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CHECK OUT OUR TOP FLYER SPECIALS ON PAGE 7!

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Simcoe County delivers final funds for hospice investments

LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The construction of a new helipad is underway at Stevenson Memorial Hospital (SMH) in Alliston. It is slated to be in operation early next year.

Preliminary early works construction has been underway at SMH since the beginning of the year as preparation for the construction for patient transport. of a new hospital facility.

as part of the hospital's redevelopment is a will open up space for additional parknew elevated helipad.

"This is one of the most exciting elements of our early works construction and a critical one at that," said Wayne Willcott, senior director of corporate infrastructure and redevelopment at SMH.

"The new helipad construction is under- months. way now to ensure that we have seamless access to air ambulance services during the redevelop, revitalize, and expand with a construction of our new hospital facility, prioritizing emergency patient care services. It wrap around the current hospital buildwill remain as a permanent structure at the ing.

hospital for many years to come."

The new 71-foot-wide helipad has an innovative design, and it is elevated up to three feet off the ground. Other similar designs are used in Western Canada.

Once construction is complete, the helipad will undergo a certification process by Transport Canada to ensure all safety standards are met before it is used

The helipad's new location on the One of the first permanent structures built southeast side of the hospital's property ing in the future, while improving flight safety during windy conditions.

> The helipad and pathway will have direct access to the hospital and will be heated in cold temperatures to improve safety and accessibility during the winter

> SMH is embarking on a journey to new 147,100 square-foot facility that will



NEW PAD - A rendering of Stevenson Memorial Hospital in Alliston shows the location of a new helipad that is now being built on the hospital property.

Simcoe County to host Municipal Agriculture Economic Development and Planning Forum

BY BRIAN LOCKHART LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Agriculture Economic Development and Planning Forum in Collingwood.

This annual event, held in partnership with the Ontario Ministry of Rural Affairs, economic developers, planners, producers, will embark on a full-day bus tour of local located at 10 Vacation Inn Dr., Collingwood. will bring together municipal planners, economic developers, producers, and growers to explore the evolving landscape of agriculture share best practices and lessons learned. in Simcoe County and beyond.

Simcoe County will host the Municipal coe County's agricultural sector through a guided farm and agribusiness tour, along with and investment in the region. insightful conversations.

> and growers to gather to address sector challenges and identify opportunities, as well as

Through focused discussions on rural

showcase the diversity and quality of Sim- innovative approaches to agriculture-based planning strategies. planning and encourages sustainable growth

It provides a collaborative platform for tour and networking reception. Attendees Oct. 23, 2025, at the Georgian Bay Hotel, farms and agri-food businesses.

ence and workshops.

This is a full day of engaging speakers, planing-forum.

The Municipal Agriculture Economic economic development, policy-making, and interactive workshops, and panel discussions Development and Planning Forum aims to workforce attraction, the forum promotes focused on rural economic development and

> The Municipal Agriculture Economic Development and Planning Forum will take Day one of the forum will include a farm place on Wednesday, Oct. 22, and Thursday,

> For more information and details on regis-Day two of the forum will feature a confer- tration, visit online at edo.simcoe.ca/municipal-agriculture-economic-development-and-



Simcoe County delivers final funds for hospice investments

BY BRIAN LOCKHART LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

County of Simcoe Councillors presented a life's most vulnerable moments," said cheque for \$437,987 to representatives of the Simcoe County Warden Basil Clarke. Simcoe County Hospice Alliance on Oct. 15.

This was the final instalment of the Counment to building up community-based ty's five-year commitment to enhancing resi- health care and ensuring that every dential hospice and palliative care services resident has access to high-quality across the region.

Launched in 2021, this strategic investment has supported community expansion, ance was formed to look at regional capital projects, and infection prevention and planning and project capital needs control upgrades at hospice centres through- across Simcoe County for area hospice out Simcoe County.

Over the past five years, the County has representatives from contributed more than \$2.3 million to help strengthen compassionate end-of-life care for Collingwood, Hospice Huronia in

This year's funding includes:

- Matthews House Hospice \$75,445
- Hospice Georgian Triangle \$128,081
- Hospice Simcoe \$98,763
- Mariposa House Hospice \$77,371
- Hospice Huronia \$58,327
- "We're proud to support the Simcoe creating greater access.

County Hospice Alliance in their mission to provide dignity, comfort, and care to residents and families during "This funding reflects our commitend-of-life support close to home."

The Simcoe County Hospice Allicentres. This group is comprised of

Hospice Georgian Triangle in Midland, Mariposa House Hospice in Orillia, Matthews House Hospice in Alliston, and Hospice Simcoe in Bar-

From 2017 to 2019, the County also provided \$1.5 million as part of its previous three-year commitment towards



SUPPORT IN THE COMMUNITY - Simcoe County Warden Basil Clarke, County councillors, and staff joined representatives from the Simcoe County Hospice Alliance to celebrate the successful completion of the County's five-year funding commitment to regional hospice and palliative care.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Nottawasaga Foundation continues to meet its commitment of \$1 million

BY BRIAN LOCKHART LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Nottawasaga Valley Conserva-\$100,000 grant from the Great Lakes Local Action Fund.

conserve the Nottawasaga River, Georgian Bay, and the Great Lakes.

The Nottasawaga River is the largest across the Great Lakes Basin." river flowing into Georgian Bay. It originates near Orangeville and flows north for 140 kilometres to Georgian Bay at from many rivers, streams, and connecting wetlands.

and volunteers, will complete restoration work within critical cold-water streams, coastal wetlands in Georgian Bay to bring

meaningful action to improve water qual-Funding will help protect, restore, and ity and restore vital aquatic habitats, which

Habitats in the Nottawasaga River and its tributaries support naturally reproducing trout and salmon populations, which Wasaga Beach. The river collects water are vital for recreational sport fisheries throughout Lake Huron and the Great Lakes. These waterways are also home to The NVCA, along with its partners many native fish species and aquatic wildlife that need healthy water to survive.

Human activities such as urban develthe main Nottawasaga River, and sensitive opment and agriculture release sediment and excess nutrients into the Nottawasaga

ity's efforts to protect and restore the Not- bates these issues by increasing water has always been community-driven. tawasaga River and Georgian Bay through temperatures. Without intervention, the Thanks to this grant, we will be able to the Great Lakes Local Action Fund," said degradation of water quality and loss of engage local volunteers and work with Todd McCarthy, Minister of the Envi- cold water habitats will continue, nega- partner groups, including Nottawasaga tion Authority (NVCA) has received a ronment, Conservation and Parks. "This tively impacting the region's biodiversity, Futures-South Simcoe Streams Network, initiative empowers communities to take recreational opportunities, and economic Friends of the Mad River, and Saugeen activities.

> 'We are very grateful for this funding toration efforts." will have a lasting impact on the health of from the Province of Ontario," said Sarah waterways, ecosystems, and communities Campbell, aquatic biologist at NVCA. "Restoring the Nottawasaga Watershed

Ojibway Nation to continue essential res-

Continued on Page 9







Editorial, Letters & Opinion

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

~ Stanislaw Jerzy Lec

What are you afraid of?

Phobia - the extreme or irrational fear of, or aversion to something.

I don't like spiders.

Insects in general don't bother me at all, but spiders, if they get to close, there's just something about them that creeps me out.

On the other hand, I've had a boa constrictor wrapped around my neck at a reptile petting zoo while the person next to me was freaking out from being within 10 feet of a snake.

We all have our own little weird quirks. However, I don't have 'arachnophobia' - an extreme or irrational fear of spiders. If one did drop down on me from above, and that has happened, I would just flick it away with my finger.

Everyone has a fear of falling. I once read that it is the only fear that your are born with, and all the others are learned.

Claustrophobia is the fear of confined spaces, and a word I think almost everyone is familiar with. I would think that feeling claustrophobic in some cases would be fairly normal. Who really wants to be in a confined space? It feels unnatural.

The tighter the space, the more unnatural it feels.

There are a lot of different types of nity use the phrase 'homophobic' at the

My friend's aunt had a severe phobia of making a left turn in her car. She would plan her entire route when leaving her home, and if necessary, would make right turns all the way around a city block to get to her destination rather than make a single left.

True phobias are rare. As the definition explains, it is a fear that is irrational.

I've never been with anyone who suddenly freaked out because they spotted a squirrel in a tree or had a panic attack because a room was painted a colour they were afraid of.

I'm sure it happens, and I have sympathy for anyone who struggles with an issue like that. However, it is rare.

The word 'phobia' is now a common part of the lexicon, and it is used incorrectly all the time.

Just because a person doesn't agree with your opinion, it doesn't make them phobic.

Many groups like to use the add-on "phobic" to describe anyone who won't join their political party, agenda, religion, way of life, or share their opinion.

It doesn't make a person phobic - it means they don't agree with you.

Some members of the gay commu-

drop of a hat, and direct it at anyone who doesn't support their lifestyle.

People aren't afraid of homosexuals if they don't appreciate their lifestyle. I've seen plenty of videos where gay people scream and curse at others for being in their gay neighbourhood and not being gay.

But none of them would ever admit to being 'hetrophobic,' and I've never even heard anyone use that word.

As far as I can tell, most gay people just continue on with their lives as normal, they don't attack others.

There is a Christian church in Hamilton now being sued by a Muslim group because the church objected to an Islamic group trying to start an Islamic school in their building.

Of course the group's lawyer quickly brought up the word 'Islamophobia.' What a surprise.

He then went on to use the other current buzzwords like 'inclusive,' diversity,' and 'acceptance.'

Those modern buzzwords are nothing more than an attempt to make someone else look bad if they don't agree with you.

I think this lawyer and his group are the last people that should try using words like inclusive and acceptance -

and that's no secret, it's an easily verified doctrine.

BRIAN LOCKHART

FROM THE SECOND ROW

The church isn't displaying a type of

phobia, they are concerned, just the way any other organization, whether religious or secular will react when they feel threatened by another organization that is hostile toward them is getting too

The Christian church has been under attack many times over the past couple of decades, including church burnings, and I've never heard anyone use the phrase 'Christophobic.'

The federal government barely acknowledges there is a problem with

It's time to just eliminate the word 'phobic' when it comes to anything not related to a true phobia.

It's either that, or start using it during every occasions where someone doesn't agree with you.

In that case there's going to be a lot of liberphobic, conservaphobic, blackophobic, whiteophobic, straightophobic, towncouncilophobic, moviephobic, musicphobic, loudmufflerphobic, and loudneighbourhoodpartyphobic, cussions happening.

Schoolyard views

A free ride when you've already paid. Rain on your wedding day.

A traffic jam when you're already late. Alanis Morrissette had no shortage of (questionable) examples of irony in the '90s, but life, I think, served me up a prime example last week.

I had planned to quite literally take a walk down memory lane earlier this month, but, as bad luck would have it, my intentions quite literally slipped my mind until it was far too late.

At the start of October, my first public school marked its 75th anniversary, and alumni and faculty planned a party definitely in keeping with the milestone. Over the summer, the school posted dozens of class photos from the 1980s and 1990s, which brought back many memories, but as nice as it was to have those somewhat faded memories restored into glorious technicolour, it wasn't quite the same as roaming the halls.

I was somewhat trepidatious when I got on the bus for the very first time to take me to my very first Grade 1 class.

Prior to this personal milestone, my kindergarten experience - or, I suppose, kindergarten equivalent - was limited to a private school that operated out of an industrial block adjacent to a bowling alley, with a little fenced-in area in the back, normally reserved for shipping and receiving, substituting for a school yard.

While there wasn't a single blade of grass to be found out there, it served its purpose - but the idea of going to a school with a real yard, baseball diamonds, playgrounds, and more, helped temper any trepidation with some genu-

Going from one school environment to the other was certainly a transition. As a five-year-old, everything at the "new" school seemed larger-than-life by comparison. While my first lasting impression was of the antiquated washrooms, which were served by a large circular pedal-operated sink - I had no idea how it worked when I first got there – my second was of its glorious sun-lit library,

with shelves groaning under the weight of volumes just waiting to be explored.

My third was the sheer expanse of the building. First opened in 1950, it was expanded and modified over the ensuing decades, with new additions cobbled onto the outer walls here and there, resulting in what seemed like a labyrinth of hallways, nooks, and even a stairway that now led to nowhere, sparking the imagination and, no doubt, a few spooky stories passed down from grade to grade.

My fourth was the people. I have to say that I didn't always see eye to eye with my peers at that time, and the teachers I had there were hit or miss, but the hits thankfully outweighed the misses.

One such teacher, even though she was not my homeroom teacher, had a sense that my own transition from one factors simmering in the background. a lot to be said. She took me under her wing and allocated time almost each and every day

to take me aside and discuss the events of the day, how I was feeling, and helping me find my bearings.

BROCK WEIR BROCK'S BANTER

I hope, looking

back, I adequately expressed my gratitude for her taking the time to go above and beyond the call of duty, and I was curious as to what other long-lost memories would be stirred by walking those halls again.

Those memories, however, will have to sustain me as my own memory failed me so spectacularly.

I've been thinking about those influential teachers quite a bit lately.

With so much discussion happening at Queen's Park lately about our education system, how it operates, and how students and families are represented, school to the other could be easier due and as back-to-school season shifts to a little bit of bullying and some other gears into a well-oiled machine, there is

Continued on Page 19

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GWYNNE DYER OUR WORLD TODAY

It didn't take long. Just ten days after the Gaza ceasefire was grudgingly accepted by Israel and the Hamas organization that has ruled the territory for the past eighteen years, they were shooting at each other again.

It seems to have started with a rocket fired at an Israeli tank in the south of the Strip that killed two soldiers of the Israel Defence Force (IDF). Israel replied with air strikes in the north, centre and south of the territory, killing forty-four people, before a sullen ceasefire was re-established, but it illustrated the fragility of the

The fundamental problem, which nobody acknowledges out loud, is that neither party to the deal actually wants it to succeed. Israel's Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu can only achieve his long-term goal of driving Palestinians out of the Gaza Strip by collapsing the deal. Hamas will be dismantled and eradicated if it cannot sabotage the deal.

For the moment, therefore, they are 'objective allies'

YOU DON'T WANT

in the task of destroying the ceasefire, although they never communicate or coordinate directly. Once the ceasefire is dead, however, they will once again be deadly enemies - and even now they are free to kill each other, since that is the best way to undermine the ceasefire.

Hamas's main tactical goal ever since its foundation has been to thwart any peace settlement that permanently divides the former colonial territory of Palestine between Jewish and Palestinian states (or even more improbably, creates a single democratic state with seven million Jews and seven million Palestinians).

The organization's longer-term objective has always been the eradication of Israel and the creation of an Islamic state 'from the (Jordan) river to the sea', but that has never been an attainable goal. Hamas's principal task in the present has been just to maintain the Palestinian presence in Gaza, and until recently it performed it reasonably well.

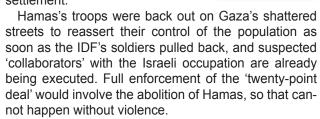
> Hamas's surviving leaders must now see the murderous attack on Israel two years ago as a grave strategic blunder. The goal was presumably to reignite fading Arab support for the Palestinian cause. The effect was to hand a hardright Israeli government a pretext for a huge military response that could end with the ethnic cleansing of all Gaza.

> It took some time for the Israeli prime minister to realize that such an extreme policy was feasible, but Donald Trump's victory in last November's US election opened up new perspectives.

> Netanyahu had to cater to the new president's lust for a Nobel Prize by agreeing to a ceasefire in Gaza in January, but by March he was confident enough of his ability to manipulate Trump to break the ceasefire and begin the explosive dehousing of the entire population of Gaza.

> Trump's last-minute burst of 'peacemaking' early this month (just before he didn't win the Nobel Prize) forced Netanyahu to agree to a new ceasefire. Hamas also agreed to it, because

it desperately needed a break to rebuild its force. But neither party is dreaming of a permanent peace settlement.



Netanyahu will want to resume the process of concentrating the Palestinians in a small southwestern corner of Gaza near the Egyptian border as soon as possible, as a prelude to sending them abroad. This, too, would require a resumption of the violence, and Hamas could probably be relied upon to provide a pretext.

As for the majority of Israelis, who neither love nor trust the man who has been their leader for most of the past quarter-century, they have never cared much about the suffering of the Palestinians of Gaza. They will be losing interest in the whole process of removing the Palestinians now that all of the living Israeli hostages have come home.

Similarly, the external pressure on Netanyahu from a Nobel-hungry Trump has dropped as the president wanders off in search of fresh peace to make. (Today, when I'm writing this, is Saturday so it must be Buda-

The Israeli prime minister has learned not to embarrass Trump (attacking Qatar is what put him in the dog-

house in the first place), and he can still steer the older man in almost any direction he wants. The Israeli army is still in the field, and he would prefer to restart the war sooner than to send most of them home and have to call them back again later.

Which is not to say that the ceasefire will definitely end soon. Just that it probably will.



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TO HAND OUT CANDY THIS YEAR? NO, I JUST DON'T WANT IT IN THE HOUSE UNTIL THE 31ST.

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CLUES ACROSS

- 1. El , Texas town 5. Rocker's tool
- 8. A lot
- 12. Traveling by
- ground 14. Spelling
- competition 15. Two-toed sloth
- 16. Small perfumed bag
- 18. "Much __ about
- nothing"
- 19. Tough-skinned mollusk
- 20. Removes from
- 21. It warms the planet 22. Leafy green
- 23. Quality of arriving favorably
- 26. Living thing 30. "Six of Crows"
- author Bardugo 31. Got around a rule
- 32. Resin from burned substance

- 33. Iraq seaport
- 34. Religious leaders
- 39. Fugitives are on it
- 42. Samson's influencer

- fishes
- 51. Stationary part of a
- 56. Orthopedic
- professional group
- (abbr.)
- 58. It follows 79
- 60. Anger
- 61. Spanish seaport
- 63. Famous museum

62. Sleep in a rough place

64. Selfs

Puzzle No. 25A510 • Solution in Classifieds

- **CLUES DOWN**

- 44. Italian city
- 46. A quality of lacking
- interest
- 47. Predatory tropical
- 49. Nobel physician
- Isodor
- 50. Luck

- 57. One point south of due east
- 59. Paper currency

- 1. Bullfighting
- maneuver
- 2. From a distance
- 3. Soul and calypso song
- 4. Expressions of
- delight
- 5. Lower in esteem
- 6. Inner region of an
- organ
- 7. Flowers
- 9. Remove a fastening
- 10. Membranes
- 11. Enormous 13. One who abstains
- from drink
- 17. Malayan wild ox
- 24. Type of student
- 25. Rejecting all moral
- principles 26. Sino-Soviet block
- 27. Egyptian unit of
- weight

- 28. Wrong 29. Make a mistake
- 35. Indicates location
- 36. Boxing's "GOAT" 37. Where wrestlers
- compete
- 38. Timid
- 40. Disney town
- 41. Suggesting the
- horror of death and
- decay
- 42. Male parent
- 43. Remove for good
- 44. Simple shoes
- 45. Flowers 47. Hindi courtesy title
- for a man
- 48. Not pleased
- 49. "Atlas Shrugged"
- 52. CIA officer and
- writer 53. Hoodlum
- 54. __ Von Bismarck,
- Iron Chancellor 55. Woolen rugs
- No one has more self-confidence than the person who does a crossword puzzle with a pen.

COMMUNITY VOICE

Monthly Message: Providing a safe haven for women and children in need

At My Sister's Place, the staff are trained to offer caring support to women and children who have experienced intimate partner violence.

The women's program staff work in the shelter, providing daily support to the women and children who are residents there. They also answer the crisis line. These staff members offer guidance, support, resources, referrals and information 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and 365 days a year.

There are two transition and housing workers who offer support and assistance to women residing in the shelter, Second Stage Housing and the community. This includes follow-up support for women who have accessed the shelter previously. They have an established network of community supports and offer assistance by focusing primarily on finding and maintaining housing, within the communities we serve.

They also participate in community committees and work collaboratively with agencies and services that support women and families, and they attend and participate in community awareness events.

The goal of this role is to provide women accessing services with an understanding of empowerment while encouraging them to make informed decisions about their lives.

Services that My Sister's Place provides, and the transition and housing staff members facilitate, include but aren't limited to:

- Safety planning
- Women are advised on what to pack in a go bag, how to erase their computer search history if they have been looking for help or answers to questions, how to leave safely

and much more

- Transitional planning/support to carry out a transitional plan
- Advice on how to make the move from their current situation to living in shelter and then later to living on their own, how to maintain this so they are set up for the greatest success. Planning for their independence and what

roles and responsibilities come with that.
• Referral to long-term counselling and support programs, so that women can con-

- tinue to heal, gain independence and feel empowered over their own lives.

 Providing information and resources to assist in finding and maintaining housing.
- assist in finding and maintaining housing, and follow-up support, setting women up to move forward and start a new life with the tools they need.
- Both written and verbal advocacy is provided on behalf of women with housing providers, school authorities, legal services, Family Connexions (Children's Aid Society), Ontario Works and any other agency or service that women may require.

Also, in the shelter we have a Children's Program staff member who's job it is to act as a counsellor and an advocate. They are responsible for creating a child-positive environment for the delivery of services to child residents. They communicate with mothers with the intent to empower and encourage them to make informed decisions regarding their children and their family situation.

Services that the Children's Program staff member facilitates include but aren't limited to:



• Provide crisis intervention, individual and group counselling for children residing in shelter.

- Provide parent relief, when possible (and needed), to support a mother.
- Be accessible to mothers and children for practical assistance, referrals, educational information and resources about abuse, the

effects on children witnessing abuse, nonviolent discipline techniques, and any other assistance that they might require.

- When possible, plan and organize children's activities and outings in the community with the support and attendance of mothers at all times.
- Provide advocacy on behalf of residents, with the Children's Aid Society and any other agencies or services that residents may require.
- Ensure that child resident files and other shelter service documentation is completed as required
- Ensure that children's toys and play area are cleaned and sanitized on a bi-weekly basis
- Assist with securing transportation for residents to appointments and meetings regarding their children, as needed.
 - Process child-specific donations.

Another staff member integral to the My Sister's Place team is our legal and outreach advocate. The outreach and legal advocate provides supportive interventions and outreach assistance to abused women and their children who reside within My Sister's Place and in the community.

Services that the Legal and Outreach Advocate staff member facilitates include but aren't limited to:

- Provide a full range of services to women who are residing in My Sister's Place, Second and Third Stage/transitional housing, social housing and other accommodations.
- Services are to include, but not be limited to: safety planning, legal information sharing, court support, crisis counselling, written and verbal advocacy on behalf of women with resources in the community, school authorities, the Children's Aid Society, Ontario Works and any other agency or service that women may require.
- Organize and facilitate groups for abused women within our catchment area.
- Provide community education on violence against women and other related topics
- Work cooperatively with other agencies, individuals and organizations to promote the awareness and sensitivity to the issue of violence against women.
- Participate in various community committees and/or coalitions.
- Complete client files, statistical reports and other shelter service documentation as required.
- Provide transportation support for residents to appointments and meetings, etc., when appropriate.

Our staff members in all of these various positions work closely together and in unison with one goal, to provide the best possible, services, care, programs and facilities for the women and children that come through our doors or reach out to our crisis line.



Nottawasaga Foundation continues \$1 million commitment to Stevenson

BY BRIAN LOCKHART LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Nottawasaga Foundation has reaffirmed its commitment to support the Stevenson Memorial Hospital Found by making another \$100,000 donation toward its ambitious \$1 million pledge.

wasaga Foundation's dedication to enhancing Cerisano, CEO of Stevenson Memohealthcare services in the community.

Since establishing this pledge in 2017 to cation enables us to expand our hoscelebrate its 25th anniversary, the Nottawasaga Foundation has contributed significantly to the Foundation's 'Because of YOU' campaign. This latest contribution will help fund equipment needs, technology, and construction costs for Stevenson Memorial Hospital's new facility that is due to open in 2029.

"Our continued support reflects our belief our efforts to serve our community in the vital role Stevenson Memorial Hospital now and into the future." plays in our community," said a representative from The Nottawasaga Foundation. "We an effort to raise \$80 million through are committed to helping the hospital achieve community support to help build the its goals, ensuring that residents have access to high-quality healthcare close to home."

The Foundation's longstanding partner- sion.

ship with the Biffis family and Stevenson Memorial Hospital has been instrumental in advancing healthcare initiatives such as innovative services like digital mammography to enhancements in maternal care.

"Thank you to the Nottawasaga Foundation and the Biffis Family for The ongoing support displays the Notta- your unwavering support," said Frank rial Hospital Foundation. "Your dedipital's footprint and meet the evolving healthcare needs of our community.. The ongoing generosity of the Nottawasaga Foundation and the Biffis Family reinforces our shared commitment to high-quality, accessible healthcare. Their leadership is the cornerstone of

> The Because of YOU campaign is future of Stevenson Memorial Hospital, through redevelopment and expan-



MILLION DOLLAR PLEDGE - The Nottawasaga Foundation presented a cheque for \$100,000 to the Stevenson Memorial Hospital Foundation as the last installment of its pledge to donate \$1 million. The funds will be used to help fund equipment, technology, and construction of the hospital's redevelop-**CONTRIBUTED PHOTO** ment project.

Three upcoming Ghost Walks in New Tecumseth to deliver spooky guided tours at no cost

BY BRIAN LOCKHART LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

a fan of all things Halloween, you can take a ghost walk tour that will leave you with goose bumps and make the hair on the back of you neck stand up.

Sponsored by the Town of New Tecumsacross three historic locations in Alliston, nerve.

Beeton, and Tottenham, later this month.

This will be a lantern-lit journey into the darker side of local history where true tales The spooky season is here, and if you're of murder, mystery, and mayhem refuse to rest in peace.

occasional ghostly photobomb!

In Tottenham, Cael Cohen returns to guide you through terror, including two now officially 30 per cent more bone-chilleth, the guided ghost walks will take place eerie new stops guaranteed to rattle your ing.

Taste of Freedom Restaurant, at 24 Mill Street West.

In Beeton, the walk will be hosted by local Master of the Macabre, Marlo Harley, 24 Main Street West.

The stories have been rewritten and are

The Alliston walk will convene at the 9 p.m.

The Tottenham walk will begin at the Museum on the Boyne. Back from the grave, Sean Derraugh, a.k.a Jack the Ripper, returns and adds a brand-new haunted stop that will make your skin crawl.

This is a free event. There is no registra-You can expect chills, screams, and the and will start at the Muddy Water Hotel at tion, just show up and be prepared to be

> The walks will take place on Friday (Oct. 24) at 8 p.m., Saturday (Oct. 25) at 8 p.m., and Halloween Night - Friday (Oct. 31) at



Arts Arts Local Events

Frightfully Fun Family Event returns to the community this weekend

BY BRIAN LOCKHART LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

It's time to dress up as your favourite ghoul or super hero and make your way to downtown Tottenham and Beeton for trick-ortreating at local businesses.

The Frightfully Fun Family Event, sponsored by the Beeton Tottenham BIA (BTBIA), brings some fun to the season and gives both kids and adults the chance to dress up in their favourite character.

The event will take place on Saturday, Oct. 25, from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. in downtown Tottenham and Beeton.

Around 100 local businesses and organizations participate in this annual event.

"Kids and adults get dress up and parade around our communities," explained Susan Iacoucci, BTBIA coordinator. "Parents love it as it is a trial run before Halloween. We have face painters, characters, and candy. The Tottenham fire hall is doing their haunted maze for the second year and have put up the Halloween display. This is an opportunity to meet local business owners and it creates

great exposure for them as well."

There will be road closures in Tottenham to make sure everyone stays safe, so if you are driving, expect to make a detour.

The event is free to attend.





FRIGHTFUL FUN – Last year's Frightfully Fun event saw attendees dress up in costumes and enjoy Halloween themed activities. The annual event returns on Oct. 25, from 12 to 4 p.m.

FILE PHOTOS



COMMUNITY SPIRIT – The third annual Boo Bash & Harvest Market was held at Treetops Park in Alliston on Saturday, Oct. 18. There was games, costumes, music, and vendors with a lot of unique items for sale. It was a large crowd in attendance as people were glad to be outdoors in the warman a sunny weather.

BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTOS









Nottawasaga Foundation continues \$1 million commitment

Continued from Page 3

The Great Lakes Local Action Fund will help create vegetation buffers along water-courses, control invasive species, and restore aquatic habitats, which will collectively enhance the ecological health and resilience of the watershed in the face of climate change.

The NVCA will be able to work with landowners and volunteers to plant 3,250 native stream-side trees, create shade stream channels, aquatic habitats, and wetlands.

Around 700 metres of livestock fencing will be installed, and invasive plants will be removed.

Volunteers are welcome to join restoration efforts from July to November.

For more information, visit the NVCA's website.

SUPPORT IN THE COMMUNITY – The Not-tawasaga Valley Conservation Authority has received a provincial grant that will go toward restoration efforts of local waterways. Volunteers place Christmas trees along a stream bank to help prevent erosion during a recent restoration project.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO







Bentley FSP stolen from Essa home while owner was on vacation

Nottawasaga Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) officers are currently investigating the theft of a motor vehicle from a residential property in Essa Township.

On Oct. 17, police responded to a report of a stolen vehicle from a home on 25th Side Road in Essa. The police's preliminary investigation suggests the vehicle was taken while the homeowner was on vacation between

Oct. 12 and 17.

No surveillance footage has been recovered at this time.

The stolen vehicle is described as a 2014 black Bentley FSP with Ontario plate "DHHJ07." No additional identifying features have been reported.

The investigation remains ongoing, and police are urging anyone who may have wit-

nessed suspicious activity in the area or who may possess relevant video surveillance footage to come forward.

If you have any information that could assist investigators, please contact the Nottawasaga OPP Detachment at 1-888-310-1122, quoting Report # E251417883. Tips can also be submitted anonymously through Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477).





Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust celebrates 25 years of conservation

BY BROCK WEIR

new millennium to raise concerns over a Trust were first planted in 2000 as a result spate of building and construction on the Oak Ridges Moraine, a geological feature integral to the local ecosystem.

Since then, the resulting Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust has safeguarded more than 5,300 acres over 68 properties spanning from Durham in the east to Peel in the west, and well beyond – and last week, they gathered in Uxbridge to mark 25 years of

of rampant construction in Richmond Hill.

They wanted to have a formal organization that would work to protect the Moraine - and this work just happened to coincide with the Provincial Government of the day drafting legislation to help do just that.

"At the time there were a lot of pressures of development, which, of course, we still see and I think many of the people that were

involved back then [asked], 'What's going ble the properties they have protected in the Susan Walmer, CEO of the Oak Ridges on here and how do we protect this?' That next 25 years, although she admits that's Citizens came together at the dawn of a Moraine Land Trust, says the roots of the coincided with the fact the government was a "lofty goal" amid rising land prices, and starting to realize [the importance of the says projected population growth will be Moraine] and as that was percolating, the a significant challenge over the same time original members of the Trust said, 'Let's period. form an organization and get something official so we can start protecting land."

> time, Walmer adds, but their advocacy ments, the federal governments, foundawork helped build momentum - particu- tions and other supporters who recognize larly as they took the time to explain all the how important protecting the environment Moraine provides communities like these is and actually obtaining land, whether it be for water protection.

> carved out by glaciers during the last Ice properties have been purchased properties Age, leaving a number of unique geological where we've done this restoration. I see that features in their wake, including aquifers continuing for the next 25 years. We're very and kettle lakes.

> is raising awareness with people across the need to be protected, because as the value Moraine. We now protect 68 properties of property continues to rise there's obviacross the moraine, and more to come," she says. "All of those properties are either bodies and the public. We do get support donated, there's a few that we've purchased, from the public as well. there's some that have conservation easements on them, and it's that whole aspect continues to grow and impact climate of making sure that we protect significant change and impact everything, and that's lands, and also raise awareness and do edu- happening very much so in southern

> do a lot of restoration now on some proper- on the highways, it feels like there's way ties... we've got a couple of properties out more cars than there used to be. I think in Northumberland area where we're doing that's going to be a real challenge for any restoration work, taking a farm field, and we land protection over the next 25 years, and don't want to get rid of farm fields, because particularly this area here on the Moraine a lot of our properties have farms on them, that's so close to the big Toronto populace. but in this case we wanted to restore it for That's going to be a challenge. I think it's habitat for a species at risk called the Kirt- a challenge because the development comland Warbler, along with a whole list of munity also sees how beneficial this area is other critters that need that type of envi- from a perspective of people wanting to live ronment. Those have been very successful here. for both, I think, creating new environment and getting other volunteers and students those developments aren't sort of happeninvolved. We had farming college students ing patch quilt all over the place; that if they come out and help with that project. It's are going to happen, because the population just getting that awareness and then get- is growing, that it's well-analyzed, well ting people in the dirt and dirty, and really looked at by the communities to make sure understanding how important the dirt, the that they're being put in the right places

eyes trained on the future.

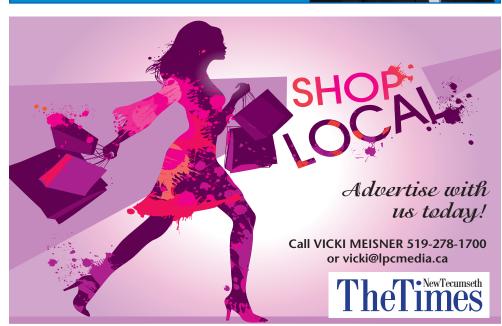
Walmer says the Trust would like to dou- and land."

"Some of our purchases are wonderful properties that we've been able to [secure] It was just a handful of people at the with the support of the provincial governwith an easement to protect it or actually The undulating hills of the Moraine were purchasing it," she says. "Our last couple of careful as we assess properties to make sure "I think one of the most important things that they are key significant areas that do ously limited funds from all of the funding

"We know the population of the world Ontario. We probably are one of the fast-"We do a lot of educational seminars, we est growing areas.... I know when we get

"We need to be careful and make sure that soil and the land is to us as human beings." and they're protecting the right environ-As much as celebrations like these ments around it to make sure that there is are about looking back, the Oak Ridges still going to be support from the environ-Moraine Land Trust has their collective ment for the nature and everything else that we need as human beings in terms of water









Lights Out Sports brings glow-in-the-dark sports to Alliston

BY BRIAN LOCKHART LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

A new facility in Alliston is putting a different spin on local sports.

Lights Out Sports has glow-in-the-dark soccer and hockey featuring neon-lit equipment, glowing markers and a blacklightenhanced facility.

This creates a unique one-of-a-kind setting everything glows in there." that blends fitness and entertainment.

corporate team-building events, kids' camps, dard lighting. as well as development training programs.

"For us, it's about making sports accessible, enjoyable, and innovative," said George 18, to welcome visitors to the facility to see Kaloudis, owner of Lights Out Sports. "From what it's all about.

kids to corporate teams, everyone can benefit from these unique offerings. We specialize in crafting memorable events and training experiences that promote teamwork, fitness, and community spirit. We have glow-in-the-dark soccer on one side, and glow-in-the-dark hockey on the other side. We have murals on the walls, and the black lights, so as soon as you turn off the lights,

In addition to the glow-in-the-dark events, The facility is perfect for birthday parties, training programs are available with stan-

> Lights Out Sports hosted a launch party at its Alderson Ct. Location on Saturday, Oct.



NEW VENTURE - Lights Out Sports held a launch party and grand opening at its new Alderson Ct. location in Alliston on Saturday, Oct. 18. The new venue features glow in the dark hockey and soccer as well as other activities. Lights Out Sports owner George Kaloudis cuts the ribbon along with staff to officially open the new facility. **BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO**



GLOWING FUN - Lights Out Sports, a new business that features glow-in-the-dark hockey and soccer as well as other activities, held a launch party and grand opening on Saturday, Oct. 18. Sebastian, Owen, Luca, and Ryan, had a great time playing glow-in-the-dark hockey.

BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO







NEW TECUMSETH TIMES

Banting girls' senior flag football team remains undefeated

BY BRIAN LOCKHART LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Banting Memorial High School Marauders senior girls' flag football team is having a stellar season after going undefeated in six regular-season games.

The team has averaged just over 35 points per game. In five of their regular-season games, they blanked their opponents and didn't allow a point to be scored against

They are in first place in the SCAA AAA standings. The Marauders are two points ahead of the second-place team from Maple

Ridge Secondary School, but Maple Ridge has scored less than half the number of points that Banting has tallied through the season.

Banting was up against the team from Stayner Collegiate on the field at Banting on Tuesday, Oct. 14.

The Marauders did a great job of advancing down the field with well-thrown passes that hit the mark almost every time.

By the half, the Banting teams were leading 28-8. They kept up the pressure for the entire game and left the field with a 48-0 win for their sixth victory of the season.

"We're feeling pretty hyped," said Banting's Bree Yanni after the win. "It's the fourth year for our senior players. Our mood is to just have fun. We're always out there having fun."

Many of the senior players have been on the team for their entire high school career.

"We listen to each other on the field," Bree said. "We have good plays and good coaches. We have a lot of good athletes on the team. On defence, we communicate really well, and we know where we are on the field at all times and what each position does."



SPRINTING THROUGH - The Banting Memorial High School Marauders senior girls' flag football team takes on the team from Stayner Collegiate on the field at Banting on Tuesday, Oct. 14. The Marauders won the game 48-0, as the senior team remains undefeated for the season. Banting safety, Bree Yanni, sprints through Stayner defenders during the second half of the game.

If they are successful, they will go to the we'll have a practice," Bree said. with their first two games scheduled for championship.

"We're off for the week, then next week the following week.

BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

The SCAA championship will take place

Alliston Hornets win three games in three days, remaining undefeated for season

BY BRIAN LOCKHART LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

It was a busy but successful weekend for end the game with a 4-1 win. the Alliston Hornets as they played three games in three days and won them all.

The Hornets are now 11-0 for the season and are showing no sign of losing steam.

Travelling to Penetang on Friday, Oct. 17, the Hornets played their first game of the weekend against the Kings.

the first period on goals from David Harvey and Payton Palbiski.

After a second period with no score, teams returned for the final period.

The Kings scored less than a minute into the period to get on the scoreboard.

The team will now head into the playoffs

Thursday, Oct. 23.

Alliston scored two more in the third to

The following night, the Hornets made trek to Innisfil to take on the Spartans.

After trailing 2-1 at the end of the first period, the Hornets unleashed a fury in the second scoring five unanswered goals to lead

Second period Alliston goals came from It was 2-0 in the Alliston game at the end of Nick Lamont, Noah Larmon, Duncan Grube, and David Harvey for two.

The only third period goal came from Alliston forward Ben Smith late in the period.

The final was a 7-2 win for the Hornets.

On Sunday, Oct. 19, the Hornets played their third game of the weekend when they scored with 3:09 left in the game. made their way to Muskoka to take on the Bears.

After a scoreless first period, the Hornets goals in the second period.

Goals came from Will Millington, Ben Smith, and Jax Bellwood.

period, hitting the back of the Muskoka net Siskins. early in the frame.

Millington got his second of the night midway in the period.

Noah Larmon got the final Alliston goal at isfil Spartans. 14:41 into the third.

The Bears avoided the shutout when they

The 6-1 win was Alliston's third of the weekend.

The Hornets maintain first place in the opened things up, scoring three unanswered North Carruthers Division of the PJHL and are in first place in the League.

The Orillia Terriers are in second place in the division with an 8-3 record. They are fol-Nick Lamot started the scoring in the third lowed by the Penetang Kings and the Stayner

> The Hornets will be back on home ice at the New Tecumseth Recreation Centre this Friday, Oct. 24, when they will host the Inn-

Game time is 7:30 p.m.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

Passionate about an issue you've read about within the pages of the New Tecumseth Times? Have a story idea that might be interesting to our readers? Email us information: newtectimeseditorial@gmail.com.

St. Andrew's College, SolversMind recognized as 'Environmental Heroes' by LSRCA

BY BROCK WEIR

St. Andrew's College and Aurora's Solvlast week when the Lake Simcoe Conservation Authority came together to host its 43rd annual awards ceremony recognizing "Environmental Heroes."

Held at the NewRoads Performing Arts nesses, groups, and organizations were celebrated for "working hard to improve our environment."

can feel overwhelming, these local heroes remind us that positive change starts right here in our own communities," said Barrie Councillor Clare Riepma, who chairs the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority. (LSRCA) "Their efforts inspire hope and reminds us that environmental stewardship is ics umbrella secured it the Distinguished truly a shared effort."

Added LSRCA CAO Rob Baldwin: "The future is truly bright. This year's recipients between the ages of 11 to 14 regularly gather include seasoned conservation champions and an impressive number of young environmental leaders. Together, they're showing that the passion for protecting our environment is alive and well, and that's something worth System, also known as the Spinning Geary, celebrating."

among 10 recipients of the Healthy Commu- ers that feed into larger bodies of water like nity Award, alongside: Fred C. Cook Public Lake Simcoe," said the LSRCA in Solvers-School Eco Phoenix (Bradford West Gwillimbury); Magna Mechatronics, Mirrors visible plastic waste often accumulates in & Lighting (Newmarket): Morning Glory Public School (Georgina): Rotary Club of Barrie Huronia; Rotary Club of Uxbridge; South Simcoe Streams Network (Innisfil); Stouffville Library; WS Butterflyway Project (Stouffville), and Youth for Lake Simcoe (Barrie).

"Since 2021, Outdoor Experiential Education Coordinator Angus Murray has led tree planting events at St. Andrew's College," ersMind Robotics were among the honourees reads SAC's citation. "With the help of the Conservation Authority, he has engaged students in hands-on learning and promoted environmental sustainability across the school's 126-acre campus.

"As part of their 125th Anniversary Chal-Centre in Newmarket, 23 individuals, busilenge, 1,250 trees were planted, including 400 in the fall of 2024, with alumni, students, and staff, and an additional 150 were planted and mulched by Environmental Studies students. "In a time when environmental challenges In the Spring of 2025, 40 more native trees and shrubs were planted beneath the Willow Farm Boardwalk, helping to restore local habitats, enhance biodiversity, and stand as a living legacy of stewardship for the school and the wider community."

> Two projects under the SolversMind Robot-Achievement Award.

> According to the LSRCA, 20 students at SolversMind to "tackle environmental challenges" through the principles of STEM – Science, Technology, Engineering and Math.

"The first project, the River Trash Capture was designed to collect floating pollution Aurora's St. Andrew's College (SAC) was directly from narrow streams and small riv-Mind's citation. "The students observed that smaller waterways, carried by wind and runoff, especially in urban and residential areas. To address this, they created a modular, floating collection device with rotating paddle elements powered by natural water flow. This passive rotation directs debris into a mesh catchment area without the need for electric-



RECOGNIZING ENVIRONMENTAL HEROES - The Lake Simcoe Conservation Authority came together to host its 43rd annual awards ceremony recognizing "Environmental Heroes." **BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO**

ity or external control. The team successfully tional plastics under soil and water condidemonstrated the concept using a working tions. They framed this innovation within a prototype in controlled lab conditions, where circular economy model, designing a product it successfully redirected and collected sim- made from renewable resources that naturally ulated floating waste. The design was also returns to the environment without leaving presented to several industry professionals, lasting waste. While broadly applicable, they including a watershed expert from the Lake emphasized its local impact by connecting Simcoe Region Conservation Authority, who upstream plastic reduction to improved water praised its potential. The Spinning Geary's quality in Lake Simcoe, and in doing so, they lightweight and modular design makes it well- showcased how green innovation can support suited for use in public waterways upstream both ecological and economic sustainability." of Lake Simcoe, where litter can be collected and removed before reaching the lake.

"The second project, Seaweed-Based Biodegradable Plastics, tackles the broader issue limbury, Town of Georgina, Wildridge Farm of plastic pollution by exploring a sustain- (Town of Innisfil), Township of Uxbridge. able alternative made from fast-growing, low-maintenance marine biomass. The students chose seaweed as their primary material East Gwillimbury, Peter and Betty Homebecause it grows quickly, requires no farm- nuck (Township of King), Mike Sproxton and land, fresh water, or fertilizers, and absorbs Sarah Teefy (City of Kawartha Lakes), John carbon dioxide, making it an ideal renewable Nagy (Township of Brock). resource. Recognizing the growing global market for seaweed-based materials, the Award: team aimed to create a substitute for petroleum-based plastics in packaging and disposable products. In lab testing, their prototype of Honour: decomposed significantly faster than conven-

Additional honourees included:

Healthy Water Award:

City of Barrie, Town of Bradford West Gwil-

Healthy Land Awards:

Doug Pegg (Township of King), Town of

Ernie Crossland Young Conservationist

Anne Bowman (Lake Simcoe Watershed) George R. Richardson Conservation Award

Bruce Brydon (Lake Simcoe Watershed)







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Investigation underway after motorcycle stolen in New Tecumseth

BY BRIAN LOCKHART LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Officers from the Nottawasaga Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police are currently investigating the theft of a Harley-Davidson motorcycle from a residential property in the Town of New Tecumseth.

Police responded to a report of a stolen Harley Davidson motorcycle from a home on King Street South on Oct. 13.

A preliminary investigation suggests the motorcycle was taken between 9 p.m. on

Oct. 12 and 10 a.m. on Oct. 13.

No surveillance footage has been recovered.

The stolen vehicle is described as a black Harley Davidson Street Glide Special, bearing Ontario license plate 49C6A.

No additional identifying features have been reported.

The investigation remains ongoing, and police are urging anyone who may have witnessed suspicious activity in the area or who may possess relevant video surveillance footage to come forward.

If you have any information that could assist investigators, contact the Nottawasaga OPP Detachment at 1-888-310-1122 with the incident number E251395657.

Tips can also be submitted anonymously through Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477), or online at ontariocrimestoppers. ca.

STOLEN BIKE – Police are investigating the theft of a motorcycle in New Tecumseth. The vehicle was taken sometime between Oct. 12 and 13.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Police lay impaired driving charges in Essa after observing erratic driving behaviour

Nottawasaga Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) officers have charged one individual with impaired driving following a traffic stop in Essa on Oct. 19, shortly after 2 a.m.

Nottawasaga OPP officers were conducting routine patrols on County Road 10, north of County Road 21 in Essa when they observed a vehicle displaying erratic driving behaviour.

This included intermittent braking, travelling 10 km/h below the posted speed limit of 80 km/h, and failing to maintain its lane-at times drifting toward the centre line. Nottawasaga OPP say the driving pattern raised concerns for their officers and public safety, prompting a traffic stop.

During the interaction, officers noted signs

of impairment, including glassy eyes, an odour of an alcoholic beverage on the driver's breath, slow and deliberate speech, and difficulty locating his driver's licence. Grounds were formed that the driver's ability to operate a motor vehicle was impaired by alcohol, leading to the driver's arrest.

As a result of the investigation, Justin Wright, charges have not been proven in court.

43, of Egbert was charged with operation while impaired - alcohol and drugs, operation while impaired - blood alcohol concentration (80 plus), dangerous operation and driving a motor vehicle with open container of liquor. He is scheduled to attend the Ontario Court of Justice in Bradford on Nov. 27, 2025, to answer to the charges. The charges have not been proven in court.

Over \$73,000 worth of cannabis and related products seized from Mohawk Medical 420

An executed search warrant in New Tecumseth as resulted in charges related to the illegal sale of cannabis.

As part of an ongoing investigation, members of the Nottawasaga Community Street Crime Unit (CSCU), Dufferin CSCU, along with general patrol officers and the Crime Reduction Unit (CRU) of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP), executed the search warrant on Oct. 16, at approximately 11:40 a.m.

CSCU and CRU members attended 119 Victoria Street West, Alliston, to execute a Cannabis Act search warrant at Mohawk Medical 420.

In early summer 2025, the Nottawasaga CSCU initiated an investigation after receiving information that a cannabis store located on Victoria Street West in Alliston was allegedly selling and distributing products without

a valid licence.

As a result of the investigation, officers seized a substantial quantity of illegal cannabis products and derivatives.

A total of 27.4 pounds of dried cannabis was seized, with an estimated value of \$27,400. Officers also seized 102 units of cannabis butter valued at \$2,500, and 68 units of cannabis oil with an estimated value of \$2,590.

Additionally, hundreds of edible cannabis products were recovered, valued at approximately \$22,587, along with hundreds of prerolled cannabis products worth \$3,545. The seizure also included 1.2 kg of suspected hash, estimated at \$12,300, numerous packs of THC vape products valued at \$1,620, and multiple packs of shatter worth \$1,165.

The total estimated value of the seized in court. items is \$73,707.

As a result, Michele Chiasson, 45, of New Tecumseth was arrested and charged with the following:

- Possessing cannabis for the purpose of selling
- Possession of illicit cannabis

George Fidalgo, 52, of New Tecumseth, was arrested and charged with the following:

- Possessing cannabis for the purpose of selling
 - Possession of illicit cannabis
- Failure to Comply with Undertaking Four counts

The accused individuals are to appear before the Ontario Court of Justice at a later date

None of the listed charges have been proven in court.

Anyone having knowledge of drug or prop-



DRUG BUST - Police seized 27.4 pounds of dried cannabis and a large amount of cannabis products, with a total value of \$73,707 **CONTRIBUTED PHOTO**

erty related investigations is asked to contact the OPP at 1-888-310-1122, or by calling Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477).

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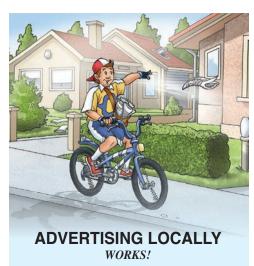
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NOV 14TH Currency Collection Sale

NOV 25-29TH Straight Shooter Sale

DEC 12TH......Designer Clothing Showcase

DEC 19THVintage Toy Sale

JAN 9TH.....Tools & Equipment Sale

JAN 23RD Currency Collector's Auction

JAN 30TH......Antiques, Collectibles & Quality Household Items

FEB 6TH......Canvas, Carvings & Keepsakes - Art & Jewelry

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708 OBITUARIES

$\mathcal{K}.\mathcal{T}$ MacNeil: Katherine-Paige,

December 3, 1986- October 10, 2025

Passed away peacefully with her family by her side, at Southlake Regional Health Centre Newmarket, on October 10, 2025. Katherine-Paige K.P at the age of 38 years. Loving daughter of Kathy and Gordon MacNeil. Dear sister of Jaime (Brenda). She will be greatly missed by her niece and nephews Dustin (Vanessa), Montana and Drew. Remembered with love by her great nephews Carter and Gavin. Dearly missed by her aunt Pat Lennie (William), uncle Michael Lennie (Denise), and cousin Chantal Curtis. K.P leaves behind her loyal companion, Willow, who filled her days with love and laughter. Forever in the hearts of her extended family and many friends.

Arrangements entrusted to Rod Abrams Funeral Home. Cremation has taken place. Donations to the Sick Kids Foundation or Southlake Health Foundation would be appreciated. Condolences and memories may be left for the family at

www.RodAbramsFuneralHome.com

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Brock's Banter: Schoolyard views

Province had declared a trustee seat in Haldimand County vacant after the seat-holder in question failed to pay back \$50,000 they had expensed for a board trip to Italy. It was, he said, a move to ensure education dollars are spent correctly – that is, on student success rather than junkets abroad - and it's hard to argue with that sentiment.

What's a bit dicier, however, is the idea being investigated to do away with trustee quite sure where. positions entirely within Ontario's respective school boards.

parents and students to have effective representation on school boards which are ultimately intended to serve them, particularly if we're required – and rightly so – to support our school boards with our tax dollars.

On Monday, for instance, Ontario Minister On the other, however, having observed munity who stepped up in September students - often doing so out-of-pocket of Education Paul Calandra announced the many school board meetings over my near to pay tribute to a beloved teacher who in an environment that is, sadly, becoming 15 years as a journalist within our communities, I have seen a number of examples where elected trustees are not particularly effective in representing the people they serve - such as letting one's personal views and ideology get in the way not only a unique role for herself within the school of progress, but in how students and their families wanted to be represented.

Student success is at the heart of all of these decisions, but what I would person-On the one hand, it's vital, in my view, for ally like to see enter the conversation is more talk on how we – writ large – can support teachers on the road to delivering that

> Last week, I had the poignant pleasure of interviewing members of a school com-

passed away over the summer. This was increasingly thankless. not a teacher who clocked in and clocked who saw some of the needs faced by her community.

Last spring, at another area school that prepared them for. There's a balance to be found, but I'm not was working with community businesses to secure healthy snacks for their charges, days, perhaps these teachers have always where they would otherwise have to go without, faculty members and parent volunteers outlined the stark reality of the role of flown under the radar. teachers today.

much more than impart the "three Rs" and having to take on the roles of counsellor, meal planner, and so much more for their

Much has changed over the last few out as if it were a regular workday, but one decades when it comes to the role of public school trustees, and the same can be said students and, to address them, carved out for those persons who find themselves day in and day out at the front of classrooms, doing far more than what teacher's college

> Looking back over my own high school gone above and beyond to meet student needs, but their efforts have all too often

If we're looking at significant changes Their reality was being called upon to do to the structure of how our school boards operate, the realities that teachers now face day to day should be part of the conversation, too.

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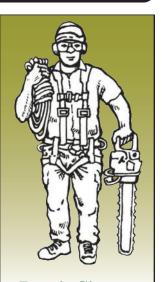


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