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Lest We Forget

A Remembrance Day service was held in Tottenham on Sunday, Nov. 9, at the cenotaph in Keogh Park. The parade formed at the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 239 and marched down Mill Street to the park. It was also the first snowfall of the season, and local residents stood in the inclement weather alongside Legion members, members of the military, police, and firefighters to remember the fallen. Turn to Page 9 to see more photos from the Remembrance Day ceremony. BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

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Council approves land exchange for new Banting Memorial High School site

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

New Tecumseth Town Council has approved a land exchange agreement with the Simcoe County District School Board that will pave the way for the long-awaited construction of a new Banting Memorial High School.

Council made the decision at a Nov. 3 closed Council meeting.

“The community has been promised a replacement for Banting High School for many years,” said Mayor Richard Norcross. “It is exciting that the Town could reach an agreement that sees a new high school for the community in a location that respects and can enhance the important legacy of Sir Fredrick Banting and his historic homestead.”

During the Committee of the Whole closed session held on Dec. 2, 2024, Council directed staff to proceed with negotiations for the transfer of approximately 25 acres of the Banting Homestead property, municipally known as 5116 Sir Frederick Banting Road, to the SCDSB. In return, the Town will acquire the existing Banting Memorial High School site at 203 Victoria Street East, as well as the G.A. Wright Athletic Field at 251

Albert Street East.

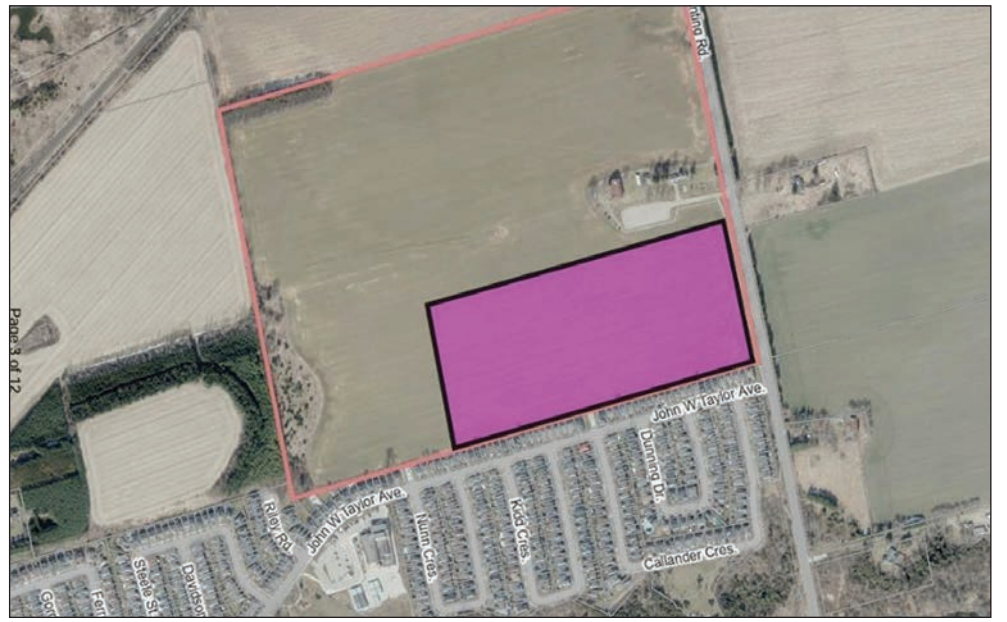
This land exchange will be complete with no financial compensation from either party.

“Staff and trustees advocated strongly for this project and are extremely pleased to receive approval from New Tecumseth Council to proceed with the build on the Banting Homestead property,” said Director of Education Dawn Stephens. “This is incredibly positive news for families of the Town of New Tecumseth and signals the start of an exciting development in the community.”

While no specific timetable has been presented by the School Board for the start of construction, Town Staff and the School Board will begin work on the detailed site plan to establish a layout that respects the Banting Homestead and studies the traffic and infrastructure demands to minimize impacts on surrounding neighbourhoods.

The School Board is also working with local Indigenous groups to ensure that any concerns are fully addressed.

“Board staff completed intensified due diligence with respect to site selection, exploring all opportunities in Alliston and surrounding areas,” said Corry Van Nispen, Superintendent of Business and Facility Services. “The Banting Homestead and Heritage Park prop-



NEW SCHOOL SITE – An aerial view shows the planned location for the new Banting Memorial High School. The site is 25 acres on the Sir Frederick Banting Heritage property.

BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

erty is the ideal location as it meets key considerations for the project and offers unique benefits not possible elsewhere in the municipality. We look forward to working with New Tecumseth town staff to advance this project.”

Once the new school is completed, the existing Banting Memorial High School will be demolished to facilitate future redevelopment opportunities.

The site plan and construction process are expected to take place over several years.

Community Test Drive event in Alliston to be held in support of Stevenson Memorial Hospital

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

If you have been thinking about buying a new car, you have an opportunity to take a test drive in a new Chevrolet, Buick, or GMC vehicle during a Test Drive event hosted by Ernie Dean Chevrolet Buick GMC in Alliston.

Not only will you experience a test drive in a new vehicle, but you will also be helping raise funds for Stevenson Memorial Hospital.

Ernie Dean is hosting the event through November at its dealership location in Alliston.

For every qualified test drive in November, the dealership will be donating \$50 in support of Stevenson.

With the public’s participation driving the donations, Ernie Dean is looking forward to hosting a record month for test drives. No purchase is necessary.

The dealership is welcoming everyone with a valid driver’s license to drop in and test drive a vehicle this month in support of

the Stevenson Memorial Hospital Foundation’s ‘Because of You’ campaign.

Test drives will be available through Nov. 30, 2025, Monday to Thursday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Friday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Saturday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Ernie Dean Chevrolet Buick GMC is located at 4906 Concession Road #7, in Alliston.



Correction

A story printed on Page 3 of the Nov. 6 edition of the New Tecumseth Times incorrectly stated that as of Nov. 15, parking on all streets is prohibited between 2 a.m. and 7 p.m.

The correct time for prohibited parking is 2 a.m. to 7 a.m.

The Times apologizes for any confusion or inconvenience this error may have caused.

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Editorial, Letters & Opinion

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

~ Stanislaw Jerzy Lec

Government-sponsored hate

There is an opioid crisis in Canada. Most likely, you already know, or know of someone, who has died from taking some kind of illicit drug, laced with opioids, at a party. The situation is that bad.

The Health Units are issuing warnings. They lament the fact that so many people are dying from illicit drug use.

You see the parents of victims on the news and social media, saying something has to be done so this won't happen to anyone else.

Many of those who died weren't even regular drug users - they were offered something at a party, and a few minutes later, they were dead.

It seems to make perfect sense that the front-line opposition to illicit drugs is to stop them from entering your country.

There are at least 35 nations where the death penalty can be applied in cases of drug trafficking.

In Singapore, nine executions for drug offences were carried out between October 2024 and February 2025. Yes, they take it that seriously.

Most of the international airports in Asia have BIG SIGNS, stating that importing illicit drugs into the country is a capital offence.

And yet, when drug smugglers are

caught, there is always some group protesting and declaring they shouldn't face justice.

The US has taken a proactive initiative when it comes to bringing drugs into its country.

They identify boats, ships, and at least one submarine, loaded with illegal narcotics and headed for American shores. These vessels are intercepted, and if necessary, fired on and destroyed.

Yes, the US is taking the drug problem seriously.

And yet, the UN human rights chief has now declared those strikes on drug boats are 'unacceptable.'

He went on to say the 'mounting human cost is unacceptable.'

This is an international 'leader?'

Why isn't he citing the 'human cost' of the number of innocent people who have died from these illicit drugs? Why isn't he citing the fact that they are engaged in organized crime activity?

Once again, the criminals are supported by our leaders, and the victims are dismissed with a wave of the hand.

If the parents of those who have died by unnecessary drug-related deaths really want to make a difference, they need to

start with these world leaders.

The list of this type of behaviour by world leaders is long. Too long to mention here.

The Canadian landscape is changing in several ways - and not in good ways.

Our leaders are not doing what they were elected to do.

They don't seem to make policy on what Canadian citizens want to achieve; they make policy influenced by other nations and vocal minority groups, and worry more about offending some small group rather than standing up and making sound decisions.

Now there is a Liberal MP who is suggesting the bible be censored.

He doesn't like certain scriptures and stated, "There should perhaps be discretion for prosecutors to press charges" if those scriptures are quoted.

This is yet another attack on Christians by the current federal government.

He wants to censor the bible and have people legally charged for quoting an ancient text, yet he and his government have done absolutely nothing about the 123 Christian churches across the country that have been burned or vandalized in just the past couple of years.

If 123 shopping malls or government

buildings had been attacked, there would be a huge outcry, an inquiry, and the police would be looking for the criminals.

And yet, nothing has been done to find the criminals who destroyed these churches, and the Liberal government doesn't care.

Instead of going after the criminals, once again, they are going after the victims. In this case, Christians.

In typical fashion, the MP attacks Christians, but there is no mention of any other religious group's texts, because he is too afraid of 'offending' anyone else.

The churches in this MP's riding should stand up together against this type of nonsense and government-sponsored hate speech and make their voices known.

In fact, Christians across the country should do the same and start demanding accountability and proper representation from their elected officials.

Maybe a local group in this MP's riding should hang a banner across his riding office.

I would suggest John 15:25.

"But this is to fulfill what is written in their Law: 'They hated me without reason.'"

BRIAN LOCKHART
FROM THE SECOND ROW



Remembering in discomfort

Remembrance Day services are always, in my view, a spectacular sight.

I've been a life-long sucker for pomp and circumstance, so the bands and pipers (bag and otherwise) that participate each year, not to mention the associated parades, and uniforms that have been cleaned-up and buttons polished to levels only seen at this time of year, is a perfect storm.

But it's not just pomp and circumstance solely for the sake of pomp and circumstance; it's potent, poignant, and never fails to lose its power.

This sight, unchanged in so many ways since the end of the First World War, had extra power this year due to circumstances well beyond our control.

The sheer number of people who gave their all to attend ceremonies on Tuesday, and those held over the weekend, despite a deep freeze and snow blowing in all directions, was a testament to how proud we are of the men and women who paid the ultimate sacrifice for King, Queen and Country. It was also reflective of the pride we have in the men and women who served, experienced the

horrors taken in by the fallen but, mercifully, came home to share their stories.

As impressive as the numbers were given the unseasonable weather of the past few days, however, I often wonder just how many more people might turn out if not for any number of circumstances.

Sure, there are those who are unable to get out and mark the occasion privately, or, if they're living on a congregate setting, in services ably spearheaded by residential staff to allow their residents to Remember - and a special shout out goes to teachers and education support staff who go above and beyond to help students Remember in-class as well.

But there are other circumstances, too.

Some might say such services glorify war and conflict; well, talk to anyone who has served and you'll likely say otherwise.

Some might argue that there aren't enough hours to take out of the workday to make the effort; first of all, the men and women who served might have

learned a word we can't print in this newspaper to refute that, but, regardless, there are almost always ways to remember on the weekends.

Yet, for others, it's a matter of discomfort.

I know there are members of our communities who don't turn out for very personal reasons. Perhaps they had a beloved parent or grandparent, aunt or uncle, who served and the aforementioned power and potency of such ceremonies are simply too much for them.

Others still might find the music that so often accompanies such services too evocative of events in their past, at funerals, for instance, and would prefer to ride out these emotions in privacy.

Fair enough.

While I respect each person's individual reasons for not coming out for such occasions, to me it invariably seems like such a missed opportunity.

I'm also reminded of an experience I had many years ago when, as a loved one's life ebbed towards its close, some members of their family were reluctant to come and say their final farewells.

BROCK WEIR
BROCK'S BANTER



Saying goodbye is always difficult, and that goes without saying, but their reason for staying away often surprised me:

they preferred to remember the loved one as they were in their prime, not as they were as their time came to an end. That certainly didn't help anybody and, when you can provide comfort at no cost to someone you love when they need it the most is, in my opinion, peak selfishness.

And, again, a missed opportunity.

There is some value in discomfort.

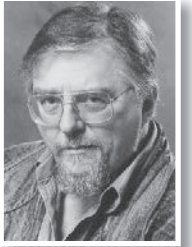
At last week's recent induction ceremony for the Aurora Sports Hall of Fame's Class of 2025, some of the honourees touched upon the lessons they learned in taking a loss on the field, on the rink, or whatever their arena, if you'll pardon the pun, happened to be. Losing is never a comfortable experience, but it's one that you learn from and, hopefully, propels you forward.

Continued on Page 19

<p>Alliston • Beeton • Tottenham</p> <h1>The Times</h1> <p>30 Martha St., Suite 205, Bolton ON L7E 5V1 Toll Free: 1-888-557-6626 905-857-6626 Fax: 905-857-6363 www.newtimestimes.com www.facebook.com/newtimestimes</p>	<p>PUBLISHER: Simcoe-York Printing & Publishing Ltd. GENERAL MANAGER: Zach Shoub EDITOR: Sam Odrowski sam@citizen.on.ca REPORTER: Brian Lockhart PRODUCTION: Lisa Clendening ADVERTISING: Vicki Meisner vicki@lpcmedia.ca OFFICE: Mary Speck CREDIT DEPT.: Al Lord CLASSIFIEDS: admin@caledoncitizen.com DISTRIBUTION: Sheila Ogram sheila@lpcmedia.ca</p>	<p>Advertising & Administration Head Office 30 Martha St., Suite 205, Bolton L7E 5V1 Tel: 905-857-6626 Fax: 905-857-6363</p> <p>The advertiser agrees that the publisher shall not be liable for damages arising out of errors in advertisements beyond the amount paid for the space actually occupied by that portion of the advertisement in which the error occurred, whether such error is due to the negligence of its servants or otherwise, and there shall be no liability for non insertion of any advertisement beyond the amount paid for such advertisement. Copyright The Times 2025</p>	<p>Subscription rates: Within 65 km except towns with letter carriers - \$52.00 incl. G.S.T. Beyond 65 km and towns with letter carriers - \$89.00 incl. G.S.T. Single copies \$1.50 incl. G.S.T.</p> <p>THE TIMES is a member of the Ontario Press Council, an independent body set up by the newspapers of the province to uphold freedom of expression and deal with complaints from readers. The Press Council encourages complainants to first give the newspaper an opportunity to redress their grievances. If not satisfied, they may then write to the Council, enclosing a copy of material that is the subject of the complaint, at 80 Gould St., Suite 206, Toronto, Ont. M5A 4L8.</p> <p>  </p> <p>Funded by the Government of Canada  We acknowledge the financial support of the Government of Canada.</p>
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Sudan: Another partition?

GWYNNE DYER
OUR WORLD TODAY



The ceasefire in Gaza, however shaky, is freeing up some bandwidth for the world's media to fret about other ongoing massacres, and UN Secretary General António Guterres wasted no time in turning the spotlight on Sudan. "The horrifying crisis in Sudan ... is spiraling out of control," he said on Monday (3 November), but the civil war may really be coming to an end.

The biggest city in western Sudan, El Fasher, fell to the nastier of two brutal rivals last month after a two-year siege. That was followed by the worst massacre in a civil war that has already killed 150,000 people and made one-third of the population refugees, but with luck it may be the last such event in the current cycle.

Sudan has never really had a government worthy of respect. Only two years after it got independence in 1956 it had its first military coup, and in 1962 the mainly Christian population in the south revolted against the rule of the Muslim majority in the north. Three million dead and six

military coups later, South Sudan got its independence in 2011.

Eight years later the rump 'Sudan,' now a country of only fifty million people, toppled a cruel thirty-year dictatorship and embarked on a brave experiment in civilian democratic rule in 2019. It lasted for almost two years before the military seized power again.

The civil war began in 2023, when the two leading generals split over who was going to run the military regime. The obvious choice was the head of the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF), General Abdul Fattah al-Burhan. His rival was General Mohamed Hamdan Dagolo, also known as Hemedti.

Hemedti was an outsider, a former camel trader from the sparsely populated and mostly desert west of the country. He had created a genocidal paramilitary group known as the Janjaweed that the former dictator, Omar al-Bashir, adopted as a counterweight to the regular army.

In its early days the Janjaweed was a camel-mounted militia massacring non-

Arab tribes for Bashir in the western region called Darfur, but in recent years it has grown into a well-equipped military organization called the Rapid Support Force (RSF). Nevertheless, it should have been beaten easily by the regular army (SAF) once the split happened.

How did it grow instead into a force that controls the whole western half of the country? Gold.

Most of Sudan's gold comes from illegal 'artisanal' gold mines in RSF-controlled Darfur. Ninety percent of it ends up in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), where it is re-melted, re-branded and sold onwards.

The UAE has long since stopped being just another one-trick Gulf oil state. It has become a country of 11 million people, its annual Gross Domestic Product is over half a trillion dollars (about the same as Singapore or Sweden), and only a third of its income comes from oil.

True, most of those 11 million people (80%-90%) are the skilled and unskilled foreign workers, most of them male, who keep the UAE economy going. In that respect, it's a typical Gulf state. But in foreign affairs it's a big, grown-up country with all the usual ambitions, and it has become a major independent player in the region's strategy and politics.

The region covers not just the Middle East but also northeast Africa, including Sudan – and Hemedti has long had a close relationship with the UAE. Indeed, the UAE has hired RSF fighters as mercenaries for its interventions in Yemen, Libya, and elsewhere.

But the main deal that keeps the war in Sudan going is Darfur's gold in exchange for the weapons that the UAE sources from all over the world.

Those weapons made the RSF a force that could stand up to the Sudanese regular army. It has now nailed down all of Dafur, admittedly the poorer and more sparsely populated half of the country but

the part where most of the gold is. And Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Iran are being generous enough with their aid to ensure that the SAF can keep fighting too.

The RSF has now set up its own rival government in Darfur and says it is open to a partition of the country. Last Thursday (6 November) Hemedti announced he would accept a ceasefire on the existing lines, which in practice would mean a Darfur ruled by the RSF and a second partition of the old Sudan. Its 'friends' did something like that to neighbouring Libya, so why not?

The African Union's historic ban on changing the former colonial borders of African states in order to avoid endless border wars is fading with the rest of the 'rules-based international order', so it could easily come to that. Last stop the Disunited States of Sudan – but first, probably, some more slaughters of the innocent.



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

COMMUNITY VOICE

Monthly Message: Sean's journey inspires transition from hardship to hope

As the winter season begins in our communities, the need for support for our most vulnerable neighbours becomes critical.

Now more than ever, vulnerable individuals, families, and our local seniors are facing enormous pressures. These pressures include food instability and financial stress from the rising cost of living and outrageous rental rates. Individuals and families who come through our doors may be experiencing homelessness, struggling to pay utilities, or find a stable job. They may be a senior who is isolated or a family that doesn't know where the next meal is coming from. Crisis does not discriminate.

Meet Sean:

Sean had spent many years as a dedicated AZ truck driver before unexpectedly losing his job. While searching for new employment, Sean fell ill, and it was discovered that he had a serious heart condition requiring surgery. During the long recovery period, Sean was unable to work, and without a steady income, he found himself living in his pickup truck,



struggling with chronic pain from sleeping in cramped conditions, and facing the harsh realities of homelessness.

When Sean arrived at CONTACT Community Services, he was physically uncomfortable, emotionally drained, and unsure of what steps to take next. His legs ached from sleeping in his truck night after night, and the discouragement was weighing him down. He shared his story with our team and was immediately connected with our Housing Support Team and Employment Services to begin rebuilding his path forward.

Our Housing Support team worked closely with Sean to help him secure stable housing, providing him with a safe place to sleep, recover, and reconnect socially. Having a place to call home gave Sean the stability to focus on his employment goals.

Through resume assistance and job search

support, Sean and our Employment Services team worked together on his employment goal, finding a driving-related job to establish a fresh start. With renewed energy, Sean soon landed his desired position as an AZ driver again, this time with a local trucking company.

Sean's journey is a powerful testament to resilience, perseverance, and the impact of dedicated community support. He remains deeply grateful for the assistance he received to transform his own life. An empowering feat that finds him back on the road, doing what he loves.

The team at CONTACT Community Services is dedicated to providing wraparound supports to anyone in need, whether it be an individual who needs safe housing and employment like Sean, a family who is struggling to find warm winterwear that fits their growing family, or a senior who is unable to pay their utility bill, CONTACT is there to create a solution that is as individualized as the need.

Our Community Hope Chest is aimed at

helping us meet the ever-growing need for critical supports that have historically gone unmet in our community. These funds often cover basic needs, such as transportation costs for a client to get to a doctor's appointment, a job interview, or an apartment viewing. Additionally, these funds can provide support for emergency food, diapers and formula, utility bills, prescriptions, or acute dental care.

Almost all the people we serve face a specific challenge to life stability. To respond quickly to this growing need, it is crucial that we have the funding to help clients continue on their path to a brighter, more sustainable future.

The Community Hope Chest is where the urgent needs of our neighbours are met through the generous contributions of our community. It is thanks to you that CONTACT is able to support our neighbours as they navigate and overcome life's unexpected challenges.

To learn more about CONTACT's Community Hope Chest and the full wraparound services available, please visit our website www.contactcommunityservices.ca

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Local organizations share concerns about NTRC name change

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Local users and organizations arriving at the New Tecumseth Recreation Centre in Alliston were recently surprised to see a new sign at the facility naming it the Alliston Community Centre.

On top of that, members of the 54 Plus Club, which has its own space at the rear of the facility, were shocked to find someone had renamed the club the "Older Adult Centre."

The renaming of the facility caused considerable concern from several local groups who have a major stake in the arenas.

There seems to be no one who claims responsibility for the sudden name change.

Long-time TNT Minor Hockey president, Donna Horan, spoke at the Monday, Nov. 3, New Tecumseth Council meeting and explained how the sudden name change would impact TNT hockey.

"Obviously, there's a communication gap between Council and staff as to what happened with the sign," Horan said. "We would like to know how it got done without any communication to your largest ice users, being TNT who paid \$500,000 last year and will be paying close to \$600,000 this year, and the Alliston Hornets who will be paying \$130,000. No communication was made to us at all."

Horan said that a name change would require that TNT Minor Hockey would have to change their insurance, game sheets, and schedules to the new name.

She also said the hockey club is known to play at the New Tecumseth Recreation Centre by all other leagues, and a name change would cause confusion.

The hockey club was supported by several members of the 54 Plus Club who

were in the gallery during the meeting and weren't happy with their group being renamed without their consent.

"We were blind sided," said Ken Cowen, president of the Alliston Hornets Hockey Club. "Our schedule is set up with our location, and at the time, it was the New Tecumseth Recreation Centre. Our insurance states where we play our games. If the name changed, we would have had to get our insurance redone so that it stated Alliston Community Centre. As for the PJHL, they would not redo the schedule. All this could have been avoided with a little communication back in June or July. Also, the new sign did not have a place to state 'Home of the Alliston Hornets Hockey Club,' 'TNT Minor Hockey, or the 'Icecats.'"

Prior to Monday's meeting, Ward 6 Councillor Nicole Cox submitted a written motion to request a formal town facility naming and renaming policy.

The motion states, "The name 'New Tecumseth Recreation Centre' was chosen intentionally to represent the unity of all three urban areas and our rural residents, symbolizing a shared municipal identity rather than one limited to a single community."

The motion goes on to say, "A recent change to exterior signage identifying the facility as the 'Alliston Community Centre' was made without Council direction or approval.' This change is not only inconsistent with all existing Town documentation, branding, and web content, which continue to identify the facility as the New Tecumseth Recreation Centre, but also creates public confusion given that Alliston already has an established and distinctly named Alliston Memorial Arena."

The motion requested that Council direct staff to immediately correct the facility sig-



NEW NAME – Several local organizations were confused and concerned when the New Tecumseth Recreation Centre was renamed the Alliston Community Centre without any announcement or consultation. After a public outcry, the Town said it will keep the same name and replace the current signs.

BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

nage to reflect the proper Council-approved name, the "New Tecumseth Recreation Centre," and that Council direct staff to prepare a draft Facility Naming and Renaming Policy.

The motion was passed, and New Tecumseth Mayor Richard Norcross assured those in the gallery that the offending signs would be removed and the New Tecumseth Recreation Centre would keep its current name.

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Arts & Local Events

Choices, consequences, and forgiveness: Blackhorse Theatre presents 'Willow Quartet'

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

A time of grief can mean a time of change as people try to navigate through their feelings and find a new path in life.

The Blackhorse Village Players' production of Willow Quartet blends comedy, romance, and drama as four people each find their own way to deal with the aftermath of a tragedy.

Set on a rural farm that has seen better days, Willow Quartet is produced by Jo-Anne Pulfer and directed by Melanie Burgess.

Kim, played by Cora Kennedy, has returned to her childhood home after her marriage ended. She is surrounded by a dark cloud of grief that resulted in the marital breakup.

She likes the peaceful atmosphere and pastoral setting of rural life.

In the role of Marjorie, Laurie Laing is Kim's mother, who has left the farm to live in a condo in the city. She returns to the farm often, usually using the excuse to do laundry there as the reason for her visit.

Marjorie is not shy about offering her opinion to others.

Kim's estranged husband Ben, played by

veteran actor Kristoffer Brown, also drops by the farm on a regular basis. His latest reason for visiting the farm is to work on an old tractor he wants to use in a town parade.

Ben's visits make Kim uncomfortable as she really doesn't want to see him.

Kim tells Marjorie that she is renting out a room to a man who plays first violin in an orchestra that is visiting the town.

Marjorie seems to find the notion of a man living in the house scandalous.

Ben plays down the situation, saying the new man is just a boarder and nothing more.

Enter Jim, played by Fabian Levy-Hara, who takes up residence at the farm as the travelling musician.

Jim is sophisticated, worldly, and charming, and makes an immediate impression on Kim.

Even Ben likes Jim. He shows him around the property and the tractor he is trying to fix.

One evening, Jim mentions the motorcycle he saw in the barn.

The mention of the motorcycle hits a nerve with Kim, who becomes emotional and runs into the house.

Ben reveals why Kim is so emotional and why the motorcycle affected their marriage.



NEW PRODUCTION – There are choices, consequences, and forgiveness in the Blackhorse Village Players production of Willow Quartet, now on the Theatre's Highway 9 and Mount Wolfe Rd stage. A cast of four is featured in the romantic drama set on the porch of a rural farm.

BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

As Kim struggles to get through her unresolved grief, she begins to explore buried feelings.

Willow Quartet is a drama about choices, consequences, and ultimately forgiveness.

The set for this play is clever and impressive, and really places you in a rural farm-

house setting.

Willow Quartet is on the Blackhorse Village Players stage through to Nov. 23, with evening performances on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday and a Sunday matinee.

You can purchase tickets on the website at www.blackhorsetheatre.ca.

Calling all animal lovers: Beeton-based Procyon Wildlife to host action-packed fundraising gala later this month

BY SAM ODROWSKI

Procyon Wildlife, a not-for-profit organization that cares for wild animals in the region, is holding its third annual fundraising gala at the end of the month.

The gala runs on Nov. 29, 5:30 to 11:30 p.m., at Caesar's Centre, Bolton, with dinner, auctions, a 50/50 draw, speeches, comedy, live music, and dancing. Based out of Beeton, Procyon Wildlife supports the rescue, rehabilitation, and release of injured, sick, and orphaned animals within a 50-kilometre radius, including Orangeville, Shelburne, Caledon, and New Tecumseth.

"Every animal that comes through our doors has a story, and each one deserves a second chance. Fundraising events like our gala make

that possible. The support we receive from our community allows us to provide the medical care, nutrition, and [a] safe environment that injured and orphaned wildlife need to heal and return to the wild," said Angela van Breemen of Procyon Wildlife.

Each year, the organization treats hundreds of animals injured by vehicles, displacement, habitat loss, or those that are orphaned due to the loss of their parents.

"The gala is a vital fundraiser that helps cover the significant costs of food, housing, and medical care for these animals," reads a press release from Procyon Wildlife.

The gala will feature comedians Kelly Zernickis and Desirée Walsh, who will be entertaining attendees with their stand-up routines.

"Desirée, a comedian with cerebral palsy, traded her early mornings as a competitive swimmer for nights on stage, performing across Canada and appearing on Breakfast Television, the Reel Abilities Film Festival Comedy Night, and ALTdot Comedy Lounge," reads Procyon's press release.

"Kelly, a Toronto-based comedian who began her stand-up career at the age of 37, has performed across North America and been featured in major comedy festivals including Boston, Burbank, and Laugh Riot Grrrl. Together, these talented performers promise an evening filled with laughter, warmth, and connection."

As well, wildlife artist Sarah McComb-Turbitt, known for her lifelike animal portraits, will be painting Procyon's red-tailed hawk, "Rusty," on a canvas during the gala. The finished piece will be sold during a live auction later in the evening.

To cap off the gala, Tottenham-based band DazeGoneBy will perform live, offering a fun opportunity to dance to their rock-and-roll sound. It's been a busy year at Procyon Wildlife, and

there is a constant need to raise funds to support its work year-round.

"[Our wildlife] centre has completed major renovations, including a fully finished office and a beautiful new reception area for admissions. The site now features a charming on-site gift shop, with even more merchandise coming soon to its online store," reads Procyon Wildlife's press release. "The expanded education room provides additional space for hosting community groups, school visits, and volunteer training sessions. Most exciting of all, the new medical triage room is up and running, giving the team improved facilities to care for injured and orphaned animals."

Tickets can be purchased online by visiting canadahelps.org/en/charities/procyon-wildlife-rehabilitation-and-education-centre/events/3rd-annual-procyon-wildlife-fundraising-gala and following the instructions on the page.

To sponsor or donate, contact Procyon at procyonfundraising@gmail.com. Donations are also accepted via e-transfer at debras@procyonwildlife.com.

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Remembrance Day marked at Tottenham's Keogh Park



PAYING RESPECT – Members of the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 239, military, police, and the Tottenham Fire Department gathered at the Keogh Park cenotaph in Tottenham on Nov. 9 for a Remembrance Day service to remember the fallen. A parade formed at the Legion and marched to the park ahead of the Remembrance ceremony. **BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTOS**

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Town explores possibility of constructing covered multi-sport field

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Town of New Tecumseth is exploring the possibility of constructing a multi-sport field with a dome at a local sports park.

The location being looked at is Geoff Gaston Sports Park on the 14th Line.

A report received by Council at the Nov. 3 council meeting identifies the need for additional field space to meet growing demand over the next 15 years.

Community feedback strongly supports the addition of an artificial turf field, with Geoff Gaston Sports Park suggested as a priority site for upgrades to achieve 'tournament-worthy' status.

There are 12 sports domes within a 50 km radius of New Tecumseth, of which 10 are located in the GTA. This indicates a regional gap in facilities north of the GTA.

The Town Parks, Trails, and Open Space Master Plan identifies a growing demand for grass fields, driven by increased soccer participation since the pandemic. A key concern is that the Geoff Gaston Sports Park is not suitable for tournaments due to the lack of indoor washrooms and shade availability.

To meet projected demand over the next 15 years, the Master Plan recommends adding 14

fields, upgrading them with permanent restrooms and shade, and potentially adding lighting to one field.

The Town of New Tecumseth currently has four soccer leagues with a combined membership of 3,324 for the 2025 season. These soccer clubs all compete for time in the Alliston Community Centre Field House during the off-season from September through March.

During that period, the Field House is extremely busy with limited or no availability.

While most time slots are reserved for soccer, a variety of other groups use the space for baseball and softball, lacrosse, hockey, dry-land training, and lawn bowling.

The Town does not have any other indoor recreational facilities equipped with artificial turf.

A successful dome operation depends on three key factors: available land, internal infrastructure, and suitable environmental and external conditions.

A suitable site would require available servicing, suitable geography, and proximity to public amenities.

The current estimated cost to build a small dome totaling 60,000 sq. ft. is around \$4 million.

A FIFA-sized dome (121,400 sq. ft.) ranges from \$9 million to \$11 million.



RECREATION ENHANCEMENT – The Town of New Tecumseth is exploring the idea of constructing a turf facility with a dome to accommodate growing local sports groups. Currently, the only indoor turf space is the Field House at the New Tecumseth Recreation Centre, which is booked solid throughout the year. Some groups, like the former TNT Express Football Club, booked time at the dome in Bradford for indoor training due to a lack of local space. **BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO**

Town looking for public input on 25-year action plan for New Tecumseth Public Library

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Town of New Tecumseth is creating a 25-year Action Plan with the New Tecumseth Public Library and is seeking public input to help shape its future.

The plan will guide improvements to facilities, programming, staffing, and parkland

development.

It will also include a feasibility study for an indoor pool.

You can fill out a public survey at newtecumseth.ca/ActionPlan. The survey will be open until Nov. 30.

If you wish to make a comment, you can email your thoughts to ActionPlan@newtecumseth.ca.

To find out more, there will be drop-in open houses at all three New Tecumseth Library branches in the coming weeks.

At the information sessions, there will be no presentations, just information and conversation.

- Drop by events include:
- Pam Kirkpatrick Library, at the Tottenham Community and Fitness Centre. Nov. 19,

from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

- Memorial Library, Alliston. Nov. 24, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

- Beeton Memorial Arena. Nov. 24, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

- D.A. Jones Library, Beeton. Nov. 25, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

- Alliston Community Centre. Nov. 25, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.



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Schomberg Veterinary Services welcomes new ownership and a fresh vision for local pet care

BY BRITTANY GRENCI

A new chapter has begun at Schomberg Veterinary Services, one defined by advanced medical standards, heartfelt care, and a passion for innovation from two dedicated veterinarians who have already built a strong reputation across the GTA.

In April 2025, Dr. Mena Melek and Dr. Abraam Khalil took over the long-standing Schomberg clinic, located at 17365 Highway 27. The new owners kept its trusted name while bringing a modern, prevention-focused approach to the practice. Both doctors are no strangers to hands-on care – they launched GTA Mobile Veterinary Services several years ago and continue to operate the mobile practice alongside their new clinic.

“This business has helped us tap into a whole new market in the veterinary space. Many of our clients are seniors who have difficulty transporting pets to-and-from the vet, people with pets who are overweight and struggling with health conditions that make transportation difficult,” says Dr. Melek. “We provide at-home pet care, including euthanasia, which we found makes a huge difference to our clients, as many people want their pets’ last days to be spent in the comfort and familiarity of their own home. This ensures that they have privacy during a very difficult time.”

The emotional weight of that kind of service reflects their philosophy: treat every pet like family and every client with compassion. That mind set has now transitioned into their brick-and-mortar clinic, where they prioritize prevention and long-term wellness over reactive care.

Dr. Melek brings a particularly rare perspective to King Township. He earned his veterinary license overseas, later becoming certified in Canada in 2013, then going to work at an Emergency Veterinary Clinic in California for a year and a half. That experience, he says, shaped his proactive medical approach.

Working in emergency care taught him how to avoid emergency situations, and he now applies that mind set daily in Schomberg. Education is a core component of the clinic, both for

staff and pet owners. Dr. Melek and Dr. Khalil educate clients on the importance of prevention so that they can avoid immediate interference and emergency services.

Five months into reopening, the clinic is already earning a reputation for offering big-city technology with small-town care. They invested in a high-resolution digital X-ray machine, work closely with a radiology team for expert interpretation, and include dental X-rays as a standard part of every cleaning – a service many clinics charge extra to perform.

By appointment, pet owners also have access to professional ultrasounds through an on-site partnership with a certified ultrasound technician. Comprehensive lab testing is completed through one of the top veterinary labs in North America, ensuring fast and reliable results. And if a case needs a second opinion? They don’t hesitate to obtain one.

“We provide highest level in terms of quality of medicine for a reasonable price. That is why we are so excited to share our services with King Township, and its surrounding areas” says Dr. Melek.

Pet owners will also notice how easy the team makes visit management. Clients can book appointments online, select which veterinarian they want to see, and even text with staff for quick questions. The clinic also automatically reminds pet owners about upcoming vaccinations and annual checkups – another example of its emphasis on preventive care.

Their online store allows customers to order food, treats, and toys, with free delivery on orders over \$100. Many products are currently 5–10% off select brands. And February is already shaping up to be a busy month – it’s Dental Month at Schomberg Veterinary Services, with 10–20% off dental cleanings and extractions on a first-come, first-served basis.

With integrity at their core and excellence in every detail, Schomberg Veterinary Services is redefining local pet care – bringing world-class expertise to the heart of the village. Interested in becoming a client?

Visit schombergvets.com to get in touch with the team.

Individuals recognized for outstanding volunteer efforts

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Ontario government recognized 15 individuals and four organizations for their exceptional contributions to their communities and the province.

In Simcoe-Grey, MPP Brian Saunderson was honoured to issue a celebratory scroll to recognize Thornbury resident Ann-Marie MacDairmid, who received a 2025 June Callwood Outstanding Achievement Award for Voluntarism (JCOAAV).

The 15 individuals who received the award have dedicated their time to a range of community causes, including youth advocacy, health care and mental health, the arts, environmental sustainability, and work with vulnerable populations.

Ann-Marie has led the Shoreline Chorus in Owen Sound for 25 years. She founded the choir in 1999 and has managed it entirely as a volunteer.

Her leadership has created meaningful opportunities for community engagement through concerts supporting local food banks, therapeutic riding programs, and church outreach initiatives.

“Ann-Marie’s leadership and generosity embody the true spirit of voluntarism,” said MPP Brian Saunderson. “Through her commitment to music and community, she has brought people together and enriched countless lives. I want to extend my sincere thanks



OUTSTANDING EFFORT – Ann-Marie MacDairmid received a June Callwood Outstanding Achievement Award for Voluntarism.

BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

to Ann-Marie and to all volunteers whose selfless contributions strengthen our communities and make Ontario a better place for everyone.”

All of the 2025 award recipients have demonstrated remarkable commitment to driving positive change and protecting communities across Ontario. During local ceremonies, held across the province, recipients received an award statue and a certificate signed by Premier Doug Ford and the Minister of Citizenship and Multiculturalism Graham McGregor.

Anyone can submit a nomination for the JCOAAV.

Applications for the award close on Dec. 5 each year.

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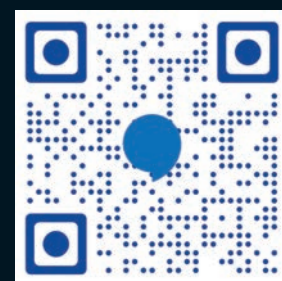
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CHAMPIONSHIP TEAM – The Banting Memorial High School Marauders senior girls flag football team are the 2025 Georgian Bay Secondary School Association Champions after winning their final game 26-7 over the St. Peter's Catholic Secondary School Panthers on the field at Banting on Tuesday, Nov. 4. The team claimed the Simcoe County Athletic Association Championship on Oct. 30 and celebrated the win on the field at Banting. **BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO**



PERFECT THROW – The Banting Memorial High School Marauders senior girls flag football team are the 2025 Georgian Bay Secondary School Association champions after winning the final game 26-7 over the St. Peter's Catholic Secondary School Panthers on the field at Banting on Tuesday, Nov. 4. Banting quarterback Celina Whittaker throws a pass during the second half of the game. **BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO**

Banting senior girls flag football team captures GBSSA championship

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Banting Memorial High School Marauders senior girls flag football team are the 2025 Georgian Bay Secondary School Association champions after a win over the St. Peter's Catholic Secondary School Panthers during the final game held on the field at Banting on Tuesday, Nov. 4.

The Marauders earned the right to compete at the regional championship after winning the Simcoe County Athletic Association championship on Oct. 30.

St. Peter's arrived at the final game as the Catholic School Athletics of Simcoe County championship team.

The final game was tied at seven going into the second half.

Banting took a lead on a pass into the end zone.

The Marauders put a lot of pressure on the Panthers in the second half, keeping much of the play in the St. Peter's zone.

With five plays left in the game, the Marauders got some insurance with another touchdown on a throw to the end zone.

The final was a 26-7 win for Banting, and

they were awarded the 2025 championship.

The game was a highly spirited match with a lot of talk on the field and some pretty aggressive plays.

"I think we're such a strong team, nothing can stop us. They couldn't get in our heads," said Marauders team member Tessa Gibbings, of her team ignoring taunts by the opposition. "It was an amazing season. I think our quarterback (Celina Whittaker) is one of the best ones. She helped us succeed a lot. We actually didn't even practice before this game."

Tessa scored the first Banting touchdown of the game.

"Once they got the touchdown to tie the game, we knew it was a new game," Tessa said. "We knew that we had to do very well in the second half – and we did. I think defence wins games, and I think our defence is one of the best."

This was a historic win for the Banting team. The Marauders senior girls now have a 50-0 record in regular season and playoffs, and five championship wins over the past five years.

This is a real testament to the dedication to the sport at Banting and some excellent coaching at the school.

Alliston Hornets 13-game winning streak comes to an end after loss to Stayner Siskins

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Alliston Hornets took their first loss of the season when they travelled to Stayner on Thursday, Nov. 6, to take on the Siskins.

The loss ended a 13-game winning streak for the Hornets.

After leading 4-1 in the first period, the Alliston squad was hammered with four unanswered goals in the second period, and two more in the final period for a 7-4 loss.

They were back on the winning side the following night when they hosted the Midland Flyers at the New Tecumseth Recreation Centre on Friday, Nov. 7.

Alliston was leading 2-1 at the end of the first period on goals from Mark Coish and Nick Lamont.

It was a 4-1 game at the end of the second period on goals from Duncan Grube and Will Millington.

The Flyers scored midway in the third frame.

Alliston's Mark Coish scored the game's final goal, his second of the night, late in the third period, to make it a 5-2 win for the Hornets.

It was a whole new game for several play-

ers on the ice as the two teams just finished trading players.

Alliston traded three players to Stayner, and two Stayner players were brought over to the Alliston camp.

"I think our confidence is really high," said Hornets head coach Dan Schaly after the Friday night game against Midland. "The guys are learning a lot of new systems and we are blending together as a team. We just had a trade – a couple went to Stayner and we got a couple back. We got some younger players and can play the next two or three years. In tonight's game we worked hard, we want to make sure we don't take anyone for granted. I think we forechecked hard and moved the puck and we made a lot of systematic plays. We played as a five-man unit."

The Hornets played well defensively and kept the Flyers from getting many quality shots on net.

"On defence we were good over all," said Hornets assistant coach Justin Madden. "We had a couple of shaky plays on the blue line. We need to clean those up and get the puck out and keep it simple."

The Hornets maintain first place in the North Carruthers Division with a 13-1 record. They are followed by the Orillia Terriers



ON THE ATTACK – The Alliston Hornets host the Midland Flyers on the ice at the New Tecumseth Recreation Centre on Friday, Nov. 7. The Hornets won this game 5-2 and maintain first place in the North Carruthers Division of the PJHL. **BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO**

and the Stayner Siskins.

The Hornets will have a couple of road games this week.

They return to home ice at the New

Tecumseth Recreation Centre on Friday, Nov. 21, when they will host the Orillia Terriers.

Game time is 7:30 p.m.

Province releases Ontario Economic Outlook and Fiscal Review

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The office of Simcoe-Grey MPP Brian Saunderson issued a statement on the province's 2025 Economic Outlook and Fiscal Review, which supports the government's plan to protect Ontario by building a more competitive, resilient, and self-reliant economy by cutting red tape, investing in infrastructure, supporting workers, and improving services.

"This plan reflects our government's continued commitment to strengthening Ontario's economic foundation while protecting

the people and communities that make it strong," said Brian Saunderson, MPP for Simcoe-Grey. "By investing in infrastructure, supporting workers, and keeping costs down for families, we are building a province that is more resilient, competitive, and ready for the future."

Highlights of the 2025 Fall Economic Statement include:

- Rebating the full provincial portion of the HST for first-time home buyers of most new homes, subject to passage of federal legislation.
- Delivering on its plan to protect Ontario

workers, businesses, and communities from the impacts of U.S. tariffs.

- Investing an additional \$100 million in the Ontario Together Trade Fund to further help small and medium-sized enterprises diversify into new markets.
- Helping Ontario manufacturers and processors lower their costs, innovate, and become more competitive by introducing legislation to enhance and expand the Ontario Made Manufacturing Investment Tax Credit.
- Investing \$1.1 billion over three years to extend home care services and the Hospital to Home program.
- Supporting sectors affected by U.S. tariffs

through the \$5 billion Protecting Ontario Account.

- Continuing to invest in the province's most ambitious capital plan, with planned investments totaling more than \$201 billion over ten years.
- "With tariffs taking direct aim at Ontario workers and communities, it has never been more important for the government to deliver on its plan to protect Ontario," said Ontario Minister of Finance Peter Bethlenfalvy. "We continue to make historic investments in highways, transit, healthcare, and all the other services our communities rely on, so we can build for our growing province."

Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority featured at Latornell Conservation Symposium

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority was featured at this year's Latornell Conservation Symposium.

This is a forum that fosters collaboration to shape a more sustainable and resilient Ontario. NVCA Chair Jonathan Scott spoke to other conservation authorities, environmental leaders, practitioners, and advocates.

His presentation was themed, with the title, "A Culture of How: Operational Improvements to Deliver Safe, Sustainable Economic and Residential Development in the Nottawasaga Watershed."

"We asked ourselves whether a conservation authority could protect what matters while becoming a better partner, a faster actor, and a more transparent and credible institution," said Scott.

"The answer is yes. By focusing on purpose, performance and people, we've built a culture that delivers both environmental protection and timely results."

Through his presentation, chair Scott outlined NVCA's progress in improving efficiency, transparency, and collaboration with municipalities, developers, and the public.

Over the past year, NVCA has introduced an e-permitting platform, a risk-based triage system, new professional and peer-review capacity, and stronger customer-service standards. These changes have eliminated backlogs, improved predictability, and raised client satisfaction to 90 per cent from 68 per cent in 2022.

Currently, 90 per cent of applications are processed within provincial timelines.

In its 2026 Budget and Business Plan, NVCA is delivering a leaner organization through an overall reduction in operating expenses without reducing services, and a 31 per cent reduction in discretionary charges through a reclassification exercise.

"Chair Scott's presentation showcased how conservation authorities can lead by example," said Jennifer Vincent, NVCA Chief

Administrative Officer.

"This transformation is about proving that

public institutions can evolve to deliver both stewardship and service excellence."



HONOURING INDIGENOUS VETERANS – A ceremony to honour Indigenous Veterans was held at the Alliston Cenotaph on Saturday, Nov. 8. Hosted by the Alliston Legion Branch 171, the ceremony was attended by local residents and dignitaries to honour the sacrifices of First Nations, Inuit, and Metis people.



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Single vehicle collision results in charges for impaired driving, flight from peace officer

Nottawasaga Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) officers have charged one individual with impaired driving following a single motor vehicle collision in Adjala-Tosorontio Township.

On Nov. 6, shortly after 3:30 a.m., Nottawasaga OPP responded to a single-vehicle crash in the ditch that had also collided with a residential mailbox on Concession Road 5 in Adjala-Tosorontio Township. Officers located the vehicle and met with the driver. During the interaction, grounds were formed

that the driver's ability to operate a motor vehicle was impaired by alcohol.

Upon further investigation, officers learned that the same vehicle had been involved in a fail-to-stop earlier that night with Caledon OPP, as a result, leading to the driver's arrest.

As a result of the investigation, Sergio Mejia Molina, 28, of North York, was charged with:

- Operation while impaired - blood alcohol concentration (80 plus)

- Operation while impaired - alcohol and drugs
- Flight from peace officer
- Resist peace officer
- Operate a motor vehicle without insurance
- Drive motor vehicle - no licence
- Drive motor vehicle - Perform stunt

The accused is scheduled to attend the Ontario Court of Justice in Bradford on December 4, 2025, to answer to the charges. The charges have not been proven in court.

"The OPP remains committed to ensuring Ontario roads are safe from impaired drivers," reads a press release from Nottawasaga OPP.

"If you suspect that someone is driving while impaired by alcohol or drugs, it is important to call 9-1-1 to report it."

You can also provide information anonymously by contacting Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477). When you contact Crime Stoppers, you stay anonymous, and you never have to testify.

Traffic complaint in Essa Township leads to the arrest of impaired driver from New Tecumseth on Halloween

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

Shortly before 3 p.m. on Oct. 31, 2025, Nottawasaga OPP responded to a traffic

complaint on Mill Street in Essa Township.

Witnesses reported that the driver was observed swerving and slumped over the steering wheel.

Officers located the vehicle and spoke with the driver.

Based on their observations, officers determined the driver was impaired by drugs and placed the driver under arrest.

As a result of the investigation, Amanda Bolton, 44, of New Tecumseth, was charged with:

- Operation while impaired - alcohol

and drugs

- Possession of a Schedule I Substance

The accused is scheduled to appear at the Ontario Court of Justice in Bradford on Dec. 4, 2025, to answer the charges.

The charges have not been proven in court.

Compassion in action: Nottawasaga OPP officers support young survivor of serious motor vehicle collision

A young hockey fan's bravery and resilience inspired a heartfelt moment of kindness and connection at the Nottawasaga Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP).

On Oct. 2, 10-year-old Kaleb was involved in a serious motor vehicle collision while riding his bicycle home from school. Thanks to his helmet and the swift, professional response of emergency services, Kaleb's injuries-though significant-did not

result in any lasting effects. His recovery has been nothing short of remarkable.

During a follow-up visit with Kaleb and his family, officers learned that he is a passionate fan of the Winnipeg Jets. Demonstrating the OPP's commitment to compassion, service excellence, and community engagement, members of D Platoon worked together to arrange a special surprise. Through a personal connection to the team, they secured a signed jersey from Kaleb's

favourite players.

On Nov. 8, Kaleb and his parents, were welcomed to the Nottawasaga Detachment for a behind-the-scenes tour. Kaleb explored a police cruiser, visited the cell block, and shared laughs with officers throughout the visit. The highlight came when D Platoon presented him with the signed jersey, his face lit up with joy and disbelief.

Kaleb and his family expressed heartfelt gratitude to the officers for their compassion,

integrity, and continued support throughout his recovery. The experience was a powerful reminder of the impact that small acts of kindness can have on a young life.

The Nottawasaga OPP is proud to serve the community of New Tecumseth and remains committed to upholding the organization's core values in every interaction. We are honoured to have played a small role in lifting Kaleb's spirits and celebrating his courage.

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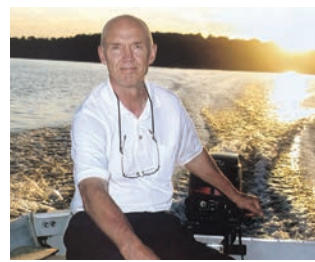
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708 OBITUARIES



Fearman, Hugh Douglas

Hugh Douglas Fearman passed away on November 5th, 2025 at Royal Victoria Hospital after a decade long battle with ALS. He was surrounded by love and held in the arms of his cherished family & friends.

Born in 1949 to Winifred and Brigadier General Doug Fearman, Doug was raised in Waterdown, Ontario alongside his brother Rick & sister Winanne.

A lifelong lover of education, Doug pursued his studies first at McMaster University followed by University of Toronto, achieving a Bachelor of Science in Physical Therapy. He would spend the rest of his life in the pursuit of higher education, completing innumerable certificates to support his adored profession of physiotherapy.

In 1977, Doug married his high school sweetheart Gerri. They raised their family, son Andrew (1979), and daughters Jill (1981) and Kelly (1984) in Alliston, Ontario.

Doug treasured his career, establishing several physiotherapy and sports medicine clinics in the Simcoe County area. One of his greatest joys was to be of service to his patients, many of whom became lifelong friends. The family would like to express our gratitude to his staff & colleagues for their years of contribution.

In addition to education, Doug enjoyed travel, great music and good food. In recent years, Doug could be found either at his beloved cottage on Gloucester Pool or attending the many sports & school events of his grandchildren. His passion for both were defining characteristics.

He is predeceased by his parents, and survived by his devoted wife Gerri of 48 years; his beloved children, Andrew (Maegan), Jill (Phillip), Kelly (Cole); his precious grandchildren, Grayson, Amelia, Wolf, Wilder, Winter, Elliot, Eve and Sam.

A celebration of Doug's life will be held on Sunday, November 16th at the Gibson Centre between 1:30pm and 4:30pm. Speeches will be held at 3pm.

In lieu of flowers, please honor Dougie by pursuing your passions, valuing your chosen family and playing the occasional practical joke or two.

Donations to Sunnybrook's ALS Clinic or Sick Kids Hospital are also welcomed.

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Brock's Banter: Remembering in discomfort

Political circumstances here at home, south of the border, and well-beyond have come together to inspire people who have never been engaged in politics before to step out of their comfort zones, put their opinions forward and, if not in writing, speaking before the public – a hurdle that's difficult to clear in the best of circumstances.

Just last week, comedian Nikki Glaser hosted Saturday Night Live and certainly sparked a conversation. Her monologue, which touched upon several controversial topics, made many people uncomfortable – and brought about the inevitable online backlash, as most things do these days – but, if not laughing, it certainly got people talking.

Maybe, however, there a shift in the offing.

An October 13 article in the UK newspaper, The Independent, delved into the topic of whether or not trigger warnings, such as those at the start of a movie or news article that contain scenes which could adversely impact its consumers, are effective.

In her article, Rebecca Whittaker, cited a study which found “flagging potentially distressing content may encourage people” to read or watch further.

“Almost 90 per vent of young people

who saw a trigger warning still chose to view the content out of curiosity, whatever the source of the warnings, and irrespective of whether they suffered trauma. One person even told researchers: ‘Sometimes my brain wants to be triggered, so it grabs my attention more.’”

More than 250 people between the ages of 17 and 25 participated in the study. It also found that whether or not the participant had trauma history or PTSD had little bearing in whether or not they were going to heed the warning.

“Although trigger warnings are there to signal care and consideration, the evidence suggests they do little to prevent exposure to distressing material. Instead, they may simply pique curiosity, leading users to engage with content they might otherwise have ignored.”

This is not to suggest in any way that people go and run roughshod over trigger warnings that might very well be relevant to their own experiences and their mental health, but simply to illustrate that comfort zones are highly individual and we are in control of whether or not we stay in them.

And how we Remember.

If you stay away from your local Cenotaph at this time of year solely because it might be an uncomfortable experi-

ence, perhaps 2026 is the year you step out of that comfort zone and take part in a remarkable example of community coming together for a common cause – something that is becoming increasingly rare in this day and age.

The men and women we gather to remember certainly stepped out of theirs to serve, and so-called creature comforts were barely a thought – aside, perhaps,

from writing home about provisions and rations. Who knows, coming out next November might provide a valuable moment of catharsis.

For those who gathered on Tuesday and in the days that preceded it, it certainly wasn't a comfortable experience, either. But it completed the Act of Remembrance, and, I think we were all the richer for it.



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