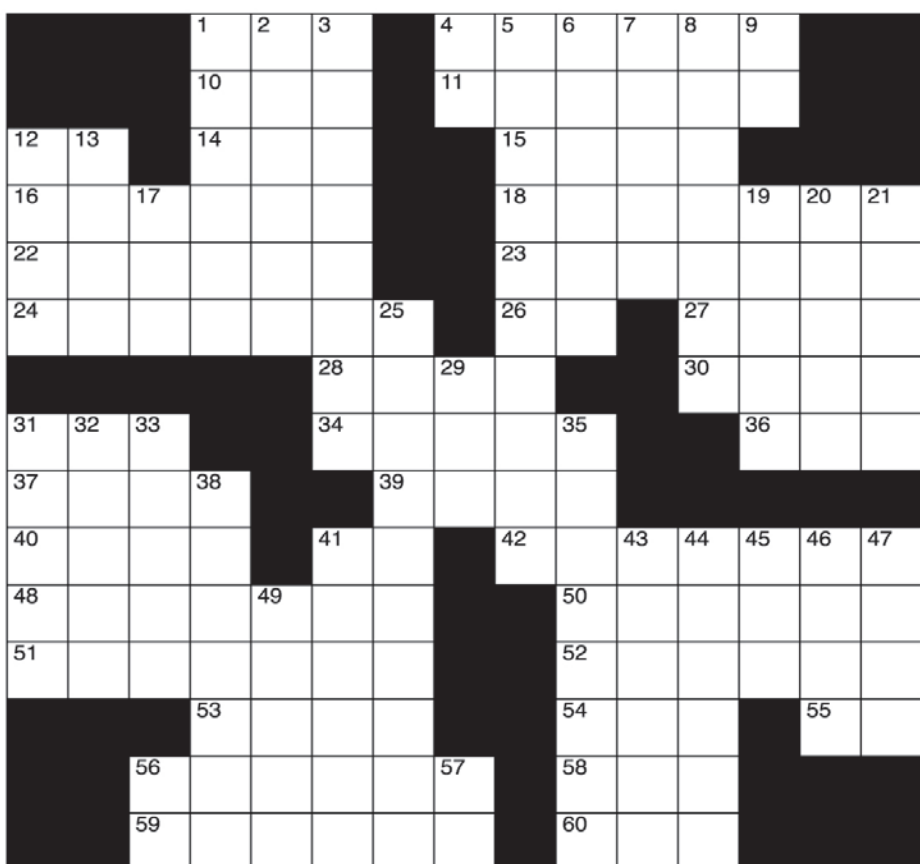
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- Indicates before
- Daughter of Hera and Zeus
- Southwestern CA city
- Unified
- Less attractive
- Base of jellies
- A large and noisy party
- He was traded for Luka
- Wolverine genus
- "Happy Days" actress Moran
- Root of taro plant
- Student environmental group (abbr.)
- Silk garments
- Unique power
- Ray Liotta cop film
- Leak slowly through
- Notion
- Atomic #55
- Fixed in one place
- About heat
- Type of baseball pitch
- Seedless raisin
- Large wading birds
- Similar
- Time zone
- Atomic #34
- Program
- Old world, new
- Contrary belief

**CLUES DOWN**

- Plain-woven fabric
- Classed
- Suppositions
- Midway between south and west
- Tropical American trees
- Leveled
- Published false statement
- Adolescent
- Junior's father
- Aurochs
- Not low
- Boxing's GOAT
- Short musical composition
- Small immature herrings
- Eavesdropper
- Parcels of land
- Anger
- Irritations
- Hindu holy man
- Wicker basket for fish
- Natural object
- Transporting in a vehicle
- A dog is one
- Smaller portion
- Sew
- Belonging to a thing
- Horsley and Greenwood are two
- Scottish language
- Producer
- Exclamation of surprise
- Russian river

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

# COMMUNITY VOICE

## Monthly Message: How local gardens, farmers and businesses help keep the Alliston Food Bank stocked with fresh produce

Summer is one of our busiest seasons at the Alliston Food Bank — not just because more people need support, but because it's also when our community truly comes together. We start seeing baskets, boxes, and even crates of fresh fruits, vegetables, herbs, and more coming through our doors, all donated by people who simply want to help make sure everyone has access to good, healthy food.

One of the most generous supporters we have this time of year is the St. John's United Church Garden. The team of volunteers who look after that garden work incredibly hard to grow fresh veggies like squash, beans, leafy greens — you name it.

Week after week, their beautiful produce comes straight to us, and it's clear how much care they put into every single harvest. We're so thankful for everything they do.

We're also very lucky to have the continued support of Knox Presbyterian Church. Their members not only collect donations regularly, but many of them also bring in fresh produce from their own gardens. It's such a great reminder that even a few extra zucchinis or tomatoes can brighten someone's day and add something special to a family's meals.

And it's not just churches and organizations — it's individuals from all over town. Whether it's a backyard gardener with a little extra or someone dropping off herbs from their balcony planter, it all adds up. More people are planting a little extra just to share, and it's honestly one of the most heartwarming parts of the summer — seeing neighbours

stop by with whatever they've grown, wanting to make sure it goes to someone who could really use it.

We also couldn't do what we do without the amazing local businesses and farms that continue to support us.

Murphy's Farm Market & Bakery regularly donates fresh produce when they're able, and it makes such a difference. Being able to offer locally grown fruits and vegetables to our clients is such a gift, especially right now when so many people are trying to stretch every dollar. They also generously donate baked goods, which are always a welcome treat and



help add a little extra comfort to the hampers we provide.

We're also thankful for Beattie Farms, who donate carrots and onions, and Ontario Potato Distribution Inc. (OPDI), who provide us with fresh potatoes. These staple vegetables are key items in our food hampers, and their donations help us keep those essentials available for families who need them.

Sheldon Creek Dairy has also been a huge help. They donate milk, yogurt, and cream on a regular basis, things that aren't always easy for us to provide. Their support allows us to offer some truly valuable nutrition to families

who need it most.

We also want to thank Brilliant Meadows Farm, who generously contribute farm-fresh eggs. Protein-rich items like these are especially important and often in high demand. Their ongoing support helps us ensure that our clients have access to the nutritious staples they need.

We also want to say a big thank-you to the Pet Pantry. They share any extra pet food they receive, and it's so appreciated. For families who are already doing their best to make ends meet, knowing they can feed their pets too is one less worry, and it means a lot.

Every one of these donations, whether it's a bag of carrots, a loaf of bread, or a jug of milk, helps us meet the growing need in our community. These acts of generosity go far beyond just food; they show care, dignity, and a true sense of togetherness.

If you have a garden and end up with more than you need this summer, we'd be happy to put it to good use. Fresh produce donations can be dropped off at the Alliston Food Bank (52 Wellington Street West) on Tuesdays between 9 a.m. and 12 p.m., Wednesdays between 9 a.m. to 4:45 p.m., or Thursdays between 9 a.m. and 6:45 p.m. And if you're a local business interested in supporting our work, we'd love to connect; just reach out!

Every little bit helps. And truly, every tomato, every loaf of bread, and every jug of milk makes a difference to someone.

Thank you to everyone who supports us. We couldn't do this without you.

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# Temporary construction underway at Stevenson's upper parking lot

BY BRIAN LOCKHART  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Temporary early works construction projects will take place in the upper parking lot of Stevenson Memorial Hospital starting Wednesday, July 15, 2025, and will continue throughout the summer.

Construction is expected to last for five to six weeks.

The project includes the installation of stormwater management lines, new curbs, hydrant installation and preliminary work for a new parking lot.

As a result, some parking spots for patients and visitors will be affected. However, parking spots will still be available in the upper lot.

The hospital is providing additional parking spots in the lower parking lot adjacent to Riverdale Park and will be opening the hospital doors in the lower parking lot for patients and visitors.

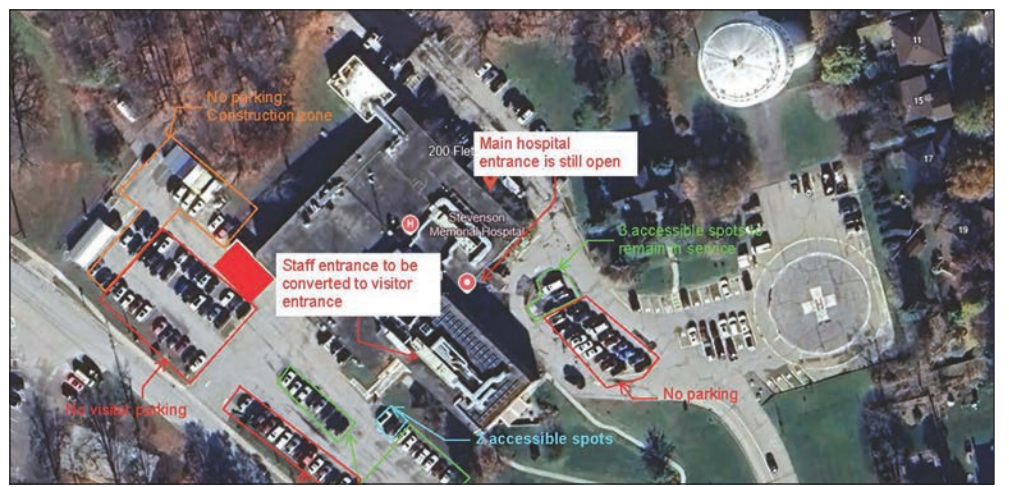
The Hospital encourages visitors to drop patients off at the main entrance before proceeding to park.

This is especially important for those with mobility limitations.

The main entrance remains open for public use, 24 hours a day, seven days a week and all programs and services are operating as normal.

Signage and pathways will be visible in the hospital parking lots.

Use caution in parking areas during the construction timeframe.



**PARKING CHANGES** – Temporary construction will be taking place in the upper parking lot of Stevenson Memorial Hospital over the summer. Some parking spots will be open, and there is more parking in the lower lot. **CONTRIBUTED PHOTO**

# Nottawasaga Valley Conservation reports an increase in customer satisfaction after survey

BY BRIAN LOCKHART  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Nottawasaga Conservation Author-

ity is reporting a significant increase in customer satisfaction after a 2024 survey of people who had an interaction with the Conservation Authority.

Over 500 permits were issued in 2024.

Over 90 per cent of survey respondents rated their experience with the permitting processes to be good or excellent. That's up from 68 per cent in 2022 and 73 per cent in 2023.

"This year's results reflect the hard work our team has put into streamlining and modernizing our services," said Jonathan Scott, chair of the NVCA Board of Directors. "We've heard clearly that clients value efficient, knowledgeable and accessible service, and we're proud to deliver just that."

Notable improvements in 2024 included the launch of a permit pre-screening process, procedure and guidelines update, better tracking tools, and the use of external peer reviewers to expedite approvals.

The team also began developing an

e-permitting platform that launched earlier this year.


Customer satisfaction was also strong across NVCA's stewardship, education, and lands and events programs. The Tiffin Centre for Conservation received perfect ratings for its wedding venue services. Community events like the Festival at Fort Willow also received high marks from residents.

"Our staff are deeply committed to public service and it shows in the feedback received," said Jennifer Vincent, CAO of NVCA. "From permits to public programming, we are focused on continuous improvement to serve our watershed communities better."

The full 2024 Customer Satisfaction Report is available online at [nvca.on.ca](http://nvca.on.ca).



**SUNDAZE IN THE PARK** – The Sunday Concert in the Park series continues through the summer at Keogh Park in Tottenham. Each week, an acoustic performer starts the show and is followed by a band. The band DazeGoneBy performed on Sunday, July 13. **BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO**

  
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# Arts & Local Events

## South Simcoe Arts Council announces list of upcoming workshops

BY BRIAN LOCKHART  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The South Simcoe Arts Council has plenty of activities throughout the summer for people who want to continue working with the arts or explore their creative side.

Workshops will take place at the Make Space Room at FortyOne Local Arts Market (41 Victoria Street East, Alliston) and Ninnys Napkins (6078 County Road 13, Everett), inside the Everett Emporium.

### Pigment Power! Make your own magic paints

This event will take place on Friday, July 18, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., inside the Make Space Room at FortyOne.

In this hands-on workshop, young artists

will become junior scientists and explore the magical world of natural pigments.

Using everyday vegetables like beets, spinach, turmeric, and red cabbage, kids will extract vibrant colours and turn them into watercolour paints.

This event is for ages 8 and up.

### Garden Pole with Solar Light

This event occurs on Tuesday, July 22, from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. at Ninnys Napkins.

This is a creative, hands-on workshop where participants will design a stunning garden art pole with a solar light topper.

Using paint, stencils, and a bit of imagination, attendees will transform a wooden 4x4 post into a beautiful and functional piece of outdoor decor.

The custom pole will brighten up any space.

### Book of Spells

This event takes place on Wednesday, July 23, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. and on Wednesday, July 30, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Book of Spells will occur at the Make Space Room at FortyOne for ages 6 to 11.

Would you like to have your very own creepy-looking spell or potion book?

In this two-session workshop, participants get to design and make their own spell book.

### Collage Vibes: A Creative Collage Experience

This event is for ages 11 to 14 and takes place on Thursday, July 24, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Make Space Room inside FortyOne.

Get ready to cut, tear, glue, and create. In this hands-on workshop, teens will dive into

the vibrant world of collage art using magazines and mixed media.

Participants will learn techniques to layer images, experiment with textures, and build their own colourful masterpieces.

### All Ages Fairy Bubble

This event takes place on Friday, July 15, from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. for ages 4 and up.

This is a magical day of creating fairy bubbles – a charming handheld display that's perfect for all ages, all happening inside the Make Space Room at FortyOne

All materials are included, and no experience is needed.

For more information on the listed events, additional upcoming events, and the South Simcoe Arts Council, visit southsimcoeartsCouncil.com.



**SHOP LOCAL** – The Tottenham Artisan & Farmer's Market held its opening day at Keogh Park in Tottenham on Sunday, July 13. Sponsored by the Tottenham & Beeton District Chamber of Commerce, there are farmers with fresh produce, flowers, and baked items, as well as artisan vendors with their handmade products. **BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO**





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**Saturday, November 22, 2025 - 9am to 4pm; and**  
**Sunday, November 23, 2025 - 10am to 3pm**  
Indoors at the Orangeville Fairgrounds, 247090 Side Rd 5, Mono



To apply to be a vendor at the show, scan the QR code or email [shows@lpcmedia.ca](mailto:shows@lpcmedia.ca) for a vendor application form. Deadline for applications is: August 29th, 2025

# Simcoe County mayors urge government to include non-plug-in vehicles in ZEV mandate

BY BRIAN LOCKHART  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Mayors of towns in the region whose local economy is directly impacted by the auto industry have called on the federal government to include non-plug-in vehicles in the Canadian Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV) mandate.

This mandate requires all new vehicles to be battery electric vehicles, plug-in hybrid vehicles, or hydrogen fuel cell vehicles by 2035.

By not including non-plug-in vehicles, the mayors say the mandate is excluding a major share of the auto market.

The mayors have sent a letter to Prime Minister Mark Carney, as well as several federal ministers, with a request to include non-plug-in vehicles.

The letter references the Honda plant in

Alliston directly and the impact it has on the local economy.

“For over 40 years, Honda has been a valued partner and major employer to New Tecumseth, contributing significantly to our community as well as the local and national economy,” the letter states. “Honda’s manufacturing facility employs around 4,200 direct and supports approximately 30,000 in-direct well-paying jobs. The company’s continued investment in innovation and sustainability strengthens our region’s economic resilience and positions us for long-term growth. Beyond New Tecumseth, Honda’s exceptional impact extends across Simcoe County, supporting and growing regional supply chains, parts manufacturing, infrastructure development, and workforce training initiatives.”

The recent imposition of U.S. tariffs on

Canadian-made vehicles has contributed to a reduction in Canada’s Electric Vehicle (EV) sector. This has resulted in Honda delaying its \$15 billion EV and battery plant project in New Tecumseth for at least two years.

As most ZEV-eligible vehicles have been imported, the government’s mandate is expected to further displace Canadian-made vehicles.

The Simcoe County mayors’ letter states: “With the increasing targets, the mandate is expected to further displace Canadian-made vehicles, missing key opportunities to bolster domestic manufacturing. Additionally, we’ve heard from auto suppliers with U.S.-based affiliates that production is increasingly shifting from Canada to the United States, resulting in reduced investment and job losses here at home.”

As a result, the mayors are urging the

federal government to include non-plug-in vehicles in the mandate as “fully eligible vehicles toward achieving the targets. The non-plug-in hybrids should earn a full compliance credit and should not be treated differently from the other eligible vehicles under the mandate. This will support Canadian auto manufacturers while providing Canadian consumers an “on-ramp” away from traditional gas-powered vehicles and would serve as a critical bridge to the long-term goal of full electrification.”

The letter was issued by New Tecumseth Mayor Richard Norcross, Midland Mayor Bill Gordon, Penetanguishene Mayor Doug Rawson, Bradford West Gwillimbury Mayor James Leduc, Clearview Mayor Doug Measures, Ramara Mayor Basil Clarke, Collingwood Mayor Yvonne Hamil, and Innisfil Mayor Lynn Dollin.

# Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority calls on province to prevent rising salt pollution in local waterways

BY BRIAN LOCKHART  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority is calling on the Ontario government to take a common-sense, pro-business action to address the rising threat of chloride pollution in local rivers and streams.

The level of salt in the watershed has increased by more than 300 per cent since the 1970s.

The NVCA issued a letter to Todd McCarthy, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, asking the province to introduce limited-liability protection for certified snow and ice contractors who follow best practices. The letter also requests that the minister create a provincial advisory committee to guide long-term salt



reduction strategies.

“Local municipalities and conservation authorities have made significant investments in salt reduction,” said NVCA board chair Jonathan Scott. “For instance, my own municipality of Bradford West Gwillimbury

is investing over \$2 million in a snow filtration facility to help remove contaminants before they enter our watershed. Nonetheless, we continue to see rising chloride levels, especially from private properties, due to fears around liability and a lack of consistent standards, which leads to oversalting parking lots. We need the province to step in and provide pro-business reforms to help solve this problem.”

Excessive road salt in winter maintenance has become one of the fastest-growing pollutants in Ontario’s urban watersheds.

When salt dissolves, it breaks down into chloride, which can accumulate in groundwater, harm aquatic ecosystems and increase the corrosion of infrastructure.

In the Nottawasaga Watershed, without a change to reduce road salt use, these

elevated levels will exceed federal water quality guidelines and pose serious risks to aquatic ecosystems, drinking and agricultural water sources, and long-term watershed health.

“Salt reduction isn’t about compromising safety; it’s about smarter, more affordable, pro-business practices,” said Scott. “Other jurisdictions like New Hampshire have proven that you can protect both the public and the environment, with their limited-liability approach reducing salt pollution by as much as 40 per cent. Ontario can lead the way too.”

NVCA is committed to working collaboratively with the province, municipalities, industry, and environmental partners to develop effective, evidence-based solutions that protect watershed health.

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# SPORTS

NEW TECUMSETH TIMES

## Baysox continue to lead North Dufferin Baseball's senior division

BY BRIAN LOCKHART  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Owen Sound Baysox continue to lead the North Dufferin Baseball League with a first-place finish in the standings after 16 games.

With a 14-2 record, the Baysox are six points ahead of the second-place New Lowell Knights. The Owen Sound teams are on a six-game winning streak and haven't lost a game since June 1.

The Baysox are the defending Strother Cup champions, having won the cup last season.

New Lowell has an 11-4 record at the end of the weekend and 22 points, good for second place.

In the number three spot, the Ivy Rangers are doing well with a 10-5-1 record and 21 points so far for the season.

They are followed by the Lisle Astros, who are banking on a 9-7-1 record.

In the middle of the pack this year, the Bolton Brewers, Midland Mariners, Creemore Padres, and Barrie Angels are separated by five points. Bolton has 19, Midland has 17, and both Creemore and Barrie each have 15 points.

Rounding out the field, the Orillia Majors are in ninth place, followed by the Clarksburg Blues, the Mansfield Cubs, and the Caledon Cardinals.

There's going to be a wild effort from the bottom teams this year as they try to gain some wins to make the 8th seed playoff



**SLIDING INTO SAFETY** – Mansfield Cubs shortstop Shane Walker looks for the throw to second base while Midland Mariners runner Will Coulson slides into base during a game in Mansfield on Sunday, July 13. The North Dufferin Baseball League season is now half over, with the standings starting to show definite leaders.

BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

spot.

Caledon can't make the playoffs even if they win all the games they have left on the schedule. Mansfield would have to win their

remaining games and hope the other lower seed teams lose all of theirs, so it isn't likely that Mansfield will be in the playoffs this year.

Clarksburg has a slim chance, but is unlikely to make the eighth playoff seed.

The NDBL regular season wraps up on July 27, before going into the playoffs.



**BEAT THE TOSS** – The TNT Thunder U17 A team host the Stayner White Sox on the diamond at the fairgrounds in Beeton on Monday, July 7. A Thunder player makes the catch as a White Sox player makes it back to first base to beat the throw. The Thunder left the diamond with a 7-6 win.

BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

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# HUGE SALE Heat Pumps • A/C • BBQ's

## Serious assault in Tottenham parking lot under investigation

BY BRIAN LOCKHART  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Nottawasaga Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) officers are investigating a serious assault in Tottenham.

On July 15, at approximately 2 a.m., officers responded to a report of a serious assault that had taken place at approxi-

mately 1 a.m., on Mill Street in Tottenham. The victim was reportedly asleep in their vehicle in a parking lot when the suspects broke the vehicle window and then assaulted the victim before fleeing the scene.

The victim was discovered shortly afterward by a passerby, who contacted police. As a result of the incident, the victim sus-

tained serious injuries and was transported to a local hospital by EMS.

One suspect is described as a white male, with blonde hair, and a nose ring.

This investigation is being led by the Nottawasaga OPP Crime Unit. Officers are requesting the public's help in locating the individuals in connection to the assault.

If you have any information related to this incident, or were in the area between 1 a.m. and 2 a.m. please contact the OPP non-emergency line at 1-888-310-1122 and use reference occurrence number E250934469.

Should you wish to remain anonymous, you may call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477.

## Highway 89 collision claims life of 35-year-old woman, police appeal for public's help

Nottawasaga Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) officers are continuing the investigation into a fatal fail-to-remain collision, following the discovery of a deceased female along Highway 89 in Innisfil.

Nottawasaga OPP is now looking to identify a driver that may have witnessed the incident.

Officers responded to a report of a deceased female located on the shoulder of Highway 89 near 5th Side Road. The vic-

tim, a 35-year-old female from Richmond Hill, was pronounced deceased at the scene.

As part of the investigation, Highway 89 was temporarily closed between King Street and 5th Side Road during the early morning hours as members of the OPP Technical Collision Investigation (TCI) team assisted with the ongoing investigation. The roadway has since reopened.

Preliminary investigation indicates the victim was walking along Highway 89

when she was struck by a blue passenger vehicle traveling eastbound shortly after 2 a.m.

The vehicle failed to remain at the scene. The vehicle has since been located and investigators are appealing to the public for assistance in identifying the driver.

Investigators have also identified a white SUV that was seen traveling closely behind the suspect vehicle at the time of the collision. Police believe the driver may have

witnessed the incident and are seeking to identify and speak with them regarding any information they may have.

Anyone with information, including dash cam footage from the area around the time of the incident, is urged to contact the Nottawasaga OPP at 1-888-310-1122, referencing incident number E250924642. Tips can also be submitted anonymously through Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or online at ontariocrimestoppers.ca.

## Nottawasaga OPP officers look to identify suspect in recent LCBO shoplifting incident

Officers from the Nottawasaga Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) are currently investigating a shoplift and are requesting the public's assistance to identify the individual involved.

On July 3, shortly before 2 p.m. Nottawasaga OPP responded to a shoplift incident at a LCBO located on Dunham Drive in New Tecumseth.

On June 30, one male entered the store shortly after 8 p.m., and was observed placing \$292 worth of products from the display in their shopping bag then departed the store on foot.

The suspect is described as a white male, 50 to 60 years old, small build, with grey hair, (hairstyle short) and a beard. The suspect was wearing black shoes, black pants, and a black

shirt with white words, a plaid jacket, and a white and green bag.

Officers are looking to identify this individual.

If you know this individual, please call 1-888-310-1122 (reference number

E250871875). You can also provide information anonymously by contacting Crime Stoppers to remain anonymous at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS) or [www.crimestoppersdm.com](http://www.crimestoppersdm.com).

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



**HAVE YOU SEEN THIS MAN?** – Nottawasaga Ontario Provincial Police officers are asking for the public's help in identifying the suspect in this image. He is described as a white male, 50 to 60 years old, small build, with grey hair, (hairstyle short) and a beard, wearing black shoes, black pants, a black shirt, plaid jacket, and a white and green bag.

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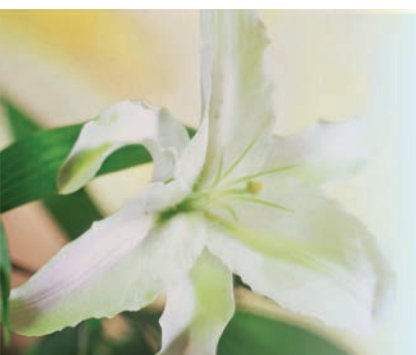
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**Features:** Original Framed Oil on Canvas specifically "Gentle Moments - Harp Seals" by Christine Marshall; "Red Cedar" by Glen Loates; "Forest" by John William Beatty; along with an array of artwork - from watercolours to framed prints - featuring artists such as Dorothy Parsons; Robert Bateman; Robert G. Kemp and more; Indigenous Stone Carvings; Framed Lithographs and Stonecuts by artists such as Joe Adlaka Aculiak; Temela Nalenik; Alice Akamak; Pudlo Pudlat; Joe Talirunili and more; Cedar & Bark Baskets; Decorative Brass Easels; 14K/18K Gold-Plated and Sterling Silver Jewelry - many with Lab-Created Gemstones; Wrist Watches & Pocket Watches and more.

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**Saturday, July 19, 2025**  
from 4:00 to 6:30 pm

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**LIVE AUCTION SALE**  
for **Keith Johnston**  
**Saturday July 19th, 10:00am**

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Continued from Page 4

## Brock's Banter: Learning resilience

In the United States, for instance, the current administration tasked its Secretary of Education with dismantling her entire department in a bid to turn the oversight of the Department of Education to the States, a motley collection of 50 departments that have shown wildly varied success levels, often due to the levels of funding they have received, and with wildly different standards, including the creeping in of theology-based learning.

Canada, of course, has a similar structure with education being the purview of the Provinces rather than the Federal government, yet our own situation is not nearly as dire or disparate – but that's not to say there aren't some elements that are fraying around the edges.

Due to several factors ranging from a cap on accepting international students and their resulting tuition, and a long-

standing funding situation that now has colleges and universities across Ontario in the throes of significant layoffs, the cancellation of classes that were part and parcel of a well-rounded and varied education, and even the elimination of entire departments – the situation is fraught and does not show much sign of letting up.

Students who are lucky enough to secure a spot will continue to thrive, but with limited spots and an ever-decreasing array of academic and course options, there will be a price left to pay by someone – and, spoiler alert, it's us.

The economic benefits of a well-trained, well-educated, and well-equipped workforce in Ontario are obvious, so why doesn't adequate funding follow? Yes, there is a reason the cap on international students was put in place, but the resulting hit on how places of higher learning

operate couldn't have been clearer from the outset, and this should have been taken into account.

When numbers are being crunched at budget time, components of education – such as arts programs and other areas the powers-that-be deem electives of lesser importance – are often the first things to hit the chopping block, no matter how integral they are to the overall development of students.

The current situation is also battling against a trend we're seeing all too often around the world where so many have come to see post-secondary education, or higher education, regardless of how that's defined, as "unnecessary" or "elitist", and something that should be decried.

That shouldn't come as too much of a surprise though as we're living in a

time and place where far too many are eschewing the advice of scientists, doctors, and other members of academic field, in favour of self-proclaimed experts in any number of platforms who validate what you want to hear instead of dealing with cold, hard facts you need to know.

Is there any way to get the proverbial genie back in the bottle? Only time will tell.

In the meantime, however, I fear that, before too long, the quest for a place at a university or college in Ontario, or indeed Canada, will be a more stressful and cut-throat process than we survivors of the Double Cohort went through – and this is not exactly unavoidable.

These students, like our generation, will survive – we're a resilient bunch – but what will be the ultimate cost to them, the education system, and everyone of us?

## Police look to identify suspect in Essa LCBO shoplifting investigation, following two incidents

Nottawasaga Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) officers are currently investigating multiple shoplifts involving the same suspect and are requesting the public's assistance to identify the individual involved. On July 10, shortly after 2:30 p.m., Nottawasaga OPP responded to a shoplift incident at an LCBO located on Commerce Road in Essa.

Video evidence obtained shows one male entering the store, placing two bottles of 1800 Blanco Tequila, one bottle of Royal Reserve, and one bottle of Junction 56 Whiskey, worth a total of \$199.80, into a bag, then departing the store.

On July 12, shortly after 6 p.m., Nottawasaga OPP responded to another shoplift

incident at an LCBO located on Commerce Road in Essa.

Video evidence obtained shows the male entering the store, placing two bottles of Smirnoff Vodka and one bottle of Appleton's Rum, worth \$211.80, into a bag, before departing the store.

The suspect is described as a white male,

approximately 45 years old, with short brown hair, a thin moustache, a tattoo on his left forearm, circle like scar on his left cheek, and carrying a reusable shopping bag. Officers are looking to identify this individual.

If you know this individual, please call 1-888-310-1122 (reference number E250910231 or E250922476.

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