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Flood Concerns Rising

The recent snowmelt combined with rain has caused local rivers and streams to rise, creating a possible flood situation in some areas. The Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority issued a Flood Watch Alert due to rising water levels. The 15th Sideroad of New Tecumseth was closed north of Beeton on Sunday, March 15, due to flooding that covered the road. Read more on Page 2. **BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO**

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Local resident asks for Council's help in clearing winter windrows

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

If you own a home in Canada, there's no doubt you have experienced the frustration of shovelling your driveway after a snowfall, only to come out later and find that the snowplow has filled in the end of the driveway where you have just spent an hour clearing.

You can either attempt to drive over the new pile of snow or get out your shovel again and spend another hour clearing hard-packed snow.

The pile of snow pushed to the side of the street and onto your driveway is known as a 'windrow.'

Local resident Anita Cohen gave a deputation at a New Tecumseth council meeting on March 9, requesting help in clearing windrows in the winter months.

Cohen explained that, as a senior citizen living independently, she relies on "safe roads and accessible driveways" to maintain her independence.

"After each snowfall and subsequent plowing, residents are often blocked in or out of

their driveways when they come home," Ms. Cohen stated.

"It impacts many households across the town."

Ms. Cohen acknowledged that snow removal is complex and costly and would require careful budgetary consideration.

The windrows, Ms. Cohen says, can trap her in her own home because her vehicle cannot pass over the accumulated pile of snow at the end of the driveway.

"Just as residents are not permitted to push snow onto the street, snow from the street should not impede access to private property," Ms. Cohen said.

Some municipalities have already started a windrow removal program. The City of Vaughan has a program in which a secondary vehicle with a plow travels through subdivisions, plowing out the ends of residents' driveways.

The town responded that staff have already consulted with other municipalities that have started windrow programs to learn about the different types of windrow removal and associated costs.



WINDROW REMOVAL—A local resident has asked New Tecumseth Town Council to consider a program which removes snow from residents' driveways after snow plows clear the streets after a snowstorm. **CONTRIBUTED PHOTO**

Other towns have had varied success with a windrow removal program. The cost to New Tecumseth would range from \$500,000 to \$2.5 million, depending on the type of program used.

As the 2026 budget has already been

passed, a windrow removal program for the upcoming winter is not feasible.

Council accepted the deputation and passed a motion to look into a future program, with an emphasis on helping those in need with accessibility and mobility issues.

Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority urges caution as flood potential risk is rated as 'high'

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority has issued a Flood Watch statement as spring conditions are melting the existing snowpack. The current flood potential rating is 'high,' and the ice-jam potential is 'moderate.'

Existing conditions, combined with the remaining snowpack, are expected to cause significant melting, leading to increased run-

off. As a result, the NVCA is urging residents to exercise caution and avoid all local watercourses. This is especially important for the safety of children and pets.

Due to frozen ground conditions, runoff absorption will be limited. This increases the risk of localized flooding in low-lying areas and ponding on roadways.

Elevated water levels from rainfall and runoff will also make local streams and rivers hazardous, particularly near culverts, bridges,

and dams. Water levels are currently elevated due to heavy rainfall, warm temperatures, and snowmelt.

Water may overflow banks and cause flooding in some areas.

Widespread flooding is not anticipated at this time; however, low-lying and flood-vulnerable areas may be impacted.



RIVER RISING – The recent snowmelt, followed by more precipitation, has caused localized flooding in some outlying areas. The Nottawasaga River, just outside of Alliston, is close to overflowing due to recent inclement weather on the 25th Sideroad of Adjala on Friday, March 13.

BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

Next exit: Making the meeting

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Town receives update on Raymond A. Barker water treatment plant expansion

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Town of New Tecumseth council received a status report on the Raymond A. Barker Water Treatment Plant expansion at the March 9 council meeting.

The report states that project budget expenditures are currently on track, and the project is generally progressing on schedule and on budget.

At the Town of New Tecumseth council meeting on Oct. 6 last year, a resolution was enacted recognizing a housing crisis in Ontario, and municipalities were working to increase housing supply and affordability to

help achieve the province's target of building 1.5 million homes over 10 years.

The Town of New Tecumseth is contributing 63 per cent of the budgeted \$270 million cost to expand and modernize Collingwood's Raymond A. Barker Water Treatment Plant to provide the necessary infrastructure to meet the challenge of building new homes. The town directed staff to provide a quarterly report on the project.

The report provides information on the current progress of the project:

- Intake No. 1 chamber is complete with slide gates and pipe to the new membrane building.
- The temporary industrial pump station

has been installed and is operational.

- Frazil piping has been installed from the High Lift Pump Station to the intake pipe.
 - Installation of the caisson with two drill rigs is ongoing for the membrane building.
 - Demolition of the existing raw water building, IPS, and feed piping is complete.
- Anticipated progress for the next period:
- Continue installing the membrane building secant shoring wall.
 - Start breaking and excavating rock within the membrane building shoring limits.
 - Install rakers/tie-backs.
 - Commissioning/full operation of the frazil ice system, sodium bisulphite, and mem-

brane feed systems.

While significant progress has been made across key components, delays have occurred due to challenging site conditions.

High groundwater levels and bay water infiltration during excavation of the intake chamber have led to unstable soil and water conditions. These unforeseen conditions required additional dewatering measures as well as grouting and injection efforts to stabilize the excavation zone.

The Construction and Overall Status Report included with the report to council indicated that the actual project expenditures are in alignment with the forecasted case flow for the overall project.

Annual Spring Clean-Up Event invites New Tecumseth residents to tidy up the community

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

If you are proud of your town, and like to see it remain clean and litter-free, you can participate in a town-wide clean-up in April.

The Town of New Tecumseth invites resi-

dents, families, community groups, schools, and local businesses to take part in the 2026 Spring Clean Up Event.

This annual initiative encourages community members to work together to help keep New Tecumseth's parks, schoolyards, trails, and neighbourhoods clean and green.

"Every year, the Spring Clean Up Event demonstrates what makes New Tecumseth such a special place to live," said Mayor Richard Norcross. "When residents, families, businesses, and community groups come together with a shared purpose, we strengthen our sense of community and take real pride in caring for the spaces we all enjoy. I encourage everyone to take part this year and help make a lasting difference."

Anyone can participate and help clean up the town. You can do it on your own, or create a group of friends, co-workers, or club members to pitch in and pick up all the litter left on the ground after the snow melted.

This is a rewarding activity and will provide a level of satisfaction knowing you have helped to keep the town looking its best.

To participate, first choose a location you will clean up. This could be a park, an open space, a parking lot, or a roadside area.

Then register your group and arrange for



your fee cleanup supplies. You can clean your chosen area any time between April 12 and 26.

Once you have completed the clean-up, park staff will collect all the filled bags from your pre-arranged drop-off location.

For more information and to register, visit newtecumseth.ca/SpringCleanUp.



LOCAL YOUTH RECOGNIZED – Local resident Olivia Zaple received an award of recognition from the Town of New Tecumseth for her fundraising efforts helping local organizations. Olivia received the award from New Tecumseth Mayor Richard Norcross. **CONTRIBUTED PHOTO**

Young resident awarded at Council Chambers after holding fundraiser for local animal shelter

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

A local resident has been recognized with an award from the Town of New Tecumseth for her fundraising efforts on behalf of local organizations.

Olivia Zaple received the award from New Tecumseth Mayor Richard Norcross at Council Chambers on Feb. 24.

The local student raised funds in support of Liv's Library and the Alliston & District Humane Society.

Olivia organized several events, including an open house, Monster Mash, and a week-long Halloween fundraiser. She also

created a GoFundMe account to further her mission.

Her Christmas wreath fundraiser was particularly remarkable, as she raised \$700 entirely through donations from local businesses.

Thanks to Olivia's commitment, \$2,700 was contributed to the Alliston & District Humane Society's naming opportunity, as well as to essential veterinary care, food, toys, and sound machines.

An additional \$2,000 was raised for Liv's Library.

Olivia is being recognized for her efforts and achievements in helping these local organizations.

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

~ Stanislaw Jerzy Lec

I didn't vote for this!

The thing about democracy is that you are able to vote for the person you want to represent you in municipal, provincial, and federal government.

At the municipal level, you are voting for a person you hope will do a good job of making sure your area of town is taken care of when it comes to potholes and having the streets plowed.

You also hope they will listen to your voice when the city or town makes major decisions about spending your tax dollars on things like parks and infrastructure.

At the provincial level, you enter the world of party politics where decisions could have a major impact on your life.

Things like healthcare, new highways, and government spending become very important, and these decisions have a major impact on the provincial economy and, thus, your quality of life and standard of living.

At the federal level, the stakes are huge.

The federal government controls the national economy, trade with other countries, foreign relations, and whether or not your son will be drafted into the military during some kind of international crisis.

“Democracy is the worst form of government, except for all the others,” is

a quote attributed to former UK Prime Minister Winston Churchill.

I agree with that statement. I believe the parliamentary system of government is the best form of government currently in use on the planet.

Parliamentary government allows debate and does not place absolute power in the hands of a single person.

The resignation of Prime Minister Justin Trudeau in January 2026 is a good example of parliamentary government in action.

The republican system used in the US is not bad, and may come in second place, but the US is not a true republic. It's a democracy.

The mechanics of that statement are a whole other column.

The one failure of parliamentary governments is that you don't have the ability to vote directly for the prime minister.

However, if you did vote directly for the PM, the system wouldn't work as it does. How can you elect one person as the PM if his party only holds a minority in Ottawa?

Most people, it seems, favour one political party. Although based on election results, many people do change their vote over the years.

It is likely you vote for a particular party based on its ideology – sort of –

and the campaign promises about what they hope to achieve over the next four years if elected.

Recently, several Conservative MPs have switched teams, moving from the Conservative caucus to the Liberals.

Some political analysts see this as an attempt by the Carney government to lure Conservatives across the floor to ultimately secure a majority in parliament without an election.

For a sitting MP to switch parties AFTER an election is a betrayal of their constituents who voted for them based on their party affiliation.

It's no different than paying a paving company to do your driveway, then having them change their mind after completing half of the job – while keeping all the money.

An MP who abandons a party after an election should be required to resign immediately, as they no longer represent the voters who elected them.

I'm not sure what kind of reaction took place in the ridings of the three MPs who changed teams. There doesn't seem to be much news on that; however, I'm pretty sure those who voted for a Conservative member aren't happy about seeing their vote reduced to a meaningless X on a worthless piece of paper. If someone enters the election as a

member of a political party, then they are obligated to carry through with the policies of the party for which they were elected.

If, for any reason, they have changed their mind or have reservations about the party that nominated them to run in that riding, the honourable thing to do is resign – not change teams.

There are no legal boundaries to an MP crossing the floor; they can switch parties at any time.

With the Carney government so close to a majority, they will only need a couple more MPs to make the switch to control the House.

This, of course, raises the question: Did the Carney government approach these defecting MPs and make them a lucrative offer?

It doesn't seem very logical that a person would go to all the trouble of seeking a nomination, running an election campaign, speaking to, and making promises to their constituents to gain their trust and vote, then suddenly wake up one morning and think it's a good idea to cross the floor.

At the very least, there should be an immediate by-election and let the voters decide.

BRIAN LOCKHART
FROM THE SECOND ROW



Answering the call

Do you always answer the phone when it rings, vibrates, or lights up?

If you do, you might be in good company.

A few years ago, the BBC explored the idea of why Gen Z and Millennials are “hung up on answering the phone.”

The data cited in the report found that 25 per cent of people between the ages of 18 and 34 never answer the phone, preferring instead to “ignore the ringing, respond via text, or search the number online if they don't recognize it.”

The conclusion rendered by Yasmin Rufo found it's a generational thing in that those who were between the ages of 18 and 34 in 2024 grew up in a time where texting was gaining a foothold and traditional telephone use was taking a backseat.

So, what's the excuse of those of us who have barely aged out of the 18 – 34 demo?

I don't have a clear answer.

Admittedly, talking on the phone is not my favourite thing in the world, but when

I have to use it, I send up a silent thank-you to the brains that came up with the simple concept of Call Display.

I love hearing from all of you, and please keep the calls coming, but over my years at this desk, some calls have been nothing short of head-scratchers.

One such call that always comes to mind was from an incensed reader who took exception to a photo caption.

There was nothing wrong with the caption as far as I could tell. It was factual. It stated the facts.

So, what was the problem? It was a photo of the Member of Parliament of the day and, as the caller in question didn't vote for him, they were offended we would refer to them as such.

The caller was old enough to know that our Members of Parliament are chosen by the collective, rather than the individual, but it was clear the caller was in no mood to receive a civics lesson, and I was in no mood at that moment to give one.

But, what a missed opportunity!

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Three MPs have come and gone in that riding since I first received that call, and, if recent events are any indication, I don't think the level of civic engagement has improved over those intervening years.

This is often most evident when we, as Canadians, are in a Minority Parliament situation, as we are now.

While the numbers are currently on the Prime Minister's side, sabres often rattle louder when a minority government has secured its status as such by the thinnest of margins and opposing parties might see an opportunity in banding together to form a coalition.

“This is not what Canadians voted for,” is the common refrain when political parties at loggerheads during the campaign suddenly find themselves with a breadth of common ground once they sense an opportunity to oust the victor, sometimes creating some very strange political bedfellows.

When this happens, we're often told that such strategic moves fly in the

face of the electorate and the Constitution. The former might have merit depending on which political colour you happen to bleed, but, at the end of the day, forming a coalition government is a time-tested component of our constitution and our parliamentary democracy.

More recently, again through the lens of having a minority government, is the thorny issue of floor-crossings.

Members of Parliament crossing the proverbial floor from one party to another is hardly a new invention, despite what some talking heads would like us to believe. In our Parliament's nearly 160-year-old history, it's a situation that has unfolded surprisingly regularly, but we're now living in a society that is sadly fuelled more and more by outrage, which, I suppose, gives it a fresher feel.

Continued on Page 19

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COMMUNITY VOICE

Monthly Message: More than food – new programs strengthening community support

Communities grow and change over time, and the organizations that support them must grow as well. At the Alliston Food Bank, the goal has always been simple: ensure that no one in our community has to face food insecurity alone. As needs evolve, so too must the programs and services designed to support those who rely on them.



Over the past few years, the number of individuals and families accessing the Alliston Food Bank has steadily increased. Rising grocery prices, higher housing costs, and the overall cost of living have made it more difficult for many households to keep up. More working families, seniors, and individuals are reaching out for support than ever before.

In response, the Alliston Food Bank continues to look for ways to expand programs, improve accessibility, and better meet the needs of the community. While providing food remains at the heart of what we do, the way that support is delivered continues to evolve.

One of the newest initiatives focuses on supporting a group that often faces unique challenges: single seniors.

Earlier this year, the Alliston Food Bank launched a Seniors Fresh Meal Program designed specifically for single seniors aged 55 and over. Through this pilot program, fresh meals are prepared and provided as part of the

regular shopping experience at the food bank.

This program was created in partnership with Banting Memorial High School and focuses on providing nutritious, balanced meals that are ready to enjoy. For many seniors, preparing meals can become more difficult over time due to mobility challenges, health concerns, or the rising cost of groceries. By offering fresh prepared meals, the program helps ensure seniors can still access healthy food while maintaining their independence.

Programs like this demonstrate how partnerships within the community can come together to support those who need it most.

Community members can also play an important role in helping this program grow. Donations made specifically toward the Seniors' Fresh Meal Program go directly toward purchasing the ingredients used to prepare the meals. Every contribution helps

ensure that seniors in our community continue to receive fresh, nutritious food prepared with care.

Those interested in supporting the program can make a secure donation through CanadaHelps at:

<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/the-good-shepherd-food-bank-of-alliston-inc/>

Alongside this new initiative, the Alliston Food Bank is also working to expand client shopping hours. As demand for services continues to grow, providing additional times for clients to access support has become increasingly important.

Many individuals accessing the food bank are balancing work schedules, childcare, and other daily responsibilities. By introducing additional shopping opportunities, the goal is to create greater flexibility and make it easier for people to access support when it fits within their lives.

Expanding services also means expanding the volunteer team that helps keep everything running smoothly.

Volunteers are the backbone of the Alliston Food Bank. Each week, dedicated members of the community give their time to sort donations, stock shelves, organize inventory, and assist clients. Their efforts ensure that operations run efficiently and that every person who visits the food bank is welcomed with

dignity and respect.

As programs and services continue to grow, the need for volunteers continues to grow as well. Even a few hours of volunteering can make a meaningful difference and help strengthen the network of support that exists within our community.

Looking ahead, the Alliston Food Bank is also exploring the development of a delivery program designed to support clients who face mobility challenges. For some individuals, simply getting to the food bank can be difficult due to health concerns, physical limitations, or lack of transportation.

A delivery program would help remove that barrier by bringing food support directly to those who may otherwise struggle to access it. While still in the early planning stages, it represents another step toward ensuring support remains accessible to everyone who needs it.

Food banks today are about much more than shelves of food. They are about listening to the community, adapting to changing needs, and finding new ways to ensure that no one is left behind.

With the continued support of volunteers, donors, and community partners, the Alliston Food Bank will continue to grow and evolve, always with the same goal in mind: supporting our neighbours and strengthening the community we all call home.

New Tecumseth seeks community input to determine future of Boyne Museum

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Town of New Tecumseth is inviting residents to help shape the future of the Museum on the Boyne's offerings through a new Museum and Heritage Community Survey.

As part of a re-imagining of the Museum, the Town is seeing community input on collections and artifacts, programs and events, and exhibits and visitor experiences.

Feedback will help ensure the Museum con-

tinues to reflect the stories, history, and evolving character of New Tecumseth.

"The Museum on the Boyne holds the stories that connect our past to our future," said New Tecumseth Mayor Richard Norcross. "By inviting residents to share their ideas and perspectives, we're ensuring the museum reflects the people, heritage, and community pride that defines New Tecumseth."

The survey is open to all residents, including history enthusiasts, families, students, newcomers, and long-time community members.



Input will help guide future programming and exhibitions that are engaging, inclusive, and meaningful for all ages.

You can participate in the survey by visiting online at newtecumseth.ca/YourMuseum.

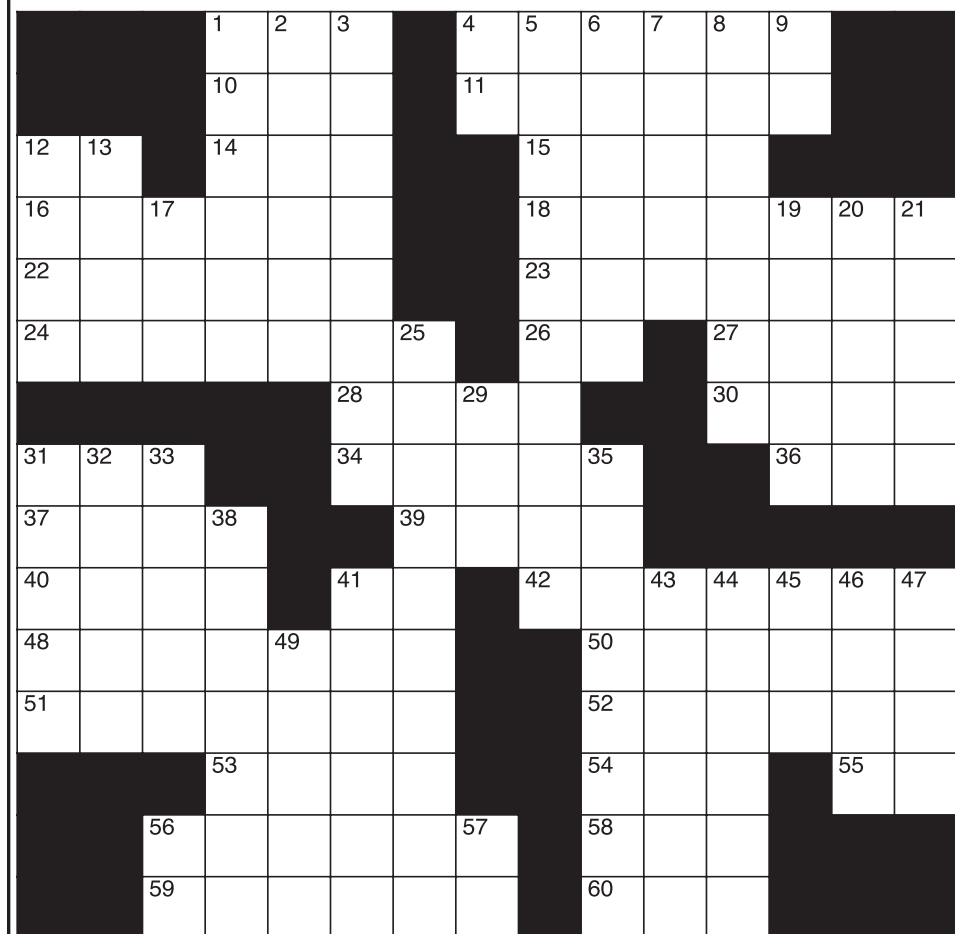
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CLUES ACROSS

- Inclined to do
- Sketches
- Book of Chronicles (abbr.)
- Atomic #58
- Dorm official
- Small Eurasian deer
- Southern constellation
- Workers' groups
- Former
- Excellent
- Romance language related to Spanish
- Reference
- Equally
- Dirty towels
- A cargo (abbr.)
- Ammunition
- You get one in summer
- Slang for trucks
- with trailers
- Swiss river
- Exchange rate
- British School
- College teacher
- Foreign Service
- Horse gear
- Cost to fly
- A salt or ester of boric acid
- Mocking
- One who bird-watches
- Concluding passage
- A major division of geological time
- Sodium
- A way to produce
- Soak
- Laughed loudly and harshly
- Affirmative

CLUES DOWN

- Moth species
- Quantum of energy
- Break the law
- Location of White House
- Official cancellation of a decision
- Where rockers work
- Cut of beef: __
- Nocturnal
- Atomic #62
- Genus of evergreen shrubs
- Flowering plant of the legume family
- Inches per minute (abbr.)
- Tropical fruit
- the earth's crust
- James __, painter
- Popular dessert
- Payment (abbr.)
- Cuisine style
- Genus of true flies
- City in western France
- Arrogance
- One holding a position of command
- Weekday
- An evening party
- Print errors
- Not good
- Egyptian Sun god
- East German town
- Olfactory property
- Atomic #37
- "Pollock" actor
- Harris

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

Seedy Saturday event coming to D.A. Jones Library in Beeton

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

There may still be snow on the ground, and it will be several weeks before you start thinking about planting a spring garden; however, you can be prepared for when the warm weather arrives.

Seedy Saturday, hosted in partnership by the Beeton Horticultural Society, the D.A. Jones Branch (Beeton) of the New Tecumseth Public Library, and the Tottenham Beeton Business Improvement Association will once again take place at the library.

This event offers free seeds to residents, including a variety of vegetable and flower seeds. Included are seeds from tomatoes, cucumbers, peas, peppers, and lettuce.

Those who take advantage of this opportunity to plant a home garden with these seeds are asked to bring back some of the seeds from the vegetables they grow, which can

then be distributed to others.

This way, there is always a supply of seeds on hand and the program can continue.

There will be a seed exchange, and seed starter kits will be available.

This will also be an opportunity to learn more about gardening and how to grow vegetables and flowers for a maximum yield.

Special guest speakers will bring information on the importance of light, growing the romantics, the top five gardening mistakes, and seed saving. It is an opportunity to learn some growing tips from the experts.

There will also be a flower-arranging demonstration where you can learn to create a pleasing display.

While Seedy Saturday is an annual event, the library keeps a seed catalogue on hand, and seeds are available all year round.

Seedy Saturday will take place on Saturday, March 28, at the D.A. Jones Library in Beeton, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.



SEEDY SEASON – Seedy Saturday will be returning to the Beeton Library in March. This is an opportunity to learn more about gardening and stock up on some vegetable and flower seeds to get ready for spring planting. **FILE PHOTO**

Billions lost: Fraud Prevention Month brings hidden crime into the spotlight

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre has released statistics about fraud across the country.

Fraud is one of the fastest-growing crimes in Canada, but it often goes unnoticed and unreported. This is because it can be hidden behind convincing technology, in everyday online interactions, or when crossing international borders.

Data from the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre shows that Canadians lost over \$704 million to fraud in 2025, with reported losses since 2022 now surpassing \$2.4 billion.

These losses represent only a fraction of this crime, as only 5 to 10 per cent of frauds are reported.

This is Fraud Prevention Month, and the Competition Bureau, the CAFC, and the RCMP are teaming up to equip Canadians with the tools to recognize and report fraud.

Most Canadians have encountered fraud in some form, whether as a victim themselves, as part of a business, or as a witness to another's experience," said Marie-Claude Dandenault, Deputy Commissioner, Specialized Policing Services, Royal Canadian Mounted Police. "Fraud Prevention Month is about bringing these stories together, not only to understand the full scope of the problem,

but also to empower Canadians to fight back. Follow along this month to learn more about the latest fraud trends, how to protect yourself and where you can report."

In 2025, the top three most reported types of fraud were identity fraud, investment fraud, and service fraud.

These types of scams are designed to get you to pay or to give away sensitive information, such as your social insurance number, passwords, or banking details.

The top three frauds reported with the highest financial impacts were investment fraud, romance fraud, and job fraud.

If you or someone you know has experienced fraud, contact your local police and



report online at the Report Cybercrime and Fraud website or toll-free at 1-888-495-8501.

You should still report the incident even if there was no financial loss.



Final Release

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Annual JAK Fund Washer-Toss Tournament returning to Tottenham

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

It is time to start practicing your technique if you plan on entering this year's JAK Fund Washer Toss event.

You can practice your thumb-and-finger technique, or, for more advanced players, try adding a pinky finger to give the washer a special spin.

The annual event is hosted by the JAK Fund in memory of a local teen who died in a tragic automobile accident.

"Our main fundraiser is the Washer Toss Tournament in Tottenham," explained Margaret Anne Smith, one of the organizers. "All the money we raise goes back to the community."

The funds raised are donated to several local charitable causes.

If you haven't tried Washer Toss, it's a game as simple as it sounds. Competitors toss washers at a target and get points for where

the washer lands.

You have to stand behind a line when tossing so everyone has the same advantage. Teams line up across the arena floor when the games get started.

This is the eighth year the Washer Toss will take place.

The first year it was held in the gym at the Tottenham Community Centre; however, the event became so popular that it had to be moved to the arena floor.

Last year, there were over 120 teams entered.

The event has become wildly popular. This year, registration for the Washer Toss sold out in six hours.

The 2026 JAK Fund Washer Toss will take place in the Tottenham Community Centre arena on April 11.



TOSS TOURNAMENT – The annual JAK Fund Washer Toss will again take place in the arena at the Tottenham Community Centre on Apr. 11. The popular event raises funds for several local good causes.

FILE PHOTO

NVCA reviews service fees, approves preferred vendors, shares upcoming events

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority (NVCA) has released the highlights from its board meeting in February 2026.

Conservation service fees

As directed by the Board of Directors in the November 2026 board meeting, staff reviewed Conservation Services fees to determine whether fees could be differentiated between watershed and non-watershed residents, similar to the structure currently used for NVCA hunting permits.

As several Conservation Services programs are actively being developed or expanded, introducing watershed-based fee distinctions could unintentionally discourage participation or complicate outreach efforts, particularly for programs intended to grow and attract a broader user base.

Staff recommended continuing to apply a differentiated fee structure based on watershed and non-watershed residency to hunting permits only.

Preferred vendors

The Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority's Board of Directors approved contractors to be confirmed as preferred

contractors based on price quote and credentials.

For Heavy Machinery, Trucking Services, and Stem Habitat Restoration, Rumball Excavation and Haulage is the preferred vendor. For the NVCA's Water Resource Engineer, GSS Engineering and Consulting Ltd. is the preferred vendor. GEO Morphix Ltd. is listed as the preferred vendor under River Morphologist, and the preferred supplier of soil anchors is Nottawasaga Community Economic Development Corporation.

These recommendations for preferred contractor status were based on the best overall value to NVCA.

Upcoming events

Spring Tonic Maple Syrup Festival.

Hosted in partnership with the Rotary Club of Barrie, the Spring Tonic Maple Syrup Festival is a tradition spanning more than three decades.

Visitors will journey back in time to discover how maple syrup was made in the past, then return to the present to see how it's crafted today.

Visitors can complete the tour with a delicious pancake-and-sausage breakfast topped with fresh maple syrup, followed by fun, family-friendly activities.

The Spring Tonic Maple Syrup Festival will take place on April 11 and 12.

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Arts & Local Events

Alliston-based artisan creates handcrafted custom jewelry

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

A local artisan has taken jewelry design to a new level, using wire, gemstones, and glass to create one-of-a-kind pieces she designs herself.

Deb Benninger of Alliston started creating jewelry when she moved to the area and realized she needed something to keep her busy.

"I was injured on the job at 18 years old," Benninger explained. "I had to find something to do at home. I tried various things over the years. When I moved up here, I needed to try something I could do in a limited space."

Benninger has always been creative. Over the years, she has taken an interest in crocheting, knitting, scrapbooking, sculpting, and running a miniature dollhouse business.

She discovered wire weaving and began working with different techniques to make jewelry.

Benninger created a studio in her home and began making jewelry under the name I.D. Jewelry and Design.

"I use pliers and wire cutters," Benninger explained. "But you don't really need a lot of tools, you mostly use your hands."

Her hands-on technique creates stunning pieces with intricate, highly detailed work. The term 'wire weaving' doesn't really accurately describe what happens when Benninger creates her jewelry.

The very thin copper and silver wire is wound tightly, creating its own weave that creates a flowing shape that holds gemstones and other materials in place as the centre piece of the design.



UNIQUE CREATIONS – Local artisan Deb Benninger creates a line of beautiful hand-crafted jewelry. Deb uses wire weaving and gemstones to create unique pieces that she sells at artisan markets across the province and online. **CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS**



Benninger creates pendants, brooches, necklaces, earrings, and bracelets that are not only beautiful but also unique. No two pieces are the same.

Her work ranges from traditional to modern, with a touch of 'alternative' in some of her work.

She uses glass and gemstones sourced from Europe for the centres of some pieces.

Deb also collaborates with her friend Mary Ann Helmond, an artist who works with glass, on some work, and they have done shows together.

She sells her work online and at artisan markets across the province.

"During the warm weather, I travel all over Ontario from May to November to various artisan markets," Deb explained.

Her work is well-received by those who appreciate the true craftsmanship that goes into her jewelry.

Deb's work is beautiful, unique, and has a special quality that appeals to those who really appreciate finely crafted jewelry.

You can view some of her work and contact Deb at her website at www.idjewelryand-design.com.





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BRIAN SAUNDERSON
MPP, Simcoe-Grey

CHATS Community Arts Showcase set to inspire with creativity of older adults

BY BROCK WEIR

The creativity and talent of older adults in our communities will find a well-deserved place in the spotlight next Saturday, March 28, when CHATS – Community and Home Assistance to Seniors – hosts its second annual Community Arts Showcase.

The Showcase will take place from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Aurora branch of the Royal Canadian Legion, with an opening reception, complete with the chance to talk to participating artists, unfolding from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The second-annual event is a significant expansion from the first exhibition in January of 2025, featuring more than 100 individual pieces created by senior artists throughout York Region and South Simcoe County.

Featured artists range from seasoned

pros to those who began exploring their talents later in life.

“We got such a great reception from the community and also from our staff,” says Alexis Gada, Caregiver Education Counsellor at CHATS. “One of the things that was really great about last year’s show is we also had some contributions not just from the community at large, but also from some of our internal CHATS programs, like our day program and our outreach program. Both of those programs support older adults in the community.

“In the day program, there are lots of people in those programs that have mild cognitive impairment, for example, and then in our outreach programs those are social wellness programs that are focused on helping older adults to avoid isolation, and we had great engagement from them – including our Iranian and Russian pro-

grams.

“The programs really provided an opportunity, particularly in those social wellbeing spaces, to allow people to highlight what they’re doing. For example, from our Russian program last year, we had a very gifted painter and I believe her family mentioned that she had not started painting until she was well into retirement.”

Community engagement is key for CHATS’ menu of program options and Gada says that one of the priorities with this Showcase is to “make sure that visibility is prioritized” for older community members.

“This is what tends to be a more invisible population – that was our focus for last year and we just got such a warm reception from it that CHATS decided they wanted to make it an annual event,” she said. “It’s not just about CHATS programs...these are

just older adults saying, ‘Hey, you know, I have an opportunity here to also be visible and I want to take part in that, too.’ We’re just making sure that it’s a space where everyone is welcome and it’s just really wonderful to have the community come together for that common creative interest.

Gada added, “When we do community presentations, sometimes we’ll visit retirement homes or community spaces like the Libraries... and the one thing we talk about for social wellbeing later in life, for just overall healthy, anti-stress, low-anxiety ways of being, we talk about trying new things and exploring what we could be good at. We talk about that all the time. ‘Hey, try a new thing. If it looks like it kind of interests you but you’re not sure, try it. If it doesn’t work out, it doesn’t work out, but you may discover that you’re really good at something!’”

County council receives update on Simcoe Village Campus, approves homeless funding

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Simcoe County council has released highlights from its February 2026 council meeting.

Simcoe Village Campus project update

Council has approved several enhancements to the Simcoe Village Campus redevelopment project in Beeton.

These approved enhancements include relocating the Memory Care Unit to the Co-Housing building, which will increase house capacity by an additional five retirement suites.

Council has also approved the addition of

a covered parking structure.

Construction continues across all major components of the campus.

With these enhancements now incorporated, the project continues to evolve into a modern, purpose-built community designed to support seniors with dignity, independence, and high-quality.

Homelessness Services funding allocations for 2026/27

Council approved the 2026-2027 Homelessness Services funding allocations totaling \$27 million, along with the renewal of service provider agreements effective April 1, 2026.

The approved allocations, largely consist-

ent with the previous year, will continue to support core homelessness services, including emergency shelters, outreach, housing supports, rent supplements, and transitional and supportive housing programs.

In 2026, the County of Simcoe will review all funding for service providers and refresh agreements for multi-year services.

Simcoe County Museum activities review

Council received the Museum’s 2025 Annual Activities Review, which highlights ongoing capital work, including completion of major HVAC upgrades and progress on the Matthew Innovation and Transportation Gallery.

It is noted that, despite temporary closures for renovations, visitor attendance at the Museum in 2025 remained close to the previous year.

County council kicks off 2026 #ITSTARTS campaign

The County of Simcoe has launched the 2026 #ITSTARTS campaign with Warden Basil Clarke proclaiming March as #ITSTARTS month.

Over the past decade, #ITSTARTS has become a leading local movement promoting inclusion and supporting Simcoe County’s diverse communities. This includes more than 82,000 immigrant who reside within the county.

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Bill C-22 embraced by law enforcement throughout Ontario

BY MARK PAVILONS

Law enforcement officials across the province are welcoming changes contained in Bill C-22 (Part 2), that focus on electronic service providers (ESPs).

The Bill, Securing Access to Information (Bill C-22 – Part 2), aims to curb criminals who exploit the use of the “digital ecosystem” and carry out online crimes of various descriptions.

Public Safety Canada notes law enforcement agencies and CSIS have worked for decades with “outdated laws that have not kept pace with our new technological and digital reality. As a result, investigations are missing

critical information needed to generate leads or help identify and prosecute individuals or groups involved in serious criminal activities or national security threats. In some cases, investigations are abandoned due to these challenges.”

Part 2 of the Bill C-22 does not create new authorities for law enforcement agencies and CSIS to intercept communications or obtain information. It focuses solely on ensuring that electronic service providers (ESPs) are able to comply with existing legal orders, which are found in the Criminal Code, and the Canadian Security Intelligence Service Act.

Currently, Canada relies on a 1995 condi-

tion of license that only covers voice telephony despite vast technological changes, including the internet, satellite and messaging platforms. Law enforcement agencies and CSIS can obtain authorization, through a warrant or production order, to intercept communications or obtain information; however, there is no corresponding requirement for an ESP to actually establish and maintain a system capable of providing the communication/information in question. Furthermore, outside of voice telephony services, the support of ESPs to fulfill lawful access requests is entirely voluntary.

The Bill would require select ESPs, to develop and maintain the capabilities necessary to enable law enforcement and CSIS to effectively obtain communications and information they are legally authorized to have for their criminal and intelligence investigations, while respecting rights and freedoms.

Instead of requiring whole sectors, including small enterprises, to have the same capabilities in place, the proposed framework adopts a more targeted approach for technical capability development. Under the proposed Bill, there are two ways by which an ESP could be mandated to develop and maintain lawful access capabilities: ESPs designated as ‘core providers’ and through Ministerial Orders.

The Minister of Public Safety could issue a Ministerial Order (MO), subject to approval by the Intelligence Commissioner, to electronic service providers (ESP) compelling the development of specific capabilities. MOs would be based on operational needs, as threats evolve and new technologies develop, and could be issued to both core and non-core providers. In deciding whether to issue an MO, the Minister must consider the same factors as the Governor in Council when making regulations for core-providers. MOs would be reviewable by the

courts.

MOs are a powerful tool that allow the Minister of Public Safety to request a broad range of technical capabilities in a confidential way to avoid tipping off threat actors. The Intelligence Commissioner’s role in MO approvals strengthens the framework by providing an external oversight mechanism. The addition of an annual report and parliamentary review, three years after the Act comes into force, further increases transparency.

Currently, law enforcement and CSIS may have the legal authority to obtain information from ESPs, but there are no laws that require ESPs to maintain a system that can effectively respond to requests. This means that despite having the requested communications and information in their systems, an ESP may be unable to provide it. This lack of technical capability has caused investigations to stall or not begin at all. The issue can be as simple as an ESP not having the secure infrastructure to transfer information to these agencies in a useable format. In other cases, they may not be able to retrieve the information within a certain timeline, or to ensure its accuracy.

Compliance enforcement under the current framework is extremely limited.

To promote compliance, SAAIA would create monetary penalties for contravening obligations under the Act. SAAIA sets out parameters for the issuance of administrative penalties, including in what amount and how an ESP can request a review from the Minister.

In addition to administrative monetary penalties, SAAIA also contains offences for contravening provisions.

Penalties are required to make sure that a regulatory regime can be properly enforced.

Proposals under Bill C-22 provide additional oversight and transparency.



ROCKING OUT – There is a lot of good music every Sunday during an afternoon open-mic session at the Tottenham Legion. At the end of the session, some of the musicians will get on stage and perform together to end the day, as they did on Sunday, March 8. **BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO**

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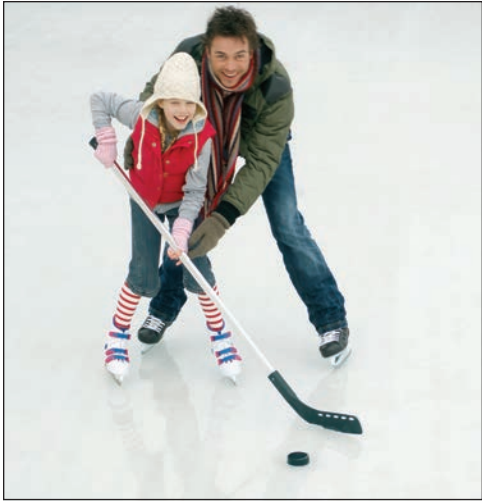
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SPORTS

NEW TECUMSETH TIMES

Hornets win semi-finals, advance to North Carruthers Division championship

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE
REPORTER

The Alliston Hornets are going to the North Carruthers Division championships series after a four-game sweep over the Orillia Terriers in their semi-final playoff match-up.

The series wrapped up on Orillia home ice on Saturday, March 14.

Game 1 of the semi-final took place on March 6 and ended with a 7-1 win for the Hornets.

Alliston had a 2-0 lead after winning 5-1 in Game 2.

The series was back in Alliston on Friday, March 13, for Game 3.

The Hornets allowed only one goal in this game after Orillia scored the first one of the night in the first period.

Nick Lamont opened the scoring for the Hornets at 11:24 into the first period.

Three more Hornets goals in the second frame gave the Alliston squad a 4-1 lead.

Second-period goals came from David Harvey, Ben Smith, and Tristen Pitt.

Noah Larmon scored the only third-period goal to give the Hornets a 5-1 win.

The return to Orillia for Game 4 put all the pressure on Orillia to win if they wanted to keep the series alive.

The Hornets took an early lead when Will Millington and Tristen Pitt scored within the first seven minutes of the first period.

Orillia scored midway in the frame.

Pitt got his second goal of the night at 13:34 into the period to give the Hornets a 3-1 lead.

Orillia scored at 16 seconds into the second period.

Alliston responded with two goals from Gunner Kirk and Nick Lamont.

The Terriers scored with just under two minutes remaining in the period.

Orillia had a lot of work to do if they wanted to keep the series alive, but the Hornets' defence stopped them from making any threat.

Hornets forward Ben Smith got the only goal of the third period to give the Hornets a 6-3 win, and the series was over.

It was a real revenge series for the Hornets, who lost to the Terriers in the final championship series last season in a match-up that went five games and left Alliston fans stunned at the loss.

In the other division semi-final, the Stayner Siskins knocked out the Midland Flyers in a series that lasted four games.

The Siskins were the dominant team in that series. They won Game 1 by a score of 5-1.

In Game 2, they again kept the Flyers to one goal and left the ice with a 5-1 win.

It was a little tighter in Game 3, but the Siskins still came out on top, winning 6-4.

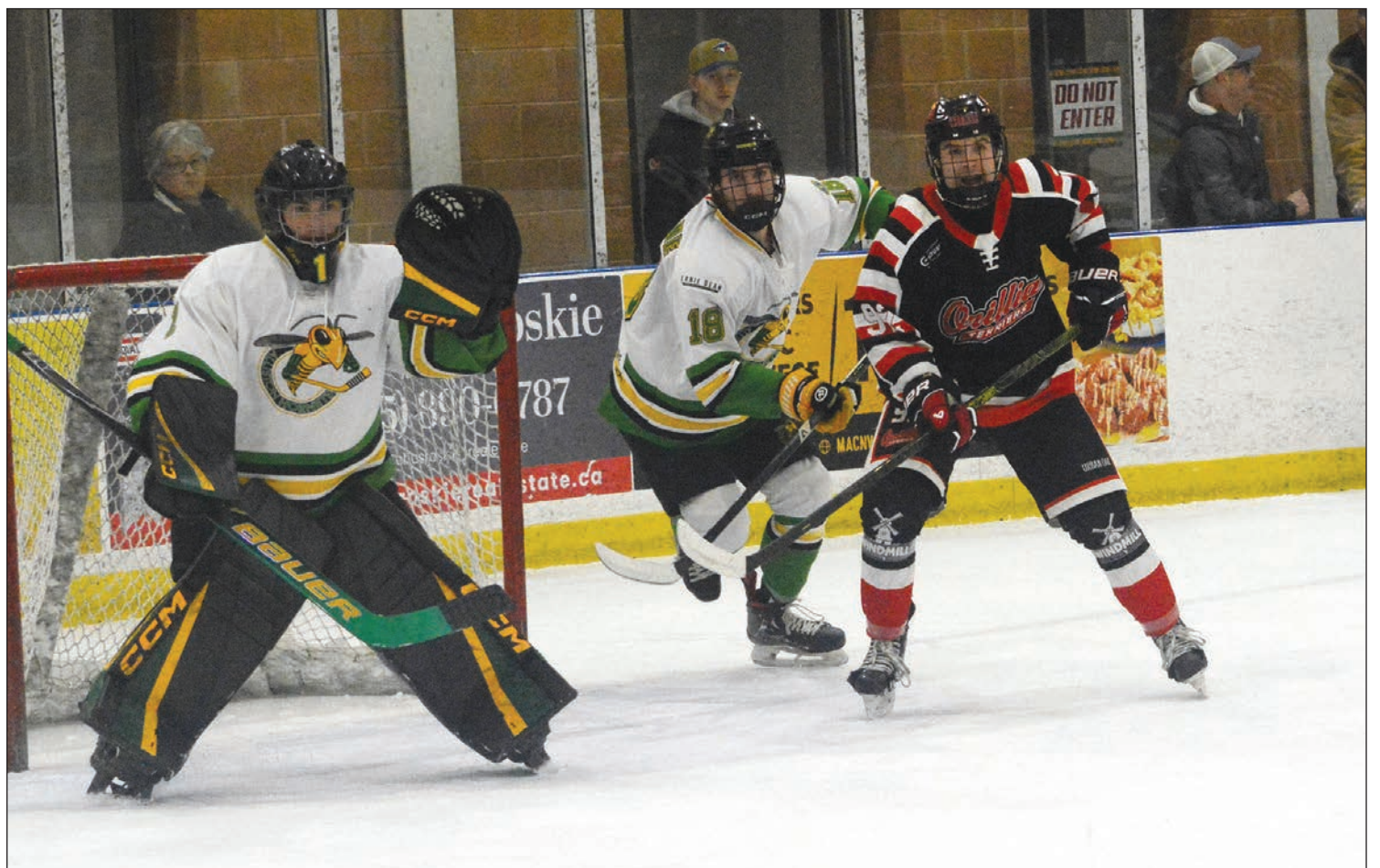
Stayner won the series on March 13, when they hammered the Flyers 7-0 for the series win.

The final North Carruthers Division series



SEMI FINAL CHAMPIONS – The Alliston Hornets will be going to the North Carruthers Division championship after a four-game sweep over the Orillia Terriers in their semi-final playoff series. The Hornets take on the Terriers in Game 3 on Friday, March 13, at the New Tecumseth Recreation Centre. The Hornets won this game 5-1. Alliston will now go on to meet the Stayner Siskins in the championship series.

BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTOS



is going to be some of the best hockey this year.

The Siskins and Hornets have a huge rivalry going back several years, and both teams will be putting out their best effort to

win the division title.

Stayner finished in the top spot in the standings this year with 65 points – one point ahead of the Hornets.

The Hornets were in first place for most of

the season but were eclipsed by the Siskins late in the season.

The Siskins will get home ice advantage for Game 1 when the championship series gets underway.

Iconic Sharon, Lois and Bram singer set to share songs, stories, memories

BY BROCK WEIR

As she headed into a Toronto TV studio in the early morning hours to record a promotion for an upcoming music event in the city, Sharon Hampson had an encounter with a well-wisher that remains as vivid today as ever before.

It was just after 7 a.m., and Hampson was greeted by a fan with tears in her eyes.

Despite having to get to work that morning, the fan just knew she had to make a stop along the way to say thanks for all Hampson, and her musical partners Bram Morrison and the late Lois Lilienstein, had brought into her life.

"I said to her, 'It's okay to get weepy because you're remembering childhood memories, and that's only good,'" says Hampson, one third of the iconic Canadian music trio, Sharon, Lois and Bram. "I'm grateful when people get teary when they meet me because I know they're thinking back to times that were good for them. But, it's not always like that, there are some people for whom we were a rescue, and I'm very aware of that as well."

Whether their music brought joy, an escape, or a little bit of both, the music of Sharon, Lois, and Bram is an inextricable part of the lives of generations of Canadians, and this Saturday, March 21, Hampson is eager to meet fans as she, along with her daughter Randi and grandson Ethan, participate in a day of special events at the Aurora Public Library (APL) and Aurora Town Square (ATS).

The fun begins at the APL at 10.30 a.m. with the free event Skinnamarink: Storytime with Sharon, Randi, and Ethan. The event will include a meet-and-greet, story time, and, of course, plenty of music.

Focus shifts to the ATS Performance Hall at 2 p.m. when Sharon, joined by Randi and Ethan, will sit down with Andrew Applebaum of the Toronto Legends podcast with reminiscences, tales, and... well, keep your vocal cords warmed up!

"There's about a 99 per cent guarantee some songs will break out," says Applebaum with a laugh, adding the very idea of him sharing the stage with Hampson is nothing short of "surreal."

"Lois used to come into my kindergarten class growing up, so the chance to talk to Sharon for the Toronto Legends podcast was a no-brainer," he says. "Sharon was nice enough to do [the podcast], we had a great time, and fast-forward to now we're doing live events where I share stories with these personalities for the bigger audience."

"So many people of my generation really resonate with the whole Sharon, Lois and Bram story."

The Sharon, Lois and Bram story began in 1978.

Hampson tells The Auran they had no inkling that when they came together to make that first record they were starting a completely new career trajectory, but what was clear from the outset was the singers shared "three fundamental goals: really good music, don't cheap out because it's for the kids, and make sure it's for the children

and the family."

Those fundamentals, says Hampson, never changed – whether they worked as a trio, as Sharon & Bram after Lilienstein's passing, and now as a family act of Sharon, her daughter, and grandson.

"It just came out to us in a really natural way, to sing good songs, to engage the audience, to find physical ways to express ourselves so that they could also join in – we got better at doing that, we got more relaxed about it, but, I don't know, I think we had something unique to offer."

"She's not going to say it, but I can say it was like lightening in a bottle," Randi interjects. "They just really complemented each other and when they would do the three-part harmonies, there was just nothing, nothing like it at the time."

Randi grew up in a musical family. In addition to her musical mom, her late father, Joe, was a folk singer and often did musical arrangements for the band.

"My dad would be working on harmonies and he and my mom and I would sit at the piano together and run through tunes together, I would sit in the studio when they were recording and it was just really fun to be in the thick of that. I felt really lucky because we got to hang out in a recording studio or go to the Juno Awards –"

"Or be the elephant at the Juno awards!" adds Sharon with a laugh, revealing perhaps a Polkaroo-level secret.

Sharon, Randi and Ethan came together formally as a family band during COVID.

Sheltering in their bubble, they sat down

for an impromptu living room concert one day and were astonished to find more than 10,000 viewers watching from around the world. It started off with a capella songs from the Sharon, Lois and Bram songbook before Ethan jumped in with a few chords, his brother Elijah adding some vocals, his dad Jim joining the fun, and it evolved from there.

"There has been a boom in the growth of community choirs, and I think there is a huge appetite among adults to sing and make music together," says Randi. "What you can do if you go to a Sharon, Lois and Bram singalong is a family singing together, making music together, and, for a lot of people, reconnecting with your child spirit. A lot of the people who come to the shows now grew up on the music and really want to be transported back to the memories of a simpler time when they could just be carefree. Times are hard, so having a few minutes of respite from the reality of day-to-day life, I think helps to enable us to continue sharing the music."

This is a sentiment close to Sharon's heart.

"One of our goals was [for listeners] was to take the music into your heart so you have it forever, and I think that we accomplished that because we provided music that people could have access to," she says. "I think they saw real people on TV or on the stage. We were not characters."

For more information about Saturday's free event at the Aurora Public Library and the ticketed afternoon event at Aurora Town Square, visit aurora.ca/whatson.

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New Tecumseth man charged with sexual assault of youth in Oakville

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

A New Tecumseth man who was on a prior form of release for similar offences has been arrested and charged with three counts of sexual assault, among other charges.

The Halton Regional Police Service laid several charges against Darrell Baudoux

following an investigation into incidents of sexual assault against a teenage male in Oakville.

The Halton Regional Police Service commenced an investigation on March 5 into incidents of sexual assault involving a male victim that allegedly occurred in Oakville during the month of November 2025.

As a result of the investigation, Baudoux,

65, of New Tecumseth, was arrested and charged with:

- Sexual Assault (3 counts)
- Sexual Interference (3 counts)
- Fail to Comply with Undertaking

The accused has been held in custody pending a bail hearing in Milton.

Sexual assault is any touching of another person without their consent where the touch-

ing is of a sexual nature, or where the sexual integrity of the victim is violated. A sexual assault can range from unwanted touching to sexual assault involving penetration.

There is no statute of limitations when it comes to reporting a sexual assault.

This means that no matter how long ago the sexual assault happened, you can still report it to the police for investigation.

Nottawasaga OPP officers seek public's help in apprehending arson suspect

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Members of the Nottawasaga Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police responded to a reported structure fire on Lawrence D. Pridham Avenue in Alliston, shortly after 3:30 a.m. on March 11, in a new subdivision near the 14th Line.

The fire was determined to be arson. The

structure was a newly constructed and unoccupied house.

New Tecumseth Fire Rescue crews attended the scene and successfully extinguished the fire. No injuries were reported.

The Nottawasaga OPP is actively investigating the incident and is seeking the public's assistance in identifying the suspects and the suspect vehicle.

Any drivers or residents in the area between

3 a.m. and 3:45 a.m. with knowledge, dash or security cameras are encouraged to contact the Nottawasaga OPP.

The suspect vehicle involved in the occurrence is described as a dark coloured Audi Hatchback that was seen in the area shortly after 3 a.m.

A suspect is described as male, wearing a dark sweater with a light-coloured stripe across the chest and arms.

Anyone with information is asked to contact the Nottawasaga OPP Major Crime Unit at 1-800-310-1122, referencing occurrence number E260322603.

For those wishing to remain anonymous, tips can be submitted to Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or online at crimestoppersdm.com. Calls to Crime Stoppers do not appear on caller ID, and you will not be required to testify in court.

South Simcoe Police officers charge Toronto man with impaired driving following traffic stop

Officers from the South Simcoe Police Service recently responded to a report of motor vehicle collision involving two vehicles at the intersection of Holland Street West and Langford Boulevard in Bradford West Gwillimbury.

On March 15, at approximately 8:00 p.m., officers arrived to the scene and conducted an investigation, which determined that one

of the drivers was unable to produce a valid insurance slip and could not confirm insurance coverage.

Through investigation, officers detected a strong odour of cannabis emanating from one of the involved vehicles. Subsequently, Police located a quantity of dried cannabis buds, along with drug paraphernalia containing residue of a suspected drug, inside the

vehicle. Additionally, a plastic case containing a suspected drug fell from the driver, who was believed to be impaired.

As a result of the investigation, a 38-year-old male from Toronto, was charged with the following offences:

- Careless Driving – HTA 130(1)
- Operate Motor Vehicle Without Insurance – CAIA 2(1)(a)

- Drive Vehicle or Boat With Cannabis Readily Available – CCA 12(1)
- Operation While Impaired – Alcohol and Drugs – CC 320.14(1)(a)

The accused driver's licence has been suspended, and his vehicle impounded. He is scheduled to appear in court on April 30, 2026.

None of the listed charges have been proven in court.

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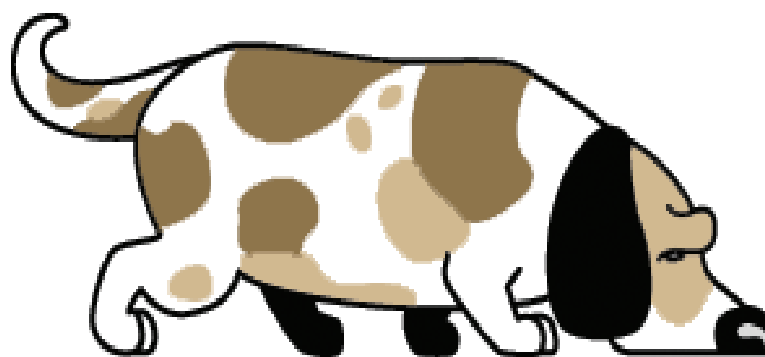
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Continued from Page 4

Brock's Banter: Answering the Call

Nunavut MP Lori Idlout is the most recent example of this – at press time – having crossed the floor from the NDP to the Liberals last week.

“Nunavut and the North are central to Canada’s future, and the rights and aspirations of Indigenous peoples must be at the heart of Canada’s democracy. I have devoted my life to this essential change,” said Idlout in a statement. “With new threats against our sovereignty and pressures on the wellbeing of people throughout the North, we need a strong and ambitious government that makes decisions with Nunavut – not only about Nunavut. The success of that work needs all of our voices.

“Our North is where climate change is felt first, where new threats to our security and sovereignty are growing, and where Canada’s responsibilities to our people are among its greatest. As a Member of Parliament, I have always worked to bring Nunavut’s priorities into national focus: especially ensuring the immediate needs of Nunavut are addressed and so that we can confront the high cost of living, the urgent need for housing and food security, the importance of protecting our land and waters, and the need for policies that reflect the culture, language, and rights of Inuit and Canadians all throughout the

North.

“... At this turning point in our history, I am ready to work with [Carney] to build a strong future for Nunavut and for all of Canada.”

While I sympathise with disappointed members of the Nunavut electorate who voted for Idlout solely due to the fact she ran under an orange banner in the last campaign – while that’s not how I vote, I say this as a voter who has seen his MP of the day cross the floor not once but twice – one can only hope the majority of her constituents cast their vote because she was the right person to affect the change so desperately needed in Canada’s north.

It’s a mandate she can certainly fulfil much more effectively as a member of Government rather than on the backbenches of parliament in a party with little more than a handful of members left. That’s inarguable. But people vote for different reasons.

I’m sure many went to polling stations last April to vote for Mark Carney, Pierre Poilievre, Jagmeet Singh, etc., and their respective parties rather than for the person whose name was actually on the ballot. But, at the end of the day, no matter what your intentions, you’re voting for your local representative and who you

feel will best represent your interests in Ottawa.

Conservatives have accused the Prime Minister of making “backroom deals” to facilitate the recent wave of floor-crossings, of members themselves betraying their voters in the process, but it’s curious that when Parliamentarians cross the floor to the Conservatives from any other party, it’s often framed as a principled decision and a move that should be celebrated in the name of democracy.

It can’t go both ways.

Nunavut voters will have the chance to signal their support of Idlout’s move in the next Federal election, but the time between now and then will help determine whether she made the right decision on behalf of her constituents and her territory as a whole.

As for the other ridings impacted by floor crossings, it’s a chance for some introspection on whether you vote for the person, the party, the plan, the potential impact, or any combination thereof.

Your motivations might surprise you.

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PREMIUM SINGLE SERVES 400 g **6 VARIETIES** **SALE**

8⁹⁹ each

Italian Style Sausage and Penne, Chicken Dumplings and Noodles, Chicken Burrito Bowl

SWEET SENSATIONS

Mini Cream Puffs
250 g

Caramel Cream Puffs
240 g

27⁹⁹ SAVE \$2

Cheesecake Variety Pack
12 SLICES 1 kg

5⁹⁹ each

Mini Eclairs
12 PIECES 200 g

Cakes
2 CAKES 228 g - 280 g



To view the full flyer, scan the QR code or go to mmfoodmarket.com

PROUDLY SERVING CANADIANS SINCE 1980

ALL PRICES IN EFFECT THURSDAY, MARCH 19 TO WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25, 2026 UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED.

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