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\$1.50 per copy (\$1.43 + 7¢ G.S.T.)

Thursday, October 1, 2026

Volume 52, Issue 40

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

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

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Salon 21 Marks Five Years of Style

It was a special anniversary for Salon 21 in Tottenham as the hair care business celebrated its five-year anniversary. Town councillors joined staff at a special gathering to celebrate the milestone on Sunday, Sept. 20, at their Queen St. S. location.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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Town plans environmental assessment for water booster pumping stations

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

The Town of New Tecumseth is undertaking a Schedule B Municipal Class Environmental Assessment for the addition of two water booster pumping stations.

The Town of New Tecumseth owns and operates a 57-kilometre water transmission main that transports treated water from the Raymond A. Barker Water Treatment Plant in Collingwood to the Parsons Road Reservoir in Alliston, with additional supply connections to New Lowell, Baxter, and Angus.

In 2016, the town completed a Water Supply, Distribution and Storage Master Plan

which identified the preferred strategy to provide security of water supply and to accommodate growth needs in Alliston, Beeton, and Tottenham.

The master plan identifies the need for two new Booster Pumping Stations on the New Tecumseth water transmission main.

The water transmission main was designed with provisions for future connection of up to four booster pumping stations. Booster Station #1 is required to increase capacity in the short term and is being planned in coordination with the RAB WTP Expansion.

Booster Pumping Station #2 will be required to increase capacity in the long term, based on

water demand as identified in the Master Plan.

Alternative solutions will be evaluated to identify preferred alternatives for the proposed booster pumping stations, including site options for Booster Station #1 and Booster Station #2 within the hydraulic constraints of the water transmission main.

This project is being planned in coordination with Simcoe County, Clearview Township, and the Township of Essa.

The study areas for Booster Station #1 and Booster Station #2 are in these general locations:

- Booster Station #1 – Concession Road 7 Sunnidale and Barrie-Collingwood Rail Trail

(Clearview)

- Booster Station #2 – County Road 10 and Side Road 25 (CFB Border / Township of Essa)

Consultation is a key element of a Municipal Class Environmental Assessment.

Any input received during this process will be maintained on file for use during the project and may be included in project documentation. The information collected will be used in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

With the exception of personal information, all comments will become part of the public record.



NEW PAD – The new helipad at Stevenson Memorial Hospital is almost ready for use. Construction of the project is now completed. The helipad is part of the hospital's \$174 million redevelopment project. The local share of the project to be raised is \$80 million.

BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

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Ontario Trillium Grants provides \$413,200 to local programs

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

The Ontario government is providing five non-profit organizations in Simcoe-Grey with \$413,200 in funding this year through the Ontario Trillium Foundation's Capital grant stream.

The funds will help improve community spaces, expand access to local programs and activities, and ensure residents can continue to benefit from the services and facilities that make Simcoe-Grey a great place to live.

The funding is being split between Beeton

Lawn Bowling Club, E3 Community Services Inc., Rainbow Club of South Georgian Bay, CLASS and Camphill Communities Ontario/.

Brian Saunderson, MPP for Simcoe-Grey, made the announcement on Sept. 22.

"Strong communities depend on local organizations that bring people together, create opportunities and provide critical supports close to home," said MPP Saunderson. "This important provincial investment will help five recipients across Simcoe-Grey improve their facilities and access the equipment they need to better serve our communities. I want to

congratulate and thank their staff, volunteers and supporters for the meaningful work they do every day to make a difference in the lives of others."

The Trillium Foundation Grants help organizations improve their infrastructure so they can continue delivering programs and services that Ontarians need to thrive.

This includes purchasing equipment, building a new space or completing renovations, and retrofits or repairs.

"Non-profit organizations across Ontario are delivering critical programming that helps

people train for new careers, stay active, learn new skills and connect with their communities," said Zee Hamid, Minister of Tourism, Culture and Gaming. "Our investment will help modernize and improve the spaces these organizations rely on so they can continue delivering the services that strengthen communities and drive local economic growth."

The capital grant stream is part of the government's plan to protect Ontario by investing in community infrastructure, supporting local organizations and creating the conditions for long-term economic growth and prosperity.

Skilled Trades & Technology Centre connects residents with in-demand careers

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

The Town of New Tecumseth is investing in the future through innovative partnerships, hands-on learning opportunities, and forward-thinking initiatives that connect residents with in-demand careers.

The proposed Skilled Trades & Technology Training Centre is an initiative that would expand access to local training, help address skilled labour shortages, and strengthen workforce access for employers across the region.

Town staff recently led meetings with

post-secondary institutions that submitted responses as part of the Expression of Information process to explore partnership opportunities, programming models, and future training needs. These discussions will support an upcoming feasibility study with the County of Simcoe and help shape the project's next phase.

"New Tecumseth is taking action to prepare for the future," said Mayor Richard Norcross.

"The proposed Skilled Trades & Technology Training Centre represents a significant opportunity to expand local training oppor-

tunities, support employers, and strengthen our workforce for years to come. Combined with initiatives such as our Tools in the Trades Bootcamp and upcoming Hackathon, we are creating pathways to success for residents while helping ensure our community remains competitive, innovative, and ready for continued growth."

The town is continuing to build awareness and interest in skilled trades careers through hands-on programming.

On Sept. 17, the town hosted its second Tools in the Trades Bootcamp of the year in partnership with Support Ontario Youth and Honda of Canada Manufacturing. The event provided participants with practical experience in the electrical and millwright trades, direct connections with employers, and valuable insight into local career opportunities.

More than 100 participants attended the Town's two bootcamp events held in 2026.

Supported by industry, education and

workforce partners including F&P Manufacturing, Howa Canada, Simcoe Parts Service, Skilled Trades Ontario, Simcoe Muskoka Skillforce, Milwaukee, Georgian College and the County of Simcoe, the Bootcamp showcased the opportunities available within one of Ontario's most in-demand sectors.

Looking ahead, the Town is also developing a Skilled Trades & Technology Hackathon, which will bring together students, educators and industry partners to solve real-world manufacturing and technology challenges through innovation, collaboration and problem-solving.

The initiative will help showcase skilled trades, advanced manufacturing and emerging technologies as exciting local career pathways.

To learn more about the Town of New Tecumseth's proposed Skilled Trades & Technology Centre, go to: newtecumseth.ca/invest-here/workforce

OPP sergeant from Alliston charged in child exploitation investigation

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

An Alliston resident and Ontario Provincial Police Sergeant with 28 years of service has been arrested and charged in connection to a child sexual exploitation investigation.

Chris Weise, 54, who is currently on an unrelated leave of absence, was arrested and charged on Tuesday, Sept. 8, with the following Criminal Code offences:

- Accessing child sexual abuse and exploitation material, Section 163.1(4.1)
- Possession of child sexual abuse and

exploitation material, Section 163.1(4)

The OPP Child Sexual Exploitation Unit, with assistance from the OPP Notawasaga Detachment and members of the OPP Digital Forensics Unit, made the arrest.

Police executed a search warrant at a residence in Alliston on Tuesday, June 16, and seized a number of electronic devices before laying charges.

The accused is scheduled to appear before the Ontario Court of Justice in Bradford on Thursday, Oct. 8, 2026.

The charges have not been proven in court.

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Editorial, Letters & Opinion

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

~ Stanislaw Jerzy Lec

Campaign afoot to kick-start property assessments

Numbers. They're all around us.

That's according to an advertisement I recently watched from the province's Municipal Property Assessment Corporation. That's the crowd that assesses what properties throughout Ontario are worth. Your home's monetary worth. Not its sentimental worth as the place where a family's memories, good and bad, have been made.

Images in the ad show numbers on a mailbox. The digits that make up a street address. A keypad as part of an alarm system presumably for a house. There are numbers on a sports jersey for some reason. The point is they're all around us, numbers.

Street address numbers don't change. And some athletes have been known, for superstitious and other reasons, to wear the same jersey number even though the jersey's colours and team logo change.

And that's fitting, given that MPAC's commercial and residential property assessments have been frozen for the last decade. Municipalities have been left to maintain and improve infrastruc-

ture and balance budgets according to numbers from assessments last done in 2016.

And in that time, the costs to live have increased, as have prices for much of the materials used to keep towns, townships, and cities in good repair.

Letters have been sent to Ontario municipal councils by a tax policy group called Ryan Canada ULC as part of a campaign to "unfreeze Ontario." Unfreeze Ontario is a lobby effort to get the province to reinstate regular property assessments, beginning with a province-wide reassessment in 2027. That would be handy next year. The opening year of the new term of municipal and county councils.

Part of the campaign is that letters be sent by municipal councils to Premier Doug Ford and Finance Minister Peter Bethlenfalvy calling on them to restore regular property assessments.

The letter has been sent to Mono's elected officials and a number of Ontario municipal councils. Mono council decided to look further into the tax company before hitching their wagon to

the effort. But the letter campaign generated discussion amongst that Dufferin County town's councillors when they met Sept. 22.

In the decade since the last assessments, property values and economic conditions have changed significantly, yet those changes are not being reflected in the distribution of the property tax burden, Ryan Canada states in its letter.

"For municipalities, this is fundamentally an issue of fairness, predictability, and sound fiscal planning. Reassessment does not automatically mean higher property taxes. It simply ensures property values reflect today's market so the tax burden can be shared more fairly."

One of the trusses of Unfreeze Ontario is that this is fundamentally an issue of fairness, predictability, and sound fiscal planning, as reassessment ensures property values reflect today's market so the tax burden can be shared more fairly.

The freeze also makes it harder for municipalities to plan for growth, infrastructure, housing, and development

using a tax base that no longer reflects their communities' reality.

MPAC had a presence at the 2026 Association of Municipalities of Ontario conference in August, as you'd expect. According to Ryan Canada, the need for reassessments of Ontario's properties was a concern.

Municipal and county councils are not asking for reassessments to continue because they're trying to collect more property tax at a time when money is for all kinds of reasons tight for taxpayers. Rather, reassessments could make it financially easier for some property owners to live when money is tight today.

From Ryan Canada's website: "When assessments no longer reflect relative market values, some property owners can shoulder more than their fair share of the tax burden while others pay less. The longer assessments remain frozen, the greater those distortions may become."

Numbers are all around us. And some of them are incorrect numbers.

JAMES MATTHEWS
THE BUSTLE IN THE HEDGEROW



Steps in a new direction

Do you ever pursue a path that you know will most likely be futile, but still maintain that glimmer of hope that things will turn out a bit differently?

Your first instinct might be to say no, but I think we all have those little quirks.

One of mine is pretty inconsequential in the grand scheme of things, but I'm not ready to give up just yet and it is related to something that is usually something about which I don't generally give a second thought: shoes.

Don't get me wrong – I wear shoes, of course, and see their benefit, but I'm a guy who goes for what's comfortable and what's appropriate for the situation, and if the two can be combined into one convenient package so much the better.

I found one such pair of shoes more than a decade ago in a clearance sale.

Shoe shopping has never been a favourite activity as my flat, slightly wide feet can sometimes be problem customers, but not in this case. These brown slip-ons, with a couple of brass fasteners dotting the leather landscape here and there for a bit of contrast not only fit perfectly but improved my gait in

ways I didn't think were possible.

They served me very well and, when I eventually wore them out, I had them fixed at a local shoe repair store no less than three times, getting another year of wear out of them each time. Eventually, however, I got the dreaded news from the cobbler – there was really nothing left to fix anymore. I walked back to the office disappointed, but somewhat buoyed by the ideas flashing through my head of the different ways Marge Simpson reconfigured her bargain Chanel suit until...well, until it fell apart. We were now at that point and I reluctantly sent the shoes on their way.

I never gave up hope though that I would find another pair, however unlikely it seemed to be. I searched local bricks-and-mortar shoe stores, scrolled through dozens of online retailers – no luck. When the brand in question opened an outlet store reasonably close, I thought that might be the ticket. Maybe they had some so-called "dead stock" in the back. A quick visit there last week, however, poured cold water over that idea.

It was time – again, reluctantly – to

call it a day, be content with the footwear I have, and look for alternatives that are of comparable quality but significantly easier to obtain.

It was disappointing, yes, but I'm not going to walk around our community barefoot just on principle because I can't find the shoes I want. When the need arises, I'll once again look for that combo of comfort, value, and aesthetics – and I'm going into that journey with an open mind.

I'm going to follow this same principle beyond footwear, too, as we collectively move into a future that is loaded with uncertainty.

At the local level, for instance, we're in the heat of a municipal election where scores of residents have put themselves forward with their visions for the future, our neighbourhoods, and how they hope to execute that vision.

I hope you have taken the time to brush up on who each candidate is and what they have to offer, whether through our pages, candidate websites, or other communications – and whether you align with them or not.

There may not be a candidate who

ticks all your boxes, but this is not an excuse to sit the election out. Each one of you has a distinct vision of how you would like to see the community shaped going forward. Like getting on a municipal bus, chances are the vehicle is not going to drop you directly at your destination's front door, but you pick the bus that's going in the same direction and will get you closest to where you want to be.

At the national level, we're dealing with the latest round of tariffs in the ongoing trade war with the United States and a bus in the form of the European Union has pulled up.

We have, on the one hand, our biggest trading partner destroying this long-standing relationship at its very foundations and, on the other, a group of largely like-minded nations when it comes to democracy and the rule of law, opening up the door to something new.

BROCK WEIR
BROCK'S BANTER



Continued on Page 19

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PUBLISHER: Simcoe-York Printing & Publishing Ltd.

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PRODUCTION: Lisa Clendening

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Brazilian election

GWYNNE DYER
OUR WORLD TODAY



“Flávio Bolsonaro is Trump’s candidate and what Trump wants is to colonise Brazil, take our riches, steal our future and leave us in the dust,” claims the latest video released by

President Luiz Inácio ‘Lula’ da Silva’s re-election campaign. The weird thing is about half of Brazil’s voters would be okay with Trump running the country (through Bolsonaro).

Nobody in Brazil thinks that Flávio Bolsonaro is his own man. He is the son of Jair Bolsonaro, the hard right ex-soldier and former president who tried a coup after he lost the 2022 election. It was even clumsier and more half-hearted than Trump’s brief excursion in secession after he lost the US 2020 election – but Jair Bolsonaro went to jail for his attempt.

In a strange way Trump even recognises the parallel, showing special sympathy for his imprisoned fellow traveler. He claimed that the senior Bolsonaro was the victim of a “witch-hunt” by the Brazilian

Supreme Court and slapped 50 per cent tariffs on the country. And next Sunday (Oct. 4) the junior Bolsonaro faces Lula in another presidential election.

We already know that there will be a second round of voting on Oct. 25, when the other three candidates have dropped out and it’s a straight race between Lula and Junior. We have no idea what that outcome will be, because the two men have been only one or two points apart (i.e. ‘within the margin of error’) in every opinion poll for months.

We know where that extraordinary stability comes from, because it is the same in the United States and in many other democracies. Most Brazilians have abandoned ‘legacy media’ and get all their information from a vast network of alternative news sites, YouTube channels, social media influencers, Facebook pages, WhatsApp groups and legions of bots.

Or rather, from two vast and mutually exclusive networks of the same. Whatever your opinion is now, it will likely be the same next year because little else is getting through. Moreover, in the Brazilian case, there’s not really much to get excited about.

Inflation is low, unemployment is low, and the economy is growing faster in Brazil than in most other G20 countries. A big bank failed last year causing a long-running corruption scandal and the murder rate is preposterously high, but relatively speaking Brazilians should not have much to complain about, so in the end it will probably come down to ‘sovereignty’.

Lula recently warned on ‘X’ that Flávio Bolsonaro will “hand our natural resources over to the United States... If it’s up to him, Brazil will become a colony again.” The president portrays that as a threat, and traditionally the vast majority of Brazilians would have agreed, but both Flávio and his imprisoned father Jair would see it almost as a happy ending.

Neither of them puts it exactly like that in public, but both men see the brutal military dictatorship of 1964-1985 as a lost golden age. Jair served it as an

active-service officer and has praised its torturers (“The dictatorship’s mistake was to torture but not kill”). His son says “there was security, there was quality health and education, there was respect.”

No there wasn’t. There was terror, lies and legalised looting, but we need not relitigate that here. The problem is how quickly people forget, and a softer, gentler version of those brutal regimes is taking over all across Latin America.

Keiko Fujimori, the old dictator’s daughter, is the new president of Peru. The father of Chile’s new president José Antonio Kast was a Nazi who fought for Hitler, and he himself had links to the bloody dictator Pinochet. President Javier Milei of Argentina is a chainsaw-wielding ‘anarcho-capitalist paleolibertarian’.

Abelardo de la Espriella, Colombia’s new president, restarted the war with insurgents on his first day in office. Delcy Rodríguez, once vice-president of Venezuela under Maduro, has switched to being president under Trump and signed over the country’s oil. There’s Daniel Noboa in Ecuador and Nayib Bukele in El Salvador, and Cuba awaits its fate at Trump’s hands.

A shady lot, you might say, and they are all selling the same deal: prosperity and security in return for obedience. That’s not a terrible deal if the autocrats keep their end of bargain, but generally they can’t or at least won’t.

There will be tears before bedtime.

There are only two big hold-outs to the populist wave in Latin America. Mexico in the north seems all right for the moment, but Brazil in the south is teetering on the brink.

All that really stands between it and failure is one 80-year-old man – but he is a very tough old man, and if his health holds, he may be able to pull it off.



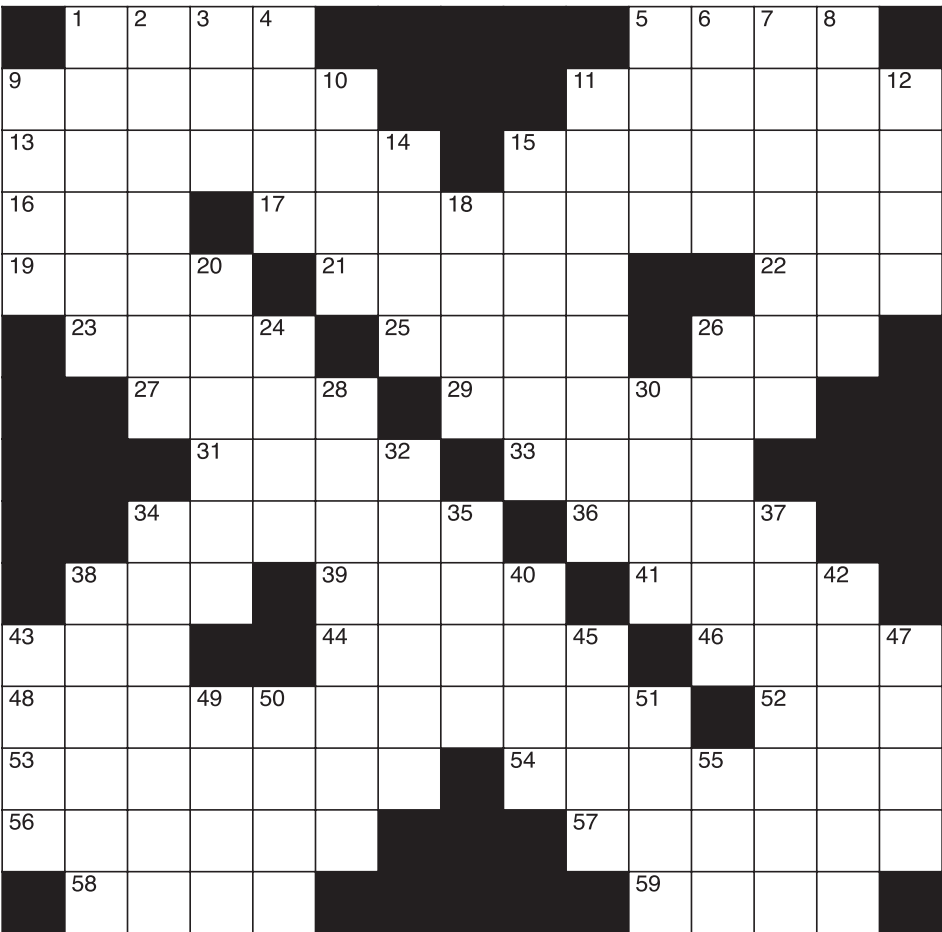
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CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Difficult
- 5. Coarsely ground corn
- 9. A group of similar things ordered one after another
- 11. Loved Romeo
- 13. Something to solve
- 15. Pelvic areas
- 16. Informal debt instrument
- 17. Ineffective
- 19. A device attached to a workbench
- 21. Related on the mother’s side
- 22. “Fresh Prince of ___ Air”
- 23. Astronomer Sagan
- 25. C. Utah city
- 26. Turkey
- 27. Informal terms for money
- 29. Awakens

- 31. Those who favored Prohibition
- 33. Blabbed
- 34. Looked through
- 36. Rhode Island rebellion
- 38. A type of “cast”
- 39. One’s duty
- 41. Where golfers begin
- 43. Make a mistake
- 44. Semitic Sun god
- 46. Ancient Greek City
- 48. Removed someone’s head
- 52. A place to stay
- 53. Unwise
- 54. Most unnatural
- 56. “Dennis” is a notable one
- 57. Ointments
- 58. Examination
- 59. Leaked fluid

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Brave

- 2. A state of excitement
- 3. Jest at
- 4. Sandwich store
- 5. Chapter of the Koran
- 6. Dismounted from a horse
- 7. Small vehicle
- 8. Irritated
- 9. A disreputable man
- 10. Monetary unit of Samoa
- 11. A list of woes
- 12. Weight unit
- 14. Alone, single
- 15. Broadway legend
- 18. Monetary unit of Serbia
- 20. Worn by exposure to the weather
- 24. A body of traditions
- 26. Students seek one
- 28. Hydrophilic amino acid
- 30. Nasal mucus
- 32. Branch of U.S. Congress
- 34. Swinish
- 35. Russian assembly
- 37. Grant an exemption to
- 38. Set up in advance
- 40. Satisfy
- 42. Felt
- 43. Mild yellow Dutch cheese made in balls
- 45. Witnesses
- 47. Strong insects
- 49. Gasteyer and de Armas are two
- 50. One of an ancient people inhabiting Scotland
- 51. Cheerless
- 55. Unhealthy

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



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NOTICE OF STUDY COMMENCEMENT



**MUNICIPAL CLASS ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
(SCHEDULE B) - NEW TECUMSETH WATER TRANSMISSION
MAIN BOOSTER PUMPING STATIONS**

The Town of New Tecumseth (Town) owns and operates a 57km long water transmission main that conveys treated water from the Raymond A. Barker Water Treatment Plant (RAB WTP) in Collingwood to the Parsons Road Reservoir in Alliston, with additional supply connections to New Lowell, Baxter and Angus. In 2016, the Town completed a Water Supply, Distribution and Storage Master Plan which identified the preferred strategy to provide security of water supply and to accommodate growth needs in Alliston, Beeton and Tottenham. The Master Plan identifies the need for two new Booster Pumping Stations on the New Tecumseth water transmission main.

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The study areas for BPS#1 and BPS#2 are at the following general locations (refer to Figures 1-3):

- BPS#1: Concession Road 7 Sunnidale and Barrie-Collingwood Rail Trail (Clearview Township)
- BPS#2: County Road 10 and Side Road 25 (CFB Borden / Township of Essa)

Consultation is a key element of a Municipal Class Environmental Assessment. For further information or to be added to the contact list to receive future project notices, please contact the project team at the email address below.

Joel John-Ogbe, EIT.
Project Manager
Town of New Tecumseth

Beth Rodgers, P.Eng.
Project Manager
R.V. Anderson Associates Limited

Email: NTPipelineBPS_EA@rvanderson.com

Any input received during this process will be maintained on file for use during the project and may be included in project documentation. The information collected will be used in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. With the exception of personal information, all comments will become part of the public record.

This notice was first issued on September 24, 2026.

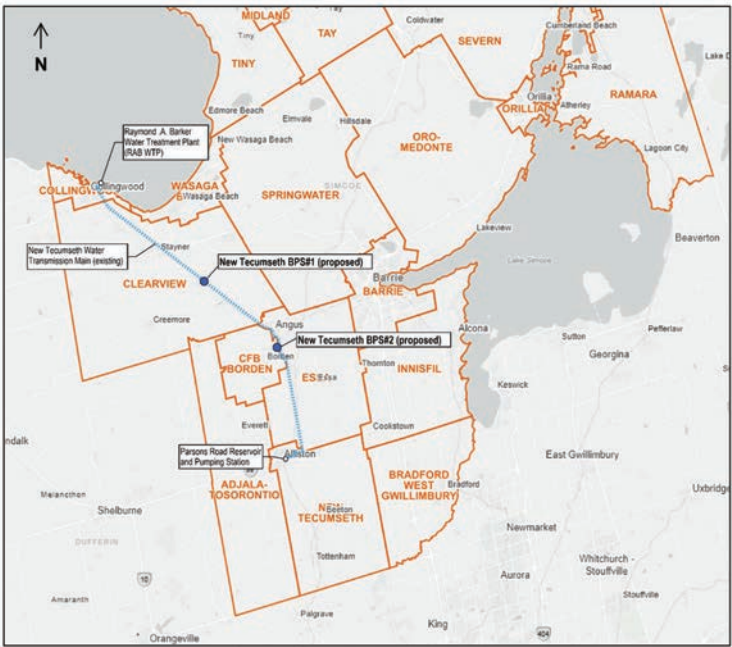


Figure 1 – Approximate location of Booster Pumping Station #1 and Booster Pumping Station #2

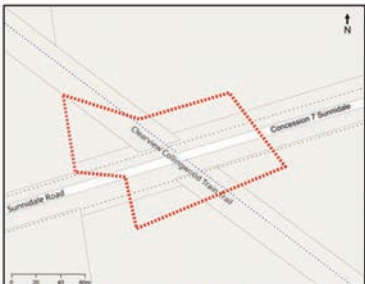


Figure 2 – Proposed Booster Pumping Station #1 Study Area (Township of Clearview)



Figure 3 – Proposed Booster Pumping Station #2 Study Area (Township of Essa / CFB Borden)

COMMUNITY VOICE

Why your vote matters more than ever

Greys for Green is deeply concerned about the health and well-being of our planet.

Across Canada and around the world, we are witnessing dramatic, accelerating changes in our climate and natural systems.

Extreme weather, declining biodiversity, and growing pressure on water and land resources are no longer distant warnings. They are realities affecting our communities today. These challenges can feel global in scale, but the most meaningful solutions often begin right here at home.

Municipal governments play a powerful role in shaping the environmental future of our neighbourhoods.

They make decisions about land use, transportation, parks, tree canopy protection, and local energy planning. These choices influence how resilient our communities will be in the face of climate change, and how healthy and connected our daily lives can be. Voting in municipal elections is one of the most direct ways to support the kind of community we want to live in.

Local leadership determines whether new developments include green space, whether streets are designed for safe walking and cycling, and whether public transit is accessible and reliable.

It determines how well we protect rivers, wetlands, and forests; how we manage energy and water supply and consumption, and stormwater runoff; how we prepare for heat waves, flooding, and other climate-related risks. These decisions affect our quality of life, our property values, and the well-being of future generations.

Your vote matters

With land development expansion projected to double the size of our town, the decisions made in the next term will shape our community for decades. This election is not just about choosing leaders; it's about



GREYS FOR GREEN
protecting our planet for generations to come

choosing the future we want to build.

Three questions to ask candidates.

As you prepare to vote, here are 3 questions you might ask candidates that would reveal how they approach local environmental and community challenges.

1. What steps would you take to advance climate action (both mitigation and adaptation) in the municipality - from both corporate/municipal operations and the community perspective?

2. What do you want to achieve in the next 4 years to help the municipality become more environmentally sustainable and carbon neutral?

3. What actions have you taken personally to support a greener, more sustainable future?

We encourage all residents, especially those who care deeply about environmental stewardship, to make their voices heard. Voting is not only a civic responsibility, but it is a powerful tool for shaping the policies and priorities that guide our towns and cities.

By supporting candidates who value sustainability, transparency, and long-term planning, we help build healthier, more resilient, and more vibrant communities.

Our planet needs thoughtful, committed leadership at every level of government. But the most immediate and tangible change often begins with the people elected closest to home. When we vote, we choose the future of our community. When we act locally, we contribute to global progress.

This week's community voice was written by John Wilson of Greys for Green. He believes that a greater understanding and appreciation of nature is what's needed to inspire everyone to adopt a more sustainable lifestyle. Contact us at contactus@greysfor-green.org or on social media.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

Passionate about an issue you've read about within the pages of the New Tecumseth Times?

Want to share your opinion about what's going on in the community? Email us a letter to the editor to: newtectimeseditorial@gmail.com. Be sure to include your name and town.



BRIAN SAUNDERSON

MPP - Simcoe-Grey

Alliston Constituency Office
180 Parsons Road, Unit 28
Alliston, ON L9R 1E8

705-435-4087
Brian.Saunderson@pc.ola.org



Together, let's make every day, a better day, in Simcoe-Grey!

Families invited to join National Breastfeeding Week celebrations

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

National Breastfeeding Week is observed annually from Oct. 1 to 7, highlighting the benefits breastfeeding provides to babies and families.

To mark the week, municipalities across Simcoe Muskoka will proclaim National Breastfeeding Week and hold flag-raising events.

Together with municipal partners, the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit invites residents to attend and recognize the community partnerships that help give infants a healthy

start in life.

This year's theme is "Strengthen What Works: Breastfeeding for a Sustainable Start in Life."

This theme encourages communities to build on successful breastfeeding initiatives and strengthen support for families.

The 2026 campaign highlights the benefits of breastfeeding, including healthy infant growth and development, improved nutrition, stronger food security, and reduced poverty.

Health Canada recommends exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months with continued breastfeeding alongside appropri-

ate complementary foods for up to two years and beyond.

Families are more likely to meet their infant-feeding goals when they feel supported by the people around them. Family members and friends can offer encouragement and practical help, while communities can create welcoming spaces for breastfeeding. Employers can provide time and space for breastfeeding or expressing milk, and health-care providers and local leaders can improve access to services and supportive policies.

The Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit

offers free prenatal education, including in-person, live virtual, and self-guided online options, as well as free breastfeeding support groups where public health nurses answer questions.

These programs also provide opportunities for parents to connect with others, share experiences, and learn from one another.

You can learn more by visiting online at smdhu.org/breastfeeding

A National Breastfeeding Week flag-raising event will take place in New Tecumseth at the Town Administration Centre, 24 Tupper St. W., in Alliston on Thursday, Oct. 1, at noon.

CONTACT's 22nd Annual Coats for Kids Campaign kicks off keeping local children warm

CONTACT Community Services is excited to announce the launch of its 22nd Annual Coats for Kids campaign, a beloved local initiative aimed at ensuring that every child in South Simcoe can stay warm during the winter months.

Since its inception, Coats for Kids has been instrumental in providing free coats, snow pants, boots, hats, and mittens to children, teens, and families in need.

This year, CONTACT is renewing its

commitment to the community and encourages local residents to donate gently used or new winter wear. Starting now, donations of winter outerwear can be dropped off at The Clothes Line store at 55 Victoria Street West in Alliston.

CONTACT kindly asks that all items be clean and in good condition. Organizers appreciate all sizes of winter coats, snow pants, boots, hats, and mittens.

Distribution of the donated items will begin

on Monday, Oct. 10.

Families seeking winter gear are invited to reach out to CONTACT to inquire about availability.

"For over two decades, Coats for Kids has served as a vital resource for families experiencing financial challenges during the coldest months of the year," said Carey Paulusma, store manager of The Clothes Line.

"We are incredibly grateful for the ongoing support from our community and encourage

everyone to help us make this year's campaign our most successful one yet."

Whether you're clearing out your closets or seeking to contribute to a worthy cause, your donation can truly make a difference. CONTACT also welcomes financial donations to help purchase new winter gear for children in urgent need.

For more details about Coats for Kids, please visit The Clothes Line – Contact Community Services or call us at 705-434-0790.

Bi-weekly fall leaf and yard waste collection resumes next week

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

The County of Simcoe's bi-weekly curbside leaf and yard waste collection program will return on Monday, Oct. 5.

Residents should place materials at the curb by 7 a.m. on the Monday of their garbage collection week. Each household will receive five

bi-weekly collections with the program running to Dec. 11.

Collection may occur on any day during the week. Residents are asked to leave leaf and yard waste at the curb until it is collected.

Accepted materials include leaves, grass clippings, garden waste, bundled brush (size limits apply).

Residents are reminded to use kraft paper yard waste bags, cardboard boxes, or open-ended rigid containers. Brush must be tied with natural twine and be no more than 2m in length and 30 cm in diameter.

For more information on yard waste collection, go to: simcoe.ca/residents/organics-recycling-and-garbage/special-collections/yard-waste/



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LAYS POTATO CHIPS ASSORTED VARIETIES 2.99 ea SAVE \$2.00	COCA COLA MINI CANS ASSORTED VARIETIES 4.99 ea 6x222ml	SAN PELLEGRINO ORIGINAL SPARKLING WATER 7.99 ea SAVE \$4.00 6x250ml	ITALPASTA ARTISAN PASTA ASSORTED VARIETIES 1.49 ea SAVE \$1.00 450g	D'ITALIANO BREAD AND BRIZZOLI BUNS NO BRIOCHE O GUSTO 3.29 ea 420-675g
SAN DANIELE PROSCIUTTO DELI CUT OR PACKAGED 3.99 /100g 39.90/kg	SANTA LUCIA FRESH MOZZARELLA 6.99 ea SAVE \$2.00 2x125g	MAPLE LEAF PRIME THIN SLICE CHICKEN BREAST OR FILLETS 11.99 /lb 26.43/kg fillets	FRESH GROUND PORK GREAT FOR STUFFING! 4.49 /lb 9.90/kg	SPREDO COCOA HAZELNUT SPREAD 9.99 ea SAVE \$3.00 315g



Arts & Local Events

Last Blast brings vintage construction equipment to museum

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

If you enjoy seeing vintage steam-powered machines, you will appreciate the Last Blast event at the Simcoe County Museum.

The museum, in collaboration with the Historical Construction Equipment Association of Canada, is presenting another

exciting edition of the Last Blast – a one-of-a-kind celebration of vintage equipment.

Step back in time and experience the raw power and engineering marvels of historic construction equipment in action before it's put away for the winter season.

The Last Blast will showcase everything from tractors and classic trucks to steam

rollers, shovels, and road-building equipment.

The event features dynamic live demonstrations and engaging static displays that will fascinate visitors of all ages.

The Last Blast event will take place on Saturday, Oct. 17, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Simcoe County Museum, 1151 ON-26,

Minesing.

Event admission is \$10 for adults (21-64), \$8 for seniors (65+), \$8 for youth (12-20), \$5 for children (4-11), and free for pre-schoolers and museum members.

While you visit, you can also stroll around the museum grounds or enjoy your lunch in the covered picnic area.

Alliston's Dr. Lance Secretan speaks about the importance of 'having a dream'

BY CONSTANCE SCRAFIELD

British-Canadian author, philosopher and the world's top authority on inspirational leadership, Dr. Lance Secretan wants Canada to have a dream. And he thinks that Canadians are ready to be inspired.

As a speaker and a visionary, Secretan has changed how companies are inspired to operate their businesses from the strictly pragmatic

to the inspired, and CEOs of Fortune 100 companies have watched in wonder at the huge improvements in production and employees' enthusiasm for their jobs.

Secretan, living in Alliston, has been invited to speak as a keynote speaker at business conferences and events attended by executives from some of the largest corporations around the world, and his message is life-changing.

In a recent interview with the Times, Secretan

talked about his amazing life and the philosophy he has brought to so many individuals and business leaders.

Now, in these times, Secretan sees how Canada can benefit from his theories.

Secretan has spent his lifetime looking at how businesses are run, catching the flaws and the psychological — even if unintentional — abuse to workers and how to repair that harm with a whole new approach to business practices.

It began with his development of Manpower, of which he was CEO at the age of 27.

"I had been watching what my boss had been doing, and then I did the opposite," Secretan said.

He began to explain the beginnings of how managers treated their staff and, with a turn-it-on-its-head plan, said whatever they have been doing was not working. So it was time to do the opposite. Throw out the fear approach, the motivational, the two-handed offer of perks for success and demotion or worse for failure.

He stepped back in his life's history in answer to a question about his parents and formative years.

mative years.

Born in the U.K., Lance Secretan was a child actor from the age of eight.

At the height of his decade-long career, he was named the number one child actor in the English-speaking world.

"My mother was an extraordinary woman," he said. "A super intellectual. She was a vegetarian and a concert pianist."

His father was a prominent scientist, inventor and engineer who headed the BBC's monitoring service during WWII.

Secretan earned a Master's Degree in International Relations from the University of Southern California (magna cum laude), and a Ph.D. from the London School of Economics.

As a professor, he taught business at McMaster and York Universities.

In due course, his academic career gave way to his true calling: to change the heart of how leaders and their managers run their businesses and how their employees do — or do not — love the work. In 1980, he established his Secretan Centre.

Continued on Page 9

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Parking lot and lower entrance closed at Stevenson for renovations

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

Stevenson Memorial Hospital's lower parking lot across from Riverdale Park is undergoing revitalization and is temporarily closed.

The lower parking lot will be reshaped and paved in preparation for the new hospital facility.

The lot closed on Sept. 21, and construction is expected to take two to three months to complete.

The lower parking lot entrance will not be accessible to the public throughout the duration of construction.

Parking for patients and visitors continues to be located in the upper parking lot by the main entrance.

The public can use only the main entrance to enter the hospital until construction is complete and an announcement is made by the hospital.

To keep up to date on the renovations, go to: stevensonhospital.ca

Dr. Lance Secretan shares his philosophy on the importance of 'having a dream'

Continued from Page 8

During his lectures in conferences, Secretan often asked who would quit their jobs if they had a free choice.

Opening the door to a better result, Secretan delivers, in one hand, five principles: Courage, Authenticity, Service, Truthfulness, Love, and Effectiveness: an acronym spelling CASTLE, and he calls it the CASTLE Principles.

Here he dares to talk about them to the business world, to talk about love in the cold world of profits and goals.

On the other hand, he offers the science of how positive relationships lead to better health. In the workplace, they lead to more productive, better businesses.

He includes the obvious need for compassionate leadership – was it obvious? Perhaps after he taught it: individuals, entire organizations, cities and states have experienced remarkable transformations through Secretan's unique mentoring.

He is the author of 21 books about leadership, emphasizing the connection between high performance and the heart, the mind, the soul, inspiration and leadership. In 2016, he wrote a memoir, A Love Story, and in 2018 he published The Bellwether Effect, which was hailed as being among the most original, authentic and effective contributions to

leadership. In 2023, Secretan released a new book, Reawakening the Human Spirit.

The interview turned irrepressibly to being aware of the negative political weather to the south under the impulses of the current American president.

Yet, Secretan sees a dream of a future for an internationally influential Canada.

"There's going to be a book on this," he predicted. Turning to this moment in history, he said, "I want people to wake up."

As an example, he mentioned Singapore's enormous influence in the world, saying, "We can do that."

He pointed to the "very exciting projects coming up - the Ring of Fire, new highways. We have puzzled about money and corruption, but we need an incentive to move forward."

Reflecting, Secretan said, "My world is creating inspiration for other people. We always have to reach for the higher ground."

Dr. Secretan is the recipient of the International Caring Award, whose previous winners include Pope Francis and the Dalai Lama. He is the current chair of the Pay it Forward Foundation, and former chair of the Advisory Board of the Special Olympics World Winter Games.

He is also an expert skier, kayaker and mountain biker.



BE INSPIRED – Lance Secretan loves his time kayaking on Ontario's rivers. An inspirational speaker and visionary, Secretan has spent his career promoting positive approaches to conducting business at conferences and meetings around the world. He is widely acknowledged as one of the most insightful and provocative leadership teachers of our time. Secretan is an expert skier, mountain-biker and kayaker. **CONTRIBUTED PHOTO**

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NEW TECUMSETH VOTES

2026 MUNICIPAL ELECTION CANDIDATE PROFILES



With the upcoming municipal election on Oct. 26, we invited each candidate to respond to the same three questions about their reason for running, priorities and vision for the municipality, qualifications, and contact information. Their responses are published below as submitted, subject only to length and standard copy editing for style, grammar and clarity.

Candidates were asked to keep their responses focused on their own qualifications, priorities and vision for the municipality.

Candidates are listed alphabetically within each position they are running for.

Stephanie MacLellan — Running for mayor

1) What are the largest issues facing the Town of New Tecumseth?

Diving into this year's budget is the immediate priority for the new council. I aim to run budgets differently. Year after year, our budget packages are getting smaller. Stripping away critical details that allow council and residents to see the full picture rather than blurry snapshots.

To fix this, we must put residents first through transparency and open communication.

I will put in the work. Expand the budget process to include more residents and go through the budget line by line with council. I will also standardize our budget presentation, so years are easily comparable and efficiencies are quickly identified. Both will result in savings for you, the taxpayer.

A Budget under my leadership will be one of sound fiscal management, a focus on affordability and one where residents' needs lead the process.

2) With development being mandated by the province and causing concern among residents, how should council approach development and growth?

Council must manage mandated growth through local consensus, planning that listens to residents and community engagement that goes above and beyond what is expected. The "Strong Mayor" powers the province has given to mayors are not an excuse to work around residents, and it is a planning tool I do not see as democratic nor useful.

I will manage growth in New Tecumseth through leadership and consensus rather than executive decrees.

Growth cannot come at the expense of our agricultural identity or the quality of life of our residents.

As mayor, I will immediately implement these three pillars into our growth strategy.

A) Master Servicing Plan: Mapping out precise infrastructure and water capacity requirements before approving new builds.

B) Intensification Assessment: Prioritize building upwards over sprawl that cuts into



valuable farmland.

C) Responsibly Phased Timelines: My goal is to prevent uncoordinated, leapfrogging and traffic-disrupting construction from making residents' lives harder.

True leadership means building a community that seamlessly integrates new neighbours while actively protecting the investments of existing

ones. Not every open field is meant to become a subdivision.

By firmly rejecting the use of strong mayor powers to bypass public consultation, I will ensure that our residents always have a seat at the table. Growth should benefit the people who already live here, and as mayor, I will never use centralized powers to force development where it simply does not belong.

3) What experience and leadership qualities do you have that make you the right choice for residents' votes?

After eight years of dedicated council service as a straightforward, honest and highly accessible leader, I want to offer the residents of New Tecumseth a work ethic and focus that I feel they deserve. You deserve to be informed and be a part of the process.

I will bring a clear and collaborative vision to town hall. One that builds on the strength of community but also fights for its fair share. This is the leadership New Tecumseth needs.

Things have shifted at town hall over the last four years. When major decisions about how our communities grow come as a surprise to residents, real leadership is missing.

True leaders do not use executive shortcuts or force plans through without building consensus. If a proposal is genuinely good for New Tecumseth, it will stand on its own merits.

I believe leadership means earning your trust every single day by focusing on your needs, working to address your issues and celebrating your successes.

A vote for me is a vote for a more productive local economy, a town that celebrates its history as well as defends it, and a town hall that is focused on affordability and delivering the services residents expect and deserve.

residents, support other local businesses and contribute to the economic health of New Tecumseth. The automotive sector is deeply integrated across the Canada-U.S. border, so the threat of further tariffs could have consequences that reach well beyond the manufacturing floor.

If the U.S. follows through with introducing 50 per cent tariffs on Canadian auto in January, I can't overstate the potential impact. For a community like ours, this type of disruption to the automotive sector could be an existential economic threat. The incoming council needs to be thinking not just about how we respond if something happens, but how we strengthen our economy and position ourselves to withstand that uncertainty.

That also connects to how we manage growth. The Province is asking us to accommodate population and employment growth over the coming decades. We need to ensure growth is tied to economic development and good jobs, that we continue to attract and retain businesses, and that the infrastructure we build supports a strong, diversified local economy.

I've spent 30 years as a business owner, and I understand that businesses need certainty, infrastructure, a skilled workforce and an environment where they can invest and grow. My work with the Simcoe Auto Mayors has also given me a broader understanding of the pressures facing the automotive sector and the importance of advocating for our communities.

So I see the next council's job as twofold: we have to manage the growth that's coming, but we also have to protect and strengthen the economic engine that has helped make New Tecumseth the community it is today.

2) With development being mandated by the province and causing concern among residents, how should council approach development and growth?

As someone who has spent most of my life in Beeton, I understand why residents are concerned about the pace and scale of growth. People chose to live in New Tecumseth because of the communities we have today, and they want to know that those communities will still be recognizable and livable for their children and grandchildren.

The reality is that the province has established significant growth expectations for New Tecumseth. We cannot simply ignore the requirements imposed upon us. But I also don't believe that accepting provincial growth targets means we have to give up local control over how that growth happens.

Council needs to be very deliberate about where growth takes place, when it takes place and what infrastructure needs to be in place before development proceeds. That means roads, water and wastewater capacity, parks, recreation, transportation, schools, our hospital and other community services all need to be part of the conversation.

It also means listening to residents. Public consultation cannot just be a box we check at the end of a planning process. Residents have

valuable knowledge about their communities, and their concerns need to be heard and considered throughout the process.

I also believe growth has to be balanced across our three communities. We need to make sure Alliston, Beeton and Tottenham all have opportunities to benefit from new investment, employment, infrastructure and community amenities.

Growth can bring real opportunities for New Tecumseth, including a stronger tax base, new businesses, employment and investment. But it has to be managed carefully. My approach would be to work within the provincial requirements while fighting to ensure that New Tecumseth has as much say as possible in how, where and when that growth occurs.

We should be planning complete communities, not just approving subdivisions.

3) What experience and leadership qualities do you have that make you the right choice for residents' votes?

I think what I bring to this role is a combination of experience, perspective and a real understanding of this community.

I've spent decades serving New Tecumseth. I was a Ward 6 councillor for 18 years, followed by four years as deputy mayor and the past four years as your mayor. I also serve as a Simcoe County councillor.

Those years of experience have given me a wholesome understanding of our community and how municipal government works, from the issues residents bring forward to the larger regional and provincial decisions that affect our community.

I've also spent 30 years running a diverse number of businesses. That gives me a different perspective on the challenges facing our residents and businesses, particularly on finances, workforce, economic development and making responsible decisions with limited resources.

My community involvement has also always been a vital part of my identity. I've volunteered my time with the BIA, the Beeton Tottenham Chamber of Commerce, and the Beeton Rotary Club, and I've served as chair of the Library Board. I'm currently chair of the Simcoe Auto Mayors and chair of the Lake Simcoe Regional Airport Board, among others.

But ultimately, I think leadership is about listening. You don't serve a community effectively by assuming you have all the answers. You have to listen to residents, understand different perspectives, make informed decisions, and sometimes make hard decisions while keeping the community's long-term interests in mind.

I've had the opportunity to serve this community in a number of different capacities for more than three decades. I know where we've come from; I understand the challenges we're facing today, and I want to keep working toward a New Tecumseth that is well planned, financially responsible, and a great place to live, work, and raise a family.

See more profiles on Page 13

Richard Norcross — Running for mayor

1) What are the largest issues facing the Town of New Tecumseth?

I think there are two issues that are very closely connected, and both will be critical for the next council: managing growth responsibly and protecting the economic foundation of our community.

The ongoing uncertainty around tariffs and our trading relationship with the United



States is something I am very concerned about. New Tecumseth has a significant automotive manufacturing and supply-chain sector, and Honda and the many companies that support its operations are a major part of our local economy.

Companies like Nissan, Howa, SPS and Gibson are not just businesses in our community. They employ our

I am home in Oakville.♥

I am home in Hamilton.♥

I am home in Stoney Creek.♥

I am home in Caledon.♥

I am home in Brampton.♥

I am home in Bradford.♥

I am home in Innisfil.♥

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SPORTS

NEW TECUMSETH TIMES



STARTING THE SEASON STRONG – The Banting Memorial High School Marauders senior boys soccer team take on Twin Lakes Secondary School from Orillia on the pitch at Banting on Wednesday, Sept. 23. The Marauders won the match 6-2 and are now 2-0 for the season.
BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

Alliston Hornets take early lead in PJHL division standings

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

The Alliston Hornets are tied for first place with the Orillia Terriers after the opening few games of the North Carruthers Division of the Provincial Junior Hockey League (PJHL). Both Alliston and Orillia are undefeated after three games. The Hornets had two road games over the weekend. On Saturday, Sept. 26, the Hornets travelled to Muskoka to take on the Bears. Gunner Kirk scored the opening goal late in the first period, giving the Alliston squad a 1-0 lead. The Hornets took command of the game in

the second period, scoring four unanswered goals. Tristen Pitt scored two, Caleb Tucker notched a single, and Kirk got his second of the game early in the period. Muskoka avoided the shutout with a single goal in the first period. The Hornets left the ice with a 5-1 win. The following day, Sunday, Sept. 27, the Hornets were in Huntsville to play the Otters. Nicholas Lamont and Tristen Pitt scored first period goals for Alliston. Pitt got the hat trick when he scored two second period goals. The Otters were on the scoreboard with a single second period goal.

Nolan Caruso scored midway in the third period to give the Hornets a 5-1 lead. Lamont got a hattrick, scoring his second and third goals of the afternoon in the final period to end the game with a 7-2 Alliston win. It's still too early in the season to see who is emerging as the dominant team. However, Alliston, Orillia and Penetang

have all won three games. Last year's division champions, the Stayner Siskins, have had a disappointing start, losing three of their first four games. The Hornets will be back on home ice at the New Tecumseth Recreation Centre on Friday, Oct. 2, where they will host the Innisfil Spartans.



SOLID EFFORT – The Banting Memorial High School Marauders senior girls basketball team take on Trinity Christian High School from Barrie in the gym at Banting on Wednesday, Sept. 23. The Marauders played a solid game but had to settle for a 52-11 loss.
BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO



GIVING BACK – The Ontario Tennis Association presented the inaugural President's Service Recognition Award to honour dedicated volunteer leaders and seven former member club presidents who have significantly strengthened their local clubs and grassroots tennis. The award acknowledges outstanding service, leadership, and volunteerism by community club presidents and executives. Award recipient Carolyn Knowles has served as the Alliston Tennis Club's founding president from 1974-76, 1979-81, and 1984-90. She continued as Secretary Treasurer from 2010 to 2024 and currently serves as a club director. Ms. Knowles receives the award, joined by Alliston Tennis Club president Andrew Kokelj and executive members Carolyn Knowles, Mary Parsons, and Roger Hayward.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

NEW TECUMSETH VOTES

2026 MUNICIPAL ELECTION CANDIDATE PROFILES



Jaison Waldman — Running for mayor

1) What are the largest issues facing the Town of New Tecumseth?

The most pressing concern for New Tecumseth will be restoring cohesion and constructive dialogue within council so the town can address its responsibilities effectively. Recent divisions have made it difficult to maintain consistent direction, and a new council will need to rebuild trust, set aside personal differences, and establish a collaborative foundation. Without unity, even well-planned initiatives struggle to move forward.

At the same time, the town must prepare for broader social and economic pressures. Rising living costs and the impacts of provincial legislation, including Ontario Bill 60, may increase strain on vulnerable residents. Housing instability is already visible across the region, and it is realistic to expect more individuals to face hardship, especially during winter months. A council that communicates clearly, works cooperatively, and plans proactively will be essential in navigating these challenges.

2) With development being mandated by the province and causing concern among residents, how should council approach development and growth?

With provincially mandated development creating uncertainty for many residents, council's



role is to ensure growth is managed in a structured, transparent, and community-focused way. While the town cannot choose whether growth occurs, it can choose how it is planned, communicated, and integrated.

Clear, consistent information helps reduce anxiety and allows residents to understand what is mandated versus what is locally determined. Council can support this by outlining how infra-

structure, services, and community supports will expand alongside new development. Growth also brings opportunities: new residents contribute to the local economy, broaden the tax base, and strengthen services that benefit everyone.

Rather than viewing growth as a loss of identity, council can help residents see it as an evolution of New Tecumseth — one that respects its history while preparing for its future. A thoughtful, well-managed approach allows the Town to adapt confidently and maintain a strong, welcoming community.

3) What experience and leadership qualities do you have that make you the right choice for residents' votes?

I offer a broad range of lived and professional experience that has taught me adaptability, steady decision-making, and respect for diverse perspectives. My background spans rural and urban environments, manufacturing leadership,

logistics, technical work, customer service, and community involvement. This variety has shaped an objective, practical approach to problem-solving and given me insight into how different sectors and people operate.

I have held roles in production management, industrial operations, maintenance, and international trade, and I continue to build my skills through ongoing leadership development, including courses in team building, incident response, and advanced manufacturing. These experiences have strengthened my ability to work with complex systems, support teams, and

adjust quickly when circumstances change.

Community service has also been a consistent part of my life, including work with housing cooperatives, community centres, volunteer driving programs, and long-term involvement in faith-based service. These roles have reinforced the importance of listening, fairness, and accountability.

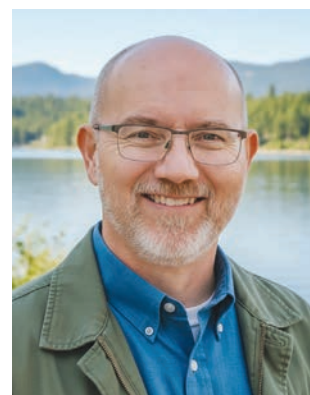
I bring a grounded perspective shaped by many environments and responsibilities, with a focus on steady, thoughtful leadership that respects all residents and recognizes the value each person brings to the community.

Marc Biss — Running for deputy mayor

1) What are the largest issues facing the Town of New Tecumseth?

As the sitting Ward 5 councillor with eight years of experience, I have learned that municipal leaders must focus on what they can control. Trump, tariffs, and the trade war are largely managed by the federal and Provincial governments. However, property taxes, essential infrastructure, and supporting local and Canadian businesses are areas where municipal leadership can make a meaningful difference in addressing today's affordability crisis.

Experience has taught me that fighting tax



increases, user fees, and water rate hikes starts with securing outside investment. The province can and should be lobbied to make sizeable investments in local infrastructure.

When New Tecumseth works with the province to fund new infrastructure, the cost of new homes can be reduced, and the pressure on property taxpayers can be eased.

During this term of council, my colleagues and I secured more than \$150 million through the Housing-Enabling Water Systems Fund, Connecting Links Funding, the Road Safety Initiatives Fund, and other grants.

Continued on Page 14

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NEW TECUMSETH VOTES

2026 MUNICIPAL ELECTION CANDIDATE PROFILES



Continued from Page 13

These investments help reduce property taxes, development charges, and user fees, making life more affordable for residents.

As deputy mayor, I want to do more. I will work with council and the province to secure additional funding for a trade school, to pave more roads, increase water capacity, build recreational facilities such as the Sports Dome and Indoor Pool, replace the Beeton Arena, and upgrade existing facilities for pickleball, ball hockey, and other popular activities.

2) With development being mandated by the province and causing concern among residents, how should council approach development and growth?

Under the Town of New Tecumseth's newly adopted Official Plan Amendment No. 5 (OPA 5), the municipality proposes 6,917 new residential units and expands Settlement Area Boundaries to accommodate 37,590 new residents.

The Ontario Provincial Priority Growth Mandate (ERO #026-0383) also added six priority projects in New Tecumseth, which could ultimately add over 16,000 additional units outside our standard municipal plan. With the current estimated population at 53,659 (2025), provincially mandated growth could add more than 80,000 new residents to the town.

This level of growth will require significant federal, provincial, and developer investment in critical infrastructure. Council must protect residents and ratepayers from paying for growth-related infrastructure.

Before shovels hit the ground, the province and town must complete comprehensive Master Servicing Plans. The province has begun its initial plan, and council can use those estimates as a baseline for total needs. Once completed, council will direct planning and engineering to complete the Town's Master Servicing Plan. This 18-to-24-month study will determine how new infrastructure can support future subdivisions.

A rough estimate suggests the province and

developers will need to invest over \$2 billion to support this growth, including over \$850 million for water and wastewater treatment and pipelines, and over \$600 million for regional bypass routes in Alliston and Tottenham.

Public transit, libraries, arenas, community centers, sports domes, aquatic centers, performing arts centers, and other needs must also be assessed before council moves forward with growth.

3) What experience and leadership qualities do you have that make you the right choice for residents' votes?

As a veteran who served as an officer in the Royal Canadian Navy, a former Ward 1 councillor, and current New Tecumseth Ward 5 councillor, I bring proven leadership, community service, and municipal governance experience.

I hold a bachelor of arts from the University of Toronto with a specialist degree in history and political science and a minor in economics. I also studied senior leadership and French language at Collège Militaire Royal de Saint-Jean.

My private sector experience includes more than 30 years of leadership in consumer and automotive electronic innovation, automotive safety, and green technology.

I remain dedicated to our community through a range of leadership and volunteer roles, including fundraiser for Stevenson Memorial Hospital Foundation, committee member for the Museum on Boyne, Board director at CONTACT Community Services, and treasurer of the Alliston and Area Physician Recruitment Committee.

I have also served as vice-chair of the Alliston Memorial Arena Committee, chair of the Veteran Street Naming Committee, and founder of the Boyne River Clean Up.

Reflecting on my journey as a husband, father, grandfather, veteran, municipal leader and technology executive, I feel deeply grateful and want to continue channelling that gratitude into service for residents as New Tecumseth's deputy mayor.

Steven Dollmaier — Running for deputy mayor

1) What are the largest issues facing the Town of New Tecumseth?

I believe the most pressing concern facing the new council will be managing growth responsibly while ensuring our infrastructure, services and finances can keep pace.

New Tecumseth is growing, and we need to recognize that growth brings opportunities, but it also puts pressure on roads, traffic, water and wastewater systems, recreation facilities, parks, emergency services and municipal budgets. The town's own planning recognizes the need to coordinate growth with the infrastructure required to support it.

I don't believe the answer is simply to say yes or no to development. The responsibility of council is to make sure growth happens in the right places, at the right pace, and with the infrastructure and services needed to support it.

We also need to protect taxpayers. Development should contribute fairly to the infrastructure it requires, while council carefully considers the long-term operating and maintenance costs that new infrastructure creates. The town's capital program already relies on a combination of taxes, development charges, reserves, grants and borrowing, which makes disciplined financial planning essential.

As deputy mayor, I would bring a practical, infrastructure-focused approach to these decisions. My priority would be to plan ahead rather than react after problems occur, while protecting the character and quality of life that make Alliston, Beeton and Tottenham great places to live.

Growth is coming. The question is whether we manage it strategically — or allow it to manage us.

2) With development being mandated by the province and causing concern among residents, how should council approach development and growth?

I recognize that New Tecumseth is facing significant growth pressures, and that much of the growth being planned is driven by provincial requirements. However, I also understand why residents are concerned.

Growth has a direct impact on traffic, roads, water and wastewater capacity, schools, recreation, parks, emergency services, the environment, and ultimately the property taxes residents pay.

I believe council's responsibility is to manage growth — not simply react to it.

We need to ensure development proceeds in a coordinated and responsible manner, with the



necessary infrastructure and services planned alongside new communities. Council should be asking tough questions about timing, capacity, costs, traffic impacts, environmental impacts, and who ultimately pays for the infrastructure required to support growth.

We also need to protect the character and quality of life of Alliston, Beeton, Tottenham and our surrounding rural communi-

ties while recognizing that New Tecumseth will continue to grow. I use sound planning, data, asset management, and financial analysis to make informed decisions. Where the Province sets requirements, Council should advocate strongly for the resources and infrastructure our growing community needs.

Growth is inevitable; unmanaged growth is not. We need to make sure New Tecumseth grows responsibly, sustainably and in a way that benefits both current residents and future generations.

3) What experience and leadership qualities do you have that make you the right choice for residents' votes?

I'm running for deputy mayor because I believe New Tecumseth needs practical, experienced leadership that understands today's challenges and the planning required for tomorrow.

I bring more than a decade of municipal experience, with hands-on knowledge in infrastructure, roads and transportation, public works, recreation, arenas, parks, fleet management, budgeting, environmental initiatives, and the services residents rely on every day.

I've been directly involved in infrastructure planning, capital projects, asset management, operating and capital budgets, and environmental initiatives. That experience has taught me that good municipal leadership is about looking beyond today's decisions and understanding their long-term impact.

We need to manage growth responsibly, plan for future infrastructure and services, and ensure taxpayers receive the best possible value for their money.

As deputy mayor, I would bring a practical, informed, and collaborative approach to council. I will listen to residents, ask the difficult questions, consider the facts, and remain focused on what is best for our entire community.

I'm asking for your vote because I'm ready to bring my municipal experience, practical leadership, and commitment to New Tecumseth to council — and help build a stronger, sustainable and financially responsible community for everyone.



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Watch for additional New Tecumseth candidate coverage in the weeks leading up to the Oct. 26 municipal election as part of our New Tecumseth Votes coverage. We'll continue providing voters with information about the candidates, their priorities and their vision for the community.



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Police warn the public of ongoing cellphone service provider fraud

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

Ontario Provincial Police officers are investigating multiple instances of cellphone service provider fraud and are reminding the public to remain cautious of unsolicited telephone calls.

Fraudsters are impersonating telecommunications company representatives and contacting individuals with offers of a free or heavily discounted cellphone as part of a promotional program.

Victims are persuaded to accept the offer and provide information required to process the order.

Once the device is delivered, the victim discovers that the device was financed under their own account and that they are responsible for the associated payments. The fraudsters then instruct the victim to return, surrender, or transfer the phone to a third party

due to an alleged error, so they can fix the financing issue and apply the promotional offer properly.

The promised refunds, account credits, or promotional benefits are never received.

As a result, victims are left financially responsible for the financed device while the fraudsters retain possession of the phone.

The Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre suggests the following to help prevent falling victim to this type of fraud:

- Be wary if you receive an unexpected call, text message, or email offering a discount, upgrade plan, or new device
- The person pressures you to act quickly or says the offer is only available for a limited time
- You are asked to log in to your cellphone account while the caller stays on the line
- You are asked for your account password,

security code, PIN, or multi-factor authentication code

- You are asked to provide a driver's license, Social Security number, or other identification

- You are told to open an account with a different service provider

- You receive a cellphone or tablet and are told to send it to an address provided by the caller

- The return address is different from the verified address of the service provider

You can protect yourself by doing the following:

- If someone contacts you claiming to be from your service provider, end the call and contact the company directly
- Use the telephone number on your bill, account, or the company's official website
- Do not use contact information provided by the caller

- Never share passwords, PINs, security codes, or multi-factor authentication codes

- Do not provide personal or financial information during an unexpected call, text message, or email

- Do not log in to your account while an unknown caller is guiding you

- Before opening a new account or accepting a device, confirm the offer directly with the service provider

- If you receive a device that you did not order, contact the service provider directly and confirm the correct return process

- Never ship a cellphone or tablet to an address provided by an unknown caller

The OPP urges individuals and businesses to remain vigilant to instances of fraud and to remember to carefully verify and confirm the legitimacy of any information before following through, even if it appears to come from a trusted source.

Three impaired drivers charged within five hours by Nottawasaga OPP

Nottawasaga Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) officers have arrested three separate impaired drivers during three unrelated incidents within a five-hour period.

On Sept. 19, shortly after 10 p.m., police received a call for service regarding a possible impaired driver on Highway 89 in New Tecumseth. The caller said the driver was weaving in and out of traffic nearly causing a collision.

Police located the vehicle and began an impaired investigation. The driver was subsequently arrested.

Farai Magodora, 45, of Barrie, has been charged with:

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

On Sept. 20, shortly before 2:30 a.m., police received a report of an intoxicated individual leaving a residence and operating a motor vehicle in Angus. Police arrived and located the vehicle with the driver nearby. After speaking with the driver and

reviewing additional evidence the driver was arrested.

Cody Dehmer, 33, of Collingwood, has been charged with:

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

On Sept. 20, shortly before 3 a.m., a police officer with the Nottawasaga detachment was out conducting proactive patrols in the area of Church Street South in Alliston where the officer observed a driver at a red traffic light open their door and vomit onto the roadway.

The driver proceeded when the light was green before pulling over onto the shoulder. The officer pulled in behind the vehicle and began speaking with the driver. During the interaction the officers developed grounds to arrest the driver.

Jesaiah Lewis Daniels, 21, of New Tecumseth, has been charged with:

- Operation while impaired - alcohol
- Failure or refusal to comply with



demand

- Driving a motor vehicle with open container of liquor

- Driver fail to surrender licence

- Drive motor vehicle, no currently valid permit

All three accused individuals had their

drivers licence suspended for 90 days, had their vehicles impounded for seven days and were released with a future court date at the Ontario Court of Justice in Bradford to answer to the charges.

None of the listed charges have been proven in court.

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LIVE AUCTION SALE Fall Equipment Consignment Saturday October 3rd, 9:30 a.m.

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

Tractor: JD 3720, 2013yr, 300CX loader, cab, 1331hrs. Well looked after. JD front mount blower & other acc (to be listed later-sold separately); JD 2130 Tractor 2WD with 146 loader & 6ft material bucket; TAFE 450 with 6010 Frey loader & material bucket; 1953 Int Super C tractor; MF 235 tractor, 2WD, no cab; MF 1450 garden tractor; MF 10 garden tractor-not running.

Side-by-Side & ATV: JD 825i Gator-very good; front mount plow for gator. JD broadcast seeder for gator; 1999 Polaris Sportsman ATV, runs good.

Equip/Mach: 2810 JD 5 furrow semi-mount vari-width plow; Kvernland 4 furrow 3pth plow; LandPride 8ft 3pth disc; NI 3632 manure spreader, 2 beaters, older floor; (2)gravity wagons (1-Bruns 10 ton, 1-Kilbros); Kraus 24ft cultivator, Morris harrows; MF 10ft chisel plow; 3pth snowblower, hydr chute, 2 augers, 7 ft; 1100 gal stainless steel water tank on undercarriage; Int 4500, 16ft cultivator; 510 Int Seed Drill; (2) gravity wagons; Frontier RC2084 mower; Agrotrend snowblower; Western plow; Farm King 655 finishing mower; 8 inch Int seed drill; ATV trailer frame; 2002 GMC 8500 sm dump truck, runs, no ownership; NH Hayliner 311 sq baler, with thrower; (2)20ft thrower wagons, wood floor, steel cage; (2)wagon undercarriages; NH 3pth PTO hay tedder; Industries America 9ft SP09 snow pusher; TMG Industrial RT185 PTO 6ft rotary tiller; IH-80 8ft, 2 auger, Dosko chipper/shredder; snowblower; Int 6 row corn planter; 12ft disc; **Sheep Equip:** (8)sheep panels; (1)sheep head gate panel; (5)long creep feed panels; sheep chute with sorting tub; bucket of sheep related accs; (5) wood sheep gates.

Farm Rel/Shop: (A)Antique. Winco WG270 generator/welder combo, Kubota diesel motor; tractor tires; qty hydr cylinders; sheep/hog scale; 400+lb farmer made, rotary feed mixer for dump to feed cart; 7.5hp horiz air compressor; 10in split roll grain roller, 3hp; (2)sm metal cutting horiz band saws; 16x69x36 in HD work bench with cupboards & #986 big metal vise; (2)8in bench grinders; Splitfire double-action log splitter, gas powered hydr power pack; qty hydr cylinders; Pallet forks; HD winch; steel wheels(A); hay grapple(A); poly water trough; (2)skids plastic storage bins; 1.5 in gas water pump; tree dolly mover; sm pto pump & hydr cylinders; trailer hitch, sway bars; sm Quebec heater wood stove; (4) old porcelain gas station lights; (3) old milk cans; (3) tractor seats(A); push lawnmower; 3pth woodsplitter; Champion 11250 generator, GerLink & plug in - very good; Rigid table saw; MTD 28in walk-behind snowblower - like new; (2)rolls wood snow fence; Creekbank Welding 15100 cart to move lg sq bales; market garden trailer; landscape trailer-homemade; Honda 3500 generator; and much much more!

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Continued from Page 4

Brock's Banter: Steps in a new direction

Our former partner, however, is not too happy that we might even consider a pick-up line from another power, and said Canada becoming an Associate Member of the European Union as a potential "hostile" act. That should tell us all we need to know, really.

But the reality is there are a lot more questions to ask, especially as there is no existing template on what being an Associate Member means. In the meantime, it's not worth throwing the opportunity out wholesale either because it's different or in the vain hope our ex-partner will come to their senses, fly into our waiting arms, and everything will be peachy keen again.

I'm glad that the majority of Canadians seem open to the possibility, at the very

least.

A recent Leger study released last week looking at Canadians' feelings about this country becoming an Associate Member of the European Union.

The poll found 70 per cent of Canadians support becoming an "Associate Member" of the European Union with just 13 per cent opposing the move, while 18 per cent remain unsure. The same numbers also indicate 63 per cent of Canadians are in favour of giving Canadian and EU-based businesses greater access to their respective markets, while 53 per cent said greater defence and security cooperation would increase their support of Associate Membership.

"Canadians are showing a clear openness to a closer relationship with Europe,"

pollsters found. "Seven in 10 support Canada becoming an 'Associate Member' of the European Union, and support remains high even when a closer EU relationship is framed as coming at the expense of ties with the United States. But the survey also shows that Canadians are more enthusiastic about some forms of integration than others. Greater market access resonates far more strongly than regulatory alignment, suggesting that the type of closer relationship matters as much as the idea itself.

"Support for Canada becoming an Associate Member of the EU reaches 79 per cent among Canadians aged 55 and older, compared with 62 per cent among those aged 18 to 34. Younger adults are also more likely to be undecided: 25 per

cent say they do not know or are not sure, compared with 11 per cent among those 55 and older. Canadians' openness to Europe doesn't really waver even when our survey introduces a potential trade-off with the United States. Nearly three-quarters (72 per cent) say they would support Canada developing a closer relationship with the EU if it resulted in a less close relationship with the U.S.; 14 per cent oppose the idea and 15 per cent are unsure."

More details as they get hashed out in Parliament will certainly influence these numbers in one way or another but, in the meantime, let's lace up, take a stroll, and see if it's a good fit.

There's not a lot of tread left on the sole of our current situation.

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