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Sunny



Saturday:
Mainly
Sunny



Sunday:
Mix of Sun
and Clouds



Monday:
Mix of Sun
and Clouds

\$1.50 per copy (\$1.43 + 7¢ G.S.T.)

Thursday, October 8, 2026

Volume 52, Issue 41

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

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

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NEW TECUMSETH VOTES

2026 MUNICIPAL ELECTION CANDIDATE PROFILES

Turn to Page 11 to see Ward 1 through 5 councillor candidate profiles.

New helipad takes flight

The new helipad at Stevenson Memorial Hospital in Alliston officially opened with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Thursday, Oct. 1. Local and provincial dignitaries joined hospital staff to recognize this achievement as the hospital's redevelopment continues. See full story on Page 12.

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CONTACT’s annual Coats for Kids campaign starts in October

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

CONTACT Community Services has announced the launch of its 22nd annual Coats for Kids Campaign.

This is a local initiative aimed at ensuring that every child in South Simcoe can stay warm during the winter months.

Since its inception, Coats for Kids has been instrumental in providing free coats, snow pants, boots, hats, and mittens to chil-

dren, teens, and families in need. This year, CONTACT is renewing its commitment to the community and encourages local residents to donate gently used or new winter wear.

Donations of winter outerwear can be dropped off at The Clothes Line store located at 55 Victoria Street West in Alliston.

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

Distribution of donated items will begin on Monday, Oct. 19, and continue through the month.

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

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

“We are incredibly grateful for the ongoing support from our community and encourage everyone to help us make this year’s campaign our most successful one yet.”

Whether you are clearing out your closets or seeking to contribute to a worthy cause, your donation can make a difference.

CONTACT also welcomes financial donations to help purchase new winter gear for children in urgent need.

Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority prepares for transition to regional authority

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

The Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority (NVCA) Board of Directors has unanimously approved its 2027 Business Plan and Budget.

This is a transitional year for the NVCA as the organization joins five other conservation authorities to form the Lake Huron Region Conservation Authority.

During 2025, the Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks made the decision to amalgamate some conservation authorities and create new boundaries. It established the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency to provide centralized leadership.

There was some concern among existing conservation authorities that the proposed new boundaries were too large and covered areas of differing environmental needs, as well as concern about the potential for service disruption during transition and consolidation.

As a result, adjustments were made to the boundaries to accommodate areas with distinct geographies and development, better balance differing priorities across rural, urban, and northern areas, and improve alignment with

watersheds and source protection regions.

The newly created Lake Huron Regional Conservation Authority will combine the current Authorities of Nottawasaga Valley, Ausable Bayfield, Grey Sauble, Lake Simcoe Region, Maitland Valley, and Saugeen Valley.

“NVCA was created more than 65 years ago to protect, restore, and connect people to the natural environment across the Nottawasaga Watershed,” said Jonathan Scott, NVCA chair.

“During the transition, rivers continue to run, communities will continue to grow, and people will continue to depend on healthy soil and clean water. Our focus through the transition remains straightforward — maintain service, preserve local knowledge and ensure that protecting the Nottawasaga Watershed continues without interruption.”

To support this effort and transition, the NVCA’s 2027 Business Plan and Budget highlights three priorities: service excellence through the transition, municipal and watershed leadership, and regional integration readiness.

“In 2026, we have used the resources entrusted to us by our municipalities and



AMALGAMATION – The Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority (NVCA) is preparing to transition to a larger organization this year as the province has amalgamated conservation authorities. The NVCA will join with five other conservation authorities to create the Lake Huron Regional Conservation Authority. The dam at the Tottenham Conservation Area is one of the places the NVCA monitors.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

communities to find efficiencies and produce real value for the watershed,” said Jennifer Vincent, NVCA CAO.

“This work provides a solid foundation for the year ahead, and positions NVCA to improve in service delivery, strengthen stewardship initiatives and advance organizational improvement. These efforts will help NVCA

meet mandated responsibilities while preparing for future change.”

NVCA’s accomplishments in 2026 include completing restoration projects, welcoming thousands of residents to educational and recreational programs, and continuing to provide timely planning and permitting services across the watershed.

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Mayor and deputy mayor candidates share their positions on local issues

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

There was more of a question-and-answer format than a traditional debate at the New Tecumseth Mayoral and Deputy Mayor Debate at the Gibson Centre in Alliston on Monday, Oct. 5.

Three of the five invited candidates attended the event, giving residents an opportunity to hear their positions on a range of local issues.

All three candidates running for Mayor of New Tecumseth were invited to the event. Candidates Stephanie MacLellan and Jaison Waldman attended. Mayor Richard Norcross declined to attend.

Deputy Mayor candidate Marc Biss was on his own, as the other candidate, Steven Dollmaier, declined to attend.

The event was hosted at the Gibson Centre and organized by local resident Felix Kaechele, with New Tecumseth Times editor Sam Odrowski acting as moderator.

A good-sized crowd attended, with many people standing at the back of the hall.

The format included a series of questions posed to candidates, followed by questions that were submitted by audience members.

Questions centred on three main issues that are currently on the town agenda and of concern to local residents.

Candidates were asked to explain how they plan to balance provincial growth requirements in the town while maintaining the character of the town local residents currently appreciate.

Biss came prepared with a lot of numbers, and explained the massive cost required to create the infrastructure needed to support the development of thousands of new homes. He said the cost is not feasible for the town, and the provincial and federal



governments to step in and pay for the infrastructure costs.

Waldman said he is in favour of controlled growth and the opportunities it will provide for local businesses.

MacLellan said she is not in favour of 'rubber stamping' what the province wants, and emphasized the importance of a master service plan that would detail the requirements of developing on such a huge scale.

The candidates were asked for their opinion on the current plan of growth between the three communities of Alliston, Beeton, and Tottenham.

Waldman said he is in favour of growth being spread out between the three communities, as growth focused on Alliston alone would create an area of high density. He also said all three communities should benefit from the opportunities growth can provide.

MacLellan said Alliston has always been identified as the area for most growth, and that it makes the most sense based on the original plan as well as the cost of infrastructure.

She also pointed out that the plan for development in Beeton does not include any commercial or industrial property.

Biss said that town council never had a chance to have a working session on the development plan. Skipping this step, he said, in addition to the fact that strong mayor powers were put into effect, did not give council the proper chance to evaluate proposed development.



DEBATING THE ISSUES – New Tecumseth mayoral candidates Stephanie MacLellan, Jaison Waldman, centre, and Marc Biss speak to local citizens during a pre-election event held at the Gibson Centre in Alliston on Monday, Oct. 5.

BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

A question about strong mayor powers asked if candidates were in favour of their use, and when they should be used.

Biss stated his firm opposition to strong mayor powers. He said that strong mayor powers go against the democratic process, calling it an "abomination."

Waldman, who's from Zimbabwe, said he is not in favour of strong powers. He said he grew up in a political climate where strong powers and dictatorships were used to push a personal agenda.

MacLellan said she is opposed to strong mayor powers, and that leaders should lead by consensus. She referred to strong mayor powers as an "affront to democracy." She said if elected, she would never use them.

You can view the entire event on YouTube by searching, "New Tecumseth Mayor / Deputy Mayor Debate – 2026 Municipal Election."

To learn more about the mayoral candidates and their platforms, read the Oct. 1 edition of *The New Tecumseth Times*.

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Editorial, Letters & Opinion

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

~ Stanislaw Jerzy Lec

An eye for an eye

"What in the hell happened?"

"An execution. A successful one."

"How can you call that, a success?"

"Eduard Delacroix is dead."

You may recognize that scene from the Tom Hanks movie *The Green Mile*, where the execution of a prisoner doesn't go as planned.

However, as the answer indicates, it may not have been pretty, but the goal of killing the prisoner was successful.

"An eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth."

Some people take that phrase literally, but obviously the literal translation is misleading. The phrase means the punishment should fit the crime.

While some forms of prison were used in ancient times, the modern concept of punishing criminals by segregating them from society to do penance is relatively new.

Before the 19th century, Western countries punished offenders in a variety of ways, including beating, whipping, forms of public humiliation, and in some cases, swinging at the end of a rope in the public square.

By the end of the 18th century in England and Wales, there were 220 offences punishable by hanging, including some crimes which, by today's standards, are very minor.

It must have been a very nervous time

for a lot of people.

Every modern Western European country has abolished capital punishment.

Canada had its last hanging in 1962 and abolished capital punishment in 1976.

In the Americas, the U.S. is the only country to have carried out an execution since 2008.

The story is very different in Asia and the Middle East, where a bullet to the back of the head or being hanged in public is very common.

Some people are against executing people, while others see it as a form of punishment and are all for it.

I've done a lot of research on people who are on death row in various U.S. states, with a focus on Texas, because that's where they really like to fulfill the 'eye for an eye' rule.

There are currently 162 inmates on death row in Texas, according to the Texas Department of Criminal Justice. Since 1976, Texas has executed 602 people.

All of the people awaiting execution in Texas are murderers, with many of them having killed several people. They deserve a severe punishment for their crimes.

I think the real question here is why is there so much violent crime in that state?

With a population of around 31 million, it is inhabited by around ten million fewer

people than all of Canada.

Yet, over the past 30 years, I can only think of three or four people in Canada who have committed crimes that might have deserved the death penalty if it were still a punishment in this country.

In the U.S., the ridiculous appeals process that takes years to drag through the courts has created a situation where the death penalty is no longer a real punishment, or a just one.

There are prisoners being put to death decades after they have committed their crime.

This past summer, Florida executed an 80-year-old man for a murder he committed in 1986, and there is a long list of prisoners who are scheduled to die after being in prison for as long as 50 years.

In any other modern Western country, those decades mean a person has already served a life sentence for their crime and would be due to be released.

I have followed the saga of Christa Pike for several years. She was only 18 years old when she was convicted of murdering a 19-year-old classmate in Tennessee in 1995.

Over the years, I expected to hear her sentence commuted to life in prison. However, the state of Tennessee insisted the death sentence be carried out.

She is now 50 years old and has been

on death row for 32 years.

Yes, her crime was horrific, and yes, she deserved to be punished.

However, where is the justice in killing her after spending more than three decades in prison and being denied the basic freedoms of life?

Shouldn't 32 years in prison have been the punishment in itself? At mid-life, you are no longer the person you were at 18 years old.

As of this writing, Christa Pike is in a hospital on a ventilator with doctors trying to save her life because the execution was botched, and instead of killing her, they maimed her.

One doctor speculated that if she survives, she will likely have brain damage due to oxygen deprivation.

If she survives, will they try to carry out the sentence again, or will someone step in and stop this madness?

The justice system in states that use the death penalty must be updated and improved. Toying with people's lives over decades is a misuse of the law.

At the very least, they should find people for the justice system who can make a decision, and not take five years to make that decision.

BRIAN LOCKHART
FROM THE SECOND ROW



Autumn rhythms

Whether or not you welcome the end of summer, I think we can all agree that there is something special about the early days of autumn.

The symphony of colours offered by our deciduous trees at this time of year never fails to stop me in my tracks to take a moment to appreciate its majestic beauty. It's an always-welcome reminder to take some time and take in the world around you when we're all-too-often focused on either getting to our destinations or the devices in the palms of our hands.

The crispness of the air is, from my perspective, a welcome relief from the heat and humidity, which is so often a part of our summer experience – if only it would stay at this level just a little bit longer before Mother Nature starts letting the snow fly.

An additional selling point of this crisp early-autumn air is the slightly sweet and invariably earthy scent that often comes with it. This is, of course, the fragrance of decay as the aforementioned symphony tumbles to the ground with vary-

ing degrees of grace. It is yet another welcome reminder that the natural cycles and rhythms of our planet continue apace, despite what we throw at it collectively as a people.

This past Wednesday, the sweetness of the air was punctuated by the always evocative smell of wood smoke and sage as so many of us came together in different ways to mark National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, also known as Orange Shirt Day. Morning flag-raising at public buildings and sunset gatherings and ceremonies in the evening have become September 30's own rhythm since Orange Shirt Day was first established in 2013, following the advocacy of Phyllis Webstad, whose orange shirt was taken from her on her very first day in a Residential School, becoming a potent symbol of the atrocities that took place within the system. It has become an even greater part of our civic life since Orange Shirt Day became a statutory holiday for Federal workers in 2021 as National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

Each year, the observance begins with messages from leaders at all levels of government, with those from our Federal and Provincial governments often proving particularly telling.

"Today, we observe the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, to honour the Survivors of the residential school system and remember the children who never returned home," said Premier Doug Ford and Minister of Indigenous Affairs and First Nations Economic Reconciliation in a joint statement. "While some might think of residential schools as a distant history, Canada's last Indian Residential School only closed 30 years ago...."

"Our government continues to support community-led healing and commemoration through programs like the Indian Residential School Community Engagement Fund. By listening to and learning from Survivors, we can build a path forward rooted in mutual respect, awareness, and action... On this year's National Day for Truth & Reconciliation, let us take time to learn, reflect and work together to

build a better future for everyone."

While the Province promised continued efforts, the Federal government addressed the 94 Calls to Action that came out of Canada's Truth & Reconciliation Commission and underscored the role of each Call to Action as forming a roadmap for the future.

"For more than a century, over 150,000 First Nations, Inuit, and Métis children were separated from their parents, families, and communities and sent to residential schools," said Prime Minister Mark Carney in his statement. "The system was built on assimilation policies designed to sever children from their languages, cultures, identities, and ways of life. The federal government established and sustained this system, and Canada bears responsibility for the profound and enduring harm it caused."

Continued on Page 23

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PUBLISHER: Simcoe-York Printing & Publishing Ltd.

GENERAL MANAGER: Zach Shoub

EDITOR: Sam Odrowski sam@citizen.on.ca

REPORTER: Brian Lockhart

PRODUCTION: Lisa Clendening

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DISTRIBUTION: Sheila Ogram sheila@lpcmedia.ca

Advertising & Administration Head Office

30 Martha St., Suite 205, Bolton L7E 5V1
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OUR WORLD TODAY



That is to say, two people, two groups, or even two

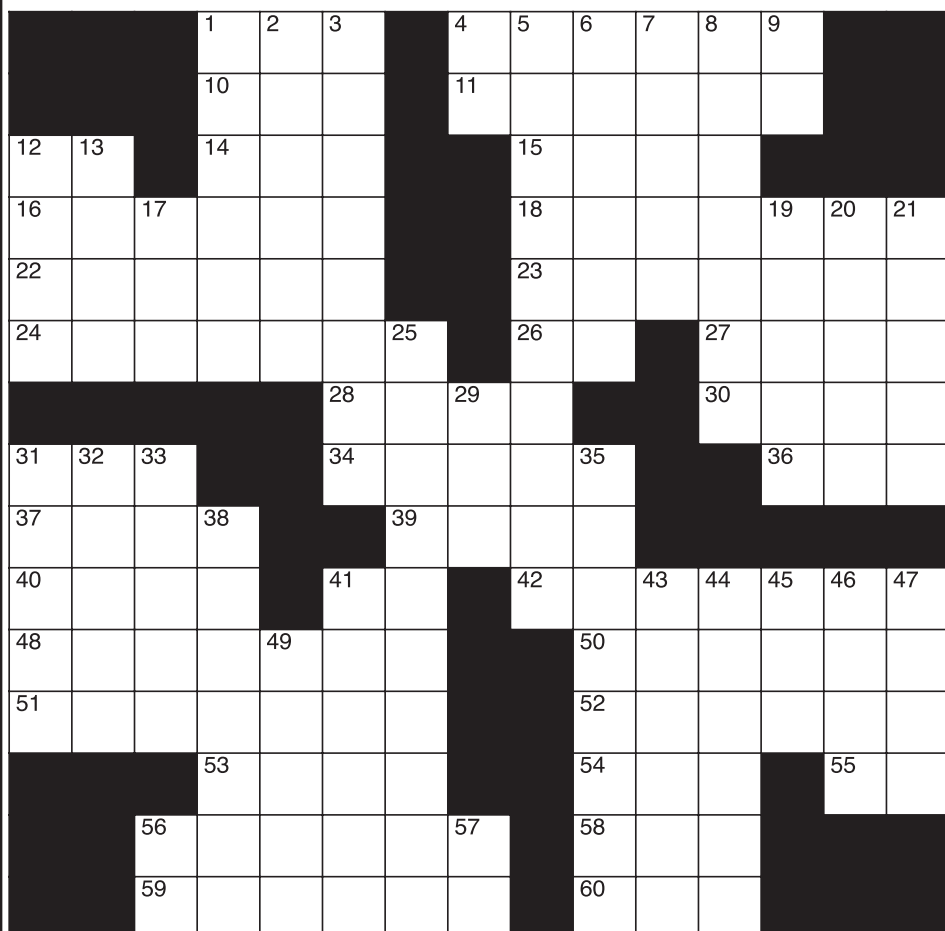
Most North Korean soldiers obey the order and kill

Well done, everybody!...and then Ukraine's President Wolodymyr Zelensky chose the UN General Assembly

It helps to know where you come from, so you can figure out how not to stay there.



Puzzle No. 26A210 • Solution in Classifieds



1. Small Eurasian deer
4. Province in Northern Ireland
10. A major division of geological time
11. Broadway actor
- Lane
12. Canadian province (abbr.)
14. Human gene
15. Two
16. A notable one was “blue”
18. Utter repeatedly
22. Ring-shaped objects
23. Sullies
24. Occurs
26. Commercial
27. Near
28. Tools you may need
30. A pledge
31. They start the

34. Silk garments
36. Soviet Socialist Republic
37. Longtime mayor of Rio
39. Hot meal
40. A type of gin
41. Atomic #84
42. \$10 bill
48. About ground
50. Medicine man
51. Seedless raisin
52. National capital Albania
53. Appendage
54. OJ trial judge
55. European government entity (abbr.)
56. Bike parts
58. Friend to “Barbi
59. Stretched to see or hear

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Make up for
- 2. Baltimore ballplayer
- 3. Wages
- 4. International organization of countries
- 5. Engravers of gems
- 6. Declared as fact
- 7. One who steals
- 8. Jewelry
- 9. Hospital worker
- 12. Nonsense (slang)
- 13. Town in Galilee
- 17. Value
- 19. Alternative identity
- 20. Sheep in their second year
- 21. Town in Surrey, England
- 25. Appropriate to a time of year
- 29. Creative work

1. Make up for	municipality in
2. Baltimore ballplayer	Germany
3. Wages	33. Rider of Rohan
4. International organization of countries	35. Ancient symbol co- opted by Nazis
5. Engravers of gems	38. Pioneer
6. Declared as fact	41. Scribe
7. One who steals	43. Painted a bright color
8. Jewelry	44. Member of British nobility
9. Hospital worker	45. "Pulp Fiction" actress Thurman
12. Nonsense (slang)	46. Helps people walk
13. Town in Galilee	47. Crest of a hill
17. Value	49. People of southeastern Alaska
19. Alternative identity	56. One's own device
20. Sheep in their second year	57. The Mount Rushmore State
21. Town in Surrey, England	
25. Appropriate to a time of year	
29. Creative work	

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

COMMUNITY VOICE

CONTACT's Rodger's Way Home: The magic of a key to homeless seniors

There is a moment we are fortunate enough to witness at CONTACT's Rodger's Way Home in Collingwood that never becomes ordinary. It is the moment when a senior who has experienced homelessness is handed the key to a home of their own.

For many of the people who come through our doors, that key represents far more than an apartment. It represents safety, privacy and dignity. It means having a place for their belongings, a door they can lock at night and the security of knowing where they will wake up tomorrow.

The seniors from across Simcoe County who come to Rodger's Way Home have stories that could belong to almost any of us.

For some, homelessness began with the loss of a partner.

Two people had built a life together, shared expenses, managed a household and supported one another for years. Then one passed away. Along with overwhelming grief came the loss of a portion of the household income.

Bills that had once been manageable became impossible on one income. Health declined. Responsibilities became harder to manage. Slowly, a life that had been stable began to unravel.

For another person, home had been the same rented house or apartment for 20 or more years. It was where birthdays were celebrated, grandchildren visited, and neighbours became friends. Then the property was sold.

Suddenly, a senior who had paid rent faithfully for decades was looking for a new home in a rental market completely different from the one they remembered. Their fixed in-

come had not kept pace with current rents. They couldn't find a comparable apartment they could afford.

They did not lose their housing because they did something wrong. The world around them changed.

For others, the turning point is illness.

Rodger's Way Home works with seniors who are undergoing cancer treatment and others who have recently completed radiation or other intensive therapies. Some are managing chronic illness, pain, reduced mobility and multiple medical appointments while also experiencing homelessness. Imagine finishing cancer treatment and not having a home to recover in.

For the seniors at Rodger's Way Home, these are not hypothetical situations. They are real life. Homelessness in later life does not always look the way people expect it to.

It can be someone who worked their entire life. Someone who raised a family. Someone who paid rent on time for decades. Someone who lost the person they thought they would grow old beside. Someone whose landlord sold the home they had rented for most of their adult life. Someone who became sick. Someone whose retirement income simply could not stretch far enough when everything around them became more expensive.

None of them imagined they would become homeless as a senior.

Through the County of Simcoe's support, CONTACT's Rodger's Way Home operates a



CONTACT
Community Services

13-bedroom rapid rehousing program, aimed at providing seniors with the stability and support they desperately need.

While navigating the path to permanent housing, residents receive intensive case management, helping them tackle the hurdles that can accompany their individual situations. From replacing lost identification to re-connecting with healthcare providers, every step plays a crucial role in their rehabilitation process.

The needs of each individual are unique. It may be sorting out taxes, applying for benefits, stabilizing income, addressing debt, completing housing applications or learning how to navigate systems that have changed dramatically since the last time that person needed them.

For someone undergoing cancer treatment, the most important thing we can provide that day is simply the knowledge that after the appointment, there is a safe place to come back and rest.

Slowly, things begin to change. Someone who arrived overwhelmed begins talking about the future. Someone who thought they would never have a home again begins looking at apartments. Someone who had stopped opening mail because it felt too overwhelming begins dealing with one piece at a time.

Someone begins to believe that starting over is still possible, even at 60, 70 or 80 years old.

And eventually, we get to say the words we have all been working toward:

"YOU GOT AN APARTMENT."

Those words are wonderful. But they are not quite the end of the story.

After months or years of homelessness, receiving a set of keys can mean opening the door to an empty apartment. There may be no bed. No bedding. No dishes or cookware. No towels. No comfortable chair. No groceries in the refrigerator.

For someone living on a fixed income, purchasing everything required to set up a household all at once may simply be impossible.

That is why our goal at Rodger's Way Home is not simply to help someone become housed. We want to help them go home.

Community support allows us to help fill those gaps.

It means that when a senior finally receives the keys they have worked so hard for, we can help make sure they are not opening the door to another empty space.

Together we can help support the purchase of bedding, cookware, dishes, small appliances, basic furnishings, household necessities and food that allow someone to begin again.

There is something incredibly powerful about watching that happen.

Someone who thought homelessness would be the final chapter of their story gets to turn a key, close their own front door and begin another one.

Continued on Page 10

 **Stephanie**
MACLELLAN
FOR MAYOR OF NEW TECUMSETH



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**October 21st 10-8
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Beeton Memorial Arena
Alliston Memorial Arena
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MacKinnon Family Restaurants makes \$150,000 pledge to hospital foundation

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

The Stevenson Memorial Hospital Foundation has announced a \$150,000 pledge from MacKinnon Family Restaurants in support of the Foundation's Because of You Campaign.

For the MacKinnon family, supporting Stevenson Memorial Hospital is a long-standing commitment. Through their McDonald's restaurants in Alliston and Angus, the family has supported the hospital and foundation through a variety of community initiatives over several years, including McHappy Day and Cookies for Healthcare.

Most recently, their 2026 McHappy Day efforts raised more than \$11,000 for the hospital.

As the next generation of the MacKinnon family takes on ownership of the restaurants, Thomas MacKinnon is continuing that commitment with a \$150,000 pledge to the hospital's redevelopment campaign.

"This is an exciting time for Stevenson and our community," said Thomas MacKinnon, owner and operator of the Alliston and Angus McDonald's restaurants and Leadership chair for the Because of You Campaign.

"Our family has always believed in giving back to the communities we're part of, and Stevenson has been there for so many local

families. Being able to support the new hospital and name a room in memory of my late sister, Carly Francis MacKinnon, makes this especially meaningful for our family."

The MacKinnon family's support of Stevenson Memorial Hospital also continues through initiatives that bring the community together.

From Oct. 16 to 18, the Alliston and Angus McDonald's restaurants will once again take part in Cookies of Healthcare, with proceeds from cookie sales supporting the Stevenson Memorial Hospital Foundation.

"Thomas and the entire MacKinnon family have demonstrated their commitment to Stevenson and our community time and time again," said Dr. Ted Vandevis, president & CEO of the Stevenson Memorial Hospital Foundation. "This pledge is another meaningful example of their belief in the importance of local health care and their desire to help build a stronger future for South Simcoe. We are incredibly grateful for their continued leadership and generosity."

The Because of You campaign is raising \$80 million through community support to help build the future of Stevenson Memorial Hospital. The redevelopment will more than double the size of the existing hospital and will include expanded emergency care,



BIG SMILES – MacKinnon Family Restaurants has made a \$150,000 pledge in support of Stevenson Memorial Hospital's Because of You Campaign. Alliston and Angus McDonald's owner, Thomas MacKinnon, is joined by Dr. Ted Vandevis, president and CEO of the Stevenson Memorial Hospital Foundation, and Melody Craggs, director of campaign & philanthropy, during the announcement on Monday, Sept. 28.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

expanded obstetrics, and new diagnostic imaging equipment, including Stevenson's first MRI suite.

The Stevenson Memorial Hospital Founda-

tion thanks the MacKinnon family for their continued commitment to local health care and for helping build a hospital that will serve South Simcoe for generations to come.



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Arts & Local Events

Local author releases new children's book, 'My Neighbourhood'

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

While some authors struggle with writing the number of words it takes to create a novel, Alliston author Delano Brown found himself in a challenge of an opposite nature – how to reduce a lot of words to a much smaller number while keeping the book's theme.

Delano recently released his children's book titled, *My Neighbourhood* during a book launch held at Riverdale Park in Alliston on Saturday, Sept. 6.

Delano was already working on the book and had written around 40,000 words when a member of a book group took a look at it and suggested the theme would make a great book for younger people.

"It started out as a book for middle grade kids – kids in Grade 5 and 6," Delano explained. "I went to a critiquing group called The Lunch Table, and someone suggested it could be a picture book."

Delano went with the idea and started working on reducing the number of words while keeping the theme.

"It went from around 40,000 words to just under 1,000," Delano said. "I had to work on it and focused on certain words and phrases."

The book is based on Delano's own experience as a self-described "latchkey kid." The phrase latchkey kid became popular in the 70s when a lot more mothers were going to work

during the day, and kids came home to an empty house and let themselves in with their own key.

The book has a story about a boy who takes his younger brother on a walk through the neighborhood and shows him what goes on, the activities that are happening, and the fun they can have.

"Growing up, my older sister was in charge and took care of me and my younger brother," Delano explained about the origin of the story. "The book is a story of two brothers, and the older brother takes the younger brother for a walk through the neighborhood and introduces him to the community. It's all about community and how we all live together and need to get along with each other."

The book features the story with illustrations of the two boys visiting people and places in their neighborhood.

The publisher is an American company, so the cover illustration has a visual of the Seattle Space Needle in the distance. Delano insisted it contains Canadian content, so on the inside, a similar illustration has the very recognizable Toronto CN Tower in the background.

The book is published by Penguin Random House Studio.

It is illustrated by Brianna Mukodiri Uchendu.

My Neighborhood is available on Amazon, Indigo, and in indie bookstores.



PAGE TURNER – Alliston author Delano Brown recently held the launch of his new children's book, *My Neighbourhood*, with a reception at Riverdale Park in Alliston on Saturday, Sept. 26. To create the picture book, Delano had to take a 40,000-word manuscript and rewrite it to under 1,000 words, while keeping the same theme. The book tells the story of a boy who takes his younger brother on a walk through their neighbourhood. **BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO**

Kevin Lord Foundation makes donation to Stevenson Memorial Hospital Foundation

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

It was a good day for hitting the links when 152 golfers turned out for the annual Kevin Lord Memorial Foundation Golf Tournament on Saturday, May 30, at Bear Creek Golf & Country Club in Utopia.

The annual event raises funds and supports several local charities.

Foundation president Al Lord visited

Stevenson Memorial Hospital on Wednesday, Sept. 30, and presented the hospital with a cheque for \$2,000.

This is money we raised at our golf tournament," Lord explained. "We have supported Stevenson Memorial Hospital over the past few years. We had 152 golfers out for the event, and they all had a fun time. It was another sell-out year. The weather was terrific this year, it was a beautiful day. This

year it was an exciting year for us because we had a hole-in-one contest, but we didn't have a winner. The new hospital is coming along and the beauty of our donation to the hospital is that is also matched by the Morningview Foundation. It was matched dollar for dollar, so now the donation is \$4,000.

The Morningview Foundation has been matching donations to the hospital dollar for dollar this year, so every donation is doubled.

"We're grateful to Al and everyone who has supported the Kevin Lord Golf Tourna-

ment over the years," said Dr. Ted Vandvis, CEO of Stevenson Memorial Hospital Foundation. "Turning the memory of Kevin into an opportunity to give back to our community is a meaningful way to honour his life, and we're incredibly thankful for this generous donation and the difference it will make for Stevenson Memorial Hospital."

The Kevin Lord Foundation has raised thousands of dollars for local charities over the years.

The foundation also provides a scholarship for a local ball hockey player every year.



SWINGING SUCCESS – The Kevin Lord Memorial Foundation made a donation of \$2,000 to the Stevenson Memorial Hospital Foundation from funds raised at its annual golf tournament held at Bear Creek Golf & Country Club on Saturday, May 30. Foundation president Al Lord makes the presentation to Lisa Copper, SMHF community and events officer and Micaela Tesi, SMHF manager of marketing and communications, on Wednesday, Sept. 30. **BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO**

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MPP - Simcoe-Grey

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County of Simcoe recognizes age-friendly champions

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

As communities across Canada recognized National Seniors Day, the County of Simcoe is shining a spotlight on the individuals, businesses, and organizations that help make Simcoe County a more inclusive, accessible, and supportive place for older adults.

The county has honoured them through its annual Age-Friendly Recognition Awards.

Through the county's Age-Friendly Community Program, nominations were accepted over the summer and reviewed by the Age-Friendly Committee. This year's honourees represent communities from across the region, including New Tecumseth, Collingwood, Midland, Wasaga Beach, Penetanguishene, Clearview, Barrie and Orillia.

National Seniors Day is observed on Oct. 1. This is an opportunity to recognize and celebrate the contributions that older adults make to our families, workplaces, and communities.

The County's Age-Friendly Recognition

Awards reflect his spirit by highlighting residents and organizations that are helping create a region where people can age with dignity, connection, and purpose.

The Age-Friendly Recognition Awards ceremony was held on Tuesday, Oct. 6, at the County of Simcoe Administration Centre in Midhurst.

The County of Simcoe is committed to creating inclusive, supportive communities where older adults can age well and remain active, connected, and engaged. Guided by the World Health Organization's Age-Friendly Communities framework since 2015, the county recently launched its refreshed Positive Aging Strategy 2025-2030 and, in 2025, was officially designated a member of the WHO Global Network for Age-Friendly Cities and Communities.

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

CONTACT's Rodger's Way Home: The magic of a key to homeless seniors

Continued from Page 6

That is what Rodger's Way Home is about.

We cannot take away the circumstances that brought someone here, but we can make sure those losses do not have to define what happens next. We can help someone rebuild. We can help restore stability. We can help return a sense of dignity and independence that homelessness can so quickly take away.

Most importantly, we can remind someone that becoming homeless later in life

does not mean their story is over.

Sometimes starting again begins with something as simple as a key.

And sometimes, with the support of a community, four empty walls can become home.

Everyone deserves more than a place to stay. Everyone deserves a place to call home.

This week's Community Voice column was written by Kim Stubbington, intensive case manager for CONTACT's Rodger's Way Home.



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NEW TECUMSETH VOTES

2026 MUNICIPAL ELECTION CANDIDATE PROFILES



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

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

Chris Rapin — Running for councillor Ward 1

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

As a council, we will need to determine our priorities together in a cohesive fashion. Split votes down the middle haven't benefited our residents in the least.

Now, with a council of nine being elected, that shouldn't be happening. Hopefully, during the campaigning, councillors have determined the focus of their ward and are ready to represent it moving forward.

Big issues on the horizon are growth, maintenance of existing infrastructure, the health/wealth of our community, and the establishment of new recreation opportunities.

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

As a council, we will hopefully come up with a sound policy that we can refer back to when making these decisions.

If we decide that growth is to be vertical and more dense, that would be wise. I'd love to see that all developments build paths that connect with other paths, and that sidewalks are deemed a necessity on both sides of the street when there is



a school.

I would love to see our development reflect the wages available in our community. We need way more people living and working within New Tecumseth. Employment opportunities should be explored to the fullest.

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

My goal is to do what's best for New Tecumseth. I'm hoping that my actions throughout my time here (since 1999) have shown that.

Whether as a teacher, coach, community organizer or councillor, residents should be able to see my passion and concern for our community.

I also hope to show that my leadership isn't complete, that I continually learn new things as well as take on new challenges.

I recognize that as a leader, you're only as good as those around you. So I'll be sure to include them in our goals as a council.

Open discussions and debates are extremely important when creating a cohesive team. It is my hope to be part of a hardworking, respectful team that accomplishes a lot in the upcoming term.

efficiencies, grants, incentives and partnerships that can reduce the financial burden on existing taxpayers.

We cannot control every provincial decision, but we can control how prepared we are, how strongly we advocate and the standards we expect.

My goal would be to ensure that the growth New Tecumseth is required to accommodate results in complete, well-planned communities that enhance — not diminish — the places we already call home.

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

I offer experience, a genuine connection to this community and a willingness to do the work.

I was born and raised in New Tecumseth, as were my three boys. I'm a mother, a community volunteer and a proud parent of an RCMP officer. My mother was a local business owner, and my father was part of a group that helped fundraise for a new community centre in Tottenham decades ago.

I understand what it means to grow up in a small community where people know one another, look out for their neighbours and take pride in where they live. I have seen our community change significantly over the years, and I understand both the opportunities and challenges that growth brings.

I also spent more than 20 years at this newspaper, first as a reporter and then as an editor. That experience gave me a unique perspective on our community and its issues from the other side of the desk. I understand the importance of asking tough questions, listening to different perspectives and holding decision-makers accountable.

I've been fortunate to be recognized as an award-winning community volunteer, and during my first term on Council, I've brought that same commitment to serving our community, sitting on four local boards in addition to my work with council.

I care deeply about New Tecumseth, and I believe I have more work to do. I would appreciate your vote this fall as Councillor for Ward 2, Alliston.

Jason Shand — Running for councillor Ward 2

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

As New Tecumseth continues to grow, the council's job will be to ensure the infrastructure and services match that growth.

Residents should feel growth is being managed responsibly. This requires listening to residents, protecting tax dollars, and protecting the qualities that make New Tecumseth a great place to call home.

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

Growth needs to be planned responsibly. Residents have concerns regarding OPA 5 (Growth Plan Expansion) and whether infrastructure and services can keep up while keeping property taxes in check.

Council must advocate for its residents



while working with developers and provincial partners to ensure the growth strengthens our communities.

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

I have been a resident of New Tecumseth for 30 years. My wife and I have raised our 3 beautiful daughters here, and we care deeply about our community.

Through my professional experience in health and safety, I have developed strong skills in problem-solving, risk management, and making practical, evidence-based decisions.

I will bring that same common-sense approach to the council chambers. I will listen to residents and work to ensure New Tecumseth remains a safe, affordable, and fantastic place to live.

Wendy Gabrek — Running for councillor Ward 2

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

I believe there are actually two pressing issues: managing growth responsibly while protecting the quality of life in New Tecumseth, and seeing our current infrastructure projects through to completion.

New Tecumseth is a unique place. We are comprised of three settlement areas and the surrounding rural lands, presenting unique challenges when it comes to infrastructure and hard services. It also means we have four distinct "personalities" that need to be protected.

As our community continues to grow, it will be the council's purview to balance provincial requirements with local perspective. We need to ensure roads, schools, parks, recreation facilities, emergency services and other community services keep pace with housing density, while protecting our green spaces and making thoughtful planning decisions that reflect why families choose to call New Tecumseth home.

To me, that means maintaining the balance between the best of our rural amenities and that small-town feel.

As a hopeful member of the next council, I know we'll need to stand up for our community, work constructively with the province



and developers, and make smart decisions about where and how growth occurs.

We also need to see the projects already underway through to thoughtful conclusion, with a clear understanding of how those decisions were made and what the logical next steps should be.

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

The reality is that the province has increasingly taken control over how and where municipalities must accommodate growth. That means council has less ability to determine whether growth happens, and more responsibility for making sure it happens well.

I believe we need to be realistic about what is within our control and then advocate relentlessly for our community on everything that is. If we are going to accommodate significant growth, we should be looking to squeeze every possible benefit out of that growth for New Tecumseth.

That means negotiating for the best possible infrastructure, parks and open spaces, protecting green space and incorporating our local heritage and community character into new development. It also means looking for

Laurie Mortimer — Running for councillor Ward 3

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

I believe the most pressing concern will be managing the financial pressures facing our town while continuing to provide the services residents rely on.

Families, seniors and businesses are already dealing with higher costs, and the town is facing many of those same pressures. At the same time, we have significant decisions ahead regarding infrastructure, recreation,



roads, water and wastewater, and the demands that will come with future growth.

The next council will need to establish clear priorities and distinguish between what we need, what we would like, and what we can reasonably afford right now.

I believe residents expect their tax dollars to be treated with the same care they give their own household budgets.

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New helipad officially opens at Stevenson Memorial Hospital

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

Stevenson Memorial Hospital held a special ribbon-cutting ceremony on Thursday, Oct. 1, to officially open its brand new helipad.

The structure had already been used several times to land and transport critically ill patients to hospitals in Toronto.

The new helipad marks the first completed project of the hospital redevelopment.

Previously, the ORNGE helicopters used a landing pad at the rear of the hospital, but it was not without considerable effort.

The old helipad was a challenging place for helicopters to land, created a lot of dust and debris from the helicopter rotors, and even had complaints from nearby homeowners who said the whirling blades blew leaves into their pool.

On top of that, the old helipad needed clearing after a snowfall.

This new helipad is big and bold, designed specifically for helicopter landings. The pad is also heated so snow will melt and run off during the winter months.

"This is an important milestone for our hospital and our community," said Deepak Sharma, Stevenson Memorial Hospital president and CEO.

"This is an exciting day for our staff, physicians, and our partners at ORNGE, to provide critical air ambulance services across Ontario and most importantly for our patients and families. The new helipad represents much more than a piece of infrastructure – it's an investment. It's an investment in patient safety, for more reliable access to specialized



care and our ability to respond. For patients requiring emergency transportation, every second counts. The helipad ensures those critical transfers can happen safely and effectively, and as soon as possible."

Sharma thanked the government partners who have helped make this project possible.

"One of the helipad's key features is the heated landing surface," said Michelle MacInnis, SMH vice president of corporate services and chief financial officer.

"During the winter, snow and ice will no longer need to be manually removed. That will improve liability and safety for flight crews, physicians, patients, and staff."

"The elevated design gives ORNGE pilots greater flexibility, when wind patterns change, they will be able to change the flight path and their approach. Relocating the helipad from the hospital's upper parking lot allows for additional parking," MacInnis added.

Two large cranes are now on site at the hospital as construction on the new facility is well underway.

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NEW TECUMSETH VOTES

2026 MUNICIPAL ELECTION CANDIDATE PROFILES

Continued from Page 11

That doesn't mean we stop investing in our community. It means making thoughtful decisions, planning for the long term and ensuring that today's decisions don't create an unreasonable financial burden for tomorrow's residents.

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

Growth is coming to New Tecumseth, but I believe council needs to approach it thoughtfully and with some caution. A great deal has changed economically over the past year and a half, affecting housing, affordability and the pace of development. At the same time, we know how quickly those conditions can change again. Long-term growth decisions need to recognize that reality and be regularly reassessed rather than assuming today's conditions will continue indefinitely. I believe growth should be reasonably distributed among Alliston, Beeton and Tottenham, taking into consideration infrastructure capacity, good planning and what each community can realistically accommodate.

Most importantly, growth needs to be supported by the roads, water and wastewater capacity, recreation, parks and services residents need. Infrastructure shouldn't continually be playing catch-up.

Tony Phekoo — Running for councillor Ward 3

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

I believe the new council must take control of the operating budget and not overextend itself in unnecessary spending. I believe fiscal responsibility and managing taxpayers' dollars will be the most concerning issue.

The new council will need to be laser-focused on balancing operational spending against capital expenditures.

New spending commitments will require an expanded tax base. Of major concern is the multi-million-dollar capital projects slated for the coming years that will most certainly drive up our municipal property taxes and utility bills.

Of concern is the water treatment expansion plant in Collingwood and its impact on driving increases in local water rates. On top of that, our wastewater utility rates are rising steadily to fund major sewer lines and plant upgrades.

Second, there are massive commitments to our recreation and community centres. Under the Recreation, Culture and Library Action Plan (RCLAP), our existing facilities face over \$42 million in needed repairs.

In Beeton, the Beeton Community Memorial Arena requires a full, costly replacement following past structural issues. And finally, we have the relocation of Banting Memorial High School. The estimated \$41 million high school will require careful, deliberate financial scrutiny every step of the way.

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

Provincial mandates will drastically impact New Tecumseth and how the new council

We may not control the growth targets set by the province, but council does have a responsibility to advocate for our residents, listen to their concerns and make careful decisions about how and where that growth happens.

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

New Tecumseth isn't simply where I live; it has been part of my life for decades. I was raised in Beeton, attended Banting Memorial High School and studied Parks and Recreation Management at Seneca College.

My early career included working in recreation and conservation before eventually building a career in real estate, where I have worked as a real estate broker since 2001.

Those experiences have given me different perspectives on our community—from recreation and public spaces to housing, development, property ownership and the concerns families face when making one of the biggest financial decisions of their lives.

I also bring the perspective of someone who has raised a family here and watched our communities change and grow.

My leadership style is practical and approachable. I will listen, ask questions, do my homework and be prepared to explain my decisions.

I'm not asking residents to agree with me on every issue. I'm asking them to trust that I will listen to them, represent them honestly and always remember who I work for.



plans to deal with future settlement and expansion is crucial to its future.

How far should council push back against aggressive provincial housing targets under OAP 5 to retain decision-making power, to protect prime farmland and to distribute residential expansion sustainably without overwhelming smaller communities?

If growth continues as mandated, council must formulate a logical, fiscally realistic plan for the anticipated increase in population. This planned growth will come at an immense cost.

The enormity of this expansion will be expensive, and the costs of infrastructure for water, wastewater, and road infrastructure will be massive. Who should cover this cost is yet to be determined.

Another important element is the fact that funding gaps have widened following the indefinite interruption of Honda's \$15-billion EV expansion. Given that backdrop, the new council will have to be fiscally prudent, balancing water rate increases and increasing property taxes against high debt loads with other capital spending to avoid exceeding municipal debt capacity thresholds.

Lastly, the growth plan must be distributed across Alliston, Beeton, and Tottenham to avoid unequal expansion while continuing to honour the community's unique character.

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

I believe my education and professional work experience will bring a unique and different perspective to the issues.

In the past, I have worked in all levels of government in different capacities. Holding both an honours bachelor of arts degree in political science, with a minor in economics,

and a master's degree in education, training and development has equipped me with valuable knowledge that helps safeguard against personal biases and allows for greater objectivity.

I've worked in the world of banking and finance, and I am currently a self-employed mortgage broker. This combination enabled me to augment my analytical and evaluative skills when dealing with complex issues and accumulate the required proficiencies to meet the obligations of the role of councillor, taking a more holistic approach by employing both a

macro and micro perspective.

My political experience includes working on provincial political campaigns and being a member of a riding association where issues were debated, as well as attending political conventions.

Lastly, I will bring transparency and accountability to the people. Residents will be provided with a platform to voice their opinions on important matters that come before council and have a say on these vital issues.

Alan Masters — Running for councillor Ward 4

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

Without doubt, planning and budgeting for the required, mandated and expanding growth of our town, growing from 44,000 residents to reach 80,590 to 86,100 by 2051 and what this growth will bring and how we manage it!

Major infrastructure, water, energy, wastewater, roads bridges, parks, recreation facilities, expanded hospitals, schools and public transit to name a few.

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

This question was brought to me by the residents and groups in Briar Hill and Green Briar. I managed the question by holding a power point information meeting which outlined the planned growth of our town through to 2051.

"Knowledge is power." I believe by explaining the towns' future vision, planned growth and expansion visually in a positive, practical way answered the question to the satisfaction of most in attendance.

This method of presentation to the residents of our town should be the preferred method in the future as municipalities move toward "3D Visualisation" applications as a means to better understanding future planning.

As an advocate for the town these past 45 years, I recognized the concern that amalgamation in 1991 caused among residents and the government's designation of Alliston as a "Growth Node" due to the expanding Honda plant. Residents were not fully understanding what this meant!



Today, our town has very experienced planners and other key staff, led by a very experienced CAO who is laying out our 2027 strategic action plan to guide us forward from here through this busy time, with a vision to a planned and necessary expansion, as we move toward one town with three distinct communities.

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

I bring over 40 years of experience in senior management in the auto industry, business, product development, franchising, sales and marketing, including my last tenure as vice president of Hino Diesel Trucks Canada, a Toyota Group Company. I retired after 25 years.

I started Masters Business Consulting Group 20 years ago. For over 40 years, I volunteered as a town advocate with a view toward making the town a better place to live, working on many projects near and dear to my heart, including but not limited to: Road maintenance/replacement, road safety-related issues, business and tourism.

I sat on town economic development committees, committees of adjustment, made presentations to council regarding public transportation, promoting tourism, and town branding. I also organized many rides for charity and am registered with a government-sponsored organization as a career counselor for high school students.

Finally, I became a member of council. My business expertise and ability to have vision towards the future has been the key to my past successes in business and will continue to be so in the future.

Peter Barbati — Running for councillor Ward 5

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

I see a very bright future for New Tecumseth, but the most pressing issue for the incoming council will be managing mandated growth with absolute fiscal discipline.

Between a volatile national economy, the threat of high interest rates, uncertainty regarding the effects of "A.I." on our local economy, drip-down consequences of "A.I." on the general economy, and the town taking on debt for major capital projects, council must scrutinize every dollar spent.

It's not necessarily about not investing, but



investing in projects which mitigate future losses and possibly provide positive asset flow.

We have to properly control our growth so infrastructure keeps pace without creating an undue tax burden, while negotiating the reality of provincially mandated growth, all while ensuring we protect the core municipal services our residents in Alliston, Beeton, and Tottenham rely on every day.

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

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SPORTS

NEW TECUMSETH TIMES

Community comes together for Jenn Leclerc Era Tournament

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

Members of the community came together at the Beeton Fairgrounds on Saturday, Sept. 26, to participate in the second annual Jenn Leclerc Era Tournament.

The tournament features lob ball and is held in support of a local mother of three fighting stage 4 terminal metastatic cancer.

Jenn was diagnosed in 2020.

The tournament was established in 2025 when four women, Amanda Esssex, Cristina Foster, Cate Hurley, and Alyssa Zill-Taft, decided to combine two things that Jenn loves: baseball and Taylor Swift.

Each team was given a Swift album name along with friendship bracelets embellished with sequins.

Around 80 people from seven teams took part in the event in support of Jenn.

This year, Adrienne Reid joined in to help organize, and sponsors helped out.

There were donated raffle prizes and 50/50 tickets that all contributed to a successful fundraising event.

Team 1989 and Team Lover met in the final, with Team 1989 getting a one-run win.



COMING TOGETHER – Around 80 lob ball players took part in the second annual Jenn Leclerc Era lob ball tournament held at the Beeton Fairgrounds on Saturday, Sept. 26. Funds raised will help support a local mom who is battling cancer. **CONTRIBUTED PHOTO**



GOING THE DISTANCE – The Banting Memorial High School Marauders take on the Collingwood Collegiate Fighting Owls on the gridiron at Banting on Thursday, Oct. 1. Banting quarterback Philip DeCiccio looks for a receiver during a play late in the first half of the game. The Marauders won the game 49-9 and are now 2-0 for the season. **BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO**

NEW TECUMSETH VOTES

2026 MUNICIPAL ELECTION CANDIDATE PROFILES



Continued from Page 11

Provincially mandated growth is one of the most pressing concerns in New Tecumseth, and council must handle it with careful diplomacy and thorough local analysis.

First, we need an objective, evidence-based assessment of every development proposal — weighing potential economic opportunities against the real impacts on traffic, utilities, and tax rates.

Second, our approach with the province must be strategic. Confrontation for its own sake is counterproductive, as the province holds the power to overrule local decisions and impose terms that may be far less desirable.

Council's role is to act as strong, pragmatic advocates: making the province fully aware of the financial pressure their mandates place on our residents, and ensuring the province has a full grasp of the limits to our ability to provide adequate water and sewage services for expanding development, while working within the framework to ensure development is controlled,

well-served, and financially sustainable.

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

I am the current president of the Tottenham and Beeton Chamber of Commerce (TBDC), and I have participated in think tanks, meetings, committees and bursary committees, benefiting the chamber members and our community in general.

I have been a local realtor for 30 years, proudly serving our community and neighbouring communities.

My background is in production and sales. My current and previous occupation/career(s) required developed skills pertaining to: project management, financial management, contract structure and negotiation, communication, diplomacy and risk management and mitigation. I believe this combination of skills, experiences and the willingness and ability to collaborate with a wide range of individuals and organizations can be an asset to Ward 5.

opportunity that ultimately brought nearly \$1.15 million to New Tecumseth.

Going into the 2027 budget, I will continue looking for savings and efficiencies, challenging expenditures, pursuing outside funding and asking whether residents are receiving real value for the taxes they pay.

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

The province has established the growth New Tecumseth must plan for, and with OPA 5 now approved through Strong Mayor Powers, council's focus must be on ensuring that growth is implemented responsibly and does not place an unfair burden on existing residents.

The Master Servicing Plan will be critical. It should provide a clear roadmap for what infrastructure is required, when it is required and how growth should be staged.

Council must ensure residents have a voice, development pays its appropriate share of growth-related infrastructure costs, and it uses careful phasing to manage financial and community impacts.

I have consistently advocated for directing the majority of growth to areas best positioned with infrastructure, employment and services. While OPA 5 ultimately distributed growth across all three communities, those same principles should guide its implementation.

We should also prioritize appropriate intensification and a range of housing options, including opportunities for residents to age in place, while respecting the

character of our established communities.

Provincial growth requirements may determine how much we must accommodate, but Council still has an important responsibility to determine how responsibly we accommodate it.

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

I bring four years of Council experience, built on many years of involvement in our community and municipal affairs before I was elected. I came into this role prepared, and over the past four years I have strengthened that experience through some of the most complex financial, planning, infrastructure and growth decisions facing our municipality.

I have served on the BTBIA, the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority Board, the Environmental Advisory Committee, and I was selected as Council's Alternate Member at Simcoe County Council. Each has broadened my knowledge and strengthened my ability to represent residents effectively.

But experience is only valuable if you put it to work. I read the reports, research the issues, question costs and recommendations, follow up, and come prepared to make informed decisions. I am not afraid to ask tough questions or take a position when I believe it is in our community's best interest.

I am accessible and responsive. I bring experience, reliability and a proven work ethic, and I remain committed to providing residents with strong, informed and accountable representation.

Nicole Cox — Running for councillor Ward 5

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

I believe affordability and responsible financial management will be among the most pressing concerns. One of the first major responsibilities of the newly elected council will be the 2027 budget, and residents need to know their council is looking for every opportunity to keep costs under control.

Fiscal responsibility isn't simply about saying no to spending. It's about getting the



best value from every tax dollar while maintaining the services residents rely on.

That means setting clear priorities, questioning costs, finding efficiencies, pursuing grants and other funding sources, and looking for better and more cost-effective ways of doing business.

Throughout this term, I have taken that approach, including initiating a review of the town's service models to identify potential savings and advocating for a Green Municipal Fund

**As of press time, New Tecumseth candidates James Dougall (Ward 1) and Ben Miadovnik (Ward 4) had not responded to our 2026 Municipal Election Candidate questionnaire.*

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Traffic stop in Alliston results in multiple drug trafficking charges

Nottawasaga Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) officers have arrested two individuals and laid multiple drug trafficking and driving related charges following a traffic stop in Alliston.

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

As a result of the investigation, officers arrested the driver and passenger and located

and seized approximately 36.5 grams of suspected methamphetamine and 8.5 grams of suspected cocaine.

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

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

- Possession of a Schedule I Substance for the Purpose of Trafficking - Methamphetamine
- Possession of a Schedule I Substance for the Purpose of Trafficking - Cocaine
- Operation While Prohibited under the Criminal Code
- Driving While Under Suspension

- Alter plate
- Driver Fail to Surrender Licence
- Fail to Surrender Insurance Card
- Fail to Surrender Permit for Motor Vehicle
- Fail to Apply for Permit on Becoming Owner

Owner

Owner Operate a Motor Vehicle Without Insurance

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

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

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

The OPP remains committed to the safety of Ontario communities through proactive enforcement and investigation of drug trafficking offences.

Anyone with information regarding illegal drug activity is encouraged to contact the Ontario Provincial Police at 1-888-310-1122. Should you wish to remain anonymous, you may contact Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS) or online at www.crimestoppersdm.ca.

Mayoral candidate allegedly steals sitting mayor's election sign in Orangeville

Dufferin Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) are investigating the removal and theft of an election sign from a private residence in Orangeville.

On Oct. 4, 2026, at approximately 4:39 p.m., officers from the Dufferin OPP Detachment responded to a call for service in the area of Elderberry Street in Orangeville after receiving a report that an election sign had been removed and stolen from the front yard of a private residence.

As a result of the investigation, Nicho-

las Garisto, 77, from Orangeville, has been charged with:

- Mischief - obstructs, interrupts or interferes with the lawful use, enjoyment or operation of property
- Theft Under \$5000

Garisto is currently campaigning to become Orangeville's next mayor.

The sign he allegedly stole belongs to current Orangeville Mayor Lisa Post.

Garisto is scheduled to appear before the Ontario Court of Justice in Orangeville at a

later date to answer to the charges.

The charges have not been proven in court.

Dufferin OPP wants to remind the public that election signs are private property and incidents involving the theft, damage or vandalism may be criminal offences depending on the circumstances of the investigation.

Potential offences could include theft under \$5,000 or mischief.

Dufferin OPP encourages anyone who

witnesses or experiences the theft, damage or vandalism of election signs to promptly report the incident to their local police service.

Anyone with information regarding this incident or other suspected unlawful activity is asked to contact the Dufferin OPP at 1-888-310-1122.

Those wishing to remain anonymous can contact Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS) or submit a tip online at ontariocrimestoppers.ca.

South Simcoe Police investigating serious collision involving e-bike and pickup truck

South Simcoe Police responded to a report of a motor vehicle collision involving a pickup truck and an e-bike in Bradford West Gwillimbury on Sept. 27, at approximately 2:55 p.m.

Police and emergency services arrived to the scene, in the area of Church Street and Frederick Street, where they were told that the e-bike rider entered the path of the

pickup truck when they collided.

The rider sustained serious injuries and was transported to hospital. The driver of the pickup truck remained at the scene and is cooperating with police.

Members of the South Simcoe Police Traffic Unit attended the scene and are assisting with the investigation.

The circumstances surrounding the colli-

sion remain under investigation. No further information is available at this time.

Anyone who witnessed the collision, or who may have information or dashcam footage from the area at the time of the incident, is asked to contact South Simcoe Police Cst. Wazeer Rahman at wazeer.rahman@southsimcoepolice.ca and reference occurrence number PR26029559.

Information can also be provided anonymously to Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS) or online at www.crimestoppersdm.com. Crime Stoppers does not subscribe to call display, and callers remain anonymous. Anonymous callers will not be required to testify in court, and information provided may lead to a cash reward of up to \$2,000.

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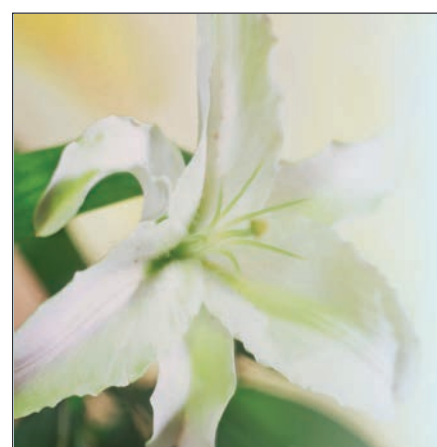
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Brock's Banter: Autumn rhythms

"More than 6,600 Survivors and witnesses came forward before the Truth and Reconciliation Commission to share painful realities Canada had too long ignored. Their courage ensured that Canada listened, remembered, and reflected. We owe Survivors more than remembrance. We owe them action. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission's 94 Calls to Action remain a roadmap for that work. In partnership with First Nations, Inuit, and Métis, our government is working to close longstanding gaps in health care and education, protect Indigenous languages and cultures, and advance safe drinking water and infrastructure in First Nations communities.

"We are advancing the Calls for Justice for missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQI+ people, and implementing the United Nations

Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act. Today, Canadians will wear orange and participate in ceremonies to remember the children who never came home – and to honour the Survivors who told the truth so that all Canadians may take up the work of reconciliation."

It will be interesting – and, again, telling – to see how this roadmap is followed because another rhythm of National Day for Truth and Reconciliation has been the common refrain that so few of the 94 Calls to Action have been addressed by governments and citizens alike.

Aurora's gathering on September 30, for instance, was led by Anishinaabe Grandmother Kim Wheatley, a prominent advocate across the Greater Toronto Area, as well as Elder Pat Floody. In her remarks, Wheatley touched upon the Calls to Action and how leaders have, more often than not, picked some of the

easier actions rather than the more substantive ones.

"In 11 years, this country has maybe done 13 of the 94 Calls to Action. That's being generous, by the way. If you put that into a percentage point, 15 per cent of the 94 Calls to Action in 11 years have been addressed," she said. "In school, if you get 15 per cent on a test, you fail. Guess what, Canada – you fail, and they took all the low-hanging fruit. They didn't do the big, hard things like give us water. They did some of the easy stuff [like] declaring a date.... All Canadians should step forward and show us that they do care. All Canadians have a responsibility to ignite that flame of hope....

"I hope that what you heard here today gives you the courage, the momentum, and the belief to move forward, to step into the truth, whole and complete, to continue to learn and educate yourself.

When you leave here today, I want you to leave better than when you came, but I want you to share with somebody who wasn't here. Find somebody. Talk to somebody about this. Stretch the message. Let it ripple out with your passion, your belief, your courage, and your truth."

While the rhythms of this time of year are always welcome, some – such as once again being reminded on the lack of progress in this area – can cause discomfort and that is welcome in its own way as discomfort can often serve as a catalyst for action.

One can only hope that when our communities once again convene on September 30, 2027, that we can point to examples of real, concrete action – and this kind of year-over-year progress becomes as ubiquitous and reliable at this time of year as the arrival of the crisp air and nature's colourful cavalcade.

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