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Saturday: Light Rain



Sunday: Chance of a Shower



Monday: Mix of Sun and Clouds

Weekly Circulation: 3,000 | 905-857-6626 | 1-888-557-6626 | www.newtetimes.com



\$1.50 per copy (\$1.43 + 7¢ G.S.T.)

Thursday, June 4, 2026

Volume 52, Issue 23

PUBLICATIONS MAIL AGREEMENT NO. 0040036642 RETURN UNDELIVERABLE CANADIAN ADDRESSES TO 30 MARTHA ST., #205, BOLTON ON L7E 5V1

We acknowledge the financial support of the Government of Canada through the Canada Periodical Fund of the Department of Canadian Heritage. Canada

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Smile Cookie Success

It was Smile Cookie week at Tim Hortons locations across the country from April 27 to May 2. Tim Hortons raised money through the Smile Cookies in support of local charities and organizations. The Tottenham Tim Hortons raised funds for Help the Kids Play, an organization that supports local youth sports. Jerry Lawlor, store owner in Tottenham, presents a cheque for \$31,094 to Help the Kids play on Wednesday, May 27, at the Tottenham Tim Hortons location. Present for the donation were Tim Osmond of Help the Kids Play, Mackenzie Leary of the Tottenham Fire Fighters Association (who helped decorate the cookies), BTBIA coordinator Susan Iacoucci, New Tecumseth Mayor Richard Norcross, Deputy Mayor Stephanie MacLellan, Ward 8 Councillor Andrea Jacks, and store manager Crocetta Caruano. **BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO**

THE BRONCO ROUNDUP 2026

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TRILLIUM FORD

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Council receives update on Collingwood water treatment plant

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

At a New Tecumseth council meeting in March, an update on the Raymond A. Barker Water Treatment Plant expansion in Collingwood was provided.

A presentation was made at New Tecumseth's May 25 council meeting by Ken Kaden, manager of capital projects for the Town of Collingwood.

The information provided was from the end of March.

Excavation is currently underway at the new site.

New highlift pumps have been delivered to the off-site storage area. Two of the pumps have been stalled as part of the interim works, with one of them completing a successful test run.

Crews are conducting structural compression load tests on caissons as part of the project's foundation work.

Drilling for caisson piles is nearing completion. Excavation and foundation for the new membrane building have started.

The Frazzle Ice system is complete and available for operation.

The project includes a waste diversion process to eliminate materials from landfills. This includes concrete, metal, wood, cardboard, and paper.

Mr. Kaden reported that the project is around eight months behind schedule. This was due to multiple equipment failures during rock removal.

The team is currently working on opportunities to advance the schedule.

The project's budget has also increased from \$212.6 million to \$216.8 million. The total amount spent on the project to date is \$45.4 million.

Ward 5 Councillor Marc Biss expressed concern about the delays in the project and said he was disappointed that no one from Kenaidan Contracting working on the project was at the Council meeting to explain the delay.

"We're at 242 days of delay. Every time we bring this up, we've been assured that additional opportunities to advance the schedule are consistently being identified and inves-



tigated, and yet Kanaidan keeps falling further and further behind," Coun. Biss stated. "Every day of delay and receiving additional water capacity meant that the Town of New Tecumseth is losing engineering, planning, and development charges revenue, and also we are delayed in meeting the expectations the province has of us."

Coun. Biss added, "We've made a commit-

ment to build houses, made a commitment to Honda – we've made many commitments based on Kanaidan and Collingwood's assurances that we would get this water treatment plant up and running by Aug. 20, 2029."

Mr. Kaden responded that all the construction delays were the result of 'one task' that could not be planned for, and new schedules are being planned.

BRIAN SAUNDERSON

MPP - Simcoe-Grey

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

Alliston BIA cancels weekly farmers market

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Alliston Farmer's Market will not be happening this year.

The Alliston BIA made the announcement on May 26. It did not cite a reason as to why the weekly market will not take place.

Thanking supporters who have attended the market over the years, the Alliston BIA posted on social media, "This decision was not easy and truly heartrending."

For local residents who enjoy shopping local and appreciate local produce and other products, there are still opportunities to shop at various local markets and farms.

The Tottenham summer market takes

place every Sunday afternoon at Keogh Park in Tottenham. This market features a variety of vendors, with different ones every week.

You can also visit local farms for fresh products.

Local farms include:

- Murphy's Farm Market & Bakery – 5141 County Rd. 10, Alliston
- E.F.T. Farms – 5420 10th Sideroad, Innisfil
- Maple Grove Farms – 936215 Airport Rd., Mulmur
- Thorganic Farms – 7016 10th Line, Thornton
- Sheldon Creek Dairy – 4300 Concession Rd. 5, Loretto
- Laura's Farm Stand – 5684 Simcoe County Rd. 27, Cookstown

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Experience the FIFA World Cup up close at the Nottawasaga Resort

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

If you're a soccer fan, you will soon have an opportunity to see some world-class players.

The Town of New Tecumseth is hosting an exclusive registration-only Team Panama Community Training Session in partnership with FIFA, Simcoe County, and the Nottawasaga Resort & Conference Centre.

"This is a truly unique opportunity that few communities will experience," said Mayor Richard Norcross. "We're excited to have New Tecumseth be a part of this historic FIFA moment."

The Nottawasaga Resort has been selected as Team Panama's training camp site during the World Cup.

The resort recently re-sodded its soccer field to meet stringent FIFA standards for

practice on the pitch.

This once-in-a-lifetime event gives residents front-row access to watch Team Panama train ahead of their opening match on Thursday, June 11, 2026. In addition, there are chances to win fun FIFA-themed prizes.

Registration opened on Tuesday, June 2, at 12 p.m. sharp.

This opportunity to attend is available only to New Tecumseth residents, and capacity is limited.

Registrants must have an Xplor Registration Software account set up in advance to register for a ticket.

Client Services staff are happy to set up your account if this is your first time registering online.

For full event details and registration information, visit online at newtecumseth.ca/PanamaLive.



PREPARING THE PITCH – The Nottawasaga Resort has been working on its main soccer pitch in preparation for the FIFA World Cup 2026. The Resort will be hosting the Team Panama during competition.
BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

'Seniors are the foundation of our communities:' County of Simcoe celebrates June as Seniors Month

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

June is Seniors Month in Ontario, and the County of Simcoe celebrates the older adults who continue to shape communities and contribute to the region's social, cultural, and economic vitality.

With more than 1,000 older adults supported in county-managed long-term care and seniors services, campuses, and programs, the county remains committed to fostering vibrant, inclusive, and age-friendly communities where seniors can thrive.

Throughout June, long-term care homes and seniors' services locations in Simcoe County will host a variety of celebrations and activities, including concerts, cultural events, intergenerational programs, and community gatherings.

Seniors Month also highlights the county's continued investment in positive aging.

From the redevelopment of Simcoe Village in Beeton to the implementation of the Refreshed Positive Aging Strategy 2025-2030, the county continues to respond to the evolving needs of older adults through evidence-informed planning, community partnerships, and innovative programs.

As part of the commitment to supporting older adults and those who care for them, the County of Simcoe is promoting its Caregiver Rest & Renewal Program.

Caregivers play an essential role in helping loved ones remain healthy, connected, and supported.

The Caregiver Rest & Renewal highlights the two short-stay respite beds offered at each of the county's Long-Term Care homes. These are Georgian Manor in

Penetanguishene, Simcoe Manor in Beeton, Sunset Manor in Collingwood, and Trillium Manor in Orillia.

These stays, which are coordinated through Ontario Health atHome, provide caregivers with the opportunity to rest, recharge, and attend to personal needs while their loved one receives attentive, professional care in a safe and welcoming environment.

"Our seniors are the foundation of our communities – our mentors, innovators, caregivers, and leaders," said Simcoe County Warden Basil Clarke. "During Seniors Month, we celebrate their contributions and reaffirm our commitment to supporting their health, independence, and quality of life. We also recognize the role of caregivers and offer programs like the Caregiver Rest & Renewal Program, which provides meaningful support to



those who give so much of themselves." You can learn more about the Caregiver Rest & Renewal Program by visiting online at www.simcoe.ca/respite.

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Editorial, Letters & Opinion

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

~ Stanislaw Jerzy Lec

The results are in!

I'm thinking of doing a poll on the current political situation and related topics, and see what people generally think of how things are being handled in the country.

Of course, I'm going to use a scientific method before presenting my findings as accurate and fair.

First, I'm going to come up with a series of questions to ask people. I think five questions should do it, maybe three.

That's enough to gauge the current opinion of the average person on the street. Although I might just narrow that down to two, maybe one, to ensure brevity and consistency.

Then I'll head out onto the street with a pen and a clipboard. Remember to always carry a clipboard when doing this kind of important and scientific work.

No matter what is going on, if people see you carrying a clipboard, they will assume you are doing valuable work.

Secondly, I'll wear some kind of lanyard around my neck with an official-looking badge.

The badge must be laminated – that makes it official. If it's not laminated, people will question your legitimacy.

Also, it's nice to have your photo on the

badge. Although you could also have a photo of Albert Einstein, Charles Darwin, or Queen Elizabeth, because no one ever checks your photo to see if it is you.

I've seen seminars at some kind of science fair or technology industry meeting where every single person in the audience had a laminated badge hanging around their neck.

That badge ensures no interlopers can sneak in and hear the lecture. It's very official.

I will start my poll by visiting my neighbour Floyd at his barbershop. After an initial friendly greeting, I'll ask Floyd some important, detailed questions.

If Floyd's answer agrees with my own opinion, I'll write in the right-side column of my answer sheet.

If Floyd's answer does not agree with my own opinion, I'll use a pencil to write it in the left side column.

Next, I'll visit Emmett at his 'fix-it' shop. The same rule applies. If he gives the right answer, it goes into the right-hand column. If it's the wrong answer, it goes on the left.

Then it's off to the local schoolhouse to visit Miss Crump, the school teacher, who is on her break because the kids are all out in the schoolyard for recess.

This time, Ms. Crump provides me with the correct answer, and it goes into the right-side column.

There's my friend Thelma-Lou doing her daily shopping on Main Street, as she doesn't appear to actually have any kind of employment. I'll approach her and ask her the same question, or questions and get her response.

I'll do the rounds and visit Andy and Barney at the courthouse, speak to Otis the town drunk, take a ride out to the Darlings' farm, and drop by to see Goober and Gomer at the filling station on my way back.

At the end of my scientific poll, I'll report the results from those who agree with my opinion as the majority, and include those who don't agree, as the minority opinion across the country.

Does that sound like a fair opinion poll? Probably not.

But that certainly seems how they do opinion polls these days.

The more polls are released before and between elections, the more I question the results.

A recent 'poll' came out saying Donald Trump's approval rating is the 'lowest in history.'

Really? Because there are millions and millions of people who love and support Donald Trump.

It doesn't matter whether you like Trump, dislike Trump, or are indifferent; you have to admit he has a lot of fervent supporters. According to this poll, a full 30 per cent of people who supported Trump during his SECOND run for president have now changed their minds.

Maybe the pollsters did all their question asking in Oregon, because they certainly didn't pose those questions in Wyoming.

I follow the polls and the trends they try to manufacture, and it seems the poll results, at the very least, have been skewed, and at the worst, are manipulated and derived.

Prior to the 2024 US presidential election, the polls showed Trump and his opponent, Kamala Harris, in a dead heat. Yet Trump won the election with 312 electoral votes compared to Harris' 226.

It seems the polls have become nothing more than tools used to try to influence public opinion, rather than to report it.

My next stop will be to visit Aunt Bea and get her take on the situation.

BRIAN LOCKHART
FROM THE SECOND ROW



Let's get physical – again

Height has never been an advantage I had in life.

It seemed promising at first – for a good long while, I was taller than most of my peers. And then I plateaued.

Therefore, I know and appreciate just how frustrating it is to have something – anything – just out of reach.

Even if it's metaphorical.

One of my frustrations in the just-out-of-reach department might just be the memories and mementos that are just beyond our fingertips and are never likely to be at them again due to technological innovation and consequent obsolescence.

I was thinking about this a few times over the last week, first as the Town of Aurora prepared for its annual Community Garage Sale this past weekend. While I'm a dyed-in-the-wool garage sale fan, I couldn't help but think how disappointed people might be if all they found was a sea of fax machines, VCRs, 300-pound television sets, and mile-high stacks of discarded printers bought solely on the idea that a whole new unit was cheaper than buying new

ink cartridges.

Thankfully, this turned out not to be the case, but my train of thought was double-tracked. As the garage sale day approached, as did our near-annual trip to the Found Footage Festival, a celebration of all the weird and wonderful things that can be found on long-forgotten VHS tapes, I was chatting with a friend at another event, and while waiting for the main attraction to start, discussions turned to VCRs. No, really.

He had a number of VHS tapes from the late 1990s that were very important to him but, now VCR-less, had no way of accessing these memories that were so close at hand. I sympathized. A few years ago, I had to discard what seemed like hundreds of tapes of my own. One of the few I saved was a nearly 40-year-old video of a family Christmas that, thankfully, was still fit for digitization. He wasn't so sure this would be the case with his, but still plans on getting them professionally digitized.

Then again, as most of us know, tape degrades. Even if a service can be found to do the job right, it's no guaran-

tee that the job can be done at all.

Here in our own archives, we've found recently that some of the CD-ROMs and the DVD-Rs of yore could no longer be read on the appropriate devices we still have. Thankfully, the vast majority was eventually accessed but the slightly alarming experience both reminded and underscored how ephemeral our digital world can be, no matter the equipment.

Whether it's a corrupted file, malicious access, or simply environmental degradation, what we save in the digital realm can be lost in the blink of an eye. Similarly, it seems that people are also realizing that what we purchase in the digital realm can also be gone in a similar blink or at the whim of the provider, no matter how much we pay.

Last week, the TV comedy Hacks ended its five-season run and, in the lead-up to the season finale, deadline.com reported the show's creators were pushing for a full-on DVD/Blu-ray release of the show, bucking the recent trend away from physical media release in favour of streaming outlets.

"It's such an important time for people

to invest in physical media because... things are coming down all the time and it's like, 'Oh, I love that movie, I want to see it.' You just can't, babe, it doesn't exist," said producer Lucia Aniello, quoted in the report by Glenn Garner. "That does really put so much power of the distribution of art in the hands of algorithms and people's whims and certain executives not liking somebody's brother, so they take down their movie or show or whatever. It's really scary, the idea of censorship, especially as more and more companies are bought up by other companies."

'Aniello added, 'And so, we're really hoping to make a Hacks DVD box set, for one. We're trying to make that happen.... Please go buy it, not because we make any money off of it. We just want to make sure the show stays in existence for as long as DVD players exist.'"

Continued on Page 14

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PUBLISHER: Simcoe-York Printing & Publishing Ltd.

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EDITOR: Sam Odrowski sam@citizen.on.ca

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PRODUCTION: Lisa Clendening

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DISTRIBUTION: Sheila Ogram sheila@lpcmedia.ca

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The threat of global war

GWYNNE DYER
OUR WORLD TODAY



A consensus has emerged, at least in Western media, that we are on the brink of a real war with the gloves off, maybe even a 'world war.'

The Russian dictator Vladimir Putin will overrun the rest of Europe as soon as he is finished with Ukraine. Donald Trump will invade Cuba even before he has finished with Iran. Israel will annex southern Lebanon, having driven out its population. China will invade Taiwan. Then someone will go nuclear, and we are off to the (final) races. Or so they say.

The first question to ask is why would they? There's no major economic or strategic advantage to be gained by conquering Ukraine: Russia is an oil state and it certainly doesn't need more land. Putin's real motive in trying to conquer Ukraine is clearly to seal his status (in his own head, at least) as Russia's greatest ever patriot. It is his legacy project.

In the unlikely case that Russia does conquer Ukraine – four years and no success so far – Putin would face a terrified and rapidly rearming European Union that has three times Russia's population and 10 times its wealth, even while half his army would still be committed to holding down a popular resistance movement in occupied Ukraine.

And yet he's going to conquer all of Europe?

Nonsense. Russian generals let Putin have his war in 2022 because they were afraid of him, and because he promised that it would be over in less than a week with no serious response from the West. They're still afraid of him, but they wouldn't let him take them down that road again – and even if they did, Russia can't conquer all of Central and Western Europe.

Even Napoleon or Hitler at their height couldn't do that, and those were times when the offensive was in the ascendant. Now it's defence that domi-

nates, and even Finland could probably hold the Russians off for half a year

The other country that is already starting wars, the United States, is run by a man who attacks countries almost on a whim, but he crumbles at the sign of serious resistance (TACO). We're currently watching the psychodrama as he struggles to deny defeat in the Persian Gulf.

Some countries in Latin America, some in the Middle East, and Canada and Greenland may be in danger of a US take-over, but it wouldn't be a world war if Trump attacked another one of them, just a local tragedy.

Much the same can be about Israel, apart from fact that it is much more serious and systematic about ruthlessly eliminating all its enemies (and to hell with the bystanders.) Israel also has hundreds of nuclear weapons, but it wouldn't use them unless Israel were facing defeat in a war that threatens its existence – which seems highly unlikely at the moment.

As for China's frequently expressed will to 'reunify' Taiwan to the mainland by force, if necessary, there is no deadline. The island has only been governed by Bei-

jing for four of the past 150 years, and it is a very hard place to invade.

President Trump is currently ratting on America's long-standing implied promise to defend Taiwan from attack by China, but it was never a solid commitment. If the Taiwanese are willing to pay for serious defences they can probably deter Beijing from invading by themselves for a long time; if not, they will eventually be blockaded and absorbed.

Quite a menu of risks, but in fact it is no longer than the list of threats the world faced in 1962 or 1987 or 2008 or indeed any other year of the past eighty. As former U.S. president Calvin Coolidge observed 100 years ago: "If you see 10 troubles coming down the road, you can be sure that nine will run into the ditch before they reach you."

Once in a while, of course, the tenth will get through, and it might even kill you. There is no permanent safety. Why not?

Our ancestors for 300,000 years were all hunter-gatherers who lived in small groups (rarely more than 100 people) and were frequently at war with the other hunter-gatherer groups around them. Constant warfare shaped their ideas and their behaviour, and it still has a profound influence although we now live in societies millions strong.

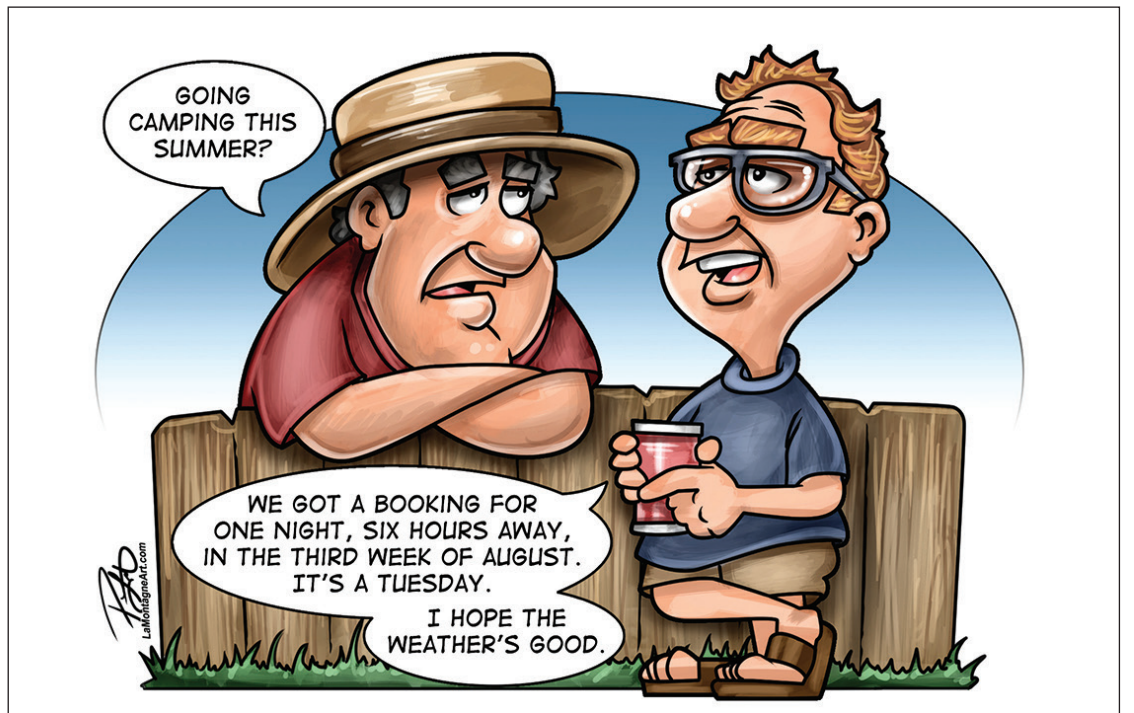
Human beings had to change many of their behaviours as they built their new 'civilizations,' but they didn't change their attitudes about war because it was still profitable for those societies that were good at it. That ceased to be true around the time of the First World War, and ever since we have been collectively striving to dismantle the old beliefs and structures.

It has only been one century, so I'd say that we're making fairly good progress.

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CLUES ACROSS

- Egyptian bull-god
- A young canine
- Cologne
- Midway between northeast and east
- A place to shop
- Minneapolis suburb
- Single lens reflex
- NY Mets great Tommie
- Informal loan clubs
- Habitual twitching
- Holm oak
- Willing to consent or submit
- In an early way
- Made possible
- Language in Ghana
- Relating to one's birth
- Deep-bodied fishes
- Defunct European

- Small American songbird
- One from L.A.
- After tenth
- Hillside
- Red deer
- Partner to "oohed"
- Indian musical pattern
- Israeli city ___ Aviv
- Golden peas plant
- Breezed through
- Midway between east and southeast
- Frameworks
- Danish krone
- Fall back
- Influential Korean leader

CLUES DOWN

- Bridge building
- Expression of sorrow or pity
- Large, stocky lizard
- Turkish leader title
- Nag
- Blank
- Closely woven cotton fabric
- A nice shot in golf
- Away from wind
- Evergreen shrub
- Large African antelope
- Something you receive
- Satisfy
- Wet dirt
- No longer here
- Writing utensil
- Ribonucleic acid
- Consume food
- Licensed for Wall Street
- Alternative forms of a gene
- Buddy
- We all do it
- Chicken
- No seats available
- Yearned to possess
- Ineffectual
- Explosive
- Turkish title
- Worn near the foot
- Impatient
- Set an example for others
- Actor Pitt
- Instrument of torture
- Swiss river
- Grayish white
- A way to print
- Storied college hoops program
- Midway between south and southeast

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

Endangered bird species spotted in Simcoe County Forest restoration site

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Bird watchers should be happy to hear that two Kirtland's Warblers have been seen in a restored area of the Simcoe County Forest.

The sighting of this globally endangered migratory songbird was reported by Simcoe County on May 28.

This sighting marks an exciting milestone for local conservation efforts and signals early success in creating habitat for a species that was once nearly extinct.

The birds were observed within a recently restored site designed to support early-successional pine/oak habitat, which is critical to this species.

The county began this restoration work in 2017, transforming a former aggregate pit through invasive species removal and site preparation, including controlled burns and extensive planting of native trees and vegetation.

The Kirtland's Warbler was already assessed as Endangered when the Endangered Species Act took effect in 2008.

Kirtland's Warbler is a medium-sized songbird at approximately 15 centimetres in length. Males have yellow bellies with dark streaking along the flanks and sides.

Their upper parts are blue-grey with dark streaks, and they have black cheeks and white

eye rings.

Females and young look similar, but are not as boldly or brightly marked and have brownish highlights on the wings and back.

Its song – an explosive series of sharp notes – can be heard over 400 metres away in good conditions.

Kirtland's Warblers have very specific habitat requirements, typically nesting in well-drained sandy soils covered in large forests of young jack pine, a habitat often created by fire.

They lay their nests on the ground, hidden under low branches of young jack pines, with a thick cover of plants such as grasses, sweetfern, and blueberry.

They primarily breed in central Michigan and migrate to the Bahamas for the winter. A few are seen annually at Point Pelee National Park and other migration hotspots in southwestern Ontario, and they have long been suspected of nesting in pockets of suitable habitat across the province.

Until now, breeding evidence in Ontario has been observed at only two sites. The most recent being in 2007 at Canadian Forces Base Petawawa.

The Simcoe County Forest project, the first of its kind in Canada, is part of a broader international effort to help the Kirtland's Warbler. The species numbers fewer than 5,000 birds worldwide.

County staff worked with leading experts



CONSERVATION AND PROTECTION – A rare bird species has been sighted in the Simcoe County Forest. The Kirtland's Warbler is on the endangered list with fewer than 5,000 remaining. The county began a project to restore an area and create a suitable nesting habitat for this bird species. **CONTRIBUTED PHOTO**

from the Canadian Wildlife Service and GEI Consultants Canada to complete the project.

With this positive development, residents may have an opportunity to observe these birds in their natural habitat.

The County reminds visitors that protecting

this sensitive environment is essential to the species' continued recovery.

Kirtland's Warblers nest on the ground and are highly sensitive to disturbance, so it is important to follow all posted guidelines and respect habitat protections while on-site.

Drug trafficking charges laid against Essa woman following traffic stop in Essa

A sharp-eyed police officer recognized suspicious behaviour that resulted in drug trafficking charges for an Essa woman.

Shortly after 8 a.m. on May 26, an officer was out on proactive patrols in Angus when observing a vehicle come to a stop. He saw the vehicle shut off and the driver climb into

the passenger seat before attempting to hide from police.

The officer conducted a traffic stop on the vehicle.

The driver of the vehicle was known to police and had outstanding warrants.

The driver was arrested, and police located

a bag of suspected cocaine inside the vehicle along with a scale and a large amount of Canadian currency.

As a result of the investigation, Sheri Crawford, 54, of Essa Township, has been charged with:

· Possession of a Schedule 1 Substance for


the Purpose of Trafficking - cocaine
· Possession of Proceeds of Property Obtained by Crime under \$5,000

The accused individual was held for a bail hearing.


None of the listed charges have been proven in court.

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Tim Hortons Smile Cookie campaign achieves record-breaking total

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Tim Hortons has announced that a record-breaking \$23.3 million was raised across the country for local charities and community groups.

This year was the 30th anniversary of the Smile Cookie campaign.

“Tim’s restaurant owners are proud members of the communities where they live and work, and for decades their passion for giving back has made the Smile Cookie campaign what it is today,” says Axel Schwan, President of Tim Hortons. “When the first Smile Cookie was sold in 1996, no one could have imagined we’d one day be celebrating more than \$174 million raised in the program’s history. That’s a testament to Tim’s restaurant owners, team members, volunteers, and guests who have committed to making a difference in their communities year after year. Thank you for your incredible generosity.”

The annual Smile Cookie campaign was created in 1996 by Maureen Sauve and other

Tim Hortons restaurant owners in Hamilton.

Maureen’s inspiration for the original local fundraiser came from an initiative to raise funds for a hospital ward treating her daughter. Today, that inspiration has transformed into a nationally recognized cornerstone of Tim Hortons’ commitment to giving back, with 100 per cent of pre-tax sales donated to local causes.

In the Alliston area, local restaurant owners John and Meagen Lewandowski and Amit & Rachana Seth continued their tradition of incredible impact, raising a combined \$50,476.42 during the 2026 campaign. On May 27, these funds were presented to their local partners, with the Matthews House Hospice Foundation and the Stevenson Memorial Hospital Foundation each receiving \$25,238.21.

In Tottenham, Tim Hortons restaurant owner Jerry Lawlor and his team raised \$31,094 in support of Help the Kids Play.

The Beeton Tim Hortons, owned by David Macrae, raised \$5,725.99 in support of the Our Town Food Bank in Tottenham.



SUCCESSFUL CAMPAIGN – It was another successful campaign as Tim Hortons locations across the country raised funds for local charities and organizations through the sales of Smile Cookies from April 27 to May 2. Tim Hortons in Alliston raised funds for Matthews House Hospice and the Stevenson Memorial Hospital Foundation, with each organization getting 50 per cent. Both organizations received their own cheque for \$25,238.21. Store owner John Lewandowski presents a cheque to Mandy McCurdy (executive director Matthews House Hospice Foundation), Cathy Morden (board chair Matthews House Hospice), Melody Craggs (director of Development Stevenson Memorial Hospital Foundation), Dr. Ted Vandevs (CEO Stevenson Memorial Hospital Foundation), Fayaz Kala (board chair of Stevenson Memorial Hospital), Dae Cropper (Tim Hortons store manager), and Kara Harris (community and corporate giving officer for Stevenson Memorial Hospital Foundation). **BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO**

Simcoe County District School Board approves \$771 million budget for 2026-27 school year

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) staff have been developing a budget for the 2026-27 school year since February 2026.

At the May 27 Board meeting, trustees approved a balanced, compliant budget of \$771 million. This is in compliance with the Ministry of Education’s mandate.

“The SCDSB’s 2026-27 budget focuses on meeting the needs of students, guided by the Board’s Strategic Priorities and opera-

tion plans,” stated SCDSB CEO Dawn Stephens. “The SCDSB will continue to direct resources into classrooms in support of student achievement and well-being.”

Funding for school boards is allocated by the Ministry of Education through the Core Education Funding model.

The model is designed to be easily understandable and strengthen accountability while balancing the need for flexibility based on local school board needs.

“SCDSB staff, including the Chief Executive Officer, senior administrative team, and financial reporting team worked col-

laboratively with the Board of Trustees to develop the approved budget,” said Corry Van Nispen, Superintendent of Business and Facility Services. “The Board has maintained a conservative approach, consistent with the SCDSB’s history of fiscal responsibility and accountability.”

A focus has been on the SCDSB Strategic Priorities, which include well-being, diversity, equity and inclusion, community, and excellence in teaching and learning. This represents the SCDSB’s commitment to creating a culture of belonging, engagement, and success through deliberate actions.



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Arts & Local Events



EXPLORING HISTORY: The Simcoe County Museum celebrated May as Museum Month and invited visitors to explore the stories and artifacts housed there. County of Simcoe councillors tour the facility on Tuesday, May 26, to see how current renovations are proceeding. **BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO**

County celebrates Museum Month with councillors visiting Simcoe Museum

**BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER**

The Simcoe County Museum celebrated Museum Month throughout May, inviting visitors to explore the stories, artifacts, and experiences that showcase the rich heritage of Simcoe County.

Museum Month is an opportunity to high-

light the important role museums play in preserving local history and fostering community connection.

As part of its ongoing commitment to innovation and accessibility, the Museum is currently undergoing significant renovation. The renovations include the development of the new Matthews Innovation Gallery along with broader upgrades to the

facility.

The Matthews Innovation Gallery will serve as a modern exhibition space designed to enhance interactive learning, support dynamic programming, and showcase exhibits that connect visitors with the stories of how innovation has shaped Simcoe County.

County Councillors visited the Museum

on Tuesday, May 26, for a guided walk-through of the renovation progress.

The visit provided an opportunity to see firsthand how these enhancements will support the Museum's long-term vision as a leading cultural destination in the region.

The Simcoe County Museum is still open to the public while renovations are ongoing.

Tottenham Summer Market begins the first week of July alongside Music in the Park

**BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER**

It will be another opportunity for outdoor summer shopping when the Tottenham Summer Market opens on Sunday, July 5.

The popular market has re-branded this year to better represent what it's all about.

Most weekends, new vendors appear as organizers rotate most vendor spaces throughout the summer. This means you can attend every week and always see something new.

"This is a summer market," explained Christa Barber-Lacey, Committee Chair, at the Tottenham Beeton District Chamber of Commerce. "It's held every Sunday from noon to 4 p.m. This year we have a bit of a refresh and a rebrand. It goes along with the

Sunday Music in the Park series."

The day provides a fun and entertaining summer afternoon.

Many residents visit the vendor's area to see what's new and check out new products and services, then stay for the music in the park.

Each week, a solo acoustic performer opens the show, with a band being the main feature.

The music series draws a large crowd every Sunday.

The market is still looking for new vendors to attend this year.

"We want new vendors to come out," Christa said. "We're keeping the vendor rate the same at \$45."

If a vendor wants to secure a spot, they can visit online at TBDCC.org.



MARKET & MUSIC – The Tottenham Summer Market will be open every Sunday afternoon beginning on July 5. The market is held at the same time as the Sunday Music in the Park series at the bandshell at Keogh Park in Tottenham, making for a fun and entertaining afternoon.. **BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO**

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FUTURE OF BANTING – New Tecumseth council has received a report outlining a plan to keep the Banting Homestead open as long-term plans are developed. The site honours Sir Frederick Banting’s legacy and his contributions to medical science. **BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO**

Doors ready to reopen at Banting Homestead with new plans for the future

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

New Tecumseth Town Council received a report on Monday, May 25, outlining a plan to keep the Banting Homestead open and accessible while longer-term plans are developed.

Future plans call for the Town to assume operational responsibility, with preparations underway for a possible mid-summer reopening. This will allow residents and visitors to once again experience this important cultural site as final details are completed.

“We’re excited about this step forward and what it means for our community,” said Mayor Richard Norcross. “The Banting Homestead tells an important story, and we’re proud to help ensure it remains open, welcoming, and part of our community for years to come.”

The transition is being carried out in close partnership with the Sir Frederick Banting Legacy Foundation, whose longstanding commitment has helped preserve and promote the site.

“We are proud of the role the Foundation has played and are grateful to be working with the Town during this transition,” said members of the Sir Frederick Banting Legacy Foundation in a statement. “We look forward to continuing to support and celebrate Sir Frederick Banting’s legacy in new ways.”

During the transition, the Town will maintain regular public access and basic operations, coordinate with the Museum on the Boyne to support programming and promotion, and work with the Foundation to transfer key materials as it concludes its operational role.

The work also supports positioning the Homestead within the Town’s broader Cultural and Heritage portfolio, connecting people to meaningful local stories and experiences.

Updates will be shared as council considers the report and as plans move forward.

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Updates will be shared as council considers the report and as plans move forward.

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Stouffville Spirit defender Nate Windle commits to Royal Military College Paladins

BY BROCK WEIR

Aurora resident and Stouffville Spirit defenseman Nate Windle confirmed his commitment to the OUA Royal Military College Paladins on Friday afternoon.

Windle, who played two seasons with the powerhouse Spirit, explained his decision to commit to RMC's hockey program in Kingston, ON: "I chose the Paladins' ice hockey program because they are providing me with an amazing opportunity to continue my hockey career as well as get an amazing education."

The Honor Roll graduate of St. Maximilian Kolbe Catholic High School is coming off a memorable season with Stouffville.

Windle was one of 14 graduating players honored in February at a centre ice ceremony during the Spirit's final home game.

His highlight of 2025-26 was based on the team's historic accomplishments.

"My highlight in the final year in Stouffville was definitely putting up the best season record in franchise history. It feels amazing knowing that I was a part of Stouffville hockey history."

Windle helped the Spirit accrue a franchise-best 40-12-2-0 record during the regular season and provided the second-place squad with a steady blue line presence.

The RMC-bound defender will take that combination of offensive punch and defensive prowess with him to Kingston in September.

Windle outlined his objectives as an OUA hockey player and prospective Business Major at the venerable military academy.

"The goals I have being a student-athlete are to maintain a very good average as well as being dialed into hockey all year long. The main goal is being able to balance both at once."

In addition to striking a balance between his athletic life and academic life at the 150-year-old school, the long-time Aurora resident is excited about moving down the road to Kingston: "I'm looking forward to experiencing a new city. It allows me a change of scenery and adds a little more excitement."

Windle experienced his fair share of excitement in his final season with Stouffville.

In 52 games, the mobile defender tallied five goals and fifteen assists for the OJHL East Division powerhouse, but his favorite individual moment came at the expense of the high-flying, first-place Trenton Golden Hawks.

"I would say my personal highlight from the season goal-wise would be scoring against Trenton. It feels really good to score against a team that we have a rivalry with. There's something about scoring against rivals that feels really good."

Prior to playing for the Spirit, Windle refined his hockey skills with the Alliston Hornets.

He described the importance of his one season with Alliston in the Provincial Junior Hockey League: "The season with the Hornets helped me get to the next level because I was able to play a lot and develop into a stronger player. The coaching staff gave me lots of chances and allowed me to try things I wanted to do."

Before he played Junior C hockey in Alliston, Windle was proud to don an Aurora Tigers jersey for his entire pre-Junior rep hockey career. He reflected with fond-

ness about his best memories as a hometown hockey player: "The most memorable moment playing as an Aurora Tiger was creating friendships that will last a lifetime. If we're talking hockey, I would say winning at Lake Placid—it was the best team moment in my 12 years as an Aurora Tiger."

The 12-year Tiger and three-year defender with 'Junior C' Alliston and 'Junior A' Stouffville is aware of his role in the community as a mentor to younger players.

Windle encouraged young Aurorans to work hard and keep the faith on their hockey journey: "The biggest advice I could give to anyone is to give it everything you have and always continue to move forward. No matter what anyone says to you-- all that matters is the effort you put in. The rest will come."

After making history with the Stouffville Spirit in his final OJHL season, Windle will be experiencing an historic occasion when he arrives in Kingston in September.

The Royal Military College of Canada will be in the midst of celebrating the 150th anniversary of its first class of cadets—"The Old Eighteen"—who began their studies at the military academy on June 1, 1876.

Stray calf assisted by OPP officers after falling out of moving trailer on Highway 10

Stray calf assisted by OPP officers after falling out of moving trailer on Highway 10

Dufferin Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) officers proved that policing duties can sometimes include a little "herd control" after assisting with an unexpected livestock incident on Highway 10 in Mono.

While on general patrol earlier this month, Dufferin OPP officers observed the rear door of a livestock trailer become dislodged,

causing a young Charolais calf to fall from the moving trailer and roll safely to the side of the roadway, suffering minor cuts and scrapes in the process.

The calf quickly moved itself out of traffic and sought shelter nearby. Thankfully, officers were already in the area and, with the help of several caring community members, were able to keep the calf calm and safe while coordinating with the driver of

the trailer.

Officers radioed ahead and the farmer promptly returned to retrieve the young calf, which fortunately suffered only minor injuries before being reunited with the rest of the herd.

"No two calls are ever the same in policing, which is what makes the profession such a diverse and unique career. From emergency response calls to assisting stranded livestock, officers never know what a shift may bring," reads a Dufferin OPP press release.

"Dufferin OPP would like to thank the members of the public who stopped to assist, as well as the dedicated officers who helped ensure the situation had a safe and positive outcome for everyone involved."

HERD CONTROL: A Dufferin OPP officer and member of the public assist a calf that fell off a moving trailer on Highway 10 in Mono a couple weeks ago. The calf suffered minor cuts and scrapes in the process and was returned to its owner. **CONTRIBUTED PHOTO**



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SPORTS

NEW TECUMSETH TIMES



BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

SOLID EFFORT: The Banting Memorial High School Marauders senior girls' soccer team take on the Holy Trinity Catholic High School Tigers on the field at Banting during the GBSAA final on Monday, May 25. The Marauders had to settle for a 5-1 loss in their final game of the season. The Banting team had a good season, going 5-1 in the regular season before entering the playoffs.



LEADING THE CARTS – The 20th annual Kevin Lord Memorial Golf Tournament took place at Bear Creek Golf & Country Club on Saturday, May 30. Over 150 golfers enjoyed a day on the course. Organizer Al Lord leads the start as over 100 golf carts head out onto the course.



OUT ON THE GREENS – The 20th annual Kevin Lord Memorial Golf Tournament took place at Bear Creek Golf & Country Club on Saturday, May 30. Golfers enjoy a day on the greens while raising money for a good cause. Over 150 golfers took part in this year's tournament.

BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTOS

Sunny skies for the 20th annual Kevin Lord Memorial Golf Tournament

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The weather cooperated, providing a nice, sunny day for the 20th annual Kevin Lord Memorial Golf Tournament, held at Bear Creek Golf & Country Club on Saturday, May 30.

The annual tournament raises funds for several local charities.

“It’s a memorial tournament,” explained organizer Al Lord. “We’ve been doing this for 20 years. It’s in memory of my son Kevin who was a New Tecumseth resident and passed away at the young age of 20.”

Kevin was a hockey and ball hockey player who represented Canada in the ball hockey junior championship in Slovakia.

Each year, the tournament raises funds for Matthews House Hospice, the Brain Tumour

Foundation of Canada, and Campfire Circle camp for children with cancer or a serious illness.

“We have 152 golfers out here today,” Al said. “We usually average around that number, but it varies from year to year. Anything over 140 is a good number. We’re having a special raffle for Maple Leaf tickets – it’s a special raffle for Stevenson Hospital. We support several charities including several local

charities.”

The tournament used a four-man scramble format to keep everyone busy on the greens and ensure that all the teams kept moving throughout the 27-hole course.

With the nice weather, the golfers were enthusiastic about getting out on the course to hit some balls.

The event began with over 100 golf carts being led out onto the course to start the day.

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Continued from Page 4

Brock's Banter: Let's get physical – again

I'll be among the first in line to get the set, if it gets off the ground – hopefully at a bricks-and-mortar store, if possible – not only because I thoroughly enjoyed the series itself and would like it firmly in reach, but out of the pure excitement of having a show or movie released on physical media again.

People of my generation are among many that remember the complete experience of going to a video store and discovering a new favourite flick just because something about the title or the box caught

your eye and you got swept up by the synopsis on the back. If it was a new release, sometimes you could watch the entire movie in-store, if they had a nice seating area. If the picture was a real favourite, you could go back and buy a copy – not only did it look cool on the shelf, but you could watch it whenever you wanted. On your own terms.

And – the truth is even if you don't have a VCR to play it on anymore, if you're a true fan, the box still looks cool on the shelf.

But it's also the truth that the digital content we have come to rely on being at our fingertips might not always be within reach – whether in whole, or in part, and the blame can't centre on someone not liking someone else's brother. It could be modified for content for any number of reasons, not the least of which is to better reflect the tastes of the day, or an individual, rather than serve as a snapshot of the reality thereof.

There is something to be said for the sheer convenience of all that can be accessed through digital means these days. But despite its advantages, it's not quite like going over to your shelf, browsing through some things, and making a choice.

By the same token, scrolling through photos on our phones or on social media, or even waiting for them to roll through again on a digital frame, might be satis-

fying to a degree, but shuffling through snapshots or leafing through an album just hits differently.

And books? It might be handy on a commute or while travelling to have a few e-books loaded onto your reader of choice, not only do you lose the sheer pleasure of feeling the paper between your fingers and turning the page, it's not really a book you can truly call your own or rely upon.

While we might not all have a VCR, unloaded a few old DVD players at a recent garage sale, or made your fortune unloading your printers on an enthusiastic collector with unlimited funds and space, it's important to maintain physical media for the things that matter, and even some of the things that might not seem to matter much now, so you have them in reach, when you need it, and however you define it.

You might not always have it.



GRAND OPENING – One of Tottenham's newest businesses held a grand opening on Friday, May 29. Smile Lab Orthodontics brings a much-needed service to the town. Clinic owners Dr. Savita and George Bidzios receive a certificate of recognition and congratulations from New Tecumseth Mayor Richard Norcross, Ward 1 Councillor Chris Rapin, and BTBIA Coordinator Susan Iacoucci. They are joined by friends and family during the ribbon-cutting ceremony. **BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO**



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Street Crime Unit executes search warrant, seizes drugs and firearms

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Members of the Nottawasaga Detachment Community Street Crime Unit, with assistance from the Collingwood and Huronia West CSCUs and the Tactics and Rescue Unit, have arrested two individuals following a months-long drug trafficking investigation throughout Simcoe County.

Officers executed a search warrant at a residence in Innisfil, where two individuals were taken into custody without incident on May 21.

As a result of the search, officers seized a 9mm handgun with two magazines, two replica handguns, 22 grams of psilocybin, 7.5 grams of MDMA, a butterfly knife, \$1215 in currency, and a cellular device.

As a result of the investigation, the first accused, Devyn Delorme, 31, of Innisfil, has been charged with:

- Possession of a Schedule 1 substance for the purpose of trafficking – Other Drugs
- Possession of a Schedule III Substance
- Unauthorized possession of a weapon
- Possession of a prohibited device or ammunition

• Possession of proceeds of property obtained by crime over \$5,000

• Careless storage of a firearm, weapon, prohibited device or ammunition

• Possession of firearm or ammunition contrary to prohibition order

• Possession of loaded prohibited or restricted firearm

• Three counts of Fail to Comply with release order

The second accused, Tabytha Gisitsch, 31 of Innisfil, has been charged with:

• Possession of a Schedule 1 Substance for the purpose of trafficking – Other Drugs

• Possession of a Schedule III Substance

• Unauthorized possession of a weapon

• Possession of a prohibited device or ammunition

• Possession of proceeds of property obtained by crime over \$5,000

• Possession of loaded prohibited or restricted firearm

No charges have been proven in court.

The first accused was held pending a bail hearing, and the second accused was released with a future court date at the Ontario Court of Justice in Bradford.



ITEMS SEIZED – The Nottawasaga Detachment Community Street Crime Unit seized a 9mm handgun with two magazines, two replica handguns, 22 grams of psilocybin, 7.5 grams of MDMA, a butterfly knife, \$1215 in currency, and a cellular device when executing a search warrant in Innisfil on May 21. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

OPP urges drivers and passengers to buckle up when behind the wheel across Ontario roads

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Central Region Headquarters of the Ontario Provincial Police is reminding motorists that wearing a seatbelt remains one of the simplest and most effective ways to stay safe on the road.

OPP officers continue to see preventable loss of life in local collisions due to people not wearing a seatbelt. Nearly one-in-four fatal collisions investigated by the OPP involve someone who was not wearing a seatbelt.

Each year, officers across the Central Region respond to tragic incidents where lives are lost due to failure to buckle up.

For families left behind, these losses are especially difficult, knowing their loved one may have survived had they been properly

restrained.

So far in 2026, Centre Region OPP has seen a 19 per cent increase compared to this time last year, in fatal collisions involving individuals who were not wearing a seatbelt. This includes incidents where children were not properly secured.

Drivers are reminded to ensure all occupants are properly restrained before every trip.

This includes securing children in the appropriate care seat, booster seat, or seatbelt based on their age, height, and weight.

Under Ontario law, drivers are responsible for ensuring that passengers under 16 years of age are properly restrained and that children under 8 are secured in the correct child car seat or booster seat. Drivers who are not wearing their seatbelts or have unsecured children in their car can be fined for a violation.



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602 ARTICLES FOR SALE



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- Some Sales Skills Preferred but would be willing to train the right candidate
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Base + Commission

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zach@lpcmedia.ca



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Classifieds

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612 AUCTIONS/FLEA MARKETS

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JULY 10TH – Tool & Equipment Auction

JULY 16TH – Dual Estate Firearms Auction

JULY 17TH – Currency / Art / Jewelry Auction

JULY 24TH – Giffin Apple Farm Sale

AUG 7TH – Gas and Oil / Toy / Sports Memorabilia Auction

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Choose from 3 varieties.

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9 SLIDERS x 51 g/1.8 oz

SAVE \$5 **Garlic Shrimp**
12-13 PIECES 340 g

INCREDIBLE PRICE 9.99 each

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Fully Cooked Chicken Wings 680 g
Choose from 8 varieties.

Barbecue, Louisiana Style, Buffalo, Honey Garlic

14.99

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

SALE 3.99 each

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

SAVE \$2

Cookie Ice Cream Sandwiches
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Choose from 3 varieties.

Chocolate Chip

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SAVE \$5

Mozzarella Sticks
15-21 PIECES 454 g

Also available, Jalapeño Cheese Sticks
13-16 PIECES 454 g **\$9.99 SAVE \$5**

BUY 1, GET 1 50% OFF
Regular price \$12.99 each

Pepperoni Pizza Rolls 8 PIECES 460 g

SAVE \$6.50 when you buy 2

MIX AND MATCH

SAVE \$5

Slow Cooked Beef Pot Roast 907 g

27.99

SAVE \$4

Pork Pot Roast 907 g

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SAVE \$5

Breaded Chicken Breasts
8 PIECES 907 g
Choose from 3 varieties.

Also available, Chicken Breast Grills
8 PIECES 800 g **\$19.99 SAVE \$5**

Original

INCREDIBLE PRICE 10.99 **SAVE \$7**

Fall Off the Bone® Back Ribs
1 FULL RACK OF RIBS 510 g - 680 g
Choose from 4 varieties.

Honey Garlic

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2 STEAKS x 200 g/7 oz

22.99 each

SAVE \$8

Bacon Wrapped Beef Top Sirloin Steaks
4 STEAKS x 142 g/5 oz

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SINGLE SERVES 275 g - 340 g 22 VARIETIES

SALE 4.99 each

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7.99 each **SALE** **Fruit Bars** 6 BARS 534 mL

5.99 each **SALE** **Cakes** 2 CAKES 228 g - 280 g

5.99 **SALE** **Homestyle Key Lime Pies** 2 PIECES 264 g



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