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# New Tecumseth's deputy mayor motions for transparency on town credit cards

BY BRIAN LOCKHART  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

New Tecumseth deputy mayor Stephanie MacLellan made a motion at the New Tecumseth Town Council meeting on Monday, Dec. 1, calling for the mayor and chief administrative officer (CAO) to provide a monthly report detailing all purchases made using their town-issued credit cards – known as P-Cards.

The motion states: “Transparency and accountability are fundamental principles of good governance and essential to maintaining public trust in municipal decision making. The Town has an established Purchasing Card Policy that governs the appropriate use of Town-issued credit cards.”

The motion requests, “That the mayor and chief administrative officer shall provide a monthly report detailing all purchases made using their Town-issued credit cards.”

The requested credit card report should include: date of transaction, vendor name, amount spent, and a brief description of the purchase’s purpose.

Ward 8 Councillor Andrea Jacks, while supporting the motion in principle, said she thought the motion’s focus was too narrow, citing other town administrators who also have town-issued credit cards.

“My issue with this motion, as written, is the specificity of the CAO and the mayor needing to provide that level of transparency, when realizing that many senior staff have access to the same type of purchasing card.

For example, our director of financial services and treasurer has a limit that is three times that of the CAO and has not been named as someone who would be required to provide that kind of transparency.”

She also said she has complete faith in the mayor and CAO when it comes to spending, and that asking just the two individuals to produce a spending report suggests there isn’t trust in those positions.

Ward 4 Councillor Alan Masters said he knows the current policies and procedures, and that there are many checks and balances when it comes to spending by any municipal staff. He said he would decline to support the motion.

Ward 6 Councillor Nicole Cox said she supports the motion as it is “About strengthening

transparency and ensuring council completes its responsibilities under the municipal act.”

She cited, as a recent example, gala tickets purchased for town staff and their spouses, which indicated a gap in how policy is being applied.

Mayor Richard Norcross responded to the motion.

“I don’t want people thinking we have a problem with P-Cards at the town, because we don’t,” he said. “We have a very detailed policy that clearly establishes the P-Cards. It’s very stringent with checks and balances, and it’s very thorough. They must be approved by the clerk or the treasurer. In regards to the mayor’s P-Card, my expenses are posted every year.”

The motion was carried by a vote of 5-4.

# New Tecumseth council receives report on water allocation within the municipality for year prior

BY BRIAN LOCKHART  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

New Tecumseth council received a report on the current status of the town’s water demands based on the project population as of Jan. 1, 2025.

Key findings indicated that the town has been responsibly managing its infrastructure and has not recommended approval of development applications that would lead to an over-allocation of the town’s water supply.

The current and future reductions in the Residential Demand Planning Values will allow the same volume of water to service a larger population.

Progress with Well Optimization and Interim Water from Collingwood is providing additional water supply to avoid exceeding system demand.

The town’s projected Maximum Day

Demands will reach the system’s Firm Capacity in 2025 and 2030, an improvement over the previous year’s projections.

Operational staff will monitor the water system during periods of high demand and take the necessary steps to ensure the system meets the town’s operational needs.

The 2016 Water Supply, Distribution and Storage Master Plan (WMP) was finalized in September 2016 and was ultimately approved by the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) in April 2018. The WMP found that the town had an adequate water supply under the 1999 Water Supply Agreement between the town and the Collingwood Public Utilities Commission. The Agreement provided for flows to be supplied to the town via the New Tecumseth Regional pipeline.

Historic residential water demand data show a trend toward lower individual con-

sumption compared to previous years.

This trend allowed the 2024 planning values for the Alliston/Beeton and Tottenham Residential Per Capita Per Day Unit demand and Maximum Day Factor (MDF) to be reduced to reflect it.

In the Allison/Beeton System, the Residential Per Capita Per Day unit demand was reduced marginally. The MDF is trending downwards, and with an additional year of data continuing to show this decline, it may put the town in a position to further lower the Alliston/Beeton MDF.

When the system’s water usage trend indicates lower demand, this generates a surplus of water, allowing the same volume to serve a larger population.

The town entered into an Amendment to the Supply of Water Agreement with the town of Collingwood in March 2025. The Agreement established that the interim works, once



**WATER DEMAND** – New Tecumseth council recently reviewed a report from town staff on the community’s water supply.

BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

completed, could provide up to 5,000 m3/day. The Agreement further outlined that the town would receive 63% of the flow, or approximately 3,150 m3/day, in advance of Milestone 1.

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# Editorial, Letters & Opinion

*"The window to the world can be covered by a newspaper."*

~ Stanislaw Jerzy Lec

## Don't tread on me – Bill C-9

The early astronauts were one tough and brave bunch of guys.

Those guys have a reputation as being fearless, but they were still human.

I read a quote recently from one of the early astronauts, where he explained his true feelings during a launch, years after the event.

"The altimeter said 90,000 feet. I was going straight up and accelerating, and I thought to myself, 'What am I doing?'"

At that point in his flight, he had no control of the situation at all. He couldn't turn around, he couldn't call it off, and he couldn't decide to leap from the craft and hope his parachute worked.

He was committed to the experience, and there was no way out.

That must have been a feeling of being out of control.

I believe this is how many Canadians feel about the federal government.

The men and women in Ottawa seem to have no desire to represent their constituents, the job they were elected to do.

Instead, they form an agenda and carry it out with no regard to the will of the people, even when the people tell them this isn't what we want.

This new nonsense called Bill C-9 is just another example of the government trying to shove through yet more legisla-

tion to control the population.

That bill is now becoming a convoluted mess as the Liberals and the Bloc Québécois, who were teaming up to pass this bill, can't come to an agreement.

Bill C-9 calls for the prosecution and possible imprisonment of anyone who uses symbols or speech that someone else finds offensive. This includes certain organizations' symbols, like a swastika.

However, the plan is for it to go even further by claiming certain religious scriptures should be included as hate speech.

The Criminal Code currently prescribes jail terms of up to two years for 'wilful promotion of hatred'; however, there is an exemption if that statement is in a 'good faith' opinion based on a belief in a religious text.

Legislators are trying to remove religious protections from this Bill, meaning the pastor in your church could be arrested for quoting the bible.

Marc Miller, the newly appointed minister of Canadian Identity and Culture, opened this mess by stating parts of the bible should be censored.

We don't need more and more and more laws, especially laws designed to

govern behaviour.

Years ago, former Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau's 1967 Omnibus Bill in the House of Commons made several reforms to the Criminal Code of Canada. One of those reforms was to decriminalize 'homosexual acts' performed in private.

Trudeau famously said, 'There's no place for the state in the bedrooms of the nation.'

He was quite right on that. There is no reason for a democratically elected government to peek into people's bedrooms to determine if they are living a certain way.

On a side note, Trudeau never actually said that quote – it was penned by a newspaper reporter – and Trudeau actually thanked him later for it.

But here we are, years later, where the state wants to dictate what we can say, do, or fly on a private flag pole, or face jail time.

I don't care if my neighbour wants to fly a Nazi flag in front of his house if it's on his private property.

I wouldn't like it, that's for sure, and I certainly wouldn't salute it when I drove by.

Most likely, that guy wouldn't be very popular in the neighbourhood and

would be asked by the people next door to remove it. More likely, a neighbour might do it for him late at night by tearing it down or using a hacksaw to cut down the flagpole.

If that happened, he shouldn't be surprised.

But don't forget, our grandfathers and great-grandfathers fought for the right for that guy to fly whatever flag he chooses.

There are protests being planned in January to voice opposition to this bill. These groups are normal citizens who are fed up with the constant attack on the people by their own government.

If this bill passes, I guess someone could take it to the tenth degree and find a way into the parliamentary cafeteria, or whatever it's called on Parliament Hill, and clandestinely listen to the conversations among the MPs.

The first person that makes an off-colour joke, or criticizes another group, and yes, they are human, it happens, just yell 'hate speech!' and point.

That would make a great front-page story and a fiasco for the unfortunate government official who made the mistake of telling a joke or story that didn't fit the extreme narrative of Bill C-9.

**BRIAN LOCKHART**  
FROM THE SECOND ROW



## Don't be a d--- this holiday season. On second thought...

The holiday rush is in full swing.

For some people, it can be a time of rush about to get everything checked off your Christmas buying list before the crowds in the stores get too bad.

For others, it's an early rush to get your turkey, ham, all the associated trimmings, or whatever your traditional holiday fare might be, before our stores are overwhelmed and their shelves understocked.

For others still, it's a time of doing some mental gymnastics trying to figure out how to get everywhere you need to be this holiday season, celebrating with the people you need to celebrate with, all without making it seem like...well, a rush.

In short, it's the rushing season – and it's important to make the most out of the eyes of the storm when you find them; otherwise, you risk the stressors overtaking you and becoming a d--- to all those around you. And who wants that?

You have to find our oasis of calm wherever you can at this time of year and,

for me, finding those pockets of serenity amid the sometimes-manufactured mayhem is one of the very things that puts me in the spirit of the season. More often than not, those quiet corners can often be found in a favourite holiday movie.

I know, this is hardly a ground-breaking observation, but we don't always need to break new ground in December; in fact, it's so often a matter of the tried, true, and indeed loved.

We all have our favourite films that put us in the yuletide mood, whether they're traditionally thought of as "seasonal" or not.

"Meet Me in St. Louis", for instance, is considered a Christmas classic for many reasons, not the least of which is Judy Garland's iconic rendition of "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas", but that's only one small scene in a much longer slice-of-life movie that covers several seasons.

Our own favourites these days are

probably most often watched at home with our loved ones, or even by ourselves, and we all derive some degree of comfort from it. At the same time, how wonderful it is to have the chance to watch a classic or two with others, even strangers, in a communal atmosphere?

As Christmas activities abound in our respective communities, I've been heartened to see a rise in the number of film screenings that have been included in the festivities.

Aurora, for instance, just wrapped its two-weekend Christmas market at Aurora Town Square and, as part of the action, market-goers had the opportunity to enjoy not one but two holiday classics with their neighbours: "Home Alone" and "Elf."

As someone who saw "Home Alone" in theatres when it was first released, it was clear at the time it was destined to be a classic, and it now has nostalgia on its side. How lucky for those of my gen-

eration to be able to share the big screen experience with the up-and-coming generation, particularly those for whom it will be a first viewing.

A lot of memories were made and I'd wager those kids who saw it for the first time this month will jump at the chance to do the same thing with their own kids when the time comes.

Here's to holiday traditions old and new!

Another favourite around this time of year is "The Sound of Music" which, despite how often we continue to sing about Maria's favourite things at this time of year, whether or not we share her own Top 10 List, is a Christmas-free movie that has become inextricably linked with season.

Continued on Page 19

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# COMMUNITY VOICE

## Monthly Message: CONTACT's online auction brings hope this season

Spread holiday cheer while making a meaningful impact! CONTACT Community Services is excited to announce their 4th Annual "A Home for the Holidays" Online Auction, running from Dec. 10 to 17, in support of their Community Hope Chest.

"Few things capture the true spirit of the holidays more than supporting neighbours in need," says CONTACT's Manager of Community Engagement & Development, Brenda Pufek. Over the past three years, this event has raised more than \$27,000 to support families facing hardship. This year, CONTACT is setting a goal of \$10,000, recognizing the growing challenges of rising living costs and the urgent need for community-driven support.

The auction will showcase an exciting mix of items and experiences generously donated by local businesses, artisans, and community members. From handcrafted treasures and culinary delights to unforgettable adventures and professional services, there's something for everyone to discover, and every bid helps transform lives.

CONTACT's Executive Director, Tina de los Santos, highlights the significance of the event, "We are thrilled to once again offer this meaningful online auction, where anyone can participate from the comfort of home. This fundraiser is only possible thanks to the generosity of our growing community of donors, supporters, and participants who unite to create lasting

impact for our neighbours."

Monies raised will support CONTACT's Community Hope Chest, a fund which provides vital assistance to individuals and families in crisis, stepping in when other resources aren't available. Its impact is life changing.

"This opportunity gave me a fresh start and a chance to get back on my feet again, heal, and provide a better life and future for my son and me. They essentially gave me back all hope I had lost, and I will be forever thankful and appreciative for getting connected with CONTACT Community Services and receiving their ongoing support," states one Hope Chest recipient.

CONTACT remains committed to dignity-

driven support, ensuring that those in need can access help discreetly and compassionately.

### How to get involved

- Bid in the Auction: Visit CONTACT's website or follow their Facebook / Instagram accounts @contactcommunityservices to learn more.

- Donate to the Community Hope Chest: Contribute directly to CONTACT's yearend campaign at [contactcommunityservices.ca](http://contactcommunityservices.ca) or e-transfer to [donations@contactcommunityservices.ca](mailto:donations@contactcommunityservices.ca). Donations made before December 31, 2025 will qualify for 2025 tax receipts.

- Join us this holiday season in giving the gift of hope, dignity, and community spirit. Together, we can make a difference.

## Tottenham woman starts GoFundMe campaign to support son injured in recent car crash

BY BRIAN LOCKHART  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

A Tottenham woman has started a GoFundMe campaign to help with expenses after her son was seriously injured in a single-vehicle collision near Exeter on Oct. 18.

Jasmin Peters' son Devon, who is 20 years old, was left paralyzed with a fractured C5 vertebrae and is now in a rehab facility near London.

"On Oct. 18, 2025, I received a call that no mother wants to get," Jasmin said in a statement on her GoFundMe page. "As a result of the accident, Devon is paralyzed and it is highly likely he will require a wheelchair. Although most of his healing will be done in a rehab facility, mira-

cles happen every day. He is now beginning the long, difficult journey towards recovery. He will require adaptive equipment and accessible living arrangements."

Devon has undergone emergency surgery to remove a piece of the fractured vertebrae, and plates, rods, and screws were used to stabilize his spinal column. Supporting Devon is difficult for Peters because she lives a considerable distance from where he is currently being cared for, but she makes regular trips to see him.

Devon was working full-time as a heavy equipment operator before his accident.

Although his injuries were catastrophic, Devon has shown some improvement over the past seven weeks.

"He has a long road to recovery," Jasmin said. "He has had some feeling in his legs, which doctors say might be a result of nerve pain, and that's a good sign."

A person with such severe injuries will need a lot of help in everyday life.

"There are so many things I never thought of, like ramps and accessibility," Peters said, adding that because of the distance, she needs help with gas and food.

She also has three other children that must be cared for. Devon will require an electric wheelchair, and his home must be outfitted with ramps and other accessibility features to make it easier for him to get around.

You can help Peters and Devon by donating to their GoFundMe campaign.

Visit [gofundme.com/f/support-devon-after-his-life-changing-accident](http://gofundme.com/f/support-devon-after-his-life-changing-accident) to make a donation.



**FAMILY IN NEED** – Tottenham resident Jasmin Peters has started a GoFundMe campaign in support of her son Devon, who was seriously injured in a single-vehicle accident on Oct. 18. Devon will need an electric wheelchair as well as improvements to his home to make it accessible. He is currently in a rehab centre near London.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



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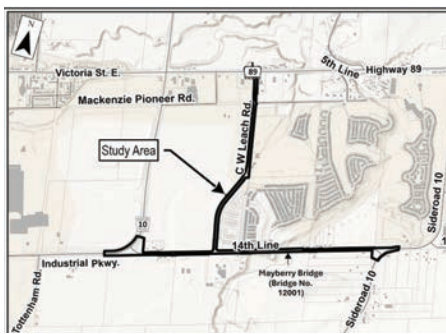
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### 14th Line and C.W. Leach Road New Tecumseth Municipal Class Environmental Assessment Notice of Public Information Centre No. 1

**The Study:** The Town of New Tecumseth has initiated a Municipal Class Environmental Assessment study (MCEA) to evaluate options for improvements to 14th Line from Industrial Parkway / County Road 10 to Sideroad 10, including the Mayberry Bridge (Bridge No. 12001), and improvements to the C.W. Leach Road corridor from 14th Line to Highway 89. Additionally, intersection improvements will be considered for 14th Line / Side Road 10 West and 14th Line Industrial Parkway / County Road 10. Options for improvements will consider road widening to address anticipated increases in traffic volume, bridge conditions, and potential operational issues.



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

**Comments Invited:** The Town would like to ensure that anyone interested in this Study has the opportunity to provide input into the planning and design of the project. The first of two virtual Public Information Centres (PIC) will be available on the project webpage to describe the Study and gather public comments on the proposed alternatives. The virtual PIC is available online at [newtecumseth.ca/14thLineEA](http://newtecumseth.ca/14thLineEA) starting **December 11 2025**. Your comments on the PIC project information materials are encouraged by **January 26, 2026**. Following the PIC, and in consideration of comments received, the preferred alternative will be confirmed. Design concepts will then be developed and evaluated and provided in a second PIC planned for the spring of 2026. Please contact either of the following Project Team members if you are unable to access the online information for this Study or if you would like to be added to the mailing list to receive future project notices.

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Project and notice information will be made accessible upon request in accordance with the Accessibility Standard for Information and Communication under the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005*. Notice of Collection: information will be collected in accordance with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. With the exception of personal information, all comments will become part of the public record.

This Notice first issued December 11, 2025 in the New Tecumseth Times.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE VISIT [WWW.NEWTECUMSETH.CA](http://WWW.NEWTECUMSETH.CA)

A Journey of Grace & Gratitude

**"From the moment we walked through the doors, we felt embraced — not just my father, but all of us. It wasn't just about medical care — it was the whole atmosphere of caring. The staff treated us like family. After six long months in hospital, coming to Matthews House and being able to bring Dad outside to feel the sun and breeze again meant everything."** shared Nancy.




In August, Nancy O'Neill's father, Michael, became a resident at Matthews House Hospice.

What began as a time of uncertainty and emotional weight transformed into a deeply meaningful experience for Nancy and her husband Brad, one marked by compassion, dignity, and connection.



257 residents and their families were supported last year

Throughout August, the O'Neills found comfort in the hospice's gentle rhythm. Volunteers brought coffee and tea to the room, nurses offered quiet reassurance, and the great room became a place of reflection and companionship.

**"We were able to be present — not rushing, not worrying. Just being with him. Matthews House gave us that gift,"** Brad added.

**You can help us continue to provide comfort, dignity, and peace to families like the O'Neills.**

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# Kevin Lord Memorial Foundation gifts \$3,000 to Stevenson

BY BRIAN LOCKHART  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

After another successful golf tournament, the Kevin Lord Memorial Foundation is again supporting several good causes in the region.

The tournament was held at Bear Creek Golf & Country Club near Barrie on a cool and windy day on May 31.

“It’s a memorial tournament,” explained organizer Al Lord. “We’ve been doing this for 19 years in memory of my son Kevin who

was a New Tecumseth resident and passed away at the young age of 20.”

While it wasn’t the best day for golf, participants still turned out in great numbers and enjoyed a day on the greens.

“We had 172 golfers – it’s a record year for us,” Al said. “The weather didn’t cooperate at all unfortunately, but everyone showed up. That’s an indicator of the support we’ve been getting.”

The tournament raised funds that will support local causes, including the Stevenson Memorial Hospital Foundation.

Al made the presentation to the Foundation on Tuesday, Dec. 3, at the hospital.

“We have been very happy in supporting the Stevenson Memorial Hospital Foundation over the past years,” Al said. “This year we also thought it would be very fitting in presenting our donation on Dec. 2, 2025, World Giving Tuesday. We are excited seeing the construction of the new expansion project to the hospital progressing well and also proud seeing many businesses and local residents also supporting the much needed expansion.”

World Giving Tuesday is an international

movement known as a ‘global generosity movement’ that asks people to donate to a good cause on the Tuesday following Black Friday and Cyber Monday. It was created in 2012 in response to the consumerism and commercialism associated with those two shopping-focused events.

While the numbers are still being calculated for an official total of what was raised in Canada during this year’s Giving Tuesday, \$16.2 million was raised in 2024 through the Canada Helps platform, which features over 87,000 Canadian charities.

# County of Simcoe provides update on plan for short-term modular housing facility

BY BRIAN LOCKHART  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The County of Simcoe is in the final stages of finalizing a partnership to bring a Bridge Housing Program to the 40-unit modular facility currently being installed at 113 Tiffin Street in Barrie.

A formal announcement of the program is expected in the coming weeks.

Work is rapidly continuing at the site where the largest modular facility to date is being constructed.

Bridge Housing is a short-term, service-intensive housing program designed to provide people experiencing homelessness with a safe, stable, and supportive environment.

While in this program, participants are actively and intensively supported towards securing permanent housing.

The County has also enacted a comprehensive system response to increase access to warm, indoor spaces by expanding warming and temporary shelter programs.

The County has opened four warming centres in the City of Barre, and centres in Bradford, Midland, and Wasaga Beach. One additional centre will open in Orillia in early December.

The County continues to look for new opportunities for additional warming centres across the region.

Eight centres have opened or are confirmed for the winter season, offering warming options daily without temperature or inclement weather thresholds.

On-site services vary by location. Some locations include amenities such as laundry, showers, meals, and/or other support.

Also, all County of Simcoe Social and Community Services offices located in Alliston, Barrie, Bradford, Collingwood, Orillia, and Midland are open each week day from 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. for individuals to come in from the cold.

For up-to-date information on locations and operating hours of winter warming centres, visit online at [simcoe.ca/WinterWarming](http://simcoe.ca/WinterWarming).

## Winter Warming Centre Locations throughout Simcoe County

<p><b>BARRIE</b> <b>The Salvation Army Barrie</b> 16 Bayfield Street, Barrie (705) 728-3737 Capacity: 15 *Men only   Open Daily 7:30 PM–7:30 AM</p>	<p>(365) 828-0224 Capacity: 10   Temperature-Activated   8:00 PM–9:00 AM</p>
<p><b>The Busby Centre</b> 90 Mulcaster St, Barrie (705) 739-6916 Capacity: 25   Open Daily 24/7   Pet Friendly</p>	<p><b>MIDLAND</b> <b>The Guesthouse Shelter</b> 522 Elizabeth St, Midland (705) 527-4111 Capacity: 8   Open Daily 7:30 PM–7:30 AM</p>
<p><b>Hope Centre</b> 34 Mary St, Barrie (705) 527-4111 or (647) 688-9175 Capacity: 15   Open Daily 7:30 PM–7:30 AM   Pet Friendly</p>	<p><b>ORILLIA</b> <b>Orillia Warming Centre</b> (Operated by The Lighthouse and One Community Solutions) 360 West St. S, Orillia (705) 527-4111 or (647) 688-9175 Capacity: 20   Open Daily 24/7   Pet Friendly</p>
<p><b>Trinity Anglican Church</b> (Opening date coming soon) 24 Collier St, Barrie Capacity: 25   Open Daily 9:30 PM–7:30 AM</p>	<p><b>WASAGA BEACH</b> <b>Faith Community Church</b> 1355 River Rd W, Wasaga Beach (647) 688-9175 Capacity: 10   Open Daily 7:30 PM–7:30 AM   Pet Friendly</p>
<p><b>BRADFORD</b> <b>WOW Living</b> 177 Church St, Bradford</p>	

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<p><b>BRANDT BLACK FOREST OR HONEY MAPLE HAM</b> <b>1.99</b> /100g 98% MEAT</p>	<p><b>RICH &amp; CREAMY PAIRS WITH VINCE'S OWN JELLIES</b> <b>VINCE'S OWN DOUBLE CREAM BRIE</b> DELI CUT <b>3.99</b> /100g</p>	<p><b>VINCE'S OWN PUMPKIN PIE</b> FAMILY FAVOURITE! <b>7.99</b> ea 8"</p>	<p><b>VINCE'S ADVANTAGE REWARDS</b> 6-inch <b>MEMBER ONLY PRICING</b> <b>CHARLOTTE'S CAKES</b> ASSTD VARIETIES <b>7.99</b> ea save \$3.00</p>	<p><b>MADE FRESH IN STORE</b> <b>LEAN GROUND BEEF</b> 98% MEAT <b>7.99</b> /lb 17.61/kg</p>
<p><b>COUNTRY HARVEST BREAD OR BAGELS</b> ASSORTED VARIETIES <b>3.99</b> ea 600g, 6pk</p>	<p><b>FEVER TREE MIXERS</b> ASSORTED VAR <b>6.99</b> ea 4x200ml</p>	<p><b>ARMSTRONG CHEESE BARS</b> ASSORTED VAR <b>7.99</b> ea 400g</p>	<p><b>JANES PUB STYLE CHICKEN</b> ASSORTED VAR <b>9.99</b> ea 700g</p>	<p><b>OCEAN CHARM FROZEN HADDOCK</b> <b>5.99</b> ea 340g</p>



# Arts & Local Events

## Fun for the whole family: Beeton Santa Claus parade to return

BY BRIAN LOCKHART  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Simcoe County council approved a \$1.042 blt's time to get bundled up and find a good spot on the street so you can watch the Beeton Santa Claus parade this weekend.

The annual event will take place on Saturday, Dec. 13, at 11 a.m.

Starting at Jackson Plaza, the parade will go down Main Street, so arrive early to find a place to park and a good spot on the street to watch the event.

Several streets will be closed to accommodate the parade, so if you are planning on driving in town, you should be prepared to

find an alternative route.

There are several other things planned to go along with the parade.

The Beeton Fire Fighters Association will hold a Food Drive at Beeton Foodland to support local families during the holiday season.

After the parade, you can make your way to the Kate Aitken Building at the Beeton Fairgrounds to warm up.

There will be hot chocolate and cookies, and Santa will make an appearance so you can take photos.

The Beeton Santa Claus parade is always a fun time for everyone of all ages to enjoy being outdoors, meeting your neighbours, and celebrating the holiday season.



## Home for the Holidays annual online auction provides help for people in crisis

BY BRIAN LOCKHART  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

CONTACT Community Services will be

hosting its 4th annual 'A Home for the Holidays' online auction during the holiday season in support of their Community Hope Chest.

"Few things capture the true spirit of the

holidays more than supporting neighbours in need," said Brenda Pufek, CONTACT's manager of community engagement and development. "Over the past three years, this event has raised more than \$27,000 to support families facing hardship. This year, CONTACT is setting a goal of \$10,000, recognizing the growing challenges of rising living costs and the urgent need for community-driven support."

The auction will showcase an exciting mix of items and experiences donated by local businesses, artisans, and community members. From handcrafted treasures and culinary delights to unforgettable adventures and professional services, there's something for everyone to discover, and every bid helps transform lives.

"We are thrilled to once again offer this meaningful online auction, where anyone can participate from the comfort of home," said Tina de los Santos, CONTACT's executive director. "This fundraiser is only possible thanks to the generosity of our growing community of donors, supporters, and participants who unite to create lasting impact for our neighbours."

Funds raised will support CONTACT's Community Hope Chest. This is a fund which provides vital assistance to individuals and families in crisis, stepping in when other resources aren't available.

One Hope Chest recipient explained how the program helped her at a time when she was in need.

"This opportunity gave me a fresh start and a chance to get back on my feet again, heal, and provide a better life and future for my son and me. They essentially gave me back all hope I had lost, and I will be forever thankful and appreciative for getting connected with CONTACT Community Services and receiving their ongoing support," she said.

The A Home for the Holidays online auction will take place from Dec. 10 to 17.

To bid in the auction, visit CONTACT's website or follow their Facebook/Instagram accounts @contactcommunityservices to learn more.

You can also donate directly to the Community Hope Chest at [contactcommunityservices.ca](http://contactcommunityservices.ca) or e-transfer donations@contactcommunityservices.ca.

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# First-timers shine at annual Christmas recital

Alliston's Rising Star Music Academy held their annual Christmas recital on Saturday at the Alliston Christian Reformed Church. This year we had a number of students performing for their first time at a recital, and we were all thrilled to see them shine!



*Deva with teacher Sarah*



*Emmett "Elton John" studies with Alyssa*



*Mehr with teacher Alyssa*



*Ella and Hannah with teacher Randi*



*Olive studies with Dustin*



*Hannah with teacher Isabel*



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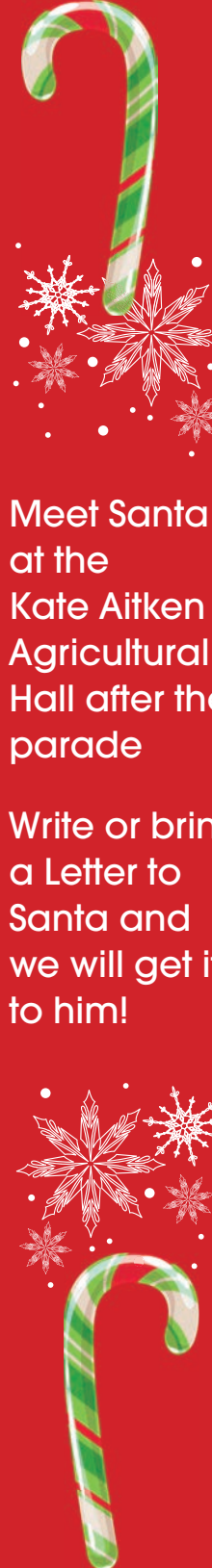

Parade Route – Beeton Santa Clause Parade – Saturday December 13, 2025–11:00am

- Red square = Road Closure Required
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[www.beetonfair.com/about/parade-registration](http://www.beetonfair.com/about/parade-registration)  
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# SPORTS

NEW TECUMSETH TIMES

**DOUBLE LOSS** – The Alliston Hornets host the Stayner Siskins on the ice at the New Tecumseth Recreation Centre on Friday, Dec. 5. The Hornets had a tough weekend. They lost this game 4-1, then lost their second home game of the weekend 5-1 to the Midland Flyers. The losses dropped the Hornets to second place in the North Carruthers Division of the Provincial Junior Hockey League.

BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO



## Alliston Hornets drop both weekend home games

BY BRIAN LOCKHART  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

What's going on with the Alliston Hornets?

That's what fans are asking after the Hornets suffered two more losses over the weekend.

The Alliston team had a 13-game winning streak before taking their first loss in a game with the Stayner Siskins on Nov. 6.

They rallied with a win over Midland on Nov. 7. Over the next eight games, the Hornets have taken five losses, including two this past weekend when they lost both home games.

The Hornets hosted the Stayner Siskins for their regular Friday night home game at the New Tecumseth Recreation Centre on Nov. 5.

After giving up two unanswered goals in the first period, the Hornets were again shut out in the second frame when the Siskins scored two more, and the Alliston didn't respond.

It was a 4-0 game for Stayner going into the third period.

The Hornets avoided the shutout when forward Mark Coish scored at 1:27 into the period. It was the only goal of the third period.

Stayner left the ice with a 4-1 win.

The following day, Saturday, Nov. 6, the Hornets hosted the fifth-place Midland Flyers for an afternoon game at the NTRC.

Midland opened the scoring with a goal

in the mid-point of the first period.

Alliston forward Noah Prokopec answered three and a half minutes later with a goal to tie the game at one.

That's all the Alliston squad could do for the night.

Midland hit the back of the Alliston net two times in the second period, then did the same in the third period.

The final was a 5-1 win for the Flyers.

It was a disastrous weekend for the Hornets.

The losses dropped the Hornets to second place in the North Carruthers Division. They had been in first place since the start of the season.

The Hornets now have a 17-6 record.

The Stayner Siskins moved into the top spot and now lead with 35 points and a 17-7 record, one point ahead of the Hornets.

Moving up a notch in the standings, the Penetang Kings took over third place from the Orillia Terriers, who have dropped to fourth in the division.

The Midland Flyers are in the middle of the pack in fifth place with a 10-12 record and 20 points.

The Muskoka Bears, Innisfil Spartans, and Huntsville Otters fill out the bottom three spaces in the standings.

The Hornets will be back on home ice at the New Tecumseth Recreation Centre on Friday, Dec. 12, when they will host the Orillia Terriers.

Game time is 7:30 p.m.

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# Simcoe County Council approves budget with 3.5 per cent property tax increase

BY BRIAN LOCKHART  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The County of Simcoe has released highlights from recent meetings held on Nov. 10 and Nov. 25.

## Council approves 2026 budget

Council has approved a \$1.042 billion budget for 2026, maintaining core services while investing in infrastructure, housing, and community supports.

The plan includes a 3.5 per cent property tax increase.

Key investments included major road and bridge upgrades, the Lake Simcoe Regional Airport runway extension, and a new 10-year Housing Strategy with active developments in Barrie and Collingwood.

Funding also supports Community Paramedicine, the Simcoe Village Campus Redevelopment, and 978 new childcare spaces under the Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care Agreement.

Significant allocations include \$216 million for LTC Homes, \$151 million for childcare, and \$114 million for housing.

## County-wide transit service delivery review

Council approved the long-term Vision Statement for transit in Simcoe County, which will guide development of an integrated, accessible, and fiscally responsible system.

While LINX and LINX PLUS show strong ridership, gaps in coverage and coordination remain.

A comprehensive service plan and gover-

nance model will be brought forward in 2026. **New affordable housing and homelessness prevention strategy**

Council has approved a new 10-year strategy to serve 20,996 households by 2035.

The plan builds on the previous strategy, which delivered 3,700 affordable units and emphasizes collaboration with municipalities, non-profits, private-sector partners, and all levels of government.

## Hazardous waste program

The County's Household Hazardous Waste program is experiencing rising costs and declining provincial funding, while capital expenses for depot upgrades remain ineligible for reimbursement.

In addition, Producer Responsibility Organizations are now ultimately responsible for HHW, prompting Council to consider strategies to potentially reduce existing service levels as part of this transition.

## Community Paramedicine Program

The County continues to expand its Community Paramedicine Program, which delivers proactive care to vulnerable populations through five initiatives: Wellness Clinics, home visits, the C.A.R.E. Pilot, 9-1-1 referral, and patient follow-up programs.

These services aim to reduce emergency calls and hospital visits by providing timely, tailored support that improves health outcomes.

Staff are currently developing and validating key performance indicators to measure program impact, ensure compliance, and support sustainable funding with results to guide future enhancements.

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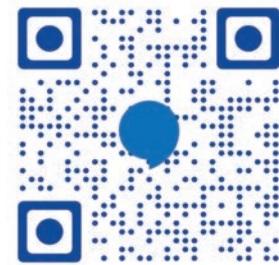
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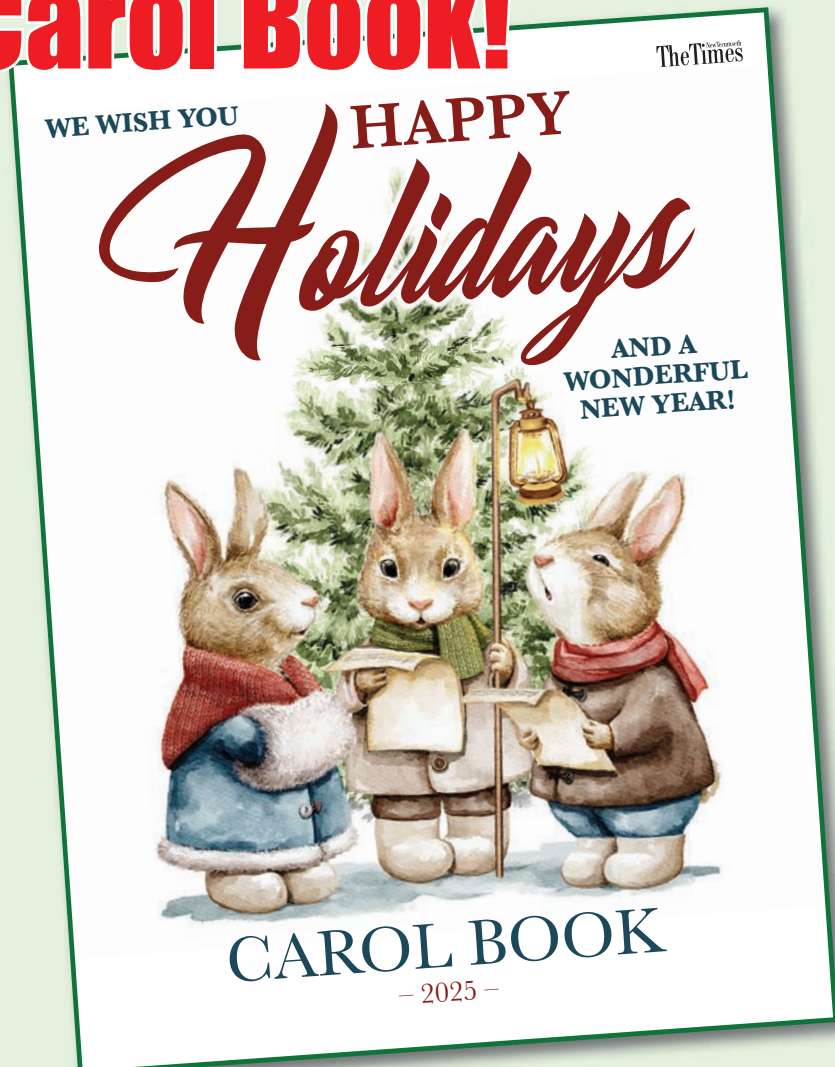
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## NVCA urges province to reconsider proposed conservation authority model

BY BRIAN LOCKHART  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Board of Directors of the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority (NVCA) unanimously endorsed a resolution and wrote to Environment Minister Todd McCarthy outlining its concerns with the province's proposed regional consolidation of Ontario's conservation authorities.

NVCA Chair and Councillor Jonathan Scott said the board supports the province's goals of efficiency, service modernization and fiscal prudence, and noted that the NVCA has already delivered many such improvements.

"We are committed to working with the Province on genuine modernisation," said Scott. "Our concern is not with the objective, but with the scale and structure of the proposed 'Huron-Superior' consolidation model."

The province's draft boundaries would merge seven conservation authorities across 1,400 kilometres and over 78 municipalities, ranging from Thunder Bay through Northern Lake Huron and into fast-growing regions of Southern Ontario in the Greater Toronto Area.

"Such a configuration risks undermining the local accountability that is central to effective watershed management," Scott continued. "Conservation authorities were created

by municipalities and remain funded and governed locally. Decisions about permitting, floodplain management and watershed planning work best when they reflect local site conditions and municipal growth patterns."

Scott also noted that the proposed model combines communities and watersheds with little shared hydrology or infrastructure reality.

"A single administrative structure spanning the GTA, Northern Ontario and rural regions is unlikely to be nimble, and may make it harder for builders, farmers and municipalities to get timely advice that keeps housing and infrastructure projects on schedule," Scott said. "From a common-sense perspective, it seems inherently unrealistic to have the GTA and Thunder Bay in the same region."

While reiterating that the NVCA Board of Directors does not support amalgamation, Scott stressed that the Authority aims to be constructive.

"If the Province continues to explore consolidation, there are more coherent alternatives," he said. "A model focusing on consolidating Georgian Bay-area authorities would better reflect shared geography, reduce transition costs and maintain the local accountability our municipalities rely on. We welcome further dialogue with the province."

### Enjoy free skating in New Tecumseth during the holiday season

One of those all-Canadian winter pleasures is strapping on a pair of skates and spending an afternoon gliding across the ice.

You can enjoy free skating at local arenas during the holiday season, courtesy of New Tecumseth Mayor Richard Norcross and council. There are three free skates planned over the next several weeks, so gather your family and

friends and hit the ice. The first one takes place on Tuesday, Dec. 23, from 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. New Tecumseth Recreation Centre

The second skate takes place at the Beeton Memorial Arena, Tuesday, Dec. 30, from 2:20 p.m. to 4 p.m. The third free skate occurs at the Tottenham Community & Fitness Centre on Friday, Jan. 2, from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.



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## Nottawasaga OPP investigating serious motor vehicle collision in Beeton

BY BRIAN LOCKHART  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Nottawasaga Ontario Provincial Police officers are investigating a serious motor vehicle collision in Beeton.

Shortly after 10 a.m. on Dec. 4, officers responded to a collision involving a van and a truck pulling a cattle trailer that occurred on Side Road 10 and the 11th Line.

The passenger of the van sustained serious injuries and was taken to a local hospital,

where they were then airlifted to a trauma centre in Toronto by Ornge Air Ambulance.

No injuries were reported for either driver or cattle.

Side Road 10 was closed between the 10th Line and 11th in Beeton while OPP Technical

Collision investigators attended the scene.

Anyone who witnessed the collision or has dashcam footage is asked to contact the Nottawasaga OPP at 1-888-310-1122 or Crime Stoppers to remain anonymous at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS) or www.crimestoppers.com.

## Local police seek the public's help in locating stolen pickup truck investigation suspect

Nottawasaga Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) officers are investigating the theft of a motor vehicle from a residential property in New Tecumseth.

On Dec. 3, at approximately 7 a.m., officers were dispatched to a report of a stolen vehicle from a residence on Atkinson Cres-

cent. The theft is believed to have occurred earlier that morning, at approximately 2:15 a.m.

The stolen vehicle is described as a white 2023 RAM 1500 pickup truck, bearing Ontario licence plate BW84050, with a value of approximately \$78,000.

Video surveillance obtained shows a black GMC 1500 pickup truck arriving in the area, two suspects exited the GMC and approached the residence. One suspect was observed approaching the front door while the other entered the RAM parked in the driveway. By 2:18 a.m., both vehicles had

left the area. Police are asking anyone who may have witnessed suspicious activity in the area or who may have relevant video surveillance footage to contact the Nottawasaga OPP at 1-888-310-1122, quoting Report #E25162630.

## Impaired driving charges laid by Nottawasaga OPP following two-vehicle collision in New Tecumseth

Nottawasaga Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) officers have charged one individual with impaired driving following a two-vehicle collision in New Tecumseth.

On Dec. 6, shortly after 5:30 p.m., Nottawasaga OPP responded to a two-vehicle collision on Highway 89 westbound, west

of County Road 10. Both vehicles were blocking the right lane of traffic and that one driver was observed unconscious behind the wheel.

Officers arrived on scene and confirmed there were no injuries.

During the investigation, officers

observed signs of impairment from one driver.

As a result of the investigation, Nicholas Coleman, 24, of New Tecumseth, was charged with:

- Operation while impaired - alcohol
- Operation while impaired - blood alco-

hol concentration (80 plus) The accused was released on an Undertaking and is scheduled to appear at the Ontario Court of Justice in Bradford on January 8, 2026, to answer to the charges.

None of the listed charges have been proven in court.

## Methamphetamine possession charge laid following no insurance traffic stop in Bradford West Gwillimbury

South Simcoe Police Uniform Patrol arrest and charge an individual following a traffic stop that resulted in the seizure of suspected methamphetamine.

On Nov. 29, 2025, at approximately 12:50

a.m., during the investigation of a blue Hyundai Sonata being operated without proper insurance on Holland Street West in Bradford West Gwillimbury, police observed an open alcoholic beverage in the centre console of the

vehicle, that subsequently resulted in a search of the vehicle. As a result of the search, officers located and seized a quantity of suspected methamphetamine from within the vehicle.

A 31-year-old male from Barrie was arrested

and charged with Possession of a Schedule I Substance, Possession for the Purpose Schedule I and Owner Operate Motor vehicle on a highway no insurance The accused is scheduled to appear in court on January 8, 2026.

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Preview: Fri Dec 19th, 10am – 4pm, or call for appointment on another day.

Pickup: Sat Dec 20th, 10am – 4pm. Call or text if you need more information.

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In addition to vintage toys, this sale features a wide variety of Tin; Porcelain & Framed Paper Advertising from brands such as Red Indian; Texaco; Ford; Buffalo Motor Oil; Evinrude Outboard Motors; Gold Star Stamps and more; Pepsi-Cola "Delicious Refreshing" Battery OP Wall Mount Clock; Stained Glass Coca-Cola Table Lamp; Orange Crush SST Push Plate; Gas Station Collectibles incl. Shell Oil 60L Barrel Can; Gasoline Fuel Pump Globe; Service Caps w/ Texaco Patches; Hubcaps; Motor Oil Cans; and so much more.



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### 708 OBITUARIES

## Robert (Bob) Hughes

Robert (Bob) Hughes, 85, passed away on Friday, October 31, 2025.

He will be deeply missed by his wife, Diane (Drummond) Hughes, and sons Evan and Bryan, along with many cherished family members and friends.

Born in Toronto, Bob was raised by his mother, Winnifred Hughes, after his father died during the Italian campaign of World War II. The two shared a close bond and had to be supported by extended family throughout his childhood.

Curious and industrious from an early age, Bob's childhood hobbies of taking apart electronics and bicycles evolved into a lifelong career in technology. After graduating from Ryerson Technical Institute as an Electrical Technician, he spent his professional life at a federal research laboratory (DCIEM), where his passion for tinkering and technology was both valued and rewarded. He was at the advent of the first computer at DCIEM and learned a new career - Computer Programming.

Outside of work, Bob found his greatest joy in the outdoors. His love of downhill skiing and backcountry canoeing led him to the University of Toronto Outing Club, where he met Diane, the love of his life. They would have celebrated 59 years of marriage this December. They bought a cottage on 1



May 2, 1940 – October 31, 2025

acre Prism Island on the Trent Severn Waterway, where he could display all his carpentry, engine mechanics, forestry, photography, boating, and general engineering skills. He loved the cottage.

In retirement, Bob's enthusiasm for nature continued through his volunteer work with the Oak Ridges Trail Association, where he served as Membership Convener for 14 years, and as a hike leader, and made many lasting friendships.

He passed along his love of computers, hiking and the outdoors to his two sons (although perhaps not the carpentry and mechanics!). He was a loving and present father who taught them independence, responsibility, and not to take themselves too seriously.

Bob will be remembered and missed. A Celebration of his Life will be held in the spring of 2026, with details to be shared with friends and family at a later time. Memories and messages of condolence may be left at [www.peacefultransition.ca](http://www.peacefultransition.ca)

Donations In Memory of Bob Hughes can be made to: The Oak Ridges Trail Assoc at <https://www.oakridgestrail.org/donate/>

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We will see each other once again.  
I am at peace... try to believe,  
It was my time.... I had to leave.  
But "what a view" I have from here,  
I see your face, I feel you near.  
I follow you throughout the day,  
You are not alone along the way.  
And when God calls you... you will be  
Right by my side... right here with me  
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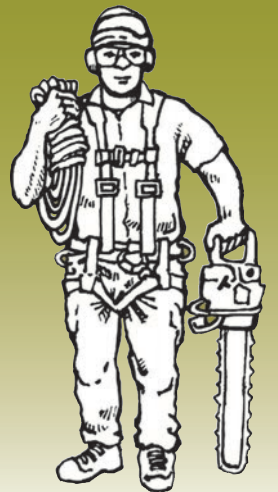
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Continued from Page 4

## Brock's Banter: Don't be a d--- this holiday season. On second thought...

I'm not going to object. In fact, one of my favourite Christmas memories of the last decade was a gathering of university friends at a traditional British-style pub in Toronto's east end, organized with the expressed purpose of attending a "Sound of Music" sing-a-long over a nice roast beef dinner.

Girls in white dresses with blue satin sashes would have blanched at the very idea of singing at full tilt, between mouthfuls of mashed potatoes and Yorkshire pudding, but a good time was had by all!

And we're set to have a good time again this weekend, albeit without a roast to enjoy, taking in another non-holiday Holiday Classic: a sing-a-long "Mary Poppins".

Again, this is not something I'm going to object to; there's a very good reason for us to make the trek to the TIFF Bell Lightbox – to celebrate the 100th birthday of the film's

star, Dick Van Dyke.

Now, I've never met the man personally, but I see that as no barrier to making the most of the occasion – he's a man in which we can all find inspiration.

While I've never met him, I did catch an extended glimpse of him a couple of years ago in Los Angeles when he was a tender 98-year-old. The occasion was to celebrate the opening of a photography exhibition of a dear friend of mine who, in the last decade or so, has happened to be Van Dyke's official photographer.

She has a unique knack for capturing all that is magical about this centenarian and that was evident for all to see – including the subject, who attended the opening and spent nearly an hour on stage answering questions about his career, as well as their collaborative relationship.

The images were certainly striking, but

every photo was underscored by the joy and vitality that was up there on the stage, a joy and vitality that was fuelled by curiosity, love, and even his complete inability to stay still.

In the lead up to his remarkable milestone, which will take place on Saturday, he shared a few words of wisdom with People Magazine.

"People say, 'What did you do right?' I don't know. I'm rather lazy. I've always thought that anger is one thing that eats up a person's insides – and hate. And I never really was able to work up a feeling of hate. I think that is one of the chief things that kept me going. There were things I didn't like, people I don't like and disapprove of, but I never really was able to do a white heat kind of hate.

"What I left in the way of children's entertainment and children's music – that's my

legacy. I don't think remembering me is all that important. But it's the music, the music we leave behind. For as long as children are proudly belting out their new word, 'Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious' or skipping along to 'Chim Chim Cher-ee,' the most important part of me will always be alive."

Dick Van Dyke might not have all that much to do with the Christmas season – Halloween, by his own admission, is much more his holiday of choice – but, as the stressors that come along with the season come at us fast and furious, we would all do well to consider the words he's given us in the lead-up to his milestone and embrace the fact that, inspired by him, sometimes it's okay to be a Dick!

Here's to Mr. Van Dyke, everything he represents, and the season of our lives he's inextricably become a part of!

## South Simcoe Police respond to fatal collision in Bradford West Gwillimbury late last month

The South Simcoe Police Service is investigating a fatal motor vehicle collision that occurred in Bradford West Gwillimbury.

On Nov. 21, at approximately 7:15 p.m., South Simcoe Police responded to the area of Sideroad 10, north of Line 9 in Bradford

after receiving a report of a collision involving a motor vehicle and pedestrian.

The pedestrian was airlifted to a Toronto trauma centre with serious, life-threatening injuries.

As a result of the collision, a 24-year-old

male from Bradford succumbed to his injuries.

The investigation remains ongoing by the South Simcoe Police Service's Traffic Unit.

Police are asking for anyone who witnessed the collision or has dash camera

footage from the surrounding area, date and time to contact Police Constable Carlos Pinho at carlos.pinho@southsimcoepolice.ca.

Anonymous tips can be provided to Crime Stoppers by calling 1-800-222-TIPS (8477).

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