



Check out the Alliston Potato Festival

in this week's New Tecumseth Times - Filled with everything you need to know!

SPECIAL PREVIEW SECTION

Alliston Potato Festival - August 8 To 10, 2025 - Allistonpotatofest.com

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The Times New Tecumseth



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Saturday: Mainly Sunny



Sunday: Mainly Sunny



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Aspiring artist

Singer-songwriter TJ Price performs at the Sunday Music in the Park concert at Keogh Park in Tottenham on Sunday, July 20. She performed a 30-minute acoustic set. TJ loves performing and is currently attending school to study music and is planning on a career in songwriting and music production. See story on Page 7.

BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

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County releases report on affordable housing and homelessness prevention

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The County of Simcoe has released its eleventh annual report card to measure and evaluate the impact of the County's affordable housing and homelessness prevention measures.

The 2024 annual report is considered an interim report between the previous ten-year strategy (2014-2024) and the County's upcoming strategy.

The upcoming strategy is expected to begin later in 2025, subject to Ministry approval.

The previous ten-year strategy had a minimum goal of 2,685 new affordable housing units between 2014 and 2024. The County exceeded that goal ahead of time, attaining

that goal by the end of 2022.

There were 3,250 new affordable homes by the end of that strategy period.

After that strategy concluded in 2024, the County and its partners continued investing in safe, affordable, and reliable homes for residents across the region.

A total of 442 additional spaces were added, bringing the total number to 3,692 since 2014.

"While we are proud of what we've accomplished, we know there is still more to do to create strong, inclusive communities where residents can thrive as we work to maintain affordability across our region," said Warden Basil Clarke. "That's why we are committed to continuing to work together to build up strong partnerships and take meaningful action to

ensure that everyone in Simcoe County has a safe and welcoming place to call home."

Highlights from the 2024 Annual Report:

- 50 new affordable housing units complete in Bradford West Gwillimbury;
- Approval of 220 new mixed-income units in Barrie;
- Proposed redevelopment of 30 new modular units in Collingwood;
- \$2.6 million invested in capital repairs for SCHC housing;
- \$3.3 million invested in urgent repairs for non-profit housing providers;
- \$1.4 million distributed in rent supplements and housing allowances;
- \$1.5 million allocated toward Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit rent supplements;

• \$526,000 invested to create secondary suites in 2024.

Funding for the affordable housing strategy comes from a variety of sources, including the County of Simcoe, the cities of Barrie and Orillia, and governments of Canada and Ontario.

Moving into the next 10-year strategy (once approved by the Province and County Council), the County will continue to focus on supporting residents through maximizing funding, achieving targets, and working with area partners to create affordable housing units for residents across the County.

To download a copy of the 2024 Annual Report or for more information, visit simcoe.ca/ourahhps.

Abilities in Motion packs a lot of fun into summer activities at Earl Rowe Park in Alliston

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Abilities in Motion has a lot of fun activities planned this summer, both on and off the water at Earl Rowe Park in Alliston.

The group offers a free paddle experience for individuals with physical and mental challenges using adaptive paddling equipment.

Abilities in Motion operates two locations. They have a boathouse and dock at Earl Rowe Park in Alliston and they also have a location in London.

AIM provides equipment, instructors, and volunteers to ensure a safe and fun time on the water.

From July through August, AIM will be hosting its annual fundraiser – Hands Across the Water.

This important campaign helps cover the costs of offering paddle programs free of charge to individuals who benefit from using adaptive paddling equipment.

The organization's Annual Regatta will take

place on Friday, August 15, and Saturday, August 16, at Earl Rowe Park.

There will be family-friendly games, a hot dog lunch, and rides in a big canoe. On Friday, clients will enjoy a full day of activities.

On Saturday, the fun continues with a community celebration.

Currently, AIM is hosting a 50/50 raffle to raise funds for its programs.

Tickets are \$10.00 each, with the draw for the winning ticket to be held on Saturday, August 16, during the regatta.

You can purchase 50/50 tickets at one of AIM's community events or by E-transfer.

Send your payment to raffle@abilitiesinmotion.ca and indicate how many tickets you would like to purchase, your name, email, and telephone number, and your ticket numbers will be sent to you via text.

Abilities in Motion provides a fun experience on the water with special adaptive equipment to make it a fun experience.



PADDLE PROGRAMS – Abilities in Motion has a lot of fun activities planned throughout the summer at its Earl Rowe Provincial Park boat house near Alliston. The Annual Regatta will take place from August 15 to 16, and will give the public an opportunity to visit and see what the organization is all about.

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ontario.ca/measles

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Annual pancake breakfast set for potato festival

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

It is an annual tradition to stop by St. John's United Church in Alliston during the Alliston Potato Festival and enjoy a pancake breakfast.

This year's breakfast will take place on Saturday, August 9, in the church parking lot from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m. The cost is \$8 for all you can eat.

St John's United Church will be celebrating its 50th anniversary hosting the Potato Pancake breakfast this year – that's quite a milestone.

In the early days of hosting the breakfast, it was held at the corner of Victoria and Church Street.

The thinking was that if they held it where they hold it now, nobody would come.

They ran extension cords from the hydro office, which is now Feehley Gastaldy Law office, over to the table to brew the coffee, and ran the pancake batter from the church kitchen up to the grills to cook the pancakes.

The church tried to keep the tickets prices affordable so that parents with kids would be able to enjoy the pancakes and have breakfast as a family.

To make things fun, if you showed up in your pyjamas, you could eat for free.

The breakfast was such a success that it

was moved to its present location at the east parking lot at the church.

Although the Potato Festival was cancelled for two years due to the COVID pandemic, funds raised at the breakfast helped with the cost of installing an elevator in the church and bought pancake grills.

Over the years, the breakfast has helped support many worthwhile charities as well as giving back to the church.

Before COVID, the breakfast served between 1,200 to 1,400 people, that lined up around the block and down the street.

In recent years, over \$19,7000 has been donated to local charities as well as some worldwide charities.

Through donations, the breakfast has supported such organizations as the Loaves and Fishes Growing project, Famine Relief in Horn of Africa, Habitat for Humanity, Stevenson Memorial Hospital Foundation, Matthews House, South Simcoe Learning Disability, Rotary Polio Eradication, S.H.I.F.T., Good Shepherd Food Bank, Canadian Mental Health Association, Krasmen Centre, and Grandmothers Embrace, as well as many other worthy causes.

It has also helped support the church with its operating expenses.

There is a birthday bonus this year: free Pancakes available to anyone born between August 8 to 11, 1975. You must show proof

of your birth date.

The St. John's United Church pancake breakfast provides a sense of community spirit that makes the event a special occasion.



MILESTONE – St. John's United Church in Alliston is celebrating 50 years of hosting its pancake breakfast during the Alliston Potato Festival. Simcoe-Grey MPP Brian Saunderson is pictured presenting St. John Morrison, representing the Church, with a certificate of recognition for this milestone year.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Renewed strategy for early learning and child care released

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The County of Simcoe has released a revitalized strategy that will deliver over 4,900 new affordable licensed child care spaces between 2022 and 2026, including a strengthened workforce, and the promotion of equity, inclusion, and culturally responsive programming.

This follows County Council approval of the 2025-29 Early Learning and Child Care Service System Plan on June 24.

"The County's Early Learning and Child Care Service System Plan will enrich the diverse landscape of all early learning services," said Simcoe County Warden Basil Clarke. "By creating an additional 2,450 affordable spaces by December 2026, we will nearly double the number of spaces that Simcoe County has created since 2022. This is wonderful news for families across our region. These spaces will open doors to brighter futures for thousands of children and their families, helping build a thriving, connected Simcoe County for generations to come."

The plan outlines a vision that ensures

inclusive, accessible, high-quality, and affordable early learning and child care. It was developed through extensive community consultation that has been backed up by comprehensive data analysis.

The Early Learning and Child Care Service System Plan includes three key strategic priorities:

Inclusive and accessible early learning and child care experiences, a thriving and sustainable early learning and child care workforce, and cohesive community planning.

The plan aims to increase positive early learning experiences and child development and invests for the future while supporting economic growth and social cohesion.

To learn more or to download the County's 2025-2029 Early Learning and Child Care Service System Plan, visit simcoe.ca/child-care.

To enhance accessibility and transparency, a Children Services Dashboard was created on the County's open data portal, found at simcoe.ca.

This provides insights into the region's early years and child care system, and allows residents and community partners to access data on licensed child care.

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Editorial, Letters & Opinion

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

~ Stanislaw Jerzy Lec

Another day, another murder

It was Boxing Day 2005 when the sound of gunfire erupted on a downtown Toronto street.

Six people were injured, and an innocent teenage girl was killed in the cross-fire.

Fifteen-year-old Jane Creba was out shopping with her family when her life was ended by rival gang members who decided to shoot it out on a public street.

She was an innocent bystander who had her young life cut short because of a bunch of lowlife criminals who had no care for anyone else on the street or in the city.

There were a lot more victims of this horrendous crime, notably Jane's family who had to go through the horror of having a daughter and sister murdered in front of them.

The Toronto Police managed to capture some of the gang members involved, and they were all sentenced to prison terms.

You would think that any normal person, once denied their freedom and spending time behind bars, would rethink some of the stupid decisions they made.

But some people are just too stupid to go through life making normal and

decent decisions.

A friend of mine was in training to be a police officer, years ago, and as part of the training, he went on ride-alongs with police in a few northern towns to experience what the job was really like.

He explained what he observed about the criminal mentality and what the officers he trained with told him. I'm sure if you asked a police officer about this, they would tell you the same thing.

My friend explained how a lot of the time they would catch criminals because of plain stupidity and how the criminal mind works.

He gave as an example a time they were looking for suspects in a burglary. They were driving down a town street and observed a car blow through a red light with total disregard for other people or vehicles.

When they pulled the car over for the traffic violation, the police officer noticed burglary tools in plain view on the back seat. A subsequent investigation turned up stolen items in the trunk.

You would think that if you had any brains at all, and you just committed a crime, the last thing you would do, would be to drive recklessly and bring attention

to yourself. But that's how the criminal mind works. They have no care for anyone else.

The main culprit in the Jane Creba murder case spent 20 years in a federal lock-up. He was granted full parole in January 2025.

Now 43-years-old, you would think Jeremiah Valentine, would at the very least, try to behave himself once released from prison.

Nope, this guy is a Class A idiot. Seven months after getting parole, he has been arrested, again, for shooting and killing a man in Montreal.

This guy managed to last seven months before committing another major crime – after spending 20 years in prison. You don't get much stupider than that.

There are a lot of questions about why this guy was on the street at all.

Why did a man who just got out of federal prison have a gun on him?

Was no one keeping tabs on this guy? The big question is, why was he released on full parole in the first place?

According to the Parole Board of Canada, a 2021 psychological assessment of this guy indicated he, as an offender, had the highest level of risk. He had a

76 per cent chance of violent recidivism over a period of five years after release.

And yet the parole board decided a 76 per cent chance of him committing another violent crime wasn't a good enough reason to keep him out of society and off of the streets.

There were four men convicted of crimes in the Jane Creba murder case.

The other three men have all been released – and all three have been arrested since their release on gun violence charges or drug trafficking.

Idiots seem to run in packs.

So, who will be accountable for the murder of this man in Montreal, other than the killer himself?

What about the people who signed the document releasing a dangerous man back into society in spite of the fact that it was determined he was at a high risk to commit another violent crime?

Most likely nothing will happen, because no one is ever held accountable for these things.

Things like this are always referred to as a “tragedy,” but only after the system has failed, again.

BRIAN LOCKHART
FROM THE SECOND ROW



Sleeping on the job – and the ballot

Sleep and I have often had a love-hate relationship.

Don't get me wrong – I fully recognize the importance of a good night's rest, and all the wonderful health benefits that come with it – but in a day and age where time always seems to be at a premium, it sometimes feels that slumber can be a pesky, but necessary, inconvenience.

It's a feeling that lingers despite being fully aware of how good one feels after a really deep snore-fest.

Just a couple of weeks ago, for instance, at around 10.45 p.m. or so, I went into the bedroom to put some freshly-laundered sheets back on the bed before that evening's lights-out, which, at that point, wasn't planned for a few hours yet. After tucking in the hardest-to-reach corner, however, the next thing I knew it was 11 a.m. the next morning – and thankfully that turned out to be a Sunday, so I didn't have anywhere special to be!

Before that point, I can't remember the last time I got more than a good eight hours of sleep, but I certainly did feel

turbo-charged afterwards. I got so much accomplished on that particular Sunday, the only speed bump coming that evening when it was time to get ahead of the game for a busy Monday; I was completely wide awake well beyond midnight, which caused its own problems the next day.

One of these days, however, I'm confident I'll crack the code. As so many like to say, it's all about finding that balance. It's eluded me so far, but I won't give up.

My earliest days at our Aurora paper were something of a free-for-all in the quest for balance until I finally found my footing.

Duties at that time were a bit lighter as I was a reporter rather than an editor, and although my first editor here, Ron Wallace, rarely had any weekend assignments for me then, he also rarely ruled them out, so I had to keep on my toes.

Perhaps in a bad habit I picked up at university, my idea of balance those many years ago was blitzing through all the stories I had to write on Friday night,

sometimes working through to the following morning's sunrise, sleeping for a few hours, and then having the rest of the weekend free for myself, family and friends.

It seemed like a good idea at the time, but this method proved itself to be unsustainable in the long-term, so the hunt for balance was back on. Such a balance was eventually found, but it needed some further tweaking once I succeeded Ron in 2011. But, still, every once in a while, some near-all-nighters are necessary.

Take election nights, for instance.

As someone with a healthy interest in politics, election nights always have their own special brand of excitement and much of that comes with uncertainty. If you think you know what your Election Day will entail when you wake up in the morning, you're wrong. There are too many variables. You might get all the results you need in quick order, but, more often than not, there are factors that can get in the way of an early night.

When the final day of the 2021 Federal

Election campaign began, I couldn't have foreseen that my evening would conclude not only

at 2 a.m., but in the kitchen of one of the victorious candidates, getting commentary on her successful bid for a seat in the House of Commons. A memorable evening, to be sure, but not ideal conditions to be fully functional the next day.

The most recent election ran along similar timelines – but for different reasons.

The results came in quickly for many of the ridings in which our newspapers operate – bar a later-than-expected count in Brampton North-Caledon – so I was home shortly after midnight, but it was still several hours before I turned in...but only after giving up hope hearing the final results in the riding of Carleton in real-time before my personal gas tank ran dry.

Continued on Page 15

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Taiwan: No panic

GWYNNE DYER
OUR WORLD TODAY



"I hope I am wrong. My gut tells me we [the US and China] will fight in 2025," wrote General Mike Minihan, head of US Air Mobility Command, in a private memo two years ago. There's still five months to go, but I'm going to go out on a limb and say that he's wrong.

Don't take my word for it, because my recent record in these matters is bad. I didn't think Russia's Vladimir Putin was crazy enough to invade Ukraine, although I knew he was largely detached from reality, and I was wrong. For a long time, I would not use the word "genocide" to describe what Israel's Binyamin Netanyahu was doing in Gaza, and I was wrong again.

In my defence, I had not spent quality time with either man and I was reluctant to predict their actions based entirely on other people's estimates of their characters (especially since most of those people didn't know them personally either). I still felt compelled to weigh the pros and cons of the case, on the mistaken assumption that facts had some influence on their decisions.

The possibility of a Chinese invasion of Taiwan is a

far greater threat to the peace of the world (such as it is) than the relative sideshows in Ukraine and Israel/Palestine. Aircraft carriers and nuclear weapons on both sides. A few poorly planned displays of "determination", and the US is in a war with China – with the two Koreas and Japan not far behind.

China's President Xi Jinping will never rule out using force to "recover" Taiwan, but the story that he has set a 2027 deadline for that terrifying gamble is just a Washington think-tank special. He does harp on about it a lot though.

Successive American administrations have practiced "strategic ambiguity" (i.e. maybe the US would fight to defend Taiwan and maybe it wouldn't), and the fickle enthusiasms of Donald Trump muddy the waters even further. He is widely seen as a strategic coward (TACO), but he is sufficiently erratic that his response is really incalculable.

As for Taiwan, President Lai Ching-te of the cautiously pro-independence Democratic Progressive Party (DPP)

serves up the usual word salad: "The message of history is clear. Today we share the same values and face similar challenges as many of the democracies that participated in the European war [1939-45]." Evasiveness as policy, so as not to rile China.

Hou Yu-ih of Taiwan's largest opposition party, the Kuomintang (KMT), is even fuzzier: "The current status quo is that the Taiwan Strait is on the brink of war. So, to maintain close ties with the United States while also making peace with China is the solution to the problem."

And although very few ordinary citizens want to be part of China, most people are not bothered by all this. Yes, Taiwan's military are a poorly trained, under-equipped shambles, but the public doesn't seem worried about a Chinese invasion. The United States is willing to sell Taiwan more and

better weapons, but some parties don't want to spend the money.

So I will risk my reputation as a soothsayer once again and assume that both Xi Jinping and Lai Ching-te are rational men. In that case, it is unlikely that either man will risk everything on one roll of the dice. Xi will not set the machinery in motion for a sea- and airborne invasion of Taiwan, and Lai will certainly not declare independence for Taiwan.

No government of Taiwan, even back in the decades when the KMT (now reformed) was the tyrannical and maniacally anti-Communist single ruling party, has ever seriously considered abandoning the sacred fiction that there is only one China including Taiwan. There is just a persistent non-violent dispute over which government is legitimate, Beijing or Taipei.

As for Xi, who is effectively president-for-life, he faces no special deadline to claim his prize. "Reunification" is his legacy project, but he has just turned 72 and there's lots of time yet. And always before him is the nightmare example of Putin's three-day "special military operation" to bring Ukraine back under the rule of the Russian "motherland."

Above all, there is Taiwan's "silicon shield." The island state manufactures 47% of the world's advanced semiconductor chips, including all of the most advanced ones. Even the United States is one generation behind, and so is China despite its "Deep Seek" triumph in producing much cheaper high-performance AIs (on Nvidia chips made in Taiwan).

Invade Taiwan and all that is gone. It might be irrational, but even the Trump administration might feel that Taiwan is a treasure that it must defend come what may. The game is not worth the candle, and Xi will not invade for at least three years. He probably never will.

There! I said it! Now we wait and see.



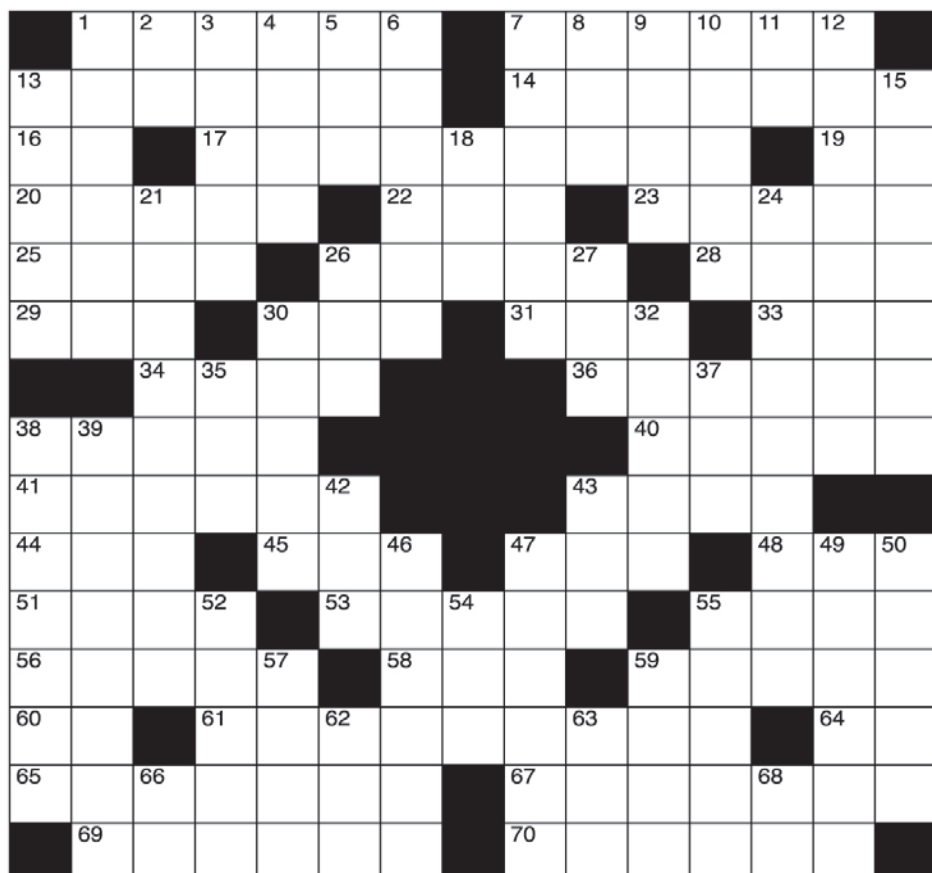
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- Salt
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- Edible mollusk
- They precede C
- A way to compare
- State lawyer
- "Game of Thrones" actor Ciaran
- Eighth month (abbr.)
- Very willing
- __ ex machina
- Satisfies
- Mountain in New Zealand
- A doctrine
- Popular Dodge truck model
- Dekagram
- Naturally occurring solid
- Company officer
- Villains
- Cricket frogs
- One of the founders of modern psychology

- Endured
- A female domestic
- You can get stuck in one
- Partner to feather
- Passive optical network
- French ballet
- "Game of Thrones" dynasty
- Employee stock ownership plan
- Bottom layer
- Sound
- Yankee great Judge
- Dickens character
- Late beloved TNT sportscaster
- South Dakota
- Exposing human vice or folly to ridicule
- Gold
- Longtime Braves hurler Julio
- Humor
- Shawl
- Hospital unit

CLUES DOWN

- Animal disease

- Commercial
- Necklace materials
- Containers
- Investment account
- Colorado Heisman Trophy winner
- Dipped down
- Head injury category (abbr.)
- Lay about
- Intestinal
- Not yes
- Caused to be loved
- Muslim spiritual leader
- Showing sincere conviction
- Not in
- Number above the line in a fraction
- Lawn pest
- Pouch
- Ancient language in India (abbr.)
- Start over
- Wild white flower
- Fourteen
- Visual way to interact with computer (abbr.)
- Side by side and facing the same way
- Religious conflicts
- Touch lightly
- "Boardwalk Empire" actress
- Gretchen
- Violent seizure of property
- One who supports the pope
- Malaise
- Body fluid
- Inauthentic person
- Title of respect
- Chilean city
- Japanese city
- Silk garment
- Draw from
- Automobile
- The man
- Top government lawyer

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

Child seriously injured after being hit by electric motorcycle in Tottenham

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

in Tottenham.
Shortly before 8:30 p.m. on Friday, July 25, officers responded to an emergency call regarding an electric motorcycle that had struck a pedestrian on Pridham Place in Tottenham.

The Nottawasaga Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police is investigating a motor vehicle collision involving a pedestrian

The pedestrian, a three-year-old child, was transported by air ambulance to a Toronto area hospital with life-threatening injuries. Pridham Place was closed to traffic for several hours but has since re-opened. The OPP Traffic Incident Management

Enforcement (T.I.M.E) team is assisting with the ongoing investigation and police are asking anyone with information to call Nottawasaga OPP at 1-888-310-1122. To remain anonymous, contact Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or submit a tip online.

Alliston and Angus McDonald's reach \$200,000 in support of Because of YOU Campaign

CONTRIBUTED BY THE
STEVENSON FOUNDATION

The Stevenson Memorial Hospital Foundation (SMHF) is proud to announce the outstanding contributions from this year's McHappy Day, held on May 8, 2025, at the Alliston and Angus McDonald's locations, totaling \$12,500.

This significant donation highlights the ongoing dedication of our local Alliston and Angus McDonald's franchisees and generous community to elevating healthcare in our region. In addition to this, SMHF received an extra \$14,000 during the recent Because of YOU relaunch event, further strengthening our partnership and commitment to hospital redevelopment efforts.

Together, these generous gifts bring the total contributions from MacKinnon Restaurants (McDonald's Alliston and Angus) to an impressive \$200,000 to the Stevenson Memorial Hospital Foundation.

"We are deeply grateful to McDonald's in Alliston and Angus for their incredible generosity and unwavering support during McHappy Day. Their contributions play a crucial role in our overall efforts to advance the construc-

tion of Stevenson's new facility, which will significantly enhance healthcare services for our community," said Frank Cerisano, Chief Executive Officer for SMHF. "This support is significant as it helps us progress towards our \$80 million Because of YOU campaign goal, helping to ensure that every patient continues to receive the quality care they deserve today and for generations to come."

Rory MacKinnon, Owner/Operator of McDonald's in Alliston and Angus, expressed his pride in the community's enthusiasm: "We're incredibly proud to be part of a community that values and supports our local hospital. Every dollar raised during events like McHappy Day makes a real difference—it helps us provide the best possible care for our family, neighbours, and loved ones. Contributing to the Because of YOU campaign inspires us even more, knowing that our collective efforts are shaping a healthier future for everyone in our community, especially as we work towards a new facility that will serve us all better for years to come."

The Because of You campaign is a bold and ambitious effort to raise funds through community support to help build the future of Stevenson Memorial Hospital. This transformational

project will triple the size of our hospital, providing expanded emergency care and advanced diagnostic imaging, including Stevenson's first MRI suite, modern inpatient facilities, and specialized surgical services, all designed to meet the evolving healthcare needs of our growing community. As we approach our 100th anniversary in 2028, we stand on the threshold of a new era, just as our founders did nearly a century ago. With the support of our community, we will build a hospital for today and for generations to come— Because of YOU.

For more information, to become involved, or to donate, please visit: transformingstevenson.ca

SUCCESSFUL CAMPAIGN – Pictured here from left to right: Dayna Dunn, Corporate & Community Giving Officer, SMHF; Tom MacKinnon, Operations Supervisor, McDonald's of Alliston & Angus; Dr. Ted Vandevs, Board Chair, SMHF; Faziela Ali- Guest Experience Leader, McDonald's of Alliston & Angus; Rory MacKinnon, Owner/Operator, McDonald's of Alliston & Angus; Melody Craggs, Director of Development, SMHF; and Frank Cerisano, Chief Executive Officer, SMHF.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO





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Beeton performer seeks career in music production, songwriting

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

She is a talented performer who gave a terrific show at the Sunday Music in the Park concert at Keogh Park in Tottenham on Sunday, July 20.

Beeton resident TJ Price writes and performs her own music as well as cover tunes. She was the opening act at the Sunday concert and performed a 30-minute acoustic set for an appreciative audience.

While she enjoys performing, TJ is leaning toward a career in music production.

“I took a little bit of a break this year, but I’ve been performing from a young age,” TJ explained. “I’m concentrating on songwriting and production.”

TJ is currently going into her third year at Western University studying music.

“I’m going to Western for popular music, so I’m studying songwriting and music,” TJ said. “I love it; you get to connect with a lot of people. It’s fun to perform with everyone in

different styles. I’m putting together my own songs as well as other people’s. I’m mixing and mastering them myself. Hopefully, at the end of the summer I’m going to put something out with my own work. I have my own studio at home. A couple of mics and an interface are all I need.”

Recording her own music is a fun experience for TJ, however, she is really drawn to the production side of the industry. She has already sent some of her work to music producers.

“I sent a couple of my songs to different companies with help from my professors. You have to have the whole song written and recorded,” TJ explained. “I’d love to move to Nashville one day and be a ghost writer for people. I would love to do that – it’s my dream. I focused more on production in high school. I still love performing and singing, but there are so many things you can do in production.”

TJ has future plans to visit Nashville and take part in a songwriter’s retreat.

Sheldon Creek Dairy benefits from Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership program

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Local businesses continue to benefit from agricultural support programs.

Sheldon Creek Dairy in Loretto will receive up to \$54,290.24 to support the implementation of a new food safety and traceability system.

This will include equipment, software, staffing, and third-party certification services through the Food Safety and Growth Initiative which aims to help small businesses in the agriculture and food industry enhance their food safety systems and stimulate growth.

Funding to the tune of \$4.4 million will be provided by the federal and provincial governments through the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership to help small businesses in Ontario.

“By supporting Sheldon Creek Dairy through the Food Safety and Growth Initiative, our government is taking bold steps to

protect Ontario’s agri-food sector and foster prosperity in the Township of Adjala-Tosoronto,” said Simcoe-Grey MPP Brian Sanderson. “This investment empowers local businesses to enhance food safety, adopt cutting-edge technologies, and create good-paying jobs. Together, we’re building a stronger, more competitive agri-food industry that delivers safe, world-class products to our communities and beyond.”


In addition to helping food processors improve safety systems, the funding will enable operators to respond to market and consumer demand and grow their business.

“Our government continues to invest to strengthen the safety and quality of our world-class food products,” said Trevor Jones, Ontario Minister of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness. “The Food Safety and Growth Initiative will help Ontario to further increase and diversify our agri-food exports to new markets, while strengthening the long-term competitiveness and growth of our local agri-food champions.”

The Food Safety and Growth Initiative will help achieve the goals laid out in the Grow Ontario Strategy including strengthening the stability and competitiveness of the province’s agri-food supply chain. Ontario’s robust food safety systems are key to the industry’s growth. This initiative was open to food businesses with fewer than 100 employees at the project site and will contribute to the businesses’ ability to build consumer confidence, and enable growth by

supporting investments to detect, prevent and mitigate food safety risks and adopt new standards.

This initiative is funded through the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (Sustainable CAP), a five-year, \$3.5-billion investment by federal, provincial and territorial governments to strengthen competitiveness, innovation, and resiliency of Canada’s agriculture, agri-food and agri-based products sector.



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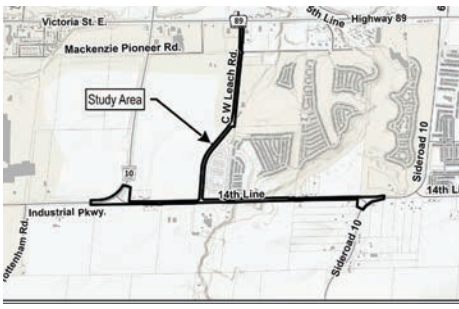
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NEWS, EVENTS & INFORMATION

**14th Line and C.W. Leach Road New Tecumseth
Municipal Class Environmental Assessment
Notice of Study Commencement**


The Study: The Town of New Tecumseth has initiated a Municipal Class Environmental Assessment study (MCEA) to evaluate options for improvements to 14th Line from Industrial Parkway / County Road 10 to Sideroad 10, including the Mayberry Bridge, and improvements to the C.W. Leach Road corridor from 14th Line to Highway 89. Additionally, intersection improvements will be considered for 14th Line / Side Road 10 West and 14th Line Industrial Parkway / County Road 10. Options for improvements will consider road widening to address anticipated increases in traffic volume, bridge conditions, and potential operational issues.



The Process: The Study will follow Schedule C of the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment process (Municipal Engineers Association, 2024), which is an approved process under the *Ontario Environmental Assessment Act*. The study will evaluate and recommend solutions in consultation with the public, Indigenous Nations, and agencies. At the conclusion of the Study, the process will be documented in an Environmental Study Report (ESR), prepared for public review.

Your Input is Important! The Town would like to ensure that anyone interested in this study has the opportunity to provide input into the planning and design of the project. At this time, the Town is inviting public input on local issues and the alternatives being considered. Information about the project can be found at: newtecumseth.ca/14thLineEA or by scanning the QR code below. The website will be updated with project information as it becomes available throughout the study. Public Information Centres are planned for future stages of the study to inform the public about the progress of the study and to gather feedback on the solutions being considered. Information about future Public Information Centres will be published in the local newspaper and posted on the project webpage and social media channels.

To submit a comment or question, or if you would like to be added to the Project Contact List to receive future project notices, please contact:

Joel John-Ogbe, EIT Project Manager Town of New Tecumseth 24 Tupper Street West Alliston, ON L9R 1H2 Tel: 705-415-3045 Email: JJohn-Ogbe@newtecumseth.ca	Drew Davidge, P.Eng. Project Manager R.J. Burnside & Associates Limited 128 Wellington Street West Suite 301 Barrie ON L4N 8J6 Tel: 705-797-4358 Email: Drew.Davidge@rjburnside.com	
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Project and notice information will be made accessible upon request in accordance with the Accessibility Standard for Information and Communication under the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005*.
Notice of Collection: information will be collected in accordance with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. With the exception of personal information, all comments will become part of the public record.
This Notice first issued July 31, 2025.

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Arts & Local Events

Sharing a passion with others at Tottenham Vendors' and Farmers' market

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Some people just see a rock. Alex Thompson sees more than a rock – he sees the beauty of different kinds of rocks and crystals and brought his collection to the Tottenham Farmers' and Vendors' market on Sunday, July 27.

Alex collects unusual, unique, and valuable rocks from around the world and sells them at markets around the region.

There is a surprising number of people who appreciate the colourful rocks and take them home as decorative items.

"I was just in Austria hunting for garnets," Alex explained. "You'll find different stones from all over the world here (at his vendor stand). There are stones from Brazil, Nova Scotia, Ontario, and from all over the world. I find as many as I can. I make bracelets with them as well. In Canada, you have to have mineral rights to take stones out of the ground and sell them commercially."

He became interested in geology after seeing the collection at the Royal Ontario Museum.

"I have a passion for it," Alex explained. "I think it

started in the Royal Ontario Museum after I spent a whole day in their rock room there. I pick them up as I travel."

His collection has all sorts of beautiful rocks but also some very unusual ones. He has a large piece of lithium, which most people have heard of and know is used to make batteries, but probably have never seen it.

He has large pieces of amethyst that he got from a mine in Thunder Bay.

Alex is also very aware of gathering stones while protecting the environment.

"I'm making it my mission to make sure we are a responsible supply of crystals and minerals here in Ontario. It's something I'm very passionate about."

Alex displays many of the rocks and crystals on his Instagram site and you can see them at @OneKarma-County.

UNVEILING – The Tottenham Farmers' and Vendors market takes place at Keogh Park in Tottenham on Sunday afternoons. Rock expert Alex Thompson brought his collection of beautiful rocks and crystals to the market on Sunday, July 27. He collects unusual rocks from around the world.

BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

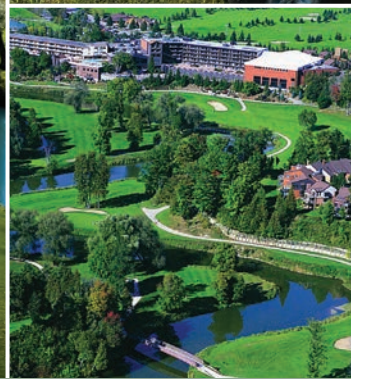


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ROLLING FOR A GOOD CAUSE – The Beeton Lawn Bowling Club hosted its second annual Lawn Summer Night 2025 fundraiser for Cystic Fibrosis Canada on Friday, July 3. More than 80 participants turned out to have some fun and raise money for a good cause. When it was over, the event raised \$22,000 that will be donated to Cystic Fibrosis Canada.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Eight teams in NDBL senior division ready to start 2025 playoffs

The regular season has been completed and the senior division of the North Dufferin Baseball League is ready to go into the 2025 playoffs to see who will be this year's Strother Cup championship team.

The New Lowell Knights have clinched the top spot in the league this year with a 17-4-1 record and 35 points.

The Knights had a four-game winning streak to end the season and moved ahead of the Owen Sound Baysox who had led for most of the second half of the

regular season.

New Lowell landed in first place by a single point.

Eight teams will now start the playoffs.

The Orillia Majors, Clarksburg Blues, Caledon Cardinals, and the Mansfield Cubs were eliminated from playoff contention as they were the bottom four teams in the standings.

New Lowell will be up against the eighth-seeded Creemore Padres in the first round. Creemore finished with a 10-11-1 record in

the 22-game regular season.

The second-place Owen Sound Baysox will be up against the Midland Mariners in their series.

Midland ended the regular season with a 10-10-2 record.

Finishing in third place, the Ivy Rangers will meet the Barrie Angels in their series. Ivy finished the regular season with a 13-6-2 record.

The fourth-place Lisle Astros will be up against the Bolton Brewers for their first-

round series.

Both clubs finished in the middle of the pack.

Bolton had an 11-9-1 record. Lisle had an 11-9-1.

Lisle and Bolton were scheduled to meet for the final game of the NDBL senior season on July 28.

The result of that game will have no impact on either team's place in the standings.

The playoff schedule has not yet been announced.



PLAY AT THE PLATE – The TNT Thunder U11 AA team took on the Aurora-King Jays on the diamond at Coventry Park in Tottenham on Tuesday, July 22. The TNT catcher made the catch, then tagged for the out during the first inning of the game. The Thunder had to settle for a loss in this game.

BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

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OPP investigating “fail to remain” accident on Highway 89

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Nottawasaga Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police is seeking a potential witness to a “fail to remain” collision on Highway 89 in the Town of Innisfil.

A photo of the witness vehicle has been released.

Officers responded to a report of a deceased female located on the shoulder of Highway 89 near 5th Side Road on Sunday, July 13, 2025, shortly after 3 a.m.

The deceased was identified as a 35-year-old woman from Richmond Hill.

The preliminary investigation indicates the victim was walking along Highway 89 when she was struck by a blue passenger vehicle travelling 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 sport utility vehicle that was seen travelling closely behind the suspect vehicle at the time of the collision. Police believe the driver may have witnessed the incident and are seeking to speak with them regarding any information they may have.

As part of the investigation, Highway 89 was temporarily closed between King Street and 5th Side Road as members of the OPP Traffic Incident Management and Enforcement Team assisted with the investigation.

The Nottawasaga OPP Crime Unit is continuing the investigation under the direction of the OPP Criminal Investigation Branch, in conjunction with the Office of the Chief Coroner and the Ontario Forensic Pathology Service. Assistance is being provided by OPP Forensic Identification Services.

Anyone with any information or dash cam footage from the area around the time of the incident is urged to contact the Nottawasaga



OPP at 1-888-310-1122. Should you wish to remain anonymous, contact Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS).

OPP investigating shooting after incident at private residence in Adjala-Tosorontio

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Members of the Ontario Provincial Police Nottawasaga Detachment are actively investigating a shooting incident that occurred at a private residence in Adala-Tosorontio Town-

ship. Officers responded to a residence on Bluebird Boulevard on Sunday, July 20, 2025, shortly before 4:00 a.m., after unknown individuals fired multiple shots at a home.

The residence is located in the new subdivision in Colgan.

No injuries were reported. The circumstances surrounding the incident remain under investigation and the cause has not yet been determined.

The OPP is urging local residents to remain vigilant and to report any recent or ongoing suspicious activity to police.

Anyone with information or video footage related to the incident is asked to contact the Nottawasaga OPP at 1-888-310-1122, or report anonymously through Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 or online at ontariocrimestoppers.ca.

Nottawasaga OPP is investigating a serious two vehicle collision in Adjala-Tosorontio

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Nottawasaga Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) is investigating a motor vehicle collision involving a motorcycle

and a passenger vehicle in Adjala-Tosorontio Township.

On July 28, 2025, shortly before 7 a.m., Nottawasaga OPP officers, responded to a motor vehicle collision involving a passenger vehicle and motorcycle on County Road 50 in Adjala-

Tosorontio Township. A 54-year-old, motorcycle driver was transported by air ambulance to a local trauma hospital with life-altering injuries.

County Road 50, between 10th Sideroad and 5th Sideroad, was closed to traffic for several

hours but has since re-opened. The OPP Traffic Incident Management Enforcement (T.I.M.E) team is assisting with the ongoing investigation and police are asking anyone with information to call Nottawasaga OPP at 1-888-310-1122.

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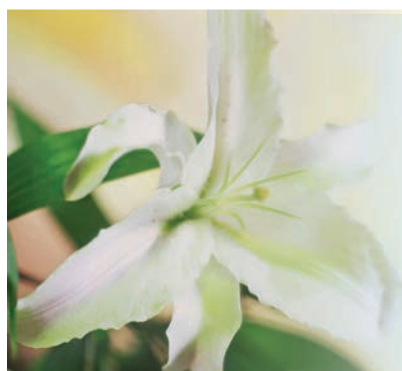
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Continued from Page 4

Brock's Banter: Sleeping on the job – and the ballot

As we know, that was the long-held riding of Conservative leader Pierre Poilievre, and, as it turned out, he ultimately lost his own election to Liberal candidate Bruce Fanjoy, who sealed the deal due to a long and successful ground game and, as some would argue, because there were a whopping 91 candidates on the ballot.

The riding was targeted by the Longest Ballot Committee, an activist movement that has been advocating for significant electoral reform across the country since its foundation in 2019.

Critics of the move to have an eye-watering number of names on the ballot say their efforts were deliberately targeting Poilievre – and, of course they were – but aside from raising the profile of their activist organization, their efforts were

rather inconsequential.

Fanjoy, for instance, received an impressive 43,846 votes, coming ahead of Poilievre, who garnered 39,333 votes. Looking solely at the independent candidates in the race – that is, those who declined to state any party affiliation – the grand total failed to crack 1,000 votes, so whatever the mission, I don't think it was quite accomplished. Nor can it be attributed to the leader's eventual loss.

The real victory may just have been all those who took the time to learn the Latin alphabet at their earliest opportunity and knew where they could find their candidate of choice on the lengthy ballot!

Now, as the Conservative leader vies for another seat in the House of Commons in the upcoming byelection in the Alberta riding of Battle River-Crowfoot,

the Longest Ballot Committee is at it again – and, at press time, had long exceeded their record with more than 200 candidates signed up.

Elections Canada announced Monday that due to the sheer number of candidates on the ballot, the traditional ballots in which each candidate is listed alphabetically will be replaced with one in which voters will be able to write in the name of their candidate of choice.

So much for the impact of seeing another eye-watering list of candidates, protestors, rabble-rousers, or however you want to define them!

In their quest for the longest ballot, it seems as though their real objective of opposing the idea that "politicians shouldn't be in charge of their own ethics and election rules" and doing away

with Canada's long-held first-past-the-post electoral system are getting lost in the noise – no matter how warranted their concerns might be. And there is always a conversation to be had on these subjects.

The chances of a substantive talk about these issues happening before the voters of Battle River-Crowfoot have their pencils in hand are, in my opinion, slim – so, it will be interesting to see what these Canadians do next to keep the conversation going.

In the meantime, given the current state of politics in Alberta, I'd wager the chances of anyone but Poilievre carrying the day are similarly lithe – so, regardless of your political leanings, I think we can all be grateful we probably won't have to pull another all-nighter for this race's thrilling conclusion!

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Alliston Potato Festival

NEW! this year

Fri., August 8 & Sat., August 9
V-Reality Tournament

Sunday August 10
The Circus Lumberjack Show
New Tec Roxx
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APF Vintage Fire Truck Show
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FRIDAY NIGHT AUG. 8

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SATURDAY AUG. 9

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- Face Painting
- K9 Agility Dog Show
- Giant Tiger Kid Zone
- DAVID SGRO Team Photo Booth
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- BINGO
- Strutt Your Mutt Show
- Just Sing Finals
- Face Painting

SUNDAY AUG. 10

- Baby Show
- Come meet the dinosaurs and take part in fossil dig
- Face Painting
- Petting Zoo
- The Circus Lumberjack Show
- New Tec Roxx (Battle of the Bands)
- Vintage Fire Truck Show



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Wishing everyone a terrific 2025 Alliston Potato Festival!

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CELEBRATING THE 51st ANNUAL ALLISTON POTATO FESTIVAL!



Celebrating 51 Years of Community, Culture, and Potatoes at the Alliston Potato Festival!

Welcome to the Town of New Tecumseth! We are thrilled to join one of our most cherished and time-honoured traditions — the Alliston Potato Festival — now proudly celebrating its 51st year.

For over five decades, this vibrant three-day festival has brought together residents and visitors alike to celebrate the heart of our agricultural heritage, the humble potato, and the incredible spirit of our community. From lively parades and live entertainment to delicious food, family-friendly activities, and local artisan markets, there's truly something for everyone to enjoy.

This beloved event would not be possible without the dedication and passion of our incredible volunteers. Their tireless efforts, along with the support of the Alliston Potato Festival Committee, local organizations, and generous businesses, are what make this festival such a memorable and meaningful tradition year after year.

On behalf of the Town of New Tecumseth and Council, we extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who contributes to the success of this spectacular celebration. Here's to 51 years of community pride — and many more to come!



Mayor Richard Norcross,
Town of New Tecumseth
www.newtecumseth.ca



The Times

This special section is published by the New Tecumseth Times, your community newspaper covering Alliston, Beeton, Tottenham and surrounding areas.

Wishing everyone an unbelievable **Potato Festival!**

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ALLISTON street festival

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For more information on the Alliston Street Festival, other events, and the businesses in downtown Alliston, visit our website at www.allistonbia.com

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CELEBRATING THE 51st ANNUAL ALLISTON POTATO FESTIVAL!



You're invited to the 2025 Alliston Potato Festival

Mark your calendars! The Alliston Potato Festival (APF) returns Aug. 8, 9, and 10 at PPG Park, located at 130 Church St. North. Just follow the APF signs to the festival grounds and get ready for a weekend packed with fun, food, music, and community spirit.

Admission is just \$8 for guests aged 13 and up. Festival hours are:

- **Friday: 5:30 p.m. to 12:45 a.m.**
- **Saturday: 9:30 a.m. to 12:45 a.m.**
- **Sunday: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

Debit and credit are accepted at the gates. Need cash? ATMs will be available at the Pavilion and in the Beer Gardens.

Get ready to spin, soar, and squeal! Albion Amusements is once again offering a Sunday Ride All Day pass for \$45 at the gate, or you can grab it in advance for just \$35. Advance passes are available at Town Tees in Alliston (corner of Victoria St. E. and Centre St. N.) from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday to Saturday (cash only), or online at albionamusements.com.

Please note that this ride pass does not include admission to the festival grounds. Festival entry must still be purchased.

New for 2025: Creating space for everyone

We're proud to introduce new accessibility and inclusion features to help make the festival welcoming for all. Need a break from the hustle and bustle? Visit our new Quiet Space located at the Lee Shed on the festival grounds.

Also on Sunday, Aug. 10, Albion Amusements will offer a Quiet Hour from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. During this time, music will be turned off on all rides to create a more sensory-friendly environment. Please note that ride lights will remain on for safety and cannot be turned off.

Come celebrate with us at the 2025 Alliston Potato Festival — we can't wait to see you there!



How many potatoes are in the crate? Guess to win a kayak!

It's back for a second year — the "How Many Potatoes in the Crate?" contest, sponsored by Canadian Tire Alliston, provides the chance for one lucky guesser to paddle away with a brand-new kayak!

Test your potato-counting skills and take your shot at an awesome prize. It's easy to enter: simply scan the QR code at the contest booth on the festival grounds, enter your name, email, and your best guess. That's it!

Everyone remembers the excitement of last year's draw, and Alaina McGoey, our 2024 winner, is already enjoying life on the water. Now it's your turn!

Come check out the crate, take a good look, and submit your guess — because you just might be coasting down the Nottawasaga River this fall in a sleek new kayak.

Fun, free, and full of festival flavour — don't miss your chance to play and win at the Alliston Potato Festival, compliments of Alliston Canadian Tire.



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Wishing everyone a great time at this year's 51st Alliston Potato Festival!

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Strutt Your Mutt at the festival

Get ready to wag those tails and show off your furry friend at the Strutt Your Mutt Show, proudly sponsored by Pet Grocers! This fun and furry event takes place on Saturday, Aug. 9, during the Alliston Potato Festival — and this year's theme is Best Farmer. So grab your overalls, straw hats, and flannel shirts — it's time to celebrate our four-legged farmhands in style.

Registration opens at 9 a.m., and the show starts promptly at 9:30 a.m. — so come early to secure your spot.

There's a category for every pup, including:

- Largest dog
- Smallest dog
- Best trick/talent
- Best dog costume – farmer theme
- Most unique markings
- Cutest look-alike couple (handler & dog)
- Best Tail Wag

Whether your dog has an impressive trick, a one-of-a-kind look, or just the best tail wag in town, there's a ribbon waiting to be won. This event is all about fun, personality, and celebrating the amazing bond between pets and their people.

Registration is just \$10, and your pup can compete in as many categories as you like. Space is limited to just 25 dogs, so don't wait — download your registration form now at allistonpotatofest.com.

Pet Grocers is proud to support this paws-itively fun show and will be on-site

to cheer on the contestants — and maybe hand out a few special surprises!

So polish those paws, fluff those ears, and get your best country costume ready. The Strutt Your Mutt Show is the perfect way to kick off your festival day!

Registration is at 9 a.m. on Saturday, Aug. 9. The show starts at 9:30 a.m.

Come early. Stay for the fun. Let your pup shine!



From all of us at Charwen Farms

*Happy 51st
 Alliston Potato Festival!*



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CELEBRATING THE 51st ANNUAL ALLISTON POTATO FESTIVAL!



Cutest contest in town returns

One of the most heartwarming traditions at the Alliston Potato Festival is back — and it's sure to steal the show! The APF Baby Show, proudly sponsored by Kayla Thompson, Coldwell Banker Ronan Realty, will take place on Sunday, Aug. 10, at the McGoey Pavilion, and this year's theme is Little Explorer.

Get ready for an overload of cuteness as babies from across New Tecumseth and beyond show off their adventurous side!

From safari hats to miniature backpacks, we encourage parents to get creative and

dress their little ones in their best explorer-inspired outfits. With categories like Best Themed Outfit, Brightest Eyes, Chubbiest Cheeks, and even Fussiest Baby — because sometimes meltdowns happen — we promise plenty of smiles, giggles, and unforgettable moments.

Babies will be grouped into four age categories: 0–3 months, 4–7 months, 8–12 months, and 13–18 months, with a maximum of 25 babies per category to ensure a fun and manageable experience for everyone.

Twins must be registered separately, and we kindly ask that only one adult accompany each baby to the judging area to help things run smoothly. All other supporters are encouraged to cheer from the audience.

Registration opens at 9 a.m., and the show begins promptly at 10 a.m. Advance registration is just \$10, and if submitted before Aug. 1, you'll receive a free day pass to the festival. Day-of registration is \$15, space permitting. To register, email apfbabycontest@gmail.com with your completed form and e-transfer. Forms can be downloaded at allistonpotatofestival.com.

A special thank you to Kayla Thompson of Coldwell Banker Ronan Realty for sponsoring this beloved event. The APF Baby Show is a true community favourite, so don't miss your chance to be part of this adorable celebration. Let's see those bright eyes, big smiles, and tiny explorers take the stage.



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CELEBRATING THE 51st
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Step back in time with the Potato Festival's Jurassic Experience

New this year and stomping into the Alliston Potato Festival (APF) for one day only is the can't-miss APF Jurassic Experience — an action-packed, hands-on attraction that brings the age of dinosaurs to life under the McGoeys Ins Pavilion on Sunday, Aug. 10.

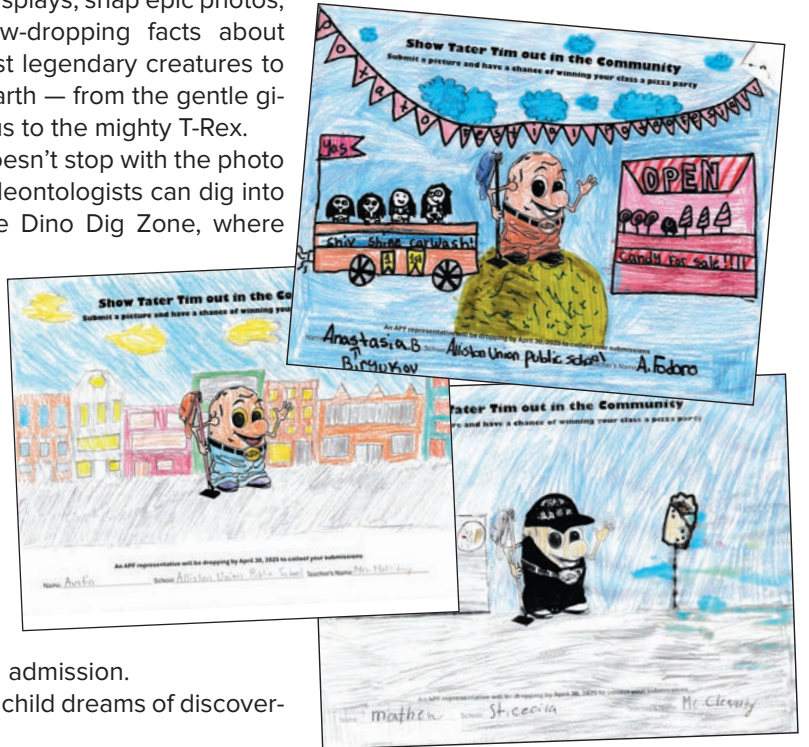
Happening right after the Baby Show, this exciting new feature is perfect for kids, families, and dinosaur lovers of all ages. Get up close and personal with life-sized dinosaur displays, snap epic photos, and uncover jaw-dropping facts about some of the most legendary creatures to ever roam the earth — from the gentle giant Brachiosaurus to the mighty T-Rex.

But the fun doesn't stop with the photo ops! Budding paleontologists can dig into the action at the Dino Dig Zone, where they'll uncover fossils, bones, and buried treasures in a fully interactive excavation pit. It's a hands-on adventure that's as educational as it is thrilling — and best of all, it's completely free with your festival admission.

Whether your child dreams of discover-

ing dinosaurs or you're simply looking for a fun and unique experience to enjoy with the whole family, the APF Jurassic Experience is a must-see attraction during Sunday's festivities.

So bring your sense of adventure, grab your explorer hats, and get ready to travel back in time. The Jurassic era comes alive for one day only at the Alliston Potato Festival—don't miss your chance to experience it.



Have fun at the Alliston Potato Festival!



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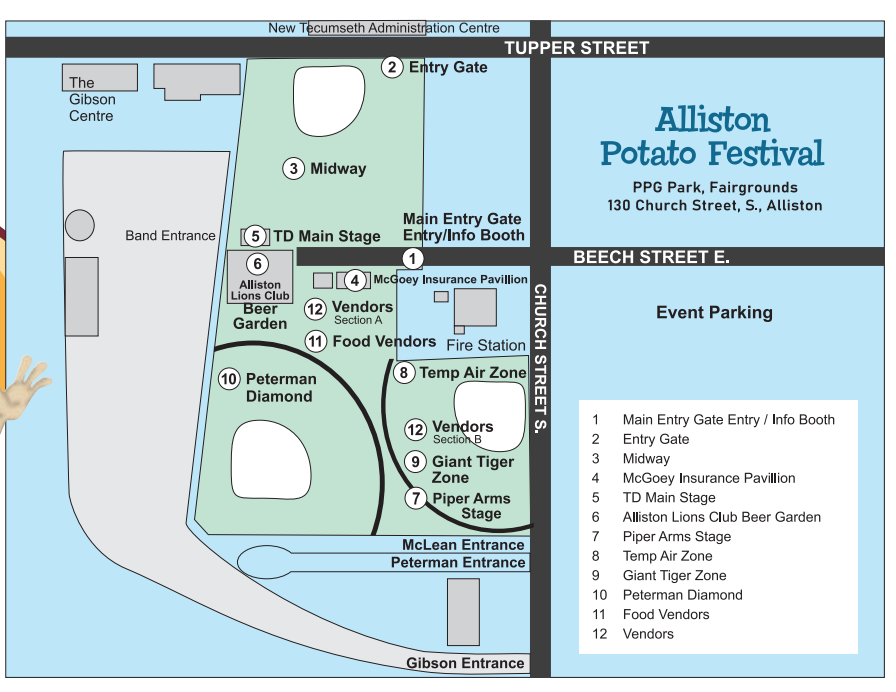
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Alliston Potato Festival 2025 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS FRIDAY AUGUST 8		LOCATION
5:00pm	Midway Opens	Fairgrounds
5:00pm	Fairgrounds OPEN	Fairgrounds
6:00pm	Marketplace Opens	Fairgrounds
6:00pm	Dominio's Texas Hold'em Poker Registration	Alliston Curling Rink
6:00pm	Beer Gardens Opens (Cash Only)	TD Stage (by Beer Gardens)
6:30pm	Sean Bourke	TD Stage (by Beer Gardens)
7:00pm	Alliston Rotary Potato Festival Parade	Victoria Street
7:00pm	Dominio's Texas Hold'em Poker Tournament	Alliston Curling Rink
7:00pm to 9:00pm	Step into the Future with a VR Reality Experience	Pavilion
8:30pm	Shooter	TD Stage (by Beer Gardens)
10:30pm	Bootlegged	TD Stage (by Beer Gardens)

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS SATURDAY AUGUST 9		LOCATION
7:30am to 11:00am	Potato Pancakes	Victoria Street
9:00am to 3:00pm	Recycle Teenagers Classic Car Show	Victoria Street
9:00am	Registration Strutt Your Mutt Talent Show	Piper Arms Stage
10:00am	Strutt Your Mutt Talent Show	Piper Arms Stage
9:30am	Fairgrounds and Marketplace Open	Fairgrounds
9:30am to 4:00pm	MASONIC H.I.P.	Temp Air Zone
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10:00am to 4:00pm	Alliston Street Festival	Victoria Street
10:00am to 4:00pm	Come find out what it takes to be an APF Pirate!	Giant Tiger Kid Zone
10:00am to 1:00pm	Free Pony Rides	Temp Air Zone
10:00am to 11:00am	Come Meet Pup Patrol Chaze & Sky	Giant Tiger Kid Zone
10:00am to 4:00pm	Giant Tiger KidZone	Giant Tiger Kid Zone
10:00am to 4:00 pm	David Sgro Team's Photo Booth - Free keepsake photo's	Pavilion
10:45am	Warrior Martial Arts Demonstration Team	Giant Tiger Kid Zone
11:00am to 12:30pm	Just Sing Competition's Finale	TD Stage (by Beer Gardens)
12:00pm	Neema Choir	Piper Arms Stage
11:30am	Team K-9 Agility Dog Show	Temp Air Zone
11:45 to 12:30pm	Nataraja School of Dance - Bollywood Dance Class	Piper Arms Stage
Noon	BINGO	Pavilion
Noon	Beer Tent Opens (Cash Only)	TD Stage (by Beer Gardens)
12:00pm	Janelle's School of Music	Piper Arms Stage
12:30pm	Warrior Martial Arts Demonstration Team	Giant Tiger Kid Zone
12:30 pm to 1:00 pm	Come Meet Pikachu and Sonic	Giant Tiger Kid Zone
1:00pm to 4:00pm	FACE PAINTING by jadyballoontwister.com	Giant Tiger Kid Zone
1:00pm	Crush the Velvet Duo	Piper Arms Stage
1:00pm	Team K-9 Agility Dog Show	Temp Air Zone
1:30pm	Free Pony Rides	Temp Air Zone
2:00pm to 4:00pm	FACE PAINTING by jadyballoontwister.com	Giant Tiger Kid Zone
2:00pm	Dance the Line	Piper Arms Stage
2:45pm	Warrior Martial Arts Demonstration Team	Giant Tiger Kid Zone
3:00pm	The Hit Disturbers	TD Stage (by Beer Gardens)
3:30pm	Team K-9 Agility Dog Show	Temp Air Zone
4:00pm to 6:00pm	Karaoke and Open Mic -Mobile Vibe Productions	Piper Arms Stage
5:00pm	Beer Tent Closes	TD Stage (by Beer Gardens)
6:00pm	Grant Boyer	TD Stage (by Beer Gardens)
6:00pm	Beer Tent Opens	TD Stage (by Beer Gardens)
8:00pm	Tim Ronan	TD Stage (by Beer Gardens)
10:30pm	Your New Neighbours	TD Stage (by Beer Gardens)

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS SUNDAY, AUGUST 10		LOCATION
9:30am	Baby Show Check In	Pavilion
9:30am to 10:00am	Pancake Breakfast	TD Stage (by Beer Gardens)
9:30am	APF Vintage Fire Truck Show Registration	Peterman Diamond
9:30am	APF Vintage Fire Truck Show	Peterman Diamond
10:00am to 11:00am	Interdenominational Church Morning Celebration	TD Stage (by Beer Gardens)
10:00am to 4:00pm	Come find out what it takes to be an APF Pirate!	Giant Tiger Zone
10:00am to 4:00pm	D.W.A.R.F reenactment committee.	Giant Tiger Kid Zone
10:00am to 4:00pm	Petting Zoo	Giant Tiger Kid Zone
10:00am	New Tee Roxx Band #1	Piper Arm Stage
10:30am	Warrior Martial Arts Demonstration Team	Giant Tiger Kid Zone
10:30am	Baby Show sponsored by Kayla Thompson	Pavilion
10:45am	New Tee Roxx Band #2	Piper Arm Stage
11:00am to 11:30pm	Dan the Music Man	Temp Air ZONE Entertainment Area
11:30am to 1:30pm	Elvis	TD Stage (by Beer Gardens)
11:30am	New Tee Roxx Band #3	Piper Arm Stage
11:30 am to 3:30pm	The APF Jurassic Park Experience!	Pavilion
11:45am to 12:15pm	Encounter a baby T-Rex, Spinosaurus, Triceratops, The Circus Lumberjack Show	Temp Air ZONE
Noon	Midway Opens	Fairgrounds
Noon	Beer Gardens OPEN (Cash Only)	TD Stage (by Beer Gardens)
Noon	Warrior Martial Arts Demonstration Team	Fairgrounds
12:15pm	New Tee Roxx Band #4	Piper Arm Stage
12:30pm-12:45pm	Dan the Music Man	Temp Air ZONE Entertainment Area
12:30pm to 2:00pm	Facepainting	Pavilion
1:00pm to 1:30pm	The Circus Lumberjack Show	Temp Air ZONE
1:00 pm	Nataraja School of Dance	Piper Arms Stage
1:30 pm		
1:45pm to 2:15pm	Dan the Music Man	Temp Air ZONE Entertainment Area
2:00pm to 3:00pm		
2:00pm	Come meet Friends of Tater Tim, Woody and Buzz Lightyear	Lightyear Pavilion
2:00pm to 5:00pm	The Circus Lumberjack Show	Temp Air ZONE
2:30pm to 3:00pm		



Enjoy the 51st Potato Festival!



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All in for fun: Domino's Texas Hold'em Poker Night coming to the festival

Looking to kick off your Alliston Potato Festival weekend with a little excitement and a whole lot of chips? Then shuffle up and deal — because the Domino's Texas Hold'em Poker Tournament is back on Friday, Aug. 8 at the Alliston Curling Club, and it's stacking up to be a night of friendly bluffing and serious fun!

Whether you're a poker pro or just bluffing your way through, this is the perfect chance to test your luck, show off your best poker face, and maybe even walk away with bragging rights.

Doors open at 6 p.m., with registration at 6:30 p.m. and the cards flying at 7 p.m. sharp. The cozy curling club lounge sets the perfect scene for chips, chatter, and cheeky raises.

Your \$40 entry fee gets you 2,000 tournament chips to start. Want to beef up your stack? Re-buys are available for the first three levels at \$20 each. So when you're ready to go big, you can add on 2,000 chips for \$20 or 5,000 for \$40.

Important tip: It's a cash-only event, so hit the ATM before you hit the tables. The club's bar will be open to keep your spirits high, and Domino's will be serving up hot pizza during the break — because nothing says poker night like pizza and a good bluff.

So go ahead, drop the family at the parade, grab your lucky charm, and settle in for a night of cards, camaraderie, and a

whole lot of fun.

It's poker night at the APF — let's deal you in!



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CELEBRATING THE 51st ANNUAL ALLISTON POTATO FESTIVAL!



Don't miss the Giant Tiger Kid Zone, where festival fun begins

If you're bringing little ones to the Alliston Potato Festival, there's one place you absolutely need to stop by — the Giant Tiger Kid Zone. Packed with excitement, imagination, and over 16 different businesses and community organizations, this action-packed area is designed to keep kids smiling, moving, and having a blast all day long.

Start your adventure by bringing your favourite stuffed animal to Ray's Pharmacy for a check-up. Kids can learn the basics of first aid in a fun, hands-on way that even their stuffie will appreciate. Then pop over to the cozy corner with the New Tecumseth Public Library, where magical stories come to life during interactive storytime sessions.

Feeling adventurous? Join the ranks of the APF Pirates and learn how to wield a balloon sword like a true festival swashbuckler. Or, if sports are more your thing, check out the action with South Simcoe United Soccer, where future soccer stars can show off their skills.

Be sure to catch the talented students from Warrior Martial Arts as they

demonstrate their power, discipline, and focus in thrilling martial arts showcases. Then slow things down with some classic fun — paint the bus, get your face painted, or try your hand at carnival-style games sprinkled throughout the zone.

And what's a trip to the Kid Zone without a visit from Tater Tim and his friends from Giant Tiger? They're bringing big smiles, high-fives, and maybe even a few surprises.

From crafts and storytelling to sports, music, and more, the Giant Tiger Kid Zone is the ultimate destination for families and young festival-goers. It's colourful, it's creative, and — best of all — it's completely free with your festival admission.

So grab your explorers, pirates, and pint-sized performers and head to the Giant Tiger Kid Zone—because this is where the real fun begins.





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The TD Main Stage: The heartbeat of the Alliston Potato Festival

Get ready for a weekend of incredible music, local talent, and unforgettable energy on the TD Main Stage at the 2025 Alliston Potato Festival! With a jam-packed lineup from Friday through Sunday, this year's stage promises to deliver something for everyone — whether you're a fan of country, rock, blues, or good old-fashioned toe-tapping fun.

Friday night kicks off with crowd-favourite Sean Bourke, delivering the Blue Rodeo hits and classic tunes we all know and love. Then it's time to turn up the volume with Shooter, a high-energy country and western band guaranteed to get boots stomping and hips swinging. Closing out the night is none other than the legendary Bootlegged — a powerhouse band that'll have you rocking into the wee hours of the night. And what pairs perfectly with great music? Ice-cold beer served up by the Alliston Lions Club, of course!

Saturday brings music all day long, beginning at 10 a.m. with the grand finale of our Just Sing competition, where local voices shine on the big stage. Later, Brave Strangers will have your toes tapping and might just tempt you onto the dance floor. As the afternoon heats up, The Hit Disturbers take over with their classic rock vibes — fresh off their ribfest tour and ready to bring the party to APF.

When the sun goes down, the party turns up with our very own Neighbourhood Block Party. Kicking things off is local legend Grant Boyer with his band, performing both crowd-pleasing covers and original hits. Next up, rising star Tim Ronan brings his soulful sound and chart-climbing songs to the stage. And wrapping up the night in true festival fashion is Your New Neighbours, keeping the energy high and the



dance floor full. Cold drinks from the Alliston Lions will be flowing all night to keep you refreshed and ready to dance.

Sunday starts off sweet and soulful with pancakes and a community church celebration, followed by a performance that will have you twisting and shouting — Elvis is in the building! And don't leave too early, because fan-favourites Catfish Gumbo are back with their smooth mix of country, blues, and folk to close out the weekend in style.

Whether you come for one night or all three, the TD Main Stage is the place to be. Bring your friends, your dancing shoes, and your festival spirit — it's going to be a weekend to remember!

Get ready for the Great Canadian APF Chip Challenge

Potato lovers, get your taste buds ready! One of the tastiest events at this year's Alliston Potato Festival is the Great Canadian APF Chip Challenge, happening Saturday, Aug. 9, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Festival attendees are invited to participate in a blind taste test featuring chips from four small, independent chipperies. Each sample will be unmarked, allowing you to judge solely on taste, texture, and crunch — no packaging or branding to sway your decision.

After sampling all four, you'll cast your vote for the one chip you think deserves the title of Best Chip.

The chipperie with the most votes will receive a custom APF Chip Challenge plaque to proudly display — and even better, a \$500 donation will be made in their name to a charity of their choice, courtesy of the Alliston Potato Festival.

This fun and flavourful challenge isn't just about satisfying your snack cravings—it's about supporting small businesses, giving back to the community, and celebrating the humble potato. Versatile, beloved, and proudly grown right here in our region, the potato proves once again it's a true Canadian icon.

So make sure to stop by the Chip Challenge booth on Saturday. Whether you're a chip connoisseur or just hungry for a good time, this is one festival activity you don't want to miss. Come take the challenge, pick your favourite, and help crown the next chip champion of Simcoe County... or Ontario... or hey, maybe even all of Canada (at least we think so!).

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CELEBRATING THE 51st ANNUAL ALLISTON POTATO FESTIVAL!



Plan ahead to ensure you don't miss out

With so much excitement happening across the fairgrounds on Saturday and Sunday, the Alliston Potato Festival (APF) is bursting with fun for all ages! From high-energy entertainment to hands-on activities and everything in between, there's something happening around every corner — so it's a good idea to plan ahead.

Start by visiting the APF website, which is constantly being updated with new acts, activities, and entertainment to help you make the most of your festival weekend.

Friday and Saturday night, don't miss your chance to step into another world with the Virtual Reality Experience! Take your turn, try to beat the top score, and you could be entered to win a pair of VR goggles — now that's next-level festival fun.

Saturday kicks off with adorable action at the Strut Your Mutt contest, and then it's time to head over to the Team K9 Agility Dog Show to watch skilled pups

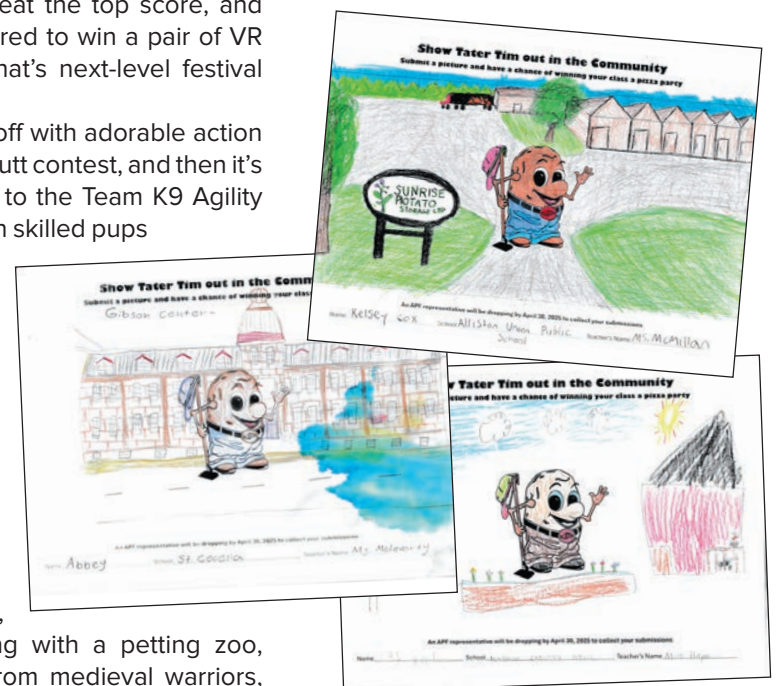
leap, weave, and wow the crowd. Always wanted to ride a pony? Now's your chance — free pony rides will be available throughout the day.

But the fun doesn't slow down on Sunday. In fact, it just keeps going with a petting zoo, thrilling displays from medieval warriors,

jaw-dropping lumberjack shows, and the return of the ever-popular Dan the Music Man, bringing laughter and music for the whole family.

And don't forget to explore the vendor market, where you'll find unique treats, handmade goodies, and special souvenirs to take home and remember your APF weekend by.

With all this and more, the Alliston Potato Festival is overflowing with fun — you won't want to miss a thing. So grab your crew, check the schedule, and get ready for an unforgettable weekend at the fairgrounds.



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CELEBRATING THE 51st ANNUAL ALLISTON POTATO FESTIVAL!



The Potato Festival's Piper Arms Stage spotlights local talent

The Alliston Potato Festival is proud to showcase the incredible local talent of New Tecumseth and surrounding areas on the Piper Arms Stage — a community-driven performance space filled with heart, hometown pride, and pure entertainment! Thanks to the support of Piper Arms Pub and Mobile Vibe Entertainment, this stage brings the magic of live music, dance, and fun to the fairgrounds all day Saturday.



The morning kicks off with tails wagging and paws prancing as the Strutt Your Mutt Show takes over the stage. Our four-legged friends will be strutting their stuff in themed costumes, showing off tricks, and competing for the coveted title of Grand Champion. It's guaranteed to be a tail-wagging good time.

After the pups have had their moment to shine, prepare to be moved by the soulful and uplifting harmonies of the Neema Choir, whose powerful voices bring a message of hope and unity. Following this, the students of Janelle's School of Music will take the stage in their debut festival performance. These talented young musicians will sing, dance, and wow the crowd — so be sure to show them your support.

On both Saturday and Sunday, festival-goers can enjoy a variety of amazing performances that celebrate our community's rich and diverse talent.

The dynamic Crush the Velvet Duo will bring their signature sound to the stage, while the elegant and expressive Nataraja School of Dance will dazzle the crowd with traditional Bollywood-style performances. You'll also love the ener-

getic choreography of Dance the Line, and don't miss the always-impressive MacMurchy Highland Dancers, bringing a burst of tradition and flair with every step.

From cultural showcases to contemporary performances, the Piper Arms Stage is the place to be all weekend long for non-stop local entertainment.

And don't forget — karaoke returns Saturday afternoon! Whether you're a shower singer or a seasoned performer, now's your chance to hit the stage and shine. Sign-ups fill up fast, so be sure to register early and belt out your favourite tunes for the crowd.

From dancing to dogs, choirs to karaoke, the Piper Arms Stage is where our community comes alive. Come celebrate local talent and enjoy an unforgettable Saturday of music, laughter, and pure festival fun.

Protect what matters most with the Masonic Child ID Program at the festival

As part of this year's Alliston Potato Festival, families are encouraged to take advantage of a free and potentially life-saving resource — the MASONiCh.I.P. Child Identification Clinic. This important initiative will be available on Saturday, Aug. 9, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., located on the midway beside the firehall next to the ball diamond, in the Temp Air Zone.

For just a few minutes of your day, you can receive a free Amber Alert-compatible Child Identification Kit. The MASONiCh.I.P. Program is a comprehensive safety resource that helps parents and guardians be prepared in the event of a missing child emergency.

Each kit includes digital photographs, digital video (capturing speech and mannerisms), digital fingerprints, vital child information and dental impression or intraoral swab for DNA sampling.

All of the information is recorded on a CD and, along with the DNA sample, packaged securely for families to take home. No personal data is kept — the only information retained by the MASONiCh.I.P. team is the signed permission form.

This program is offered completely free of charge, thanks to the Masonic community and local volunteers who are committed to child safety.

The Alliston Potato Festival is proud to support this initiative and encourages all families to participate. It's a quick, painless, and proactive step that can make a critical difference in an emergency.

So while you're enjoying the rides, games, and entertainment, take a few moments to visit the MASONiCh.I.P. Clinic and help keep your loved ones safe.

Because nothing matters more than peace of mind.

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CELEBRATING THE 51st ANNUAL ALLISTON POTATO FESTIVAL!



Celebrate faith and fellowship at the festival's Sunday church service

Sunday mornings at the Alliston Potato Festival (APF) are about more than just potatoes — they're also a time for community, connection, and celebration of faith.

Now in its third year, the APF Church Celebration has grown into a meaningful tradition, bringing together over eight local churches to share in worship, music, and fellowship.

Join us on Sunday, Aug. 10, at 9:30 a.m. for a warm welcome and a delicious pancake breakfast to kick off the morning. It's a perfect time to connect with old friends, meet new faces, and enjoy a moment of community before the celebration begins.

At 10 a.m., the rejoicing begins with live music, prayer, and worship, as churches come together on the festival grounds to lift spirits and share the Word of the Lord. It's a joyful, family-friendly atmosphere where everyone is welcome — no matter where you're from or what your Sunday routine looks like.

We're also excited to welcome Life 103, who will be onsite to chat and share information about how you can stay tuned in to the Word even after the festival. Whether you're heading home or back to your own church community, they'll help you stay spiritually connected all week long.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to all the churches who have supported this celebration over the years. Your participation and dedication are what make this gathering such a beautiful expression of faith and unity.

When we gather in the spirit of love, hope, and joy, we truly see what it means to spread His Word. Come, rejoice, and be a part of something special this Sunday at the Alliston Potato Festival. Everyone is welcome — bring your heart, your appetite, and your voice!



Did you notice some great drawings of Tater Tim on the pages of this section? They were imagined and carefully coloured by children throughout the schools of our community. One winner was randomly selected from every school and that class received a pizza party from Tater Tim.

Below are the four winning selections. **CONGRATULATIONS!**



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As we reflect on our 70-year journey, we're reminded of the countless hours, hard work and dedication that have gone into building our farm equipment dealership. Through the decades, our commitment to serving our community has remained unwavering, and we're proud to have partnered with some of the most reputable brands in the industry – none more iconic than Kubota.

Kubota's constant focus on quality, innovation and customer satisfaction aligns perfectly with our own values. For generations, Kubota's heavy-duty equipment has been the go-to choice for farmers, landscapers, and construction professionals who demand the best. We've witnessed firsthand the reliability, performance and fuel efficiency that Kubota machines deliver, making them an integral part of our customers' success stories.

Here's to many more years of growth, innovation, and success – together!



THIS FALL, GET IT DONE AND THEN SOME.



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