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Flurries



Saturday:
Flurries



Sunday:
A Few
Flurries



Monday:
Mix of Sun
and Clouds

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SPREADING HOLIDAY CHEER

Dancers from the Dance Connection in Beeton parade down Main Street on Saturday, Dec. 13 for the annual Beeton Santa Claus Parade. Sponsored by the Beeton Agricultural Society, the parade encouraged some holiday cheer ahead of Christmas. After the parade, some attendees headed to the Beeton Fairground Hall for photos with Santa and hot chocolate to help warm up. See more photos on Page 8.

BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

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Changes in province-led recycling go into effect in new year

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Residents and businesses in Simcoe County are being reminded of upcoming changes to recycling services beginning Jan. 1, 2026.

This will be part of a province-wide transition to Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR).

These changes are being implemented under a provincial mandate requiring municipalities to adjust their programs.

As directed by the Province, this includes changes to curbside collection for businesses and institutions.

Additionally, a new disposal fee system for

recycling dropped off at County waste facilities will be implemented.

Effective Jan. 1, 2026, recycling drop-off at County transfer stations will include a disposal fee. This change is necessary because the County will no longer receive provincial funding to offset recycling costs. As a result, the County must now cover the costs of hauling and processing these materials to maintain service.

The minimum charge will be \$10. The rate per ton is \$200.

The fee applies to all residents who currently receive curbside recycling collection services and all industrial, commercial, and institutional properties.

Starting Jan. 1, 2026, businesses and insti-

tutions will no longer receive curbside recycling collection as mandated by the Province under the transition to EPR.

Businesses wishing to remove their carts can contact the County directly.

While garbage and organics collection provided by the County will continue as usual for this sector, recycling must still be separated from garbage and disposed of properly.

Simcoe County, along with many other municipalities, strongly advocated for the continued curbside recycling collection of small industrial, commercial, and institutional properties.

Despite this advocacy, the Province confirmed, through a formal notification from the Minister of Environment, Conservation

and Parks in October 2025, that Circular Materials would not be able to accommodate this direction.

Residential recycling collection will continue on your regular collection day using your existing recycling carts.

However, beginning Jan. 1, 2026, recycling will be collected by Emterra trucks on behalf of Circular Materials.

Garbage and organics will continue to be collected by Miller Waste.

Pickup times will most likely differ due to differing collection routes.

Be patient if your recycling is collected at a different time than garbage and organics.

For more information about the changes, go to: simcoe.ca/recyclingchange

Applications are open for in-person and virtual after-school programs for students with ASD

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Social and recreational programs will be offered from January to March for Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) students with a developmental profile consistent with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). The programs will be offered virtually and in person, and will focus on using recreation, problem solving, coding, music, and play skills to support social skills development.

Coding and Robotics Club

A five-week, coding and robotics themed program designed to improve computing, problem-solving, and social skills of children with a developmental profile consistent with ASD by focusing on following instructions, creativity, and conversational skills. This program will run virtually from February to March.

Journey to Success Social Skills Program

A six-week program designed to improve problem-solving skills of children with a developmental profile consistent with ASD by focusing on cooperation and teamwork to support social skills development. This program will run virtually from January to March.

Music Social Skills Program

An eight-week, music-based program designed to improve emotional regulation and social skills of children with a developmental profile consistent with ASD by focus-

ing on singing, dancing, and playing instruments in a group setting. This program will run in person from January to March.

Recreation Social Skills Program

An eight-week, multi-component recreation program designed to improve the gross motor skills and social skills of children with a developmental profile consistent with ASD. This program will run in person from January to March.

Secret Agent Society Program

A 10-week evidence-based cognitive behavioral spy-themed program designed for children aged 8 to 12, it helps build essential social and emotional skills through engaging tools like interactive games, computer-based activities, and clinician-led group sessions. The program focuses on teaching emotion recognition, emotion regulation, social problem-solving, and effective social interaction. Parents/guardians are actively involved to reinforce and support their child's learning and progress. This program will run virtually from January to April.

SIBSHOPs Workshops for Siblings of Children with Special Education Needs

A four-week program designed to encourage friendships and connections between siblings of children with special education needs by focusing on playing games, participating in fun activities, and sharing stories. This program will run in person in February.

Parents/guardians are an important part of the programs and may be required to attend

the programs. Parents/guardians will receive resources and support to help children develop and practice new skills at home and at school.

Limited spaces are available. Complete the initial application form on the SCDSB website at scdsb.on.ca/inclusiverecreationprograms by Jan. 5, 2026.

This does not guarantee enrolment into the program. You may be contacted for an initial telephone interview or screening session to assess if the program is appropriate for your child.



This initiative links directly to the SCDSB Strategic Priorities in the areas of Well-being and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.

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Editorial, Letters & Opinion

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

~ Stanislaw Jerzy Lec

Don't steal from my house

I used to have a friend who came from a fairly large family.

There were six or seven children who, by the time I met them, were all grown adults.

An older sister was in her mid-30s, married with a house and three children.

One day, that sister just walked away from her life. She abandoned her home, her husband, and her children.

No one was sure why she chose to do that.

Several years went by, and no one heard from her. Another sister saw her in a casino and approached her. The woman claimed to have amnesia and said she didn't know anyone, and quickly ran off.

The sister reported she appeared dishevelled and was hanging out with a questionable group of people.

A few years later, my friend answered a knock at the door of her home. Her parents had moved, and she had taken over the former family home.

It was the long-lost sister and her boyfriend.

She described them as looking like 'a couple of bums.'

The sister said they needed a place to stay, and asked if they could stay at the

house for a couple of weeks.

My friend was leery, but at the same time, the woman was still family, so she let them in.

It didn't take very long for things to go wrong.

My friend returned home from work and noticed that a collection of pop bottles she had been saving to return for the deposit were all missing.

It wasn't the amount of money the bottles were worth that was the problem. The problem was, they were hers. They weren't there for the taking.

A day later, she noticed that the jar full of coins she kept in her bedroom was empty.

It was obvious that the couple of visitors were stealing from her. She did an inventory of the house and found that other items were missing.

The next morning, my friend told her visitors to leave and not to come back.

The long-lost sister was livid. How could she not be allowed to stay there? After all, she was family.

It just didn't occur to this woman that she was the problem. Stealing from your host will, no doubt, usually end with you being asked to leave.

There has been a problem with extor-

tion among certain communities in this country. Notably, some groups extort money from their own community through intimidation and violence.

Recently, in Surrey, British Columbia, 15 individuals were charged with extortion. None of the accused are Canadian citizens. It is questionable if any of them should even be here in the first place.

So what did these people do after being arrested? They all filed for refugee status to avoid being deported.

B.C. has already been hit by a wave of extortion crimes and shootings, mostly targeting the South Asian community.

The mayor of Surrey, Branda Locke, has done something you rarely see local politicians do.

She made a statement saying she is 'appalled' to learn these criminals are claiming refugee status to evade deportation.

Good for her. We need local politicians to speak up and demand justice at the provincial and federal levels, to protect local people, because criminals are not being punished in our legal system.

Mayor Locke went on to say these suspects "must face swift justice."

The Canadian Border Services Agency states that "persons found inad-

missible" for such reasons as "serious criminality," or "organized criminality," won't have their refugee claims heard and instead will be ordered to leave the country.

However, CBSA doesn't have a very good reputation for protecting our borders.

Extortion rackets, while using violence, are part of both "serious criminality" and "organized criminality."

Canadian citizens are getting fed up with this constant stream of news that persons who don't belong here in the first place are committing crimes, and are still being allowed to stay, to commit more crimes.

Denmark just released its latest crime figures, and it has a very serious problem. The number of crimes committed by refugees from a certain country is huge, way higher than the regular population, and now they don't know what to do.

The statistics are readily available.

The answer is simple – if you're a guest in my house, don't steal.

If you steal or commit a crime in my house, you will be sent packing.

BRIAN LOCKHART
FROM THE SECOND ROW



Socks, booze and vintage giving

This has been a challenging year for so many and given all we've collectively had to navigate throughout 2025, we have to celebrate the little wins.

One little win I was all too happy to celebrate over the weekend was a bright spot of sunshine on an otherwise grey and bleak Saturday – and that was somehow finishing off my Christmas shopping with eleven days to spare.

That's not to say that I don't try to be a proactive person wherever possible, but life, as we all know, has a tendency to get in the way, especially at this time of year.

I don't know how anyone else tasked this year with getting me a gift is faring – full disclosure: for our wider family, we operate on a Secret Santa system of giving – but I hope they finished a good long while ago.

While I've never considered myself particularly hard to buy for, I've heard from more than a few people that I'm in the minority on that. Time and time again I'm told finding just the right gift

to me is particularly challenging. I don't really understand why; after all, a good book, a bottled potent potable, or any number of things that happen to bear the iconic visage of Lucille Ball, always hit the right spot.

Heck, a good pair of socks? Sign me up!

Well, I guess I'm at that age.

I never could have anticipated as a child that a good, cozy, well-made pair of socks could get me as excited as the oversized novelty version hung from the mantle and stretched out by whatever Santa left as he passed by. Yet, every so often we surprise ourselves.

Socks, Lucy and/or something to drink. Easy-peasy.

But I guess that depends on what you want to imbibe.

One "something to drink" I'd rather pass on at this point of time is bourbon. Never in my top five of potent potables, something apparently hopelessly off-trend, I didn't exactly suffer when the "Elbows Up" philosophy saw such bot-

tles removed from our shelves, but I was happy to stand shoulder-to-shoulder, tumbler-to-empty-tumbler with those who were.

And, if those shoppers happen to be comparatively parched compared to this time last year when Christmas parties and open bars were in full swing, I'm hoping they get a win sooner rather than later.

Earlier this month, the Province of Nova Scotia, a jurisdiction like Ontario where liquor sales are controlled by a Provincial body, and likewise joined Ontario in pulling U.S. alcohol off shelves at the start of the trade war, announced an innovative way to dispose of a great deal of what was put in storage.

Their approach was to offer \$14 million-worth of wine and spirits for sale, with proceeds benefiting organizations combatting issues surrounding food insecurity, including Feed Nova Scotia.

"We remain committed to a Team Canada approach to tariffs and trade," said Premier Tim Houston. "We will

not be ordering any more from the United States once this inventory is gone. But Nova Scotians have already paid for this product. We don't want it to go to waste. That's why we're selling it and using proceeds to help those in need."

Manitoba was quick to follow Nova Scotia's lead, with similar sales through Christmas Eve, and an estimated \$500,000 worth of revenue, benefiting charities helping food insecurity, Indigenous organizations, and children's charities.

"Manitobans have been resilient against Donald Trump's tariffs and deserve some holiday cheer," said Premier Wab Kinew. "We are offering people a chance to give back to the most vulnerable families during this holiday season."

Continued on Page 31

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GENERAL MANAGER: Zach Shoub

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OFFICE: Mary Speck

CREDIT DEPT.: Al Lord

CLASSIFIEDS: admin@caledoncitizen.com

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Advertising & Administration Head Office

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Musk's Starship: If it sounds too good to be true...

Elon Musk promised to build a spaceship that would put people and cargo into Earth orbit at one-hundredth of the current cost per kilo and even enable human beings to create a colony on Mars. A great many people were seduced by the idea, including me.

His project is running well behind schedule, however, and now British freelance journalist Will Lockett, writing on the website Medium, has called Musk out (in slightly less brutal language) as a failure and a fraud.

Basically, Lockett is saying that 'Starship,' the heavy-lift two-stage rocket that was alleged (by Musk) to be a revolutionary advance in space flight, is a badly engineered, over-hyped machine that can never work well.

His latest article on that theme, entitled 'SpaceX Keeps Proving My Little Starship Theory Right,' is about the remarkable accident at Musk's Starbase last weekend that destroyed Super Heavy Booster 18. It was meant to lift the first 'Version 3' Starship off the pad next month, but they are now removing the wreckage of that

booster and replacing it with another one.

And here's the thing. The reports said Booster 18 had 'exploded', but it was a very soft explosion because the vehicle had no fuel in it. It was just a pressure test of the Composite Overwrapped Pressure Vessels that store various gases or liquids in the rocket (not fuel for the main engines). But the pressure they put on the tanks ruptured them.

You would obviously test the tanks with a somewhat higher pressure than they normally run at – but NOT with pressure that bursts them like a popped balloon. You would do it at maybe 1.5 times the designed maximum pressure, just to be sure the tanks are strong enough to withstand any modest over-pressure they might encounter. But this time — bang!

Actually, there have been a lot of bangs. Musk's original pitch said Starship could lift 100 tonnes to Low Earth Orbit (LEO), but five of the 11 launches so far have ended in explosions and none have yet gone into orbit.

In fact, SpaceX has already blown through an unplanned Version 2 of the rocket and January will see the first flight of Version 3.

Each version is lighter and more powerful than its predecessor, which suggests that someone got the original calculations wrong. As Lockett put it, "Musk ignorantly overstated how much thrust their rockets could generate (to comical levels) and grossly underestimated how much a rocket this giant would need to weigh."

The standard excuse for all those explosions is Musk's preference for the 'iterative testing method,' in which you test your best guess of a design, learn why it failed, test a modified design, learn again, and so on until finally you arrive at a version that doesn't fail. But he's not there yet, and all his 'fixes' involve making the

rocket both lighter and more powerful.

The suspicion, therefore, is that Musk arrogantly assumed that throwing enough money and engineering talent at the project could somehow overcome the constraints of Russian scientist Konstantin Tsiolkovsky's classic 'rocket equation' of 1903. That's the one that says around 90 per cent of a rocket's launch weight has to be fuel if you want to put it into Earth orbit.

The rocket equation means that the vehicle's body, its engines, its cargo and its people all have to amount to no more than 10% of the rocket's launch weight. That, in turn, explains why nobody else has managed to radically lower the cost of per kilo of getting things into orbit – and the equation applies to Musk's rockets too.

It's not impossible that Starship could be made to work more or less as intended, although the promise of 100 tonnes of cargo seems far out of reach. But the only way Musk can try to fix things is to make the ship even lighter and the engines even more powerful. Those, alas, are two remedies that work against each other.

More and bigger engines use more fuel and add more weight, so there's not much room for improvement there. They also cause more stress and vibration, while the ship's hull, tanks and pipes are getting more fragile and accident-prone with every kilo he cuts.

Starship has never yet even reached orbit and the doubts about SpaceX's basic engineering competence are accumulating. NASA gave the job of building the Artemis III lunar lander to SpaceX in 2021, but in October it reopened the contract to rival companies as well.

We will probably still see human beings back on the Moon by the end of this decade one way or another (Americans or Chinese), but if the promise of \$10 a kilo to orbit turns out to be false there won't be a great deal happening beyond lunar orbit in the next decade.

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CLUES ACROSS

- Light cavalry
- Coconut palms
- Rounded knob
- Central Japan city
- Sandwiches
- Shape produced by a curve
- Ancient region in modern-day Syria
- French modernist painter
- Grandmother
- Mammary gland of cattle
- Rocky peak
- Secret plan
- Songs to one's lover
- More (Spanish)
- Father
- Chinese principle underlying the universe
- Ballplayer's accessory
- Together
- A person's brother or sister
- Evil spirit
- Monetary units
- Partner to cheese
- About Sun
- Group of like-minded people
- After B
- Seaside room
- Recipe measurement
- Partly digested food
- Flat-faced dog
- People of southern Africa
- Salts
- Beard lichens
- Sanders is one
- Fencing sword
- Ethnic group of Albania
- Metric weight unit
- Italian seaport
- Longtime late night host
- Extremely angry
- Miami mascot
- Mid-month day
- Marked for omission
- Body part

CLUES DOWN

- Two-toed sloth
- Fat from a pig's abdomen
- Romanian city
- Specifies
- Rounded, glaciated valley
- Spoke
- Collection of sacred books
- Extravagantly theatrical
- Very fast airplane
- Forearm bones
- Ancient kingdom
- Legitimate: ___ fide
- Semitransparent gemstone
- Counsels
- Head honcho
- Cool!
- Touch lightly
- Extract money via taxation
- Dyes
- Cloying sweetness
- Sodas
- Coastal village in Guam
- Chemical ring
- The bill in a restaurant
- Car mechanics group
- One-time presidential candidate Dole
- Health care for the aged
- Wise persons
- Passage with access at one end
- Make a wound
- America's spies
- Roof of the mouth
- Plants of the lily family
- Pinkish-red color
- Vaccine developer
- Mottled citrus fruit
- A place to store garden tools
- Rare goose native to Hawaii
- Popular Hollywood pig
- Musician Clapton
- A move exposing one to danger
- Historic Spanish soldier
- CNN's founder

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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: Zero-waste holiday cooking helps to make the most of every bite

The holiday season is a time for warmth, sharing, and gathering around good food. At the Alliston Food Bank, we are reminded every day that nourishing meals do not have to be extravagant. They simply need to be made with care and intention. During this time of year, when kitchens are busy, zero waste cooking becomes an even more meaningful way to stretch our food, reduce waste, and support our community.

Zero waste cooking is not about perfection. It is about appreciation, especially during the holidays. It is about honouring the food we have, making the most of every ingredient, and sharing that abundance with neighbours, family, and friends.

Seeing holiday food differently

Each week, the Alliston Food Bank rescues hundreds of pounds of beautiful produce, bread, and meat from local grocery partners such as Zehrs, FreshCo, and Foodland Beeton. These rescued items, even with small imperfections or approaching best before dates, become part of holiday meals for many families who visit us.

This season, try embracing that same mindset at home. When holiday dinners, baking plans, and festive gatherings begin to fill your kitchen, consider how much value lies in the



ingredients we often overlook.

- Broccoli stems make a wonderful addition to winter slaws
- Carrot tops can be blended into a bright herbed pesto for holiday appetizers
- Potato peels crisp up into a perfect seasonal snack
- Watermelon rind pickles add something fun and unexpected to festive charcuterie boards

A little creativity goes a long way, especially this time of year.

Turning holiday scraps into something wonderful

One simple zero waste tradition to adopt is keeping a holiday scrap bag in your freezer. As you prep for festive meals, add vegetable ends, onion skins, garlic peels, and herb stems. When full, simmer everything together and create a homemade broth perfect for cozy soups, gravies, or leftover turkey stew.

Leftovers are another holiday hero. At the

food bank, we see how every bit counts.

- Turkey bones become rich stock
- Stale bread becomes stuffing or croutons
- Overripe fruit becomes muffins, crisps, or smoothies
- Citrus peels can be dried for tea, baking, or potpourri

These small habits help turn holiday abundance into lasting nourishment.

Smart shopping for the holiday season

Zero waste cooking starts long before the holiday cooking begins. This season, try planning meals around what you already have in your fridge and pantry. Choose only the ingredients you know you will use, and consider picking up imperfect or discounted produce, perfect for soups, baking, and casseroles.

And if you find yourself with extra holiday items, a few cans of vegetables, baking supplies, or a bag of apples, sharing them with the Alliston Food Bank ensures nothing goes to waste and everything goes toward supporting local families.

Small holiday changes big community impact

Food waste increases dramatically during the holidays. According to Feed Ontario, nearly 60 percent of the food thrown away in Canada could have been eaten. By using what

is already at home, we help conserve resources and reduce waste, and we make sure the hard work behind every ingredient truly shines.

Simple choices such as freezing extra soup, blending wilting greens, saving pasta water, and repurposing leftovers can make a big difference. When we cook with intention, we care for both the planet and our neighbours.

Cooking with heart and holiday purpose

Zero waste cooking, especially at this time of year, is really about gratitude. Every carrot, every loaf of bread, every rescued apple represents someone's effort, from farmers to store staff to volunteers at the food bank. By using our food thoughtfully and wasting less, we honour that effort and help ensure there is enough for everyone to enjoy a warm and nourishing holiday meal.

So this season, try something new. Turn scraps into soup, bake with leftovers, or freeze fruit for festive treats. You may discover a new holiday favourite, and you will be part of a growing community effort to make sure good food never goes to waste.

At the Alliston Food Bank, we believe every meal matters, especially during the holidays.

Thank you for helping us feed our neighbours and for finding creative ways to make every bite count.

Simcoe County Museum to host fun activities for families through the upcoming winter break

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Simcoe County Museum is inviting families and visitors of all ages to visit during winter break for activities.

Programs include whimsical, snowy fun with games, crafts, treats, and an engaging gallery guide designed to make for an unforgettable visit.

The Countdown to Noon Years celebration on Dec. 31 is perfect for the little ones who

can't stay up until midnight to ring in the new year.

Winter break activities will take place from Saturday, Dec. 20, to Sunday, Jan. 4.

The Museum will be closed on Dec. 25, Dec. 26, and Jan. 1.

Visit the Museum website for times.

Regular admission is \$8.00 for adults, \$6.00 for seniors (65+), \$6 for youth, \$4 for children (4-11), and free for preschoolers and Museum members. The Simcoe County Museum is located at 1151 ON-26, in Minesing.

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Town's winter recreation and culture programs open for registration

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Winter is here, and so are the Town of New Tecumseth's winter programs.

Whether you are looking for creative activities, active fun, or new learning adventures, there is a program for everyone.

Toddler programs

Toddler programs for ages 1.5 to 5 years are designed to blend physical activity with educational enrichment.

These programs offer a dynamic and engaging experience that focuses on promoting motor skill building while fostering cognitive development and social skills.

Little Sprouts

The Little Sprouts program for ages 2.4 to 4 emulates the kindergarten experience by providing a child-led, play-based program that supports healthy child development and kindergarten readiness.

Children must be able to be dropped off and participate independently. Children must be

toilet-trained.

Play and Learn

The Play and Learn program for ages 1.5 to 2.5 introduces children to circle time and literacy and reinforces social and emotional skills by giving them the opportunity to engage in developmentally appropriate learning stations and activities.

This program is designed for parents to join their child and take part together.

The fee is for the child only.

Busy Bees

The Busy Bees program for ages 1.5 to 2.5 encourages the development of social, cognitive, and motor skills, as well as autonomy, as children and their caregivers explore a variety of activities and equipment with other participants.

This program is designed for parents to join their child and take part together.

Fees are for the child only.

Movement Monkeys

Movement Monkeys is for ages 2.5 to 3.5, and encourages the development of social,

cognitive, and motor skills, along with autonomy, as children and their caregivers explore a variety of activities and equipment with other participants.

This program provides an opportunity for caregivers and their children to work on gradual separation in preparation for independent programs in later years.

Energy Blasters

The Energy Blasters program for ages 3 to 5 and 6 to 8 is designed to get you up, moving, and having fun with a variety of high-energy group games and movement activities.

Each session is filled with action-packed games that promote fitness and coordination.

Welcome to Art Adventure

For ages 4 to 5, the Welcome to Art Adventure is an introductory art program where participants and their caregiver will expand their

artistic world together as they explore a variety of art forms.

Each week, the little artists will try new art mediums and participate in a tutorial-style walkthrough, completing a masterpiece that, once dry, can be brought home.

Welcome to Wacky Science

The Welcome to Wacky Science program for ages 3 to 5 explores the way the world works.

In this fun, introductory program, your child will participate in a variety of experiments with you as they learn about the scientific method.

The program serves as a provocation to build on the child's interest and spark curiosity.

For a full list of programs, dates, and times, and to register, visit the Town of New Tecumseth website.

Police investigate stolen vehicle in New Tecumseth

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Officers from the Nottawasaga Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police are investigating the theft of a motor vehicle from a residential property in New Tecumseth.

At approximately 7 a.m. on Dec. 3, officers were dispatched to a report of a stolen vehicle from a residence on Atkinson Crescent.

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

The stolen vehicle is described as a white 2023 RAM 1500 pickup truck bearing the Ontario license plate BW84050 and is valued

at 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 # (E251626304).

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Arts & Local Events



Beeton welcomes Santa!



COMMUNITY SPIRIT – The Beeton Santa Claus parade made its way down Main Street in Beeton on Saturday, Dec. 13, much to the delight of everyone who turned out to watch and enjoy some holiday fun. Sponsored by the Beeton Agricultural Society, the annual event gives everyone a chance to join in the Christmas spirit and have some fun with family, friends, and neighbours.

BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTOS



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"The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."

– John 1:5



Health unit issues drug alert: Opioid poisoning on the rise in Simcoe–Muskoka

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Social and recreational programs will be oThe Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit has issued a drug alert to warn residents of an increase in drug overdoses in the region.

The alert specifically refers to opioids.

Opioids are drugs used to help manage pain for everything from a broken bone to long-term illness. Doctors may prescribe them for short-term or chronic pain.

Opioids slow down the brain, especially the part that controls breathing.

If someone takes too much of a drug or mixes opioids with other substances, their

breathing can stop. Without help, this can lead to death.

This kind of emergency is called opioid poisoning, and it is happening in communities across Simcoe Muskoka.

Naloxone is a medicine that can reverse opioid poisoning. It helps restore normal breathing temporarily and gives someone more time until help arrives.

Opioid poisoning doesn't just happen to people who take too large a dose – it can happen in everyday situations.

Key risk factors include using more than usual, combining opioids with alcohol or other substances, inconsistent or unknown drug quality, using drugs after a period of

time without using, and using alone.

Many people have been affected by opioid use. It is sometimes prescribed, and other times it is not.

One danger is the unregulated illegal drug supply in local communities. Street drugs can contain dangerous amounts of fentanyl or other substances, making opioid poisonings more likely.

There are five steps in responding to an opioid overdose:

- Step 1 – Shout their name and shake their shoulders.
- Step 2 – Call 911 if unresponsive.
- Step 3 – Give Naloxone: one spray in the nostril or one ampule into an arm or leg.

• Step 4 – Provide rescue breaths and/or chest compressions if trained.

• Step 5 – If no improvement after two or three minutes, repeat steps three and four, and stay with the person.

The Good Samaritan Drug Overdoses Act provides some legal protection for people who call 911 or need emergency help during an overdose.

The Act can protect you from charges for possession of a controlled substance (drugs) and breaches of certain legal conditions.

The Act does not provide legal protection against more serious offences, such as outstanding warrants or the production and trafficking of drugs.

Town of New Tecumseth and the Fire Marshal's office shares safety tips ahead of the holidays

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The holidays are a time for joy, family, and celebration, but they are also the peak season for home fires.

The Town of New Tecumseth and the Fire Marshal's office are providing 12 fire safety tips to help keep you and your home and family safe during the holiday season.

Holiday lights

Use outdoor-rated LED lights and hang them with nail-free clips. Don't use lights with damaged cords. Just throw them out.

Tree watering

Falling needles and a dried-out tree are a real fire hazard. Water your tree daily and keep heat sources away from the tree, including furnace vents and non-LED lights.

Candles and decorations

Holiday decorations and open flames are a serious fire hazard. Used battery-powered

candles. Keep candles away from pets and children, and always extinguish candles when you leave the room.

Smoke Alarms

Most fatal fires occur during the holidays. When seconds matter, a working smoke alarm is your first warning of trouble. Make sure your smoke alarms work and test them monthly.

Carbon monoxide alarms

Carbon monoxide is an invisible, odourless, and deadly gas, often called the silent killer. A CO alarm can alert you to a potential CO emergency.

Extension cords

Extension cords should only be used with certified devices as a temporary solution. Don't overload a circuit and never run cords under a rug.

Kids in the kitchen

If you are baking with children during the holiday season, make sure to never leave them unattended.

Home fire escape plans

Create a home fire escape plan and ensure there are two ways out of every room.

Cooking

Seventeen per cent of fires in Ontario are cooking-related. Most kitchen fires are caused by leaving a stove unattended. Never leave the kitchen while using a stove.

Heating sources

Practice fire safety when using space heaters, wood stoves, and fireplaces. Keep at least one metre distance between your heat source and combustibles.

Smoking

Cigarettes are Ontario's number one cause of fatal fires. Have all smoking done outside using deep, sturdy ashtrays. Never flick your butt. A lit butt might be the difference between a holiday to remember and a holiday you'll never forget.



Lithium-ion batteries

There's a good chance that gifts exchanged this season have lithium-ion batteries, which may pose a fire risk. Don't overcharge batteries, use mismatched chargers, homemade batteries, or aftermarket replacements.

By following these simple fire safety tips, you can enjoy the holidays and avoid disaster.

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Outdoor rinks in Tottenham open for the winter season

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The cold weather means it may take longer for your car to warm up in the morning, but it also means outdoor winter fun has arrived early this year.

The outdoor rink at the Tottenham Community Centre is now open thanks to the hard work of the team who get the facility ready for skating.

When enjoying the facility, please make sure you follow the rules so everyone can enjoy the ice.

There is a strict Public Respect and Responsibility Policy in place to ensure everyone feels safe on the ice. Individuals who do not adhere to the code of conduct will be asked to leave the facility and will not receive a refund.

Before skating, you must check in at Client Services or pay for programs.

The ice surface must not be used for coaching, instruction, training, or organized team use.

No strollers, chairs, or street shoes are permitted on the ice at any time. CSA-approved skate assists, sledges, and wheelchairs are permitted.

Children nine years of age or younger must have a parent or guardian at least 14 years of age.

Entry to the ice is granted on a first-come, first-served basis, and there is a limited number of people allowed on the ice at one time. During public skate times, a maximum of 50 participants will be permitted on the ice at any given time.

No headsets, cell phones or handheld electronic devices are to be used while skating.

Outdoor rinks may be closed without notice due to unsafe or poor weather conditions.

Two more rinks will open soon.

The outdoor rink in Beeton will be located at Beeton Community Park.

In Alliston, a rink will be created at Riverdale Park on the Doner Diamond.

Enjoy outdoor skating this year, and please follow the rules so the experience is enjoyable for everyone.



READY FOR THE SEASON – The outdoor ice pad at the Tottenham Community & Fitness Centre is now open and ready for skating. Crews were able to establish ice early this year with the colder weather. A group play some shinny hockey on the ice. **BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO**

Wellness retreats for families to be hosted by the NVCA next month at the Tiffin Centre

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority's Families in Nature & Wellness Retreats offer a chance to slow down, breathe deeply, and rediscover what it means to be together as a family.

This is an opportunity for you to enjoy yoga while the kids explore hands-on outdoor experiences designed to inspire curiosity, confidence, and connection.

These sessions take place at the Tiffin Cen-

tre for Conservation, where winter's quiet beauty creates a perfect setting.

You can begin your experience with a walk through the woods and enjoy 15 to 30 minutes of quiet reflection guided by the sights, sounds, and sensations of nature.

As the walk transitions into yoga practice, movement and mindfulness flow together beneath the forest canopy. Seasonal nature soundscapes help deepen your meditation, while the earthly stillness nurtures clarity and calm.

Each session concludes with a moment of

stillness – a cup of tea in hand or a peaceful time in your personal sit spot – allowing relaxation to settle in fully.

Both Nature-Infused Yoga and Family Nature Experiences are offered on:

- Sunday, Jan. 11
- Sunday, Jan. 25
- Sunday, Feb. 1
- Sunday, Feb. 15

Sessions will take place from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Visit the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority website to register for these events.



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Season's Greetings 2025



Cake Pops

to light up kids' eyes this holiday season

There's no denying Christmas Eve is a little more special in homes where kids are excited about an overnight visit from Santa Claus. Indeed, kids' joy and enthusiasm helps to make the holiday season such a special time of year.

Since kids add so much to the holidays, it makes sense to prepare something special for youngsters. Of course, treats such as these "Christmas Tree Cake Pops" from Lines+Angles also may appeal to festive adults.

Christmas Tree Cake Pops

Makes 24 cake pops

Ingredients:

- 1 box vanilla cake mix
- 3/4 cup canola oil
- 1/2 cup unsalted butter, softened
- 1 cup confectioners' sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 teaspoon milk
- 3 1/2 cups green candy melts
- 24 cake pop sticks
- Icing dots
- Icing stars

Directions:

1. Prepare cake according to package instructions, adding 3/4 cup canola oil to the cake mix before baking.
2. Once cake is cool to the touch, transfer to a large mixing bowl and break up into crumbs. Allow to cool completely.
3. In a medium bowl, add the butter, sugar, vanilla, and milk. Use an electric mixer and beat on medium speed for about 4 minutes until light and fluffy.
4. Add 3/4 of the frosting to the cake crumbs and mix until mixture can hold together well. Refrigerate for at least an hour.
5. Using your hands, shape the cake pop mixture into 24 conical shapes.
6. Melt the green candy melts. Dip one end of each of the cake pop sticks into the melted chocolate before inserting into the bottom of the cake pops. Dip each cake pop into the melted chocolate, making sure to cover completely, allowing excess to drip back into bowl.
7. Use a toothpick to create the textured look of the tree and decorate with the icing dots and stars before standing upright to dry completely.

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Season's Greetings 2025

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	___		___
	___		___
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	___		___

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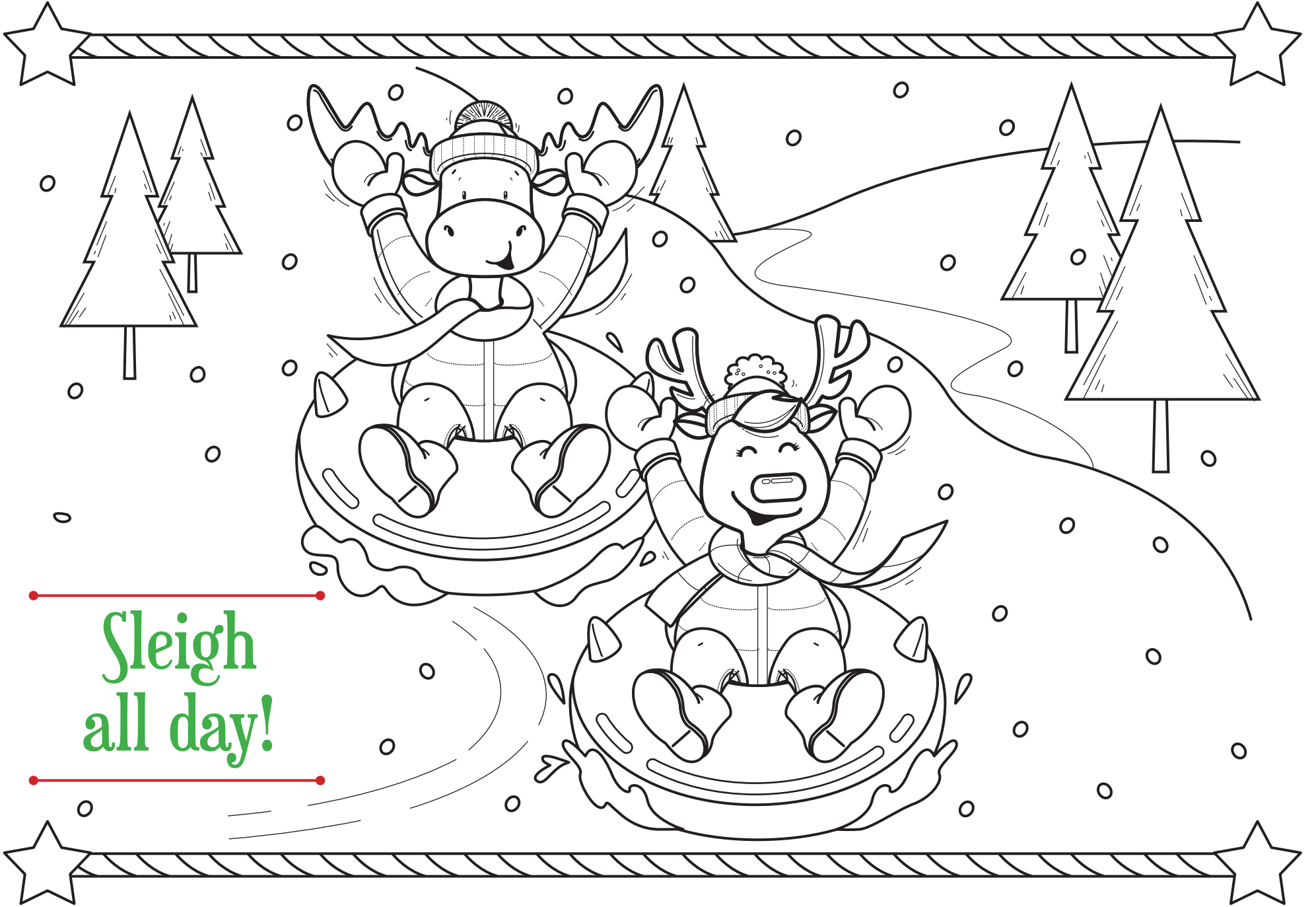
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Season's Greetings 2025

Decorative cookies Santa can't resist

Chocolate Star Christmas Decorations

Makes 4 dozen

Ingredients:

- 2 cups flour
- 1/2 cup Dutch processed cocoa powder, unsweetened
- 1/2 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup unsalted butter, softened
- 3/4 cup sugar

- 1 large egg yolk
- 1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract
- 1 large egg white
- 1 pinch cream of tartar
- 2 cups confectioners' sugar
- Sprinkles, for decorating

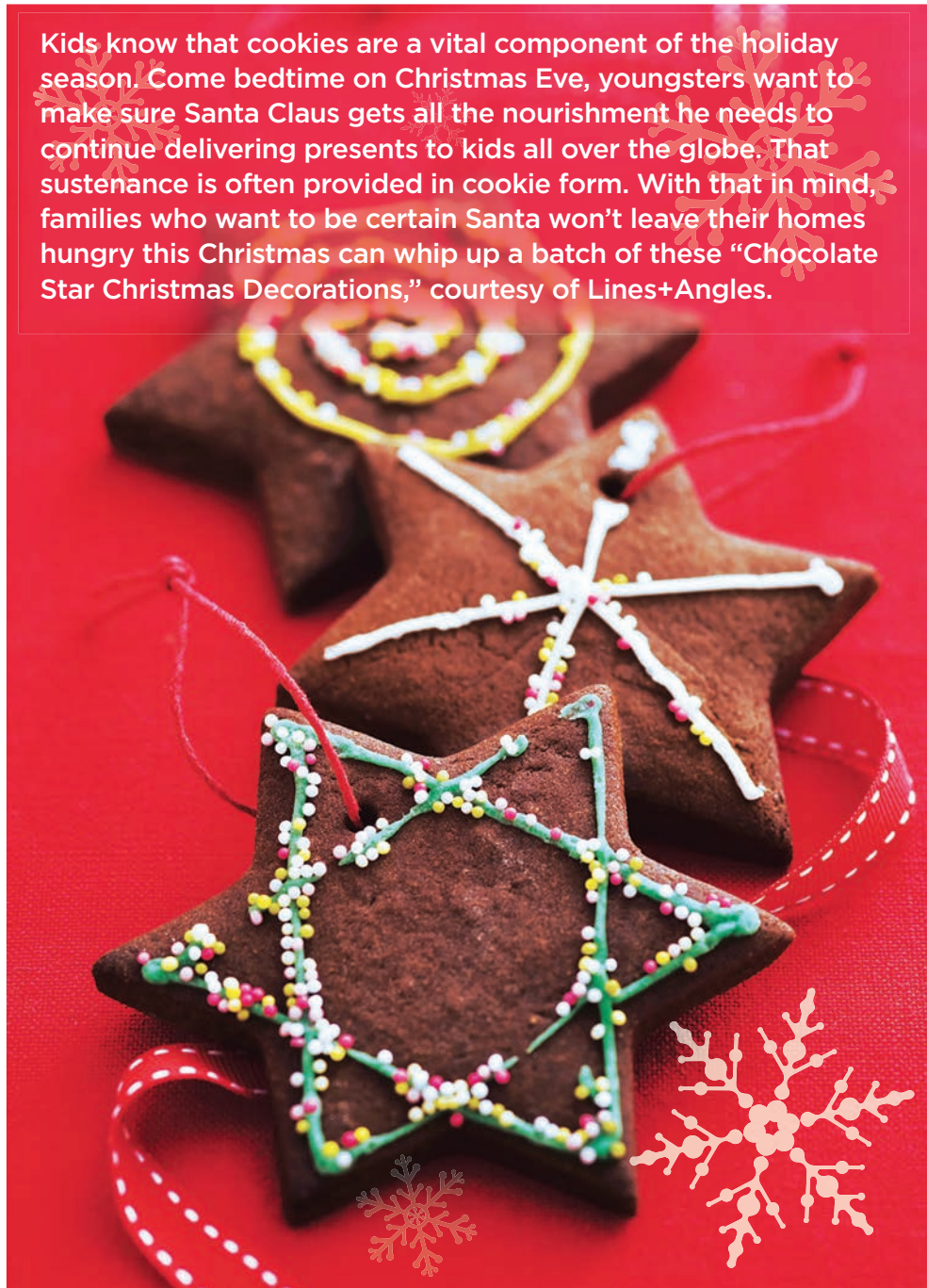
Directions:

1. Whisk together flour, cocoa powder, baking powder, and salt in a bowl.
2. Beat butter and sugar in a separate bowl with an electric mixer until pale and fluffy, about 2 minutes, then beat in yolk and vanilla. On low speed, beat in flour mixture just until a dough forms.
3. Divide the dough in half, flatten each piece into a disc and then chill them, wrapped in plastic wrap, until firm, for 2 to 3 hours.
4. Preheat oven to 350 F with racks in top and bottom thirds. Line 2 baking sheets with parchment paper. Roll out 1 piece of dough between sheets of parchment paper into a 14-by-10-inch rectangle (1/8-inch thick). Cut out as many stars as possible, reserving and chilling scraps, then quickly transfer cookies to the baking sheet, arranging them 1/2-inch apart. (If dough becomes too soft, return it to the freezer until it is firm.)

5. Bake until firm and slightly puffed, about 10 minutes. Cool cookies on baking sheet for 5 minutes, then transfer to a rack to cool completely. (Cookies will crisp as they cool.) Make more cookies with remaining dough and scraps, rerolling scraps only once.
6. To make the icing, in an electric mixer fitted with the whisk attachment, beat egg white and cream of tartar until foamy. Sift in half the sugar and beat until smooth, about 1 to 2 minutes. With mixer running, gradually add remaining sugar and beat on high speed until icing is smooth and thick. Icing should be thick, but not too thick to be pressed through a pastry bag. Adjust consistency with more confectioners' sugar or water.
7. Transfer icing to a pastry bag with a small round tip. Pipe icing onto cookies and add decorations of your choice before icing hardens.

- Recipe Lines+Angles.

Kids know that cookies are a vital component of the holiday season. Come bedtime on Christmas Eve, youngsters want to make sure Santa Claus gets all the nourishment he needs to continue delivering presents to kids all over the globe. That sustenance is often provided in cookie form. With that in mind, families who want to be certain Santa won't leave their homes hungry this Christmas can whip up a batch of these "Chocolate Star Christmas Decorations," courtesy of Lines+Angles.



Happy Holidays

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Season's Greetings 2025

Adorable cookies add to the festive feel of the holidays

Food helps to set the festive atmosphere that has become synonymous with the holiday season. Celebrants asked to recall their fondest memories of the holiday season undoubtedly would point to nights spent surrounded by loved ones at the family dinner table, which serves as a testament to the unifying power of food during a special time of year.

Holiday hosts looking to food to set a festive tone can consider these "Peanut Butter Reindeer Cookies" from Lines+Angles. These cookies are flavorful and the finished product is adorable, which can help celebrants feel even more festive during seasonal celebrations.



Peanut Butter Reindeer Cookies

Makes 48 cookies

Ingredients:

- 1/2 cup unsalted butter, softened
- 3/4 cup peanut butter
- 1/3 cup granulated sugar
- 1/3 cup packed light brown sugar
- 1 large egg
- 1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract
- 1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 48 large red M&M candies
- 96 mini semisweet chocolate chips
- Pretzels, broken into 96 1-inch pieces

Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 350 F. Line 2 baking sheets with parchment paper.
2. In a large bowl, beat together butter, peanut butter, sugar, and brown sugar on medium speed until light and fluffy, about 2 minutes. Add egg and vanilla extract and mix until combined.
3. In a small bowl, whisk together flour, baking soda, and salt. Add the dry ingredients to the wet ingredients and stir until just combined. Roll the dough into 1-inch balls, and place at least 1 inch apart on cookie sheet. Bake only 10 to 12 cookies at a time. Refrigerate the bowl of dough in between batches. Bake for 7 to 9 minutes, until the cookies are just set.
4. Immediately place one M&M in the center of each cookie for a nose (press down a bit if your cookies aren't flat enough), 2 mini chocolate chips for the eyes, and 2 pretzel pieces at the top for antlers. Carefully transfer the cookies to a wire rack to cool completely.



- Recipe Lines+Angles

Wishing everyone a Joyful Christmas and a Peaceful Happy New Year

Grant & Gavin Drury

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Season's Greetings 2025



Eggnog
is a go-to holiday beverage

One of the more notable aspects of the holiday season is the reemergence of foods and beverages that might not be enjoyed at any other point during the year. Eggnog certainly falls into the category. Though it might not be broken out after December, the following recipe for "Eggnog" from Lines+Angles makes a go-to holiday season beverage.

Eggnog

Makes 4 servings

Ingredients:

- | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|
| 6 egg yolks | 1/2 cup whiskey or rum |
| 1/2 cup confectioner's sugar | 1/4 teaspoon cinnamon |
| 1 1/2 cups milk | 1/4 teaspoon nutmeg |
| 3/4 cup light cream | |
| 1 teaspoon vanilla | |

Directions:

1. In a medium bowl, whisk egg yolks until light in color. Add confectioners' sugar and whisk together until fluffy. Set aside.
2. In a medium saucepan over low heat, combine milk, cream and vanilla. Stir occasionally and gently heat for 5 minutes. Increase heat to medium and slowly bring mixture to a boil. Remove from heat.
3. Slowly incorporate milk mixture into eggs by adding a little at a time, whisking together constantly to avoid cooking the eggs. Continue to add the hot milk into the eggs and whisking until thoroughly combined.
4. Pour the combined mixture back into the saucepan and heat over medium heat, stirring constantly, until thick, without bringing to a boil, 3 to 5 minutes. Remove from heat.
5. Allow mixture to cool for about an hour, then add to a jar with a tight-fitting lid. Add whiskey or rum. Refrigerate for 8 hours or overnight.
6. When ready to serve, shake jar, add eggnog to serving glasses and top with cinnamon and nutmeg.

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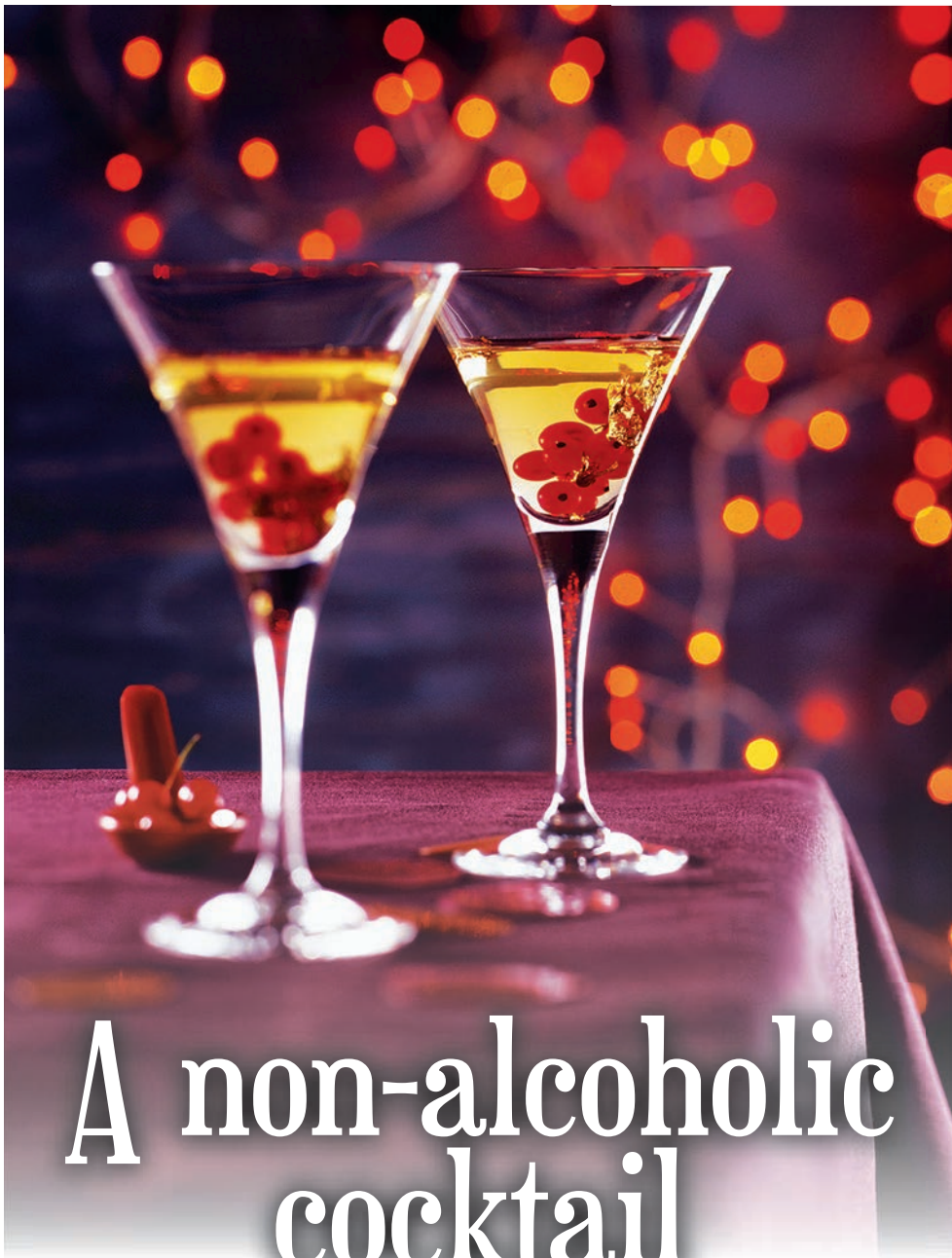
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Season's Greetings 2025



A non-alcoholic cocktail

For guests who want to stay dry

The holiday season is a festive time of year, and alcohol tends to feature prominently in the festivities. While it's perfectly alright for adults to enjoy a drink come the holiday season, some might want to abstain from alcohol, particularly if they're getting behind the wheel after a party.

Hosts can keep in mind that some guests may not want to drink alcohol during a party. But that doesn't mean they won't appreciate a unique and flavorful drink. In such instances, hosts can mix up this non-alcoholic "Redcurrant Cocktail" from Lines+Angles.

Redcurrant Cocktail

(non-alcoholic)
Makes 2 servings

Ingredients:

- 8 sprigs red currant
- 3 tablespoons ginger syrup
- 2 tablespoons lemon juice
- 2 gold leaves

Reserve two sprigs of redcurrants for the garnish and put the rest in a sieve. Press down firmly with the back of a spoon to collect the juice then pour it into a cocktail shaker.

Add the ginger syrup and lemon juice to the shaker and add a handful of ice. Shake for 2 minutes until chilled and diluted. Strain the cocktail into two small martini glasses and garnish each one with a sprig of redcurrants and a piece of gold leaf.

- Recipe Lines+Angles



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Season's Greetings 2025



Christmas cupcakes make a perfect holiday treat

A little indulgence is par for the course come the holiday season. That's especially true in relation to baked goods, which find their way into entertaining areas at office parties, family gatherings and school functions.

Treats are indeed part of what makes the holiday season a special time of year. This year, families can whip up this Lines+Angles recipe for "Chocolate Christmas Cupcakes" to make the holiday season a little more flavorful.

Chocolate Christmas Cupcakes

Makes 12 cupcakes

Ingredients:

FOR THE CAKES:

- 8 tablespoons butter
- 1/3 cup caster sugar
- 2 tablespoons light brown sugar
- 2 eggs
- 1 cup flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/3 cup cocoa powder
- 1/2 cup milk
- 1 cup chocolate chips

FOR THE CHOCOLATE TOPPING:

- 2/3 cup heavy cream
- 1 cup chopped plain 70% dark chocolate

TO DECORATE:

- Icing sugar
- 8 ounces white sugarpaste
- 8 ounces green sugarpaste
- 4 ounces red sugarpaste



Directions:

1. For the cupcakes: Preheat the oven to 375 F. Place 12 cupcake liners in a muffin tin.
2. Beat the butter in a mixing bowl until soft and light. Beat in both sugars and beat until light and fluffy.
3. Beat in the eggs, one at a time until well blended. Sift in the flour, baking powder and cocoa and fold in gently until incorporated. Stir in the milk and chocolate chips.
4. Spoon into the paper cases and bake for 25 minutes until firm to the touch. Leave in the tins for 5 minutes, then place on a wire rack to cool completely.
5. For the chocolate topping: Put the cream and chocolate in a pan over a low heat until melted. Remove from the heat and allow to cool and thicken slightly.
6. Spoon onto the cupcakes and leave until almost set.
7. Roll out the white sugarpaste on a surface dusted with icing sugar. Cut out shapes to resemble snow and place on the cakes.
8. Roll out the green sugarpaste on a surface lightly dusted with icing sugar. Cut out 2 holly leaves for each cake with a holly shaped cutter or card template. Brush lightly with water and attach to the white sugarpaste.
9. Roll pieces of red sugarpaste into small balls for the "berries" and place on the cakes, as in the photo, attaching with a little water.

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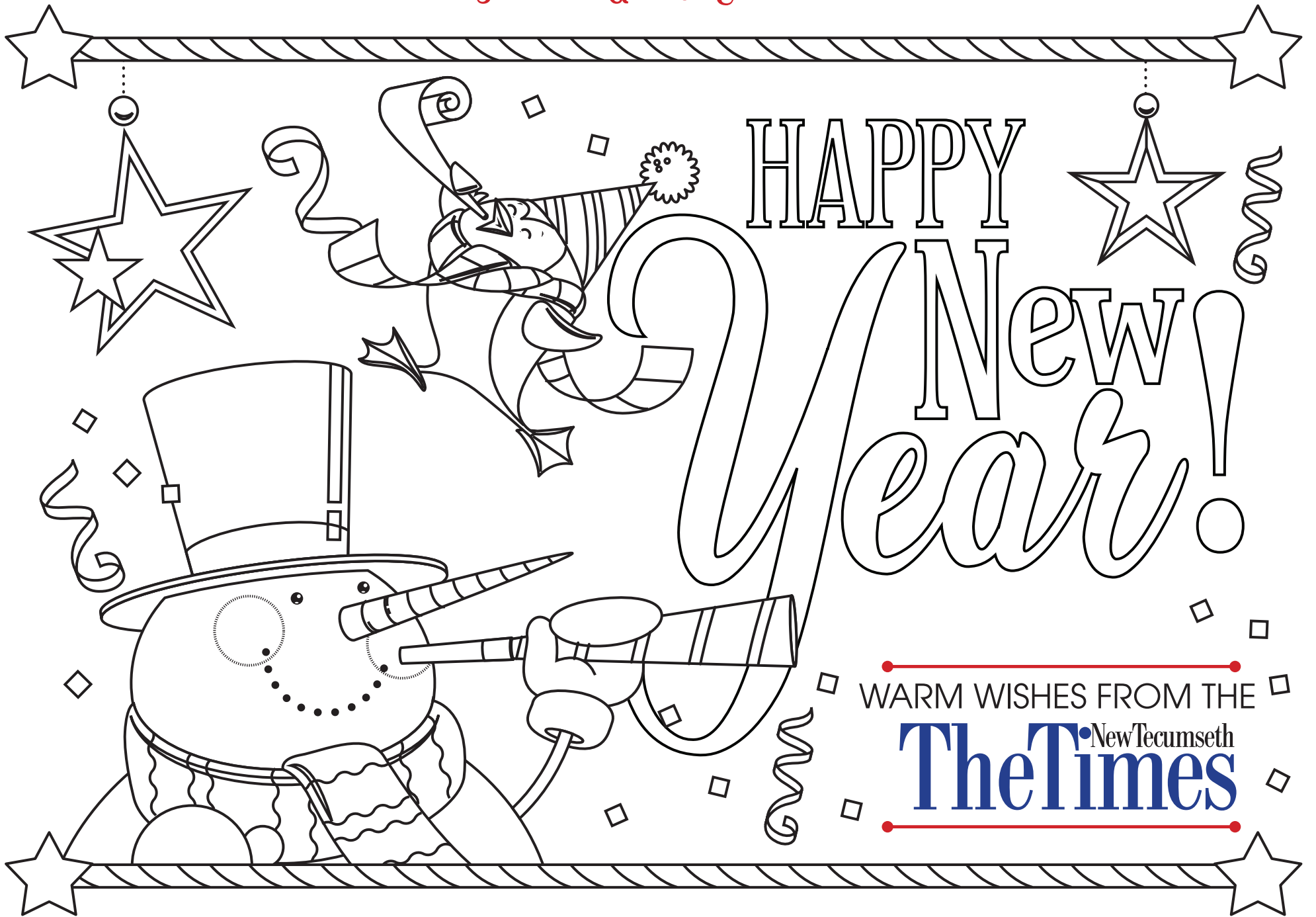


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SPORTS

NEW TECUMSETH TIMES

Hornets win three games with two shutouts over the weekend

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

After a slump that saw the Alliston Hornets lose five out of seven games and drop to second place in the standings, the team returned with a vengeance over the weekend, winning three games and leaving the ice with a shutout in two of those games.

The wins place the Hornets back in first place in the North Carruthers Division of the PJHL.

The weekend started with a home game at the New Tecumseth Recreation Centre against the Orillia Terriers on Friday, Dec. 12.

Alliston's Nick Lamont got the only goal of the first period.

It was a 4-0 game at the end of the second period on goals from Noah Prokopec and Lamont, getting his second and third of the night for the hat-trick.

Gunner Kirk scored the only third-period goal to give the Hornets a 5-0 win.

Alliston Goalie Anthony Lovisa got the shutout.

The following night, Saturday, Dec. 13, the Hornets travelled to Innisfil to take on the Spartans.

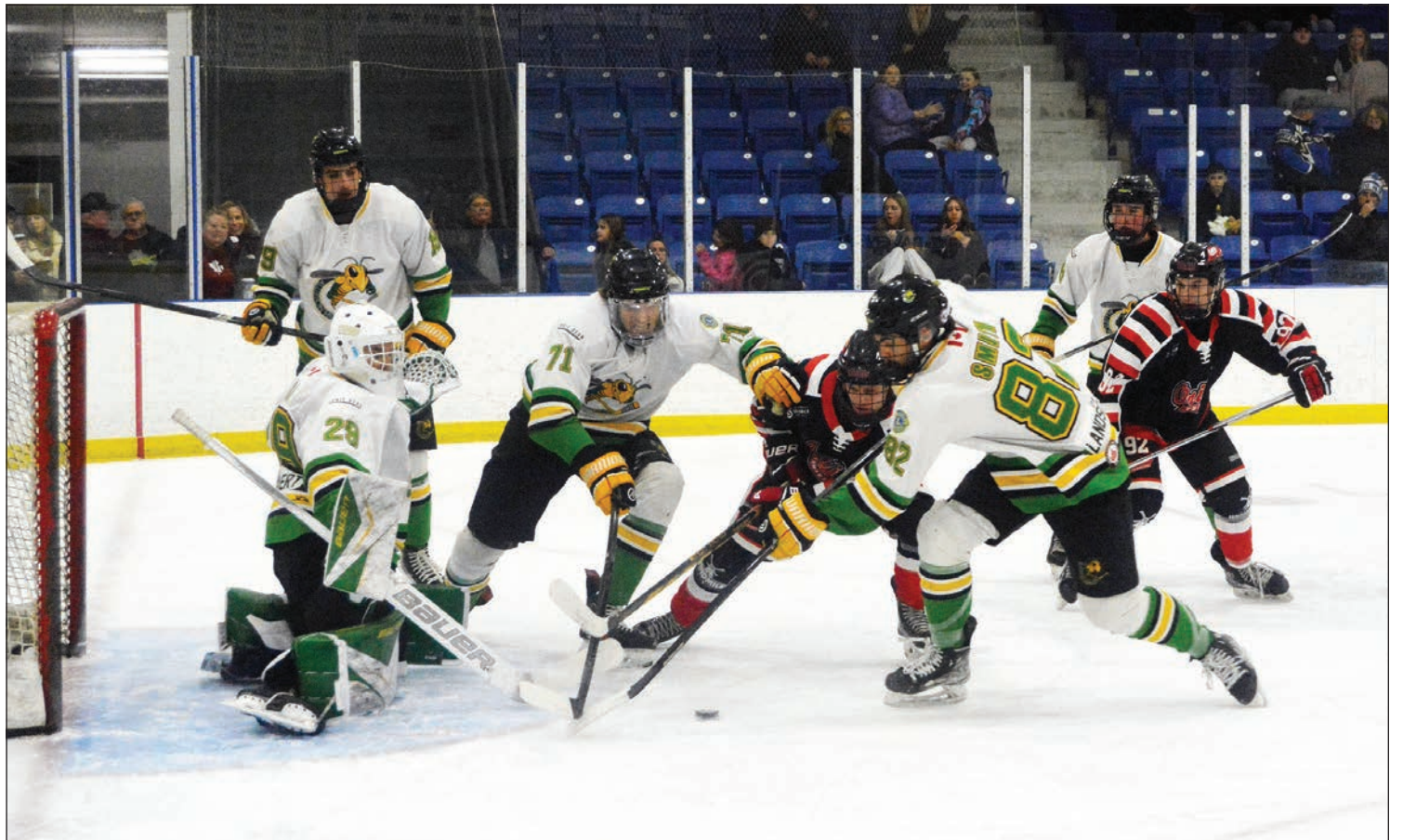
Nick Lamont started off the scoring with two goals in the first period. Cameron Lamont chipped in another goal before the buzzer sounded to give the Hornets a 3-0 lead.

The only goal in the second period came from Alliston forward Ben Smith.

The Hornets finished off the night with two third-period goals from Will Millington and Gunner Kirk to take a 6-0 win.

Alliston goalie Zack Barfitt got the shutout.

The third game of the weekend had the



BACK IN FIRST – The Alliston Hornets take on the Orillia Terriers on the ice at the New Tecumseth Recreation Centre on Friday, Dec. 12. The Hornets left the ice with a 5-0 win. Alliston is now back in first place in the North Carruthers Division of the Provincial Junior Hockey League.

BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

Hornets in Midland, taking on the Flyers in an afternoon game.

Midland got the jump in this game, scoring two goals early in the first period.

Alliston's Ben Smith scored with less than a minute remaining in the first period.

The second period made all the difference when the Hornets scored three unanswered goals to lead 4-2.

Hornets' goals came from Gunner Kirk,

Duncan Grube, and Tristen Pitt.

The Flyers scored the only third-period goal, but that's all they could do for the night, and the Hornets left the ice with a 4-3 win.

After the weekend, the Hornets moved back into first place in the Division and dropped the Stayner Siskins back down to second.

The Siskins had moved briefly into first

place, but they took two weekend losses, and the Hornets are now back in the lead with 40 points – three ahead of the Siskins.

The Penetang Kings remain in third place with 34 points. They are followed by the Orillia Terriers with 29 points.

The Hornets will be back on home ice at the NTRC on Friday, Dec. 19, when they will host the Huntsville Otters.

Game time is 7:30 p.m.

Tottenham Railers maintain third place in North Division after weekend win

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Tottenham Railers are in third place in the North Division of the Greater Metro Hockey League after a weekend win over the West Nipissing Lynx at the Tottenham Community Centre arena on Saturday, Dec. 13.

The Lynx were leading 2-1 at the end of the first period of Saturday's home game.

Alexis Paradis scored the only Railers goal in the opening period.

Tottenham came out hard in the second period to tie it up, then take the lead in the game with three goals.

The Lynx scored a late one with less than a minute remaining on the clock.

Tottenham's goals came from DonHeaven Veilleux, Paradis (his second of the game), and Tighe Frazee.

The Railers clinched the game with a strong effort in the third period that saw them outscore the Lynx 3-1.

The Railers' third-period goals came from Artsiom Bialiayev for two, and Patrick Doyle, who scored on an empty net with 10 seconds left on the clock.

The final was a 7-4 win for the Railers.

The Railers now have an 18-13 record and 36 points.

The Bradford Rattlers are in first place in the division with a 22-6 record and 44 points.

They are followed by the Wasaga River Dragons with 40 points.

West Nipissing, Ville-Marie, and Meaford round out the standings.

The Railers will be back on home ice at the Tottenham Community Centre on Saturday, Dec. 20, when they will host the Wasaga Beach River Dragons.

Game time is 7:45 p.m.



GIVING BACK – The Alliston Hornets held their annual Teddy Bear Toss game on Friday, Dec. 12, when they hosted the Orillia Terriers at the New Tecumseth Recreation Centre in Alliston. Fans bought the teddy bears prior to the game, and when the Hornets scored their first goal, the teddy bears were tossed onto the ice. They will be given to the Alliston Lions Club, who will distribute the teddy bears as part of their Christmas Hamper Program. Members of the TNT Tornados U12 A hockey team volunteered to pick up all the teddy bears from the ice.

BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

Ontario Provincial Police urge the public to be cautious near bodies of water

BY SAM ODROWSKI

Snowmobiling, snowshoeing, and skiing are all great ways to get exercise throughout the winter season.

But when enjoying recreational activities in the snow, it's important to remember that frozen bodies of water can pose a threat.

The Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) is urging the public to exercise extreme caution when near bodies of water, and to remember, "no ice is safe ice," even if it appears frozen.

"Early-season ice is often dangerously thin and unpredictable. While some people enjoy snowmobiling or motorized recreational vehicles on frozen lakes and waterways, current ice conditions greatly increase the risk of breaking through the ice and experiencing cold-water immersion, which can become life-threatening within minutes," reads a statement from Central Region OPP. "Taking unnecessary risks not only endangers individuals but also puts emergency responders in harm's way during rescue efforts."

The OPP warns that snowmobilers and anyone on a motorized recreational vehicle must remain on designated trails and avoid unfamiliar areas, particularly at night. The police also ask that weather and trail conditions be checked before leaving on a trip.

Wearing appropriate clothing is important to prevent hypothermia and fully charging a

cellphone can assist in an emergency situation. As well, downloading the what3words app can assist first responders in pinpointing someone who needs help.

Other tips include not going out alone and telling someone about a planned destination and expected time of return.

As with any motorized vehicle, drinking alcohol or consuming drugs is illegal while driving. Alcohol and drugs impair judgment and reduce the body's ability to stay warm in cold conditions.

Carrying first aid, a survival kit, and safety equipment, such as ice picks and throw ropes, can make the difference in an emergency.

"Response time from emergency personnel may be prolonged due to the weather conditions, and these tools can assist you while you wait for help to arrive," reads the OPP's statement.

Inspecting a snowmobile or other motorized vehicle is important to do regularly to ensure it is in good mechanical condition.

"If someone falls through the ice, call 911 immediately. Safe rescue efforts require appropriate equipment and training. You cannot help anyone if your safety is also at risk," reads the OPP's statement.

"Make safety your priority this winter season. Take necessary steps to ensure you return home safely to your loved ones after a day enjoying the winter weather."



South Simcoe Police charge male driver after fleeing from collision scene in Bradford West Gwillimbury

South Simcoe Police responded to a report of a dangerous driver on Holland Street East in Bradford West Gwillimbury on Dec. 8, at approximately 9:05 p.m.

Witnesses reported a grey Toyota RAV4 swerving into oncoming lanes before striking a parked vehicle and fleeing the scene.

Officers located the suspect vehicle a short time later travelling on Holland Street West and subsequently arrested the driver. Evidence of drug use was located within the vehicle.

As a result, a 28-year-old male from Kleinburg has been charged with:

- Careless Driving – HTA 130(1)
- Failure to Stop After an Accident – CC 320.16(1)
- Flight from Peace Officer – CC 320.17

- Drive Vehicle with Cannabis Readily Available – CCA 12(1)

The investigation remains ongoing and further charges may be pending. The accused is scheduled to appear in court on Jan. 8, 2026.

South Simcoe Police remind motorists that dangerous and impaired driving behaviours put the entire community at risk.

"Every choice behind the wheel can impact you, your passengers, other drivers, and pedestrians. Public safety is our top priority, and we urge all motorists to drive responsibly, stay alert, and always driver sober," reads a press release from South Simcoe Police. "Road safety is a shared responsibility and together we can help keep our roads and communities protected."

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Search warrant in Adjala-Tosorontio leads to drug trafficking charges

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

As part of an ongoing investigation, a search warrant at a residence on Bayberry Drive in Adjala-Tosorontio was executed by members of the Nottawasaga Community Street Crime Unit (CSCU), assisted by officers from Dufferin CSCU, Caledon CSCU, Nottawasaga platoon officers, the Crime Reduction Unit, the Tactical Response Unit,

and Canine Unit.

The investigation began in the fall of 2025 after the accused was suspected of trafficking controlled substances in the Simcoe and New Tecumseth areas.

Officers executed a Controlled Drugs and Substances Act search warrant at the address at approximately 5 a.m. on Dec. 10.

As a result of the investigation, officers seized the following items:

- Two cell phones

- Money counter
- Four scales
- \$6,146 in cash
- Two Visa debit cards not in the accused's name
- Officers located and seized packaging that contained residual amounts of suspected cocaine

As a result of the search warrant and investigation, Jahovah McFarlane, 26, of Adjala-Tosorontio Township, was arrested and

charged with:

- Possession of Schedule 1 Substance for the Purpose of Trafficking
- Trafficking in Schedule 1 Substance - Cocaine
- Possession of Proceeds Obtained by Crime over \$5,000

The accused is scheduled to appear before the Ontario Court of Justice on Jan. 22, 2026.

None of the listed charges have been proven in court.

Nottawasaga OPP lay numerous impaired driving charges against motorists in the region

Traffic complaint results in impaired driving arrest, drug seizure

Nottawasaga Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) officers have charged two individuals following a traffic complaint that led to an impaired driving investigation and drug seizure in New Tecumseth.

Shortly after 8 a.m. on Dec. 13, Nottawasaga OPP responded to a traffic complaint regarding a pickup truck swerving on and off the road of Highway 89, west of Cookstown.

Officers located the vehicle a short time later and conducted a traffic stop on Dunham Drive in Alliston.

As a result of the investigation, officers arrested the driver for impaired driving. Officers also seized a small quantity of suspected cocaine from the vehicle.

The driver, Giuseppe Caruso, 52, of Courtyce, has been charged with:

- Operation while impaired - blood drug concentration
- Possession of a Schedule I substance - cocaine
- Driving while under suspension

The passenger, Summer Myers, 20, of Bowmanville, has been charged with:

- Possession of a Schedule I substance - cocaine

Both accused parties were released on a Form 10 Undertaking.

The driver is scheduled to attend the Ontario Court of Justice in Bradford at a later date to answer to the charges.

None of the listed charges have been proven in court.

Nottawasaga OPP charge driver with impaired following a two-vehicle collision

One individual has been charged with impaired driving following a two-vehicle collision in the Town of New Tecumseth.

Shortly before 5:30 p.m., on Dec. 6, 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 one driver was observed to be unconscious behind the wheel.

Officers arrived on the 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 alcohol

concentration (80 plus)

The accused was released on an Undertaking and is scheduled to appear at the Ontario Court of Justice in Bradford on Jan. 8, 2026, to answer to the charges.

None of the listed charges have been proven in court.

Impaired driving charges laid against New Tecumseth man following collision

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

On Dec. 14, at approximately 2 a.m., Nottawasaga OPP responded to a single-vehicle collision on 14th Line in New Tecumseth. Upon arrival, officers located a vehicle that had left the roadway and overturned in a steep ditch.

Three occupants were assisted from the wreckage with the help of emergency services. Two passengers sustained significant injuries and were transported to a nearby hospital for treatment and later discharged.

During the investigation, officers determined that the driver's ability to operate a motor vehicle was impaired by alcohol. The driver was arrested and transported to a local

hospital as a precaution and later discharged with minor injuries.

As a result, Thomas Green, 23, of New Tecumseth, has been charged with:

- Operation causing bodily harm
- Operation while impaired - blood alcohol concentration (80 plus)

The accused is scheduled to appear at the Ontario Court of Justice in Bradford on Jan. 15, 2026. The accused's driver's licence has been suspended for 90 days, and their vehicle was impounded for seven days.

None of the listed charges have been proven in court.

"With the Christmas and holiday season approaching, the OPP is reminding motorists to make safe choices. Impaired driving puts lives at risk and can turn celebrations into tragedies. Plan ahead by arranging a designated driver, using public transportation, or calling a taxi or rideshare service. Do not drive impaired," reads a press release from Nottawasaga OPP.

If you suspect someone is driving while impaired by alcohol or drugs, call 9-1-1 immediately. Anonymous tips can also be provided to Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477). When you contact Crime Stoppers, you remain anonymous and never have to testify.

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Ryanday Farm

Saturday December 20th, 9:30am

6039 8th Line, Hillsburgh (Erin) ON Coming north on Trafalgar Rd towards Hillsburgh. Turn east onto Wellington 22 & go 1.3km to 8th Line Erin. Then north 4.0km to sale on east side of road. OR come south from Hwy 9 on Hwy 25 (Cty Rd 24) for 10km to Erin/Garafraxa townline. Then east 1.4km to 8th Line Erin. Then south 2.1km to sale on east side of road. **** PARKING ON SITE****

Tractors/Skid Steer: Case IH MXU 110 4x4 tractor, Quicke Q41 loader, cab, 2 remotes, 4600hrs.; MF 265 tractor & Allied 590 loader, multi power; JD 5575 skid steer, material bucket, 3479hrs; JD X320 lawnmower, 54" deck, hydrostatic, 597hrs. **Mach/Equip:** JD 8350 seed drill, 18 run, grass seed, 1 disc, fert; Gehl TDC 1475 round baler, 4x5's, inoc; NH Hayliner 315 sq baler & thrower; (3)18ft wood wagons; Kuhn GA4100 rotary rake; Lucknow 6ft snowblower; post hole auger; Case IH 8330 haybine, 9ft; gravity box; Ford 8ft disc; IH 12ft cultivator & harrows; (3) thrower wagons (2- 20ft, all steel tops, 1- 20ft steel with wood floor); 20ft wood & steel round bale wagon; for skidsteer- 2 prong hay fork, manure forks; Leon 375 manure spreader; Agro-Trend 3pth sprayer. **Horse Equip & Rel:** 4-seater horse sleigh, team hitch; (2) single horse shafts; (2)Fore carts (single, double); blankets; stocks-for shoeing; (2)horse bale feeders; whipple trees; (1) set work harness; (1)set Todd Style show harness; harness rack; qty heavy horse harness pieces, lines, etc; asst horse supplies; (2)steel stall dividers; (2)single horse sleighs; (4)stall corner feeders; (2)hay/grain feeders; (3)round bale feeders-tombstone style; semen tank; microscope; Black Horse Ale picture & trays; 4-wheel buggy-like new; 2-wheel pleasure driving cart; draft foal/horse halters; asst white show halters; leg wraps; asst show equip; and much more! **Shop/Farm Rel/Straw & Hay:** Onan 60W generator, alternator; 4'x8' 1-axle utility trailer; bale moisture tester; twine; tool chest; anvil-lg; battery charger; asst lumber; 1 tonne winch; oat/corn roller; asst of tools; (9)bales 3x3x6 wheat straw; some sm squares hay(if not used); stationary sander/grinder; radial arm saw; table saw. **Household & Antiques**

Lunch Booth & Washroom Available **Preview: Friday Dec 19, 1-6pm**

NOTES: MAJORITY OF SALE WILL BE HELD INSIDE RIDING ARENA

Smaller Sale - please be on time

Terms & Conditions: Cash or Cheque with proper I.D. on day of sale. Owner and/or Auctioneer will not be held responsible for accident or loss on day of sale. All items are sold "As Is". All verbal announcements on day of sale take precedence over written ads.

Owner: Robert Black (519) 827-7587

Auctioneers: Kevin McArthur (519) 942-0264 Scott Bessey (519) 843-5083
www.theauctionadvertiser.com/KMcArthur - Email: mcarthurbessey@gmail.com

709 IN MEMORIAM

Raymond Rowley

August 1, 1933 - December 31, 2024

*We know a smile we would like to see,
A loving face so dear.
We know a hand we would love to hold,
A voice we long to hear.
We know a heart, thoughtful and true,
We know them all because we love you.
A place is vacant within our hearts,
Which never can be filled.
A bouquet of beautiful memories,
Sprayed with a million tears.
I wish God could have spared you,
If just for a few more years.
So rest in peace Raymond
And thanks for all you have done
We pray that God has given you the Crown
you truly wore.
We love you.*

Beloved husband of Edith
Loving father of Marilyn (Predeceased)
Sons David, John (Darleen) and Grandfather

709 IN MEMORIAM

In Memoriam

Van Spottiswood

Jan. 6, 1963 - Dec 21, 2024

*We miss your voice,
We miss your smile,
We miss your laugh, and the way you could
always make us laugh no matter what.
We miss talking to you,
We miss your kind heart,
We miss your cooking and all the little things
you did to show us how much we were loved.
We miss YOU!*

Love Always
Brenda, Shannon and Shane



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Continued from Page 4

Brock's Banter: Socks, booze and vintage giving

Added Northern Relations Minister Glenn Simard: "By offering these U.S. products during the holidays, Manitobans will have additional options for their family gathering while at the same time contributing to assistance for vulnerable Manitobans for whom the holidays can be a challenging time. We strongly believe that removing U.S. alcohol from the shelves is the right thing to do at a time when our economy is under attack from illegal tariffs. Rather than waiting for products to expire and be destroyed, they will now fund community organizations instead."

Yet, in Ontario, where so many organizations across the Province, and right here at the community level, are practically bending over backwards to make the season bright for as many people in need as they did in 2024 and 2023, the same moves are not being made.

As late as Monday, December 15, the Province insisted it had no plans to join Nova Scotia, Manitoba, and others in reducing the boozy stockpile for the greater good.

The argument against selling the U.S. stockpile for charity is not unsound, however, with the Premier and his Government arguing that doing so might deter people from buying locally-produced

boozy alternatives this season.

That could very well be true but, at the end of the day, if people really, really want Kentucky Bourbon or Tennessee Whisky, locally-produced alternatives aren't going to cut it – unless they're simply looking to pour out a bottle of rye into the asphalt to make some sort of statement.

Ahead of Giving Tuesday on December 2, an annual movement which benefited so many organizations that are the building blocks of our community, a report from CanadaHelps, a leading online donation and fundraising platform, provided some pretty stark statistics.

They reported the generosity gap is widening by income and younger Canadians aren't as likely to give.

"Those earning more than \$150,000 a year account for half (49 per cent) of all donations – a divide that continues to grow as affordability challenges persist," they reported. "Almost a third of 18 – 35-year-old Canadians (27 per cent) haven't given to charity in the past five years – six percentage points higher than the national average. People over the age of 65 contributed to half of all donation dollars in Canada in 2023.

"Over the past 12 months, more than

one in four Canadians haven't donated to charity (31 per cent), showing there's still a huge opportunity to inspire generosity."

There's no magic formula to inspire generosity, but there are plenty of opportunities to lead by example, and I fear Ontario – with Christmas now, as of December 18, less than a week away – missed the boat in making a real, practical difference this holiday season.

There's no end in sight to this trade war, so unless the powers-that-be get creative, what was taken off of shelves

at the start of the year will only continue to collect dust. While I'm told many of these products improve with age, I'm not necessarily holding my breath we'll see a charity sell-off, even with a vintage premium, next year.

In the meantime, we can all raise a glass to those who have stepped up to help this year, from large scale donors, to individuals and small collectives knitting and selling everything from toques and mittens, to those glorious aforementioned socks, to have as much of an impact as they possibly can.

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HOLIDAY MEAL IDEAS



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24⁹⁹

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sale

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HOLIDAY APPETIZERS



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24⁹⁹

Mini Bacon Wrapped Chicken Fillets 14 PIECES 238g

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16⁹⁹

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17⁹⁹

Bacon Wrapped Scallop Medallions 9-13 PIECES 300g

22⁹⁹

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sale

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22⁹⁹

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