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# The Times • New Tecumseth

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## Step Right Up

Sean Bourke and Nick Dougherty perform at the Royal Canadian Legion in Tottenham during Open Mic Day on Sunday, March 10. The Legion hosts an open mic for performers every other Sunday afternoon, where anyone can go up on stage and perform a few songs.

BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO



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# FIRST-CLASS Community Fridge to open in mid-March

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

The Community Living Association for South Simcoe (CLASS) community fridge will open by mid-March.

Inspired by other community food pantries, CLASS staff member Courtney Johnston proposed the idea of helping those in the Alliston area with food insecurity by opening a Community Fridge program.

With support from the County of Simcoe, CLASS has announced the launch of a new innovative program for the community and the people they support. The goal is to address food insecurity in South Simcoe.

The program will offer free access to nutritious foods while giving those they support some great on-the-job skills and knowledge to pursue employment in the community through volunteering.



A community fridge is where people who need food can access the fridge and take a few day's worth of food. It also complements other resources available in the community to relieve hunger.

No personal information is being collected to access the Community Fridge.

The FIRST-CLASS Community Fridge will be open seven days a week from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. This will accommodate many different families working a variety of shifts.

The fridge can be accessed by anyone in need from Simcoe County. The fridge is in a separate room with outside access only.

For donations, they will accept produce, dry goods, hygiene items, pet food, canned goods, fresh meat as long as it's not frozen or past its best-before date, store bought bread and pasties, dairy products, eggs, and prepared meals from a public health-certified kitchen. Food from a kitchen must be labelled with the expiry date and possible allergens.

The location of this community fridge is 125 Dufferin St., Alliston, with the entrance

on the north side of the parking lot. The CLASS grand opening of the Community Fridge will take place on Saturday, April 27, 2024, with a ribbon-cutting ceremony at 11 a.m. A vendor market will also take place on the same day from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The entry fee for the event is \$2 or a food donation. Proceeds from this event will go towards purchasing food for the Fridge program.



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## Stevenson receives \$50,000 donation for centralized fetal monitoring system

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

The Stevenson Memorial Hospital has received a matching gift pledge of \$50,000 to go towards the Centralized Fetal Monitoring System fundraising initiative, which will enhance both the maternal and fetal healthcare at the hospital.

The pledge was made by Alan and Brenda Lundy – long-time supporters of the Stevenson Memorial Hospital Foundation.

The gift highlights the Lundy's deep-rooted connection to the hospital.

Brenda Lundy, who was born at the original Stevenson Memorial Hospital, shares a heartfelt connection to Stevenson.

"This hospital is special," Brenda said. "It is my birthplace and where all our children and two grandchildren were born."

The Lundy family's commitment is rooted in gratitude for the hospital meeting their needs.

Alan Lundy adds, "The hospital has always been there for us in the past. It's our turn to be there for Stevenson today. The hospital's impact extends beyond the building. It is a big part of our community, and we want to make a lasting impact for its tomorrow."

In addition to their matching gift for the Centralized Fetal Monitoring System,

the Lundy's recently demonstrated their commitment by contributing \$100,000 toward the hospital's greatest needs.

This donation was promptly matched, doubling the impact of their support.

The Centralized Fetal Monitoring System ensures patient safety with real-time maternal and fetal monitoring, efficient data management, and seamless integration, enabling timely actions for optimal care.

"We are deeply thankful for the Lundy family's \$50,000 matching gift for the Centralized Fetal Monitoring System," said Mary Thomas, CEO of Stevenson Memorial Hospital Foundation.

"Their support enhances the healthcare services SMH provides and inspires others to contribute. Their generosity ignites and encourages fellow community members to contribute towards healthcare. We appreciate their impactful contribution and welcome the support of others in helping to reach this goal."

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# Town hosts public meeting on planning for future growth

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

With the population of New Tecumseth predicted to double over the next 30 years, the Town is already looking ahead to determine the best way to grow.

A series of public meetings will be held to give residents a chance to voice their opinions on how growth should look.

The first meeting was held at the Alliston Memorial Arena on Tuesday, March 5, with a very good turnout.

Residents had the opportunity to voice their opinions on a variety of growth-related topics such as what type of housing they would like to see more of, public transport, parks and recreation, and schools.

In Ontario, growth is not a municipal decision – it is mandated by the province, and if the province says a municipality has to grow, it will.

The Town's Official Plan must reflect the policy direction given by the Province of Ontario through policy documents including the Provincial Policy Statement.

The County of Simcoe has updated its Official Plan to align with the provincial policies.

A consulting firm has been working on new growth strategies.

At the public meeting, there were three different possible growth scenarios and they were shown on maps of the entire town from Alliston to Tottenham.

Scenario one, suggests 90 per cent of the growth will take place in Alliston, with minor growth in Beeton and no growth in Tottenham.

Scenario two, suggests 85 per cent of the growth in Alliston, with minor growth in both Beeton and Tottenham.

The third scenario includes 61 per cent of the growth to be in Alliston with larger growth in both Beeton and Tottenham.

"This is a public information session," explained Laura Brannon, senior planner and project manager for the Town. "We are inviting feedback on the potential scenarios for growth. We have a survey, and we want people to sign up for the newsletter so they are more engaged. We are initiating the discussion on how and where the Town wants to grow. Growth is established at the provincial level. We are identified as a primary settlement area. They establish how much land we need, and also establish our population forecast – we're going to grow to a population of around 80,000 by 2051."

The three scenarios for growth that have



**DECIDING THE COMMUNITY'S FUTURE** – There was a strong turnout of local residents to provide feedback during an information session hosted by the Town of New Tecumseth about future growth in the area. Residents offered their opinions on how they think the Town should grow over the next 30 years. The session was held at the Alliston Memorial Arena on Tuesday, March 5.

BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

been delivered are through consultants and none are permanent at this point in time.

"This is a public launch and open house to the official plan review and growth management study," explained Jennifer Best, the Town's director of planning and building. "This is [a] 30 year planning horizon, out to 2051 to accommodate our future population and employment growth."

The fact that so many people turned out for this event was a good sign, Ms. Best said.

"It is very inspiring because when development generally happens, they see an earth mover show up, or a sign, and then trying to plan ahead for 30 years – it's too late at that point. Right now is the key time to come out and help us shape how our town is going to grow, and where we are going to grow and what it's going to look like. It's all about vibrant communities and where we are going to house people, where they are going to work, where they are going to learn, where they are going to play - all of those components that are important elements of the community."

When visitors entered the hall of the arena, they could follow a route that brought them to several stations where they could offer their opinions on various matters.

"We are asking those key questions about

housing options," Ms. Best explained. "What types of transportation should we be looking at? Do we need more active transportation with more bike lanes and pedestrian routes? How do we deal with large trucks? We have a vibrant agricultural community so we'll be growing out into those lands. How do we make

that connection between those agricultural and urban areas? We also want to know about commercial areas."

The meeting provided a lot of good input from residents who were eager to offer their opinions on how the town should handle future growth.

## Women's Acappella group celebrates 65th anniversary

Harmony Inc. Has provided an opportunity for women to find their voice in an art form that has become a worldwide phenomenon and for many, a favourite pastime.

The organization is now celebrating its 65th anniversary. By providing a gathering place to sing and express themselves through music, thousands of women have experienced community and artistic expression through barbershop-style singing.

Locally, the Sugartones, members of Harmony Inc., perform at a wide array of venues and events in the region. The Sugartones are moving into their 12th year as a chapter of Harmony Inc.

With a new director, Jeanette Martin, the Sugartones are always working on a new fresh line-up of songs to perform.

The Sugartones practice on Monday nights at the Kingsmere Retirement Suites clubhouse in Alliston and women of all ages are invited to visit a rehearsal to see what it is all about.

Harmony Inc., has over 65 choruses and 2,000 members. It is currently celebrating Harmony Awareness Week.

Harmony, Inc. continues to cultivate a diverse, inclusive, and equitable community where all feel valued and respected, by empowering all women through education, friendship and singing. All women, regardless of age, race, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, or ability, are celebrated, encouraged, and belong here.

For more information about Harmony, Inc., please visit [HarmonyInc.org](http://HarmonyInc.org).

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# Editorial, Letters & Opinion

*“The window to the world can be covered by a newspaper.”*  
~ Stanislaw Jerzy Lec

## Digital Hawaiian pizza

Who doesn't like pizza?  
It's round, easily transported, and has the distinction of being probably the only hand-held food shaped like a triangle when you slice it.  
It's also one of the very few foods where you can mix and match ingredients at your pleasure. You can go with the standard pepperoni, cheese and tomato sauce or add olives, mushrooms, green peppers, bacon, tomato, and Italian sausage, as you like it.  
For the real adventurous, you can ask for anchovies. However, other than myself, I've never seen anyone else ever order anchovies on a pizza.  
There is also the great debate about whether pineapple is an acceptable topping. Some purists claim pineapple on pizza is an abomination.  
However, I like it and routinely order Hawaiian pizza with bacon.  
If you need to feed a group of people, there's no need to spend considerable time in the kitchen. Just order pizza and everyone will be happy and well fed.  
It's also one of the few foods that is just as good the next day when you bring out the leftovers from the refrigerator.  
While your local pizzeria makes pizzas

to order, there is a huge industry that makes frozen pizzas that are available in any grocery store.  
I watched a 'how it is made' type of video that showed how frozen pizzas are made in a factory setting.  
It wasn't a whole slew of pizza makers kneading dough and throwing on toppings. The entire process from start to finish was automated.  
No one touched the pizzas. Everything from the dough being flattened and shaped, to the spreading of cheese and adding toppings was done by some kind of machine.  
The fact that you can buy a frozen pizza that was made with mass production techniques and not even touched by human hands, is a direct result of the Industrial Revolution that began around 250 years ago.  
It was an age that saw an unprecedented leap forward in human civilization and changed the world dramatically.  
The invention of new machines to do the work for you changed the way industry was conducted, and a new age of history began.  
Not only were new methods of production being put into use, allowing for more

products to be made, but the effect it had on the general population was to raise the standard of living. That was followed by a massive growth in population.  
Historians consider the Industrial Revolution to be the most important event in human history since the domestication of animals and plants.  
Prior to this period in history, you would pretty much live your entire life, and not see a single change in the way things were done. If there were any advances in technology, they were so slow to appear, and most people would never see them at all. You would spend your entire life doing the same repetitive things and no one would ever come to your village to show you a new invention to make your life easier.  
This age of enlightenment got an added boost with the first workable steam engines.  
Every time an advancement was made, it caused a positive ripple effect. With more production, there was a requirement for more raw materials. Materials had to get there, so ports to take in ships would get busier as well. So did mining operations.  
People started making money and liv-

ing better than ever before.  
Once things got underway, it inspired other inventors to look for alternate ways of doing things that matched the progress of other industries.  
There are few times in history that have had such an impact on the world. I think we may now be living in an age that will go down in history as super important.  
The digital age has transformed our world in such ways that only a few years ago would have been considered science fiction.  
Digital technology has impacted everything from communications to military weapons. It has changed everything from music and the arts to children's entertainment and automobiles.  
Digital technology has changed the way we work and live, and it is still relatively new. Who knows what else it may change in the future?  
Years from now, I think the introduction of the digital age will be in the history books as one of the most important advances of all time.  
But there's still no better way to make a pizza, than to put it in the oven by hand.

**BRIAN LOCKHART**  
FROM THE SECOND ROW



## Using what we have while we've got it

It's often said that you don't know what you've got until it's gone.  
That is indeed true, as anyone with a reasonable amount of time under their belt can attest; but it's also a two-way street. One sometimes doesn't know what one has, and then, when they find it, they either have no idea what it is – or what to do with it.  
Looking back on my recent move, I should have kept a list of what fell into the latter category.  
For some of the seemingly random items I found sifting through my life, there was an instant spark of recognition, no matter how non-descript the object. Often this spark re-heated the sentimental value still carried by the object, followed by the difficult task of determining whether that sentiment was strong enough to carry it into the next chapter.  
Take, for instance, the humble VHS tape. As I don't personally have a working VCR or any other means of playing them, I got rid of the vast, vast majority of what I came to discover was an alarmingly vast, vast collection – but there were a couple of handfals that I kept with me.

Some, such as a trio of box sets, were imbued with that aforementioned sentiment and so many happy memories that came from unspooling them that donation to any number of organizations, or simply throwing them out, was completely out of the question. A few more I kept around just for the aesthetic value, potentially keeping a décor idea in the back of my head for another day because, quite simply, and at the risk of sounding like an old fart, they don't make cover art like they used to!  
On the other hand, for some things, there was no question that it was time purge.  
Somewhere along the way, I came across three pieces of wood I glued together once upon a time. I knew in the back of my mind they were part of a project ultimately abandoned, but since I had no recollection of what said project was, it was a piece of useless baggage that could be discarded. Another was an extensive cache of magazines from the early aughts that were squirreled away, presumably for a rainy day – but paper gets wet, so off to the donation piles there

was placed. Maybe they made some decoupage enthusiast's day!  
Most maddening of all were those oh-so-familiar tiny pieces of perforated paper – numbered raffle tickets emblazoned with “KEEP THIS TICKET!” that outlived any memory of what I was supposed to keep them for. Reasonably sure none of these would lead to a significant financial windfall and early retirement, out they went... but, also maddeningly, the mystery endures.  
But some items, like those VHS tapes, have turned into resources in the new domestic configuration. As much as I kept them around purely for their looks, they've turned into lightweight and practical “bricks” on which to house beloved items in the newest abode. They've doubled as small, make-shift shelves, display platforms, and even means to prop up other items which would otherwise flop over – with a certain panache.  
Had I realized what I had previously, I would have dusted them off much sooner for deployment in this way, but necessity is the evergreen mother of invention.  
In short, they were resources that I

didn't really know that I had – and while, in this instance, I'm speaking about objects, I think there are resources all around us, physical or otherwise, that we're not taking full advantage of.  
Our libraries, for instance, are well-used and well-loved community resources, but, in my view, despite the efforts and creativity of staff to re-imagine these spaces for maker-spaces, creative hubs, and even performance venues, there is still, in many quarters, the view that libraries are staid and quiet places to grab a book or study. They still are, of course, but they're so much more.  
Similarly, local arts venues might have the perception that they're for certain groups of people, those who might identify themselves as “art patrons” or persons who are better heeled than others, rather than the reality of being spaces for all – and venues where everyone's horizons, regardless of their interests, can be broadened.

Continued on Page 11

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# Is technology accelerating the great divide in income?

Back in the 1980s, when Artificial Intelligence (AI) was still the stuff of science fiction and computers and automation were changing the way we worked, a number of futurists and economists predicted “the end of work” and rising living standards.

Not only would we not need to work, according to these experts, but incomes and living standards would rise due to the wealth these new technologies generated.

Clearly, it hasn't quite turned out the way – at least not for the majority of Canadians.

When I was CEO of Magna International back in the late 1980s – the time when robotics first began appearing on automotive production and assembly lines – I publicly raised the issue of who would be the chief beneficiaries of these new technologies and what would happen to the assembly line jobs being replaced by robots.

It's hardly mentioned anymore nowadays, in part because most of our manufacturing has either been shuttered or offshored to countries where workers are still cheaper than robots.

But without a doubt, many jobs will disappear in the years ahead because of technological advances.

In the decade ahead, everything from

self-driving transport trucks and taxi cabs to elder care robots will cause the loss of millions of jobs around the world. And that's not counting the job losses that will happen once AI becomes deeply rooted in the offices and workplaces of our country.

A report published last week by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) said that AI – the most transformational new technology to emerge in our lifetimes – has the potential to increase incomes for high-income earners while also accelerating income inequality.

On the other hand, the IMF report also warned that AI could displace a large number of high-income workers performing white-collar jobs in finance, communications, and law.

But even if AI ends up wiping out a large number of jobs, we can't blame a technology for our society's growing income inequality. That's the fault of our system.

The fact remains, Canada's economic fundamentals are unsound and are not conducive to fostering economic growth.

If we want to insulate ourselves from the coming wave of job losses that AI will inevitably unleash, then we need to once again start making things. We need to stop exporting our abundant raw materials and importing finished goods made elsewhere.

We need to start turning our natural resources into value-added goods that the rest of the world wants to buy. And we need to unchain our entrepreneurs and small business owners so they can create the innovative new products that will generate added wealth and increase the size of our economy.

If we created the right conditions for start-ups and small businesses to thrive – by removing business income tax, for example – then we could spark an economic boom that would add hundreds of thousands of new jobs.

But small businesses across Canada have to unite and make their voice heard, because right now no one is listening to

their needs, and unless they band together and become a force to be reckoned with, nothing will change.

Small businesses can revive our manufacturing sector – if we dismantle the red tape and create the right environment for them to grow and prosper.

That would be a guaranteed solution to raising the incomes and living standards of millions of Canadians, regardless of what AI or any other disruptive technology has in store in the years to come.

To learn more about how we can “Regenerate Canada”, email me at [info@economiccharter.ca](mailto:info@economiccharter.ca).

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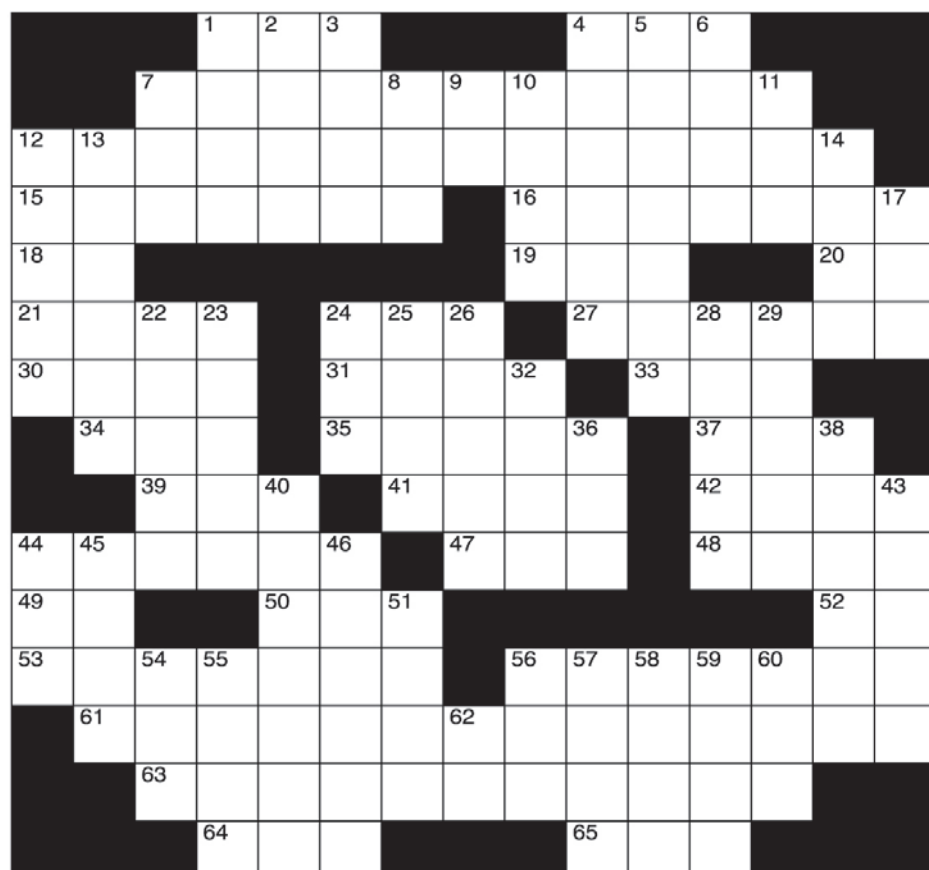
The Beeton Tottenham Business Improvement Association will hold our annual general meeting to review 2023 and present our 2024 budget. The meeting will be held **virtually** on Wednesday, March 20th, 2024 at 7:00 pm. RSVP to attend.

For information please contact Susan Iacoucci  
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### CLUES ACROSS

- Helps little firms
- Political action committee
- Allowed
- Olivia Colman played one
- Open
- He had a notable lamp
- Promotional material
- Domesticated animal
- Larry and Curly's buddy
- The best ever
- TV network
- Checked for
- Dry or withered
- Expression of annoyance
- Dash
- Fifth note of a major scale
- A secret clique

- Partner to cheese
- \_\_\_ school: where to learn healing
- City in ancient Syria
- Gasteyer and de Armas are two
- Established practice
- Thanksgiving side dish
- District in Peru
- It's becoming more prevalent
- State in India
- Measure of illumination
- Raised platform
- Japanese warrior
- R.L. Stevenson novel
- Transitory
- Advanced degree
- Fiddler crabs

### CLUES DOWN

- Prevent from seeing
- Czech city


- \_\_\_ and Andy, TV show
- A young pig
- Removed surgically
- Covered with
- Chest muscle (slang)
- Nigerian City
- Midway between south and east
- A way to shut
- Stop playing
- Marshy places
- Takes apart
- Ten cents
- A gesture of assent
- Scent
- Teletypewriter
- General's assistant (abbr.)
- Hillside
- Taxi driver
- Semitic Sun god
- Town in India
- Traditional rhythmic pattern
- Fugitives are on the \_\_\_
- Type of dance
- Two letters, one sound
- Having a strong, pleasant taste
- Golf score
- Mayhem
- Drenched
- River in northeastern Asia
- Drug to treat anxiety (abbr.)
- Part-time employee
- A very large body of water
- Aboriginal people of Japan
- Millisecond
- Forearm bone
- Subway dweller
- Royal Mail

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



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# Stay clear of waterways during spring runoff: NVCA

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

The Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority is warning residents to stay well back from waterways, ditches, ponds, and lakes during this time of year.

With spring-like temperatures arriving early, unsafe ice and slippery banks already exist. The onset of spring will bring rain and melting snow, which will cause the breakup of remaining ice along watercourses and lakes as well as high stream flows.

These hazardous conditions can cause life-threatening injury if a person falls into the extremely cold water.

During this transitional season, it is important to supervise children and help them understand the dangers of playing near creeks and streams. Anglers, canoeists, hikers, hunters and other recreational users need to be aware of the dangerous conditions that could pose a risk to personal safety.

To make sure you have a safe season, keep family and pets away from the edges of all bodies of water. Avoid all recreational activities in or around water, especially near ice jams or ice-covered watercourses and waterbodies, including municipally managed stormwater ponds.



**SAFETY FIRST** – The Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority is cautioning residents about the dangers of being near streams, ponds, and lakes during the spring runoff. Spring conditions make banks slippery and create a risk of falling into open water. **BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO**

Do not attempt to walk on ice-covered waterbodies or drive through flooded roads or fast-moving water.

If you live close to the water, move objects such as chairs or benches away from the water's edge to avoid losing them during potential spring-high water.

Avoid walking close to and across riverbanks and ice-covered water to prevent falling through ice or slipping on the bank and filling into the water.

The NVCA continues to monitor waterways and will issue flood messages as conditions warrant.

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## North Dufferin Baseball League prepares for 2024 season

The North Dufferin Baseball League is getting ready for the 2024 season.

Its general meeting took place Sunday, March 10, at the Lisle Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion to determine the number of teams that will be participating in the upcoming season as well as putting together a regular season and a playoff format.

During the meeting, there will also be an election for the executive who will oversee the baseball operations this year.

Prior to the general meeting, the League held its annual award ceremony and lunch to celebrate baseball in the community and to recognize individual player excellence from the 2023 season. Many of the awards recognize individual players and their accomplishments including best batter, best pitcher, most sportsman-like player, and most valuable players in both the senior and junior divisions.

The North Dufferin Baseball League offers a junior and senior division with

teams from Dufferin and Simcoe Counties and York and Peel Regions. The NDBL is one of the longest continually running leagues in the country. It played its first season in 1931.

Last season there were 12 senior teams and seven junior teams in competition. The New Lowell Knights are the defending senior champions having won back-to-back cups in 2022 and 2023. The Orillia Royals are the defending junior division champions.

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# Simcoe County Museum hosts new exhibit on myths and legends

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

The Simcoe County Museum is presenting a new exhibit titled, “Tales of Fantasy: Our Myths and Legends.”

The exhibit is currently on loan from the Sherbrooke Museum of Nature and Science and will be on display for a limited time only.

Captivating legends and myths from Quebec, Canadian, and First Nations heritage will be on display, including strange beasts, mysterious phenomena, magical creatures, flying canoes, and werewolf hunts.

No registration is required to visit and see this exhibit.

The Tales and Fantasy exhibit will be on display until April 7.

Admission is \$8 for adults, \$6 for seniors and youth, \$4 for children and preschoolers,

and museum members are free.

At the same time, another new exhibit will be available for visitors. Titled, “A Novel Experience: Stories in Every Corner,” is a student-led exhibit from the Museum and Gallery Studies students at Georgian College.

This exhibit features publications from the Museum’s collection and the materials used to create them, such as typewriters and a small printing press.

Opening on Saturday, March 16, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., this exhibit is curated by the students.

Food and drinks will be provided as well as a book swap where you can share your favourite books and trade them for some new ones.

The Simcoe County Museum is located on 1151 Highway 26 in Minesing.



**NEW EXHIBITS** – The Simcoe County Museum is hosting two new upcoming exhibits. “Tales of Fantasy: Our Myths and Legends,” explores legends and myths from Quebec, as well as First Nations. A second exhibit, titled “A Novel Experience: Stories in Every Corner” is a Georgian College student-created exhibit.

**BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO**

# ‘Being one of one isn’t a good feeling’ – International Women’s Day highlights women in ‘non-traditional’ careers

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

Seeing herself as “one of one” wasn’t the feeling Nicole Boreland anticipated when she decided to change careers after 20 years in childcare, but, as far as feelings go, it wasn’t unfamiliar. She had gotten used to being the only Black woman in the room, sometimes the only woman in the room full stop, but was always willing to speak up and advocate for herself. But making that jump to a career in construction exposed a new facet to that feeling.

“Being a woman in construction can unlock a new level of loneliness when you don’t see a version of yourself on site,” said Boreland on

Thursday night at an event celebrating International Women’s Day, one which put women in the trades and “non-traditional” jobs in the spotlight.

Hosted by Aurora-Oak Ridges-Richmond Hill Leah Taylor Roy at the LiUNA Local 506 Training Centre in Richmond Hill, it was attended by representatives from across the Greater Toronto Area, including York and Peel Regions, Federal Minister for Women and Gender Equality & Youth Marci Ien, and Federal Minister of Labour and Seniors Seamus O’Regan. Last week’s gathering underscored this year’s International Women’s Day theme of “Invest in Women, Celebrate Progress.”

“To honour this theme, we’re focusing on the

importance of women in labour and non-traditional careers across all sectors and the need to ensure equal opportunities for women,” said Taylor Roy in welcoming remarks. “We continue to break barriers every day, but...I think some people sit back and think we’re really there and we don’t have to do anymore. I think some younger people still think that. Really, we still have a ways to go.

“We can’t sit back and say we’re there because some of us have been able to make it; and some of us can say, ‘There’s a woman who did it, therefore we’re good. Everyone can do it.’ It’s not the case. Until we have true equality, there is work to do.”

The women who shared their experiences at

last week’s event drew a line under that sentiment. Representing careers as varied as policing, firefighting and in construction, each broke through a glass ceiling and remain willing to help others up and through.

On her first day at a construction site, Boreland said she was “overwhelmed by the stares, the very personal questions” she received from her male counterparts. They were “shocked” to see her, she recalled, and was initially only assigned tasks tailored to their own perceptions of what women could do.

“I am almost certain I was the subject of a ‘toolbox talk’ minutes before I arrived on that site,” she said.

Continued on Page 9

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The logo for the Government of Ontario, featuring a stylized trillium flower.





# Arts & Entertainment

## South Simcoe Arts Council celebrates new exhibit and Trillium Grant

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

The South Simcoe Arts Council held a reception on Friday, March 8, to recognize a two-year Ontario Trillium Foundation Grant as well as premier a new exhibit.

The Trillium Grant for \$196,000, comes from the Resilient Communities Fund and will go a long way in supporting the Arts Council with its work.

Brian Saunderson, MPP for Simcoe-Grey, arrived at the reception to officially announce the grant.

“We are gathering to celebrate our artists – we have a brand new exhibit that is a collaboration of visual arts and writing,” explained Sarah O’Donnell, special projects coordinator for the South Simcoe Arts Council.

“Writers have been inspired by the works on the walls. We’re also thanking the Ontario Trillium Foundation for the very generous grant we are receiving. It’s a two-year grant.”

The grant will allow the Arts Council to

expand some of its priorities.

“This grant comes from the Resilient Communities fund,” Ms. O’Donnell said. “It’s helping us to upgrade our technology, helping us to hire more staff and get more programs running. We have a new funding coordinator who is helping us, and teaching us how to maintain long-term stability, so we are always on a strong footing.”

The Arts Council had to shut down many of its programs during the pandemic. They are now getting back to a regular schedule and providing more programs now that things have returned to normal.

“All non-profits are having a difficult time coming back from the pandemic,” Ms. O’Donnell explained. “We’re getting back on our feet and getting back our momentum, and are exciting about it. The pandemic shut many of our workshops down.”

The Grant will help get things back to pre-pandemic programming.

“We’re connecting with our community



**FUNDING BOOST** – The South Simcoe Arts Council held a reception on Friday, March 8, to premier a new exhibit and thank the province for a two-year Ontario Trillium Foundation Grant to help them achieve priorities over the next two years. Simcoe-Grey MPP Brian Saunderson presented a certificate of the grant with New Tecumseth Mayor Richard Norcross, Deputy Mayor Stephanie MacLellan, Councillor Chris Rapin, and South Simcoe Arts Council Special Projects coordinator Sarah O’Donnell.

BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

and have the opportunity to do it in a very sustainable way,” said Arts Council president Suu Taylor. “Our music festival went virtual. Our arts, we could still do, but we lost that connection with many of our artists. Also, people want different things than they did

before everything shut down. So now we have to connect with people and see what they need.”

The reception was well attended with artists, Arts Council members, and members of the community who support the arts.

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**GROUP WIN** – Tottenham resident Bibi Persaud will share a \$190,350 LOTTO MAX prize with co-workers, Mickford Durgana, Cheryl Beeler, and Marjan Cvetkovski.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

### Tottenham resident wins big with group in LOTTO MAX

A Tottenham resident will share in a big prize after her work group’s lottery ticket won \$190,350 in the Feb. 2 LOTTO MAX draw.

Bibi Persaud will share the prize with three other people who bought tickets together as a workplace group. The four friends, who all work in manufacturing, have been playing the lottery as a group for seven years.

Along with Bibi, Mickford Durgana of Woodbridge, Cheryl Beeler of Newmarket, and Marjan Cvetkovski of Oakville will share in the prize.

Mickford was the one to discover the winning ticket. He said, “I checked our ticket on the OLG app the morning after the draw and

when I saw the prize amount, I wasn’t sure. I took the ticket to the store and when I saw the Big Winner screen. I was so excited. I went straight home to call the team. I called Marjan and told him. He was so excited he started screaming. I texted a photo of the prize slip to the rest of the group, so they had proof.”

“It was all excitement after that,” Bibi added. “It feels awesome!”

Group members said their plans for the windfall include treating themselves to a vacation, saving for their children’s education, and saving for the future.

The winning ticket was purchased at 7-Eleven on Rutherford Road in Woodbridge.



Continued from Page 7

## ‘Being one of one isn’t a good feeling’ – International Women’s Day highlights women in ‘non-traditional’ careers

“I am almost certain I was the subject of a ‘toolbox talk’ minutes before I arrived on that site,” she said.

“Luckily, with the support of LiUNA (Laborers’ International Union of North America) 506, we (women) were able to build a community of mentorship and a safe space to support each other. Along with the knowledge I obtained here at this training centre, I feel confident and prepared to be a woman in construction. I wasn’t deterred by my first experience. In fact, it fuelled me. It encouraged me to show up every day ready to work, to speak up more about the skills and the [training] I have obtained and ask for help when needed.

“Within a few months, I was able to work on another site where my voice was heard. I wasn’t isolated from my team, the bathrooms weren’t tucked away in a dark or secluded corner and I was given the opportunity show what I was capable of – and also getting the chance to learn something new. Women in the trades are not only the future, we are embedded in the present.”

Also highlighting the power of women in the trades was Construct, a social enterprise of Blue Door Shelters, serving York, Peel, Durham, and beyond. Construct provides training and on-the-job work experience and supports to vulnerable individuals looking to secure long-term well-paying careers in trades related to construction.

Construct’s Emma Wood said, since its founding in 2020, the enterprise has trained over 500 people, with 85 per cent securing employment within six months of completing the program.

“The way our training works is a bit different across Regions,” she explained, noting that the program includes “all the things you need to get into employment,” including relevant certificates, equipment like hard hats and steel-toed boots, job interview training and more.

“They are things that might seem just normal to us, but not everyone has had the opportunity to work,” she said. “What makes Construct unique is its holistic approach to training with an emphasis on participants’ wellbeing. We recognize that is not possible for vulnerable folks to take eight weeks off... so we pay our participants for their time in the program; wraparound supports provided to further remove the barriers and allow for participants to enter and finish the program. This includes food, transportation, psychotherapy, child care, emergency assistance for the things that just pop up. If you want go into apprenticeship, we’ll cover your CVs. The best part, at the end there is a completion bonus so you can celebrate your achievements.

“There is a need to tap into an untouched demographic of individuals to curtail rapid skills training and enter into the workforce to close this gap and there is no reason why these people can’t be women. I might be biased, but I know women can be just as physically fit, determined, confident and capable of operating the same tools and machinery as their male counterparts and in a traditionally male-dominated industry, Construct is seeking not only to help meet the ongoing demand for skilled workers in the GTA, but to recruit women into participating in the program to jump-start their careers in the skilled trades.”

Women being just as “physically fit, determined, and capable” was not lost on

Amber Bowman, an active Captain with the Central York Fire Services (CYFS), a department serving Aurora and Newmarket.

Previously a high-performance athlete, particularly in hockey, Bowman was one of the first four women hired by the CYFS as late as 2011.

“I was about to sign my Division 1 full hockey scholarship with the Ohio State Buckeyes,” she said. “After practice one day, I had a conversation with a male firefighter who is the dad to one of my teammates. He told my mother and I there was, ‘no way I could tell your daughter to choose firefighting as a profession because of how dangerous it is, of what you see when responding to calls and the physical challenges the job entails.’ But, being a high-ended athlete, I loved the profession of firefighting for the aspects of teamwork, community, dedication and the commitment to helping others and I was determined to prove him wrong.”

“My biggest goal now is to lead and support my little people to conquer their dreams,” she said of balancing her work with motherhood. “My hope is some of their barriers that I was a part of breaking down no longer exist for the future of our youth.”

A similar view was expressed by York Regional Police Officer Sarah Riddell, a fellow mom, who said this year’s International Women’s Day theme was a “call to action and a reminder that gender equality is one of the most effective ways to build healthier, more prosperous and more inclusive communities.”

“I was born in 1973. Wonder Woman was a real thing and I wanted to be just like her,” she said. “As the oldest child of a single parent family, I was responsible for the safety of my little brother. This was a job I was happy to take on and diligently kept little Mikey safe – whether he liked it or not. (And those of us in the room of a certain vintage will get the ‘Mikey likes it’ joke!) Those early days shaped a personal values system that is based on loyalty, bravery, courage and responsibility.

“Through these 25 years I have been blessed with an amazing career. The Chamberlain Curse, ‘May you live in interesting times,’ is not so much a curse for our first responder as it is a promise.”

Those interesting times, she said, included “days without sleep, split-second decision-making that affected people’s life” and welcoming her first daughter in 2003, another in 2009, and then, in 2013, becoming the primary caregiver for her children while working as a detective in Markham.

There was, she said, “a very real fear of not being able to manage at all, but I did. We do. Women do, and the same way my mom did.”

“If you find your north star and keep it in sight, the decisions you make will always be sound,” she included. “They may not be easy, they seldom are, but you will know in your heart you did the right thing. I started in 1999 full of passion and ready to defend those who couldn’t defend themselves and speak to those who could not speak for themselves. 25 years later, I am so fortunate to be able to support those who do the work on the frontline, making sure they are well, that they have what they need in order to do that important work of community safety and wellbeing.”

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# SPORTS

NEW TECUMSETH TIMES



**TOP SCORER** – Cole Turcotte, Alliston Hornets captain and forward, finished the regular season as the team's top scorer and points earner with 38 goals and 43 assists - good for 81 points. **BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO**

## Cole Turcotte finishes season as top scorer for the Hornets

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

Alliston Hornets forward Cole Turcotte has finished the regular season as the top goal scorer and points earner for the Alliston Hornets.

Turcotte, who wears the number 17 jersey, scored 38 goals over 42 games this season. He also had 43 assists for the year,

giving him a total of 81 points.

That places Turcotte in the third spot overall in the Provincial Junior Hockey League for goals, and fourth overall for total points for the season.

Turcotte has proven to be a key component in the Hornets line-up, with fans expecting him to step up when the team needed a goal.

The six-foot, 160 lbs, 20 year-old shoots left and has been with the team for four seasons.

In his inaugural year with the team, he played only two games, then became a regular in the 2021/22 season, playing 29 games and scoring 27 goals. In 2022/23, he scored 33 goals and had 35 assists – good for 68 points.



Turcotte became team captain at the start of the current season.

## Alliston Hornets sweep Innisfil Spartans in quarter-final series

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

The Alliston Hornets will advance to the semi-final round of the North Carruthers Division playoffs after a four-game sweep over the Innisfil Spartans in the best-of-seven quarter-final round.

The series got underway on Feb. 28, with Game 1 ending in a 4-1 win on Alliston home ice at the New Tecumseth Recreation Centre.

Game 2 on Friday, March 1, turned into a 12-2 blow-out when the Hornets scored six unanswered goals in the third period.

The series moved to Innisfil for the next two games.

Game 3 was also a lopsided match with the Alliston team leaving the ice with an 11-3 win.

Game 4 on March 7 saw the series end with Alliston winning 5-2 and advancing to the next round.

There wasn't much competition in this year's quarter-finals. All four series were sweeps.

The Schomberg Cougars took their series with the Penetang Kings in four games.

The Stayner Siskins v.s. Caledon Golden

Hawks series also went four games, wrapping up with a 6-1 Stayner win on March 6.

The Orillia Terriers advanced to the semi-final with a four-game sweep over the Huntsville Otters. That series ended on March 8, with a 1-0 overtime win for the Terriers.

This leaves the four top teams ready to battle it out in the next round of playoffs.

These four remaining teams have been in the top four positions in the league all season long so this year's semi-final round will prove to be a real battle for all teams.

The Hornets will now go on to meet the Schomberg Cougars in the semi-finals. This

will be the last time the two teams meet on the ice.

The Cougars are moving to an east division next season and will no longer be part of the North Carruthers Division line-up.

Stayner will be up against Orillia in the other semi-final series.

The Alliston v.s. Schomberg semi-final series got underway on Wednesday, March 13, in Alliston, with results not available at press time.

Game two of the series is also in Alliston and scheduled to take place on Friday, March 15. Game time is 7:30 p.m.



Continued from Page 4

## Brock's Banter: Using what we have while we've got it

Even as I write this on March 11, Commonwealth Day, I think the same can be applied to this extensive global "family" of nations that are being celebrated this week.

The Commonwealth, to me, always seems to be a prime resource for many things that are available at our fingertips which we rarely really think to use to our full advantage.

Of course, in this day and age, a global organization that sprang out of the former British Empire and all the baggage that comes with that, can be seen as an outmoded institution that is losing its relevancy with each passing year. But, in my opinion, relevancy is only what you make of it.

For better or worse, the vast majority of Commonwealth member states have similar histories, backgrounds, and similar challenges as we collectively come to terms with that shared history. Our efforts here at home to walk the path of Truth & Reconciliation are not dissimilar to the paths currently being walked in Australia and New Zealand, for instance, or to the paths being experienced by scores of African and Caribbean member

states. We can all learn from each other.

Nor, of course, are our collective efforts to combat the challenges that will come with Climate Change dissimilar. Should the direst predictions on this front come to pass, member nation Tuvalu, a country which shares our Head of State, will be one of the first to be submerged by water. As such, they have not only done the hard work of doing everything they can to mitigate the threat, but have laid the metaphorical groundwork of "recreating" their nation, and their culture, in a digital format. It might be an unthinkable outcome for many of us, but it is their lived reality and we can learn from it.

In a speech to mark the 75th anniversary of the Commonwealth this week, its head, King Charles, touched upon this sense of relationship.

"Together and individually, we are strengthened by sharing perspectives and experiences and by offering and borrowing the myriad ways we have tackled the challenges of our time," he said. "This is true both at the level of nations and, indeed, at the local level. We recognize today that our diversity is our

greatest strength. The Commonwealth represents a third of humanity, from all regions of the world, with different experiences, knowledge, and aspirations that this brings.

"We must work together to understand each other's perspectives, including the inequalities and injustices which still resonate

to this day. We must find ways of healing and to support each other to pursue solutions."

Personally, I agree, but we can only do so when we know how – and remember – to deploy this resource to our advantage and, of course, the resources that are closest to home and all around us.

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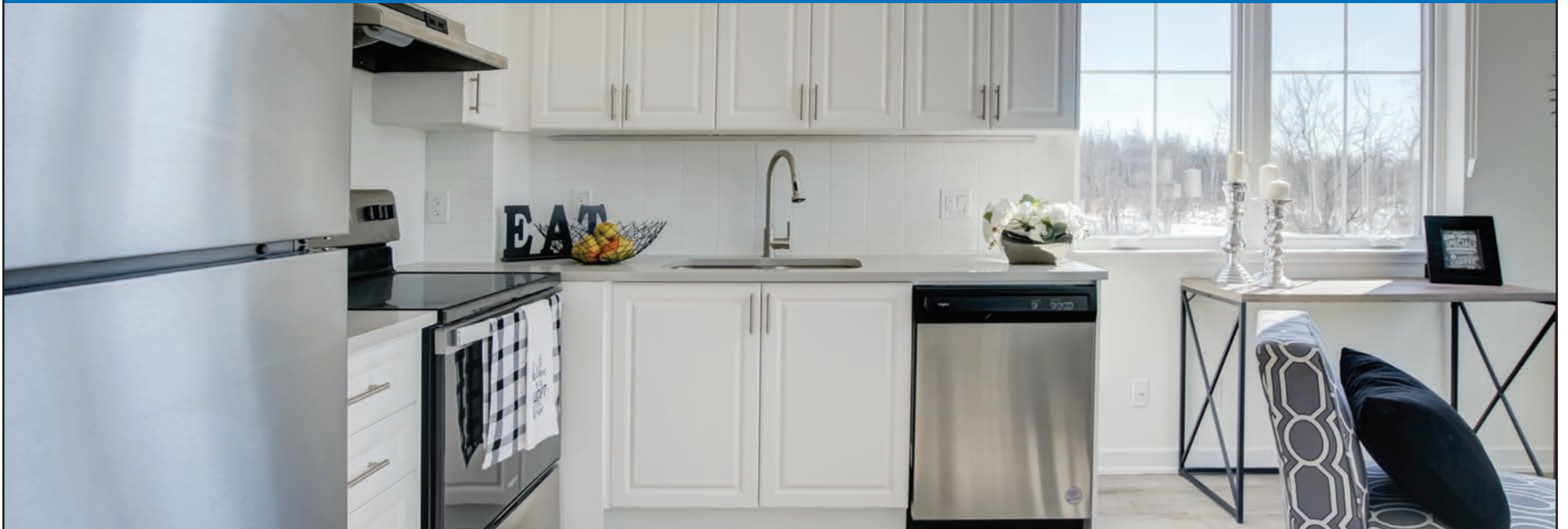
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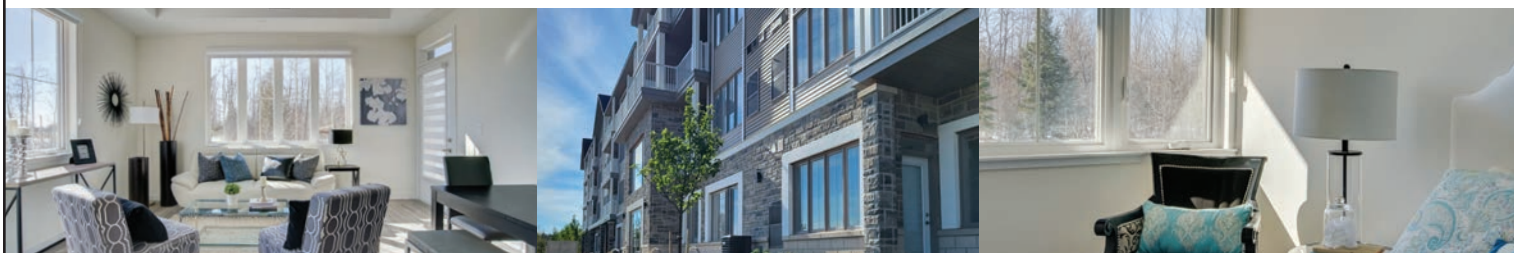


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# Police seeking public’s help in break and enter investigation

Officers from Dufferin Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) are investigating a recent break and enter to a fast-food business in Orangeville.

Dufferin OPP officers responded to a call for service on Alder Street in Orangeville on March 2, shortly after 11:30 a.m. When the officers arrived, they spoke with an employee who advised them that someone had entered their workplace through the front door. No damage was caused to the front door at the time of entry.

Security footage revealed just before 4 a.m. on March 2, a lone suspect entered the business using a key which was securely stored in a key box outside of the business. The suspect cut open the box which allowed them to gain entry. Once inside the suspect took the cash tray along with the safe for the business.

“It would appear that just prior to the incident, a black minivan was observed in the area. The suspect can be described as a white male, wearing a black jacket with fur lining, dark coloured pants, red shoes and wearing a black/red baseball style cap,” said Dufferin OPP in a press release.

The investigation is ongoing and anyone with information regarding this incident is asked to contact Dufferin OPP at 1-888-310-1122 or Crime Stoppers to remain anonymous at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS) or [www.ontariocrimestoppers.ca](http://www.ontariocrimestoppers.ca).

## OVER 100 FIREARMS CHARGES LAID AGAINST INNISFIL MAN

The South Simcoe Police Service has arrested an Innisfil man and laid over 115 charges

following a firearms investigation.

In February 2024, members of the South Simcoe Police – Criminal Investigation Bureau (CIB) received information relating to a male suspect who was believed to be purchasing and trafficking firearms without a Possession Acquisition licence.

On Tuesday, March 5, investigators along with the assistance from the South Simcoe Police Service – Emergency Response Unit, took the male into custody.

As part of the investigation, members of the York Regional Police – Emergency Response Unit assisted CIB with the execution of a search warrant at a residence in the area of Webster Boulevard and Innisfil Beach Road. During a search of the home police located and seized 20 firearms, a large quantity of ammunition (approximately 5,000 rounds), and various prohibited devices including high-capacity magazines.

As a result of the investigation, 52-year-old Diosdado ‘Sunny’ Lagman of Innisfil was charged with over 115 criminal code offences including utter threats to cause death, unauthorized possession of firearm, firearms trafficking, and unauthorized possession of a prohibited device.

The accused was held for a bail hearing and the investigation is ongoing.

“Investigators would like to recognize and thank members of the South Simcoe Police Service Street Crime Unit, Emergency Response Unit, K-9, Community Mobilization and Engagement Unit, Forensic Identification Services, Chief Firearms Office, Innisfil By-law, Simcoe County and York Region EMS,

and members of the York Regional Police – Emergency Response Unit for their assistance with this investigation,” said the South Simcoe Police in a press release.

If you have information related to this investigation, including dealing with Diosdado ‘Sunny’ Lagman pertaining to the sale / purchase of firearm(s) please contact Detective Constable Dan Raymond at 705-436-2141, 905-775-3311, extension 1027, or [dan.raymond@southsimcoepolice.ca](mailto:dan.raymond@southsimcoepolice.ca) or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS).

## ARREST WARRANT ISSUED BY POLICE FOLLOWING STABBING

The South Simcoe Police Service has obtained an arrest warrant for a suspect following a stabbing call in the Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury.

On Friday, March 1, 2024, at approximately 11:40 a.m., police were called after a 54-year-old man was stabbed in the face at an apartment in the area of Holland Street West and Simcoe Road. The victim was transported to hospital with non-life-threatening injuries. The suspect had fled the scene. As a result of the investigation, an arrest warrant has been obtained for a 39-year-old man of no fixed address. He is wanted on charges of Assault with a Weapon, Aggravated Assault, and Possession of Weapon for Dangerous Purpose.

Police have determined this was an isolated incident and deemed there was no threat to public safety.

If you have information related to this incident, please contact Detective Constable Jason Bellamy at 905-775-3311 extension 1071, or by email [jason.bellamy@southsimcoepolice.ca](mailto:jason.bellamy@southsimcoepolice.ca) or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS.

## TWO DRIVERS CHARGED WITH IMPAIRED OPERATION

Two drivers were hit with impaired operation charges over the weekend.

Officers from Dufferin OPP conducted a traffic stop on Highway 10 in Mono on March 10, just after 1 a.m. They were quickly led into an impaired operation investigation.

As a result of the investigation, Steven Engram, 37, of Mono has been charged with:

- Operation while impaired - blood alcohol concentration (80 plus)
- Operation while impaired - alcohol and drugs
- Speeding 1 - 49 Km/h over posted limit
- Drive vehicle or boat with cannabis readily available

Later in the day, just after 6:00 p.m., officers from Dufferin OPP responded to a traffic complaint in the area of Buena Vista Drive in Orangeville. Officers were able to locate the vehicle in question and were quickly led into an impaired operation investigation.

Paul Grottolo, 44, of Alton has been charged with:

- Operation while impaired - alcohol and drugs
- Operation while impaired - blood alcohol concentration (80 plus)
- Driving while under suspension

The accused is scheduled to appear at the Ontario Court of Justice in Orangeville to answer to the charges. Their driver’s licence was suspended, and the vehicle was impounded.

None of the listed charges have been proven in court.

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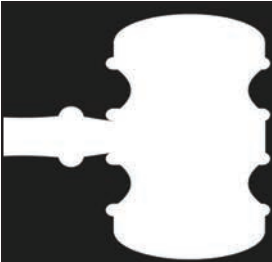
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*Lino Zacchigna*

Lino Zacchigna, aged 85, passed away peacefully surrounded by his loved ones on February 7, 2024. He was a devoted husband, loving father, cherished grandfather, and adoring great-grandfather. Lino's life was a testament to love, family, and the beauty of simple joys.

Lino was the beloved husband of Angela for 64 beautiful years, their bond a beacon of enduring commitment and unwavering support. His legacy lives on through his children

Steve (Barb), Dave (Susan), and Cathy (Marc Laretei), who will carry forward the values he instilled in them with pride and reverence.

As an adoring Nonno, Lino delighted in the presence of his grandchildren: Michelle, Shawn (Julia), Alisha, Stephanie, Andrew (Carolyn), Kylie, and Tyler. He reveled in their laughter and milestones, finding immense joy in their presence. Lino was also a cherished nonnino to Chiara, Lumen, Orion, Owen, and Violet, their presence a source of endless delight and wonder for him.

Lino's memory will forever be cherished by his siblings Bruno and Lina, and sister-in-law Laura. He is now reunited with his parents Ruggiero and Caterina, along with his siblings Ruggiero and Costantino. Also greeting him at the gates of Heaven are his brother-in-law Nino and sister-in-law Bruna, who preceded him in death.

Beyond his roles as husband, father, nonno, and nonnino, Lino was a friend to many. His warm smile, kind heart, and gentle spirit endeared him to all who had the privilege of knowing him. Lino's passion for gardening was a reflection of his nurturing nature, cultivating beauty and growth wherever he went.

Donations may be made to the Canadian Cancer Society in honor of Lino Zacchigna's memory. His legacy of love, kindness, and unwavering dedication to family will continue to inspire all who were fortunate enough to have known him.

Rest in peace, Lino. Your presence will be deeply missed, but your spirit will live on in the hearts of those who loved you.

A Funeral Mass was on Monday, February 12th, 2024 at St. Margaret Mary Roman Catholic Church.

The family thanks all of you for your kind words and continued support during this most difficult time.

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