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NEW TECUMSETH VOTES

2026 MUNICIPAL ELECTION CANDIDATE PROFILES

Turn to Page 19 to see Ward 6 and 7 councillor candidate profiles.

Classic cars, a classic act of giving

The Recycled Teenagers Classic Car and Truck Club held its final show of the season at the Alliston Walmart parking lot on Tuesday, Sept. 29. The club raised money during the season and presented donations to five local charities and charitable programs. The club raised $7,250 this year and presented cheques during the final show. Adam and Jensen McEachern represented Kerry's Place for Autism, which received $1,350. Crystal Terranova represented Matthews House Hospice and received $1,850. Three local schools received $1,340 to support their breakfast programs. Michelle Woodard represented Tecumseth Beeton Elementary School, Kerrie Lescard represented Ernest Cumberland Elementary School, and New Tecumseth Mayor Richard Norcross accepted the donation on behalf of Alliston Union Public School. Turn to Page 10 for a full story.

BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

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Serving Your Community Since 1986

Age-friendly leaders recognized by county for making a difference

BY BRIAN LOCKHART



SELFLESS CITIZENS – The County of Simcoe held its 2026 Age-Friendly Recognition Awards ceremony on Tuesday, Oct. 6. Individuals and businesses were recognized for their contributions in enhancing the quality of life for older adults in the region. **CONTRIBUTED PHOTO**

Nineteen individuals, businesses and organizations were honoured at the County of Simcoe's 2026 Age-Friendly Recognition Awards ceremony on Tuesday, Oct. 6.

Through their dedication, innovation and service, the honourees are helping older adults remain connected, independent and engaged in their communities.

The awards celebrate contributions that enhance accessibility, foster social connection, and improve quality of life for aging residents across the county.

Recipients were nominated by community members, colleagues, customers, clients and peers who have seen firsthand the positive impact of their efforts.

"Creating age-friendly communities is a shared responsibility, and these award recipients demonstrate what that commitment looks like in action," said Simcoe County Warden Basil Clarke. "Whether through exceptional customer service, innovative business practices, volunteerism, advocacy or simple acts of kindness, each recipient is helping to make Simcoe County a more welcoming place to age. On behalf of county Council, I extend my sincere congratulations and gratitude to all of this year's honourees."

The Age-Friendly Recognition Awards are part of the county's ongoing commitment to supporting the needs of a growing older adult population and fostering communities where residents can remain active, engaged and connected at every stage of life.

Award recipients were honoured at the County of Simcoe's annual Age-Friendly Recognition Awards ceremony, hosted by CTV Barrie's Sarah Freemark and attended by community leaders, family members, nominators, and supporters.

Congratulations to Individual Age-Friendly Recognition Award recipients:

- Carol Baird – Wasaga Beach
- Diane Blaylock - Barrie
- Mary Vaillancourt - Penetanguishene
- Roy Atikinson - Orillia
- Zina Thomson - Penetanguishene
- Jennifer Gerynowicz - Collingwood
- Gerry Peters - Midland
- Douglas Mein – Alliston

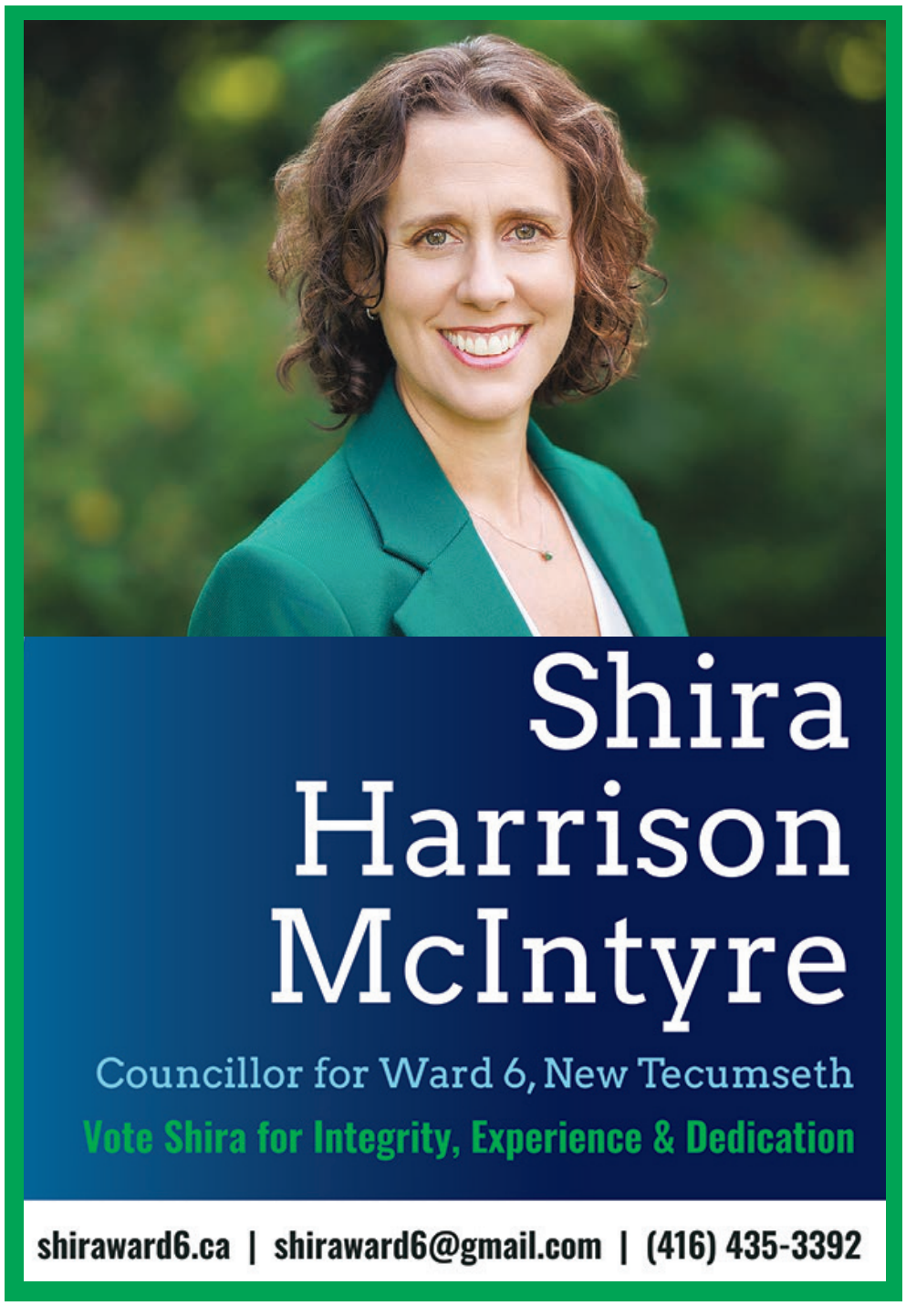
Age-Friendly Business Recognition Award recipients:

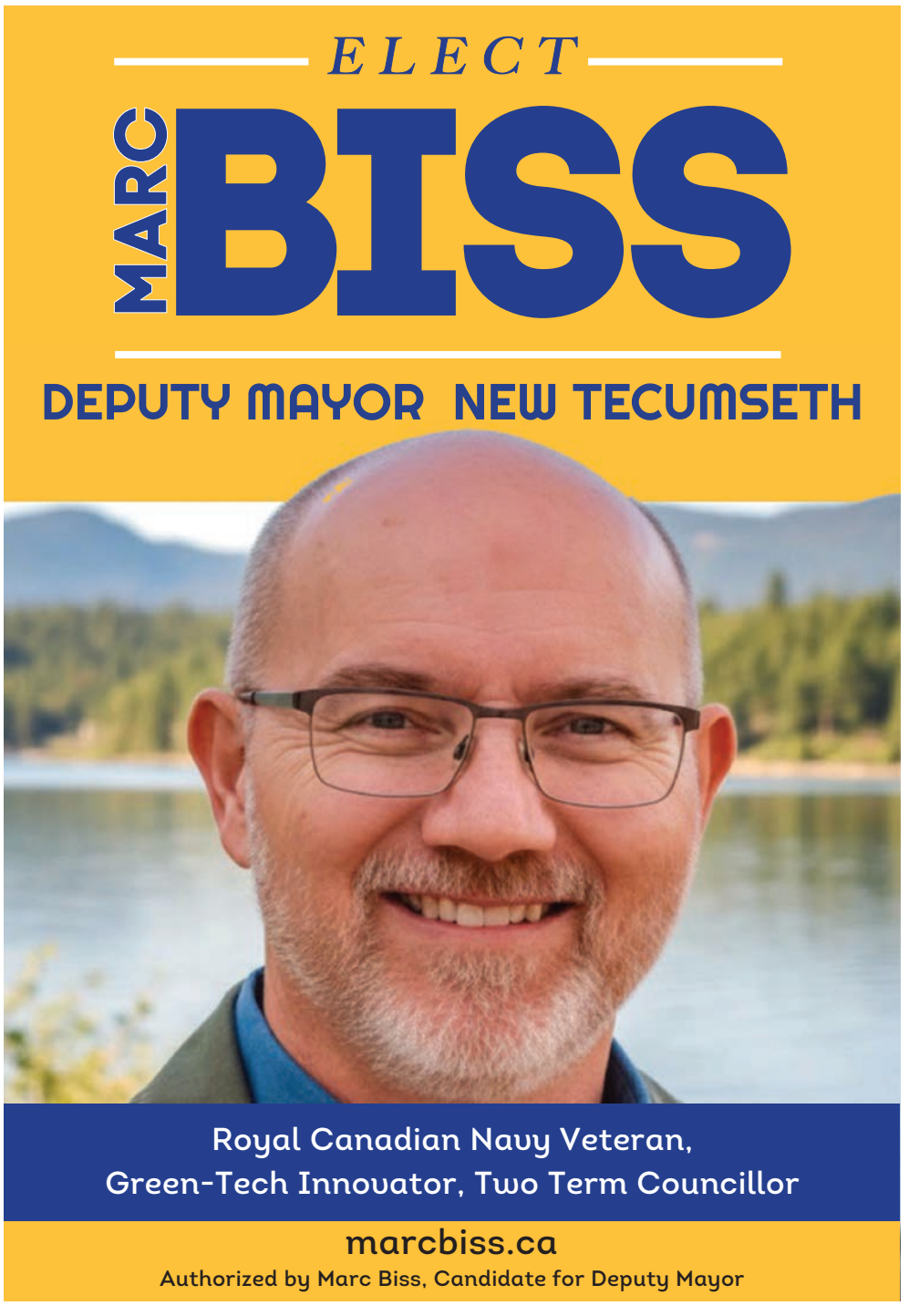
- Barrie Housing - Barrie
- Wasaga Beach Public Library – Wasaga Beach
- Helping Hands - Orillia
- Orillia Active Living Centre - Orillia
- Stayner Dentures - Clearview
- Tip Top Smiles Dental Hygiene and Myofunctional Therapy – Wasaga Beach
- Askennonia Senior Centre - Midland
- OMG! Men & Women's Fashions - Penetanguishene
- Lakehead University's Office of Community Engagement and Lifelong Learning - Orillia
- Dentures by Denturists - Penetanguishene
- Kennedy's Lakeside Grocery – Barrie

The County of Simcoe is committed to creating inclusive, supportive communities where older adults can age well and remain active, connected, and engaged.

Guided by the World Health Organization's Age-Friendly Communities framework since 2015, the county recently launched its refreshed Positive Aging Strategy 2025-2030 and, in 2025, was officially designated a member of the WHO Global Network for Age-Friendly Cities and Communities.

Through its Age-Friendly Program, the county works with municipalities, organizations, businesses, and residents to advance initiatives that improve quality of life for older adults across the region.





Stevenson releases progress report on hospital redevelopment project

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

The Stevenson Memorial Hospital redevelopment project is well underway as construction crews build the new addition to the hospital.

The $405 million redevelopment will more than double the hospital's current size, creating about 147,100 square feet of modern healthcare space designed to meet the needs of a growing community.

The project will include all single-patient rooms, an expanded emergency department, new diagnostic imaging services, the hospital's first MRI suite and expanded obstetrical services.

With construction underway and the new helipad already in use, the project represents a significant step forward for local healthcare.

The first Ornge helicopter landed on the new helipad on Sept. 29, marking another milestone in the development of the future hospital.

Through its Because of You Campaign, the Stevenson Memorial Hospital Foundation is working to raise $80 million to support the hospital's redevelopment. With $35 million remaining to reach its goal over the next 30 months, the foundation remains optimistic about what can be accomplished through continued community support.



CONSTRUCTION UNDERWAY – The Stevenson Memorial Hospital redevelopment project is well underway. The hospital released a progress report about construction on the site. Two large cranes are in place to help with construction. **BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO**

"This redevelopment is about more than a new building. It's about ensuring our community has access to the healthcare services and spaces it needs for years to come," said Dr. Ted Vandevis, CEO of Stevenson Memorial Hospital Foundation. "We are incredibly grateful to everyone who has already stepped forward to support this campaign. Their generosity is helping shape the future of healthcare close to home, and we look forward to continuing this work together as the project progresses."

Community support continues to play an essential role in bringing the vision to life. From local businesses and community organizations to families and individual donors, every contribution helps advance the campaign and support the hospital's future needs.

While the Ontario government is funding 90 per cent of construction costs, the community is responsible for the remaining 10 per cent of construction costs, along with 100 per cent of the furniture, fixtures and equipment required for the new hospital.

The foundation's Every Dollar Counts matching program, made possible through the generosity of the Morningview Foundation, also offers an opportunity to increase the impact of eligible new donations. Beginning April 1, 2026, eligible donations are being matched dollar-for-dollar, up to $1.34 million annually for three years.

As construction continues, the foundation encourages residents, businesses, and community partners to be part of this important chapter in local healthcare.

To donate, go to: stevensonfoundation.ca/ways-to-give

Stephanie
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Editorial, Letters & Opinion

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

Remembering them

BRIAN LOCKHART
FROM THE SECOND ROW



I'm not sure how many World War II veterans are still with us across the country.

In 2025, it was reported that there were around 3,691 Canadian veterans of the war still with us.

The D-Day Invasion of Europe happened in 1944 – 82 years ago, meaning those remaining veterans are almost certainly all centenarians.

When I was a k d, I recall survivors of the First World War coming to our school and speak ng of their experiences in the trenches.

Incredibly, the last surviving combat veteran of the Canadian Expeditionary Force of World War I passed away in 2005 at the age of 106.

With Remembrance Day coming up, it is important to remember the sacrifice so many people made when they answered the call to duty.

Recently, I visited a cenotaph in what is still a small village of only a couple of hundred people. There are over 20 names of soldiers who died on the battlefields of World War One etched in the granite, and another full list of casualties from the Second World War.

This was a hamlet where every single family would have been affected by a war death in some way.

There are plenty of cenotaphs like it across the country.

After the war years, soldiers returned to civilian life, married, raised families, and held various jobs.

Many people who had fathers and grandfathers who fought in the war will tell you that they never spoke of their war experience. It was something they kept to themselves.

Maybe it was the horror of experiencing war firsthand, seeing death and destruction and entire cities laid waste, that they just wanted to forget.

Several years ago, I attended an event at the Museum of Dufferin. World War II veterans living in the area were contacted and paired up with local high school students who conducted interviews with the veterans about their war experience.

At the time, there were still quite a few veterans living locally. Many of them agreed to do the interviews to record their experiences in the history books.

I had the opportunity to sit down and speak to one of the veterans, and he told me his wartime story.

I was fascinated to learn he had been part of the D-Day invasion on June 6, 1944. Speaking to him was like being part of an historic event.

He was assigned to a landing craft during the invasion on Omaha Beach – a beach where American soldiers landed. He explained that while the American Navy had a lot of big ships, they lacked landing craft, so Canadian soldiers were assigned the task of taking them to shore.

The landing craft approached the beach in a V-pattern. They were under strict orders not to break formation for any reason. Even if the craft beside them was hit, they couldn't slow or stop to help survivors. It was full steam ahead because any delay would mean they would become a sitting duck target.

The situation got very tense when the battleships started firing their shells at the beach. He described hearing the sound of huge naval artillery shells screaming overhead.

The German defences responded and, as he described it, "we had shells flying both ways over our heads."

The men in those landing craft didn't panic; they didn't break formation. They did their job and successfully landed those soldiers on shore.

As Remembrance Day approaches, it is important to remember those who both fought and died during these conflicts.

They were fighting to preserve our way of life, and the way of life we currently enjoy.

These sacrifices should be taught in schools, and children should be made aware of the fact that a generation stood up when it was necessary, and they now have the freedoms those soldiers fought for.

Newcomers to our country should also attend Remembrance Day ceremonies. It is those sacrifices that helped build this nation that newcomers still want to come to, and they should honour our past.

Now more than ever, we must remember the past as we face challenges, both foreign and domestic, from people who want to destroy our way of life.

Attending a Remembrance Day ceremony only takes an hour. That's one hour out of an entire year, so it's not a big deal.

Make the effort and visit your local cenotaph on Nov. 11, and honour those whose names are forever written in stone and who did not live to share the prosperity we all enjoy.

Filling the community's collective 'crock'

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I'm not normally a person who finds themselves at a loss at what to ask if the occasion requires questions. It's part of the job and, if you're reasonably well-prepared, it shouldn't be too hard to come up with a few conversation starters – or, at the very least, a few things to keep a conversation from petering out to nothing in a minute or two.

That said, however, I wasn't sure quite where to start when I had the opportunity to interview Ada Johnson, who was Aurora's oldest resident more than a decade ago.

Her remarkable longevity had been charted in our pages since she crossed the century threshold well before I joined the paper, but the first time I had the chance to meet her was her remarkable 109th trip around the sun.

What do you ask a person who has more than a century of experience under their belt? It seems the go-to question is always, "What's your secret for living to X?" as if they started out in life focused on outliving their peers and claiming a victory among their generation.

Taking a different approach, I thought about asking what her earliest memory of the community was, having been a resident for 106 of those 109 years, some of early community founders she might have still remembered, what inspired her to become a teacher for decades, and some of her most rewarding experiences through that lens.

After the assembled company sang Happy Birthday and she cut into her cake, it was time for questions and seated at the arm of her wheelchair… well, all those far-more-interesting questions went straight out of my head, leaving me to ask, "What would your biggest piece of advice be" for living to such a grand old age.

Not quite, "What's your secret?" but close enough to feel my eyes rolling in spite of myself.

No, it wasn't a particularly inspired question, and certainly not my finest hour in this job, but I was glad to find her answer got straight to the point.

"You have to make sure you have enough food in your crock," she said, before I had the wherewithal to ask her about some of her longest-standing memories.

It's was a simple answer and one that stuck with me – and not only for the way she phrased her answer, hinting through her word choice that while she was still an active member of the community, she truly belonged to a bygone era.

Yet, it was simple, sage advice I think we can all do to keep in mind.

I'm fortunate enough that I've never been in a situation where my crock, and those of my family, have been completely empty. Sure, there have been times where resources were more plentiful than others, but somehow over the years, no matter what configuration my family happened to be at the time, we've been lucky enough to make it work.

That's something I never hesitate to express gratitude for at this time of year, especially over the Thanksgiving weekend, which is now in our collective rear-window.

But as the affordability crisis continues apace across the country and well beyond, my heart felt just a little bit fuller that we were able to share in a meal and there was more than enough to go around. At the same time, however, I think we were all hyper-conscious that many families aren't as fortunate.

The statistics from our local food banks and pantries are staggering, and the challenges they face – and, by extension, the challenges our communities face – are always highlighted post-summer as our focus turns to fall, winter, Thanksgiving, and the weeks leading up to the holiday season.

As conscious as we are of the acute needs of these vital community organizations in the lead-up to Thanksgiving, it's important to also be cognizant of the fact that once the holiday in question is behind us, many are in a "rebuilding" phase to ensure shelves are well-stocked (ideally) in the window between Thanksgiving and when community generosity abounds closer to Christmas.

Continued on Page 27

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Israel and Palestine: Thirty wasted years

GWYNNE DYER
OUR WORLD TODAY



Here is how the high command of the Israel Defence Forces (IDF) laid down the rules for 'remotely' killing suspected Palestinian activists in the densely populated Gaza Strip after the surprise Hamas attack on Israel three years ago this week (7 October).

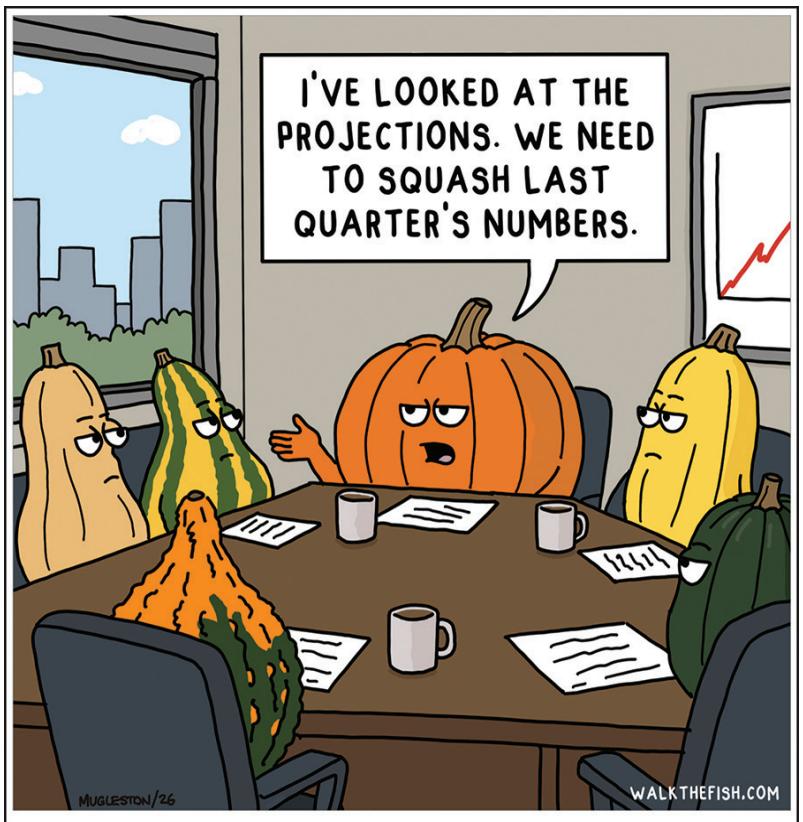
Israeli forces were told that up to 20 Palestinian civilians could be killed in a strike against a single suspected member of Hamas, even one of the lowest rank and importance. For a more 'senior' Hamas member, the permissible number of non-combatants who could be 'accidentally' killed in the process went up to 100.

The order went out only hours after the attack, when there were not yet any IDF troops on the ground in the Strip and all strikes had to be remote, but most strikes have remained remote right down to the present because using drones and artillery keeps Israeli casualties very low.

The drone operators or artillery gunners who delivered the high explosives did not choose the target themselves. An AI system called Lavender did that, using a network of surveillance devices that generated tens of thousands of likely targets, some known by name, some just 'acting suspiciously'. Human operators spent about twenty seconds confirming each one.

This is how more than 74,000 Palestinians in Gaza (around a third of them children) have been chosen for death in the past three years. The system even has a code name for the innocent majority of the dead: NAZA, an acronym from the Hebrew phrase for 'collateral damage'.

Most of the above information comes from anonymised IDF operators of the system, as recorded anonymously by Israeli film-makers Rachel Zor and Yuval Abraham in the documentary film NAZA, released later this month. Israeli casualties in this war have been far fewer, but they too are mostly civilian.



Gourd of Directors

Of the 2,000 Israelis who have been killed in the Gaza war more than half were civilians, mostly murdered in or near their homes on the first day. Israeli military losses have been quite low, as usual, but they do add up to as many as have been killed in all Israel's other wars since 2000. Palestinian losses are nearing the total of all other Palestinians and other Arabs killed in the wars since 1948.

And all of this serves no purpose whatever. Nothing has budged since Netanyahu and the Likud Party on one side and Hamas on the other killed the 'peace process' in 1995.

The process was well underway by the mid-1990s. Like a hundred other new countries that had emerged from the wreckage of the European empires and learned to live within their new borders during the previous fifty years, Israel seemed to be on the brink of normality.

At that time, the Zionist project to build a national Jewish state was already a done deal for most Israelis. They were nationalists, like the dominant population in any modern state, but the Palestinians could not be forced to vanish and most Israelis were not very interested in further territorial expansion if peace was on offer instead.

The Palestinian leadership had also accepted that there could be no final victory and that the future had to be the 'two-state solution' in which Israeli and Palestinian states lived unhappily alongside each other forever. Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin had already been to Washington to seal the deal.

Inevitably, there were dissident groups on both sides who wanted to go on fighting until an imaginary total victory, and the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin by a far-right Jewish student in 1995 forced an early election to replace him. The Hamas group, who had broken away from the PLO because they opposed a compromise peace, saw the election as a way to stop it.

Hamas sabotaged the peace deal by launching an intensive terrorist bus-bombing campaign during the election to convince Israeli voters that peace with Palestinians was impossible, and the right-wing, anti-peace Israeli candidate, Binyamin Netanyahu, took full advantage of it. He won the election, and the peace deal died.

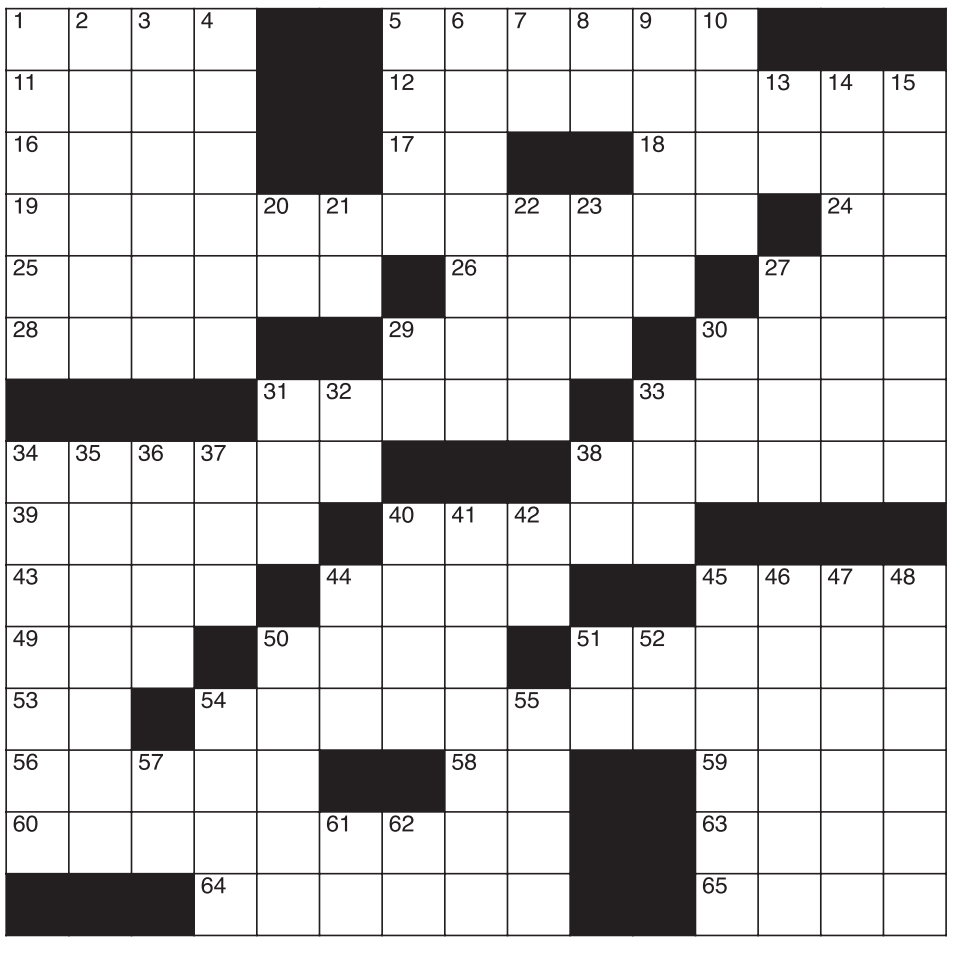
Thirty years later, the prospect of peace has receded far into the distance. Netanyahu has been prime minister more than half the time since 1995, and may even win a new term in office in this month's election despite his failure to stop Hamas's surprise attack three years ago or to destroy it in the subsequent war.

Israel has drifted so far right in the intervening years that none of plausible rival candidates is interested in seeking peace with the Palestinians either, and the PLO is a corrupt and useless shambles. Everybody is stuck, the foolish war with Iran is dragging on pointlessly, and there is no light on the horizon.

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CLUES ACROSS

1. Nocturnal rodent
5. Requesting
11. Give temporarily
12. Frivolousness
16. Military arm
17. "Westworld" actor Harris
18. Persian Gulf port city
19. Air hostesses
24. Partner to "Pa"
25. Percussion instrument
26. Raincoats
27. Lower the light
28. Asian mountain range
29. Every one of two or more
30. Lack of difficulty
31. A public announcement of a proposed marriage
33. Reduces in size
34. Make an impact
38. Serviceman
39. A French river
40. Prehistoric people
43. Messenger ribonucleic acid
44. "Layla" singer Clapton
45. Ancient Greek sophist
49. Largest English dictionary (abbr.)
50. "Top Gun: Maverick" actor Powell
51. A way to disentangle
53. Atomic #93
54. Manifesting approval
56. Indigo bush
58. Larry and Curly's pal
59. Off-Broadway theater award
60. Fencers
63. Masses of fish eggs
64. Passerine birds
65. Arrange systematically

CLUES DOWN

1. Colorless part of blood
2. Of a main artery
3. Photog's tool
4. Blues Traveler hit "But __"
5. Grew older
6. Not the leader
7. __ Lang: country singer
8. A driver's license is one
9. Nests of pheasants
10. Antelopes
13. One quintillion bytes
14. Japanese lute
15. A type of cat
20. It cools your home
21. Dorm official
22. Pouches
23. German trigraph
27. Form of Persian
29. __ route
30. Upper body part
31. Bridge building degree
32. Indicates position
33. Political action committee
34. Edible nuts
35. Front part of a quadruped
36. Locate
37. Geological time
38. Of I
40. Northern Utah city
41. They work in the trenches
42. Hammer is one
44. Tall deciduous tree
45. Performers
46. Slang for mistake
47. More open
48. Most slick
50. Provokes
51. Home of the NCAA's Flyers
52. Sodium
54. Large fish of the mackerel family
55. Not one
57. __ and behold
61. Atomic #21
62. "The Great Lakes State"

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

COMMUNITY VOICE

Community kindness on display through the holidays at local food bank

If you have ever dropped off a bag of groceries, organized a food drive, or donated to the Alliston Food Bank, you have helped someone in your community through a difficult time. During the holidays, we see kindness in so many ways, and we are grateful to everyone who thinks of us as they make their plans.

October through December is an especially busy time at the food bank. Generally, 30 to 35 per cent of our annual donations come in during these months. Local businesses collect food, schools organize drives, and families make room in their grocery carts for a few extra items. That support helps us through the holiday season and into the new year.

One question we hear often is, "What do you need most?" It is a good question, because the answer can change from week to week. Something we have plenty of today may be running low after our next shopping day. Before purchasing donations or planning a collection, please check with us for our current most-needed items.

Everyday groceries are always worth considering. Cereal, oatmeal, rice, pasta, canned vegetables, canned fruit and canned fish are examples of foods that can help people put together meals at home. Breakfast foods and ingredients for simple lunches and dinners are useful during the holidays, just as they are year-round.

You don't need to look for something specifically for the holiday season. We appreciate the thought that goes into holiday treats, but regular pantry items are needed too. Once the holiday celebrations are over, there are still breakfasts to make, lunches to pack and dinners to prepare. A donation of everyday groceries helps with those meals and can be just as thoughtful as something festive.

If your workplace, school, team or community group is organizing a food drive, we would love to hear from you before you get started. We can let you know which items we are short of so you can share that information with everyone taking part. This gives people direction when they shop and helps us receive the foods we need most.

Monetary donations also help a lot. While we receive a wonderful variety of food from the community, we often need items that haven't been donated in sufficient quantities. Financial contributions allow us to purchase those foods and fill specific gaps on our shelves. If you are unsure what to buy or cannot get out to shop, this is another way to support the food bank.

We are grateful for the support we receive from October through December, but the months after the holidays can be more challenging. Donations often slow down in January, while people continue to turn to us for help with groceries. Keeping our shelves stocked through the winter is just as important as it is during the holiday season.

Food donated over the holidays helps us begin the year, but it does not keep our shelves stocked indefinitely. Groceries continue to go out each shopping day and need to be replaced. Meanwhile, families are still paying rent, buying food and managing household bills. Winter heating costs can make an already difficult budget even harder to stretch.

If you are planning a food drive, consider holding it in the spring or summer. A collection in May, June or during the summer months helps us keep our shelves stocked when donations are often slower. This support helps keep food available year-round, beyond the holiday season. Adding a needed item to your grocery shop or making a regular monetary donation, if your budget allows, also helps us meet our community's ongoing needs.

We know that giving looks different for everyone. Please know we appreciate what you can contribute. Whether it is one bag from a family or a collection from an entire workplace, we are glad to receive it. To our donors, volunteers, businesses, schools and community groups, thank you for the incredible support you give us during the holidays. We see the effort behind your collections and the care behind your donations. You help us keep food available for our neighbours through the holiday season and long after it has passed.



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Paid for By Richard Norcross

Province investing over $1 million in support of Matthews House Hospice programming

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

The Ontario government is providing $1,078,000 in one-time funding to continue the palliative-focused community support service pilot program at Matthews House Hospice in Alliston on behalf of Stevenson Memorial Hospital.

The CSS program helps people with life-limiting illnesses remain safely and comfortably at home longer. This improves their quality of life and reduces hospital visits.



SUPPORTING YOUTH – The New Tecumseth Rotary Club had a successful Freezer Full of Meat Fundraiser, where residents bought tickets to win the big prize: a freezer full of meat. The Rotary Club presented Therapy Heals with a $5,000 cheque from the funds raised. The grant will subsidize youth counselling in New Tecumseth. Scott Ridgway, president of the New Tecumseth Rotary Club, presented the funds to Therapy Heals owner Amelia Perri on Monday, Sept. 18. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The program is expected to serve around 2,650 patients each year.

"Matthews House Hospice provides compassionate care for people facing a life-limiting illness and essential support for their families and caregivers," said Brian Saunderson, MPP for Simcoe-Grey. "This investment will support its dedicated staff and volunteers as they help more people remain comfortably at home during a deeply personal time."

Matthews House Hospice has served South Simcoe County since 2003, including New Tecumseth, Adjala-Tosorontio, Bradford West Gwillimbury, Essa and Innisfil.

"Matthews House Hospice is incredibly grateful to MPP Brian Saunderson for his continued advocacy and to the Government of Ontario for providing $1.078 million in community funding," said Margaret Bachle, CEO of Matthews House Hospice.

"This funding is critical to sustaining this essential community program which includes our memory care and dementia day program. Participants rely on the connection and meaningful program activities. We are particularly appreciative of MPP Saunderson's recognition of the value of community-based care and his ongoing support for Matthews House Hospice."

The hospice offers a ten-bed residence and more than 55 community support programs delivered by staff and volunteers.

"Stevenson Memorial Hospital is very appreciative of the compassionate services that Matthews House Hospice provides to our community, including specialized health care programs," said Deepak Sharma, president and CEO of Stevenson Memorial Hospital. "Having this care available locally is deeply valued, and the provincial government's continued support is excellent news for the community we serve."

BRIAN SAUNDERSON
MPP - Simcoe-Grey

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Arts & Local Events

Matthews House Hospice annual gala features 'An Enchanted Evening'

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

The weather is getting a little cooler, so the RMatthews House Hospice in Alliston is inviting the South Simcoe community to come together for its 15th annual Giving Hearts Gala.

This year's theme is "An Enchanted Evening."

This signature fundraising event promises an evening of exceptional food, entertainment and celebration – all in support of compassionate care close to home.

The Giving Hearts Gala has become one of the Matthews House Hospice Foundation's three signature fundraising events alongside Hike for Hospice and the Annual Golf Tournament.

Over the years, the gala has raised more than $3.4 million to support Matthews House Hospice programs and services.

Last year's Gala was a tremendous success, demonstrating the remarkable generosity of the community and the importance of coming together to sustain hospice care.

This year, Matthews House is once again asking residents, businesses, and community partners to help carry that momentum forward.

Matthews House Hospice must raise more than $2 million every year through fundraising and community generosity to continue to provide its full range of services.

Those services extend far beyond residential hospice care and include hospice-at-home support, grief and bereavement counselling, caregiver support, Memory Care and Dementia Day programming, and more than 55 community programs.

An Enchanted Evening offers guests the opportunity to enjoy a memorable night while making a meaningful investment in the future of care in South Simcoe.

The evening will feature a four-course dinner, live entertainment, dancing, and a live band. There will also be exciting live and silent auctions.

Guests can also take part in the Enchanted Keys and Fairy Bags, offering additional opportunities to have fun, win prizes, and raise funds.



Included in the prizes are the ultimate Maple Leafs VIP experience, including tickets, dinner, hotel accommodations, and a ride on the Zamboni.

There is also a prize for exclusive Buffalo Bills tickets with dining and parking included, exquisite Muskoka Teak furniture worth over $10,000, as well as jewellery and gems.

Hospice care exists because a community chooses to make sure it will be there when people need it. If we all waited until the day we or someone we love needed Matthews House Hospice to begin supporting it, Matthews House would not exist.

The care, comfort, and dignity available to families today are the result of years of community generosity, volunteers, donors, sponsors, and people choosing to give before they need the service themselves.

That is why continued support throughout the entire year is essential.

An Enchanted Evening Gala will take place on Friday, Oct. 23, at the Waterloo Officers' Mess at Base Borden.

Tickets for the Gala are $200 per person or $1,600 for a table of eight, and can be purchased online at: matthews.house/fundraising-events

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Dr. Kent Newton celebrates 30 years of helping local residents with chiropractic treatment

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

After 30 years of helping local residents and other patients who arrive from a considerable distance, Dr. Kent Newton says he has enjoyed every year of those three decades and has no plans to give up his chiropractic practice anytime soon.

Dr. Kent, as he is known to patients and staff, took over Alliston Chiropractic Wellness Centre when the former chiropractor Dr. Gordon Burgess retired in 1996.

"I didn't choose this job, it chose me," Dr. Kent said of how he discovered chiropractic medicine as a youth, then went on to learn more and study it.

"I was able to capitalize on Dr. Burgess' experience. He was a chiropractor for 30 years. I would ask him questions, and he would mentor me. You can learn from someone who has more experience. Since then, it's been 30 years, I have seen grandparents, parents, kids, and their kids."'

Dr. Kent started learning about chiropractic when he was a youth.

"I grew up in Scarborough, and my mom used to take us to a chiropractor," Dr. Kent explained. "I was under chiropractic care since I was around eight years old. I knew about it but it wasn't going be my career. I went to university and my chiropractor asked me what I was going to do with my life. At the time, I said 'I don't know.' He invited me to come to his office and follow him for the summer, so I did. I saw what he did and, and really fell in love with it."

That experience led to a new career for Dr. Kent.

He sees patients of all ages from babies to senior citizens. While most of his patients live in the region, he has many who have moved away but still return to see him for treatment from as far away as Orillia and Parry Sound.

"I love working here in this community," Dr. Kent said. "We see so many different people. We see a lot of farmers and a lot of people who work in IT and are working at home online. We have a lot of patients who play rugby, hockey, and pickleball. Monday is our baby day. Last Monday we saw five babies that were under the age of 10 months. The joke is 'womb to tomb.' We work with pregnant moms and all the way up to grandparents. We also do acupuncture. We use small needles and try to create a body reaction. Sometimes we use it to break up muscle spasms, sometimes for pain control, and we can help people to stop smoking."

An enthusiastic and friendly person with a passion for his work, Dr. Kent takes great satisfaction in hearing back from clients who are experiencing good results from his treatment.

"When we had our anniversary celebration here, it was really quite emotional because we heard a lot of stories that we didn't actually hear before," he explained. "We heard fantastic stuff, like 'you really helped my son so he is getting back to playing hockey, or, my husband is able to cut the grass again.' They are such great success stories."



MARKING A MILESTONE – Local Chiropractor Dr. Kent Newton is celebrating 30 years at Alliston Chiropractic Wellness Centre in Alliston. Dr. Kent took over the local practice in 1996 and is passionate and enthusiastic about helping his patients. **BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO**

It is those success stories that keep Dr. Kent motivated and passionate about his work. After three decades serving the community, he said he has no plans to retire and hopes to continue for another 30 years.

"I love my job and I love what I do. I am very grateful for the people I have been able to help. I take my job very seriously, but we still have a lot of fun here. I love doing it so I'm not going anywhere."



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? Email us a letter to the editor to: **newtectimeseditorial@gmail.com**. Be sure to include your name and town.



Recycled Teenagers end season with donations to local nonprofits, breakfast programs

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

The weather is getting a little cooler, so the Recycled Teenagers Classic Car and Truck Club is ending its weekly car shows at the Walmart parking lot in Alliston until next spring.

Every Tuesday, the club meets during the warmer months and brings its classic cars and trucks to the parking lot, where it welcomes visitors and car enthusiasts.

While they enjoy the camaraderie and social aspect of swapping stories and spending time with other car enthusiasts, they also use the events to raise funds for local charitable causes.

This year, the club raised $7,250 and presented funds to five groups to help them get through the next year.

Recipients included Matthews House Hospice and Kerry's Place for Autistic Kids, Youth & Adults. Three local schools also benefited. Alliston Union Public School, Ernest Cumberland Elementary School, and Tecumseth Beeton Elementary School received funds to help with their breakfast programs.

"Since 2013, we have raised close to $60,000," said Recycled Teenagers Classic Car and Truck Club President Rick Heidman.

"This club was started in 1976, this is our 50th anniversary. It was also our 50th anniversary of doing the Alliston Potato Festival Car Show. We do cruise nights every Tuesday night from May through to October and the big show is the Potato Festival Car Show. It's free entrance to the cruise night and we have door prizes that are donated to us by local businesses. We buy prizes for the kids' draw every Tuesday night, it's pretty popular. We get as many as 50 kids out here on a Tuesday night."

Heidman added, "We not only support these charities when they have fundraisers, we take a car show out to the fundraiser to attract people. On a typical Tuesday night we'll get a minimum of around 100 cars and some nights up to 160. This show is the last one of the season."

The car show is not limited to just classic and vintage cars and trucks. Everyone is welcome.

"Our motto is 'If you think it's cool, so do we, so bring it on in,'" Rick explained. "It doesn't have to be a certain age. In fact, since we took on that motto we get supercars out here like Lamborghinis and Ferraris."

The club raises funds through various efforts, including charging a small fee to enter the Potato Festival show. Some businesses donate funds to sponsor trophies, and leftover funds are donated.

"We like to give back to the community," Rick said. "We use a few nights of our cruise nights to have food drives and donate to the food banks in Tottenham and Alliston."

The final official cruise night was held on Tuesday, Sept. 29, but some car enthusiasts will still show up for the next few weeks in October just for the fun of it.

The cruise nights will resume in May in the Walmart parking lot.

Flu and COVID-19 vaccines available to high-risk individuals ahead of respiratory illness season

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

Influenza and COVID-19 vaccines are becoming available for people at higher risk of serious illness from these viruses.

Long-term care homes and hospitals are receiving the vaccine now to protect those most at risk.

Pharmacies and primary care providers will be receiving the vaccine in mid-October.

Check with your pharmacy or health-care provider to learn when vaccines are available and when you are eligible to receive them.

Beginning Oct. 26, flu and COVID-19 vaccines will be available to the general public through participating pharmacies and health-care providers. The Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit encourages everyone to get vaccinated as soon as vaccines become available to them.

The respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) vaccine is also available for eligible adults aged 75 and older, as well as some high-risk adults aged 60 to 74. The vaccine helps protect against another respiratory virus that often spreads in the fall.

Only one dose is needed, and it can be given at any time. People who have not yet received the RSV vaccine are encouraged to talk to their health-care provider.

Babies born after April 1 who are still eight months old or younger, as well as some high-risk children up to 24 months of age, can also be protected against RSV. Those born on or after Oct. 1 will receive an RSV monoclonal antibody called Beyfortus shortly after birth, before leaving the hospital. Families of babies born before Oct. 1 should ask their baby's health-care provider about receiving this important protection.

Help prevent the spread of respiratory illnesses by staying home when you are sick, washing your hands regularly, cleaning high-touch surfaces and wearing a well-fitted mask in indoor public settings, especially if you are at higher risk of serious illness. These simple actions can help protect you and others from getting sick.

The health unit encourages people to check the Weekly Respiratory Virus Update, understand their risk, and take simple steps to help protect themselves and those around them.



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How to create more interior space for the winter

After a summer and fall spent outdoors, winter drives many people back inside. Homeowners may take inventory of their interior spaces in winter and find that there isn't as much room as they would like. When entertaining inside, a home may feel particularly cramped.

CREATING AN OPEN, inviting indoor environment requires maximizing spatial design but not necessarily expanding square footage. By focusing on a few strategies, homeowners can maximize interior flow.

Change up the layout of furniture

Being able to move around a space more easily may come down to rethinking the furniture layout. Interior design experts often emphasize traffic flow in a space, which can determine how comfortable homeowners and their guests feel. Universal design methodologies point to establishing clear, unobstructed routes to link different zones of a room. This will minimize physical congestion in the space. When entertaining, homeowners can push larger pieces of furniture against the perimeter of a room to open up a centeral gathering area. Heavy coffee tables can be swapped out for smaller tables to allow the rearrangement of the layout depending on how many people are spending time in a given space.

Subdivide rooms

Open-concept spaces might have lost some their appeal in recent years. Designers are now going back in the direction of room-based layouts over open concepts, according to Martha Stewart and New York-based designer Madeline Merin. Some homeowners now have a greater need for definition of the spaces they have to work with. Instead of one open room, dividing the space can create the illusion of having more square footage while providing distinctive spots for privacy and other room functions. An open-concept family room, for example, can be divided into a gaming room on one side and a home office space on the other.

Change how spaces are perceived

Lighting and visual elements can make spaces feel more roomy and inviting even if they haven't gotten larger. Painting walls in soft tones will help them reflect more light, making boundaries feel like they are receding. Incorporating more natural light by removing heavy draperies is one strategy. According to the Journal of Biophilic Design, biophilic design is the intentional integration of nature into buildings and spaces to improve human health and productivity. Homeowners can incorporate natural lighting, living plants, organic materials, and organic patterns into their interior designs to make spaces feel more inviting.

Homeowners can look to various design strategies to open up interior spaces in their homes with a goal toward making them more comfortable places to ride out the winter.







fall HOME & GARDEN



THE BENEFITS OF A PROFESSIONAL GUTTER CLEANING

GUTTERS serve an important role on a building, catching rainwater from the roof and channelling it away from the structure. Without properly functioning gutters and downspouts, basements can flood, foundations may become cracked and soil can erode. Gutters also help maintain roof and siding longevity, ensuring that rainwater will not pool under shingles or siding. Wet leaves also create habitats for pests to live, notably for mosquitoes, termites, rodents, and birds.

Pros have the equipment

As with any project, having the right equipment means it will be done correctly. Handyman services and professional gutter cleaners already have the gear to reach gutters and tackle the mess, unlike some homeowners who will have to purchase tools.

Pros are trained in safety

Gutter cleaning professionals are trained in proper safety procedures and have the right equipment to safely scale homes. Gutter cleaning involves climbing ladders, walking on roofs, and handling slippery debris. It also may require working close to electrical and cable wires entering the home. Homeowners who don't know how to navigate these conditions safely risk falls or other injuries.

Pros can spot other damage

Professionals may spot damage to a home that homeowners do not see. This may include cracked seams, loose fasteners, sagging sections, and even roof damage. This allows homeowners to get a jump on the problem early on before it progresses to something more serious.

Pros save homeowners time

One of the obvious perks to letting a professional clean the gutters is that it saves homeowners time. The expert can get the job done in less time and more efficiently than a novice weekend warrior.

Mr. Handyman, a home improvement service, says the general recommendation is to get the gutters cleaned at least twice a year: once in the spring after trees have dropped their seeds, and again in the fall after all leaves have fallen. People with heavier amounts of natural debris may need more frequent cleanings. A professional gutter service will typically include inspection of the entire gutter system; removal of all debris from gutters and downspouts; flushing of gutters and downspouts to ensure water flows correctly; assessment of water being directed away; and identification of areas in need of repair.



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THE DANGERS OF *mold infestation*

WHETHER it's a fuzzy patch on a basement wall or a dark speckle on bathroom grout, mold might be dismissed as a minor nuisance.

But a mold infestation is a serious health hazard and a threat to a home's structural integrity. When mold spores find moisture and a food source, they can multiply rapidly, quietly compromising both a living space and residents' well-being.

The most pressing danger of mold is its impact on personal health. Mold releases tiny spores and volatile organic compounds into the air. When inhaled, these particles can trigger respiratory issues, particularly in sensitive individuals, according to the Cleveland Clinic. People with asthma, allergies or compromised immune systems are at the greatest risk of mold-related illness. Exposure often leads to a cluster of symptoms, which include chronic coughing, wheezing, nasal congestion, skin irritation, and red, itchy eyes.

More concerning is exposure to toxic molds, such as stachybotrys chartarum (commonly known as black mold). These strains produce mycotoxins — toxic substances that can cause more severe neurological issues, chronic fatigue, headaches, and respiratory bleeding in extreme cases, according to WebMD. Because these spores are invisible, inhabitants often suffer from unexplained illnesses for months before identifying the root cause.

Mold also poses a severe threat to homes and other structures. Mold feeds on organic materials like wood, drywall, carpet, and ceiling tiles. As the fungi grow, they secrete enzymes that digest these materials, gradually weakening them. Over time, an unchecked mold problem can rot structural support beams, ruin insulation, and cause drywall to crumble. By the time mold becomes visible on the surface, it has likely already caused extensive hidden damage inside the walls.

Preventing and addressing mold requires vigilance. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says mold thrives in environments with relative humidity above 60 percent. Therefore, controlling indoor moisture is a very important preventive measure. Fixing leaky pipes immediately, using exhaust fans in kitchens and bathrooms, and running dehumidifiers in damp basements can keep spores dormant.

If one discovers a mold infestation covering an area larger than 10 square feet, he or she should avoid disturbing it, as this can launch millions of spores into the air. Instead, homeowners should look into hiring professional remediation services to safely isolate, kill, and remove the mold. Treating mold early protects personal health and can prevent long-term damage to a home.

'Lighting the fires for the first time and seeing the happy faces of customers' fuels Fireplace Stop owner Andy Leonard in his 40th year of service in Schomberg

The Fireplace Stop owner and operator Andy Leonard has been serving customers from his Schomberg store since 1987 and bought out a competitor in Parry Sound in 2025 to consolidate a second location.

The amiable and engaging fireplace expert explained the satisfaction he derives from looking after his customers in the store's farflung locations.

"To put a smile on a customer's face is a real achievement. You deal with all kinds of personalities in any business, but we're confident in our range of products — that they'll look after all the different tastes of our customers. We've got the Buicks, the Porsches, and the Lamborghinis in our showroom. It's also really about the people – my staff – that make Fireplace Stop what it is. We're pleased to have twenty homegrown employees who look after our customers with installations and service our range of products properly. Specs change constantly in this business so we're happy to be connected to a Georgian College co-op program. We're able to bring in cutting edge, talented technicians in the fall and train them during their co-op placements," said Leonard.

Responding to an ever-evolving economy is a requirement for any successful business and Leonard acknowledged this decade's unique challenges.

"The only constant in the twenty-first century is change and we are living it. It's changing all the time. The models we sell have changed so much even in five years. Each piece of equipment has its own bible and keeping up with the changes keeps us energized. New product lines can change every six months so we keep pace with new specs and installation methods. Staying current is what creates our relationship with our clients – meeting their needs gives us so much satisfaction. We like these challenges – we built this company on that level of service that responds to change," said Leonard.

Those myriad services are manifested in the company's recent radio ad which is in regular rotation on local radio stations around Central Ontario. The thirty-second spot outlines home and cottage products offered at both Schomberg and Parry Sound locations, including fireplaces, fireplace inserts, freestanding stoves, outdoor living, and venting components. The company's impressive range of brands is referenced in the radio commercial and reinforced with a visit to its expansive showroom at the Crossroads Mall at Highways 9 and 27. The congenial owner of The Fireplace Stop was pleased with the lively, invitational, and engaging voiceover that moves the ad and deepens the connectivity of his brand with homeowners and cottage owners across multiple regions.

In addition to connecting with prospective customers via radio waves and the company's navigable, interactive website, the diligent and dedicated owner is deeply connected to his community through sponsorships.

"We purchased the #1 sponsorship at a MacTier/Parry Sound Charity Walk on behalf of the Lion's Club that raised funds for Diabetes Canada on Oct. 3. We've sponsored a number of local hockey teams and individual hockey players, but the players have to come in and visit with us before any sponsorship funds are dispersed. Our company raised money for cancer research through golf tournaments for many years, but we found that that kind of fundraising got old due to so many tournaments having the same goals. Most importantly, when we have the chance to give back, we do," said Leonard.

Leonard acknowledges that their customers also give back to them in meaningful ways, it's a two-way street of customer service.

"It's very rewarding to help and direct our customers. They make us feel so great when we help them achieve what they set out to accomplish. We build our relationships with people and enjoy showing interest in their plans and, by extension, the things they do in their own lives. We learn so much in our conversations at various stages of our installations," he said.

"We're so blessed to have so many great customers and to be able to do something that we enjoy doing each and every day. It's great to see when our clients are so ecstatic that the fireplace has become the focal point of the room. Lighting the fires for the first time and seeing the happy faces is an amazing experience for both of us. We're making them more comfortable and they're so happy with the installation."



DOS AND DON'TS of bathroom renovations



Bathroom renovations are significant undertakings that cost homeowners sizable amounts of money.

ACCORDING to Remodeling magazine's "2024 Cost vs. Value Report," the average cost of a mid-range bathroom remodel across the United States in 2024 is around $25,000. Homeowners who want an upscale remodel can expect to spend around $80,000 in 2024.

Such a large financial commitment underscores the significance that homeowners get their bathroom remodels right. Mistakes will only increase the already substantial financial commitment homeowners must make, so it can help to keep these dos and don'ts in mind.

DO work with a certified, reliable contractor. YouTube tutorials can give a false impression of renovation projects in relation to their degree of difficulty. Renovations as significant as bathroom remodeling projects require the skills and experience of professionals.

DON'T ignore return on investment (ROI). There's no denying certain projects provide a better return on investment than others. The upscale bathroom remodel with a nearly $80,000 price tag noted above may prove awe-inspiring, but homeowners looking to get as much of their money back at resale should know that such a renovation recovers 45 percent of homeowners' initial investment. By contrast, the mid-range bathroom remodel yields a 74 percent return according to Remodeling magazine. Though ROI may not be the deciding factor for every homeowner, it definitely merits consideration when planning a project.

DO pay attention to the details. Planning a bathroom renovation can be overwhelming, as homeowners have many decisions to make before the project even begins. For example, homeowners will have to choose a vanity, fixtures for the vanity, light fixtures, toilet, showerhead, and an assortment of additional features when planning the project. Contractors work with clients to show them all of their options, and some will offer advice on products or materials if asked. But homeowners are ultimately the ones who will have to live with the choices they make during the planning process, so these details merit ample consideration and should not be treated as trivial.

DON'T emphasize cost over quality. Homeowners should do their best to establish a renovation budget and stay within that budget, but quality materials should take precedence over cost. Many budget-friendly furnishings and accessories are durable and aesthetically appealing, so homeowners need not enter a bathroom renovation thinking high-end products are their only options. But it's important that homeowners recognize the conventional wisdom that buyers get what they pay for when it comes to home renovations. If homeowners try to cut costs on materials, they may need to update or redo the bathroom much sooner than they would if they invest in quality furnishings and accessories the first time around.

Bathroom renovations can be costly. Remembering some simple dos and don'ts can give homeowners the peace of mind that their renovation investment will result in an impressive, durable space.



fall HOME & GARDEN



A GUIDE TO FALL LAWN CARE FOR *cool-season grasses*

• STICK TO YOUR RECOMMENDED FERTILIZATION SCHEDULE. Homeowners who have been fertilizing since spring are urged to continue doing so in fall at the recommended interval. It's easy to forget to fertilize in fall thanks to cooler temperatures that don't call lawn care to mind and busier schedules after school starts again and summer vacation season ends. But many fertilizer manufacturers advise users of their products to fertilize several times over the course of the year, including in fall. Stick to the intervals recommended on the packaging of the fertilizer you've been using, making sure not to forget to fertilize this fall.

• CONDUCT A SOIL TEST. A soil test can determine if the soil is lacking any nutritive elements it needs to come back strong in spring. Certain amendments can restore pH balance if necessary and foster stronger growth when lawns come back in spring.

• AERATE, IF NECESSARY. Soil can become compacted over time, and that can cause a range of problems for a lawn. Compacted soil can make it harder for water to reach the roots of grass, which weakens grass and makes it more vulnerable to damage during adverse weather events like drought. Compacted soil also makes it harder for nutrients in fertilizer to get into the soil. Aerating is best left to professionals, particularly in larger lawns, as the job can foster strong root development when done properly.

• REMOVE THATCH WHERE IT'S EXCESSIVE. Thin layers of thatch can benefit lawns by delivering nutrients from glass clippings and leaves to a lawn. However, when thatch is excessive, it can block air, water and even fertilizer from reaching the soil. Thatch often can be removed with a rake, but lawns with especially thick layers of thatch may need to be scarified. Homeowners can take a DIY approach to scarifying or hire a landscaping professional to dethatch the lawn and remove the thatch from their properties.

• CONTINUE TO WATER THE LAWN. A cool-season grass will continue to require water into the fall. Though the lawn won't need to be watered as frequently in fall as in summer, various lawn care professionals note cool-season grasses still need roughly an inch of water each week in fall.

• REMOVE LEAVES AS THEY FALL. Fallen leaves can affect a lawn in much the same way as excessive amounts of thatch, blocking water and nutrients from reaching the soil. So it's best to remove fallen leaves, especially when they begin to fall in large quantities.

Fall is an opportune time to tend to a lawn to increase the chances grass grows back strong in spring.



WHEN TO CONSIDER DUCT CLEANING

Mold growth

The EPA notes a duct cleaning may be necessary if there is substantial and visible mold growth inside hard surface ducts or on other components of a heating and cooling system. Mold growth can be difficult to confirm, as much of the heating and cooling system will not be visible. If an HVAC technician reports the presence of mold, ask that a sample be analyzed at a lab, which the EPA notes is the only way to confirm the presence of mold. The EPA estimates the cost to analyze a sample is roughly $50.

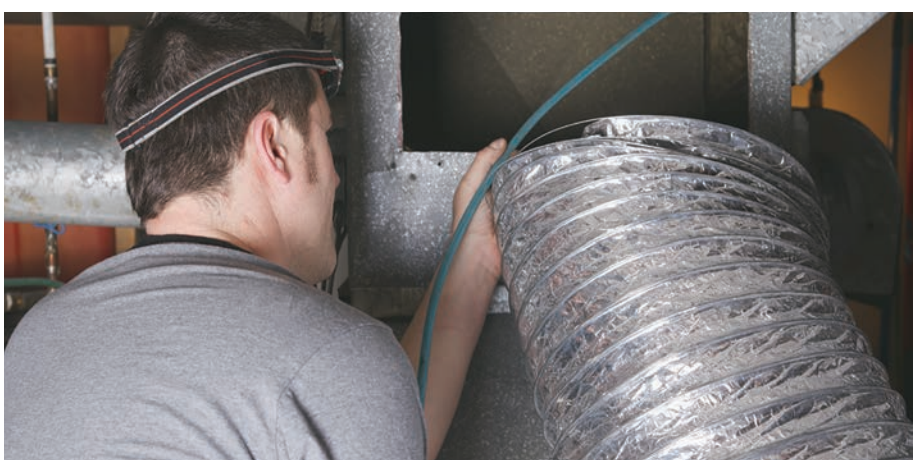
Presence of vermin

Rodents and insects in the ducts are a notable problem that needs to be remedied. A duct cleaning should be a component of vermin remediation, as rodents can leave feces in ducts, which may look like small brown pellets.

Dust and debris accumulation

The EPA notes that dust and debris that accumulates in the ducts can clog them. This also can lead to dust, debris and particles being released into the home through the vents.

Duct cleaning can be part of the solution when homeowners are confronting certain conditions, including mold growth, vermin infestation, and excessive accumulation of dirt and debris. But the EPA notes it's important that the underlying cause is addressed to prevent future issues.



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PELLET HEAT:
Consistent, Efficient and Cozy

As European-designed pellet stoves become a popular heating choice for Ontario homeowners, Robert Cook, owner of The Heating Source in Mansfield, sat down to answer some common consumer questions.

Why are pellet stoves gaining popularity?
Homeowners are looking for new, energy efficient heating options. Pellet stoves are a great choice for consistent, controllable heat with an efficient fuel source. They are also quite easy to use – you simply fill the stove's reservoir, set the heat level and walk away.

What is a pellet stove?
Pellet stoves provide heat without the need for logs or kindling. Instead, they use compressed wood pellets that are fed into a hopper system, as needed. This automatic system means homeowners don't have to adjust for temperature swings.

What are pellets made of?
Pellets are made from upcycled sawdust wood waste that is compressed into small pieces. It's that compression that creates a stable and consistent burn.

How are pellet stoves installed?
Pellet stoves are available as both free-standing stoves and inserts. Free-standing stoves are installed directly in a room and vented through an exterior wall. Inserts can be placed inside an existing masonry fireplace opening. There are many styles and even colours available now.

Is a pellet stove right for my home?
If you are interested in pellet stoves and want to see if one would work in your home, visit **The Heating Source** at 588283 Dufferin County Road 17 at Airport Road in Mansfield, call 705-250-0498 or visit **www.theheatingsource.ca** and book a free in-home consultation with an expert technician today.



fall HOME & GARDEN

HOW TO RECOGNIZE WHEN IT'S TIME TO REPLACE YOUR WINDOWS

Windows are a major component of a home. Window installation professionals will tell homeowners that the average life span of residential windows is between 15 and 30 years.

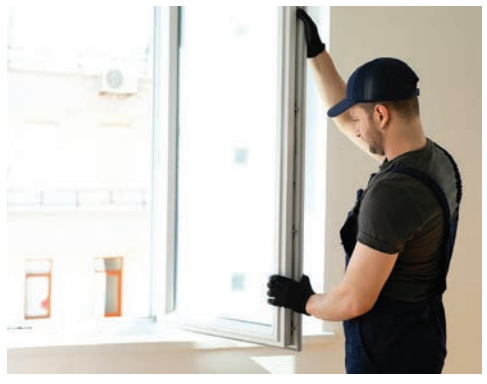
Most well-maintained products can last 20 years, so homeowners who have windows approaching that age may want to schedule a window assessment and possible replacement.

For those wondering when to replace windows, Pella and Renewal by Andersen, two of the premiere window manufacturers, offer these guidelines.

• DIFFICULTY OPENING AND CLOSING WINDOWS. A WINDOW that does not operate as it should can aggravate homeowners. If windows are sticking shut or cannot be securely closed, it's probably time for something new.

• THERE'S APPARENT WINDOW DAMAGE. Accidents happen, and if a rock is kicked up from a lawnmower and cracks a window or if spring baseball practice has gone awry with an errant throw, windows may require replacement.

• DRAFTS IN THE WINDOW ARE COMMON. If heating and cooling systems are working overtime, drafty, poorly insulated windows could be to blame. Various agencies can perform energy efficiency tests in a home. Windows that are determined to be the weak spots should be replaced.



• DATED WINDOWS ARE PRESENT IN THE HOME. Older windows may pose safety hazards, especially those in older homes. A larger window may be needed to comply with fire safety codes allowing for window egress. Dated windows also may simply look "old" and compromise the aesthetics of a home.

• OUTDOOR NOISES ARE NOTICED QUITE READILY. Newer windows can help reduce noise transmission. So those leaf blowers, airplanes, barking dogs, and kids playing basketball up the street won't disturb homeowners as they try to enjoy some peace and quiet indoors.

• FADING INDOORS IS NOTED. Windows that do not feature low-emissivity (Low-E) glass coatings will not block UV rays. Those rays can cause fading to wood floors and furniture or pretty much anything the sunlight touches. Replacing existing windows with Low-E coating alternatives can safeguard belongings and improve window efficiency.

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fall HOME & GARDEN

Allen HVAC Solutions keeps your home comfortable

Allen HVAC Solutions is a family owned and operated HVAC company led by Garfield Allen and his children Maddison and Keegan. Their mission is to deliver a thorough, consistent, and trustworthy service experience to homeowners and businesses.

They offer a full suite of heating, cooling, and ventilation services, from regular maintenance to emergency repairs and full installations. They emphasize individualized service: rather than promoting one-size-fits-all solutions, Allen HVAC Solutions works with customers to assess their specific heating and cooling needs and present tailored options.

A key focus of their offering is indoor air quality (IAQ). They note that HVAC systems in homes move over a million cubic feet of air daily, making them prime places to address air purity. They provide products such as:

- Whole house humidifiers to help with respiratory comfort, dry skin, allergies, and snoring
- An IAQ 1000 Polarized Media Air Cleaner capable of removing particles as small as 0.3 microns, helping allergy and COPD sufferers and improving system efficiency, and comes with a lifetime warranty.
- An IAQ 3000 dual wavelength ultraviolet purification system (using UVC and UVV) to control viruses, bacteria, mold, chemicals, odors, and off gassing, and comes with a lifetime warranty.

Allen HVAC Solutions services both residential and commercial clients. They combine high quality parts and equipment with a commitment to workmanship, backing their installations and repairs with warranties.

In short, Allen HVAC Solutions positions itself not just as a repair or installation company, but a partner in home comfort and air quality. By taking time to understand each customer's needs, offering advanced IAQ solutions, and guaranteeing their work, they aim to build long-term trust in the communities they serve.



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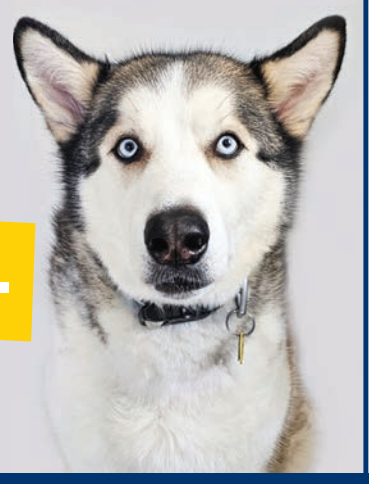
While paint and wallpaper will always be at the heart of our store, we've also grown to offer a selection of ***home décor, giftware and unique finds*** – making Tottenham Paint and Paper a place to stop in for a little inspiration, whether you're working on a home project or looking for something special for someone you care about.

Thank you to our wonderful local community for continuing to support small businesses like ours – we're proud to be part of New Tecumseth and look forward to helping you bring your next project to life!

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NEW TECUMSETH VOTES

2026 MUNICIPAL ELECTION CANDIDATE PROFILES

With the upcoming municipal election on October 26, we invited each councillor 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 are listed alphabetically.

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

Shira Harrison McIntyre — Running for councillor Ward 6



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

The most pressing concern will be the new budget for 2027. Balancing the operational needs of the municipality with the requests for expansion of services will fall to the next council to decide.

Many residents already feel stretched to the limit with increased household expenses. It is the job of council to take a hard look at the budget, projected growth and the timing of town projects and coordinate projects to coincide with growth.

We need to ensure the cost of the proposed housing expansion is not carried by current residents.

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

When the current mayor used strong mayor powers to push through OPA 5, he determined that the growth would occur in Tottenham, Beeton, Alliston and the rural area.

The growth spread throughout the town will destroy the rural and agricultural lands as well as the small-town character of Tottenham and Beeton.

One planned urban centre would have meant density, transit and avoiding the triplication of services. This flawed plan ends up costing us more and ruining the character of the town.

I hope that the next council will be able to modify the plan so we aren't left with a sprawling suburb with no transit options and high taxes because of the increased need for more services in all three centres.

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

I am an experienced multi-term councillor who can use my knowledge of the community to hit the ground running come Nov. 16.

I am not afraid to stand up for what I believe in and feel confident that I am representing the residents for the betterment of the community.

I take the time to research difficult decisions, arrive at council open to discussion, and make my decisions based on facts, not feelings.

I have never taken funds from developers for my campaign and remain unaffiliated with any political party.

Council is also about negotiation, and I have developed the skill of working with other members of council to move issues forward.

I care about the residents and the future of the community and work hard to keep New Tecumseth a safe and enjoyable place to live.

Kyle Warren — Running for councillor Ward 6



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

The biggest challenge facing the next council will be managing growth while protecting the quality of life of the people who already call New Tecumseth home.

Our community is growing quickly, but growth means more than approving new homes. It means ensuring our roads, water and wastewater systems, parks, recreation facilities, emergency services and other infrastructure can keep pace.

Council also needs to be much more disciplined about how taxpayers' money is spent. We need to prioritize the infrastructure and services residents actually need rather than simply reacting to problems after they arise.

I believe the next council needs to bring greater accountability, transparency and long-term planning to the table. I'm not running to promise residents that every problem can be fixed overnight. I'm running to ask the difficult questions, listen to residents, prioritize what matters, and make decisions based on what is best for the community.

New Tecumseth can grow, but we need to make sure we are growing responsibly and building a community that works for everyone.

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

We cannot pretend that provincial growth targets do not exist, but we also cannot treat them as a reason to simply approve growth without proper planning.

Council needs to be a strong advocate for New Tecumseth and make sure the province understands the infrastructure realities on the ground.

Growth needs to be properly phased and supported by roads, water and wastewater capacity, schools, parks, emergency services and other community infrastructure.

Most importantly, residents need to be part of the conversation. People should not feel that decisions affecting their neighbourhoods and quality of life are being made without them. I support responsible growth, not growth at any cost.

We should welcome new families and businesses, but we need to make sure the community we are building is sustainable, affordable and livable for the people who already call New Tecumseth home. Council may not control every decision, but it absolutely controls how strongly it advocates for its residents.

That is where I believe New Tecumseth needs a stronger voice.

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

I'm not a career politician, and I believe that is one of my greatest strengths. I bring years of real-world management experience, including budgeting, logistics, hiring, training, health and safety, customer service and leading teams.

I understand the importance of managing resources responsibly, making difficult decisions and being accountable for the results. But leadership is about more than experience. It is about listening, being accessible and having the courage to stand up for the people you represent.

Throughout this campaign, I have been speaking directly with residents and listening to their concerns. I'm not going to make promises simply because they sound good during an election.

What I will promise is that I will show up, listen, ask the difficult questions, communicate with residents and fight for Ward 6 and the Town of New Tecumseth.

I've been consistent with this already during my canvassing, with a focus on earning the trust of the residents.

I'm asking for your vote because I believe Ward 6 deserves a strong, independent voice and a councillor who will do more than listen to concerns. I'll act on them.

**As of press time, New Tecumseth candidates Joe Castellano and Shannon Rose (Ward 6) had not responded to our 2026 Municipal Election Candidate questionnaire.*

Dianna Del Bianco — Running for councillor Ward 7



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

I don't necessarily have one pressing "concern." I believe everyone running for council is doing it because we care about where we live and want to see New Tecumseth continue to be a great place to call home.

I want to ensure that as our community changes and grows, we are making decisions that work for the people who already live here and also benefit those who will call New Tecumseth home in the future.

That means families, seniors, singles, young people, local businesses, dog owners — everyone who makes up our community.

I also believe it will be critical for the new council to have a strong working relationship, collaborate with one another and ensure the voices of residents are reflected in the decisions we make.

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

I understand that growth is coming to New Tecumseth and that much of it is being directed by the province. I think the most important thing is making sure our infrastructure and services can keep up with that growth.

As we continue to grow, we need to look at things like water and wastewater capacity, roads, traffic, schools, emergency services and recreation. Growth needs to be planned responsibly, with consideration for the people who already live here as well as those who will call New Tecumseth home in the future.

I also think we, as council, need to do a better job of communicating with residents. People are busy, and with so much information coming at us every day, not everyone has time to follow every council meeting, report or development notice. We need to make important information easier to understand, including what is happening, why it is happening and how it may impact our community.

Growth is going to happen, but I believe it needs to go hand in hand with proper planning, infrastructure and communication with our residents.

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

I'm very much a "what you see is what you get" type of person. I believe in being honest, approachable and transparent. I'm not going to pretend I know everything, and if I don't know the answer to something, I'll say that and do the work to find out.

In my current career, I work closely with charities, community organizations, businesses and different partners. A large part of my job is building relationships, communicating, solving problems and bringing people together. I also spent many years working in hospitality, which taught me how important it is to listen, be patient, communicate clearly and work with people from all walks of life.

I've lived in Tottenham for about ten years, and I loved the community enough that my parents also moved here about four years ago. This is home for my family and me.

I believe leadership means listening, understanding the issues and making sure the voice of my ward is heard. I want residents to feel comfortable approaching me, asking questions, disagreeing with me and knowing I'll always be willing to have the conversation.

Continued on Page 21



SPORTS
NEW TECUMSETH TIMES

Three unanswered third-period goals hands Hornets first loss of season

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

The Alliston Hornets took their first loss of the season when the Stayner Siskins came to town on Friday, Oct. 9.

There was a good-sized crowd in the New Tecumseth Recreation Centre (NTRC), and Stayner brought a lot of fans with them for their road game.

Alliston was in first place with a 5-0 record going into the Friday night home game. This was the first time the Hornets and Siskins have met on the ice this season.

Tristen Pitt scored the only goal in the first period just after the midway mark to put the Hornets on the scoreboard.

It was a tie game when the Siskins scored at nine minutes into the second period.

The Hornets took the lead when Logan Jackson hit the back of the Stayner net with 1:01 remaining on the clock.

It was the third period that did the most damage to the Hornets.

The Stayner squad scored three unanswered third-period goals to win the game 4-2.

"Winning is all we want to do, but there are a lot of little things we can clean up," said Hornets assistant coach Caden Maher after the game.

"Even with wins, we have to learn from it and be better in specific areas. Tonight can teach us a lot of things. We didn't play our best game tonight. When you're winning at the beginning of the year there are lessons you have to learn. Hopefully we learn those lessons and bounce back."

The loss dropped the Hornets down to second place in the standings, with the Siskins moving up to take over the lead.

The Penetang Kings are in third place in the division, followed by the Orillia Terriers.

The Hornets will return to home ice at the NTRC on Friday, Oct. 16, to host the Innisfil Spartans. Game time is 7:30 p.m.



COSTLY THIRD PERIOD – The Alliston Hornets take on the Stayner Sisk ns at the New Tecumseth Recreation Centre on Friday, Oct. 9. It was the first time the two rivals have met this season. The third period cost the Hornets the game when Stayner scored three unanswered goals to win the game 4-2.
BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO



TOUGH LOSS – The St. Thomas Aquinas Stingers senior girls' flag football team take on the Patrick Fogerty Flames on the field at STA on Wednesday, Oct. 7. A Stingers player looks for the ball while a Flames player tries to block the pass early in the game. The Stingers had to settle for a 19-6 loss in this game.
BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO



NEW TECUMSETH VOTES

2026 MUNICIPAL ELECTION CANDIDATE PROFILES

Andrea Jacks — Running for councillor Ward 7



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

The next council's immediate focus must be the 2027 budget.

With the volatility, uncertainty, complexity, and ambiguity shaping the global landscape, council must approach fiscal planning with responsibility and discernment.

Factors both within and beyond our control are creating an unsustainable cost of living.

Strategies and decisions being made at all levels of government in Canada are affecting residents' ability to thrive and build a future that ensures stability and the opportunity to live, work, and play with reasonable financial security.

Just as we do with our personal finances, the next Council will need to take a holistic view of New Tecumseth's operating model and make prudent decisions that prioritize needs over wants.

Our town's diverse population creates competing priorities and requires a unified Council that takes a pragmatic approach and produces a budget in the best interest of all New Tecumseth residents.

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

Council should continue engaging with residents to ensure people feel seen, heard, and understood, and to provide clarity and insight on matters of expanding development.

Council should act as a conduit between residents and town staff to ensure the right information is shared, and people truly understand the province's role in shaping residential growth in our municipality.

A unified council will ensure that the infrastructure required to facilitate growth and expansion is thoughtfully sequenced and funded by those seeking to build.

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

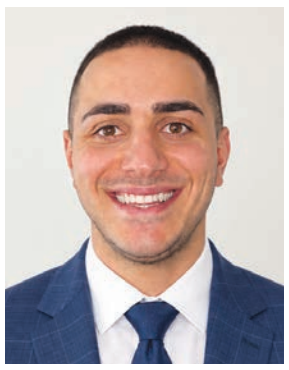
I will remain committed to serving our community with integrity, empathy, and common sense.

My career in leadership development & training and business coaching for high-performing team effectiveness has given me experience with diverse thinking and helping people build real influence through trust, credibility, and respect.

I have the privilege of working with people from diverse backgrounds and with different priorities, and I've learned that clear, direct communication solves most issues.

I bring a practical, balanced, common-sense perspective to the issues that matter most to our community, and it would be an honour to continue serving in this capacity.

Stefano Mercuri — Running for councillor Ward 7



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

Growth — but only if infrastructure keeps pace. Roads, water, services and amenities need to grow alongside development, funded by growth itself, not existing taxpayers footing the bill.

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

Province-mandated growth is coming regardless. Council should focus on what we control: ensuring infrastructure and funding keep pace, while pushing hard for our community's voice in the process.

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

I'm not a typical politician — I run two small businesses. If the town were managed with that same discipline, there'd be more money to get things done for residents. That's what I'll bring to council.

Watch for additional New Tecumseth municipal election coverage leading up to the Oct. 26 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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E-bike investigation leads to criminal and traffic charges

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

Members of the Nottawasaga Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police have arrested and charged an individual following a traffic investigation that began on Young Street in Alliston.

Shortly before 7:00 p.m. on Oct. 3, 2026, officers conducting proactive patrols in Alliston observed an individual operating an electric bicycle on a sidewalk before entering the roadway, crossing multiple lanes of traffic, and proceeding into a commercial plaza.

Officers entered the plaza and located the individual. During the investigation, officers determined that the electric bicycle no longer had pedals attached and was being operated solely by an electric motor.

As a result, the vehicle met the definition of a motor vehicle under the Highway Traffic Act.

The operator was unable to provide a driver's license, vehicle permit, or proof of insurance and verbally identified themselves using a false name.

The individual refused to identify themselves and was placed under arrest.

As a result of the investigation, Christopher Blais, 47, of New Tecumseth was charged with:

- Obstruct Peace Officer
- Operation While Prohibited under the Criminal Code (five counts)
- Failure to Comply with Release Order (two counts)
- Driving While Under Suspension
- Owner Operate Motor Vehicle Without Insurance
- Drive Motor Vehicle – No Permit
- Driver Motor Vehicle – No Plates
- Drive Motor Vehicle – No Vehicle Identification Number
- Drive Without Proper Headlight – Motorcycle

The accused was released from custody and is scheduled to appear before the Ontario Court of Justice in Bradford at a future date. The vehicle was impounded for 45 days.

The charges have not been proven in court.

Traffic stop results in drug trafficking arrest, police seize meth, cocaine

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

Members of the Nottawasaga Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police have arrested two individuals and laid multiple drug trafficking and driving-related charges following a traffic stop in Alliston.

Shortly after 12:30 a.m. on Oct. 5, 2026, officers were conducting proactive patrols in Alliston when they observed a white SUV being operated by a driver who did not match the description of the vehicle's registered owner. Officers conducted a traffic stop to confirm the driver was in lawful possession of the vehicle.

As a result of the investigation, officers arrested the driver and passenger and seized approximately 36.5 grams of suspected methamphetamine and 8.5 grams of suspected cocaine.

Officers also determined that the license plates attached to the vehicle were fraudulent.

Tamara Lowe, 43, of Mono, has been charged with:

- Possession of a Schedule 1 Substance for the Purpose of Trafficking - Methamphetamine
- Possession of a Schedule 1 Substance for the Purpose of Trafficking - Cocaine
- Operation While Prohibited under the Criminal Code
- Driving While Under Suspension
- Alter Plate
- Driver Fail to Surrender License
- Fail to Surrender Insurance Card
- Fail to Surrender Permit for Motor Vehicle
- Fail to Apply for a Permit on Becoming Owner
- Owner Operate a Motor Vehicle Without Insurance

Monte Livergood, 62, of Essa, has been charged with:

- Possession of a Schedule 1 Substance for the Purpose of Trafficking - Methamphetamine
- Possession of a Schedule 1 Substance for the Purpose of Trafficking – Cocaine

Both accused were held in custody and are scheduled to appear before the Ontario Court of Justice in Bradford at a future date. The vehicle was impounded for 45 days.

The charges have not been proven in court.

Nottawasaga OPP participates in massive regional drug bust, eight people charged

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

A joint operation involving five OPP detachments has led to eight individuals being charged with drug offences.

Members of the Dufferin Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police and its Community Street Crime Unit seized illicit drugs following a drug investigation in Dufferin County.

The Dufferin CSCU, assisted by the Nottawasaga, Caledon, Muskoka, and Collingwood CSCUs, executed three Controlled Drugs and Substances Act search warrants on Sept. 11, 2026.

Dufferin CSCU conducted an extensive investigation beginning in April 2026, into the trafficking of controlled substances within Dufferin County. As a result of the investigation, six locations in East Garafraxa, Amaranth, Orangeville, Etobicoke and Innisfil were identified as being involved in the trafficking of suspected cocaine and fentanyl.

On Sept. 29, police arrested a male at a residence in Etobicoke. Officers subsequently executed three more Controlled Drugs and Substances Act search warrants at locations in Etobicoke and Innisfil.

During the execution of those warrants, two other individuals were also arrested.

As a result of those searches, police seized a large quantity of illicit drugs, $64,510 in currency, drug trafficking paraphernalia, a handgun, and multiple items believed to be the proceeds of crime.

As a result of this investigation, the following people have been charged:

Krista Johnston, 46, female, of East Garafraxa, has been charged with:

- Trafficking in a Schedule 1 Substance (Cocaine)
- Possession of a Schedule 1 Substance for the Purpose of Trafficking (Cocaine)
- Possession of a Schedule 1 Substance for the Purpose of Trafficking (Fentanyl)

Meghan Macdonald, 48, female, of Amaranth, has been charged with:

- Possession of a Schedule 1 Substance for the Purpose of Trafficking (Fentanyl)

Wynter Anderson, 43, female, of Brampton, has been charged with:

- Possession of a Schedule 1 Substance for the Purpose of Trafficking (Fentanyl)
- Failure to Comply with a Release Order

Tom Winstanley, 40, male, of Orangeville, has been charged with:

- Failure to Comply with a Release Order

Steven Gallagher, 44, male, of no fixed address, has been charged with:

- Failure to Comply with a Release Order (two counts)

Ryan Oneil Douglas, 39, male, of Innisfil, has been charged with:

- Trafficking in Cocaine
- Trafficking in Fentanyl
- Possession for the Purpose of Trafficking Cocaine (three counts)
- Possession for the Purpose of Trafficking Fentanyl (two counts)
- Possession for the Purpose of Trafficking Methamphetamine
- Knowledge of Unauthorized Possession of a Firearm
- Careless Storage of Firearm, Weapon, Prohibited Device of Ammunition (two counts)
- Possession of Weapon for Dangerous Purpose
- Possession of Proceeds of Crime over $5,000
- Fail to Comply with a Release Order (twelve counts)
- Operation of a Motor Vehicle While Prohibited (four counts)

Shante Miller, 34, female, of Etobicoke, has been charged with:

- Possession for the Purpose of Trafficking cocaine
- Possession for the Purpose of Trafficking Fentanyl
- Possession for the Purpose of Trafficking Methamphetamine
- Unauthorized Possession of a Prohibited or Restricted Firearm
- Knowledge of Unauthorized Possession of Firearm
- Careless Storage of Firearm, Weapon, Prohibited Device or Ammunition (two counts)
- Possession of Weapon for Dangerous Purpose
- Possession of Proceeds of Crime over $5,000

One individual's identity cannot be released as it is protected by a court-ordered publication ban.

That individual has been charged with:

- Possession for the Purpose of Trafficking Cocaine
- Possession of Proceeds of Crime over $5,000

The charges have not been proven in court.

Annual low-cost rabies vaccination clinics coming to Alliston, Tottenham

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

Veterinarians in Simcoe County are once again offering low-cost rabies vaccination clinics to help pet owners protect their dogs and cats from rabies.

The clinics are open to dogs and cats aged three months and older and provide an affordable way to keep pets protected.

Rabies is a fatal but preventable disease spread through bites or scratches from infected animals. It poses a risk to both people and pets.

Each year, local veterinarians volunteer their time to support the program and operate clinics across the region.

The first clinic took place on Sept. 23 in Severn. Additional clinics are scheduled in Alliston, Barrie, Oro-Medonte, Penetanguishene, and Tottenham through Oct. 31.

Although human cases of rabies are extremely rare, the disease remains a public health concern. Rabies circulates at a low level among bats and other wildlife, including raccoons, foxes, and skunks, which can transmit the disease to people and pets.

In 2024, Ontario reported its first domestically acquired human rabies case in more than 50 years.

Vaccinating pets is the most effective way to protect families from rabies and is required by law.

Pet owners can also reduce the risk of exposure by keeping cats and dogs from roaming freely, bringing pets indoors at night, and avoiding contact with wildlife, including bats.

Parents are encouraged to remind children not to approach unfamiliar animals.

Both one-year and three-year rabies vaccines will be available at the clinics depending on an animal's vaccination history.

Pet owners should consult their veterinarian to determine when their pet is due for its next vaccination. Bringing a previous rabies vaccination certificate will help clinic staff determine which vaccine your pet needs.

Those unable to attend one of the scheduled clinics can contact their local veterinarian to arrange vaccination.

Anyone bitten or scratched by a domestic or wild animal, or who has had direct contact with a bat, should seek medical attention immediately and report the incident to their local public health unit.

Upcoming local clinics:

Sunday, Oct. 18, noon to 4 p.m. Pyne Hills Veterinary Hospital – 99 Queen St. S., Tottenham.

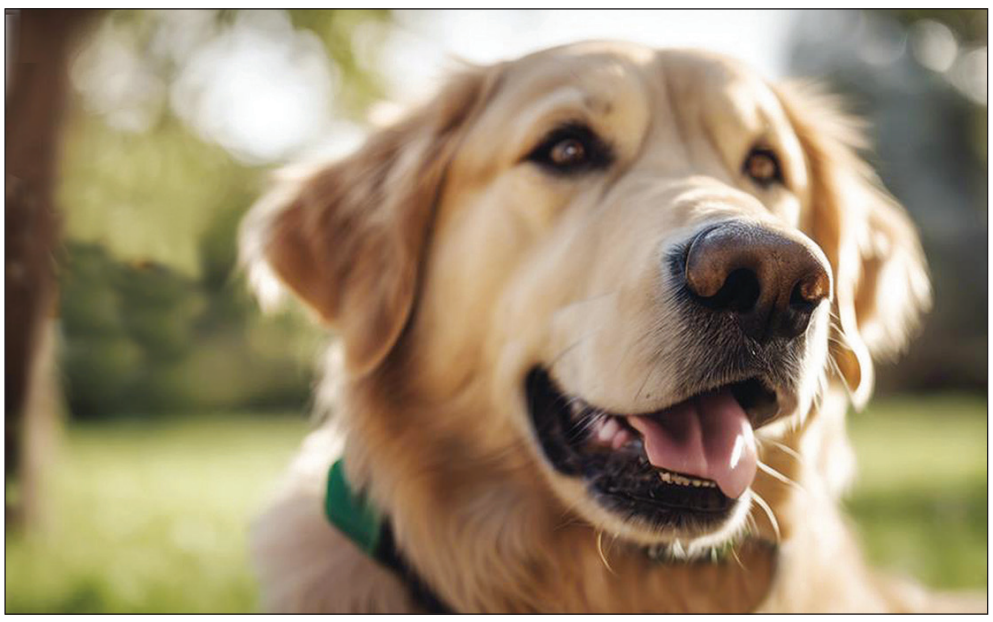
Fee: $35 for a one-year or three-year vaccine and $40 for microchipping.

Saturday, Oct. 24, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. New Tecumseth Animal Clinic – 33 Tottenham Rd., Alliston.

Fees: $35 for a one-year or three-year vaccine and $40 for microchipping.

When attending a clinic, dogs must be on a leash, and cats must be in a carrier.

Clean your hands with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand sanitizer before and after your visit.



CARING FOR YOUR PET – Low-cost rabies clinics are returning to Simcoe County. Dog and cat owners can have their pets vaccinated for either one-year or three-year coverage.

STOCK PHOTO

Buying a property regulated by the conservation authority: Here's what you need to know

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

Many people may like the thought of purchasing a rural property with a stream or river running through the area.

It can provide a picturesque locale and allow people to connect to nature through a variety of experiences.

However, if someone is planning to buy a property regulated by a conservation authority, they should understand what that regulation means and how it can affect property use.

The Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority will be hosting an open house for realtors and solicitors to provide information on what it means for a property to be regulated by a conservation authority.

During the open house, members of the NVCA will explain what a regulated area means, and what it means for a property to be regulated.

Information will be provided about what can and cannot be developed in an NVCA-regulated area, and what information is required for a development application.

Attendees will also learn how potential buyers can get more information about a property.

The open house will take place on Monday, Oct. 19, 2026, at the Tiffin Centre for Conservation at 8195 8th Line in Utopia.

There is no fee to attend; however, advance registration is required.

You can register by visiting the NVCA website at: nvca.on.ca

Read Local
Keep up with your community!

OBITUARIES
FOREVER IN OUR *Hearts*



Taylor Sarah-Lynne Dodd also known as Autumn

Taylor Sarah-Lynne Dodd, lovingly known as Autumn, was born far too early at just 27 weeks on September 27, 1999. She left this world far too soon on her 27th birthday.

Autumn's mother, born Misty Dawn Monague, was adopted by George and Lynne Dodd. At the strong recommendation of CAS, her name was changed to Melissa Irene Dodd. Sadly, Melissa passed away when Autumn was only eight years old.

Autumn had spent most of her young life with George and Lynne, who loved her deeply. They adopted her as well, wanting to make sure that she would always have a secure and loving place in their family.

Autumn was blessed with two family trees, both connected through her paternal families. The large Dodd Family, and the equally large Monague Family. She is loved by her biological brother, Braydon, and by her "Bruncles," Mike and his wife, Shannon, and Evan and his wife, Christina. They began as her uncles and, after her adoption, became her brothers.

She is also loved and deeply missed by her Grandfather, Gregory Monague, by her Aunt Jody and Uncle Leonard, and their families.

Autumn adored her nieces, Delilah, Tamara and Mya, and her nephew, Greyson, along with many other aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, and their children on both sides of her family. She had many friends also, in this area and around the world.

Autumn had many passions--- All animals both wild and domesticated. Jake, her Duck Tolling Retriever, arrived when he was one, and died in her arms just 5 days before she did. And lastly, Panda- her Pom-Chi, came to her as a baby, and had even more energy than she did. He was with her when she died, defended her fiercely, misses her terribly.

She loved to cook, and try new and exotic recipes, all kinds of music, going to concerts. Connecting with new people online and around the world.

Different jobs--- cooking in restaurants and take-outs, home deliveries of groceries and fast foods, wanted to be an interior designer, and most recently working with a great team at Devilish Details, cleaning houses and businesses all over the area.

Autumn's life was far too short, but she was deeply loved and will remain forever a cherished part of the families and friends who were blessed to know her.

A celebration of Autumn's life will be held at Emmanuel Presbyterian Church, 3521 Cty Rd 124, Nottawa, ON on Wednesday, October 14, 2026, at 11:00 a.m.

Informal mingling with family and friends one hour prior to the service. Reception and Lunch to follow in the Fellowship Hall.

The service will be live streamed. http://www.youtube.com/@emmanuelpresbyterian7033

She would appreciate donations to the Alliston Humane Society, Busby Centre in Barrie, and www.presbyterian.ca/honouring the children—or donations to a charity of your choice, continuing to benefit those passions of hers.

We ask God's Blessings and Comfort for you All.

Friends may visit Autumn's online Book of Memories at www.fawcettfuneralhomes.com



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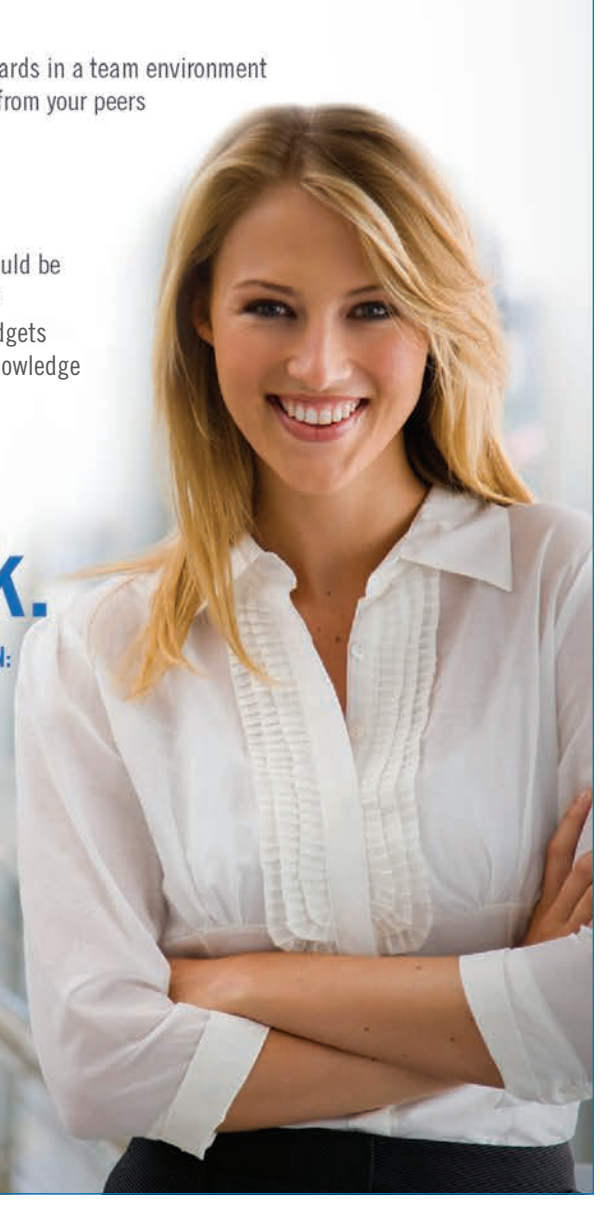
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Continued from Page 4

Brock's Banter: Filling the community's collective 'crock'

Demand never takes a holiday.

Last week, Ipsos released a survey entitled The State of Food Charity in Canada. They found that nine in ten responding organizations that address food insecurity reported growing demand over the past 12 months and with some seeing growing wait lists, 35 per cent reported having had to turn away residents because of a lack of food or resources.

"Waitlist and service restrictions highlight the growing gap between need and available support," said the pollsters. "Among the organizations that have turned people away, 41 per cent estimate that they have been unable to serve more than 50 individuals in the past year, with organizations reporting an average of 269 individuals turned away.

"Responding organizations reported that, on average, 36 per cent of food available through their programs come from Second Harvest. Most respondents agree that Second Harvest helps their organization offer more food to program participants (91 per cent), while 85 per cent agreed that Second Harvest helps their organization save money.

"Nearly half (49 per cent) of responding organizations report that they do not access food or other supports through federal, provincial, or regional food bank networks. Organizations participating in the survey included food banks and pantries, shelters, community development organizations, faith-based organizations, public institutions, and food recovery and redistribution organizations, among other organization types."

These statistics, of course, represent a wide-range of organizations and are not necessarily reflective of the myriad organizations in our community who so passionately come together to help address these issues as volunteers, not to mention the countless residents at large who are generous in sharing their resources with the wider community.

We're very fortunate to have groups like the Aurora Food Pantry, York Region Food Network, York Region Food Bank, Caledon Community Services' The Exchange, The Good Shepherd Food Bank, and numerous organizations spearheaded independently by faith groups and other volunteer collectives, regularly step up, regardless of a holiday being on the horizon, simply helping residents make ends meet in their day-to-day.

One such community organization, Welcoming Arms, is celebrating 20 years of service this week.

An ecumenical organization formed by volunteers from six churches in Aurora, the organization has worked tirelessly in the community since its inception to help improve the lives of residents in need, not only connecting visitors coming through their doors to vital community services and resources, but providing weekly lunches and dinners to their clients which not only help keep that aforementioned crock from going empty but provide an opportunity for the type of fellowship that only breaking bread can provide.

When organizations like these celebrate milestone anniversaries, its often bittersweet in that while they have shown some staying power, the demand in the community remains high enough that they haven't been able to put themselves out of business.

Bittersweet as it might be, we can give post-Thanksgiving gratitude that they remain undiminished in passion and enthusiasm despite resources being more challenged than ever before – and let's show that gratitude, where we can, by looking into what they need, making a donation, and help the community's collective crock stay reasonably full.

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