



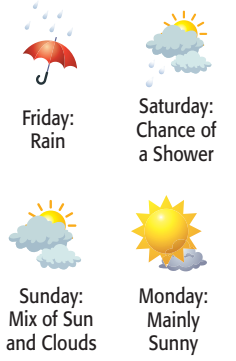
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\$1.50 per copy (\$1.43 + 7¢ G.S.T.)

Thursday, April 18, 2024

Volume 50, Issue 16

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

We acknowledge the financial support of the Government of Canada through the Canada Periodical Fund of the Department of Canadian Heritage. Canada

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Washer Toss Tournament

The JAK Fund held its Washer Toss event at the Tottenham Community Centre on Saturday, April 13. This is an annual event that raises funds for local good causes. It was a packed event with several hundred people playing the game. BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

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Town ratifies Flato Developments draft plan for Beeton

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

Flato Developments has announced a significant milestone in their development of Beeton Meadows – Phase 2.

The Town of New Tecumseth Council ratified Flato's draft plan on April 8, opening a new chapter in Beeton's development.

Flato will now work through the detailed design process to further understand the capital requirements and projects that will be required in the community.

A Flato spokesperson said the development company has already identified a servicing solution for the necessary water allocation and wants to begin construction once the Town secures funding. Flato said it will begin pre-servicing work at the site.

The plan for Phase 2 is to expand Beeton Meadows through the addition of almost 1,000 new housing units. This includes 290 single-detached homes, 42 semi-detached homes, 251 townhouses, and 400 senior apartments on 67.4 hectares of land.

Some of the single detached homes will

offer homeowners the opportunity to add a second unit to rent or accommodate multi-generation families.

Beeton Meadows Phase 2, will include a park, trails, and a community garden as well as a commercial block.

"Phase 2 of the project is adjacent to Phase 1, on the south side of Main Street," explained Nazy Majidi, vice-president of development with Flato. "We have draft plan approval for this which is a huge milestone for us. There are conditions on our draft plan, for example we have to have a 'no pre-sale' agreement with the town – we have to negotiate that with the town. The town will make us wait until we go to sales, until they have water allocation, funding, or anything [related to] water. When we have a draft plan we can move on to detail design. After a draft plan approval we can hopefully get into the detail design, and start earth works if we have to, we can start pre-servicing the site. The home building will be conditional on the water."

Once complete, the project will be several years in the making.



MAKING PROGRESS – Flato Development's plan for Phase 2 of their Beeton development has been ratified by the Town of New Tecumseth. Phase 1 of the development, located on the south side of Main Street, beside the cemetery, is already underway. **BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO**

County of Simcoe launches 2024 student bursary program

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

The County of Simcoe has launched the 2024 Student Bursary Program to support the pursuit of higher education for local residents.

There are 21 bursaries available to County of Simcoe students attending a post-secondary institution in Canada, each totalling \$3,000.

One bursary is guaranteed for a resident of each of the County's 16 member municipalities.

Bursaries are available to full-time and part-time Simcoe County students entering any year of post-secondary education in Canada.

"The County is pleased to once again support students and families across the County through our popular bursary program," said County Warden Basil Clarke. "Through this program, combined with our post-secondary education funding streams, County Council is committed to helping our local residents access higher education and skills. With the support of all 16 of our



member municipalities and Georgian College, we look forward to helping students across Simcoe County."

The Bursary Program provides those residents accepted into the program with financial assistance to access post-secondary education and training.

The Bursary Program is consistent with the County of Simcoe's stated commitment to education, as well as encouraging community involvement and civic responsibility.

- Eligible applicants must:
- Be a resident of a participating Simcoe County municipality and a
 - Canadian citizen or permanent resident.
 - Have graduated, or be eligible for grad-

uation in the year of application, with an Ontario Secondary School Diploma in Simcoe County.

- In the year of application, be enrolled and commencing studies in an undergraduate program at a Canadian university or college as a full-time or part-time student.
- Demonstrate interest in and contribution to their community through active participation in extracurricular activities at their school or in community organizations.

Eligible applicants are invited to complete an online application, including the submission of a 750-word essay on a pre-determined topic.

Applicants must also provide a copy of their Grade 12 or most recent post-secondary transcript or other proof of high school graduation and proof of enrolment at an Ontario University or College in an undergraduate program.

Applicants must submit their online application by July 31, 2024.

For more information about the program, visit simcoe.ca/studentbursary.

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Tottenham Home Show coming to community centre this weekend

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

The Tottenham Home Show and Artisan Market is returning this year and will be bigger and better than ever.

This popular event is put on by the Tottenham & Beeton District Chamber of Commerce, with major sponsors including Strong-base Interlock and Smith Excavating & Septic.

The show will take place at the Tottenham Community Centre with activities both indoors and outdoors.

The doors will open at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 20. Over 90 home and garden service and product providers, along with artisans and food vendors will showcase their products and services.

There will be live demonstrations and performances throughout the day.

For the kids, there will be face painting, balloon animals and a Dinoland children's area, along with visits from Sonic, Mario, Luigi, and Ariel.

The kids can also have fun painting a school bus in the parking lot.

There will be food trucks located in the parking lot as well.

The Tottenham Home Show and Artisan Market will take place on Saturday, April 20, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.



HOME SHOW UPCOMING – The Tottenham Home Show and Artisan Market is returning to the Tottenham Community Centre on Saturday, April 20, starting at 10 a.m. FILE PHOTO

New Tecumseth man charged with armed robbery in Alliston

The Nottawasaga Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) has arrested and charged an adult male from New Tecumseth in relation to an armed robbery investigation.

The Nottawasaga OPP responded to a call for an armed robbery at a local gas station in the area of Victoria St. and King St. in Alliston on April 9 at approximately 8:55 p.m.

As a result of the investigation led by the Nottawasaga Crime Unit, Christopher HIVES, 33 years of age, of New Tecumseth, was arrested and charged with several offences including, one count of Robbery with a weapon, two counts of Fail to Comply with Probation order and one count of Possession of a Schedule 1 Substance.

The accused was held pending a bail



hearing.

None of these charges have been proven in court.

Anyone who has any information about this, or a similar incident, is asked to call Nottawasaga OPP at 1-888-310-1122. Should you wish to remain anonymous, you may call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477).

County approves 62 funding applications through tourism fund

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

The County of Simcoe has approved 62 successful applications through the 2024 Tourism, Culture and Sport Enhancement Fund.

Total funding comes to \$400,000.

The program aims to build up existing tourism, culture, and sports projects throughout the County.

“We’re committed to building up tourism, culture and sport as they play a huge role in our economy and labour market,” said Simcoe County Warden Basil Clarke. “We thank all the organizations that applied to the funding stream, and we look forward to being a part of these exciting projects through Simcoe County.”

In 2024, the county received 67 applications requesting more than \$600,000.

Through this funding, the County aims to support and enhance tourism, culture, and sport in Simcoe County by investing in initiatives that promote awareness, access, participation and appreciation of the diverse tourism, culture, and sport offerings within the County.

It also encourages industry collaboration and partnerships while enhancing the visitor experience by supporting innovative and accessible programming.

The County will build organizational capacity in tourism, culture, and sports organizations, and contribute to its overall economic health and sense of community.

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Editorial, Letters & Opinion

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

~ Stanislaw Jerzy Lec

Stop a thief – go to jail

Several years ago, someone I know was woken up at about 3 a.m., by the unmistakable sound of someone in his house – who shouldn't have been there.

He picked up the baseball bat he always kept bedside for just an emergency and went to investigate.

Upon making his way to the first floor, he realized the sound was coming from the garage.

He opened the door to the garage and was confronted by an unknown male in the dark, who proceeded to approach him.

My friend swung the baseball bat and dropped the intruder to the floor, where he was held until police arrived and arrested the man for breaking and entering, or some similar charge.

Later, I asked him why he felt the need to clobber the guy with the bat.

His response was, “It was the middle of the night, it was dark and there was a stranger in my house. I wasn't going to wait until he shot me to find out if he had a gun.”

That made perfect sense. In a threat type of situation, you shouldn't have to wait until you are hurt in order to stop an attack.

In Canada, the laws around self-

defence, aren't very clear. In fact, if you're a homeowner, you may end being being charged with a crime if you try to stop someone from entering your home illegally and you crack them across the head with a nine-iron.

The law states that how you respond to a threat, should be considered 'reasonable under the circumstances.' That is a wide definition considering the way you feel during a threat, will be a lot different than how a judge feels about that same threat, hearing of it as a third party and not experiencing the terror of a home invasion.

Being the victim of a robbery can be a terrifying experience. Many people who have experienced this have never returned to work at the same place or the same type of job because of the trauma involved.

During a robbery, you are confronted by a stranger making demands. Most likely you can't even see who it is because they are wearing a mask or some kind of disguise. They are probably holding a weapon and threatening to harm you if you don't comply.

The experts say to remain calm and just hand over the money.

That's an easy solution when you are

speaking from your desk in an office somewhere, offering advice. It's a different situation when someone is pointing a gun at you.

What if you are being robbed by someone holding a knife or gun? Do you simply wait until that person stabs or shoots you? Then – it's too late.

You may remember Barbara Turnbull – an 18-year-old store clerk in Mississauga, who followed the advice of staying calm and handing over the money. She was shot in the throat, for no reason, and left a quadriplegic.

There is a case in Peterborough that will be going to the courts.

A store clerk was working the midnight shift at a convenience store. He was speaking to a customer when another man entered the store with a baseball bat.

A scuffle ensued and the clerk was struck by the bat. The clerk managed to get a hold of the bat and went after the suspect striking him with the bat.

The clerk has been charged with aggravated assault – for beating a robber who entered his store, threatened him, and then struck him with a weapon.

I think the reaction of the clerk was 'reasonable under the circumstances.' He was

probably scared and worried the guy would come back.

It wouldn't be the first time a criminal returned to the scene of a crime and killed someone in retaliation.

The man who tried to rob the store was charged with assault with a weapon, possession of a weapon and robbery. If convicted, he probably won't see more than a few months in jail.

The clerk, who was doing his job, is facing a charge that could net 14 years in prison if the maximum sentence is applied. Think about that for a moment.

'Reasonable under the circumstances' only applies to someone who wasn't there.

I don't believe in the 'stand your ground' laws in some southern U.S. states, where you can pump a guy full of lead for trespassing, but you certainly should be allowed to defend yourself when threatened.

Police were just following the law in the Peterborough case, but I think it would have been better if they, and the City Council, just gave the convenience store worker a pat on the back, and thanked him for stopping a crime in progress.

BRIAN LOCKHART
FROM THE SECOND ROW



Creativity around the house (or home)

Spring is a time of renewal when it comes to our natural world, but most of us can agree that, as a result, it's also a time for renewal of our collective spirits.

As our days get longer, flowers begin their upward sprout, the grass gets greener, and the choir of birds that call our community home prepare for a big, extended musical number that lasts until the late fall, we're all imbued with a bit more energy than we had in the dark days of winter – and I say this as an unapologetic winter enthusiast!

Even though we're not gaining any further minutes as we get ever-closer to the summer, the extended daylight makes it feel like so much more is possible over the course of 24-hours. We budget them differently, make better use out of them, and want to maximize them because, when the workday wraps, the time between getting home and doing it all over again in the morning is to be savoured rather than weathered. That doesn't always feel the case when the snow is blowing.

Speaking only for myself, although I suspect most of you might find yourself

in this same boat, I feel my creativity hit an upward trajectory around this time of year as well.

Words on the page come just a little bit easier, a boon for someone in this job.

Nature's near-blooming bounty offers a near-limitless backdrop for photos and other forms of visual art. The sunlight and the eagerness to get outside and make the most of it also re-charges off-the-clock hobbies as well.

As a voracious but leisurely-paced reader, colder months tend to push this love to the backburner in favour of some degree of hibernation and “comfort” shows and movies at night. Yet, there are few things better at this time of year than grabbing the reading material of choice at the end of the workday and going straight out again to your backyard, porch or nearest greenspace to both enjoy the golden hour light and make a dent in your library.

That, in turn, must go a long way in goosing up that mental creativity.

Although I am not a homeowner at present, one can see this springtime creativity in abundance as our communities

host home and lifestyle shows, exhibitions that highlight scores of business and service providers close to home that can help make your living space the best it can be.

Visiting these shows, I always marvel at the ideas people have to improve and reimagine their spaces, indoors and/or outdoors, at various price points, of course – whether their properties echo our once-sprawling parcels of farmland or offer little more than a balcony or postage stamp-sized patio.

These shows open your eyes to what feels like a limitless number of possibilities and ways to make it happen.

A decade or two ago, who could have envisioned that the humble shipping container could not only be transformed into beautiful, functional homes, large and small, but also into prime exemplars of what's possible? Well, creative builders who have breathed new life into smaller-scale decommissioned Victorian churches into comfortable single-family homes, and factories and schools into modern lofts with a nod to the past, probably had an idea or two – but, with

the housing crisis continuing unabated, others seem to be taking to this idea with renewed vigor.

After all, many of us these days have no alternative than to look at, well, alternatives to the traditional housing model.

As much as government supports and, most importantly, action, are key to easing this crisis, if not solving it outright, creativity has to be on the table here as well.

I think we can all agree that the current housing model in this country needs a fair bit of help, so a healthy dose of thinking “outside the box” will be essential in re-thinking that aforementioned art of the possible.

Municipalities within the GTHA have a finite amount of space in which to live, move and develop. Many of our communities are running out of greenfield lands for new developments, so infill is and will be very much the name of the game.

Continued on Page 11

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How do we boost productivity? Give workers a piece of the action

As the former CEO of Magna International, one of Canada's largest manufacturing companies, my philosophy was always that employees don't work for you – they work with you.

At Magna, we backed that statement up by making every employee a partner in profitability. It was the secret to our success: giving workers a piece of the action to generate greater productivity and ingenuity.

However, overall productivity in Canada has been deteriorating for quite a while now, so much so that the Bank of Canada recently declared it a "national emergency." Carolyn Rogers, the Bank's Senior Deputy Governor, said productivity in Canada has essentially flatlined over the past few years. When a longer timeframe is considered, the productivity picture is much worse, showing signs of steady and significant decline over the past four decades.

So, if we truly are in the midst of a national emergency, then how do we go about boosting Canadian productivity?

Investing more in modern machinery, equipment and new technology is one sure-fire method for spiking productivity, at least in the short-term. So too is training workers and upgrading job skills.

But for me, the best way is still one of the oldest and simplest: make employees partners in profitability and let them share in the success of the business.

The profit-sharing culture that we established at Magna gave everyone at the company a stake in the outcome and a share of the profits. After we started sharing profits with all of our employees, productivity went through the roof, and we began generating spectacular growth in sales and profits.

But Magna is just one of many companies that have shown that sharing profits with employees is a tried-and-true formula for increased productivity.

A landmark study from the National Bureau of Economic Research in the US published a number of years ago concluded that profit sharing can in fact boost productivity. What's more, the report showed that profit sharing programs lead to better pay, enhanced job security, and better employee/management relations.

Profit sharing carries a number of other benefits, as well – primarily for workers. For example, some studies have shown that profit sharing not only puts more cash in the pockets of employees, but it also can improve job satisfaction.

A survey conducted last month by recruitment firm Hays Canada showed that 71 per cent of Canadian workers indicated a desire to leave their jobs in the next year due to rising dissatisfaction. One of the main reasons for wanting to leave, according to the study, is that workers feel "unmotivated."

Is it any wonder why Canada has a pro-

ductivity crisis?

But if employees have a real and tangible financial stake in the company's success, they are more motivated because they know that their contributions will be rewarded, and they will be more driven to find ways to improve productivity and enhance quality.

It's just common sense: when workers get a percentage of the profits, when they feel they have something at stake, then they care more, they work harder, and they think about ways to make their business more productive.

Profit sharing is one of the key economic principles in the national economic charter

of rights that I've been advocating for the past year.

If we want to end the national productivity emergency dragging our living standards down, we need to start making Canadian employees partners profitability.

Profit sharing will make companies more productive. It will raise the incomes of employees. And it will lift Canada's sagging living standards.

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



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CLUES ACROSS

- Island nation
- Platforms
- Project plan
- French fishing port
- South Dakota
- Oakland's baseball team
- Military policeman
- Ornamental stone
- Garland
- Process that produces ammonia
- Mousses
- Music notation "dal _"
- Fail to win
- Peyton's little brother
- Not near
- Some cars still need it
- Lizard genus
- An idiot (Brit.)
- Postponed
- African country
- Gazes unpleasantly
- In a way, traveled
- Ukraine's capital

- Appropriate
- Dash
- Twitch
- Swiss river
- Data file with computer animations
- City in S. Korea
- Particular region
- They have eyes and noses
- Tear
- Large Madagascan lemur
- Not out
- Ornamental saddle covering
- A driver's license is one
- Latin term for charity
- Rechristens
- Objects from an earlier time
- Hindu male religious teachers

CLUES DOWN

- Used as a weapon
- Yukon Territory
- Makes a map of
- An established ceremony prescribed by a religion
- Unnilhexium
- Merchant
- Playing the field
- Folk singer DiFranco
- Something to scratch
- Mexican agave
- Equal to one quintillion bytes
- Session
- North American people
- Ranches
-
- Electroencephalograph
- A type of compound
- Avenue
- High schoolers' test
- A type of meal
- Gradually disappeared
- Ancient Frankish law code
- Popular pickup truck
- Buzzing insect
- Deal illegally
- Lying in the same plane
- Obstruct
- Related
- Challenge aggressively
- Nocturnal hoofed animals
- Bird's nests
- Forays
- _ B. de Mille, filmmaker
- Title of respect
- One-time name of Vietnam
- Self-immolation by fire ritual
- Private school in New York
- Political action committee
- A way to fashion
- Email reply
- "The Great Lake State"

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

Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority hosting annual Arbor Day tree sale

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

The Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority will be hosting its annual Arbor Day tree sale with native tree species available for local residents to plant on their property.

Trees are bare root stock and will be sold in bundles of 10 for \$35 per bundle.

This year's sale features a variety of different trees and shrubs.

Available bundles include White Pine, Red Pine, White Spruce, Norway Spruce, White Cedar, Tamarack, European Larch, Red Oak, Silver Maple, Sycamore, Black Walnut, Nannyberry, and American High-bush Cranberry.

Trees will be available on a first-come first-serve basis and quantities are limited.

This is a very popular event so be sure to arrive early to avoid disappointment.

The sale will take place on Saturday, May 11, at the Tiffin Centre for Conservation located at 8195 8th Line of Essa, Utopia from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.



TREE PLANTING SALE – The Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority will be holding its annual Arbor Day Tree Sale at the Tiffin Centre for Conservation on Saturday, May 10. There will be a variety of species of young trees available. **BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO**

Mental health, bereavement supports totaling \$3 million for first responders announced

BY BROCK WEIR

More than \$3 million will be invested by the Ontario government to support families of first responders and public safety personnel who are killed in the line of duty or have died by suicide, said Deputy Premier Sylvia Jones at an Aurora announcement on Friday morning.

Minister Jones outlined funding for the Ontario Immediate Family Wellness Program at Central York Fire Services' Station 4-5 on Earl Stewart Drive on April 5.

Before members of the local fire department, York Regional Police, and other first

responders, Jones, who also serves as Minister of Health and MPP For Dufferin Caledon, said Ontario's first responders go "above and beyond every day, sometimes putting their lives on the line to provide safety, care and support" across the Province.

"Through our government's investment in this new program, we are ensuring that loved ones of fallen paramedics, and all first responders, have access to the compassionate supports they need to begin their journey towards healing."

The new program will allow family members to access mental health services like crisis support, counselling, and therapy online

or over the phone. Services will be offered through a three-step care model which will include, "professionals who provide crisis and care planning 24-hours a day, seven days a week; comprehensive mental health services, including rapid access to counselling; and proactive care that supports families regardless of location or services required."

"Families of our first responders and public safety personnel face unique mental health and addictions challenges when coping with the death of a loved one in the line of duty," said Michael Tibollo, Associate Minister of Mental Health and Addictions, in a statement.

"The new Ontario Immediate Family Wellness Program will provide reliable services to families of our frontline heroes who lost their lives while on duty or by suicide. This program aligns with our Roadmap to Wellness plan which is treating mental health with the seriousness it deserves and building a world-class mental health and addictions system."

On behalf of police officers, John Cerasuolo, President of the OPP Police Association said the trauma and grief from a death in the line of duty or a member suicide is far reaching within and beyond the traditional family.

"In dealing with the loved ones left behind, we often learn of people deeply impacted who are not immediate family, many who are not covered under traditional benefit plans for professional services," he said. "We welcome the creation of a program to help the people closest to our members and thank the Ontario government for the additional support to help

all loved ones of our members to grieve and heal from unspeakable tragedies."

Added Greg Horton, President of the Ontario Professional Fire Fighters Association: "First responders are routinely exposed to disasters and emergencies that often leave an imprint. Firefighters struggle with mental illness and suicide rates at levels that are much higher than what is found in the general population. It is estimated that suicide is three times more likely to happen in a fire department than a line of duty death. In the wake of a line of duty death or suicide, the family and friends of the victim often experience great loss and grief, with little support or counselling. We applaud this government for not only investing in firefighter health and safety, but for taking the necessary steps to care for the ones left behind when tragedy strikes."

Locally, the news was welcomed by Acting CYFS Fire Chief Rocco Volpe, who said he was "moved" by support from Queen's Park in "addressing the mental health challenges that affect the families of our fallen public safety heroes."

"This funding represents a pledge to the journey of healing and well-being of the families that have already sacrificed so much," he said. "This support acknowledges the unique burdens our families bear and underscores our collective commitment to their well-being as they navigate this difficult journey. Together, we're providing unwavering support and commitment that will echo through our organizations for future generations of first responders."

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SCAN ME



National Volunteer Week recognizes selfless contributions to the community

By Brian Lockhart

This is National Volunteer Week around the world, and in Canada, it's time to celebrate and thank the country's 24 million volunteers.

National Volunteer Week takes place from April 14 – 20.

This year's theme is 'Every Moment Matters.' It highlights the importance of every volunteer and each contribution they make at a moment people need more support than ever.

The sharing of time, skills, empathy, and creativity is vital to the strength and wellbeing of communities.

Volunteering is often seen as a selfless act – a person gives their time, skills, experience, and passion to help others without expecting anything in return.

While volunteering is a form of

service, many volunteers will tell you that 'you get more than you give,' when you donate your time for a good cause.

From opportunities to develop new skills to finding a deep and meaningful connection, the worth of volunteering is that it creates social and economic value for all.

From helping to build a home, cleaning up a park, or coaching a sports team, to cooking for an ill friend, checking in on a neighbour, or helping a stranger cross the street, each action impacts a community's overall wellness.

In Canada, events are organized by Volunteer Canada – the national voice and leadership body for volunteerism in the country with over 1,100 organizational members.

National Volunteer Week was conceived in 1943 as a way to celebrate



the contribution made by women on the home front to the war effort.

Volunteering provides an oppor-

tunity to help another individual, group, or organization for the better-

ment of the community as a whole.

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Arts & Entertainment

The Scott Woods Band is coming to Beeton

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

It will be a good old-fashioned hoedown when The Scott Woods Band arrives in Beeton and performs a two-hour live presentation of family-friendly fiddling, country music, step dancing, and humour.

Led by Scott Woods, also known as ‘the Flippin’ Fiddler’ due to his on-stage antics, the band is currently on a tour that takes them all over Ontario, as far east as Nova Scotia, and across the prairie provinces and out to British Columbia. They have also performed in Europe.

“The show is called ‘The Old Fashioned Hoedown’ and we try to recreate the old variety music programs that people used to tune into on the radio and in later years, television shows like Don Messer’s Jubilee, Country Hoedown, and Hee Haw,” Scott explained.

“There is lots of variety. You don’t have to be a fiddle fan or a country music fan. There’s instrumentals, there’s vocals, and dancing. We have lots of costumes and silly stuff. There’s some serious moments through the show as well. It’s something for everybody.”

Some of the biggest compliments the band receives are from people who aren’t necessarily fiddle or county music fans, but come out to the show and are surprised by the entire format and enjoy the performance.

Scott is a multi-instrumentalist who plays violin, drums, bass, piano, guitar, saxophone, and clarinet. He is a multiple winner

of the Canadian Open Fiddle Contest, the Canadian Grand Masters Fiddling Championships, and a Canadian Fiddle Entertainer of the Year.

He has also won three consecutive Canadian Novelty Fiddle championship titles.

Joining him on stage will be The Scott Woods Band.

The band is a talented group of musicians who are well-recognized in the Canadian music industry.

Kendra (Woods) Norris, plays piano, fiddle, accordion, and contributes to vocals. She is a multiple winner of the Canadian Open Fiddle Competition and a three-time Canadian Open Fiddle Champion.

On piano and fiddle, Germain Luduc has played with many bands over the years and has toured extensively. Germain has recorded several albums of his music and is a three-time finalist at the Canadian Grand Masters Competition.

Rounding out the band, Leo Stock is on drums, fiddle and vocals, as well as step dancing.

Leo is an Ontario Open Fiddle Finalist and multiple 18 and under Fiddle Champion.

The band performs old-time fiddle, traditional country, and swing as well as gospel music, and features step-dancing, smooth vocals, family humour, and inspirational stories.

The show in Beeton will take place on Wednesday, May 15, at Andrew’s Presbyterian Church on Main St. W. Tickets are \$45, tax included.



FAMILY FRIENDLY FUN – The Scott Woods Band is coming to Beeton on May 15. The show, ‘Old Fashioned Hoedown,’ features old-time fiddle, traditional country, swing, and gospel music. The performance will take place at St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Church. **BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO**

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CONTACT Community Services launches new community service model

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

CONTACT Community Services has launched a new community service model to ensure greater community accessibility to housing support.

As the Housing Resource Centre of South Simcoe, it was determined that off-site service delivery at heavily frequented public spaces and community service locations would increase access and further develop partnerships with other valuable community partners.

Locations include The Literacy Council of South Simcoe and various local libraries.

Called 'CONTACT in the Community', the new model will provide in-person support and resources to individuals and families in need.

Walk-ins will be accommodated as much as possible, as some people have only been able to arrive in town because they had a ride with another community member, and these types of situations can't always be planned.

"This change to service-delivery dovetails nicely with the dissolving of the larger Alliston location," said CONTACT Executive Director, Emily McIntosh. "The Board of Directors is focused on exploring a capital purchase to maximize the organization's ability to invest directly in community over the next few years. We are excited about the opportunities to come from this change in service delivery as we know it is a step towards greater community investment and impact."

CONTACT's Housing Services provides assistance and resources to access pro-

grams for people experiencing or at risk of homelessness, including utilities and rental arrears, rent deposits, rent supplements, and subsidized housing applications.

Housing First Case Management services are also provided to individuals who are assigned through the Simcoe County Coordinated Access System and who are chronically homeless to help obtain and retain permanent housing.

CONTACT Community Services Housing Specialists team is now hosting in-person individualized meetings at various locations in Alliston, Tottenham, Angus, Cookstown, Bradford and Innisfil.

Families and individuals who are facing housing challenges are encouraged to reach out for support.

Details are available at contactcommunityservices.ca.

"As the Housing Resource Centre for South Simcoe, we understand that many individuals and families are facing very difficult circumstances, and we want to make sure they know they are not alone," said Krystal Galbraith, Housing Services Manager at CONTACT Community Services. "Our team of dedicated staff are in the community to help and support those in need, where they need us, and we are committed to working with them to help make a positive impact in their lives."

For more information about CONTACT Community Services visit the website.

To book an appointment at any of the outreach locations, call or e-mail CONTACT's Housing Support Line at 905-778-9058 ext. 212, or e-mail: housing@contactcommunityservices.ca.



RELOCATED – LensCrafters and Dr. T.J. Hung have relocated to Dolye Plaza (29 Young Street, Alliston) near Boston Plaza. They offer a personalized eye care experience tailored to your vision needs, with a wide assortment of top designer brands and vision solutions. The new operating hours are Monday to Friday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. **BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO**

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SPORTS

NEW TECUMSETH TIMES

Hornets trail Barons 2-1 in Conference Finals

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

The Hornets are trailing 2-1 in their Conference championship series against the Hanover Barons after losing the first two games but rebounding with a win in game three.

Game one of the series got underway in Alliston on Friday, April 12. That game was a huge disappointment for the Alliston fans when the Hornets were outplayed for the entire game.

After tying 1-1 in the first, and no scoring in the second, the Barons hammered the Alliston team with four unanswered goals to take a 5-1 win.

Things didn't get any better in game two when the Hornets travelled to Hanover.

The Hornets failed to score a single goal and were shut out 5-0 to give Hanover a 2-0 series lead.

The teams returned to Alliston for an afternoon game on Sunday, April 14.

This time, the Hornets looked like a totally different team. They dominated the ice in the first period, although neither team could score.

Alliston forward, Jaeden French, opened the scoring at 3:09 into the second period.

French got his second of the game at 6:52 in the third period.

The Barons scored just under two minutes later.

The Alliston team went on defence for the remaining minutes of the third for a 2-1 win.

"We were a completely different team



CONFERENCE FINALS – The Alliston Hornets take on the Hanover Barons on the ice at the New Tecumseth Recreation Centre on Sunday, April 14, for game three of their Conference championship series. The Hornets played a good game and left the ice with a 2-1 win. Hanover currently leads the best-of-seven series 2-1.

BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

tonight," said Hornets head coach Jacob Bauchman after the game.

"If we played the way we did in the first two games, we may have not even made it this far. It was a completely different team. They bought into our systems, they were more coachable today. They worked hard and they stuck to their game plan. They were physical. That team [Hanover] doesn't like

to get physical. That first period, we took them off their game – we took it to the physical. They don't like that. They are quick and move the puck well. We adjusted our systems in the neutral zone and our D-zone coverage. We took away, what has been successful for them this season. We're happy with today."

Bauchman said that they would continue

with the same system for the next game as it is working.

Game four of the series took place at the P and H Centre in Hanover on Wednesday, April 17, with an 8 p.m. start. Results were not available prior to press time.

Game five will be in Alliston on Friday, April 19.

Game time is 7:30 p.m.

North Dufferin Baseball's regular season schedule set to start on May 4

BY BRIAN LOCKHART



The boys of summer will be back on local diamonds when the North Dufferin Baseball League starts the 2024 regular season.

The first game of the year will take place in the senior division with the Orillia Majors meeting the Creemore Padres on Saturday, May 4, in Creemore.

It's going to be a good season with a lot of competitive baseball around the region.

There are 11 teams in the NDBL senior division this year.

These include the Creemore Padres, Midland Mariners, New Lowell Knights, Bolton Brewers, Lisle Astros, Orillia Majors, Mansfield Cubs, Barrie Angels, Ivy Rangers, Clarksburg Blues, and the Owen Sound Baysox.

The New Lowell Knights are the defending senior division champions having won back-to-back titles in 2022 and 2023.

It's going to be a 24-game regular season

schedule with each team playing 12 home games and 12 on the road.

In the Junior division, there are seven teams in the line-up for this season.

This includes the Barrie Baycats, Orillia Royals, Mansfield Cubs, Creemore Padres, Orangeville Bengals, Innisfil Cardinals, and the Richmond Hill Phoenix.

Orillia are the defending champions having won the title in 2023.

The junior division has an 18 game regular season schedule with nine home games and nine road games for each team.

The 2024 junior season will get underway on Sunday, May 5, when the Mansfield Cubs host the Richmond Hill Phoenix at Mansfield Community Park.



GROUND BALL – The boys of summer will be returning when the North Dufferin Baseball League gets out on local diamonds in May. The NDBL has 11 senior teams and seven junior teams in the line-up for this season.

BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

Continued from Page 4

Brock's Banter: Creativity around the house (or home)

Residents in well-established neighbourhoods across the area are rightly focused on maintaining the character of their existing neighbourhoods in the face of infill, but this needs a bit of a re-think as I fear this specific focus will not be sustainable in the long run.

Municipalities need to recognize that when parcels of land that could be subject to infill come on the market, they have to exercise some creative muscle in maximizing that space and opportunity – and that includes the approval of fourplexes. Making sure such builds maintain the look and feel of the neighbourhood in question will be a challenge at the municipal level, but they have the resources – human or otherwise – to rise

to the challenge.

Yet, Premier Ford has nixed the very idea of fourplexes.

Speaking to reporters last month, he said: "I can assure you 1,000 per cent, you go into the middle of communities and start putting up four-storey, six-storey, eight-storey buildings right deep into the communities there is going to be a lot of shouting and screaming. That is a massive mistake. We're not going to go into communities and start building four-storey or six-storey buildings beside residences like this. It is off the table for us. We're going to build homes, single-dwelling homes, townhomes – that's what we're going to focus on."

Yet, at the same time, his government,

according to Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing Paul Calandra, said what is very much on the table is potentially considering temporary lodgings, such as student housing, and rooms in long-term care as units towards Ontario's housing goals.

"We will continue to explore data sources for tracking the numbers of other institutional types of housing such as student residences and retirement types of housing such as student residences and retirement homes for future program years and commit to engaging municipalities on the same," said Calandra in a letter to the City of Mississauga, per a report from CP24.

Counting these types of housing units towards the overall goal prescribed to

municipalities by the Province of Ontario is just a little too creative for my taste.

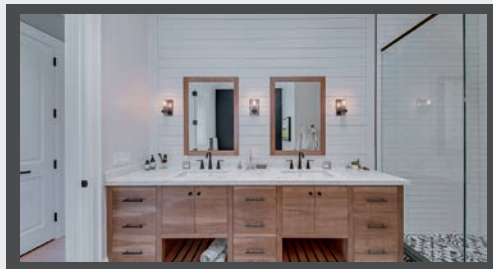
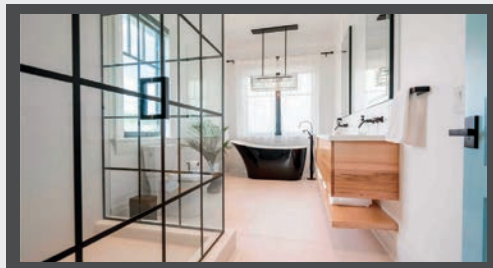
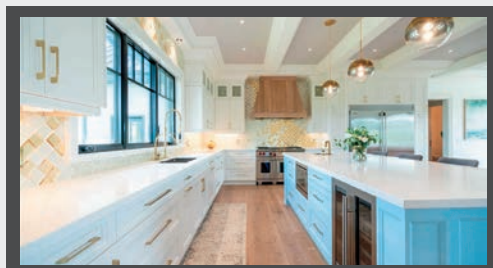
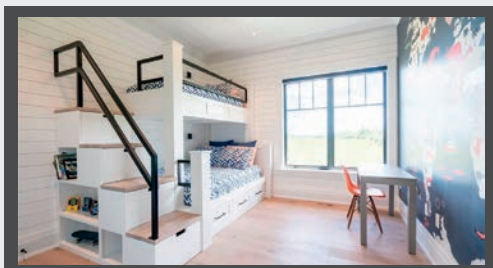
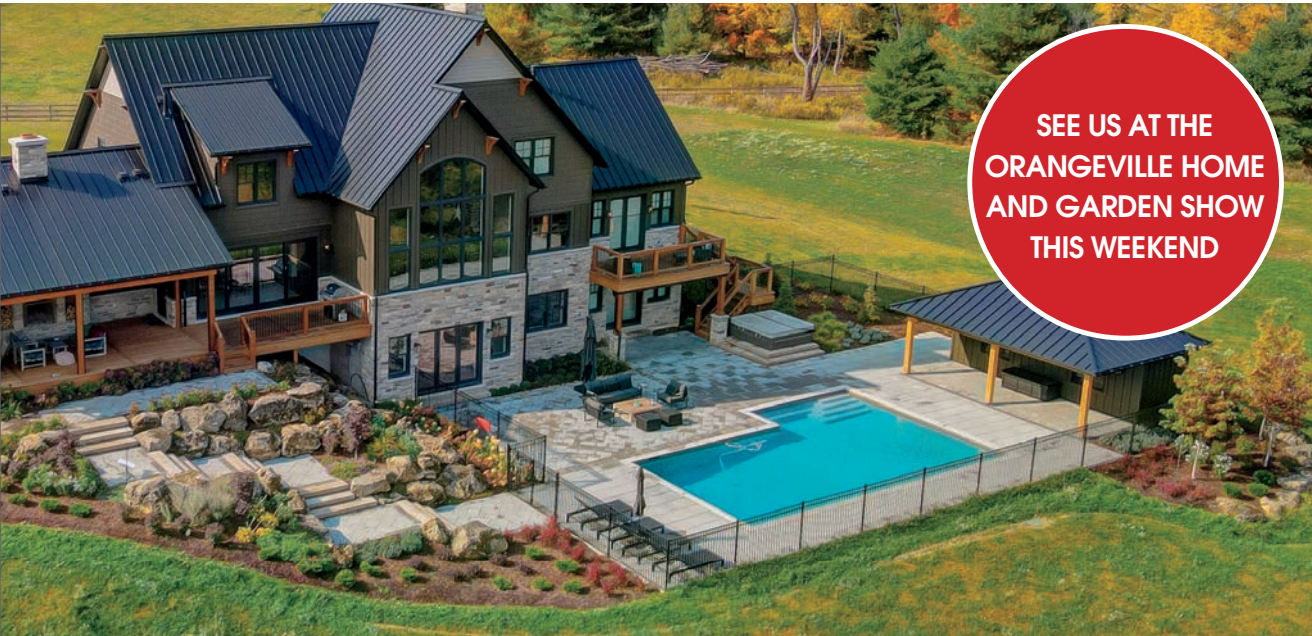
There is no debating that for seniors living in these residences, it's very much a home. But, by and large, these are congregate living settings that do not dovetail with the Premier's commitment to the housing types above – no matter how creative you get – at the expense of fourplexes... which, with a little creativity, need not get anywhere close to four-, six-, or eight-storeys. Or stick out like sore thumbs, as some put it.

No matter the type, size, or configuration of your own home or living situation, I hope the spring and everything it has to offer inspires creativity – we're certainly going to need it!

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Police warn of paving fraud as warmer weather approaches

The Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) would like to warn the community of a crime trend involving paving and construction fraud. With the warmer months approaching, residents inspecting their property from winter damage are reminded to be cognizant of repair deals.

Fraudsters are persistent, persuasive, and sometimes aggressive. Here's some considerations:

- Examination of these "contractors" often reveals the absence of an official online presence, registration with local chambers of commerce, the Better Business Bureau, or similar reputable organizations.

- Fraudsters often contact individuals directly at their homes or via telephone, employing persuasive tactics to convince homeowners of the necessity for a contract or service they neither requested nor require. It is advisable to exercise caution when opening your door to unexpected visitors or solicitors offering items or services.

- Fraudsters employ professionally designed flyers and websites that have a legitimate appearance.

- Most contractors will know how much material they need for a job, so if they show up at your door saying they have "leftover" from another job, be cautious.

- If there's no written contract with a quote written up front and the price changes mid-job due to "unforeseen problems," you're at their mercy.

- Fraudsters target vulnerable populations such as the elderly and request cash payments for "today only" deals.

- It's a red flag when a payment is asked for up front before the job is completed.

If an offer seems too good to be true, chances are it is and it's someone trying to scam you out of your money.

For additional information on ongoing scams in Canada and to report fraud, contact the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre at 1-888-495-8501 or www.antifraudcentre.ca.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING ARREST MADE IN PROJECT CHAMELEON

The South Simcoe Police Service Criminal Investigation Bureau arrested Samantha DAVENPORT, a 36-year-old Innisfil female, for two counts of obstruction of justice.

Investigators received information that the accused was attempting to interfere with the investigation and case relating to Project Chameleon, a human trafficking investigation from earlier in the year. These charges relate to Tyrone DIAS who was previously arrested for this investigation.

The accused was released from custody on an Undertaking with a future court date. Police believe there could be additional witnesses and victims related to the actions of both DIAS and DAVENPORT.

Those with information or who have had contact with either DIAS or DAVENPORT are asked to contact Detectives with South Simcoe Police Criminal Investigations Bureau.

Project Chameleon is an ongoing human trafficking investigation that was initiated by the South Simcoe Police Service in May of 2023. This investigation has resulted in the arrest of seven people who have been charged with human trafficking offenses, offenses relating to sexual services, and drug offenses. If anyone has information pertaining to this investigation, they are asked to contact police at 905-775-3311 or email at: investigations@southsimcoepolice.ca.

FOUR PEOPLE FACE CHARGES FOR TRAFFICKING VARIOUS DRUGS

Members of the Community Street Crime Unit (CSCU) from the Caledon Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) have laid charges against four individuals in connection to a drug trafficking investigation.

In February 2024, the Caledon CSCU entered into a drug trafficking investigation. Investigators utilized a variety of investigative techniques and were assisted by multiple CSCU's, including City of Kawartha Lakes, Dufferin, Muskoka, Not-

awasaga, Orillia, and Wellington County. Search warrants were executed at five locations and upon a motor vehicle.

The following items were seized:

- 45 grams of Fentanyl (approximately)
- 10 grams of Cocaine (approximately)
- 1.5 grams of Methamphetamine (approximately)

- 2304 Codeine pills
- 177 Hydromorphone pills
- 60 Morphine pills
- 13 Diazepam pills
- Digital scales and cell phones
- \$2345 of Canadian currency
- 2018 BMW M2 - seized as proceeds of crime

As a result of the investigation, four individuals were arrested and charged.

A 22-year-old from Brampton, was charged with:

- Possession of a Schedule I Substance for the Purpose of Trafficking - three counts

A 23-year-old from Mono, was charged with:

- Trafficking in a Schedule I Substance - Fentanyl
- Possession of a Schedule I Substance for the Purpose of Trafficking - five counts
- Failure to Comply with Release Order - two counts

A 25-year-old from Mississauga, was charged with:

- Possession of a Schedule I Substance for the Purpose of Trafficking - four counts
- Possession of Proceeds of Property Obtained by Crime under \$5000
- Possession of a Schedule I Substance - Methamphetamine

A 31-year-old from Caledon, was charged with:

- Possession of a Schedule I Substance for the Purpose of Trafficking

The accused parties are scheduled to appear at the Ontario Court of Justice at a later date to answer to the charge(s).

None of the charges have been proven in court.

POLICE SEEKING HELP FROM PUBLIC FOR VEHICLE THEFTS

From Friday April 12 until Sunday April 14, residents of Bradford and Innisfil faced a series of vehicle thefts, culminating in four stolen vehicles and one foiled attempt thanks to the vigilance of a local resident.

The theft spree commenced on April 12 with the disappearance of a 2022 Ford F150, registered with Ontario plate BA178244, from an address on Sloan Circle, Innisfil.

Additionally, a 2022 Dodge Durango was reported stolen from Tigertail Cres in Bradford West Gwillimbury. Fortunately, this vehicle was later recovered by the York Regional Police after it was discovered crashed into a ditch off Hwy 9 in York Region.

The following night, a 2016 Nissan Pathfinder, bearing Ontario plate CSVY 826, vanished from the Commuter Lot at Hwy 88 and Hwy 400 in Bradford. Subsequently, on April 13, a 2013 Honda Civic, with license plate DARS 840, was reported stolen from an address on 5th Sideroad, Innisfil.

However, amidst the wave of thefts, one resident of Bradford managed to thwart an attempted theft through preparedness. In the early hours of April 12, around 2 a.m., thieves attempted to execute a signal relay theft on Waterton Way, Bradford. Fortunately, the vehicle owner had taken precautions by storing their keys in a Faraday box.

This device successfully blocked the signal, rendering the theft attempt unsuccessful. Frustrated, the would-be thieves abandoned their efforts and departed the scene empty-handed in a black sedan.

South Simcoe Police urges all residents to remain vigilant and take necessary precautions to safeguard their vehicles against theft. Measures such as utilizing Faraday boxes

and investing in additional security systems can greatly reduce the risk of falling victim to such crimes.

Anyone with information regarding the recent thefts or suspicious activities in the area is urged to contact the authorities immediately.

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Saturday, April 27, 9am to 1pm
All Saints Anglican Church
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Entry \$1, 12 & under free!!

505 GENERAL HELP WANTED



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WE ARE CURRENTLY LOOKING FOR:

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As an industrial property manager / developer, we are seeking general labourers. Previous construction/landscaping experience is an asset, but not required. Heavy lifting and outdoor work will be required. We will provide safety certifications if you do not currently have (Working at heights, WHMIS, etc.). This position is full time, and the starting wage is \$28/hour. A valid driver license is required for this position. Please contact us with resume and reference numbers.

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If you are interested in this position please email your resume and an outline of why you would like to work with Mantella & Sons Ltd. to anthony@mantellaandsons.ca and matteom@mantellaandsons.ca

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SPRING OUTDOOR EQUIPMENT AUCTION. AN ON-LINE SALE.

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SHOP TOOLS: iPower generator; Craftex B2071 lathe / mill; 4.5 in metal band saw; King panel table saw; new gas engines; Magnum Gold 4000 new hot water washer; 2500 psi gas pressure washer; sand blasting tank; woodworking tools; Industrial jointer; steel racking; 1500-5000 W new generators; parts washer; water pumps & hose (new); tire changer; 220V 45g air compressor; Lincoln welders; drill presses; qty of battery tools - many new; qty hand tools incl snap-on;

VEHICLES: 2010 Mercedes Benz B200; 2006 Dodge Dakota; Polaris 500 H.O. Sportsman ATV; 1977 BMW 750 motorcycle; 12 ft in-closed trailer; 6x9 ft HD trailer; Qianjiang 2011 kit bike - as new; Rupp TC-1 mini-bike;

GARDEN: JD X300 & X525 mowers; JD front mount blower; new lawn mower parts; battery / gas mowers; ladders; chainsaws; Stihl blowers & trimmers; fire pit ring;

OTHER: 20X20 party tent; Craftsman walk-behind snow blower; motorcycle helmets; Torin job box; skid steer tires; parts bins - new; safe (new); chainsaw protective boots (new); office chairs (new); Uline chrome shelving; qty bicycles;



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708 OBITUARIES



ATKINS, Louise

Former member of The Bradford Seniors Association
Peacefully passed away at 87 years of age, on Saturday, February 24, 2024. Louise Atkins (née Breadner) of Bradford and formerly of King Township. Beloved wife of Melville Atkins for 67 years. Loving mother of Leslie Duncan, Craig Atkins, and Kent Atkins (Cathy). Proud Grandma of 5 grandchildren (Michelle, Keelie, Tyler, Colten, Carson) and GG to 4 great-grandchildren, (Alyssa, Ally, Christian, Hudson). Dear sister of Bob Breadner (Susie) and sister-in-law of Catherine Henderson (Paul). Louise will be fondly remembered by her 2nd daughter by choice Gina Butler, her nieces, nephews, many friends and The Coffee Girls; Fran, Sandy, and Irene. A Celebration of Louise's life will be held at the Bradford Library and Cultural Centre - Zima Room, 425 Holland St. W, Bradford on Saturday, April 27, 2024 from 1-4 p.m. A short service will be held prior at 12:30 p.m. for any who would like to attend. In lieu of flowers, donations in Louise's memory may be made to Ontario SPCA and Humane Society or any animal related charities, Sick Kids Foundation or the Salvation Army. Condolences may be made at www.skwardchukfuneralhome.com

708 OBITUARIES

Gourlay: Loraine Helen

Peacefully at her home in Schomberg, on April 13, 2024. Loraine Gourlay (née: Way), beloved wife of the late George Gourlay. Loving mother of Darryl (Henrika), Deborah Lista (John Lawson, and the late Norberto Lista), and Paul (Susanne). Remembered with love by her grandchildren Michael, Julian, Bradley, Ariana, and Benjamin. Dear sister of Linda Hunt (the late Keith), the late James Way (Carol), and the late Ronald Way (Irene). Forever in the hearts of her nieces, nephews, extended family, and friends.
The family will receive friends at Rod Abrams Funeral Home, 1666 Tottenham Rd., Tottenham 905-936-3477, on Saturday April 20, 2024 from 9am until the time of Funeral Service in the Chapel at 11am. Interment will follow in Schomberg Union Cemetery. For those who wish donations in Loraine's memory to the Heart & Stroke Foundation or the Canadian Cancer Society would be appreciated. Online condolences and memories may be left for the family at www.RodAbramsFuneralHome.com.

909 PERSONALS

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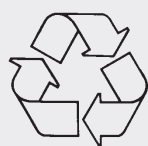
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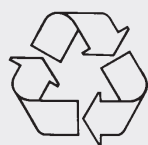
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4 STEAKS

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