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Friday: Light Rain
Saturday: Cloudy with Showers
Sunday: Mainly Cloudy
Monday: Cloudy with Showers

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Here comes Santa Claus...

The streets of Alliston were illuminated during the Alliston Night-Lit Santa Claus parade on Saturday, Nov. 21. Sponsored by the New Tecumseth Rotary Club, the parade made its way down Victoria Street to King Street, then along Young Street. Everything in the parade was decorated with Christmas lights to be a part of this holiday tradition. Santa Claus made an appearance, much to the delight of many children along the parade route. See more photos on Page 8.
BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

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Remains located in Kirkland Lake confirmed as missing Alliston man

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

Human remains located in Kirkland Lake have been confirmed to be those of an individual reported missing in 2023 in New Tecumseth.

Nottawasaga OPP announced that they have located Derek Perry's remains in Kirkland Lake on Thursday, Nov. 5.

Derek Perry, 34, of New Tecumseth, was reported missing in July 2023, and a subsequent investigation elevated the case to a homicide investigation.

During the course of the investigation, information led investigators to believe that Perry's remains had been taken to an area near Kirkland Lake.

In July 2025, police arrested and charged three people in connection with Perry's disappearance and murder.

Two men, Brendon Blanchard, 26, and John 'Eddy' Gagnon, 32, were charged with murder related offences.

A third person, Krystal Carleton, 37, was charged with being an accessory after the fact to murder as well as committing an indignity to a dead body.

According to an Agreed Statement of Facts in court, it was revealed that four individuals were in an SUV when a fight broke out in the rear seat of the vehicle.

In a prolonged attack that lasted for around 15 minutes, Perry was beaten to death.

Both men pleaded guilty to manslaughter earlier this month.

A sentencing hearing is scheduled for December.

Out of respect for Perry's family, no additional information will be provided at this time.

New Tecumseth council votes to withdraw Official Plan Amendment 5 plan on town growth

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

New Tecumseth council voted to withdraw the Official Plan Amendment 5 (OPA5) plan on town growth during a meeting on Monday, Nov. 23.

A motion to withdraw the plan was put forward by Ward 5 Coun. Nicole Cox.

OPA5 was passed with some controversy on July 13 when former Mayor Richard Norcross used strong mayor powers to push through the plan.

At the time, Norcross defended his use of the strong mayor powers, stating that the directive was mandated by the province and it was his responsibility to carry through with it.

At the time, Norcross said, "I never asked for these powers. The provincial government has made it perfectly clear – make a decision, or we will make it for you."

Several councillors voiced their opposition at the time, saying that strong mayor powers were undemocratic.

During Monday's meeting, a discussion occurred prior to a vote on the motion.

Ward 7 Coun. Andrea Jacks spoke in favour of OPA5 and defended the strong mayor powers.

"I felt the strong mayor powers were used appropriately to advance this planning policy and were used in the highest and best interest of the municipality," Coun. Jacks said.

The province has a high level of influence when it comes to municipal councils.

Coun. Cox asked town staff if withdrawing OPA5 would result in any intervention by the province.

New Tecumseth CAO Neil Garbe replied, "We have not received any communication from the province relating to this matter."

Ward 1 Coun. Chris Rapin said the strong mayor powers were a considerable factor in the results of the recent election, and said he opposed interference by the province.

"We're making decisions because we are afraid that if we don't make the decision, the province is going to do something about it," Coun. Rapin said. "Why even have a council then? We need to make our decisions based on what we know about our community, and if the province doesn't like it, then so be it. I'm speaking for me – I'm not threatened by the province."

The motion to withdraw OPA5 was passed by a vote of 5-4.

Voting in favour of withdrawing OPA5 were made by Mayor MacLellan, Deputy Mayor Marc Biss, Coun. Cox, Coun. Rapin, and Coun. Harrison McIntyre.

Voting against the motion were made by Coun. Phekoo, Coun. Masters, Coun. Jacks, and Coun. Gabrek.

NEW SCHOOL – Tottenham's newest school, Our Lady of Peace Catholic Elementary School, is now open. The school is located on Martin Trail on the south side of the town. Construction is nearing completion, and classes were slated to begin on Nov. 23.

BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO



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Tottenham Santa Claus Parade comes to Queen Street this weekend

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

Santa Claus is making an early appearance in Tottenham when the Tottenham Santa Claus parade will make its way down Queen Street on Saturday, Nov. 28.

The parade had a successful return last year after an absence of several years, and local residents and visitors were thrilled that the parade is again part of the annual events in the community.

The parade is presented by the New Tecumseth Rotary Club in cooperation with the Beeton Tottenham Business Improvement Association.

Visitors along the parade route will be treated to music, parade floats, marching bands, dancers, and other participants who will make this an enjoyable experience for people of all ages.

The parade will get underway at 3 p.m., with participants assembling at St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Secondary School on Nolan Road.

The parade will travel down Queen Street to Rogers Road.

OPP and New Tecumseth Rotary Club marshals will be on hand to assist with traffic flow and parade organization.

Local residents are reminded that access to Queen Street will be blocked prior to the start of the parade, and they should be ready to adjust their travel route if necessary from 2:30 p.m. until after the parade is over.



THE MAN IN RED RETURNS – The Tottenham Santa Claus Parade is taking place this weekend, Saturday, Nov. 28. The parade will travel down Queen St. beginning at 3 p.m.

FILE PHOTO

Cookstown Volunteer Firefighters Association pledges $50,000 to hospital redevelopment

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

Stevenson Memorial Hospital Foundation has recognized the Cookstown Volunteer Firefighters Association for its $50,000 pledge in support of the 'Because of You' campaign for hospital redevelopment.

The association has already fulfilled a portion of its commitment, demonstrating its dedication to strengthening local healthcare for the communities it serves.

In recognition of this pledge, the Cookstown Volunteer Firefighters Association will name an Emergency Department workstation in the new Stevenson Memorial Hospital, leaving a lasting legacy of community support in a space dedicated to providing critical patient care.

For members of the association, the importance of having a hospital close to home is both personal and professional.

"As volunteer firefighters, we see firsthand how important it is to have a hospital nearby, especially when every minute counts," said Andrew Bailey, member of the Cookstown Volunteer Firefighters Association. "Many of our members have had their children at Stevenson, and we've brought countless patients here over the years. This hospital is an essential part of our community, and we're proud to support its redevelopment so that local families can continue to count on care close to home."

The association's pledge will contribute to the hospital foundation's $80 million 'Because of You' campaign, which supports the community's share of the hospital's redevelopment, including expanded facilities, modern medical equipment and enhanced patient care spaces.

"Our volunteer firefighters understand better than most just how important access to timely, quality healthcare can be," said Dr. Ted Vandevis, CEO of Stevenson Memorial Hospital Foundation.

"Their generosity reflects a deep commitment to the health and well-being of our community. We are incredibly grateful to the Cookstown Volunteer Firefighters Association for investing in a hospital that so many families depend on, and for helping ensure it can continue to meet the needs of our growing region."

As construction of the new Stevenson Memorial Hospital continues, contributions from dedicated community partners like the Cookstown Volunteer Firefighters Association are helping bring this important project closer to completion.



PLEDGING – Dr. Ted Vandevis, president and CEO of the Stevenson Memorial Hospital Foundation, is joined by Cookstown Volunteer Firefighters Association Andrew Bailey, Kyle McGuire, Mike Elines, Wayne Benjamins, Jackson Carruthers, Arash Habibollahi, Kevin Paolini, Sofia Ireland, Ben Painter, Phil Merklinger, Hillary Rubi, Braden Painter, Vern Small, Gus Goncalves, Mike Slessor, Adam Goncalves, Fayaaz Kala, and Matthew Mazzotta, for the announcement of a $50,000 pledge toward hospital redevelopment.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO







Editorial, Letters & Opinion

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

Building a better mousetrap

BRIAN LOCKHART
FROM THE SECOND ROW



One evening I was watching a movie in my basement when something caught my eye.

It was a mouse at the top of the stairs.

The little mouse made its way down the stairs, and when it finally made it to the floor, it made a quick turn, as I expected, and disappeared under a closet door.

I didn't move or stand up when I spotted it, because I knew that as soon as I did, the mouse chase would be on. By staying still and watching it, I could see where it had decided to live in my home, and I could easily catch it later.

All it took was some peanut butter on bread, placed near the closet door, and Mickey was history by the next morning.

Several mice have invaded my home over the years. I have managed to catch a couple of them alive – my preferred method – and released them outdoors.

As much as I am against killing anything, sometimes you have to stop a mouse in its tracks before all of its family and friends arrive and take over the house.

You have probably heard the phrase or suggestion about someone 'building a better mouse trap.'

It's been tried. So far, the old trap on a spring system still prevails.

In some parts of the world, people have always tried to build something better, improve on existing technology, or come up with new ideas..

In the West, things moved ahead, but slowly. It wasn't until the late 1700s and the advent of the Industrial Revolution that things really started to move ahead, and faster than ever before.

The Industrial Revolution introduced a new way of doing things, and the invention of things like steam power changed society.

Since then, there have been several points in history where technology suddenly moved forward with lightning speed and spawned all sorts of new things and changed the way we live.

Both World Wars were responsible for leaps ahead in technology. There's nothing like the will to kill your neighbour and find a better way to do it that makes inventors get back to the drawing board and create something new.

The 1960s were a flashpoint in history for electronics. In fact, things started changing so much and so fast that a well-known author wrote a famous book titled "Future Shock" that warned society might not be ready for such a rapid change in lifestyle.

It was digital technology that changed our modern lifestyle.

If you told a Star Trek fan, back when the TV show was popular, that one day, everyone would be carrying a device that acts like a phone, a computer, a banking machine, a camera, and has about 1,000 other capabilities that make the Star Trek communicator look like a child's toy, they probably wouldn't have believed you.

We are now on the cusp of something new that is again going to change society.

AI data centres are starting to be built across North America.

There has already been a lot of fallout about these centres, as some groups consider them to be an environmental nightmare. Apparently, large areas of trees have been cleared to build them.

They also use massive amounts of electricity — up to the normal amount used by around 100,000 homes, according to reports.

Here's the thing – no one builds a brand new massive 1,000,000-square-foot building to produce shoelaces or donuts. They build a place that size because whatever it produces will make money – and a lot of it.

I'm not really sure what they are doing in these AI centres, or what they are producing.

I've seen videos that have been AI-produced; however, a realistic video of a six-month-old baby reciting the Gettysburg Address really isn't a money-maker.

Some AI systems are now so complex that their own designers cannot explain how they reach a decision.

Whatever is happening in these huge AI centres is going to change our society, and there is no doubt about that.

There are good applications, and bad applications for AI technology.

Being on the wrong side of it would not be good for anyone.

Maybe they are building a better mousetrap, but more likely, whatever they are designing will affect our lives in ways we have not yet imagined.

Black Friday palate cleansers

BROCK WEIR
BROCK'S BANTER



Our American cousins are getting ready to sit down and talk turkey this weekend.

It's not a holiday or observance that regularly features on my radar, being Canadian.

The timing of the holiday, of course, is steeped in history, but it always seemed a bit strange to me to have such a huge gastronomic occasion so close to Christmas and all the other holidays and observances that fill up this time of year almost shoulder-to-shoulder lest the calendar run out for another year. I can hardly begrudge them the feast, however, as our slightly different Thanksgiving meal is one of my favourite things to tuck into. That said, there's some benefit to spacing out these table-groaning banquets throughout the fall – that way, there's always something to look forward to.

While I hope everyone celebrating the observance has a great time – and I wish them the best of luck in making it through the around-the-table conversation unscathed given the results of the United States mid-terms earlier this month – it often feels like we as Canadians get caught in the thick of it, whether we want to or not.

Maybe you have family, friends, or coworkers with American roots and much of the first half of this week has been dominated by travel anxiety in the quest to get home and give thanks – the anxiety not helped by breathless reports of airport delays at the point of your destination.

Maybe they simply like the spectacle of the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, with its unique cavalcade of inflatable floats that touch upon the current pop culture zeitgeist as well as time-tested favourites that rarely fail to impart a feeling of comfort, nostalgia, or just plain fun.

Heck, maybe you're a Canadian who counts down to a holiday we don't even celebrate just to find a great deal – or, at the very least, a deal that's touted to be great – on that big ticket item you've been pining for.

Here, the American Thanksgiving holiday seems almost inescapable as more and more Canadian businesses hop on the Black Friday bandwagon to bring in more customers, providing a distinct challenge to the mayhem that used to be confined on our side of the border to Boxing Day – and, more recently, Boxing Week – sales.

While we're not yet at a point where Boxing Week will yield to a full-on Boxing Month, it seems like an inevitability at this point.

I like a good deal as much as the next guy, but the Black Friday and Boxing Day bus is never one I've hopped on. A few weak moments have happened over the years, such as the time I went to a local grocery store to get a sandwich on my lunch hour, only to come back sans sandwich with a flat screen TV, but I don't begrudge our businesses from exploring any opportunity for more sales or bringing more cash into their coffers.

Those of us who don't regularly indulge in mass consumerism might find themselves asking, "Do we really need a Black Friday in Canada?" or "Do we really need a Cyber Monday as soon as the dust settles on Black Friday to pick meat from the bones of whatever was left over from the weekend?" or, when the spoils arrive on your doorstep – if porch pirates don't get there first – "Did you really think this through?"

But there are also a few opportunities to do something entirely different this season.

The winter holidays are just around the corner and excitement is already building in our communities with dozens of organizations, non-profits, schools, and more coming together to host Christmas and Holiday Markets. While some vendors at these affairs might come from further afield, chances are what you find there not only supports local small business owners but could potentially further the creativity of local "makers."

We're also fortunate enough to have plenty of opportunities in our communities to meet these makers at year-round galleries, pop-up markets and, when the weather is warmer, local farmers' markets and artisan fairs.

Continued on Page 19

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Serbia and Hungary

GWYNNE DYER
OUR WORLD TODAY



Early this month the recently fired ex-dictator of Hungary, Viktor Orbán, went to Belgrade to commiserate with the even more recently unseated ex-dictator of Serbia, Aleksandar Vučić. (They accepted the verdict of free elections, so they are still free to move around.)

Being very modern men, they made a snappy little video to celebrate their reunion, and just at the end of it Vučićad-libbed a promise: "We'll come back." That's very unlikely in Orbán's case, but for Vučićit may actually come true.

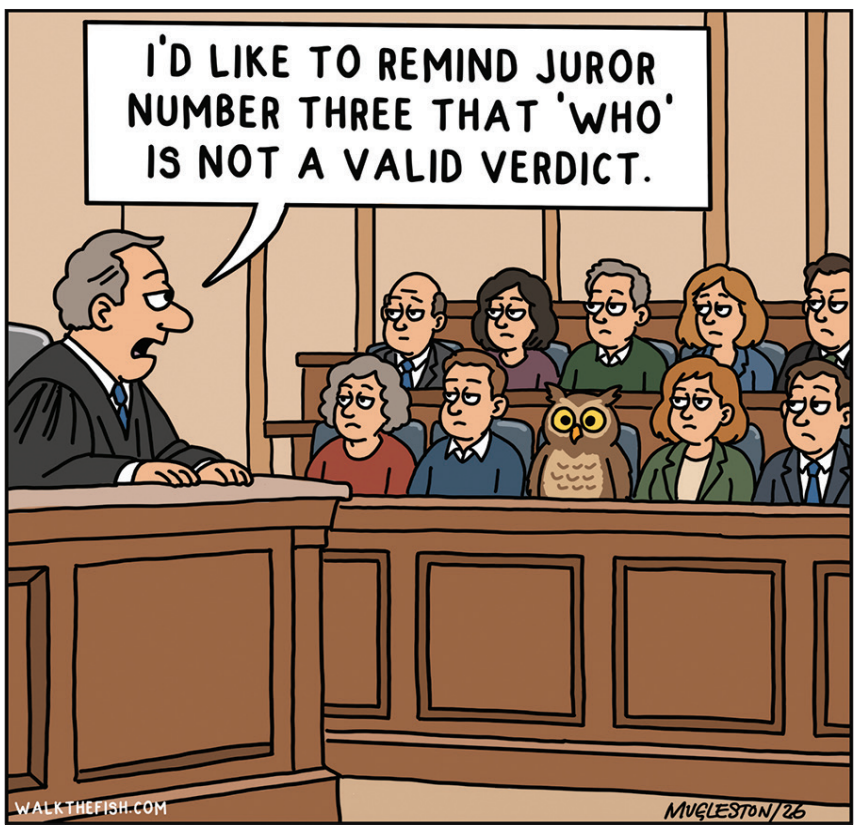
The defeat of the two men, who are not technically 'dictators' because they do submit to the discipline of having to win elections or lose power, was part of a broader trend this year. From Donald Trump's massive losses in the US mid-term elections to Orbán's rejection after sixteen years in power in Budapest, populist authoritarian leaders faced humiliation or defeat.

The tide really did seem to be turning. 'Lula' da Silva beat apprentice autocrat Flávio Bolsonaro in the second round of Brazil's presidential election. National Rally leader Marie le Pen in France, Reform UK leader Nigel Farage in Britain, and hard-right leader André Ventura in Portugal all lost ground. Orbán and Vučić were sent packing.

The thing about tides, of course, is that they come in and go out again with monotonous regularity. Spain's long-serving left-wing president, Pedro Sánchez, will almost certainly lose the current election and be replaced by a conservative coalition that includes the far-right Vox Party. A turnover of political parties in power is inevitable and indeed desirable.

The nightmare that this year seemed to dispel was the fear that far-right populists may have discovered a set of techniques that will give them permanent power. Exploit the new media, 'flood the zone' with lies, bribe the voters with their own money, bread and circuses for all, and the corrupt, cynical people who have won power will stay in power forever.

That was never a very plausible fear, but those populist techniques did enable the autocrats to stay in power for a very long time: Orbán was in office for sixteen years, and Vučić for twelve.



Could the populism start spreading again? Of course, it could. For example, while Hungary seems to have been thoroughly immunised by its experience with Orbán, Serbia is still in play.

It has already backslidden once. After a decade of wars with Croatia, Bosnia and Kosovo as (elected) dictator Slobodan Milošević tried to build a Greater Serbia on the ruins of the former Yugoslav state amidst genocides, sanctions and economic collapse, a non-violent popular uprising drove him from power in 2000.

The Serbian revolution inspired several emulators elsewhere and Milošević faced charges of genocide and war crimes at an international tribunal in The Hague (he died in 2006). However, there was never a full purge of the state apparatus, and by gradual erosion the Serbian state had fallen back into the hands of ultra-nationalist populists by 2012.

That is the regime that was driven from power last month by student-led non-violent protests, and we should hope that this time the revolutionaries can hang on to their victory. They are certainly aware of the danger, which is why they insist on collective decision-making and shun charismatic 'leadership'. Yet their own history is against them.

Serbia is the most nationalist country I have ever spent time in. It is belligerent, chip-on-the-shoulder, everybody-hates-us-and-we-don't-care nationalism, and the great majority of the people you meet are affected by it to one degree or another. Many Serbs are aware that these attitudes play straight into the hands of the populists, but old habits are hard to break.

Almost all Serbians have a soft spot for Russia, because it often came to their rescue in the country's long struggle to break free from the Ottoman empire. Fewer than half are interested in joining the European Union. Almost nobody accepts that Kosovo, an Albanian-majority fragment of former Yugoslavia, is an independent country and not part of Serbia.

For that matter, almost no one in Serbia admits that their country was responsible for state-sponsored massacres in Croatia, Bosnia and Kosovo that far exceeded the scale of other ethnic killing in the accursed decade of the 1990s. All this makes it very hard for Serbia to take its rightful place as just another Balkan country with a troubled history.

This does not mean that Serbia is doomed to slide back into tyranny again, or even that it must change its attitudes to fit in with the rest of Europe. Every country carries a lot of history around with it, and many (maybe most) prosper without ever coming to terms with it.

Just don't take the success or failure of democracy in Serbia as a harbinger for anybody else's future.

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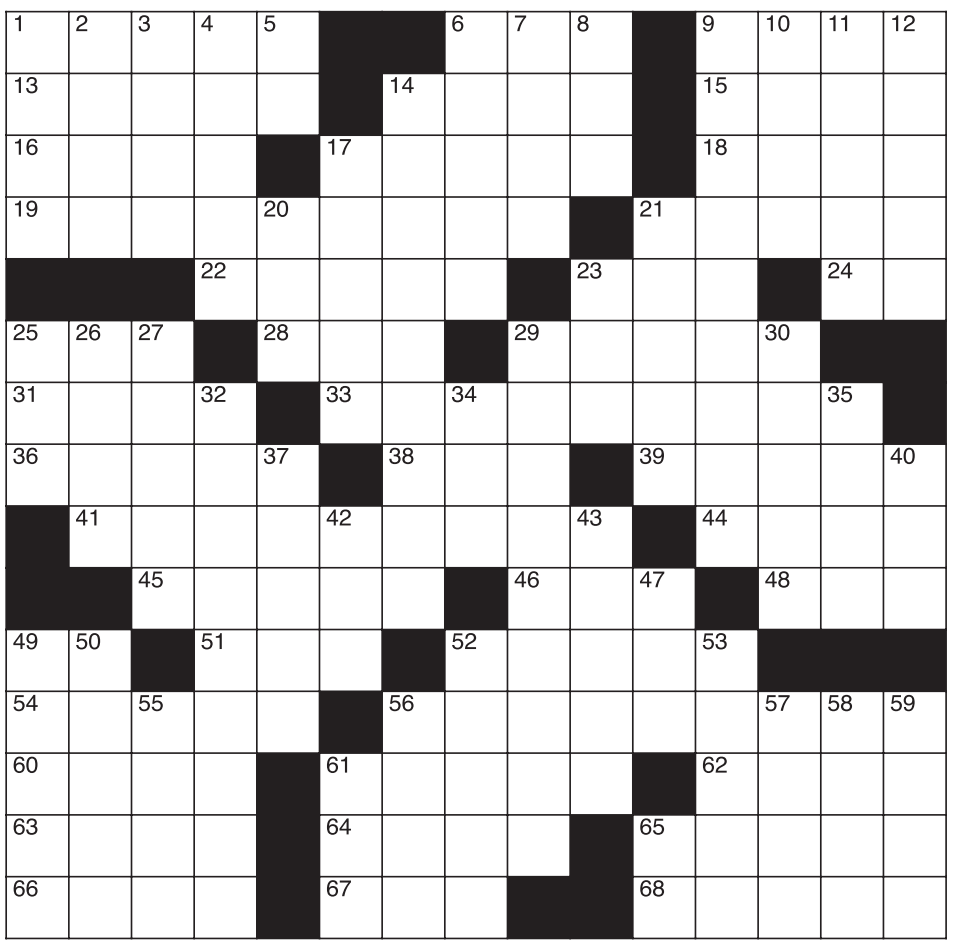


CLUES ACROSS

1. Bleated
6. Snake-like fish
9. Database management system
13. Benny Goodman trumpeter
14. Foo Fighters frontman Grohl
15. Ancient Greek City
16. Negatives
17. Rescued
18. Self-immolation by fire ritual
19. Assigns tasks
21. Former Mavs principal owner Mark
22. Discounts
23. The whole quantity
24. NY Giants great
25. Indicates before
28. Split pulses
29. Extremely angry
31. Body part
33. American state
36. David __, US playwright
38. Head motion
39. Private rendezvous
41. Improved
44. Urban gym
45. Astronomical period
46. Automobile
48. Target
49. A radio band
51. Jaws of a voracious animal
52. Short-billed rails
54. Chinese province
56. Shameless
60. Horizontal passage
61. Indian titles of respect
62. Fail to entertain
63. Dried-up
64. Central Utah city
65. Southern U.S.
66. German river
67. Invisible substance around the Earth
68. Make law

CLUES DOWN

1. Curved segment
2. Wings
3. Volatile liquid
4. Makes less severe
5. Domain name
6. Overhang
7. Days right before an occasion
8. Light bulb type
9. Lacking enthusiasm
10. Tattle
11. Some is "heavy"
12. One recognized as holy
14. Indicate where and when
17. Peace (Arabic)
20. The voice of "Olaf" Josh
21. Fragmented rock
23. They __
25. Master's in nature of knowledge
26. Backside
27. "The Indiana Jones of beer"
29. Failure to conform to good taste
30. Words from which later words are derived
32. 10 meters
34. Neither
35. Little-used computer language
37. Law of God in Hebrew scriptures
40. A woolen cap of Scottish origin
42. Solemn promise
43. Challenges
47. British Air Aces
49. Major financial institution
50. Served as an omen
52. Cavalry-sword
53. Vaccine developer
55. Belgian Dominican friar
56. CBS news bigwig Weiss
57. Hip joint
58. Musician Clapton
59. Insect repellent
61. Constrictor snake
65. Delaware

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

Simcoe County seeking residents to serve on committees and boards

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

The County of Simcoe is seeking residents who are interested in serving as citizen appointees on committees and boards.

These volunteer governance roles provide the county with valuable public input on accessibility, planning, and airport operations, and will help shape services and policy decisions across the region.

Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee

Responsibilities include:

• Advise county council on the implementation of Accessibility Standards

• Advise on accessibility issues in municipal facilities

• Identify and remove barriers

• Improve opportunities for people with disabilities

Ideal candidates are residents with lived experience of accessibility barriers, experience supporting accessibility initiatives, or a strong interest in creating inclusive communities.

Preference will be given to applicants with firsthand experience of accessibility challenges.

Planning Advisory Committee

Responsibilities include:

• Review Official Plan matters

• Provide comments on Official Plan Amendments

• Evaluate provincial land use planning changes

• Support long-term community planning initiatives

Ideal candidates are residents with knowledge, experience, or an interest in land use planning, community development, environmental stewardship, housing, transportation, or municipal affairs.

Lake Simcoe Regional Airport Board

Responsibilities include:

• Provide governance oversight

• Support strategic planning

• Oversee operational priorities

• Contribute to the continued growth of the airport

Ideal candidates are residents with experience or interest in aviation, business, finance, governance, economic development, infrastructure, transportation, or strategic planning.

Individuals who can provide a community perspective while supporting the airport's long-term success are encouraged to apply.

All appointments are a four-year term commencing in 2027.

Meetings are generally held during regular business hours. Meetings may be held in person or electronically.

Citizen appointees will be compensated in accordance with approved County policy.

All applicants must reside within the County of Simcoe.

To apply, applicants should submit a resume and cover letter outlining their experience and preferred committee or board, as well as their relevant qualifications, to the County Clerk before 5 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 30.

The county clerk's office can be reached by email at clerks@simcoe.ca or in person at 1110 Highway 26, Midhurst.

Angus man charged with impaired driving following unrelated traffic stop

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

An impaired driver is facing multiple charges after a traffic stop by the Nottawasaga OPP in Angus.

At approximately 9 p.m. on Nov. 18, an officer conducting general patrol on Mill Street in Angus observed a vehicle travelling without its headlights illuminated.

The officer positioned their cruiser behind the vehicle and activated the emergency lighting system to initiate a traffic stop.

The driver appeared unaware of the police presence and continued driving. The driver turned onto Pine River Road and proceeded through a red traffic signal without stopping.

The vehicle subsequently entered a nearby parking lot where officers spoke with the driver.

As a result of the interaction, an impaired driving investigation was started.

Following the investigation, the driver, Devin Eveleigh, 38, of Angus, was arrested and charged under the Criminal Code and Highway Traffic Act with:

• Operation While Impaired - Alcohol

• Operation While Impaired – Blood Alcohol Concentration (80 plus)

• Red Light – Fail to Stop

• Drive Without Proper Headlights – Motor Vehicle

• Fail to Surrender Insurance Card

The accused was issued a 90-day Administrative Driver's License Suspension, and the involved vehicle was impounded for seven days.

The accused is scheduled to appear before the Ontario Court of Justice in Bradford at a future date to answer to the charges.

The charges have not been proven in court.



PUBLIC NOTICE / AVIS PUBLIC

PROPOSED TELECOMMUNICATION TOWER / PROPOSITION DE TOUR DE TÉLÉCOMMUNICATION

112505 11th Line, East Garafraxa, ON L9W 7A7

November 26th, 2026

SUBJECT:

- Type: 105m guyed tower / tour haubanee
- Location/ Adresse: 112505 11th Line, East Garafraxa, ON
- Coordinates/ Coordonnés: 43.863063, -80.321516
- Legal Description / Description légale: PT LT 19, CON 12, PT 2, 7R4852; EAST GARAFRAXA; CONSENT OF THE COUNCILOF THE TOWNSHIP OF EAST GARAFRAXA ATTACHED TO LTD31729
- Facility/ Installation: The facility will comprise a proposed 15m x 15m compound. /L'installation comprendra un complexe proposé de 15m x 15m.
- Site: The structure will accommodate initial and future loading for all cellular providers, and additional fixed wireless equipment as required. / La structure peut accueillir le chargement initial et futur de tous les fournisseurs de services cellulaires, ainsi que de l'équipement supplémentaire sans fil fixe, au besoin.

Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISEDC) is the governing body for this type of installation and can be contacted at: / Innovation, Sciences et Développement économique Canada (ISDE) est l'organisme directeur de ce type d'installation et peut être contacté à l'adresse suivante:

ISEDC – Southwestern Ontario District Office
4475 North Service Road, Suite 100, Burlington, ON L7L 4X7
Tel: 1-855-465-6307
Fax: 905-639-6551
Email: SpectrumSWODO-SpectreBDSOO@ised-isde.gc.ca

A Public Information Meeting will be hosted online on **Monday, January 4th, 2027,** at **6:30 PM – 8:30 PM.** We ask any person wishing to attend the online meeting, please contact municipal@slitowers.ca with your name, email, and phone number to register and obtain link or phone number for the meeting. Registrations must be done by **12:00 PM** on **Monday, January 4th, 2027**, referencing the file number **TOW0173**. /Une réunion d'information publique sera organisée en ligne **le 4 janvier 2027,** de 18h30 à 20h30. Nous demandons à toute personne souhaitant assister à la réunion en ligne de contacter municipal@slitowers.ca avec votre nom, votre courriel et votre numéro de téléphone pour vous inscrire et obtenir un lien ou un numéro de téléphone. numéro pour la réunion. Les inscriptions doivent être effectuées avant **12h00 lundi 4 janvier 2027**, en faisant référence au numéro de dossier **TOW0173**.

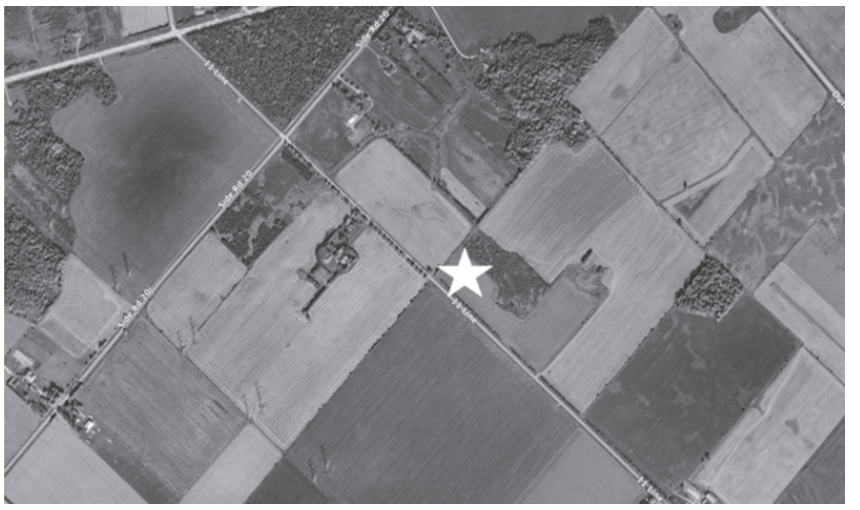
ANY PERSON may make a written submission to the individuals listed below no later than 5pm (ET) on **Tuesday, January 5th, 2027**. Please reference the site code **TOW0173** in your correspondence. / **TOUTE PERSONNE** peut faire une soumission écrite aux personnes mentionnées ci-dessous au plus tard à 17:00 le **mardi 5 janvier 2027**. Veuillez indiquer le code de référence du site, **TOW0173** dans votre correspondance.

APPLICANT CONTACT / CONTACT DU DEMANDEUR
SLI Towers Inc.
146 Thirtieth Street, Suite 100, Etobicoke, ON, M8W 3C4
T: (437) 425-3982
E: municipal@slitowers.ca

MUNICIPAL CONTACT / CONTACT MUNICIPAL
Town of East Garafraxa
065371 Dufferin County Road 3, Unit 2, East Garafraxa, ON L9W 7J8
T: 226-259-9400
E: planning@eastgarafraxa.ca

CONSULTANT CONTACT / CONTACT DU CONSULTANT
Jennifer Maestre, MCIP RPP | Fotenn Planning + Design
T: 416.789.4530, ext.116
E: jmaestre@eastgarafraxa.ca

SITE LOCATION MAP



Tower location shown with star / Emplacement de la tour indiqué par l'étoile

Step one: Find out if your backyard can hold a second home

Take a look at your backyard. It's where you rake leaves every fall and cut the grass all summer. For a lot of us, it has quietly turned into storage: the winter tires, the old trampoline, the shed nobody has opened since spring.

That same patch of ground could do a lot more. It could give an aging parent a place of their own, a few steps from your back door. It could give a grown son or daughter a real start. And it could bring in rent.

About one in three homeowners in New Tecumseth has no mortgage at all, according to the 2021 census. The typical owner's monthly housing cost that year, including mortgage, taxes and utilities, was $1,740.

Today, a one-bedroom around Alliston rents for roughly $1,500 to $2,000. For many owners who bought years ago, the rent from a small unit out back could cover most or even all of the monthly payment. For newer buyers, it can carry a good share of it. The town itself lists "rental income to help homeowners pay their mortgage" as one of the benefits.

This picks up from last week's piece on the four steps, and I'll keep it simple. But first, know this: you're not swimming against the current. Ottawa, Queen's Park, the County of Simcoe and the Town of New Tecumseth have all spent the past few years making this easier.

What has changed

No development fees: Ontario law now exempts one backyard unit beside an existing house from development charges. Those charges are normally paid on every new home, so this is a real saving.

Use the services you already have: In many cases, the new unit can be connected to your house's existing water and sewer lines instead of a brand-new service from the street.

Easier parking rules: The town asks for just one extra space for the first unit, and it can be in tandem: one car parked behind another in your driveway.

A forgivable loan: The County of Simcoe's Secondary Suites Program offers up to $50,000, forgiven over 15 years. Conditions apply, and I'll cover them in the next part.

Refinancing: Since January 2025, federal rules let homeowners refinance their mortgage, with mortgage insurance, for up to 90 per cent of the home's value, including the value the new unit adds, to help pay for building it. Conditions apply here too.

Tax help for family: If the unit is for a parent or grandparent 65 or older, or an adult family member with a disability, the federal Multigenerational Home Renovation Tax Credit can give back up to about $7,000 of the building cost at tax time. Conditions apply.

Added value: A legal, permitted unit is on the record, which is why a lender can count it, and it generally adds value to your property.

Step one, part A: Is it allowed?

Here's a quick gut check. If your house is on a town street in Alliston, Beeton or Tottenham, with neighbours on either side and town water and sewer, the odds are good that your zoning allows a backyard unit.

To be sure, open the New Tecumseth Interactive Map from the "Schedules & Maps" page at newtecumseth.ca, turn on the map setting called Zoning2025, and type in your address. If the map is slow or confusing, the town's planning staff will confirm your zoning by email at planning@newtecumseth.ca.

Rural and farm properties, and land near creeks and wetlands, can have their own rules, so check with the town first.

Step one, part B: Is there room?

Now the walk-off test. All you need is a tape measure, a few stakes and your survey, the lot drawing you likely got when you bought the house.

1. Stand at the back wall of the house, take four or five long strides out, about four metres or 13 feet, and mark the spot.

2. From your rear and side property lines, measure in about 1.2 metres, roughly four feet, and mark those too. Your survey shows where the lines are; fences aren't always on them.

3. Join the marks. The space in the middle is roughly where a backyard home could go.



TINY HOMES – Backyard structures, such as the one pictured here, can be built on many lots within New Tecumseth.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

How big can it be? Up to half the floor area of your house, to a set maximum, and never taller than the house itself.

A few last words of caution: watch for buried lines, easements (strips of land a utility or neighbour has a right to use), trees and drainage. This is a Saturday-afternoon check, not a permit, and the town's planning department can confirm the details before you apply.

In the next part, I'll walk through what to keep in mind along the way, including those loan conditions, and the steps that take you from an idea to a finished backyard home. Stay tuned.

Questions? Leave a comment on the online version of this article at newtectimes.com, or email me at hello@simcoegardensuites.ca

This op-ed was written by Ben Heydarzadeh, a resident of Alliston and founder of the Simcoe Garden Suites startup, working on feasibility, technology and design for backyard homes across South Simcoe.

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Arts & Local Events









CHRISTMAS TRADITION – The streets of Alliston were illuminated during the Alliston Night-Lit Santa Claus parade on Saturday, Nov. 21. Sponsored by the New Tecumseth Rotary Club, the parade made its way down Victoria Street to King Street, then along Young Street. Everything in the parade was decorated with Christmas lights to be a part of this holiday tradition. Santa Claus made an appearance, much to the delight of many children along the parade route.

BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTOS







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CMHA's Giving Tuesday expands mental health support for local youth

BY BROCK WEIR

This Tuesday, Dec. 1, marks Giving Tuesday, an opportunity for individuals to support the causes close to their hearts wherever they can – and the Canadian Mental Health Association of York Region and South Simcoe (CMHA-YRSS) remains front of mind for local insurance agent George Rappos.

Rappos, an agent with Desdjardins, is once again marking Giving Tuesday by matching donations made to the CMHA-YRSS on December 1 up to $5,000. Rappos' contribution is coupled with a further anonymous donation of $5,000 to the organization.

"Youth in our community are telling us they are feeling stressed and worried about their futures," says Andrew Chung, CEO of the CMHA-YRSS. "And the data tells the same story: more than half of Ontario's students struggle with depression and anxiety, yet one in three said they didn't seek help. That's why this Giving Tuesday matters. When you give locally, you're joining George and our anonymous donor in helping ensure that youth in our neighbourhoods can access mental health support close to come."

According to the CMHA-YRSS, the Giving Tuesday campaign, "Insuring Our Future," has raised more than $100,000 for youth mental health since its inception, all through community donations.

"I'm a firm believer that good youth mental health is essential to building a viable future economy," says Rappos. "As a father of two children and a former coach of youth sports, I have had a front row seat to how challenging it can be for youth to access mental health support. This Giving Tuesday, I am matching up to $5,000 of donations, because I know the youth in our community are counting on us."

If you are interested in donating, the link will go live Friday at: justgiving.com/campaign/cmhagivingtuesday2026

Simcoe Paramedic Services holds annual Commencement and Honours Ceremony

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

County of Simcoe Paramedic Services celebrated the dedication, professionalism and achievements of its team members during its annual Commencement and Honours Ceremony, recognizing new graduates, career advancements and exceptional service to the community.

The event was held at the Heights of Horseshoe in Oro-Medonte on Thursday, Nov. 19.

"This annual ceremony celebrates the dedicated individuals who have chosen to build their careers with County of Simcoe Paramedic Services", said Jane Sinclair, commissioner, health and emergency services. "Whether they are starting their journey, taking on new responsibilities, or being recognized for exceptional service, each honouree has made a tremendous impact through their commitment, professionalism, and compassion."

The ceremony honoured 29 graduates who successfully completed their paramedic training and have begun their careers serving communities across South Simcoe. This achievement marks the culmination of months of rigorous education, hands-on training, and commitment to providing high-quality emergency medical care.

In addition, seven team members were recognized for career advancements, reflecting their continued growth as leaders and professionals within the service.

The event also celebrated the recipients of the Chief's Commendation Award. This award was presented to six individuals whose actions exemplified outstanding dedication, professionalism and commitment to patient care.

These team members were recognized for going above and beyond in service to residents and visitors throughout the region.

A highlight of the ceremony was the presentation of the Legacy Award to Dave Anspach for his enduring contributions and the lasting impact he has made on the profession, the services, and the residents he has and continues to care for.

The Commencement and Honours Ceremony brings together colleagues, family members, friends, and service leaders to recognize the achievements of paramedics and staff whose dedication helps ensure residents receive exceptional care when they need it most.



CEREMONIAL CELEBRATIONS – County of Simcoe Paramedic Services celebrated the dedication and achievements of its team members during its annual Commencement and Honours Ceremony held at the Heights of Horseshoe in Oro-Medonte on Thursday, Nov. 19.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Students shine at annual Christmas recital

Alliston's Rising Star Music Academy held their annual Christmas recital on Saturday at the Alliston Christian Reformed Church. This year we had a number of students performing for their first time at a recital, and we were all thrilled to see them shine!


Ryker studies with teacher Randi


Annie with teacher Alyssa


Samuel studies with teacher John


Logan studies with student teacher Ava

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email RSMAAlliston@gmail.com
website www.risingstartmusicacademy.ca

PHOTOS BY TARA GILES


Cara with teacher Sarah


Hannah with student teacher Samantha


Bethany studies with teacher Dustin



Simcoe County Museum completes new bench seating program

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

Visitors to the Simcoe County Museum's Warbler Way Trail now have more opportunities to rest and connect to nature thanks to the completion of the Simcoe County Bench Seating Program.

Inspired by the County's Positive Aging Strategy, the project was supported through funding from the Province of Ontario's Enhancing Access to Spaces for Everyone (EASE) Grant.

Twenty benches have been added throughout Warbler Way, helping visitors spend more time outdoors while enjoying the trail at their own pace.

Seven of the benches are located along the accessible loop and feature concrete pads to better support wheelchair access. New trailhead and wayfinding signage also helps visitors find seating areas, navigate, and choose a route that works best for their comfort and mobility needs.

These new benches and accessibility improvements along the Warbler Way Trail make it easier for residents and visitors of varying abilities to enjoy the outdoors," said Simcoe County Chair Don McIsaac. "We are grateful to the Province of Ontario for its support through the EASE Grant and to everyone who helped make this project possible."

A group of residents from Georgian Village visited the trail recently to experience the new amenities firsthand. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive, highlighting the value of accessible rest areas and the opportunity to safely enjoy nature and outdoor recreation.

"By investing in accessible and inclusive outdoor spaces, our government is helping more Ontarians stay active, connected, and engaged in their communities," said Raymond Cho, provincial minister for seniors and accessibility. "The new accessibility enhancements along Warbler Way will make it easier for seniors and people of all abilities to enjoy nature, and I commend the County of Simcoe for its leadership in creating a more age-friendly community."

The Bench Seating Program supports the County's commitment to creating age-friendly communities and aligns with the recommendations from the World Health Organization's Age-Friendly Communities framework, which identifies accessible outdoor spaces as a key factor in supporting healthy and active aging.



ON THE PATH – The Simcoe County Museum has completed its new bench seating program on one of its trails. Warblers Way has receive d 27 new benches that will allow v sitors to rest and complete the trail at their own pace.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

County of Simcoe's bi-weekly yard waste and leaf collection available for two more weeks

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

If you are still raking the fall leaves and removing clutter and yard waste from your garden, there is still time to make sure you can dispose of all that yard waste properly.

The County of Simcoe's bi-weekly curbside Leaf and Yard Waste Collection Program will continue until Dec. 11. Each household gets five bi-weekly collections that began in October.

Waste collection may occur on any day of the week, so residents are asked to leave leaf and yard waste at the curb until it is collected. Accepted materials include leaves, grass clippings, garden waste, and brush.

Please note that brush must be bundled and tied with natural twine and be no more than 2m in length and 30 cm in diameter.

For yard waste, use kraft paper yard waste bags, cardboard boxes, or open-ended rigid containers. Place them curbside, and they will be picked up on a scheduled route.



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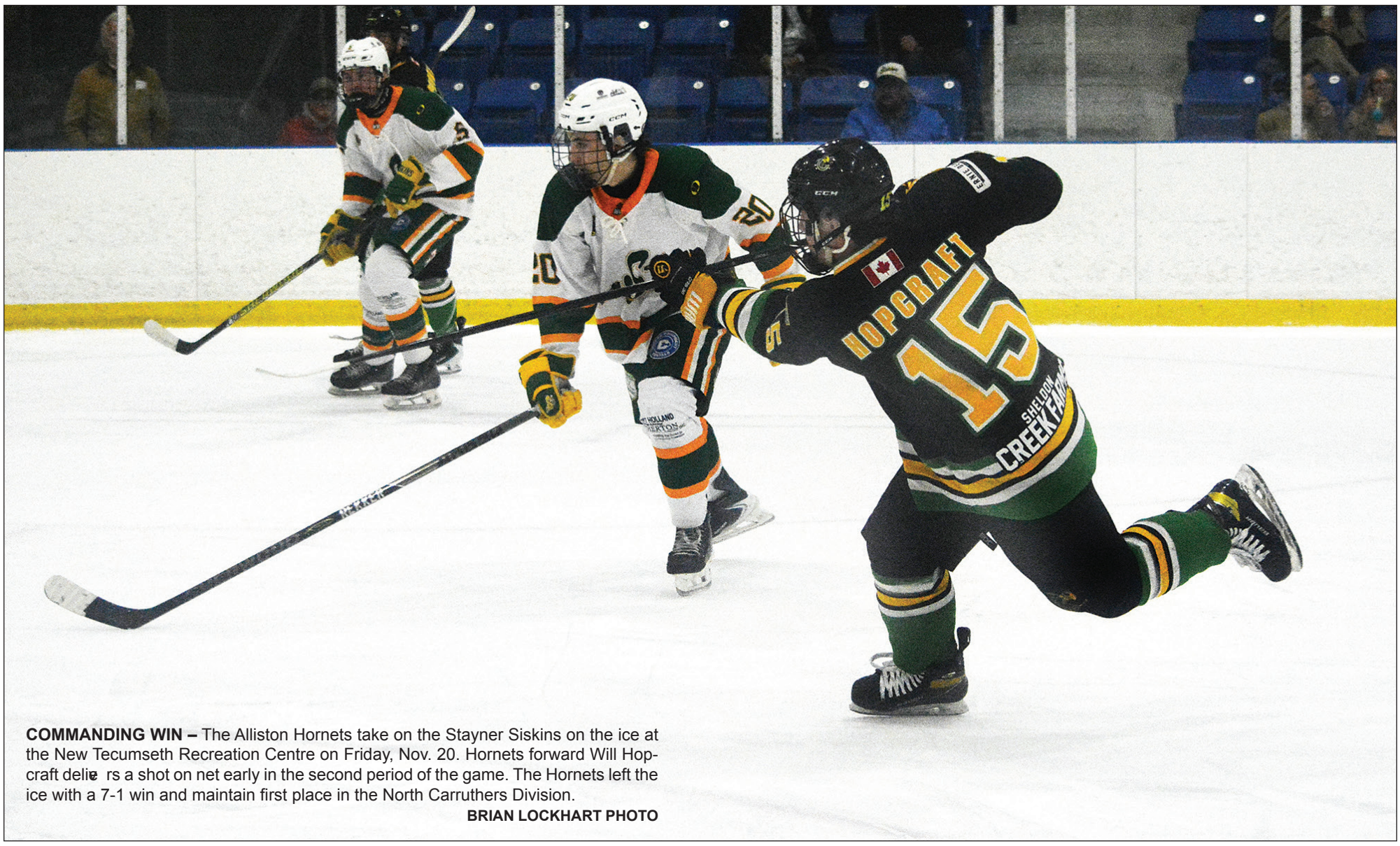

COMMANDING WIN – The Alliston Hornets take on the Stayner Siskins on the ice at the New Tecumseth Recreation Centre on Friday, Nov. 20. Hornets forward Will Hopcraft delivers a shot on net early in the second period of the game. The Hornets left the ice with a 7-1 win and maintain first place in the North Carruthers Division.
BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

Hornets deliver 7-1 win over Stayer in Friday home game

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BY BRIAN LOCKHART

The Alliston Hornets delivered a solid performance in their home game against the Stayner Siskins at the New Tecumseth Recreation Centre in Alliston on Friday, Nov. 20.

The Hornets are currently in first place in the North Carruthers Division of the Provincial Junior Hockey League and have beaten every other team in the division this season.

Friday's game had a powerhouse opening for the Hornets when they scored three unanswered goals in the first period.

Hornets goals came from Duncan Grube, Tyler Jacome-Schutz, and Noah Prokopec.

It was a repeat performance in the second frame when the Alliston team came out hard and didn't let up on the pressure they placed on the Siskins defence.

Gunner Kirk scored at 7:32 into the period.

That was followed by another Alliston goal from Avery McNamara just under five minutes later.

Grube got his second of the night to make it a 5-0 Alliston game with one period left to play.

Stayner got their only goal of the game in the second period.

Prokopec got his second goal of the game early in the third period.

Alliston's Nolan Caruso capped off the night with a final Alliston goal to give the Hornets a 7-1 win.

The Hornets are now on a five-game winning streak.

"We have a 100 per cent buy-in, up and down the line-up. Everyone's bought into the system; we're all working our hardest. I think we are just out-working them in our games right now," summed up Hornets forward Duncan Grube of the team's current success. "We try to do the same thing every game. You don't want to take another team lightly. You don't want to come in too high, and you don't want to come in too low. We come to every game feeling the same way, with the same mentality and the same focus, we play really well."

Grube said the plan is to always come out and play hard from the get-go.

"In every game, you want to come out and have a good first period, and direct the pace of play. We had a good warm-up as a team. The team is a good group of guys."

The Hornets are in first place in the division with 30 points and a 15-2 record.

They are followed by the Penetang Kings with 28 points and a 14-5 record.

The Orillia Terries are in third place, followed by the Stayner Siskins and the Muskoka Bears.

The Hornets will return to home ice at the New Tecumseth Recreation Centre on Friday, Nov. 27, when they will host the Midland Flyers.

Game time is 7:30 p.m.



TIED GAME – The TNT Tornados U13 LL team take on the Barrie Colts Select team at the New Tecumseth Recreation Centre on Friday, Nov. 20. The game ended in a 3-3 tie.

BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

Procyon Wildlife online auction raises funds to help animals in the community

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

Procyon Wildlife is a wildlife rehabilitation centre in Beeton that works tirelessly to rescue, rehabilitate, and release injured, orphaned, and distressed wildlife so they can return to their natural habitat.

The facility operates largely on donations from private individuals and businesses who care about helping animals.

Procyon Wildlife is currently hosting an online fundraising auction to help them raise funds to continue their valuable work.

The funds raised through this auction go directly towards caring for the hundreds of wild animals that come to the shelter every year. Funds provide food, medication, medical supplies, equipment, and the specialized care the animals need to recover, and whenever possible, to be returned to their wild and natural habitat.

The shelter's work depends heavily on community support, donations, and the dedication of volunteers.

The auction is currently live online and will close on Sunday, Nov. 29, at 8 p.m.

You can visit the auction and bid online by visiting: procyonwildlife.com/auction2026

Contribution sto Procyon Wildlife enable its valuable work helping local wildlife.



CARING FOR LOCAL CRITTERS – Procyon Wildlife is currently hosting an online auction to raise funds for its valuable work. The auction is open until Sunday, Nov. 29, and will help the Beeton-based wildlife rehabilitation shelter pay for food, medication, medical supplies, and equipment.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



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South Simcoe Police charge three teens in connection to armed home invasion

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

South Simcoe Police responded to a home invasion at a residence in the area of Orchard Avenue and Mapleview Drive in Innisfil on April 4.

Shortly before the incident, three suspects armed with firearms approached the residence and remained outside the home before forcing entry.

During a confrontation with the homeowner, one of the suspects discharged a firearm in the direction of the homeowner. The homeowner was not injured.

The suspects fled the area in a vehicle that had been parked a short distance from the residence.

Investigators quickly identified links between this occurrence and several ongoing investigations being conducted by the Barrie Police Service.

Following a joint investigation by the South Simcoe Police Service Crimes Against Persons Unit, with assistance from the Barrie Police Service High Harm Unit and Investigative Services Unit, South Simcoe Police laid 45 criminal charges against the three accused.

On Nov. 20, one accused had been arrested, a second accused remained in custody on unrelated matters pending arrest, and a warrant has been issued for the arrest of a third accused.

The third accused was arrested by members of the South Simcoe Police Service Criminal Investigative Services Unit on Nov. 24.

Police charged two 17-year-old males and one 19 -year-old male, all of Barrie, each with the following offences:

- Break and Enter a Dwelling House to Commit an Indictable Offence
- Use of a Firearm While Committing an Offence
- Careless Use of a Firearm
- Pointing a Firearm
- Discharging a Firearm with Intent to Wound
- Knowledge of Unauthorized Possession of a Firearm
- Unauthorized Possession of a Firearm
- Occupying a Motor Vehicle Knowing There Was a Firearm Present
- Possession of a Prohibited or Restricted Firearm with Ammunition
- Possession of a Weapon for a Dangerous Purpose
- Disguise with Intent
- Trespassing at Night
- Three Counts of Criminal Harassment

The charges have not been proven in court.

South Simcoe Police Service announces appointment of Chris Landry as its new chief of police

The Bradford West Gwillimbury/Innisfil Police Service Board is pleased to announce the appointment of Chris Landry as the next Chief of Police for the South Simcoe Police Service (SSPS), effective Jan. 29, 2027.

Chief of Police Designate Landry currently serves as deputy chief of police and brings more than 32 years of progressive policing experience, including an extensive career with the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP).

A respected, people-centred leader, he brings a wealth of operational experience, strategic leadership and a demonstrated commitment to organizational excellence, member well-being and community safety.

Since joining the SSPS in April 2025, Chief Designate Landry has become an integral member of the Senior Leadership Team, contributing to organizational priorities and supporting the service's commitment to delivering professional, responsive and community-focused policing.

"On behalf of the Police Service Board, I am pleased to congratulate Chris Landry on his appointment as Chief of Police. Chris is a highly respected leader who brings a strong combination of operational expertise, sound judgment and a genuine commitment to the members of the service and the communities he serves," said Chris Gariepy, chair of the Bradford West Gwillimbury/Innisfil Police Service Board.

"His vision for the future, with a focus on supporting our members, strengthening community relationships and advancing the organization, aligns with the Board's priorities and expectations. The Board has complete confidence in his ability to lead the South Simcoe Police Service into its next chapter, and I am excited to work alongside him as we continue to build on the service's strong foundation and commitment to public safety," Gariepy added.

Chief Designate Landry began his policing career with the OPP in 1994, holding progressively senior leadership roles in frontline operations, criminal investigations and specialized enforcement. Prior to joining the SSPS, he served as detective superintendent for the OPP's Organized Crime Enforcement Bureau. During that time he oversaw more than 300 uniform and civilian members.

He holds a Bachelor of Arts in Crime and Deviance from the University of Toronto and brings extensive operational experience, strategic leadership and a strong commitment to supporting members and community safety.

A resident of Bradford West Gwillimbury, where he lives with his wife and two daughters, Chief Designate Landry has a personal connection to the communities he serves and a vested interest in their continued safety and well-being.

"I am truly honoured and proud to be appointed Chief of Police for the South Simcoe Police Service. I recognize the responsibility and privilege that comes with this role, and I am committed to leading with integrity, transparency, accountability, and respect," said Landry.

"Our greatest strength is our people, and I believe that supporting, empowering, and investing in our members is fundamental to delivering the exceptional policing our communities deserve. Together, we will continue to modernize and build a police service that our members are proud to serve, and our communities are proud to call their own."

Landry added, "I look forward to working alongside our dedicated members, community partners, and residents as we build on our strengths and move forward together."

Chief Designate Landry succeeds Chief of Police John Van Dyke, whose last day with the SSPS will be Dec. 22, 2026. Chief Van Dyke's official retirement date is Jan. 29, 2027.

The Police Service Board extends its sincere appreciation to Chief Van Dyke for his dedicated leadership and service to the organization and the communities of Bradford West Gwillimbury and Innisfil.

Throughout his tenure, Chief Van Dyke has demonstrated a dedicated commitment to public safety, the well-being of members and strengthening community and public trust. The Board thanks him for his contributions and wishes him every success, happiness and fulfillment in his retirement.

Additional details regarding a formal swearing-in ceremony for Chief of Police Designate Landry will be announced at a later date.



NEW CHIEF – Chris Landry of Bradford West-Gwillimbury has been named the new chief of the South Simcoe Police Serv ce, effectiv a n. 29, 2027. **BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO**

The Bradford West Gwillimbury/Innisfil Police Service Board will begin the process of recruiting a new Deputy Chief of Police.

The Bradford West Gwillimbury/Innisfil Police Service Board is the civilian body governing the South Simcoe Police Service.

The Board is regulated by the Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019 which oversees law enforcement and public safety in Ontario with a commitment to transparent and effective governance.

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Longo family makes $1 million contribution to Southlake Health

BY BROCK WEIR

Clinical trials carried out in Southlake Health's oncology department got a significant financial boost this month with a $1 million gift to the local hospital from the Longo Family Foundation.

On Monday, Southlake Health announced it had received the foundation's grant on November 9, representing the largest philanthropic gift yet from the Foundation to the Newmarket-based hospital.

The gift supports Southlake's HERE is Where Cancer Meets its Match capital campaign, with a specific focus on equipping the hospital with the tools it needs to offer the best cancer care possible close to home.

"Of specific focus for the Longo Family Foundation is next-generation genetic sequencing to deliver even more personalized and precise treatment, and enabling access to clinical trials for patients close to home," said Southlake on the donation and dedication of the Longo Family Foundation Clinical Trials Program in Oncology.

"The communities served by Southlake are the same communities our customers, team members, and their families call home," said Rosanne Longo, Chair of the Longo Family Foundation. "We believe everyone deserves access to exceptional healthcare close to where they live, and we're proud to support Southlake as it continues to advance leading edge cancer care for patients and families. This gift reflects our enduring commitment to the health and wellbeing of the communities that have supported our family for so many years."

The program's inauguration was attended by members of the Southlake and Foundation teams, including medical professionals who know firsthand the impact this donation will have on local healthcare.

"Every day, I have the privilege of caring for patients and families facing one of life's most difficult journeys, so I know firsthand the impact this meaningful gift will have on them," said Dr. Shaqil Kassam, Medical Oncologist at Southlake Health. "Expanding access to innovative treatments and clinical trials opens the door to new options and hope for patients. As a physician, I am deeply grateful for what this investment will mean for the patients and families who place their trust in us."

Added Charissa Cordon, Vice President of Cancer Care at Southlake Health: "Where a person lives should never determine the quality of care they receive. That's why Southlake's Regional Cancer Centre has always been committed to delivering compassionate, leading-edge cancer care close to home. We are deeply grateful to the Longo Family Foundation for this extraordinary gift that will expand access to world-class care and clinical trials while advancing cancer research, genomics and precision medicine. Together, these advances will help improve outcomes and bring the promise of tomorrow's cancer treatments closer to home for patients and families in our communities."

Clinical trials, added Dr. Luca Pisterzi, Director of Research, Innovation, and Clinical Scholarship at Southlake, are "how today's discoveries become tomorrow's standard of care."

"This remarkable investment from the Longo Family Foundation will expand access to oncology clinical trials, ensuring more patients benefit from some of the most promising advances in cancer treatment close to home," said Pisterzi.

Dr. Alisha Kassam, Physician Leader of the Regional Cancer Program, concurred, adding: "Clinical trials play an important role in advancing cancer care and expanding treatment options for patients. The Longo Family Foundation Clinical Trials Program in Oncology represents an important investment in building our capacity to offer patients access to innovative therapies and emerging treatment approaches closer to home, while contributing to the advancement of personalized cancer care."

OBITUARIES

FOREVER IN OUR *Hearts*



Steinmar: Rudi Fritz

Rudi Fritz Steinmar passed away peacefully on November 19, 2026, at Campbell House Hospice in Collingwood, at the age of 90, following a courageous battle with cancer for over six years. He was lovingly surrounded by his sons, Ingo and Andreas, at his side. Rudi is now reunited in heaven with his beloved wife, Edith Erna Steinmar, and his sisters, Hildegard and Edith. Loving father of Ingo (Millie) and Andreas. Cherished grandfather of Shaun (Michelle), Linda, Christopher, Kyle and Ryan, and proud great-grandfather of Lucas, Liam, William, Carson and Heidi. Rudi will be deeply missed and forever remembered by his nieces, nephews, extended family and many friends. He was a well-known and respected Mason of 58 years and will be deeply missed by many of his brethren and friends in the Craft.

Visitation will be held on Sunday, November 29, 2026, at Rod Abrams Funeral Home, 1666 Tottenham Road, Tottenham, 905-936-3477, from 1:00 p.m. until the time of the Funeral Service in the chapel at 2:00 p.m. A reception will follow in the Cliffside Hall. The family would like to thank Dr. Boyd and the staff and volunteers of Campbell House Hospice for the compassion and care of our Dad. In lieu of flowers, donations in Rudi's memory may be made to the Canadian Cancer Society or charity of your choice. Online condolences and memories may be shared with the family at www.RodAbramsFuneralHome.com.

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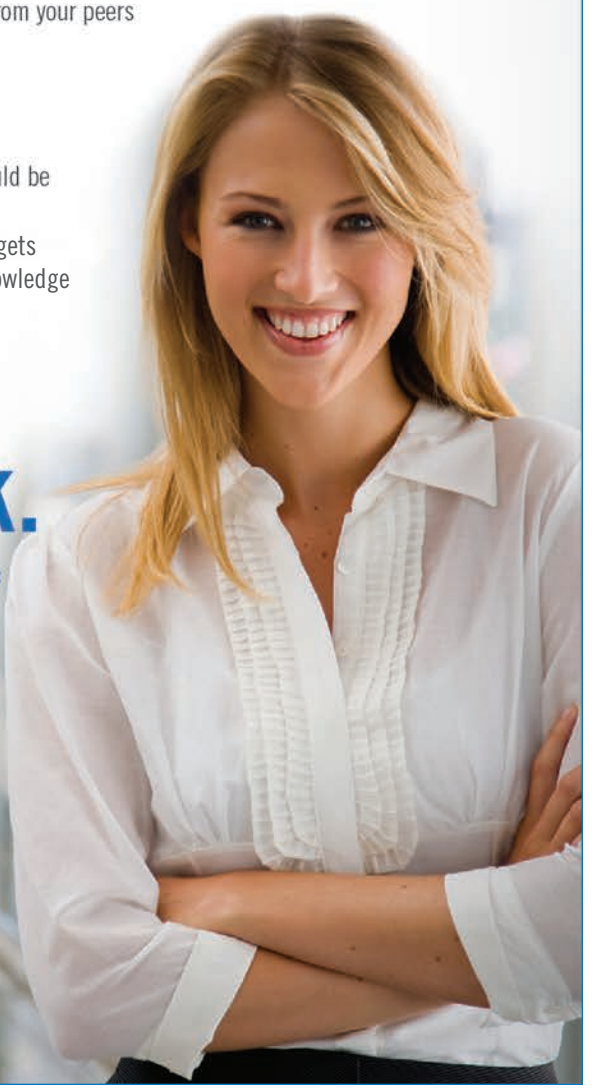

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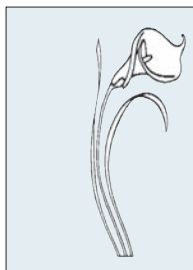

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Continued from Page 4

Brock's Banter: Black Friday palate cleansers

The best part of all these opportunities? The tactile experience of shopping and finding the product that is just right for you. If you get a great Black Friday deal on a cool-looking sweater, only to find upon arrival sleeves of wildly different lengths, a thread count not far removed from cheesecloth, and a return policy requiring you to send it back overseas at your expense, at a cost six-times higher than the shirt itself, thus negating any Black Friday deal…

Shopping local at this time of year, and supporting local businesses, entrepreneurs, and creatives, is a great way to ensure your purchasing power stays in the community, fostering another kind of circular economy.

Yet there are more ways still to ensure your purchasing power stays here at home.

Black Friday may be, for better or worse, an American import, but so too is Giving Tuesday. Something of a palate-cleanser, the movement began in New York City in 2012 as a "global generosity movement unleashing the power of people and organizations to transform their communities and the world."

It is here at the community level where we see the impact of Giving Tuesday – December 1 this year – really at work.

The Canadian Mental Health Association of York Region and South Simcoe, for instance, is encouraging people to consider their organization as a place to give, with each dollar received during this time dedicated to supporting and enhancing youth mental health programs.

Also on the health front, Southlake Health has focused their potential Giving Tuesday intake on advancing diagnostic imaging and intervention at the hospital, including X-ray machines, a CT scanner, ultrasound technology, interventional radiology equipment, fluoroscopy equipment, and bone mineral densitometry.

"Diagnostic imaging is often the first step on a patient's journey to a diagnosis, treatment plan, and recovery," says the Southlake Health Foundation. "Simply put: if we can't see it, we can't treat it. These technologies touch nearly every patient journey at Southlake, helping care teams diagnose sooner, intervene earlier, and provide leading edge care close to home.

"This giving Tuesday, help deliver something priceless: Answers. Treatment. Hope. Together, we can help more patients and families in our communities get the care they need, when they need it most."

Over at Headwaters Health Care, the Foundation is undoubtedly hoping this year's Giving Tuesday contributions exceed the community's record-busting efforts last year, with $143,882 raised on the day, with matching contributions bringing the total to $287,764. Remarkable!

Black Friday is here to stay, but if you have money burning a hole in your pocket at this time of year, take a moment to consider where it is best spent and what might keep your money working for you and those you love.

Southlake is right in that, "if we can't see it, we can't treat it." But, by the same token, if we can't see our dollars working locally, we can't reap the rewards.

A shirt bought online in this era of fast fashion might last two or three years, but the services we have the chance to support on Tuesday, December 1, can have an impact that is much longer-lasting.



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907 g



SALE

LIMITED TIME ONLY

11.99 Dill Pickle Cheddar Bombs
14 PIECES 294 g



SAVE $2

12.99 Cheesy Garlic Pull-apart Bread
510 g

EFFORTLESS COMFORT FOOD

5.99 each SALE

SOUPS
255 g - 400 mL
5 VARIETIES



SCAN TO VIEW MORE OFFERS

ALL PRICES IN EFFECT **THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 26** TO **WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2026** UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED.

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