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Capturing the Championship

The Banting Memorial High School Marauders senior girls' flag football team captured the Simcoe County Athletic Association championship with a 14-7 win over the Orillia Secondary School Nighthawks on the field at Banting on Thursday, Oct. 30. The team will now go on to compete for the Georgian Bay Secondary School Association title. Read a full story on Page 22.

BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

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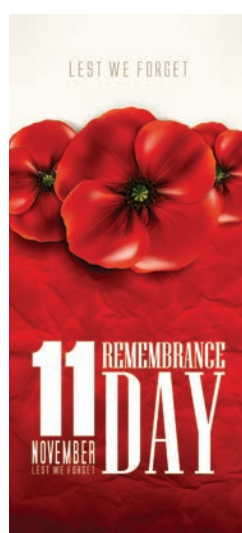
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Simcoe County's Manufacturer's Forum to give industry insight

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The County of Simcoe's Economic Development Office will host the 2025 Manufacturer's Forum, themed "Building Tomorrow, Today," to provide information for local manufacturers.

The forum will bring together industry leaders, innovators, and policy makers to explore the most pressing challenges and emerging

opportunities in today's manufacturing sector.

Those who attend will have a unique opportunity to connect across sectors, gain actionable insights, and discover strategies to navigate change and unlock new potential in a rapidly evolving manufacturing landscape.

This year's forum features an agenda focused on innovation, resilience, digital transformation, and strategic growth.

Panel session topics will include:

- Disruption and risk management – Featur-

ing lessons learned from global challenges.

- AI in manufacturing – Breakout session showcasing transformative technologies.

- Digitalization and smart manufacturing – Insights on foundational tech infrastructure.

- Product and market diversification – Exploring ways to grow through new products or markets.

- Change management – Human-centred strategies for adapting to internal transformation.

Whether you are a seasoned manufacturer, a supplier, or a stakeholder in the broader ecosystem, this forum offers valuable insights and connections to help you stay ahead in a rapidly evolving industry.

The Simcoe County Manufacturer's Forum will take place on Thursday, Nov. 13, 2025, at the Nottawasaga Inn Resort and Conference Centre, 6015 ON-89, in Alliston.

You can register by visiting edo.simcoe.ca/mfg-forum.

New Conservation Authority Agency for Ontario designed to improve service

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The province has announced that it will introduce legislation to create an Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency to provide leadership, governance, and strategic direction to conservation authorities.

This agency will be tasked with developing a provincial digital permitting platform, establishing standardized service delivery, and overseeing the consolidation of conservation authorities. The agency's goal is to improve the province's conservation authority system to enable the construction of homes

and other local infrastructure projects faster.

"The government is right to insist on greater standardization and clearer processes across conservation authorities," said Jonathan Scott, chair of the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority (NVCA). "These are essential steps toward improving transparency and accountability. However, the proposed consolidation represents a significant and potentially disruptive shift. If not carefully managed, it could undermine local expertise and responsiveness, ultimately working against the outcomes the government aims to achieve."

Minister of the Environment, Conservation

and Parks, Todd McCarthy, noted that conservation authorities will continue to deliver these important local programs and services.

"Conservation Authorities remain one of Ontario's best tools for balancing the province's urgent housing needs with protecting the Nottawasaga Watershed from natural hazards and climate change," said Jennifer Vincent, CAO of NVCA. "NVCA is committed to being part of the solution and will continue working to achieve these goals. This year alone, we've taken significant steps to modernize by introducing digital and standardized processes for permitting. As a result, our customer satisfaction scores have grown from 68

per cent to 90 per cent, and permitting timelines now meet provincial standards 95 per cent of the time with an average review time of just 16 days. These improvements reflect our dedication to progress – and we're ready to build on this momentum."

Like all conservation authorities across the province, NVCA helps ensure that development is balanced with natural hazard risk reduction, safeguarding communities from flooding and erosion.

The organization's work in restoration, education, and recreation efforts enhances water quality and quantity, habitat, resilience, and overall well-being.

Town of New Tecumseth asks residents to abide by winter parking restrictions going into effect shortly

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Winter parking restrictions in the Town of New Tecumseth will begin on Nov. 15, and residents are asked to abide by the rules to ensure local roadways remain accessible for maintenance.

The parking restrictions are in place in order to provide clear roadways for snow removal services during the fall and winter months as per the Town's Parking and Traffic By-law.

As of Nov. 15, parking on all streets is prohibited between 2 a.m. and 7 p.m. The restrictions are in place until April 15, 2026.

Clear streets are necessary to ensure proper plowing and snow removal.

Vehicles that are parked on the street during the restricted hours will be ticketed and possibly towed if necessary. If a vehicle is towed, the owner will be responsible for the towing costs.

The Town is not liable for any damage to

vehicles caused by street maintenance equipment to vehicles parked illegally on Town streets.

If you are parked on Town streets during a prohibited time, you will receive a \$35 fine that must be paid voluntarily within 10 days.

After those ten days, you are responsible for a set fine of \$52.50.



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Editorial, Letters & Opinion

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

~ Stanislaw Jerzy Lec

Mother Nature

I was watching a YouTube video a few years ago filmed by a bunch of college 'frat boys' in the US.

They were in Florida on vacation as a hurricane was approaching, and they were staying at a multi-level hotel near the beach.

Most local citizens with any common sense battened down the hatches at home, loaded up the car, and beat it out of there before the storm made landfall.

The frat boys, however, were looking forward to experiencing a full-blown hurricane. There was a lot of bravado among the fellas.

There was a lot of boasting like, "We're going to ride out the storm, man!" And, "Yeah, man, we're waiting for the hurricane dudes!"

The video then cut to the next day, when the storm was pounding the Florida coast.

Two of the frat boys were crying in their hotel room like three-year-old girls who had been stung by bees. The guy filming turned his camera on a stairwell where the storm surge was flooding the second floor of the hotel, and rising.

He didn't say much – obviously, he was scared to death. However, he did

make some kind of comment about them making a serious mistake by underestimating the power of a hurricane and by not evacuating when they had a chance.

The guys realized the hotel may be in danger of collapse due to the flood waters, and they were now all in danger of being swept out to sea and drowning.

Jamaica was recently hammered by Hurricane Melissa. You are in a serious situation when you are on an island, the airports have been closed, and a serious storm is approaching.

It was one of the strongest storms ever recorded in the region.

The island nation has been heavily damaged, but fortunately, there has not been a large loss of life.

When it comes to natural disasters, we are lucky to live in an area where catastrophic natural disasters are rare.

The wildfires of last summer were serious, but caused no loss of life.

Ontario has around 20 tornadoes every year. However, most of them occur in unpopulated areas with no loss of life. Although the Grand Valley–Barrie tornado of 1985 did cause loss of life and widespread damage.

Many people are still traumatized by

what happened that day.

I have been involved in a few natural disasters.

During my final year in high school, our travel club went to Mexico City. The second night we were there, a powerful earthquake had our hotel swaying back and forth.

People were running through the halls and screaming. There were aftershocks for the rest of the week.

In 1997, I was in my office in a large distribution centre in Toronto. A storm was raging outside.

I was speaking to someone on the phone when the storm suddenly became loud and sounded like it was blowing through the building.

A moment later, one of the guys from the floor burst into my office, yelling that we had lost the roof.

I stepped out of my office and looked up at the night sky. The roof had been ripped off, and it was now raining in the building.

Fortunately, there were no injuries.

A few years ago, we had pretty serious flooding in the local region. I drove my truck up a familiar concession road to take photos of the flooding. I knew the

spot because I had been recording beavers building a dam in the creek.

The fields were flooded, and the road was covered in around six inches of water for about half a mile.

I took a chance and drove my truck through the water to a high point by the bridge.

I was surprised to see that the creek's level had risen by eight to 10 feet. The water was close to flowing over the bridge.

As I was taking photos, a truck approached. It was a Town truck, and the driver asked if I lived on the road. I told him I was taking photos of the flooding.

He warned me that the river had just breached its banks near Highway 9, and all that water would be here in about 30 minutes.

I thanked him for the information and got out there really quickly.

Natural disasters can occur at any time.

It's always best to make a plan and be prepared for any disaster.

BRIAN LOCKHART
FROM THE SECOND ROW



Remembrance and unanswered questions

There has been a lot of time to think recently.

Last week, a member of my family underwent significant surgery at an area hospital. While we knew the surgery itself was a likely outcome of their health journey this year, the speed at which the surgery was scheduled – particularly in our healthcare system – was something of a surprise.

When the date was booked, there were just three days to prepare for it all – mentally, materially, and any other ways one has to prepare for a surgery that is not your own.

There was a flurry of preparation the weekend before last with the big event to address the "Big C" took place and, running on at least a little bit of adrenaline, by the time they were in the operating room, it was a matter of "hurry up and wait."

Arriving at Southlake Health shortly after 7.30 a.m. last Tuesday, it was a good eleven-and-a-half hours before I was able to go home and get some rest but, in the hours that preceded getting the all-clear, there was plenty of time to think.

I brought a fair bit of work to polish off during the wait, but my heart and my brain weren't in it.

The five books I brought with me that day – everything from a historical biography on James VIII/I to Cher's recent autobiography, to a new tome of wartime love letters exchanged between Lucille Ball and Desi Arnaz to a harrowing story of loss, conflict and triumph penned by a local author, and a magazine picked up just in case – went largely unread.

So, outside of conversation with assembled family members and well-wishers who popped in and out throughout the day, much of the time was spent more or less alone with my thoughts – and there were many.

As the numerous doom-and-gloom scenarios going through my head mercifully lifted, I realized something that startled me: as close as I am to the patient, as much as I've gotten to know them over the entirety of my forty years on this planet, there is still so much about their life's journey that I don't know.

At least one car on train of thought was

put on the track by one such pop-in family member I hadn't seen in several years. They too have known the patient their entire lives, and they have a few years on me. As they reminisced, I learned a wealth of new info going back some 70 years – about their health, influences, and even some surprising things about a spiritual journey that was, for whatever reason, kept under wraps.

So, I decided then and there to change that, using this "bonus" time with the patient to get down to business in figuring out what truly drives them, makes them tick, and assemble the puzzle pieces I've picked up along the way.

Perhaps it wasn't the best time to announce this to them the day after they were settled in the ICU if the widened eyes poking out from the tangle of tubes about their person was any indication; after all, as you may have guessed, they are a largely private person who, perhaps, would hate this topic is even being broached in these pages, but I'm determined to make it happen.

There is some downtime ahead to

take advantage of – and, of course, I'm always a firm believer in practicing what I preach.

As we approach Remembrance Day, I experience, as I suspect so many of us do, many mixed emotions – and these emotions sometimes take a different track from year to year.

In some years, my thoughts drift to my paternal grandfather, an airman, who spent far too much time in a German Prisoner-of-War camp during the Second World War. While, against incredible odds, he was able to come home, he died quite young and we missed our paths crossing by some 15 years.

Thoughts also often turn to his parents, who met and married during the First World War. His father also died quite young and while his mother lived a long and fruitful life, we again missed each other by five years or so.

Timing is everything!

Continued on Page 27

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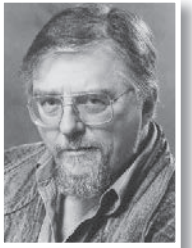
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Denmark vs. the shadow fleet

GWYNNE DYER
OUR WORLD TODAY



Back in the 16th and 17th centuries, two-thirds of the Danish kingdom's income came from taxes paid by every ship passing through the Øresund strait ('The Sound'), the only exit from the Baltic Sea. Each ship had to declare the value of its cargo – and if the Danes thought they were understating it, Denmark had the right to buy the entire cargo at the declared value.

The Danes don't do that anymore, but they still don't like to be jerked around. They were quite cross when unidentified drones forced them to shut down their airports on several occasions late last month, and Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen said that Russian involvement could not be ruled out.

She was being diplomatic. That was the week when Russian drones also violated Polish and Romanian airspace. Frederiksen had good reason to suspect that the drones harassing Denmark were coming from a Russian-chartered ship off the Danish coast, so she or one of her aides came up with a devastating response.

This week Royal Danish Navy ships began stopping and checking ships in the Øresund strait. Not just any ships. Old oil tankers flying flags of convenience from low-rent countries that are heading for the North Sea and thence into the open Atlantic. Ships that belong to the 'shadow fleet' transporting sanctioned Russian oil to India, China, and other Asian countries.

Fossil fuel sales account for between 30% and 50% of the Russian government's budget revenue. Two-thirds of the country's gas and oil is exported, and most of the exports used to go to Europe – until Russia invaded Ukraine in 2022. International sanctions then stopped most European sales, but Russia cut its prices and found new markets in China and India.

The problem was that while there were lots of pipelines connecting Russia and Europe, there were no oil pipelines and only one gas pipeline between the oil-fields of northwest Russia and the new customers in Asia. Almost all of Russia's

fossil fuel exports now had to go by sea – 14,000 nautical miles from, say, Kaliningrad in the eastern Baltic to Qingdao in China.

To make matters worse, the sanctions regime makes it hard for Russia to charter ships from legitimate shipping companies and buy insurance for them. Instead, it has built a 'shadow fleet' of almost a thousand elderly oil tankers (average age about 20 years) most of which would otherwise be on their way to the ship-breakers yards.

Their flags may change weekly, as may their names. Their insurance cover, if any, is dodgy, and their documents certainly do not say that they are carrying Russian oil. Their crews are multinational, with few or no Russians. Some transfer oil to other ships in mid-Atlantic; others go the full distance in the same ship.

It's a more expensive way of doing business and there are more accidents, but until recently Russian oil and gas exports were holding up fairly well. Oil income was down because Russian sales are heavily discounted, but there was enough money coming in to pay for the war and still keep the civilians contented (or at least quiet).

But now Denmark is stopping some of these 'shadow' ships in the strait and boarding them. "These old ships pose a particular risk to our marine environment. That's why we are tightening controls with very basic environmental rules," explained Environment Minister Magnus Heunicke, but it's really a legal excuse to stop them and get on board.

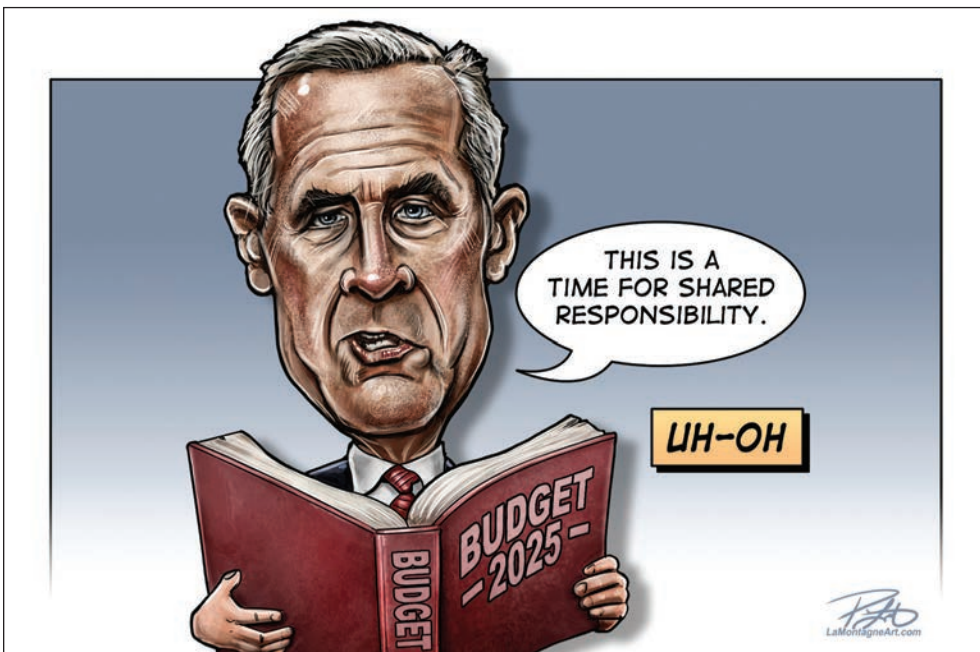
Then the Danish inspectors can examine the fake documents, discover safety issues, note the absent or inadequate insurance, and delay the ships or even detain them. Denmark only has so many inspectors so not every ship of the shadow fleet is being stopped yet, but the number

will grow. Russia's oil income is under serious threat for the first time.

And in just a little while the big oil terminals in Russia that pump the oil onto the ghost ships will be coming under direct attack. Ukraine doesn't have to wait for Donald Trump to sell it Tomahawk missiles (indirectly, through NATO). Its new Flamingo missiles have the range to hit all three of the main terminals: Primorsk, Ust-Luga, and Novorossiysk.

They are less accurate than Tomahawks, but their warheads are twice as big and they are coming into high-volume production so they can overwhelm Russian air defences with swarm tactics.

Ukrainian strikes on refineries and pipelines are already causing fuel shortages in Russia, but these new approaches will actually damage the whole economy. No single new weapon or tactic can decide the outcome of a war of attrition, but the odds are moving in Ukraine's favour.





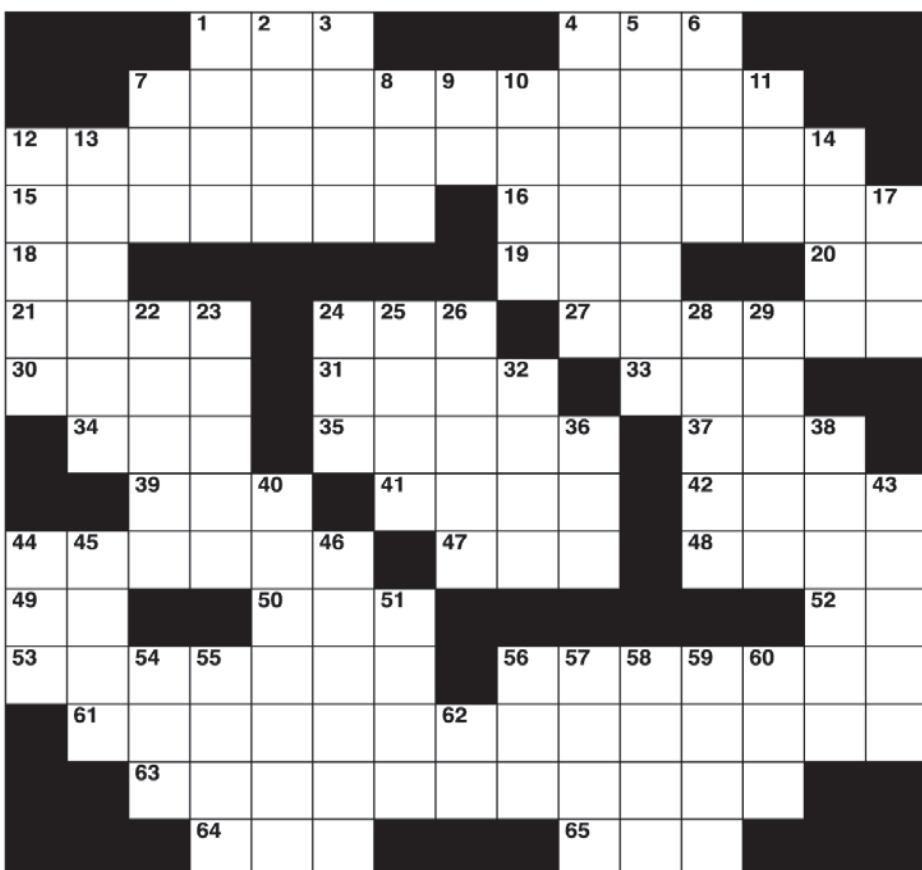
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CLUES ACROSS

- Expression of surprise
- Keyboard key
- One who works on lights
- Notable children's story
- Fall back into a bad pattern
- Eye parts
- Atomic #18
- Of she
- Farm state
- One point south of southeast
- British media entity
- Asian garment
- Drench
- Expressions of pleasure
- Turf
- UK trade union (abbr.)
- Bleated
- Fifth note of a major scale

- Paddle
- Monetary unit of Italy
- American classical pianist
- Shuts down for the day
- Seize
- Soluble ribonucleic acid
- Greeting
- Some cars still need it
- Atomic #22
- Let go
- Marched in public
- U.S. residents, Mexicans and Canadians
- Hostilities
- Speak aloud
- River in NE Scotland

CLUES DOWN

- Razorbill genus
- Longtime Baltimore tight end

- Performs on stage
- Supports a sentiment
- Rugged mountain ranges
- Broadway songwriter Sammy
- Snakelike fish
- Men's fashion accessory
- Hospital worker
- Something to scratch
- No (Scottish)
- Volcanic ash
- Of this
- American jazz drummer Watts
- Drop down
- English dialect
- Predatory seabirds
- Imams' deputies
- Fertility god
- Fence material
- Parks and DeLauro are two
- Distinctive smell (Brit.)
- Protein-rich liquids
- Touch lightly
- Season for Catholics
- Boat race
- Police actions
- Chinese river
- Waterfall (Scottish)
- Walk ostentatiously
- Type of carpet
- Mauna ___, Hawaiian volcano
- Sea eagles
- An enclosure for confining livestock
- Dry
- An increase in price or value
- The highest point of something
- Government lawyers
- Larry and Curly's pal

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

COMMUNITY VOICE

Monthly Message: Greys for Green shares how to eat less microplastics

Our kitchen is full of microplastics that we eat, breathe, and drink every day. They are in our vegetables, meat, and tap water.

Here’s the problem:

It is estimated that we ingest about five grams of microplastics per week, roughly equivalent to the mass of a credit card. We are becoming plastic people.

Exposure to chemicals in plastic, like BPA, phthalates, and PFAS (forever chemicals), has been shown to increase the risk of everything from infertility, poorer fetal development, inflammation, and cancer. While science isn’t yet conclusive about all the impacts, we know the chemicals in microplastics are highly toxic and can’t be good for us. Scientists and physicians are deeply concerned.

If you look around your kitchen, you’ll see where microplastics enter our meals: they flake off the spatula you use to cook, they leach from the plastic water bottle in your child’s backpack, and they float in the cup of tea or coffee on your desk. They’re embedded in the foods we eat, from meat to



cucumbers.

Five simple actions to avoid microplastics:

1. Don’t heat food in plastic: Plastic sheds into food when it is heated in the microwave. Make your new mantra, “Don’t drink from plastic. Don’t eat from plastic. Don’t prepare food in plastic. And don’t put plastic in the dishwasher.”

2. Store food in glass, ceramic, and metal food containers: Plastic containers shed microplastics into our food. Avoid throwing them into the landfill; instead, reuse them to store things like screws and paper clips. For food storage, opt for containers like glass jars where you can readily see the contents. Use metal bento boxes for school lunches.

3. Chop food on a wooden chopping board: As the knife slices through food and

comes into contact with a plastic board, microplastics are released into the food.

4. Avoid bottled water and drinks packaged in plastic:

Even the simple act of screwing a plastic bottle cap on and off dramatically increases the amount of microplastics in the container. And the bottle itself leaches more plastic into the beverage. A metal travel mug is a better option than a plastic one. Microplastics are in our tap water. If possible, install a reverse osmosis filter or an advanced carbon filtration on your system.

5. Drink loose-leaf tea: Many tea bags contain plastic in the bag’s sealant or in the bag itself. The “silky” synthetic bags are completely made of plastic. Coffee lovers who use single-use coffee pods can switch to other methods of coffee-making, like pour-over with a stainless-steel filter.

What to do with a kitchen full of plastic Avoid the urge to throw all your plastic kitchen items into the landfill. They will be there for hundreds of years, if not forever. In-

stead, focus on items that show signs of obvious damage, like cuts or melting. When it’s time to change an item, choose a plastic-free replacement.

And, lastly, with the holiday season soon upon us, here are some extra things we can do:

- Avoid everything with glitter (which is filled with toxic chemicals).
- Look for the words “scented” or “fragrance” on products. Most contain multiple toxic chemicals.
- Take glass containers to the Bulk Store for staples like dried fruit and nuts.

Microplastics are everywhere and impossible to eliminate from our lives entirely. But we can take simple steps to limit our exposure to them.

This submission was written by Louise Montague, a member of Greys for Green in New Tecumseth. She is interested in helping others learn how to make sustainable living the norm. Contact Greys for Green at contactus@greysforgreen.org or follow on social media.

When Your Hearing Fades, How Long Will You Wait? Discover How Early Action Can Protect More Than Just Your Ears

Imagine missing the laughter of your grandchildren, struggling to follow conversations at dinner, or turning up the TV so loud your partner gives you that look. Many people brush those moments off, but hearing loss is not just about trouble hearing. It is a signal that your life may soon be missing more than sounds. Hearing loss often occurs gradually over time as part of the aging process, but it may also be caused by loud noise, trauma, medications or disease. Tinnitus is the perception of noise that is not generated by an external source, such as ringing in the ear, hissing, buzzing, rushing or roaring sounds in the ear.

1 in 5 Canadians Do Not Realize Their Hearing Is Fading

- Around **60% of Canadians aged 19 to 79** report a hearing health issue (hearing loss, tinnitus, or both)¹
- Many wait **7 years or more** to seek help after noticing a problem¹

Why This Delay Costs More Than You Think

Area	What Happens Without Early Treatment
Mental & Emotional Health	Increased risk of social isolation, anxiety, depression ²
Cognitive Health	Higher risk of dementia and faster cognitive decline when hearing problems go untreated ³
Everyday Life & Relationships	Misunderstandings, fatigue from straining to hear, withdrawal from conversations ⁴
Economic & Safety Costs	Greater healthcare use, accidents due to missed warning sounds, work and educational impacts ⁵

What Early Detection Can Do for You

If you act early, you can slow or prevent many negative outcomes and return to fuller participation in life. Hear Right Canada supports you with:

- **Clearer conversations** with family and friends
- **Improved relationships** at home and at work
- **Better mental performance** with less cognitive fatigue
- **More independence** from hearing the world around you safely and clearly

What Hear Right Canada Offers

At Hear Right Canada, we provide hearing care services designed to meet your needs:

- **Free hearing test** with no cost and no obligation
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- **Experienced hearing care professionals** trained to assess your hearing
- **Hearing aid trial period** to help you make the right choice
- **Ongoing support** including adjustments and earwax cleaning
- **Locations across Canada** to serve you closer to home

Hearing Loss Is Common. Help Should Be Too.

Did you know the percentage of Canadians with an audiometrically measured hearing loss increases with age:

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Book your free hearing test at hearrightcanada.ca or by calling 705-250-8884 or toll-free at 855-561-4587

Sources:

1. <https://hearrightcanada.ca/hearing-loss/benefits-of-early-hearing-loss-detection-and-treatment>
2. <https://hearrightcanada.ca/hearing-loss/seven-connections-between-mental-health-and-hearing-loss>
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NVCA reflects on recent events and budget report at board meeting

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority has released highlights from its October board meeting, including budget information and future events.

New events

A planting event to plant native shrubs to reforest the riverbanks took place on Saturday, Nov. 1.
The event took place at the Carruthers

Memorial Conservation Area in Clearview. A second planting event took place in Beeton on Wednesday, Nov. 5. Native trees and shrubs were planted along the Beeton Creek.

First quarter budget report

In the first nine months of operations, expenditures are tracking below budget, at 63.03 per cent of the budgeted expenses. Revenues are also tracking slightly behind, with 68.99 per cent of budgeted revenues recognized. The revenue shortfall is pri-

marily due to a few permitted and planning requests. This is partially offset by increased revenues from Camp Tiffin and events. In response to reduced revenues, staff have reduced expenditures by deferring the hiring of a senior planner position and not backfilling a maternity leave, resulting in approximate savings of \$123,000. Should the financial trend continue to year-end, NVCA is forecasted to end the fiscal year in a neutral position, supported by ongoing mitigation measures.

P.A. Day at Camp Tiffin

This will be a special edition of Camp Tiffin that encourages outdoor exploration and guided forest excursions, driven by student interest. This program was adapted from the traditional summer camp program. The PA Day Camp at Camp Tiffin will take place on Friday, Nov. 14, at the Tiffin Centre for Conservation, at 8195 8th Line in Utopia.



SWEET SUCCESS – After another successful pancake breakfast during the Alliston Potato Festival in August, St. John's United Church in Alliston uses some of the proceeds to donate to local charitable causes. John Morrison, representing the church, presents a cheque to Ken Pratt, representing St. John's United Church Benevolent Fund. The funds will assist people who come to the church for help. In 2024, the church had over 200 requests for help. The Benevolent Fund provides gift cards for food and clothing.

BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

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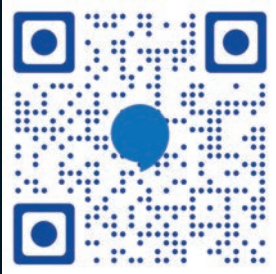
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Keep being you **Love your ears**



County will host public Community Planning information session

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The County of Simcoe is moving forward with its Housing Attainable Supply Action Plan (Housing ASAP) to increase the supply of diverse and affordable housing options for the County and its municipal partners. A key action under the plan is the development of a Community Planning Permit System Template, including a model Official Plan Amendment and a Community Planning Permit By-law.

The template is designed to support local municipalities that wish to further streamline planning processes and accelerate housing development.

To engage the public and provide insight into the Community Planning Permit System (CPPS) template, the County is hosting an in-person project information session that is open to the public.

The session will feature an overview of the project presented by Planscape Incorporated – the County’s planning consultant.

Attendees will learn how the project can simplify planning approvals by combining zoning by-law amendments, minor variances, and site plan control into a single, efficient process.

The Template Project is a discretionary land-use planning tool designed to expedite housing development while ensuring community priorities are met. It offers municipalities flexibility in land-use planning and the ability to impose conditions on affordable housing, urban design, landscaping, and environmental protection.

The project is structured into three stages:

- Project initiation and background review
- Consultation and draft documents
- Final model CPPS, OPA, and CPPS templates

Once implemented, a CPP By-law will empower municipalities to issue development permits for housing projects that meet established standards.

The public in-person project information session will take place on Monday, Nov. 24, 2025, at the Simcoe County Administration Centre, 1110 ON-26, Midhurst.

The session will take place from 3 to 5 p.m.

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Health Unit urges residents to protect themselves during respiratory virus season

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

As the fall season begins, cases of common colds, COVID-19, seasonal influenza, and other respiratory viruses are beginning to increase.

The Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit is urging residents to get immunized for flu and COVID-19.

These free vaccines are available starting Monday, Oct. 27, at participating local phar-

macies and some health care providers.

Getting immunized early in the season helps maximize your protection against serious illness, especially during the winter months when respiratory viruses circulate the most.

Young children, older adults, and those with underlying medical conditions are at increased risk of serious illness from these respiratory viruses.

Along with getting immunized, there are simple and effective steps you can take to protect yourself and those around you, such as:

- Staying home if you're feeling unwell with any symptoms of a respiratory illness. This includes keeping children home from school or child care if they are sick.
- Avoid non-essential visits to hospitals, long-term care homes, or retirement residences if you are not feeling well.
- Wash your hands frequently and clean high-touch surfaces regularly.
- Cover your mouth and nose when you cough or sneeze.
- Consider wearing a well-fitted medical mask in indoor public spaces, especially if you are at higher risk of severe illness.
- If you are sick, wear a mask in all public settings for ten days after your symptoms begin. Note, masks are not recommended for

children under two years of age.

• Parents and caregivers of children 6 months to 5 years old who do not have a family doctor or nurse practitioner, or who cannot find a local pharmacy to provide the flu shot or COVID-19 vaccine, may make an appointment at one of the health unit's immunization clinics.

• The respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) vaccine is also available this season for older adults 75 years and older and for some adults 60 through 74 years of age who meet specific high-risk criteria and have not received the vaccine before.

• The Health Unit provides information on weekly local respiratory virus activity on its website.

Blackhorse Theatre starts new season with Willow Quartet

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Blackhorse Village Players are back on the stage for the 2025/26 theatre season and are starting the year with a romantic drama.

The Blackhorse Village Players has a lineup of four plays scheduled for its stage, with the season starting on Nov. 7 and wrapping up on June 21, 2026.

The first offering is a romantic drama titled "Willow Quartet," written by Joan Burrow. It features a cast of four and is set in a rural location.

In the aftermath of a tragedy that ends Kim and Ben's marriage, Kim finds herself back at her childhood home.

She grew up on a farm, a long way from the city where she had been living with Ben.

While at the farm, she meets a visiting musician named Jim, and they develop a friendship.

Kim invites Jim to stay with her in an inno-

cent bed-and-breakfast arrangement.

This does not go over well with Ben and Ben's mother, Marjorie.

After a while, Kim becomes infatuated with Jim's sophistication and charm. He has a way of making her forget her anguish, at least temporarily, until it finally makes its way to the surface of her emotions.

With Jim at her side, Kim struggles to navigate through her unresolved grief. She begins to explore her buried feelings until she eventually finds what can be her 'new normal.'

Willow Quartet is a drama about choices, consequences, and ultimately, forgiveness.

The show will premiere on the Blackhorse stage on Friday, Nov. 7.

There will be performances on Friday and Saturday evenings as well as Sunday matinees through to Sunday, Nov. 23.

You can purchase tickets through the Theatre's website at www.blackhorsetheatre.ca.

The Blackhorse Theatre is located at 17272 Mt. Wolfe Rd, in Caldeon.



A GOOD CAUSE – St. John's United Church held another successful pancake breakfast during the Alliston Potato Festival in August. The church always donates some of the proceeds from the breakfast to local good causes. John Morrison, representing the church, presents a cheque for \$1,000 to Deb Herrington, representing My Sister's Place in Alliston, at the church on Wednesday, Oct. 22.

BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

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Local data continues to show high level of household food insecurity in Simcoe Muskoka

In the past few weeks organizations and municipalities have been raising an alarm about household food insecurity and the significant impact it has on people's health, the health of our communities and the cost to the health care system. The rising cost of living and the increasing price of groceries has many feeling a financial pinch. The results of the 2025 Nutritious Food Basket (NFB) survey help to bring into focus the growing number of households in Simcoe Muskoka unable to afford the basic, nutritious food necessary to meet current Canadian nutrition recommendations due to financial constraints.

The Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit (SMDHU) conducts the Nutritious Food Basket (NFB) survey annually to monitor the cost of eating a healthy diet. This survey includes 61 staple food items such as milk, eggs, and bread. According to the 2025 findings, in Simcoe Muskoka a family of four with two adults and two children, ages 8 and 14, would need to spend \$1,282.89 per month to afford these essentials, while a single-person household would require \$445.92.

"When household income is too low, people cannot cover their basic expenses," says Vanessa Hurley, Public Health Nutritionist and Registered Dietitian at SMDHU. "While food insecurity is impacting people with lower incomes, those who have unstable or insecure work, people who rent, single parents with kids, those receiving social assistance, and the number of middle-income households reporting that they are also feeling the squeeze, doubled in 2024 in comparison to 2022 and 2023. And having a job does not guarantee food security. In our province, more than half of households that have income from employ-

While food insecurity is impacting people with lower incomes, those who have unstable or insecure work, people who rent, single parents with kids, those receiving social assistance, and the number of middle-income households reporting that they are also feeling the squeeze

Vanessa Hurley, Public Health Nutritionist and Registered Dietitian at SMDHU

ment are food insecure."

When food costs are considered alongside rent and total household income, it becomes clear that many individuals and families in Simcoe Muskoka are unable to meet their basic needs, let alone any other expenses needed for daily living. A family of four receiving Ontario Works benefits would need to spend 97 percent of their income just on food and rent alone. A parent raising two children receiving Ontario Works would need to spend 93 percent of their income on food and rent. For a single adult on Ontario Works, covering these two essentials is impossible, consuming 168 percent of their income, leaving no money for other basic needs such as utilities, transportation, clothing, phone and internet service, medications, school supplies or child care.

Household food insecurity is an urgent public health issue. For people experiencing food insecurity it can mean buying less or lower quality

food, worrying about running out of food, skipping meals or, in the most severe cases, going without food for days. This can lead to serious physical and mental health consequences, with those affected facing a higher risk of chronic illnesses such as diabetes, hypertension and depression. As people's health deteriorates, health care costs rise, further straining the health care system and ultimately affecting the entire community.

According to recent data from Public Health Ontario (PHO), household food insecurity in Simcoe Muskoka is worsening, with 26 percent or approximately 60,000 households experiencing some level of household food insecurity from 2023 to 2024. This is in line with what is being seen at the provincial level and at the national level, the rates are at a record high. These results are significantly higher than when compared to the previous four years. Furthermore, a local survey conducted by SMDHU showed that one in three households were not able to afford the amount or quality of food they wanted in the past 30 days.

"Household food insecurity is not an access to food issue it is an income issue. Vital food charity and emergency food programs do not address household food insecurity. The growing household food insecurity crisis requires action by all levels of government to put in place sustainable, income-based solutions that put more money in people's pockets for food and other basic needs," says Hurley.

For more information about local food costs and household food insecurity statistics, please visit the Household Food Insecurity and Nutritious Food Basket sections of the health unit's HealthSTATS website.



Remembrance Day is a time to Respect Reflect Remember

On November 11, at 11 a.m.
we observe two minutes of silence to show gratitude
for the courage and sacrifice of our veterans.

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Lest we FORGET

Remembrance Day
November 11, 2025

Thoughts, Gratitude & Respect On Remembrance Day

Legion Poppy Fund supports Veterans and their families

When you make a donation when getting your poppy prior to Remembrance Day, your contribution goes a long way in helping others.

The Legion uses donations to provide financial assistance and support to Veterans including Canadian Armed Forces, RCMP, and their families who are in need.

Poppy funds are used for grants for essential home repair, food, clothing, prescription medication, medical appliances and equipment, heating costs, and emergency shelter

or assistance.

Funds may be used for Veteran Transition Programs that are directly related to the training, education, and support needs of Veterans and their families.

The funds may also be used to support Veterans and surviving spouses who are hospitalized and in need. This includes Veteran visits, transportation, day trips, and accessibility modification to assist Veterans with disabilities.

The fund supports Veteran drop-in centres and services in communities where Veterans will benefit from these services.

The Poppy Fund supports youth by helping Cadet units.

The Poppy Campaign is organized and run by local Legion volunteers at over 1,359 branches across Canada.

Poppy funds are held in trust at every level of the Legion and the use of funds is strictly controlled with appropriate approval processes.



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Lest we FORGET

Local veteran served during the intense years of the Cold War

There were no actual shots fired during the Cold War period, but the tension between East and West was always apparent.

Local Veteran Hart Holmstrom served in the Air Force during his 15 years in the military. He spent the years 1961 to 1965 in Germany at the Royal Canadian Air Force base at Baden-Soellingen.

"I was there when US President Kennedy was assassinated," Mr. Holmstrom recalled. "It was a big deal at the time. I was amazed at the respect the German people had for him. They shut everything down. Because of the assassination, we

went on high alert. There was a lot of tension at that time."

It was an East/West standoff that made the Cold War period so dangerous with both sides posturing over the years.

Mr. Holmstrom was also there when the USSR constructed the Berlin Wall. The Wall became a symbol of the divide between East and West.

Mr. Holmstrom said that when the wall was built, it heightened the tension where he was serving.

After leaving the military, he started his own successful heating and air conditioning company.

"The military treated me very well," Mr. Holmstrom said. "I left with three trades, and that allowed me to start my own business.

In the years since he was in the military, Mr. Holmstrom has been very active in the Royal Canadian Legion and the community in general.

He was the driving force behind the Alliston Cenotaph that honours the fallen and those that served in World War I, World War II, the Korean War, the Gulf War, the Afghanistan War, and those who were on peacekeeping missions.

Remembrance Day is a very special day for Mr. Holmstrom.

"This is a very special day," he said. "It is a day that we honour the people who died for our country. It is a day we honour the men and women who gave their lives for our freedom."



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Sir Frederick Banting – A national hero and casualty of war

Sir Frederick Banting was already a national hero and world figure by the time the Second World War began.

He was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in 1923 for his co-discovery of insulin.

His discovery changed the world and provided millions of people with a new lease on life.

At the onset of the First World War, Banting attempted to enlist with the Canadian Expeditionary Force, but was refused due to his poor vision.

However, in his third year of medical school, he successfully joined the Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps in 1915.

Eventually, he was commissioned as a lieutenant, and sailed to Britain in March of 1917.

His first encounter with medical service came during the Battle of Amiens, where he spent several days tending to the wounded on the front lines.

He was a firsthand witness at the Battle of Cambrai in 1918.

Banting was wounded by shrapnel from an exploding shell which ended his frontline duty. He was awarded the Military Cross for 'exceptional bravery while attending the wounded under fire.'

After the war, he continued his surgical training.

Banting was again involved in the war effort when the Second World War was underway.

In February 1941, he was aboard a Lockheed aircraft departing from Newfoundland on its way to England. Banting was going there to conduct operation tests on a new flying suit that was being developed to help protect military pilots from G-forces during combat operations.

Banting's plane lost power in both engines and the aircraft crashed.

The navigator and co-pilot were killed.

Banting and the pilot initially survived the crash, however Banting died the next day from his injuries.

Sir Frederick Banting's legacy is not only in medicine, but in his service to his country during wartime.



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Lest we FORGET

Remembrance Day ~ Tuesday, November 11, 2025

Local Remembrance Day Services

Alliston

A special national Indigenous Veterans Day ceremony will be held at the Alliston Cenotaph on Saturday, Nov. 8.

The parade will start at 10:45 a.m.

Remembrance Day activities in Alliston will take place at the Alliston cenotaph, located at Albert Street and Paris Street, behind the Alliston Memorial Arena, on Tuesday, Nov. 11.

A parade will form at 10:30 a.m. at the Veterans walkway.

Laying of wreaths will follow.

Angus

The service in Angus will take place on Tuesday, Nov. 11, beginning at 10:30 a.m.

Legion Branch 499 will conduct a parade and ceremony to honour Veterans. The parade will march from Branch 499 to the Angus War Memorial on Queen Street.

The parade will march back to the Angus Legion, for a gathering at the Legion.

Beeton

Remembrance Day services will be held in Beeton on Sunday, Nov. 9.

The service will take place at the cenotaph at the corner of Prospect Street and Second Street at 10:45 a.m.

Speeches will be followed by the laying of wreaths.

Everett

The service in Everett will take place on Tuesday, Nov. 11, beginning at 10:30 a.m.

The parade formation will take place at 10:40 in front of the Legion and will march to the Tosorontio Township Cenotaph at 8175 Main Street in Everett.

Tottenham

Remembrance Day services will be held in Tottenham on Sunday, Nov. 9

Form up will take place in front of the Tottenham Legion on Richmond Street at 10:30 a.m., followed by a parade to the cenotaph at Keogh Park for the service at 11:00 a.m.

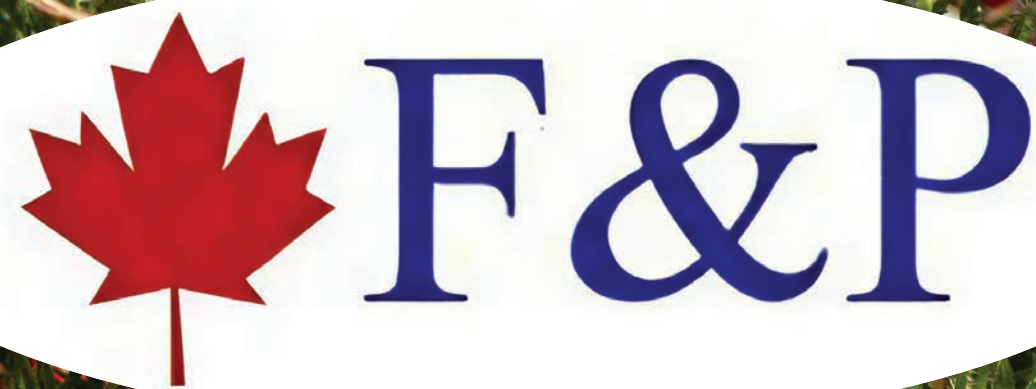
Ceremonies will take place at the cenotaph with speakers followed by the laying of wreaths.

Everyone is welcome back to the legion for chili and soup.

From any location

If you are unable to attend a service at a cenotaph, you can participate by observing a minute of silence at your home, business, or school.

Not being able to attend a service doesn't mean you can't participate and remember the sacrifices made during wartime.



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The roles of the three branches of the Canadian Armed Forces

Each November, individuals across Canada honor and recognize the service and sacrifices of members of the Canadian Armed Forces. Remembrance Day is celebrated in Canada every year on November 11, making the month of November an ideal time to learn about each of the three branches of the country's armed forces.

The Royal Canadian Navy

The Royal Canadian Navy (RCN) is tasked with protecting Canadian sovereignty at sea, at home and abroad. Sailors in the RCN also provide peacekeeping services and humanitarian aid and prevent illegal activities from happening at sea. According to the Government of Canada, the RCN is made up of approximately 8,400 Regular Force personnel. An additional 4,100 Reservists and 3,800 civilians serve in the RCN.



The Canadian Army

The Canadian Army is the land component of the Canadian Armed Forces. The Army consists of full-time Regular soldiers, part-time Reservists who serve in communities across Canada, and Canadian Rangers from remote locations in Canada.

The Government of Canada notes that the Army Reserve is a part-time component of the Canadian Army that deploys members both at home and abroad. With roughly 21,500 members, Reservists make up nearly as large a force as the Regular Force (22,500 members), and an additional 3,500 civilian employees serve in support of the Army.

Royal Canadian Air Force

Working in partnership with the United States, the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) defends and protects Canadian and North American airspace. The RCAF flies a large inventory of aircraft, which the Government of Canada notes includes a significant amount of new or completely modernized aircraft. The RCAF serves in both peacetime and during times of conflict.

The Canadian Armed Forces serve a variety of functions, protecting Canadians, Canadian interests and even foreign citizens both at home and abroad. Remembrance Day marks the perfect time to celebrate and honor the Canadian Armed Forces.

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Interesting facts about Remembrance Day

Canadians observe Remembrance Day each year on November 11. Once known as Armistice Day, Remembrance Day honors deceased military members, living veterans and current armed forces personnel.

Millions will observe Remembrance Day this November, and the following facts can help them gain a greater understanding of the holiday.

- Remembrance Day has a lengthy history in Canada. Armistice Day was first commemorated in Canada in 1919, when King George V urged all countries in the British Commonwealth, including Canada, to observe the day.
- The name of the holiday was changed from Armistice Day to Remembrance Day in 1931.
- The choice to commemorate the holiday that eventually became Remembrance Day on November 11 has symbolic meaning. According to the Government of Canada, the choice reflects the signing of the armistice agreement on November 11, 1918, which called for an end to hostilities at 11 a.m. — which happens to be the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month. The armistice ended World War I, though fighting continued for hours after the agreement was reached and the Treaty of Versailles, which was the formal peace treaty that ended the war, was not signed until 1919.
- The poppy symbolizes Remembrance Day. Though the red poppy symbolizes Memorial Day in the United States, where Veterans Day is observed on November 11, the poppy is worn in Canada on Remembrance Day to honor fallen service members.
- The poppy has Canadian roots, as a 1915 poem referred to the fields of poppies growing around the graves of World War I soldiers in Flanders. That poem was written by a Canadian Lieutenant Colonel named John McCrae.
- A national ceremony is held each year at the National War Memorial in Ottawa. The Governor General of Canada, who presides over the ceremony, and the Prime Minister are among the notable officials to attend each year.
- A column of veterans, members of the Canadian Armed forces, officers of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, cadets march to the memorial.
- France, Belgium, Poland, and the United Kingdom also observe Remembrance Day on November 11.

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The Remembrance Day poppy – A symbol of remembering the fallen

It has become custom to wear a poppy on your lapel in the weeks prior, and up to Remembrance Day on November 11, as a symbol of remembering the fallen.

Poppy seeds may remain dormant in the earth for years, but they will blossom in abundance when the soil is disturbed.

As artillery barrages began to churn the earth in late 1914, the fields of Flanders and northern France saw countless poppies begin to blossom and cover the battlefield with red blooms.

The sight inspired Lieutenant-Colonel John McCrae to write his famous poem 'In Flanders Fields.'

The first person to use the poppy as a symbol of remembrance was Moina Michael, a member of the American Overseas YMCA, who was touched by McCrae's poem.

On November 9, 1918, Moina wore a poppy and her colleagues decided to wear one as well. She purchased 25 silk

poppies, pinned one to her coat collar and gave the rest to her colleagues.

The National American Legion adopted the symbol at its conference in April, 1920.

The idea spread to Canada and the first 'poppy day' occurred on November 11, 1921.

The Royal Canadian Legion, formed in 1925, has run the poppy fundraising campaign in Canada ever since.



In Flanders Fields

In Flanders Fields, the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the dead, short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now
we lie

In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you, from failing hands, we
throw The torch; be yours to
hold it high.

If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though
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—John McCrae

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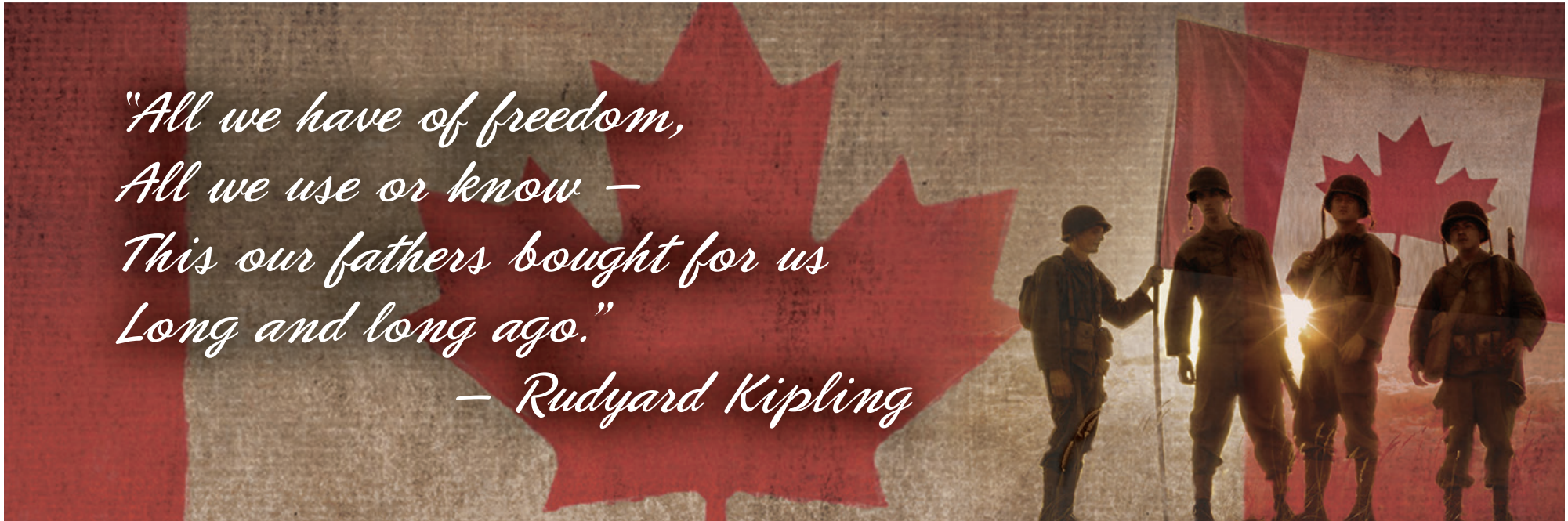
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SPORTS

NEW TECUMSETH TIMES

Banting senior girls win SCAA flag football championship

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Banting Memorial High School Marauders senior girls' flag football team is champion after winning the Simcoe County Athletic Association championship final game with a 14-7 win over the Orillia Secondary School Nighthawks on their home field at Banting on Thursday, Oct. 30.

It was a well-played match by both teams in cold conditions with a steady drizzle throughout the entire game.

The Marauders are undefeated for the season and finished in first place in the standings.

In the final game, the Marauders scored early in the first half.

It was a tie game when Orillia got on the scoreboard late in the half.

Banting got the edge when the teams returned for the second half, and the Marauders scored on a long run down the sidelines and were successful on the extra-point attempt.

The Marauders played well defensively and shut down the Orillia attempt to gain

yards on the field.

The game ended when Banting took possession on downs deep in their own end and played the final few downs to maintain possession.

The final was a 14-7 win for the Marauders, and they were awarded the SCAA title.

It was the fourth year in a row that the Banting senior flag football team has won the title.

"We've been undefeated for four years now, so I'm pretty impressed that our team

as a whole is really good individually, but as a team we've been unstoppable for a long time," said Marauders centre Sam Lacroix after the game. "I think it's our main focus to not be pretentious and try to go into the game with an open mind and think the other team could win. That's what keeps us going. We try to be humble, try our hardest, and always be nice to the other team."

The team will now compete for the Georgian Bay Secondary School Association title on Tuesday, Nov. 4.



TOUGH LOSS – The Tottenham Railers take on the Durham Road Runners at the Tottenham Community Centre Arena on Saturday, Nov. 1. The Railers had to settle for a 5-4 loss in this game. The team now has an 8-7 record for the season.

BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO



IN THE ZONE – The Banting Memorial High School Marauders senior girls' flag football team is this year's champion after winning the Simcoe County Athletic Association (SCAA) championship with a 14-7 over the Orillia Secondary School Nighthawks on the field at Banting on Thursday, Oct. 30. Banting player, Celinina Whittaker, takes the ball into the Orillia zone during the second half of the game.

BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

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Police investigate animal cruelty in Tottenham after fox shot with BB gun

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Nottawasaga Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) officers are investigating a case of animal cruelty after a fox was found severely injured in Tottenham.

On Oct. 24, officers responded to a report of an injured fox believed to have been struck by a vehicle spotted near a residential property.

Despite attending the scene, the animal could not be located at that time. In the days that followed, Procyon Wildlife received multiple community reports and successfully captured the fox on Oct. 29, near St. James Roman Catholic Cemetery.

A veterinary assessment revealed the fox had not been hit by a vehicle, but had instead been shot several times with a pellet or BB gun. These injuries left the fox permanently

paralyzed and was required to be euthanized to prevent further suffering.

This incident is now being investigated as a case of animal cruelty.

The OPP has reported the matter to Provincial Animal Welfare Services (PAWS) and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF). Investigators are now seeking information from the public to identify the whoever may be responsible for this act.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Anyone with information is urged to contact the Nottawasaga OPP at 1-888-310-1122.

Fraud charges laid after hockey association in Essa finds \$77,000 missing from bank account

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

As a result of a lengthy police investigation, members of the Nottawasaga Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) have arrested and charged an individual in connection with a fraud investigation in Essa Township.

The OPP has concluded a fraud investigation that began on May 14, 2025, following a report from a local minor hockey league association regarding a substantial financial discrepancy.

The association's executive team identified that approximately \$77,299 was missing from its operational account.

Through internal efforts, the association

recovered \$54,000 from a former board member.

A thorough police investigation determined that the individual within the organization responsible for managing a portion of the association's funds had committed fraud.

As a result of the investigation, Julianna DiNino, 33, of New Brunswick, has been arrested and charged with the following:

- Criminal Breach of Trust
 - Fraud over \$5,000
- The accused has since been released from custody and is scheduled to appear in court on Nov. 20, 2025.
- Anyone with further information is encouraged to contact the Nottawasaga OPP at 1-888-310-1122 or call Crime Stoppers anonymously at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477).

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708 OBITUARIES

Lawrence Gordon Hawton

September 19, 1937 – October 24, 2025

It is with deep sorrow and much love that we mourn the loss of Lawrence Gordon Hawton, who passed away on October 24, 2025, at the age of 88, surrounded by his loving family.

Lawrence will be deeply missed by his caring, devoted wife of 66 years, Joan Hawton, and their children Valerie (Dan) Boucher, Rick, and Todd. His grandchildren Kurtis, Kody (Amanda), Garett, Jake, Marshall (Caitlyn), and Jenna will cherish the countless memories with him. Lawrence always took an interest in their lives and work, instilling in everyone a strong sense of responsibility and a tireless work ethic. He was overjoyed to welcome his first great-grandchild, Ivy, who brought him great happiness.

Predeceased by his parents, Lillian and Gordon Hawton, he will be fondly remembered by his brother Paul (Gerrit), (predeceased by Helen) and nephew David and predeceased by niece Janet. Brother in law to Gail (Jim) Gould and Wayne (Marjorie) Whiteside.

Born and raised in Beeton, Lawrence had a lifelong passion for farming and a deep commitment to his community. Lawrence was a carpenter and built several homes in the area. At just 16 years old, he joined the local fire department, claiming he was old enough to serve, which he was not. He went on to dedicate more than 50 years of service, proudly holding the positions of Captain and later Chief. He was also a Councillor and then Reeve of the Village of Beeton. He was on the Committee of Adjustment for New Tecumseth. Lawrence was the Livestock Evaluator for Beeton and Bradford for years and also a member of the Beeton Lions Club. Lawrence and Joan also had a partnership with his good friend in the Beeton store "Doc's Gift and Variety" for several years.

Forever remembered and always in our hearts.

The family would like to extend their heartfelt thanks to the nurses and doctors at Stevenson Memorial Hospital, and to the wonderful staff at Riverwood Senior Living for their exceptional care. The family would also like to thank Kristine Holmes for her compassionate support and loving care she showed dad.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Lawrence's memory can be made to Sick Kids Foundation.

Cremation has taken place. A Celebration of Life will be held at Rod Abrams Funeral Home, 1666 Tottenham Rd., Tottenham ON., 905-936-3477 on Saturday, November 22, 2025 from 1:00pm – 3:00pm in the funeral home's Cliffside Hall. Family Words of Remembrance will take place at 1:30pm. Online condolences and memories may be left for the family at www.RodAbramsFuneralHome.com.

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Continued from Page 4

Brock's Banter: Remembrance and unanswered questions

In recent years, I've found myself thinking about her brother, previously unknown to me just under a decade ago, and what he must have experienced before paying the ultimate sacrifice for King and Country.

The questions I have for these men and women but was never able to ask, could fill a newspaper double or triple this size, but there's some solace that more than 15 years in this job as a reporter and then editor have afforded me many opportunities to pose some of the questions I did have to others who followed similar paths, experienced similar horrors, and were eager to share their experiences with anyone who asked.

Time was of the essence and you have to

strike while the proverbial iron is hot.

There is a stereotype that those who were fortunate to come home usually expounded on their own experiences in order to somehow relive the "glory days" of their youth, but from talking to them, this was never, ever the case.

While their individual circumstances varied, whether they were fighting on the frontlines or working here on the home front, there was one overarching uniting factor: they shared their stories so us younger folk would appreciate the true horrors of war in the hopes of ensuring such things would never happen again.

Each passing Remembrance Day leaves us fewer and fewer people who are able to share their perspectives with younger generations,

and while it took a while to get to this point, I think we're sadly seeing the results of losing that lived experience from our discourse: horrors experienced by these people fading into history, leaving a door open for up-and-coming generations to downplay these unspeakable traumas, adopt an "Oh, it wasn't THAT bad" mentality, cast doubt on what these men and women shared with us, or, at worst, dismiss them outright as fantasy, hoaxes, and conspiracies. That old saying, "Those who ignore history are doomed to repeat it," holds no small amount of truth – and it's not always even a matter of ignoring history; it could sometimes be simply a matter of not having access to it. And we are all the poorer for that.

Thankfully, so many veterans were generous enough with their time to share their experiences for posterity, and we are the richer for it, even if so many questions will forever be unanswered, but if only more people took the time to listen, read, and reflect on what they left behind. I'm grateful to have some bonus time with my family member thanks to the team at Southlake Health and I'm damned if I'm not going to do my utmost to get all my outstanding questions answered and, yes, saved for posterity.

These reflections may not change the world, as the recollections of so many of our servicemen and women did, but, none of us know until we ask.

Major League Baseball trumps Junior C Hockey throughout Jays-Dodgers World Series

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

It was an unusual weekend for Junior C hockey across the province when fans and league executives decided that the World Series trumped local hockey.

There was a noticeable drop in attendance during Junior C games on Friday, Oct. 24, when Game 1 of the Toronto Blue Jays-Los Angeles Dodgers World Series Championship was played.

Many fans were in the arena lounges, cheering on the Blue Jays rather than watching the hockey game.

When the World Series came down to the final couple of games, the decision was made to reschedule some hockey games so fans could watch the baseball series.

Game 6 of the World Series on Friday, Oct. 31, resulted in three hockey games being postponed.

When the series went to Game 7 on Saturday, Nov. 1, the league postponed 11 games

across the province.

Now that the series is over, hockey attendance should return to its regular hometown game-night levels as fans can look forward to this year's PJHL league championships.

In the North Carruthers Division of the PJHL, the Alliston Hornets lead with an undefeated 13-0 record.

The only other undefeated team in the league this year is the Uxbridge Bruins of the East Orr Division, who also have a 13-0 record.

The Orillia Terriers are in second place in

the North Carruthers Division with a 10-3 record and 20 points.

In the third spot, the Stayner Siskins have a 9-5 record and 18 points.

They are followed by the Penetang Kings, Midland Flyers, and the Muskoka Bears, who are separated by four points.

The Innisfil Spartans are in seventh place with nine points.

In the basement, the Huntsville Otters are struggling, winning four games after 11 times on the ice.

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