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Funding the hospital's future

Representatives from Local 27 and Local 675 join Stevenson Memorial Hospital Foundation leadership for a cheque presentation marking their combined \$250,000 contribution to the hospital's Because of YOU campaign. From left are Chris Cambareri, Rudy Bomben, Joseph Madsen, Fayaaz Kala, Pat Bono, Darlene Norris, Anthony Simone, Telmo Bernardo and Dr. Ted Vandevs. Julio DaSilva was absent. See full story on Page 9.

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Province provides funds for Seniors Community Grants Projects

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

The province is providing \$95,627 in Seniors Community Grant Projects across Simcoe-Grey, with over \$20,000 going to New Tecumseth.

Simcoe-Grey MPP Brian Saunderson made the announcement on Friday, Aug. 14.

The funding is part of a \$7 million commitment from the province to protect seniors and older adults by supporting over 320 community projects that help them to stay fit, active, healthy and socially connected.

“These investments will support programs

that create meaningful opportunities for seniors across Simcoe-Grey to participate and remain engaged in their communities,” MPP Saunderson said.

“I’m pleased to see nearly \$96,000 supporting four local projects that will enhance the quality of life of older adults. Thank you to the dedicated staff and volunteers who make these programs possible and help build stronger, more connected communities.”

Locally, the funding will be distributed as follows:

- Town of New Tecumseth: \$20,337 – Seniors’ Connected to Community – A com-

munity care program for older adults in New Tecumseth

- Camphill Communities Ontario: \$25,000 – Creative Aging in Community
- Environment Network: \$24,930 – Cooking Connections – Nourishing Bodies and Building Community for Older Adults
- Wasaga Beach Public Library: \$25,000 – Our Town, Voices of Wasaga Beach

Seniors Community Grants projects are designed to increase independence, reduce social isolation, and create positive connections.

“The Seniors Community Grants Program

is a great example of how our government is working for local communities,” said Raymond Cho, Minister for Seniors and Accessibility.

“We are pleased to provide investments for so many services and activities that bring seniors together, learn new skills, get fit, and stay connected to their neighbours and friends.”

Up to \$25,000 per project is invested in local services, activities and events to provide seniors with opportunities for greater social inclusion, volunteerism and community engagement.

County council approves governance changes, county chair replaces warden

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

The County of Simcoe has approved a series of governance and procedural changes to support the transition to a new council structure, beginning with the 2026 to 2030 term of council.

This will align with changes made by the provincial Better Regional Government Act, 2026.

As a result, county council will be reduced from 32 members to 17, including the warden.

Among the key changes approved is the

renaming of the head of county council position.

The position of warden, which has been in place since 1843, will be changed to county chair as of Nov. 15, 2026.

This title aligns with other regional governments in Ontario that were also included in changes made by the province.

The province intends to appoint the county’s head of council for the upcoming term through a provincial recruitment process. Until now, members of councils elected the Warden.

As part of this governance transition, council has approved other changes, including eliminating the deputy warden position, changing certain council committees, and adjusting committee-of-the-whole representation from the Cities of Barrie and Orillia to

align with the new council composition and existing shared service agreements.

An updated procedure by-law is expected to be brought to council in September to formally incorporate the approved governance changes as part of the transition.

The change in governance and procedures has not been without controversy.

When the province first suggested that changes would include an appointed warden rather than an elected one, several councillors voiced concerns that the province could drop in a new warden from outside the region.

They argued that someone from outside the region would not understand or have the experience to govern based on what the county needs and what local residents want.

The province has not yet announced any appointments for the position of county chair.

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JAMMING OUT – It was a duo to start the show at the Sunday Concerts in the Park series in Tottenham on Sunday, Aug. 16. Wesley Martin and Tim O'Rourke performed for one of the largest audiences of the summer at the bandshell at Keogh Park.

BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

BRIAN SAUNDERSON

MPP - Simcoe-Grey

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

Work on trails in Tottenham aimed at improving safety

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

The Town of New Tecumseth Public Works department has completed work on the Trans Canada Trail between the 3rd Line and the 4th Line to improve safety for trail users.

That section of the trail was temporarily closed between Aug. 17 and Aug. 20 to allow crews to complete the work.

The project included removing hazardous trees, clearing brush and overgrown vegetation, and pruning trees along the trail.

It also included chipping branches and debris, and completing general trail maintenance to improve safety and usability.

The trails are maintained to reduce hazards and keep the trails safe for hikers and bikers along the route.

Users were notified in advance of the closure, with signs posted along the trail one week before the work began.



IMPROVEMENTS – The Trans Canada Trail in Tottenham between the 3rd Line and 4th Line was closed to users for four days to allow public works crews to complete maintenance to make the trail safer for hikers and bikers. **BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO**

Province investing \$1.4 million in Stevenson Memorial Hospital to reduce wait times

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

The Province of Ontario is investing \$4.48 million to support hospitals in the Simcoe-Grey region.

The funds will improve operations and reduce wait times at Stevenson Memorial Hospital in Alliston and Collingwood General & Marine Hospital in Collingwood.

The funding is part of a \$1.1 billion investment into the hospital sector as part of Budget 2026, A Plan to Protect Ontario.

This represents a four per cent increase in annual support for the fourth year in a row.

Stevenson Memorial Hospital will receive \$1.47 million while Collingwood General & Marine Hospital will receive \$3 million.

“Collingwood General & Marine Hospital and Stevenson Memorial Hospital each play a vital role in the health and well-being of our communities across the riding,” said Brian Saunderson, MPP for Simcoe-Grey. “This additional operational funding will help support the dedicated health-care professionals

at both hospitals as they deliver essential services to patients and families. As our communities continue to grow, ensuring our hospitals have the resources they need to provide high-quality care remains a key priority.”

Over the next 10 years, Ontario is investing approximately \$64 billion in major health infrastructure. This is part of the government’s plan to get shovels in the ground on more than 50 major hospital projects across the province.

This will deliver approximately 3,000 new hospital beds to enhance access to quality care and build a connected, people-first health-care system.

“Our government is making historic investments to protect Ontario’s health-care system, ensuring that more people in Simcoe-Grey can connect to the care they need, where and when they need it,” said Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health.

“This investment will allow both hospitals to continue delivering the highest standard of

care while reducing wait lists and wait times for patients and families, for generations to come.”

Collingwood General and Marine Hospital (CGMH) is an 84-bed hospital that serves over 74,000 permanent residents and welcomes millions of visitors annually across Collingwood, Clearview Township, the Town of The Blue Mountains and Wasaga Beach.

SIGNIFICANT FUNDING – Stevenson Memorial Hospital will receive \$1.47 million in provincial funding to support hospital operations and help reduce wait times, part of a \$4.48-million investment in hospitals across Simcoe-Grey. **FILE PHOTO**



Police discover human remains in Boyne River

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

Officers conducting foot patrols in the area of King Street and the Boyne River on Saturday, Aug. 15, shortly after 11:30 a.m., made the grim discovery of human remains.

The preliminary information suggests this is an isolated incident with no signs of a broader threat.

Police resources have cleared the area.

The Nottawasaga OPP Crime Unit is inves-

tigating in conjunction with the Office of the Chief Coroner and Ontario Forensic Pathology Service.

Further information will be released as it becomes available.

Anyone with information regarding this investigation should immediately contact the Nottawasaga OPP at 1-888-310-1122. Should you wish to remain anonymous, contact Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS) or ontariocrimestoppers.ca.

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Editorial, Letters & Opinion

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

~ Stanislaw Jerzy Lec

Choose your words wisely

Several years ago, I attended a seminar as part of my job.

It was all about workplace safety, and as the safety representative in my department, I was required to attend.

The group delivering the seminar was made up of consultants and experts in workplace safety. They provided a lot of good information and some rather graphic examples of why lockout procedures in industry are so important.

Believe me, you don't want to be the guy who flips the 'on' switch after your friend has just climbed inside a giant mixing machine to clean it, but forgot to carry through with proper lock-out procedures.

The key speaker at the seminar was an older man who spoke clearly, concisely, and with authority. His voice constantly shifted in tone and cadence as he spoke.

He was a rather captivating speaker.

I recall thinking at the time that he was either the most naturally gifted speaker in the world, or he had formal training in elocution and oral delivery.

He was perceived as intelligent and knowledgeable about the subject of which he spoke, just based on his delivery.

William F. Buckley was an American

conservative writer, intellectual, public commentator, and novelist. He hosted the long-running public affairs show *Firing Line*.

Buckley's command of the English language was outstanding. He spoke with a peculiar Mid-Atlantic, Harvard, elite East Coast type of speech pattern, with a twinge of a Southern drawl type of accent, which just added to his mystique.

He spoke easily, while at the same time he used words beyond the normal vocabulary of most people. I don't know if this came naturally to him or if he pored over the dictionary every night looking for new words to dazzle his audience.

Several of his close friends later said that when the cameras were off, he spoke like any other person.

Buckley came off as highly intelligent, very well spoken, and in command of the conversation when he had his TV show.

He was well educated, no doubt about that, and he had a long list of credentials, including working for the CIA for a couple of years.

How you speak and present yourself will make a huge impression on other people. Your vocabulary and way of speaking will create an impression on

everyone you meet, whether you want it to or not.

Imagine being in need of legal or medical advice, and when meeting the professional you are seeking wisdom from, they start off with "hey, how the 'bleep bleep' are ya? I just got a great 'bleep bleep' deal on this shirt at 'bleep bleep' Wallymart."

Most likely, you would immediately start thinking you need to look elsewhere for help.

At the same time, if you presented yourself at a job interview or any other type of situation where your personal presentation would provide you with a benefit to yourself, most reasonable and intelligent people would choose their words wisely.

It seems our society may be slipping when it comes to conversing in an intelligent manner. The use of expletives is more common now than ever before.

I've heard people carry on conversations where half the words in each sentence were both unnecessary and vulgar.

Is it really necessary to insert an expletive before the start of each phrase or noun? It makes the speaker seem like someone who doesn't have the intelli-

gence to form a rational sentence.

A lot of vulgar and slang words have derogatory meanings toward women. And yet, now, it seems common to hear women using those same phrases to insult or belittle someone else, both male and female.

I once had a friend who couldn't say more than two words without swearing. I actually once had to tell him to watch his mouth because my sister, who was around 12 years old at the time, was hanging around us in the backyard and didn't need to hear that.

When I visited his home, I was surprised to hear his entire family spoke the same way. His sister used words that even my buddies in high school wouldn't say.

The entire family sounded like a bunch of half-wits because of the way they spoke.

Most people may hiss out a curse word when stubbing their toe, but in everyday speech, the way you speak creates an image of what people think of you.

And remember, you only have one chance to make a first impression.

BRIAN LOCKHART
FROM THE SECOND ROW



Sounds of summer and silence

Nails on a chalkboard. The sound of an animal in pain. The voice of someone with whom you don't have a particularly warm relationship. All of us have certain sounds in our lives that we would rather not hear again, whether the very tone of them makes the hair on the back of your neck stand on end, or triggers a swell of emotion you'd prefer not to feel.

Most of us avoid them wherever we can. If we can't, and know that there's a good chance of catching that audible trigger somewhere on the wind, we brace ourselves as best we can.

Personally, I try to avoid them wherever I can. But, of course, that's not always possible.

In a previous job, one such audible trigger was the voice of a co-worker who I dealt with mostly over the phone, only having in-person dealings occasionally.

She was a lovely woman, as far as I know, but there was just a certain something about her voice, an element I've never been able to put my finger on despite nearly two decades of hindsight working in my favour, that set my teeth on edge.

More than that, no matter how pleasant our dealings may have appeared if a court stenographer was nearby providing a running written transcript, it was a voice that simply left me feeling depleted after every conversation and I'd need to take at least 15 minutes out of my day to decompress and move on with the rest of the tasks at hand.

Some sounds that make me grit my teeth have thankfully largely come and gone, but a few remain as potent as ever.

I still can't stand to be in the same room as someone filing their nails with an emery board, for example. The sound of the grit racing against the grain on the nail is one that not only makes those aforementioned hairs stand up and take notice, but leave my eyes darting to locate the nearest exit, just in case.

The sound of someone winding a jack-in-the-box? I don't really care whether the monkey or the weasel comes out on top in their race around that mulberry bush. No, thank you.

How about June bugs?

In the early days of my career before finding some semblance of work-life balance, I would sometimes pull near-all-nighters to get what needed to be done complete before the weekend. Sitting at my desk in the wee hours of the morning with only the mild buzz of the fluorescent light in my home office keeping me company – along with the ratta-tat-tat of those brown beetles beating up against the glass of my window, drawn to light.

While I have no quarrel with the June bugs themselves, I always found the slightly hollow sound of that distinct ratta-tat-tat against the pane just a little bit unnerving – and, if one happened to have the misfortune of finding one unexpectedly underfoot, so much the worse.

But there's truth in the adage of not knowing what you have until it's gone.

While I am sure this is not the case for everybody – depending, of course, on where you happen to live, the amount of light coming out through your windows at night, or the environmental conditions on your property – I realized the other day that this was the first summer

in as long as I can remember where I didn't once hear that ratta-tat-tat against the window.

I might be alone in this, but its absence, as much as I bemoaned it when it was a near-constant in summers past, is almost as unsettling as the ratta-tat-tat that was part and parcel of their busy season.

It's recent absence – or, perhaps, rather, my own antennae finally picking up on their absence – made me sit up and think about what else we might be missing, or losing, as the world around us changes.

I was lucky enough to grow up on a home that had a couple of acres to explore. The soundtrack to my summer days, if I was feeling especially outdoorsy, was a near endless playlist of birdsong, the buzzing of bees, and the general hum of other critters adding to the symphony.

BROCK WEIR
BROCK'S BANTER



Continued on Page 14

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The charade

Last month US President Donald Trump announced “a monumental step toward lasting peace and security” in Gaza. Mediators from the ‘Board of Peace’, his sketchy rival to the United Nations, had persuaded Hamas, the Palestinian armed resistance movement, to accept his ‘15-point document’ for Hamas disarmament and Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip.

[You may object to my use of the phrase ‘armed resistance movement’ instead of ‘evil crazy terrorists’, but you would then be obliged to write an original 500-word essay explaining why you believe that the Stern Gang (Lehi) in the 1940s, the Viet Cong in the 1960s and the Mujahideen in Afghanistan in the 1980s were (or were not) ‘evil crazy terrorists’.]

Three days after Trump’s announcement the Israeli Defence Force (IDF) bombed the Gaza Strip again, kill-

ing 18 Palestinians. But don’t get me wrong; this is not a piece about the perfidious and wicked Israelis. They are wicked and perfidious, of course, but so are Hamas’s leaders. In this kind of war, the leaders on both sides have to lie and cheat all the time.

While neither side is averse to using violence, they use it sparingly most of the time, because both sides need the support or at least the sympathy of the United States to achieve their goals. The result is a charade in which the leaders on both sides pretend to want peace while carefully sabotaging any step that might make peace possible.

The current round of this long-running sham began with Hamas’s decision to tell Trump’s people that they were ready to disarm completely as long as the Israelis entirely withdraw from the Gaza Strip. This was a safe move, since they knew that Israel’s Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu would never do that. They just wanted to smoke him out.

Netanyahu faces an election in two months, and his only chance of winning it is to retain the trust of the extreme right parties who want to drive all the Palestinians out of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. He doesn’t actually have to do that right now but he must at least look like he wants to do it, so withdrawing from the Gaza Strip would be electoral suicide.

Hamas’s move worked. After playing for time as long as possible, Netanyahu said last Sunday (9 August) that “Israel does not accept the ‘15-point document’.” And that’s it, at least until the Israeli election and probably afterwards as well, because most other coalitions that might replace Netanyahu’s would be equally adamant

about not leaving Gaza.

So what has been accomplished by all this back and forth? Just point-scoring, really. Hamas comes out of this exchange looking a bit more reasonable than the Israeli government, but that is an optical illusion. It plays a bad hand very well, but in the end, it is just as extreme, just as uncompromising, just as driven by religion as the radicals around Netanyahu.

And just as marginal, now that the big boys have come out to play. The future of the Middle East will be decided by the United States and Iran, with major supporting roles for Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Turkey and Pakistan. Israel will have only a bit part, doing whatever Washington tells it to do.

However, this is where the crystal ball goes dark. ‘Washington’ is actually just Donald Trump, and we do not know what he will do. We can’t, because he does not know from one day to the next himself, but he is desperate and it could be very big.

Bear in mind what he has done already. He has driven all the Gulf states to revise their view of the United States as a reliable ally. Saudi Arabia has even ordered him to stop US air attacks on Iran from Saudi bases.

He has inadvertently brought a younger, more radical, more ruthless generation to power in Iran, and they take vindictive pleasure in thwarting his efforts to reopen the Strait of Hormuz. Own goal. And when they do reopen the Strait, Trump will hate the deal.

He has caused the three other big powers of western Asia, Turkey, Saudi Arabia and Pakistan, to form an alliance under the Mecca Agreement. That’s almost 400 million people, all pledged to defend any member that comes under attack, and that includes defence with Pakistan’s 170 nuclear weapons.

And Trump might yet convince the Iranian regime that it will never be safe without nuclear weapons of its own.

So all is still to play for, as they say.

GWYNNE DYER
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- Each
- Feeling of humiliation
- Coat with sticky substance
- Powerful
- “Severance” family
- Japanese city
- “Pulp Fiction” actress Thurman
- Hat
- Place where rockers work
- Psyche
- Snakelike fishes
- Where people live
- Body part
- Old towel
- One’s essential being
- Japanese alcoholic beverage
- Boxing’s GOAT
- Wet muddy ground
- Christian Laettner
- is one
- A place to store lawn tools
- Large tub for liquid
- Old World lizard
- One-time European member group
- Healing student
- Nuclear weapon
- “Kiss of the Spider Woman” actress Sonia
- Silk garment
- About some Norse poems
- Woman religious community member
- Congressman (abbr.)
- Two-year-old sheep
- CLUES DOWN
- An insane person
- “Homeland” actress Danes
- Buttock muscles
- US federal agency
- Birds of prey
- Electronic communication
- Ocean
- Terminates
- Low-pitched sound from a bell
- Exclamation: yuck!
- A place to attach a boat
- Exclamation of surprise
- Make a mistake
- Border line
- Have religious faith
- Klutz
- Large tree
- House of ___ rulers
- Red deer
- Small coin (French)
- Popular sandwich
- 10-year period
- Not good
- Government lawyer
- Egypt’s intelligence agency
- Without an occupant or incumbent
- Stain with one’s hands
- Crippling
- One point east of southeast
- Large, united groups
- ___ and cheese
- Alcoholic beverage

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

COMMUNITY VOICE

Come on, Alliston! Let’s stuff the bus full of school snacks this weekend

On Saturday, August 22, the Alliston Food Bank is asking our community to help fill a Landmark school bus with school snacks for local children.

From 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., our volunteers will collect food and monetary donations at Zehrs, FreshCo, and Giant Tiger in Alliston as part of our Back-to-School Food Drive.

We have set a big goal, and we cannot reach it without our community. We want to see that bus packed from front to back with snacks that will help fill local children’s lunchboxes throughout the coming school year.

Anyone with children knows how much they eat, especially as they grow. Sometimes it feels like they have just finished one snack when they are already asking for another! During the summer, when children are home all day and school breakfast and snack programs are unavailable, families must provide even more food.

September brings the additional cost of backpacks, school supplies, clothing and shoes. For families already struggling with grocery prices and household bills, filling lunchboxes every day can become one more worry.

The Back-to-School Food Drive is being held in partnership with the Nottawasaga OPP Auxiliary and Landmark Bus Lines. Indie 92.5 FM will also broadcast live during the event and encourage everyone to come out and support local families.

Participating is easy. If you are shopping at Zehrs, FreshCo or Giant Tiger, add a few extra school snacks to your cart and donate them to our volunteers on your way out. FreshCo and Giant Tiger will also have pre-made donation bags available for purchase.

We will have our TipTap machine available for anyone who would prefer to make a monetary donation.

No donation is too small. One box of snacks can help several children. When hundreds of people each donate one or two items, those small donations can fill an entire school bus.

The need is very real, and it is happening here in Alliston.

In July, the Alliston Food Bank recorded



1,122 client visits. Children made up 30 per cent of the people we served, and 17 per cent were children from single-parent households. Almost one-third of those who relied on our food bank that month were children.

Of the people we served, 22 per cent were employed and 16 per cent owned their own homes. This is an important reminder that food insecurity can affect anyone. A family can have a job or own a home and still struggle to afford food after paying for housing, utilities, childcare and transportation.

Across Canada, Food Banks Canada reported nearly 712,000 food bank visits by children in March 2025. That was over 340,000 more visits than six years earlier. Children now represent one in every three food bank clients in Canada.

Behind every number is a real child. It could be a child who sits beside yours at school, rides the same bus, plays at the same park or belongs to the same sports team.

When you donate a box of snacks, you are helping a parent make their groceries last until payday. You are helping a child open their lunchbox and have something to eat alongside their classmates. You are helping a family begin the school year with one less worry.

We would love to see families make the food drive part of their Saturday. Bring the kids, visit one of our three locations and help us fill another seat on the bus.

We are incredibly grateful to the Nottawasaga OPP Auxiliary, Landmark Bus Lines, Indie 92.5 FM, Zehrs, FreshCo and Giant Tiger for making this event possible. Now we need Alliston to help us fill the bus.

Please join us on Saturday, Aug. 22, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Zehrs, FreshCo or Giant Tiger.

Purchase a few extra school snacks, choose a premade donation bag or make a monetary donation using our TipTap machine. However you participate, your contribution will directly support local children and families.

We have the bus. We have the volunteers. Now we need your help to fill every seat.

Come on, Alliston. Let’s stuff the bus full of school snacks!

Thank you for helping to feed our neighbours.



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County approves affordable housing development in Wasaga Beach

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

The County of Simcoe is taking the next step to deliver more affordable housing in Wasaga Beach, with county council approving the advancement of planning approvals and detailed work design for the proposed Zoo Park Phase 2 Affordable Housing Development.

Building on the success of the existing 99-unit Simcoe County Housing Corporation development at 175 Zoo Park Road, the proposed project would add new affordable housing opportunities for seniors and

individuals while supporting the county's long-term commitment to increasing housing supply across the region.

The proposed development includes a six-storey mixed-income building containing a total of 155 residential units. By maximizing the site's potential, the proposed design would create additional affordable housing while incorporating County Social and Community Services space and a range of resident-focused amenities.

The additional units are meant to meet affordable housing needs in the area, in cooperation with the town to ensure neigh-

bourhood compatibility and function. Staff are proceeding with council direction and will continue to evaluate council's feedback to potentially add a few smaller studio units and enhance all-ages outdoor space.

With council approval, county staff will now proceed with the planning, engineering and design work required to advance the project to a permit-ready stage. Staff will also continue to work with the Town of Wasaga Beach on the transfer of lands to the Simcoe County Housing Corporation, explore funding opportunities, and evaluate partnership options that could support

the project's long-term financial sustainability.

Subject to future funding approvals and Council authorization, construction could begin as early as 2028, with occupancy targeted for 2030.

The Zoo Park Phase 2 project forms part of the County's Long-Term Affordable Housing Strategy and supports the goals of the Building Up Simcoe County – Our Community Blueprint for Affordable Housing and Homelessness Prevention strategy by increasing access to affordable housing for residents.

Town representatives will attend 2026 Association of Municipalities of Ontario Conference

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

Representatives of the Town of New Tecumseth, including Mayor Richard Norcross, who is also chair of the Simcoe Auto Mayors, will attend the 2026 Association of Municipalities of Ontario Conference in Ottawa from Aug. 16 to 19.

A total of 444 municipalities in Ontario have been invited to attend the conference.

The Mayor and representatives will advocate for priorities that support economic development, strong communities, infrastructure investment, and the continued growth of Ontario's automotive sector.

As one of Ontario's fastest-growing municipalities, New Tecumseth continues to support initiatives that strengthen the regional economy and create opportunities for residents.

During AMO 2026, Mayor Norcross and town representatives will participate in conference programming and regional discussions that highlight the importance of the automotive sector, infrastructure investment, and collaborative approaches to supporting

growth across Simcoe County and Ontario.

"AMO provides an important opportunity to highlight Simcoe County priorities, and those shared by New Tecumseth," said Mayor Norcross. "The automotive sector is a key economic driver for our region, supporting jobs, investment, innovation, and long-term prosperity. Through our participation at AMO, we will continue to champion initiatives like Canada North Vehicles while highlighting the infrastructure and partnerships needed to support sustainable growth throughout Simcoe County."

As part of the conference, the Simcoe Auto Mayors, with representation from the Town of New Tecumseth, will host a networking event focused on advancing conversations around Canada's automotive sector and the Canada North Vehicles initiative.

The event hopes to bring together municipal leaders, government representatives, and industry stakeholders to discuss opportunities that support automotive innovation, investment, and economic growth.

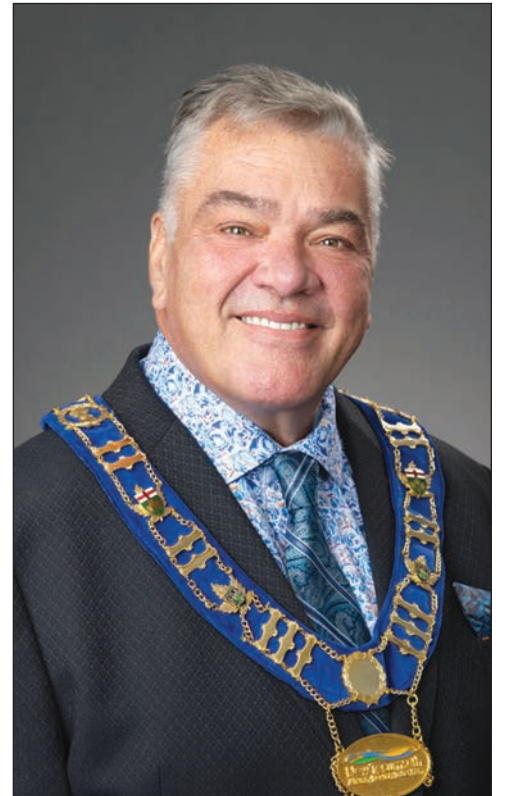
"The auto industry is incredibly impor-

tant to New Tecumseth," Mayor Norcross said. "Honda employs almost 5,000 people directly at the plant, and with everything else like small businesses and trucking companies, indirectly it's around 20,000 jobs. This affects so many people locally and in Simcoe County through all the other spin-off opportunities and manufacturers that employ locally. Our Simcoe County Mayors Association – we started working on this together. We received a response from the Prime Minister himself, Mark Carney, congratulating us – he supports us. This initiative started because of the (US) tariffs, and we had to do something."

The conference will bring together many municipal leaders as well as representatives from the provincial government.

ADVOCATING AT AMO – New Tecumseth Mayor Richard Norcross, chair of the Simcoe Auto Mayors, is attending the 2026 Association of Municipalities of Ontario conference in Ottawa, where municipal leaders will advocate for automotive-sector investment and infrastructure to support regional growth.

FILE PHOTO



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Arts & Local Events

Stitch-Y by Ricky is all sewn up with quality handmade products

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

After a lifetime of sewing, Ricky Blow of Stitch-Y by Ricky is producing and selling high-quality sewn items that are not only very popular, but also made from repurposed materials.

Ricky brought her unique items to the Tottenham Vendor’s Market on Sunday, Aug. 16, and drew a lot of attention as visitors noticed how well-made they are while also being very practical.

“I source fabric from thrift stores, garage sales, and people give it to me,” Ricky explained. “I recycle it into makeup bags, tote bags, and hair-tool bags. They are reversible. There are a lot of landfill issues with clothing – people are buying things and getting rid of them. I wanted to take a little piece of that and repurpose instead of throwing it away.”

Ricky has been sewing for her entire life, so she has a lot of experience putting things together. She said the hardest part of making her products is the zippers.

“I’ve been sewing my whole life,” Ricky

said. “My grandmother taught me how to use the sewing machine, how to thread it, and oil it, and do all the things you need to know. The demographic of people I sew for really want these products. They want recycled items.”

Ricky listens to what people are looking for and will make items based on trends or needs.

“When people say they want something, I go for it,” Ricky explained. “The hair-tool bag is something new for me. People said they wanted something for hair tools and products, so I cater to them, and next time, that’s probably what I’ll have. I follow trends and try to make people happy.”

Cutting the fabric, Ricky said, is the hardest and most time-consuming part of the process. She does everything by eye and doesn’t rely on plans.

She also does full-size blankets and quilts and has completed projects up to a queen-size bed.

Ricky sells her products at various vendor markets and will continue through the summer into the fall.



SEWING – Ricky Blow of Stitch-Y by Ricky brought her hand-crafted makeup bags, tote bags, and hair tool bags to the Tottenham Vendors’ Market on Sunday, Aug. 16. Ricky is a lifelong sewer who makes practical, high-quality products.

BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

She also has a retail store where she will sell her makeup bags.

You can follow Ricky and see where she

will be selling her products by going to Instagram and searching for Stitchy-Y by

Ricky.

Canadian Festival of Old Cars coming to Simcoe County Museum this weekend

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

If you like vintage automobiles, this festival will be a great place to spend a day viewing old cars from the last century.

The Canadian Festival of Old Cars is returning to the Simcoe County Museum and is co-sponsored by the Horseless Carriage Club of Southern Ontario.

This is more than just a car show – the

Canadian Festival of Old Cars offers a captivating weekend celebrating the golden age of automotive history.

You will witness the charm and power of pre-war vehicles as they come to life and cruise through the Museum grounds, offering a rare glimpse into the craftsmanship of vehicles from the late 19th and early 20th century.

Whether you are a car enthusiast, history lover, or simply looking for a unique summer experience, this family-friendly festival promises something for everyone. Enjoy the

hands-on history, marvel at century-old engineering, take part in special car games, and listen to live music while enjoying the nostalgia of vintage motoring.

The Canadian Festival of Old Cars will take place on Saturday, Aug. 22 and Sunday, Aug. 23, at the Simcoe County Museum located at 1151 ON-26 in Minesing.

Admission is \$10 for adults (21-64), \$8 for seniors (65+), \$8 for youth (12-20) and \$5 for children (4-11).

Entry is free for preschoolers and museum members.



VINTAGE VIBE – The Canadian Festival of Old Cars is returning to the Simcoe County Museum, bringing vintage autos from the late 19th century and early 20th century.

FILE PHOTO

Health Unit urges caution around blue-green algae blooms

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

The Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit is reminding residents to avoid contact with water where blue-green algae (cyanobacteria) blooms are present.

Blue-green algae occur naturally in Ontario lakes, ponds, rivers and streams. Blooms are most common during the summer and early fall when water is warm and calm.

While not all blue-green algae blooms are harmful, some produce toxins that can make people, pets, and wildlife ill.

Exposure to toxins produced by blue-green algae can irritate the eyes, nose, throat, and lungs, as well as cause stomach pain, vomiting, diarrhea, headaches, muscle weakness, fever, and dizziness.

In severe cases, swallowing affected water can damage the liver or kidneys.

Anyone who has come in contact with blue-green algae and develops symptoms after exposure should contact a health-care provider.

Pets can become seriously ill if they drink affected water or ingest blue-green algae

while grooming after swimming. Contact a veterinarian if your pet may have been exposed to a bloom and shows unusual behaviour or signs of illness.

A blue-green algae bloom can cause water to:

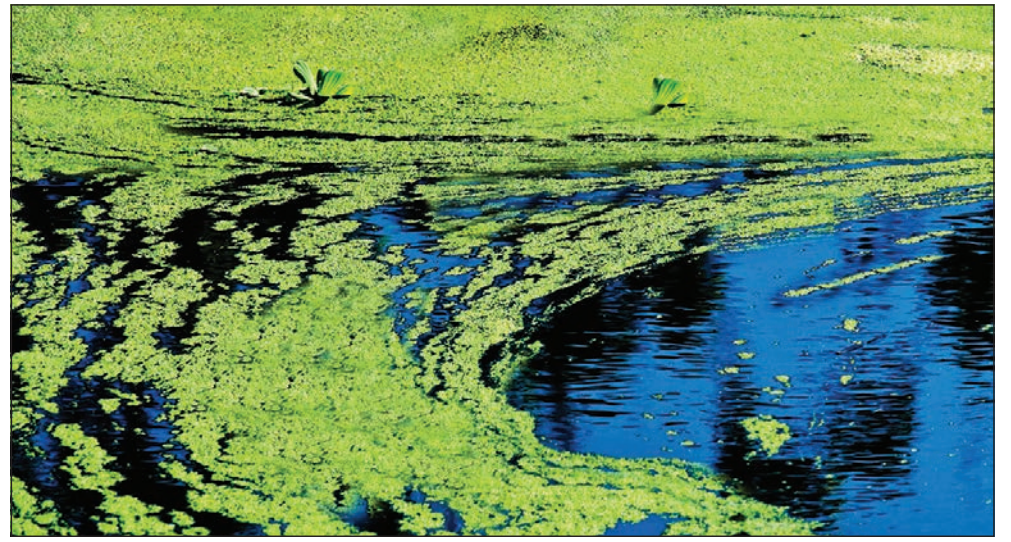
- Appear blue-green, bright green, or turquoise
- Look like pea soup or as though paint has been spilled on the surface of the water
- Develop floating scum, streaks or thick mats
- Produce a must, garbage-like or rotten-egg odour

Never use untreated water from a lake or river for drinking, cooking or preparing infant formula.

Boiling water does not destroy blue-green algae toxins and may increase their concentration when water evaporates. Private water supplies and residential water treatment systems may not remove the toxins effectively.

If water appears to contain a bloom, assume toxins are present and avoid contact.

- Do not swim, wade or participate in water sports where a bloom is visible
- Do not allow pets or livestock to swim in



CAUTION – The Health Unit is reminding residents to avoid contact with water that contains blue-green algae blooms. The blooms have toxins that are harmful to both people and pets.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

or drink affected water

- Be cautious about eating fish caught from water where a bloom is present
- Do not apply herbicides, copper sulphate or other algacides, as these can cause algae cells to break open and release additional toxins into the water

If you suspect a blue-green algae bloom, avoid the area and report it to Ontario's Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks through the Spills Action Centre.

Public health, municipalities, and environmental agencies work together to investigate confirmed blooms and inform the public.

Construction-trade unions contribute \$250,000 to support Stevenson's redevelopment

Stevenson Memorial Hospital Foundation (SMHF) recently received a combined commitment of \$250,000 from the Carpenters and Allied Workers Local 27 and Drywall, Acoustic Lathing & Insulation Local 675. The funds will help advance the redevelopment of Stevenson Memorial Hospital through the Because of YOU Campaign.

The joint contribution reflects the Locals' commitment to strengthening the communities where their members live and work. Their investment will help bring exceptional healthcare closer to home by supporting the construction of a modern hospital that will serve South Simcoe and the surrounding

region for generations to come.

"On behalf of Stevenson Memorial Hospital Foundation, I want to sincerely thank Local 27 and Local 675 for their remarkable generosity," said Dr. Ted Vandevis, President and CEO of SMHF.

"This investment is about more than bricks and mortar, it is an investment in the health and wellbeing of our families, friends, neighbours, and future generations. Community partnerships like this are helping make our new hospital a reality, and we are incredibly grateful for their support."

Representatives from Local 27 and Local 675 joined Foundation leadership for a

cheque presentation celebrating the milestone gift.

Stevenson Memorial Hospital is currently undergoing a transformational redevelopment that will significantly expand patient care capacity, modernize services, and better meet the needs of one of the province's fastest growing regions.

The Foundation's Because of YOU cam-

paign is raising \$80 million to help fund the new hospital, ensuring local residents have access to exceptional care close to home for decades to come. Every gift, regardless of size, plays an important role in bringing the new hospital to life.

For more information about the Because of YOU campaign or to make a donation, please visit: stevensonfoundation.ca



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Province announces \$16.6 million in funding to support Southlake

BY BROCK WEIR

Nearly \$17 million in Provincial dollars are coming to Southlake Health's Newmarket campus to improve accessibility and infrastructure.

The funding was announced at Southlake's Cancer Centre on Friday morning by Newmarket-Aurora MPP Dawn Gallagher Murphy, who said \$3.7 million through Ontario's Health Infrastructure Renewal Fund (HIRF) will support significant infrastructure upgrades, while the balance of \$12.9 million would support ongoing hospital operations.

"Across Ontario, our government is investing more than \$281 million in critical upgrades and repairs at hospitals and community health care facilities, which includes \$266 million through the HIRF investment," said MPP Gallagher Murphy. "Our support for Southlake also extends to services that patients rely on every day. Our infrastructure is critical because without infrastructure we don't have a building where people can come to for care. Last year, we did see more than \$14.8 million in support of emergency care, expanding CT operating hours, operational funding to reduce wait times, as well as surgical recovery times. These investments, they all matter because our community is growing and our local health care system has to grow with it."

"It takes a village and Southlake has the cream of the crop when it comes to the professionals who help care for our community members. Every investment we make ultimately supports the people who walk through the doors, who are seeking urgent care, who are seeking comfort, who are seeking hope. That...is what it's all about: making sure that when someone in our community needs care,

they can receive it close to home in a safe and modern environment."

Dr. Paul Woods, President & CEO of Southlake Health, said the \$12.9 million increase in operational funding comes at "an important time for Southlake" and the communities of northern York Region and southern Simcoe County they serve.

"As our communities continue to grow, so too does the demand for leading-edge care," said Woods. "A new patient arrives at Southlake approximately every four-and-a-half minutes and when they do, we need to be ready. Today's investments will help ensure that we continue to deliver the safe, timely and compassionate care every patient deserves."

"Operating funding is what allows hospitals to provide care every day. It supports the people, programs and services that patients rely on, from emergency and inpatient care to surgery, diagnostics and specialized regional programs. It also gives us greater flexibility to respond to the growing needs of some of the fastest-growing and aging communities in Ontario, while continuing to invest in quality, innovation and the patient experience. It is especially timely as we look towards the future and our vision to build a distributed health network that delivers leading-edge care even closer to home. We recognize that every public dollar comes with a responsibility to use it wisely and Southlake remains committed to responsible financial stewardship, continuously improving how we deliver care and ensuring investments are directed where they have the greatest impact that benefits patients, visitors, staff and medical staff."

Speaking to the impact of the HIRF funding, Nathan Robinson, Southlake Health's



FUNDING BOOST – Newmarket-Aurora MPP Dawn Gallagher Murphy presents Southlake Health President and CEO Dr. Paul Woods with a cheque for over \$16.6 million in provincial funding for hospital operations and infrastructure upgrades. **CONTRIBUTED PHOTO**

Director of Capital Development, said the \$3.7 million will help renew critical behind-the-scenes and front-of-mind resources that support patients, staff, and physicians there every day.

"The funding will support priority infrastructure projects that includes dealing with our emergency power systems as well as our heating, cooling and air conditioning systems. These projects are important to create a safe and reliable environment for patients, families and care teams," he said. "This ensures critical systems remain energized during a power outage, air management systems are reliable and that our infrastructure is in alignment with infection control standards."

"This funding also has a secondary ben-

efit that sometimes isn't considered. When critical infrastructure projects like these are funded through the HIRF program, the hospital is able to move forward with other high priority projects to improve or enhance the patient experience. This year, the capital that Southlake would have been allocating to deal with those infrastructure projects is going to be reallocated to renew the lobby of our East Building. That project is going to improve accessibility and safety for all patients and visitors that visit the hospital.

"The reality of operating a busy hospital is that the infrastructure requires constant attention and that attention is critical to ensuring clinical teams and patients can focus on what matters: high quality care."

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SPORTS

NEW TECUMSETH TIMES

Brewers blank Majors 6-0 and 3-0 to put Orillia on brink of elimination from opening round of NDBL playoffs

BY JIM STEWART

The Bolton Brewers seized control of their opening round playoff series with Orillia by shutting out the Majors 6-0 on Tuesday night at Udell Park and 3-0 on Friday night at Taylor Fields.

The Brewers' success all season has been predicated on bludgeoning the opposition with their powerful batting lineup, but the seven-time League champs have flipped the script to start their series versus Orillia.

Great starting pitching from Charlie Hughes and Carson Burns combined with excellent defence and some timely situational hitting comprised the winning recipe in the opening games of the best-of-five playoff series.

The fourteen consecutive shutout innings thrown by Hughes and Burns were even more remarkable in that the Brewers surrendered twenty-four runs in two regular season losses to the Majors: 10-9 in late-May and 14-5 in mid-June.

The story of Game 1 in Orillia on Tuesday was the dominant start by Hughes whose complete game three-hitter commenced his team's playoff push. The Brewers' young hurler struck out eleven Majors and walked only one.

Head Coach Mike Wallace praised Hughes's pristine opening game performance: "Charlie's a special pitcher. His rhythm and tempo were incredible. The walk he allowed was a four-pitch walk to start the game. After that, he pushed the easy button."

Brewers' hitters got to Orillia starter Ian

Leggault during his three innings of work by plating four runs and collecting eight hits.

Bolton augmented their 4-0 lead by adding one run in each of the sixth and seventh innings to secure their six-run margin of victory. Brett Chater and Amin Juarez spearheaded the Brewers' 12-hit attack with three knocks each.

Hard-hitting Jack Larmer drove in three runs with two hits and a sacrifice fly. Coach Wallace complimented Larmer's season-long production at the plate.

"He's been amazing all season in the three-spot. This is Jack's first full season with us. He's done a tremendous job at third and first base, too."

On Friday night, the series moved to Taylor Fields and Burns took over where Hughes left off. The righthander shut down the visitors with a 1-2-3 top of the first and struck out the side in the second inning. Burns scattered seven hits and escaped two jams at the top of the fifth and sixth innings.

The Brewers bats were rendered similarly quiet by soft-throwing Majors lefty Luke Earle. The Brewers finally got to Earle at the bottom of four when the red-hot Juarez notched his fifth knock of the series with a single up the middle. Coach Wallace followed by lashing a one-out double that settled against the center-field fence and plated the fleet-footed Juarez from first.

The turning point of the contest took place at the top of the fifth. With the bases loaded and one out, Burns protected the Brewers'

precarious 1-0 lead by inducing a pop fly to sure-handed Ben Sterritt in centerfield and a weak grounder that second baseman Justin Malananan flipped to first baseman Larmer to stifle the prospective Majors rally. After surrendering a lead-off double in the sixth, the unflappable Burns retired the next three Orillia hitters with a 4-3 groundout, a strikeout swinging, and a popup behind first base that Larmer surrounded and secured.

The Brewers gave their starter some breathing room at the bottom of the sixth by plating two runs. Burns helped himself with a lead-off single, Amin Juarez stroked his sixth hit of the series and third single of the game, and Wallace dropped a textbook bunt down the first base line that stopped on the infield turf-advancing Burns and Juarez. Carter Burnside smashed a shot up the middle of the infield to plate Burns and Paul Cota looped a popup RBI that landed fair at first base and side-spun into foul territory—scoring Juarez.

Returning to the bump at the top of the seventh with a 3-0 lead, Burns earned his CG victory by inducing a ground out to Larmer at first, surrendering a one-out single, and then silencing the potential uprising by the high-scoring Majors by coaxing a lineout to Cota in left field and a pop up to Sterritt in centre. Coach Wallace applauded his Game 2 starter's performance: "Carson was just awesome right from the get-go. The top of their lineup is similar to ours so for him to navigate through those hitters was impressive. Carson is one of our durable guys. He's got the stamina to keep

it going and throw complete games."

Wallace offered some insights into his game-winning RBI double in the fourth inning as he praised Orillia's crafty hurler and noted his team's surging momentum: "I've known Luke as a pitcher for a long time. He's very good. I was trying to stay inside the baseball on the double. He was landing his curveball and had great fastball command. It took some great situational hitting to beat him tonight. It was a pitcher's duel out there, but we have a strong feeling in the dugout. We're playing better now—excellent pitching and defence. Our lineup wasn't as productive as usual tonight, but our pitching and defence carried us in Game 2."

Burns echoed his Player Coach's assessment of the keys to victory that have given the Brewers a stranglehold on the NDBL quarterfinal series: "We carried over our dominant pitching and solid defence from Tuesday night. We struggled a bit tonight with their pitcher—his curve kept our big hitters off balance and he was pitching backwards with fastballs. It's been all about the intensity of the playoffs. We don't want to go back to Orillia more than twice. Our veteran guys have been here before. Our lineup is high quality and the defence has been great so far in the series. This is a far different team than the one that lost to Orillia in the cold in late-May."

As Burns noted, the Brewers have warmed up at the right time of the season and will look to sweep the Majors during Game 3 of the series that returns to Orillia.



THUNDER TIME – The throw to first base comes a little too late during the first inning of a game between TNT Thunder U13 Gold and the New Lowell Knights at Coventry Park in Tottenham on Tuesday, Aug. 11. Minor baseball is now in playoff mode as teams from around the region battle it out on local diamonds. The Thunder won this game 15-9. **BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO**



TAGGED ON THIRD – A player is too late and is tagged out at third base during a U14 baseball game between the team sponsored by McGoe Insurance and Jamie McGinty Real Estate on the diamond at Coventry Park in Tottenham on Thursday, Aug. 13. The McGoe team won the game 11-6. **BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO**



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Search warrant executed in Shelburne following theft from business

Dufferin Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) officers executed a search warrant at a residence on Muriel Street in Shelburne in connection with a break and enter investigation involving a business in Melancthon on March 6 and made an additional arrest on July 28.

During the search, officers located and seized footwear and clothing believed to have been used during the incident, along with property believed to have been stolen during the break and enter.

On Feb. 21, police responded to a report of a break and enter at the Shelburne Iron and Metal yard located in Melancthon, where multiple items were stolen.

On Feb. 27, Dufferin OPP officers identified

a vehicle believed to be connected to the investigation. Through further investigation, officers determined the vehicle had previously failed to stop for a Reduce Impaired Driving Everywhere (RIDE) program in Shelburne earlier that same morning, which assisted investigators in identifying the individuals involved.

Officers later located the vehicle and continued their investigation.

On March 6, members of the Dufferin OPP Community Street Crime Unit (CSCU), Caledon CSCU, and Dufferin OPP frontline officers executed a search warrant at the Shelburne residence on Muriel Street.

As a result of the investigation, officers identified two individuals believed to be responsible

for the break and enter. Warrants were subsequently issued, and both accused individuals have since been located and arrested.

Additional property believed to be connected to the break and enter was also recovered during the investigation.

On March 18, Michelle Minialoff, 58-year-old female, from Shelburne, has been charged with Possession of Property Obtained by Crime

On July 28, Jakob Hackson, 39-year-old male, from Algonquin Highlands, has been charged with Break and Enter, Flight from Police, Possession of Property Obtained by Crime (two counts) and Theft Under \$5,000.

Footwear and clothing believed to have been used during the Break and Enter was seized by

police, along with a box of stolen parts seized during the warrant, which were confirmed to be stolen during the Break and Enter. Stolen copper wire and a chainsaw were also seized.

Dufferin OPP would like to remind residents to remain vigilant and report any suspicious activity.

Anyone with information, dash camera footage, or security video related to this incident is encouraged to contact the Dufferin OPP.

Anyone with information regarding this incident or other suspected unlawful activity is asked to contact the OPP at 1-888-310-1122, or Crime Stoppers anonymously at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS) or online at crimestoppersdm.com.

Ontario Provincial Police release results of Airplane Enforcement Program over the long weekend

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

Aggressive drivers may have thought they had clear sailing on the highways over the long weekend; however, police were in the air observing road conditions from above.

The Ontario Provincial Police Airplane Enforcement Program (AEP) supported targeted traffic enforcement efforts across Central Region during the Civic Holiday long weekend,

resulting in numerous charges against motorists engaging in dangerous driving behaviours.

The initiative paired an officer in the OPP aircraft with officers on the ground. Traffic violations observed from the air were communicated in real time to officers on patrol who conducted traffic stops and addressed behaviours that put road users at risk.

With the assistance of the AEP, officers laid 49 charges.

Speeding was the most common offence, accounting for 67 per cent of all charges. That was followed by charges for following too closely at 20 per cent.

The OPP continues to see speeding, aggressive driving, and other dangerous driving behaviours contribute to serious collisions on Ontario roadways.

The AEP is one of several specialized tools used by the OPP to identify unsafe drivers and

enhance road safety.

Aerial enforcement provides officers with a unique perspective, allowing them to observe driver behaviour over extended distances and detect violations that may otherwise go unnoticed.

This initiative successfully identified numerous high-risk driving behaviours from the air and directed officers on the ground to take enforcement action.

Continued from Page 4

Brock's Banter: Sounds of summer and silence

I write this not out of any misplaced nostalgia, but simply to say that whether I am walking through my current neighbourhood or revisiting some of my old stomping grounds, what was once a rich natural orchestra has dwindled to minimalist Muzak.

Of course, outside of our insect cousins, whether they're part of a creepy-crawly equivalent of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir or closer to the one-man-band offered by Dick Van Dyke at the start of Mary Poppins, there are other benchmarks that we subconsciously use to mark the change of seasons.

Not too long ago, there was a general window in time where it was safe to pack

away your winter woollies and bring out some of your lighter gear for the spring and summer. Now, doing that is simply a matter of tempting fate.

Given the volatility of the weather, it's getting harder and harder to leave the house with a safe outfit choice that will get you through the whole day. In fact, I've now taken to keeping a couple of changes of clothes in the office, along with an "emergency" pair of boots, just in case any beachy weather in the morning gives way to wind and hail a few hours later.

Heck, even if you're in the comfort of your own home and have no intention of going out for the day, you only have to look at the microburst that hit northwest Aurora

a couple of months ago, leaving a trail of destruction behind it, as just one example on how so much can turn on a dime – and how off-guard we can all be caught.

Whether it is the volatility in our weather or the once-cacophonous medley of our insect brethren winding down to a Billie Eilish-like whisper, it's getting harder and harder to ignore – and deny – the rapid environmental changes happening in the world around us.

By the same token, it's also getting harder and harder to allocate patience for those who choose bury their heads in the sand, and either pretend it's not happening, refuse to look at the big picture, or, worse, resign themselves to the idea that

there is nothing we can do here at home because other far-flung populations and governments are doing far more to exacerbate the problem.

While I'd still be hard-pressed to be in the same room as someone filing their nails with reckless abandon, take a stress-free phone call from a past-co-worker, or show any kind of interest waiting for the top to fly off a jack-in-the-box, I have a new appreciation for that hollow ratta-tat-tat against the window.

Is it something I'd seek out? Probably not, but if they came tapping again, I'd welcome them with open arms (not open windows) and hope some other signs of natural healing aren't too far behind.

Don't go fishing for your news, community highlights, current events and more!

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OBITUARIES

FOREVER IN OUR *Hearts*

Milton Charles Bradley

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Milton Charles Bradley, who passed away peacefully with his family by his side on Saturday, August 8, 2026, at Southlake Regional Health Centre in Newmarket, Ontario. Beloved husband of Betty Bradley (née: Williams) for over 58 years.

Milton will be lovingly remembered by his children, Chris and Shawn, and his grandson, Alexander. He was predeceased by his son, Paul Albert.

He will also be fondly remembered by his sister, Brenda Royale Bradley, predeceased by her husband, Mike, as well as his nephew and niece, Bradley and Lindsay.

Milton's family will cherish the memories they shared with him and carry his memory in their hearts.

Cremation has taken place. In lieu of flowers, donations in Milton's memory may be made to Southlake Regional Health Centre. Condolences and memories may be shared at www.RodAbramsFuneralHome.com.



Prentice: Kenneth Allan "Ken"

It is with deep sadness that we announce the unexpected passing of Kenneth Allan "Ken" Prentice at Sunnybrook Hospital on August 13, 2026, at the age of 68, peacefully with his loving family by his side.

Ken was the beloved father of Jessica (Vince), Jeff (Cortney), and Nathan (Julie), and a cherished grandfather to Katelyn (Kyle), Julia, Samantha, Owen, Olivia, Aria, Valerie, Gabriel, and Jameson.

He will be dearly missed by his siblings Doug (Adair), Kathy (the late Gerry), and Gord. Ken was predeceased by his parents, James and Bernice Prentice.

He will be forever remembered and lovingly missed by his nieces, nephews, extended family, and friends.

Ken's memory will live on in the hearts of all who knew and loved him.

The family will receive family and friends at Rod Abrams Funeral Home, 1666 Tottenham Rd., Tottenham, 905-936-3477, on Sunday, August 23rd, 2026, from 10am until the time of Service at 12pm.

A reception will be held in the funeral home's Cliffside Hall. Interment will follow in Trinity United Cemetery.

Condolences and memories may be left for the family at www.RodAbramsFuneralHome.com

Remembering your loved one

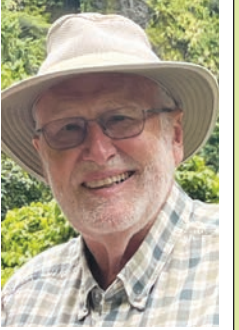
Placing an obituary in one of our newspapers is a meaningful way to honour the life of your loved one and share their story with the community that helped shape them — including friends, neighbours, and colleagues from every chapter of their life. An obituary becomes a lasting tribute, preserving memories, values, and accomplishments for future generations. It offers a moment to reflect on a life well lived and the love left behind. Most of all, it invites a community to remember together, to grieve, and to offer comfort and connection during a time of loss.

If you would like to place an obituary in the New Tecumseth Times, or one of our affiliate newspapers, contact Vicki at: vicki@lpcmedia.ca

Gerald ("Gerry", "Gerbear") Ross

Passed away peacefully on August 15, surrounded by family and love, following a brief and courageous battle with brain cancer.

Born in Oshawa and a longtime resident of Alliston, Gerry was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, brother, friend, and respected community member. He was predeceased by his beloved wife, Katherine Ross, and is lovingly remembered by his wife, Gillian Winter; daughters Sara Ross Sawchuck (Mike) and Alana Ross; stepdaughters Sally (Andrew) and Emily (Gabe); grandchildren Sam, Juliette, and Livvy. Gerry was the cherished brother of Katie Rudow (Terry), the late Don Ross (Tracy), and a beloved brother-in-law to Karen (Jerry) and a loving uncle, cousin and dear friend to many more.



For nearly 50 years, Gerry practiced dentistry in Tottenham, Ontario, where he was known for his compassion, warm personality, and dedication to his patients. An internationally recognized expert in laser dentistry, he was passionate about teaching, mentoring, and advancing patient care around the world.

Gerry embraced life with enthusiasm, enjoying travel, golf, curling, fishing, fitness, and time with family and friends. Known for his generosity, kindness, and ability to make friends wherever he went, he touched countless lives and leaves behind a lasting legacy of love, friendship, and cherished memories.

Visitation will be held at W. John Thomas Funeral Home, Alliston, on August 20 from 10:00 a.m. until the funeral service at 1pm. In lieu of flowers, donations to Matthews House Hospice would be appreciated. For details, visit www.thomasfuneralhome.ca

Keith Foster



It is with profound sadness that the Foster family announces the peaceful passing of Keith Foster on August 13, 2026, a beloved husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather.

Keith was born at home in Markdale, Ontario, on June 7, 1937, and lived a life defined above all by family.

He was the beloved husband of Mary, his wife of 66 years. Together, Keith and Mary built a remarkable life and family, raising their three sons, Stephen, Paul and Greg. Their marriage was a true partnership, built over more than six decades on loyalty, perseverance, shared responsibility and a deep commitment to their family.

Keith was tremendously proud of his family. He was the proud father of three sons, Stephen, Paul and Greg, and shared a particularly special bond with Christina, a cherished and deeply valued member of the Foster family. He was grandfather of seven - grandsons Jason, David and Robert (Erin), and granddaughters Casandra, Megan, Sarah and Alexis - and great-grandfather of three, Blake, Jaclyn and Andrew.

For Keith, family was not simply part of his life; it was at the centre of it.

Through 66 years of marriage, raising three sons, watching his grandchildren grow and then having the privilege of knowing another generation through his great-grandchildren, Keith experienced something very special - the opportunity to see the family he and Mary began continue to grow around them.

Keith was a man who could be serious when the moment required it, but he also possessed a wonderful sense of humour and a natural charisma that drew people to him. He was financially astute and believed strongly in teaching his family the value of a dollar, the importance of making sound decisions and the responsibility that came with working for what you had.

Keith also loved woodworking, creating many wall hangings and other pieces over the years for family and friends. Those pieces will remain tangible reminders of the care, patience and craftsmanship he put into the things he made.

Leaving the family farm was a significant step in Keith's young life. His first job was with TD Bank in Feversham, Ontario, but another opportunity would soon take him much farther from his roots.

After being accepted for a position with Ford Motor Company in Oakville, Keith often told the story of his mother and father driving him from Markdale and dropping him off at the four corners in Brampton. They had no desire to venture any farther into the city, so they wished their son luck and sent him on his way.

It was the beginning of an extraordinary career.

Keith would spend more than 35 years with Ford Motor Company, beginning on the factory floor delivering mail by bicycle and steadily climbing the corporate ladder to become Director of Logistics, National Dealerships. His career was a testament to his work ethic, determination and belief that opportunities were there to be earned.

Even while building his career at Ford, Keith never lost his entrepreneurial spirit. Over the years, his adventures included selling used office furniture, undertaking a 10-day marathon at the Canadian National Exhibition in Toronto selling Top 40 Records and Nerf Toys, selling gift cards to variety stores throughout the GTA, distributing gumball machines and pursuing numerous other ventures - some considerably more successful than others.

Through it all, Mary stood beside him, while Stephen, Paul and Greg quickly learned that being Keith Foster's sons occasionally came with an expectation of providing free labour.

Following his years at Ford, Keith and Mary decided to jump in with both feet once again, purchasing Sweet Temptations, a high-end ice cream and deluxe chocolate store at Queen's Quay Terminal in Toronto. It meant long hours and long days, but Keith embraced the challenge as he had so many others throughout his life.

Keith was also a loyal and devoted member of the United Church, first at Cookville United Church and later at Trinity Centennial United Church in Rosemont. His faith and his church community remained important parts of his life.

Keith will be remembered not only for the lessons he taught, but for the way he lived them - with loyalty, practicality, humour, determination, strength and an unwavering devotion to his family.

He leaves behind his loving wife, Mary; his younger sister, Mary Jean (Peter McDougal); his sons, Stephen, Paul and Greg; Christina, a beloved member of the Foster family; his seven grandchildren; his three great-grandchildren; and the extended family and friends whose lives he touched over the course of his life.

His passing leaves an enormous space in the Foster family, but it also leaves something enduring - a marriage of 66 years, three sons, seven grandchildren, three great-grandchildren and a lifetime of stories, lessons and memories that will continue through the generations.

Visitation and Funeral Service - Wednesday, August 19, 2026

11:00 a.m. - Visitation

12:00 p.m. - Funeral Service at Trinity Centennial United Church, Rosemont

The service will be followed by refreshments and, in a spirit Keith would surely appreciate, good conversation.

Keith will be deeply missed, lovingly remembered and forever remain an important part of the family he and Mary created together.

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