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CHECK OUT OUR TOP FLYER SPECIALS ON PAGE 7!



## Local Parks Turn Icy

With the steady cold weather, Town of New Tecumseth crews have been flooding areas in local parks to create outdoor skating rinks for residents to enjoy. There are rinks at the fairgrounds in Beeton and at the Donor Diamond in Alliston's Riverdale Park. Alliston Hornets forward Mark Coish and Midland Flyers goalie Jack Pinder, from the Provincial Junior Hockey League, get in some casual practice on the ice at Riverdale Park on Saturday, Jan. 24.

BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

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# Province investing \$1 million in support of company expansion

BY BRIAN LOCKHART  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

In support of a Collingwood company's investment of \$7,301,000 to boost its manufacturing and create 20 new, well-paying jobs over the next five years, the Province of Ontario is providing \$1 million in funding through the Regional Development Program's Advance Manufacturing & Innovation Competitiveness.

The funding was announced on Friday, Jan. 23, by Simcoe-Grey MPP Brian Saunderson.

AGNORA Ltd. manufactures architectural glass, including jumbo and oversized glass for large projects.

**"Our government is proud to support local companies like AGNORA as they expand their operations, and we thank them for their contributions to Ontario's dynamic and growing manufacturing ecosystem."**

Vic Fedeli, Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade.

"By supporting strategic investments from regional businesses, our government is protecting Ontario's workers and creating the conditions for a strong, stable, and resilient economy that can weather any storm," said MPP Saunderson. "AGNORA's investment will support growth and innovation across the local manufacturing sector and create well-paying jobs for workers and families in the region."



**SUPPORTIVE FUNDING** – Simcoe-Grey MPP Brian Saunderson stopped by AGNORA Ltd. in Collingwood to announce funding of \$1 million through the Regional Development Program's Advance Manufacturing & Innovation Competitiveness. AGNORA manufactures glass for large-scale projects.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

With this investment, AGNORA will operate a new, fully automated insulated glass line capable of handling the largest units in North America.

Additionally, this will increase their production capacity by over 40 per cent while maintaining the exceptional quality standard that AGNORA is known for.

"AGNORA is a customer service company first, so ensuring that we have the top-performing equipment to meet our customers' needs is critical to our long-term success," said Richard Wilson, President, AGNORA Inc.

"Employing more than 800,000 workers across the province, Ontario's manufacturing sector is the economic engine of our nation," said Vic Fedeli, Minister of Economic Development.

opment, Job Creation and Trade. "Our government is proud to support local companies like AGNORA as they expand their operations, and we thank them for their contributions to Ontario's dynamic and growing manufacturing ecosystem."

Ontario is investing over \$220 million through its Regional Development Program to help manufacturers across the province grow while supporting distinct regional priorities.

To date, Ontario has supported more than 180 projects through the program, leveraging more than \$2.5 billion in new investments and helping to create over 4,800 jobs.

The provincial government launched the Regional Development Program for Ontario's eastern and southwestern regions in November 2019.

ber 2019.

Through this program, businesses and municipalities can get financial support and guided access to a range of complementary services and supports.

"On behalf of the entire County, we thank the province for investing in our region, creating more jobs and further supporting one of our world-class manufacturing businesses," said Simcoe County Warden Basil Clarke. "AGNORA manufactures glass that is used throughout North America, and this investment, combined with AGNORA's commitment to growth, innovation and support for our local labour force, is welcome news as we all work together to help grow our local and regional economy."

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# Tips on how to protect yourself during extreme cold weather events

BY BRIAN LOCKHART  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The County of Simcoe Paramedic Service. With recent frigid temperatures, the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit is offering tips on how to protect yourself from extreme cold.

While freezing temperatures and snow are a part of winter life, extreme cold can be dangerous to your health.

Environment and Climate Change Canada issues an extreme cold warning when temperatures or wind chills drop below thresholds for at least two hours within a 24-hour period.

These thresholds are -33°C for Simcoe County and -35°C for the District of Muskoka.

The Health Unit reminds everyone that exposure to extreme cold can cause frostnip, frostbite, and hypothermia. These conditions can be severe and even life-threatening.

Cold weather can also worsen existing health issues, such as heart and lung problems.

People who are most at risk include those without housing, older adults, babies and children, people with health problems, and those who work or spend long amounts of

time outside.

Cold-related injuries can be prevented by following some simple steps:

- Check the weather before you go out and adjust your plans for the conditions.

- Learn about the signs and symptoms of frostnip, frostbite, and hypothermia, and what to do if they happen to you or someone in your care.

- Dress for the weather by wearing layers. Have an inner layer, a warm middle layer like a sweater, and a wind-resistant outer layer.

- Stay warm and dry. Change into dry warm clothes if you get wet or sweaty.

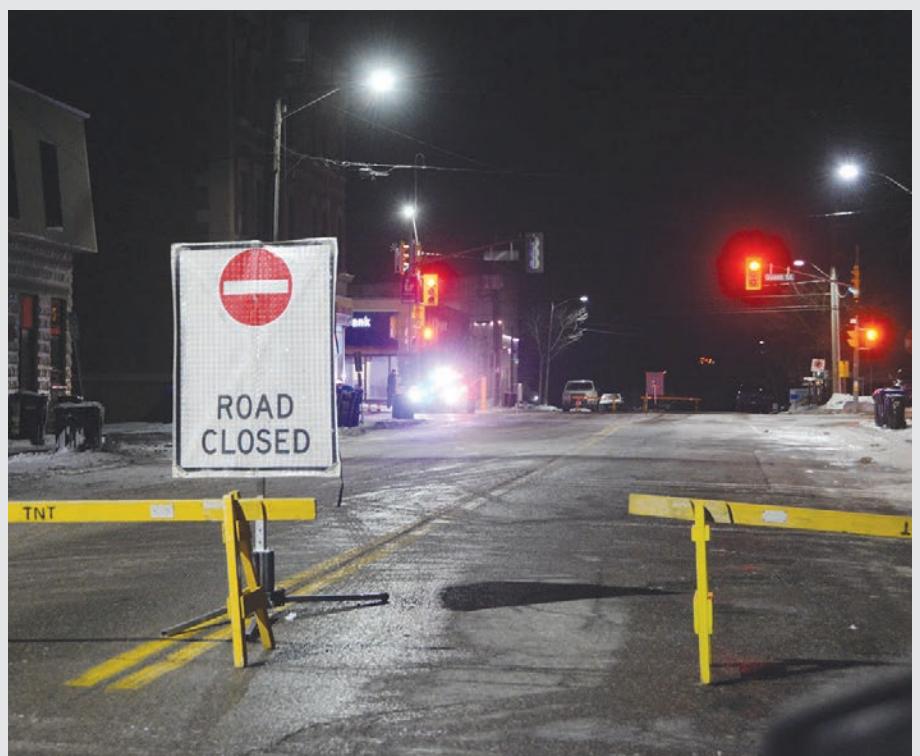
- Seek shelter from the wind and cold, and take regular breaks from the cold if you are outside.

- Check in on friends, family, and neighbours to ensure they are warm and safe.

- Have a winter emergency kit with cable jumpers, extra blankets, and warm clothes in your vehicle.

- Keep indoor temperatures comfortable – between 18°C and 21°C.

Warming spaces are available throughout Simcoe Muskoka to provide relief from the cold. They are usually found in municipal buildings, libraries, and community centres and open to the public during regular business hours.



**CLOSURE** – The four corners in downtown Tottenham were closed off for several hours on Tuesday, Jan. 20, when a pedestrian was hit by a vehicle and injured while crossing the road. The accident happened in the late afternoon. The intersection of Queen St. and Mill St. was blocked off, requiring motorists to take alternate routes around town while police conducted an investigation. No information has been released about the injured person's condition.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

## Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit request public input through a telephone survey

BY BRIAN LOCKHART  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit is committed to maintaining up-to-date, reliable information about the community it serves, including gathering important information from residents.

Residents in Simcoe Muskoka may receive a telephone call inviting them to participate in the Rapid Risk Factor Surveillance System (RRFSS) survey.

RRFSS is an ongoing survey of adults aged 18 and older living in Ontario regions with a participating health unit.

In Simcoe Muskoka, the survey is conducted by the Institute for Social Research at York University on behalf of the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit to gather information about health behaviours, knowledge, attitudes, and awareness on

topics such as tobacco, alcohol, and cannabis use, vaccinations, climate change, food insecurity, and other important public health issues.

Participation in the survey is voluntary, and your input is meaningful.

The survey takes about 10 minutes, and the interviewer can call back at a time that works for you.

The information collected helps the Health Unit plan and improve public health programs, supports disease prevention, and promotes health initiatives.

By taking part, you contribute directly to programs and services that support your community's well-being.

Your privacy is protected during the survey, and telephone numbers, both landline and cell phone, are randomly selected.

No personal identifying information, such as your name, phone number, or

address, is collected.

The interviewer will never ask you for your health card number or for money, credit card, banking, or social insurance information.

The answers provided through the survey are shared with your local public health

department without any personal details and are reviewed only as part of a larger group. Nothing published will ever identify you.

Participation is voluntary, and you can skip any question you're not comfortable answering.



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# Editorial, Letters & Opinion

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

~ Stanislaw Jerzy Lec

## Getting cold in here!

Several years ago, a storm blanketed the region and much of the province with a coat of ice.

The lights went out as the weight of the ice brought down power lines and caused havoc just about everywhere.

I went out the following day to survey the damage. I was shocked to see how many trees had been damaged by the weight of the ice.

Some forested areas near where I lived were completely devastated, and it was strange to see areas with as many as half the trees reduced to shattered stumps after breaking at the trunk and dropping all their branches.

I was looking out the window of my home office during the night of the storm when I saw a neighbour's backyard tree collapse into the yard under the stress of the ice.

The whole situation made for a difficult few days following the storm.

People started complaining on social media about not having power and about the amount of ice still covering just about everything – as if someone could force it to melt.

There were plenty of negative comments about Hydro's inability to restore power. There had been reports of people yelling abuse at workers.

During my travels, I went down a lonely concession to take photos of the damage. I had to navigate around a few trees that were scattered across the road.

It was a mess.

A large hydro truck had backed into a small cut-off and was starting to pull out as I approached.

I had to slow down again to go around another tree, and as I came up beside the truck, which was going the other way, I stopped and rolled down my window.

The guy behind the wheel of the hydro truck realized I had something to say, and he rolled down his window.

This guy had probably been up all night, working in freezing, dangerous conditions and moving from damaged line to damaged line to make repairs.

He looked weary, and from the look on his face, I think he was expecting me to yell out some comment complaining about the lack of power in my house.

"You must have done a lot of fixes over the night," I said.

"Yeah," he replied, "And there's a lot more to do."

"I know it's tough out there," I said to this tired, hard-working man. "You guys are doing a great job getting this all back together. I appreciated your efforts."

He seemed a little surprised at hearing

a compliment. But he smiled, gave me a wave, and said, "Thanks, I appreciate that."

He left to go to the next fallen line.

Often, we don't give enough credit to the first responders who attend emergencies and work long hours keeping our society safe.

Have you ever heard of someone calling the fire department and not showing up for the emergency?

Firefighters respond every time they are called. It doesn't matter the time of day or the weather conditions; when you call, you will hear the siren of a responding vehicle a few minutes later.

Several years ago, I witnessed and narrowly missed being involved in a serious auto accident.

A few other people and I went to assist the injured parties.

Paramedics arrived a few minutes later, and we cleared out to let them do their job.

They are trained to help and know what to do when someone is injured or experiencing a medical emergency.

If you have ever received a speeding ticket, you understand what it's like to suddenly realize those flashing lights in the rearview mirror are meant for you.

Yeah, it's disappointing, and it's most

**BRIAN LOCKHART**  
FROM THE SECOND ROW



likely going to cost you a few dollars.

For some reason, a lot of people blame the cop for pulling them over. However, if they were speeding, they brought this on themselves.

You can almost bet the next time you are travelling down that road, you are keeping an eye on the speedometer – traffic enforcement works.

When I think of these types of jobs, I always remember my Grade 7 home-room teacher.

She hated kids. She screamed at us all the time.

She screamed that if we didn't go to university and get a degree, like her, we were all failures in life.

Yes, she actually said that to her Grade 7 students.

And yet, that degree in English literature doesn't mean all that much when the power is out, and you're in danger of freezing to death.

I wonder what Mrs. Hay would have said when the power was out, and her house was getting cold, and she called the power company, only to hear, "Sorry, Mrs. Hay, no one here has a degree in English literature, so we can't restore your power."

## Shifting resiliency

In today's fast-paced world, it's probably advisable to try and be a bit flexible.

So many things around us are changing and evolving at a pace that is nothing short of breakneck. The rules of the game are constantly being rewritten and it is incumbent upon all of us to try to keep up or risk getting swamped by... well, any number of things presently swirling around our planet that threaten to do just that.

That's not to say we're not a resilient species, if you forgive my using a word we're all thoroughly sick of.

Our collective experience during the Global Pandemic illustrated we had stores of resiliency within ourselves that we otherwise wouldn't have been able to comprehend. By and large, we rolled within whatever punches circumstances had in store for us, and there were probably more punches to roll with than we ever could have envisioned at the outset.

Nevertheless, we did what we could.

Our day-to-day lives experienced a significant shift. Many of us had downtime that allowed for introspection. We were forced to reprioritize so many things in our lives that were once seen of the utmost importance, we had to re-define many of our relationships, what we expected of ourselves, what we expected of others, and we had to re-think just about every aspect of our society that made it functional.

Some of those shifts were practical, some showed general improvement on what was in place previously, some were pale imitations of the so-called "before-times." We went into the "new" with varying degrees of enthusiasm, but a general consensus that this is simply what we had to do – at least for now.

Some of what we were tasked to do were taller orders than others, some shifts which we were told mere months before the first lockdown were impossible.

Prior to the major shutdown, to pick

just one example, we were told that it simply wasn't possible under the Ontario Municipal Act for citizen-led advisory committees to be held virtually. The reasons why this was impossible were myriad, although some of the apparent reasons were better than others.

Left without an alternative, the impossible was suddenly very possible and subject of a new structure put in place relatively swiftly, and this model stays with us because, in a twist that was no surprise to anyone, making these committees more accessible and their work more transparent and readily available is a good thing all around.

This new level of engagement is more or less an outlier in some of the COVID concessions that are still with us. We generally kept the shifts that made sense and improved the situation in question, and mercifully went back to time-tested practices in other areas.

Importantly, we were able to exercise critical thought in what made sense,

what should stick around, what should be consigned to the history bins, and what rules were worth re-learning.

And the rules are being rewritten every day.

Last week, Prime Minister Mark Carney made a landmark speech at the World Economic Forum which was held by many around the world as a watershed moment in how countries like Canada are working to redefine their respective relationships around the world.

While views on the speech here at home were positive-to-mixed, generally speaking, it was fascinating to see the international reaction to the Prime Minister's words, with so many citing it as a valuable example of international leadership in what is perceived to be a recent leadership vacuum.

Continued on Page 19

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# Trump — Inflection point?

It's too early to be sure, but it seems likely that we have just seen 'Peak Trump'.

Last week Donald Trump arrived at the Davos conference radiating power and menace. Fresh from his attack on Venezuela, he was going to invade and annex Greenland. If his European allies in the NATO alliance tried to protect it, he would crush them with tariffs. And he would launch a new rival to the United Nations that would make him World-President-for-Life.

By the time Trump and his retinue landed in a fleet of four military helicopters, however, the wind had changed. Canada's Prime Minister Mark Carney had already crystallized the new mood with a remarkable speech that bade a regretful but decisive farewell to the old 'rules-based' international order.

What is happening now is 'rupture' with the past, Carney said, and the risk is that we end up with a world solely run by and for the great powers. He pro-

posed instead a shifting coalition of the 'middle powers' that would work to contain the more outrageous wishes and whims of the three autocratic great powers: Russia's Putin, Trump's America, and Xi's China.

For all his frankness, Carney did not name the villains, partly because they vary in their villainy. Vladimir Putin is a tyrant and serial warmonger, but has limited territorial ambitions. Donald Trump is an instinctive autocrat who demands supremacy in the Western Hemisphere but might not permanently erase US democracy. And Xi Jinping hasn't made his mind up yet.

There's Xi's promise to 'reunify' China by conquering Taiwan, if necessary, but apart from that China's territorial claims are limited to some seabed boundaries. Many in the Chinese elite still regret the decline of the 'rules-based order' and wish for its return. And while neither Trump nor Putin want it back, they are both mortal men.

Carney didn't get into all this — I'm just channeling his inner realist — but it was implicit in the parts he did say out loud. Don't let the bullies win; fear is the mind-killer; stick together and you might even win. At the very least, you'll lose less.

And he got a standing ovation, at a venue where even a brief round of polite claps is normally a triumph. He was telling the political and economic elites of the world what most of them were already thinking in a less coherent or at least less public way, and overnight the mood changed. Trump already seemed much smaller by the time he flew in the next day.

Right away he retracted his threat to seize Greenland by force (although the bond markets can take most of the credit for that). Soon he was also cancelling his threat to impose tariffs on NATO members that support Greenland, with only the face-saving pretense of a "framework of a future deal" (content unspecified) as a con-

solation prize.

But the big humiliation was the launch of his 'Board for Peace,' a bold bid for symbolic status as King of the World. It was created to provide UN backing for the Trump-brokered ceasefire in the Gaza Strip, but it wound up as a Trump-controlled vehicle to run the UN off the road entirely.

Membership is pay-to-play and permanent membership costs one billion dollars (even more than Mara-Lago). Trump is chairman for life, wrote the rules, has veto power, and can terminate any member at will. Gaza is not even mentioned in the 'charter'. It is a pure vanity project: 62 invitations were sent out — but only 21 countries have signed up.

It is a useful list of those countries that still fear Trump's wrath, and they are almost all in the Middle East or Central Asia. A few are ideological allies of Trump (e.g. Belarus, Hungary and Argentina), but no major power is a member except the U.S., and only four members are genuine democracies.

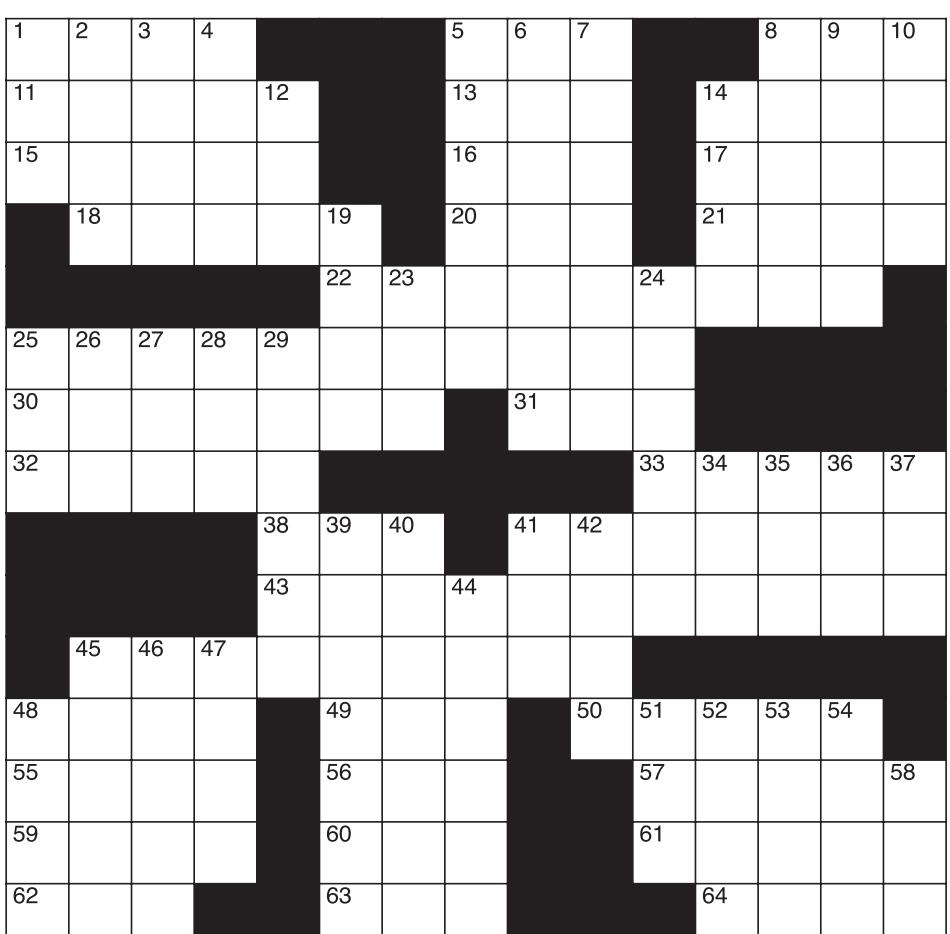
Six months ago, Trump might have pulled off this brazen attempt to hijack the UN, at least for a while. With more time, however, those who once feared him have learned what 'TACO' means (Trump Always Chickens Out), and they can see how fast his own power base, the United States, is drifting towards chaos and irrelevance under his rule.

Just this month we have seen his non-overthrow of the Venezuelan regime, his empty promise to stop the massacres in Iran, and his hollow threats to invade Greenland. He remains extremely dangerous to the domestic peace of the United States, but the rest of the world is realizing that it can just work around the US.

Except Canada, perhaps. Trump has taken to calling Prime Minister Carney 'Governor' Carney again, and Canadians know what that may imply.



## CROSSWORD



Puzzle No. 25C510 • Solution in Classifieds

### CLUES ACROSS

1. Paddles	43. One who removes antlers from a flower	44. Island	34. Journalist Tarbell
5. Sunscreen rating	45. Potluck dish	45. Invests in little enterprises	35. College hoops tournament
8. Very fast airplane	48. Discount	5. Constant	36. Monetary unit of Macao
11. Immune responses	49. Airborne (abbr.)	6. Hobby	
13. "Partner" to feather	50. Cavalry sword	7. A place to store food	37. Of she
14. New England river	55. Basics	8. Short-tail marten	39. Spoke ill of
15. Longest river in New Guinea	56. Hollywood director Howard	9. Burn with a hot liquid	40. Elements
16. Midway between east and southeast	57. Afflicted in mind or body	10. Left his heart in San Francisco	41. Kilocalorie (abbr.)
17. Israeli politician	59. Horsley and Majors	12. Swedish krona	42. Shades
18. Back bones	60. Midway between are two	14. Legendary actor Connery	44. Poem of fourteen lines
20. Consumed	61. Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation	19. French cleric	45. Pole used in Scottish sport
21. One you can rely on	62. Malaysian isthmus	23. Former measure of length for textiles	46. Hollyhocks genus
22. Dressed up gaudily	63. Fall back	24. Opaque glassy substance	48. Polio vaccine developer
25. Representatives	64. Cheek	25. Residue of burned item	51. Swiss river
30. Dog breed	33. S. Korean entertainer	26. A place to unwind	52. Prejudice
31. Pitching statistic	38. Outsourcing firm	27. Japanese honorific	53. Actor Idris
32. Manpower	41. Viceroy of Egypt under Turkish rule	28. Terminus	54. Confederate soldiers
38. 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64	CLUES DOWN	29. Fails to make a shot	58. Criticize
	1. Former CIA		
	2. Baseball's best pitchers		
	3. Nui, Easter		

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

# COMMUNITY VOICE

## Monthly Message: My Sister's Place to hold high tea for International Women's Day

So far this year, we have been working very hard, getting off to a good start, and working on our annual fundraising plan. We are in full swing planning our annual signature event, the Hats, Heels and High Tea Luncheon, held at The Club at Bond Head on Saturday, March 7, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

The Hats, Heels and High Tea fundraiser luncheon is a highly anticipated event we host each March in honour of International Women's Day. The luncheon includes delicious sandwiches and sweet treats, tea biscuits, and of course, tea!

We have a fun photo wall, door prizes, prizes for best hat and best fascinator, table prizes, a silent auction with amazing items to bid on, and a 50/50 draw. This year, for the first time, we are hosting a special keynote speaker. Kathleen Wynne, former Premier of Ontario, will speak about women's

empowerment to kick off the lunch.

International Women's Day (March 8) is a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women. The day also marks a call to action to accelerate women's equality, raise awareness of discrimination, and forge gender parity. International Women's Day has been observed for well over a century, with the first gathering in 1911 attended by over a million people. Today, International Women's Day belongs to all groups everywhere; it is not country-, group-, or organization-specific; it belongs to all who care about gender equality.

Gloria Steinem, world-renowned femi-



My Sister's Place

nist, journalist, and activist, reportedly once said, "The story of women's struggle for equality belongs to no single feminist nor to any one organization but to the collective efforts of all who care about human rights."

The Hats, Heels and High Tea event is an opportunity to come together and celebrate women, celebrate each other, and raise funds for women in our communities seeking a new start and a brighter future.

Tickets are \$60 each and are selling quickly, but can still be purchased by emailing [fundraiser@mystsistersplace.ca](mailto:fundraiser@mystsistersplace.ca) or calling 705-440-7850. Don't wait, this event sells out early every year.

We are also looking for sponsors for the

event. This is a great way to promote your business. We will promote sponsors leading up to, during, and after the event. Sponsors can also include an item in the swag bag sent home with each attendee. If you or someone you know is interested in sponsoring, we offer several levels of commitment. Email [fundraiser@mystsistersplace.ca](mailto:fundraiser@mystsistersplace.ca) for more information.

We are looking forward to hosting our guests at our annual tea, seeing familiar faces that attend each year, and new faces who are supporting the tea for the first time. So, get out your best hat or best fascinator and come join us for a fun afternoon of interesting conversation, mingling, delicious food, prizes, and, most importantly, raising funds for My Sister's Place. This enables us to continue with the work we do for the women and children of South Simcoe County.

## Stevenson Memorial Hospital updates what areas require masks as viral illnesses decline

BY BRIAN LOCKHART  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

With a downward trend of influenza and other viral illnesses in local communities and across the region, Stevenson Memorial Hospital (SMH) is updating its masking pro-

tocol.

As of Thursday, Jan. 22, masks are required for all patient care interactions, including waiting areas, at the hospital for staff, volunteers, patients, and visitors.

Masks will not be required in non-clinical areas such as the cafeteria, hallways, and

elevators.

Masks will be provided at the main entrance and the lower parking lot entrance.

SMH will remain a mask-friendly facility for those who choose to wear one in all areas of the hospital.

Visitors who are experiencing respiratory

symptoms or are feeling unwell are asked to refrain from visiting a patient until they are symptom-free.

Updates regarding the hospital's masking policy will continue to be available on the hospital's website: [stevensonhospital.ca/](http://stevensonhospital.ca/) visitor-policy.

### 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](mailto:newtectimeseditorial@gmail.com).

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HOMES

# Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit launches new Strategic Plan

BY BRIAN LOCKHART  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit (SMDHU) has released its 2026-2029 Strategic Plan.

The strategic plan is the first developed under the leadership of SMDHU's acting medical officer of health (appointment pending provincial approval) and chief executive officer, Dr. Lisa Simon.

The plan sets the course for the organiza-

tion's areas of focus over the next four years, positioning the health unit to meet evolving public health needs and to continually enhance its work with communities.

The Health Unit's core mandate and mission are the protection of health, prevention of disease, and promotion of well-being.

Four new strategic directions – community engagement, equity-driven action, quality and innovation, and a skilled and connected workforce – will drive how the SMDHU will work together to build strong relationships, reduce

health inequities, and deliver high-quality, evidence-informed programs and services.

The plan is a roadmap for how the Health Unit will optimize its impact towards its vision of 'Healthy Communities, Healthy People.'

"At its core, the new strategic plan reinforces our commitment to collaboration to improve the health of communities across Simcoe Muskoka," said Ann-Marie Kungl, chair of the SMDHU Board of Health. "As a board, we are confident that, guided by this

plan, the Health Unit will continue to lead with excellence and accountability, ensuring healthier communities for all."

To develop the plan, the Health Unit gathered input from employees, board members, and community partners. It reviewed local data and context, and ensured the priorities being set reflect the feedback received.

The Health Unit's strategic plan remains true to its principles of collaborating with communities to enable everyone an opportunity to achieve optimal health.

## Volunteers needed for upcoming blood donor clinics in Alliston, Tottenham

BY BRIAN LOCKHART  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Several times each year, Canadian Blood Services holds blood donor clinics in Alliston and Tottenham.

Blood and plasma donations are essential for people undergoing surgery or recovering from an accident, and they save lives across the country.

While trained professionals draw blood and plasma from donors, volunteers are also

needed to ensure everything runs smoothly.

There is a need for volunteers at the Tottenham blood donor clinic. With only four volunteers currently, if one person is away and another becomes sick, there won't be enough to ensure everyone is taken care of.

The primary job of volunteers is to keep an eye on donors after they have given blood and check for signs that someone is feeling unwell, fainting, or bleeding. Volunteers look after donors in the recovery area.

This is a volunteer position with no pay; however, it is very rewarding, and you will meet many residents from the town.

Volunteers must go through a minor vetting check questionnaire. Volunteers will receive a blood donor uniform, name badge, and on-the-job training.

If you would like to become a blood donor clinic volunteer in Tottenham or Alliston, you can contact Canadian Blood Services at [blood.ca](http://blood.ca), or contact local volunteers at 905-727-5399.



## Simcoe County Museum officially opens kilometre long skate trail to the public

BY BRIAN LOCKHART  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The County of Simcoe skate trail has officially opened for the 2026 winter season.

The trail spans over one kilometre through the grounds of the Simcoe Museum and the surrounding forest.

Skaters can access the skate trail through

the museum's group entrance, as the rest of the museum is closed for renovation and is inaccessible to the public.

Tickets will be available at the door and online for same-day use only.

Online ticket sales will be open by 9 a.m. on weekends and 4 p.m. on weeknights.

The skate trail will be open as weather and trail conditions permit.

Weather permitting, the skate trail will be open:

- Wednesday - 6 to 8 p.m.
- Thursday - 6 to 8 p.m.
- Friday - 6 to 8 p.m.
- Saturday - 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Sunday - 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Tickets may be purchased at the door or online at [museum.simcoe.ca](http://museum.simcoe.ca) on the same day

as the reservation.

Booking in advance is not available to ensure optimal trail conditions throughout the season. Skaters will be required to follow a one-way direction when on the rail and will have access to indoor warming stations and changing areas.

Ticket prices are \$10 for adults and \$8 for youth.

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# Arts & Local Events

## Circle Theatre revives New Tecumseth Film Festival with six days of screenings

BY BRIAN LOCKHART  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Film buffs will be looking forward to seeing a variety of different films this week when the Circle Theatre in Alliston hosts the New Tecumseth film festival on its Victoria Street movie screen.

Over six days, the theatre will show 13 films.

"Last year was the first year we brought film festival back," explained Circle Theatre's event coordinator Colleen Cranford. "There was a festival in 2017, 18, and 19, but then COVID happened and put a stop to it. We had a great turnout last year. It's a good time of year for a festival because people want to be inside. We have 13 films playing this year, and it's a good mix. We have five Canadian films this year. We have comedies, thrillers, some for all ages, and some classics. Friday is a PA day for school, so we have films all day, and we try to do more all-

ages films on that day. We will be showing the movie David, which is animated as well as the Wizard of Oz, which is a classic."

The Circle Theatre has achieved a legendary status in Alliston, with people of all ages having fond memories of going to the movies and seeing their favourite movies on the big screen.

Hollywood's greatest stars have appeared on the Circle Theatre's screen as the movie house has existed through the golden age of Hollywood, when big stars like Greta Garbo, Clark Gable, and Bette Davis were on the marquee.

Built in 1938 by Shelburne resident Oliver Stewart, the theatre's first movie was "Artists and Models," starring Jack Benny. The biggest box office hit of 1938 was "You Can't Take it With You," starring James Stewart and Jean Arthur and directed by fabled movie director Frank Capra.

The Circle Theatre was the first building in Alliston to have air conditioning, so patrons would be comfortable on a hot sum-



**FILM FESTIVAL** – The Circle Theatre in Alliston will host the New Tecumseth Festival this week. The theatre will screen 13 films over six days. This includes a variety of genres as well as showing of the classic Wizard of Oz.

BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

mer day.

In 1941, Mr. Stewart installed a new sign in front of the building with a V-shaped marquee.

The theatre changed hands in 1958 when projectionist Whitney MacDonald purchased the theatre.

Many long-time Alliston residents remember Whitney's son Scott, who took over the theatre from his father in 1985.

Peter and Kate Vander Zaag purchased the theatre in 2012 after it had been closed for some time following Scott's death.

After a full renovation, the Circle Theatre reopened in 2012 with "Hotel Transylvania" and "Pitch Perfect" as the opening films.

Movie goers will also have the chance to win dinner at a downtown Alliston restaurant courtesy of the Alliston Business Improvement Association.

The 'Dinner and a Movie' giveaway, valued at \$150, will enter movie patrons into a draw for every ticket purchased for the Film Festival, with weekend pass holders receiving five entries.

Winners will be notified on Jan. 27.

The New Tecumseth Film Festival will get underway on Thursday, Jan. 29.

Check the Circle Theatre website for each film's rating.

Here's the lineup of films in the festival:

- Thursday, Jan. 29 - Wizard of Oz (1939) - 2:00 p.m., "Marty Supreme" - 7:30 p.m.
- Friday, Jan. 30 - David - 1:00 p.m., Calorie - 4:00 p.m., "Wizard of Oz" (1939) - 7:00 p.m., "Boys Go to Jupiter" - 9:30 p.m.
- Saturday, Jan. 31 - "We Lend a Hand: The Forgotten Story of the Ontario Farmerettes" - 1:00 p.m., "This Too Shall Pass" - 3:00 p.m., "Sentimental Value" - 6:00 p.m., "Eternity" - 9:15 p.m.
- Sunday, Feb. 1 - "David" - 1:00 p.m., "Jane Austen Wrecked My Life" - 4:00 p.m., "The Fortunate Ones" Screening plus Q&A with Mark Weeden - 6:30 p.m., "No Other Choice" - 9:30 p.m.
- Monday, Feb. 2 - Sentimental Value - 2:00 p.m., "Honey Bunch" - 7:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, Feb. 3 - "Calorie" - 2:00 p.m., "Boys Go to Jupiter" - 7:30 p.m.

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**BRIAN SAUNDERSON**  
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# Celebrating SENIORS

## 6 tips for winter walking safety

Enjoying a walk outdoors is one of the best ways to stay active and incorporate daily movement, especially when managing arthritis. But colder months can bring slippery sidewalks and freezing temperatures, making gentle walks a risky adventure. With a few simple precautions, you can stay safe and enjoy the outdoors all season long.

Here are six tips from Arthritis Society Canada to make walking in a winter wonderland as safe as possible:

### 1. BE WEATHER WARY.

Prepare for snow and ice by keeping a shovel, sand or de-icing salt handy at home to clear your path and avoid slipping on your way out. Pick a well-maintained and frequently travelled route and choose the warmest time of day to go on your walk, to give ice a chance to melt.

### 2. GEAR UP FOR COMFORT AND SAFETY.

Stay warm and cozy with insulated layers, socks, gloves and a hat. For footwear, invest in supportive, warm

boots with good traction and a low, wide heel for better balance. On icy or snowy days, consider ice cleats or ice grippers on your shoes.

### 3. WARM UP, THEN WALK.

Before you head out, do a quick warm-up to get your blood flowing. March in place and swing your arms or move your foot and ankle in circular motions to get your muscles ready for the cold.

### 4. WALK LIKE A PENGUIN.

When navigating a slippery surface, channel your inner penguin and move slowly with small baby steps, like a shuffle. Bend your knees slightly to lower your center of gravity, keep your feet flat on the ground with

toes pointed outward for better support and keep your arms out for stability—like penguin wings!

### 5. USE CAUTION WHEN EXITING VEHICLES.

Getting out of your car can be tricky on icy surfaces. Remember to move slowly, swing both feet out and plant them on the ground first and hold onto the doorframe as you carefully stand up.

### 6. CONSIDER WALKING AIDS.

Handrails on stairs and ramps are your friends and can help reduce the risk of a fall. If you use a cane, consider attaching an ice tip to the bottom for better grip. You could also try walking sticks, including hiking poles, for added stability and balance.

Find more arthritis-friendly tips at [arthritis.ca](http://arthritis.ca).

[www.newsbc.ca](http://www.newsbc.ca)



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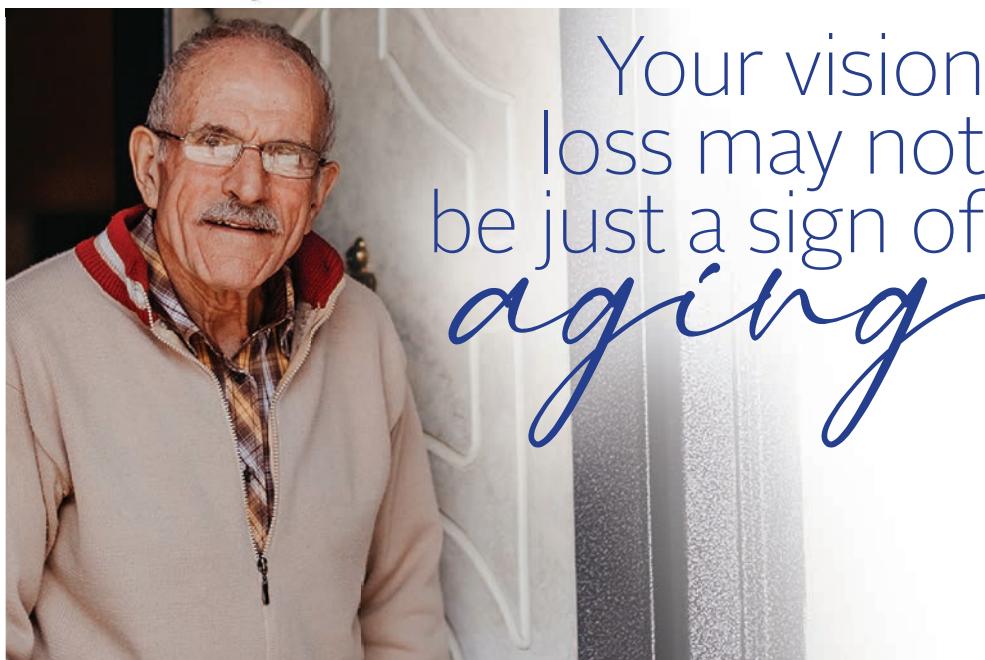
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Your vision loss may not be just a sign of *aging*

(NC) We've all heard the saying "it's all downhill" after a certain age, whether we believe it or not.

While many seniors still enjoy active lifestyles, most of us accept that our bodies just won't be as good at certain things as time goes on.

But that acceptance can sometimes keep us from noticing when something is going wrong that isn't "just one of those things." One example is geographic atrophy (GA), an eye disease where the centre of the retina, called the macula, dies off over time.

GA affects an estimated five million people worldwide, most of them seniors. Vision loss occurs slowly, starting with blind spots in the middle of a person's field of vision, then worsening until household tasks, driving and even facial recognition become very difficult.

That's why it's so important to listen to our bodies and note any changes in vision. Although some symptoms could be nothing to worry about, they could also be signs of a serious condition that will get worse if left unexamined.

Make sure to reach out to your eye-care professional if you notice it's getting harder to read or track objects in your central vision. They can tell you whether you simply need a new prescription for your glasses, or whether it's time to run more tests. There are scans available that can detect GA, but like with many conditions, early diagnosis is essential.

Learn more at [livingwithga.ca](http://livingwithga.ca).

[www.newscanada.com](http://www.newscanada.com)

## 7 BENEFITS OF SOCIALIZATION FOR SENIORS

**SOCIAL ISOLATION** often goes overlooked, but it's a key contributor to poor mental health. Experts state that it is increasingly important for adults to maintain an active social life as they age. There are many benefits that come from staying engaged and socializing with others. The following is a look at seven ways socialization benefits seniors.

1. Regular social interactions can help older adults avoid depression, anxiety and feelings of isolation, according to Integracare, a senior living company.

2. Social engagement can help reduce the risk of cognitive decline and dementia because so-

cializing helps to keep the mind sharp through new experiences.

3. Socialization often revolves around an activity that gets seniors up and moving. While being sedentary is alright on occasion, consistently sitting or laying around can lead to high cholesterol, weight gain and high blood pressure. A 2019 study published in The Journals of Gerontology, Series B: Psychological Sciences and Social Sciences determined that older adults who interacted with people beyond their usual social circle of family and close friends were more likely to have higher levels of physical activity, greater positive moods and fewer negative feelings.

4. Regular social interaction may compel seniors to embrace healthier eating habits. Social events expose seniors to different types of food, which can help them get the nutrients they need to live healthy.

5. Regular socialization can help seniors feel they are needed and have a sense of purpose, which can boost self-esteem. Engaging with others often means contributing to a community, and that can be satisfying.

6. Getting out and interacting with others can serve as an informal wellness check, potentially alerting family and friends to issues that may need attention.

7. Getting outside and interacting with others can open seniors up to new hobbies. Whether that is participating in a new sport or joining a club, there are mental and physical advantages to engaging socially.



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Celebrating SENIORS

# HOW SENIORS CAN ENJOY SAFE TRAVELS

Travel is often cited as something to look forward to when retirement rolls around.

It's important for senior travelers to keep their personal safety in mind when away from home. Seniors can follow these guidelines for safe travel the next time they head off for parts unknown.

#### CHECK TRAVEL DOCUMENTS

Some countries will not allow travelers to enter if their passports expire within six months of their arrival. Ensure that your travel documents will be valid at least six months after you will return home. You don't want to risk any hiccups that will put you in a precarious situation or prevent or delay your trip.

#### RESEARCH YOUR DESTINATION

It's important to have an idea of the atmosphere of

any locale you plan to visit. Global Affairs Canada issues travel advisories that can inform travelers about potential destinations.

In addition to travel advisories, use resources like Trip Advisor to read reviews of hotels, tours and other travel components to find out if your safety may be in jeopardy.

#### DON'T PUBLICIZE YOUR TRIP

It's natural to want to share news of an upcoming trip with others, but reconsider posting about it on social media, both before leaving and while you're away. There are cases of thieves using social media to target the homes of those who have advertised they're going on long trips.



#### PACK PRESCRIPTIONS CORRECTLY

Always store medication in a carry-on bag where you can access it easily and it can't be lost. The Canadian Air Transport Security Authority (CATSA)

will allow you to carry liquid medication, syringes, pumps, freezer packs, or IV bags on the plane. Just check the CATSA's rules so you know how to pack them properly.

#### STREAMLINE AIRPORT PROCEDURES

Travel certifications can help you avoid removing your shoes or separating a laptop or liquids from your carry-on. Each program has a non-refundable application fee, but if approved, precheck certification lasts for five years.

#### CONSIDER A TOUR OR GROUP TRAVEL

There is safety in numbers. Booking a tour or group travel package may cut down on the risk of being taken advantage of while away from home.

## Discover these 3 hidden gems of Europe

(NC) Europe has long been a favourite holiday destination filled with iconic, must-see cities, including Paris, Rome and London. But beyond those classic, culturally important centres, Europe offers a diverse array of options for travellers. Here are three European hidden gems to consider for your next vacation.



Copenhagen, Denmark Copenhagen boasts historic architecture, a decades' old pedestrianized downtown core and an inner-city harbour that's clean enough to swim in. Take a boat tour through the city's canals, enjoy the amusement park rides at Tivoli Gardens and sample open-faced smørrebrod sandwiches.

**DAY TRIP IDEA:** The Viking Ship Museum The museum houses five, 1,000-year-old Viking ships, plus a variety of Viking-themed exhibits and workshops. It's located in Roskilde, less than an hour from Copenhagen by car or train.

Vienna, Austria Vienna is one of the great European capitals. Take a cruise down the Danube River, catch a performance at the opera house and admire the historic buildings, including the majestic Schönbrunn Palace.

**DAY TRIP IDEA:** Salzburg At about three hours by train or car, it's a long day trip to get to Salzburg's Old Town, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. But the views and stops along the way make it well-worth the journey.

Milan, Italy Italy's second-most populous city is the country's capital of fashion and design. Explore ancient Roman ruins, people-watching – with a coffee or spritz in hand – in one of the many medieval squares, and visit one of the largest cathedrals in the world. Art lovers won't want to miss Leonardo Da Vinci's famed Last Supper.

**DAY TRIP IDEA:** Lake Como Roughly two hours from Milan by train or car, visiting the charming villages and breathtaking villas that dot Lake Como will make you see why celebrities like George Clooney regularly holiday there.

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## How seniors can cultivate a new hobby

Retirement is often characterized as a carefree time in life when adults who spent years in the workforce get to enjoy the fruits of their labors.

But upon retiring, many retirees find themselves fighting boredom. A recent study from Indeed found that, as of March 2022, 3.2 percent of workers who retired a year earlier had already reentered the workforce. No two retirees are the same, and a host of variables, boredom among them, likely compelled recently retired professionals to go back to work.

Retirees who like the freedom of not working but are confronting a good bit of boredom can consider these tips to cultivate a new hobby that can help them pass the time in a rewarding and engaging way.

**IDENTIFY NEW (OR OLD) INTERESTS.** Many retirees discover new passions in retirement, while others turn back the clock and revisit favorite hobbies from their youth. A good way to begin cultivating a new hobby is to jot down a list of activities you always found interesting but never had the time to learn or became too busy to fully invest in. Some seniors hit the links for the first time in retirement, while others return to school to study subjects they find interesting



but did not engage with during their college years. The options are endless, and jotting down a list of new or old interests is a great way to get the ball rolling.

**EMBRACE NEW WAYS TO ENGAGE A PASSION.** Virtual resources like online courses and book clubs conducted over Zoom with fellow readers across the nation and possibly even the globe are a great way to cultivate a new hobby in retirement. Virtual resources can be especially beneficial for seniors with mobility issues.

**CONSIDER LOCALLY BASED RESOURCES.** Community parks departments and libraries may offer an array of free or affordable opportunities for seniors to engage with a new hobby. Parks departments may offer anything from cross country

skiing tutorials to age-based hiking excursions, while libraries may offer weekly crafting sessions or wellness programs to local residents. In addition to providing fun ways to discover and cultivate a new hobby, programs offered through parks departments and local libraries are great ways to meet fellow retirees.

**PUT YOUR EXPERIENCE TO USE.** Retirees with years in their field don't have to go back to work to make use of their professional expertise. Contact local youth organizations or outreach programs sponsored by churches, libraries or local law enforcement agencies and offer to share your expertise with young people. Such opportunities allow retirees to continue to engage with their professions and help a younger generation

of aspiring professionals gain valuable insight into fields they're interested in.

There's no shortage of ways for seniors to overcome retirement boredom and cultivate rewarding hobbies.



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# SPORTS

NEW TECUMSETH TIMES



## Hornets game postponed, team remains first in North Carruthers Division

BY BRIAN LOCKHART  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Considering the sport is played on an ice surface, it's somewhat ironic that the Alliston Hornets' home game against the Penetang Kings, scheduled for Friday, Jan. 31, was postponed due to ice conditions.

Cold weather, ice, and snow squalls in Penetang forced the game to be rescheduled.

It would have been a good game, as the Penetang team has been putting out a strong effort recently in a bid to move up in the standings, while the Hornets are trying to stay on top.

The Hornets still lead the North Carruthers Division of the Provincial Junior Hockey League with a 2-9 record and 52 points.

The Hornets have stayed on top for the entire season except for one brief period when they went into a slump, and the Stayner Siskins moved into first place – but only for a few days.

The Siskins are currently in second place in the division with 49 points and a 28-9 record, including one overtime loss. The Siskins are currently on a four-game winning streak and are a top contender for the Division championship this season.

In third place, the Orillia Terriers have

been having a good season and are two points behind Stayner, with 49 points so far.

The Terriers have won 23 games after playing 32 games this season. They are another possible contender to go the distance and make the division final this year.

In the number four spot in the standings, the Penetang Kings have a 20-13 record. That includes three overtime losses and one shoot-out loss.

The Kings are just three points behind Orillia with 44.

The Midland Flyers and Muskoka Bears are in the middle of the standings in fifth and sixth place.

Midland has 25 points. Muskoka has 20 points.

The Innisfil Spartans are in seventh place with 19 points and a 9-23 record. They are fighting to stay ahead of the Huntsville Otters and secure a playoff berth.

The Otters are one point behind with 18.

Huntsville is in the basement with an 8-24 record and no real chance of advancing very far this season.

The Hornets will be back on home ice on Friday, Jan. 30, when they will host the Huntsville Otters at the New Tecumseth Recreation Centre.

Game time is 7:30 p.m.



## CONTACT Community Services unveils Aquafit for seniors program at Innisfil YMCA

BY BRIAN LOCKHART  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

CONTACT Community Services is launching a new Aquafit program to help seniors stay active and fit.

The program will take place in the pool at the Innisfil YMCA. This is a free program for seniors.

Seniors' Aquafit classes offer a refreshing,

low-impact workout that builds strength, balance, and mobility using the natural support of the water.

It is an upbeat, social session designed to boost confidence, improve overall fitness, and leave participants feeling energized.

You can enjoy being in the water and taking part in the program that provides a place to get moving, get some exercise, and socialize with other seniors.

This is a six-week program that will run from Monday, Feb. 2, to Monday, March 9, from 1 p.m. to 1:45 p.m., at the Innisfil YMCA, 7315 Yonge Street, Innisfil.

For questions or to register, contact Brenda at CONTACT at 705-435-4900.

You can also contact us by email at programs@contactcommunityservices.ca.

Registration is limited, so register early to get your spot.



# Grade 3 and 4 students facing suspension if not immunized by Feb. 3

BY BRIAN LOCKHART  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

There are just a few days left before Grade 3 and 4 students who are not immunized may be suspended from school classrooms.

The Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit, in accordance with the Ontario Immunization of School Pupils Act, will enforce suspension orders for students in Grades 3 and 4 with missing or incomplete vaccination records on

Tuesday, Feb. 3, 2026.

Under the ISPA, health units are legally required to collect and maintain vaccine records for every student attending school and enforce suspensions for incomplete vaccine information.

As of Jan. 26, there are 1,675 outstanding records. Currently, 88 per cent of Grade 3 and 4 students in Simcoe Muskoka have up-to-date immunization records on file with the Health Unit.

To support students and families, the Health Unit is offering drop-in clinics.

Students can be seen on a first-come, first-served basis at select locations and times.

Visit the Health Unit's website for clinic locations and schedules.

When a student is immunized at a Health Unit clinic, their record is immediately updated, and they can return to school immediately.

Students may also receive their immuniza-

tion through their health care provider, but must report this information to the Health Unit. Reporting immunizations can be done online at [smdhu.org/ImmsOnline](http://smdhu.org/ImmsOnline) or by calling the Health Unit at 705-721-7520 ext. 8827.

Having up-to-date immunizations helps to ensure that students have the best protection against serious vaccine-preventable diseases, reduces the risk of outbreaks in schools, and allows the health unit to act quickly to prevent and control outbreaks.

## CMHA issues 2,000 push-up challenge to support local mental health care services

BY BROCK WEIR

Staying active during the winter season is crucial for mind, body, and soul – but if you're looking for a good excuse to keep moving, consider the Canadian Mental Health Association's Push-Up Challenge.

Now in its third year, the Push-Up Challenge is a way to "have fun and push for better mental health." Participants are invited to take on 2,000 push-ups between Feb. 5

and Feb. 27, a number chosen in memory of the estimated 2,000 lives lost to suicide each day around the world.

"The Push-Up Challenge is a powerful reminder that small daily actions can create meaningful change," said Catherine Matzig, Senior Director of Philanthropy for the Canadian Mental Health Association of York Region and South Simcoe (CMHA-YRSS), in a statement. "When our community shows up for this Challenge, they're not

only honouring lives lost – they're helping ensure that people in York Region and South Simcoe can access mental health supports when they need them most, especially during those isolating winter months."

Matzig said they think of the Push-Up Challenge as a "cross-country movement with a local heart," and money raised locally will benefit all of the CMHA-YRSS' programs, including programs supporting those experiencing depression and anxiety.

"People understand the importance of recognizing mental health and mental illness, talking about it, and this gives people a really easy way to introduce that conversation and to keep coming back to support mental health," she says. "I think we all know somebody close to us who in some way has been impacted by mental health, mental illness, and it's a great way to support programs and services that support those who are struggling with their mental health and to really raise the level of conversation locally, but absolutely across the country to destigmatize, demystify it, and give us an opportunity to learn more and to come together as a community of people who really care about the mental wellness of those who are close to them."

Holding the Push-Up Challenge during the winter months is a conscious decision of the CMHA because it's a time when people are "struggling with the effects of low light, with the cold, the dark, and the temperatures, and staying active while all this is happening is key for mental health," says Ansara Ali, Peer Support Worker with the CMHA-YRSS' Community Connections team.

"This encourages the social piece since that is something we definitely struggle with during this time of year," says Ali. "We tend

to be a bit more secluded naturally for that reason," she adds, noting that "any form of movement" can help make a difference.

"You can be very flexible with that in terms of whether it's a walk in the community or, if you're at home, you can just designate five to 10 minutes to do a mindful meditation, or just dancing to your favourite song," she says. "Any form of movement is very important in terms of just maintaining where we are during this time."

"Anybody can join the Push-Up Challenge and you can join solo, but you can also join as a team," says Matzig. "You can rally your workplace or your gym. The structure of the event is really built for communities and companies to step in, start a friendly competition, and keep each other accountable."

I think keeping friends and neighbors accountable throughout this winter season is really important to keep our mental health high.

"Accessibility really matters to us for this push up challenge. So, you don't have to just do push-ups. It's not everybody's cup of tea. So, you can squat, do sit-ups, bench presses, resistance band moves, jumping jacks, lunges, anything that just gets you moving and gets you motivated, and alternatives to push ups, wall push ups, chair push ups, that sort of thing, so that everybody can participate safely and to the best of their ability. Also, please keep it local. When you are choosing your recipient CMHA, please choose York and South Simcoe during your registration."

For more information on the 2026 Push-Up Challenge, including how to register or support a participant, visit [thepushupchallenge.ca](http://thepushupchallenge.ca).



## Looking to showcase your business in the Shelburne community?

To reserve your spot in the Shelburne Recreation Guide Spring/Summer 2026 Edition, please contact Debbie Freeman.



PUBLISHED BY:



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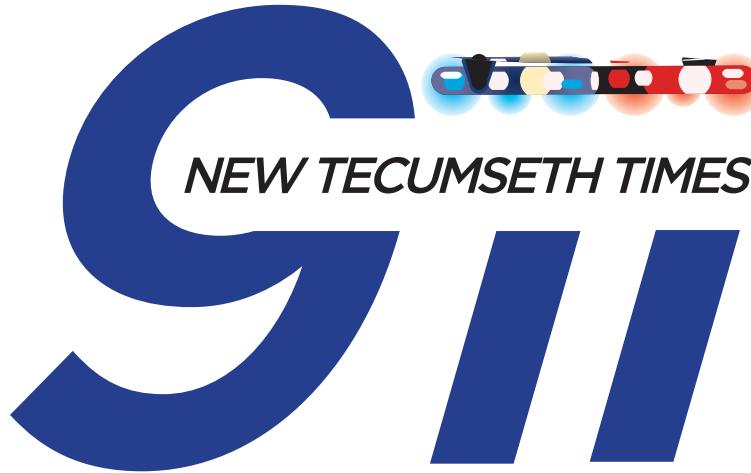
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## Police investigate fatal fire at Queen Street residence in Tottenham

The Nottawasaga Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) is investigating a residential fire in Tottenham which resulted in a fatality.

On Sunday, January 25, 2026, at approximately 4:45 p.m., officers and members of the

New Tecumseth Fire Department responded to a residential fire on Queen Street North in Tottenham. One individual was located within the residence, transported to a local hospital for treatment, but was later pronounced deceased.

The identity of the deceased has not yet

been confirmed.

There are no concerns for public safety at this time, and the cause of the fire remains under investigation by the Nottawasaga OPP Crime Unit, with assistance from the Office of the Fire Marshal (OFM).

Police are asking anyone with information to contact the Nottawasaga OPP at 1 888 310 1122. Should you wish to remain anonymous, you may call Crime Stoppers at 1 800 222 TIPS (8477) or submit information online at [www.ontariocrimestoppers.ca](http://www.ontariocrimestoppers.ca).

## OPP charge Angus man in connection to child exploitation investigation

Police arrested and charged an Angus resident last week, following a child sexual exploitation investigation.

On Wednesday, Jan. 21, the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) Child Sexual Exploitation Unit (CSEU) executed a search warrant at a residence in Angus with assistance from members of the Nottawasaga OPP and the OPP Digital Forensics Unit.

Several electronic devices were seized when the search warrant was executed.

As a result of the investigation, Michael

Tyler Thomas, 40, Angus, was arrested and charged with the following Criminal Code offences:

- Possession of child sexual abuse and exploitation material, section 163.1(4)
- Importing of child sexual abuse and exploitation material, section 163.1(3)

The accused was released from custody following a bail hearing and is scheduled to appear before the Ontario Court of Justice in Bradford on Thursday March 5.

“Crimes involving the online exploitation of

children inflict deep and lasting harm on those least able to protect themselves. It’s essential that law enforcement agencies work together with our community partners to identify those responsible and support the young people affected. We urge anyone with knowledge of these crimes to come forward,” said Detective Staff Sergeant Chris Barkey, OPP CSEU.

The OPP says it will continue to identify and pursue individuals who use technology to exploit children.

“Parents are reminded to take a proactive

approach to help protect their children from online sexual exploitation by educating their children on internet safety,” reads a press release from the OPP.

Parents can find resources to assist them by visiting [cybertip.ca](http://cybertip.ca) or [protectchildren.ca](http://protectchildren.ca).

If you have information regarding online child exploitation and wish to provide information anonymously, contact Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or [ontariocrimestoppers.ca](http://ontariocrimestoppers.ca). Information can also be reported through [cybertip.ca](http://cybertip.ca).

## Tow truck struck by vehicle, 80-year-old Brampton man charged with careless driving

Caledon Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) officers charged a male driver after he collided with a tow operator’s vehicle on Jan. 24, around 4:30 p.m.

Officers were on scene of a call for service involving a broken-down vehicle on Mayfield

Road, near Robertson Davis Drive, Caledon. Police blocked the live lane of traffic while a local tow operator was working on removing the vehicle from the road. Despite the use of flashing emergency lights and high-visibility reflective gear, a passing vehicle

failed to move over and struck the arm of the tow operator, who suffered minor injuries as a result of the incident.

As a result of the investigation, an 80-year-old from Brampton was charged with:

- Careless driving

• Fail to slow down and proceed with caution for tow truck

Motorists are reminded to proceed with caution when driving past police cars, firetrucks, ambulances, and tow trucks - failure to do so can result in charges.

## Police respond to fatal two-vehicle collision on Highway 9

BY BRIAN LOCKHART  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

A vehicle collision on Highway 9 has resulted in one death and one other person sustaining minor injuries.

At approximately 10:20 a.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 21, Caledon Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) officers and other emergency services responded to a report of a two-vehicle collision on Highway 9, between Tottenham Road and Mount Wolfe Road in the Town of Caledon.

One driver, a 21-year-old from Peterborough, was pronounced deceased at the scene.

The other driver was transported to a local hospital with minor injuries.

Highway 9, between Highway 50 and Tottenham Road, remained closed for several hours while the OPP Technical Collision Investigators assisted with the investigation.

The investigation is ongoing.

Anyone who may have witnessed the collision or has dashcam footage is asked to contact Caledon OPP at 905-584-2241 or 1-888-310-1122.



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## 708 OBITUARIES

### EDNA MAY DONOVAN

May 5, 1921 – January 24, 2026

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Edna May Donovan on January 24, 2026, at Fairfield Park Nursing Home in her hometown of Wallaceburg, Ontario, at the age of 104.

Daughter to Charles and Ellen (Frost) Masefield. Predeceased by her beloved husband Michael Fred of 46 years (1992) with whom Edna raised a family in Wallaceburg and proudly built a home in RR#2 Tottenham; and then the late caring Arthur Barnett of 6 years (2005). Edna also lived her later years with family in Uxbridge.

Loving mother to Cindy (Theo) D'Hollander, Kathleen (Michael) Brown, and Jim (Jacquie) Donovan. Cherished grandmother of Michelle (Sean), late Ryan, Mathew (Pia), David (Stacie), Heather, Katie, and Sean (Hillary). Great grandmother of Ethan, Connor, Rhian; Rocco, James; Callie and Wesley. Sister of the late Annie Aileen (Manse) Williams as well as sister-in-law to Fred's siblings: Frances, Joseph, Margaret, Jack, Charlotte, Eileen, Sheila, Jim, Peter, and Patrick.

Edna was a talented musician, singer, performer, and classical piano teacher into her late 80s. Edna was also deeply devoted to her Anglican faith and served as a long-time organist and choir leader at both St. James Anglican Church in Wallaceburg, as well as Christ Church in Tottenham.

Edna's love and strong-willed, independent personality will echo in the memories of those she leaves behind.

A private family funeral service will be held at Rod Abrams Funeral Home, Tottenham with springtime interment to take place at Fraser Presbyterian Cemetery, RR#2 Tottenham.

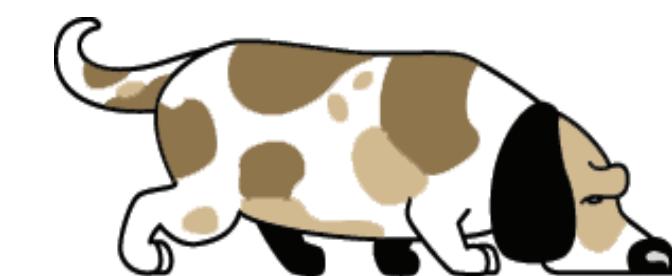
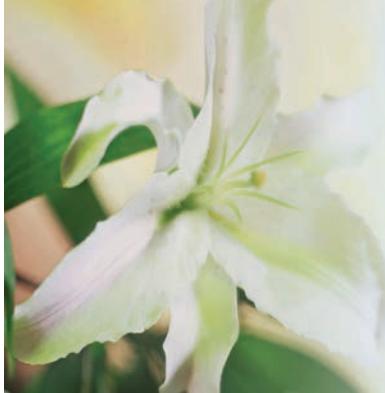
Family would like to thank all of the wonderful, caring, highly professional staff at Fairfield Park where Edna flourished as a resident. Donations in memory of Edna may be made to The Salvation Army or the Heart and Stroke Foundation.

Condolences and memories may be left for the family at [www.RodAbramsFuneralHome.com](http://www.RodAbramsFuneralHome.com).

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Continued from Page 4

## Brock's Banter: Shifting resiliency

"Today, I'll talk about the rupture in the world order, the end of a nice story and the beginning of a brutal reality where geopolitics among the great powers is not subject to any constraints," he began. "But I also submit to you that other countries, particularly middle powers like Canada, are not powerless. They have the capacity to build a new order that embodies our values, like respect for human rights, sustainable development, solidarity, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of states."

"The power of the less powerful begins with honesty. It seems that every day we're reminded that we live in an era of great power rivalry. That the rules-based order is fading. That the strong can do what they can, and the weak must suffer what they must.... There is a strong tendency for countries to go along to get along. To accommodate. To avoid trouble. To hope that compliance will buy safety. It won't. So, what are the options?"

"We knew the story of the international rules-based order was partially false. That the strongest would exempt themselves when convenient. That trade rules were enforced asymmetrically. And we knew that the international law applied with varying rigour depending on the identity of the accused or the victim. This fiction was useful. And American hegemony, in particular, helped provide public goods: open sea lanes, a stable financial system, collective security, and support for frameworks for resolving disputes. So, we placed the sign in the window. We participated in the rituals. And we largely avoided calling out the gaps between rhetoric and reality. This bargain no longer works."

Carney made a comprehensive case in his speech on why the bargain no longer works, and the importance of protecting yourself when the rules no longer protect you.

The reaction was as swift as it was pre-

dictable – Canada being disinherited from participation in the fledgling and questionably-structured Board of Peace and living under threats of 100 per cent tariffs.

It's almost as if certain parties went out of their way to underscore and bolster the point that Carney was making – but it also drove home there's no way to line up a goal if the opposing team keeps moving said goalposts.

While Opposition Leader Pierre Poilievre praised Carney's "eloquence" before going point by point through the speech through the partisan lens, which is his job as Leader of the Opposition, there was some common ground to be found in his response.

"So far, Mr. Carney has been lucky that he's been judged by his rhetoric and his stated intentions, by the number of his trips and meetings overseas," he said. "Because, nearly a year into his term, the rhetoric has changed, but reality has not."

There is an illusion of purpose, but no results to back it up.

"We need to do things, not just say them. 'Canada Strong' can no longer be a slogan, nor 'True North Strong and Free' just a motto. We must put our people and country first in all that we do. Then, and only then, we will be autonomous and affordable, secure, and self-reliant."

".... We are the masters of our fate. We are the captains of our souls. It's time we finally take the wheel – and steer Canada forward with purpose and resolve."

Now that Parliament is back this week, it's time to do just that.

While the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition have found general agreement in what the reality is, a surprisingly tall order today, now is a time to for all to come together with purpose and resolve for our collective strength, freedom and, to utter that dreaded word again, resilience.

## South Simcoe Police's insurance investigation leads to solving hit and run, multiple charges laid

On Jan. 25, at approximately 4 p.m., South Simcoe Police stopped a vehicle on Holland Street West in Bradford West Gwillimbury after observing that a 10-day temporary permit had been expired for 324 days.

The driver produced documentation confirming the vehicle was insured; however, the driver was charged with expired validation. This was the second validation-related offence involving the same vehicle within a

two-month period.

Through further investigation, police determined that the insurance documentation previously produced was not valid and that the vehicle had not been insured for three months.

On Jan. 26, police received a report of a vehicle being struck at a business in Bradford West Gwillimbury and the involved vehicle did not remain at the scene. Informa-

tion provided to police identified the vehicle involved in the insurance investigation was also the suspect vehicle in the collision.

During the investigation, police observed the suspect vehicle travelling westbound on Holland Street in Bradford West Gwillimbury. Subsequently, police conducted a traffic stop and as a result of the investigation, a 23-year-old male from Bradford has been charged with the following offences:

- Owner operate motor vehicle on a highway with no insurance CAIA 2(1)(a) x3 (three counts)

- Produce false evidence of insurance CAIA 2(3)(b) x 2 (two counts)

- Make false statement HTA 9(1)

- Fail to notify change of address HTA Ontario Regulation 340/94 Section 33(1)

The accused is scheduled to appear in court March 9, 2026.

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