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# The Times New Tecumseth

- Alliston
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Friday: Cloudy with Showers  
 Saturday: Cloudy with Showers  
 Sunday: A Few Showers  
 Monday: Mainly Sunny

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## Celebrating 100 Years

A new monument commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Royal Canadian Air Force was unveiled at CFB Borden on Tuesday, April 2. The Ad Astra monument represents reaching for the stars and was created in an Air Force blue colour. It was created by renowned sculptor, Marlene Hilton. The monument was the brainchild of Honorary Colonel and well-known local bagpiper, Rory MacKinnon. The monument unveiling was attended by many dignitaries from across Ontario, with honoured guests including 100-year-old Lieutenant General, Richard Rhomer, Canadian Armed Forces, retired. Representing New Tecumseth, Colonel MacKinnon is joined by New Tecumseth Councillor and Tottenham Legion Branch 329 Sergeant at Arms, Alan Masters, during the unveiling. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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# Royal Canadian Air Force celebrates 100th anniversary

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

The Royal Canadian Air Force is celebrating 100 years as a branch of the armed forces, and much of the early history of military aviation in Canada happened locally at CFB Borden.

The Canadian Air Force was originally established in 1920 as the successor to a small force that was created during the First World War.

In 1923, the CAF became responsible for all flying operations in Canada including civilian aviation.

It was granted the royal title, becoming the Royal Canadian Air Force in 1924.

As of 2020, the RCAF had 12,074 regular force personnel and 1,969 primary reservists. They are supported by 1,518 civilians.

The current force has a strength of 258 aircraft, including 80 fighters, 15 Maritime patrol craft, 47 transport aircraft, 150 helicopters of various types, and 97 trainers.

CFB Borden is the historic birthplace of the Royal Canadian Air Force.

The Base was opened in 1916 to train units for the Canadian Expeditionary Force. In 1917, the Base was selected for a military aerodrome, becoming the first flying station of the Royal Flying Corps in Canada.

At the time, aviation, especially military aviation, was in its infancy as they were still trying to figure out the best way to use aircraft in a military capacity.

Many Canadian and Commonwealth pilots trained with the legendary Sopwith Camel at the Base.



**CELEBRATING CENTENNIAL** – Local dignitaries and members of the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 171, Alliston, raise the Royal Canadian Air Force flag at the New Tecumseth Administration Centre on Wednesday, April 3. The Royal Canadian Air Force is celebrating its centennial this year. The flag was raised, and the Town issued a proclamation declaring April 1-8 as Royal Canadian Air Force week.

BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

Some of the original aircraft hangars at the Base are still there, and the eight surviving Royal Flying Corps hangars have been designated a National History Site.

The base is located on 21,000 acres of land, which includes 6,000 acres of training area.

While the Base no longer has runways

for fixed-wing aircraft, the Base still has 16 Wing, which has three schools – the Canadian Forces School of Aerospace Technology and Engineering and the Royal Canadian Air Force Academy.

The Base is home to the 400 Tactical Helicopter Squadron, supporting the 1 Wing CH-146 Griffon helicopter.

To recognize the 100th anniversary of the RCAF, the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 171 in Alliston requested the RCAF flag be flown at the New Tecumseth Administration Centre.

The flag was raised on Wednesday, April 3, by local dignitaries, a Legion executive, and local veterans.

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## County reports rise in transit ridership

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

The County of Simcoe is reporting a significant increase in people using the LINX Transit system.

In 2023, LINX completed its fifth year of operation in which it experienced consistent ridership growth and improvements in conventional and specialized transit services

Conventional ridership saw an increase of 23 per cent while specialized routes increased by 33 per cent. There was a noted surge in specialized transit applications over the previous year.

LINX has had a strong safety performance and a high level of service reliability for 2023.

LINX Transit's strategic plan includes developing new routes, increasing ser-

vice, and introducing initiatives to make transit services more efficient, reliable, and responsive to the evolving needs of the residents in the County ridership.

Quarterly and total ridership numbers exceeded expectations with all routes having a consistent upward trend throughout the year.

Total ridership numbers in 2023 were 258,948.

- By route, ridership numbers are:
- Route 1 – Barrie to Penetanguishene 39,918
- Route 2 – Barrie to Wasaga Beach 42,949
- Route 3 – Barrie to Orillia 50,209
- Route 4 – Collingwood to Wasaga Beach 82,617
- Route 5 – Alliston to Bradford 20,851
- Route 6 – Midland to Orillia 22,404

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# SMHF and hospital administration moving to temporary location

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

The Stevenson Memorial Hospital (SMH) Foundation, as well as SMH administration and senior leadership team members, including executive assistants and corporate communications, will be moving to an office space in downtown Alliston.

The move is necessary due to space constraints at its current location.

The Foundation will work off-site from Monday, April 8 to April 12, to facilitate the move, then re-open at the new location on Monday, April 15.

The new space is located at 39 Victoria Street East at an office building in the 'Town Square' section of buildings across from Shoppers Drug Mart near the intersection of Victoria St. and Centre St.

The Foundation's space is on the second floor and is accessible from Victoria St.

The hospital administration office can be accessed from the parking lot off Wellington St.

Current open hours of 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. will remain the same.

Donations can be dropped off at the Auxiliary desk at the hospital's main entrance and 50/50 tickets will be available at the hospital gift shop.

The mailing address, e-mail address, and telephone number will remain the same.

The move of administration teams allows for increased capacity for more clinical-based staffing and adequate space inside the hospital.

This move is an interim measure for the next few years as the new hospital expansion is completed.

Once completed, the Foundation and administrative staff will return to the hospital site.



**RELOCATING OFF-SITE** – Stevenson Memorial Hospital's administration and senior leadership members are moving out of the hospital to an office space at 39 Victoria St. East due to space constraints. Members of the Stevenson Memorial Hospital Foundation are also making the move, effective April 15. **FILE PHOTO**

# Washer toss tournament this weekend at Tottenham Community Centre

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

It's a game you may not have heard of before, but a local charitable group has created a new activity called 'Washertoss' where competitors try to toss a washer into a tube mounted on a square box.

It's a fun activity and an upcoming tournament will be raising funds for local good causes.

The JAK Fund was named in honour of a local teen who died in a tragic automobile accident. Members of his family created the Fund to raise money to help local people.

"Our main fundraiser is the Washertoss



Tournament in Tottenham," explained Margaret Anne Smith, one of the organizers. "All the money we raise goes back to the community. We do Thanksgiving bags for the Tottenham Food Bank – We did 250 bags and also took 75 to the Beeton Food Bank.

"We always touch base with My Sister's Place. We took bouquets of flowers there earlier this year to put in the women's rooms and main entrance. I taught at St. Thomas Aquinas (high school) and always reach out to them to see if there is a family in need. There was one family – we got them a Christmas tree and gave them a substantial amount in Walmart gift cards. There was another family there this past year who was struggling and we gave them gift cards as well. We've also cooked hotdogs at ball tournaments and that sort of thing."

This is the sixth year the Washertoss Tournament will take place. It originally

started in the gym at the Tottenham Community Centre, but it has become so popular that it has now been moved to the arena floor.

"When we first started we had 96 teams, this year we're up to 120," Margaret explained. "The first year we held it, we started in the gym, then we had to take it to the ice surface."

The Washertoss Tournament will get underway on Saturday, April 13, with registration at 6 p.m., followed by the tournament at 7 p.m.

The Tottenham Community Centre is located at 39 Queen St. North.

# Spring bi-weekly leaf and yard waste collection begins in Simcoe

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

The County of Simcoe's bi-weekly curbside Leaf and Yard Waste Collection Program is returning.

It began on April 8, in Zone One, and will run until the end of May 2024.

To determine your collection zone, please refer to the 2024 Waste Management Calendar on Simcoe.ca or the Simcoe County Collects app.

The app is free to download from the App Store or Google Play.

The program includes a collection of leaves, grass, branches (sized and bundled appropriately), and garden waste.

Residents are reminded to use kraft paper yard waste bags, cardboard boxes, or open-ended rigid containers to place out for collection.

Bi-weekly collections coincide with garbage collection weeks in each zone. Mate-

rials for collection should be placed curbside by 7 a.m. on Monday of the collection week for each zone.

Collection will occur during the week, not necessarily on your regular collection day.

Spring 2024 yard waste will be collected throughout the week in each zone as follows:

- Zone One**
- April 8

- April 22
- May 6
- May 20
- Zone Two**
- April 15
- April 29
- May 13
- May 27

Additional leaf and yard waste collections will occur in July and during the fall program beginning in October.

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# Editorial, Letters & Opinion

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

~ Stanislaw Jerzy Lec

## I'm the tax man

“If you drive a car, I'll tax the street,  
If you try to sit, I'll tax your seat,  
If you get too cold, I'll tax the heat,  
If you take a walk, I'll tax your feet.”

In case you don't recognize those lyrics, they are from the song Taxman, written by George Harrison and released on the Beatles album 'Revolver' in 1966.

At the time, the Beatles were making a lot of money, and most of it was disappearing in taxes thanks to the progressive tax system in the U.K. at the time.

I've never understood why people who make more money must pay more of a percentage of their money in taxes. Why is a person penalized for being successful?

The thought process by the government is, if you make more, you can afford to pay more of a percentage of your earnings.

If there is going to be an income tax, it should be a fair, across-the-board rate.

Several years ago, a poverty group in Toronto staged a protest in the Forest Hill neighbourhood. For some reason, they decided to protest against affluent people who had a lot of money and blame them for others not having as

much.

The protest pretty much fell flat, because it made no sense to blame others for being successful.

One homeowner, who wasn't too happy about having protesters in front of his house blaming him for their situation, had a good response.

He stated, that he and his neighbours, were wealthy because they worked hard for 30 years building a business, and also employed a lot of people who relied on them to feed their families.

Taxes are necessary to keep our society functioning and pay for things like roads, parks, infrastructure, defence, and government programs.

However, there comes a point where you are just crushing your citizens under the tax burden.

You are taxed before you even collect your pay cheque when your basic income is reduced by taxes before the money is even in your bank account. And that's just the start of it.

Everything you do, just to live, is taxed in some way or another.

Buy a car to get to work? You'll pay 13 percent extra on that vehicle, then

pay taxes on the required insurance, tax on auto repairs to keep it running, and a huge amount of tax just to put gas in the tank – and you haven't even driven to work yet.

You're taxed on the home you live in, the insurance you pay to protect it, and all necessary repairs to keep a roof over your head. You are even taxed on a lot of food items. Why is there a tax on a hamburger just because someone else prepared it for you? You still have to eat regardless of where the food comes from. Then the business that sold the hamburger is taxed on the few dollars they made for putting a slice of tomato and some lettuce on that burger.

Then there are the hidden taxes you probably don't even know about.

During race season, I enjoy going to Woodbine Race Track to watch the thoroughbreds compete. I don't bet a lot, but I know enough about it to come out even or a few bucks ahead every week.

Every time a bet is placed at a race-track, the government gets a piece of the action through the provincial Race Track Tax. Every bet has a percentage

deducted by the race track and paid in tax. You're being taxed on something that may or may not happen in your favour, and produces no real product. You're being taxed for having some fun.

Then there are the huge taxes on things like liquor, beer, and tobacco, called 'sin-taxes.' That's why a bottle of Jack Daniels is so expensive. It seems your rate of punishment is determined by how much you enjoy something.

Canada is a wealthy nation with much of the government's income coming directly from its residents.

For the most part, those taxes are spent responsibly and there are enough checks and balances to make sure those dollars are well spent.

However, it is still the responsibility of all of us to be aware of government spending and how all of our money is used.

When we are paying as much tax as we are, it is every citizen's responsibility to be aware of where that money goes.

**BRIAN LOCKHART**  
FROM THE SECOND ROW



## Cosmic Common Sense

Some people, at this particular snapshot in time, might think I'm a bit foolish for writing this week's column before the noon hour on Monday.

As far as Mondays go, this one is generally pretty run-of-the-mill.

Although a bit cool for my taste, there's nothing particularly distinguishable about it. Sure, we had glorious sunshine and warmth on Sunday, but there's nothing particularly surprising about April clouds; after all, those April showers that are supposed to beget May flowers need to come from somewhere – no matter how diligent you are with your garden hose or lawn sprinkler.

In fact, the only thing that really distinguishes this April Monday from the one that kick-started the month, aside from the prescribed tomfoolery that is a hallmark of April 1, is the countdown to this afternoon's solar eclipse.

Eclipses both solar and lunar have, of course, been part of our everyday lives throughout our recorded history, and naturally, long before that.

Excitement was in the air for the last

solar eclipse I covered for our newspapers, but truth be told the interest in this one, despite the less-than-favourable forecast, is something else again.

While this eclipse is rarer than most of us have seen before, people are travelling far distances for the chance to see... something.

Hotels in a city in upstate New York where we have been taking an annual family holiday for decades raised their room rates by nearly 300 per cent to reap the benefits of the eclipse-seekers.

Students in many jurisdictions had the day off of school ostensibly to take it all in – safely, under the watchful eyes of their parents and away from any school liability should a student happen to look up without protective gear.

Whatever is propelling people in this direction, it was a feeling that was certainly catching, and, with just a few hours to go before the darkness temporarily settles in, the excitement is still there regardless of the fact the weather will render the experience to little more than someone bumping into a dimmer

switch when they're leaving the room.

In some quarters, however, there is a degree of trepidation.

Despite these astrological phenomena occurring with measurable and consistent regularity since humankind developed the ability to measure such things, there have been those who have taken the stage, playing directly to the balcony, that this eclipse is everything from a “man-made effort to control the weather,” to a fabricated way for some mysterious entity or group thereof to test any kind of nefarious form of government or government-related measure, to nothing short of a harbinger for at least one of the horsemen of the apocalypse.

These claims, of course, are being fettered by the festering world of social media and echo chambers that are becoming and less and less extricable part of the world.

Many of those who offer such outlandish viewpoints do so through a very political lens and as a means to an end. Through their unfounded bluster and their attempts to validate the

viewpoints of their followers in a bid to amass followers, they're foregoing any opportunity to inform or educate because, let's be real, that's not what their followers are there for.

Run-of-the-mill astronomy might seem dull in comparison to a government plot or a coming rapture. People want the excitement, the drama, the feeling of having the inside track – even if they are being wilfully led down the garden path.

It is a win-win for the follower and the influencer, I suppose, but an unfortunate dent in our society. And it's a win-win for the misinformation peddler, too; if nothing happens, they can simply move the goalposts and blame whatever entity, fictional or otherwise, for getting in the way of their forecast coming to pass.

Continued on Page 11

**BROCK WEIR**  
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# Want to fix the economy? Start by fixing our tax system

For most Canadians, April is the time of year when frustration and anger over our convoluted, loophole-ridden tax system is at its highest.

For those looking for tax relief this year, there's not much hope. On the contrary, Canadians got hit with several tax hikes earlier this month, including payroll tax increases and an increase to the carbon tax levied on gas and home heating fuel.

Those hoping for simpler, easier-to-fill-out forms will also be disappointed. With each passing year, the tax system gets more complicated, with new forms and new layers of tax credits for everyone from remote workers to families who add a second living unit to their home.

Everyone knows the tax system is broken and needs to be fixed, but nothing ever gets done to make it simpler, fairer and easier.

Over the years Canada's personal income tax code has swelled in size and gotten more complex with thousands of mind-boggling passages like the following:

"Subsection 18.1(10) applies where (a) a taxpayer's particular right to receive production to which a matchable expenditure (other than an expenditure no portion of which would, if this section were read without reference to subsections 18.1(7) and 18.1(10), be deductible under subsection 18.1(3) in computing the taxpayer's income)

relates has expired or the taxpayer has disposed of all of the right (otherwise than in a disposition to which subsection 87(1) or 88(1) applies)."

As the example above shows, the current tax system is far too tangled to ever unknot. It needs to be scrapped and replaced with something far less complicated.

In terms of personal income, I would create a dead-simple, black-and-white income tax formula with a clear progression in tax rates. Like the current system, those making more would pay more. The main difference, however, is there would be no loopholes or write-offs, and the tax rates would be much lower for the majority of Canadians.

Come tax filing time, to figure out how much you owe, all you would need are two numbers – the tax rate for your income bracket and the exact amount of income you earned.

The end result of this proposed reform is that our personal income tax system would be straightforward, clear-cut and easy to understand. Most Canadians would pay less. And because of the elimination of all exemptions, loopholes and write-offs, the very rich would end up paying more.

I would further overhaul the tax system by undertaking a number of other major reforms.

The most important of these would apply to small businesses, the main drivers of

economic prosperity and job creation in Canada. I propose completely eliminating corporate income tax for small businesses with fewer than 300 employees.

For large and medium-sized companies with more than 300 employees, I would replace the current corporate income tax with a corporate sales tax and eliminate all deductions, tax credits and exemptions. The new tax rate would be somewhere between two to eight percent and would be applied only on annual sales.

The one guiding principle with all of these tax reforms is simplify, simplify, simplify.

The proposed reforms, if enacted, would also make our tax system fairer. Instead of doling out breaks to the rich and other special interests, the system would provide badly needed tax relief to the average working Canadian and small businesses.

If we want to get our economy firing on all cylinders, we need to first fix our tax system.

To learn more about how we can improve Canada's economy and increase living standards, email me at [info@economic-charter.ca](mailto:info@economic-charter.ca).



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**CLUES ACROSS**

- Midway between south and southeast
- For each
- Airborne (abbr.)
- Photographs
- They \_\_\_
- It's important in respiration (abbr.)
- Monetary unit
- Cool!
- A son of Jacob
- Cut off
- Devour
- Agent of one's downfall
- Best
- Network of nerves
- Partner to "oohs"
- Origins
- Sewing utensil
- Alias
- Swiss river
- Greek mythological figure
- Type of whiskey

- Lay to rest
- "Rule, Britannia" composer
- Select jury
- Feeling
- Action regarded as morally wrong
- Makes angry
- Act incorrectly
- Defensive nuclear weapon
- Class of escort aircraft carrier
- To what degree
- Buzzing insect
- The human foot
- "The Leftovers" actress Dowd
- A place to stay
- Sun up in New York

**CLUES DOWN**

- An involuntary muscular contraction
- Earnest
- Cuts out surgically
- Can't move
- Baseball stat
- British soldier
- Traditional medicine
- Political party controlled by managers
- Hebrew prophet
- Supporter
- Relative biological effectiveness (abbr.)
- Liberty Mutual mascot
- Georgia rockers
- A place where building is done
- Large, deep-bodied fish
- Clothing retailer
- Supplement with difficulty
- Annoy constantly
- Founder of Babism
- Indigenous person in parts of Asia
- Sea eagle
- Leave behind
- Time of day
- Colorless crystalline compound
- They lay out course requirements
- A diamond has three
- Algerian coastal city
- Remove cover
- Rechristened
- Distinctive practice
- Defunct phone company
- Turkish officer of high rank
- Eliminate from the body
- Witness
- Soviet Socialist Republic
- Founding Father Franklin

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

# Learn to Fish program teaches new anglers in Ontario

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

With the warmer weather approaching it's time to enjoy outdoor activities.

Fishing is a popular Ontario past-time, but there's more to it than just casting a line into a local waterway.

The Learn to Fish program is a free provincial program that teaches new anglers how to fish in Ontario.

This is a two-hour program that combines a one-hour practical teaching session with one hour of supervised hands-on fishing.

The program will teach you how to rig, bait, and cast a fishing rod. You will learn to identify and catch local fish species and learn how to fish safely and sustainably.

The program provides information on how to get a fishing license and follow fishing regulations.

Everything you will need is provided during the program, including a fishing rod, reel, bait, lifejacket, and sunglasses. Experience instructors will focus on fish, fun, and safety.

A Learn to Fish Mobile is also available for family-friendly events.

The Fish Mobile unit travels to festivals and events across Ontario to introduce new anglers to recreational fishing.

You can find out if your event fits with the program requirements or goals by visiting online.

The Learn to Fish program is offered four to six times per week at host locations.

Locally, Earl Rowe Provincial Park in Alliston is a host location.

The Learn to Fish program schedule will become available on the province's website in June 2024.



**ANGLER EDUCATION** – The Learn to Fish program is a provincial program that teaches new anglers all about fishing in Ontario. The program starts in June and is available at various provincial parks in the province. **FILE PHOTO**

# Southlake Regional Health Centre identified as Level III trauma centre

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

Southlake Regional Health Centre will be able to improve trauma care after being named a Level III Trauma Centre.

The new designation was announced by the local hospital on Monday.

As a Level III Trauma Centre, Southlake will care for medium acuity patients who have suffered traumatic injury, including wounds resulting from accidents, falls, sports injuries, violence, and other incidents that cause damage to the body's tissues, organs and bones.

While Southlake currently cares for an average of 500 medium acuity patients each year, formal recognition as a Level III trauma centre means they will be able to do so as "part of

an inclusive, integrated and accountable system" that can call upon the expertise of leading trauma centres like Sunnybrook Hospital, SickKids, and United Health Toronto.

"When patients come to our hospital, they know they're in good hands and that's a good thing because new patients enter our emergency departments every four-and-a-half minutes," said Dr. David Mackary, Southlake's Vice President of Medical Affairs, at Monday's announcement. "Many of these patients come to Southlake because of traumatic injuries and in these moments they need the best care possible as quickly as possible."

"This recognition [as a Level III Trauma Centre] reflects our commitment to the patients and communities that we serve. It also con-

nects Southlake with an inclusive, integrated and accountable trauma care system that will improve patient outcomes and experiences."

When a patient experiences trauma, added Trauma Medical Director Dr. Leeor Sommer, time is of the essence in improving chances of survival and recovery.

"That is where trauma centres really come in," said Sommer. "Data shows that areas with Level 3 Trauma Centres have lower mortality rates because those patients have immediate access to care in the right place. Trauma Centres save lives. As a Level 3 Trauma Cen-

tre, Southlake now has connections to a huge trauma network, so we're working together with lead trauma hospitals like Sunnybrook, Unity Health Care, SickKids, to ensure all patients can receive quick access to specialized trauma care. Together, we can give patients the best chance of recovery.

As part of this recognition process, and to improve capacity within the healthcare system, six hospitals across Ontario met the criteria of Level III.

Continued on Page 9

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## Simcoe's COVID-19 risk level remains low

The Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit is reporting that the COVID-19 Community Risk level is remaining at the 'lower' level, going into April.

The Health Unit issues weekly reports on COVID-19 activity and risk in the region.

Reports include the overall risk level to the public, as well as risk levels in five related categories.

These include Reported Confirmed Cases, Wastewater Signal, Weekly Percent Positivity, Weekly Declared Outbreaks in Institutional Settings, and

Active Hospitalizations due to COVID-19.

All categories are currently rated as 'lower' risk levels.

The risk levels include Very High, High, Moderate, and Lower.

The current 'lower' level risk is noted as being similar to the risk factor of the previous week.

While the risk level is low, the SMDHU encourages residents to remain cautious and continue to practice safe measures by protecting themselves against transmission of the virus.

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# Southlake reaches 90% of Cancer Campaign fundraising goal thanks to TD donation

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

The Southlake Regional Health Centre Foundation is now 90 per cent of its way towards its \$20 million HERE is Where Cancer Meets Its Match capital campaign thanks to a \$250,000 gift from TD Bank group.

The latest donation towards the capital campaign was celebrated at the Newmarket-based hospital last week – and it was fitting as TD has been a sponsor of its Stronach Regional Cancer Centre for more than a decade.

Their latest contribution has been allocated for York Region’s first PET-CT Simulator Scanner recently installed at the hospital.

“[The PET-CT Scanner] is an advanced piece of technology that identifies active cells in the body, which allows for early detection of cancer diagnosis and can determine whether cancer treatments have worked, or if cancer has spread,” said the Foundation in a statement. “The PET-CT scanner saw its first patient in September 2023, and since then, has completed over 500 scans to-date.”

Prior to PET-CT scanner coming to Southlake, patients had to travel considerable distances to other hospitals or private clinics to access this advanced diagnostic precision.

“TD’s commitment to helping increase investment in research, technology, and innovative solutions that improve access to care for all through the TD Ready Commitment, has ensured that where you live is not a barrier to the best cancer care for the residents of York Region and southern Simcoe County.”

The scanner is a “tremendous benefit” for Southlake patients, added Dr. Peter Anglin, Physician Lead of the Stronach Regional Cancer Centre.

“This technology enables us to diagnose and treat patients faster, getting them on the road to recovery sooner. We’re grateful to have philanthropic partners that share our vision of ensuring anyone who needs cancer care in our community, can receive it, right here.”

With the latest donation, the Foundation is \$17.3 million towards their \$20 million goal.

“At this point, we’re looking at the final 10 per cent, and I think what we’re really focused on now is replacing one of the two workhorse MRI machines,” says Jennifer Ritter, President and CEO of the Southlake Regional Health Centre Foundation.

Reflecting on the campaign so far, Ritter says it’s resulted not only in the PET-CT scanner, but the replacement of two linear accelerators, which will be brought online soon, to help reduce wait times; the addition of nine new chemotherapy chairs and associated equipment – and, in conjunction with the campaign LIPS (Ladies in Philanthropy at Southlake) have secured magnetic breast seeds which allow for less invasive cancer treatment.

“These are really big accomplishments and we’re super, super grateful for our generous community of donors to help us get to that 90 per cent goal,” says Ritter. “We still need help to cross the finish line, so our focus for the campaign at this time is to replace one of [those] two workhorse MRI machines. That is going to help us not only reduce wait times but produce higher resolution images and that means more precise, informed and timely diagnosis. This is all really, really important and that’s our focus as we look to near completion of this campaign.”

“This whole campaign being about looking after our family, our friends, our loved

ones, with timely diagnostic, timely treatment plans, timely care, whenever they’re facing a cancer diagnosis and keeping them here at home among their support system in the comfort and love of the people that care about them the most, including the incredible physicians and staff we have here at

Southlake. It’s a really good news story and I am really proud of everyone involved in the campaign, and most particularly our community who consistently show their support for Southlake by investing in leading edge care. In this case, keeping leading edge care close to home”



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# Arts & Entertainment

## Blackhorse Village Players Theatre presents Suburban Standoff

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

A quiet evening is suddenly interrupted by two strangers in the Blackhorse Village Players Theatre's production of Suburban Standoff.

Written by Michael Grant, and directed by Martin Buote, the scene is set in the living room of a retired couple's home as they make plans for the evening.

Veteran performer, Morris Duante, is in the role of Hank, a man who is not adjusting very well to retired life.

Hank misses the more exciting days when he was still working, and now passes his time eating low-salt potato chips and watching television.

Hank's wife, Nancy, played by long-time theatre performer, Cheryl Phillips, is a little more upbeat when it comes to life after a career.

Nancy enjoys socializing and is preparing to go out to have fun with one of her social groups.

The evening takes a sudden turn when two strangers show up on Hank and Nancy's doorstep, and invite themselves inside with nefarious intentions.

In the role of Ty, Christian Tribuzio, is a desperate man determined to get what he wants – even if he hasn't really thought out his plan very well.

Ty's life hasn't been easy and his limited skills have left him on the fringe of society and unable to hold a steady job.

Emma Hedley takes on the role of Candy. Candy is Ty's not-to-bright girlfriend who is along for the ride but would rather be some-



**STANDOFF** – The Blackhorse Village Players Theatre is currently presenting the comedy Suburban Standoff on its Highway 9, stage. Morris Duante, Cheryl Phillips, Christian Tribuzio, and Emma Hedley, make up the cast of this production that finds a retired couple suddenly faced with two uninvited guests in their home. **BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO**

where else.

Candy is a former stripper who is proud of her past 'dancing' career but hopes to find a new job in a field that would make her happy.

While the intruders are not welcome in Hank and Nancy's home, the couple reacts calmly when confronted in the sanctity of their own living room.

Hank plays along with Ty's demands, but

at the same time ridicules his abilities as a criminal, much to Ty's chagrin.

There are subtle hints throughout the evening that Hank and Nancy's past may have prepared them for such an event as having unwanted strangers in their home.

They devise a plan to turn the tables on their unwanted guests without raising suspicion. When they gain the upper hand, they

make a decision that may determine some life choices for their visitors.

Suburban Standoff is performed in two acts.

The play is on the Blackhorse Village Player Theatre's stage through to April 21.

You can get tickets by calling the box office at 905-880-5002, or online at [www.blackhorsetheatre.ca](http://www.blackhorsetheatre.ca).

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Continued from Page 6

## Southlake Regional Health Centre identified as Level III trauma centre

Stella Johnson, Director of Emergency and Mental Health at Southlake, said the Trauma Program will be led by “highly-skilled teams of medical staff” including surgeons, emergency medicine specialists and critical care nurses that are available around the clock to support needs.

“As a Level III Trauma Centre, Southlake has made numerous changes to support the patients who present to our Emergency Department,” said Johnson. “We have hired staff to successfully implement the Trauma Program, its requirements and ensure that our operations are meeting and exceeding the Trauma Level III standards and that begins with our trauma team activation process. When a trauma patient arrives at Southlake or is on their way to Southlake to receive emergency care, the trauma team activation page will be heard overhead across our organization and lead to awareness amongst all our care partners that this designation has occurred and patients presenting will receive the best trauma care possible. This situational awareness ensures the team is also available and ready to provide life-saving treatments.

“High acuity or very sick trauma patients or those with multi-system injuries will continue to be triaged here at Southlake and then transferred to a lead trauma hospital in the Greater Toronto Area, with one of our partner hospital sites as part of our integrated trauma care here in Ontario. This has not changed. Instead, what we are most proud of and what we can say has changed is the relationships we have been fortunate to build both inside this hospital and with community partners and with the trauma system at large.

“Communication with our emergency medical services and individuals who we otherwise may not have partnered with have also significantly changed and improved for the better. This is just the beginning. We are so excited about our Level III trauma journey here at Southlake. We look forward to continuing to strengthen our partnerships with the Ontario Regional Trauma Network, with our lead trauma hospital sites, and continue to move forward in our journey as a Level III Trauma Centre.”

## Local health unit resumes school immunizations for Grade 7 students

Beginning this week, the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit (SMDHU) in partnership with local school boards, will resume school-based clinics to complete the series of routine immunizations for Grade 7 students.

School immunization nurses will visit elementary schools throughout Simcoe and Muskoka from April to June to provide immunization for Grade 7 students. Information will be sent home with students through the school in advance of school-based clinics.

The vaccines offered during the school-based clinics significantly reduce the risk of hepatitis B, meningococcal meningitis, and human papillomavirus (HPV) infections. Vaccination remains one of the best tools we have available to protect youth against harmful diseases before they may encounter them. The HPV vaccine is important because it significantly reduces the risk of various types of cancers such as throat and cervical cancer and prevents genital warts.

The health unit advises getting immunized according to the publicly funded immunization schedule for Ontario and reminds parents and caregivers that meningococcal disease is one of the designated diseases under the Immunization of School



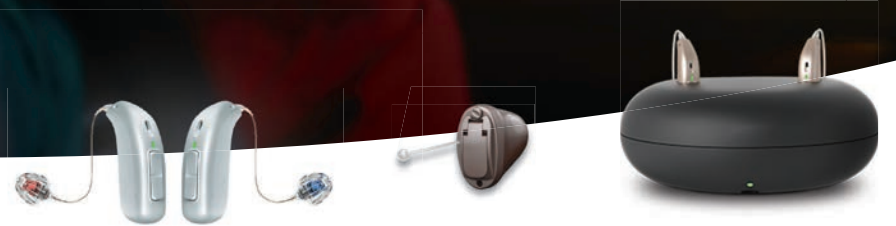
Pupils Act (ISPA). Under ISPA, children and youth attending elementary or secondary school must be immunized against certain diseases, unless they have a valid exemption. Hepatitis B and HPV vaccines are not required under ISPA but are strongly recommended.

Having up-to-date immunizations helps to ensure that students have the best protection against serious vaccine-preventable diseases, reduces the risk of outbreaks in schools and allows the health unit to act quickly to prevent and control outbreaks.

To see the date that the health unit will be visiting your child’s school or for more information about the vaccines given in Grade 7 and the diseases they prevent, visit [smdhu.org/Grade7](http://smdhu.org/Grade7). You can also speak with a public health professional by calling Health Connection at 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520, weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.



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# SPORTS

NEW TECUMSETH TIMES



**CARRUTHERS CHAMPS** – The Alliston Hornets are the 2023-24 Carruthers Division champions after a 5-1 win over the Stayner Siskins in game four of their best-of-seven final series on Thursday, April 4, in Stayner. The Hornets swept the championship series in four games and will now go on to play for the Conference championship. **BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO**

## Hornets win four straight to claim North Carruthers Division championship

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

The Alliston Hornets are the 2023-24 Carruthers Division champions after winning the final series in four games over the Stayner Siskins.

The final game resulted in a 5-1 Alliston win on Stayner home ice on Thursday, April 4.

The best-of-seven series got underway with Game One on Thursday, March 28, at the New Tecumseth Recreation Centre, and ended

with a 4-3 win for the Hornets to lead the series.

Game Two took place in Stayner on Sunday, March 31, and the Hornets were ahead by two games after winning 4-2.

Returning to Alliston for Game Three on Monday, April 1, it was looking like another Alliston win when the Siskins scored with 44 seconds remaining in the third period to tie it up.

After a break, the teams returned for an overtime period.

The Hornets scored 6:22 into the OT

period to take the game 3-2.

Alliston was poised to end the series when they went to Stayner for Game Four on Thursday, April 4.

Will Hopcroft got the opening goal for the Hornets at 3:28 into the first period.

Alliston's Gavin Mikaczo followed up with a goal at the 14:58 mark in the first frame.

Stayner got on the scoreboard two minutes into the second period.

The Hornets went ahead 3-1 when Will Millington scored 14:13 into the period.

With a two-goal lead, the Hornets kept up the pressure in the final period.

Mikaczo got his second of the game with just under two minutes remaining.

Hornets forward Tristen Pitt got the final goal of the game on a powerplay with 53 seconds left on the clock for a 5-1 Alliston win and the championship.

The Hornets will now go on to play for the North Conference championship.

They will be up against the Hanover Barons.

Hanover won the Pollock Division cham-

pionship over the Mount Forest Patriots in a series that went the full seven games and wrapped up on Monday, April 8, with a 2-1 Mount Forest win.

## Provincial Junior Hockey League starts Conference championships

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

The Provincial Junior Hockey League has started the Conference championship playoffs.

Division playoffs finished with the final game on Monday, April 8, leaving eight teams still remaining in the League.

It didn't take long for the League to move into the next series of playoffs. The first Conference series game was played on April 9 between Grimsby and New Hamburg.

The Conference championship best-of-seven series will result in four championship teams who will then go on to

compete for the provincial Schmalz Cup.

It has not yet been announced if the Schmalz Cup will take on a tournament format like that past two seasons or play a traditional best-of-seven series as in previous years.

Conference series:

North Conference – Alliston Hornets versus Hanover Barons

East Conference – Clarington Eagles versus Napanee Raiders

South Conference – Grimsby Peach Kings versus New Hamburg Firebirds

West Conference – Thamesford Trojans versus Lakeshore Canadiens

Continued from Page 4

# Brock's Banter: Cosmic Common Sense

It wasn't all that long ago when most people entering public life, whether they were a politician, an educator, or anyone with a pulpit, did so to, as the old saying went, "win the hearts and minds of the people." Increasingly, however, it feels that it's less of a matter of winning hearts and minds than meeting those hearts and minds where they live and even governing one's self accordingly.

Maybe I'm old fashioned, but I've never been one to vote for someone at any level of government solely because I could see myself sitting down with them for a beer and chin wag.

Don't get me wrong, face-to-face voter engagement is invaluable, but my vote has always gone to (a) the person or party that best represents the direction I would like to see the community, province or country move over the duration of the job they're applying for, and/or (b) the person that's best equipped to deliver on that vision. If the promise is status quo, or looking in the

rear-view mirror, why bother?

It's important to recognize that no one candidate can do it alone. No one person is the elusive magic bullet that can solve all the ills they've identified. Instead, it's essential that in addition to the skills, experiences and gifts they bring to the table themselves, they surround themselves with the people who have the skills, experienced and gifts needed to fill in the gaps – including experts and people with relevant knowledge.

To this end, I was dismayed, and even bewildered, by an email from the Conservative Party of Canada last week deriding just that.

"We aren't going to be taking advice from so-called 'experts,'" they boasted. "Those are the same 'experts' who were telling us that inflation was 'transitory' and interest rates would stay low forever! Now, these 'experts' are living comfortably while forcing a 23 per cent hike on Canadians already struggling to pay the bills.

"We are done listening to the so-called

'experts.' Conservatives will always listen to the common sense of the common people."

Listening is always important, particularly to electors – although I am still unsure just who they mean by "the common people" – but it doesn't have to be at the expense of experts, no matter what the political football of the day is. (In this case, the football in question was carbon pricing)

They have put in the hard work, they have invaluable knowledge to impart, knowledge that used to be placed at a much higher value than it is today, alas, and any decision that is made in a vacuum is almost always a terrible one.

On a day like today, I'm more than happy to listen to the so-called experts – here, meteorologists and astronomers – that have been tracking movements in our solar system for millennia in favour of preparing for any of the doomsday scenarios being perpetuated by certain elements masquerading as "common sense," something which feels in shorter and shorter supply these days.

If you're reading this, congrats on coming through to the other side with me.

Now, let's get back to work celebrating facts, knowledge, and true common sense.

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# Several firearms stolen during break-and-enter at residence

The South Simcoe Police Service are investigating a break and enter incident that occurred at a residence on Raynor Court in Innisfil.

The break-in took place between the evening of March 30, and the morning of April 3. The home was not occupied at the time of the break in.

During the incident, six non-restricted firearms were stolen from the property. The stolen firearms include:

- Remington 1100 12-gauge shotgun
- Beretta 682 under-over 12-gauge shotgun
- Remington 7400 30-06 semi-automatic rifle
- Tikka M595 .300 bolt-action rifle
- Remington 22 caliber semi-automatic rifle
- Gamo .177 high-velocity pellet rifle

Officers from Uniform Patrol, Forensic Identification Services and the Street Crime Unit are actively investigating the matter. The South Simcoe Police Service urges anyone with information regarding this incident to come forward and contact the authorities immediately.

If you have any information related to this theft, please contact Constable Field at Jacob.field@southsimcoepolice.ca or 705 436 2141.

## FOUR YOUTH CHARGED AFTER INCIDENT WITH FAKE FIREARM

Officers from the Caledon Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) have recently charged four individuals with numerous offences.

On March 24, at approximately 12:30 a.m., Caledon OPP responded to a weapons-related call for service in the area of Beech Grove Sideroad and Horseshoe Hill Road, Caledon.

Officers received information that four masked individuals armed with firearms were outside of a private residence. Officers attended the location promptly and took four suspects into custody without incident or injury.

- Investigators identified two suspects as:
- Angad GOSAL, 18-year-old from Brampton
  - Bhavjit SANDHU, 18-year-old from Brampton

The other two suspects were identified as

16-year-old Brampton residents. Their identities will be withheld under the provision of the Youth Criminal Justice Act (YCJA).

All four suspects have been charged with the following:

- Disguise with intent
- Carrying concealed weapon
- Imitation firearm - use while committing offence
- Break, enter a place - commit indictable offence
- Possession of imitation weapon for dangerous purpose

The accused parties are set to attend the Ontario Court of Justice in Orangeville at a later date to answer to the charges.

None of these charges have been proven in court.

The Caledon OPP considers this an isolated incident and there is no threat to public safety.

## WITNESS SOUGHT IN HIT-AN-RUN

Officers from the Caledon Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) continue to investigate a fail to remain collision where two pedestrians were hit.

On November 21, shortly after 5:30 p.m., officers responded to two injured pedestrians on Albion Vaughan Road, near Queensgate Boulevard. It was reported that both were walking southbound at approximately 4:30 p.m., when they were hit from behind by a vehicle. A 14-year-old male sustained minor injuries and a 16-year-old female sustained life-threatening injuries. Both parties are expected to make a full recovery.

While at scene, investigators collected crucial evidence, inclusive of an after-market right side mirror, believed to have been from an early-2000's model light brown or grey Toyota Camry or Corolla. It is important to note, the vehicle would have also sustained damage to the front right corner and headlight area.

The Caledon OPP are encouraging the driver and any passengers to come forward and speak with investigators regarding the collision.

The investigation is ongoing. Anyone who may have witnessed the collision or has dashcam footage is asked to contact Caledon OPP at 905-584-2241 or 1-888-310-1122. You can also provide information anonymously by contacting Peel Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or online at www.peelcrimestoppers.ca. When you contact Crime Stoppers you stay anonymous, and you never have to testify.

## SEVERAL IMPAIRED DRIVING CHARGES LAID IN LATE MARCH

Officers from the Caledon Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) have charged five different motorists with alcohol related offences between March 27 and March 30.

On March 27, Caledon OPP officers were conducting a RIDE (Reduce Impaired Driving Everywhere) spot check near Highway 410 and Valleywood Boulevard, Caledon. Just after 11:00 p.m., a vehicle entered the area and officers subsequently formed grounds that driver's ability to operate a motor vehicle was impaired by alcohol and they were arrested.

As a result, Harsis TIWANA, 32, of Mississauga, was charged with:

- Failure or refusal to comply with demand
- The accused was held in police custody for a bail hearing, to answer to the charges.

On March 28, shortly after 10:30 p.m. officers located a two-vehicle collision on Highway 10, near The Grange Sideroad, Caledon. No injuries were reported. During the course of the investigation, officers formed grounds that the driver's ability to operate a motor vehicle was impaired by alcohol and was subsequently arrested.

As a result of the investigation, Karl TUBERA, 25, of Mississauga, was charged with:

- Operation while impaired - blood alcohol concentration (80 plus)
- Novice driver - blood alcohol concentration above zero

On March 29, 2024, just before 3:00 a.m., officers conducted a traffic stop while patrolling the area of Charleston Sideroad and Airport Road, in the Town of Caledon. Officers

formed grounds that the driver's ability to operate a motor vehicle was impaired by alcohol and was subsequently arrested.

As a result, Koree WAIT, 32, of Milton, was charged with:

- Operation while impaired - alcohol
- Operation while impaired - blood alcohol concentration (80 plus)
- Having care or control of a motor vehicle with liquor readily available

On March 29, 2024, just before 7:00 p.m., officers conducted a traffic stop while patrolling the area of Mayfield Road and Chingua-cousy Road, in the Town of Caledon. Officers formed grounds that the driver's ability to operate a motor vehicle was impaired by alcohol and was subsequently arrested.

As a result, Aleena ARSHAD, 34, of Brampton, was charged with:

- Operation while impaired - alcohol
- Operation while impaired - blood alcohol concentration (80 plus)
- Novice driver - blood alcohol concentration above zero

On March 30, just before 3:00 a.m., Caledon OPP received a report from a motorist expressing concern as to how a motor vehicle was being operated. Officers located the vehicle on Airport Road, near Old School Road, Caledon. Officers formed grounds that the driver's ability to operate a motor vehicle was impaired by alcohol and was subsequently arrested.

As a result, Andre BROWN, 29, of Hamilton, was charged with:

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

Four of the five drivers have been scheduled to appear at the Ontario Court of Justice in Orangeville on April 18 to answer to their charges.

Additionally, all five drivers had their vehicles impounded for a period of seven days, and their driver's licence suspended for a period of 90 days.

None of these charges have been proven in court.

For more information about the penalties of driving impaired, visit: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/impaired-driving>

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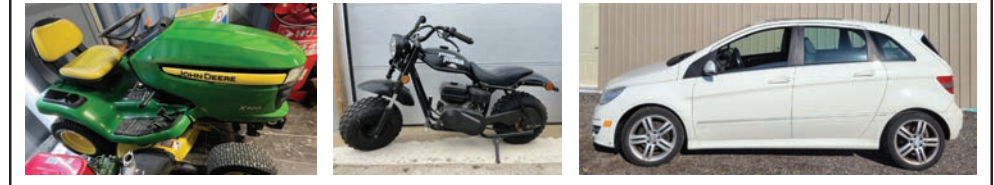
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**708 OBITUARIES**

**Woodward: Evelyn June Claire**  
September 5, 1941 - March 22, 2024  
It is with profound sadness that the family of Evelyn June Claire Woodward (Munns) announce her peaceful passing on March 22, 2024, at the age of 82 years. Evelyn is reunited with her husband Bruce Woodward. Her gentle guidance and quiet wit, her lessons of love, loyalty and perseverance will be dearly missed by her children Penny (Marty), Russell (Cathie), Holly (Steve) and Jason (Michelle). Adored nana/grandma of Emilie (Kyle), Jennifer, Alexandra (Nathan), Nicholas, Tyler, Connor (Natalie), Abbie (Matt), Cole, and great-grandson Dawson. Cherished sister-in-law of Mary, Edna, Earl, Dianna and Gail. Loving cousin of Lawrence (Dorothy Gould). Forever in the hearts of her extended family and friends. Following Evelyn's wishes, cremation has taken place. A Celebration of Life will be held at Rod Abrams Funeral Home, 1666 Tottenham Rd., Tottenham 905-936-3477 on Saturday, April 20th, 2024 from 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm. For those who wish, donations in Evelyn's memory to Variety Village or to the Beeton Legion Branch #421- 55 Tecumseth Street N., Beeton, Ontario would be appreciated by the family. Online condolences and messages may be left for the family at [www.RodAbramsFuneralHome.com](http://www.RodAbramsFuneralHome.com)



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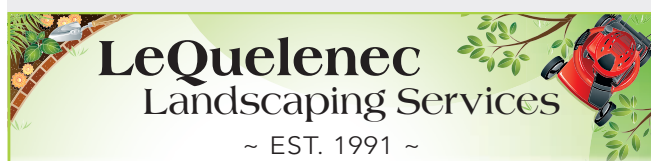
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