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Spooky scene on the streets

The street was filled with ghouls, monsters, weirdos, and princesses during the Monster Mash on Victoria Street in Alliston on Saturday, Oct. 24. Hosted by the Alliston Business Improvement Association, the event drew thousands of kids and parents who went trick-or-treating at businesses and enjoyed some Halloween fun. Turn to Page 8 for more photos. BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

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Serving Your Community Since 1986

Stephanie MacLellan becomes New Tecumseth's first female mayor

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

Results from the Oct. 26 municipal election are in, and Stephanie MacLellan is New Tecumseth's new mayor.

MacLellan, who has held the position of deputy mayor for the past four years and was Ward 6 councillor for the previous term, defeated incumbent Mayor Richard Norcross by a large margin.

She received 61.8 per cent of the vote, compared to Norcross at 34.7 per cent, making her the town's first female mayor.

During her campaign, MacLellan said the town budget and transparency when presenting a budget were a priority. She also came out against Strong Mayor Powers, saying their use is not democratic and she would never impose them if elected.

Third mayoral candidate Jaison Waldman received 3.55 per cent of the vote.

Marc Biss, who served as Ward 5 councillor during the most recent term of council, was elected deputy mayor.

Biss won with 75.8 per cent of the vote.

There were six incumbent councillors re-elected to council. Three of those races were very close.

In Ward 1, Chris Rapin retained his position on council, winning with 71.5 per cent of the vote.

Ward 2 incumbent Wendy Gabrek received a tough challenge, but managed to win with 51.8 per cent of the vote, compared to her sole competitor, Jason Shand's 48.2 per cent.

Ward 3 had two new faces running for a seat on council. Tony Phekoo won with a slim margin of 52.7 per cent of the vote, compared to Laurie Mortimer's 47.3 per cent.

Alan Masters easily retained his council position for Ward 4 with 77.9 per cent of the vote.

Ward 5 councillor Nicole Cox also had a big win with 75.1 per cent.

In Ward 6, Shira Harrison McIntyre was re-elected with a slim margin, defeating the runner-up, Kyle Warren, by just 20 votes.

Ward 7 councillor Andrea Jacks was re-elected with 54.3 per cent of the vote.

Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board Trustee Janice Hutchison was acclaimed.

In the Simcoe County District School Board Trustee race, Kelly Somers was elected with 54.4 per cent of the vote.

Across the province, 444 municipalities went to the polls to elect councils. Around 6,663 candidates vied for 2,800 positions, including mayor, deputy mayor, council, and school board trustee.



MAKING HISTORY – Stephanie MacLellan defeated incumbent mayor Richard Norcross in a landslide victory during the Oct. 26 municipal election. MacLellan, who won with 61.8 per cent of the vote, is seen with Councillor Chris Rapin, re-elected to Ward 1; Councillor Nicole Cox re-elected to Ward 5; and Tony Phekoo, elected to Ward 3, at an election party in Alliston.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Essa Mayor Sandie Macdonald re-elected for third term with over 80 per cent of the vote

Essa Mayor Sandie Macdonald has been re-elected in Essa Township with a landslide win over her opponent.

The rest of the election process in the township was streamlined, as the deputy mayor and two of three councillors had no opposition in this election and were acclaimed.

Macdonald won with 83.4 per cent of the vote (2,994 votes). The runner-up, Francesco Lo Greco, received 16.6 per cent of the vote (595 votes).

Michael Smith was acclaimed as deputy mayor.

Pieter Kiezebrink won Ward 1 with 68.9 per cent of the vote (1,387 votes). His opponent, Vincent Ivanyi, received 31.1 per cent of the vote (626 votes)

Henry Sander was acclaimed Ward 2 councillor, and incumbent Liana Maltby was acclaimed Ward 3 councillor.

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Organizers cancel next year's Tottenham Bluegrass Festival

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

The Tottenham Bluegrass Festival has been cancelled for 2027.

The Festival Board of Directors issued a statement on Monday, Oct. 26, announcing the news that the festival has been cancelled for this coming year.

"Following a careful review of the festival's financial position, the Board of Directors has made the difficult decision that the Tottenham Bluegrass Festival will not take place in 2027," the statement said.

"We know how much time, effort and dedication goes into making the Tottenham Bluegrass Festival happen each June. From the early planning meetings to the final camper pulling out of the conservation area, there are countless hours of work that most festival-goers never see."

The Tottenham Bluegrass Festival has taken place at the Tottenham Conservation Area every year since 1983.

Over the years, the festival has grown to include a variety of activities such as a children's talent show, instrument-specific workshops, and a barbecue supper and beer tent.

The festival features bluegrass bands from across North America, each playing 45-minute sets throughout the day and evening.

> "Following a careful review of the festival's financial position, the Board of Directors has made the difficult decision that the Tottenham Bluegrass Festival will not take place in 2027."
>
> Tottenham Bluegrass Festival Board of Directors

This format provided continuous music and the chance for the audience to experience different bands and styles of bluegrass all day long.

For many years, the main stage was located at the bottom of the hill in the park in front of the water. This created a natural amphitheatre in the park.

For the past two years, the stage has been moved to the upper level of the Tottenham Conservation Area, creating a more intimate setting for the show.

The Board of Directors have not yet made it known if this is a one-time cancellation of the festival or if there are plans to continue in the future.



CANCELLED – The Tottenham Bluegrass Festival Board of Directors has announced that the festival will not take place at the Tottenham Conservation Area in 2027. The Board of Directors announced the cancellation following a "careful review of the festival's financial position." The festival has happened every year since 1983. **FILE PHOTO**

The cancellation will disappoint a lot of bluegrass fans, both local and those who travelled a considerable distance to see the show and spend time camping at the conservation area.

Town of New Tecumseth begins investigating improvements to major intersection

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

The Town of New Tecumseth has initiated a Municipal Class Environmental Assessment to assess the need for improvements to the Victoria Street West, Young Street, Albert Street, and King Street intersections within the Alliston Connecting Link.

The study will examine existing and future transportation conditions and evaluate potential solutions to improve safety, efficiency, connectivity and the movement of people through the corridor.

The study will also consider the existing 300-metre job along King Street which interrupts the otherwise continuous east-west connection of Highway 89.

The study is being completed under the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment process and will consider environmental, social, cultural, technical and financial factors.

Community input will play an important role in identifying issues, evaluating alternatives and helping to inform the preferred solution.

At this stage, no preferred solution has been selected.

Residents, businesses, property owners, agencies, Indigenous communities and other interested stakeholders are invited to share their local knowledge, concerns and ideas related to transportation, traffic operations, safety, accessibility, active transportation, transit, and overall corridor function.

Feedback received throughout the study will be documented and considered as part of the decision-making process.

The project webpage will serve as the primary source of information throughout the study. Future updates, study materials, Public Information Centre details and opportunities to provide input will be posted as they become available.

The project webpage can be found at: newtecumseth.ca/AllistonConnectingLink

To submit comments, ask questions, or join the project contact list, contact:

Frank Craparotta, Project Manager, Town of New Tecumseth, 705-415-3096. Email Fcraparotta@newteumseth.ca.

Taylor Kramp, Project Manager, Triton Engineering Services Ltd. 519-941-0330 ext 224. Email tkramp@tritoneng.on.ca

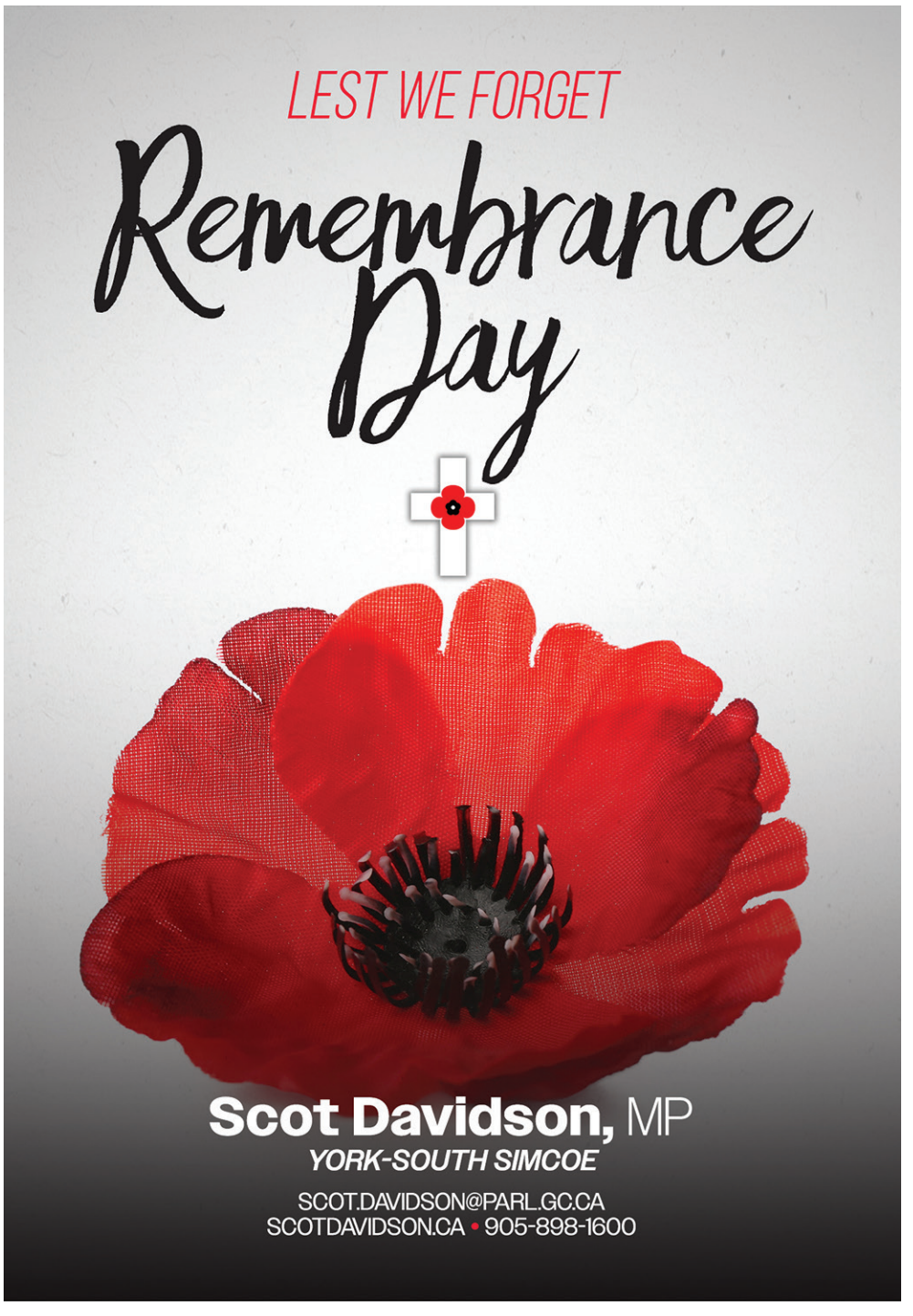
Public Information Centres are planned during future phases of the study to present findings, discuss alternatives and gather feedback from the community.

Information about future engagement opportunities will be shared through the town's website, social media channels and other project communications

Information collected through this process will be handled in accordance with applicable privacy legislation.

With the exception of personal information, comments provided will form part of the public record for the study.







Editorial, Letters & Opinion

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

This land is your land

BRIAN LOCKHART
FROM THE SECOND ROW



The squeaky wheel gets the grease; there's no doubt about that.

Albertans went to the polls last week to vote on a referendum to separate from the nation and become their own state.

When the ballots were counted, 76 per cent of residents in that prairie province voted to remain Canadian. That's a huge number.

Obviously, the vast majority of residents in Alberta are proud Canadians.

I have been following all the separation talk over the past year. The squeaky wheel was firing off all sorts of screeching sounds.

The separatists made sure they made the news all the time and made it sound like the tide of dissent among citizens was huge – it wasn't.

Even Donald Trump weighed in, saying the U.S. would take Alberta as a 51st state if they chose to separate.

The Alberta separatists claim that the province has a power disparity relative to Ottawa and other western provinces, as well as discontent with national economic policy, particularly as it pertains to Alberta's petroleum industry.

If you have ever travelled to western provinces, you probably noted that a lot of people don't like Ontario very much. It's not overt hostility, but more a subtle displeasure.

I visited Calgary and had a few disparaging remarks tossed my way when people found out I was from Ontario.

I guess distance will skew a person's opinion of another province.

I had an interesting conversation in a cafe with a young woman who was visiting from British Columbia. She was staying with a friend here before travelling on some religious pilgrimage to Africa.

She told me that in B.C., they have the perception that Ontario is one giant, paved-over city.

She was surprised to find that there was Toronto, and the towns and cities got smaller the farther away you got from a large urban centre – just like British Columbia.

She admitted that after spending a couple of weeks here, she liked the province and its people.

Albertans are a strong bunch of people with a proud Western history. They know they are part of our federation, and being a part of that sea-to-sea-to-sea bond makes them stronger.

When Quebec held a referendum on separating in 1995, it was only by a very, very slight margin that the referendum failed. The 'no' vote represented 50.57 percent of the votes cast.

It was the highest voter turnout in Quebec history, with 93.52 per cent of eligible voters casting a ballot. That just goes to show how serious people were about the issue.

I don't think Quebecers really wanted to separate. I think they just wanted to rattle some swords and cages.

If the referendum did achieve separation success, I'm pretty sure most of the Quebec population would have woken up in the morning thinking, "what have we done?"

Even if the referendum did pass, it did not mean an easy separation. There are enough people in Quebec who are proudly Canadian, especially in certain regions, and know the benefits of being a part of the nation. The fact that some kind of civil war could happen was a real possibility.

I'm glad Quebec stayed with us. As a province, it adds a unique demographic and quality to the makeup of the country.

As for the other provinces, they all seem to be happy to be part of our federation.

Newfoundland made the smart decision to join in 1949, and they have prospered as part of our nation.

No group was ever made better by splitting up. They are made better by being united.

Hopefully the separatist rhetoric in Alberta will die down.

But it won't go away if there is a small group of separatist who vow to carry on their fight.

I like to think of the Canadian lyric version of Woodie Guthrie's song, *This Land is Your Land*, as a bit of an anthem for solidarity from sea to sea to sea.

"This land is your land, this land is my land. From Buena Vista to Vancouver Island. From the Arctic Circle, to the Great Lakes waters. This land was made for you and me."

Now the work begins…

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The ballots have been cast, votes have been counted and your collective efforts have determined the direction our communities will take over the next four years.

Regardless of whether or not you agree with the outcome, I can only hope you found something to vote for rather than a laundry list of things to vote against.

I don't know about the rest of you, but voting AGAINST something just isn't as satisfying as voting FOR something. Sure, if you're of that particular mindset, the idea of "sticking it to" whoever is in your crosshairs can feel good in this age of instant gratification, but that warm-and-fuzzy feeling doesn't last for four full years.

Hopefully your warm-and-fuzzies will indeed be in place for the long-haul. If not, I hope it galvanizes you to look for further opportunities to make a difference during the term ahead, or think seriously about the difference you might be able to make as a candidate when the time comes.

Having covered municipal elections in 2010, 2014, 2018, 2022, and now 2026, I consider myself well-versed in the process, particularly in the communities I cover, but this election brought about a municipal first: the first time voting in a municipal election in a community that is not part of my "beat."

It was a very unusual feeling. Perhaps due to being so immersed in the minutia of the platforms presented by each and every candidate within the "beat" areas, the fact I had more of a role to play in the civic process here beyond writing and editing candidate profiles, compiling answers to candidate questionnaires, and covering individual issues as they arose, my own choices where I live came close to being an afterthought.

Not on my watch, so I spent the better part of the week leading up to October 26 doing as deep a dive as I could into the candidates in my area. Thankfully, I found plenty to vote for – and, thankfully, not too much to vote against – and cast my ballot Monday morning, satisfied I made the decision that was best aligned with my own personal viewpoints.

I hope that's a feeling that is shared far and wide this week as Mayors-elect, Councillors-elect, and Trustees-elect, start laying the foundations for the next four years.

Those who put their names on the ballot this year are to be commended – not only for taking the initiative to develop a platform and take it door-to-door to voters, but for simply giving the electorate a choice.

According to statistics released last month by the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), there were 400 acclamations in Ontario's municipal elections this year, a decrease from the 548 experienced in 2022. Now, of course, this could be a sign of either satisfaction with the one person to step forward for the job or a sign of apathy in that nobody else wanted it, but, at the end of the day, it's always nice to have a choice and a healthy exchange of ideas amongst candidates.

AMO's data is broken down even further. According to their stats, 104 Head of Council races (Mayor and Reeve) were acclaimed, 29 per cent of who are female. This, compared to 23 per cent of 2022 candidates being female, while, overall the number of female candidates was up seven per cent compared to the previous ballot.

Through a different lens, 19 of Ontario's 444 municipalities saw their entire Councils acclaimed back into power. This translates into five per cent of Ontario municipalities going down this route, compared to eight per cent in 2022, but it's still a staggering statistic to consider in our communities when the fight for our limited number of seats was "spirited" to say the absolute least.

To the officials in communities where the entire slate of representatives were returned without a fight, congratulations! Evidently, you're doing something right! To those who weren't content with the status quo, but still found any number of reasons to sit back and do nothing, perhaps you will take this as your cue that you need to be the change you want to see in your neighbourhood.

That, however, brings up another question I'm sure will crop up in the coming days and weeks – why bother?

Before registrations for the 2026 Municipal Elections opened this past May, it was a question I pondered in this space in the context of our education trustees.

Continued on Page 23

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EDITOR: **Sam Odrowski** *sam@citizen.on.ca*
REPORTER: **Brian Lockhart**
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ADVERTISING: **Vicki Meisner** *vicki@lpcmedia.ca*
OFFICE: **Tanya Sharma** *tanyas@lpcmedia.ca*
CREDIT DEPT.: **Al Lord**
CLASSIFIEDS: **Vicki Meisner** *vicki@lpcmedia.ca*
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India: Cockroach uprising

GWYNNE DYER
OUR WORLD TODAY



India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi is technically not upper caste, but he does have a high opinion of himself. "When my mother was alive, I used to believe that I was born biologically," Modi told an interviewer two years ago. "After she passed away, reflecting on all my experiences, I was convinced God had sent me."

Modi could use some help from God at this point, because his government has stumbled into a confrontation with the nation's frustrated and angry youth. Half of India's population is under 30, and although the economy is growing very fast (7% last year) it is mostly 'jobless growth' (40% graduate unemployment).

In retrospect, early 2024 was the time of 'peak Modi'. He was convinced that his Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP–Indian People's Party) would win a two-thirds majority in parliament in the upcoming election, after which he would change the constitution, put an end to the secular state, and build the Hindu-ruled religious state of his dreams.

The 290 million Indian citizens who are not Hindus – one-fifth of the population, mostly Muslim – would become second-class citizens under that new regime. The BJP never publicly admits that this is its destination, but its paramilitary mass organization, the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), is quite open about it.

There is a hierarchy of hatred, in the sense that the BJP sees Buddhism and Sikhism, rival religions that are local in origin, as less alien and threatening than Christianity and especially Islam. (Muslims are one-seventh of the entire population.) But Modi and his party have worked long and hard to paint them all as foreign and dangerous.

It was all going so well – but then the BJP didn't do at all well in the 2024 election. It needed a coalition with two small regional parties just to scrape a bare majority in the Lok Sabha (lower house of parliament.) As for changing the constitution, forget it.

The BJP's trajectory had stalled. It still had the support of the mass media (mostly bought and paid for) and probably of the older generation of Hindus. So long as non-Hindus and lower-caste Hindus kept voting against Modi's God-given project, however, it wasn't going to happen. Modi's solution was to launch the biggest gerrymandering attempt in world history.



The electoral rolls in India had always been maintained in a non-partisan way, but in 2023 Modi appointed new election commissioners who would do his bidding. They weren't in office in time to do anything about the 2024 election, but they are certainly well placed to do his will now.

The BJP knew that its 'Hindu nationalist' supporters (the Indian version of MAGA) would be loyal to the end, but that lower-caste Hindus and religious minorities were abandoning Modi's party. You can often guess how people will vote by their family names or where they live, so Modi's strategists just started removing likely opposition voters from the electoral rolls.

There were 968 million registered voters in India a year ago, but the BJP-controlled Election Commission has been carrying out a 'Special Intensive Revision' – and it has already purged 130 million voters from the list.

It is extremely unlikely that one-sixth of all Indian voters have died or moved leaving no forwarding address in the past five years. It is, however, extremely likely that an implausibly high proportion of the missing voters are Muslims, other non-Hindus and lower-caste Hindus.

This is daylight robbery, but electoral rolls are not sexy. It took a bunch of students to drag it out into plain sight.

It began when somebody at the National Testing Agency leaked the exam papers that decide who gets into medical schools. Two million students were competing for 150,000 places, and when the scam came out and everybody had to rewrite them twelve candidates committed suicide. It was the second time the exams had to be retaken in three years.

An unemployed graduate called Abhijeep Dipke picked up on a casual remark by the Chief Justice calling people like him 'cockroaches' and set up a satirical website accusing the BJP of incompetence and corruption. He called it the Cockroach Janata Party (CJP) and it took off like a rocket. Within weeks mass protests forced the Education Minister to resign.

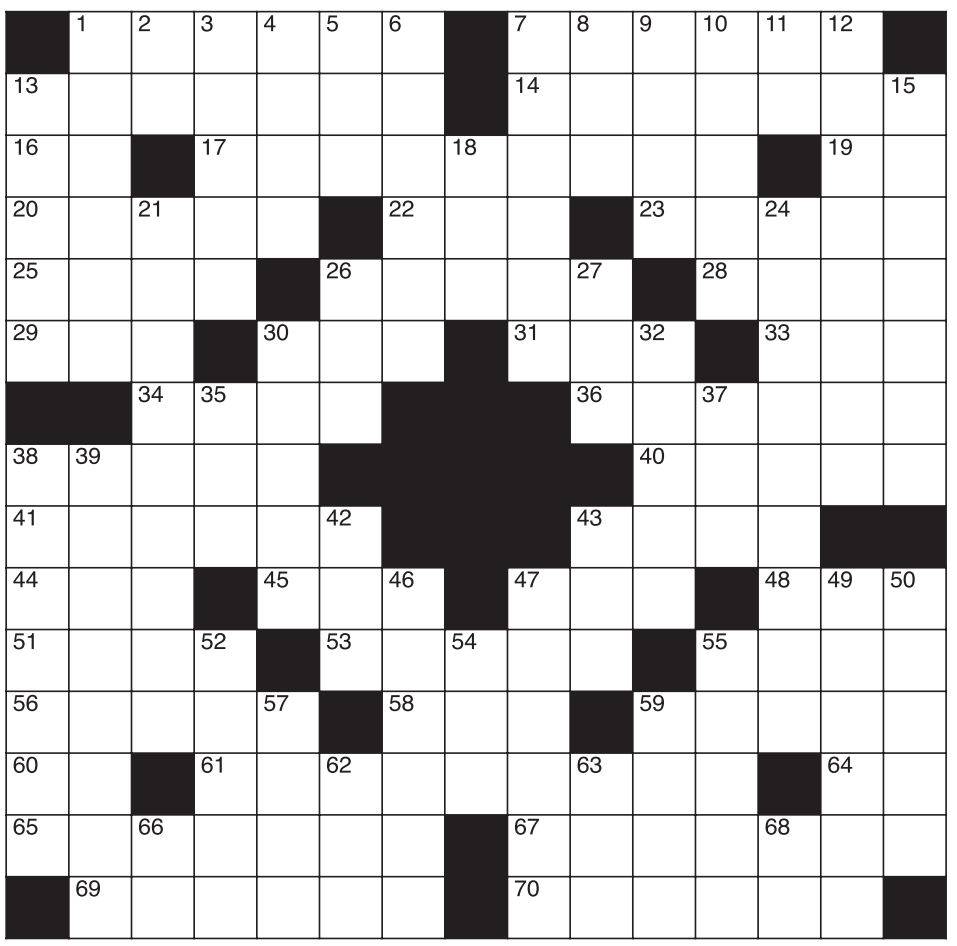
The young founders of the CJP knew they had created a powerful political lever, and by September they realised what their next target must be: the giant gerrymander that has already delivered two big states, West Bengal and Bihar, into the hands of the BJP. (Next national elections are in 2029.)

So the CJP is now demanding the resignation of the chief of the Election Commission, Gyanesh Kumar, and most days the streets of Delhi are filled with young protesters. The BJP is not yet defeated, but it is on the defensive. Stay tuned.

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CLUES ACROSS

1. Spiritual leaders
7. Containing salt
13. Fortified wine
14. Edible mollusk
16. Blood type
17. Make a comparison
19. Government lawyer
20. "Game of Thrones" actor Ciaran
22. 8th month of the year (abbr.)
23. Very willing
25. __ ex machina
26. Satisfies
28. New Zealand mountain
29. A doctrine
30. Popular Dodge truck model
31. Dekagram
33. Naturally occurring solid material
34. Company higher-up
36. Villains
38. Cricket frog genus
40. Influential early psychologist
41. Endured
43. Servant
44. You can get stuck in one
45. __ and feather
47. Passive optical network
48. French ballet dynasty
51. Employee stock ownership plan
53. Forming a bottom layer
55. Sound
56. Yankees slugger Judge
58. Dickens character
59. Beloved late sportscaster Craig
60. "The Mount Rushmore State"
61. Sarcastic and critical
64. Atomic #79
65. Longtime Atlanta Braves pitcher
67. Humor
69. Shawl
70. Preliminary assessment of patients

CLUES DOWN

1. Animal disease
2. Commercial
3. Craft supplies
4. Containers
5. A way to save for your golden years
6. Common Arabic greeting
7. Bulged downward
8. Acquired brain injury
9. Lay about
10. Intestinal
11. Not yes
12. In a way, pleased
13. Messianic figure in Islam
15. Resulting from intense conviction
18. Not in
21. Number above the line in a fraction
24. Lawn pest
26. Pouch
27. Ancient language (abbr.)
30. Start anew
32. Wild flower
35. Fourteen
37. Graphical user interface
38. Facing the same way
39. Campaigns
42. Touch lightly
43. "Boardwalk Empire" actress Gretchen
46. Violent seizure of property
47. One who supports the Pope
49. Malaise
50. Body fluid
52. Inauthentic person
54. Title of respect
55. Moth genus
57. Central Japan city
59. Silk garment
62. Draw from
63. Automobile
66. A male
68. Powerful government lawyer

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

COMMUNITY VOICE

Domestic Violence Awareness Month returns through Novemeber

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

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

Our Wrapped in Courage and purple items can be purchased at the RBC locations in Alliston (4 King St. N), Tottenham (2 Queen St. S) and Bradford (539 Holland St. W). We have two styles of women's scarves, men's ties, My Sister's Place totes and beaded bracelets.

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

What is Gender Based Violence? Everyone has the right to live free from violence. However, many people in Canada continue to face violence every day because of their gender, gender expression, gender identity or perceived gender.

This is referred to as gender-based violence (GBV), and it is a violation of human rights. GBV is not limited to physical violence. It can include any word, action, or attempt to degrade, control, humiliate, intimidate, coerce, deprive, threaten, or harm another person. Neglect, discrimination, and harassment can also be forms of GBV.

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

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

The International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women is also the start date of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-based Violence, which goes until Dec. 10, Human Rights Day. This campaign started in 1991 to call out and speak up on gender-based violence, and to renew our commitment to ending violence against women, girls, and 2SLGBTQI+ individuals.

This year's theme for the 16 Days of Activism is "UNiTE to End Violence Against Women and Girls: Ensure justice, protect survivors, end impunity."

The 2026 campaign calls for justice that works for all women and girls – whether at home, at work, in public life, or across digital spaces. Building on the 2025 focus on digital violence, this year's campaign recognizes that violence online and offline happens on a continuum, with the two often overlapping and reinforcing each other. They require commitment and action on prevention, protection, accountability, and redress.

Our big fundraising campaign for the month of November is our Fall Fling Online Auction. We are so excited to host this auction; it has something for everyone at all price points. Toys, clothing, kitchen wares, various gift baskets and gift cards.

We have a big selection of amazing experiences and entertainment options, and the list goes on. The auction will open for bidding on Thursday, Nov. 19, at 10 a.m. and will run through Monday, Nov. 23, at 7 p.m.

We will open the auction site at the beginning of November to the public, so that those interested can have a look at what will be up for bid when the auction goes live. Watch our social media for updates on the auction. Don't miss out. It will be a great way to get some Christmas shopping done early or maybe something special for yourself, while supporting My Sister's Place.

This November, watch our social media and website for events we are hosting that you can be a part of: flag raisings, town proclamations, our event for the Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women on Dec. 6 or take part in our wear purple challenge.

Please take the time to learn, share, and advocate, because awareness is only the first step toward meaningful and lasting change.

- eca.unwomen.org/en/stories/press-release/2026/09/16-days-of-activism-2026-ensure-justice-protect-survivors-end-impunity
- canada.ca/en/women-gender-equality/commemorations-celebrations/16-days.html
- unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/ending-violence-against-women/unite/theme

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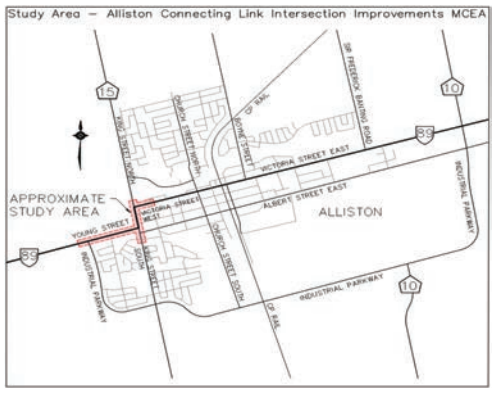
P26-11 ALLISTON CONNECTING LINK INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS MCEA NOTICE OF STUDY COMMENCEMENT

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Notice of Study Commencement

Alliston Connecting Link Intersection Improvements
Municipal Class Environmental Assessment



The Study: The Town of New Tecumseth has initiated a Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (MCEA) to assess the need for improvements to the Victoria Street West, Young Street, Albert Street, and King Street intersections within the Alliston Connecting Link. The study will examine existing and future transportation conditions and consider the existing 300-metre jog along King Street, which interrupts the otherwise continuous east-west connection of Highway 89. Alternative solutions will be developed and evaluated to address identified transportation needs and improve the safety, efficiency, connectivity, and overall functionality of the corridor, while considering environmental, social, cultural, technical, and financial factors.

The Process: The Study will follow Schedule C of the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment process (Municipal Engineers Association, 2024), which is an approved process under the *Ontario Environmental Assessment Act*. The study will evaluate and recommend solutions in consultation with the public, agencies, Indigenous Nations, and other key stakeholders. At the conclusion of the Study, the process will be documented in an Environmental Study Report (ESR), prepared for public review.

Your Input is Important! The Town would like to ensure that anyone interested in this study has the opportunity to provide input into the planning and design of the project. At this time, the Town is inviting public input on local issues and the alternatives being considered. Information about the project is available at newtecumseth.ca/AllistonConnectingLink or by scanning the QR code below. The website will be updated with project information as it becomes available throughout the study. Public Information Centres are planned for future stages of the study to inform the public about the study's progress and gather feedback on the solutions being considered. Information about future Public Information Centres will be published in the local newspaper and posted on the project webpage and social media channels.

To submit a comment or question, or if you would like to be added to the Project Contact List to receive future project notices, please contact:

Frank Craparotta, C.E.T., rcji
Project Manager
Town of New Tecumseth
Tel: 705-415-3096
Email: fcraparotta@newtecumseth.ca

Taylor Kramp, P.Eng.
Project Manager
Triton Engineering Services Limited
Tel: 519-941-0330 Ext: 224
Email: tkramp@tritoneng.on.ca

Project and notice information will be made accessible upon request in accordance with the Accessibility Standard for Information and Communication under the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act*, 2005. Notice of Collection: Information will be collected in accordance with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. With the exception of personal information, all comments will become part of the public record.

This Notice was first issued on October 22, 2026.

Scott Anderson wins re-election, secures second term as Adjala-Tosorontio mayor

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

The results are in, and the voters of Adjala-Tosorontio have spoken.

Scott Anderson has been re-elected as mayor.

Anderson won with 1,811 votes, accounting for 40.1 per cent of ballots' cast, according to the municipality's unofficial results. Official results will come once they've been certified by Adjala's clerk.

Andererson was followed by Bob Meadows with 1,576 votes (34.9 per cent), Anub Simson with 828 (18.4 per cent) and Steven Stogrin with 297 votes (6.6 per cent).

This will be his second term as mayor.

The results in three of the five wards were very close.

Incumbent Deputy Mayor Julius Lachs was re-elected with 2,492 votes (57.7 per cent), followed by Floyd Pinto, who received 1,825 (42.3 per cent).

A fresh face on council is Amanda Gervasi, who won Ward 1 by a razor-thin margin of 10 votes. She received 346 votes (34.9 per cent), while her runner-up, Angelina Rehja, received 336 (33.9 per cent). Other Ward 1 candidates include Japjot Singh with 242 votes (24.4 per cent) and Michael Homiakov with 68 votes (6.9 per cent).

Jeff Patterson is Ward 2's new councillor, receiving 470 votes (42.5 per cent). He's followed by Cam Simone with 319 votes (28.9 per cent) and Jagraj Aujla with 316 votes (28.6 per cent).

New councillor Janice Mason was elected to Ward 3 with 379 votes (56.2 per cent). Ronald O'Leary came second with 280 votes (41.5 per cent), and Jas Singha came third with 15 votes (2.2 per cent).

Ward 4 featured a tight race with Amanda Reiber winning by just 12 votes. She received 262 (26.1 per cent), while the runner-up, Miklos Borsos, had 250 votes (24.9 per cent). Other candidates received just as much support, with Deborah Hall's 247 votes (24.6 per cent) and Jason Baird's 244 (24.3 per cent).

In Ward 5, incumbent councillor Adam Cox was acclaimed.

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Matthews House Hospice honours local residents with MC Legacy Award

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

As an organization that operates largely on donations, Matthews House Hospice in Alliston is appreciative of the efforts of local residents and businesses who help them deliver their services and programs.

The Marv Chantler (MC) Legacy Award is awarded each year by Matthews House Hospice to an individual, family, or organization that has made an outstanding contribution to the ongoing development and sustainability of Matthews House Hospice. The Matthews House Hospice Foundation board of directors chooses the recipient.

The MC Legacy Award was first awarded in 2024.

This year the award was presented to Walter and Linda Davidson of WD Potato.

"We are proud to recognize WD Potato and the Davidson family for the meaningful difference they continue to make in our community," said Sabina Morell, Matthews House Hospice Foundation president. "Their generosity reflects the spirit of the Legacy Award — honouring those whose contributions help ensure compassionate care remains available to individuals and families when they need it most."

She continued, "The Davidson family represents the very best of our community. They have deep local roots and a generous spirit, and a longstanding commitment of giving back to the community. Their support of Matthews House Hospice and other philanthropic causes reflect a genuine dedication to making a difference in the lives of others. We are so proud to recognize their generosity and lasting contributions to our community."

In keeping with a new tradition, the previous year's recipient of the MC Legacy Award is asked to present it to the current winner.

> "We are proud to recognize WD Potato and the Davidson family for the meaningful difference they continue to make in our community... Their generosity reflects the spirit of the Legacy Award — honouring those whose contributions help ensure compassionate care remains available to individuals and families when they need it most."
>
> Sabina Morell,
> Matthews House Hospice Foundation president



GIVING BACK – Matthews House Hospice in Alliston honoured Walter and Linda Davidson with this year's Marv Chantler (MC) Award. The award is presented annually to an individual, family, or organization that has made an outstanding contribution to the ongoing development and sustainability of Matthews House Hospice. Representing last year's award winner, Honda Canada, is Gerald Brush, far left, along with Sabina Morell, Matthews House Hospice Foundation president, presenting the award to Walter and Linda on Tuesday, Oct. 20 at the Hospice.
BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

Last year, the award went to Honda Canada. Gerald Bruch, representing Honda, presented the award to the Davidsons.

Walter Davidson represents a true Canadian business success story.

He arrived in Canada from England as a young man with only $15 in his pocket. After starting out farming potatoes, he was asked by one of the potato chip companies to start storage for the product.

He soon gave up farming and focused on storage facilities for potatoes.

"Frito Lay came along and asked us to build storage facilities in 1971, and we bought from local farmers," Walter explained. "We soon expanded to Nova Scotia. We deal with around 41 farmers who have a combined 26,000 acres."

Many local potato farmers have contracts with potato chip companies that will buy up to 90 per cent of their product. This is a great two-way situation.

The potato chip company has a reliable supply of raw materials and the farmers have a guaranteed customer.

WD Potato also ships to a factory in New York. The tariffs imposed by the U.S. resulted in 10 loads of potatoes being charged extra. However, an apparent strong lobby in the U.S. food market made sure the tariffs were removed.

After achieving success in his chosen industry, Walter decided to give back to the community that supports him through donations to various good causes.

In addition to Mathews House Hospice, there are plenty of hockey teams that have benefited from WD Potato sponsorship and proudly wear the name on their jerseys.

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Arts & Local Events

It was a Monster Mash!





SPOOKY SIGHTS – The street was filled with ghouls, monsters, weirdos, and princesses during the Monster Mash on Victoria Street in Alliston on Saturday, Oct. 24. Hosted by the Alliston Business Improvement Association, the event drew thousands of kids and parents who went trick-or-treating at local businesses and enjoyed some Halloween fun.

BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO













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AUTO MAINTENANCE



Seasonal tips for safer fall driving

(NC) Fall colours and changing weather can make for beautiful drives, but they can also bring new challenges behind the wheel.



Shorter days, wet roads and the approach of winter are good reminders to prepare both your vehicle and your driving habits for the season ahead.

Here are some simple ways to stay safer on the road as the seasons change from the auto experts at Co-operators Insurance.

GET YOUR VEHICLE READY

• Schedule a seasonal tune-up to make sure your battery, brakes and other key systems are ready for colder weather.

• Replace worn wiper blades and top up windshield washer fluid with a winter-grade formula designed for freezing temperatures.

• Check your tire pressure regularly. Properly inflated tires can improve handling, braking performance and fuel efficiency.

• If you haven't already, consider switching to winter tires for improved traction on cold, snowy and icy roads.

• Carry a scraper, snow brush, shovel and emergency kit in your vehicle.

ADJUST YOUR DRIVING HABITS

• Slow down and adjust your speed to changing road conditions. Wet leaves, frost and snow can make roads slippery.

• Avoid sudden acceleration and hard braking. Smooth driving can improve vehicle control and reduce wear on your vehicle.

• Keep your full attention on the road. Activities like texting, adjusting controls or eating while driving can distract you from changing conditions around you.

• Leave extra space between your vehicle and others, especially when roads are wet or icy.

• Turn off cruise control when driving on wet, snowy or icy roads.

PLAN AHEAD

• Check weather and road conditions before heading out, especially for longer trips.

• Choose well-travelled roads whenever possible: they're more likely to be cleared and maintained during winter weather.

• Give yourself extra travel time so you don't feel pressured to rush.

• In severe conditions, consider delaying your trip until roads improve.

A little preparation can go a long way when road conditions change. You can find more seasonal driving tips and vehicle maintenance advice at cooperators.ca.



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AUTOMAINTENANCE





Common car component functions

It's been said it takes a village to raise a child. And when it comes to cars and trucks, scores of components are required to ensure a vehicle is operational. Various parts must work in concert to power a car or truck. Drivers may not fully understand the roles of the key components under the hood and elsewhere. The following are some of the parts and features involved in vehicle operation.

• **ENGINE:** The engine is the most important component in a gas-powered vehicle. Without it, the vehicle would not move. Most modern vehicles are powered by an internal combustion engine, which creates energy by igniting a mixture of fuel and air. Increasingly, however, customers are opting for electric motors that store energy in rechargeable batteries.

• **COOLING SYSTEM:** This component keeps the engine at a temperature that is optimal to prevent overheating. It consists of a radiator that transfers heat from the hot engine coolant to the atmosphere; a water pump that forces coolant to circulate; and a thermostat to regulate the engine's operating temperature.

• **TRANSMISSION:** The transmission is a complex system of gear sets, hydraulic torque converters, and clutches and bands. Automatic transmissions work automatically to shift to accelerate and decelerate as needed for a smooth driving experience. Drivers control a manual transmission. AutoZone notes there's also a continuously variable transmission that continuously adjusts the transmission ratio to optimize fuel efficiency.

• **BATTERY AND ALTERNATOR:** The battery stores energy so it can be released as electricity to run the vehicle's electrical components. The alternator is responsible for generating electricity for the vehicle, but also to recharge the battery.

• **CATALYTIC CONVERTER:** This part is a component of the exhaust system. It is an emissions control device that will transform dangerous exhaust gases into water, carbon dioxide and nitrogen.

• **BRAKES:** The brakes on a vehicle slow it down and enable it to come to a stop. Cars will have disc or drum brake systems. Disc brakes include calipers, rotors and pads. The calipers are housings for the brake pads and are responsible for converting hydraulic pressure when the driver presses the brake pedal into mechanical force. The brake pads create friction against the brake rotor (a spinning disc), generating the force needed to stop the car.

• **SHOCK ABSORBERS:** A car ride would be very rough and bumpy without a suspension system. Shock absorbers are springs that smooth out the ride by ensuring the tires remain in contact with the road surface. Worn shocks can cause vibrations and uneven tire wear.

• **STARTER AND SOLENOID:** The starter is responsible for turning the engine's crankshaft. When the ignition is engaged, it moves a small gear called a pinion. Then the starter motor spins, cranking the engine to initiate the combustion process. The solenoid is an electro-mechanical switch between the battery and the starter that receives an electrical signal when the vehicle ignition is engaged. The solenoid powers the starter, which helps to crank the engine.

• **STEERING SYSTEM:** The steering components transfer input from the steering wheel to the front wheels. Modern cars have power steering, which reduces the amount of effort needed to turn the steering wheel. The steering wheel rotates the steering column, which rotates the pinion gear that connects to a rack that extends the width of the vehicle. As the pinion rotates, it pushes the rack, which then moves the tie rods and steering knuckles on the front tires.

Vehicles have hundreds of parts that work together to start and move the car so that people can effortlessly get from point A to point B.



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Conserving fuel as prices rise

Fuel is a necessity for millions of drivers on the country's roadways.

As of late March 2026, Canadian gas prices surged to an average of roughly $1.68-$1.86 per liter (there are roughly 3.785 liters in a gallon). The national average gas price in the United States at the same time was $3.98 per gallon. When gas prices rise due to various factors, drivers are increasingly interested in ways to conserve fuel and stretch their dollars further. Here are some ways to mitigate rising gas prices.

• REDUCE YOUR SPEED

Driving at moderate speeds increases efficient consumption of fuel. Some vehicles may feature an "ECO" mode that optimizes fuel consumption by restricting engine power, among other changes, or notifies the driver when they are driving in a manner that is using fuel wisely. Driving above 50 miles per hour reduces fuel economy considerably.

• PRACTICE SMOOTH DRIVING

Drivers should avoid aggressive starts (gunning it) and hard braking, which can eat into fuel efficiency. Letting off the accelerator early and coasting to red lights or stop signs helps.

• RELY ON CRUISE CONTROL

Cruise control helps maintain a steady speed, which can save fuel on highway travel.

• KEEP TIRES INFLATED

Properly inflating tires to the manufacturer's recommended PSI can improve fuel economy by roughly 0.6 percent to 3 percent for most drivers. Driving on tires that are 20 percent under-inflated can reduce fuel economy by as much as 10 percent. Removing unnecessary heavy items from the vehicle also can help to reduce drag.

• LIMIT IDLING AND COMBINE TRIPS

Turn off the vehicle when stopped for more than a few minutes. When running errands, combine short trips to keep the engine warm, which is more efficient.

• SKIP THE PREMIUM FUEL

Unless a vehicle owner's manual specifically recommends filling up with premium fuel, drivers will not see an increase in performance by choosing this more expensive option. A person will just be paying more for premium, which is always more expensive than standard 87-octane fuel.

Drivers can use various strategies to conserve fuel when gas becomes more expensive.







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NVCA honours Lynn Dollin for 20 years of service on local committee

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

The Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority has honoured Lynn Dollin by naming the boardroom in the John Hix Administrative Centre the Lynn Dollin Boardroom.

The honour recognizes Ms. Dollin's nearly 20 years of leadership and service on the South Georgian Bay Lake Simcoe Source Protection Committee.

"Lynn Dollin has devoted much of her life to public service, earning a reputation as one of Ontario's most respected municipal leaders," said Jonathan Scott, Chair of NVCA. "For nearly two decades, she brought that same dedication to protecting the drinking water our communities depend on. Good public service leaves a legacy that lasts well beyond any individual term of office, and Lynn has certainly demonstrated that. Naming this boardroom in her honour is a small but fitting tribute to her remarkable contribution to our region."

In the Nottawasaga Watershed, people rely on water from streams, lakes, rivers and underground aquifers for clean drinking water. Protecting these drinking water sources takes a multi-barrier approach.

While the Province of Ontario sets the rules for protecting source water through the Clean Water Act, Source Protection Committees have developed plans to protect this invaluable resource at the watershed level.

For the past 20 years, the committee has developed Source Protection Plans to help safeguard municipal drinking water for generations to come.

The boardroom naming recognizes a legacy of leadership and collaboration that will continue to benefit communities across the South Georgian Bay Lake Simcoe region.



NVCA RECOGNITION – The Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority has recognized Lynn Dollin by naming the boardroom at the John Hix Administrative Centre in her honour. Ms. Dollin was recognized for her nearly 20 years on the South Georgian Bay Lake Simcoe Source Protection Committee. Ms. Dollin, centre, is joined by Dave Ritchie (South Georgian Bay Lake Simcoe Region Source Committee member), Kevin Eisses (Innisfil councillor), Jennifer Vincent (CAO of NVCA), and Jonathan Scott (chair of NVCA). CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Health Unit offers free at-home testing for sexually transmitted infections

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

The Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit has partnered with GetaKit to offer free, discreet sexually transmitted and blood-borne infection testing at your local lab and HIV self-testing kits delivered to your home.

GetaKit is available to anyone in Simcoe Muskoka who is 17 years of age or older. HIV testing is for those 18 and over.

GetaKit offers free and discreet testing for Chlamydia, Gonorrhea, Syphilis, Hepatitis C, and HIV.

STI and HIV testing is available by printing the online lab requisition and taking it to the lab of your choice. Your results will show up online in three to seven days.

HIV self-testing kits are available for individuals at risk for HIV, and they are delivered to your home.

Test results are available within minutes of testing.

Swabs can be sent to your home address or picked up at the Barrie Clinic location at 80 Bradford St., Unit #403, Barrie.

GetaKit is a study from the University of Ottawa in partnership with local public health units in Ontario. It offers free lab-based testing for sexually transmitted infections and HIV.

Swab instructions are available on the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit website.

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Check our facebook page to see the other kitties looking for their forever home. Donations always needed to help care for the cats as we are not funded at all, and rely on donations and fundraisers. If you would like to volunteer as well we are always appreciative.

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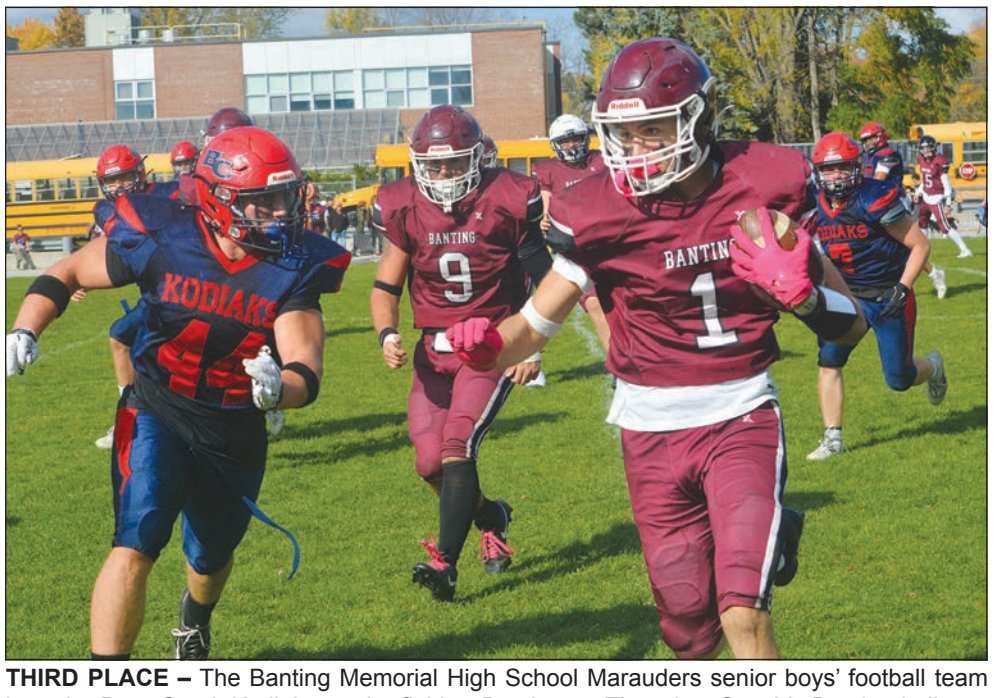
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SPORTS
NEW TECUMSETH TIMES



THIRD PLACE – The Banting Memorial High School Marauders senior boys' football team host the Bear Creek Kodiaks on the field at Banting on Thursday, Oct. 22. Banting ball carrier Chayce LeQuelenec-Verstraten drives into Kodiak territory during the third quarter of the game. The Marauders took a 46-20 loss in this game but are having a good season and are in third place with a 3-2 record. **BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO**



SHUTOUT WIN – The St. Thomas Aquinas Stingers junior boys' soccer team hosted the St. Theresa's Catholic High School Thunder from Midland on the pitch at STA on Tuesday, Oct. 20. The Stingers played well and won the game 5-0.

Alliston Hornets remain in first place after winning at home, losing on the road

BY BRIAN LOCKHART



IN THE ENDZONE – The Alliston Hornets host the Midland Flyers at the New Tecumseth Recreation Centre on Friday, Oct. 23. The Hornets won the game with a 2-0 shutout. In their second game of the weekend, the Hornets took a 4-1 loss to the Orillia Terriers. **BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO**

It wasn't the best showing for the Alliston Hornets over the weekend – they just couldn't score.

The Hornets won their home game but took a loss on the road.

The Friday night home game on Oct. 23 at the New Tecumseth Recreation Centre (NTRC) saw the Midland Flyers come to Alliston.

Alliston won the game, but could only score two goals against the sixth-place Flyers.

There was no scoring in the first period.

Tristen Pitt put the Hornets on the scoreboard with a goal in the second period.

The only scoring in the third period happened when Alliston forward Cole Skidmore put one past the Midland goalie with 9:35 remaining on the clock.

The final was a 2-0 shutout for the Hornets.

Hornets goalie Gavin Zepp got the shutout.

The Alliston squad travelled to Orillia on Saturday, Oct. 24, to take on the Terriers in their second game of the weekend.

The Hornets failed to score in the first period.

Orillia scored two first-period goals for the lead.

It was a 2-1 game when Duncan Grube scored at 31 seconds into the second period.

The Terriers had a two-goal lead when they scored a minute and a half later.

The Hornets failed to score in the third period.

Orillia had one goal early in the third period to win the game 4-1.

This was a shock for Hornets fans who expected the team to have a better showing against Orillia.

The Hornets remain in first place in the North Carruthers Division, but only by two points, ahead of the Stayner Siskins.

Alliston has 20 points. The Siskins have played two more games than the Hornets and have 18 points after taking five losses for the season.

The Penetang Kings are in third place with an 8-2 record and 16 points.

In fourth place, the Orillia Terriers had 14 points and a 7-3 record.

They are followed by the Muskoka Bears, Midland Flyers, Innisfil Spartans, and the Huntsville Otters.

Alliston forward Tristen Pitt continues to lead in the points column for the Hornets this season.

Pitt has played 12 games this season and has scored 15 goals with 11 assists – good for 26 points. Pitt is currently the top scorer in the league.

The Hornets only have one game this week.

They will host the Muskoka Bears at home at the NTRC on Friday, Oct. 30.

Game time is 7:30 p.m.

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South Simcoe Theatre opens the season with a new twist on an old story

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

The South Simcoe Theatre in Cookstown is getting ready for a new season and will open with a show that is a new twist on an old story.

The theatre will present Cinderella... If the Shoe Fits on its stage in November as the first show of the season.

Written by local playwrights Debbie Collins and David Nairn, the play is a family-friendly pantomime and is a perfect start to the Christmas season.

This show is filled with toe-tapping music and opportunities for the audience to boo the evil characters while cheering on Cinderella and the other good characters. The play reveals a Cinderella who challenges expectations, outsmarts her enemies, and discovers that true happiness means just being herself.

This show is recommended for ages five and up.

Cinderella... If the Shoe Fits will run from Nov. 13 to 29, on the South Simcoe Stage.

Performances are Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m., and Sundays at 2 p.m.

Note that the Saturday, Nov. 21 performance will be a 2 p.m. matinee due to the Cookstown Light-up Night festivities.

To buy tickets to Cinderella and learn more about upcoming shows this season, go to: thesouthsimcoetheatre.com

Nottawasaga Foundation completes $1 million pledge to Stevenson Memorial Hospital Foundation

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

The Nottawasaga Foundation has reached a significant milestone in its longstanding support of Stevenson Memorial Hospital Foundation by completing its $1 million pledge for the hospital's redevelopment campaign.

The final $100,000 contribution brings the Nottawasaga Foundation's total commitment to $1 million since the pledge was established in 2017 to mark the organization's 25th anniversary.

Through this longstanding partnership, the Nottawasaga Foundation and the Biffis Family have played an important role in supporting healthcare in the community and helping Stevenson Memorial Hospital prepare for the future.

"We are excited to be celebrating the completion of our $1 million commitment to Stevenson Memorial Hospital," said Sylvia Biffis, director of sales at the Nottawasaga Resort and chair of the redevelopment campaign. "As a family, we have seen firsthand how important Stevenson is to this community, and we believe strongly in building a hospital that will be here to serve generations to come. It has been incredibly rewarding to be part of the Because of You campaign and to see the community come together to make this redevelopment a reality."

> "As a family, we have seen firsthand how important Stevenson is to this community, and we believe strongly in building a hospital that will be here to serve generations to come."
>
> Sylvia Biffis, director of sales at the Nottawasaga Resort and chair of the redevelopment campaign

The Nottawasaga Foundation's support has helped advance healthcare in the community over the years, including contributions toward innovative services such as dialysis, digital mammography and enhancements to obstetrics care.

"We are incredibly grateful to the Nottawasaga Foundation and the Biffis Family for reaching this milestone with us," said Dr. Ted Vandevis, president and CEO of Stevenson Memorial Hospital Foundation. "A $1 million commitment represents an extraordinary investment in the future of healthcare in our community. Their longstanding generosity has helped Stevenson grow and evolve, and their support of the Because of You Campaign will help us build a hospital that meets the needs of our community for generations to come."



FINAL CHEQUE – Members of the Biffis family and the Nottawasaga Foundation meet with the members of the Stevenson Memorial Hospital Foundation on Monday, Oct. 19 to present a cheque to complete the Nottawasaga Foundation's pledge of $1 million in support of hospital redevelopment. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

With construction now underway, the future of Stevenson Memorial Hospital is taking shape, made possible by the generosity of donors like the Nottawasaga Foundation and the broader community.



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Motorcycle driver dead after collision with van on Highway 89

The South Simcoe Police Service Traffic and Marine Unit is investigating a fatal motor vehicle collision that occurred on Highway 89 in Innisfil. On Oct. 25, at approximately 12:30 p.m., police responded to a report of a collision involving a motorcycle and a white Toyota Sienna van.

Police and emergency services attended the scene, where the 58-year-old male driver of the motorcycle succumbed to his injuries and was pronounced deceased.

The driver of the van sustained minor injuries and was transported to hospital for assessment.

A portion of Highway 89 was closed while police conducted their investigation and cleared the scene. Members of the Traffic and Marine Unit attended for collision reconstruction and investigation.

The investigation is ongoing, and no further information is available at this time.

South Simoce Police officers are appealing to any witnesses or anyone with dash-cam footage captured in the area at the time of the collision to contact the South Simcoe Police Service at 905-775-3311 or 705-436-2141 and reference occurrence number PR26032440.

Charges laid against Wasaga Beach resident in child exploitation investigation

The Ontario Provincial Police Child Sexual Exploitation Unit, with assistance from the 31 Division – Peel Regional Police, have arrested and charged a Wasaga Beach resident following a child sexual abuse and exploitation investigation.

Police executed a search warrant on Tuesday, June 23, 2026, at a residence in Wasaga Beach and seized a number of electronic devices. As a result of the investigation, a 33-year-old from Wasaga Beach was arrested on Saturday, Sept. 12, and charged with the following Criminal Code offences.

• Make Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation Material, section 163.1(2)

• Access Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation Material, section 163.1(4.1)

• Voyeurism, section 162(1)

• Possession of Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation Material, section 163(4) – two counts

The accused is scheduled to appear before the Ontario Court of Justice in Collingwood on Tuesday, Oct. 27, 2026.

The OPP says it will continue to identify and pursue individuals who use technology to exploit children.

The charges have not been proven in court.

South Simcoe Police investigate two-vehicle collision resulting in serious injuries

The South Simcoe Police Service is investigating a two-vehicle collision that occurred in Innisfil on the evening of Oct. 24.

South Simcoe Police officers responded to the collision, involving a silver Hyundai SUV and a red Ford SUV, at the intersection of Sideroad 10 and 6th Line.

On arrival, police observed both vehicles in the ditch on the west side of the road. The silver Hyundai SUV was occupied by the driver only, while the red Ford SUV, carrying three occupants, rolled over during the collision.

A passenger in the red Ford SUV sustained serious injuries, while a child suffered minor injuries. Both were transported to hospital. The driver of the silver Hyundai SUV sustained minor injuries and was also transported to hospital as a precaution.

Sideroad 10 was closed at 6th Line while police conducted their investigation and cleared the scene.

The investigation remains ongoing, and police say no further information is available at this time.

Haliburton resident charged in connection to multiple break-and-enters across north Dufferin

Dufferin OPP charged a Haliburton resident with multiple offences following an investigation into a series of break-and-enters and thefts in Shelburne, Mono and Mulmur.

On Sept. 2, the accused attended a storage facility on Victoria Street in Shelburne, where they allegedly entered several storage units. During the incidents, the accused reportedly covered his face in an apparent attempt to avoid detection.

On Sept. 11, the accused allegedly attended a rural property in Mulmur on an electric scooter and stole a side-by-side utility terrain vehicle (UTV). The vehicle was later recovered at a different address.

On Sept. 12, the accused allegedly attended two separate rural properties in Mono, where break-and-enters occurred. During one of these incidents, a side-by-side UTV was also stolen and later recovered at a different address.

On Sept. 22, the accused was arrested on the outstanding Dufferin County warrants and subsequently charged in connection with the incidents.

As a result of the investigation, Dale McCrea, 40, from Haliburton, has been charged with:

• Break, enter a place - with intent to commit indictable offence - two counts

• Break, enter dwelling house - commit indictable offence

• Theft of Motor Vehicle - two counts

• Disguise with Intent

None of the listed charges have been proven in court.

Shelburne man recently arrested in connection to theft from businesses and a motor vehicle

A man who Dufferin OPP says is connected to multiple thefts investigations in Shelburne was recently arrested.

On Sept. 25, Dufferin OPP officers responded to a theft at a Shelburne retail store. An investigation into the theft revealed that a known suspect entered the establishment, selected tools, and exited the store without making any attempt to pay.

On Oct. 8 and 9, officers responded to two separate theft incidents at a grocery store in Shelburne. Police say their investigation found that the same suspect entered the store on both occasions, concealed merchandise, and left without paying.

On Oct. 19, officers responded to a theft from a motor vehicle on Stewart Street in Shelburne. The investigation determined that the same suspect was responsible.

After multiple attempts to locate the suspect, members of the Dufferin County Community Street Crime Unit (CSCU) and Dufferin OPP arrested Matthew Tsiminos, 41, of Shelburne, on Oct. 20.

He was charged with three counts of Theft Under $5,000 - Shoplifting and one count of Theft Under $5,000 from a Motor Vehicle.

The charges have not been proven in court.

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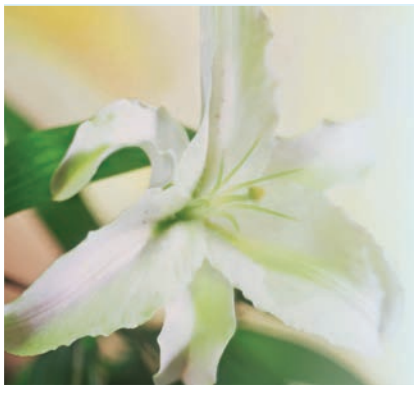
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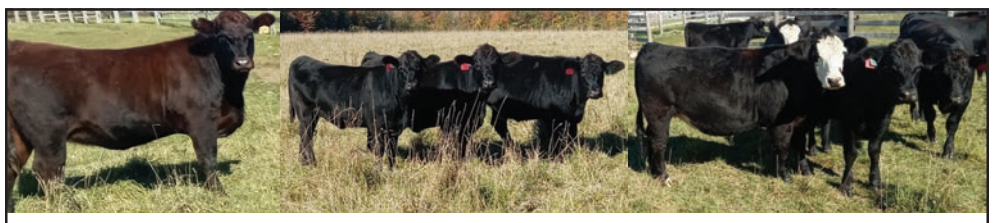
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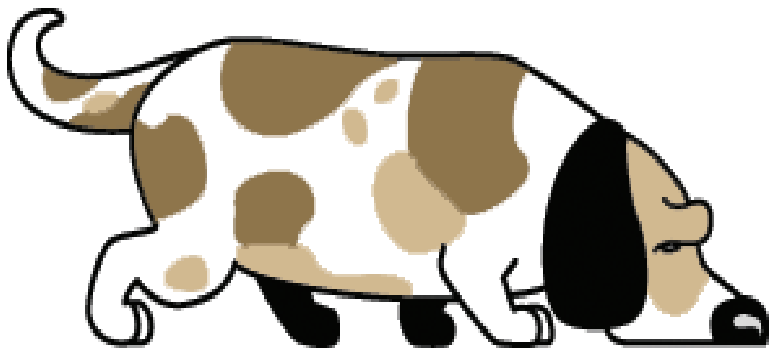
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Continued from Page 4

Brock's Banter: Now the work begins…

The outgoing municipal term was a fraught one for trustees across Ontario with the Ministry of Education keen to flex its muscles over the day-to-day operations of our school boards and trustees in both Peel and York, amongst other jurisdictions, effectively sidelined while the Ministry did just that. They kept their titles but not much else.

In a situation where the position you've been elected to can be snatched away on the turn of a dime, one could be forgiven for wondering just why candidates would invest so much time and resources in securing a seat that might be pulled out from under them. The fact they did so speaks, I believe, to their passion and drive to make a difference, but only time – and the fickle finger of political fate – will determine if they are given the time to meet their objectives.

But, after this election, I wonder how many candidates for other positions are also asking the question, "Why bother?"

Now that the election is behind us, I have to say that in the five municipal battles I've been involved with, this was surely the most vitriolic trip to the polls I've yet witnessed.

Thankfully, with some exceptions across Ontario, the vitriol can't be attributed to the candidates themselves, but rather some of the more engaged and passionate residents with favourite candidates in the race, and, indeed, some of the more engaged and passionate – and often largely anonymous – social media pundits who insinuated themselves into the conversation.

Don't get me wrong, dialogue is essential in any democracy, regardless of what level of government is being discussed, but this season was rife in online misinformation, sometimes deliberately so, along with extremely personal attacks that were based more in personal opinion than fact, objectiveless insinuations, and an overall atmosphere that was nothing less than toxic.

Those who weathered this particular storm, whether or not the votes went your way on Monday, should be commended for doing so, and a double congratulations if you resisted the urge to pile on.

Recent years have underscored just how fragile democracies the world-over can be, and they're often only as strong as the individuals who take part in it, whether their names are on the ballot or whether you're simply casting one.

If things are allowed to remain as toxic as they have been, will it be an environment where emerging community leaders will even want to jump into the race if proverbial trials-by-fire are more the rule rather than the exception?

If the cost ultimately paid is far beyond the dollars handed over to process your nomination papers? If not, where will that leave our communities?

Perhaps this is a question Monday night's victors should consider as they chart their paths to 2030.

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