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Friday:
Scattered
Flurries



Saturday:
Mix of Sun
and Clouds



Sunday:
Cloudy with
Sunny Breaks



Monday:
Mix of Sun
and Clouds



Snowfall Creates Snow Day



The recent snowfall meant shovelling the driveway and some slippery driving; however, others revel in winter activities. The hill at the Tottenham Conservation Area was busy with sledders over the weekend. A group of children took advantage of the winter weather and launched their sleds down the hill on Sunday, January 11.

BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

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County supports 112 age-friendly housing projects through grants

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The County of Simcoe is reporting that it has supported the successful completion of 112 housing projects through the 2025 Age-Friendly Seniors Housing Grant Program.

This highlights the strong commitment of communities and the growing demand for accessible, age-friendly housing options across the region.

The Age-Friendly Seniors Housing Grant Program is a key initiative identified in the Simcoe County 2025-2030 Positive Aging Strategy.

Since Simcoe County Council approved an annual allocation of \$500,000 in 2018, the program has helped advance 559 accessible, adaptable, and inclusive housing projects that enable older adults to age safely and independently in their own homes.

“Supporting older adults to live independently, safely, and comfortably is a priority

for our Council,” said Simcoe County Warden Basil Clarke. “The Age-Friendly Seniors Housing Grant Program continues to make a meaningful difference across our communities by helping residents adapt their homes and improve accessibility. We are proud to invest in initiatives that enhance quality of life and allow seniors to stay in their homes and community longer.”

Eligible applicants to the Age-Friendly Housing Program grants include individuals and organizations that have completed qualifying housing projects within the County of Simcoe, excluding the cities of Barrie and Orillia.

The County will launch the 2026 Age-Friendly Housing Grant on March 1, 2026, with applications accepted until May 31, 2026.

To learn more about the County of Simcoe’s ongoing investment in innovative strategies that support positive aging and help build sustainable, age-friendly communities, visit online at simcoe.ca/agefriendly.



Simcoe County accepting applications for 2026 Experience Simcoe County Partnership Fund

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The County of Simcoe is now accepting applications for its 2026 Experience Simcoe County Partnership Fund.

This year, the County Council has allocated \$400,000 to fund tourism- and culture-driven initiatives aimed at attracting visitors to the region.

“Tourism and culture are vital to Simcoe County’s identity and economy,” said County Warden Basil Clarke. “Through the Experience Simcoe County Partnership

Fund, we’re proud to support creative, collaborative initiatives that showcase the best of our region, attract visitors, and strengthen our communities. This program is about investing in experiences that make Simcoe County a destination of choice for all.”

Up to \$10,000 in funding is available for marketing, public art and beautification, trails and cycling infrastructure, and workforce development initiatives, while up to \$20,000 can be requested for signage projects.

Eligible organizations may submit a maximum of one application for funding by the Friday, Feb. 13, deadline.

The 2026 funding will support and enhance tourism across Simcoe County by:

- Investing in initiatives that increase awareness and appreciation of, and access to, Simcoe County’s diverse tourism, cultural, and recreation offerings

- Foster partnerships and collaboration among tourism stakeholders, municipalities, and organizations to strengthen the regional tourism ecosystem

- Support innovative, inclusive, and accessible programming that improves the quality and appeal of visitor experiences

- Contribute to the County’s overall economic health by stimulating tourism-related spending and promoting Simcoe County as a desirable destination.

- Align funded projects with the Experience Simcoe County work plan and strategic priorities, including destination marketing, product development, and workforce development

opment.

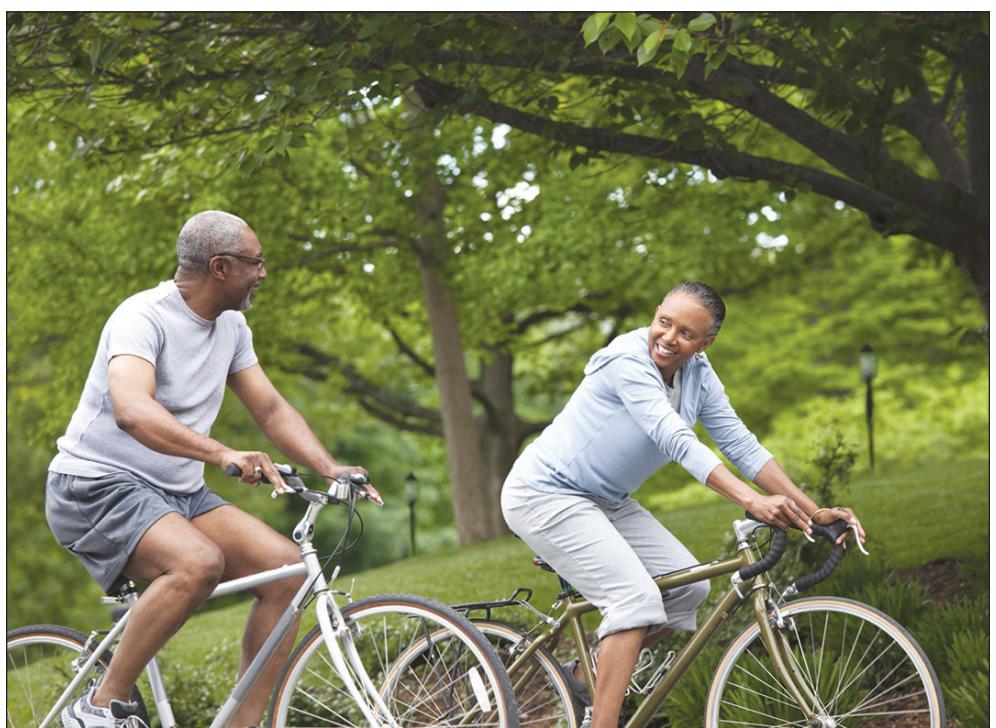
- Enhance tourism experiences that promote accessibility, inclusivity, and engagement for older adults by fostering social connection, active living, and lifelong learning within the community

All applications are reviewed by the County of Simcoe’s Grant Task Force, which consists of appointed members of County Council and is supported by County staff.

Funding will be distributed among successful applicants based on their alignment with the program’s requirements and objectives, and the project’s overall benefit to the entire region.

Program details and application guidelines can be found experience.simcoe.ca/resources/grant.

Prospective applicants can contact Tourism Simcoe County staff by email at tourism@simcoe.ca with any questions.



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Town receives \$12.5 million for water infrastructure funding

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Town of New Tecumseth will receive up to \$12,527,165 from the province to rehabilitate the water infrastructure in Alliston.

MPP for Simcoe-Grey, Brian Saunderson, made the announcement during a press conference at the New Tecumseth Administration Centre on Friday, Jan. 16.

The funding comes from the province's Municipal Housing Infrastructure Program's Health and Safety Water Stream.

"This provincial investment will help ensure Alliston's wastewater system can increase operational capacity and improve treatment effectiveness, support both current need and future growth," MPP Saunderson said. "By strengthening core infrastructure today, we are helping New Tecumseth plan with confidence for the years ahead. It is a wonderful opportunity for the province to partner with municipalities so we can make sure our communities are growing in a responsible and sustainable way."

The funding will be used in the Town of New Tecumseth for Clarifier Rehabilitation at the Alliston Wastewater Treatment Plant.

"By strengthening core infrastructure today, we are helping New Tecumseth plan with confidence for the years ahead."

Brian Saunderson, MPP for Simcoe-Grey

Included in Ontario's \$220 billion capital plan to build transit, highways, hospitals, schools, and water infrastructure that enables new housing, this funding is part of \$4 billion in the Municipal Housing Infrastructure Program.

"As we continue to navigate economic uncertainty and unwarranted U.S. tariffs, our government is protecting Ontario by investing in critical infrastructure that drives growth, creates jobs and strengthens com-



ANNOUNCEMENT – Simcoe-Grey MPP Brian Saunderson addresses the Town of New Tecumseth at the Town Administration Centre on Friday, Jan. 16, to announce funding of \$12.5 million from the province's Municipal Housing Infrastructure Program. The funds will be used to rehabilitate water infrastructure.

BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO



FUTURE GROWTH – Simcoe-Grey MPP Brian Saunderson is joined by New Tecumseth Mayor Richard Norcross and Town Councillors at the Town Administration Centre on Friday, Jan. 16, for a funding announcement. The Town will receive a \$12.5 million grant to rehabilitate water infrastructure.

munities," said Todd McCarthy, Acting Minister of Infrastructure. "Through our historic \$4 billion Municipal Housing Infrastructure Program, we are giving municipalities and First Nations the tools they need to get shovels in the ground and build stronger communities. Our investments will deliver more homes, modernized aging water systems and lay the foundation for long-term prosperity across Ontario."

New Tecumseth Mayor Richard Norcross said the funding will help the town achieve its goals with upcoming growth.

"This grant we are getting today, is going to allow us to make sure our wastewater is cleaner, and helps us protect our environment," Mayor Norcross said. "Together, we are building a stronger more resilient community. The Town of New Tecumseth is being prepared for growth."

ON YOUR SIDE

STANDING UP
for the residents of Alliston, Beeton, and Tottenham in Parliament

FIGHTING FOR
lower taxes, affordable homes, responsible immigration, and safer communities

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cutting through red tape and resolving issues with federal agencies and departments

SUPPORTING
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~ Stanislaw Jerzy Lec

Senior discount

Adults: \$10.00
 Seniors (over 65): \$6.00
 Youth: \$6.00
 Children: \$5.00
 Children under five: Free

How many times have you seen admission prices to an event or festival that list their prices based on age? The above is a fairly typical admission pricing for many events.

I guess the idea is, if you are family, you get a break on the younger kids to make it affordable for two adults and two children.

If you're a 'youth,' you get a break of a couple of dollars because youth typically don't have a lot of money.

Children under five are usually free. I guess that's because kids under that age have no idea where they are or why they are even there, and will forget they were even there by the time they get home.

Seniors get a break on a couple of dollars because it is generally assumed they are no longer working and are on a fixed income.

The definition of 'senior' has changed over the years. At one time, you were considered a 'senior' if you were 65 years of age or older.

Over the years, the age at which

someone is considered a 'senior' has dropped by quite a bit.

Some places have started offering discounts to seniors aged 55 and over.

Most people are still working at age 55. That may seem older to someone who is 18, but if you're 55 years old and already consider yourself a senior citizen, maybe you need to become more active or something.

The thing is, life is short. One day, you're driving around with your friends to local hot spots, hoping to meet some girls, and the next day, you're bouncing your grandson on your knee, and you wonder where the years went.

I used to work in an office environment that had a lot of young women employed. Most of them were in their early to mid 20s. Pretty much all of them still lived at home. Several were attending university or teachers' college at the time.

They were the 'hip' bunch – all good-looking. They were all friendly, but at the same time, they considered their supervisor, who was in her early 50s at the time, to be an old lady.

Now, occasionally, I'll run into one of them. They are all now in their mid 40's with grown children of their own. They have become the 'older' crowd to their children and children's friends.

How times change.

Seniors tend to get a break on many things – except taxes.

The county where I live has just announced age-friendly grants to help make homes for seniors more accessible and adaptable, so people can grow older in their own homes.

That's great, except they still have to pay the full amount of property tax, which leaves many people strapped for cash. In some cases, an age-friendly grant is useless because the home a person wants to grow old in is no longer affordable, having been taxed out of it.

Property taxes are the one tax you pay based on a perceived value.

If you make \$50,000 in a yearly salary, you are taxed on a percentage of that income.

If you make a purchase in a store, you are taxed at 13 per cent HST on the amount you paid.

However, when it comes to property taxes, you pay on what someone thinks your home is worth.

If you have lived in a home for 20 years, you haven't made a single cent from it. If you die while living there, you will never make a dollar from it.

Yet, you are given a tax bill based on the EXPECTED amount of money you

BRIAN LOCKHART
 FROM THE SECOND ROW



will make if you sell it.

What if there is a slump in the market, and you have to sell that home for \$50,000 less than it was judged to be worth? I've never heard of any municipality sending a homeowner a letter saying, "sorry, we overcharged you for the last 20 years, here's your refund."

I understand why property taxes are necessary – I don't understand why a person with a bigger house needs to pay more. Why should you be penalized for having a large family and needing a larger house?

Maybe that person worked harder and saved a bigger down payment than someone else who paid far less for a home, but still has the extra money in a bank account?

Property taxes are used to pave roads and maintain water treatment plants. Why should one homeowner pay more for what we all use?

The county has the right idea in trying to help seniors age at home, but wouldn't they be even better off if the senior discount applied to property taxes so they can actually live there?

After all, these are people who have paid a lifetime of taxes already.

The more things change...

The first chapter of a New Year is often one of introspection.

It's sometimes a time to reflect on the previous year as it settles into the history books, and sometimes these reflections help a person set some late-breaking resolutions.

If you happen to have a milestone birthday just ahead or just behind, this introspection can often get a bit deeper, reflecting on the last five years, the last decade, or more.

My own milestone birthday, which took place about four months ago and is barely visible in that rear-view, wasn't necessarily a time for looking back, although there was some time spent reflecting on what I intended to accomplish by the time the final digit age odometer flipped around to this particular zero, and what should be prioritized by the time the zero comes back around again. Still, I found myself with my eyes on the horizon.

But social media can sometimes make this a taller order.

No matter your platforms of choice, chances are you've seen scores of individuals doing the shallowest of deep dives into themselves.

The 2016 "Challenge" – which is hardly herculean in the task at hand – most often sees the individual post a photo of themselves today side-by-side with a photo taken a decade previously. Now, to be fair, many of the posted images in question mean different things to different people. For some, they represent a decade of change and growth. For others, the pictures-of-the-past represent a specific milestone, celebratory or difficult, that were part and parcel of 2016.

For others still, maybe even the slight majority, the compare-and-contrast can even be something of a fishing expedition – that is, fishing for compliments about how well they've aged, or otherwise turned back the so-called hands of time in the ensuing decade.

Now, as someone whose hairstyle has changed very little since my

father first took me to his elderly barber, a man who began taming his own tresses more than 25 years before, in the 1990s – aside from the mass arrival of grey over the last five years, I didn't have much visual material to compare.

So, of course, I turned to the written word.

My first step was looking into some of the back issues of this newspaper.

This space here is one of the only places I express my views and I was curious to look back on some of the topics that were on my mind 10 years ago this month.

A cursory flip through some of the pages leading up to this one, I was struck by how many issues that were front-of-mind 10 years ago are still bandied about – creative ways to preserve greenspace, how to secure greater autonomy for municipalities over upper levels of government, community heroes being recognized for achievements large and small, and

BROCK WEIR
 BROCK'S BANTER



particularly telling, a trifecta: supporting local business in the face of impending challenges south of the border, community groups and organizations teaming up to eradicate hate crimes and bias within our communities, and students finding avenues to speak out on the issues that matter to them, whether it was through visual art, the written word, or through challenging worldviews in spirited international debate arenas.

"The sights and sounds of Times Square this time around were very recognizable, but there were very noticeable differences," I wrote in early 2016 about spending New Year's Eve in New York City and, in a remarkable example of foresight and getting ahead of trends, comparing it to my first NYE in NYC a full decade before.

Continued on Page 15

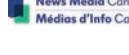
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Iran: Don't Intervene

Any day now, the United States will "come to the rescue" of the protesters in the streets of Iran's cities and American bombers will unleash "hell" on the minions of the theocratic regime – or not, as the case may be.

It's been more than three weeks since the demos started (Dec. 29) and Trump's threats are getting old. His latest exhortation to the protesters, whose will to continue seems to be fraying a bit, told them once again that "Help is on the way!" But there is no useful way that he can keep his promise. Bombs alone won't work.

Trump's bombers cannot eliminate the elite Revolutionary Guard troops and Basij militiamen who are killing the protesters without flattening the cities they all live in together. His high-tech missiles can pick off the regime's political leadership in their homes, but others will simply replace them.

We saw how smoothly President Ebrahim Raisolsa-

dati was replaced by Masoud Pezeshkian when the former was killed in a helicopter crash in 2024. There are three designated successors to the 86-year-old Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. This is not a regime that will crumble because of a few deaths.

A full-scale invasion might do the trick, but Donald Trump couldn't put 'boots on the ground' even if he wanted to. Given his understandable reluctance to incur serious American military casualties, bombs are the only form of violence he can use against the regime of the ayatollahs. So where are they?

As usual with Trump, it was 'speak first and think later', but his long delay before acting suggests that he has finally grasped the nature of the difficulty. He will no doubt bomb a bit in the end, but it won't help.

Non-violent protests of the sort that brought down the Shah 46 years ago are no longer reliable. Every tyrannical regime has studied the techniques and learned to counter them. The new wisdom is that if

you control the streets (kill as many protesters as necessary), take over the mass media, and shut down the internet, you can probably smother the protests eventually.

The revolution of 1979 that brought the current regime to power was a classic early example of non-violent revolution, rendered even more effective by the reverence for martyrdom that is very strong in the Shia branch of Islam.

Day after day the protesters came out on the streets, willing martyrs for the cause, and eventually the army refused to shoot them any more so the revolution won. Iran's current constitution talks about "60,000 martyrs", but subsequent research suggests that the real death toll was between 2,000 and 3,000. It was still enough to overthrow the king.

The killing got off to a much slower start in the protests that were triggered by a collapse of Iran's currency last month, but they have accelerated dramatically in the past

few days. The latest figures for the dead range between 2,000 and 2,400, so why are we not seeing the same demoralization in the ranks of the oppressors as in 1979 – and what does this portend?

In general, it confirms the conclusion that non-violent revolution is no longer the sure-fire proposition that many people imagined it was 40 years ago. (New tactics always elicit new counter-tactics.)

For Iran in particular, it means that this attempt to overthrow the country's theocratic regime, despite the courage and determination of the people in the streets, could go either way. Indeed, some protesters are so frustrated that they are resorting to violence themselves: about 10 per cent of the reported fatalities are officials and soldiers of the regime.

It's doubtful that Trump has bothered to learn much about either Iran or the history of revolutions, but his political instincts are good. A quick hit-and-run on Venezuela can be effective and perhaps even profitable; attacking a very large country in the Middle East in support of a revolution that may fail is not a great plan.

One might add that even a successful intervention that brings the tyrants down may turn out to be counter-productive. It is possible to imagine successor regimes that are even worse than the current one. It's more than four decades since Iranians had a real choice, and nobody knows what will come out of the box if it is opened now.

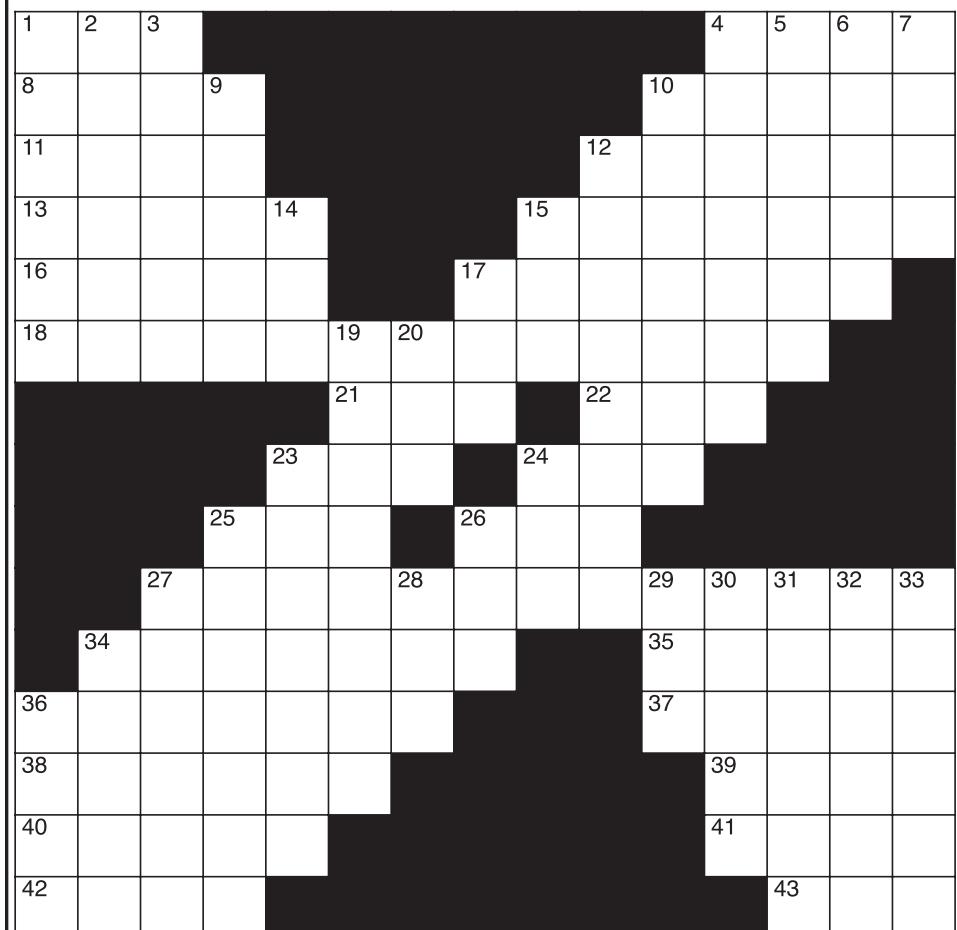
What we do know is that regime change imposed by the West on countries in the Middle East – e.g. Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya – has an almost perfect record of catastrophic failure. Trump has promised too much already to do absolutely nothing about the massacre of protesters in Iran, but he should do the absolute minimum he thinks he can get away with.



GWYNNE DYER
OUR WORLD TODAY



CROSSWORD



Puzzle No. 261410 • Solution in Classifieds

CLUES ACROSS			
1. Racket sport pros	25. Midway between	1. Type of bomb	24. Tell on
4. Make tea	north and northeast	2. South Pacific islands	25. North American
8. City South of	26. High schoolers' test	3. Celestial body	peoples of southwest
Moscow	27. Does not accept	4. Negotiates	26. Soviet Socialist
10. Spanish bullfighting	responsibility	5. Consider in a	Republic
term	34. One who prepares	specified way	27. Extract used for
11. Egg-shaped	35. Gout-indicative	6. Type of group in	jams and jellies
12. Could not	deposits	organic chemistry	28. Greek goddess of
remember	36. Place to play games	7. Buddhist	the dawn
13. French modernist	37. Book of Genesis	monasteries	29. Old English letter
painter	character	9. Inhabitant of Bering	30. A way to exaggerate
15. Persons	38. Cleans oneself	Sea island	31. Get up and leave
16. Painful intestinal	39. Unloaded for	10. Body part	32. "Boardwalk
obstruction	money	12. Milestone birthday	Empire" character
17. Professions	40. Genus of flowering	14. Thyroid-stimulating	33. More generous
18. Is up to the task	plants	hormone	34. Hanging cloth used
21. Wood or metal bolt	41. Take a puff	15. More (Spanish)	as a blind
22. Tax collector	42. Congressmen	17. Chicago ballplayer	35. Ancient Greek
23. A way to save for	43. God of battle	19. Leaves a place	sophist
the future	in Scandinavian	20. Cannot be found	
24. Georgia rockers	mythology	23. One's internal body	
	CLUES DOWN	parts	

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



COMMUNITY VOICE

Monthly Message: A New Year built on community generosity

The past year truly showed the strength, compassion, and generosity of our community. Between Nov. 1 and Dec. 31 alone, the Alliston Food Bank served 2,326 individuals and families and raised 22,858 pounds of food.

This represents an increase of 2,838 pounds over the same period last year. By the end of 2025, a total of 62,639 pounds of food had been raised, which is 16,208 pounds more than in 2024. Behind every number is a neighbour supported, a meal shared, and a community that continues to care for one another.

As we move into a new year, we are incredibly grateful for the generosity shown throughout 2025, especially during the holiday season. Christmas is always one of our busiest times of year, and once again our community stepped up in meaningful and generous ways to support neighbours facing food insecurity. The compassion shown during these months was felt across every part of our organization and by every family who walked through our doors.

Throughout November and December, food drives, fundraising efforts, community events, and volunteer initiatives took place across Alliston and surrounding areas. From large workplace collections to smaller neigh-

bourhood efforts, every contribution mattered.

Businesses such as All In 1 Supplements, Ideal Supply, Alliston Volkswagen, M&M Food Market, Briway Carriers, HOWA, Honda Canada, Simcoe Parts, Davenport, and Lake Simcoe Paramedic Services rallied their staff and customers to help stock our shelves. Many more businesses also contributed throughout the year, far too many to name individually, and we are sincerely thankful to each and every one of them for their generosity and ongoing support.

We would also like to extend a heartfelt thank you to FreshCo, Zehrs, Foodland, Giant Tiger, and No Frills for their continued support throughout the year. Their partnership plays a vital role in ensuring our shelves remain stocked and that families and individuals have access to nutritious food when they need it most.

Community events and seasonal initiatives also played an important role during the holidays. We are grateful to everyone involved in efforts such as the Home Hardware Holiday Market, along with many other local initiatives that brought people together in support



of the Alliston Food Bank. Each event, whether large or small, strengthened our ability to serve the community during a time of increased need and growing demand.

We are also thankful for the continued support of community partners, including the OPP and Landmark Bus Lines, the Sugar Tones, and Kiwanis. Local sports teams such as hockey clubs, baseball clubs, badminton clubs, and the Ghost Riders gave back through games, tournaments, and collections. These efforts not only supported families in need but also helped build strong community connections and a shared sense of purpose.

Volunteers were truly at the heart of everything that happened during this busy season. Group volunteers from Honda and cooperators, along with our dedicated regular volunteers, gave countless hours sorting donations, stocking shelves, preparing hampers, assisting clients, and keeping daily operations running smoothly. We cannot thank our volunteers enough for their time, flexibility, and commitment. Every shift filled and every task completed helped ensure neighbours

were supported with care, respect, and dignity.

We would also like to extend a special thank you to bakeries near and far for their generous donations of freshly baked goods throughout the holiday season. These donations were deeply appreciated and brought comfort, warmth, and a sense of normalcy to many households during a challenging time of year.

Schools and churches continued to support our work through food drives and collections, helping ensure families had access to nutritious food during the holidays while reinforcing the importance of caring for one another within our community.

Another valued initiative during the holiday season was the Tim Hortons Holiday Smile Cookie campaign. We are grateful to our local Tim Hortons restaurants, their staff, and everyone who supported this campaign by purchasing cookies in support of the Alliston Food Bank.

As we begin 2026, we do so with full shelves and sincere gratitude. The generosity shown throughout 2025 is a powerful reminder that our community truly looks out for one another.

From all of us at the Alliston Food Bank, thank you for your continued support.

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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Have your say at upcoming public meeting on local building by-laws

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Town of New Tecumseth is reviewing its Building By-law and seeking public input to determine its future direction, including updates to building permit fees.

Next month, the Town will hold a public meeting to share the proposed changes to the by-law and to receive input from local residents.

New Tecumseth Council is proposing updates to the by-law, which may include:

- Adding or simplifying permit fees
- Updating cost guidelines
- General housekeeping improvements

Anyone can take part in the public meeting and/or make a written or verbal presentation either in support or opposition to the proposed By-law amendment.

Your comments will become part of the public record.

Registration to attend the meeting is not required, but residents are encouraged to

sign up in advance using the online form available at <http://newtecumseth.ca/en/town-hall/speaking-before-council.aspx>.

If you wish to make a written submission regarding the proposed By-law amendment, you must make a written request to the Town Clerk at Town Hall or via email at clerk@newtecumseth.ca.

Additional information related to the proposed Building By-law Amendment, including current and proposed fees and the justification for the changes, is available for inspection Monday to Friday between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., at the Building Department, by telephone at 705-435-3900, or by email at building@newtecumseth.ca.

The public meeting will take place on Monday, Feb. 9, 2026, at 6 p.m. in the council chambers at 24 Tupper Street West, Alliston.

The meeting will be livestreamed through the Town of New Tecumseth's YouTube channel.



LETTER TO THE EDITOR: Scoop it

Dear Editor,

I'd like to address a growing issue in Tottenham that has become impossible to ignore — mostly because we're all trying very hard *not* to step in it. Yes, I'm talking about the dog poop decorating our sidewalks, lawns, and the areas around local businesses like some kind of unwanted modern art installation.

Let's be honest: if you're walking your dog and not picking up after it, you're sim-

ply being a jerk to the rest of the community. There's no polite way to phrase it. It's lazy, it's rude, and it shows an utter disregard for your neighbours. Imagine walking out your front door in the morning, coffee in hand, only to find a steaming surprise on your lawn — right where your kids or grandkids play. Not exactly the kind of "fresh air" Tottenham is known for.

And before anyone claims it's "inconvenient," let's review the facts. There are garbage bins all over town. New Tecumseth

even provides dog waste pickup in the green bins. Bags are cheap, tiny, and weigh less than a feather. This is not a Herculean task. If you can hold a leash, you can hold a bag.

Leaving dog waste behind doesn't just look disgusting — it makes our town look neglected. It's embarrassing for residents, unpleasant for visitors, and unfair to the businesses trying to keep their storefronts clean. We all share these sidewalks and green spaces. They don't magically belong to "someone else" just because your dog

chose them as a bathroom.

So please, for the love of community, decency, and the soles of our shoes: pick up after your dog. It takes 10 seconds and prevents 10 times the frustration. Tottenham is a great place to live — let's keep it that way.

Don't be a jerk. Scoop the poop.

And yes, I am a dog owner who picks it up.

Steve B.
New Tecumseth

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Arts & Local Events

Sibling rivalry on stage in production of *The Attic, the Pearls, and Three Fine Girls*

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Siblings sometimes have a complicated relationship, and three very different sisters try to navigate through personal issues following the death of their father in the Blackhorse Village Players production of *The Attic, the Pearls, and Three Fine Girls*.

Five authors contributed to writing this play: Martha Ross, Jennifer Brewin, Leah Cherniak, Alisa Palmer, and Ann-Marie MacDonald.

Directed by Amanda Dempsey, the action takes place in the family home somewhere in Ontario as the three sisters return home in anticipation of their sick father's death.

They had already lost their mother 10 years earlier.

The play switches between the sisters as adults, sometime in the 1980s, and the same group as children growing up in the home.

In the role of Jelly, the youngest daughter, Jacquie Moore is a quirky artist who works with boxes and is anticipating a showing of her work in Berlin. She has been her father's main caregiver for the past year and breaks the news of his death to her two sisters.

Middle daughter Jayne, played by Julie Docherty, loves her job in the world of big business, but hides a few secrets about her personal life from her sisters.

In the role of JoJo, the oldest daughter, Amanda Tessier brings to life the character of a university professor who holds a bitter memory of her ex-husband.

The play opens with a scene in the home's attic where the two oldest girls, as children, have locked the youngest in a trunk – and have a good laugh over it.

When Jelly informs her two sisters that their father has died, they start to make plans for a funeral, and at their father's request, a party in his honour, two weeks later.



ON STAGE – Siblings return to their family home in anticipation of their father's death in the Blackhorse Village Players production of *The Attic, the Pearls, and Three Fine Girls*. The play stars Jacquie Moore, Amanda Tessier, and Julie Docherty as three sisters who relive their childhood in the home they grew up in, while dealing with past and current issues in their lives.

BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

The two oldest sisters are anticipating a modest inheritance from their father's estate to help pay for the party. As the main caregiver, Jelly has been bequeathed the family home.

JoJo and Jayne are shocked to learn their father's bank account has been reduced to

a paltry \$75, after Jelly spent the money on various needs over the year.

As the three grown women share the house for a few days after their father's death and plan the party, conflicts arise, with childhood memories playing a big part in how they feel about each other.

Over a few days, the women learn to redefine their future together as the remaining family members.

The Attic, the Pearls, and Three Fine Girls is on at the Blackhorse Village Players' Mount Wolfe Road and Highway 9 stage through Jan. 25.

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No driver's license? Ontario photo ID card provides identification

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Ontario Photo Card is a wallet-sized card that serves as government-issued identification for Ontario residents who do not have a driver's license.

This makes it easier for residents to open a bank account or perform other activities that require official identification.

Here's what you should know:

- Ontario Photo Cards can be used for day-to-day business transactions and as proof of identity for travel within Canada.
- You cannot use an Ontario Photo Card for international travel.
- It is important to note that you cannot have an Ontario Photo Card and a driver's license, or a photo ID card from Ontario or another province, state, or country, at the same time.
- When applying for an Ontario Photo Card, you must surrender your existing Ontario

driver's license, foreign driver's license, or photo identification.

- You must inform Service Ontario if you ever had an Ontario driver's license – even if it is suspended or cancelled.

- If you already have an Ontario Photo Card and apply for a driver's license, you must surrender your Ontario Photo Card; it will be cancelled.

- You can apply for an Ontario Photo Card in person at a ServiceOntario centre if you do not have a driver's license, are a resident of Ontario, and are 16 years of age or older.

- When applying, you will need to bring original identity documents, such as your birth certificate, to verify your legal name and date of birth.

- An Ontario Photo Card is valid for five years. At the end of the five-year period, the card must be renewed. You are required to get a new photo for the card every 10 years.

- If you are due for a new photo, you must renew your card in person at a ServiceOntario

centre.

- There is a \$35 renewal fee.

- Once your application is complete, your new Photo Card will be delivered by mail within four to six weeks.

- The submitted photo on your Ontario Photo Card must meet certain standards.

- Your whole face must be completely visible.

- Nothing can block your face – your hair should not cover your eyes.

- You should keep a neutral and relaxed expression – do not smile.

- Look straight at the camera – do not tilt your head.

- Wearing headwear for religious or medi-



SERVICE ONTARIO PHOTO

cal reasons is allowed, but it must not cover your face.

- You may be asked to remove items such as hats, eyeglasses, or headphones before your photo is taken.

- You can change your address on your Ontario Photo card either online or in person at a ServiceOntario centre.

South Simcoe Police lay multiple charges in connection to robbery at knifepoint

South Simcoe Police received a report of a robbery that occurred at the Sandy Cove Variety on Lockhart Road in Innisfil on Tuesday, Jan. 13, at approximately 6:45 p.m.

A male suspect entered the store brandishing a large knife.

The suspect was wearing a mask, a dark coloured jacket with the hood up, and gloves when he approached the counter, pointed a knife at the store owner, and demanded money.

The store owner complied and handed over an undisclosed amount of Canadian currency. The suspect then fled the store on

foot and was last seen running eastbound on Lockhart Road. The store owner was not harmed, and no injuries were reported.

Upon arrival, officers set up a perimeter to contain the area, and South Simcoe Police Dog Nash was deployed.

Police Dog Nash tracked the suspect to a residence on Flora Drive in Innisfil. Through further investigation by members of the South Simcoe Police Criminal Investigations Unit, a knife believed to be used by the suspect during the robbery was located outside the residence.

As a result of the investigation, a 46-year-old male from Barrie, Ont., was arrested

and charged with the following criminal offences:

- Robbery with a Weapon
- Disguise with Intent
- Assault with a Weapon
- Possession of a Weapon for a Dangerous Purpose
- Possession Property Obtained by Crime under \$5,000

The accused has been held for a bail hearing.

The charges laid against the accused individual have not been tested in court.

Police are asking anyone with information or who may have surveillance foot-

age in the Sandy Cove area from Jan. 13, between 6:30 and 6:40 p.m., to contact South Simcoe Police Criminal Investigations at 905-775-3311 ext. 1461 or email investigations@southsimcoepolice.ca.

Anyone wishing to remain anonymous can contact Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS).

You can submit information online at www.crimestopperssdm.com. Crime Stoppers does not subscribe to call display, and you will remain anonymous. Being anonymous, you will not testify in court, and your information may lead to a cash reward of up to \$2,000.

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SPORTS

NEW TECUMSEH TIMES



SUNDAY SUCCESS – The Beeton Stingers U15 #1 team takes on the Georgina Bla^z 2 team at the Beeton arena on Sunday, Jan. 18. The Stingers left the ice with a 6-3 win.

BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

Hornets win both weekend games, maintain first place in the North Carruthers Division

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Alliston Hornets had three games scheduled over the past week; however, the first game, against the Stayner Siskins on Thursday, Nov. 15, was postponed due to bad weather.

On Saturday, Jan. 17, the squad travelled to Muskoka to take on the Bears at the Muskoka Lumber Community Centre.

The Hornets were shut out in the first period when Muskoka took a 2-0 lead.

Duncan Grube got the first Hornets goal

of the game at 1:50 into the second frame.

It was a 3-1 Bears game when Muskoka scored two minutes later.

The Hornets put it into second gear and scored three second-period goals to take a 4-3 lead and leave the Bears to wonder how their lead could evaporate so quickly.

Hornets' second-period goals came from David Harvey, Noah Cochrane, and Mark Coish.

The game ended with a 6-3 Alliston win when Tristen Pitt and Jonathan Beausart finished off the night with third-period goals.

The following day, the Hornets travelled to Huntsville to take on the Otters at the Canada Summit Centre.

Alliston opened the scoring late in the first period on a goal from Duncan Grube.

The Hornets delivered a second-period salvo that yielded six unanswered goals and pretty much ended the game.

Hornets' second-period goals came from Will Hopcraft, Adam McKillop, Mark Coish, John Rosato, and two from Gunner Kirk.

The only third-period goal was from Huntsville late in the period to avoid the

shutout and end the game with a 7-1 Hornets win.

The Hornets maintain first place in the North Carruthers Division of the Provincial Junior Hockey League with 52 points and a 26-9 record.

The Orillia Terriers and Stayner Siskins are now tied for second place with identical 23-9 records. Both teams have taken one overtime loss during the season.

The Hornets will return to home ice at the New Tecumseth Recreation Centre on Friday, Jan. 23, to host the Penetang Kings. Game time is 7:30 p.m.

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

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Driver charged with impaired driving, speeding 70 km/h over limit

Nottawasaga Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) officers have charged an individual with impaired driving, speeding, and stunt driving following a traffic stop.

Shortly before 10 p.m. on Friday, Jan 9, 2026, while conducting traffic enforcement, an officer observed a motor vehicle travel-

ling more than 70 km/h over the speed limit on County Road 10 in Essa.

A traffic stop was initiated shortly thereafter, and signs of impairment were observed in the driver.

As a result of the investigation, officers arrested the driver for impaired driving.

Travis Dopheide, 34, of Barrie, has been charged with:

- Operation while impaired - blood alcohol concentration (80 plus)
- Operation while impaired – alcohol and drugs
- Drive Motor Vehicle – Perform stunt –

Excessive speed

- Speeding 50+ km/h over posted limit
- The accused party was released on a Form 10 Undertaking, received a 90-day license suspension, and had their vehicle impounded.
- None of the listed charges have been proven in court.

Impaired driving charges laid after collision with hydro pole causes power outage in Essa

Nottawasaga Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) officers charged one individual following a single-vehicle collision with a hydro pole that resulted in a brief power outage and an impaired driving investigation.

On Sunday, Jan. 18, shortly after 2 a.m., Nottawasaga OPP officers responded to a

report of a vehicle that had collided with a hydro pole on Browns Line in Essa. When officers arrived, the driver was attempting to leave the scene. Police stopped the vehicle and started an investigation.

As a result of the investigation, the driver, Riley Buffan, 20, of Essa Township, was

arrested and charged with:

- Operation while impaired - blood alcohol concentration (80 plus)
- Operation while impaired - alcohol and drugs
- Operation While Prohibited Under the Criminal Code

The accused received a 90-day driver's licence suspension and a 45-day vehicle impound. The accused was released on a Form 10 Undertaking and is scheduled to appear in court to answer to the charges.

The listed charges have not been proven in court.

Complaints from citizens led to impaired driving charges for motorists from Essa, New Tecumseth

Nottawasaga Ontario Provincial Police officers have charged two individuals with impaired driving offences following traffic complaints for suspected impaired drivers.

Shortly after 3 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 8, Nottawasaga OPP officers responded to two

calls for service in separate townships, both reporting possible impaired drivers.

As a result of the investigations, officers arrested both drivers for impaired driving.

The driver from the first complaint, Dwayne Taggart, 63, of Essa Township, has

been charged with:

- Operation while impaired – alcohol and drugs
- Failure or refusal to comply with demand

The driver from the second complaint, Tammy Hurd, 47, of New Tecumseth, has

been charged with:

- Operation while impaired – blood alcohol concentration (80 plus)
- The accused parties were released on Form 10 Undertakings and are scheduled to appear in court to answer the charges.

New Tecumseth man found asleep behind the wheel, charged with impaired driving: Nottawasaga OPP

Nottawasaga Ontario Provincial Police officers charged one individual with impaired operation following emergency services locating an individual asleep behind the wheel.

Shortly after 5 p.m., on Tuesday, Jan. 13, officers responded to a call from emergency

services reporting that a suspected impaired driver had been found asleep in the driver's seat of a vehicle parked in a local parking lot.

The driver was woken, conscious, and breathing.

As a result of the investigation, officers

arrested the driver for impaired operation.

The driver, Andrea Murray, 44, of New Tecumseth, has been charged with:

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

drugs

The accused was released on a Form 10 Undertaking and is scheduled to attend the Ontario Court of Justice in Bradford to answer to the charges. The listed charges haven't been proven in court.

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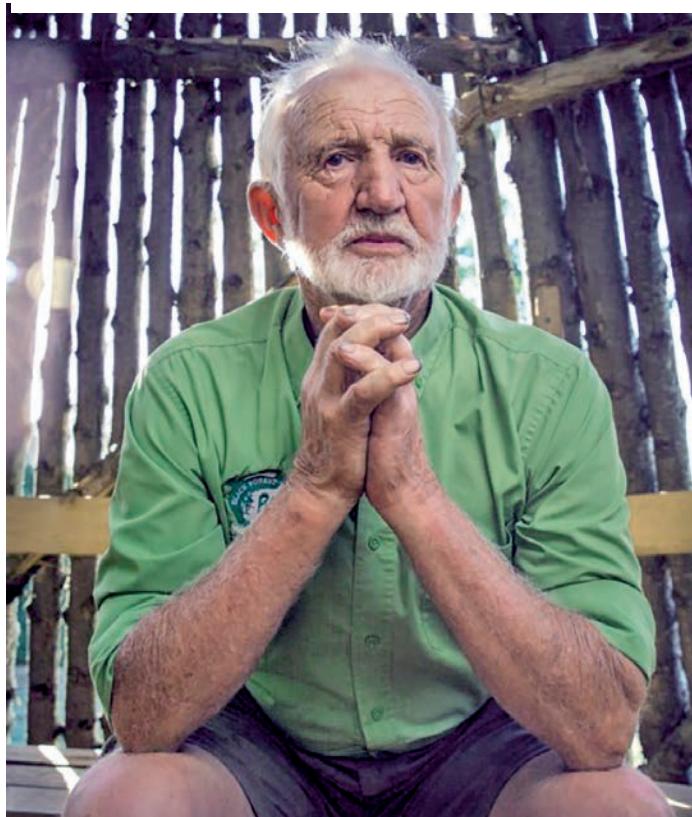
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Gerhard Wilhelm KOHNEN



It is with deep sorrow that the family of Gerhard Kohnen announces his passing. He slipped away peacefully, surrounded by family, on January 11, 2026 in his 91st year.

Gerhard was a dreamer, a storyteller, a philosopher, a lover of song and choir, and an artist who embodied the proverb: "The one who plants trees, knowing that he will never sit in their shade, has at least started to understand the meaning of life."

A loving husband, proud father, loyal son, brother, and Opa, Gerhard was born on May 19, 1935, in St. Tönis, Germany. The fourth of five children and the third son of Gerhard and Anna Kohnen (Franken), he grew up on the family farm, learning to listen to the land and to use it to bring futures and dreams to life.

In 1962, he married the love of his life, Katharina Gleumes, and together they worked tirelessly to bring those dreams into being.

Not content to remain in Germany and heeding the pull of promise in a different land, Gerhard—along with Katharina, six months pregnant, and their three young sons under the age of five—followed his older brother to Canada in 1968. They first settled in Quebec and, four years later, moved to King City, which would remain their home for the rest of his life.

In 1979, Gerhard and Katharina moved onto an old farmstead on the outskirts of King City, where Gerhard set about bringing his vision to life. Unwilling to sever his ties to the soil, and with absolute certainty in the outcome, he established a garden centre in the middle of a cornfield—seemingly in the middle of nowhere—fully confident that this jewel in the rough would succeed. His family takes enormous pride in the legacy that became Black Forest Garden Centre. Gerhard's touch was everywhere: from the stone entrance he built with fieldstones gathered from the fence line, to the whimsical structures that dotted the landscape—the blue sheep, the walking labyrinth, the secret garden, and forest trails that went nowhere and yet everywhere.

One of Gerhard's greatest gifts was his ability to connect with just about anyone, anywhere, on any subject. With homespun logic, disarming wit, life experience, humour, and endless anecdotes, he offered insight—and often a bit of advice. He touched many lives with his warmth, creativity, curiosity, and charm. People often came to the Forest just to talk. Strangers became customers, customers became friends, and friends became family.

His life was a testament to his unshakeable faith in God, in family, and in the core belief that gave him purpose every day: that life without hope is hopeless.

At heart, Gerhard was a storyteller who believed that the stories we tell are the ties that bind us—connecting the fabric of past, present, and future.

We need only look around to see his story.

And one more thing: he did manage to sit under the shade of some of those trees, even if only for a little while. For that, we are forever grateful.

Gerhard leaves behind Katharina, his beloved partner in life and wife of 63 years; his sons John, Karl (Dan), George (Maria), and Andrew (Sherry); his granddaughters Meaghan, Daniela, and Martina; his brother Willi of St. Tönis, Germany; and many nieces and nephews, all of whom will forever cherish his memory.

A visitation will be held at Thompson Funeral Home, located at 530 Industrial Parkway South, Aurora, Ontario, L4G 6W8, on January 21, 2026, from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

The funeral service will take place at Sacred Heart Parish, 14485 Jane St, King City, Ontario, L7B 1A3, on January 22, 2026, from 12:30 pm to 1:30 pm. Following the service, a reception will be held at the same location in the Parish Hall.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Doane House Hospice, 17100 Yonge Street, Newmarket, Ontario, L3Y 8V3. For more information, please visit their website at <https://www.doanhospice.org/support-DHH>.

Classifieds

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Doyle: John McCormick

Passed away peacefully with family by his side at Royal Victoria Hospital Barrie, on January 7, 2026. John Doyle, at the age of 77 years, beloved husband of Terry O'Connor. Loving father of Craig (Lois), Leah Peene (Ron), and Pat (Ashleigh). Dear grandfather of Connor, Ronan, Liam, Emma, and Braden. Predeceased by his brothers Ken and Ed. John will be remembered for his love of family, his strong ties to the Legion, and his devotion to the Montreal Canadiens, always cheering them on with passion. He remains forever in the hearts of his extended family, his Legion family, and many friends. A Celebration of John's Life will be held at the Tottenham Legion 25 Richmond St. E. Tottenham, on Saturday March 14, 2026 from 1-4pm, with Legion Service taking place at 2pm. For those wishing to make a donation in John's memory, contributions to the Royal Canadian Legion, Tottenham Branch #329, would be appreciated. Arrangements entrusted to Rod Abrams Funeral Home. Condolences and memories may be left for the family at www.RodAbramsFuneralHome.com



Erika Carolyn Nollet

January 18, 1993 –
February 20, 1997

With every snowflake that falls,
With every teardrop that is shed,
With every sunrise and sunset,
With every gentle breeze that
whispers through the trees,
With every stream of sunlight that
dances across the water,
With every season we are reminded
of you and your smile,
On this the 29th year of missing,
longing for a hug, a gentle kiss
on the cheek,
Just longing to hold you one more time,
When it's time we will.

Forever,
Mom and Dad, Alex, Evan, Zack.

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MORTON, DOUG

In loving memory of a dear brother, brother-in-law and uncle who passed away January 23, 1994.

*Two tired eyes are sleeping,
Two willing hands are still.
For one who suffered far too much
Is resting in God's will.
You never said goodbye to us,
For perhaps it's just as well,
We never could have said goodbye
To one we loved so well.*

Sadly missed and always remembered by sister Carol, brother-in-law Larry and niece Cheryl.

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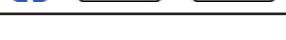
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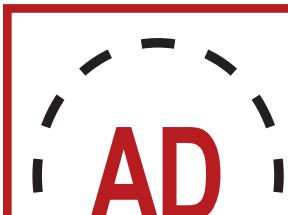
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Continued from Page 4

Brock's Banter: The more things change...

"In the lead-up to the Holiday Season, one of our very own columnists shared her initial plans to also travel to New York City for the celebration, only to scuttle them well beyond the embryonic stage after ISIS released a video their radicals apparently filmed in what was set to become the centre-stage for that evening's party. I wasn't prepared to let them spoil the party, so I continued on my merry way. A couple of hours before I set off to take in the action – come what may – I got a text from this individual recommending an extra layer of Kevlar to keep warm. Thankfully it wasn't needed."

Ten years on from that experience, and 20 years on from the first, there are different threats in the air and different reasons to consider one's options when thinking about travelling to the United States, but, for many, that sense of trepidation remains.

Another instance that struck me in a further column of January 2016 – accidentally eavesdropping upon a scene that, sadly, is unfolding ever more seldom these days.

"A shared glance. A subtle wink. A short, curt nod. You see these gestures in everyday life. Sometimes you might be on the receiving end of these signals and somehow, instinctively, you usually have the tools at your disposal to translate them into some reasonably useful information. They have spotted the same thing on the horizon. They are in on the joke. You have met before. These tools can often come in handy when observing interactions between others as well. Then there are other times when these tools fail you.

"You are thrown into something – be it a situation, conversation, or another kind of exchange – where you only have the sum of its parts and can't possibly hope to

come anywhere close to holding the whole in your hands."

One often finds themselves in this situation in this particular line of work, but this instance involved a gathering at a local library when two Second World War veterans who had participated in The Note To Self Project, a book combining beautiful portraits of individuals accompanied by letters they would have written to their younger selves.

Their conversation was jovial and from a short distance away I could hear they were trading stories, but I knew at the end of the day, however open they were in their experiences, these were experiences shared solely by the two men in the room.

The two men, one of whom was 102 at the time, had 200 years of shared experience between them, and the conversation was doomed to be impenetrable to every-

one else in the room, but it was invaluable to overhear.

Once upon a time, we took the memories and experiences of people of this generation – and the lessons we could learn from them – for granted, now the chances to do just that are fewer and further between with each passing year. And, simply put, we're not the richer for it.

It's often said that the more things change, the more they stay the same – and while that is true on the surface, if you scratch it deep enough, you can see the equation is a little bit more complex.

Comparing selfies, or even New Year's experiences, a decade apart might be fun, and it might even be an ego boost, but when it comes to deep dives, it's barely sticking a foot into the shallow end of the pool.

Let's dive a bit deeper this year.

Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit urges people to 'Don't quit quitting' smoking

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Quitting smoking or vaping can be tough, but getting support can make a big difference and increase your chance of success.

The Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit is urging residents to visit a website in Ontario that connects people to free resources to help them quit the habit.

Don't Quit Quitting is a website that con-

ncts people to those resources.

One of the best things you can do for yourself is to quit smoking or vaping, and the Don't Quit Quitting website offers tips, facts, and helpful ideas to guide you to success.

It can help you connect with support, help you find free nicotine replacement therapy, like nicotine patches, calculate how much money you can save by quitting, and guide you through ways to manage craving. Every attempt brings you one step closer to quitting

for good.

If you're like a lot of people, you've tried quitting smoking or vaping before. Whether you were smoke-free for a year or a day, every try brings you one step closer to quitting for good.

More information is available online at: dontquitquitting.ca



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