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Downtown demolition

The look of downtown Tottenham is changing as the northwest corner of Queen Street and Mill Street is being converted into a parking lot. The existing wooden structure was built as a showroom for a new subdivision around 25 years ago. Along with the wooden structure, a car wash and driveshed will also be removed to create parking spaces. The demolition began on Monday, Aug. 11.

BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

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Serving Your Community Since 1986

Museum to host Canadian Festival of Old Cars this weekend

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

If you are an antique car enthusiast, you will have a chance to see some old classics at the Simcoe County Museum when it hosts the Canadian Festival of Old Cars later this month.

The event is co-sponsored by the Horseless Carriage Club of Southern Ontario.

More than just a car show, the Canadian Festival of Old Cars offers a captivating weekend celebrating the golden age of automotive history.

Vehicles from the pre-war era will cruise through the Museum grounds, offering a rare glimpse of the craftsmanship of a bygone era.

Whether you are a car enthusiast, history lover, or simply looking for a unique sum-

mer experience, this family-friendly festival promises something for everyone.

You will enjoy hands-on history, marvel at century-old engineering, and experience the nostalgia of vintage motoring.

The Canadian Festival of Old Cars will take place on Saturday, Aug. 23, and Sunday, Aug. 24, at the Simcoe County Museum, at 1151 ON-26, Minesing.

Admission is \$10 for adults, \$8 for seniors, \$8 for youth ages 12 to 20, \$5 for children ages 4 to 11, and free for preschoolers and museum members.

TIMELESS CLASSIC – There will be plenty of antique automobiles to see at the Simcoe County Museum's Canadian Festival of Old Cars. The festival celebrates pre-war vehicles and engineering.

BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO



Municipalities split evenly on changes to Simcoe County Council representatives

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Simcoe County Council has released the results of the triple majority process undertaken by the 16 municipalities in the County.

Council has proposed reducing County Council from 32 representatives, including the Warden, to 16 representatives and a full-time appointed Warden.

The endorsement, made in April 2025, was in County by-law 7119-25.

The vote at the lower-tier level resulted in a tie, with eight member municipalities providing consent and eight providing non-consent.

While the full triple majority requirement under the Municipal Act was not achieved,

two of the three conditions were met.

Given the outcome, County Council approved a resolution through a weighted vote.

The resolution states: That the Warden write a letter to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing to request the Province intervene to allow Council Composition by-law 7119-25 to be considered valid notwithstanding the 'triple majority' requirements set out in Section 219 of the Municipal Act.

A letter from Warden Basil Clarke will be sent to The Honourable Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing for consideration. Any outcomes or feedback will be presented to County Council once available.

Under the Triple Majority process, as

defined in the provision of Ontario's Municipal Act 2001, County Council must pass the by-law. The majority of lower-tier municipi-

ties must consent, and the member municipalities that consent must represent a majority of Simcoe County electors.

Tottenham Beer Store among 100 locations closing

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

You'll have to get your suds somewhere else if you want to buy beer in Tottenham.

The Tottenham Beer Store has been closed as part of the Beer Store's shutdown of over 100 locations across the province. The store's final open day was on Aug. 10.

There are more closures due to be completed in September as the axe falls on the beer retailer's stores.

The main reason for the closures is the province's decision to allow beer and other alcohol products to be sold in grocery and convenience stores. Many people choose to purchase beer at the same time they buy groceries to save the extra trip.

However, some analysts are saying the Beer Store has been in decline for quite some time, and it simply hasn't kept up with the times.

They note the Beer Store sells only one

product, and that doesn't make for much of a shopping experience. They also note that the Beer Store does not seem to be making any changes to prepare for the future.

Many regulars at the Tottenham store knew the staff, and if you were a regular visitor, they were easily approachable and likely knew your beer order before you asked for it.

Customers now have the dilemma of where to return empties.

Grocery stores that sell beer and alcohol will be required to take back empty cans and bottles starting next January.

That will be very difficult for many establishments. Grocery stores sell food and must maintain a clean and safe environment to keep the food chain safe. Many store owners say taking in empties will compromise store cleanliness. They would have to create a separate operation to take in and store empty cans and bottles.

Locally, you can still return empties at Beer Store locations in Alliston and Schomberg.

Teenage driver charged after child struck during Potato Festival

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

A 19-year-old driver is facing some serious charges after a child was struck by a vehicle during the Potato Festival in Alliston on Aug. 9.

A seven-year-old was taken to a local hospital after being hit by a passing vehicle around 11 p.m. on Church Street.

The suspect vehicle fled the scene. The vehicle and occupants were located a short time later on Industrial Parkway.

As a result, the driver, who is an Allis-

ton resident, has been charged with several offences.

These include: Failure to Stop after an Accident, Dangerous Operation, Possession of a Weapon for Dangerous Purpose, Stunt Driving, Uttering Threats, three counts of Assault with a Weapon, and two counts of Failure to Comply with Release Order.

Another occupant in the vehicle, a 16-year-old from Bradford, was charged with Two Counts of Failure to Comply with Release Order.

Anyone with information is asked to call Nottawasaga OPP at 1-888-310-1122.

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Local resident cycling to raise money for SickKids Foundation

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

A New Tecumseth man is using his bicycle to raise funds to support childhood cancer research through the SickKids Foundation by riding for the Great Cycle Challenge Canada.

Vikram Bhangoo has a goal of riding 300 kilometres and raising \$2,500 for the cause through August.

“I’ve committed to riding 300 kilometres throughout the month and raising \$2,500 in memory of my father, Sukhwinder Singh Malhi, who lived with colon cancer for many years,” Vikram said. “Although he ultimately passed due to other causes, his battle left a lasting mark on our family. I ride to honour his strength, his journey, and to give back.”

Vikram is hoping to spark a movement that is family-led, community rooted, and centred around helping kids live the lives they deserve.

“In addition to fundraising, I’ve

recently started a TikTok account (@vikram.b.singh), to document this journey and show that cycling can be accessible, healing, and empowering, even for beginners,” Vikram said. “Cycling has traditionally been seen as an expensive, niche sport, but I want to show young people – especially those from working-class or immigrant backgrounds – that it’s also a powerful tool for physical and mental health.”

You can follow Vikram’s cycling effort by visiting his official fundraising page online at: greatcyclechallenge.ca/Riders/VictorFoss

CYCLING FOR A CAUSE – New Tecumseth resident Vikram Bhangoo is cycling 300 kilometres with a goal to raise \$2,500 in support of childhood cancer research through the SickKids Foundation. He has been cycling throughout August and is close to reaching his goal.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



ROCK ON! – The rain stopped just in time for the music to start at Keogh Park in Tottenham on Sunday, Aug. 17. The Peterkin Project performs at the bandshell to an appreciative audience as part of the Sunday Music in the Park series. The series continues every Sunday afternoon until the end of August. The Peterkin Project is a Canadian music project created by Cookstown artist & h n Peterkin. **BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO**

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Editorial, Letters & Opinion

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

~ Stanislaw Jerzy Lec

Work ethic

An interesting quote arrived through one of my news feeds the other day.

“When there is no consequence for poor work ethic and no reward for good work ethic there is no motivation.”

There was no name listed as the one who uttered the quote, but an online check reveals it may have been journalist JD Roberts.

The quote, however, speaks volumes about why people work and how their contribution keeps society as a whole prosperous and thriving.

It doesn't take an economist with three Master's Degrees to explain why having a job is an important part of living in our society.

For starters, it's a way to earn a living. You make money to pay for housing, feed your family, buy a car, and pay for clothes.

Working provides a purpose in your life. Working contributes to the economy and society in general.

When you work, you can pay for other goods and services, and the people who earn money from that, then spend that money somewhere else.

It's a big economic circle.

When you work, you pay taxes. Do you think those paved roads you drive on, the playgrounds your kids enjoy, and

garbage pickup are paid for by someone's hobby?

This nation was built on its work ethic. Pioneers arrived and worked hard to clear the land and build the towns in which we all live.

In this region, the work ethic is still important and obvious through the many families who still work those original farms and work in the nearby towns.

What would have happened if the pioneers arrived and expected everything to be done for them, and got paid to do nothing?

Several years ago, when there was an immigration crisis and unvetted and undocumented 'refugees' were simply walking across the border in Quebec, the federal government smiled and had RCMP officers carry their bags for them.

During an interview with a government minister in the economics department, he was asked if any of the 'refugees' had jobs.

His answer was, “Why does that matter?”

Well, it does matter. I was close to sending an email to the PM's office suggesting I should take over the ministry because I had more knowledge of economics than the current minister did. In fact, just about everyone on my street

and all my friends are more qualified and knowledgeable and could have explained to the minister why 'jobs matter.'

The next video I saw on my news feed was from some guy speaking to his friends in his home country.

I'm not sure if he was some kind of immigration consultant, or what the deal was, because he never explained his part in the process.

However, he was telling his fellow countrymen that when they come here, they should claim to be a refugee.

He tells his friends that the government will pay them, pay for their expenses and food, for a total of over \$80,000 in benefits in the first year alone.

“You live here for free,” he told them.

He then explained the real 'suckers' were Canadians, because they work for a living, average only \$63,000 per year, and have to pay for their own way and pay taxes on top of that.

Is this really the type of person we want arriving on our shores?

It is the hard-working people of this county who pay for those who don't want to work, and the federal government spends your hard-earned dollars to do it. And they spend your money with a smile.

Successive federal governments have created a situation where we are indeed a 'sucker nation' for putting up with this nonsense.

A recent national poll indicated that the majority of Canadians are not happy with the current immigration system. Ontario is especially feeling the heat of inadequate housing, especially for those who were born and grew up here.

We are not alone. Most countries in Western Europe are also facing a crisis situation and becoming increasingly intolerant of boatloads of people showing up on their shores with their hands out.

The exception is Poland, which feels its current population is fine, and makes it known that they don't want anyone arriving there looking for a free meal.

In a democracy, the government must listen to the will of the people.

Neither Ottawa nor Queen's Park seems to listen to what their constituents want.

I have personally questioned local politicians about this topic and have never received a straight answer.

Working provides motivation. Motivation builds nations.

BRIAN LOCKHART
FROM THE SECOND ROW



A home is not an office – or is it?

If you know your way around holiday movies, we don't need to spell out which Manhattan landmark was once – and mercifully briefly – billed as New York's most exciting hotel experience.

But, even before its starring role in Home Alone 2, Manhattan's Plaza Hotel had a reputation that preceded it. Young readers might have had their first introduction to the landmark through Kay Thompson's Eloise books, which charts the adventures of a young girl living in the top floor of the palatial space with her nanny and pets for company.

Some kids might think she has it all – room service a quick dial away (hey, the stories were published before the advent of the touch-tone), staff on hand to make the bed every day, and, being in one of the most bustling cities on the planet, the world at her feet. It sounds good, but having had an Eloise-style living situation for a couple of months when I was in kindergarten, albeit in a much more budget-friendly abode, the novelty does wear off after a while!

Even still, there's always a certain feeling of adventure whenever a hotel stay is on the horizon, and there have been a surprising amount for me this year as 2025 has unfurled. Perhaps the sense of adventure can be chalked up to never really knowing what you're going to get in a new place.

Earlier this year, work took me to a beautiful hotel in Niagara-on-the-Lake that somehow combined a very homey atmosphere with a keen awareness of its status as a community showplace. On the flipside, a month-or-so later, my brother and I made a spur-of-the-moment overnight trip to Ottawa and, being just a single night, booked on a budget. Prior to this stay, I've never had the experience of walking uphill and downhill in a shower, but you do get what you pay for!

There was a different type of experience just this month where a well-known international hotel chain decided the rates they quoted me were negotiable and tried to haggle things in their favour right there at the front desk.

That, I thought, was that, until accommodation plans for a family wedding this weekend shifted and the hunt was on for another booking. Unless this is shaping up to be the Wedding of the Century without our knowledge, I can't figure out just why every single hotel room in the City of Orillia – bar one – was booked for Saturday night, but it was no easy task to secure it.

We are, of course, used to booking things online these days, but, with the room shortage, a human was required to make the booking. Once upon a time, this would have been no big deal, but, in hindsight, buying a Ouija board to scare up Kay Thompson probably would have been an easier task. Several “virtual persons,” each of which was programmed with questions more mundane than the last, had to be cleared before reaching a living, breathing human to sort things out. And, thankfully, they were able to sort things out in no less than 40 seconds.

As much as companies think they can get away with virtual and AI services to

help their own bottom lines, there are some jobs where one-on-one communication simply can't be replicated.

The Global Pandemic caused a rethink on so many things in our society, not the least of which is our work situation, who needs to be where, what tasks can be carried out remotely, and how workspaces left behind by workers who choose to work remotely can be best used.

Necessity forced most of us to translate our jobs to the virtual realm wherever possible, with varying degrees of success. A hotel might need someone on the front desk to greet customers and field questions, but does it really matter whether the person handling your booking over the phone is seated right there beside the clerk, or taking the call from a home office?

Continued on Page 15

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The AI crash

As ever, we are living on borrowed time. There's the familiar old threat of global nuclear war and the growing risk of global climate catastrophe, plus not-quite-world-ending potential disasters like global pandemics and untoward astronomical events (asteroid strikes, solar flares, etc.) Lots to worry about already, if you're that way inclined.

So it's understandable that the new kid on the block, artificial intelligence, has been having some trouble making its presence felt. Yet the so-called 'godfather of Artificial Intelligence,' scientist Geoffrey Hinton, who last year was awarded the Nobel Prize for his work on AI, sees a 10 to 20 per cent chance that AI will wipe out humanity in the next three decades.

We will come back to that, but let's park it for the moment because the near-term risk of an AI crash is more urgent and easier to quantify. This is a financial crash of the sort that usually accompanies an exciting new technology, not an existential crisis, but it is definitely on its way.

When railways were the hot new technology in the

United States in the 1850s, for example, there were five different companies building railways between New York and Chicago. They all got built in the end, but most were no longer in the hands of the original investors and a lot of people lost their shirts.

We are probably in the final phase of the AI investment frenzy right now. We're a generation on from the Dot.Com bubble of the early 2000s, so most people have forgotten about that one and are ready to throw their money at the next. There is reportedly now more than 200 AI 'unicorns' – start-ups 'valued' at \$1 billion or more – so the end is nigh.

The bitter fact that drives even the industry leaders into this folly is the knowledge that after the great shake-out not all of them will still be standing. For the moment, therefore, it makes sense for them to invest madly in the servers, data-centres, semiconductor chips and brain-power that will define the last companies standing.

The key measure of investment is 'capex' – capital expenditure – and it's going up like a rocket even

from month to month. Microsoft is forecasting about \$100 billion in capex for AI in the next fiscal year, Amazon will spend the same, Alphabet (Google) plans \$85 billion, and Meta predicts between \$66 and \$72 billion.

Like \$100 million sign-on fees for senior AI researchers who are being poached from one big tech firm by another, these are symptoms of a bubble about to burst and lots of people will lose their shirts, but it's just part of the cycle. AI will still be there afterwards, and many uses will be found for it. Unfortunately, most of them will destroy jobs.

The tech giants themselves are eliminating jobs even as they grow their investments. Last year 549 US tech companies shed 150,000 workers, and this year they are disappearing even faster. If that phenomenon spreads across the whole econ-

omy – and why wouldn't it? – we can get to the apocalypse without any need for help from Skynet and the Terminator.

People talk loosely about 'Artificial General Intelligence' (AGI) as the Holy Grail, because it would be as nimble and versatile as human intelligence, just smarter – but as tech analyst Benedict Evans says, "We don't really have a theoretical model of why [current AI models] work so well, and what would have to happen for them to get to AGI."

"It's like saying 'we're building the Apollo program but we don't actually know how gravity works or how far away the Moon is, or how a rocket works, but if we keep on making the rocket bigger maybe we'll get there.'" So the whole scenario of a super-intelligent computer becoming self-aware and taking over the planet remains far-fetched.

Nevertheless, old-fashioned 2022-style 'generative' AI will continue to improve, even if Large Language Models are really just machines that produce human-like text by estimating the likelihood that a particular word will appear next, given the text that has come before.

Aaron Rosenberg, former head of strategy at Google's AI unit Deep Mind, reckons that no miraculous leaps of innovation are needed. "If you define AGI more narrowly as at least 80th-percentile human-level performance [better than four out of five people] in 80% of economically relevant digital tasks, then I think that's within reach in the next five years."

That would enable us to eliminate at least half of the indoor jobs by 2030, but if the change comes that fast it will empower extremists of all sorts and create pre-revolutionary situations almost everywhere. That's a bit more complicated than the Skynet scenario for global nuclear war, but it's also a lot more plausible. Slow down.

GWYNNE DYER
OUR WORLD TODAY



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CLUES ACROSS

- Taxis
- Space Systems Command
- Fiddler crabs
- Heroic tale
- Yemen capital
- Misleading gesture
- Cain and ___
- Simple shoe
- Hundredweight
- Children's toy in the snow
- Gets rid of
- Free of deceit
- Performed a dance
- Chinese philosophical principle
- Exaggerated
- Refrain from inflicting

- A doctrine
- Can be subdued
- A place to bathe
- Land used for pasture
- Curved piece of iron
- Automobile
- Fencing sword
- Breezes through
- Child
- NBA legend Iverson
- Horsley and Iacocca are two
- Midway between northeast and east
- Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation
- U.S. leader during much of WW2
- Lair
- Fibrous material

- Home of "60 Minutes"
- Expression of sorrow or pity
- ___ fide: legitimate
- Immune response
- Assistance and support
- Glared
- Spanish saloon
- Pitch black
- S-shaped lines
- Statistical test
- ___ Paulo, city
- Graduation garb
- A way to record
- Not good
- Weather events
- A pituitary hormone
- Jamie Foxx film
- Rocker's accessory
- One point east (clockwise) of due north
- One who obtains

- pleasure from another's pain
- Consume
- Licensed for Wall Street
- Sick
- Israeli city ___ Aviv
- Removed the husk
- Mass of rocks and sediment
- Two-year-old sheep
- Area units
- Prison overseer
- Walked
- Wartime escort aircraft carrier
- Tax
- 50 percent
- Swiss river
- Tattle
- Actor Idris
- Resist authority (slang)
- Egg of a louse

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

COMMUNITY VOICE

Monthly Message: Food rescue turns surplus into support at the Alliston Food Bank

Every year in Canada, millions of pounds of perfectly good food are thrown away — not because it's unsafe to eat, but because it's nearing its best-before date, has cosmetic imperfections, or is overstocked. At the same time, more individuals and families than ever are relying on food banks to put meals on the table.

Food rescue offers a powerful, practical solution — reducing waste while feeding communities in need.

As a proud member of Feed Ontario and Food Banks Canada, the Alliston Food Bank participates in national food rescue programs through partnerships with organizations like Second Harvest. These initiatives connect us with local grocery stores and food retailers who generously donate safe, nutritious food that might otherwise end up in the garbage.

Through Food Rescue, we collect frozen meats, dairy products, fresh produce, bakery goods, and shelf-stable items — often past their best-before date but still perfectly safe to consume. In 2024, our efforts recovered more than 61,000 pounds of food. That's the equivalent of tens of thousands of meals, while also preventing 61,000 pounds of food from ending up in a landfill.

This success would not be possible without the generosity of our local food rescue partners:



Foodland Beeton

One of our earliest partners, Foodland Beeton, consistently freezes meat and dairy products on their best-before date, ensuring nothing goes to waste. Their donations also include produce, dry goods, and bakery items — helping us maintain a steady supply of nutritious staples.

FreshCo Alliston

FreshCo's team works hand-in-hand with our volunteers, setting aside frozen meats, dairy products, and baked goods for regular pickup. Their commitment ensures we receive protein-rich foods, which are among the most in-demand and difficult items for food banks to source.

No Frills Tottenham

No Frills helps us extend our reach beyond Alliston, providing frozen meats, canned goods, dairy products, and fresh produce —

sometimes slightly imperfect, in appearance but still excellent in quality.

Zehrs Alliston

A high-volume partner, Zehrs supplies a wide variety of rescued items every week— from fresh fruits and vegetables to frozen foods and shelf-stable goods. They also provide baked goods, adding variety and comfort to the food we distribute.

Giant Tiger

Giant Tiger is a welcome addition to our Food Rescue network, providing a variety of products that help round out our hampers. Their involvement proves that retailers of all sizes can play a vital role in reducing food waste and supporting local families.

Shoppers Drug Mart

Shoppers Drug Mart contributes items that support the well-being of our clients. Their participation shows that every business — regardless of size — can make a meaningful difference in the fight against food insecurity.

Cobs Bread

Cobs Bread adds a special touch with donations of freshly baked bread, buns, and pastries — always among the first items chosen by clients for their freshness and comfort.

Every item we receive is carefully sorted and inspected by our volunteers to ensure it meets our high standards for safety and quality. We accept:

- Meat and dairy products frozen on or before the best-before date

fore the best-before date

- Non-perishable items that are still safe past the best-before date

- Produce with minor imperfections

- Baked goods from trusted sources

Our volunteers' attention to detail ensures that only the best-quality food reaches our clients, while also reducing landfill waste and lowering food costs.

The Food Rescue Program proves that collaboration can have a meaningful impact — both for our environment and for families facing food insecurity. But there is always room to do more.

If you are a local business or retailer with surplus food that is still safe and edible, we would be happy to explore a partnership. By expanding our food rescue network, we can prevent even more good food from going to waste and ensure it reaches those who need it most.

For more information or to discuss joining the program, please contact us at info@allistonfoodbank.com.

To our existing partners, volunteers, and donors — thank you. Your dedication ensures that good food feeds people, not landfills. Together, we are not only filling plates, but also offering hope, dignity, and community support to our neighbours in need.

Thank you for helping to feed our neighbours.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

Passionate about an issue you've read about within the pages of the New Tecumseth Times? Want to share your opinion? Email us a letter to the editor to: newtectimeseditorial@gmail.com. Be sure to include your name and town.

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Measles is a contagious virus and it's spreading.

But there's good news, the measles vaccine is safe, highly effective and can provide life-long protection from measles.

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Contact your local public health unit to check your vaccination status or book a vaccine appointment today.

ontario.ca/measles

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Arts & Local Events

3D Print Forge produces detailed toys and collector items

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The items created by Anthony Seebaran of the 3D Print Forge are a collector's dream.

Anthony brought his items to the vendors' and farmers' market at Keogh Park in Tottenham on Sunday, Aug. 10.

His work is amazing, and all of it is created by a 3D printer. Anthony's collection includes everything from lizards and dinosaurs to action figures and cartoon characters.

Created with great detail and vivid colours, they represent hours of work, starting with a computer design that sends the information to the printer.

Anthony had a friend who owned a 3D printer, and he was astounded by what it could create.

"He had a 3D printer and he showed it to me," Anthony explained. "I decided to do it and figured I could sell pieces at markets."

It's a drawn-out process to create each character.

"You get a model and load it into software called a slicer... which divides the object into layers. Each item is created and printed in layers, one layer at a time," Anthony explained.

The printer switches colours on the fly as it works. The colours are created during the printing process, not added after the printing process is completed.

"The time to produce each model depends on the colour and design," Anthony noted. "Some pieces can take five days to produce, depending on the colour changes and the detail. Some small items I can print four at a time in different colours."

Anthony sells his items at different markets



PIECES OF ART – The Tottenham Vendors' and Farmers' Market sees a lot of unique items for sale each week. Anthony Seebaran of 3D Print Forge brought items created by a 3D printer, including collectibles and toys. **BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO**

around the region. He gets his inspiration by paying attention to popular culture and movies, which gives him a gauge of what people are interested in.

"I pay attention to movies and cartoons, and

things like that," Anthony explained. "When my son was young, we used to see the Minion movies and things like that — it's easy to see when a character is popular."

His pieces are real works of art.

Some are practical and can be used as toys, while others are more likely to be placed on a shelf with other collectibles.

You can view some of Anthony's work on Instagram @3dprintforgecanada.



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We're decking the halls and inviting YOU to be part of a magical holiday shopping experience. We're looking for exhibitors to be part of the Orangeville Citizen's first ever Christmas show – HollyFest! This will be a fully decorated event including drapery for each booth, entertainment and even Santa Claus!

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 for a vendor application form. Deadline for applications is: August 29th, 2025

Simcoe County Archives reopens to the public after renovations

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Simcoe County Archives has reopened to the public after an eight-month closure for significant renovations.

Originally constructed in two phases – in 1979 and 1992 – the facility has seen minimal structural changes over the years. The upgrades were essential in modernizing operations and enhancing public service.

The renovations have provided some improvements for both staff and visitors.

A revitalized reading room is designed to be more welcoming and accessible. The updated space features a small multi-purpose room and a self-serve reference library and microfilm area.

The staff area has been expanded and tailored to support the efficient processing of archival records. Additional shelving in the receiving room will further expedite record handling.

Eco-friendly cork and marmoleum flooring have been installed throughout the facility, aligning with the county's commitment

to sustainability.

The renovations not only improve the physical infrastructure of the archives building but also enhance workflow efficiency, enabling staff to make more archival material readily available to researchers.

The Simcoe County Archives houses municipal records from the County of Simcoe, all 16 lower-tier municipalities, and the City of Barrie, along with documents from over 30 historic townships, towns, and villages. The archival holdings take up 3.5 kilometres of shelving.

Among the treasures preserved are the first known butter tart recipe published in a cookbook (1900), one of the earliest photographs of a Canadian women's hockey team (1896), documentation of local involvement in the Upper Canada Rebellion of 1837, newspapers dating back to 1847, and culturally significant collections such as the James R. Gowan Papers.

For details about booking in-person appointments, making donations, or other information, visit simcoe.ca/explore/simcoe-county-archives.



ARCHIVE ADDITIONS – The Simcoe County Archives, located beside the Simcoe County Museum, has reopened to the public. The archives have undergone an extensive renovation to enhance visitors' experiences and help staff do their job more efficiently.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Fake Automatic Speed Enforcement texts target New Tecumseth residents

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

If you or someone driving your vehicle is caught speeding in a zone with an Automated Speed Enforcement (ASE) camera, you will receive a notification in the mail.

The Town of New Tecumseth has issued a warning about a scam involving fraudulent text messages claiming to be part of the Automated Speed Enforcement program.

These messages falsely instruct recipients to act on an 'Ontario Speed Sanction Warning' to avoid demerit point deductions.

Important facts to know:

Penalty Orders under ASE are issued by mail only. The Town of New Tecumseth does not send Penalty Orders via text or email.

Demerit points are not deducted for camera-based offences under the ASE program.

The ASE system uses speed cameras

in designated Community Safety Zones and School Zones to improve road safety. Offences are reviewed by a Provincial P Offences Officer, and official notices are mailed to the registered vehicle owner.

Residents are urged to ignore and delete any suspicious messages and avoid clicking on links or providing personal information

If you receive a fraudulent message, report it to local authorities or the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre.



Final Release

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SPORTS

NEW TECUMSETH TIMES

PLAYING ON – There are still several more weeks on the Tottenham Old Timers Slo-pitch schedule as teams play games into September. A Brew Birds second baseman makes the catch for an out during a game against the Gamblers at Coventry Park in Tottenham on Wednesday, Aug. 13.

BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO



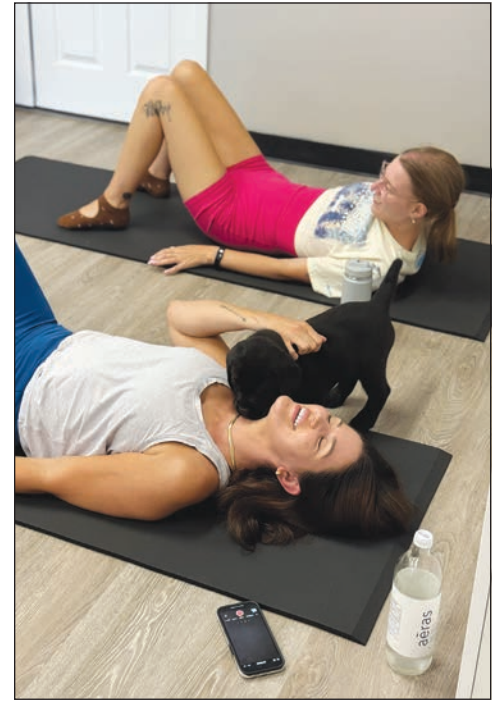
GOLDEN GAMES – A player makes it safely to second base during a Masters game between the Uncoachables and Gray Jays at Coventry Park in Tottenham on Wednesday, Aug. 13. There is still a lot of baseball left for the Tottenham Oldtimers Slo-Pitch League this season, and the weather has cooperated this year.

BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO





STRETCH AND SNUGGLE – The Studio Boutique Pilates in Alliston held two classes for its Puppies and Pilates fundraiser on Sunday, Aug. 10. The proceeds generated from each class were donated to the Alliston Humane Society. Participants enjoyed spending some time with Black and Brown Labrador puppies while getting a workout. The pups were provided by Huntsview Kennels in Loretto. The Studio Boutique Pilates is located at 169 Dufferin St. S, Unit #6, Alliston.

BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO



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Peabody is approximately 6 years old. He was a stray surviving in Shelburne. Although timid when he first arrived he has become quirky and adorable and playful. He would do great in a home of his own.

He is flea treated, microchipped, dewormed, vaccinated and negative for FIV and FELV.

Adoption fee is \$275.

Check our facebook page to see the other kitties looking for their forever home. Donations always needed to help care for the cats as we are not funded at all, and rely on donations and fundraisers. If you would like to volunteer as well we are always appreciative.

Peabody

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NEW TECUMSETH TIMES



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Road rage incident ends with gunfire in New Tecumseth

Nottawasaga Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) officers are investigating a road rage incident that ended with a bullet hole.

The incident occurred between 11 p.m. on Aug. 13 and 12:14 a.m. on Aug. 14 in New Tecumseth.

At approximately 12:14 a.m. on Aug. 14, police received a report from a motorist who had been involved in a road rage incident. The victim was travelling westbound on County Road 1 when they observed a white Ford F-150 pickup truck ahead of them swerving and braking erratically.

“Upon reaching the intersection of County Road 1 and Adjala-Tecumseth

Townline, the victim passed the suspect vehicle, stopped, and briefly confronted the driver. The victim did not obtain a description of the driver or a licence plate number,” reads a press release from Nottawasaga OPP.

“The victim continued westbound on County Road 1, but the suspect vehicle quickly reappeared behind them. Both vehicles turned northbound onto County Road 50. As they approached the intersection of County Road 50 and Highway 89, the victim entered the left turning lane while the suspect vehicle entered the right turning lane, positioning itself side-by-side



with the victim’s vehicle.”

At that moment, the victim heard a loud bang, initially believed to be a rock striking the vehicle, said Nottawasaga OPP.

“Upon returning home, the victim discovered a bullet hole in the front passenger door. Officers attended the scene and recov-

ered bullet fragments from the door,” reads the press release.

The suspect vehicle, described as a white Ford F-150, was last seen heading eastbound on Highway 89 toward Alliston.

Investigators are asking anyone who may have witnessed the incident or who may have dashcam footage from the area between 11 p.m. on Aug. 13 and 12:30 a.m. on Aug. 14 to contact the Nottawasaga OPP at 1-888-310-1122.

Anonymous tips can also be submitted through Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or online at ontariocrimestoppers.ca.

Drug trafficking, firearm-related charges laid after search executed in Alliston

A man from New Tecumseth and a woman from Adjala-Tosorontio have been charged with several drug and firearm-related offences after a search warrant was executed over the weekend.

Over one ounce of cocaine and several weapons were seized by Nottawasaga Ontario Provincial Police officers during the search, which was conducted at a residence on Beattie Avenue in Alliston on Aug. 14, shortly after 4:30 a.m.

The Nottawasaga Community Street Crime Unit executed the search, with assistance from the Central Region Emergency Response Team, Central Region Tactical Response Unit, and Central Region Canine Unit of the OPP.

Police located and seized the following items:

- One .22 caliber single-shot rifle
- One .22 caliber rifle
- Two prohibited switchblades
- One can of bear spray
- One can of Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) spray



- 45.7 grams of suspected cocaine
- 51 unknown pills
- 6,600 unmarked cigarettes
- Three digital scales
- One BB gun pistol
- Two pellet guns/rifles
- Three bullets in a loaded magazine
- Two .30-30 caliber bullets
- Two knives
- \$60.00 in Canadian currency
- One bottle of BB pellets
- One cellphone
- Drug trafficking paraphernalia

As a result of the investigation, Andrew Benns, 43, of New Tecumseth, was arrested

and charged with:

- Trafficking in a Schedule I substance - Cocaine
 - Possession of a Schedule I substance for the purpose of trafficking - Cocaine
 - Unauthorized possession of a firearm (two counts)
 - Careless storage of a firearm, weapon, prohibited device, or ammunition (two counts)
 - Possession of a firearm or ammunition contrary to a prohibition order (three counts)
 - Possession of a weapon for a dangerous purpose
 - Unauthorized possession of a weapon (two counts)
 - Possession of unmarked cigarettes over 1,200
- Joline Stewart, 42, of Adjala-Tosorontio Township, was arrested and charged with:
- Trafficking in a Schedule I substance - Cocaine
 - Possession of a Schedule I substance for the purpose of trafficking - Cocaine
 - Unauthorized possession of a firearm

(two counts)

- Careless storage of a firearm, weapon, prohibited device, or ammunition (two counts)
- Possession of a weapon for a dangerous purpose
- Unauthorized possession of a weapon – (two counts)
- Possession of unmarked cigarettes over 1,200

The accused have been held for a bail hearing and are scheduled to appear before the Ontario Court of Justice at a later date.

None of the listed charges have been proven in court.

Anyone with information related to drug or property-related investigations is asked to contact the OPP at 1-888-310-1122 or call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477).

You can also submit information online at crimestoppersdm.com.

Crime Stoppers does not subscribe to call display, and you will remain anonymous. As an anonymous tipster, you will not be required to testify in court.

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Classifieds

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or email admin@caledoncitizen.com

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OCT 17TH TOOLS & EQUIPMENT AUCTION
OCT 24TH CANVAS, CARVINGS & KEEPSAKES - ART COLLECTION
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708 OBITUARIES

Sheila Elizabeth O'Leary
(née: Caddel)

Passed away peacefully, surrounded by her four children, at Bradford Valley Care Community on August 15, 2025, at the age of 89 years. Beloved mother of Charlie, Don (Anne), Fred (Chari), and Barb Else (Bob). Loving grandmother of Maryanne (Matt), Maggie (Dan), Courtney, Jamie (Melissa), Errol (Pam), Amanda, and Ashley. Great Grandma of Lochlahn, Nova, Owen, Addison, Flynn, and Paisley. Predeceased by her husband Greg. Dearest sister of Eleanor (Harold) and Carolyn (the late Bert). She will be missed by nieces, nephews, extended family and friends. The family would like to thank the Staff at Bradford Valley for their wonderful care. The family received friends at Rod Abrams Funeral Home 1666 Tottenham Rd., Tottenham 905-936-3477 on Tuesday, August 19, 2025 from 2-4 and 6-8pm. Mass of Christian Burial was held at St. James Church Colgan, 2118 Adjala-Tecumseth Townline, Tottenham on Wednesday, August 20, 2025 at 11am, followed by interment in St. James Cemetery, Colgan. Reception followed in the funeral home's Cliffside Hall. For those who wish donations in Sheila's memory to the Crohns & Colitis Canada or Alzheimer's Society would be appreciated. Condolences and memories may be shared with the family at www.RodAbramsFuneralHome.com.

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665 Eliza St., Arthur, ON From the corner of Hwy 109 & Hwy 6 at Arthur. Come north on Hwy 6 for 800m to the lights at Frederick St.E & turn right. Go to the roundabout & take the second exit onto Eliza St. Then 1.2km to sale on east side of road OR from Hwy 89 at Conn, come south on Wellington 14 (Eliza St.) for 14km to sale on east side of road. **** PARKING ON SITE****

Tractors: JD 4x4 2355 loader tractor, new tires, rims & updates in 2024 (\$8K), 200hrs on rebuilt motor, 6500hrs approx; MF 1105 tractor, cab, 2 hydr; Universal 4x4 530 DTC SD loader tractor, shuttle drive, 1 remote; Allis Chalmers B with woods 59 belly mount mower. **Mach/Equip:** Turnco gravity box & fert auger; Glencoe 18' cultivator; Stine 22' cultivator; 20ft Harrowgators; 16ft Bushog disc; 7ft scraper blade 3pth; (2) steel round bale wagon (24' & 20'); steel feeder wagon & ext; JD 16A crop chopper, hydr hood; Kongskilde 5 furrow adj width semi-mount plow; JD crop chopper, new slip clutch; Herd 750 fertilizer spreader, 3pth; White 7' 2 auger snowblower, hydr chute; Woods 7' rotary mower; (2) steel thrower wagons; NH 326 square baler; NH tandem manure spreader -for parts; Brillion 12' cultipacker -for parts. **Shop/Farm Rel:** (2)20ft I-beams; Danuser post hole auger; 40ft alum ext ladder; asst lumber; asst chains; 3pth PTO cement mixer; quick hitch; Ariens rototiller; steel shelving; (2)Ritchie water bowls; pickup bed fuel tank; tarps; motor stand; scrap; qty hand tools; fencing supplies; parts cleaner; hardware; tire changer; gas powered welder on a trailer; belt drive buzz saw; (4) construction jacks; wagonloads; (A)McClary stove-wood; 20ft stainless steel chimney; and more!

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Continued from Page 4

Brock's Banter: A home is not an office – or is it?

Some seem to think so, but I'm not so sure.

Five years on from our collective COVID trauma, businesses are still finding their feet, and there has been a renewed effort at the Provincial level to get workers back to the office full time, encouraging municipalities to follow suit and issue similar mandates along the way.

"As the government delivers on our plan to protect Ontario, we will continue to drive public service excellence for the people of Ontario," said MPP Caroline Mulroney, President of the Treasury Board, in a statement last week – a message which was echoed by Premier Ford at the AMO conference this week.

This plan includes a mandate for all members of the Ontario Public Service to

return to the office full time by January 5.

"The return to a five days per week in-workplace standard represents the current workforce landscape in the province and it reinforces our commitment to reflecting the people and the businesses we serve across Ontario. This transition is an important step that supports the government's ongoing efforts to build a more competitive, resilient, and self-reliant Ontario."

I am curious to see the full business case of how such a mandate will result in a more competitive, resilient and self-reliant Province, however. Sure, a full return-to-office mandate might be an economic boon to the areas in which these offices are situated as employees are more likely to frequent area businesses and services on their way in and out, but what then?

Obviously there are jobs that can only be done in person, and, as a customer, there is much rejoicing when you find yourself before an actual human being, there are plenty of instances of jobs where location matters less than the quality of the job done.

For some businesses I am acquainted with, allowing some employees to work from home by their own choice has seen the employees in question increase in both their productivity and job satisfaction. In other areas where client visits are part and parcel of the gig, employees have been able to increase how often they can make the rounds rather than sitting at their desk simply to keep their seat warm.

But, as we know, these situations aren't for everyone.

In our first bout with a COVID lockdown, I initially felt my productivity increase having to only go as far as my home office, but, like an extended hotel stay, the situation eventually lost its lustre. After a year and a half of looking out the same window, I could almost feel the walls closing in around me, which cancelled out any previous productivity, and a return to the office on my own terms – and for my own mental health – was needed.

Having the option was – and remains – a luxury and, on the days where there's nothing requiring me to be in the office, those two hours spent on the collective daily commute, are used much more productively at home.

Unless those two hours are spent navigating a field of robots to reach a real person. That's an entirely different story!

Fire Danger Rating remains at 'extreme' for all Simcoe County municipalities except Orillia

The Fire Danger Rating continues to remain at the 'extreme' level in New Tecumseth as hot and dry conditions continue across the province.

All 19 municipalities in the region now have the 'extreme' rating, with the exception of Orillia, which is rated at 'high,' as of press time.

As a result, there is a fire ban on all Sim-

coe County municipalities, including New Tecumseth.

This is a total open-air burning ban. All forms of open-air burning, regardless of existing permits, are now prohibited. This includes fireworks.

The fire ban includes cooking fires and any coal, charcoal, wood, or woodchip-fueled bar-

becue devices.

Residents are urged to stay current with any announcements by the Fire Department.

A Fire Danger Rating of 'extreme' means fires can start easily from small sources like grass and debris, and can spread rapidly. This is especially dangerous when there are windy conditions.

The Fire Chief may declare an Open Air Burning Ban at any time when, in the opinion of the Fire Chief or their designate, it is in the best interest of public safety.

The current fire rating will remain in effect until such time as it is deemed that conditions have changed enough that the rating may be lowered.

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MULTI-SERVE MEALS 13 VARIETIES **SAVE \$2**

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