



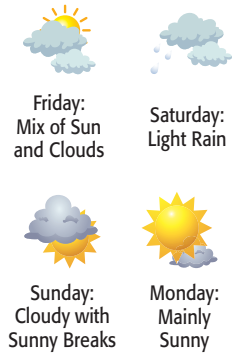
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## Earth Day Activities

All things green were on display at EarthFest, held at the Tottenham Community Centre on Saturday, April 27. Sponsored by the Town's Environmental Advisory Committee, the event featured green actions in New Tecumseth. Visitors learned how to green your home and garden, and zero waste living. There were EV and E-bike demonstrations as well as many booths set up to show you how to take advantage of a green lifestyle. Several local residents brought their electric vehicles for a car show in the arena. BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

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# Toonies for New Tecumseth launches first fundraiser

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

It was a chance to find some quality baked goods while helping local good causes when Toonies for New Tecumseth held its first fundraiser at the Tottenham Legion on Saturday, April 27.

Organizer Eva Bradley, who started the initiative in February with the help of her friend, Chrystal Robertson, has a long history of raising funds for local good causes and this time she is raising money in support of the Tottenham Food Bank and S.H.I.F.T. in Alliston.

The bake sale was the first event that was held, although online giving has been available since the start of the project.

In addition to the bake sale, the event featured a raffle and silent auction.

Eva had several volunteers that helped out as well as 13 bakers who contributed to the sale.

“Today we are fundraising for the Food Bank and so we can do a donation to S.H.I.F.T. in Alliston,” Eva explained. “We had 13 people baking, plus myself. We’re having a bake sale, a raffle and silent auction. I started in February with donations and e-transfers, but this our first big fundraiser.”

There was good response at the bake sale

with a steady stream of people arriving all day long.

“We had a beautiful response today,” Eva said. “I thank everybody that came and bought our baking. I appreciated it very much. I made 60 banana breads, 120 Hungarian cookies and 80 shortbreads, along with the 300 items everyone else baked.”

The raffle features gift baskets with a variety of different items.

Eva hopes local residents will take part and help her raise the funds for these two local good causes. She likes to remind people how much could be raised if every household in New Tecumseth donated just one Toonie.

The goal for the initiative is to raise \$10,000.

There are two more events coming up.

On May 25, Toonies for New Tecumseth will be at the Beeton Honey Festival. On July 6, they will be at the Tottenham Street Festival.

You can follow the fundraiser online at the Toonies for New Tecumseth Facebook page.

To learn more about Toonies for New Tecumseth or to donate, you can reach Eva at 905-936-4907 or 905-936-2002, or Chrystal at 905-724-0051.



**TREATS FOR TOONIES** – Toonies for New Tecumseth is raising funds for the Tottenham Food Bank and S.H.I.F.T. in Alliston. Organizer, Eva Bradley and some volunteers held the first event - a bake sale, raffle, and silent auction - at the Tottenham Legion on Saturday, April 27.

BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO



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## County of Simcoe launches Paramedic for a Day contest

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

County of Simcoe Paramedic Services is once again hosting the Paramedic for a Day contest in commemoration of Paramedic Services Week, May 19 – 25.

Grade 5 and 6 students residing in Simcoe County are asked to write a short essay, maximum 250 words, that speaks to the theme ‘Help Us Help You.’ The essay should highlight the many ways that callers can prepare for a Paramedic to attend a call.

The deadline to enter is May 14, 2024, at 8 p.m.

The winning entry will be announced

during Paramedic Services Week, with the winner receiving a visit to their home or school from a Paramedic crew, along with an ambulance tour.

The crew will also present the winner with a First-Aid kit and take part in a mock scenario and photo opportunity.

To enter, e-mail your essay to paramedic4aday@simcoe.ca.

Be sure to include the student’s name, name of parent or guardian, home phone number, and which school the student attends.

Full contest details are available online. They can be found at www.simcoe.ca/paramedicforaday.

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# Honda to build \$15 billion EV production facilities in Alliston

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

Honda will invest \$15 billion in Canada to create an electric-vehicle supply chain, including four manufacturing plants.

The project will be subsidized by the federal and provincial governments to the tune of \$5 billion.

The announcement was made at the Alliston Honda plant by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Ontario Premier Doug Ford on Thursday, April 25. The press conference also included Deputy Prime Minister Chrystia Freeland, Ontario Finance Minister Peter Bethlenfalvy, and Vic Fedeli, Ontario Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation, and Trade.

New Tecumseth Mayor, Richard Norcross, attended on behalf of the town.

“This is a very big day for the region, the province, and the country,” Prime Minister Trudeau said during the announcement. “Today, Honda is making Canadian automotive history. With this announcement, we will be investing to create Canada’s first comprehensive electric vehicle supply chain from start to finish. A whole eco-system will be built with four new manufacturing plants in Ontario including an EV assembly plant, a stand-alone battery manufacturing plant, and two plants for battery components. These investments will create well over 1,000 well paying manufacturing jobs as well as many construction jobs, and of course



**TOURING THE PLANT** – Prime Minister Justin Trudeau walks with Toshinori Mibe, president and CEO of Honda Motor Co., at the Honda manufacturing plant in Alliston on Thursday, April 25. Honda announced a \$1.5 billion investment to build a comprehensive electric vehicle chain in Canada. The federal and provincial governments will subsidize the project with \$5 billion. **CONTRIBUTED PHOTO**

jobs all across Ontario and the country for auto parts suppliers.”

Honda has set a goal of having electric vehicles represent 100 per cent of vehicle sales by 2040.

“This deal is another example of our two governments working together to rebuild our economy, to create better jobs with bigger paycheques, and we’re getting it done,”

Premier Ford said.

It is expected that Honda will take advantage of provincial and federal tax credits that could be as much as \$2.5 billion from each level of government.

“For 38 years, Honda has been an outstanding community partner,” Mayor Norcross said. “Honda is the corporate citizen that a community dreams about.

Their corporate generosity and charitable actions have enhanced, and will enhance, and has always enhanced the well-being of our town. With Honda and their dedicated associates, so many of our community initiatives, which include expansion and new equipment to Stevenson Memorial Hospital and Matthews House Hospice would never have been possible.”

Mayor Norcross extolled the virtues of having a major manufacturing facility in the town.

“With today’s announcement, we are excited that Honda continues to invest in our community’s future while continuing to showcase New Tecumseth as global leader in manufacturing,” Mayor Norcross said.

Colin Oake, president of the Alliston and District Chamber of Commerce, said this announcement is fantastic news for Alliston and surrounding communities.

“We know the jobs have are going to be safe for the future and we are going to be adding 1,000 new jobs,” Oake said. “So many people are either directly employed with Honda, or just the knock-on effect from such a manufacture creates jobs. We estimate that every Honda job creates about seven possible knock-on jobs. It has a huge effect on people’s futures of having quality employment. Everyone is really excited. The potential growth in sales from new people in the community and new jobs in the community is terrific and we’re really excited to see it happen.”

# W.D. Potato contributes \$75,000 to local hospital foundation

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

Stevenson Memorial Hospital Foundation (SMHF) has announced a significant contribution of \$75,000 from W.D. Potato Ltd., toward the Alan and Brenda Lundy Matching Gift initiative.

This donation helped drive the Centralized Fetal Monitoring System fundraising initiative closer to its goal.

Alan and Brenda Lundy, long-standing supporters of Stevenson Memorial Hospital demonstrated their commitment to advancing maternal and fetal healthcare by pledging a \$50,000 matching gift.

Building on this philanthropic gesture, W.D. Potato donated \$75,000, exemplifying



their dedication to supporting vital healthcare programs in the community.

“We are immensely grateful to W.D. Potato Ltd. for their outstanding generosity,” said Melody McLean, Director of Development & Campaign Manager at SMHF. “Their con-

tribution has significantly impacted the collective effort of our community in ensuring the well-being of mothers and newborns at Stevenson Memorial Hospital.”

The Centralized Fetal Monitoring System fundraising initiative implements state-of-the-art technology at SMH, enhancing maternal and fetal healthcare services. With donors like W.D. Potato Ltd. and Alan & Brenda Lundy, SMHF is poised to make significant strides in improving healthcare outcomes for expectant mothers and their babies.

“We recognize the vital role that Stevenson Memorial Hospital plays in our community, and we are proud to support initiatives that contribute to the well-being of mothers

and infants,” said Walter and Linda Davidson, owners of W.D. Potato. “Our donation towards the Lundy matching gift reflects our commitment to ensuring access to high-quality healthcare for all community members.

W.D. Potato Ltd. is a third-generation, family-owned business that has operated for over 50 years. It is a leading provider of high-quality potatoes and a proud member of the local community.

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# Editorial, Letters & Opinion

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

~ Stanislaw Jerzy Lec

## Phones in the classroom

If you have ever been in a conversation with someone and their phone rings, and they answer it, you know what an awkward situation you are thrust into.

Suddenly, you are the person who doesn't matter. Whoever the person is on the other end of the phone, has replaced you in that conversation.

For me, that's pretty much a conversation finisher. I won't stand there like an idiot, while the other person discusses their upcoming fishing trip or who's coming over for Christmas dinner, and relegates you to being a bystander.

Unless you are on a heart transplant list, or your wife is going into labour at any time, the polite thing to do, is to let the call go to

voice mail, listen to the message later, and return the call if necessary.

When I was a kid, I was helping, sort of, my father do some work on a drain pipe in the backyard of our house. It was a summer day, and I heard the telephone ring through the open window.

When I pointed this out, my father said, “let it ring.”

I insisted we should answer the phone. He said, “I'm not a slave to a machine. Just because a bell is ringing, doesn't mean I'm going to stop my valuable work here. If it's important, they will call back.”

That really stuck with me. Before cell phones, people really did run to answer the telephone, just because a bell told them to.

Most of the telephone calls I get via my landline these days are nonsense calls. There is either no one there or someone is trying to sell me something. I still have a landline because it makes a huge difference when doing a telephone interview.

However, it is still frustrating to answer a call and hear dead air, which is a signal that someone at a call centre is waiting for someone to answer an automatically dialled call before flipping a switch and deciding to speak.

I usually hang up before they start their spiel about telling me my computer is infected with a virus and I need to pay them to 'fix it'.

The province has just announced it is

introducing 'new measures' to crack down on cellphone use and vaping in a school. It's not legislated, so I assume it's guidelines for teachers.

Reports say both parents and teachers have shared the 'growing problem of cellphone distractions in class.'

What took them so long, and why does it need some kind of provincial decree to tell a kid not to be on their phone during class time?

A kid shouldn't have to be told not to be on their phone during class. That's just common sense.

Continued on Page 9

**BRIAN LOCKHART**  
FROM THE SECOND ROW



## Out of sight, out of mind?

I don't know about the rest of you, but I get a rude awakening just about every Sunday morning.

Despite my best efforts, and valiant attempts to stop and find alternatives, I'm in the terrible habit of charging my phone overnight on the bedside table. It's a practical location, sure, but leaving it there to do its thing is not only habit forming in and of itself, but it also leads to other habits. For example, it sometimes seems like a wasted morning if I don't solve the daily Wordle puzzle before getting out of bed to truly start the day, but, at the same time, it's made getting up and at 'em as soon as possible every day more and more of a chore. Completely my fault.

And yet, just about every Sunday morning, comes an on-screen notification on just

how much of my time was spent looking at the device over the previous seven days and the percentage change from week to week.

It's informative, I'll grant them that, but it can also feel a little judgemental when the number ticks up, particularly if one already knows not-so-deep down one's usage is up.

If you'd told me when I got my first mobile phone back in my high school days that this would ever be a worry, it would have been laughable. The first mobile phone I ever encountered was not, as is the case of many of my generation, seeing Mark-Paul Gosselaar's Zack Morris in Saved By The Bell talk into his oversized, hulking device. Instead, it was a groovy little number my grandfather had installed in his car, which

gave him to my young eyes a sort of supervillain mystique. But it was a good decade before I got my own, and even then it was only secured by my mother after a spate of threats were made to my school. Given its intended use, I thankfully had little reason to use it, but it was nice to have just in case.

Now, not having a connection like that readily available at all times, is almost unthinkable. Yet, I'm interested to see how the Provincial Government's Sunday announcement of a crackdown on cell phone use in Ontario schools will go over and evolve before its targeted implementation in the fall.

“We have heard loud and clear from parents and teachers alike that cellphones in classrooms are distracting our kids from learning,” said Minister of Education Ste-

phen Lecce. “Our government is introducing the toughest policy in Canada to tackle the issue by cracking down on cellphone usage during class time, as well as banning vaping in all schools. When it comes to cellphones, our policy is 'out of sight and out of mind,' as we get students back to the basics of restoring focus, safety and common sense back in Ontario schools.” Should the new rules come into force as written, students in Kindergarten through Grade 6 will be “required to keep phones on silent and out of sight for the entire school day, unless explicitly permitted by an educator.”

Continued on Page 9

**BROCK WEIR**  
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## Stevenson Memorial Hospital and the Global Impact of Insulin

On a crisp spring day, April 14, 1854, Margaret Grant entered the world as the first baby born to modest farming parents in the newly established Township of Essa, Ont. She later married William Banting, and their union welcomed their son, Frederick Banting, into the world. Frederick Banting would emerge as a pivotal figure in the development of insulin, spearheading research efforts at the University of Western Ontario and the University of Toronto. In the summer of 1921, Banting played a central role in co-developing the insulin treatment for diabetes.

The significance of this breakthrough was underscored on January 11, 1922,

when a team of researchers at the University of Toronto, led by Banting, administered a pancreatic extract crafted by Banting himself, to 13-year-old Leonard Thompson, who was teetering on the brink of death due to diabetes at Toronto General Hospital. Although the initial trial faltered, successive administrations of the extract over 12 days stabilized Thompson's blood and urinary sugar levels.

By the close of 1923, insulin had transformed the lives of millions of diabetics worldwide. Banting's contributions were recognized with a Nobel Prize and a knighthood. Today, over 537 million individuals globally rely on this life-saving medication,

with projections suggesting that by 2045, one-eighth of the world's population will grapple with diabetes.

In 1926, Sir Dr. Frederick Banting accepted a position on the inaugural Stevenson Memorial Hospital Board of Directors, courtesy of T.P. Loblaw, the founder of the Loblaw grocery chain. This fledgling hospital owed its existence primarily to a generous grant from Theodore (T.P.) Loblaw, bestowed in honour of his Essa Township grandparents, William and Elizabeth Stevenson, who played a pivotal role in his upbringing.

Initially established in 1928 and rebuilt in 1964, Stevenson Memorial Hospital is one

of Ontario's longstanding healthcare institutions.

Currently navigating its third stage of redevelopment approvals, the hospital has initiated site preparations for a new hospital building that will wrap around the current facility.

Given that government funding covers only 90 per cent of construction costs, the local community is tasked with funding the remaining 10 per cent and covering expenses for equipment and furnishings. Projections suggest that these expenses will exceed \$43 million.

Continued on Page 9

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PUBLISHER: Simcoe-York Printing & Publishing Ltd.  
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EDITOR: Sam Odrowski [sam@citizen.on.ca](mailto:sam@citizen.on.ca)  
REPORTER: Brian Lockhart  
PRODUCTION: Lisa Clendening  
ADVERTISING: Vicki Meisner [vicki@pcmedia.ca](mailto:vicki@pcmedia.ca)  
OFFICE: Mary Speck  
CREDIT DEPT.: Al Lord  
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# Small business is bleeding

Everyone knows you don't kick someone when they're down.

But that's what the federal government's recent budget did to many small business owners who are struggling to stay afloat or striving to take their new ventures to the next level of growth.

While the budget did include some small business relief measures, it also increased the capital gains inclusion rate.

The capital gains hike generated blow-back from groups such as the Council of Canadian Innovators (CCI), who claimed the new taxes will stifle tech entrepreneurs trying to grow their businesses and cause "irreparable harm" to Canada's entrepreneur-based economy.

Other groups worried the tax increase was another nail in the coffin for Canada's small business sector. Dan Kelly, president of the Canadian Federation of Independent Business (CFIB), said he was concerned that the budget measures had the "potential to demotivate Canadians from getting into business in the first place."

It's not just crushing taxes that are hurting small businesses. It's also job-killing regulations. Earlier this month, the CFIB published a blog by Simon Gaudreault, Chief Economist and Vice-President of Research at the organization.

Gaudreault argued that we could dramatically increase Canada's productivity by reducing unnecessary red tape and regula-

tion. According to Gaudreault, we could free up 205 million hours of time, or approximately \$11 billion of squandered money, which could have otherwise gone toward more productive tasks.

The CFIB's most recent "Canada's Red Tape Report," published in 2021, had a revealing finding: although red tape ties up many businesses, it chokes the life out of small business. According to the report, the 2020 cost of regulation per employee for small businesses with fewer than five employees was an incredible five times more than for businesses with over 100 employees.

Canada's small business owners tell me all the time how they're being stifled. An entrepreneur shared the following with me a few months ago: "The barriers to entry, compounded by the burden of taxation and the absence of incentives, have increasingly cast a shadow over the once-thriving entrepreneurial spirit. Like many of my peers, I find myself at a crossroads where the perceived risks outweigh the potential rewards, a realization that saddens me deeply. It is disheartening to witness the erosion of confidence in the entrepreneurial journey, particularly when confronted with the stark reality that the risk-reward balance no longer tips in our favour."

One small business owner and founder bemoaned the current state of affairs by saying that "entrepreneurs are swim-

ming upstream in Canada today." And yet another said: "I will certainly not be endorsing any young person to start a business in this country until things change drastically."

These heart-felt sentiments are a devastating indictment of a system that is crushing the life out of Canada's once-proud entrepreneurial spirit.

Canada's small businesses are bleeding, and if we don't stop the haemorrhaging by reducing taxes and slashing red tape, a growing number of them are going to go under or simply close up shop.

The National Economic Charter of Rights and Responsibilities I've proposed would require government to remove excessive

regulations that stifle economic growth and unshackle small businesses by eliminating business tax on any small business with fewer than 300 employees.

If we reduced regulations and lower taxes, small businesses could grow like wildfire. It's one of the key principles in the economic charter of rights I've proposed. And it's the badly needed shot in the arm that Canada's economy needs right now.

To learn more about how the charter could help revitalize Canada's small business sector, contact [info@economiccharter.ca](mailto:info@economiccharter.ca).



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**CLUES ACROSS**

- Lions do it
- In favor of
- Rest here please (abbr.)
- Pulpits
- Leisure activity
- Fertility god
- Financial obligations
- When you anticipate getting somewhere
- Spanish river
- Sporting events
- Type of tree
- Ceased to be
- Persons
- Synthetic resin
- Relates to photochemical reactions
- Father
- Former Cowboys coach
- City in Finland

- Run batted in
- Got through
- They darken skin
- In a harmful way
- Form of weaving
- City of Angels
- hoopster
- Caucasian language
- Syngman \_\_\_, Korean president
- Sun up in New York
- Paddled
- Fishes
- Affirmative
- Nimble
- Doctor of Education
- Soviet Socialist Republic
- A small island

**CLUES DOWN**

- Cool!
- Hebrew unit of measure
- Swedish rock group
- College army
- Favor over another
- Called it a career
- Egg-shaped wind instrument
- Israeli statesman
- Hurries
- Midway between south and southeast
- Benedictine monk
- Self-immolation by fire ritual
- Family of regulator genes
- Surrendering
- Political action committee
- S. American plant
- Long-term memory
- Bark
- Breathes in
- Take hold of
- Everyone has one

- Valentine's Day color
- Drivers' licenses and passports
- Outer walls of castles
- Enters with force
- One thousandth of an inch
- Deceased Chinese politician
- Sugary secretion of plants
- Expressed pleasure
- Shelter
- Utilizes
- Forest resident
- Fashion accessory
- A sharply directional antenna
- \_\_\_ Kristofferson, actor
- A bad place to end up
- MLBer Gordon

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

# St. Anne's, Town of Aurora, Shining Hill reach deal for new turf field

BY BROCK WEIR



**KEVIN LORD**

April 16, 1986 – April 29, 2006

*Our lives go on without you  
But nothing is the same,  
We have to hide  
our heartaches  
When someone speaks  
your name.  
Sad are our hearts  
that love you  
Silent are our tears that fall,  
Living our lives without you  
is the hardest part of all.  
The special years  
will not return  
When we were all together,  
But with the love  
within our hearts  
You will always  
be with us forever.*

Love,  
Mom, Dad and Lindsay

A new artificial turf field will increase sports and recreation opportunities in Aurora.

Last week, a deal was reached between the Town of Aurora, St. Anne's School (SAS), and Shining Hill Group to construct a state-of-the-art \$7 million turf field and park for the Aurora community.

The facilities will be located near St. Anne's, which is located on the north side of St. John's Sideroad, just west of Yonge Street, and will be part of Shining Hill's Gates of St. Anne's community, currently being constructed at the intersection's northwest corner.

"In partnership with St. Anne's School and Shining Hill Group, the Town of Aurora is proud to support the development of this state-of-the-art neighbourhood park inclusive of an artificial turf, splash pad, playground, and pickleball courts," said Mayor Tom Mrakas in a statement. "Partnership plays an important role in fostering a strong sense of community and has proven successful in Aurora. The addition of the turf field and park will not only benefit the students of St. Anne's but will enhance the overall quality of life for all residents. We look forward to seeing the positive impact this project will have on our Town for years to come."

The new turf field and park will include the field itself, which will be branded appropriately for St. Anne's and the Town, 500-seat stadium-style bleachers, lighting for evening games, facilities suitable for flag football, rugby, field hockey and soccer,



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

pickleball courts, multi-use courts for basketball and like sports, a splash pad, parking, and washroom facilities.

St. Anne's Head of School Sabrina D'Angelo says the new field and facilities will help the school "move into next-level programming, which is really exciting."

"It is a unique situation in that we have partnered with the Town and Shining Hill group. We have been conversing about it since Shining Hill Group purchased all of this property."

As St. Anne's is partnered with the nearby St. Andrew's College, which lies on 126 acres, there has been "no shortage of field facilities" for SAS students, but this new deal was a missing piece that will enable St. Anne's to serve the needs of its growing population and develop a "comprehensive athletics program" that will parallel SAC's offering.

"It's important that we invest in our student-athletes," says D'Angelo. "Because of the unique connection and partnership we have with the Town of Aurora and Shining Hill Group, we started to devise a plan around the various opportunities that could be afforded to the school, that would complement and strengthen the relationship For us, it was important to be able to leverage some of the Town land for the school, and we are also very big believers in having strong connections with the community, so it was a win-win-win – a win for St. Anne's, a win for the Town of Aurora and the local community, and a win for Shining Hill Group," says D'Angelo.

"One of the really great features, particularly with the two-acre turf field, is that it is outfitted for field hockey, flag football, soccer, and rugby, but we are also really excited about it being lit, which we don't have at St. Andrew's. Currently at SAC, games can't be played post-dusk, but now we have an opportunity to leverage the facility and host different events. St. Andrew's is very eager to see this introduction as well as it adds a dimensionality to their offerings."

Under the shared user agreement, St. Anne's will have the opportunity to use the turf field for academic and co-curricular purposes throughout the academic calendar.

Construction of the field is underway, and it is hoped to be operational and open to the public by the start of the 2024-2025 school year this fall.

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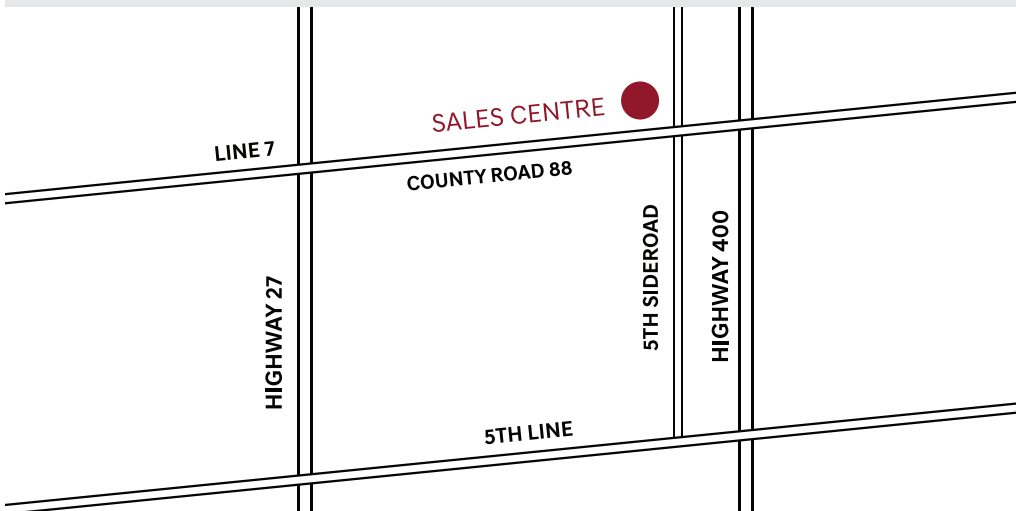
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# Arts & Entertainment

## Grate Groan-Up Spelling Bee raises over \$20,000 for Next Step Tutoring program

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

Over 135 enthusiastic supporters gathered to test their spelling knowledge and raise funds in support of the Next Step Literacy Program.

Next Step is an organization dedicated to providing free one-to-one adult tutoring in Alliston.

The event was held at the Club at Bond Head on Saturday, April 13. It proved to be a fun evening filled with laughter, competition, and a shared commitment to education.

Spelling bee teams wore themed costumes that made the night even more entertaining.

Twelve teams battled it out in the spelling bee, showing their spelling prowess.

Among the words thrown at contestants in the play-along round, were ‘ptarmigan,’ ‘tourniquet,’ and ‘lachrymose,’ which provided a real challenge.

In addition to the spelling bee, attendees had dinner and the opportunity to partici-



pate in a silent auction.

Thanks to the generosity of sponsors, participants, and supporters, the Grate Groan-Up Spelling Bee Fundraiser raised over \$20,000 for Next Step.

These funds are invaluable in supporting Next Step’s mission of providing free one-to-one adult tutoring in essential skills such as reading, writing, math, and computer literacy.

You can learn more about Next Step by visiting the website at: [www.nextstepliteracy.ca](http://www.nextstepliteracy.ca).



**ADULT SPELLING BEE** – The Grate Groan-Up Spelling Bee raised over \$20,000 for Next Step, a tutoring program that helps with adult literacy. The spelling bee challenged participants to really think when given some obscure words to spell. Themed costumes made the event even more fun.

BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

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Continued from Page 4

## From The Second Row: Phones in the classroom

It must be frustrating for a teacher to be at the head of a classroom only to see a student focused on a phone rather than listening to the lesson.

The problem obviously starts at home.

I don't know why a kid needs a phone in the first place. Anyone they want to speak to, and if you're a kid, that's another kid you know at school, is probably only a few feet away for the entire day.

The parents are paying for the kid's phone. They should explain the phone is a privilege and should apply rules about its usage before the kid leaves home.

Pretty simple—this phone is for emergencies only, don't use it in the classroom.

The fact that this problem requires action by the Ministry of Education is disturbing. The report says teachers will undergo mandatory training regarding kids using cell phones.

Haven't teachers already undergone training on how to control kids in the classroom? Isn't this why they go to teacher's college? Every kid knows the teacher is in charge when the bell rings to signal the start of the school day. It's pretty simple - make an announcement at the start of the school year.

"I'm Ms. Crabapple, your new teacher. The use of phones is not allowed in this classroom. If you have a phone, it must be turned off and kept in your backpack or locker."

If a kid complains about the rule, parents need to back up the teacher and let the kid know the teacher controls the classroom, and they must abide by the rules.

I can't think of a single reason why a parent would insist their child be given permission to use a phone during class. Phone etiquette in general needs to be observed by everyone, not just in the classroom.

Continued from Page 4

## Brock's Banter: Out of sight, out of mind?

Further, social media websites will be "removed" from all school networks and devices and, if that wasn't enough, report cards this fall will include remarks from teachers on "student's distraction levels in class."

Older students – those in Grades 7 to 12 – will have a little bit more leeway with cellphones being permitted during class time only with the explicit direction from the teacher or educator.

"At a time when young people are facing so many distractions, mental health pressures, and even potential dangers, such as addictions, cyberbullying and online predators, we are taking measures to protect students by cracking down on vaping and other addictive substances, removing social media from school networks and devices, and increasing student mental health supports," said Burling MPP Natalie Pierre, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Education in a statement. "Students deserve positive and distraction-free schools that promote positive mental health and allow for uninterrupted learning."

One can't argue with the sentiments, but I feel a missing piece of this puzzle is just exactly what kind of role parents and parenting will play in this. After all, in most cases, the phones and devices provided to students are done so within the household, as is the amount of data they are able to use, and, when push comes to shove, the content they're able to consume.

I also question whether the principle of "out of sight out of mind" will hold water in this case. The very absence of a device could, in my view, prove an even greater distraction and make "out of sight out of mind" simply wishful thinking.

In March, for instance, the Peel District School Board, Toronto District School Board, Toronto Catholic School Board, and Ottawa-Carleton District School Board, joined together to begin legal action against the owners of such popular platforms as Facebook, Instagram, SnapChat, and TikTok for "disrupting student learning and the education system" and calling for the tech giants to provide resources to the Boards to address mental health costs and costs related to "redesigning products to keep students safe."

"The lawsuit claims that social media products, negligently designed for compulsive use, have rewired the way children think, behave, and learn, leaving educators and schools to manage the fallout," the plaintiffs said in a statement. "Students are experiencing an attention, learning, and mental health crisis because of prolific and compulsive use of social media products. The fallout of compulsive use of social media amongst students is causing massive strains on the four school boards' finite resources, including additional needs for in-school mental health programming and personnel, increased IT costs, and additional administrative resources."

Added Brendan Browne, Director of Education for the Toronto Catholic District School Board: "Fostering a nurturing environment of learning is critical to student success and stands at the heart of our educational mission. Yet, the intricately crafted and inherently addictive nature of social media platforms can hamper a students' capacity to absorb knowledge. Social media has an undeniable toll on student mental health which cannot be overlooked. In the absence of effective measures from the architects of these digital platforms, our educators find themselves increasingly involved in mitigating social media-induced matters, diverting precious time away from academic instruction."

Social media has indeed had an "undeniable toll" on student mental health and, I would argue, mental health for people in just about every demographic, but pressing measures from the aforementioned digital "architects" would go further than an outright ban. Further, it shouldn't be forgotten, that as harmful as these platforms are, students and people of all ages might be using them to seek out those individuals and resources that offer coping mechanisms and other methods to deal with many of the listed problems – and apps that offer music for concentration and study, that help comfort and calm the individual, and expand educational horizons.

The upcoming rules are well-intentioned, well-reasoned and practical – but if these platforms have "rewired" the way youth think and behave, I certainly hope going in this direction doesn't exacerbate an existing issue, or create an entirely new set of challenges.

Continued from Page 4

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# SPORTS

NEW TECUMSETH TIMES

## Junior C hockey moves into semi-final Schmalz Cup series

Four teams remain in the Provincial Junior Hockey League (PJHL) as the Provincial Schmalz Cup playoff series goes through the best-of-seven semi-final round.

The Alliston Hornets lost their conference championship series to the Hanover Barons in a series that went five games. The Barons earned the right to move on to the next round.

The remaining PJHL teams include the Hanover Barons, who are the North Conference champions, and the Clarington Eagles from the East Conference.

That semi-final series got underway on Friday, April 26. Hanover won the first game with a 3-0 shutout. In Game 2, of the series, the Eagles evened it up with a 3-2 win to tie the series 1-1. If the series goes the full seven games, the final match will be on May 6.

In the other semi-final series, the New Hamburg Firebirds, representing the South Conference, are up against the Lakeshore Canadiens of the West Conference. That series got underway on April 23, with Lakeshore winning the first game 3-2. Lakeshore won Game 2, 7-3 on Friday, April 26. New Hamburg was back in the series after a 3-1 win in Game 3 on April 28. If that series goes the full seven games, it will wrap up on Sunday, May 5.

The two semi-final winning teams will meet for the Schmalz Cup championship series.

The championship series is back to a best-of-seven format after two years of tournament-style play.



**SHUTOUT GAME** – The Banting Memorial High School Marauders girls' rugby team host Georgian Bay District Secondary School on the field at Banting on Monday, April 29. The Marauders played a stellar game leaving the field with a 55-0 win. The Banting team is now 1-1 for the season. **BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO**

## Health Unit shares how to protect yourself from disease-carrying ticks this spring

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

The warmer weather is now here, and the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit is reminding people to protect themselves from ticks when in an outdoor setting.

Woodland trails and grassy areas can be home to blacklegged ticks that may carry Lyme disease. Lyme disease is a serious but preventable illness.

Ticks are more common across Ontario and Simcoe Muskoka as climate change is creating more tick-friendly environments and lengthening the season during which ticks are active. Ticks prefer to live in moist, shaded

environments, especially leafy wooded areas and overgrown grassy habitats.

Lyme disease is passed through the bite of an infected blacklegged tick. Early symptoms may include fever, chills, headache, muscle and joint pain, fatigue, and an expanding red rash. It may begin three to 30 days after being exposed.

Most cases of Lyme disease can be successfully treated during the early stages when symptoms first appear. More severe symptoms including recurring arthritis, neurological problems, and heart disorders can occur if left untreated.

You can reduce your chance of exposure by taking precautions when heading outdoors in

grassy or wooded areas.

Wear light-coloured, long-sleeved shirts and pants, and shoes with closed toes. Tuck your pant cuffs into your socks.

Light-coloured clothing makes ticks easier to spot. Use an insect repellent with DEET or Icaridin, and be sure to read the label and follow the directions.

Stay on the trails when possible when walking or biking in the woods and other natural areas.

After spending time outdoors, do a full body tick check on yourself, your family, and any pets as soon as you can and at least before you go to bed that day. You can use a mirror or ask someone to help you check any hard-to-see

places. Removing a tick within 24 hours can prevent infection.

If you find a tick, remove it as soon as possible and check the rest of your body as there could be more.

Once removed, visit eTick.ca to identify the tick and follow the guidance provided. If you develop any symptoms associated with Lyme disease, be sure to speak to your health care provider.

Avoiding bites, removing ticks quickly if bitten and early detection can effectively prevent Lyme disease and other tick-borne illnesses including Powassan virus, Anaplasmosis, Babesiosis, and Borrelia miyamotoi disease.

## Town of New Tecumseth welcomes new Chief Administrative Officer

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

The Town of New Tecumseth has a new Chief Administrative Officer.

Neil Garbe will join the Town effective June 3, 2024.

With more than 25 years of experience in municipal and regional levels of government, Garbe's significant leadership experience will serve as an asset to the Town of New Tecumseth.

"We are excited to have Neil join us," said New Tecumseth Mayor Richard Norcross. "The extensive knowledge, experience, and leadership that he will bring to our organization will be beneficial to our growing community."

In addition to having a Master of Urban and Regional Planning from Queen's University, Garbe was also a Registered Professional Planner.

"I am thrilled to be joining the Town of

New Tecumseth team," he said.

"I look forward to working with Council and leading staff as we work together to make New Tecumseth an even better place to live, visit, and do business in," Garbe added.

Garbe previously served as the CAO in both Richmond Hill and Aurora, and most recently held the position of Commissioner, Community Development for the Town of Oakville.



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## Police investigating after pedestrian struck by train in New Tecumseth

The Nottawasaga Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) are investigating after a collision involving a train and a pedestrian.

Police attended the area of Boyne St and 3rd Line in New Tecumseth for report of a collision involving a train and a pedestrian on Friday, April 26, at approximately 2:10 a.m.

As a result of the incident, a 46-year-old male from New Tecumseth has been airlifted to a trauma center with life altering injuries.

The Nottawasaga OPP are continuing the investigation alongside the CPKC Police Service.

If you have any information about this incident, please contact the OPP at 1-888-310-1122. You can also call Crime Stoppers anonymously at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or submit your information online at [www.crimestoppersdm.com](http://www.crimestoppersdm.com). Crime Stoppers does not subscribe to call display, and you will remain anonymous. You will not testify in court and your information may lead to a cash reward of up to \$2,000.

### SUDDEN DEATH IN ANGUS UNDER INVESTIGATION

The Nottawasaga Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) is currently investigating the circumstances surrounding a sudden death in the Township of Essa.

On Monday, April 29, at approximately 9:00 a.m., members of Nottawasaga OPP

received a call regarding an unresponsive person behind a business in the area of King Street and Mill Street in Angus, Ontario. The unresponsive person was declared deceased a short time later.

The Nottawasaga OPP Crime Unit is continuing the investigation with assistance from OPP Forensic Identification Services (FIS), in conjunction with the Office of the Chief Coroner and the Ontario Forensic Pathology Service.

The deceased person is a 31-year-old male from Schomberg, Ont.

At this time the death is not considered suspicious, and there is no threat to public safety.

If you have any information about crime, please contact the OPP at 1-888-310-1122 or report minor occurrences online by visiting [www.opp.ca/reporting](http://www.opp.ca/reporting). You can also call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS) or submit your information online at [www.crimestoppersdm.com](http://www.crimestoppersdm.com) if you have information on any crime.

### POLICE RESPOND TO UNWANTED PERSON NOT LEAVING PROPERTY

The Nottawasaga Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) were dispatched to a residence in relation to a call for service in the Town of New Tecumseth.

On Monday, April 29, at approximately 8:45 p.m., police were dispatched to a residence on Elm Street in the Town of

Alliston following a report of an individual making threats and refusing to leave the residence.

Officers cordoned off the area for public safety and with the assistance of the Emergency Response Unit (ERT), Canine (K9) and OPP Crisis Negotiators, police were able to peacefully conclude the incident with one individual being taken to an area hospital for further assessment and support.

There are no concerns for public safety at this time.

### POLICE INVESTIGATING STOLEN PICKUP TRUCK FOUND IN TORONTO

In the early hours of April 22, a vigilant citizen contacted police as his high-value

Dodge TRX pickup truck was being stolen from an address on Larter St., Innisfil. The theft quickly drew the attention and efforts of law enforcement partners in the GTA including the York Regional Police, Ontario Provincial Police, and Toronto Police Service. All services worked together as the vehicle fled at a high rate of speed throughout those jurisdictions. Through an investigation, the stolen vehicle was located shortly after its theft, in the City of Toronto. There have been no arrests made at this time, however the investigation is ongoing, and authorities are urging anyone with information or who may have witnessed suspicious activity in and around Larter St., Innisfil, during the early hours of April 22, to come forward to police or anonymously through Crime Stoppers.

### Compost available at County waste facilities

Residents of Simcoe County will be able to purchase compost at all County waste facilities from May 6 to May 25, 2024 (excluding residents of the cities of Barrie and Orillia).

Compost is a soil amendment used in gardens to add nutrients, or as top dressing for lawns to help retain moisture and it is produced in-house using leaf and yard waste material generated through the County of Simcoe.

Compost sales are self-service, and residents should bring their shovels to load bins, truck beds, or trailers.

The cost is \$5 per carload or \$20 per truck or trailer load while quantities last.

Mulch is also available while quantities last at County waste facilities. Mulch can be applied to soil surfaces, around trees, paths, flower beds, slopes and erosion-prone areas, and as a top dressing for flower and vegetable gardens.

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**701 COMING EVENTS**

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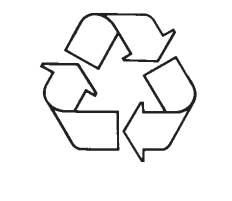


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- JUNE 21ST.....ANTIQUES, COLLECTIBLES & QUALITY HOUSEHOLD ITEMS.
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- JULY 19TH.....WHEELS OF YESTERYEARS - VINTAGE VEHICLE AUCTION.
- JULY 26TH.....ANTIQUES, COLLECTIBLES & QUALITY HOUSEHOLD ITEMS.
- AUG 2ND.....TOOLS AND MORE AUCTION.
- AUG 21-24TH.....STRAIGHT SHOOTER SALE.



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Sale of Coca Cola memorabilia. Signs; Barbie Dolls; Coke signs; Coke pedal car; Coke patio set; Coke toys; buttons; Baseball cards; Beer Steins; Wrigleys & Pepsi airplane; Match Box cars; Toy banks; Harley Davidson mini toy motorcycles etc.  
Pick up Sat. May 11th 10 am - 3 pm. 12% Buyers Premium. Bidding not open until Wed. May 1st  
Photos & info on [severnauctions.hibid.com](http://severnauctions.hibid.com)

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612 AUCTIONS/FLEA MARKETS



**LIVE AUCTION SALE Equipment Consignment Saturday May 11th, 9:30am**

**554447 Mono-Amaranth TLine, Mono, ON** Go west through Orangeville on Hwy 9 to County Rd 16 (Veterans Way at Greenwood Cemetery), turn north 5 miles to farm on East side. OR From Shelburne go east on Hwy 89 for 2 miles to Mono-Amaranth Townline, turn south & go 5 miles to farm on East side.

- TRACTORS:** 896 Case tractor, 16K hrs, runs well; International 986 tractor, cab, 117hp.
- TRAILER/LAWN TRACTOR:** Canada trailer, 12'x6.5', folding ramps; JD 345 lawn tractor.
- ATV/GOLF CART:** 2014 Arctic Cat 500, 1968kms; E-Z-Go golf cart.
- MACH/EQUIP:** New Holland BR740 Silage Special round baler; Case RBX 451 round baler; Case 8330 haybine; Kongsild Vibrashank cultivator with harrows; Hardi 500gal sprayer; Midwest Ind 3pth backhoe attachment, 21" bucket; NH bale stack cruiser; V-ditching plow; NH 278 sq baler with thrower; NH 273 sq baler with thrower; (4)steel thrower 18' wagons; Deutz Fahr KS 85 rotary hay rake; NH 273 9ft haybine; 45' skeleton bale elev on wheels; NH hay rake; 20' skeleton bale elev.
- FARM REL:** 300gal Rubbermaid water trough; (2)Marweld elev round bale feeders; 6ft 3pth chain harrows; (2)feeder wagons; chute & crowding tub; (3)round bale feeders; (6)steel trough feeders; (2) mineral feeders with oilers; manual steel chute; skid steer bucket; dual auger snowblower-older; (4) hydro poles; Free standing cattle panels; dual tractor tires 18.4-38.
- SHOP/HORSE ITEMS/MISC:** (9)fence feeders; qty ground feeders; 4'x8' steel plates; conveyor track; (10)chicken waterers; (2)chicken feeders; JD grass bagger for lawn tractor; (2)car ramps; (4)tires-2 on rims; (2)Ryobi 4-cycle string trimmers.

**Now Accepting: Tractors, Machinery, Equipment, Farm Rel/Shop**  
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\*\*Watch the website as items will be added regularly\*\*  
Preview: 1-6pm, Friday May 10th

**Auctioneers: Kevin McArthur (519) 942-0264 Scott Bessey (519) 843-5083**  
Email: [mcarthurbessey@gmail.com](mailto:mcarthurbessey@gmail.com)  
[www.theauctionadvertiser.com/KMcArthur](http://www.theauctionadvertiser.com/KMcArthur) - full listing & photos

708 OBITUARIES

**Chris S. Pedersen**

June 25, 1942 - April 23, 2024

Chris passed away peacefully at the Southlake Residential Care Village in Newmarket on April 23, 2024. He was 81 years old. He is survived by his wife, Maria, of 59 years, his daughter, Lena, and his two granddaughters Teja and Lilah. Chris was born as Niels Kristian Sondergaard Pedersen in Varde, Denmark and came to Canada when he was 14 years old. He went on to start his own painting and decorating business, and successfully ran that business for the better part of 50+ years. As a youth he was passionate about playing soccer, later took up golf and loved dancing. He also loved music, jazz in particular. In his senior years he was a skilled ping pong player. Chris will be remembered for his sense of humour and positive outlook on just about everything in life, as well as being a very proud Dane and Canadian. He was very loyal in all areas of his life and he had a real soft spot for those in need and was always very generous with praise and donations. Chris was very free to share his love of those close to him, and was immensely thankful for his life, family and friends.

A memorial service is planned for Saturday, June 8, 2024 at the Danish Lutheran Church. In lieu of flowers the family asks you to consider making a donation to the Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (OSPCA): [https://secure.ontariospca.ca/site/Donation2?7351.donation=form1&idb=1891926914&DONATION\\_LEVEL\\_ID\\_SELECTED=1161&df\\_id=73\\_51&mfc\\_pref=T&7351.donation=root](https://secure.ontariospca.ca/site/Donation2?7351.donation=form1&idb=1891926914&DONATION_LEVEL_ID_SELECTED=1161&df_id=73_51&mfc_pref=T&7351.donation=root)

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804 SERVICES

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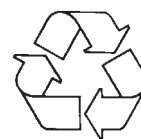
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save \$8

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8 SERVINGS 1.05 kg

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save \$3

**9<sup>99</sup>** each

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