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$1.50 *per copy* *($1.43 + 7¢ G.S.T.)* | **Thursday, November 12, 2026** | **Volume 52, Issue 46**

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

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

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Lest we forget

A Remembrance Day service was held in Tottenham on Sunday, Nov. 8. The parade formed at the Tottenham Legion, travelled down Mill Street to the cenotaph at Keogh Park. Hundreds of local residents turned out for this annual event to honour the fallen and those who continue to serve. See more photos on Page 9.

BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

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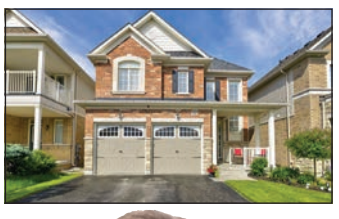


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HONDA HISTORY – Honda of Canada Mfg. is celebrating 40 years of building cars in Alliston. The Alliston plant has produced over 11 million cars since starting production in 1986. Bobbi Curran, vice president of Honda of Canada MFg., and Dave Jamieson, president and CEO of Honda Canada, stand next to the first Honda Civic that rolled off the line 40 years ago. The automobile was kept as a legacy piece by the company. BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO



TURNING SOIL – Japanese ambassador to Canada, Masashi Nakagome (third from left) and Dave Jamieson, president and CEO of Honda Canada (fourth from right), are joined by Honda associates during a ceremonial tree planting at Honda Plant 1 on Tuesday, Nov. 3, to commemorate the anniversary. BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

Honda celebrates 40 years of building cars, careers, and community

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

Honda of Canada Mfg., a division of Honda Canada Inc., is celebrating 40 years of manufacturing in Canada.

The Alliston Honda plant first saw shovels in the ground in 1984. In 1986, the plant opened, and it has had a huge impact on both Alliston and surrounding towns.

After expanding over the years, the plant now occupies 890 acres on the south side of town and has produced more than 11 million vehicles.

As the first Japanese automaker to build vehicles in Canada, Honda has invested $6.5 billion in its Canadian operations, growing to become the country's second-largest auto manufacturer by production volume and an employer of 4,200 active associates.

The economic impact of Honda extends well beyond Alliston. The company sources $3 billion in goods and services through Canadian suppliers each year and supports 30,000 spin-off jobs across the automotive sector.

"For four decades, Honda has invested billions in Canadian manufacturing, while demonstrating corporate citizenship that values its people, supports its communities and invests for the long term," said Dave Jamieson, president and CEO of Honda Canada.

"The road hasn't always been easy, but the through change and uncertainty, Honda's commitment to Canada and its people has been a foundation of its success, strengthened by generations of associates and partners who have stood by the company. Thank you to everyone who has shared in that journey, and happy 40th anniversary."

When the plant first opened, it had 175 employees who started producing the Honda Accord. The plant began production of the Honda Civic in 1988.

In 1998, Plant 2 opened as the launch plant for Honda's full-size Odyssey minivan. Currently, the facility occupies around 4 million square feet and has the capacity to produce more than 400,000 vehicles annually.

In 2011, the Honda CR-V was added to the production line.

"Our associates have been instrumental in Honda's manufacturing success story in Canada, helping build Honda into a global manufacturing leader," said Bobbi Curran, vice president of Honda Canada Mfg. "As we celebrate our 40th anniversary, Alliston remains essential to Honda's North American manufacturing strategy as we continue to enhance our production capabilities and prepare for the future of automotive manufacturing."

Honda in Alliston has a reputation for being a good place to work. The company treats its employees well, and the plant is clean and bright.

Employee Mary Maika has been with Honda for 28 years and loves her job.

"I love it here," Mary said of working at Honda. "I like it because of the opportunities that were provided to me. It's a blank canvas when you start here and you can decide how you want to drive your own career. You're given the opportunities and if you take advantage of them, they are there for you."

Mary has been in several positions over the years during her employment at Honda.

"We have a really strong foundation here at Honda so everyone understands what their roles are and how to request support," Mary said. "We're always given the support we need."

Honda in Alliston produces two of Honda's best-selling vehicles — the Honda Civic and the CR-V.

Honda Canada Mfg. produced its 11 millionth vehicle in 2025.



Residents concerned over proposed development in downtown Alliston

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

A proposed development in downtown Alliston has some local residents concerned about neighbourhood compatibility, parking, traffic, property values and long-term planning in the town.

Residents voiced their concerns at a Committee of Adjustment meeting at town hall on Thursday, Nov. 5.

The committee moved the issue to the start of the meeting as they knew several people were going to speak, rather than follow the agenda and have everyone wait until later in the evening.

A Minor Variance Application has been submitted by Luca Chandler of Studio Deep on behalf of 2551832 Ontario Inc., the registered property owners.

The proposed development includes 72 stacked townhouses within three townhouse blocks with on-site underground parking. The units are considered micro-units, each having two bedrooms and very little living space.

The location of the proposed development is 169-189 Victoria St. E. and 10 Lorne St. in Alliston.

The developer states that the goal of this type of development will promote growth densities and design that will support a future transit network, and promote development in the downtown areas that combine commercial, residential and other land use to facilitate the more efficient use of urban land and the establishment of a human-scale pedestrian environment.

A spokesperson from the developer gave a presentation at the meeting, detailing the project and providing renderings of what the final building will look like.

The property where the proposed development will be has five lots with older homes on those lots as well as one vacant lot.

The visitor gallery during the meeting was packed, and several residents spoke about various issues with the project.

Everyone who spoke lives in close proximity to the planned project.

One common thread was that they had not been notified of the project or the meeting and only found out about it through social media.

One resident said the units were too small and expressed a concern about the families currently living in houses on the affected property.

Some of the residents at the meeting have properties that abut the development property and said having a large new building next to their house would complicate everything from traffic to sunlight.

There is also concern about increased traffic on Victoria Street and a lack of parking, which would force some residents to park in nearby parking lots.

A main concern was that this is being considered a 'minor variance', when several residents pointed out that according to the plans, this project should be considered a major variance.

The Committee of Adjustment agreed to this and suggested the project be given to the Zoning Committee.

Provincial supervision period concludes at Stevenson Memorial Hospital

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

A supervisory status at Stevenson Memorial Hospital (SMH) has officially ended by order of the Lieutenant Governor in Council.

A statement was issued by hospital president and CEO, Deepak Sharma, and chair of the board of directors, Jeff French, on Nov. 6, which said, "The end of supervision marks an important transition for Stevenson Memorial Hospital and the return of full governance authority to the Board of Directors."

The statement continued, "Throughout the period of supervision, our staff, physicians and volunteers have remained focused on providing safe, high-quality care to our patients and families. We are grateful for their continued commitment. For nearly a century, SMH has been providing care to the communities it serves. As we move forward, we will continue our journey together, building on our proud history and creating a strong future for our community."

The Province of Ontario appointed a supervisor for Stevenson Memorial Hospital in October 2024 to oversee the hospital's operations and strengthen its governance, accountability, and ability to deliver the best health care possible. The appointment of a supervisor was a response to a final report submitted by an investigator in 2024 that raised concerns about the hospital's governance, management, and patient care.

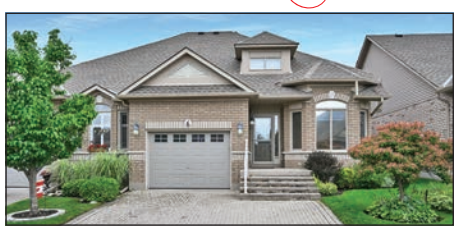
The supervisor was asked to work closely with the hospital's interim president and CEO at that time, the board of directors, and staff to implement changes and solutions to address concerns that were outlined in the report.

During the supervisory period, regular operations continued, including the hospitals current redevelopment project.



SUPERVISION ENDS – Stevenson Memorial Hospital's supervision period, which was mandated by the provincial government in October 2024, has ended. The hospital's board of directors have regained full governance authority. FILE PHOTO

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Editorial, Letters & Opinion

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

Waiting in silence

BRIAN LOCKHART
FROM THE SECOND ROW



The 2026 municipal elections are now history, and thanks to just over 30 per cent of you, a new council has been elected to lead the direction of the town for the next four years.

I will assume the other 70 per cent who couldn't be bothered to employ the energy it takes to use their index finger to click on a mouse button to vote from home will dutifully not complain about town functions over the coming few years.

Sorry, you had your chance.

While you were sitting in the easy chair watching reruns of Married With Children, 30 per cent of the population did your job and duty for you.

There are too many people who say "voting doesn't matter."

Well, it does.

Picture this: You're on a bus with nine other people and a driver. The bus is going down a steep hill at high speed, and the road ends at a 1,000-foot cliff.

The driver yells, "It's up to you! Do I hit the brakes or not? You better vote on it!"

Two people vote 'yes.' Three people vote 'no.' Five people do not vote.

Majority wins, and you're all going over the cliff at the same time.

I'll bet during that drop, you start rethinking about hiding in the back of the bus and not voting.

Democracy has its failings, but it is still the best form of government for a civilized Western society.

The idea that every citizen of a certain age gets to vote is still a relatively new concept. While the idea of democracy has been around for well over 2,000 years, it didn't always include everyone in the vote.

Most democracies only allowed certain people to vote. Usually, people of a certain rank or landowners were the only ones allowed to participate in the process.

In Canada, women did not have the right to vote until 1918. Suffragists worked hard to secure the vote for women in this country.

I don't understand how any modern woman doesn't respect the work their great-grandmothers did to get the vote, and follow through with that by voting in every election.

There is one inherent flaw in a democracy. If a vote is carried by 51 per cent, that means 49 per cent of voters won't achieve the goals they want. Depending on the government, those 49 per cent may be very dissatisfied with what the government is doing.

However, it is important to remember that elected officials are obligated to represent all of the people in their riding — not just the ones that voted for them.

Judging the mood of a country's citizens can be difficult. The national media can no longer be counted on to just deliver the news.

You don't have to be an expert on politics to read a newspaper daily and see the biased slant that has developed in several of the national papers and broadcast journalism.

Thanks to social media, you can still follow the general mood of the population and the trending thoughts of a lot of people.

For some reason, people are a lot more emboldened when speaking their opinion when they can express that opinion from behind the anonymity of a computer keyboard.

Although not everyone hides, many people are quite vocal on social media about their opinions and aren't shy about expressing them.

There is a sizable portion of citizens in this country who are not satisfied with the federal government's policies. They are being more vocal, and in many cases, more organized.

People who don't like that opposition, including national media sources, always respond the same way — they start using names and buzzwords that have nothing to do with the issues or the group that is not happy.

If you walk into a department store, point at a woman and yell "Thief! Thief! She stole something!"

Everyone standing nearby will look at the woman and assume she's a thief.

Many groups are just fed up with the federal government's approach to domestic and foreign affairs.

They give away hundreds of millions of dollars to foreign countries and organizations while doing little or nothing to support our own citizens who are struggling.

Inflation is shrinking your pay cheque, but the federal government is fiddling while the fire is raging around us.

If you worry your kids won't be able to afford a home of their own, just wait until the next million people arrive on our shores, mostly in Ontario; the competition for a place to live explodes.

Don't be one of the people sitting quietly on the back of the bus.

Remembering and 'hopescrolling'

BROCK WEIR
BROCK'S BANTER



It's often said a change is as good as a rest.

There's some truth to that, but wouldn't it be nice if the two could go hand-in-hand?

I don't mean change for the sake of change, of course – but change to bring about some much-needed perspective. Perhaps a chance to look at a situation through clearer eyes. Maybe even just an opportunity to tackle something ongoing with a more positive mindset.

I'd wager that when we take stock of our lives and the day-to-day that goes along with it, we can find at least one wellspring of negativity that is either in the forefront or percolating somewhere in the background.

Each person's individual wellspring, of course, can be different, but I'd wager a second guess: that for many of us a source of negativity can be found in the mire of social media – particularly doomscrolling.

We've lived with the concept of doomscrolling since the phrase was coined nearly a decade ago to encapsulate the compulsion that so many have to "scroll" almost endlessly from one piece of bad news, or general negativity, to the last, sometimes getting deeper and deeper into weeds you wish you hadn't – the metaphor of being unable to turn away from a train crash coming to life in the very palms of our hands.

"It's unclear what triggers the behaviour," said the University of Florida, summarizing its 2022 study on doomscrolling itself, which was published by the American Psychological Association's Technology, Mind and Behaviour Journal. "It's specific to the moment users are currently experiencing: between the pandemic, political issues in the world, and mass shootings, people can get sucked into seeking bad news. The study also found doomscrolling can be associated with a fear of missing out and constantly being connected online through smartphones.

"It remains unclear if doomscrolling causes anxiety or if anxiety leads to it. Although the study's authors believe that they feed off each other, establishing a cause and effect will require further research."

The study went on to note that when people realize they are doing it, they could take "proactive measures" to break the habit if, of course, they recognize the consumption of such negativity is making them feel a certain way.

I'm guilty as just about everyone else with a phone of doomscrolling.

It's not a great habit to have by any stretch of the imagination. Whether I like it or not, it is often part and parcel of this job, as we in this line of work have to keep our fingers on the pulse of the communities we cover.

That said, however, when I had last week off for some much-needed downtime, I made a concerted effort to stay as far away as I could from my phone and the ubiquitous social media channels that are connected to it. After a series of particularly fraught municipal elections where negativity was all too often the name of the game, it was a break that seemed less and less optional as the time to clock out inched closer.

I didn't go anywhere beyond a few day trips on my holiday, but it was nice to get away regardless.

Yet, last Tuesday, I felt the apps drawing me back in.

In spite of myself, and knowing what potential (certain) negativity there lay within, I couldn't help but plug into the results of the midterm elections in the United States.

While my time off was a great chance to recharge my own personal bandwidth, I don't think my less-threadbare internal battery had anything to do with the feeling I had surveying what was staring back at me on the screen.

It's a feeling that many experienced on Tuesday night and more than one person offered up a word for it: "Hopescrolling"

In a world where scrolling downward all too often feels like you're getting deeper and deeper into muck and mire, it was such a nice change to see – regardless of what your political affiliations and leanings might be – so many people suddenly hopeful again for the future, and the near-constant diet of foreboding and anonymous attacks set aside, at least for the time being.

Continued on Page 19

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Toll Free: 1-888-557-6626
905-857-6626 Fax: 905-857-6363
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PUBLISHER: Simcoe-York Printing & Publishing Ltd.
GENERAL MANAGER: Zach Shoub
EDITOR: Sam Odrowski *sam@citizen.on.ca*
REPORTER: Brian Lockhart
PRODUCTION: Lisa Clendening
ADVERTISING: Vicki Meisner *vicki@lpcmedia.ca*
OFFICE: Tanya Sharma *tanyas@lpcmedia.ca*
CREDIT DEPT.: Al Lord
CLASSIFIEDS: Vicki Meisner *vicki@lpcmedia.ca*
DISTRIBUTION: Sheila Ogram *sheila@lpcmedia.ca*

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Simcoe-York Printing & Publishing Limited, publisher of the New Tecumseth Times and the King Weekly Sentinel. Published every Thursday

Funded by the Government of Canada | Canada
We acknowledge the financial support of the Government of Canada.

Is America back?

GWYNNE DYER
OUR WORLD TODAY



If the question is: 'Is America Back?', then the answer must be: 'No.' At least not in ways that are meaningful to non-Americans, who make up 96% of the world's population.

For Americans, it's a bit more nuanced. Nothing at all will change until 3 January, 2027, when all the new and old members of Congress are sworn in. What will happen after that remains to be seen, but it won't include much legislation because Donald Trump is promising to use his right of veto to thwart any measures he dislikes.

There is some chatter in Democratic circles about trying to impeach the president again. (They tried and failed twice in his first term). That would be stupid, because large numbers of Republicans in both Houses would have to defect to make it possible, but the Democrats might try it anyway out of frustration (because Trump is vetoing all their legislation).

Trump might even tacitly encourage another impeachment effort, as it would distract the Democrats from better targeted and more useful investigations into his many and flagrant self-dealing enterprises. It would also help to keep the paranoia level high on his own side.

So for all the hyperbole about 'electoral earthquakes', this is not the dawn of a new and better era in the United States. If the Democrats can stay cool and forensic in their approach they might lay the foundations for another electoral victory and a real reckoning in 2028, but it is not within reach now.

Where Trump remains unconstrained is in his dealings with the rest of the world: his tariffs, his wars, his whims and hates and boundless greed. He is not one whit less powerful in that domain than he was last week, and the damage he can do is both unpredictable and incalculable. Just one example: Iran.



Since Trump was beguiled into making a surprise attack on Iran eight months ago by Israel's Prime Minister Binyamin Netantyahu, he has oscillated endlessly between believing he can bomb the Iranians into submission – and imagining that he can 'negotiate' a better outcome than Barack Obama's nuclear deal with Iran (which Trump tore up eight years ago).

As I write, we have no idea whether or not Trump will resume bombing Iran now that the mid-terms are out of the way. He probably has no idea himself. Of course, Iran still has no nuclear weapon or anything near that – but senior regime members are now openly debating whether Iran should get the bomb just to deter this kind of nonsense.

And so it goes, from threats to annex the '51st state' (Canada) to rambling monologues about how Trump already controls Greenland to boasts about how the United States now owns most of Venezuela's oil. Most of it is empty threats but bits of it actually come to pass, and you can't really be sure which is which.

Never mind. Only two more years and it will be over – but will it?

There is no reason to believe that the United States is only dabbling in the business of being a rogue state, and will revert to being the guarantor of global stability once the madman has been removed or retired.

In all the vox pop voter interviews and the politicians' thank-you speeches, did you hear a single American saying that they were worried about their country going rogue.? Did anybody say that kidnapping Venezuela's president and stealing the country's oil was illegal, or that conniving in Russia's war against Ukraine was both evil and counter-productive?

No. The most you heard even about Donald Trump's on-again-off-again war on Iran was the complaint that it had driven up the cost of living and especially the cost of diesel fuel. This is not a country that can commit to a serious military alliance on the far side of a large ocean.

There's no good reason it should. Its oceans are sufficient defence against any conventional threat of invasion, and the threat of nuclear weapons is a matter for deterrence, never for fighting.

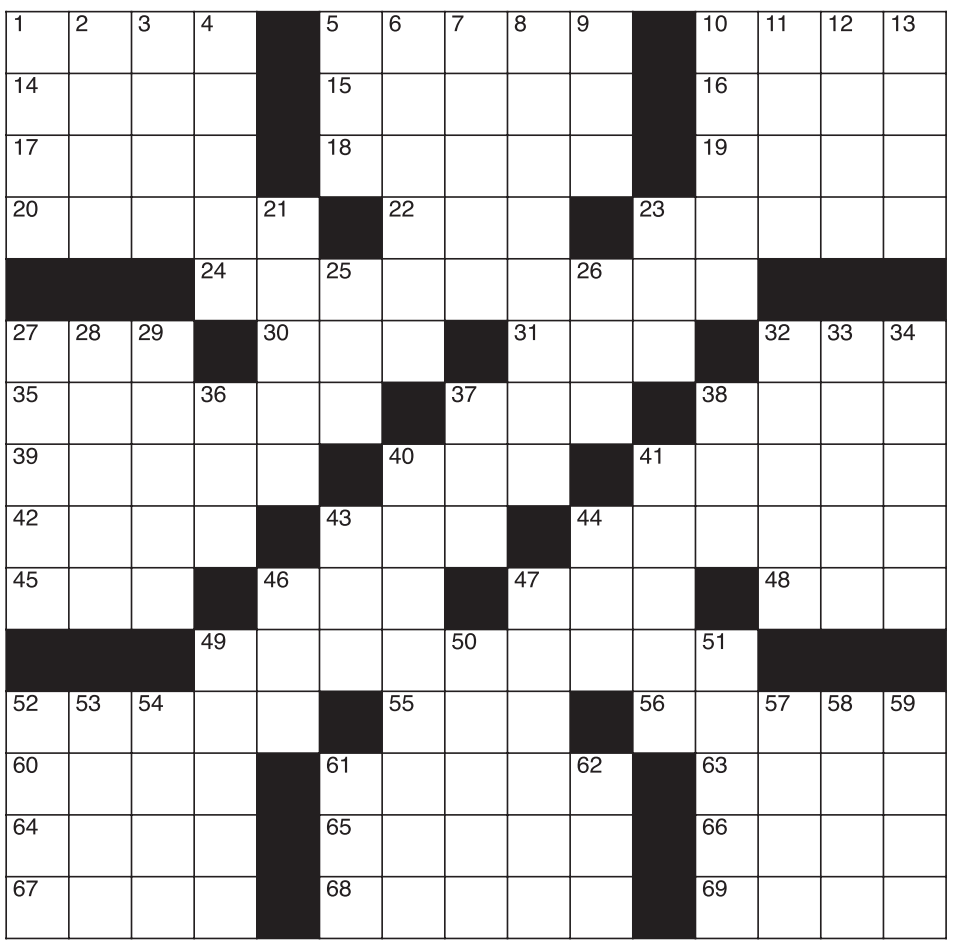
Once upon a time a large number of Americans were persuaded to belong to a major overseas alliance by broad ideology and a specific geopolitical concept (The Russians Are Coming!), but those days are long gone. The Russians still need to be deterred, but it doesn't require Americans. It still makes sense for Europeans to have a sort of post-NATO alliance, because Russia really is aggressive in seeking to regain its old imperial frontiers. It even makes sense for Canada to belong to that post-NATO organization, because it helps defend Canadian sovereignty from American challenge.

But it's foolish to depend on Americans for support, because they don't have skin in this game.

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CLUES ACROSS

1. Perceive a sound
5. Pretends to be
10. Type of guitar
14. Actor Idris
15. A citizen of Iran
16. Creative
17. Keep under control
18. Weight unit for precious stones
19. You better call him
20. Fanatical
22. Male cat
23. Jewish spiritual leader
24. One who takes risks
27. A way to nail
30. Cool!
31. Progressive policy supporter
32. "Losing My Religion" rockers
35. Step-shaped recess
37. Round globular seed
38. Somewhat
39. Butterhead lettuces
40. Color at the end of the spectrum
41. Lines where fabrics are sewn together
42. Dodgers great Hershiser
43. Floor covering
44. Traveled aimlessly
45. Rocker Stewart
46. Body art
47. Congressman (abbr.)
48. No seats available
49. Categorizes
52. Iraq-Syria border town
55. Ballplayer's tool
56. Type of sword
60. Baseball team
61. Upper bracts of grass
63. Italian seaport
64. Ancient city in Syria
65. Shoelace tube
66. U. of Miami mascot is one
67. South American nation
68. "Nebraska" director Alexander
69. Upper body part

CLUES DOWN

1. German courtesy title
2. Ancient Greek City
3. Skin care manufacturer
4. A long-legged frog
5. Photo
6. Delivered a speech
7. Lute in northern Indian music
8. Decorated
9. Take a seat
10. Bottom layer
11. Type of horse
12. Ticket part
13. Defunct currency of Guinea
21. Challenges
23. Popular BBQ food
25. Subway rodent
26. By way of
27. Shady garden alcove
28. City in Egypt
29. __ and flowed
32. Large quantities of paper
33. Eurasian wheat
34. Act incorrectly
36. Layer of water right above sediment (abbr.)
37. Al Bundy's wife
38. Ocean
40. Large, round root
41. Sound units
43. Knock
44. Soak in water
46. Hot drink
47. A cotton fabric with a satiny finish
49. Rumanian city
50. Come back from being down
51. Vaccine developer
52. Canadian law enforcers
53. Wings
54. "Perry Mason" actor Raymond
57. Small fry
58. __ Clapton, musician
59. Gamble
61. Semi-liquid food
62. Consumed food

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

COMMUNITY VOICE

The Good Neighbour Initiative: Turning compassion into action

Across our community, more families, seniors, youths and individuals are finding themselves in situations they never imagined they would face. Rising housing costs, increasing utility bills, higher grocery prices, and the growing expense of everyday essentials are placing enormous pressure on household budgets. For many, the margin between stability and crisis has become dangerously thin.

Today, too many of our neighbours are being forced to make impossible choices. Some are choosing between paying rent and buying groceries. Others are deciding whether to pay utility bills or put gas in their cars. Seniors living on fixed incomes are watching their savings disappear as costs continue to rise. Families are struggling to keep up with growing expenses while doing everything they can to provide for their children.

These challenges are not happening somewhere else. They are happening right here in our community.

At CONTACT's Housing Resource Centre, we witness these realities every day. So far this year, more than 1,000 of our neighbours have reached out seeking support and guidance. Behind every phone call, email, and visit is a person facing uncertainty. They are parents one unexpected expense away from eviction, seniors stretching fixed incomes to keep a roof over their heads, and individuals whose hard-won stability is threatened by a sudden job loss.

The need is growing, and the call for help is becoming louder.

While CONTACT continues to work tirelessly to respond to these needs, no organization can do it alone. Community challenges require community solutions.

That is why the Good Neighbour Initiative was created.

The Good Neighbour Initiative is a community movement built on the belief that neighbours can help neighbours through difficult times. It is an opportunity for individuals, families, businesses, and community organizations to come together and make a meaningful impact in the lives of those who need support the most.

At its heart, the initiative recognizes a simple truth: when one member of our community struggles, the entire community is affected. Conversely, when we come together to support one another, we build a stronger, healthier, and more resilient community for everyone.

The funds raised through the Good Neighbour Initiative provide direct support to vulnerable families, seniors, youth, and individuals facing housing insecurity and financial hardship. Contributions help address immediate needs such as rental assistance, food insecurity, warm winter clothing, school supplies for children, and access to supportive services that help prevent homelessness before it begins.

These supports may seem simple, but their impact can be life-changing.

A grocery card can ensure a family has nutritious meals on the table for the week. Assistance with rent can prevent an eviction and the devastating consequences that often follow. Winter clothing can protect children and seniors during the coldest months of the year. Gas money can help a dad get to work for the week until the next pay cheque comes in. School supplies can help students feel confident and prepared to learn. Supportive services can provide the guidance and resources needed to help individuals maintain or regain stability and independence.

Often, a relatively small amount of support at the right time can prevent a much larger crisis later.

For many people facing hardship, the difference between remaining housed and becoming homeless can be a single unexpected expense, a temporary loss of income, a difficult life circumstance or an illness. When communities step in early with practical support, they help prevent a temporary setback from becoming a life-altering crisis – one that can take months or even years to recover from, if recovery is possible at all.

Every dollar contributed through the Good Neighbour Initiative helps create that safety net. It allows vulnerable community members to stay housed, maintain dignity, and focus on rebuilding rather than merely surviving.

Equally important, this initiative challenges all of us to think about what it means to be a good neighbour. Being a good neighbour is not limited to living next door to someone. It means recognizing that we all share a responsibility for the wellbeing of our community. It means understanding that anyone can experience hardship and that compassion, when put into action, can have a profound impact.

The strength of a community is not solely measured by its buildings, businesses, or infrastructure. It is also measured by how it cares for its most vulnerable members. When families have stable housing, children are more likely to succeed in school. When seniors can safely remain in their homes, they maintain their independence and quality of life. When individuals receive support during a crisis, they are better able to regain stability and contribute positively to the community.

The benefits extend far beyond the people receiving assistance. Stronger support systems create stronger neighbourhoods. They foster connection, resilience, and a shared sense of belonging that benefits everyone.

That is why widespread community support for the Good Neighbour Initiative is so important. The growing demand for assistance means CONTACT cannot meet these challenges alone. Success depends on the collective commitment of community members who are willing to invest in the wellbeing of their neighbours.

The challenges facing our community are real, but so is our capacity to respond. We have an opportunity to turn compassion into action and concern into meaningful support. We have an opportunity to ensure that families, seniors, youth and individuals facing hardship know they are not alone.

The Good Neighbour Initiative is a reminder that communities are strongest when neighbours look out for one another, and now more than ever, our neighbours need us. With the support of our community, the Good Neighbour Initiative can turn compassion into meaningful action by helping our neighbours stay housed, meet their basic needs, and prevent temporary hardships from becoming life-altering crises.

Together, we can help our neighbours create pathways to stability, hope, and the opportunity to thrive. Together, we can be good neighbours.

To learn more about the initiative, visit our website: contactcommunityservices.ca.

Please consider making a donation by email donations@contactcommunityservices.ca or online:contactcommunityservices.ca/donate-now

If you are struggling and need support, please reach out to our Housing Team at 705-435-4900 ext. 212 or visit our website: contactcommunityservices.ca/housing-services/ to learn more.

Thanks neighbour!





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Honda makes major announcement about hybrid vehicle production in Alliston

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

To meet growing customer demand for hybrid-electric vehicles in North America, Honda has announced it will invest in Honda of Canada Mfg. in Alliston.

Honda will maintain its workforce of more than 4,000 Canadians at the plant while supporting Canadian auto production volumes.

The commitment is part of a broader set of investments at Honda operations across North America that will expand and strengthen an integrated North American production network to boost production of hybrid-electric vehicles and the engines and hybrid systems that power them.

"For 40 years, Honda associates in Alliston have demonstrated the skill, innovation and commitment that have made our Canadian operations a cornerstone of Honda's manufacturing network in North America," said Dave Jamieson, president and CEO of Honda Canada Inc.

"This renewed investment reinforces Canada's critical role in Honda's North American growth and hybrid-electric vehicle strategy and helps position our operations for long-term competitiveness and future opportunities. It reflects the dedication of our more than 4,000 associates and will generate lasting benefits for our suppliers, local communities and the broader Canadian economy."

Jamieson continued, "Together with the Government of Canada and the Province of Ontario, we are investing in the future of Canadian manufacturing and creating a foundation for continued growth, innovation and opportunity for generations to come."

The $166 million capital investment will fund upgrades and retooling at the Alliston manufacturing facilities to support the production of next-generation hybrid-electric and gasoline-powered models, including the reintroduction of engine manufacturing. The capital investment forms part of a broader $867 million commitment, including future planned investments and related expenses, while enhancing quality, efficiency and manufacturing flexibility.

Through this project, Honda is partnering with the federal and provincial governments to enhance the long-term competitiveness and sustainability of its Canadian manufacturing operations, support stable, long-term employment, and advance its integrated North American growth strategy.

Honda's commitment looks to establish the foundation for next-generation production capabilities and strengthen its operations to help meet growing customer demand for hybrid-electric vehicles in North America.

In May 2026, Honda announced plans to introduce 15 new Honda and Acura hybrid models globally by 2030, with North America expected to be the primary market for many of those vehicles.

Investments across Honda's comprehensive manufacturing network in Canada, Ohio, Alabama and Georgia will support that strategy and enable future production of those products in North America.

"For generations, Ontario's auto workers have been the engine of our province's economy as part of a supply chain supporting hundreds of thousands of good-paying jobs on both sides of the border," said Ontario Premier Doug Ford. "As part of our plan to protect workers and businesses impacted by U.S. tariffs and fortify our industrial base, Ontario's $156 million investment in Honda will directly support 4,000 workers, helping secure our position as a leader in the auto sector for decades to come."

Honda of Canada Mfg. is celebrating 40 years of producing automobiles in Alliston.

The 4 million square foot plant produces more than 400,000 every year and employs more than 4,000 people.



ALLISTON INVESTMENT – Honda is investing $166 million in upgrades and retooling at its Alliston manufacturing plant to support production of next-generation hybrid-electric and gasoline-powered vehicles. The investment is part of a broader $867-million commitment to its Canadian operations. BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

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Arts & Local Events

New Tecumseth rings in the holiday season with parades

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

The Christmas season will be here soon, with holiday activities happening across the country

Locally, there will be three holiday parades this year – one in each community in New Tecumseth.

These events are fun for the whole family and bring a sense of Christmas joy to each town.



HOLIDAY PARADES – Three Santa Claus parades will bring Christmas b eer to New Tec mseth o mmunities this holiday season. Alliston's Night-Lit Santa Claus Parade tak s plae Nov. 21, followed by Tottenham's parade on Nov. 28 and Beeton's parade on Dec 12. FILE PHOTO

Alliston: 19th Annual Night-Lit Santa Claus Parade

This annual parade sponsored by the Rotary Club of New Tecumseth will take place on Saturday, Nov. 21, beginning at 6 p.m.

The parade will start at Lorne Street and Victoria Street and will move down Victoria Street (Highway 89) through downtown Alliston to King Street. The parade will continue on King Street to Young Street and end at Industrial Parkway.

Santa's elves will walk along the parade route collecting letters to Santa directly from the crowd.

Tottenham: Santa Claus Parade

The Tottenham Santa Claus Parade will take place on Saturday, Nov. 28, at 3 p.m.

Brought to you by the Rotary Club of New Tecumseth, the Beeton Tottenham Business Improvement Association and the Tottenham Community Recreation Improvement Committee, the parade will start at the Home Hardware/Foodland plaza and make its way down Queen Street.

Beeton: Santa Claus Parade

The Beeton Santa Claus Parade will take place on Saturday, Dec. 12.

This annual event, sponsored by the Beeton Agricultural Society, will get underway at 11 a.m.

The parade will begin at Jackson's Plaza and make its way down Main Street in Beeton and end at the Beeton arena.



OLD-TIME COUNTRY CHRISTMAS – The Barrel Boys are returning to St. d hn's United Churb in Alliston for a one-night Christmas-themed show. The band performs bluegrass, old-time o untry, and Ameria na-style music The Barrel Boys were ask d to return after a sue ssful and popular performane last year. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Barrel Boys return to St. John's United Church for Christmas show

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

After a successful concert last year, St. John's United Church in Alliston is again hosting The Barrel Boys for an evening of toe-tapping bluegrass-inspired music.

The concert is a fundraiser for the church.

The Barrel Boys have been together since 2012 and are an acoustic string band fluent in bluegrass, old-time country, and Americana-style music.

They write their own music, and their album 'Chicken in the Window' was nominated for Traditional Album of the Year and Vocal Group of the Year at he 2026 Canadian Folk Music Festival.

Band members, Nathan Smith on fiddle, Rob McLaren on banjo, Ben Wright on guitar, and Tim O'Reilly on bass, perform around a single microphone, which creates an engaging show and a beautiful blend of sound on the stage.

This show will be a Christmas special – a bluegrass-themed concert featuring traditional Christmas carols alongside some of their original work

The Barrel Boys will perform at St. John's United Church in Alliston, 56 Victoria St. E, on Sunday, Dec. 6, at 7 p.m.

Tickets are available at the door or by calling the church office at 705-435-6732.

Tickets are $30 for general admission. For children 12 and under, tickets cost $10.

Payment options include cash or card at the door, or e-transfer for per-order tickets to billing56@bellnet.ca, and include Barrel Boy Tickets in the subject line.





Remembrance Day ceremony held at Keogh Park cenotaph













HONOURING THEIR SERVICE – Tottenham residents gathered Sunday, Nov. 8, to honour Canada's veterans and those who made the ultimate sacrifice. The annual Remembrance Day service included a parade of Legion members along Mill Street, speeches and a ceremony at the cenotaph in Keogh Park, with local residents lining the streets to pay their respects.

BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTOS

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Community input sought for naming of new Angus school

The Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) is excited to be opening a new elementary school in Angus in the fall of 2027. The new elementary school is located at 152 Greenwood Drive. With the opening of a new school comes an opportunity for the community to get involved in the naming process.

"A school's identity is important – it is a source of pride for the community and contributes to a positive and inspirational climate and school culture," said SCDSB. "This is something that can be felt when you walk into the school every day. The identity also influences the school's image, including its branding, logo, and mascot."

SCDSB continued, "We look forward to engaging the community in the naming process as we continue to build the future of education in Simcoe County."

People who make a submission are encouraged to consider the environmental setting, the community's geographic history, and the diversity of the school community.

The new school is surrounded by significant environmental and geographic features. Originally built on the Angus sand plains, it features community walking paths such as the Barrie Collingwood Rail-Trail and the Rippon Trail.

Fishing and birdwatching are popular in the area.

The surrounding area offers sustainable community agriculture, such as corn, sunflower, and dairy farming.

To submit a name suggestion, complete a submission form: tinyurl.com/AngusSchoolName

The submission deadline is Nov. 27.

The School Naming Committee will review all name submissions. The committee will include parents/guardians, students, SCDSB representatives, a member of the Essa Township municipal council, and a community member.

Community members who are interested in joining the School Naming Committee should express their interest by completing the interest form no later than Nov. 27.

The school name will be announced following Ministry of Education approval.



NEW SCHOOL – A rendering shows the new Simcoe County District School Board elementary school planned for 152 Greenwood Drive in Angus. The school is expected to open in fall 2027, with the board inviting community members to submit name suggestions by Nov. 27.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

County opens applications for social and community funding

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

The County of Simcoe is inviting community organizations to apply for funding through the Social and Community Investment Fund (SCIF) to support local programs that help residents experiencing poverty.

The funds are geared toward helping residents access essential services and resources.

Beginning in 2027, the SCIF Standard Grant will provide up to $100,000 annually for three years, offering organizations greater stability to plan and deliver programs that support residents in their communities.

Recognizing financial pressures facing low-income households, the county is placing a greater focus on improving access to food, along with other urgent basic needs.

To respond to growing community needs, the County recently developed a Regional Household Hunger Prevention Plan. This plan serves as the three-year strategic investment strategy that guides SCIF Standard Grant funding from 2027 to 2029.

As noted within the plan, programs that address food insecurity will receive additional consideration.

Organizations delivering other eligible poverty reduction programs and services are also encouraged to apply.

The 2026 Call for Applications opened on Nov. 4, 2026, and will close on Nov. 25, 2026.

Eligible community organizations are encouraged to visit simcoe.ca/SCIF to review application guidelines, eligibility requirements, and supporting materials.

Applications will be reviewed and scored against established criteria, with funding recommendations presented to County Council for consideration and approval.

SCIF funding complements a range of County-led poverty reduction efforts and investments that strengthen community well-being across Simcoe County, including programs that help prevent homelessness, improve housing stability, and connect residents with essential supports.





SPORTS
NEW TECUMSETH TIMES

Alliston Hornets hammer Orillia Terriers in payback game

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

The last time the Alliston Hornets met the Orillia Terriers on Oct. 24, it was on Orillia home ice and the Hornets took a 4-1 loss.

The Hornets delivered some payback when the Terriers arrived in Alliston for a Hornets home game at the New Tecumseth Recreation Centre on Friday, Nov. 6.

It was a slow start on Friday night when neither team could score in the first period.

The Hornets stepped it up in the second frame, scoring four unanswered goals.

Hornets' goals came from Lucas Bell, Duncan Grube, Jonathan Beausaert, and Gunner Kirk.

It was a 6-0 game at the midway mark in the third period when Grube and Kirk got their second goals of the night.

Orillia avoided the shutout when they scored with 2:53 left in the game.

The final was a 6-1 win for the Hornets.

Both teams arrived at the arena ready to play and left the rough stuff off the ice for the night. The Hornets had a single two-minute minor penalty, while Orillia had four minutes in the penalty box for the night.

The Hornets remain in first place in the North Carruthers Division with a 13-2 record and 24 points.

The Penetang Kings have now moved into second place with 22 points and an 11-2 record.

That has knocked the Stayner Siskins down to third place after they took a loss this past week.

The rest of the standings in order are Orillia Terriers, Muskoka Bears, Innisfil Spartans, Midland Flyers, and the Huntsville Otters.

Alliston forward Tristen Pitt is the top points earner for the Hornets this season with 27 points from 15 goals and 12 assists. That total places him in the number two position in the division by points, but he is the top scorer in the division.

Alliston forward Nick Lamont is the second top points earner for the squad with 22 points. However, his total will stay the same for a few weeks as he is currently on the injured list.

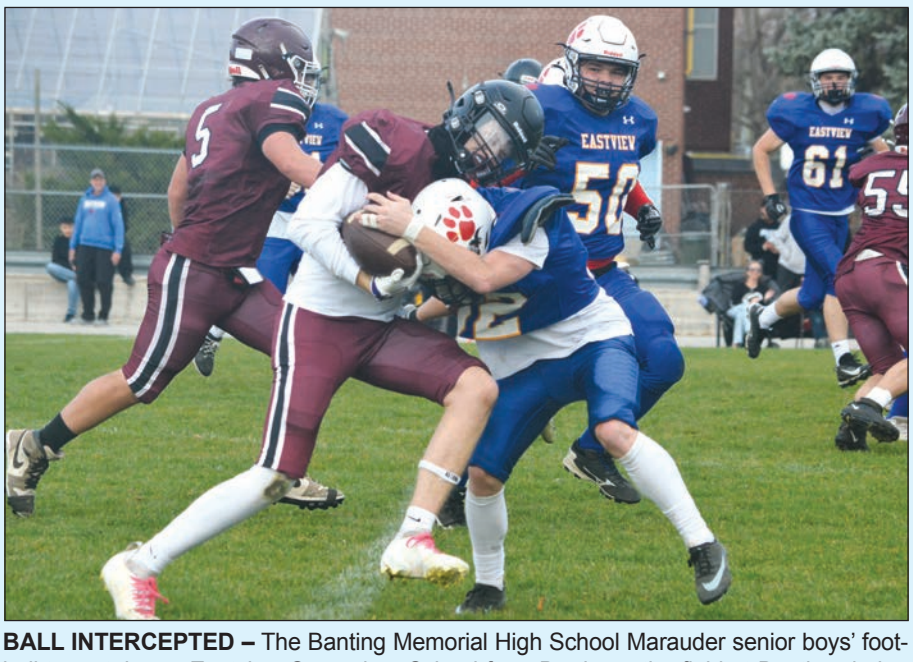
The Hornets will return to home ice at the New Tecumseth Recreation Centre on Friday, Nov. 20, to host the Stayner Siskins.

Game time is 7:30 p.m.



BIG WIN – The Alliston Hornets take on the Orillia Terriers during a home game at the New Tecumseth Recreation Centre on Friday, Nov. 6. The Hornets won the game 6-1 and remain in first place in the North Carruthers Division of the Provincial Junior Hockey League.

BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTOS



BALL INTERCEPTED – The Banting Memorial High School Marauder senior boys' football team take on Eastview Secondary School from Barrie on the field at Banting during a quarter-final playoff game on Tuesday, Nov. 3. Marauders player Reilly Ogilvie crashes into the Eastview line after snagging an interception early in the first quarter. The Marauders won the game 15-25 and will advance to a semi-final game. **BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO**



PUCK DROP – It was Hockey Day in Beeton with a full line-up of games throughout the day on Saturday, Nov. 7. This may be the last Hockey Day in this arena as the town gets ready to start the new Beeton arena and community centre project. Town of New Tecumseth Ward 6 Councillor Nicole Cox is joined by Beeton Athletic Association President Meredith Nebel to drop the puck at the ceremonial face-off.

BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

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Drug trafficking investigation leads to arrests in Tottenham

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

The Nottawasaga Detachment Community Street Crime Unit, with the assistance of the Nottawasaga Crime Reduction Unit and Central Region Repeat Offender Parole Enforcement Squad, has arrested two individuals and seized illegal drugs, weapons, and other offence-related property following a drug trafficking investigation in Tottenham.

In the fall of 2026, members of the Nottawasaga CSCU received information regarding an individual allegedly trafficking Schedule 1 controlled substances in the Town of Tottenham.

As a result of the investigation, officers obtained judicial authorization to execute search warrants.

Officers arrested two accused without incident on Nov. 3.

Search warrants were subsequently executed at a residence and a vehicle associated with the investigation.

As a result of the searches, officers seized:

- 20 oxycodone pills
- Approximately 28 grams of psilocybin
- Approximately 2.2 grams of cocaine
- $2,550 in Canadian currency
- Conducted Energy Weapon (Taser)
- Butterfly knife
- Imitation firearm
- 9mm ammunition
- Body armour
- Digital Scale
- Cellular devices

As a result of the investigation, Mark Bell, 35, of Tottenham, has been charged with:

- Possession of a Schedule 1 Substance for the Purpose of Trafficking
- Possession of a Schedule 3 Substance for the Purpose of Trafficking
- Possession of a Schedule 1 Substance (Cocaine)
- Possession of a Firearm or Ammunition Contrary to Prohibition Order (three counts)
- Possession of Property Obtained by Crime Under $5,000
- Driving While Under Suspension

The accused was held for a bail hearing before the Ontario Court of Justice.

A second accused, Kayla Watson, 28, of Tottenham, has been charged with:

- Unauthorized Possession of a Weapon

The accused was released from custody and is scheduled to appear before the Ontario Court of Justice in Bradford at a future date.

The charges have not been proven in court.



SEIZED ITEMS – Items seized by Nottawasaga OPP during a drug trafficking investigation in Tottenham include oxycodone, psilocybin, cocaine, cash, weapons, ammunition, body armour and cellular devices. Two Tottenham residents were arrested on Nov. 3 following searches of a residence and vehicle.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Fraud, break-and-enter, mischief charges laid in connection several incidents

Dufferin OPP officers arrested and charged an Orangeville resident in connection with multiple incidents involving fraud and break and enter offences at businesses in the community.

On Wednesday, Oct. 7, a male attended a business on Broadway in Orangeville and received service work on an electronic device. Following the completion of the work, the individual left the premises without making any attempt to pay for the services provided.

On Thursday Oct. 8, the same individual attended another business on Broadway in Orangeville and subsequently committed a break and enter.

On Wednesday, Nov. 4, members of the Dufferin OPP Community Street Crime Unit (CSCU), with the assistance of C Platoon officers, located and arrested the individual without incident.

As a result of the investigation, Craig Robinson, 33, of Orangeville, has been charged with:

- CC 334(b) Theft Under $5,000 (two counts)
- CC 380(1)(b) Fraud Under $5,000
- CC 348(1)(b) Break, Enter a place – commit indictable offence
- CC 430(1)(a) Mischief – destroys or damages property

The investigation remains ongoing, and further charges are anticipated. None of the listed charges have been proven in court.

The Dufferin OPP reminds residents to remain vigilant and report any suspicious activity. Anyone with information, dash camera footage, or security video related to this investigation is encouraged to contact police.

Anyone with information regarding this incident or other suspected unlawful activity is asked to contact the Dufferin OPP at 1-888-310-1122.

Orangeville resident charged with impaired driving after incident at drive thru

Dufferin OPP recently charged an Orangeville resident with impaired driving-related offences after locating an individual in the drive-thru of a fast-food restaurant on Fifth Avenue in Orangeville.

On Sunday, Nov. 1, 2026, at approximately 12:15 a.m., officers from the Dufferin OPP received a report of a possible impaired driver in a drive-thru lineup on Fifth Avenue. Officers attended the location and conducted a traffic stop.

During the interaction, officers observed signs of impairment and subsequently commenced an impaired driving investigation.

As a result of the investigation, Christian Cousineau, 58, of Orangeville, has been charged with operation while impaired - blood alcohol concentration (80 plus).

The accused individual is scheduled to appear before the Ontario Court of Justice in Orangeville at a later date to answer to the charges.

The charge against Cousineau has not been proven in court.

Their driver's licence was suspended, and the vehicle involved was impounded.

Anyone who suspects an impaired driver is urged to call 9-1-1 immediately. To report non-emergency information, contact the OPP at 1-888-310-1122.



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Southlake Gala raises over $4.7 million

BY BROCK WEIR

It was a record-breaking night for supporting local healthcare close to home as the community came together for Southlake Health's 2026 Here & Beyond Gala.

Presented by Treasure Hill and co-chaired by Lina Bigioni and Lia Fidei, the evening raised a record $4.7 million for the Southlake Health Foundation, ensuring the local hospital has the resources it needs to keep pace with increased demand for services, with a particular focus this year on diagnostic imaging and image-guided intervention.

"When you are waiting for answers about your health, every day can feel like a year. That's why tonight, we aren't just fundraising for technology – we're fundraising for answers," said Jennifer Ritter, President and CEO of Southlake Health Foundation as she and Dr. Paul Woods, President and CEO of Southlake Health, addressed the more than 900 attendees at the October 27 event, held in the City of Vaughan.

"We are so grateful to every sponsor, donor, guest, and supporter who stood alongside Southlake so powerfully at the Here and Beyond Southlake Gala," said Ritter. "While the government funds many things for healthcare, it does not fund this critically needed technology, and put simply, if our clinical teams can't see it, they can't treat it. Together, our fundraising will shorten the distance between symptoms and answers, and between fear and hope for patients and families at Southlake Health. That is a profound impact that we can all be so proud of."

Ritter was joined on stage by Dr. Woods who underscored the importance of diagnostic imaging and image-guided intervention to the work Southlake provides.

"The equipment and technology supported by the 2026 Here & Beyond Southlake Gala will touch nearly every patient journey at Southlake Health," said Dr. Woods. "Growing alongside our community means also keeping pace with advancing and evolving technology needed to help our talented team continue to deliver leading edge care, close to home. We're incredibly grateful for the generosity and support."

The Southlake Health Foundation was established in 1980 to support the Newmarket-based hospital. Since then, more than $270 million has been raised to support and strengthen the work Southlake does for and with the community.

This community impact was touched upon by Nicholas Fidei, President of Treasure Hill, who said the company has always believed "that building communities is about much more than building homes."

"It's about building places where families can grow, where neighbours can come together, and where people can feel proud to call home," he said. "But a truly great community needs more than beautiful homes and neighbourhoods. It needs access to quality healthcare, because nothing is more important than the health and wellbeing of our families and the people we love."

Following the Gala, Southlake made another move to continue delivering health care close to home by joining HealthCareCAN, a national organization that will allow Southlake to have a greater advocacy voice within its catchment areas of northern York Region and southern Simcoe County.

"As we continue to grow alongside our communities in York Region and Simcoe County, joining HealthCareCAN gives us a stronger national voice to advocate for the support our patients and communities deserve," said Dr. Woods. "The challenges facing Canada's health system are real, but so is the talent, dedication and creative capacity within our hospitals. We're excited to bring Southlake's perspective to that national conversation."

The organization paid particular attention to Southlake's plan for the decade ahead, including its Distributed Health Network, connecting hospital sites, community-based services, digital health capabilities, and health care partners to best meet the needs of the growing population. The hospital's Population Health Management Advance will also help identify and respond to community health needs through data, evidence, and collaboration.

Michelle McLean, President & CEO of HealthCareCAN, added: "We are delighted to welcome Southlake Health into the HealthCareCAN community. For a century, Southlake has demonstrated what's possible when a hospital is deeply rooted in its community and unafraid to push boundaries. Southlake's innovative Distributed Health Network model and focus on Population Health Management are redefining what a hospital can be. Its commitment to innovation, patient-centred care and leading-edge treatment makes Southlake exactly the kind of voice we need at the national table as we advocate for a stronger, more resilient health system for all Canadians."

OBITUARIES

FOREVER IN OUR *Hearts*

Hutchinson: Kathleen "Kay" Anne

Peacefully passed away surrounded by the love of her family at Matthews House Hospice in Alliston, on October 10, 2026. Kay Hutchinson (née: O'Kane) 87, beloved wife of the late Gerald Hutchinson. Loving mother of Ken (Trudy) and Mark (Mary). Kay will be deeply missed by her grandchildren Melissa and Stephen, with a special place in her heart for Keri, Adelyne, Charly, and Norah. She will be forever in the hearts of her extended family and friends, both here and in Ireland. A Special thank you to Dr. Jansen and all the Staff and Volunteers at Matthews House Hospice for their exceptional care and compassion. Cremation has taken place and a Celebration of Kay's Life will be held at the Tottenham Legion, 25 Richmond St., East, Tottenham on Sunday, November 15, 2026 from 1-4pm. In lieu of flowers, donations in memory of Kay may be made to Matthews House Hospice Alliston. Condolences and memories may be shared with the family at

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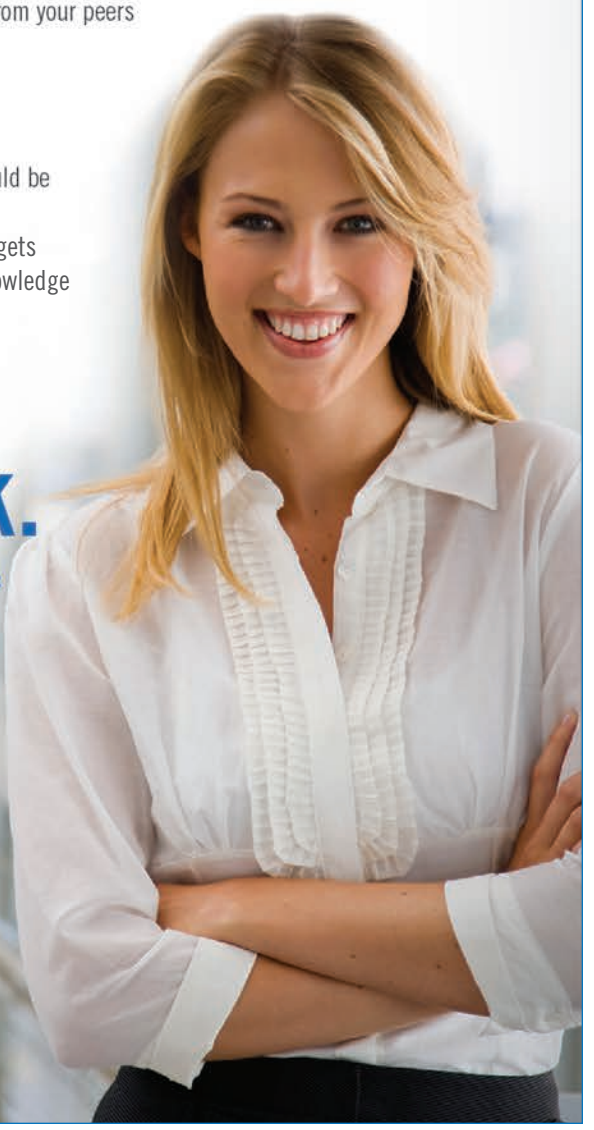
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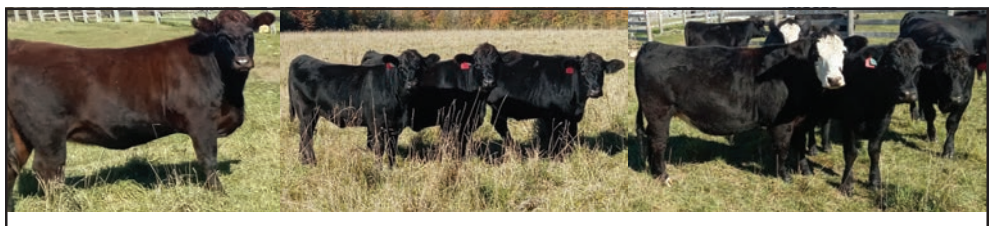


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Continued from Page 4

Brock's Banter: Remembering and 'hopescrolling'

It has been a long 10 years since Donald Trump was first elected President of the United States.

That too, as we all remember, was a fraught campaign in and of itself.

The day after was an interesting one, and I know I certainly wasn't alone in tackling what needed to be done with a bit of a lower energy level – the impact of a long night awaiting the results, made extra-long by an extra couple of hours of slack-jawed disbelief.

My thoughts and feelings were more fully processed the next day, and when I set out to cover an event at a local recreation complex, I wore two poppies – one to remember the fallen, as we do each November, and the other to specifically remember the ideals the fallen fought for, as I felt we were closer than ever before to having these once-vivid lessons on the brink of fading away and being forgotten.

This particular usage of a poppy may have raised an eyebrow or two among members of the Royal Canadian Legion – it certainly did from the mayor at the time – but it felt very appropriate in the moment.

Canadians mark Remembrance Day this week, while our American cousins mark Veterans Day. Both observances mark the Armistice – the end of the First World War – but each has a slightly different context. Here, Remembrance Day honours those who made the ultimate sacrifice for King, Queen, and Country, with those fortunate enough to return home as veterans very firmly a part of the conversation. Veterans Day, on the other hand, honours veterans more specifically, while the fallen are honoured more fulsomely on Memorial Day in May.

Regardless of which occasion you mark on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month, I know I'm personally going into these observances this year – both public and private – with infinitely more hope than at any point over the last decade; with hope, and certainly with greater assurance, that the freedoms that inspired countless men and women to put their lives on the line are appreciated and, of course, remembered.

And remembering is one of the best ways to ensure the mistakes, wrongs, and troubles of the past are not repeated – as veterans of the Second World War reminded, and continue to remind us, at every opportunity, particularly as the fragility of democracy continues to be tested around the world.

But Remembering doesn't stop once we take off our poppies and place them on our local cenotaphs as the morning of Nov. 11 winds down.

In the spirit of "Hopescrolling," let's flood our timelines – and, indeed, the pages of this paper – with the stories of our forebears who had the courage to join a fight they believed in, how you continue to honour their sacrifice, and what you will do in the future to further their invaluable legacies.

Lest we forget, indeed.

Toys for Tickets returns to New Tecumseth, fundraising to ensure children have a Merry Christmas

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

The Town of New Tecumseth's annual Toys for Tickets campaign returns this holiday season.

The campaign offers a chance for residents to pay eligible parking tickets with a toy donation while supporting local youth and families.

If you receive an eligible parking ticket issued between Nov. 15 and 29, you can pay the ticket by donating a new, unwrapped toy of equal or greater value than the amount of the ticket.

Donations for eligible parking tickets will be accepted until Dec. 10, 2026.

To participate in the program, bring a new unwrapped toy in its original packaging, your purchase receipt, and your eligible parking ticket to the New Tecumseth Administration Centre.

The program applies to eligible parking tickets.

Parking violations related to accessible parking spaces and fire routes are not eligible for the Toys for Tickets program.

All toys collected through this year's campaign will be distributed through the Lions Clubs Christmas Hamper program and My Sister's Place, to help bring some extra joy to local youth and families this holiday season.

You can drop off your toys at Town Hall, 24 Tupper Street West, in Alliston from Monday to Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.



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