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Saturday:
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Cloudy



Sunday:
Snow



Monday:
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Sunny Breaks

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The tree is ready, and decorations are in place at the Tottenham fire hall. The tree will be lit on Saturday, Nov. 29, at 4 p.m. after the Tottenham Santa Claus parade. There will be free hot chocolate, s'mores, live music, and a chance to meet Santa during the tree lighting. The event is free to attend and the public is encouraged to stop by.

BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

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Emergency funds needed to finish Beeton Springs reservoir project

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Additional funding will be required for the Beeton Springs Reservoir capital project due to unforeseen and necessary additions.

Funding was secured through the reallocation of surplus funds from a previous capital project that had been completed but not yet closed. Surplus funding amounted to \$33,419.00.

The original scope of work for the project was developed based on a previously completed visual condition assessment engineering report from May 2022, and completed by RJ Burnside & Associates. This work

included the replacement and repair of certain reservoir features to maintain and extend the facility's life.

These features included the access-hatch curbs, access-hatch hardware, and reservoir interior sealants.

Upon final approval of additional funding, MISCO Inspection Services was retained by the Town to complete the repairs.

Work started in August 2025.

Upon removal of the existing joint sealant, additional issues were found that need to be addressed to properly complete the interior reservoir works and comply with the manufacturer's application requirements.

Additional work completed includes:

- Crack injection for 50 linear feet of cracking in concrete walls. Upon removal of the existing joint sealant, cracks in the concrete were found and were actively leaking.

- Dewatering reservoir internal surfaces. Due to leaking cracks behind joint sealants and leaking isolation valves, additional dewatering was required to keep the floor of the reservoir clean and dry.

- Additional joint sealant linear lengths. Upon removal of the existing joint sealant, it was found that the estimated linear length of joint sealant noted in the original engineering report was underestimated.

- Additional lodging and meals for the con-

tractor. The project's original schedule has been extended, requiring the contractor to be on site for a longer period of time.

Alternate options were not considered due to:

- Beeton's reliance on the reservoir to provide a consistently safe water supply and pressure.

- Water distribution system operation risks of prolonged operation in bypass mode.

- Potential compliance issues if issues were not addressed.

- Increased costs for delaying contractors' schedules of other key engineering-related water distribution system and infrastructure projects.

Deputy mayor, councillor cleared of alleged conflict of interest in recent report

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

An Integrity Commissioner Report regarding a Municipal Conflict of Interest Act Application has cleared New Tecumseth Deputy Mayor Stephanie MacLellan and Ward 6 Councillor Nicole Cox of allegations regarding the contravening the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act related to voting on land use planning matters.

The report was presented at the Town Council meeting on Monday,

Nov. 17. On July 8, 2025, the Integrity Commissioner received an application requesting an inquiry to determine whether Deputy Mayor MacLellan and Councillor Cox, referred to as 'the members,' contravened the Act by participating in discussions and voting on matters in which they have an indirect pecuniary interest.

The application alleges that they have a pecuniary interest in land use planning matters affecting lands within the Town owned by a particular group of companies.

The allegations come from MacLel-

lan and Cox's involvement as members of a citizens group that was party to litigation involving a landowner.

The Integrity Commissioner Report states, "we have determined that the members did not have an indirect pecuniary interest in the matter considered by Council at its meeting on June 5, 2025, specifically the landowner's application for a part lot control exemption by-law. As such, we find the members did not contravene section 5 of MCIA."



CLEARED OF ANY WRONGDOING – New Tecumseth Ward 6 Councillor Nicole Cox (left) and Deputy Mayor Stephanie MacLellan (right) have been cleared of allegations of misconduct by the Town's integrity commissioner. **FILE PHOTOS**

Adjala-Tosorontio man charged with second-degree murder of 41-year-old woman

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Nottawasaga Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) officers have made an arrest in connection with an ongoing suspicious death investigation and continue to appeal to the public for information.

It was reported last week that officers were investigating a suspicious death in Adjala-Tosorontio. At the time, police said it was an isolated incident with no signs of a broader threat to the community.

Officers responded to a call for service at a residence on Sparrow Way in Colgan, near Tottenham, on Saturday, Nov. 15, at approximately 5:20 p.m.

A 41-year-old female was found deceased at the residence.

On Tuesday, Nov. 18, a man was arrested in connection to the incident.

Ranjit Cheema, 44, of Adjala-Tosorontio, was charged with second-degree murder, contrary to section 235(1) of the Criminal Code.

The investigation remains ongoing and is being conducted by the Nottawasaga OPP Crime Unit under the direction of the OPP Criminal Investigation Branch.

Investigators are urging anyone with further information, including video footage from the area around the time of the incident, to contact the Nottawasaga OPP at 1-888-310-1122 and reference incident number

E251547174.

Should you wish to remain anonymous, contact Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477

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Editorial, Letters & Opinion

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

~ Stanislaw Jerzy Lec

It's getting hot in here!

There is an old fable of sorts about a frog in boiling water that is meant as a warning for a person's inability to see, or lack of awareness, of a rising threat.

The frog is placed in a bowl of water that is heated over a long period of time. Because the temperature rises so slowly, the little amphibian doesn't realize how warm it is becoming.

It gets hotter and hotter, and when the water reaches a boiling point, it is too late. The frog dies without realizing the growing threat that ended its life.

Obviously, you can't take this moral fable all that seriously as a tale. Any normal frog would just hop out of the bowl when the water temperature became uncomfortable. He's a frog, not a snail, so animal rights activists don't have to worry about this.

However, the slow-moving threat is very real in our everyday lives, and citizens in this country are starting to respond.

Once again, the federal government is going after legal gun owners, banning more firearms and starting buy-back programs, while at the same time giving illegal gun owners a slap on the wrist for gun crimes.

Legal gun owners do not cause prob-

lems. Criminals with illegal guns do cause problems.

Just ask any police officer how he feels when called to an area where there is a possibility some thug has a pistol stuck in his waistband.

However, the courts and the federal government continually go after those who lawfully own guns and follow the laws regarding their use and storage.

If you think being disarmed isn't a big deal, do some research on 20th-century world history and see how many hundreds of millions of people were killed by world governments after disarming the population.

Democide, the murder of people by their own government, was the leading cause of unnatural death in the 20th century.

I could print some of that history here, but the list is too long.

The water is also getting a little too warm when it comes to free speech. Laws and more laws are being made around 'hate speech.'

Hate speech is difficult to define. What may be considered 'hateful' to some may be seen as just bad social form to someone else.

The fact that speech is being attacked

at all is the scary part. Imagine being charged and jailed for having the wrong opinion?

You can be charged, and rightfully so, for threatening someone; however, having a different opinion should never land someone behind bars.

I noticed there is a growing number of groups that are trending across the country that are now starting a movement to restore our nation to what it was, and should be.

I've monitored some of these groups quite closely, just out of interest. I've never seen any notion of violence, threatening behaviour, or illegal activity.

They are just citizens who want the government to listen to them. They are tired of the water being heated and want the heat turned off.

Talking to many people over the past couple of years, I've noticed that many feel the same way.

They will speak about it in private, but not publicly, because they know that announcing a public opinion could get you labelled as 'phobic,' 'fascist,' or even a 'naïf.'

I'm sure a lot of people who use those terms don't even know what they mean.

I was at a small gathering a few years ago. There was one woman there who was a very friendly and pleasant person.

She was a bit of an activist, and I think her one flaw was spending too much time in social settings telling everyone about her political views. Most people I know didn't appreciate that.

She made a reference to a person, and followed up by saying, "He's a naïf."

I couldn't let that slide and said, "You mean he's a member of a political party?"

She replied, "No, not a political party, he's a naïf."

I chose not to point out her error.

Many people are unhappy with the current situation in the country, both economically and socially.

These new groups at least intend to have a voice and make our politicians listen to them, rather than toeing the line and being afraid to speak up and agree that we have to get a grip and keep our cultural integrity intact.

If the water does start to boil, it will be too late.

BRIAN LOCKHART
FROM THE SECOND ROW



Kingly cash

It was nice to revisit the 1980s last week – even for just a little bit.

As a 1985 baby, I nevertheless have a few first-hand memories of that potent time in our pop culture hanging on for dear life. Even if the memories that don't explicitly involve members of my family are typically related to movies seen and TV shows enjoyed (who could have guessed that in this social media age we live in that remembering watching The Golden Girls in prime time would have a degree of cachet?) I hold the memories close as if they were endangered species.

Last Wednesday night offered a trip back in time when we went to see a great play in Toronto – Ava: The Secret Conversations – at the CAA Theatre. The show centres on classic movie icon Ava Gardner, expertly portrayed by Elizabeth McGovern, who recently completed her long run as Downton Abbey's Cora, Lady Grantham, as she hires a celebrity journalist to help write her memoirs.

It was the 80s after all, and the tales she could tell of being married to such luminaries as Frank Sinatra still had the power to set the literary world, along with Hollywood, on fire – but, given the clout of said ex-husbands in the business, there was no small degree of reluctance to tell her story. The show was exceptionally acted, directed and produced – and found creative ways to evoke the spirit of the decade, and it stayed with me as our little group left the theatre.

The evening was still young and we ventured down Yonge Street to find a nice place for a warm drink and some dessert. Easier said than done – I couldn't believe the sheer number of eateries of all varieties that closed their doors at 9 p.m. on a Wednesday on one of Toronto's busiest thoroughfares.

We eventually settled on a retro diner – just to keep the vintage vibes going – for some coffee and a piece of pie – and they kept going until it

was time to settle up. While two of us paid with cards, I just happened to have a \$20 in my wallet and prepared to use it. The reaction of the server certainly told a tale. Out of instinct, he handed me the machine until he noticed the money in my hand and the mental gymnastics I could see him going through as he alternated hands between giving me the machine and taking the money, like two people who come face to face on a sidewalk and get caught in the perpetual loop of who's going to go around first, made me chuckle.

Evidently it had been a while since someone paid cash on his shift, but as much as it made me chuckle, it snapped me out of the 80s reverie I was still steeping in and back to reality.

Despite the prevalence of plastic in our everyday lives, we still often hear the phrase "Cash is King." You won't find an argument from me, nor, I suspect, will you find an argument from

many small business owners who recognize some distinct advantages of filling their tills with a few slips of polymer rather than relying on a perpetual plastic tap dance, but if one person sees legal tender as a throwback, there are still more who are of the thought that if you have it, someone's out to grab it.

The phrase "cash grab" has been bandied about over the last couple of months as the Province of Ontario moved to make automated speed cameras a thing of the past.

The Premier has been insistent that the move, which was previously authorized by Queen's Park, was nothing more than a "cash grab" on the part of municipalities. This, despite the only cash being grabbed being those who were caught speeding on local and

Continued on Page 19

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Iran: drought, incompetence, and maybe revolution

Twenty years of strict sanctions on Iran by both the United States and the United Nations did not bring down the regime of the ayatollahs. Half a dozen major waves of non-violent protest involving several thousand deaths have not brought it down either. Even last June's massive bombing campaign by Israel and the United States did not bring it to heel.

But the lack of water may do what all those other challenges failed to do: destroy the rule of the religious extremists who seized power in Iran in 1979 and have turned the country into an international pariah. The oldest part of every religion is purely transactional, and in Tehran the imams are praying for rain.

They should pray quite hard, because President Masoud Pezeshkian warned last month that "There is no water behind the dams. The wells beneath our feet are also running dry....If it doesn't rain, we'll have to start rationing water in [November]."

Well, it hasn't started raining yet and we are run-

ning out of November, so what should people do next? "If the lack of rainfall continues past that, we simply won't have water and will have to evacuate Tehran," Pezeshkian said. All ten million people? Where would the government put them, given that the other 80 million Iranians are also suffering from a drought now in its fifth year?

Nobody knows. If President Pezeshkian sounds well-intentioned but hopeless and basically useless, that's because he's not really the government. For the past 45 years, all the big decisions in Iran have been made not by the elected parliament but by the unelected 'Supreme Leader', a role that has been filled since 1989 by Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

Ayatollahs are the supreme religious authorities in the Twelver strand of Shia Islam that prevails in Iran and Iraq. They are not necessarily secular leaders, but in the turbulent aftermath of the Iranian revolution of 1979 that overthrew the monarchy an ayatollah called Ruhollah Khomeini sought and gained absolute power in Iran.

Khomeini only lasted 10 more years, but his designated successor Ali Khamenei is still in office 36 years later at the age of 86. As one would expect, he heads a regime that sees matters of faith and morals (like ensuring that women's hair is properly concealed) as more important than mere material concerns like looking after the water supply.

This general neglect of practical matters by the regime also opened the door to widespread corruption among those in charge of the economy, which partly explains why Iran's GDP per capita is still stuck at about the same level as it was in 1985. The other reason is the sheer incompetence of even those officials who don't take bribes.

Iran is a mostly arid country with tens of millions of farm

families, so it would make sense to import crops that need a lot of water like rice from abroad while growing less thirsty crops at home. After all, a well-run Iran would have lots of oil money to pay for food imports.

Instead, the government has aimed at 'strategic self-sufficiency', including in food, and the amount of land being cultivated has doubled in thirty years in some areas. There are around a million deep wells (80-200 metres) for irrigation, and groundwater is vanishing. Subsidence is now as big a problem in Iran as in the areas of the Arctic that are losing permafrost.

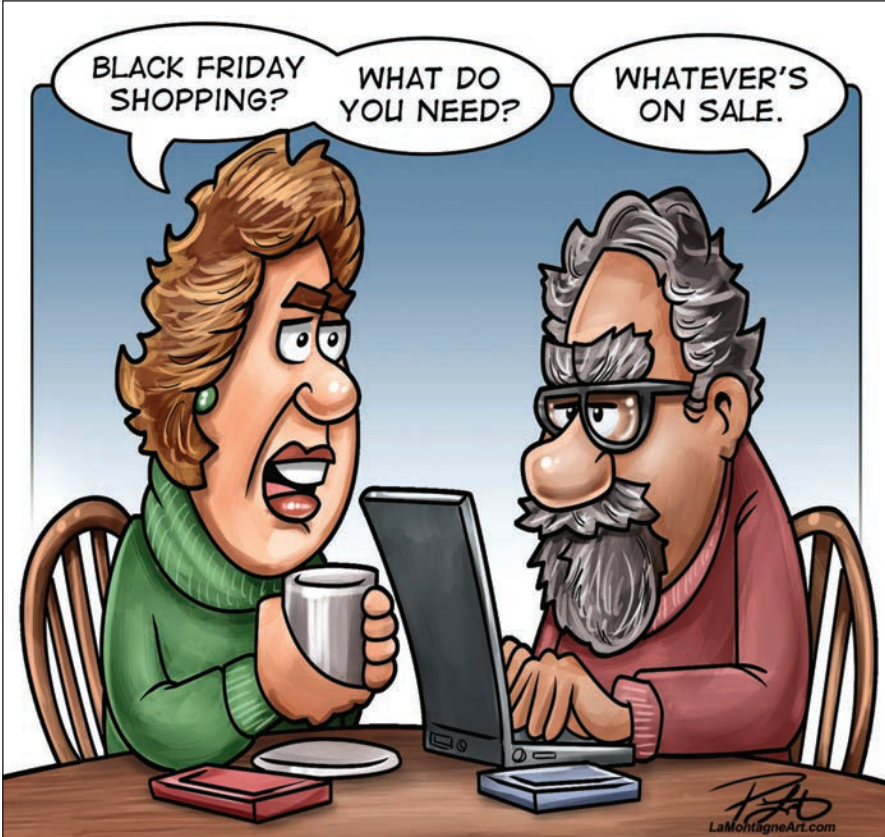
Now add in an unprecedented multi-year drought that is hitting city dwellers as well as rural people. Rainfall was down by almost half in last year's rainy season, so there was very little water left behind the dams when the winter rains failed to arrive in late October this year.

The great unspoken fear in the minds of Iranians who are paying attention is that this may not be just wayward weather. It could be the leading edge of permanent climate change: five years is a long time for a random deviation from the norm.

In the shorter run, however, it could be the trigger for an uprising that finally dispatches a regime that has overstayed its welcome. All the other challenges to the regime over the years could be blamed on wicked and godless foreigners who were stirring up impressionable locals, but this problem is entirely home-grown. No excuses available.

There are no reliable opinion polls in Iran, but the best guess is that after 45 years at least half the population of Iran actively dislikes the regime while most other people just accept it as inevitable. If the rain doesn't come soon, and especially if they start evacuating cities, a decisive shift in the balance of opinion is entirely possible.

GWYNNE DYER
OUR WORLD TODAY



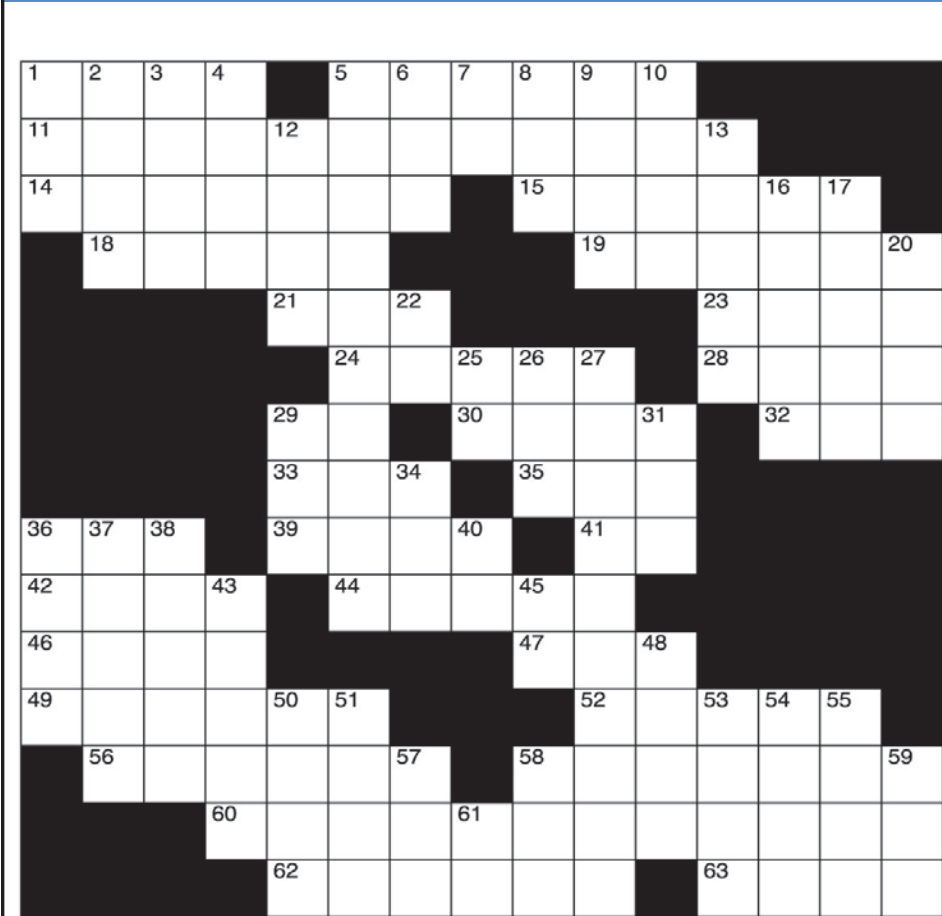
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CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Dough made from corn flour
- 5. Rise
- 11. Gratitude
- 14. A low wall
- 15. Kidnap
- 18. A cup golfers want to win
- 19. Outgoing
- 21. "Partner" to flow
- 23. Former Michigan coach Brady
- 24. Proverb
- 28. Gasteyer and de Armas are two
- 29. Helps a body recover
- 30. Baseball Cy Young winner
- 32. Very fast airplane
- 33. Offensive baseball stat
- 35. Body of water
- 36. Record of one's

heartbeat

- 39. Signs a contract
- 41. Atomic #24
- 42. Bind securely
- 44. French Jesuit theologian
- 46. Fragrant brown balsam
- 47. Post office box
- 49. Sells tickets at inflated prices
- 52. Places to hang coats
- 56. Jewish salutation
- 58. Yellow fruits
- 60. Poorly educated
- 62. Microorganism
- 63. Talk show host Barrymore

CLUES DOWN

- 1. A way to plan
- 2. Three-banded armadillo
- 3. Mobile
- 4. Romanian city
- 5. Making sour

- 6. Take a seat
- 7. "The Golden State"
- 8. When you hope to arrive
- 9. Pointed ends of pens
- 10. Extinct flightless bird
- 12. Sharp-pointed dueling sword
- 13. Nape of neck
- 16. Problems (Spanish slang)
- 17. Narrow carpet
- 20. To avoid the risk of
- 22. Spiritual academic degree (abbr.)
- 25. Equally
- 26. Traditional cars still need it
- 27. Eligible voters
- 29. Greek alphabet letter
- 31. Body part
- 34. Referee-declared outcome
- 36. Means to moving money
- 37. Popular footwear brand
- 38. Cockatoo
- 40. NFL's big game
- 43. Botswana currencies
- 45. News-reporting organization
- 48. Batman villain
- 50. Urgent request
- 51. Not all
- 53. Hallmark's specialty
- 54. Knot in a tree
- 55. Satisfy
- 57. Notable space station
- 58. Baby's dining accessory
- 59. Stitch clothing
- 61. ___ and behold

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

COMMUNITY VOICE

Monthly Message: Standing against Gender Based Violence this November

In Canada, November is recognized as Domestic Violence Awareness Month and Women Abuse Prevention Month. This month is dedicated to raising awareness, supporting survivors, and advocating for change. It serves as a time to educate the public, reflect, and stand together in solidarity to show support to those affected by gender-based violence.

During the month, we ask the community to show their support for those women experiencing violence and abuse and for those who have had the courage to leave by wearing purple. We will be featuring community members wearing purple on our social media platforms throughout the month and in our e-newsletter. If you, your organization, or staff would like to participate in the Wear Purple Challenge, you can email your pictures to fundraiser@mysistersplace.ca.

On Nov. 25, we recognize the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, which was designated in 1999 by the United Nations General Assembly. The date was chosen to commemorate the lives of the Mirabal sisters, who were violently assassinated in 1960. The day pays tribute to them and urges global recognition of gender-based violence.

What is Gender Based Violence?

Everyone has the right to live free from violence. However, many people in Canada continue to face violence every day because of their gender, gender expression, gender identity, or perceived gender. This is referred to as gender-based violence (GBV), and it is a violation of human rights.



GBV is not limited to physical violence. It can include any word, action, or attempt to degrade, control, humiliate, intimidate, coerce, deprive, threaten, or harm another person. Neglect, discrimination, and harassment can also be forms of GBV.

GBV takes place in public spaces, workplaces, at home, and online. GBV can have long-lasting and negative health, social, and economic effects that span generations, which can lead to cycles of violence and abuse within families. While violence affects all people, it disproportionately affects women and girls.

For more information on GBV, visit canada.ca/en/women-gender-equality/gender-based-violence/about-gender-based-violence.html

The International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women is also the start date of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-based Violence, which goes until Dec. 10, Human Rights Day.

This campaign started in 1991 to call out and speak up on gender-based violence, and to renew our commitment to ending violence against women, girls, and 2SLGBTQI+ individuals.

dividuals.

This year's theme for the 16 Days of Activism is "UNiTE to End Digital Violence Against All Women and Girls."

The 2025 campaign focuses on one of the fastest-growing forms of abuse: digital violence.

What is digital abuse?

• Digital tools are increasingly being used to stalk, harass, and abuse women and girls. This includes:

- Image-based abuse/ non-consensual sharing of intimate images.
- Cyberbullying, trolling, and online threats.
- Online harassment and sexual harassment.
- AI-generated deepfakes such as sexually explicit images, deepfake pornography, and digitally manipulated images, videos or audio.
- Hate speech and disinformation on social media platforms.
- Doxxing – publishing private information.
- Online stalking or surveillance/tracking to monitor someone's activities.
- Online grooming and sexual exploitation.
- Catfishing and impersonation.
- Misogynistic networks – e.g. mansphere, incel forums.

These acts don't just happen online. They often lead to offline violence, such as coercion, physical abuse, and even femicide.

On Dec. 5, we will be holding a gathering to commemorate the National Day of Re-

membrance & Action on Violence Against Women at the corner of Victoria Street and Church Street in Alliston from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

On Dec. 6, 1989, 14 women were murdered at the École Polytechnique de Montréal in Montreal, an anti-women mass shooting also known as the Montreal Massacre. This is still Canada's most deadly school shooting. Please wear purple and join us.

Human Rights Day is observed every year on Dec. 10 to commemorate the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by the United Nations General Assembly in 1948. The day highlights the importance of protecting and promoting human rights for all individuals, regardless of race, religion, gender, or nationality. It serves as a global reminder that equality, dignity, and freedom are the foundation of peace and justice in every society.

At My Sister's Place, we work hard to raise community awareness; we attend festivals and vendor markets in our communities; and we speak at third-party events and at community group and organization meetings. In schools, we talk about safe relationships. We also provide educational tools for women in crisis, family and friends of women in crisis, and for the public to try to identify, prevent, or avoid an abusive relationship.

Unfortunately, gender based violence and abuse do happen in our communities, and creating public awareness about violence against women is an ongoing effort for us. We try to engage with the community to provide information, support, and most of all, dispel the myths around violence and abuse.



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MNRF tables proposal to allow hunting in Boyne Valley Provincial Park

BY JOSHUA DRAKES
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Ontario’s Ministry of Natural Resources and Forests (MNRF) has put forward a proposal to change the Boyne Valley Provincial Park’s size and hunting rules.

In a document titled “Supplemental Document Supporting Environmental Registry of Ontario Proposal Notice Number 019-9306,” the provincial government is planning a large overhaul of parks across the province, including here in Dufferin County.

The Boyne Valley Provincial Park is set to have 496 hectares added to its regulated area, almost doubling its size. This land was previously acquired by the Ontario government in other deals.

However, the Ontario government, through the MNRF, is also considering permitting hunting within the regulated areas, which include trails managed by the Dufferin Hi-Land Bruce Trail Club.

In the proposal, the MNRF plans to continue permitting hunting in the new additions to the park, while beginning to permit hunting in the park’s original, regulated area. The proposal will permit hunting of non-furbearing game mammals, migratory game birds, and game birds during normal hunting seasons.

This raises concerns among local residents and trail users, as sections of the Bruce Trail managed by the Dufferin Hi-Land Club see heavy foot traffic that passes directly through the area that could be opened to hunting.

Tom Thayer, a local resident and trail user, said that the proposal puts thousands of lives at risk if hunting is allowed.

“You’ve got a lot of people that use that park, and not just on the Bruce Trail,” he said. “You’ve got people on horses, hikers on other trails, and explorers who just go in regularly. There are thousands of people who go out there every year to enjoy the park.”

“The province needs to realize that they’re putting people’s lives in danger. Beyond the trail, the park, which will become a hunting zone, comes right up to Primrose Public School and all the residences in the area,” Thayer added.

He said he hopes the MNRF is open to discussing different approaches for the area that can accommodate everyone safely.

“I’ve so far heard that the province is open to alternative ways of doing this, which I’m happy for. I have hope that we can actually



BIG CHANGES BEING CONSIDERED – The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forests is proposing to permit hunting in Boyne Valley Provincial Park, which is home to trails managed by the Dufferin Hi-Land Bruce Trail Club. The public commenting period ended on Nov. 24. **IAN COBURN PHOTO**

stop this,” said Thayer.

While Thayer is president of the Bruce Trail Conservancy’s Dufferin Hi-Land Club, his comments are not affiliated with the official position of the Bruce Trail Conservancy or his club, and are entirely personal.

Early morning fire at unoccupied residence in New Tecumseth being investigated as arson

Nottawasaga Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) responded to a reported structure fire in the New Tecumseth on Nov. 25 at approximately 4:22 a.m.

The residence, located on Lawrence D. Pridham Avenue in a new subdivision near the 14th Line, was a newly constructed and unoccupied home at the time of the incident.

Nottawasaga OPP officers and New Tecumseth Fire Rescue crews attended the scene and successfully extinguished the fire. No injuries have been reported.

The cause of the fire remains under investigation.

Video surveillance obtained by investigators shows three suspects and a suspect vehicle—a blue Hyundai Elantra—arriving at approximately 3:50 a.m. and fleeing the scene at 4:09 a.m. with two gas cans.

The Nottawasaga OPP is actively investigating and seeking the public’s assistance in identifying the suspects and the suspect vehicle.

Anyone with information is asked to contact the Nottawasaga OPP Major Crime Unit at 1-800-310-1122, referencing occurrence number E251590150. Additionally, motorists or residents in the area between 3:00 a.m. and 4:30 a.m. on November 25, 2025, who may have dashcam or home surveillance footage are encouraged to contact police.

For those wishing to remain anonymous, tips can be submitted to Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or online at www.crimestoppersdm.com.

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Arts & Local Events

South Simcoe Theatre stages enchanting musical based on Grimm's Fairy Tale

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Mix up some magic potion, send your daughter on a dangerous journey, and hope she marries the Prince of her dreams – that's the premise of The South Simcoe Theatre's production of *The Princess and the Handmaiden*.

Written and composed by Leslie Arden, based on the Grimms' Fairy Tale, *The Goose Girl*, this musical is produced by Mel Hinch and directed by Rae Smith.

This fun production is suitable for all ages.

Living a life of privilege, a young princess, played by Keli Jay, is happy with her life and longs to explore the world before settling down and getting married.

In the role of the queen, Ipshita Roy Burman has other ideas for her daughter.

The queen has learned that the King of a nearby kingdom is deathly ill, and she has mixed a magic potion that will cure him.



TAKING THE STAGE – A dangerous journey through the forest spells trouble for a young princess when she takes her handmaiden with her to visit an ailing King in a nearby kingdom in The South Simcoe Theatre's production of *The Princess and the Handmaiden*. This musical is based on a Grimms' Fairy Tale and is suitable for all ages.

BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

The queen encourages her daughter, the princess, to make a journey to take the magic potion to the King. She also mentions that the King has a son, a prince, who is of mar-

riageable age and suggests a union between the two would be profitable for both royal families.

The queen gives the princess a lock of white hair that will serve as a talisman to keep her safe.

Not wanting to travel alone, the princess asks her lifelong companion, the handmaiden, played by Michelle Greig, to go with her on the trip.

At first, the handmaiden has no interest in taking the journey. She changes her mind when she learns they will be meeting a prince who may be looking for a wife.

The two young women set off on a dangerous journey through a dark forest. After several days, the handmaiden begs the princess to stop in the forest to rest.

The story takes a sudden twist, and the two women are separated.

Continuing on the journey, the Handmaiden presents herself to the King, played by Tom Mercer.

The princess is found by a shepherd, played by Brie Taylor.

She is in bad shape after spending time

alone in the woods, but the shepherd helps her regain her health.

Finding herself in a local pub, the princess tells the townsfolk her story of being a princess and being betrayed.

They listen to her but decide she is just making up a story.

Can the princess continue her journey to the kingdom to meet the prince?

The story is rounded out by a talented cast including Brent Campbell, Nancy Chapple, Rebecca Kratky, Chris Rapin, and Walter Stewart.

A beautiful musical score is played by production musicians: Tobin Lippold on acoustic guitar, Brooke Ramos White on flute, and music director/pianist Alondra Vega-Zaldívar.

The Princess and the Handmaiden is on The South Simcoe Stage through to Dec. 7, with performances at 7:30 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays, and a Sunday matinee at 2 p.m.

Tickets may be purchased online at the South Simcoe Theatre's website at www.the-southsimcoetheater.com.

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BRIAN SAUNDERSON
MPP, Simcoe-Grey



County of Simcoe Paramedic Services launches annual Food and Toy Drive

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

County of Simcoe Councillors presented a cheque to the County of Simcoe Paramedic Services is launching its 23rd Annual Food and Toy Drive and continues the long-standing tradition of supporting children and families in need across the region during the holiday season.

Financial contributions can be made online at canadahelps.ca, or new, unwrapped toys, non-perishable food items, and gift cards can be donated at the designated drop-off locations listed at the end of this story.

When donating a gift card, the paramedic service asks that you please indicate the value.

Over the past 22 years, the Food and Toy Drive has made a significant impact on local families, collecting 130,831 toys, 88,0970 lbs of food, and \$289,321.57 in cash and gift card donations for families in need across the county.

“Our County of Simcoe paramedics continue to show us what community service looks like, with compassion, generosity, and

a deep commitment to the well-being of our residents,” said Simcoe County Warden Basil Clarke.

“This campaign brings hope and joy to families across Simcoe County, and we’re grateful to our incredible paramedics who give so much of their time, and to the countless businesses and individuals who continue to support this drive year after year.”

Paramedic volunteers kicked off the drive early this year, thanks to their colleagues at Georgian Manor and Village, who collected 130 lbs of non-perishable food, \$109 in monetary donations, and toys during a recent community event. These donations were delivered to the Georgian Bay Food Network in Midland.

Donations can be made at the County of Simcoe Administration Centre at 1110 Highway 26, in Midhurst, between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., and at the following local locations.

- Alliston – Paramedic Station, 6933 Industrial Parkway
- Beeton – Paramedic Station, 51 Main Street East



GIVE A LITTLE, HELP A LOT – County of Simcoe Paramedic Services is encouraging everyone to remember that even the smallest contribution can make a big difference during its annual Food and Toy Drive. The service says, “Give a Little, Help a Lot.” With community support, the holiday season can be a bit brighter for those in need. **CONTRIBUTED PHOTO**

Town of New Tecumseth bolsters support for local manufacturers through advocacy efforts

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Town of New Tecumseth is reinforcing its commitment to local manufacturers through advocacy and participation in key regional initiatives.

“Manufacturing is a cornerstone of our economy, and it is deeply impacted by the changes happening today,” said New Tecumseth Mayor Richard Norcross. “We know we have to adapt, and that means working together with industry and government to ensure our manufacturers

remain strong and resilient.”

In response to the federal government’s call for consultations, the Simcoe Auto Mayors Association, chaired by Mayor Norcross, submitted its recommendations to Prime Minister Mark Carney – reinforcing the importance of local perspectives in shaping national policy.

This letter to Prime Minister Carney included key proposals to support Canada’s automotive sector, including recognizing non-plug-in hybrids under the ZEV mandate, maintaining tariffs on Chinese EVs, and introducing

a GST exemption for Canadian-made electrified vehicles.

The association says these efforts underscore its commitment to aligning federal policy with regional priorities.

Mayor Norcross participated in the Bradford West Gwillimbury Manufacturers Roundtable on Nov. 7, hosted by BWG Mayor James Leduc, which facilitated critical dialogue among local manufacturers, government officials, and industry representatives on tariff impacts and strategic responses to build local business resilience.

New Tecumseth Deputy Mayor Stephanie MacLellan attended an Ontario Auto Mayors event in Cambridge on Nov. 7, where Toyota spoke to mayors from across the province about the current state of the auto industry.

Mayor Norcross delivered opening remarks at the 2025 Manufacturers Forum hosted by Simcoe County and held in New Tecumseth on Nov. 13.

The event brought together industry leaders and municipal representatives to explore strategies for building a resilient, future-ready manufacturing economy.

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County Paramedic Services celebrates excellence at annual ceremony

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

County of Simcoe Paramedic Services (CSPS) recently hosted its annual Commencement and Honours Ceremony dedicated to celebrating the achievements and milestones of its team members.

The ceremony welcomed 33 new recruits, recognized 29 employees advancing in their careers, and honoured seven individuals receiving Chief’s Commendations for outstanding service.

A highlight of the event was the presentation of the Legacy Award. This is CSPS’s highest internal honour.

It was presented to Advanced Care Paramedic Cory Schepers in recognition of exceptional talent, dedication, and commitment.

“It takes a remarkable person to be a paramedic, showing up for others in their most vulnerable moments, often on their hardest days,” said Simcoe County Warden

Basil Clarke. “Their work is physically and mentally demanding, requiring quick thinking, adaptability, and above all, deep compassion and resilience. Each Paramedic embodies these qualities and we are grateful that they have chosen to serve our residents, visitors and communities.”

CSPS employs a diverse team of full and part-time Advanced and Primary Care Paramedics, Supervisors, and administrative staff. Together, they provide emergency medical response and vital community support to residents across Simcoe County, operating 42 ambulances and Rapid Response Units during peak times.

“Every day, our team steps forward with courage, compassion, and skill to serve the people of Simcoe County in their moments of greatest need,” said Sarah Mills, director and chief of the County of Simcoe Paramedic Services. “I am incredibly proud of the dedication our



NEW RECRUITS – The County of Simcoe Paramedic Services welcomed 33 new recruits during the recent Commencement and Honours Ceremony. **CONTRIBUTED PHOTO**

paramedics show, not only in emergencies but also in the countless ways they support and strengthen our communities. Their commitment reflects the very best of public service, and it is a true honour to celebrate their achievements.”

Nottawasaga OPP brings 15 local students to Shop with a Cop held at Alliston Canadian Tire

Nottawasaga Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) hosted its annual Shop with a Cop event on Nov. 22.

“This cherished tradition brings together local students and OPP members for a memorable day of holiday shopping and community connection,” reads a press release from Nottawasaga OPP.

“This year, 15 students from local schools participated, accompanied by more than 30 volunteers, including uniformed officers, Auxiliary members, and civilian staff.”

Shop With a Cop began at Canadian Tire in Alliston, where each student was paired with an officer for a fun and festive shopping experience.

Participants selected gifts for their families and themselves, creating moments of joy and excitement as they explored the aisles together.

“Following the shopping spree, everyone gathered for a holiday breakfast celebration featuring delicious treats and a chance to wrap gifts in a warm, festive atmosphere,” reads Nottawasaga OPP’s press release. “Special guests from the North Pole added to the magic of the morning, making it an unforgettable experience for all involved.”

Nottawasaga OPP said, “the success of Shop with a Cop would not be possible without the incredible support of our community

partners.”

“We extend our heartfelt thanks to Tottenham and Alliston Tim Hortons, OPP Youth Foundation, Alliston McDonald’s, Canadian Tire Alliston, Nottawasaga Foundation, Nottawasaga Police Services Board, (the) mayor of New Tecumseth and mayor of Adjala-Tosorontio.”

Nottawasaga OPP said these organizations’ generosity and commitment make Shop With a Cop possible year after year, helping to create lasting memories and strengthen the bond between law enforcement and the community.

“The Nottawasaga OPP looks forward to



COMMUNITY EVENT – Shop With a Cop was held at Alliston Canadian Tire on Nov. 15. **CONTRIBUTED PHOTO**

continuing this tradition and wishes everyone a safe and joyful holiday season,” reads the press release.

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Nearby town responds to Strada Aggregates quarry proposal

BY JOSHUA DRAKES
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Town of Shelburne has officially submitted a formal response to Strada Aggregates Inc.'s application to expand and quarry below the water table, highlighting several local concerns.

The Strada quarry has been a hotly debated topic since it first appeared, drawing sharp criticism from local residents, politicians, and environmental experts.

Shelburne has specifically raised concerns about the amount of water the quarry will be drawing from the area.

"The Town of Shelburne has formally objected to Strada Aggregates Inc.'s application to the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks to amend its Permit to Take Water (ERO #: 025-1082)," reads a statement from the town. "The proposed amendment would allow Strada to withdraw up to 5 million litres of water per day for 10 years."

Five million litres of water is no small number. This level of consumption would be more demanding than the towns around the quarry itself. In fact, that level of demand exceeds the daily water use of all eight lower-tier communities in Dufferin County combined.

In a letter to the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, Todd McCarthy, Shelburne Mayor Wade Mills noted there are existing water supply issues impacting the county.

"Dufferin County currently experiences significant issues relating to water supply and, in our opinion, the proposed amendment to the Permit to Take Water will only exacerbate the significant water supply issues present in the County of Dufferin," reads the letter from Wade Mills to McCarthy. "In Dufferin, the agricultural sector represents a significant portion of the county's economy and, as such, the protection of agricultural lands is paramount."

He continued by warning that should Strada Aggregates be granted this level of consumption, the local economy and food supply would be harmed.

"The Town of Shelburne understands that the availability of a safe and abundant water source is critical to farmers' production of crops that are not only produced in large quantities but are also of the highest quality," Mayor Mills wrote. "It is our belief that Strada Aggregates Inc.'s amendment to their Permit to Take Water will harm Dufferin County farmers' ability to produce crops in high yields and maintain the current standard of crops."

The problems raised by Mayor Mills don't end with the volume of water Strada has requested. The town has also raised concerns about the nature of the quarry and the fact that it will be digging below the water table.

Shelburne CAO Denyse Morrissey also objected to Strada's proposal to expand its quarry operation below the water table in a

letter to Minister of Natural Resources Mike Harris. She expressed concern for the impact it could have on the environment and water quality.

"While we understand the importance of aggregate resource extraction, Strada Aggregates Inc.'s proposal for aggregate extraction below the water table is concerning for both the short-and-long-term prosperity of Dufferin County," she said. "Town of Shelburne's concern does not centre around the mere action of operating a pit and quarry, but, rather, it is the practice of below the water table extraction where our municipality's concern arises."

"This practice can be detrimental to local water systems, natural environmental heritage systems, and create harmful environments for surrounding residents," Morrissey added.

In her letter, she also questioned the potential impact of noise, debris, and vibrations from the quarry on the community. She said the type of deep digging this quarry proposes would exacerbate its byproducts to an even greater extent.

"While we can appreciate that no aggregate operation can eliminate any of the aforementioned by-products, it is our understanding that a below the water table operation greatly exacerbates those by-products," Morrissey wrote in her letter. "Local residents, therefore, will likely be subject to greater levels of noise, vibration, and noxious fumes, all factors that would prove detrimental to their overall quality of life and general safety."

"In our opinion, the reduction in residents' health and safety should not be viewed as merely an unfortunate outcome of the quarry expansion, but, instead, current residents' health and safety should be a minimum standard required to be maintained," the letter added.

Another concern stemming from Strada's proposed expansion is that trucking volume will further increase in Shelburne to a point where local infrastructure cannot support it.

"The submissions do not assess the impacts of trucking beyond the primary haul route; for example, the intersection of CR124 and Highway 10/89 in Shelburne – which is the busiest intersection in the community, and a major existing and developing commercial node – has not been assessed," she said. "Existing conditions along CR124 in Shelburne are not suitable to accommodate both the trucking activities associated with the haul route and the urban roadway / complete street needs of Shelburne."

As the comment period for the proposed quarry closed on Nov. 10, many questions raised by town officials, residents, and local experts remain unanswered.

The Town of Shelburne said it will continue to ask questions, challenge Strada and the provincial government, and remain committed to ensuring transparency while advocating for community interests.

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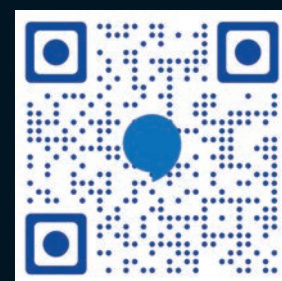
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Alliston Toastmasters look for new members wanting to improve communication skills

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Public speaking consistently ranks near the top of the list for people's most common fears.

For many people, when they get up in front of a crowd, they can feel the nervousness and the perspiration dripping as their name is called and they walk to the podium.

Toastmasters International has been helping people improve their communication, public speaking, and leadership skills for over 100 years.

The organization grew out of a single club founded in 1924 and now has 265,000 members in 13,833 clubs across 149 countries.

Alliston Toastmasters is the local chapter of the international organization, and they

are looking for new members to join them and benefit from the skills learned at their bi-monthly meetings.

Mandy Masters is the current president of the local chapter. Along with Yvonne Konrad, a past president and founding member of the local group, they welcome local residents to come out and see what Toastmasters is all about.

The Alliston chapter of Toastmasters has been active for over 20 years and has several long-time members.

"Toastmasters is an international organization in countries all around the world," explained Sandra Sharpe, Alliston Toastmasters member and past president. "It is an organization that is focused on helping people achieve communication and leadership goals

through a self-study club environment."

She added, "It's about communication in general. It is designed to help you learn how to present to an audience, how to speak in an impromptu way, and organize your thoughts. It also teaches you how to improve your listening skills and your presentation skills, ultimately leading to better leadership skills."

The meetings are designed so everyone who attends will know in advance what is going to happen.

"It's a very structured meeting," Sharpe explained. "It's structured so when people come to a meeting, they don't have to think too much about how the meeting is going to operate because it's very organized. We have something called 'table topic.' That's an opportunity for members to practice their

impromptu, or off-the-cuff skills. We also have prepared speeches where a member will want to achieve an objective. That could be speaking humorously or speaking on a technical subject. Members will present their five to seven-minute speeches. The speeches will be evaluated in a way that highlights things that would make it better but also helps them to move forward in the process of becoming a better speaker.

Alliston Toastmasters meets every second and fourth Tuesday of every month at the Public Library on Victoria Street in Alliston, at 7 p.m.

If you would like to be part of a meeting, you can just drop in and introduce yourself, or contact President Mandy Masters via email at MandyMasters78@gmail.com.

Nottawasaga OPP seek public's help finding suspect in connection to shoplift at Angus pharmacy

Local police are investigating a theft that occurred on Nov. 20, at a local pharmacy located on Mill Street in Essa.

On Nov. 21, Nottawasaga Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) officers responded to a the reported theft, and determined that a male suspect entered the pharmacy and removed multiple bottles of face serum, among other hygiene products. These products are valued at approximately \$1,500.

The suspect exited the store without making any attempt to pay.

Nottawasaga OPP reported that the suspect was observed leaving the store on foot and is described as:

- Medium build male



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

- Short brown hair
- Wearing a light-colored zip-up hoodie underneath a darker jacket

Anyone with information regarding this incident is asked to contact the Nottawasaga OPP at 1-888-310-1122, referencing report E251572983.

If you wish to remain anonymous, you may call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS) or submit information online at www.ontariocrimestoppers.ca.

Police seeking Essa gas station robbery suspect

Nottawasaga Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) officers are currently investigating a robbery that occurred last Tuesday evening in Essa.

On Nov. 18, at approximately 11:33 p.m., officers responded to a report of a robbery in progress at a Gas Station located at 309 Mill Street, Essa.

Initial investigation revealed that one male suspect entered the business armed with a knife and stole a quantity of money and a case of beer before fleeing the scene on foot. No injuries were reported.

The suspect is described as:

- Approximately 5'8" tall, thin build
- Wearing grey pants, a dark sweater with a brown hood, dark-coloured shoes, and a black mask

- Carrying a black shopping bag
- Armed with a small pocket knife

The investigation is ongoing, and anyone



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

with information is asked to contact the Nottawasaga OPP Crime unit at 1-888-310-1122 or Crime Stoppers anonymously at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or online at crimestoppers.ca.



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Hornets back on track, winning weekend games against Terriers and Bears

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Alliston Hornets came out on top in both of their games over the weekend.

It was a welcome change for fans who had seen the Hornets lose three of their four previous games on the ice.

The Hornets took recent losses against the Stayner Siskins and Orillia Terriers, along with a 3-0 shutout against Penetang on Nov. 14.

The Alliston squad returned to the New Tecumseth Recreation Centre on Friday, Nov. 21, to host the Orillia team in a rematch of their Nov. 15 game that saw the Hornets take a 4-2 loss.

It was a scoreless first period in Friday's game.

However, the pucks started moving, and it was 3-0 for the Hornets at the end of the second period, as the local team dominated and started scoring.

Hornets' goals came from Cameron Lamont, Will Hopcraft, and Mark Coish.

Alliston's Tristen Pitt scored early in the final period to make it a 4-0 game.

The Terriers avoided the shutout when they scored late in the third period.

It was a 4-1 win for the Hornets.

The following night, Saturday, Nov. 22, the Hornets travelled to Bracebridge to take on the Muskoka Bears.

The Hornets delivered a devastating first period, scoring four unanswered goals.

Alliston's goals came from Liam Carroll, John Rosato, Will Millington, and Duncan Grube.

The Bears got on the scoreboard with the only second-period goal.



WEEKEND WINS – The Alliston Hornets take on the Orillia Terriers at the New Tecumseth Recreation Centre on Friday, Nov. 21. The Hornets won the game 4-1 and remain in first place in the North Carruthers Division of the Provincial Junior Hockey League with a 16-3 record.

BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

It was a 4-2 game when Muskoka scored at the 15:37 mark in the third period.

Alliston's Rosato got his second goal of the night with 2:11 remaining in the game to give the Hornets a 5-2 win.

The Alliston Hornets remain in first place in the North Carruthers Division with a 16-3

record and 32 points – a very comfortable lead.

They are followed by the Stayner Siskins with 28 points, the Orillia Terriers with 24, and the Penetang Kings with 22 points.

The Hornets will be back on home ice at the New Tecumseth Recreation Centre on Friday, Nov. 28, when they will host the Huntsville Otters.

Game time is 7:30 p.m.

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County celebrates 20 years of public access defibrillator program

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The County of Simcoe is celebrating the 20th anniversary of its Paramedic Services Public Access Defibrillator Program.

This initiative has helped save lives and strengthen community readiness across the region.

Launched in 2005, the PAD Program has helped to coordinate the placement of more than 1,000 Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) in private and public spaces throughout Simcoe County, including schools, arenas, community centres, and municipal buildings.

These devices are supported by ongoing compliance checks and training to ensure they are ready when every second counts.

The Program has directly contributed to saving 74 lives.

“Our PAD Program is a shining example of how proactive and innovative public health

initiatives can make a lasting impact,” said Simcoe County Warden Basil Clarke. “We’re incredibly proud of our paramedics, instructors, volunteers, and all of those who have helped build a safer, more responsive community over the past two decades.”

Although AED installations and 9-1-1 registration play a critical role in the PAD Program, the foundation of the program remains community training and education. To date, the County of Simcoe Paramedic Services PAD Program and its instructors have provided CPR, first aid, and medical emergency preparedness training to more than 18,650 residents.

“As we mark this incredible milestone, we also recognize the lasting impact of continued education and access,” said Sarah Mills, Director and Chief of Paramedic Services. “Every AED placed, and every person trained represents another step toward a more resilient and prepared Simcoe County, where



20 YEARS OF PAD – County of Simcoe Councillors and Warden Basil Clarke, together with representatives from County of Simcoe Paramedic Services and the Township of Oro-Medonte, gathered at Simcoe Woods Community Centre to commemorate the installation of a new Automated External Defibrillator (AED) unit. The event marked a significant milestone in the celebration of the 20th anniversary of the County’s Public Access Defibrillation (PAD) Program.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

communities are empowered to respond when it matters most.”

The County’s celebration coincides with

CPR Month, a national campaign to raise awareness about the importance of CPR and AED training.

County of Simcoe to host Western Ontario Fall Funders series at administration building

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Western Ontario Fall Funders Forum Series, hosted by the County of Simcoe, will provide communities, non-profits, economic development stakeholders, and local businesses with an opportunity to meet directly with representatives from various provincial ministries.

This in-person series features presentations and discussions on ministry-led grant pro-

grams offering participants valuable insights into available support, eligibility criteria, and application timelines.

By connecting funders and applicants face-to-face, the forum helps strengthen understanding and access to provincial resources that support local growth and community development.

Whether you represent a municipality, non-profit, local business, or economic development group, this is a chance to learn about

upcoming grant programs and timelines, as well as to understand eligibility requirements and evaluation priorities.

This in-person event will feature presentations from representatives of:

- Ministry of Rural Affairs
- Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade
- Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Gaming
- Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development

• Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness

• Southern Ontario Fund for Investment in Innovation

The Western Ontario Fall Funders Forum Series will take place on Tuesday, Dec. 2, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., in the Council Chambers at the County of Simcoe Administration Building, 1110 Highway 26, Midhurst.

You can register online at: edo.simcoe.ca/events/western-ontario-fall-funders-forum-series/.

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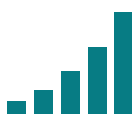
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Local police investigating two break-and-enters at cannabis stores

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Nottawasaga Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police is investigating two break-and-enters that occurred at businesses in Essa Township in the early morning hours of Saturday, Nov. 15.

The first incident took place shortly before 3:30 a.m. at a business located at 239 Barrie Street, Essa. Suspects forced entry through the front door and stole a quantity of cannabis products valued at \$100.

The second break and enter occurred shortly after 4 a.m. at a business located at 173 Mill Street in Angus.

Suspects again forced entry through the front entrance and stole various cannabis products valued at \$10,000.

Investigators believe the same suspects are

responsible for both incidents.

Surveillance footage shows a red Honda Civic (later model) with its front license plate removed and its rear windows tinted.

The vehicle was occupied by three suspects. They are all described as tall, medium build, wearing masks and dark clothing.

One suspect was wearing bright blue tack pants.

The suspects used a yellow crowbar to gain entry.

Police have released surveillance photos of one of the suspects and the vehicle.

Anyone with information regarding these incidents is asked to contact the Nottawasaga OPP at 1-888-310-1122 or submit an anonymous tip through Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or online at www.crimestoppersdm.com.



SUSPECTS WANTED – Nottawasaga Ontario Provincial Police officers are requesting the public's assistance in identifying the suspects pictured above, in relation to two break-and-enters at cannabis stores in Essa and Angus.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Police lay impaired driving charges when investigating single vehicle collision in Essa

Nottawasaga Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) officers have charged one individual with impaired driving following a single motor vehicle collision in Essa.

On Nov. 21, shortly before midnight, Nottawasaga OPP responded to a single in the ditch on the 3rd Line north of 5th Sideroad in Essa. Officers located the vehicle and met with the driver, during the inter-

action, grounds were formed that the driver's ability to operate a motor vehicle was impaired by alcohol leading to the driver's arrest.

The driver was transported to local hospital with minor injuries, later released and transported back to the Nottawasaga Detachment.

As a result of the investigation, Bryan

Penny, 37, of Essa was charged with:

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

The accused is scheduled to attend the Ontario Court of Justice in Bradford on Dec. 11, 2025, to answer to the charges.

None of the listed charges have been

proven in court.

If you suspect that someone is driving while impaired by alcohol or drugs, it is important to call 9-1-1 to report it. You can also provide information anonymously by contacting Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477). When you contact Crime Stoppers, you stay anonymous, and you never have to testify.

Approximately \$3,000 alcohol theft at store in New Tecumseth under investigation

On Nov. 17, shortly before 4:30 p.m., members of the Nottawasaga Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) responded to a report of a theft at 36 Young Street in New Tecumseth.

Two male suspects entered the store and were observed by staff selecting various products from the display and concealing them in bags pulled from their jackets. The suspects then exited the store without mak-

ing any attempt to pay for the items, despite efforts by staff to advise them that payment was required.

Video surveillance obtained shows:

- Suspect 1 described as: Male, 30-40 years old, medium build, approximately 5'9", 150 lbs, brown eyes, short black hair, beard; wearing a black baseball cap, black jacket, checkered shirt, grey pants, and white running shoes.

- Suspect 2 described as: Male, 30-40 years old, medium build, approximately 5'10", 160 lbs, brown eyes, short black hair, beard; wearing a black jacket, dark grey pants, and black running shoes.

The stolen property includes 12 bottles of Johnnie Walker Black Label Scotch, 6 bottles of Johnnie Walker Black Label, 2 bottles of Johnnie Walker Double Black, 6 bottles of Chivas Regal 12-Year Scotch Whisky, and two

bottles of Johnnie Walker Red Label. The total estimated value of the stolen items is approximately \$3,000.

The investigation is ongoing. Anyone with information regarding this incident or the identity of the suspects is asked to contact the Nottawasaga OPP at 1-888-310-1122, referencing report E251555404, or Crime Stoppers anonymously at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or online at www.ontariocrimestoppers.ca.

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708 OBITUARIES

Drury: Norman Keith

Peacefully passed away at Simcoe Manor Beeton, on November 18th, 2025. Keith "Poochie" Drury at the age of 82 years, worked for the town of New Tecumseth for over 46 years. He is now reunited with his beloved wife of 52 years married, the late Elaine Drury (née: Holmes). Loving father of Michele Drury, Tammy Hurd, and Jamie Drury. Dear grandfather to Chance, Cora, Ripley and Russell. Adoring great-grandfather to Kayden and Vincent. Sadly missed by his brother Clarence Drury (Diane) and his sister Doris Buchanan (the late Lloyd). Caring brother-in-law of the late Robert (the late Roberta) Holmes, Carolyn (the late Bob) Beaton, the late Shiela (the late Brian) O'Leary, Brian (Cathy) Holmes, Marilyn (Gary) McNish, Scott (Betty) Holmes, and the late Wendy (Harry) Murphy. Forever in the hearts of his cousins, nieces, nephews, family and friends. The family wishes to thank the staff at Simcoe Manor for all of their care and love for Keith over the past 5 years. Visitation will be held at the Rod Abrams Funeral Home, 1666 Tottenham Road, Tottenham Ontario 905-936-3477 on Saturday, November 29th, 2025 from 10am until the time of Funeral Service in the chapel at 12pm. Reception will follow in the funeral home's Cliffside Hall. Followed by interment at Trinity Cemetery in Beeton. Donations to the Alzheimer's Society, or the Alliston Humane Society or Matthews House Hospice would be greatly appreciated. Online condolences may be left for the family at www.RodAbramsFuneralHome.com. A recording of the funeral service will be available to view from the comfort and safety of your home. Please check back as the video becomes available.

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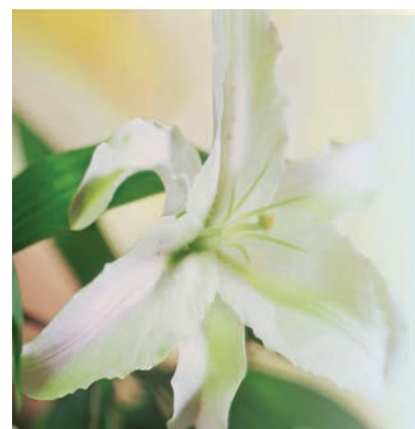
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Continued from Page 4

Brock's Banter: Kingly cash

Whether or not these cameras were tantamount to a cash grab rather than being an effective deterrent against speeding is up for debate – and, in my personal opinion, the experts in this case have a distinct edge at the debate table – but I am glad to see the Province is not necessarily adverse to a cash grab for the greater good.

The Ontario Government last week announced new measures that will require impaired drivers to pay ongoing child support if they kill a child's parent or guardian.

"No child should have to bear the weight of losing a parent to impaired driving," said Doug Downey, Ontario's Attorney General, in a statement. "The devastating impact reaches far beyond the immediate loss – it can leave children struggling emotionally and financially. That's why our government is looking at practical solutions that can ease their burden in the wake of such tragedies and provide financial stability for children who are left behind."

The potential legislation, the Province added, was inspired by similar laws implemented in Texas in 2023 pertaining to drivers convicted of "intoxication manslaughter" and requiring them to pay child support until the child turns 18 or

graduates high school.

This is a model the Province said they will be exploring – and the idea received an early, if tempered, show of support from Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD).

"MADD Canada works with those impacted by impaired driving every day, and we know the harsh reality families face because of someone else's harmful choices," said MADD Canada CEO Steve Sullivan. "We applaud the Ontario Government for looking into additional measures that would hold offenders accountable and support victims – particularly minors – impacted by the loss of a guardian that was killed by a drunk driver."

While I too applaud this move as an out-of-the-box approach not only to deter drunk driving but require those who make the conscious choice to get behind the wheel to pay for the ongoing impact of their decisions, this is not the only situation where a driver can make a conscious decision that very well might result in harm – and, worse, the loss of a life.

As the proposal works its way through the system, it will be interesting to hear the conversations along the way.

It will also be interesting to see if simi-

lar penalties for those who get behind the wheel and make a conscious decision to go well beyond the posted speed limit, resulting in the loss of a life, will be considered under this umbrella as well. Or, will the Province deem its decidedly within-the-box alternative to speed cameras – speed bumps and increased signage, measures that don't seem to be doing anyone a whole world of good –

are sufficient.

Let's hope it's not the latter. If cash is king, let's make it count across the board.

Until then, I'll stick with The Golden Girls. They may have only won an electric skillet and a lifetime supply of soup when they appeared on the fictional game show Grab That Dough, but it wasn't due to lack of trying – or grabbing.



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