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Easter Exploration

The South Simcoe Railway in Tottenham was full steam over the Easter weekend, providing excursions on its scenic route. The Railway hosted six journeys over the weekend. Visitors line up as the train comes into the railway station on Saturday, April 4. BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO



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Youth learn about Great Lakes watershed during Lake Huron Student Conference

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority welcomed 80 students from across the region to Wasaga Beach to learn about the Great Lakes at the Lake Huron Student Conference on Tuesday, March 31.

The event was supported by \$25,000 in funding from the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks.

The Great Lakes and their connected watersheds support drinking water, manufacturing, transportation, agriculture, tourism, recreation, and fisheries across Ontario.

At the conference, students explored how Lake Huron shapes local communities and gained practical knowledge about how they can contribute to the stewardship of this globally significant freshwater ecosystem.

“Our government is proud to champion the Lake Huron Student Conference — an inspiring initiative that brings the story of the Great Lakes to life for students, highlighting their vital role in our environment, economy, and communities,” said Todd McCarthy, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks. “Through Ontario’s Great Lakes program, the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority and its partners are empowering young people to step forward as stewards of Lake Huron—ensuring these precious freshwater resources

are protected and sustained across the Great Lakes Basin for generations to come.”

Students from Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board, Bluewater District School Board, and Simcoe County District School Board examined Lake Huron’s cultural, ecological, and social and economic importance along the shoreline and throughout the watershed.

The day began outdoors on the beach. Participants were invited to a smudge ceremony led by an Indigenous Elder and a Knowledge Keeper.

They learned about the landscape and how it was formed, and they were introduced to Indigenous perspectives about the water and land.

Scales Nature Park brought in live turtle and snake species and shared why these animals are species at risk, taking the event into lunchtime, when the representative from the Great Lakes Office gave a keynote address.

Afternoon workshops featured local professionals who shared their diverse, and often lesser-known career pathways in freshwater science, environmental management, and sustainable technology — some careers which students had never heard of before.

They also explored local environmental issues and the innovative solutions being used to reduce human impacts on the natural world we all share.



UNDERSTANDING SIGNIFICANCE – Students from around the region attended the Lake Huron Student Conference held in Wasaga Beach on Tuesday, March 31. The conference provided information on the importance of the Great Lakes. Elder, Knowledge Keeper, and Cultural Teacher Patricia ‘Trish’ Monague shares traditional knowledge with students at the conference. **CONTRIBUTED PHOTO**

“In partnership with our local school boards, this event was co-designed for youth in secondary school, focusing on Grades 9 geography classes as well as the Specialist High Skills Major program in Grades 11 and 12,” said Naomi Saunders, Manager of Environmental Education at NVCA. “These students are at a stage when they’re starting to think seriously about their future. By connecting curriculum topics like physical geography, human-environment interactions, and land use planning to

the real-world challenges facing Lake Huron, we’re creating meaningful learning experiences. Today’s program builds knowledge and skills that students will continue to develop through the follow-up stewardship activities in their home communities.”

The Lake Huron Student Conference experience will be shared with additional educators across these participating school boards, expanding the initiative’s impact beyond the teachers and their students directly involved.

Canada Post to end door-to-door mail delivery, mail pickup to occur at community mailboxes

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

If you live in New Tecumseth, you most likely get your mail at a community box in your subdivision, or, if you are on a rural

route, you may have a post office box at the local post office.

However, if you still have your mail delivered to your home or business, that will change, and you will have to make a short trip to pick it up.

Canada Post has announced it will eliminate door-to-door mail delivery.

Around 4 million Canadian households still have mail delivered to their door. That number represents less than one quarter of the country’s households.

The move to eliminate the service isn’t a big surprise. Canada Post has been struggling for years as many documents that used to be delivered by mail are now sent electronically.

That, combined with private parcel delivery services that have taken a big chunk of the business over the past couple of decades, has turned Canada Post into a floundering crown corporation.

The move to eliminate door-to-door delivery is part of a nationwide shift to save money and maintain relevance in the modern information-delivery system.

Canada Post released a statement about the proposed changes, saying it has already begun consulting with its bargaining units.

Canada Post relies on government subsidies to stay afloat, reporting losses of \$541 million in the third quarter of last year. This is on top of \$5 billion in operating losses since 2018.

“Our transformation will strengthen the postal service, allow us to be a better partner



FILE PHOTO

for business, and help us meet our dual mandate of delivering for all Canadians in a way that is financially sustainable,” the statement said.

It said eliminating letter carriers would result in about \$400 million in annual savings. The cost to deliver to addresses is \$279 annually per address, while a community mailbox costs \$157 annually.

In addition to eliminating door-to-door delivery, Canada Post is considering other options, including consolidating or closing rural post offices and transitioning non-urgent letter mail from air to ground transportation.

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Hike for Hospice in support of Matthews House approaches 200 registrants

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Matthews House Hospice Foundation will host its 17th annual Hike for Hospice in May, featuring a full day of activities and fun for all ages.

Over the past 17 years, the annual Hike has raised a total of over \$1,629,000, supporting those in need of hospice care and community programs.

Last year's event raised a record-breaking \$294,000 with over 750 local participants. All funds raised during the Alliston walk will directly support Matthews House Hospice programs and services for families and friends in the community.

This year, 28 teams with over 198 participants have already registered to walk. The Hike will take place at the beginning of National Hospice & Palliative Care Week.

Participants raise awareness for Mathews

House Hospice while collecting pledges that directly support community members through hospice services and community programs.

Everyone of all ages is welcome to participate, and you can even bring your dog for some exercise, provided they remain on a leash.

Those who walk do so to support hospice programs and services in the community. Many hikers make the effort to honour the memory of a loved one who has passed away.

"Matthews House Hospice Foundation 17th Annual Hike for Hospice is coming up on Sunday, May 3rd. As one of our signature fundraising events, Hike for Hospice raises vital funds to support our compassionate hospice care and over 55 community support programs," said Crystal Terranova, Mathews House events and fundraising coordinator.

"Every dollar raised helps MHH walk together with clients and families on their journey of illness and grief. We invite every-

one to join us for a fun-filled day of family-friendly activities and entertainment at a brand-new location: Sheldon Creek Dairy in Loretto. All are welcome. Registration is required at no cost. We look forward to seeing you there."

Matthews House in Alliston provides support for clients and families through their journey of illness and grief, to support clients living life fully, and dying with dignity.

The Hospice serves South Simcoe County, including New Tecumseth, Adjala-Tosorontio, Bradford West Gwillimbury, Essa, Innisfil, and the surrounding communities.

This year's event will begin at 9 a.m. with registration.

There will be a complimentary lunch and local artisan vendors on-site.

The kids can keep busy with crafts and fun activities, including an inflatable obstacle course and games, and put their own touch on a school bus with the Paint-the-Bus station.



FILE PHOTO

There will also be farm animals and live music.

This year, the Walk will take place at Sheldon Creek Dairy in Loretto on Sunday, May 23, 2026.

This is the first time Sheldon Creek Dairy has hosted the Walk.

To register for the Walk for Hospice, visit the Matthews House Hospice website.

Simcoe launches 2026 Bursary Program to support local students in attending post-secondary

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The County of Simcoe has announced that 21 bursaries, each worth \$3,000, will be available to local students attending a post-secondary institution in Canada through the 2026 Bursary Program.

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 a post-secondary education in Canada. Students from all 16 member municipalities

are eligible to apply.

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

This program is consistent with the county's commitment to education and encourages community involvement and civic responsibility.

For the fifth straight year, the county is partnering with Georgian College to offer local students additional financial support.

Georgian College is offering an additional \$1,500 for up to five students attending their

institution who receive a student bursary through the County of Simcoe.

To be eligible for a bursary, applicants must reside in the County of Simcoe and be Canadian citizens or permanent residents.

An applicant must have graduated or be eligible for graduation in the year of application with an Ontario Secondary School Diploma in the County of Simcoe, or 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.

They must demonstrate interest in, and contribution to their community through active participation in extracurricular activities at

their school and/or in community organizations.

Eligible applicants are invited to complete an online application, which includes 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 enrollment at a Canadian University or College in an undergraduate program.

Applicants must submit their online application by Wednesday, July 29, 2026.

For more information about the program, visit the County of Simcoe's website at: simcoe.ca/studentbursary.

Leaf and yard waste collection restarts in April

The County of Simcoe has commenced leaf and yard waste collection across the region, beginning the weeks of April 6 and 13, depending on your garbage collection week.

Residents will receive four weeks of collection throughout April and May, occurring bi-weekly and coinciding with garbage collection weeks.

Residents are asked to place leaf and yard waste out by the curb by 7:00 a.m., on Monday of your collection week. Collection may occur any day during the week, so please be patient and leave your leaf and yard waste curbside if

it's not collected on your exact garbage day.

The final weeks of leaf and yard waste collection are May 18 and May 25.

Leaf and yard waste includes leaves, grass, garden waste, and branches that are appropriately sized and bundled.

Residents are reminded to use kraft paper yard waste bags, cardboard boxes, or open-ended rigid containers for collection. Brush must be bundled and secured properly.

For up-to-date information and notices regarding collections, download the Simcoe County Collects App.

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Editorial, Letters & Opinion

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

~ Stanislaw Jerzy Lec

Culture clash

There is a rather famous video of a minor baseball game where parents in the stands are harassing the umpire.

The umpire turns and addresses them, telling them to knock it off and that their behaviour will not be tolerated.

One mother, with a big mouth, decides to shout out one more insult at the ref. This time it was of a personal nature and rather cruel.

"What's the matter?" she yelled. "Are you mad because all of the kids are taller than you?"

The umpire took off his mask, declared the game a forfeit, walked out to the parking lot and drove away. The viewers in the stands and both teams were stunned.

I don't blame the guy one bit. He didn't deserve to be harassed and insulted over a kid's game.

The parent looked like an idiot and caused her kid's team to forfeit the game.

Some sports, like hockey, are facing a shortage of officials because more and more referees are fed up with abuse from fans, players, and coaches.

Governing bodies of sports associations and leagues are doing what they can to educate people about proper behaviour at sporting events.

If you don't have officials, you won't

have a sport to play.

They deserve to do their job without harassment or threats.

People in positions of authority are there for a reason. This isn't Nazi Germany, where people in positions of authority have free rein. They have obligations and rules to follow.

A police officer on duty deserves the public's respect. The uniform and badge represent the law, and the person wearing the badge is duty-bound to ensure the safety of the public and to uphold the law.

Everyone complains when they get a traffic ticket for doing a Hollywood stop at a stop sign, but when you're in trouble or witness a crime, the first call you make is 9-1-1.

Thanks to bodycams, there are plenty of videos floating around of traffic stops and those that usually go wrong. It's usually something like a person being stopped for speeding and found to be showing signs of impairment, or having an outstanding warrant.

It is shocking to see how many people address a police officer as 'bro' or 'dude.'

"Why y'all stoppin' me dude?" Or, "I'm not gettin' outta this car bro," and the popular 'don't you touch me' when a per-

son is being arrested.

And these are phrases I've heard said to female police officers in bodycam footage.

A recent video from Quebec shows absolutely abhorrent behaviour by some goof who needs a serious lesson on how to behave in a civilized society.

The man was pulled over for illegally tinted windows. It was the second time, and he had already been warned.

In the video, he starts berating a young female officer.

He says, "If I want, I'll buy you and make you my slave."

He then proceeds to use foul language and call her a string of names that can't even be printed here.

His behaviour was disgusting. The police officer kept her cool and remained professional.

The guy has been described as a 'migrant worker.'

This reference to making her a slave didn't come from Quebec culture.

This guy learned that from his father, who learned it from his father, who learned it from his father. And this guy will teach that to his own son one day.

The question everyone asks is why is

this guy even in our country?

Men from a culture that regards women as second-class people or worse, and as property, certainly won't fit into our progressive society.

Which immigration person interviewed this guy and determined that even though he has an obvious hatred for women, he would be a good fit in Quebec society?

This country has evolved over several hundred years to become a modern and progressive society.

The last thing we need is influence from other areas that are stuck in the Middle Ages and can't or won't move forward, still maintaining the same culture from 1,000 years ago.

The reference to making a young woman his slave certainly says a lot about this guy and the way he was raised.

There are now groups springing up across the country who are opposed to seeing our culture being attacked and want to preserve our way of life.

I don't blame them at all.

If the federal government won't or can't protect our shores, then it is up to citizens to do it for them.

BRIAN LOCKHART
FROM THE SECOND ROW



Why bother? Here's why.

Easter is one of my favourite holidays.

While the religious aspect is the main element of the observance, for many it's a time to gather with loved ones, break bread, have an egg hunt or two with some of the young'uns, and, yes, indulge in a bit of well-deserved chocolate – I mean, it's only April, but I think we can all agree it's been a long year!

Another bonus is it's often seen as the unofficial start of spring, particularly when Easter is on the earlier side of things.

No matter your own personal approach to Easter, it's a time of renewal and rejuvenation, and that's always something to be celebrated.

When it comes to renewal and rejuvenation, people usually have warmer weather, more sun, and the return of birds, flowers, and foliage in mind. That's all valid, and I share in that, but I hope this spirit of renewal and rejuvenation will eventually turn to our civic engagement.

People often joke that when you gather for dinner, there are a few topics that should generally be avoided – with politics, religion, and sex usually among the

top five – but, in our current climate, it's hard to avoid that first one, and my family is no exception.

Conversation turned to politics pretty quickly, with some of the assembled crowd looking forward to the U.S. midterm elections and the change that could potentially bring to the United States and the world. From there, discussion shifted to whether or not we were taking the very idea of mid-terms decidedly for granted.

It was a fair point. It seems that goalposts are constantly shifting south of our border, along with the justifications for doing so. But, while so many of us are focused on the U.S. political climate, whether out of fascination, horror, or with some degree of amusement (I don't understand that last one, personally), it's a shame we are not collectively as engaged and focused on our own political climate here at home.

On April 2, just before the start of the Easter long weekend, the Province of Ontario announced a potentially significant shift in our governance structure.

Should the Better Regional Governance Act 2026 be adopted, the Minister

of Municipal Affairs and Housing will have the power to appoint upper-tier Council Chairs in eight jurisdictions, including Simcoe County, where such positions were elected by the general public or appointed by the duly-elected Regional Council. In areas like York and Peel Regions where the Minister had the power for the outgoing term of Council only, this power will be expanded into the future.

Moreover, the appointed chairs will be granted "Strong Chair" powers to "help them deliver on government priorities, such as housing and infrastructure."

"We will always support our municipal partners, both lower- and upper-tier, in delivering locally-led solutions that offer value for taxpayers and speed up decision-making," said Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing. "These changes provide the necessary tools for local leadership to advance our shared priorities and better serve our communities, including by expediting housing and infrastructure development."

I don't see how the changes support municipal partners at either tier or, for that

matter, local leadership in any way. In my opinion, it simply seems to be another step in upending municipal government as we know it.

Over the 2022-2026 term of Council, communities like ours were granted Strong Mayor powers by the Province, ostensibly to give Heads of Council the ability to unilaterally shape municipal departments, advance Provincial priorities, and, most importantly and controversially, the ability to override decisions made by the majority of Council if they don't align with said Provincial priorities.

Many of the Mayors at the receiving end of such powers have used them – the justification for doing so depending on who you talk to and what political allegiances you might have – in the face of decisions made by their duly-elected Council colleagues, creating a fraught situation going into this year's municipal election.

Continued on Page 13

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On not draining the swamp

GWYNNE DYER
OUR WORLD TODAY



'When you're up to your ass in alligators, it's hard to remember that your original goal was to drain the swamp.' (Not very old folk saying).

Eighty years ago we set out to drain the swamp, because we feared that otherwise we would all be pulled under. At least fifty million people were dead after the greatest war in history, around half the cities in the northern hemisphere had been smashed flat, and the first nuclear weapons had just been dropped on Japanese cities.

People were in shock. They hadn't known how destructive war could get, and now they realised that the next big war would be incomparably worse: nuclear war. So they decided that in future the goal must be not to win wars but to end war.

Don't think they were naive. They were having this conversation standing hip-deep in the wreckage of the last war. Many of them had fought in it, and almost all of them had lost people close to them. So between 1945

and 1948 they wrote new rules that made war illegal.

Early in my career as a journalist I interviewed quite a lot of these people, and what struck me was the brutal realism most of them brought to the project. No airy-fairy stuff about 'brotherhood' and 'peace'; just hard-nosed calculations about how to contain or thwart the large number of countries that have designs their neighbours.

Their theory was that most wars have at least a large element of territorial dispute at their root. The wars tend to be about land that one side has lost in the past, or the other side believes should be theirs in the future, for reasons that do not seem to justify large-scale killing to people who are not involved in the confrontation.

Territory is what the great majority of wars have been about not just in historical times, but also in pre-historic times and even in the pre-human past. (See Netflix's 'Chimp Empire' for a brilliant documentary mini-series about a war between chimpanzee groups about territory.)

It's still mostly about land today. The Middle East wars of the past 75 years are all ultimately about the division of Palestine between Jews and Arabs in 1948. Putin's invasion of Ukraine is entirely about bringing at least the Slavic parts of the old Soviet Union back under Moscow's control. India-Pakistan, North Korea-South Korea...There's an endless supply.

The solution chosen by these veterans of the worst war in history was simple: from now on, it will be against the law to change a border by force. Attacking another country will be a crime. Yes, this is very unfair to countries that have lost territory in the past and want it back, but that's the only way we

can break the cycle.

Border changes by negotiation and compromise are permissible, but conquest is over.

Past grievances have to stay in the past, or else we will end up fighting nuclear wars. We may not be able to stop every conquest, especially if the violator is a great power, but the rest of us will never acknowledge that what the aggressor has seized is really his.

It was not a perfect solution. It didn't even address the problem of guerilla wars and civil wars inside a single country, partly because that was too hard – there is usually no consensus on who is in the right– but also because they were unlikely to cause a nuclear world war. But it did the job.

No nuclear weapon has been used in war for eighty years. No great power has fought any other great power directly since 1953. (Proxies are sometimes employed.)

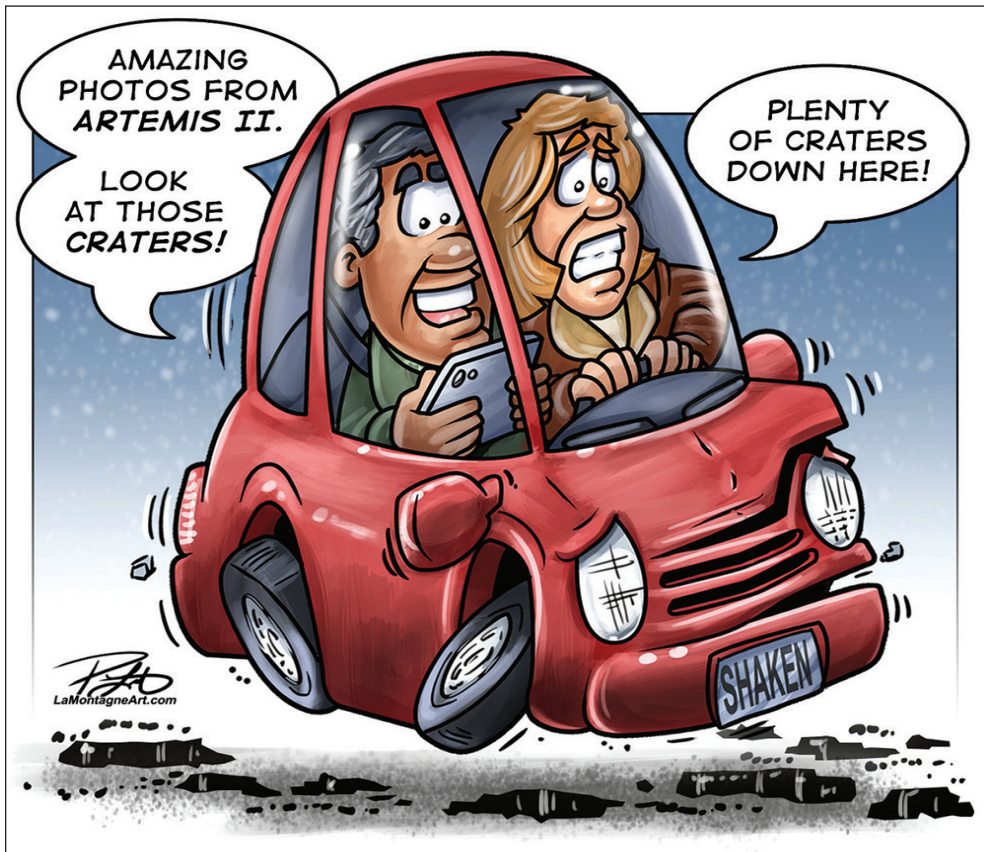
We have been far more successful that anyone dared to hope in 1945. Even the number of deaths in war have fallen in every decade since then – until now.

The problem, I suspect, is generational turnover. The generation who wrote the new rules is long gone, but as recently as the 1990s I would regularly get lectured about the importance of the 'international rule of law' (code for the above rules) by diplomats at both the State Department in Washington and the Foreign Ministry in Moscow.

The general public was always hazy about the rules that gave us this long peace, but the people who ran the system continued to understand what the basic deal was for several more decades. However, I don't hear these arguments any more.

The line has gone dead.

We set out to drain the swamp and we made some progress, but now the alligators are out in force and we have lost the plot.



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56							57	58			59		
		60					61				62		
		63					64				65		

CLUES ACROSS

- Health care pros
- A person inhabiting Benin
- One thousand cubic feet (abbr.)
- Split pulses
- Frozen water
- Small constellation
- Perennial mountain rice
- Pick up
- Japanese historical period
- Suggesting the horror of death and decay
- Unattached
- Fishing port in SE France
- Products for dogs
- One point south of southeast
- Having the skill or resources to do something
- Involve oneself deeply
- Immobile
- ___ pai dong; Hong Kong food stall
- Move quickly on foot
- Gathered
- A way through
- Another name for Thor
- Sharp dueling sword
- The supreme commander of a fleet
- Seasoned sausages
- Path
- Christian hermit
- Ancient region of Asia Minor
- Where wrestlers go to work
- Roman statesman
- Explosive
- Licensed for Wall Street
- Where golfers start
- Grow old
- Autonomic nervous system
- No seats available

- A legally binding command
- General feeling of discomfort
- Dribble
- Soft touch
- South American plant
- Clouds of gas and dust in space
- Warm-blooded vertebrates
- Lines created by folding
- Strong belief
- Senior officer
- Adult
- Joint entrance examination in India
- Passports and drivers' licenses are two
- Those who go against an accepted authority
- One point east of northeast
- Journalist Tarbell
- One's mother (British)
- Nowhere to be found
- A way to save for old age
- Fall behind
- Midway between northeast and east
- The work of a sailor
- Mark with striae
- Energy, style and enthusiasm
- Sticky situation
- Monetary units of Spain
- Three-banded armadillo
- Chooses
- More disreputable
- Defensive nuclear weapon
- "The Partridge Family" actress Susan
- Livestock owners assn. in Spain
- Duplicating machine (abbr.)
- OJ trial judge
- Politician
- Airborne (abbr.)

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

COMMUNITY VOICE

Monthly Message: CONTACT Seniors Programs see incredible success in the community

In an era when social isolation, especially among seniors, is a pressing issue, initiatives focused on free local programming and community engagement are more important than ever.

With support from the Ontario Seniors Community Grant, CONTACT Community Services recently wrapped up an extensive series of free programming specifically designed for seniors, creating a buzz in our local senior community. This initiative has not only empowered our older age participants but has also fostered a strong sense of camaraderie through shared experiences and learning opportunities.

The free seniors programming created by the CONTACT Community Services team of staff and volunteers was meticulously designed to address various aspects of senior life. From health and wellness to arts and music, to exercise and safety programs, our full slate of programming catered to a broad spectrum of interests and needs. This initiative aimed to provide older adults with opportunities for meaningful engagement, enhancing their mental, emotional, and physical well-being.

A significant focus was placed on combating loneliness and promoting social interactions. The structured programming created spaces for our local seniors to gather, share stories, and form friendships that extend beyond the activities themselves. Workshops and weekly group sessions facilitated discussions and connections, ultimately knitting a tighter social fabric within the community.

Our team had the opportunity to create



CONTACT

Community Services

a fabulous lineup of activities that catered to participants' varying interests. Art sessions inspired creativity and self-expression, cooking on a budget shared cost-saving, healthy meal options and exercise programs gave our seniors safe and enjoyable tools to keep in shape as they age. Through our scam safety programs, led by the OPP, seniors learned how to identify and protect themselves from increasingly dangerous scammers.

The impact of these sessions is best captured through the voices of the participants themselves. Many expressed gratitude for the supportive environment that was created.

"I wanted to tell you how much the three of us enjoyed the birdhouse painting afternoon this past Monday! Most importantly, it has inspired me to paint for two days this week, already, since Monday! I can't tell you what a gift that inspiration is. I haven't painted since COVID, when our painting group disbanded. The afternoon rekindled and inspired a positive part of my life. Thank you!" shared Wendy.

Susan echoed these sentiments, "I just wanted to let you know that I really appreciate what you and your team are doing

for the seniors in Simcoe County. We have joined many of your exercise classes, paint days, crafts, and cooking adventures, and loving it all. It gets us out of the house and moving. We have also met some pretty lovely people through CONTACT Community Services. Keep up the great work."

The success of our free seniors programming is also attributed to the collaborative efforts of our local communities. Local artists, wellness providers, and volunteers joined forces to support these programs, providing resources, expertise, and enthusiasm.

A HUGE shoutout goes to our local Legions in Alliston, Beeton, Tottenham, Everett, Innisfil and Bradford for their incredible support of this programming by providing accessible spaces for us to gather and for sharing this initiative with their memberships. We value their partnership and support immensely.

We were thrilled to work with some amazing local artists on programs that inspired creativity and joy. Tabitha Marshall, owner of Tab Creates, writes of her final Log Cabin Birdhouse painting classes, "This week alone in class I heard stories — both joyful and difficult. I saw phone

numbers exchanged, new friends were made. I watched someone pick up a paintbrush for the first time in years. Another took their painting home unfinished, just to remind themselves to keep going. And I received a heartfelt hug and thank you from a stranger — one that nearly brought me to tears. Moments like these remind me: this work matters. It makes a difference."

As this session of CONTACT's free seniors' programming comes to a close, the organizers are already exploring possibilities for new classes and future events tailored to the interests highlighted during this recent initiative. They aim to continue fostering an environment where seniors can thrive, learn, and grow together.

The successful completion of the Seniors Community Grant, free seniors programming by CONTACT Community Services, marks a pivotal moment. Not only has it enriched the lives of hundreds of participating seniors, but it has also sparked a broader conversation about the importance of inclusivity, connection, and lifelong learning.

In the end, the journey does not end here; it merely opens the door to new possibilities, where every senior's voice can be heard, and every story shared is a thread that binds us all together.

If you would like to learn more about CONTACT's Seniors programming and to be added to our email list of upcoming sessions, please visit our website www.contactcommunityservices.ca or contact Brenda at brenda@contactcommunityservices.ca


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Ontario 

Stevenson Memorial Hospital celebrates 30 years of Dialysis Program

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Stevenson Memorial Hospital (SMH) in Alliston is currently celebrating 30 years since the inception of its dialysis program.

Patients and families, dialysis staff, SMH leadership, hospital partners and local dignitaries gathered to celebrate the special milestone on Thursday, April 2.

The Dialysis Program began in 1996 with a small but dedicated nursing staff, many of whom are still providing patient care today.

Over the 30 years the program has run, it's provided more than 100,000 dialysis treatments.

The Dialysis Unit includes six dialysis chairs/stations and operates six days per week.

"It's wonderful to celebrate a program that has had such a strong impact on our community," said Deepak Sharma, President and CEO of SMH. "To have such a critical health care service so close to home is important for our patients and families, and we are proud to provide this service at SMH. To have a nursing team that goes the extra mile to ensure our patients have the best experience possible day after day is what makes today's celebration so special."

At least one of the patients has been treated in the dialysis unit for the duration of the entire program, and several others are long-term patients.

Patient Steve Hudson has been on dialysis for seven years and explained how much he appreciates the staff.

"The nurses are great, and the support staff is awesome," Hudson said to the group that gathered for the celebration. "When coming here, you feel like a little



THREE DECADES – Stevenson Memorial Hospital is celebrating 30 years since the inception of its dialysis program. Members of the dialysis staff gather to celebrate this achievement on Thursday, April 2, at the hospital. **BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTOS**

family. We get different connections with the nurses. I live in Tottenham, so it's a 15-minute drive instead of an hour drive to Barrie – that's very important."

SMH's Dialysis program operates as a satellite site of Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre's Regional Renal Program.

Patients with advanced care needs or who are newly diagnosed with renal failure receive their dialysis at the regional site in Barrie until they are stabilized and well enough to receive treatments at SMH.

With several patients on the waiting list for transplants, and April being organ donation month, participants were encouraged to sign up to be a donor.



REWARDING EXCELLENCE – New Tecumseth Mayor Richard Norcross presents a certificate of recognition to Nicole Lord, Manager of Dialysis Peri-Operation and Out-Patient Program, on Thursday, April 2, at Stevenson Memorial Hospital.

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<p>VINCE'S OWN DOUBLE CREAM BRIE • DELI CUT 3.99 /100g</p>	<p>WOOLWICH GOAT CHEESE CRUMBLE 4.99 ea save 2.00 113g MEMBER ONLY PRICING</p>	<p>BLACK FOREST OR HONEY HAM 1.99 /100g DELI SLICED/PACKAGED</p>	<p>ROCK HARBOUR SHRIMP RING 9.49 ea 311g</p>	<p>FRESH TOP SIRLOIN STEAK OR ROAST 12.99 /lb 28.64/kg AAA GRADE MINI 98% MEAT GUARANTEE</p>
<p>VINCE'S OWN LARGE STRUDELS 3.49 ea save 1.50 MEMBER ONLY PRICING 275g</p>	<p>ACE BAKERY CIABATTA LUNGA 3.29 ea</p>	<p>TRE STELLE MOZZARELLA BALLS 4.99 ea save 2.30 MEMBER ONLY PRICING 340g</p>	<p>CHAPMAN'S PREMIUM ICE CREAM 6.99 ea 2L ASSORTED VARIETIES</p>	<p>BRINE PICKLES 4.99 ea 1L ASSORTED VARIETIES</p>



Arts & Local Events

Tottenham Home Show & Artisan Market to feature home improvement

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

It will be another fun-filled day at the Tottenham Community and Fitness Centre when the Tottenham Home Show & Artisan Market returns this year.

The popular event features all sorts of home-related businesses that have products and services for both inside and outside of the home.

The show is hosted by the Tottenham & Beeton District Chamber of Commerce and is sponsored by local businesses, including major sponsors, Dinoland Family Fun Centre, and Realtor Peter Barbati.

With the spring season quickly approaching, this is a great opportunity to find out what is available for your seasonal improvements or enhancements to your home. From gardening supplies and tools to decks and hot tubs, local businesses will show what can be done to improve your home's appearance and help you enjoy your property.

There will be businesses that will have products and services designed to enhance the interior of your home.

If you are looking for something unique, there will be plenty of vendors on site offering everything from clothing to hand-crafted items. You can find unique one-of-a-kind items you won't find anywhere else.

Stevenson Memorial Hospital Foundation will be on site in the lobby collecting donations, and the Stevenson Memorial Auxiliary will be selling raffle tickets.

For the kids, there will be face painting, balloon animals, and visits from special friends.

Admission to this event is free.

The Tottenham Home Show & Artisan Market will take place on Saturday, Apr. 25, at the Tottenham Community & Fitness Centre. Doors will open at 10:00 a.m., and the show will run until 3:00 p.m.

This is an opportunity to have a fun day, buy some unique gifts, and connect with local businesses that offer the services you need to improve your home.



READY FOR RETURN – The Tottenham Home Show & Artisan Market is returning to the Tottenham Community & Fitness Centre on Saturday, April 25. The show will feature businesses offering home products and services, as well as artisans showcasing unique products and crafts. Doors open at 10 a.m.
BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

County of Simcoe Paramedic Services launches 2026 'Paramedic for a Day' contest

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

As part of Paramedic Services Week celebrations, the County of Simcoe Paramedic Services is inviting local Grade 5 and 6 students to enter the 2026 Paramedic for a Day contest.

This annual initiative encourages young residents to learn about the vital role paramedics play in keeping our communities safe, while inspiring the next generation of healthcare professionals.

The contest opened on March 30.

Eligible students residing in Simcoe County are asked to submit a short essay (Maximum 250 words) describing what it means to be a paramedic.

Judges will look at creativity, insight, and a strong understanding of the profession in the essays to determine this year's winner.

To enter, students must email their essay to paramedic4aday@simcoe.ca.

Included with the essay should be the student's name, their parent/guardian's name, their home phone number, and their school's name.

The selected winner will have the unique opportunity to participate in Paramedic Services Week activities on May 12, joining County of Simcoe Paramedic Services for a hands-on, behind-the-scenes experience.

Full contest details are available at www.simcoe.ca/paramedicforaday.



FILE PHOTO

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Nominate a nurse for the Stevenson Memorial Hospital's Award of Excellence

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

If you have had care from a nurse who you think really made a difference in the way they treated you, you can choose to publicly thank that person for their efforts.

Stevenson Memorial Hospital in Alliston is inviting patients, families, and community members to recognize the extraordinary contributions of its nursing team by submitting a nomination for the Award of Excellence in Nursing as part of Nursing Week 2026.

Nurses play a vital role in delivering compassionate, high-quality care every day. This award celebrates those who go above and beyond to make a meaningful difference in the lives of patients and their loved ones.

If you or someone you care for has received exceptional care from a nurse at Stevenson Memorial Hospital, you are encouraged to

share your experience.

You can nominate any Registered Nurse (RN), Registered Practical Nurse (RPN), or Nurse Practitioner (NP) who provided care at Stevenson Memorial Hospital between April 2025 and April 2026.

When you submit your nomination, you should include a personal story that highlights exceptional patient care and dedication, and provide specific examples of going above and beyond.

Include the impact the nurse had on you or your loved one, and how they demonstrated Stevenson Memorial Hospital's commitment to compassionate, high-quality care.

All nominations must be received by April 27.

A selection committee will review submissions, and the recipient will be recognized during Nursing Week 2026 (May 11 to 17).

You can nominate a nurse by visiting the Stevenson Memorial Hospital website.



FILE PHOTO

Local leaders tour County of Simcoe's new Homeless Addiction Recovery Treatment (HART) Hub

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Elected officials and members of the media gathered in Barrie on Thursday, April 2, for an in-person look at the client journey through the Homeless Addiction Recovery Treatment (HART) Hub of Simcoe County, to experience what individuals go through when using HART.

The group walked through the same path-

way many individuals have followed since the HART Hub began accepting clients in June 2025.

They experienced initial contact with the navigation team to connect with a comprehensive range of support. These supports include live-in treatment, community-based services, supportive housing, primary care, and dedicated Indigenous care pathways.

The experience was made possible through

an interactive exploration of the programs and partnerships supporting the HART Hub for Simcoe County.

Attendees met with partner organizations, learned how their work contributes to this shared initiative, and explored how these efforts are making a difference for vulnerable residents.

The HART of Simcoe County is a regional network of care teams focused on providing homelessness and addiction recovery treatment support to individuals with urgent needs. The program emphasizes multiple access points and flexible pathways, ensuring a person-centred, accessible, safe, and low-barrier approach to care.

It is designed to support individuals at risk of, or experiencing homelessness, by connecting them to integrated, locally tailored health and

human services.

The program will also support Indigenous members of the community through specific service connections to Indigenous team members and services.

Funding for the HART Hub serving Simcoe County was announced by the provincial government in January 2025.

The HART of Simcoe County is a collaborative effort between the Province of Ontario and the County of Simcoe, including partners from Barrie and Area Ontario Health Team, Barrie Native Friendship Centre, Canadian Mental Health Association – Simcoe Branch, Mamaway Wiidokdaawin IIPCT, Barrie Area Native Advisory Circle, Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre, and Waypoint Centre for Mental Health Care.



CAREER DAY – Students at St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Secondary School in Tottenham participated in Career Conversations on Wednesday, April 1. This was an opportunity for students to connect with local professionals to learn about a variety of career options. Hosted by the Ontario Career Lab, the event provided students with valuable insights into different careers, helping them explore career options and ask questions about various professions. Visitors who arrived at the school to offer career advice gathered at the school during the event. **CONTRIBUTED PHOTO**

adopt a cat

Magic is 7 years old and head of the greeting committee. He loves to get his pets and runs to meet the volunteers. Magic is very playful and will spend hours with a wand toy. This handsome stud has a best buddy Rufus, who although isn't as outgoing, also loves his pets (yes you can adopt both!).

Magic is neutered, microchipped, dewormed, flea treated and vaccinated.

Adoption price: \$275

Check our facebook page to see the other kitties looking for their forever home. Donations always needed to help care for the cats as we are not funded at all, and rely on donations and fundraisers. If you would like to volunteer as well we are always appreciative.

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To apply to be a vendor at the show, scan the QR code, visit our website or email shows@ipcmedia.ca for a vendor application form. Apply before June 1, 2026 and be eligible for early acceptance on June 26.

Health Unit returning to schools for spring Grade 7 immunizations

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Immunization nurses from the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit will return to local schools to complete the routine immunization series for Grade 7 students and offer catch-up opportunities for Grade 8 students who missed their Grade 7 vaccine series.

The immunization program began on April 7. Immunization remains one of the best tools to protect youth against harmful diseases before they may encounter them.

The vaccines offered during the school-based clinics significantly reduce the risk of Hepatitis B, meningococcal meningitis and human papillomavirus infections.

The Health Unit recommends following Ontario's publicly funded immunization schedule to stay up to date with vaccinations. Parents and caregivers should be aware that the meningococcal vaccine is required under the Immunization of School Pupils Act.

In keeping with Ontario's ISPA requirements, all children and youth in elementary and secondary schools must be immunized against specific diseases unless they have a valid exemption.

While the hepatitis B and HPV vaccines aren't mandatory under the ISPA, they are highly recommended to help keep students healthy.

The HPV vaccine in particular, offers strong protection against the risks of several cancers,

such as cervical and throat cancer, and it also prevents genital warts.

Having up-to-date immunizations helps 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.

Parents who have questions about vaccines can learn more online at mdhu.org/Grade7 or speak with a Health Unit nurse by calling the immunization program at 705-721-7520 ext. 8827.

There is also information online about the date the Health Unit will visit your child's school, along with details on the Grade 7 vaccines and the diseases they prevent.



Simcoe County District School Board to consult parents of Black students

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Simcoe County District School Board

(SCDSB) is holding consultations with parents and families of Black students in response to a report on discrimination.

Launched in March 2025, the Ontario

Human Rights Commission (OHRC) Dreams Delayed Addressing Systemic Anti-Black Racism and Discrimination in Ontario's Public Education System report provides an action plan for Ontario's publicly funded schools.

The upcoming consultations are intended to gather feedback from the community on how the recommendations from the report can be incorporated at the SCDSB. The consultations will be held in various locations across the county, including virtually, this spring and will be facilitated by an external consultant.

"The SCDSB acknowledges the structural and systemic nature of anti-Black racism and discrimination in education," stated the SCDSB. "The SCDSB recognizes that Black students and staff have historically faced, and continue to face, barriers to equity and inclu-

sion, due to deeply rooted racial biases and discriminatory practices."

In Alliston, consultation is being held at Boyne River Public School on April 16, from 5 to 7 p.m.

There is also a virtual session from 6 to 8 p.m. on May 7.

In other areas, consultations are taking place:

- April 21 - 5-7 p.m. - Georgian Bay District SS
- April 22 - 3-5 p.m. - Collingwood CI
- April 23 - 6-8 p.m. - Orillia SS
- April 28 - 5-7 p.m. - Bradford District HS
- April 29 - 6-8 p.m. - Maple Ridge SS
- May 6 - 6-8 p.m. - Barrie North CI

Visit scdsb.on.ca/about/human_rights_and_equity_office to register by scrolling to the bottom of the page and clicking "Register for a consultation."

Grandmothers Embrace collects donations for fall sale

Grandmothers Embrace of South Simcoe will once again host its popular fall sale. The organization of the local women helps the Stephen Lewis Foundation to support African grandmothers who are raising their orphaned grandchildren. Africa experienced a severe AIDS epidemic that saw many younger people with children dying from the disease. Because of this, many young children were orphaned, and a lot of grandmothers had to step into the role of helping raise these children. Grandmothers Embrace raises funds to help these grandmothers care for these children. Grandmothers Embrace South Simcoe is currently collecting donations of gently used jewellery, purses, and scarves to be sold at their annual fall sale. Proceeds will go directly to the Stephen Lewis Foundation. For more information, contact Jan at 705-250-1100, Marg at 705-434-1827, or Sharron at 705-435-0809.

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SPORTS

NEW TECUMSETH TIMES



END OF SEASON – The Alliston Hornets are done for the season after taking a 7-6 overtime loss in Game 6 of their division championship series against the Stayner Siskins. The final game took place at the New Tecumseth Recreation Centre in Alliston on Wednesday, April 2. Hornets defenceman Jacob English looks for the shot during the second period of Game 6.

BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

Alliston Hornets end season after 7-6 loss to Stayner Siskins in Game 6

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Alliston Hornets are done for the season after taking a 7-6 overtime loss to the Stayner Siskins in Game 6 of their North Caruthers Division championship series.

The final game took place at the New Tecumseth Recreation Centre in front of a huge crowd on Wednesday, April 1.

The Hornets had a good year, leading the league for most of the season until they were eclipsed by the Stayner Siskins late in the season.

Stayner finished in first place in the division by a single point.

In the playoffs, the Hornets eliminated the Huntsville Otters in four games in the quarter-final round. They went on to dispatch the Orillia Terriers in the semi-finals in a series that also went four games.

The Siskins eliminated the Innisfil Spartans and the Midland Flyers during playoffs. Both of those series ended in a Stayner sweep in four games.

That set up the Division final between Allis-

ton and Stayner.

The final championship series was expected to be a tough battle between two evenly matched teams, and fans were treated to some really good hockey when the championship series got underway.

Game 1 of the series took place on March 19 and ended with the Hornets winning 6-1. The final score gave Alliston fans hope that the Hornets would dominate the series.

However, the Siskins fought back and tied the series after a 4-2 win in Game 2.

Game 3 of the series turned into a disaster for the Hornets in the days that followed it. The game took place in Stayner on March 26. After the Hornets won 7-5, Stayner filed a protest with the Provincial Junior Hockey League (PJHL).

Due to a clerical error, a player was missed on the game sheet for that game. The PJHL determined the Hornets had an illegal player on the ice.

The Hornets were issued a forfeit, and the Siskins were awarded the win.

That gave Stayner a 2-1 lead in the series. Stayner had a 3-1 lead after winning 7-2 in

Game 4.

Alliston kept the series alive with a 4-3 overtime win in Game 5 on March 29 in Stayner.

The series was back in Alliston for Game 6 on April 1.

The Hornets need a win to move the series to a seventh game for a final showdown.

It turned into one crazy night as the teams traded the lead.

Alliston fans were shocked when the Siskins took a 3-1 lead by the midway mark in the first period.

Nick Lamont scored his second of the night late in the period to make it a 3-2 game.

The second period started with a Stayner goal at 50 seconds into the period.

The Hornets came alive, scoring four goals to tie it up, then went ahead 6-4.

Second period Hornets goals came from Duncan Grube, Gunner Kirk, Will Millington, and Adam McKillop.

With one period left to go and a two-goal lead, Alliston fans felt confident going into the final period that the Hornets would maintain the lead.

That confidence evaporated when Stayner scored at 14:48 into the period, then tied the game with 3:12 remaining on the clock to force overtime.

The Hornet's season ended when Stayner scored at 12:15 into the overtime period for the 7-6 win to claim the Division championship.

Eight teams are now remaining in the Provincial Junior Hockey League.

Conference finals will start this week, with the winning teams advancing to play for the provincial Schmalz Cup. In the North Conference, the Siskins will be up against the Fergus Whalers.

The East Conference final will pit the Frankford Huskies against the Uxbridge Bruins.

In the South Conference, the Dundas Blues will face the Tavistock Braves.

The West Conference will have the Mt. Brydges Bulldogs against the Lakeshore Canadiens.

The conference championships will take about two weeks to complete, with the four championship teams advancing to the semi-final round of the Schmalz Cup playoffs.

Continued from Page 4

Brock's Banter: Why bother? Here's why.

Concerns aren't unjustified.

Candidates who put themselves forward to represent their community in the 2022 municipal election did so to foster change, make a difference, represent the views of their ward constituents, and, if they liked the way things were going, do their best to maintain Council momentum.

Those seeking re-election or considering a first-time run for a Council seat can be forgiven if they hesitate before making a final decision to put their name on the ballot when the process begins next month.

If the work they do on behalf of their constituents can be overridden by the Strong Mayor of their Town or City, with the vague notion of "Provincial Priorities," it's perfectly understandable if they feel the urge to step back and ask, "Why bother?"

Now, we've got a new wrinkle.

Should Regional Chairs be ultimately granted Strong Chair powers, where does that leave our Strong Mayors should their own definitions of "Provincial Priorities" clash? Well, the Region is called an "upper tier" municipality for a reason, so the decision of the Strong Chair would, one supposes, naturally win the day, regardless of the views of the Strong Mayor, the Council in question, and the residents who put them there.

Say what you will about Strong Mayor powers – and you do – but at least those feats of "strength" are being wielded by individuals who were duly elected by the citizens they represent. Not so the Strong Chairs who will be directly appointed by the Ministry, regardless of their experience, their ties to the Regions they will lead, or the issues of the day.

Will mayoral candidates, incumbent or

otherwise, one day find themselves also asking, "Why bother?" as well?

One group that is certainly asking, "Why bother?" are potential school trustee candidates.

Whether they're "former" trustees from the Peel District School Board or the York Catholic District School Board who have been unceremoniously discarded by the Ministry of Education in favour of a Ministry-appointed supervisor, or active and engaged parents hoping to step up for the first time and represent the voices of other engaged parents and guardians at the table, they don't know at press time if there will even be a position to run for.

Maybe the question they're asking isn't, "Why bother?" but rather, "What's the point?"

It's a fair question, and one can only hope the question itself isn't the point.

But the point and the reason to bother

is to ensure our collective voices are heard.

Thursday's announcement is just the latest example where local voices are at risk of being diminished all for the sake of "Provincial Priorities." While the latest efforts to dismiss trustees, blunt the power of a Councillor's vote, and now undermine the powers so recently bestowed to Strong Mayors might be disheartening, it's more important than ever before to put yourselves forward, fight back, and ensure the voices of our community members continue to have an impact.

It can only be hoped that the U.S. mid-term elections go ahead this year as anticipated and as enshrined by law; by a similar token, it can only be hoped the Provincial Government doesn't see the 2030 Municipal Election as another hurdle in the way of its "priorities."

Leaf and yard waste collection restarts across Simcoe County, coinciding with garbage collection

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The County of Simcoe has commenced leaf and yard waste collection across the region, beginning the weeks of April 6 and 13, depending on your garbage collection

week.

Residents will receive four weeks of collection throughout April and May, occurring bi-weekly and coinciding with garbage collection weeks.

Residents are asked to place leaf and yard waste out by the curb by 7 a.m., on Monday

of your collection week. Collection may occur any day during the week, so please be patient and leave your leaf and yard waste curbside if it's not collected on your exact garbage day.

The final weeks of leaf and yard waste collection are May 18 and May 25.

Leaf and yard waste includes leaves, grass, garden waste, and branches that are appropriately sized and bundled.

Residents are reminded to use kraft paper yard waste bags, cardboard boxes, or open-ended rigid containers for collection. Brush must be bundled and secured properly.



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Traffic stop results in drug and firearm seizure, two people charged

Dufferin Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) officers laid drug and firearm related charges while conducting a traffic stop in Mono.

After receiving reports of a possible impaired driver, officers located a vehicle matching the reports description on Highway 10, at its intersection with Highway 89, just after 8 p.m. on April 1.

Officers conducted a traffic stop on the vehicle and say they saw the driver had

access to open alcohol. A search of the vehicle followed, and as a result, officers seized cocaine, a ball bearing firearm, Canadian currency, and drug paraphernalia consistent with trafficking.

Tucker Cameron, 19, of Owen Sound, has been charged with:

- Adult Failure to comply with Probation Order
- Adult Possession of a Schedule I substance for the purpose of Trafficking- Cocaine

• Adult Possession of Weapon for Dangerous Purpose

• Adult Possession of proceeds of property obtained by crime

Alex Macauley, 25, of Shallow Lake, has been charged with:

- Adult Possession of a Schedule I substance for the purpose of Trafficking- Cocaine
- Adult Possession of Weapon for Dangerous Purpose

The accused individuals are scheduled to

appear before the Ontario Court of Justice in Orangeville, to answer to the charges.

None of the listed charges have been proven in court.

Anyone with information regarding this investigation or any other criminal activity is asked to contact Dufferin OPP at 1-888-310-1122 or Crime Stoppers to remain anonymous at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477).

Information can also be submitted online at ontariocrimestoppers.ca.

Four people charged with drug trafficking after search executed at residence

Dufferin Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) recently arrested four individuals following the execution of a search warrant at a residence on Sherbourne Street in Orangeville.

In January 2026, the Dufferin OPP initiated an investigation into suspected drug trafficking within the community.

On March 18, members of Dufferin OPP "C" Platoon arrested two individuals in connection with the investigation and seized a quantity of cocaine. Information obtained as a result of these arrests assisted in obtaining a search warrant for the Sherbourne Street residence.

On March 26, members of the Dufferin OPP Community Street Crime Unit (CSCU), with the assistance of the Huronia West CSCU and Collingwood CSCU, executed a search warrant at the residence. Police seized 39 LSD tablets, 53.6 grams Cocaine, one gram of Fentanyl, drug trafficking parapher-

nal, two Prohibited knives, and \$690 cash.

As a result of the search and seizure, Krystal Dunn, 39, with no fixed address, has been charged with:

- Possession for the purpose of trafficking - Cocaine (two counts)
- Possession for the purpose of trafficking - Fentanyl
- Possession for the purpose of trafficking - LSD
- Possession for the purpose of trafficking - Oxycodone
- Possession of a prohibited weapon (switchblade)

Courtney Vickers, 39, from Orangeville, has been charged with:

- Trafficking (Cocaine)
- Possession for the purpose of trafficking - Cocaine
- Possession for the purpose of trafficking - Fentanyl

• Possession for the purpose of trafficking - LSD

• Possession for the purpose of trafficking - Oxycodone

• Possession of a prohibited weapon (switchblade)

Ryan Masters, 43, from Caledon, has been charged with:

- Possession for the purpose of trafficking - Cocaine
- Possession for the purpose of trafficking - Fentanyl
- Possession for the purpose of trafficking - LSD
- Possession for the purpose of trafficking - Oxycodone
- Possession of a prohibited weapon (switchblade)

Steven Engram, 39, from Mono, has been charged with:

- Possession for the purpose of trafficking -



Cocaine (two counts)

- Possession for the purpose of trafficking - Fentanyl
- Possession for the purpose of trafficking - LSD
- Possession for the purpose of trafficking - Oxycodone
- Possession of a prohibited weapon (switchblade)

The investigation is ongoing. Anyone with information is urged to contact the Dufferin OPP.

None of the listed charges have been proven in court.

Ontario Provincial Police investigate shooting in Orangeville, no injuries reported

A shooting in Orangeville on March 25 is currently under investigation by the Dufferin Ontario Provincial Police (OPP).

At approximately 4:20 a.m., officers responded to a report of a possible shooting at a commercial plaza on Riddell Road near Caledon-East Garafraxa Townline in Orangeville.

No injuries were reported as a result of the incident.

The initial investigation has revealed that the incident involved a white sedan, possibly a Honda.

"The OPP is urging the public to remain vigilant and promptly report any suspicious activity to police. Those who live locally or were in the area around the time of the incident are asked to check their surveillance, doorbell and dashcam footage for anything that could assist

the investigation," reads a press release from Dufferin OPP.

"Investigators believe this is a targeted incident related to the ongoing extortion investigations."

The Dufferin OPP Crime Unit is conducting the investigation under the direction of the OPP Criminal Investigation Branch. Assistance is being provided by OPP Forensic Identification Services.

Anyone with information or video footage regarding this incident is asked to contact the Caledon OPP at 1-888-310-1122. Should you wish to remain anonymous, contact Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS) or ontariocrimestoppers.ca.

Dufferin OPP said more information will be released when available.

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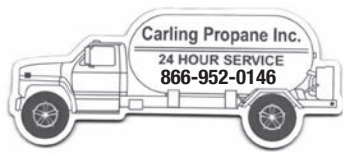
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1 FULL RACK OF RIBS 510 g - 680 g

CHOOSE FROM 4 VARIETIES.

SAVE \$3
16⁹⁹

Chicken Strips 680 g

Also available, Cheesy Nacho Chicken Strips 680 g \$16.99 **SAVE \$3**

SAVE \$1
3⁹⁹ each

Bistro Chicken® 114 g
Choose from:
• Ricotta & Spinach • Swiss

Stuffed, Breaded Chicken 142 g
Choose from:
• Broccoli and Cheese • Kiev • Parmesan • Swiss

Chocolate Dipped Cheesecake 600 g **NEW!**

17⁹⁹ each

Chocolate Lovers Variety Pack 850 g **SAVE \$2 each**

Dessert Bar Variety Pack 675 g

BUY 1 GET 1 50% OFF
Regular price \$14.99 each

MIX AND MATCH
SAVE \$7.50

Mozzarella Sticks 15-21 PIECES 454 g

Jalapeño Cheese Sticks 13-16 PIECES 454 g

SAVE \$4
12⁹⁹ each

Haddock Tenders 8-12 PIECES 454 g

Italian Style Beef Meatballs 89-95 PIECES 907 g **SAVE \$5**

MULTI-SERVE MEALS 850 g - 907 g **CHOOSE FROM 15 VARIETIES.**

Butter Chicken **SALE** **13⁹⁹ each**

Chicken Pad Thai

Creamy Chicken Lasagna **NEW RECIPE!**

Cabbage Rolls

SAVE \$7
12⁹⁹ each

Chicken Nuggets 33-40 PIECES 907 g

Supreme Homestyle Meat Loaf 600 g **SAVE \$7**

DON'T WAIT. GRILL. 17⁹⁹ each **SAVE \$2**

Sirloin Beef Burgers 6 BURGERS x 142 g/5 oz

Angus Beef Burgers 6 BURGERS x 142 g/5 oz

Cheddar & Bacon Stuffed Beef Burgers 4 BURGERS x 170 g/6 oz

Gourmet Chicken Burgers 6 BURGERS x 142 g/5 oz

Prime Rib Beef Burgers 6 BURGERS x 142 g/5 oz

SmashHouse Angus Beef Burgers 8 BURGERS x 113 g/4 oz

Also available, Gourmet Buns 8 BUNS 624 g \$6.99

SATISFY YOUR SWEET TOOTH

SAVE \$2
7⁹⁹ each
Cake Pops 6 PIECES 216 g

SAVE \$3
6⁹⁹
Mini Filled Donuts 8 PIECES 184 g

SAVE \$2
9⁹⁹
Chocolate Chip Cookie Ice Cream Sandwiches 6 SANDWICHES 600 mL

PREMIUM SINGLE SERVES 400 g

Mediterranean Style Chicken & Rice **SALE** **8⁹⁹ each**

Chicken Dumplings and Noodles

Also available, • Korean Style Beef Noodles • Chicken Burrito Bowl • Italian Style Sausage and Penne • Chicken Carbonara \$8.99 each **SALE**

BETTER WITH BACON

SAVE \$2 **12⁹⁹**
Bacon Wrapped Jalapeño Shooters® 12 PIECES 255 g

24⁹⁹ SAVE \$2
Beef and Bacon Skewers 15 SKEWERS 360 g

SAVE \$2 **17⁹⁹**
Bacon Wrapped Scallop Medallions 9-13 PIECES 300 g

SAVE \$3 **29⁹⁹**
Bacon Wrapped Beef Top Sirloin Steaks 4 STEAKS x 142 g/5 oz

Pink Salmon in Sauce 142 g

Herb and Garlic **Applewood and Maple** **Dill**

SALE **4⁹⁹ each**



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

SAMPLING EVENT

FRIDAY, APRIL 10 - SATURDAY, APRIL 11
11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Full schedule for sampling can be found on our website mmfoodmarket.com.



ALL PRICES IN EFFECT **THURSDAY, APRIL 9 TO WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15, 2026** UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED.

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