



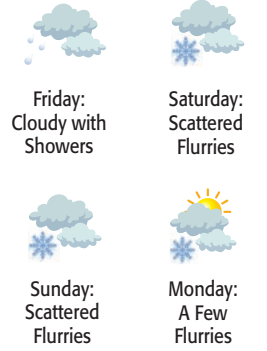
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Fun-Filled Family Day

It was a day of fun at the Tottenham Community & Fitness Centre during the Family Day holiday on Monday, Feb. 16. Face painting, Cajun drumming and games for the kids were in the gym. On the ice, people enjoyed skating both in the arena and on the outdoor ice pad. The New Tecumseth Fire Department brought one of its trucks and let kids have the fun of getting behind the wheel. BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

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Town to host public meeting on proposed Beeton development

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Town of New Tecumseth is hosting a public meeting next month regarding a proposed development in Beeton, where comments from local residents are welcome.

The town has received complete applications for a Zoning By-law Amendment and Redline Revision for 2953 10th Sideroad in Beeton.

This proposal includes updated zoning and a revised draft plan to allow up to 875 residential dwellings in Phase 2 of this development.

The property is located on the south side of Beeton, west of Patterson St. S.

Residents may submit written comments or register to speak at the meeting.

The session will also be livestreamed on the Town of New Tecumseth's YouTube channel.

Additional information, including details on participation and appeal rights, is available through the town's planning and development department.

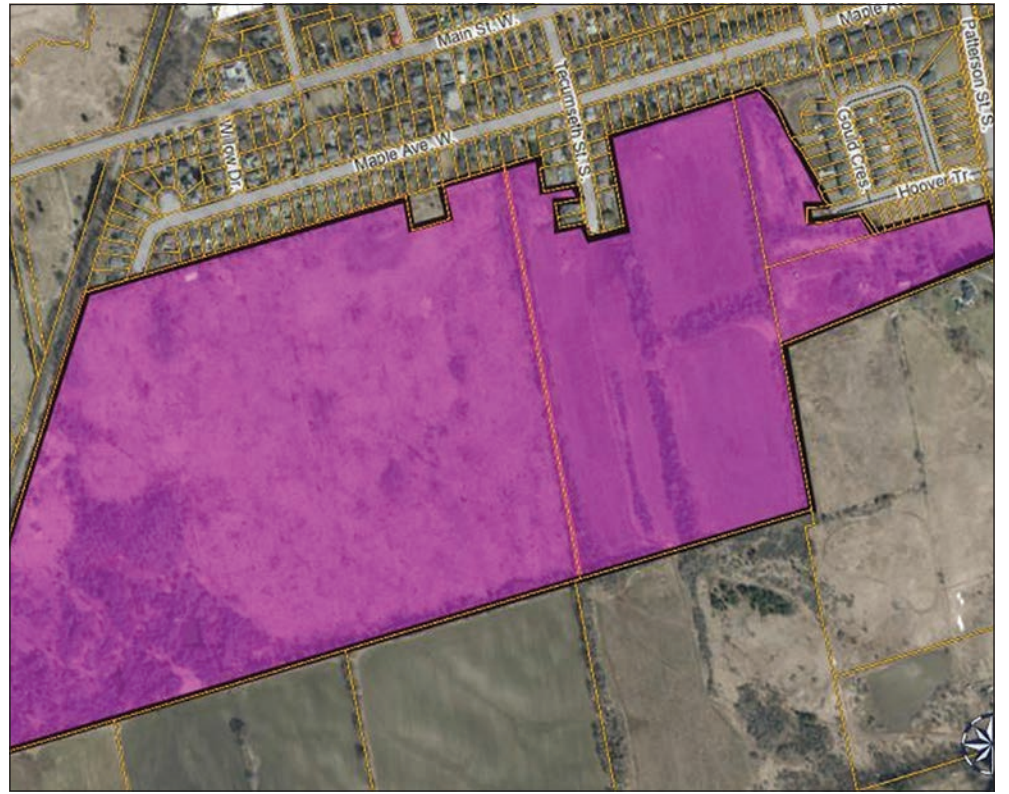
This public meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 11, beginning at 6 p.m., in the New Tecumseth Council Chambers at 24 Tupper Street West, Alliston.

If you would like to make a verbal statement at the public meeting regarding this proposed Zoning By-law Amendment and Redline Revision, you must register online by noon on Tuesday, March 10, at newtecumseth.ca/en/town-hall/speaking-before-council.aspx.

If you would like to make a written submission, you must make a written request to the Clerk, Town of New Tecumseth, at the Town administration centre, or via email at clerk@newtecumseth.ca.

FUTURE DEVELOPMENT – The Town of New Tecumseth will host a public meeting in Council Chambers on Wednesday, March 11, at 6 p.m., regarding a Zoning By-law Amendment and Redline Revision for a proposed development in Beeton.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



New traffic calming measures replace Automated Speed Enforcement cameras

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

After the province ordered municipalities to remove Automated Speed Enforcement (ASE) cameras, many were disappointed by the loss of revenue and by the cameras' no longer slowing traffic in school zones or other high-pedestrian areas.

To help with traffic-calming measures, the Town of New Tecumseth will receive \$156,892 from Ontario's Road Safety Initia-

tives Fund to enhance safety in school and community safety zones without relying on cameras.

The Town of New Tecumseth will implement new traffic-calming measures in the six former ASE locations.

These locations include Queen Street North at Father F.X. O'Reilly School in Tottenham, Adjala Tecumseth Townline at Alliston Community Christian School in Alliston, 10th Sideroad at Tecumseth South Central Public School, Lilly Street East, Monsignor

J.E. Ronan Catholic School in Beeton, Patterson Street, Tecumseth Beeton Elementary School, and King Street South, Holy Family Catholic School in Alliston.

Planned improvements include permanent installation of two radar speed signs in each zone, rotating silhouette safety signs, deployed for two weeks at a time, increased police patrols to support speed compliance, and additional high-visibility signage at school and community zone entrances.

"These tools will help slow vehicles,

increase awareness, and most importantly, keep our children and families safe," said New Tecumseth Mayor Richard Norcross. "We appreciate the province's support, which allows us to make effective, permanent road-safety improvements without added cost to drivers or taxpayers."

As speed cameras are phased out, the Town remains committed to safer school zones through infrastructure upgrades, enforcement partnerships, and ongoing traffic-calming initiatives.

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Council explores options for safety at Tottenham four corners

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The main intersection in Tottenham has long been a concern for residents when it comes to crossing the road safely.

The intersection of Queen St. and Mill Street can pose challenges for pedestrians, especially when crossing north-south on Queen St.

Residents complain that some drivers making both left turns from the northbound lane and right turns from the southbound lane on Mill St. do so with little consideration for pedestrians crossing the road.

A pedestrian was struck by a vehicle and seriously injured on Jan. 20.

There have been several other incidents of pedestrians being struck by vehicles at this intersection over the past few years.

Council has already approved and scheduled a series of safety improvements at this intersection for implementation in the spring.

This includes removing on-street parking to accommodate dedicated turning lanes, recalibrating traffic signals, and enhancing crosswalks.

New Tecumseth Ward 8 Councillor Andrea Jacks has submitted a written motion to council requesting that town staff explore and evaluate additional pedestrian safety measures to further improve safety at the intersection.

This includes a review of best practices for intersection safety solutions implemented in comparable municipalities, with a focus on measures that reduce pedestrian-vehicle conflicts at busy intersections.

“It’s treacherous,” said Coun. Jacks, regarding the intersection. “Three of the four corners have archaic design with no setbacks between the buildings and the sidewalk, which blocks sight lines, and the massive increase of traffic volume over time. It’s a complicated problem to solve.”

Also requested was that staff assess the fea-



SAFETY CONCERNS – Pedestrians cross the intersection at Mill St. and Queen St. in Tottenham – the main intersection in town. The intersection is known to be dangerous for pedestrians. A person was struck and seriously injured last month. While New Tecumseth council has already begun work on changes to make the intersection safer, a motion was passed to include a study of future changes that may help the situation.

BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

ibility, cost, timing, and anticipated safety benefits of any recommended measures, including those that could be implemented during work in the spring of 2026 and those that require longer-term planning. The motion was passed unanimously.

Town looking for public input regarding the future of Beeton Community Centre

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Town of New Tecumseth is launching the Beeton Community Project.

This is an early-stage planning process to explore the future of recreation, culture, and community space in Beeton.

The Beeton Memorial Arena has served the community for many years; however, it is

coming to the end of its lifespan.

At this stage, no decisions or designs have been made. The town is listening to residents to hear what they want to see in a renewed community space.

This first phase of the project is focused solely on community engagement. Designs will come in later phases, after input is collected and analyzed.

Local feedback will directly shape the con-

cepts and options developed later in the project.

There are several ways for residents to get involved and provide input on this project’s development.

An online survey is available on the Town of New Tecumseth’s website.

Pop-up events will allow local residents to ask questions and share thoughts on this project. These will be informal sessions with no presentations.

Pop-up events:

- Tuesday, Feb. 24 - Tottenham Community & Fitness Centre (139 Queen St. N., Tot-

tenham), from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

- Wednesday, Feb. 25 – D.A. Jones Library Branch (42 Main St. W., Beeton), from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

- Saturday, Feb. 28 – Beeton Memorial Arena (22 Second Street, Beeton), from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

There will also be a public information session with early ideas informed by the community survey and the Recreation & Culture Action Plan.

This will take place on Thursday, March 12, 2026 – Town Administration Centre (24 Tupper St. W., Allison), from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.



LOCAL INPUT – The Town of New Tecumseth is launching the Beeton Community Project and looking for input from local residents. No decisions or plans have been made yet; however, the town is interested in hearing what residents want to see in a new community space.

FILE PHOTO

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Editorial, Letters & Opinion

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

~ Stanislaw Jerzy Lec

Superstar

She had a beautiful three-octave contralto voice that was easily recognizable and well-suited to the style of music she performed.

Karen Carpenter was the female half of the '70s pop duo, The Carpenters, who, along with her brother Richard, charted several top hits of that era.

Richard was the genius behind the music. He wrote and arranged the tunes they recorded and performed.

Karen thought of herself as a drummer first, unusual for a woman at the time, but she was talented with the sticks and played drums on all of their albums.

When she tried singing, it was apparent to everyone who heard her that she had a natural ability to sing and had a beautiful voice. She was encouraged to take a step out from behind the drums to be the main focus of the band.

The Carpenters became Karen and the 'other guy.'

The Carpenters had a squeaky-clean image, and their manager and those around them promoted this image of the all-American, fresh-faced, pop duo.

Their music was hard to define. In an era of metal bands, glam bands, and Alice Cooper, The Carpenters performed ballads with sappy themes and an instru-

mental background.

I had a friend who came from a rather strict religious family. No pop music, especially rock music, was allowed in the home.

However, my friend's parents allowed her to have The Carpenters' albums and their easy listening sound.

That's how goody two-shoes their image was.

The thing about The Carpenters during that era was that no one would admit they liked The Carpenters. No one would admit they owned a Carpenters album.

The pop duo sold millions of records to a fan base that would not admit they were fans.

There was a rumour that a McDonald's restaurant was going to be built near where I live. At first, a lot of people seemed happy about that.

However, when a person posted a query on the town's Facebook page asking when the restaurant was supposed to arrive, there were nothing but negative comments.

Everything from "I would never eat there," to "we don't need that kind of restaurant here," was posted in reply.

Did you ever notice that no one admits they like going to McDonald's?

Yet it's probably the largest restaurant chain in the world and still expanding, so someone is buying Big Macs and Quarter Pounders.

Prior to having a Walmart nearby, I was at a dinner with a local business group when the topic of Walmart coming to town was brought up.

One woman in particular expressed her dismay at having a Walmart in town.

"I would never go to a Walmart," she said, opining that she just couldn't visit that type of store.

A few months after the store opened, I visited and passed an aisle, where, sure enough, I saw that same woman perusing the shelves.

I thought of going up to her to say 'hello', but decided not to embarrass her when she was shopping incognito in a store she doesn't like.

No one ever admitted they bought their clothes at K-Mart. Even though that retailer is long gone, it was at one time a huge business.

But no one would ever admit to shopping there.

You never heard anyone say, "Hey Bob, nice shirt," with the reply, "Thanks, I got it at K-Mart!"

I was at a private dinner one holiday,

and as we sat down to eat, the host's mother mentioned the place settings. She then mentioned loudly that her daughter had bought all the dishes at Dollarama.

The host was mortified that her guests knew they were using plates that cost \$1. Although they looked nice, there was nothing wrong with them.

No one ever admits they bought anything at a Dollarama, or any other dollar store, yet every time I'm there, the store is busy.

I'm not sure why many people are reluctant to admit they like a certain food or shop at a particular store. Are they trying to impress others by implying they bought that new sofa at a high-end furniture store when they actually purchased it on layaway at a 'Furniture is Us' discount store?

I freely admit I like both a Quarter Pounder and a Big Mac.

I just bought a big screen TV from Walmart, and I'm a regular shopper at Dollarama.

And yes, I do have one old Carpenters album.

You can't beat Karen singing Superstar.

BRIAN LOCKHART
FROM THE SECOND ROW



Flying the friendly skies to an estranged friend

Before I went away to work abroad for a couple of months shortly after I graduated from university, my grandmother had one sage piece of advice.

She wasn't a big fan of the idea of my going to my destination country as it had been torn apart by civil war about a decade-and-a-half before and was still in the process of healing, but if I was determined to go – and I was – she said I had to keep a travel diary and gave me the money to get one.

It was advice that she followed herself, as her expansive diaries she left behind from trips from such locales as Austria, Switzerland, and Tunisia demonstrated in exacting detail, and she was determined I was going to follow her lead.

I should have. Alas.

As I've written in this space previously, I closely immortalized just about every experience I had over the first few days of the trip, but eventually found going above and beyond was

taking up no small chunk of time from making new memories, and thought my time would be better spent living the day-to-day.

Great idea? Missed opportunity.

While the broad strokes of the experience are as fresh in my mind today as they've ever been, I've lost some of the finer details over the years, and that's a big regret.

Maybe to atone for this lapse in judgement, whenever I'm away on vacation, as I am now, I try my best to make up for it – perhaps not in as formal a volume as a trip diary, but through notes to myself, snapshots of just about everything, and gathering a memento, no matter how tiny or inconsequential, to keep the memories sharp.

I also like to use the time on the plane productively by writing my column based on what I'm experiencing during the flight.

Chatting with your fellow passen-

gers at the gate before you depart can yield a goldmine of things to write about. Everybody is travelling for a different reason and those reasons vary as wildly as the destinations available from Pearson.

Sometimes, particularly in our current climate, you can see people making political statements with their attire – particularly their t-shirts and hats. These t-shirts and hats are, of course, no more and no less comfortable than other non-political options; one can only assume the fun is to observe people's reactions to whatever inappropriate or hotly-charged slogan you've chosen to sport.

I can't say for certain – I, for one, flew in a t-shirt picked up at and promoting the 2025 Lucille Ball Comedy Festival. Any potential controversy or the odd eyebrow-raise could only come from people who frown on laughter, and I can only hope those people are few and far between.

Sometimes inspiration comes from etiquette – or lack thereof – displayed

by fellow passengers in line or on board – like those who think their children screaming at the tops of their lungs in a confined space is the cutest thing ever.

(Spoiler Alert: It's not. Don't get me wrong, I don't begrudge parents travelling with children that cry from time to time, but don't let's pretend it's supposed to be music to our ears or take it as a personal attack when we would rather listen to anything else)

So, ahead of this trip I thought there would be no end to the potential fodder at the airport.

This was set to be my first time flying into the United States since, well, circumstances drastically changed, and going through security, customs, and the whole process would surely provide enough inspiration for three or four columns alone.

Continued on Page 19

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NATO 1.0 is dead: Long live NATO 2.0

Every year at this time the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO), the world's most powerful alliance for the past 77 years, holds a conference in Munich to examine its state of health.

The one just past was really a wake, but it played out more like the immortal Dead Parrot sketch from Monty Python, in which a customer (John Cleese) enters a pet shop with a cage containing a dead parrot (a Norwegian Blue) and says:

"This parrot is definitely deceased, and when I purchased it not half an hour ago you assured me that its total lack of movement was due to it being tired and shagged out following a long squawk."

Shopkeeper: "Well he's...he's, ah...probably pining for the fjords."

Cleese: "He's not pining. He's passed on...He's a stiff. This parrot is no more. If you hadn't nailed him to the perch, he'd be pushing up the daisies. THIS IS AN EX-PARROT!!!" And so too with NATO, though it is still nailed to its perch.

The psychodrama raging beneath the surface at the Munich conference was an argument among the European members of NATO about whether the United States could still be trusted. Some insisted that the old alliance could survive. More thought that it will have to be NATO 2.0 or no alliance at all.

Observers from the US Democratic Party promised the conference that Trump will be gone in three years and the old American security guarantees will be revived. "I think the Europeans sighed with relief because it was saying that Europe is important, that Europe and America are very intertwined and good allies," said Kaja Kallas, the European Union's chief diplomat.

But most EU leaders have lost the faith. The German Chancellor, Friedrich Merz, said bluntly that "The United States's claim to leadership has been challenged and possibly lost." Echoing Canada's Prime Minister Mark Carney, he said that the "rules-based world order no longer exists," and that "a deep divide has opened between Europe and the United States."

France's President Emmanuel Macron agreed: "Europe is rearming, but we must now go beyond" to become a unified major power. It can only achieve that if it can act like a single country, of course, but Trump is giving it a strong incentive to learn how.

Starting with US Vice-President J.D. Vance's anti-

European tirade at last year's Munich conference, we have had US air strikes on Iran and five other countries, the subjugation of Venezuela, American complicity in the genocide in Gaza, and above all Trump's threats to invade Greenland, which is part of the Kingdom of Denmark, a NATO member.

Curiously, Greenland was what tore it, and most NATO leaders now understand that Trump's America is at best an unreliable ally and sometimes openly hostile. Nor are they confident that the United States will remain a country where governments change hands democratically, so they have to plan for the worst.

It's not really a huge crisis. The existing NATO is an ideal template for a successor alliance that includes most or all of the existing members except the United States. If Canada dared to stay in, they wouldn't even have to change the name. The new alliance would still have ample numbers, wealth and weapons to deter any Russian attack.

Filling the gaps that remain when American troops all leave Europe would take some years, but the risk is really quite small. Russian military resources are too heavily committed to conquering Ukraine at the moment to embark on a war with all of western and central Europe as well.

As hegemon goes the United States was a relatively benevolent one (there has never been a truly benevolent one), and we

GWYNNE DYER
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CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Cut quickly
- 5. A way to state clearly
- 11. River in NE Scotland
- 14. Expansive
- 15. Lacking social polish
- 16. Amount of time
- 17. Frame
- 19. Automobile
- 20. Toadstools
- 21. High school dances
- 22. Utilize
- 23. Experimented with
- 25. One-sided
- 27. Acquisitive
- 31. Potted plants
- 34. Everyone has one
- 35. Kalahari Desert lake
- 38. Unidentified flying object
- 39. People 65 and over

CLUES DOWN

- 41. Small amount
- 42. Daughter of Acrisius
- 44. Ornamental box
- 45. Government agents
- 46. Uncertain
- 49. A cotton fabric with a satiny finish
- 51. Treeless plains
- 55. One's sense of self-importance
- 56. Consumer advocate
- 60. Type of lounge
- 61. Body part
- 62. Can be persuaded
- 64. Woman (French)
- 65. Ready and willing to be taught
- 66. Arab ruler title
- 67. Unhappy
- 68. Gradually went away
- 69. Able to think clearly
- 1. Brushed
- 2. Small water spirit (Germ.)
- 3. Heroes
- 4. Monetary units
- 5. Some don't want to share theirs
- 6. Free-swimming invertebrate
- 7. Litigates
- 8. Outer
- 9. Parallelograms
- 10. Uneasy feelings
- 11. Cross
- 12. A way to remove dog_
- 13. Pages can be
- 18. Ukrainian city
- 24. A citizen of Denmark
- 26. Month
- 28. Hindu queens
- 29. Group of chemicals
- 30. Rider of Rohan
- 31. Wet dirt
- 32. Southwestern Russia city
- 33. Observed
- 36. Angry
- 37. Drivers' licenses
- 39. Musical composition
- 40. Auction
- 43. They _
- 45. Women
- 47. Be filled with love for
- 48. Thick-soled sock
- 49. Appears
- 50. Old World lizard
- 52. The leading performer
- 53. Protein
- 54. "Gunga Din" script writer
- 57. Art __, around 1920
- 58. __ Blyton, children's author
- 59. Abnormal breathing
- 63. A place to rest

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

COMMUNITY VOICE

Monthly Message: Neighbours supporting neighbours at local food bank

Food insecurity is something many people believe will never touch their own lives. Yet at the Alliston Food Bank, we see every day how quickly circumstances can change. The people who walk through our doors are not defined by one story or one struggle. They are neighbours, friends, coworkers, parents, seniors, young adults, and families at many different stages of life, each navigating a season that has become more difficult than expected.

Some individuals and families rely on food support for longer periods of time. This may be connected to ongoing health concerns, disability, caregiving responsibilities, or employment that is unpredictable or limited. These situations often develop quietly and over time, shaped by factors far beyond any one person's control. For those facing long term challenges, access to food support can provide stability, relief, and a sense of consistency during an otherwise uncertain period.

Many people are surprised to learn how many working individuals and households rely on the food bank. Some are employed full time, other's part time, seasonally, or in more than one job. Despite steady work, the rising cost of everyday necessities has made it increasingly difficult to make ends meet. Grocery prices continue to rise, hydro and heating bills are higher, gas costs add pressure, and housing costs remain a significant strain. For homeowners, mortgage renewals at much higher interest rates have increased monthly payments. For renters, limited availability and rising rents leave little flexibility. Even with careful budgeting, a single unexpected expense can quickly upset a household's balance. Food support helps ease pressure so limited income can be directed toward rent, utilities,

medication, transportation, or childcare.

Economic changes in recent years have also affected households that once felt financially secure. Increases in housing costs, higher interest rates, and rising living expenses pushed many people into unfamiliar territory. Some used savings for the first time, others took on debt, and many were forced to make difficult decisions about housing or basic needs. While some financial pressures have eased slightly, the impact remains for those still working to recover. The food bank offers support during these transitions, helping people regain their footing with dignity and without judgment.

We serve people from many backgrounds and life experiences, including those adjusting to new jobs, new family dynamics, health changes, or major life transitions. Some are navigating a new community or new systems, while others are coping with loss, illness, or reduced income. Regardless of the path that brings someone through our doors, everyone deserves understanding, respect, and care.

We also support individuals who are unhoused or living in unstable housing situations. These experiences are not always visible and can take many forms, including staying temporarily with others or living without consistent access to cooking or food storage. Rising housing, food, and fuel costs can make already challenging situations even harder. Offering flexible and respectful support helps ensure people feel seen, valued, and supported.

For many, food insecurity is temporary. People may come to the food bank during a period of job loss, illness, financial strain, or unexpected change, and later move on as circumstances improve. Others may require support for a longer time due to ongoing challenges.



These experiences do not define a person's worth, potential, or contribution to the community.

Behind the scenes, volunteers and staff work with care and compassion to ensure food is sourced, sorted, and distributed in a way that meets diverse needs. Efforts are made to provide nutritious options and to be mindful of dietary and cultural considerations whenever possible. Just as important is creating a welcoming space where people feel respected,

heard, and treated with kindness.

The Alliston Food Bank is here not only in moments of crisis, but throughout life's ups and downs. Whether someone needs support for a short time or a longer season, our doors remain open. No one should feel ashamed to ask for help, and no one should feel alone while doing so.

Hunger is not a personal failure. It is a reality shaped by rising grocery prices, high housing costs, increased interest rates, utility bills, and life events that can affect anyone. By understanding who we serve, we can replace assumptions with empathy and strengthen a community rooted in compassion, care, and hope.



Final Release

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Modernized system improves Nottawasaga Valley Conservation's review

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

After more than a year of refining processes and modernization, the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority (NVCA) has met its goal and reduced the time it takes to issue permits.

In 2025, the NVCA issued 435 permits with an average wait time of just 17 days. That's down from 20 in 2024.

Efficiency remained a strong focus throughout the year, driven by modernization efforts and process improvements that were introduced in 2025.

This included introducing an e-permitting platform and implementing a triage system that allows straightforward permits to move efficiently while complex or higher-risk applications receive the thorough technical assessment they require.

"I'm extremely proud of our team – this was no small feat," said Jennifer Vincent, CAO of the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority. "It shows how committed our staff are to efficient, high-quality service driven by science, experience, and local insight. Our new e-permitting system and triage process has transformed how quickly and effectively we can support our municipalities,

developers, and residents to grow our communities safely and sustainably. And we're not stopping here. Our next e-permitting platform update will soon allow applicants to track their application status in real-time. We're entering 2026 with real momentum and a continued focus on delivering efficient, transparent, and responsible service across the watershed."

Under the Conservation Authorities Act, conservation authorities are responsible for protecting homes, infrastructure, and communities from natural hazards such as flooding and erosion. Permits are required whenever development or other regulated activi-

ties take place in or near natural hazard areas to ensure people, property, and infrastructure are protected.

Applications are categorized as either major or minor based on the level of risk and complexity involved.

Major permit applications require a more detailed technical review for activities such as constructing buildings, significant grade alterations, or wetland interference.

Minor permit applications involve lower-risk activities – such as pools, patios, and minor grading- and do not have the same technical information requirements, allowing them to be reviewed more quickly.



SUPPORTING STEVENSON – Representatives from Trillium Ford Lincoln Ltd., in Alliston, presented a cheque for \$25,000 to members of the Stevenson Memorial Hospital Foundation (SMHF) at the local dealership on Thursday, Feb. 6. The cheque represents the latest installment of a five-year \$125,000 commitment to SMHF. "Trillium Ford Lincoln is fortunate to have such a wonderful health care partner in the Stevenson Memorial Hospital," said Eric Vant Spyster, managing partner at Trillium Ford Lincoln. "Providing this donation to support the foundation in their objective of bringing an expanded Stevenson to the community is an honour and a privilege."

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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Arts & Local Events



Family Time in Tottenham



It was a day of fun at the Tottenham Community & Fitness Centre during the Family Day holiday on Monday, Feb. 16. Face painting, Cajun drumming and games for the kids were in the gym. On the ice, people enjoyed skating both in the arena and on the outdoor ice pad. The New Tecumseth Fire Department brought one of its trucks and let kids have the fun of getting behind the wheel.

BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTOS



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BRIAN SAUNDERSON
MPP, Simcoe-Grey

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Beeton Tottenham Business Improvement Association will hold our annual general meeting to review 2025 and present our 2026 budget.

The meeting will be held on **Thursday, February 26, 2026 at 6:30 pm.** at the Tottenham Community Fitness Centre 139 Queen St. N., Tottenham. RSVP to attend.

For information please contact Susan Iacoucci 905.936.3424 or email info@btbia.ca





BE MY VALENTINE – Whole lotta' love. Kelly McCague and Robyn Caruana from New Tecumseth Rotary paid a visit to Simcoe Manor in Beeton on Friday, Feb. 13, to spread some cheer. They visited residents and delivered Valentine's Day flowers to make everyone's day a little brighter. Flowers were also handed out at Aspira Kingsmere Retirement Living, Riverwood Senior Living, and Good Samaritan Senior Complex. **CONTRIBUTED PHOTO**

Stevenson Memorial announces leadership/progress updates

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

After more than a year of refining pro-
Stevenson Memorial Hospital in Allston has
announced leadership changes and updates on
its redevelopment project.

Leadership

The Board of Directors has appointed Dr.
Ted Vandevs as interim CEO of the Stev-
enson Memorial Hospital Foundation (SMHF).
The appointment is effective immediately.

Dr. Vandevs will serve in this role while the
board's CEO Resource Committee conducts a
comprehensive search for a permanent CEO.

Dr. Vandevs brings deep knowledge of the
organization, a strong commitment to the
community, and a steady hand during this
transition period.

There are also updates to the SMHF board's
leadership.

Fayaaz Kala has been appointed board
chair.

Gary Sim has been appointed first vice
chair and treasurer.

Both individuals bring valuable experi-
ence, dedication, and a shared commit-
ment to advancing the foundation's mis-
sion in support of Stevenson Memorial Hospital.

Redevelopment project

The hospital has announced that the rede-
velopment construction contract has been
awarded to Pomerleau Inc., in partnership
with Infrastructure Ontario.

This marks a significant step forward in
delivering critical infrastructure that will sup-
port exceptional care for the community for
generations to come.

The board says it remains confident in the
foundation's direction and appreciates the
continued support from donors, partners, and
community members.



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Tim Hortons' Team Canada Collector's Series 2025-26 launches

BY JIM STEWART

What an activity to celebrate Flag Day! Inserting 113 Tim Hortons Team Canada Trading Cards into the 2025-2026 Collector's Series binder was an enjoyable way to celebrate our national team legends, our ten local York Region national team players featured in this Upper Deck collection, and the 61st anniversary of our nation's adoption of the Canadian Maple Leaf flag.

The Maple Leaf appears in multiple places on the splashy red binder cover, including the Canadian Olympic Team logo, the Team Canada hockey logo, and as a darker red backdrop to Sidney Crosby celebrating his Golden Goal in a white Team Canada jersey with the red maple leaf emblazoned on his chest.

Swapping dozens of cards was also an early Family Day activity with my son as we built our sets. I was able to procure two of the stylish red Collector's Series binders for our respective collections. Five of the six Tim Hortons restaurants I visited in Aurora, King, Oak Ridges, and Newmarket were either sold out of binders, or they had not arrived yet at the store. They're rarer than a day above zero degrees so far in 2026.

It's appropriate that Sid "The Kid" Crosby graces the cover — resplendent in his Team Canada Olympic uniform and in the throes of his Golden Goal in Vancouver in 2010. We all know where we were when this triumphant Canadian hockey moment occurred.

Due to his role as Captain Canada, Crosby has supplanted Wayne Gretzky as our nation's favourite hockey-playing son — especially given Gretzky's infamous associations south of the border that have besmirched his legacy. Despite The Great One's recent drop in popularity in Canada, four Gretzky cards appear in

the collection. Crosby is featured five times, including Card #1 in the "Maple Leaf Immortals" subset.

The 100-card Upper Deck base set is a who's who of the most decorated Canadian players who have competed at the various age groups of the IIHF World Championships or the Olympics.

The opening page of the Team Canada 2025-2026 collection is impressive, featuring nine national team icons. Sidney Crosby replaces the traditional Tim Horton card and leads off the collection as Card #1. Rounding out Page One are Nathan MacKinnon, Connor McDavid, Aaron Ekblad, Drew Doughty, Patrick Roy, Jonathan Toews, Claude Giroux, and Brad Marchand.

The final 15 cards of the base set are comprised of the Canadian Women's team players, including Jenner, Nurse, Spooner, Fast, and Turnbull. The legendary Marie-Philip Poulin is Card #100.

Crosby starts the set, and Poulin ends it. Beautiful representation.

Subsets in this stunning card collection are

- Fifteen "Gold Medalists" cards comprised of Yzerman, Scheifele, Lindros, Sakic, Stankoven, Crosby, Burns, McTavish, St. Louis, Morrisey, Price, Clarke, Lemieux, Clark, and Desbiens;

- Fifteen "Northern Stars" cards comprised of Bourque, Binnington, Benn, Suzuki, Roy, Hagel, Strome, Gretzky, Letang, Barzal, Thompson, Fast, and Gardiner;

- Fifteen "Celebrated Prodigies" cards — McDavid, Makar, Marner, Reinhart, Celebrini, Lindros, Bedard, Pronger, Nugent-Hopkins, Doughty, Tavares, Fantilli, Ekblad, Fillier, and Ambrose — which are presented in a unique, matte style and appear to be vintage hockey cards without the usual Upper



TRADING CARDS — Connor McDavid centers all the stars of Canada's 2026 Olympic Team in Tim Hortons Team Cnaada Trading Card 2025-2026 Collection. JIM STEWART PHOTO

Deck foil inserts;

- Fifteen "Program of Excellence" cards featuring MacKinnon, Marchand, Stone, Giroux, Crosby, Point, Duchene, Thomas, Konechny, Bouchard, Shanahan, Gretzky, Montembeault, Turnbull, and Jenner;

- Fifteen "Team Canada Duos" with hologram pairings of Bedard and Fantilli, McDavid and Nurse, Crosby and MacKinnon, Doughty and Toews, Scheifele and Morrisey, Gretzky and Roy, Marchand and Reinhart, Kuemper and Hill, Stone and Marchessault, Horvat and Barzal, Yzerman and Shanahan, Bouchard and Dobson, Marner and Point, Poulin and Stacey as well as Nurse and Spooner; and

- Five "Maple Leaf Immortals" comprised of Crosby, MacKinnon, Lemieux, Poulin, and McDavid. No Gretzky.

I was fortunate enough to secure Lemieux and McDavid to complete 2/5 of this closing subset.

Although many of the Tim Hortons collections have been duds and should be avoided, this 180-card Team Canada Collector's Series

— the first of its kind — is a perfect complement to your coffee table when the Canadian Dream Team of 2026 earns a Gold Medal next weekend in Milan. To paraphrase Don Cherry, "It's a beauty."

Ten per cent of the Base Set is comprised of York Region's Team Canada members

Ten Team Canada players either born or raised in York Region are represented in the base set: #3 Connor McDavid (Newmarket); #10 Alex Pietrangelo (King City); #24 Adam Fantilli (Nobleton); #43 Robert Thomas (Aurora); #46 Jordan Binnington (Richmond Hill); #54 Quinton Byfield (Newmarket); #67 Mitch Marner (Markham); #80 Steven Stamkos (Markham); #83 Sam Bennett (Holland Landing); and #99 Laura Stacey (Kleinburg).

In addition to the base set, McDavid is included in the "Celebrated Prodigies," "Team Canada Duos," and "Maple Leaf Immortals" subsets. Stacey appears in the "Team Canada Duos" as do Fantilli and Marner. Binnington is featured in the "Northern Stars" subset while Fantilli's third card appears in the "Celebrated Prodigies" subset.

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SPORTS

NEW TECUMSETH TIMES



Alliston Hornets hammer Stayner Siskins in final regular season game

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Alliston Hornets have finished in second place in the North Carruthers Division of the Provincial Junior Hockey after playing their final three regular season games in three days.

After leading the division for most of the season, the Hornets dropped to second place after the Stayner Siskins put out a big effort late in the season.

The Hornets finished with 64 points – one point behind the Siskins, who have claimed the Division title.

All three final games were held on home ice at the New Tecumseth Recreation Centre.

On Saturday, Feb. 14, the Midland Flyers were in town.

The Hornets went ahead 2-1 on goals from Ben Smith in the first period.

Both teams scored two goals in the second period.

Both Alliston goals came from Hornets forward Nick Lamont.

Jacob English got the final goal of the game early in the third period to give the Hornets a 5-3 win.

In game two of the weekend, the Hornets hosted the Penetang Kings on Sunday, Feb. 15.

It was a 2-0 game after Will Hopcraft and Gunner Kirk scored two for Alliston in the first period.

The Hornets increased their lead to 4-0 after stopping the Kings from scoring and putting two in the Penetang net from Noah Larmon and Noah Prokopec.

It was a 6-0 shutout for the Hornets when they scored two in the third period and shut out the Kings.

Final period goals came from Kirk and



LONG WEEKEND WINS – The Alliston Hornets host the Midland Flyers at the New Tecumseth Recreation Centre on Saturday, Feb. 14. The Hornets played three final regular season games over the long weekend and won them all. They finished the regular season in second place. The Hornets won this game 5-3.

BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

Marck Coish.

The Family Day holiday on Monday, Feb. 16 saw the Stayner Siskins come to town for the final game of the regular season.

This was a highly anticipated game by Junior C fans who wanted to see the two top leagues in the division battle it out for the final win.

The Hornets didn't disappoint and were on fire for this game fuelled by a lot of energy and the determination to deliver a win over Stayner.

The Alliston squad stormed onto the ice in the first period. After giving up the first goal

to Stayner at 1:45 into the game, the Hornets unleashed everything they had on the visitors scoring five goals before the period ended.

Alliston goals came from Liam Carroll, Hunter Marell, Mark Coish, and two from Cameron Lamont.

Stayner scored in the second period and the Hornets responded with two goals from Carroll and Noah Cochrane.

The Hornets kept up the pressure in the third period hammering four goals into the back of the Stayner net.

Stayner scored twice in the middle of the period and got a final goal with 28 seconds

left on the clock.

The game ended with an 11-5 Hornets win.

Alliston third period goals came from Coish, Noah Larmon, and two from Noah Prokopec.

It was a fantastic final regular season game for the Hornets.

The Carruthers Division will now move into playoff mode to see who will be this year's division champions.

The Hornets will be up against the seventh place Huntsville Otters in the first round.

The playoff schedule had not yet been announced at press time.

Knights of Columbus host annual Free Throw Basketball Competition at Holy Family School

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Knights of Columbus St. Paul the Apostle Council hosted its annual Free Throw Basketball Competition on Saturday, Jan. 24.

The annual competition was held at Holy Family School in Alliston.

It is a competition that allows young basketball players to showcase their skills by hitting the hoop from the free-throw line.

Eight elementary schools and two secondary schools sent participants to see who could make the most hoops.

The winners of this competition will go on to face the best shooters from Bolton and Orangeville in the next round of competition, which was scheduled to take place at Holy Family School in Alliston on Feb. 14.

Listed below are the winners of the Jan. 24 competition:

Boys' winners

- Bentley Butler, 9, Baxter Central Public School in Essa
- Hunter Grant, 10, Ernest Cumberland

Elementary School in Alliston

- James Mahadeo, 11, Ernest Cumberland Elementary School

- Alessio Raimondo, 12, Monsignor J E Ronan Catholic School in Tottenham

- Tomas Carrier, 13, St. Paul's Catholic School in Alliston

- Isaiah Manuel, 14, Banting Memorial High School in Alliston

- Dashaun Marcelin, 15, St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Secondary School in Tottenham

- Landon Cuddy, 16, Banting Memorial High School

- Michael Murad, 17, St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Secondary School

Girls' winners

- Ava Abbott, 9, St. James Catholic School in Tottenham

- Amanda Cruz, 10, Father F.X. O'Reilly School in Tottenham,

- Elize Thomas, 11, Angus, Baxter Central Public School in Essa

- Kahayan Andruchovich, 12, Ernest Cumberland Elementary School in Alliston



FREE THROWING – Competitors wait their turn to shoot during the annual Knights of Columbus St. Paul the Apostle Council annual Free Throw Basketball Competition held at Holy Family Catholic School in Alliston on Saturday, Jan. 14. The winners will go on to compete against winners from Orangeville and Bolton.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

- Isabella Da Cruz, 13, Holy Family Catholic School in Alliston

- Eva Williamson, 14, Banting Memorial

High School in Alliston

- Miranda Morrison, 16, St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Secondary School in Tottenham

Food insecurity has only gotten worse, but revised Charter hopes to make difference

BY BROCK WEIR

Morgan Sage first joined the York Region Food Council when food insecurity was a major concern for one in 13 area households.

Six years on, this number, she says, now stands at one in five.

It is a “dire situation” by any measure and one that the York Region Food Council hopes to address through its revised and refreshed York Region Food Charter.

The updated York Region Food Charter was formally presented to Aurora Council last month.

Aurora was the first municipality to endorse the current iteration of the Food Charter in April of 2024.

“The York Region Food Council is an initiative of the York Region Food Network, which is a food security non-profit that connects and empowers people to access healthy food through education and advocacy,” said Sage. “The Food Council itself is a multidisciplinary collaboration of food system actors that work together to create and support initiatives that foster food security and community development. We work towards our vision through collective advocacy initiatives, including updating the York Region Food Charter.”

Sage described the Food Charter as a statement of values and directions to guide food and agricultural policy and action. It’s meant to encourage collaboration and coordination between the sector, governments, and other stakeholders.”

York Region’s first Food Charter was published in 2013 by the York Region Food Network, and the Food Council was born out of that first document.

Ten years later, the Council began the

process of reviewing the Charter.

It was a review Sage said involved nearly 300 community and sector voices in the consultation process.

“The Food Charter that is newly published is made up of six different pillars, including equity, social justice, and food security, health and well-being, the local agri-food sector, environmental stewardship, knowledge and sharing, culture and community,” Sage told Council. “Each pillar...is associated with a value statement as well.”

“One of the things that we heard during our consultations was, ‘We don’t want just a document that’s going to sit and gather dust, we want action.’ That’s why we created this action document, which is a toolkit with optional actions associated with each pillar. Each pillar has several actions associated with it. This document is not only a tool for us as a Food Council, but also for governments and organizations who also endorse the Food Charter. It can help you identify how your work already does contribute to advancing the food charter or how actions that you might take on to, again, help advance that food charter.”

A key way Aurora has helped advance the goals of the Food Charter in recent years is the development of the John Abel Community Garden in Aurora’s northeast. Part of the York Region Food Network’s community garden network, they held their second garden tour last year, and John Abel Park was a key destination.

“It was absolutely wonderful to have the exchange of information between those who work at Aurora as well as other gardens as well just to exchange information and best practices,” she said, noting the Food Council will continue to work with



STOCK PHOTO

the Town on initiatives going forward.

But, she stressed, time is a factor for action and impact.

“I feel like we’ve been positioned within the non-profit sector to start advocating a little bit more about food insecurity in our communities, because the cost-of-living crisis is atrocious and harming a lot of people. What we’re trying to do is bring organizations together to have a collective voice in the non-profit sector around food insecurity in York Region.... When I started in my position, the stats for food insecurity in York Region was about one in 13 households and now we’re sitting around one in five,” she said.

“That’s pretty clear when you look at

our programs and look at the conversations that are happening around the Region as well – just the number of people who are in dire situations is just...there are so many people. Housing is expensive, food insecurity is sort of like a result of everything else being expensive – especially housing.

“I would say the circumstances are much more dire than they were six years ago and there is also a lot more desperation. I was looking at rates of homelessness the other day, and it was also astounding where rates of homelessness have more than doubled in the last three years in York Region. It’s clear when you see people come into that, there’s a level of desperation and struggle that is just hard to see.”

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Suspect arrested at auto dealership for fraudulent purchase

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The main intersection in Tottenham has Nottawasaga Ontario Provincial Police officers recently arrested and charged an individual in connection with a fraud investigation, with assistance from the Community Street Crime Unit.

Shortly after 12 p.m. on Feb. 9, police were dispatched to a fraud incident at the Trillium

Ford Dealership in Alliston. The complainant advised police that an appointment was scheduled for Feb. 10, 2026, for an individual to pick up a brand-new 2026 Lincoln Navigator Sierra SUV valued at \$143,000.

The suspect had purchased the vehicle using falsified identification and had placed a down payment using a credit card that did not belong to them.

Knowing that the suspect would be attend-

ing the dealership to pick up the vehicle on Feb. 10 shortly after 4:30 p.m., police waited and arrested the suspect.

As a result of the investigation, Christian Bokas, 52, of Niagara Falls, was charged with:

- Fraud over \$5,000
- Theft over \$5,000
- Personation with intent – intent to obtain property (identity fraud)
- Two counts of use, deals, acts of forged document

• Possession of a Schedule 1 substance – other drugs

None of the listed charges have been proven in court.

This investigation is ongoing. If you have any information in relation to this investigation, please call the Nottawasaga OPP Detachment at 1-888-310-1122 and reference occurrence number (E260178803). You can also provide information anonymously by contacting Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477).

Automatic license plate recognition hit in Alliston leads to charges

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Nottawasaga Ontario Provincial Police officers were conducting a general patrol on Victoria Street East in Alliston when an Automatic License Plate Recognition (ALPR) alert led to an arrest.

Shortly after 2 p.m. on Feb. 11, officers

received an ALPR alert identifying a potentially stolen vehicle.

The officer confirmed the license plate on the vehicle matched the ALPR alert.

The officer followed the vehicle into a parking lot, where the driver got out.

A male driver was detained by the officer for investigative purposes regarding the possible stolen vehicle.

During the investigation, police learned that the vehicle was registered to the driver, but the license plates had been reported stolen and did not belong on the vehicle.

As a result of the investigation, Cory Robertson, 34, of New Tecumseth, was charged with:

- Possession of Property Obtained by Crime Under \$5,000
- Operated a Motor Vehicle Without Insur-

ance

- Driving While Under Suspension
- Drive Motor Vehicle, No Permit

The license plates were seized as a result of the investigation, and the party was released on Form 10 Undertaking with a future court date at the Ontario Court of Justice in Bradford.

None of the listed charges have been proven in court.

Nottawasaga OPP investigates residential fire at Briar Hill subdivision in Alliston

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Nottawasaga Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police is investigating a

residential fire in the Briar Hill subdivision of Alliston.

Members of the New Tecumseth Fire Department and police officers responded to a residential fire on Thursday, Feb. 12, 2026,

shortly before 8:30 a.m., at Renaissance Point in Alliston.

One individual was located within the residence and transported to a local hospital for treatment.

There are no concerns for public safety at this time.

The cause of the fire remains under investigation by the Nottawasaga OPP with assistance from the Office of the Fire Marshal.

Charges laid in connection to incident where an electric dirt bike strikes a pedestrian in Tottenham

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Nottawasaga Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) officers have laid charges after completing an investigation following a pedestrian being struck by a motor vehicle in Tottenham.

On July 25, 2025, Nottawasaga OPP officers responded to an emergency call regarding an electric motorcycle that had struck a pedestrian.

The OPP Traffic Incident Management and

Enforcement (T.I.M.E.) team assisted with the investigation and determined a 13 year old youth was operating an electric dirt bike on a public roadway at the time of the collision. Further investigation revealed the dirt bike had been purchased by a parent, who permitted the youth to operate it on the roadway.

As a result of the investigation, a 43-year-old of New Tecumseth has been charged with Dangerous Operation causing bodily harm

The accused is scheduled to appear in court

at the Ontario Court of Justice in Bradford on a later date to answer to the charge.

Additionally, a 13-year-old of New Tecumseth, has been charged under the Highway Traffic Act with careless driving causing bodily harm.

None of the listed charges have been proven in court.

Electric dirt bikes and roadway use

Electric dirt bikes are classified as motor vehicles under Ontario law. This means:

• They cannot be operated on public roads unless they are properly plated, insured, and meet all required safety equipment standards.

• Operators must hold the appropriate class of motorcycle licence.

• These vehicles are intended for off road (if registered and insured) and private property use only, unless fully road legal.

Parents and guardians are encouraged to ensure youth riders use these vehicles safely and in compliance with all applicable laws.

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Continued from Page 4

Brock's Banter: Flying the friendly skies to an estranged friend

Would the customary third degree from customs officials be ramped up to the fourth, fifth, or sixth?

Would officials demand my phone to go through several years' worth of my social media to try and gauge my personal political leanings before letting me in?

After a few quick questions about destination, purpose of trip, and the amount of cash I was bringing into the country, I was waved through – grateful for a brief process, but kind of annoyed they gave me nothing to write about.

A similar experience happened at the gate. That is to say not much.

Again, the same thing on the plane. There was not a screaming child to be found.

Instead, almost the entirety of my very economical section of the plane was filled by dozens and dozens of seniors headed to Panama. So far, so nothing – except for one verbal brouhaha from one

of the cruise-goers towards a mother and son sitting next to her which illustrated no generation has a monopoly on empathy.

For a writer, it wasn't the most fruitful of missions but I was glad that even though the final destination was California, a state that is generally pretty stable at the present time, nothing of the travel experience had changed too dramatically since the last time we were out here.

Despite any selfish disappointment I may have felt as a writer, I was surely relieved as a visitor.

As we settled in with the friends hosting us for the first few days of the trip, the point was underscored.

The friends in question are amongst my oldest and dearest, with one of the most enduring friendships being with one who settled in the United States nearly 20 years ago after meeting an American and starting a family.

Over the years, she has apparently become a go-to person for the media in her native country to get the inside scoop on what living in the United States is "really" like, particularly from the expatriate perspective.

Wildfires raging out of control? They give her a call for perspective.

Something goes down between her home country and her adoptive country? A phone call or a video link usually aren't too far away.

Thoughts on the overall political situation in the country? Dial 'er up!

Some of the questions she's fielded, particularly as mercury in the United States' political thermometer is practically shooting through the tube, have become increasingly negative, dour, and not necessarily reflective of her day-to-day reality.

People aren't tapped into the news cycle or their favourite social media pundits 24 hours a day, seven days a week?

They're shocked. Kids are still walking to school as normal? Wow. You don't think of one specific man and his antic du jour at every waking moment of your life? Colour them stunned.

One question – a statement, really – really stuck out: "We didn't think you could still go and enjoy a picnic and listen to music in the park." Huh?

I'm not sure what vision they had in mind, but it apparently it was wide off the mark.

So were mine.

And I'm glad I experienced it for myself.

I can't say I'll ever resume being a regular visitor to the United States again until relations between our countries are repaired or significant changes unfold that allow another healing process to truly begin, but I'm glad to have had an authentic experience – even if it might be an experience limited to this more small-L liberal state – and see it for myself.



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