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Community Comes Together

Thousands of local residents and visitors arrived at the fairgrounds in Alliston to experience the Alliston Potato Festival from Aug. 7 to 9. The midway offered all sorts of rides and games, while nonstop music played on stage at the beer garden. Performances and demonstrations filled each day, with plenty of vendors offering a wide range of products. See more photos on Pages 10 and 11.

BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

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Anticipated increase in traffic calls for environmental study on 14th Line

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

As traffic increases on the east side of Alliston, the Town of New Tecumseth is undertaking a Municipal Class Environmental Assessment study to evaluate options for improvements to the 14th Line from Industrial Parkway/County Road 10 to Sideroad 10.

This includes the Mayberry Bridge (Bridge No. 12001) and improvements to the C.W Leach Road corridor from the 14th Line to Highway 89.

Additionally, intersection improvements will be considered for the 14th Line/Side Road 10 West and 14th Line Industrial Parkway/County Road 10.

Options for improvements will consider road widening to address anticipated increases in traffic volume, bridge conditions, and potential operational issues.

The study will follow Schedule C of the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment Process, which is an approved process under the Ontario Environmental Assessment Act.

The study will evaluate and recommend solutions in consultation with the public, Indigenous Nations, and agencies. At the conclusion of the study, the process will be documented in an Environmental Study Report prepared for public review.

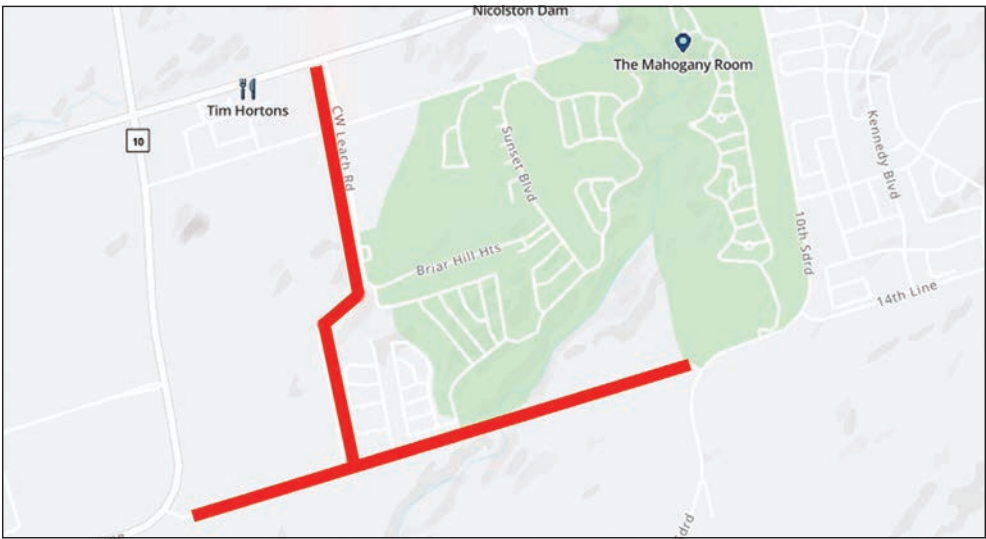
The town would like to ensure that anyone interested in the study has the opportunity to provide input into the planning and design of the project.

The second Virtual Public Information Centre will be available on the project webpage to update the public on project activities, identify the preferred design solution, present the preliminary design solution, and gather public comments.

The virtual PIC is available online: newtecumseth.ca/14thlineEA. Comments on the project information materials are requested by Aug. 31, 2026.

Following the PIC, and in consideration of comments received, the preferred design option will be identified.

Project and notice information will be made accessible upon request in accordance



ASSESSMENT – The Town of New Tecumseth will be assessing the 14th Line from Industrial Parkway to Sideroad 10 in Alliston to plan for anticipated traffic increases.

SUBMITTED IMAGE

with the Accessibility Standard for Information and Communication under the Accessibility of Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2025.

Information will be collected in accordance

with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

With the exception of personal information, all comments will become part of the public record.

New Tecumseth candidates file to run 2026 municipal election as nomination deadline approaches

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

The Ontario municipal elections are still two-and-a-half months away, but several candidates have already thrown their hats in the ring for 2026.

Municipal elections elect a mayor, deputy mayor, councillors, and school board trustees.

In Ontario, municipal elections will be held on Oct. 26, 2026.

The nomination period for residents looking to run for municipal council or local

school boards closes on Aug. 21 at 2 p.m.

Anyone looking to learn more can get in touch with the Clerk's Office by emailing elections@newtecumseth.ca or calling the Clerk at 705-415-3153.

Below is an unofficial list of registered candidates who have filed nomination papers, but have not yet been certified to run for office. Certification of candidates will occur after Aug. 21, and this list can change with new candidates before the nomination period closes.



Mayor

Richard Norcross (incumbent)
– votenorcross@gmail.com
Stephanie MacLellan
– maclellan4mayor@gmail.com

Deputy Mayor

Marc Biss
– marc.biss@outlook.com
Steven Dollmaier
– sdollmaier@gmail.com

Ward 1

Chris Rapin (incumbent)
– chris@rapin.com

Ward 2

Wendy Gabrek (incumbent)
– wendy.gabrek@gmail.com
Jason Shand
– shand_for_ward2@hotmail.com

Ward 3

Tony Phekoo
– phekooforward3@gmail.com
Laurie Mortimer
– themortimerteam@gmail.com

Ward 4

Alan Masters (incumbent)
– 705-890-4365

Ward 5

Nicole Cox (incumbent)
– nicolecox24@hotmail.com
Peter Barbati
– 416-268-6020

Ward 6

Shira Harrison McIntyre (incumbent)
– sharrisonmcintyre@gmail.com
Kyle Warren
– kylewarren2@gmail.com
Joseph Castellano
– joe@castellanoconstruction.ca

Ward 7

Andrea Jacks (incumbent)
– votejacks@gmail.com
Dianna Del Bianco
– diannadelbianco@gmail.com
Stefano Mercuri
– stefano_mercuri@outlook.com

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MPP - Simcoe-Grey

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180 Parsons Road, Unit 28
Alliston, ON L9R 1E8

705-435-4087
Brian.Saunderson@pc.ola.org

Together, let's make every day, a better day, in Simcoe-Grey!

Two new elementary schools under construction in Tottenham

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

One school is nearing completion and another has shovels in the ground in Tottenham as construction of the two schools continues.

A new public elementary school located at 80 McGahey St. has large machinery on site, clearing the land and beginning to install infrastructure.

The school is the result of a \$20.2 million investment from the province as part of a plan

to build or expand 12 schools in fast-growing communities across the province. The larger plan is to provide around \$23 billion to support new school construction, renewal, and improvement over 10 years.

The new public school will create 426 elementary spaces.

"The funding for a new Tottenham Elementary School is welcome news for our local community," said Brian Saunderson, MPP for Simcoe-Grey, earlier this year. "Through this investment, we're creating opportunities

for students to thrive today and well into the future."

The new school will be located in an area surrounded by a large, new subdivision in the northeast corner of town, with many young families and children.

"By building and expanding schools across the province, we're making sure students can learn in modern, high-quality environments that support strong achievement," said Paul Calandra, Minister of Education. "These investments will help students gain the skills and confidence they need to succeed and prepare for rewarding careers."

On the other side of town, on the southeast corner, a new Catholic elementary school is nearing completion. It is expected to start admitting students in November.

Construction on this project began in spring 2025.

The Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board recently announced that the new school will be named Our Lady of Peace Catholic Elementary School.

The naming process for the new school involved several steps. First, a selection committee was established, which gathered naming suggestions from the community, including students, staff, and family members. The submissions were narrowed to three choices, and a community-wide vote was held to select the final name.

The name was approved by the Ministry of Education.

The new Catholic school is expected to accommodate 516 students.



WELCOMING STUDENTS – Tottenham will see two new schools open. Our Lady of Peace Catholic Elementary School on Martin Trail is scheduled to open in November this year. A public school on McGahey Street is now under construction. **BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO**

Nottawasaga OPP seek public assistance in locating missing Alliston resident

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

Nottawasaga Ontario Provincial Police officers are asking the public for assistance in locating a missing Alliston resident.

Corey Szymanski, 30, Caucasian male, is described as approximately 6 feet tall, weighing 230 lbs, with a medium build, shoulder-length blonde hair, and blue eyes.

When last seen, he was wearing light blue ripped jeans, a light powder blue Toronto Maple Leafs T-shirt, and red and black Jordan shoes.

Police and family members are concerned about his health and well-being.

As a result of the ongoing investigation, the last confirmed sighting of Corey occurred on July 14 at 10:31 p.m.

At that time, Corey was observed travelling northbound on the pedestrian footbridge from Victoria Street West toward Fletcher Crescent in Alliston.

If you live in the area, please check the surveillance video.



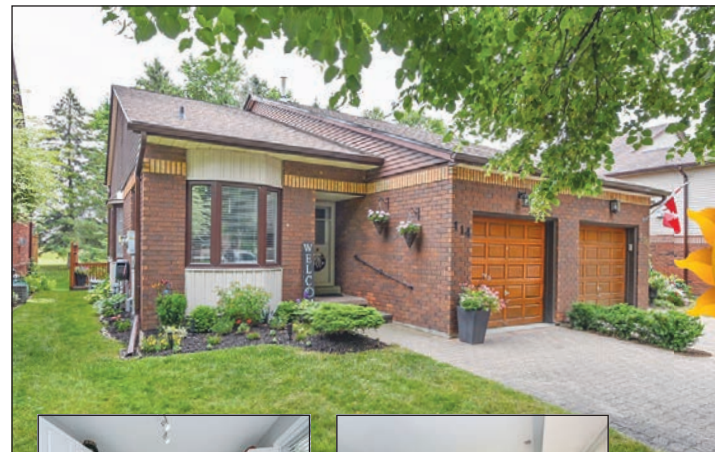
MISSING PERSON – Nottawasaga OPP are asking the public for assistance in locating a local resident. Corey Szymanski, 30, was last seen on July 14, 2026. **CONTRIBUTED PHOTO**

Investigators are asking anyone with information regarding Corey's whereabouts to contact police at 1-888-310-1122 and reference occurrence E261069032.



NEW SCHOOL – Two new schools will open in Tottenham. Crews are currently preparing a location on McGahey Street for a new public school. A Catholic school on the other side of town is due to start receiving students in November. **BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO**

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Editorial, Letters & Opinion

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

~ Stanislaw Jerzy Lec

You said what?

For the most part, our legal system works well in upholding the law and in deciding punishments in the courts.

Many people will argue that the courts are too lenient when it comes to repeat offenders and dangerous people. That may be true, but that's not a result of the system; it is a result of poor directives by those in charge.

Our legal system, outside Quebec, is based on British Common Law, with roots that are very old, dating back to the Norman Conquest.

Common Law is defined as a system based on judicial decisions and precedents. Common Law is actually only practised by a handful of countries, including Canada, the UK, and the United States.

Most countries use a civil law system, characterized by reliance on legal codes.

The use of the word 'common' when referring to this legal system is in part due to the fact that the common sensibilities of Western society accepted that some actions are commonly regarded as unacceptable.

You aren't supposed to kill someone. You aren't supposed to assault, attack, or kidnap a person for ransom. You aren't supposed to steal, whether in the form of

a robbery, breaking into a person's house to steal their money, or embezzling funds from your employer.

Of course, the laws have been redefined or eliminated over the years.

The invention of the automobile gave lawmakers a bit of work, at least at the provincial level, and it took years to put in place the traffic laws we have today.

Pierre Trudeau's famous 1967 statement, "There's no place for the state in the bedrooms of the nation," was the start of a few major changes in legislation designed to eliminate punishment, at least somewhat, for certain private acts.

Our current system of laws clearly states what is not permissible in our society.

It's not hard to figure out.

Most people have a moral compass that automatically tells them that a certain action is not right.

We now have pretty much all the laws in place necessary to guide society.

Why do we need continuous legislation and more laws being put in place?

Unless there is a dramatic shift in society or technology, we don't need any more laws.

I'm pretty sure lawmakers these days

are tabling new bills just because they can.

The real problem is that the new laws being created are focusing way too much on freedom of speech and behaviour issues.

We don't need Ottawa telling us what to think, which opinions are correct, and threatening people with legal action if they don't toe the politically correct line.

The federal government has a mandate to cover around 11 different key components of the country.

This includes national defence, in which they should be graded a 'D,' currency and monetary policy, fisheries and oceans, criminal law and security, and a few other important details of running the country.

That mandate does not, and should not, include prosecuting people for having an opinion, thinking in terms that don't meet the requirements of some outspoken lobby group, or wearing a political emblem on your T-shirt.

In fact, the freedom to have an opinion is guaranteed in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms: "Everyone has the following fundamental freedoms: a) Freedom of conscience and religion: b) freedom of thought, belief, opinion and

expression, including freedom of the press and other media of communication: c) Freedom of peaceful assembly: and d) freedom of association."

The emphasis here is on 'freedom of thought, belief, opinion, and expression.'

We don't need politicians or bureaucrats telling us how to think or which opinion we should have about any issue.

I hope most people use common sense when voicing an opinion or belief.

People don't normally make comments that would offend the person they are speaking to. That's just called having good manners and displaying a sense of public decorum.

Even if someone does make a public comment that others disagree with, the best course of action is to ignore them and move on. Do not call the police and have them prosecuted.

As citizens, we should be aware of this slow elimination of rights.

Taken to the tenth degree, that off-colour joke you tell may one day land you in a gulag if we aren't careful about having our speech and behaviours monitored by a central authority.

BRIAN LOCKHART
FROM THE SECOND ROW



Recalculating landmarks

I hope he doesn't hold a grudge.

Last May, I did a road trip with my brother to see the King and Queen on their brief visit to the nation's capital.

Having lived in Ottawa for several years both as a student and in the early days of my career, I thought I knew the city well. Yet, after an absence of more than a decade, one of the things that jumped out at me was how much the city had changed in that comparatively short window of time.

New buildings filled in gaps where there were previously vacant lots, smaller buildings, or dwellings that were, 10 long years ago, already showing signs of sagging under the pressure of time.

The city had an air of familiarity, to be sure, and I could still navigate it reasonably well, but found myself questioning my normally sound sense of direction with so many of my regular landmarks modified, rebuilt, or otherwise gone.

On that first day, I got us to Rideau Hall and over to our hotel relatively unscathed.

The next day, however, as we left at the crack of dawn to find a place before the Senate of Canada Building for that

morning's Speech from the Throne, a gentleman stopped me in my tracks, so to speak.

"Do you know how to get to the train station?" he asked me at the corner of Rideau and Sussex.

I confidently gave him directions to the VIA Rail station, not really twigging in that early hour that he was a little bit beyond walking distance to what I thought was his intended destination.

Thinking I had done at least one good deed for the day before 7 a.m., we proceeded in the direction of the Chateau Laurier to find a good spot in the crowd.

Then it hit me.

There was a good reason he was asking for directions to the train station so far away from where it lay. He was probably not looking to get to the VIA, but rather the O Train, the city's light rail system, which was just metres away. I knew this in the back of my head but, in my defence, the O Train didn't go there "in my day."

While I take full responsibility for my blunder, I can't help but wonder – and worry – if he thought I deliberately sent him on a wild goose chase, well-removed

from where he was hoping to go. (In the off chance you're reading this, my sincere apologies, but, at the time, I was sure I was correct)

It's funny that however much we rely on our GPS systems and verbal directions using any combination of easts, wests, lefts, and rights, we still come to rely on landmarks to get about, particularly in locations we think we know well – rightly or wrongly!

This past weekend, my mom and I went on a road trip.

It was the annual Lucille Ball Comedy Festival in Jamestown, NY, a trip we've been taking almost every year, and throughout the various incarnations of the festival, for the better part of 25 years, excluding the COVID days.

It's a drive we know well and, relying on GPS, we always go one of two ways to and from the destination. GPS is more of a safeguard, however, as we know the trip well – and mark the distance from home to the festival more in landmarks than anything else.

The border crossing is one milestone in the trip, as is the semicircular route we

go around the City of Buffalo. Beyond Buffalo, it's mostly a straight shot that's punctuated by a groovy place to get gas and food in the median of the highway, connected by a bridge in each direction to the eastbound and westbound traffic. A bit further along, the next landmark is a bit less groovy – a gigantic, two-to-three-storey tall statue of an Indigenous man. To our eyes, it might seem like an outdated, even problematic representation, but as the statue is on land belonging to the Seneca Nation, I feel like it gets a pass – I'm not 100 per cent certain on that, but as far as landmarks go, it's hard to miss!

The other route has fewer obvious landmarks, but once we pass through the picturesque town of Ellicottville, a burgh that looks like it came straight out of a Hallmark movie, we know we're almost there.

In recent years, for better or worse, there have been other landmarks.

BROCK WEIR
BROCK'S BANTER



Continued on Page 6

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ADVERTISING: Vicki Meisner vicki@lpcmedia.ca

OFFICE: Tanya Sharma tanyas@lpcmedia.ca

CREDIT DEPT.: Al Lord

CLASSIFIEDS: Vicki Meisner vicki@lpcmedia.ca

DISTRIBUTION: Sheila Ogram sheila@lpcmedia.ca

Advertising & Administration Head Office

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AI and bio-weapons

GWYNNE DYER
OUR WORLD TODAY



‘Artificial intelligence’ based on Large Language Models is shaping up to be the most efficient destroyer of value since the South Sea Bubble. After the Crash, some specific functions of AI will eventually turn out to be genuinely revenue-generating, and a lot of jobs will duly disappear. But the biggest winner (and potentially biggest loser) is medical science.

Dr Brian Hie, a chemical engineer at Stanford University in California, has just revealed that his team has made the first viruses designed by artificial intelligence. They are ‘bacteriophages’, viruses that only infect bacteria and are widely used to treat people with infections that resist other treatme

However, natural bacteriophages sometimes fail, so Dr Hie used generative AI to design new ones that might do the job. The AI generated thousands of designs for new genomes that more or less fit the bill, and he chose around 300 of them to build in the lab. It’s hard work, not magic, but he ended up with sixteen ‘novel’ bacteriophages that might work.

He applied them to petri dishes containing two harmful strains of E. coli, a common bacteria that lives in the human gut, and they killed the bacteria off. It’s still early days, but if it is truly becoming possible to tailor-

make bacteriophages that target specific bacteria, then we may be getting a major new weapon in the struggle against antibiotic resistance.

That problem is growing rapidly as the overuse of antibiotic medicines gives bacteria endless opportunities to evolve into new, more antibiotic-resistant forms. The Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation estimates that 1.34 million Americans will be dying each year from antibiotic-resistant diseases by 2050 (up from half a million now).

The ability to design genomes for unique bacteriophages that target specific diseases is indisputably a Good Thing for health care, but it is not necessarily a great thing for the world at large. “Although this is promising for life sciences application,” wrote Prof. Tom Inglesby of Johns Hopkins University, “it also raises urgent biosafety and biosecurity questions.”

“The ability to compose viral genomes now exists; the governance to safely steer it does not....Such genomes might encode new pathogens that cannot be contained by existing countermeasures.” Probably nothing as bad as the Black Plague or even Covid, but who knows?

There are no mad scientists in this story. Not only did the scientists working on this project follow all the

existing protocols; they bent over backwards to ensure that what they were doing was safe. The training of their AI deliberately did not include the code for any viruses that can infect human beings.

They have not created ‘Life’ – viruses are not alive – although one day they might be able to synthesize a bacteria (which is alive) if they continue on the road they are following. However, they have already created a new field of biology that goes beyond the

natural world. You could call it ‘synthetic biology’ – and the sky’s the limit.

The downside of this triumph is the fact that everybody working in the field, and perhaps already some people with less admirable ambitions, knows that it is now possible, at least in principle, to design new viruses that will do almost anything the designer wants. The cat is out of the bag, and there is no way to stuff it back in.

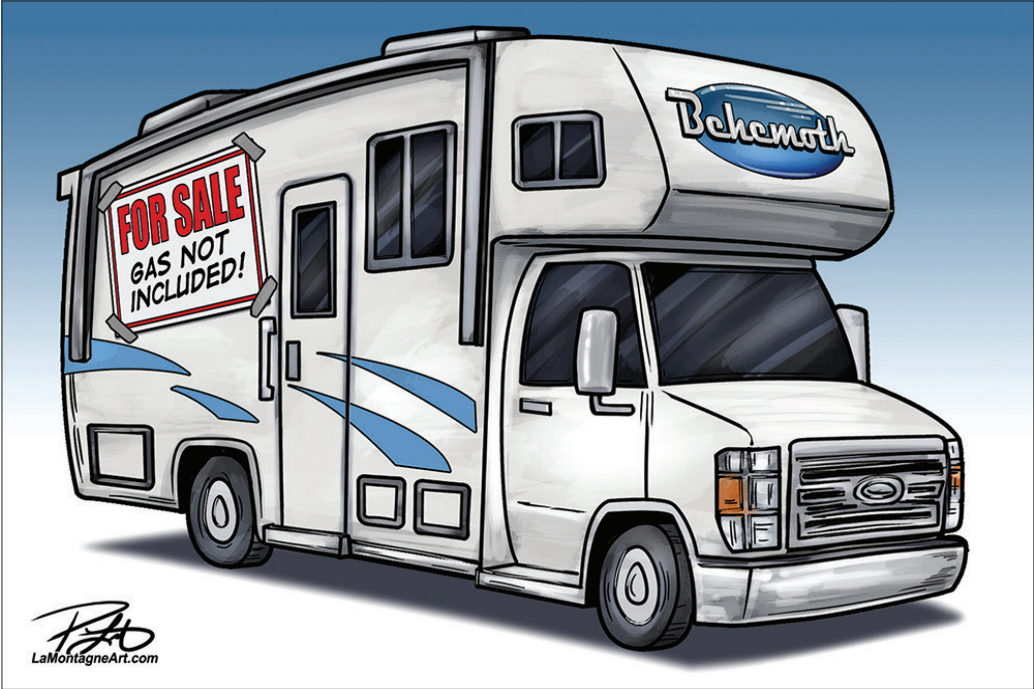
Science at the sharp end is often like this, with great potential for good and considerable potential for evil. It’s people who decide how new scientific breakthroughs will be used, and that’s what human beings are like. They are also slow to respond to new risks until some major disaster persuades them that they should take the danger seriously.

The biomedical and allied trades are currently having a golden age of discovery, and the ‘ability to compose viral genomes’ is only one of several scientific domains in which great advances are accompanied by high risk. The security in the labs is usually very good; the wider dissemination of sensitive information is not well controlled.

Synthetic biology will doubtless save a great many lives, but it will also make possible a whole new suite of ‘low probability, high impact’ events. A really bad global pandemic, created with malice aforethought, could be just as destructive as a medium-sized nuclear war. Moreover, it would take a lot fewer people to get a pandemic going.

Scientists are diligently applying the usual biosafety rules to this new biotechnology, but it’s still not enough. Stricter rules and closer supervision are needed, even if necessary at the cost of slower progress in the new technology.

Treat it like they treated the new nuclear technology in the 1940s, because the consequences of misusing it could be just as serious.





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CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Midway between south and southeast
- 4. Fathers
- 9. Wine grape
- 14. Al Bundy’s wife
- 15. Derived from ammonia
- 16. Venezuelan state
- 17. Interest rate
- 18. Experts
- 20. Vascular tissues
- 22. Smooth and glossy
- 23. Administrative region in S. Korea
- 24. One from Damascus
- 28. Special interest group
- 29. It cools your home
- 30. Oh, God!
- 31. Intestinal pouches
- 33. Men
- 37. Twelfth star in a constellation
- 38. Former CIA
- 39. Arrange in grades of size
- 41. A baglike structure

in a plant or animal

- 42. “The Great Lakes State”
- 43. Having earlike appendages
- 44. Momentarily stop
- 46. Ancient kingdom
- 49. Of I
- 50. White clerical vestment
- 51. Songs to one’s beloved
- 55. Charges
- 58. Computer application originator
- 59. A place to dock a boat
- 60. One guided by reason
- 64. Slang for cigarette
- 65. Sailboats
- 66. “Jerry Maguire” actor Zellweger
- 67. Screen type
- 68. Country legend Haggard
- 69. Puts together in time
- 70. When you

anticipate arriving

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Involuntary muscular contraction
- 2. Eastern US transit agency
- 3. Leaves a place
- 4. Cease to participate
- 5. Current units
- 6. Cease to exist
- 7. General’s assistant (abbr.)
- 8. Earth vibration
- 9. Very strong winds
- 10. For each one
- 11. A bog
- 12. The creation of beautiful or significant things
- 13. Affirmative
- 19. Pie ___ mode
- 21. Nonclerical
- 24. Indonesian island
- 25. Educational environment
- 26. Namibian peoples
- 27. Bring out or develop
- 31. Moves into a place

of thought

- 32. Out of the way
- 34. Loads a ship
- 35. Beloved Hollywood alien
- 36. Distinguishes
- 40. The ancient Egyptian sun god
- 41. Secondary or explanatory title
- 45. Relating to a wing
- 47. One who gives a speech
- 48. In the middle
- 52. Loop with a running knot
- 53. Airborne (abbr.)
- 54. Sweet persons
- 56. Put into play
- 57. Small cattle breed
- 59. Millisecond
- 60. Revolutions per minute
- 61. They ___
- 62. Moon crater
- 63. A place to stay the night

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

COMMUNITY VOICE

Summer jobs, lasting impact: A student perspective on CONTACT Community Services

My name is Brianna, and I'm CONTACT's social program planner for the duration of the summer.

Fresh out of college, I had originally applied to a different position under the organization. Hearing of CONTACT through a family member who volunteered with them, I applied and was promptly replied to, suggesting I interview for a different position that they figured would suit my current education much better.

Working at CONTACT over the past six weeks has been such a huge opportunity, allowing me to experience a wide variety of roles and take on self-directed projects that have let me apply the theoretics I picked up in school and apply them to the field.

Especially with the struggle to try to find relevant, entry-level jobs, I'm truly grateful for the chance to grow in a fantastic work environment around so many great individuals.

The biggest surprise for me has been the community culture around the organization. Since the moment I sat down for my interview, I've felt truly welcomed by all the wonderful



people I'm delighted to consider colleagues.

My supervisors have given me ample opportunities to try different roles in community outreach, program development, networking, and administrative work. Every week is different: work locations change, projects shift, and even which days of the week I work as I flit from festival to fair, representing the organization. Throughout it all, I've felt supported while also being given room to grow and act with independence, and I've been able to rely on and work with the people around me, who have become such pillars of the community.

As I continue through the last weeks of my time working here, I think of the future. Knowing that I can include relevant work on my resume and being able to have quantifiable proof of my newfound skills and experiences will benefit me greatly wherever life leads me next. For this huge boon, I'm truly thankful to

CONTACT and all the staff who work there.

From Aislynn's Desk

This summer, I've been working as a marketing coordinator at CONTACT, and I have to say that I am having a great time. I've gotten to make connections in the community, go around New Tecumseth and Bradford West Gwillimbury, and met so many interesting people who do so much for our local communities.

It's difficult for young people to get jobs right now, especially college students, since many places won't hire anyone going back to school. But when workplaces can hire students through the Canadian Summer Jobs program, it's such a valuable resource.

Having just finished my second year in college, I was worried that none of the skills I learned would be transferable to any "real world" careers. However, getting to work at CONTACT has given me the opportunity to use not only my graphic design skills but also to develop the networking and marketing skills I've been developing for two years.

I'm incredibly fortunate to be able to work right now, and at a workplace that is accommodating, community-driven, and as much fun as CONTACT. Working here does inspire a sense of hope, because in a world that feels like it's burning, this job has introduced me to admirable people who support the community and genuinely make the world a better place with all they do.

Everywhere I go, I'm meeting people who strive to bring people together. At the library, at seniors' centres, at CONTACT, around town in different jobs, it's a nice feeling meeting so many people who are so kind.

I think I can say with confidence that without the Canadian Summer Jobs program, I would not feel this connection with my community. Even though it's only for the summer, I feel like I've made a difference with the work I do, by helping share the story of CONTACT through new and creative social media posts.

This community voice submission was provided by two summer students at CONTACT Community Services.

Continued from Page 4

Brock's Banter: Recalculating landmarks

For the last decade, perhaps longer from the lead-up to the 2016 U.S. Presidential Election, one could also mark the land by certain properties that had any number of politically-motivated flags flying in the breeze.

Sure, there were a handful of Clinton-Kaine and Harris-Waltz flags along the way, in this part of the country, they were more often flags for Trump-Pence or Trump-Vance and, in at least one case, a "TRUMP- _____" flag where Pence's name had been physically cut out of the cloth when things went decidedly south between the once-and-future president and his one-and-done veep.

It's a good thing we've never had to find our way by following the flags like some

sort of MAGA-leaning Hansel and Gretl duo because we would have been rather lost this time around.

Whereas last year, 2024, and just about any year going back to the time he and Melania came down the escalator, there were dozens and dozens of flags to lead the way, we saw a grand total of zero on the way there and a single example of the blue-starred banner – just a single one – on the way back.

I'm not naïve enough to think that the lack of flags and other examples of partisanship along the way is a sure-fire sign that tides are turning – although, in the interests of fairness, judging by the number of election signs for Chief and other positions, civic interest

is very much alive and well in the Seneca Nation – it's certainly a sign of something.

Could it be dissatisfaction with current leadership?

Perhaps.

Could it be a sign of fatigue when it comes to all things Trump?

Maybe? Hopefully?

Could it be a sign that people are less engaged?

Doubtful.

Could it be a sign that people are less comfortable in showing where their allegiances lie in this heated political climate we all find ourselves in?

I can't say for certain, but what I can say in my experience of spending five days in

that pocket of the United States, the people I talked to were much more emboldened to speak their minds on the issues of the day, rather than shirking back from them, lest they stir any debate or otherwise rock the boat.

While there's always the silent majority to factor in, it might help answer the first two questions above.

While it's often sad to lose a landmark you've come to rely upon, I can't say I experienced that particular emotion on the way down there on Wednesday morning or on the way back Sunday afternoon.

Yet, at the same time, I'm interested, if hopeful, to see how this significant shift will be reflected in mid-term election results and beyond.



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Town donates \$750,000 to Stevenson Memorial Hospital Foundation for redevelopment project

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

The Town of New Tecumseth has donated \$750,000 to the Stevenson Memorial Hospital Foundation (SMHF) in support of its 'Because of You' campaign for hospital redevelopment.

Approved by council in April, the contribution fulfills the town's longstanding commitment to support the hospital redevelopment project.

Since first pledging its support in 2019, the town has continued to contribute to the hospital's redevelopment.

"On behalf of New Tecumseth and council, it was a pleasure to pledge \$750,000 to the Stevenson Memorial Hospital Foundation to support Stevenson's historic redevelopment project," said New Tecumseth Mayor Richard Norcross.

"Thanks to the generosity of the Morningview Foundation, our contribution will be effectively doubled in value, helping to deliver the future of world-class healthcare at the new Stevenson Memorial Hospital to better serve New Tecumseth residents and surrounding communities for decades to come."

The foundation welcomed the town's contribution to the redevelopment project.

"This remarkable investment by the Town of New Tecumseth demonstrates what can be accomplished when a community comes together with a shared vision for the future," said Dr. Ted Vandevis, SMHF CEO. "Council's commitment reflects its confidence in the importance of this project and its dedication to ensuring residents have access to

outstanding healthcare for generations to come."

The new Stevenson Memorial Hospital will nearly double the current facility's size, expanding access to healthcare services and creating modern spaces designed to meet the growing needs of the communities.

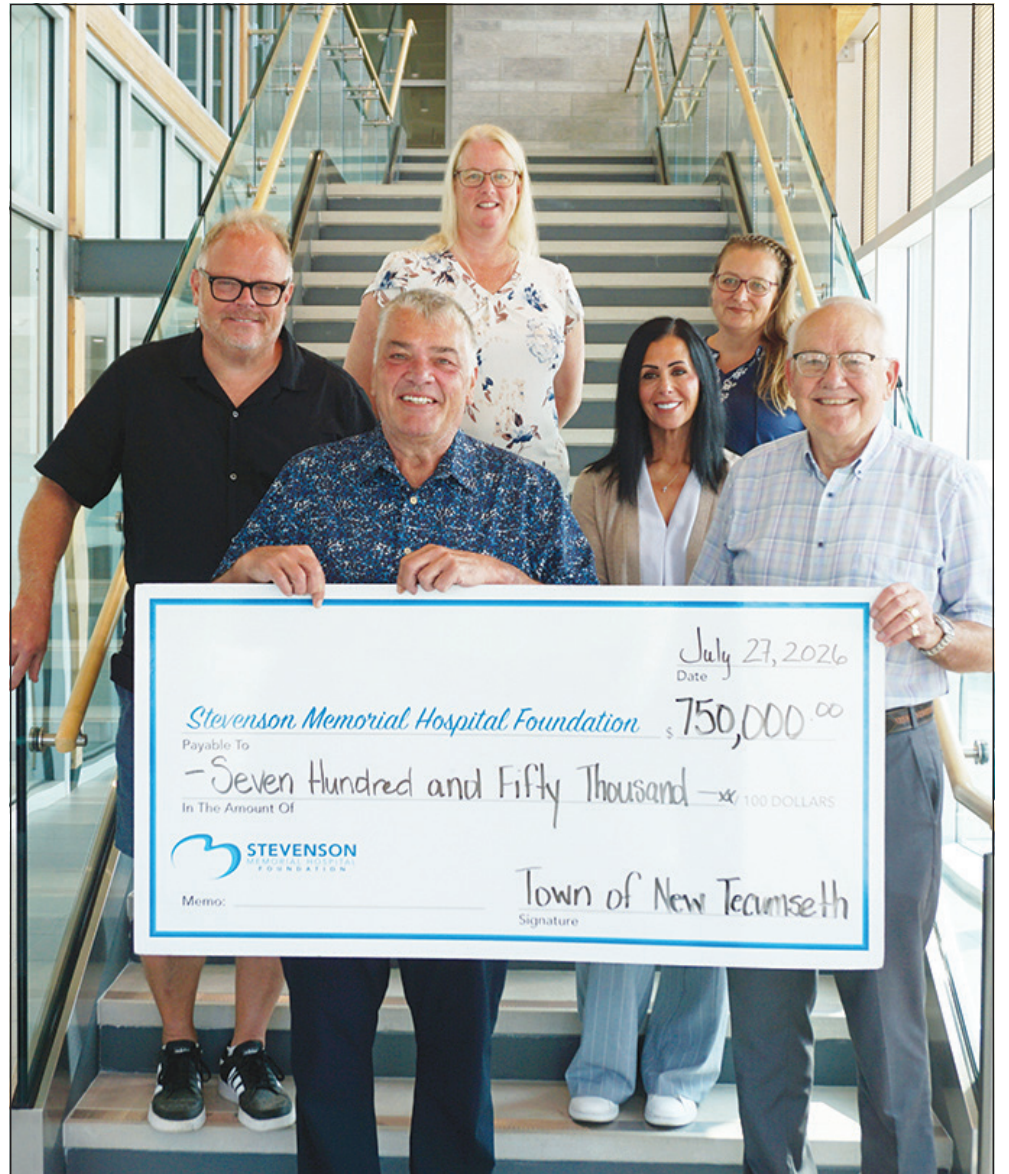
As construction progresses, community support remains essential to ensuring the hospital is equipped with the technology and equipment needed to provide exceptional patient care.

While the province provides funding for the redevelopment, the hospital is required to raise a local share through community fundraising, including funds for equipment and technology.

"Investing in our local hospital is an investment in the health, well-being, and future of our entire community," said Sylvia Biffis, Because of You campaign chair. "We are grateful to the Town of New Tecumseth for supporting this transformational redevelopment, which will ensure that residents receive exceptional care close to home."

SUPPORTING STEVENSON – The Town of New Tecumseth has donated \$750,000 to the Stevenson Memorial Hospital Foundation (SMHF) to support the hospital's redevelopment. New Tecumseth Mayor Richard Norcross and councillors Chris Rapin and Wendy Gabrek presented the funds to hospital development officer Kara Harris, director of development Melody Craggs and SMHF CEO Dr. Ted Vandevis on Thursday, Aug. 6.

BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO



WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU Passionate about an issue you've read about within the pages of the New Tecumseth Times? Want to share your opinion? Email us a letter to the editor to: newtectimeseditorial@gmail.com. Be sure to include your name and town.

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Arts & Local Events

Tottenham trio prepares to tour 11 villages across Ontario through September

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

A Tottenham-based band is going to go on tour – with a twist.

Dorene, an energetic pop-rock band featuring childhood friends Vincent Eagan on guitar and vocals, Keagan Ross on bass, and Gray Laine on drums, will be performing at

11 small venues across Ontario in September.

Playing together since they were teenagers, the group got serious about their music last year and has been performing at venues in larger centres like Toronto, Barrie and Oshawa. They also played the infamous Loretto Tavern.

While doing some research, Gray discovered that only 11 villages in Ontario haven't been incorporated into other areas. It started as a bit of a joke when he suggested they perform in all 11 villages.

"The more we thought about it, the more we thought it would be cool to play every village in Ontario," Vincent explained. "We

to accommodate them proved challenging.

Some of the villages have fewer than 100 residents.

"In one village, we met the village clerk and we will be playing on her property," Vincent explained. "The one legion didn't want to have us at all. They said it was the dumbest idea they had ever heard and we shouldn't play there because no one is going to come. But then they came around, then thought it was a pretty neat idea."

The band performs a lot of alternative '90s-type rock as well as original tunes. They have also been doing some recording.

They aren't expecting a big turnout from the tour; it's more of a quest, but they are eager and ready to put on a good show.

They are hoping that as the tour progresses, more people will hear about it and show up at the next venue.

The tour will take them across the province from the east end, up to near Parry Sound, and over to Sault Ste. Marie.

They will be performing in Burk's Falls, Casselman, Hilton Beach, Merrickville-Wolford, Newbury, Oil Springs, Point Edward, South River, Sundridge, Thornloe and Westport.

You may have to consult a map to find these towns, as they are all pretty small and off the beaten path.

Dorene promises a good show and a fun time.

The concert tour will kick off in Sundridge on Sept. 3 and wind up in Oil Springs on Sept. 27.

To keep up with the tour, follow Dorene on Facebook at: facebook.com/doreneband



TOURING THROUGH TOWNS – The Tottenham-based trio, Dorene, will be performing in 11 villages across Ontario in September. They hope the tour picks up steam as it moves from place to place, with people coming out to hear great pop-rock covers and original music.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



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Stevenson Memorial Hospital welcomes new Board of Directors

Stevenson Memorial Hospital (SMH) has a new Board of Directors, made up of community-minded leaders, who will provide governance oversight and guide the hospital into the future. This guidance comes at an important time of renewal and growth, as the hospital undergoes redevelopment and seeks to advance high-quality care close to home for New Tecumseth, South Simcoe, and surrounding communities.

The board includes members with deep local connections, regional experience, and expertise across governance, finance, health care, and community leadership. Together, they bring the skills and perspective needed to support SMH's current priorities and long-term direction.

The new board joins SMH as the hospital continues to focus on operational excellence and the construction of a new, expanded hospital facility to meet the needs of the growing community.

"We are pleased to welcome our new Board of Directors at such an important time for Stevenson Memorial Hospital," says Deepak

Sharma, President and CEO of SMH.

"Their leadership, governance experience, finance and health system knowledge, and commitment to our community will help guide SMH as we continue to advance our priorities and build the future of health care close to home."

The Board of Directors provides strategic oversight and accountability for the hospital. Board members will work with the president and CEO, chief of staff and the executive leadership team to advance the hospital's strategic priorities with the goal of ensuring decisions support the needs of the communities that SMH serves.

"Our board is committed to serving the needs of the hospital with a shared focus to ensure decisions remain grounded in the needs of patients, families, staff, professional staff and volunteers," says Jeff French, chair of SMH's board. "We look forward to working with hospital leadership to support SMH's continued progress and future growth."

For more information, please visit: stevensonhospital.ca/board-of-directors



NEW LEADERSHIP – Stevenson Memorial Hospital's new Board of Directors is pictured following its appointment. The board will provide governance oversight and help guide the hospital through redevelopment and the construction of a new, expanded facility.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Mosquito pool tests positive for West Nile virus: Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit

The Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit (SMDHU) is reminding residents to protect themselves against mosquito bites after mosquitoes collected in Barrie tested positive for West Nile virus. The virus was also recently detected in a bird and a horse in Simcoe Muskoka. Currently, no human cases have been confirmed in Simcoe Muskoka in 2026. However, the positive results are a timely reminder to take precautions against West Nile virus.

West Nile virus circulates between birds and mosquitoes. People can be infected by

a mosquito that has fed on an infected bird. The risk is highest in late summer. The health unit recommends these steps to prevent mosquito bites:

- Use an insect repellent approved for use in Canada and follow the label instructions.
- Wear light-coloured clothing and cover exposed skin with long sleeves, long pants, socks and a hat when mosquitoes are present.
- Remove standing water around your home to reduce mosquito breeding.
- Make sure window and door screens are in good condition to keep mosquitoes out.

Most people infected with West Nile virus do not get sick, but some can become seriously ill. Symptoms can include fever, muscle weakness, a stiff neck, confusion, a severe headache and sensitivity to light. In rare cases, the virus can lead to serious neurological illness. Anyone with symptoms should seek medical care.

The health unit monitors mosquitoes through trapping, testing and larval checks across Simcoe Muskoka during the summer.

For more information about West Nile virus, visit smdhu.org/WNV.



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ALLISTON CELEBRATES WITH A

SPUD-TACULAR WEEKEND



It is an event that draws thousands of people to downtown Alliston. The Alliston Potato Festival Parade is an annual, fun-filled evening of music, dancing, floats, and marchers. The parade took place on Friday, Aug. 7, to kick off the Alliston Potato Festival, which ran all weekend long. Local residents and visitors found their spots on Victoria Street, with many arriving early to claim a spot on the sidewalk.

The Alliston Potato Festival also took over the downtown core on Saturday, Aug. 8. Victoria Street was lined with vendors and activities. Thousands of local residents and visitors walked the streets to see what was happening. The car show at the West End of Victoria Street was especially popular.

BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTOS





SPORTS

NEW TECUMSETH TIMES



DOUBLE PLAY – A TNT Thunder U12 A player makes the catch at second base for the out before quickly making a double play by successfully throwing to first during a game against the Midland Penetang Twins at Coventry Park in Tottenham on Tuesday, Aug. 4. The Thunder came away with a convincing 15-4 victory as the team prepares for the upcoming minor baseball playoffs. With the regular season winding down, teams across the league are gearing up for postseason action.

BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

Owen Sound Baysox advance to second round of NDBL playoffs

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

The Owen Sound Baysox are the first team to advance to the second round of the North Dufferin Baseball League senior playoffs after eliminating the Caledon Cardinals in three games. The best-of-five series got underway on Aug. 6. A one-run lead gave the Baysox the first game after winning 6-5. Game two of the

series resulted in a 3-2 Baysox win. It was all over when Owen Sound won 12-2 in Game 3 on Aug. 9. The Baysox finished first in the regular season. They will now wait for the outcomes of the other first-round series to see who they will be up against in the next round. The New Lowell Knights are leading the Midland Mariners in their series. New Lowell won the first two games, 6-0 and 11-3.

Game three of the series ended in a 4-4 tie. Each team will receive one point for the tie. Game 4 is scheduled for Thursday, Aug. 12. The series between the Barrie Angels and the Ivy Rangers is proving to be a tight contest, and this series could go either way. Ivy came out on top in Game 1 with a 4-2 win. It was a repeat in Game 2 with Ivy again leaving the diamond with a 4-2 win. Barrie kept the series alive with a 3-2 win in the third game on Aug. 9.

The teams met for Game 4 on Tuesday, Aug. 11, with results not available at press time. The Bolton Brewers are leading the Orillia Majors after two shutouts to start the series. Bolton won Game 1, 6-0, then followed up with a 3-0 win in Game 2. Orillia took Game 3 with a score of 8-5. The four remaining teams after the completion of the first round of playoffs will move on to the next round in a bid for this year's Strother Cup.



THUNDER STRIKES – The TNT Thunder U18 Gold team takes on the Midland Twins #1 team on the Doner Diamond at Riverdale Park in Alliston on Monday, Aug. 3. It was the Thunder's first playoff game, and they left the field with a win. Thunder third baseman Barrett Percy tries for the tag as a Midland player slides into base.

BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO



INTERNATIONAL CHAMPIONS – Several New Tecumseth Ball Hockey League girls competed with Team Canada U16 at the International Street & Ball Hockey Federation championships in Sheffield, England. They brought home the gold medal after the final game on July 5. The New Tecumseth Ball Hockey League was selected from the 2026 National Championship event, where New Tec Xtreme qualified as a team. New Tecumseth players Shaena Adams, Riley Parsons, Scarlet Ros, Elsie Weaving, and Isla Weatherston celebrate the win.

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OPP issue 42 marine and off-road charges over the long weekend

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

The mid-summer long weekend is a time when many people enjoy travelling to cottage country and taking part in outdoor activities.

However, enjoying those activities safely and following the law are important parts of ensuring everyone stays safe from avoidable collisions.

Members of the Ontario Provincial Police Snowmobile, All-Terrain Vehicle and Vessel Enforcement (SAVE) Unit were active throughout the Civic Holiday long weekend, conducting marine and off-road vehicle patrols and enforcement.

From July 29 to Aug. 2, OPP SAVE Unit officers conducted marine and trail patrols across Centre Region to enhance safety and

enforcement on Ontario waterways and trail networks.

Patrols took place in Algonquin Park, Georgian Bay, Lake Rosseau, Lake Joseph, Little Lake Joseph, Lake Dalrymple, Sparrow Lake, Pigeon Lake, Buckhorn Lake, Shadow Lake, the Ononabee River and Rice Lake. The patrols also covered trails in Huntsville, Bracebridge, Collingwood, Huronia West, City of Kawartha Lakes, Peterborough, Northumberland, Haliburton, Southern Georgian Bay, and Orillia.

Marine and off-road vehicle enforcement resulted in 42 charges and 56 warnings issued.

Charges include:

- Failing to carry or wear a lifejacket/PFD – eight counts
- Canada Shipping Act violations – six

counts

- Towing a person without a spotter – two counts

- Off-Road Vehicles Act helmet violations – three counts

- Liquor License and Control Act violations – 14 counts

- Permitting operation of a vessel without a Pleasure Craft Operator Card – one count

- Highway Traffic Act violations – five counts

- Hand-held communication device offence – one count

- Fishing without a license – two counts

Alcohol-related offences and lifejacket/PFD violations accounted for more than half of all charges laid during the enforcement initiative.

Officers issued two seven-day driver's

license suspensions as part of impaired operation investigations.

The consequences of operating a vessel while impaired are the same as those for impaired driving on Ontario highways and can result in criminal charges, license suspensions, and other significant penalties.

Your driver's license can be impacted whether you are operating a boat, vehicle, snowmobile, or ATV.

Enforcement efforts will continue throughout the summer.

Boaters and riders are reminded that operating while sober, carrying the required safety equipment, ensuring all licenses and vessel registration documents are up to date, and wearing a lifejacket when on or near water are essential steps in keeping Ontario's waterways and trails safe.

Attempted murder charge laid after incident in Bradford West Gwillimbury

A Barrie man is facing multiple criminal charges, including attempted murder, following a targeted incident in Bradford West Gwillimbury.

On the evening of Aug. 6, South Simcoe Police officers responded to a report of a person who had been intentionally struck by a vehicle in a residential neighbourhood in Bradford. Officers attended the scene and

located the victim, who was treated for non-life-threatening injuries. The investigation determined that the incident was targeted and that the victim and the accused were known to one another.

As a result of the investigation, a 42-year-old Barrie man was arrested and charged with:

- Attempted Murder – Section 239(1)(b)

of the Criminal Code

- Assault with a Weapon – Section 267(a) of the Criminal Code

- Criminal Harassment – Section 264(1) of the Criminal Code

- Uttering Threats – Section 264.1(1)(a) of the Criminal Code

- Dangerous Operation – Section 320.13(1) of the Criminal Code

The accused was held for a bail hearing and is scheduled to appear in court on Aug. 12.

This was an isolated, targeted incident and there is no threat to public safety, according to South Simcoe Police.

None of the listed charges have been tested in court.

The accused's name has not been released.

South Simcoe Police lay 10 charges against youth after fleeing from police twice

South Simcoe Police received a report of a youth on an e-bike causing a disturbance at a business in the area of Holland Street West in Bradford West Gwillimbury on Aug. 8.

At approximately 1 a.m., the youth was reported to have refused to leave the drive-thru area on an e-bike and subsequently took food from the business without paying.

Officers located a youth matching the description a short distance away on an e-bike and attempted to conduct a stop. The

youth failed to comply with police direction and fled from officers.

Later that same day, at approximately 6 p.m., South Simcoe Police responded to the same area for reports of a youth causing a disturbance at a local business. Police also received information that the same youth had been operating an e-bike at a high rate of speed through a crowded public area, causing potential safety issues.

Officers located the youth and attempted to speak with them. The youth repeatedly

failed to comply with police direction and fled from officers on an e-bike.

The youth was subsequently arrested. During the investigation, officers located four unopened alcoholic beverages in the youth's possession.

As a result of the investigation, the 17-year-old youth from Bradford has been charged with:

- Theft Under \$5,000
- Two counts of Flight from Peace Officer
- Obstruct Peace Officer

- Dangerous Operation
- Person Under 19 Years Having Liquor
- Fail to Identify Self
- Drive Motor Vehicle – No Permit
- Drive Motor Vehicle – No Licence
- Owner Operate Motor Vehicle on a Highway – No Insurance

The youth was released from custody on an undertaking with conditions and is scheduled to appear in court on October 6, 2026.

None of the listed charges have been tested in court.

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'Elvis' performance planned at Bolton's Midnight Madness

BY MARK PAVILONS

Elvis is not dead, in fact, he's coming to the annual Bolton Midnight Madness event on Aug. 14.

Bolton's Eric Evangelista will take to the stage at the 50th anniversary of Bolton Midnight Madness. He will be "Taking Care of Business" with his Elvis Tribute Show.

Midnight Madness is celebrating its 50th anniversary and will take place from 6 to 11 p.m. in downtown Bolton.

Eric Evangelista is an Elvis tribute artist specializes in portraying Elvis Presley as he performed in the 1970s. This was the era of the magnificent jumpsuits. It was also an era where Elvis's voice had matured and his power vocals were without parallel.

Evangelista has been performing for 18 years, getting his start at the famous Collingwood Elvis festival. Watching the numerous talented artists pay tribute to his "idol, Elvis Aaron Presley" ignited his passion.

Evangelista said he performs the 1970s era because he started at an older age and this period best suited him and his voice.

"It has always been my favorite era of Elvis, the amazing flashy jumpsuits and all the flashy jewellery," he said.

He's competed in many competitions all over Canada and the U.S., and against artists from all over the world. He's happy to have made the top five in all of his competitions.

"My proudest moment is winning crowd champion of the biggest Elvis competition in North America – the Collingwood Elvis Festival in 2015."

"I just love to play tribute to my idol, and love to keep the memory and legacy of the greatest entertainer to ever grace this world," he said.

Elvis's music continues to attract fans and followers and a lot of his songs have been featured in movie over the year. Evangelista noted since the release of "Elvis," in 2022, starring Austin Butler and Tom Hanks, a younger audience has formed a bond with Elvis and his energetic



ELVIS TRIBUTE – Bolton's Midnight Madness event will feature a performance from Eric Evangelista, performing as Elvis, from 6:20 to 7:10 p.m. on Aug. 14.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

performances on stage. The success of the film and Oscar nominations has created a wider appreciation of Elvis.

Evangelista noted that Elvis was not known for being a song writer, but more of a visionary and arranger of the songs. He was able to take another writer's song, revamp it and deliver it like no other could and make it more popular than the original.

The co-owner of Dreamers Entertainment, Evangelista has performed at many events, including birthdays, weddings, rib-fests, corporate events, street parties and music festivals.

His performance at Moonlight Madness is scheduled for 6:20 to 7:10 p.m.

This is a unique opportunity for visitors to experience the King at Bolton's community extravaganza.

Health Unit shares video on how to use Naloxone to prevent opioid overdose

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

As traffic increases on the east side of AThe Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit is sharing a brief training video that provides step-by-step instructions on how to recognize an opioid poisoning and how to respond using naloxone.

Opioid use and deaths are a serious problem in Simcoe Muskoka.

Naloxone is a lifesaving medication that can temporarily reverse an opioid poisoning by restoring normal breathing in someone whose breathing has slowed or stopped.

Anyone can carry naloxone. Kits are available free of charge at most pharmacies and through many community organizations that work closely with people who use drugs.

Naloxone works quickly – usually within two to three minutes – and can be given as a nasal spray or injection. It is generally safe for people of all ages and will not harm someone who is not experiencing an opioid

poisoning.

However, 9-1-1 should always be called when naloxone is given because opioids can remain in the body longer than naloxone.

Naloxone does not reverse the effects of benzodiazepines, medetomidine, or other non-opioid drugs.

If someone appears to be experiencing a drug poisoning, call 9-1-1 immediately. The Good Samaritan Drug Overdose Act offers some legal protection to people who provide emergency help during a drug poisoning.

There is no way to know for certain what substances may be present in the unregulated drug supply.

To reduce the risk of drug poisoning, people who use drugs should use them with someone they trust and arrange for someone to check on them.

To view the video, visit YouTube and search for "Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit: How to use naloxone."



OBITUARIES

FOREVER IN OUR *Hearts*

McQueen, Clifford Brian

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Clifford Brian McQueen, who passed away at Mackenzie Health Hospital on August 4, 2026, at the age of 76.

Beloved father of Clay (Billi Jo), Chris, and stepdaughter Carlee (Anthony). Cherished grandfather of Brooke, Charlotte, Memphis, Adrian, Anthony Jr., and Chiara.

Clifford will be forever remembered and deeply missed by his many nieces, nephews, extended family members, and friends.

Family and friends are invited to attend a visitation at Rod Abrams Funeral Home, 1666 Tottenham Road, Tottenham (905-936-3477), on Saturday, August 22, 2026. Members of the Bike Club are invited to gather from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

In memory of Clifford, donations to the SickKids Foundation would be greatly appreciated.

Condolences and cherished memories may be shared with the family at www.RodAbramsFuneralHome.com.



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8-12 BREASTS 1.36 kg

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16 BURGERS x 80 g/2.82 oz

**SAVE \$3**
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9 SLIDERS x 51 g/1.8 oz

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SALE**11⁹⁹
Lemon & Herb
Chicken
Skewers**

4 SKEWERS 300 g



13 g of protein | Per 1 skewer (75 g)

SAVE \$2**Apple Butter
Pork Tenderloin**

400 g



24 g of protein | Per about 1/3 tenderloin (125 g)

SAVE \$2**22⁹⁹
Steakhouse Style
Sirloin Tri Tip**2 STEAKS x
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