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Thursday, January 15, 2026

Volume 52, Issue 2

PUBLICATIONS MAIL AGREEMENT NO. 0040036642 RETURN UNDELIVERABLE CANADIAN ADDRESSES TO 30 MARTHA ST., #205, BOLTON ON L7E 5V1

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## Launching into winter fun

The recent snowfall meant shovelling the driveway and some slippery driving; however, others revel in winter activities. The hill at the Tottenham Conservation Area was busy with sledders over the weekend. A group of boys took advantage of the winter weather and launched their sleds down the hill on Sunday, January 11.

BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

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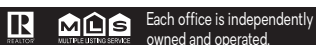
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**WORK CONTINUES** – Work on the new New Tecumseth Fire Station 4 continues to move forward. The 12,600 sq. ft. facility will meet the need for expanded fire and rescue service as the Town grows. The new fire station is expected to open in fall 2026. **BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO**

# NVCA releases results of November board meeting, plans for winter

BY BRIAN LOCKHART  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The County of Simcoe Paramedic Services, the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority (NVCA) has released the highlights of its Nov. 2026 board meeting, including the budget for 2026 and changes to conservation services fees for the new year.

**2026 Budget approved**

The Board of Directors unanimously approved the NVCA's 2026 Business Plan and Budget at \$7,841,981, reflecting a year-

over-year increase of \$180,372.37, including a \$101,307.36 increase in municipal levy.

This budget reflects fiscal prudence—reducing discretionary charges by 31 per cent and holding most lines flat while advancing efficiency and service modernization. This positions NVCA to deliver services that are responsive to the environmental, economic, and social sustainability of the Nottawasaga Watershed.

**Changes to conservation services and fees 2026**

NVCA's Conservation Services program

provides a variety of programs and services to watershed residents and visitors on a fee-for-service basis.

Services include environmental education, forestry, events and recreational opportunities.

The revenues generated through these fee programs are used to reduce the overall levy funds required by member municipalities to support staffing, lands, and infrastructure improvements.

**Fee updates include:**

- Daily conservation area parking fees increased from \$10 per day to \$15 per day. Annual passes will remain at \$70.
- Hunting fees, both resident and non-resident, will increase by \$31 and \$32, respectively.
- 2027 wedding rental fees will increase by 3 per cent to reflect a delivery cost increase between 2025 and 2027.

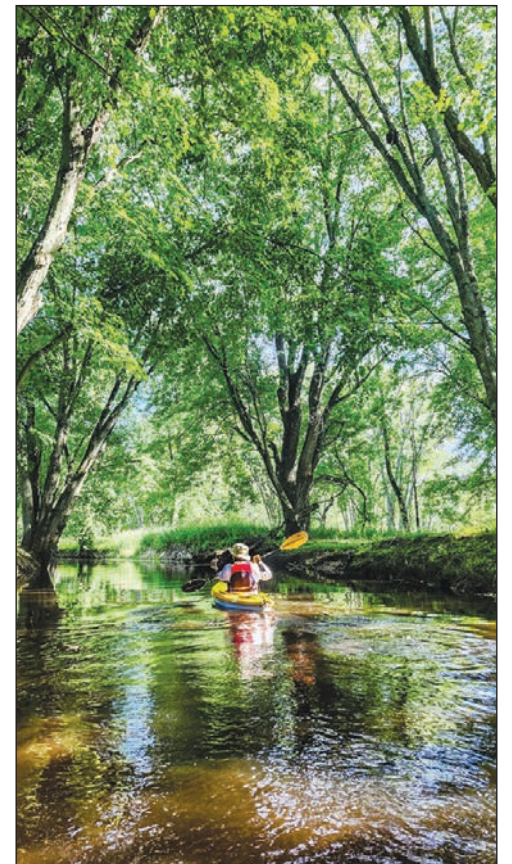
**Upcoming events**

Families in Nature – NVCA's Families in Nature & Wellness Retreats invite people to slow down, breathe deeply, and rediscover what it means to truly be present – together. This allows residents to explore hands-on outdoor experiences designed to inspire curiosity, confidence, and connection.

Four events are planned in January and February:

PA Day Camp Tiffin – This special edition of Camp Tiffin encourages outdoor exploration and guided excursions in the forest, fueled by student interest. This event

will take place on Jan.30, 2026, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Tiffin Centre for Conservation.



**NATURAL HABITAT** – Minessing Wetlands, which is part of the NVCA, is a great area for recreation, however is also important for habitat for wildlife and helps protect communities from flooding.

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BRIAN SAUNDERSON

MPP, Simcoe-Grey

# Stevenson Memorial Hospital announces new president and CEO

BY BRIAN LOCKHART  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The County of Simcoe Paramedic Services has wrapped up its 23rd annual Food and Toy Drive.

Thanks to the generosity of residents, businesses, and community partners, this year's campaign gathered 8,803 toys, over 8,680 pounds of food, and \$42,915.52 in monetary donations to brighten the holidays for local families.

"This drive truly embodies the spirit of Christmas in Simcoe County," said Simcoe County Warden Basil Clarke. "During these challenging economic times, our residents once again rallied around our request to 'Give a little, help a lot', opened their hearts and gave generously. Filling ambulances with food, toys, and donations ensures that families across our region can celebrate with joy. Thank you to our incredible residents and volunteers for continuing to showcase

the holiday spirit year after year."

With this year's totals included, the CSPS Food and Toy Drive has, over 23 years, collected 139,634 toys, 97,650 pounds of food, and approximately \$333,757 in monetary and gift card donations to support families across Simcoe County.

"Our paramedics are honoured to lead this tradition each year, and we are especially grateful for the efforts of our Paramedic Services team, their families, and friends who dedicate countless hours to this cause," said County of Simcoe Paramedic Services Director and Chief Sarah Mills.

"Their commitment, combined with the kindness of our community, helps to ensure that meals will be on tables and gifts under trees, making the season brighter for thousands of families."

For 23 years, this Food and Toy Drive has been a cherished tradition, uniting residents in support of those in need.

All donations were distributed to local

children and families in need by charitable organizations working in partnership with County of Simcoe Paramedic Services.

Some of the charities supported by the County of Simcoe Paramedic Services Food and Toy Drive include the Salvation Army, WOW Living Bradford, Simcoe Muskoka Family Connexions, Barrie Christmas Cheer, Kinette Club of Wasaga Beach, Georgian Bay Food Network, Christmas in a Box, and Innisfil Christmas for Kids.

Several local food banks, including those in Alliston, Angus, Bradford, Clearview, Coldwater, Elmvale, Tottenham, Orillia, and Wasaga Beach, benefited from the food and toy drive.



**NEWLY APPOINTED** – Stevenson Memorial Hospital has announced the appointment of Deepak Sharma as the hospital's new President and Chief Executive Officer.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

# Town offers full line-up of indoor winter sports to help residents stay active

BY BRIAN LOCKHART  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Town of New Tecumseth offers a full line-up of winter sports to help local residents stay active during the colder months.

You can stay active and beat the winter blues with a variety of indoor activities. Whether you are looking for serious competition or just some fun with friends, there is an activity for everyone to enjoy.

You can enjoy pickleball, basketball, bad-

minton, pick-up ball hockey, soccer, volleyball, floor curling, and lawn bowling. On-ice activities include stick and puck for kids nine and under, public skating, and shinny hockey.

Whether you are planning ahead or making a last-minute decision, Book and Go programs make participation easy.

With the hybrid registration model, you can sign up online or in person at the Client Service Desk when you arrive.

When signing up online, you can see how many sports are available and know if there's room before you go.

You can register up to six days in advance.

Upon arriving at the New Tecumseth Recreation Centre and the Tottenham Community and Fitness Centre, please check in with Client Services to register and pay for your activity, or to attend to an activity you have already pre-registered for.

Upon arriving at the Alliston Memorial Arena, please ensure that you have pre-registered for your Book and Go program in advance, as there is no Client Service desk.

A monitor or instructor will be on-site to verify registration.



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This beautifully maintained move-in-ready bungalow checks all the boxes. Designed for easy main-floor living, it offers an inviting open-concept layout where the kitchen, dining, and living spaces flow effortlessly together. The kitchen features granite countertops, under-cabinet lighting, and a clear view to the spacious dining/living rooms. The living room's cozy fireplace and walkout to a private, south-facing deck create the ideal spot for summer BBQs or quiet morning coffee. The main-floor primary bedrm offers generous space, a walk-in closet, and a 4-piece ens. A bright front rm on this level makes a perfect home office or den. Downstairs, you'll find a large family rm with another fireplace, a wet bar, and a walkout to a partially covered patio—an excellent retreat for relaxing or hosting friends. This level also includes a sunny guest bedrm with a 3-piece bath and an additional room ideal as a hobby space or second office. This home truly is move-in ready, with major updates already completed: new furnace and A/C, new electronic garage door, and a new roof in 2025.



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# Editorial, Letters & Opinion

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

~ Stanislaw Jerzy Lec

## Freedom

Freedom – it’s something we take for granted in this country.

Have you ever been afraid of going on a trip or travelling across the province?

Have you ever worried that your neighbour might be spying on you and passing information to a government agency?

Have you ever worried that your local grocery store will not have any food because government rationing hasn’t gotten around to supplying your town?

Have you ever been concerned that the afternoon barbecue you planned at your home may become the object of secret police surveillance because more than three people gathering in one place may be part of a secret anti-government plot?

You’ve probably answered “no” to all of those questions.

If you answered “yes”, you are definitely living an inappropriate lifestyle.

We take freedom for granted, because we have it.

A guy I used to work with decided to travel across Eastern Europe through countries that were part of the Soviet Union for a vacation trip in the 1970s.

He told me that he just thought it would be an interesting trip.

While everything went smoothly, he said he was under constant scrutiny and suspicion.

Why would a Westerner even want

to visit Eastern Europe, was the main theme.

He realized his movements were being monitored. To the authorities, a westerner meant he could also be a spy.

He checked in at a small inn, and the innkeeper insisted he turn over his passport for the night.

When asked why the innkeeper needed the passport, the reply was, “If I don’t keep it from you while you are staying here, I will be arrested by the authorities in the morning.”

One thing my friend noticed, was the horrible amount of pollution. With all industry under government control, there was no other agency to oppose the fact that a factory was polluting the air and killing local residents.

He said had had to shower at the end of every day to remove the grime, dirt, and ash that fell out of the sky from factory smokestacks and was choking the life out of the town’s residents.

The local residents shrugged it off as a part of life.

I just finished reading an essay by a woman who grew up in a county under the Soviet Union, and has since relocated to the west.

She described living under the “warmth of collectivism” as it was described by their Soviet oppressors.

Home ownership was not allowed.

You lived where the authorities told you to live.

You had no choice when it came to employment. You were given a job, and you had to do it whether you liked it or not. It was your job for life.

Private enterprise was illegal, and those who attempted to earn a living through self-employment were punished.

Travel was very restricted, even within the socialist world. If you had an interest in visiting the west, you would be in serious trouble.

All information was a government-approved version of reality. Even if you witnessed an incident and spoke about it as a witness, you would be considered a “problem.”

There was a general feeling of fear in Soviet-controlled society. You learned what not to say.

The walls have ears, and so did your classmates.

Lining up to buy consumer goods is what she described as a “national sport.”

You had to line up to buy food, shoes, furniture, books, and a decent winter coat.

Often, people stood in a line, just hoping something they needed might become available.

Quality in any product did not exist. Since the state controlled everything

and produced everything, you would have to be happy with sub-standard products.

The mindset of the population was that of fear – all the time. If one person messed up, everyone was punished. If one person said the wrong thing, everyone gets threatened.

This type of fear trains people to become their own police agency – and not in a good way.

Bananas were a big thing. They arrived hard and green, and people learned to wait out the time until they ripened.

The writer stated that bananas were proof that “somewhere out there, beyond your grey daily reality, normal life existed.”

Yes, we have freedoms we take for granted.

Upon the completion of the U.S. Constitution, statesman Benjamin Franklin was asked if they had created a monarchy or a republic.

He replied, “A republic, if you can keep it.”

That was a warning to citizens that they are the ones responsible for maintaining a free society.

It is also up to Canadian citizens that we remain free from oppression, at any cost.

**BRIAN LOCKHART**  
FROM THE SECOND ROW



## Back to work, back to reality

Are you among the many government employees who have been mandated back to the office this month?

Are you happy about it?

In a highly informal poll conducted amongst five impacted friends and acquaintances over the last week or two, feedback is decidedly mixed.

Those in favour of the full-on return-to-office scenario, rather than the minimum three-days-in-the-office model that carried Ontario into the New Year, have welcomed the opportunity to interact face-to-face with their coworkers once again, the novelty of seeing them through postage stamp-sized pane on their Zoom screen having worn off months, or even years ago.

They were looking forward to the chance of getting into a new routine with their coworkers and the informal exchange of ideas and views that are inextricably part of the in-person work process.

Those against the move, however, have

a comparative laundry list of reasons they would rather stay put.

For some, it was the convenience factor of essentially being able to, as Dolly Parton so memorably sings, tumble out of bed, stumble to the kitchen, to pour themselves a cup of ambition – or coffee, neither Dolly or I are here to judge what gets you going at the start of the day – before presumably rolling or skipping to the desk to get cracking.

That wasn’t the only matter of convenience that came up.

Others have cited their respective commute time from home to work and back again – sometimes taking up close to three hours of their day – as reason enough to stay put, noting this time, especially if endured five days a week, can be put to far better use, including more time to get, you know, the actual job for which they have been hired done.

It’s not as though the impacted employees didn’t have enough lead time to get

themselves prepared – mentally or otherwise. The move was announced this past August by Treasury Board President Caroline Mulroney.

“The government has been closely monitoring the evolution of in-workplace standards for public and private sector organizations,” she said in a statement. “The return to five days per week in-workplace standard represents the current workforce landscape in the province and it reinforces our commitment to reflecting the people and businesses we serve across Ontario.

“Based on the nature of their work, over half of the Ontario Public Service are already required to attend the workplace full time. Starting on October 20, 2025, employees who have been attending their workplace for a minimum of three days per week will increase their attendance to four days per week as part of a gradual transition period to the full time in-office standard effective January 6,

2026. This transition is an important step that supports the government’s ongoing efforts to build a more competitive, resilient, and self-reliant Ontario.”

In the five odd months since this announcement was initially made, I’m yet to be convinced that any element of this shift will result on a more competitive, resilient, and self-reliant Province, outside, perhaps, when it comes to the bottom line of businesses that strategically positioned themselves around places of government, sure in the knowledge there would be a steady stream of employees to take advantage of their products or services. They have undoubtedly sustained a heavy blow since we began to re-think our work models out of sheer necessity in 2020.

Continued on Page 19

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PUBLISHER: Simcoe-York Printing & Publishing Ltd.

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# Greenland: Maybe an Invasion (and Maybe a Backlash)

**GWYNNE DYER**  
OUR WORLD TODAY



The Crazy Gang are high on the 'brilliant success' of their Venezuela caper and looking for new targets. Like Alexander the Great, Donald Trump weeps because there are no more worlds to conquer. But wait! Actually, there are still lots of places to conquer.

Colombia is right next door to Venezuela and the US fleet is already just offshore, so how about taking down President Gustavo Petro? "He's a sick man who likes making cocaine and sending it to the United States, and he's not going to be doing it very long," according to The Donald (who is lying about Petro.)

"Operation Colombia sounds good to me," Trump said on Monday. He also name-checked Mexico ("Something will have to be done about it"), Iran ("We are locked and loaded and ready to go!") and Cuba ("It looks like it's ready to fall"). But any of these 'missions' would require lots of planning and moving military assets around. He wants another hit right now.

Instant triumphs tend to be smaller and less rewarding (arresting Russian-registered tankers in mid-ocean, for example). There is only one whole country on his list that Trump could conquer in one week from a standing start: Greenland. Which may be why Steve

Miller, White House Deputy Chief of Staff, moved it to the top of the hit-list on Monday.

As a former colony that is still a self-governing part of the Danish kingdom, Greenland is not yet a completely sovereign state. But it can hold a referendum on full independence whenever its 57,000 people want, so it sort of qualifies as a country. Only a trophy country, but you would still get points for conquering it.

If I were completely ignorant of military matters, I would now copy and paste several paragraphs of White House hogwash explaining how strategically important Greenland is. I'd say that the Russians and the Chinese are casting lascivious eyes on the Arctic because there's valuable minerals there, and the sea lanes are opening up because the glaciers are melting.

Indeed, on Sunday Trump insisted that Greenland is "so strategic right now, it's covered with Russian and Chinese ships all over the place. We need Greenland from the standpoint of national security."

No, they don't. Greenland is a region of zero strategic importance. I spent some time on Greenland's west coast recently (Ilulissat), and Russian and Chinese ships were conspicuous by their total absence.

Greenland was briefly important strategically 60 to 70 years ago, when interceptors and radar stations based there might shoot down nuclear-armed Soviet bombers on their way to North America. Then the technology shifted to ballistic missiles that fly through space, and the number of troops on American airbases in Greenland dropped from 10,000 to 200.

If Washington wants to base more troops there now, it has only to ask: the treaty says it can have an unlimited number of bases and troops in Greenland. Similarly, if it wants some minerals, just negotiate a contract, start digging (and pay for them).

As for the 'sea lanes' across the Arctic, Russia's 'Northern Sea Route' connecting the Pacific to the Atlan-

tic is getting busier. The 'North-west Passage' around Greenland and northern Canada, however, will get little traffic until the ice is almost all gone (20+ years from now), because all the remaining ice tends to get trapped amongst Canada's Arctic islands.

On the other hand, if you just need 'threats' as cover for your imperial ambitions, there are plenty of experts who can find them for you at a modest price. Trump relentlessly broadcasts their 'findings'.

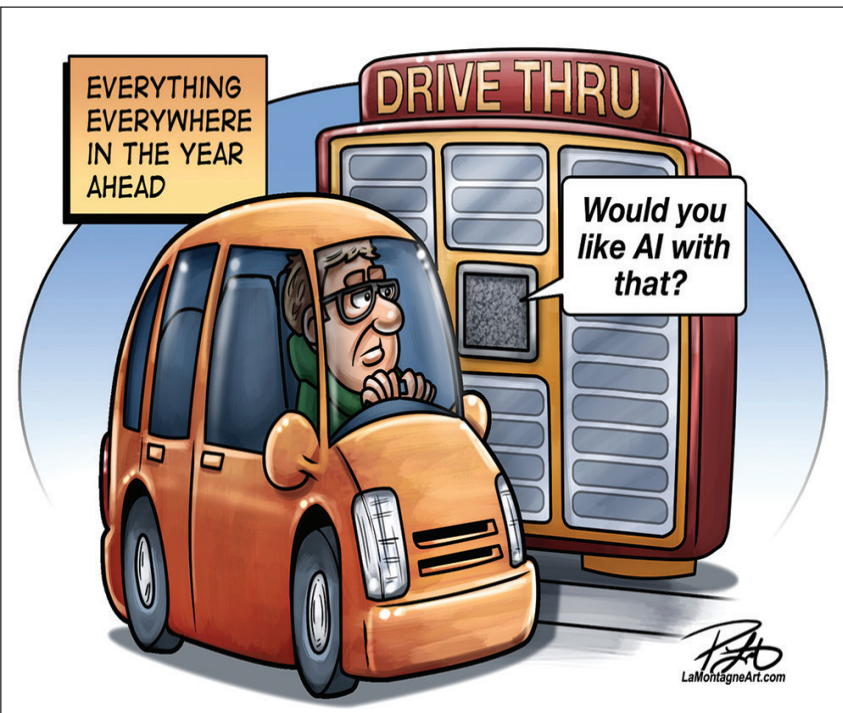
Given the servile posture (or just sheer laziness) of most American media, if Trump invades Greenland he would probably get away with it at home. However, he would not get away with it abroad.

The Russians and the Chinese would be happy to see the US invade Greenland, but for America to seize the territory of a country that has been a loyal member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) for 77 years is a very bad look.

"Nobody's going to fight the United States militarily over the future of Greenland," said Steve Miller confidently, and that's true. American air and naval power would quickly overwhelm any attempted Danish defence of Greenland, and there's no point in getting people killed for nothing.

However, the political and strategic impact would be immense. "If the United States decides to militarily attack another NATO country," warned Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen, "then everything would stop. That includes NATO and therefore post-Second World War security."

A post-NATO alliance including every country except the United States would probably reform, but the enemy would be different. That might even be enough to shock American voters into starting the fight-back in the mid-term elections in November. Or am I just clutching at straws?



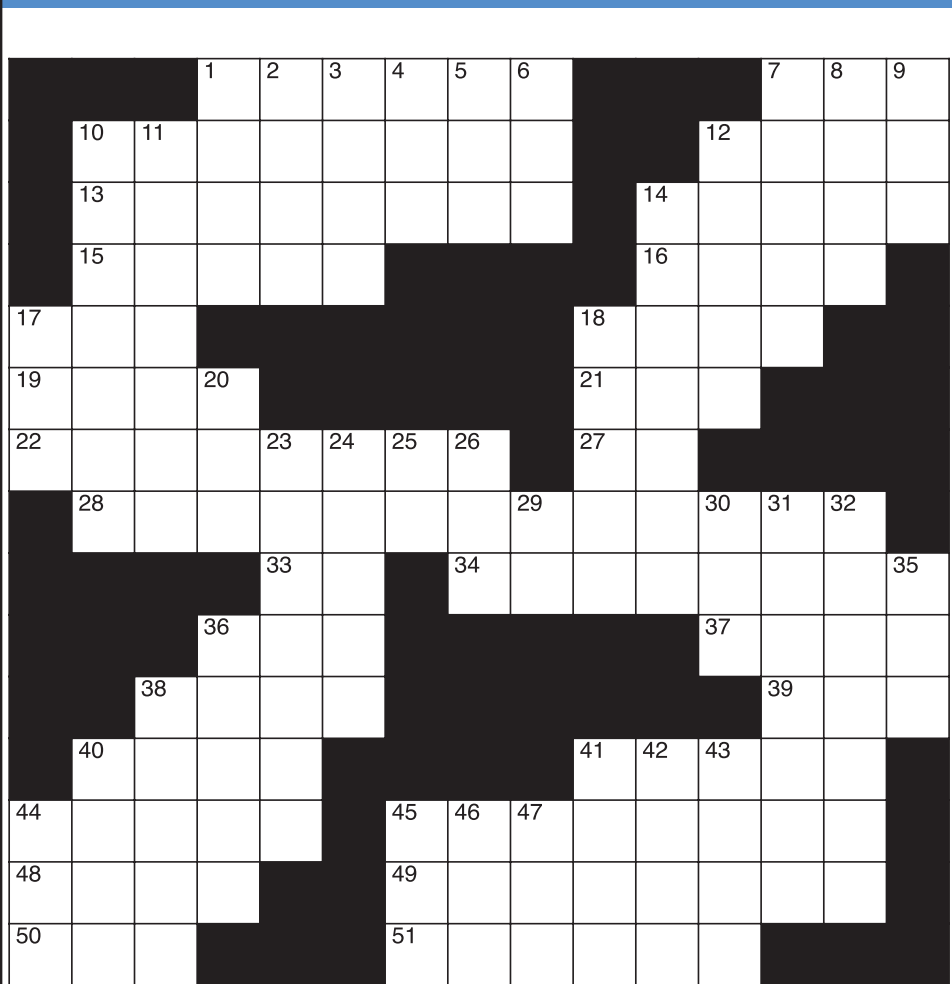
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  - Works on
  - Nocturnal S. American rodent
  - State again
  - Expression of disappointment
  - Type of door
- CLUES DOWN**
- Yugoslavian communist leader
  - Exchange rate
  - High school dance
  - Peter's last name
  - When you anticipate
  - Israeli city \_\_ Aviv
  - Goat-like mammals
  - Margarine
  - End-of-the-spectrum color
  - Make poisonous
  - Popular beverage
  - Actress Lathan
  - Where planes land and depart
  - Political fundraising entity
  - The distinctive spirit of a people or an era
  - Buffer used in microbiology
  - Light, open carriage
  - Metrical feet
  - Email subject line feature
  - A street with lots of nightmares
  - Rapper Rule
  - River in Scotland
  - One who settles a dispute
  - Most chummy
  - We all have our own
  - Arab tribe
  - Slap
  - Ottoman military commanders
  - Scottish or Irish Gaelic language
  - Emit coherent radiation
  - Sun or solar disk (Egyptian mythology)
  - Inclined to
  - Olfactory reference syndrome
  - Chest muscle (slang)
  - Body part

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

# COMMUNITY VOICE

## Monthly Message: CONTACT's seniors programs reduce isolation, build belonging

For nearly five decades, CONTACT Community Services has been a trusted pillar of support for individuals and families across South Simcoe, helping people access the resources they need to build healthy, stable, and connected lives. Although many know us for our housing supports, employment services, volunteer opportunities, and The Clothes Line thrift stores, we are equally proud of the work we do to enrich the lives of older adults through inclusive, engaging programs that promote physical and mental wellness, safety, creativity, and lifelong learning.

We're always thrilled to offer dynamic, hands on, and educational programming for adults aged 55-plus at convenient locations throughout Alliston, Beeton, Tottenham, Angus, Everett, Bradford, and Innisfil. These opportunities are made possible thanks to the generous support of the Seniors Community Grant, the New Horizons for Seniors Program, and funds raised through our annual Grand Parade walks in Alliston, Bradford, and Collingwood.

Creating free and inclusive programming for our local seniors is not only about providing opportunities to learn and create, but it is



also imperative to the health and well-being of older adults who feel isolated and alone.

Joining a community seniors' program can help older adults make new friends, feel connected to their communities, and increase their overall well-being. From June 2024 to March 2025, CONTACT offered over 90 senior-focused sessions throughout South Simcoe. Of the close to 400 survey respondents at these sessions, over 80 per cent reported that these programs helped to reduce their feelings of social isolation. Additionally, over 80 per cent of participants reported that coming out to these programs made them feel more connected to their community. That's something to celebrate!

Our most popular programs reflect a wide range of interests — from ukulele lessons and salsa dancing to pickleball, creative art workshops, budget friendly cooking classes, and scam prevention sessions delivered by our local OPP and South Simcoe Police. As

we plan this programming, we are always hopeful that we provide opportunities that cover everyone's interests.

"Friendships have been made over the pickleball nets on CONTACT-sponsored Fridays, and many people have caught the pickleball bug, asking when and where else they can play, as they want to continue after the last session, now that they've been introduced to the sport," states one pickleball participant.

"An excellent measure of a successful program is the level of people's interest in continuing the activity. I played with people of various levels of mobility, saw lots of smiles, and heard much laughter. WHO declared social isolation, experienced by 25 per cent of older adults, a global public health concern. This program promotes a healthy, active lifestyle; social engagement; and mental well-being. You've really done our community a great and lasting service by making this opportunity available."

We are excited to offer more programming for older adults as we step into 2026. With a focus on our local veterans through the Seniors Community grant, we are offering ses-

sions at our local Legions in Alliston, Beeton, Tottenham, Everett, Bradford, and Innisfil.

Our first program of the year is Healthy Cooking on a Budget – Tasty Tips for 2026! This class, offered at all six Legions, gives participants fresh ideas for preparing nutritious, affordable meals at home. Each class features a new, easy to make recipe.

January also brings a great low-impact exercise program to our 55-plus community. Held at

St. John's United Church in Alliston, these sessions begin on Wednesday, Jan. 21, and run weekly until Wednesday, Feb. 25. Join a session or join them all! This program is open to all and is a great way to get in shape for spring.

In Bradford, we are offering a unique and inclusive 'Zumba for Seniors' program offered by the always popular Zumba in da House. If you haven't had the opportunity to join a Zumba class, now is the time.

Registration for CONTACT's free seniors programming is easy. Simply shoot us an email to [programs@contactcommunityservices.com](mailto:programs@contactcommunityservices.com) or call us at 705-435-4900.

We can't wait to welcome you.



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# It's time to update your child's immunization record: Health Unit

BY BRIAN LOCKHART  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

If you have a child in Grades 3 or 4, the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit is reminding parents and guardians to make sure their children's immunization records are up to date by Feb. 3, 2026, to avoid school suspension.

Under Ontario's Immunization of School Pupils Act, students whose immunization records are incomplete or missing can be suspended from school.

While the ISPA is a provincial law, local public health units support this process by reviewing student vaccination records and notifying families when updates are required.

The Health Unit sent reminder notices home from school in June and November with Grade 3 and 4 students whose immunization records on file at the Health Unit are not up to date.

Currently, 3,742 Grade 3 and 4 students across Simcoe Muskoka still have missing or incomplete immunization records. These families have now been mailed a suspension

order which will take effect on Feb. 3, 2026, if the required information is not received by that time.

"Immunizations protect children by helping their bodies build immunity before they encounter disease," explained Dr. Colin Lee, Associate Medical Officer of Health at SMDHU. "The recent measles outbreaks we've seen in Ontario show how quickly vaccine-preventable diseases can spread. Keeping immunization records up to date safeguards both our schools and the wider community."

In Ontario, there is no province-wide digital immunization registry system. When a child receives vaccines from their primary care provider, the details are recorded in their medical record at the doctor's office.

However, this information is not automatically shared with the local Health Unit. It is the responsibility of parents to report each vaccination to the Health Unit whenever their child receives a vaccine.

What parents and guardians who received a suspension notice need to do:

- **Review your child's immunization record.** The immunization record that the

Health Unit has on file is included on the suspension order, noting which vaccine information it is missing. Check your child's yellow immunization card or immunization record from their doctor to see if the missing vaccines have been given;

- **Ensure your child receives any missing vaccines.** If your child has not received the missing vaccines, book an appointment with your health care provider or access on of the Health Unit immunization clinic opportunities;
- **Report your child's updated immunization information to the Health Unit.**

If your child has already had the missing vaccines, or once your child receives them from your health care provider, report this information to the Health Unit using one of the following methods:

- **CANImmunize App** – Is a secure



mobile app that allows you to manage and submit immunization records from your smartphone. Be sure that you have selected the option to share your child's record with Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit;

- **ICON (Immunization Connect Ontario)** – Submit records online using a desktop or mobile device.

- **Phone** – Call the Health Unit at 705-721-7520 ext. 8827.

# Police search for suspects in Utopia home invasion that occurred January 6

BY BRIAN LOCKHART  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Officers from the Nottawasaga Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police are investigating an incident that occurred in Essa Township in Utopia near Pineview Trail.

Shortly after 12:00 p.m., on Monday, Jan. 6, officers were dispatched to a residence on the 9th Line of Essa Township for a reported home invasion in progress.

The suspects fled the scene prior to police arriving.

The preliminary investigation revealed that two unknown suspects, believed to be males, attended the address and forced entry into the house. They searched the house prior to fleeing.

The two male suspects that entered the house are described as between 5'5" and 5'10" tall, wearing all black with ski masks and goggles.

One male's black jacket had a fur hood. The suspects possibly entered a grey or black sedan used to flee the scene.

Police have no further description of the suspects at this time and are encouraging residents to review their camera footage or dash cam between the times of 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 6, for any suspicious activity that may be helpful in this investigation.

This is believed to be a targeted incident

and there is no risk to public safety. The investigation is ongoing, led by the Nottawasaga OPP Major Crime Unit.

If you have any information in relation to this incident, please contact the Nottawasaga Major Crime Unit at 1-888-310-1122 Reference (E260022788).

You can also provide information anonymously by contacting Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or online at [www.crimestoppersdm.com](http://www.crimestoppersdm.com).

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# Arts & Local Events

## WinterFest 2026 promises to be hot destination in Alliston

BY BRIAN LOCKHART  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

If it's going to be cold and snowy, you might as well take advantage of the season and have some winter fun.

WinterFest 2026 will be taking place in Alliston at the New Tecumseth Recreation Centre on Saturday, Feb. 7, and will offer a

day of fun and activities for all ages.

If you get too cold, there will also be indoor activities in the Rec Centre.

Horse drawn wagon rides with some magnificent strong horses will take visitors around the Rec Centre. You can also take a ride on the Winterfest train.

A magic show with WonderPhil Magic will take place at 12:00 noon, and 2 p.m.

You can visit with some alpacas as Maple Trail Farm returns with Wanda and Cetina.

A maple taffy station will allow you to sample some winter treats.

You can capture your Winterfest memories at the photo booth, and meet your local firefighters will be taking part in the day's events.

Indoors, there will be free ice skating from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

There will be face painting and the Tiny Bean Softplay Zone – a perfect place for toddler fun.

Enjoy carnival games and meet your favourite mascots who will be greeting everyone to attends the event.

WinterFest 2026 will take place on Saturday, Feb. 7, from 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the New Tecumseth Recreation Centre.



WINTER FUN – Residents are seen enjoying some activities at the 2024 Winterfest event.

FILE PHOTO

## Camp Tiffin offers special PA Day camp

BY BRIAN LOCKHART  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The kids will have a day off from school for an upcoming PA Day, so the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority is hosting a special day at the Tiffin Conservation Area to keep them busy.

A special edition of Camp Tiffin will provide a full day of activities adopted from its traditional summer camp program.

This special edition of Camp Tiffin encourages outdoor exploration and guided excursions in the forest fueled by student interest.

The day will be guided by student

inquiry, seasonal changes, weather and program availability.

This camp will take place at the over 300-acre Tiffin Centre for Conservation.

The Conservation Area features a mixture of wetlands, forests, open meadows, and ancient lake beds that are homes for many plants and animals.

Activities for the day may include hiking, geocaching, nature games, arts and crafts, shelter building, and wilderness survival.

You can register for this event by visiting the NVCA website.

This special edition of Camp Tiffin will take place on Friday, Jan. 30, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Tiffin Centre for Conservation is located at 8195 8th Line, Utopia.



*Eat, Drink, Shop*  
**LOCAL**



# CONTACT offering seniors programs during winter months

BY BRIAN LOCKHART  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

CONTACT Community Services is offering winter seniors programs designed to inspire connection, support healthy living, and provide opportunities to learn, socialize, and stay active.

From expanded fitness and wellness classes to creative cooking on a budget, programs offer something for everyone.

For seniors 55 and over, there is a low impact exercise program that will take place at St. John's United Church in Alliston.

This program will take place over six weeks from Jan. 21 to Feb. 25, from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

This interactive program focuses on low-impact exercise and stretching.

Zumba for Seniors is an aerobic fitness

program that combines Latin and international music with dance choreography. It features interval-style workouts that alternate between beginner to intermediate intensity movements to improve cardiovascular health.

There is no experience required and no judgment of participants – just smiles and dancing.

This program will take place from Friday, Jan. 16 to Friday, Feb. 13, at 54 Holland St. West, in Bradford from 11:15 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

The Healthy Cooking on a Budget program will take place at several locations around the region in January.

Participants will learn healthy new recipes, tips for the kitchen, and how to stretch your grocery budget.

Classes will take place at:

- Monday, Jan. 19, Everett Legion, 6190 County Rd. 13, in Everett. 1:00 p.m.;

- Tuesday, Jan 20, Innisfil Legion, 1017 Robinson St. Bell Ewart. 1:00 p.m.;

- Wednesday, Jan. 21, Alliston Legion, 111 Dufferin St. S., Alliston. 1:00 p.m.;

- Tuesday, Jan 27, Bradford Legion, 115 Back St., Bradford. 1:00 p.m.;

- Wednesday, Jan 28, Tottenham Legion, 25 Richmond St., Tottenham. 1:00 p.m..

For more information or to register for programs via email, reach out to [programs@contactcommunity-services.ca](mailto:programs@contactcommunity-services.ca).



## AMBER Alerts save lives: Your help could mean the difference for a child in danger, says OPP

January 13 marks AMBER Alert Awareness Day, and the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) is reminding Ontarians that AMBER Alerts are a call for the public's help to find a child in danger.

An AMBER Alert is an emergency broadcast that is issued in the event of a child abduction. It is only issued when the abducted child is believed to be at imminent risk of bodily harm or death.

When the alert is issued, the description

of the child (and, if available, the alleged suspect or involved vehicle) is immediately broadcast through television, radio and LTE-connected and compatible wireless devices via Alert Ready, Canada's emergency alerting system.

The issuing of an AMBER Alert is not taken lightly. Before an AMBER Alert is issued, specific guidelines must be met, and all of the following criteria must be satisfied:

1. The law enforcement agency believes

a child under 18 years of age has been abducted.

2. The law enforcement agency believes the child is in danger of serious bodily harm or death.

3. There is enough descriptive information about one or more of the following: the child, the abductor, and/or the vehicle, which is sufficient to allow the law enforcement agency to believe that an immediate broadcast alert will help in locating the child.

During an AMBER Alert, time is critical. If you see or hear an alert, you should watch for the child, suspect and/or vehicle described, and report tips or sightings immediately by calling 9-1-1.

Calling 911 to complain about an AMBER Alert is considered public mischief and may result in charges.

Learn more about AMBER Alerts and how you can help by visiting [opp.ca/AMBERAlert](http://opp.ca/AMBERAlert).

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# Societal change on full display at Revolution Now exhibit in Aurora

BY BROCK WEIR  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The more Ava Dedier learns about her roots and her culture, the more complete she feels as a person.

The Markham-raised artist knew a fair bit about her family's roots in Trinidad, but knew all too well that so much of their African heritage had been lost along the way. But it is through her art that she found a way to help fill in the blanks, and the results of this poignant journey are now on display at Aurora's Royal Rose Gallery in Rise Together, a celebration of artists who have been impacted by Revolution Now.

Revolution Now, a social movement co-founded by Aurora teacher Megan Glanfield, aims to create visibility, opportunity and community for marginalized and racialized people. Since its inception, it has raised tens of thousands of dollars to support youth through scholarships and donations to non-profits.

The work of several youth who have been supported through these scholarships was in

the spotlight on Friday evening when members of the community gathered at the Downtown Aurora gallery for Rise Together's opening reception.

The reception was both a fundraiser for future scholarships as well as a way to showcase success stories coming out of the program to ticket-holders and dignitaries, including Newmarket-Aurora MPP Dawn Gallagher Murphy and Aurora Mayor Tom Mrakas.

Dedier first became involved with Revolution Now as a Grade 12 student in Unionville when, as a budding artist, she secured a scholarship through the program.

"It just kind of solidified all the hard work I've been doing throughout Grade 12 and all my life, and to know that there's scholarships for Black youth and people like me, and young girls, it just felt very empowering because usually you don't find organizations that support specific groups of people, but I felt very seen and very heard when I got it, and I was super-happy."

As part of the show at Royal Rose, which



**EXPLORING HER ROOTS** – Ava Dedier is pictured with a selection of her work, on display now at Aurora's Royal Rose Gallery. **BROCK WEIR PHOTO**

runs through to the end of January, Dedier selected three works from her 17-piece collection called Trendsetters, with each piece representing a different African god or goddess.

"I used art as a way to reconnect with my lost heritage and research and learn and make art in turn," she explains, pointing to the portrait-style works that incorporate vivid, traditional textiles. "My family is from Trinidad by way of Africa and I know a lot about the Trinidadian part, but lots about the African traditions and stories, folklore and stuff got really lost. I realized that was a big problem because I wanted to know where I came from originally."

"Through my art, I used the research to gain more insight into that culture and I actually learned how to sew from a Ghanaian seamstress. I felt as I was making the artworks it was more than just art; it was the people I was meeting with and connecting with and the stories I was learning to gain more information."

Dedier's father, Robert, says the opportunities Ava has had through Revolution Now, including this chance to explore their collective roots through their art has been "amazing."

"It's a breath of fresh air," says Robert of Revolution Now's commitment to racialized, marginalized, or otherwise under-represented populations. In the art world itself, especially in Canada, racialized people make up a small percentage of the work that's being shown. Initially, my daughter asked, 'Do you think people will like my art because it's Black-centred?' I said, of course they're going to like your art...

What it did for her was kind of broke that mentality that she doesn't have a voice and she realized she was being taken serious as an artist. This opportunity in itself changed a lot of her perspective.

"I'm a big advocate for knowing and remembering who we are, where we came from, and being proud of that. In teaching my daughter that aspect of herself, she was able to find herself and she was able to teach me things I never knew. We were able to discover and learn together."

This is a sentiment very much shared by Ava.

"I really hope my art just sparks conversations," says the University of Western Ontario student. "If there's something that they didn't know before, but they are interested in, I'm glad that I can be that source of knowledge for them because I feel most of the gaps in either representation or things of that nature just occur from lack of knowledge. I like being able to educate while I show my art at the same time."

"As a person, I am someone who loves to learn and I feel like the more I learn about myself, and my roots and my culture, the more I can really feel whole as a person. I feel like especially since I am very young, I'm still kind of finding myself, learning more about what I'm passionate about, like art and culture, and it just builds me as a person and the woman I'm becoming."

For more information about Revolution Now, visit [revolution-now.ca](http://revolution-now.ca).

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# King resident gives a voice to dogs, looking for volunteers and fosters

BY MARK PAVILONS

A King resident is speaking up for the most loyal among us – dogs.

Kalynn Borland volunteers with Across the Ocean Rescue, a dog-rescue organization serving the GTA.

“Right now, we are overwhelmed. We have an influx of large-breed dogs — many of them still puppies — who were born for wide-open land, family protection, and purposeful living,” she said.

With a heavy heart, she’s reaching out in the hopes of saving “the lives of several incredible dogs who desperately need our community’s help.”

The real goal is to advocate for adoptions over buying from breeders.

“Without fosters we can’t save lives. Shelters are literally overflowing and dogs are being euthanized at alarming rates. It’s heart breaking.”

She pointed to breeds like the Turkish Kangal, for example, who are innately gentle guardians: calm, loving, tender house companions. Yet outside, they are brave protectors who naturally deter coyotes and predators.

“They are some of the most extraordinary dogs I’ve ever met — loyal, intuitive, and

deeply bonded to their families.

“But these dogs have nowhere to go. Shelters across Ontario are overflowing. The euthanasia rate is rising at a terrifying pace.”

Borland said that people continue to buy from breeders — often simply because they don’t understand fostering, or they believe rescue dogs are “damaged.”

“I wish everyone could meet these dogs. They are anything but broken. They’re perfect souls who just need a safe place to land,” she stressed.

Her organization is “desperate for fosters and adopters in King, Schomberg, Nobleton, and surrounding areas, especially those with land or larger properties. Even temporarily opening your home can be the difference between life and death for these dogs.”

Borland relayed the stories of three Kangals: Hopper is a three-legged Kangal who doesn’t know he’s any different. He’s great with dogs, cats, kids — literally everyone’s favourite playmate. His joy is contagious. He would thrive on a property where he can roam safely and nap in the sun.

Luna is a young Kangal pup with a soft, gentle soul. She’s shy at first, but once she opens up, she becomes the sweetest, most cuddly companion. She is naturally protective of her

home and incredibly loving inside it.

Dusty is a survivor of heartbreaking cruelty. His ears were cut off with scissors as a puppy, yet he remains one of the most loyal dogs I’ve ever met. Dusty needs someone with a large estate or acreage — a person he can attach his heart to and follow everywhere.

“These dogs — and so many others — are running out of time,” she said. “We are at the point where fosters and adopters determine whether they live.”

Borland is asking the public for help.

“King Township has always been a community that steps up, especially when animals are involved. I truly believe that if people just knew the reality, they would open their homes and hearts.”

Kalynn’s journey has taken her around the world.

She began her career working as a stewardess on private yachts and private jet, traveling internationally while dedicating her spare time to volunteering at animal shelters. After leaving the industry to pursue her true calling, she moved to South Africa, where she focused on community outreach, education, dog rescue, and assisting in veterinary clinics with surgeries. She also devoted time to supporting young girls rescued from sex trafficking, helping

them with chores, schoolwork, meals and even taught them how to play dodgeball.

Kalynn returned to Canada to put down roots when COVID hit. Kalynn needed a furry friend and thus adopted Obi, a rescue dog from Rwanda, who quickly became her greatest inspiration. Soon after, she realized her place wasn’t in the city but outside it, closer to nature and the life she wanted to create. There she met Ali, and together they began fostering dogs from around the world finding them loving homes, and advocating fostering as a path to adoption.

The Obi Project was born from the journey of a very special dog named Obi. Rescued in Rwanda, Obi was given a second chance at life through the care of compassionate shelter called WAG. There, he was neutered, vaccinated, and prepared for his long trip to Canada, where he became part of our family. His story is one of survival, compassion, and the power of proper care — and it’s the inspiration behind our mission.

This spark led Borland to continue her work through Across the Ocean. Everyone is committed to giving countless dogs the same opportunity: free from unnecessary suffering.

For more, visit [theobiproject.com](http://theobiproject.com) or email [info@theobiproject.com](mailto:info@theobiproject.com)

## Caledon Sports Hall of Fame ready to welcome attendees to the 2026 Induction Ceremony

BY JIM STEWART

Barrie Shepley had just completed the Caledon Agriculture Board meeting when we snuck in a wide-ranging phone call on a Saturday afternoon.

It’s a busy time of the year for Shepley who’s preparing to host the Caledon Sport Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony for the third consecutive time. The Chair of the CSHOF acknowledged “the interesting chal-

lenges involved in recognizing over one hundred years of sports in Caledon and the ridiculously amazing achievements. There’s a lot of great people to recognize and, for such a small community, so many have done brilliant things.”

The indefatigable Chair noted that “it’s an honor to dig into the files to see the careers and contributions of these deserving athletes and builders.”

Shepley was honored to be enshrined by

the Selection Committee during the 2025 ceremony and admitted it was a moving experience.

“Part of my jam is getting people active and I’ve been inspired by these people, by their stories and remarkable achievements—to think that we’ve attended the same community religious services and shopped at the same grocery store. It’s that connection that I felt.”

Shepley saw the need to recognize area

residents who had contributed mightily to athletics in the Town of Caledon: “Ten years ago, I wondered why we didn’t have a Sports Hall of Fame in Caledon. I spoke with some Councillors who were very supportive and saw the importance of celebrating its athletes, coaches, convenors, media, and even league executives who spent decades organizing sports for kids.

Continued on Page 19

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# SPORTS

NEW TECUMSETH TIMES



## Alliston Hornets maintain three-point lead over Stayner Siskins

BY BRIAN LOCKHART  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Alliston Hornets maintain first place in the North Carruthers Division of the Provincial Junior Hockey League after losing one game then following up with a win in their regular Friday night home game on Friday, Jan. 9.

The first game of the week had the Hornets in Stayner to take on the Siskins on Thursday, Jan. 8.

Alliston scored first early in the first period on a goal from Noah Prokopec.

It was a short-lived lead as the Siskins fired back and scored three first period goals to take a 3-1 lead.

The second period saw the Alliston team put out a good effort scoring two to tie the game

to make the third period all that mattered when the teams returned to the ice after the break.

Second period Alliston goals came from Tristen Pitt and Gunner Kirk.

Neither team could do much for the first half of the third period.

Stayner scored at 14:05 into the frame and the Hornets could not match it.

The game ended with a 4-3 win for the Siskins.

“It was a good game,” said Alliston forward Gunner Kirk of the team’s performance on the ice. “We came out hot and we scored the first goal. We fell off for a few minutes and they capitalized and got a quick couple of goals. The rest of the game was all us. We came back hard and tied the game up. It was a tight game.”

The Hornets were back at it the following

night when they hosted the Innisfil Spartans.

Alliston opened the scoring in the first period on goals from Mark Coish and Nick Lamont.

Tristen Pitt scored early in the second period to give the Hornets a 3-0 lead.

Innisfil got their first marker of the night at 4:01 into the period.

Gunner Kirk scored at the midway mark followed by another Alliston goal from Cameron Lamont.

The Spartans scored late in the period.

The action continued in the third period when Coish got his second of the game just 22 seconds into the period.

The Spartans notched two third period goals to threaten the lead.

Jonathan Beusart scored the final goal of the night to give the Hornets a 7-4 win.

“Tonight’s game, I think we took away from the last game that our physicality is a big thing,” Kirk said. “We can’t let other teams push us around. It was just a good environment on the bench tonight. We’re playing a bit more aggressive. We want to get in there and pressure the goalie and make the goalie have to see around us.”

After the weekend, the Hornets are still in first place in the Division with 48 points – three points ahead of the second place Stayner Siskins.

The Orillia Terriers are in third place followed by the Penetang Kings.

The Hornets now have three road games.

They will return to home ice at the New Tecumseth Recreation Centre on Friday, Jan. 23, to host the Penetang Kings.

Game time is 7:30 p.m.



**A WIN AND A LOSS** – The Alliston Hornets took a loss then followed up with a win in back-to-back games on Jan. 8 and 9. They took a 4-3 loss to the Stayner Siskins, then returned to home ice and had a 7-4 win over the Innisfil Spartans. Alliston players Cameron Lamont and Mark Coish crowd the net during the second period of Friday’s game against Innisfil.

BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

## Alliston Cornhole Club offers new players a chance to get into the game

BY BRIAN LOCKHART  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

It is a fairly new activity that has been gaining popularity across North America.

Cornhole uses beanbags that are tossed at a raised board with a hole in it. The goal is to toss the beanbag into the hole or knock another one into it.

Players compete for points in a fun and relaxing atmosphere.

The Alliston Cornhole Club is hoping to attract new players by introducing a Developing Players division.

The Club announced that they will be starting “a relaxed, no-pressure space designed just for those who are learning the game or building confidence. If you’re new to joining us but have experience playing, let us know and together we’ll find the sport best for you.”

The new developing player competition

will feature separate sets of boards for new players, the option to throw from shorter distances, and a fun, supportive environment where you can learn without stress.

No player has to use the shorter distance, but it will be available if you want it.

If enough players turn out for game night, the Club will have two groups – experienced players and developing players.

The Club stresses that “Cornhole should be fun, welcoming, and something everyone

can enjoy – no matter where you’re starting from.”

If you’ve been watching from the sidelines and want to join the fun, this is your chance to give it a try.

You can secure your spot at a game by visiting online at [share.scoreholio.com/ejkqeX-ukJZb](https://share.scoreholio.com/ejkqeX-ukJZb).

You can also visit the Alliston Cornhole Club Facebook or Instagram page for more information.

# Partnership will provide enhanced softball player development

BY BRIAN LOCKHART  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Tottenham Beeton District Minor Softball Association has announced a new player development partnership with New Tec Baseball and the Tottenham Softball Clinic to expand high-quality local training opportunities for softball athletes of all ages and skill levels.

This partnership strengthens the softball pathway in the community by providing professional coaching, structured skill development programs, and clear progression opportunities. This includes training for first-time players learning the fundamentals to athletes preparing for Select and Rep-level competition.

“We are thrilled to partner with New Tec Baseball and the Tottenham Softball Clinic,” said TBDMSA president Kevin Boston. “This partnership allows us to offer consistent, professional instruction and multiple entry points into the game while supporting long-term player development for our athletes.”

The Tottenham Softball Clinic has had several training sessions over the past several years.

“The Tottenham Softball Clinic is a grassroots organization designed to grow the sport

of softball in New Tecumseth,” explained founder Sasha Laroque. “The idea behind the TSC is to provide programs for kids to take a break from screens, learn fundamental softball skills, and interact with other softball players in a safe, non-competitive environment. We pride ourselves in creating a foundation for athletes to discover their own true potential, and we aim to help them move forward wherever they are at in their softball journey. We have helped kids grow from house league to rep, transition between softball and baseball, and now we are helping to grow our local leagues and academies with the select team program and private clinics/summer Camps.”

Jaineel Purohit, co-founder of New Tec Baseball, said the partnership will support all ball players.

“At New Tec Baseball, our vision is to create a structured, professional, and inclusive environment where every athlete can thrive,” Purohit said. “This partnership reinforces our commitment to supporting all ball players—whether they’re just starting or striving for elite performance—by fostering growth, confidence, and a positive, community-driven experience.”

Registration for the Indoor Pitching Clinic, which was slated to begin Jan. 14, is available online at [tottenhamsoftballclinic.ca](http://tottenhamsoftballclinic.ca).



**STINGERS STUNG** – The St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Secondary School Stingers senior boys’ basketball team takes on St. John of Arc Catholic High School from Barrie in the gym at STA on Thursday, Jan. 8. The Stingers played a good game but had to settle for a 63-53 loss.  
BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

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# Vehicle collision leads to drug seizure by OPP in New Tecumseth

BY BRIAN LOCKHART  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Two individuals have been charged following a two-vehicle collision that led to an impaired investigation, multiple charges and a drug seizure in the Town of New Tecumseth.

Shortly after 10:00 p.m. on Jan. 6, 2026, Nottawasaga OPP responded to a two-vehicle collision at the intersection of 4th Line and Sideroad 15 in New Tecumseth.

Officers located the vehicles in the ditch and began an investigation.

As a result of the investigation, officers arrested two occupants from one of the

involved vehicles.

Officers also seized a substantial quantity of suspected cocaine from the vehicle.

The driver of the vehicle, Jordyn Cayer, 26, of New Tecumseth, has been charged with:

- Possession of a Schedule 1 substance for the purpose of trafficking – cocaine;
- Public Mischief;
- Driving while under suspension;
- Driving motor vehicle or boat with cannabis readily available;
- Driving motor vehicle or boat with liquor readily available;

The charges have not been proven. The vehicle's passenger, John McGuin-

nigle, 34, of New Tecumseth, has been charged with:

- Possession of a Schedule 1 substance for the purpose of trafficking – cocaine;
- Permit motor vehicle to be operated without insurance;
- Having liquor in open container in unauthorized place.

The charges have not been proven.

One individual was transported to hospital by EMS with minor injuries after the crash.

Both accused parties were released on a Form 10 Undertaking and are scheduled to attend the Ontario Court of Justice in Bradford with a future court date to answer to the charges.



# South Simcoe Police investigating robbery involving two young male suspects

BY BRIAN LOCKHART  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Members of the Nottawasaga Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police have charged one individual with impaired driving following a traffic complaint for a sus-

pected impaired driver.

Shortly before 12:00 a.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 31, 2025, officers responded to a traffic complaint regarding an SUV unable to maintain its lane and veering into oncoming traffic on Highway 89, east of Alliston.

Officers located the vehicle and initiated a traffic stop.

As a result of the investigation, officers arrested the driver for impaired driving.

William Robertson, 29, of New Tecumseth, has been charged with:

- Operation while impaired – blood drug

concentration (80 plus)

- Driving while under suspension
- The accused was released on a Form 10 Undertaking and is scheduled to attend the Ontario Court of Justice in Bradford at a later date to answer to the charges. The charges have not been proven in court.

# Driver arrested, charged with impaired after alleged speeding and stunt driving

Members of the Nottawasaga Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) have charged one individual with impaired driving, speeding and stunt driving following a traffic stop.

“On Friday January 9, 2026, shortly before 10:00 pm, an officer of the Nottawasaga OPP, while conducting traffic enforcement, observed a motor vehicle travelling more

than 70 km an hour over the speed limit on County Road 10,” say Police. “A traffic stop was initiated a short time later and signs of impairment were observed.”

As a result of the investigation, officers arrested the driver for impaired driving.

The driver, Travis Dopheide, 34, of Barrie, has been charged with:

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

- Operation while impaired - alcohol and drugs;

- Drive Motor Vehicle - Perform stunt - Excessive speed;

- Speeding 50+ Km/h over posted limit.

The charges have not been proven.

The accused party was released on a Form 10 Undertaking, received a 90 day licence suspension, and had their vehicle impounded.

“The OPP remains committed to keeping Ontario roads safe from impaired drivers. If you suspect that someone is driving while impaired by alcohol or drugs, call 9-1-1 immediately to report it. You can also provide information anonymously by contacting Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477). When you contact Crime Stoppers, you stay anonymous, and you never have to testify.”

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**708 OBITUARIES**

**Robert Gordon Phillips**  
Peacefully, surrounded by his family, at Bethell Hospice, Inglewood, on Thursday, January 8, 2026, Robert Phillips, at the age of 79 years, beloved husband of Susan. Loving father of Trevor, Kevin, Tara and her husband Paul Inman. Cherished grandfather of Hailey and Courtney. Dear son of the late Frances and Thomas Phillips. Dear brother of Carolyn, Wayne, Gary and the late Judy Phillips. The family received their friends at the Egan Funeral Home, 203 Queen St. S. (Hwy. 50), Bolton (905-857-2213) on Monday afternoon 2 – 4 and evening 6 – 8 o'clock. A Lions Service was held on Monday evening at 7:30 o'clock. Funeral service was held in the chapel on Tuesday morning, January 13 at 11 o'clock. Interment Nobleton Community Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Bethell Hospice Foundation ([bethell-hospice.org](http://bethell-hospice.org)). Condolences for the family may be offered at [www.EganFuneralHome.com](http://www.EganFuneralHome.com)

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But damn it hurts like hell  
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And I know God don't make mistakes  
But this sure feels like one  
That won't change the facts  
That won't bring you back

So I'll cry cause it's over  
And smile because we had you  
Packed a whole lot of living  
Even though it ended all too soon  
And in time I'll start healing  
But even when I get that feeling  
No matter where I go or what I do  
I'll never not remember you

Thank God for all the memories  
And pictures on my phone  
They don't fill the empty  
But I feel less alone  
And I know you're with the angels  
Right where you belong  
Cause you were one to us  
You left a legacy of love

You lighting up a whole room like that  
You made us think, made us feel, made us all laugh  
You always giving us your love  
I miss you bad, I miss you bad

So I'll cry cause it's over  
Smile because we had you  
Pack a whole lot of living  
Even though it ended all too soon  
And in time I'll start healing  
But even when I get that feeling  
No matter where I go or what I do  
I'll never not remember you

Oh I promise you  
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Beloved daughter to Brad and Meghan Dean,  
loved little sister to Connor Dean  
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Continued from Page 4

## Brock's Banter: Back to work, back to reality

That said, however, I can see – and have been on – both sides of the coin.

When our world was quite literally locked down in that dark year, I anticipated something of a slowdown when it came to my weekly output. That didn't happen in the slightest and, as I settled into the work from home routine, I saw my own efficiency hit new heights.

Until they didn't.

I lasted about a year-and-a-half in the home office, not because the work was getting to be any more difficult to complete in the domestic setting as such, but rather because I started to feel the four walls of my home office start to close in around me. I made the decision to come back into the office earlier than many simply to preserve my own mental health and to re-establish clear lines between work and home.

Of course, I was afforded the luxury to choose – an option that is no longer available to many government workers.

At the same time, for the people I manage, my own personal experience did nothing to influence my mindset that as long as the necessary work gets done, I don't really care whether it's completed at the office, at home, or any other place where you can set down a laptop for a few hours at a time. Of course, this line of work requires reporters go out to attend various events, meetings, and conduct in-person interviews, but as long as the job gets done, that's the main thing.

The move back to the office is meeting some resistance with a January 5 report from the CBC noting that, according to OPSEU, nearly 10,000 requests for "alternative" work relations were still up for review.

"We should be asking who is this benefiting in the end?" OPSEU President JP Hornick told the CBC, adding the shift back doesn't make sense in today's work environment. "The return to work seems to be

based on pressure from perhaps corporate landlords from other municipalities."

With myriad alternative options to keep employees engaged and productive, I'm inclined to agree with OPSEU that it "makes no sense in this day and age."

Yet, at the same time, one key benefit I see of going back into the office doesn't seem to be getting as much airplay – that is, the benefits of getting out of your own environment and having real face-to-face interactions once more.

As Artificial Intelligence grows at a rate previously unfathomable and increasingly becomes an inextricable part of our lives whether we like it or not, the value of true human interaction can't be understated, nor can the importance of getting out beyond the walls we've created for ourselves.

Over the holiday downtime, I have to admit I succumbed one or twice to so-called "doomscrolling," which is defined as "continually scrolling through and read

depressing or worrying content on social media or a news site, especially on a phone." And while some of the news was depressing enough, what was especially worrisome to me were those who found themselves questioning so many elements of established reality, however mundane, unable to determine real from fake, even casting doubt on some elements that are part of our collective lived experience and things we were able to see and hear for ourselves.

Some say the antidote for this is getting out and "touching grass" – and, fair enough – but, at the end of the day, that all boils down to being a fully-fledged participant in our society, and this shift certainly couldn't hurt.

But efficiency? I still have my doubts.

Time will tell, but my one friend who is now anticipating a minimum 15 hours of commute time this week, will probably have something to say as well.

## Caledon Sports Hall of Fame ready to welcome attendees to the 2026 Induction Ceremony

Continued from Page 11

When the Caledon East Complex was completed, the Town gave us a place to house the Hall of Fame and it felt good to know that kids would pass through the Complex, that they would be inspired by the stories, the achievements, and the exhibits that celebrated the athletes and builders."

The engaging Emcee reflected with a high degree of amusement when asked about the most memorable moment from the last two ceremonies.

"The highlight of the night in 2025 was seeing the 1967 Ontario Champion Bolton Kinsmen on stage. Those guys were in their 70s, they were enjoying themselves, and many hadn't seen each other for forty-five years. A

few of them even had their team jackets on. I keep getting great history lessons from inductees like them."

To purchase tickets for the Third Annual Caledon Sport Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony, contact [events@caledon.ca](mailto:events@caledon.ca) or visit [Caledon.ca/CSHOF](http://Caledon.ca/CSHOF).

The Ceremony will take place on Wednesday, January 28 in the Banquet Hall of the

Caledon East Community Complex from 7 to 9 p.m.

This year's inductees are Keith Beavers (Swimming), Helena Kavalaar (Fastball), Ashley Lawrence (Soccer), Tess Routliffe (Swimming), Jade Scognamillo (Swimming), Bruce Wanless (Lacrosse), George Gardiner (Horse Racing), Chris Humeniuk (Golf), and the 2013 Lady Wanderers Youth Soccer Team.

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 <b>Haddock Tenders</b> 8-12 PIECES 454 g	<b>9<sup>99</sup></b> each	 <b>Wagyu Beef Sliders</b> 9 SLIDERS x 51 g/1.8 oz

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