





The Times • New Tecumseth

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Supporting Women's Wellness

Bra Bins have been installed throughout the community for a month-long initiative that kicked off at the start of October. Tec-We-Gwill Women's Institute is running the fundraiser, and members, Lynne Kunica, Nanci Forfellow, Donna Jebb, Diana Dundas, Sally Sainsbury, and Ingrid Grant Elliott launched the initiative with the first batch of bras that were donated. Read more on Page A8. BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO




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Simcoe Auto Mayors taking action to protect local manufacturing

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Following the successful second meeting of the Simcoe Auto Mayors Association, municipal leaders reaffirmed their commitment to protecting Simcoe County's auto manufacturing footprint and advocating for meaningful federal support.

Led by Mayor Richard Norcross of the Town of New Tecumseth, the Simcoe Auto Mayors Association continues to demonstrate that while Simcoe may be small, its collective voice can drive big change.

The group's earlier advocacy, including

a joint letter to Ottawa, was instrumental in prompting a 60-day federal review of the Zero Emissions Vehicle mandate that was announced by Prime Minister Mark Carney on Sept. 5.

“We’ve already seen results from our unified efforts,” said Mayor Norcross. “But the impact of federal policy and international tariffs on our local economy remains significant. We must continue to take action — not just for our manufacturers, but for the livelihoods of thousands of Simcoe residents.”

The Oct. 1 meeting featured updates from Honda of Canada Manufacturing and ZF Automotive of Midland, highlighting the challenges

posed by the current ZEV mandate and trade environment. The mayors emphasized the need for federal amendments that reflect the realities of Canadian production and consumer demand.

The association also intends to call on the federal government to address the economic strain caused by U.S. tariffs on Canadian-made vehicles. By seeking targeted relief, the mayors aim to protect local manufacturers from further disruption and to secure long-term investment in Simcoe County's auto sector.

Preventing the relocation of production facilities and ensuring future growth will be central to these efforts.

Workforce stability will remain a top pri-

ority in the Association's advocacy. Plans include promoting policies that safeguard skilled employment and strengthen local economic resilience. Recognizing the pivotal role that Mayors play in shaping industrial policy, the Simcoe Auto Mayors are committed to ensuring that Simcoe businesses, residents, and workforce remain at the heart of Canada's auto strategy.

"This is about protecting our communities," said Mayor Norcross. "We're asking Ottawa to stand with us — to recognize the value of transitional technologies, to support hybrid innovation, and to keep manufacturing jobs right here in Simcoe."

Communities throughout Simcoe-Grey receive provincial funding for infrastructure

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The province is investing \$12,890,561 in communities in Simcoe-Grey to help renew and rehabilitate critical infrastructure in the riding.

Of that funding, New Tecumseth is receiving \$2,650,503.

The announcement was made by MPP for Simcoe-Grey Brian Saunderson on Tuesday, Sept. 30.

Funding will be delivered through the 2026 Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund as part of the government's more than \$200 billion capital plan to protect Ontario by building key public infrastructure that will strengthen the economy and keep workers on the job in the face of tariffs and economic uncertainty.

“The Ontario Community Infrastructure

Fund is a vital program that helps municipalities across Simcoe-Grey invest in the essential infrastructure our communities rely on every day,” said MPP Brian Saunderson. “This funding supports Ontario’s small and rural municipalities in making critical upgrades to roads, bridges, water and wastewater systems, ensuring they can meet the needs of residents today and in the years ahead.”

In 2026, Ontario will allocate \$400 million in OCIF funding to help 423 small, rural, and northern communities address critical infrastructure such as roads, bridges, water, and wastewater systems. The minimum grant amount for municipalities will increase to \$125,000 from \$100,000. Funding allocations are based on a formula that accounts for the different needs and economic conditions of each community. Communities may accumulate funding for up to five years to

address larger infrastructure projects.

“We are grateful for the continued support from the Province through the Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund,” said New Tecumseth Mayor Richard Norcross. “This investment will help us move forward with critical infrastructure projects that improve the quality of life for our residents and strengthen the resilience of our community. We appreciate MPP Saunderson’s ongoing advocacy for New Tecumseth and the region.”

Kinga Surma, Ontario's Minister of Infrastructure, noted the importance of the provincial funding announcement.

“Small, rural and northern communities are essential to the growth and prosperity of Ontario,” said Surma. “That is why we’re increasing the Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund’s minimum grant amount

to provide predictability and stability for these communities and ensure they have the resources they need to thrive. With our record investments across all infrastructure programs, we're driving an unprecedented wave of construction — highways, transit, hospitals, schools, and more — to make communities stronger, keep workers on the job, and drive economic growth for generations to come.”

The 2026 OCIF allocations for Simcoe-Grey include:

- Town of New Tecumseth: \$2,650,503
- Township of Adjala-Tosorontio: \$537,274
- Clearview Township: \$577,306
- Town of Collingwood: \$1,052,428
- Essa Township: \$630,539
- Town of the Blue Mountains: \$2,128,245
- Town of Wasaga Beach: \$1,162,981
- County of Simcoe: \$4,151,285

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Welcome home to 11 Montebello Terrace! This bright Bellini bungalow offers a nice open concept floor plan that features the option of 'main floor living' if needed. Kitchen offers granite countertops and under cabinet lighting and overlooks the spacious dining and living rooms. Living room features a fireplace and a walk out to the southern facing, private deck – a great place to gather friends or family for a BBQ. Main floor primary is quite large, complete with a walk-in closet and 4 piece ensuite bath. Main floor also has a space for a den or home office overlooking the front yard. Downstairs there is a large family room with a fireplace, a wet bar and a walk out to the partially covered patio area. There is a sunny, spacious guest room, 3 piece bath, another room that would be perfect as a hobby room, another office or just extra storage if needed.

83 Bella Vista Trail
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Looking for a Briar Hill bungalow backing onto the ravine – welcome to 83 Bella Vista Trail! This bright, beautiful home has been well taken care of and you will feel at home quickly. As you come in the front door, there is a large, eat-in kitchen that overlooks the front yard. The bright dining /living room areas are finished with hardwood floors and skylights in the ceiling. The living room has a fireplace and walk out to the south facing deck – overlooking the ravine. The main floor primary offers a 4 piece ensuite and large walk in closet. Upstairs, the loft gives extra space for another bedroom (3 piece ensuite) or a sunny home office. The professionally finished lower level features a spacious family room with a walk out to the patio area. Guests will certainly be comfortable in the large guest room! This level also offers a 3 piece bathroom, another office/hobby area and lots of storage space! This home had the roof replaced in 2024 and all new eavestroughs in 2025.



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DRIVING GROWTH – Simo e-Grey MPP Brian Saunderson meets with New Tecumseth Mayor and Riboud Norcross, Town Councilors, and staff on Tuesday, Sept. 30, to announce provincial funding for infrastructure in communities in Simo e-Grey. **CONTRIBUTED PHOTO**

Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority proposes a more efficient budget

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority (NVCA) has released its 2026 Draft Business Plan and Budget with an aim of having strong financial management of public funds, transparent oversight, and stewardship of the natural environment.

As part of the budget development process, NVCA staff had a rigorous review of NVCA's programs and services. This helped ensure the organization is leaner and more efficient while remaining responsive to the environmental, economic, and social sustainability of the Nottawasaga Watershed.

The 2026 budget protects fair and competitive wages for staff, invests in responsible asset management, and prioritizes NVCA's vital role in managing floods and supporting the resilience of the watershed.

"The Nottawasaga Watershed is facing growing pressures from urban expansion and climate change," said Jennifer Vincent, CAO of NVCA. "To support the needs of our municipalities and direction from the Province, NVCA balances development with protecting communities from the impacts of flooding and erosion. Our work in restoring local ecosystems to ensure long-term resili-

ence across the watershed, and by connecting people with nature, we are supporting physical and mental health."

The NVCA's draft budget totals \$7.8 million, reflecting a modest increase of \$180,372.37. This includes a \$101,307.36 increase in municipal levy share proportionality across 18 member municipalities.

"From the outset, the board has been clear that this balanced budget must be responsive to the needs of our member municipalities," said Jonathan Scott, NVCA Chair. "We have delivered on that direction with a careful review, reducing or holding flat 21 of 27 expense line items, and by re-categorizing programs and services, which reduced discretionary Category 3 charges by 31 per cent. As a result, our overall operating levy increase is less than 3 per cent as committed, with no elimination of



PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE – The Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority has released its 2026 Draft Business Plan and Budget. NVCA CAO, Jennifer Vincent, provides details of the budget at a recent general meeting. **CONTRIBUTED PHOTO**

services."

Approximately 53 per cent of NVCA's total funding is supported through municipal levy,

while the remaining revenue sources include grants, private contributions, and self-generated funds.

Over \$30 million in funding approved by Simcoe County District School Board for Angus elementary school

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Ontario government has given the Simcoe County District School Board approval to award a tender for a new elementary school in Angus.

The project is supported by a total investment of \$30.9 million, which includes an additional \$2.8 million in funding. When complete, the school will deliver 539 new elementary student spaces for local families.

"The funding for a new Angus Elementary School in Essa is great news for our community," said Brian Sanderson, MPP for Simcoe-Grey. "Through this investment, we're creating opportunities for students to thrive today and well into the future."

The investment is part of Ontario's commitment to invest about \$23 billion to support school construction, renewal, and improvement over 10 years.

"Our government is focused on supporting students, teachers, and parents while ensuring school boards are equipping our students with the tools they need to succeed," said Paul Calandra, Ontario's Minister of Education. "Once completed, this project will offer an inspiring learning environment that helps students prepare for the jobs of tomorrow. Our government will continue to provide the resources students need for ultimate achievement."

In May 2025, Ontario introduced the Supporting Children and Students Act, 2025, to strengthen the government's oversight of school board finances, governance, and program performance, to ensure that every dollar invested is preparing students for success.

"This announcement is welcome news for the SCDSB, and we are grateful to the Ministry of Education for their support with this project," said Dawn Stephens, director

of education for the Simcoe County District School Board. "The new elementary school in Angus will ensure that SCDSB students continue to have the opportunity to learn and grow in their community."

Since 2018, Ontario has provided nearly \$5 billion for major capital projects, includ-

ing 169 new schools, 124 permanent additions or renovations to existing school buildings, and over 9,600 new licensed child care spaces in schools.

The new elementary school will be located at Greenwood Drive and Decarolis Drive in Angus.

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Editorial, Letters & Opinion

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

~ Stanislaw Jerzy Lec

Hello Tilly Norwood

The name Tilly sounds, at least to me, a little old-fashioned.

Names come and go, then come back into fashion over time.

I've never met a woman named Tilly, but the name sort of conjures up the idea of an older woman with her grey hair in a bun – sort of like the little Granny who used to keep Tweety Bird as a pet.

However, there is a new Tilly in town – Tilly Norwood.

Tilly Norwood is an attractive young woman with long, dark brown hair and a beautiful smile.

Her publicity agent has released some photos of Tilly in the hopes of securing a movie contract through a talent agency.

The thing is, Tilly doesn't exist. She is an AI-generated person. She's not real.

I wrote about this a few weeks ago, predicting that movies will soon be using AI-generated actors. I didn't think it would happen so soon, but apparently, Tilly is ready to be cast in the next Hollywood blockbuster.

Hollywood has reacted with rather negative emotions when hearing about Tilly.

The Actors Union has already made some rules about the use of AI-generated

actors. I guess they have already considered that this could be coming.

Some actors have made comments that an AI-generated person does not have the experience to recreate human emotion on screen. I don't blame them for not liking this development in the industry – after all, it's something that could take jobs away from professional actors.

I haven't seen any live action of Tilly on screen. I'm not sure how she would be inserted into a film; however, if they could mix cartoon characters and live people in a movie like they did in "Who Framed Roger Rabbit," in 1988, I'm sure the technology to insert an AI-generated person into a movie already exists.

AI has really made strides over the past few years.

A few months ago, I had to contact a 'help centre' for some reason I can't remember. However, prior to someone answering the telephone, there was a voice that told you the person you would be speaking to was actually an AI-generated voice.

We had quite the conversation. The voice spoke intelligently and sounded like a real person.

It answered my questions immediately and was very pleasant.

It was an odd experience to have a conversation with someone who you knew didn't exist.

The voice was so authentic, you pretty much forgot it wasn't a real person.

You may remember the TV show, "Star Trek: The Next Generation."

I was never really a Star Trek guy, but I did like this series.

On the Starship Enterprise, they had something known as the Holodeck. It was an AI-generated room that could create places and people in a 3D environment.

The people and places appeared to be real – but could only exist on the Holodeck, and they couldn't leave it.

In one episode, someone programmed a lounge, and one of its patrons was a beautiful woman, who, of course, all the Star Trek guys were falling for.

It turns out, she was created to respond to each guy, exactly as he would want her to act. Basically, she was every guy's dream girl.

The problem was, she couldn't leave the Holodeck because she wasn't real.

As AI actors become more commonplace, I'm pretty sure the Star Trek girl type of persona will exist, at least on screen.

Filmmakers will be able to create the exact person you will want to see in a movie.

Do you need a beautiful ingénue for your film? Easily created.

Maybe you need a horror film villain that will scare the pants off the audience. No problem, we can create one.

Change can be scary, but good at the same time.

I recall a conversation in a college class when we were introduced to digital technology, when it was just being created. The conversation turned to this new technology and the visual media.

One guy said, "Nothing will ever replace film."

Another guy said, "Don't be so sure, nothing lasts forever."

Turns out, he was right.

AI technology has a lot of potential, both good and bad.

BRIAN LOCKHART
FROM THE SECOND ROW



Encouraging and fostering Truth & Reconciliation

Canada has come a long way since Orange Shirt Day first gained traction across the country as a way to build awareness of the residential school system and what really happened behind the walls of such institutions.

The Day was first brought forward by residential school survivor Phyllis Jack – the name of which was inspired by a new orange shirt given to her by her grandmother, which was subsequently stripped off her and tossed aside on her first day there.

While the name Orange Shirt Day persists in many parts of the country, and orange shirts of various designs, symbolism, and legends, most commonly "Every Child Matters", are the order of the day, the observance itself gave way to National Day for Truth & Reconciliation in 2021, inspiring a greater national movement on such an important path we all need to walk together.

How the day is marked varies according to which part of the country you call your own, and where you work. As a statutory holiday, of course, Federal employees have the day off, as to government employees in Alberta, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick. If you happen to live in British Columbia, Manitoba, Prince Edward Island, the North-

west Territories and Yukon, chances are you probably have the day off as well.

Not us here in Ontario, alas, but that has, in my opinion, some benefits – making the effort to carve time out of your workday, or delaying your trip home to observe, seems to have a bit of added poignancy.

September 30 is an extraordinary day where so many of us have to listen to hard truths, reconcile ourselves with some of the darker parts of our collective history, some of which is diametrically opposed to what we learned in school, and a chance to brainstorm collectively what we can do to make the world, not just what we now call Canada, a better place for all.

As it's typically a workday for us media people, I find we sometimes approach the event from a slightly different angle than attendees at large. While we're attuned to the message, of course, we also have an eye on attendance, crowd chatter, and even the ambiance of where these observances are held.

One observance that had the most impact on me was the first one I attended back in 2021 at Aurora Town Park. A popular greenspace where the community has gathered for an incalculable number of

observances since it was first established in the last quarter of the 1800s had great resonance, underscoring how far we've collectively moved the dial.

But that's not what moved me the most. As Anishinaabe Grandmother Kim Wheatley, Elder Pat Floody, and others shared very personal stories, the evening's sunset backlit the nearby Wells Street School building which still presides over the park – a school which operated concurrently to the residential school system and for more than a decade after the last one was shuttered.

Words illustrating the atrocities that went on within such residential schools could not have been in starker contrast to the educational edifice a stone's throw away. It was hard not to think about how the students who walked the halls at Wells had such a vastly different educational experience, quite possibly having no inkling of what their Indigenous peers were going through.

That first year, just about every piece of grass at the Park had been claimed by those wishing to take part in the gathering – the discoveries at Kamloops still fresh in the minds of many – but crowds have generally ebbed with each subsequent year.

(Although, in my estimation, there was a slight uptick in attendance at this year's gathering held at nearby Aurora Town Square)

But, why?

Is it a matter of the old hackneyed "been there, done that" school of thought? Is it a matter of what Wheatley has previously noted as "news fatigue" as more and more stories of abuses have come out?

Or was it this, on the tenth anniversary of the Final Report of Canada's Truth and Reconciliation Commission, including its 94 Calls to Action therein, that the sheer lack of visible, demonstrable action has led to apathy?

Perhaps.

Take two contrasting statements released by the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition on September 30.

"The Residential School System – a product of big government, 'Ottawa-knows-best' approach – led to horror and heartbreak," said one.

Continued on Page A23

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Gaza: The 20-point plan

GWYNNE DYER
OUR WORLD TODAY



When a bad man does a good thing, we should honour him for it even if his motives are selfish.

Donald Trump is only trying to 'bring peace to the Middle East' because he wants the Nobel Prize, they say. He blusters and threatens and lies. He boasts about the seven wars he claims to have settled/ended/avoided, but he cannot even tell the difference between Armenia (which did recently have a war) and Albania (which didn't).

All true, but so what? Trump's motives don't matter, and neither does his geopolitical ignorance. As US president he is the only person with the power to force the Hamas group in Gaza and the current Israeli government to discuss making peace, and after long hesitation he has finally deployed that power.

That certainly does not guarantee success. Neither the Hamas extremists who rule the Gaza Strip nor Israel's Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu actually want peace on the terms implicit in Trump's draft 20-point peace plan.

Hamas would definitely welcome a lengthy cease-

fire. Most of its leaders and at least half its fighters have been killed in the past two years of fighting. The dead leaders have been replaced by less experienced men and the rank-and-file by new recruits, but there has been a steep drop in their combat efficiency. They need time to rest and rebuild.

However, the draft peace plan does not offer them that. It requires the prompt return of all the Israeli hostages, Hamas's last bargaining chip, in return for nothing except the freedom of 1,950 Palestinians held in Israeli jails and a ceasefire of unspecified length. Israel could arrest them all again if the shooting restarts, and it broke the last cease fire only six months ago.

It gets worse for Hamas if the peace talks make further progress: it would have to hand over all its weapons and disband its organization. This is an Islamist organization whose members truly believe that they will go instantly to paradise if they die in battle with the infidel. They might play for time, but they will always choose glorious death over unconditional surrender.

The resistance to a peace deal is also strong right inside the leadership on the Israeli side. Many Israelis believe that the prime minister needs the war to continue to placate ultra-religious and extreme nationalist members of his cabinet who would bring the government down if he makes any concessions to the Palestinians.

That doubtless plays a major role in 'Bibi' Netanyahu's calculations, but there is also a real ideologue hiding inside the wily and apparently cynical tactician.

That fanatical Bibi was on show last month when he launched what he hoped would be the final offensive in Gaza and urged Israelis to become a 'super-Sparta.' If the expulsion of the Palestinians would lead to an isolated, militarized and widely hated Israel, he implied, that would still be a price worth paying.

Bibi's entire political career has been devoted to preventing the creation of a Palestinian state. Why?

Because the emergence of a genuine Palestinian state would foreclose the option of building a 'Greater Israel' by annexing the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and replacing the existing Arab population with Jews.

That project has been doing well recently – one-quarter of the West Bank's population are now Jewish settlers – but the Gaza war has created the opportunity for a rapid expulsion of all two million Palestinians in the Strip.

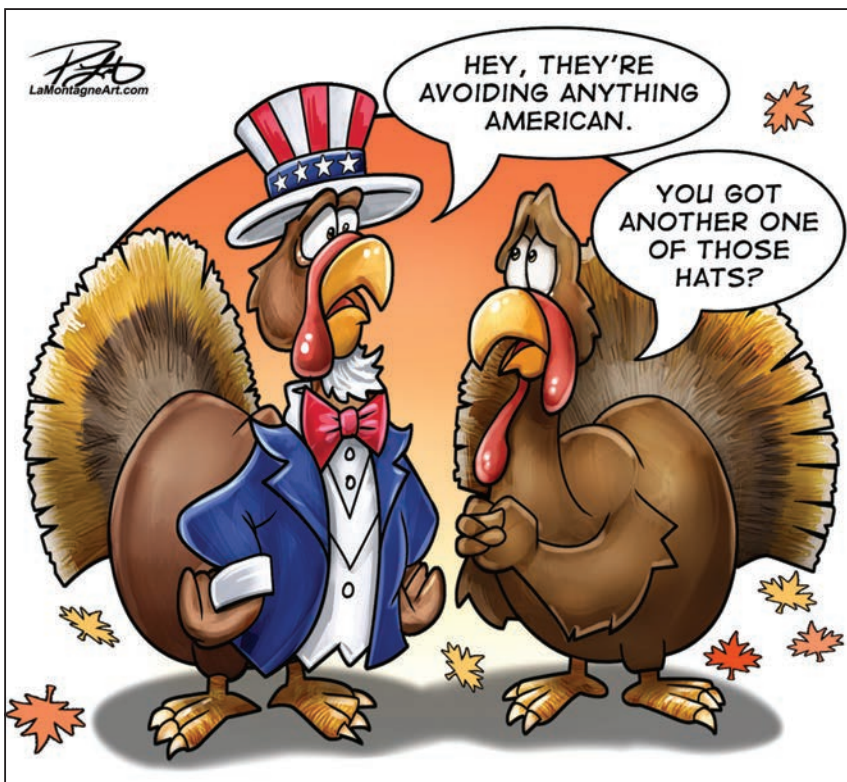
All Netanyahu's actions in Gaza this year, like breaking the last ceasefire, driving Gaza's whole population to the southwest corner of the Strip and starving them, have been directed at making that outcome more likely. However, they were only possible thanks to Donald Trump's unstinting, unquestioning support.

Sometimes Trump seemed aware of the implications of his actions and unashamed by them: the notion of turning the Strip into a Palestinian-free 'Middle Eastern Riviera', for example. At other times he seemed to be just blindly following Netanyahu's lead. But for the moment, at least, Trump seems fully awake and not at all happy about Netanyahu's genocidal project.

This may not last – Trump has a very short attention span – but he was able to bully Netanyahu into at least the opening stages of a ceasefire. However, Bibi will sabotage the process every time he gets, and the 20-point plan is full of holes he can exploit.

Hamas will also turn against the plan as soon as negotiations get into critical issues like surrendering its weapons and going into exile. The 20-point plan may not be dead on arrival, but it is extremely vulnerable.

There will be some performative peace mongering for a while, but the plan to cleanse Gaza of its Palestinians could be back on track well before the end of the year.





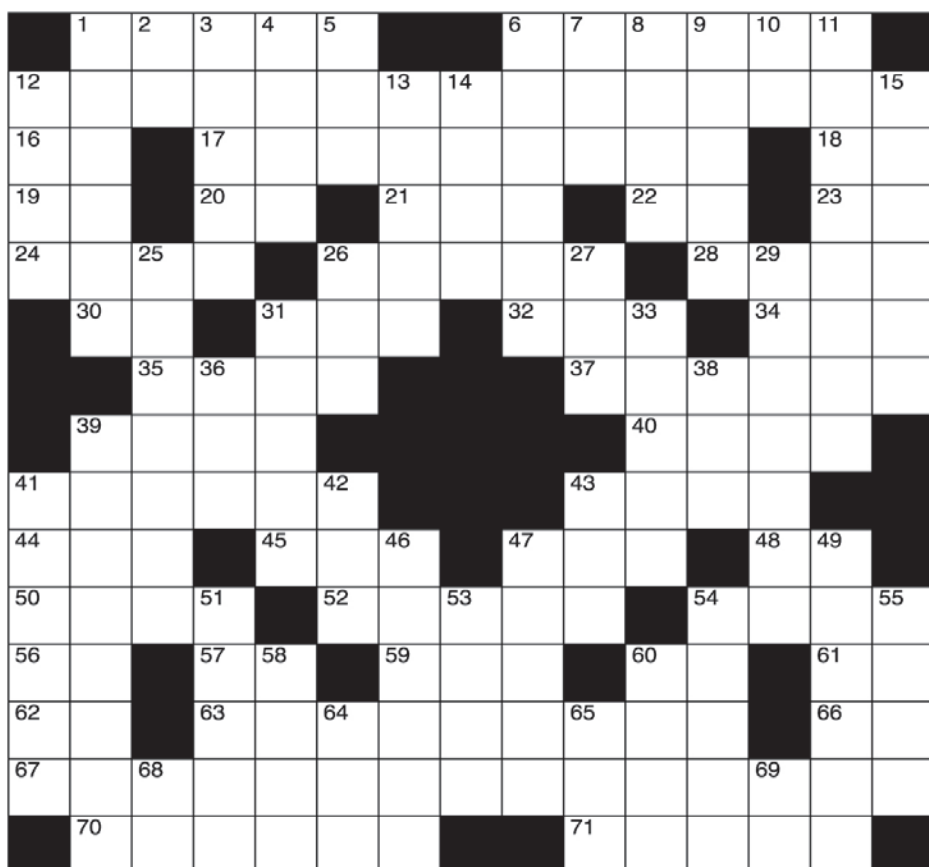
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CLUES ACROSS

1. Martial arts in China
6. The butt of jokes
12. Nevertheless
16. Sportscaster Michaels
17. A firm believer
18. Atomic #18
19. One's bestie
20. Of I
21. Hamburger accessory
22. Thus
23. Partner to Pa
24. Scottish tax
26. Cuts away
28. Require
30. Government lawyer
31. Own (Scottish)
32. Body cavity
34. Brew
35. Young woman (French)
37. Platforms
39. Pair of points in mathematics
40. Attack suddenly

41. Aviators
43. Make perfect
44. Yearly tonnage (abbr.)
45. Neither
47. The center of a city
48. Sacrifice hit in baseball
50. Singer Redding
52. Dragged forcibly
54. Puncture with a knife
56. Belonging to me
57. Expresses surprise
59. Haul
60. The Golden State
61. Biblical Sumerian city
62. Integrated circuit
63. Opposed to certain principles
66. Sodium
67. Qualities
70. Walk
71. It awaits us all

CLUES DOWN

1. Ate quickly

2. Peyton Manning's alma mater
3. Moves through water
4. Run away from
5. Utah resident
6. Natural objects
7. Children's game
8. Obligation to prove
9. Ancient Greek building for performances
10. Soldier
11. Decorated
12. Catches
13. Russell __, author
14. Speak indistinctly
15. Students get them
25. Japanese warrior
26. Dessert
27. Doleful
29. Most cushy
31. Moon crater
33. Small evergreen Arabian tree
36. Something fugitives are "on"
38. 007's creator
39. Paintings on hinged panels
41. Type of bomb
42. Japanese classical theater
43. U.S. gov't department
46. Flightless bird
47. One who cuts wood or stone
49. Buttock and thigh together
51. A way to gather
53. Body part
54. Argentinian city
55. Undergarments
58. Jai __, sport
60. Container for shipping
64. Type of screen
65. Get free of
68. Indicates position
69. Business department

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

COMMUNITY VOICE

Monthly Message: A season of gratitude, celebrating community impact

With Thanksgiving approaching, we pause to reflect on the incredible generosity that surrounds us.

At CONTACT Community Services, we know that no one should have to struggle to meet their basic needs. That's why we are deeply grateful for the volunteers, funders, partners, and community members who stand with us in ensuring that families and individuals have the support they need to build stability and hope.

This gratitude is especially felt through initiatives like Coats for Kids, now in its 21st year. What began in 2004 as a small community effort has grown into a program that has provided thousands of children with warm winter outerwear.

Each year, we are humbled by the outpouring of support from donors like Donna Ramsay and Ed Chambers, who have faithfully given new coats and snow suits for two decades. Their van full of winter wear has become a symbol of hope and warmth for countless families.

We also recognize the many others – businesses, individuals, and community groups – who donate gently used winter gear and help us ensure that no child in our community faces the cold without protection. Seeing a child twirl proudly in a new coat, or a parent sigh in relief, reminds us why community solidarity matters so much.



Beyond Coats for Kids, our gratitude extends to the partnerships and people that make CONTACT's work possible. Every success is powered by a community that cares.

With monetary donations to the Community Hope Chest, we are able to provide community members with full wrap-around services that help to build belonging and stability that do not always fall within our funders' priorities.

When a young man came to the housing team hoping to find support to access affordable housing, the team also learned he had not been able to connect with his family because he did not have access to a phone.

The Community Hope Chest was able to provide him with a refurbished phone, and his first call was to his mom to let her know he was okay. Beyond this critical call, he now has a means of communication for rental viewings, employment opportunities, and other community services. A phone may seem trivial or even frivolous, but it is

the most vital means of connection we have.

We are also grateful for our community and the steady stream of gently used items donated to our Clothes Line thrift stores in Alliston and Bradford. Your contributions ensure we can raise the necessary funds to respond to families when they need us most.

We are equally grateful for the endless hours our volunteers dedicate – over 10,000 since April alone – sorting donations, assisting in our stores and offices, helping community members, and supporting seniors. It is this generosity of time, resources, intellect, and spirit that allows our housing supports, employment services, and community programs to flourish. Together, we are building a place where dignity, belonging, and resilience take root.

As we celebrate this season, we extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who contributes to this shared vision – donors, volunteers, partners, and supporters. Your commitment ensures that families who are



MAKING A DIFFERENCE – The Coats For Kids event last year was a great success. Cutting the cake, from left are Donna Ramsay, Alice Curd, and Ed Chambers.

BRENDA PUFEK PHOTO

struggling right now know they are not alone.

From all of us at CONTACT Community Services, we wish you and your loved ones a joyful and peaceful Thanksgiving.

This week's Community Voice submission was written by Brenda Pufek, manager of community engagement & development at CONTACT Community Services.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

Passionate about an issue you've read about within the pages of the New Tecumseth Times? Want to share your opinion? Email us a letter to the editor to: newtectimeseditorial@gmail.com. Be sure to include your name and town.

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Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority approves asset management plan

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority (NVCA) has released the highlights of its board meeting from September.

Revisions to the Procedures for the Implementation of the Conservation Authorities Act and Associated Regulations

NVCA's Board of Directors has approved the updates to its procedures for the implementation of the Conservation Authorities Act (CA Act) and Associated Regulations. This document is a procedural manual to aid landowners, developers, consultants, and

other stakeholders interested in obtaining CA Act approvals from the NVCA.

This document also assists staff in meeting NVCA's permitting responsibilities under Section 28.1 of the CA Act.

Updates to the procedures include: Improvements to the application process - including administrative review and fee reconsideration, an updated list of exemptions from requiring a permit, and new enforcement protocols for unauthorized works.

AI Safe Usage Policy incorporated into employee handbook

NVCA employees are permitted to utilize AI tools while performing their work duties. When using an AI tool, NVCA staff must

consider the quality and data security of sensitive, personal data. In certain situations, it is important and required by law to disclose that AI tools were used to ensure transparency, build trust, and comply with ethical or legal standards.

NVCA Asset Management Plan

NVCA's Board of Directors approved the conservancy's updated Asset Management Plan. This plan guides the purchase, use, maintenance, and disposal of every asset NVCA needs to conduct business and reduce liability. It also defines the use of assets to streamline productivity and delivery with minimal loss of capital.

This annual update reviews NVCA's assets

to ensure that there is adequate funding for any major repairs or replacements.

2026 Draft Business Plan and Budget

NVCA's 2026 draft budget totals \$7,841,981, reflecting a year-over-year increase of \$180,372.37, including a \$101,307.36 increase in municipal levy. This corresponds to \$17.36 per resident, slightly up from \$17.09 in 2025 and \$15.31 in 2024.

NVCA staff undertook a rigorous review of its programs and services as part of the budget development process. This helped ensure the organization is leaner and more efficient, and remains responsive to the environmental, economic, and social sustainability of the Nottawasaga Watershed.

New Tecumseth Deputy Mayor Stephanie MacLellan tables motion in support of speed cameras

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

In light of Ontario Premier Doug Ford's comments about dissolving Automated Speed Enforcement programs in Ontario, New Tecumseth Deputy Mayor Stephanie MacLellan tabled a motion during a Council meeting on Monday, Oct. 6, asking that Council formally request that the Premier reconsider the proposed dissolution of ASE programs.

The motion requests the province retain ASE cameras as part of a broader traffic safety strategy.

It requests that legislation be amended to introduce lower and more proportionate fines for minor infractions, establish clear and transparent criteria for ASE camera placement that prioritizes school zones, community safety zones, and high-risk corridors, and require prominent signage

and public awareness to ensure deterrence rather than surprise enforcement.

The motion also requests that municipalities and police services have a collaborative policy development to ensure ASE programs are used ethically, effectively, and with public trust.

Deputy Mayor MacLellan's motion cited several reasons speed cameras should remain in place.

The reasons include the fact that speeding is the number one traffic-related complaint from residents across Ontario, including New Tecumseth.

Data from the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police confirms that Automated Speed Enforcement Cameras are effective in reducing speeding, changing driver behaviour, and improving road safety, especially in school zones and community safety zones.

The motion states that ASE cameras

allow police services to reallocate resources to more urgent public safety priorities.

Also stated in the motion is that public support for ASE is strong, with 73 per cent of Ontario drivers backing their use in high-risk areas and 76 per cent believing they deter speeding.

The motion was received by New Tecumseth Council.

The motion will be voted on at a future council meeting.

FIGHTING FOR ASE – On Monday, Oct. 6, New Tecumseth Deputy Mayor Stephanie MacLellan tabled a motion, asking Council to request that Premier Doug Ford reconsider the proposed dissolution of Automated Speed Enforcement programs. The motion also requests that municipalities and police services have a collaborative policy development to ensure ASE programs are used ethically, effectively, and with public trust.

BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO



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Arts & Local Events

S.H.I.F.T. will host the second annual Raising Hope Gala

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Support and Hope for Individuals and Families Today (S.H.I.F.T.) is inviting the community to gather for an evening of connection, celebration, and compassion at the second annual Raising Hope Gala.

The event will be held on Saturday, Nov. 8, 2025, at Woodington Lake Golf Club in Tottenham.

"It is a night that blends purpose and celebration in the best way," said Candace

Gordon, development officer at S.H.I.F.T. "Every ticket purchased helps ensure no one in our community is left behind. By attending, you are not only enjoying a beautiful evening but also helping to create real and lasting change for those who need it most."

The evening begins at 6 p.m. and promises to be a night to remember.

Guests will enjoy a three-course meal, wine, live music from Whiskey Rocks, and an Emcee to keep the night flowing.

Attendees can look forward to a photo

booth, door prizes, swag giveaways, and both a silent and live auction.

The Raising Hope Gala is a chance for South Simcoe to come together in support of neighbours experiencing, or at risk of experiencing, homelessness and low income.

Proceeds from the event will directly benefit S.H.I.F.T.'s essential and life-saving programs, including emergency overnight shelter, daytime drop-in services, and outreach initiatives.

These programs provide meals, warm

beds, hygiene supplies, and guidance toward housing stability for youth, adults, and families across the region.

In 2024, S.H.I.F.T. supported 904 unique individuals and served over 10,229 meals. With demand continuing to grow in 2025, the gala will play a vital role in ensuring that no one in South Simcoe is left behind.

Tickets are \$150 each and are available until Oct. 15, 2025. A full table for eight can be reserved.

Tickets are available online at www.shiftforgood.ca/gala.

Bra Bins initiative running through October in support of local women's wellness programs

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Tec-We-Gwill Women's Institute has launched their Bra Bins initiative through October, which is also Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

The women are receiving donations of bras at different locations, which will be donated to CONTACT Community Services in Alliston.

The bras will be weighed, and a donation will also be given to women's wellness programs at Stevenson Memorial Hospital and Southlake Regional Health Centre, based on the weight of donated items.

Bra bins will be at the Tottenham Community Centre in Tottenham, the New Tecumseth Recreation Centre in Alliston, and at the Bradford West Gwillimbury Leisure Centre in Bradford West Gwillimbury. They are looking for donations of new or gently used bras and asking donors to place them in a plastic bag to keep them clean.

Tec-We-Gwill Women's Institute members, Lynne Kunica, Nanci Forfellow, Donna Jebb, Diana Dundas, Sally Sainsbury, and Ingrid Grant Elliott launched the initiative with the first batch of bras that were donated.



BRAS NEEDED – The Tec-We-Gwill Women's Institute has launched bra bins at the New Tecumseth Recreation Centre in Alliston, and the Bradford West Gwillimbury Leisure Centre. **BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO**

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SHOP LOCAL

Lights Out Sports opens new glow-in-the-dark sports facility in Alliston , launch party planned

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

A new Alliston facility will be putting a different spin on local sports. Lights Out Sports is introducing glow-in-the-dark soccer and hockey featuring neon-lit equipment, glowing markers, and a blacklight-enhanced area. This creates a one-of-a-kind setting that blends fitness and entertainment. The activity is perfect for birthday parties, corporate team-building events, kids’

camp, and can also be used for developmental training programs. Whether celebrating a milestone or working on team cohesion, Lights Out Sports offers a customizable experience for any age group. “For us, it’s about making sports accessible, enjoyable, and innovation,” said George Kaloudis, owner of Lights Out Sports. “From kids to corporate teams, everyone can benefit from these unique offerings. We specialize in crafting memorable events and training experiences that promote teamwork, fitness, and community spirit.” Kaloudis, is thrilled to introduce glow-in-the-dark soccer and hockey to Alliston. In addition to the glow-in-the-dark events, developmental training programs are available with standard lighting. Lights Out Sports will be hosting a launch party to introduce the facility to the public. The launch party will take place on Saturday, Oct. 18, from 12 to 4 p.m., at the new facility, located at 10 Alderson Ct., Unit 2, Alliston.

Leaf, yard waste, and battery collection resumes this fall

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The County of Simcoe’s bi-weekly curb-side leaf and yard waste collection program returns, beginning Monday, Oct. 6. Leaf and yard waste should be placed by the curb by 7 a.m. on the Monday of your collection week. This includes leaves, grass, garden waste, and branches that are sized and bundled appropriately. Residents are reminded to use kraft paper yard waste bags, cardboard boxes, or open-ended rigid containers to place out for collection. Brush should be bundled with natural twine, maximum two metres long and 30 cm in diameter.

Battery Collection
Battery collection will occur during battery



collection week, beginning Monday, Nov. 3. Residents should use their designated battery bag. If you don’t have a battery bag or need more space, battery bags can be picked up at all County waste facilities. You can also use a large, clear resealable bag. During battery collection week, place bat-





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READY YOUR RIDE: Seasonal tips for safer driving

(NC) Fall colours and snowy back roads can make for memorable road trips, but changing seasons also bring challenging driving conditions. Whether you're heading out for your daily commute or planning a weekend getaway, here are some simple steps to help prep your vehicle for the road ahead.

GET YOUR VEHICLE FALL AND WINTER READY

- Book a seasonal tune-up to make sure your battery, brakes and other key systems are in good shape. Don't forget to swap out old wiper blades and top up your washer fluid with a winter-grade formula (look for -40°C).
- Invest in winter tires. Designed for cold, icy roads, winter tires provide better traction and reduce stopping distance by up to 50 per cent. Some insurers even offer discounts if you have them installed.
- Stock up on essentials. Pack a snow brush, scraper, shovel and an emergency kit with blankets, snacks and a flashlight.
- Have an ATV or snowmobile? Make sure it's insured and ready for the trails before the season sets in.

DRIVE WITH CARE AND CAUTION

- Road conditions can shift quickly with snow, ice or freezing rain. Adjust your speed and keep extra distance between yourself and the vehicle in front of you.
- Turn off cruise control in slippery conditions. You'll have more control when managing speed manually.
- Smooth and steady wins the race. Accelerate and brake gently to avoid skids.

USE GOOD JUDGEMENT

- Stick to main roads when you can. They're usually cleared and salted more often.
- Avoid heading out during snow squalls or freezing rain. If you can wait for better weather, it's usually worth it.

- Give yourself a little extra time to get where you're going, in case conditions slow you down.

Winter can be unpredictable, so check the forecast before you head out. For more tips on how to prep your vehicle for the season, visit cooperators.ca.

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AUTO MAINTENANCE



Issues that may arise at certain vehicle mileage intervals

Modern automobiles are technological marvels. As advancements in automotive technology have made cars more reliable than ever, drivers may feel as though vehicle ownership also is more hands-off than ever before. Though it's true built-in diagnostic technology is designed to alert drivers when issues arise, it can still benefit motorists to recognize when certain issues may arise.

Cars and the people who drive them are different, so mileage intervals are not always the best measuring stick for maintenance issues. However, the following rundown can serve as a guidebook for drivers who want to know what to expect at various mileage intervals.

• **30,000 MILES:** The experts at Auto Trader note that disposable engine air filters usually last between 15,000 and 30,000 miles. If it's been around 30,000 miles since the engine air filter has been replaced, now is a good time to replace this important part, which prevents components like dirt and debris from getting into the engine. This also might be a good time to replace the fuel filter, which prevents debris from clogging fuel injectors.

• **50,000 TO 60,000 MILES:** It's around this time that drivers may need to replace their vehicle batteries. Little-used vehicles may need a new battery much earlier, as lengthy periods of little or no use adversely affect the life expectancy of vehicle batteries. Brakes also may need to be replaced around this time, as the experts at AutoZone® note that most drivers get between two and five years out of a set of brake pads. If that sounds like a significant disparity, it is, and that's because driver behavior is a significant variable affecting the life of the pads. Drivers who brake hard will likely need to replace their brake pads with greater frequency than drivers who brake slowly.

• **50,000 TO 90,000 MILES:** As noted, there is no uniform guideline governing when vehicle components will need to be replaced. Hoses are a good example of that, as recommendations regarding when to replace hoses range from 50,000 to 90,000 miles. That's a significant gap, but drivers can be on the safe side and start discussing the status of their hoses with their mechanics around the 50,000 mile marker. It's unlikely the hoses will make it all the way to 90,000 miles before they need to be replaced, but



drivers can keep that mileage marker in mind and aim to replace the hoses before that point even if no issue has arisen. Timing belts also tend to fail between 80,000 and 100,000 miles, so this is another part to consider replacing as a vehicle reaches this point.

These mileage markers are not set in stone, and should only serve as a guideline for drivers who want to stay ahead of vehicle repairs. Drivers also are urged to discuss any additional changes that might be necessary with their mechanics during routine maintenance appointments.



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AUTO MAINTENANCE



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.

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AUTOMAINTEANCE



3 things to know about changing your vehicle's motor oil

NC) To keep your engine running smoothly, you need to maintain your vehicle's motor oil. This is important not only for its performance but also for its longevity and efficiency. Here are three important aspects to consider:

FREQUENCY OF OIL CHANGES

The frequency with which you change your vehicle's motor oil depends largely on your driving habits and the type of oil you use. Be sure to follow your vehicle manufacturer's recommendations as outlined in your owner's manual, as regular oil changes help keep your engine clean, reduce wear and tear and prevent costly breakdowns.

CHOOSE THE RIGHT OIL

Start by consulting your owner's manual for the recommended viscosity (5W-30, for example). You'll also want to consider the climate and driving conditions where you live. Next, choose the oil that works best for your vehicle and driving habits. Full synthetic oil is designed to provide complete protection.

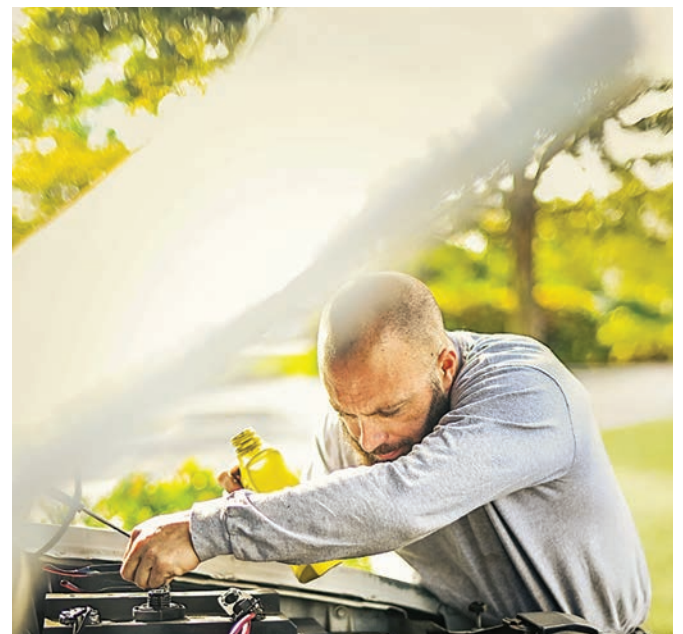
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Know before you go: Southlake Health introduces new Emergency Department wait-time clock

Imagine arriving at the Emergency Department (ED) and knowing what to expect. Southlake Health is making that a reality with the launch of a new online ED wait-time clock, giving patients and families real-time estimates of how long it may take to be seen by a physician.

"In the Emergency Department, uncertainty can add to the stress patients and families are already experiencing," said Gaurav Puri, Chief of Emergency Medicine at Southlake Health. "By sharing real wait-time information, we're giving people more clarity and reassurance during a difficult moment. It's another way we're putting patients first and making sure they feel informed, supported, and confident in the care they receive at Southlake."

Southlake's ED sees more than 120,000 visits annually, meaning a new patient arrives approximately every four and a half minutes. This number is expected to grow as the hospital serves some of the fastest growing and aging communities in the Ontario.

The ED wait-time clock eases the stress of an ED visit by supporting transparency, reducing uncertainty, and empowering patients with timely information. Patients can access it on Southlake's website before or during their visit to see up-to-date information on the estimated time to it takes to see a physician for an initial assessment. While patients are always seen based on the urgency of their condition and not the order of arrival, this new feature highlights Southlake's commitment to accountability and patient-centred care.

"Southlake's Emergency Department is one of the busiest in Ontario, yet we continue to maintain one of the shortest wait times for initial assessment," said Katrina Scott, Director of the Emergency Department at Southlake Health. "The wait-time clock builds on that strength by giving

patients timely information they can trust and reducing uncertainty, so people can better prepare for their visit and know what to expect."

Southlake's ED was originally built in 2003 to handle just over 80,000 visits a year. Today, it sees more than 120,000 visits annually, meaning a new patient arrives approximately every four and a half minutes.

To better meet the growing demand for emergency care, Southlake Health completed a major renewal and expansion of its Emergency Department, adding over 2,400 square feet of space and several enhancements to improve the patient experience and support staff and medical staff. This renewal and expansion was made possible with philanthropic support from caring organizations and community donors.

In Ontario, patients can also receive care in several other settings in their communities. Patients who are not experiencing life-threatening or serious conditions can visit an urgent care centre, a walk-in clinic, or their primary care provider depending on their symptoms. Southlake's ED is open 24/7 and will always support patients when needed, but it is best for life-threatening or serious conditions such as chest pain, stroke symptoms, difficulty breathing, severe trauma, and high fever in infants under three months old. Knowing where to go for care can help patients avoid long wait times and ensure the ED is available for those who need it most.

As of September 2025, the average wait time for an initial assessment by a doctor at Southlake Health is approximately 42 minutes. This is one of the shortest wait-times in Ontario, significantly below the provincial average of two hours.

The ED wait-time clock can be accessed at southlake.ca/emergency-department-wait-times.

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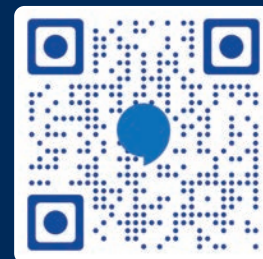
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Health unit begins annual school immunization program for Grade 7 students

The Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit (SMDHU), in partnership with local school boards, began providing school-based vaccine clinics at the start of the week.

The health unit started providing routine recommended immunizations for Grade 7 students on Oct. 6, which includes vaccines for hepatitis B, meningococcal conjugate (Men-C-ACYW), and human papillomavirus (HPV).

“From October through December, nurses will visit elementary schools across Simcoe and Muskoka to administer the first round of these free vaccines. Information and consent forms were sent home with students in early September,” said SMDHU in a press release.

Parents or guardians who did not receive a form are encouraged to contact their child’s teacher or call the health unit at 705 721 7520, ext. 8827.

Students in Grade 8 who missed a dose and did not complete their vaccine series in Grade 7 will be able to catch up during the second round of clinics, scheduled for April to June 2026. Grade 7 students who miss

the fall clinics will be able to begin their series in the spring and complete it in the fall of Grade 8.

Dr. Colin Lee, associate medical officer of health with the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit, emphasizes the importance of vaccinating Grade 7 students against serious illnesses. “Meningococcal disease, hepatitis B, and HPV can have life-threatening consequences. These vaccines are safe, effective, and offer strong protection when the full series is completed. The HPV vaccine plays a key role in lowering the risk of several cancers, including cervical and throat cancers, and in preventing genital warts. The vaccine is most effective when given before sexual activity begins.”

The health unit encourages families to follow Ontario’s publicly funded immunization schedule. Keeping students up to date with their vaccines offers the best protection against serious, preventable diseases, reduces the risk of outbreaks in schools, and allows the health unit to act quickly to prevent and control the spread of illness.



More information regarding the full school clinic schedule, strategies to support a positive immunization experience for students, and details about the vaccines offered in Grade 7 and the diseases they

prevent is available at smdhu.org/Grade7. For further inquiries, please contact the SMDHU’s immunization team at 705 721 7520, ext. 8827 (toll-free 1 877 721 7520), weekdays between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

Stories Woven Through Fabric solo show helps to reclaim Indigenous identity – one ribbon at a time

BY BROCK WEIR

As an Indigenous Community and Social Development student at Georgian College, Sharon Rigby, saw how proud many of her peers were coming to class wearing a distinctive garment.

Rigby, a Mohawk/Ojibwe artist from Akwesasne Reserve in Quebec, who now lives in Mississauga, was keen to learn more about her culture and its histories, but she did not have a ribbon skirt of her own – and,

with some fabric and needles, she set out to reclaim this vivid part of her sartorial culture.

The results of this journey can now be seen on walls throughout the Aurora Cultural Centre as it hosts Rigby’s first solo show, *Stories Woven Through Fabric*.

On now through Nov. 30, Rigby uses the medium of ribbon skirts to “share the lived experience of Indigenous individuals impacted by the Sixties Scoop and residential school systems,” says the Centre.

“Ribbon skirts hold deep cultural significance for many Indigenous communities across Canada and North America,” says the Centre. “While their meanings vary between nations, they are recognized as symbols of identity, connection to heritage, and the land, and tools for healing. Through her art, Rigby creates a space for truth and reflection, inviting members of her community to share their stories and, in doing so, foster a sense of healing and understanding surrounding National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.”

Choosing ribbon skirts as a medium has allowed Rigby to collect threads of her own story, one that was and continues to be impacted by both residential schools and the Sixties Scoop.

“They are works of art – a lot of creativity goes into them, a lot of story, and I wanted to tell my family’s story within a skirt, and all of that came together while I was in the program at Georgian College,” says Rigby.

Continued on Page A18

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CLOSE GAME – The Banting Memorial High School Marauders senior boys' football team takes on the Collingwood Collegiate Institute Fighting Owls on the field at Banting on Friday, Oct. 2. Banting's Nyle Chamberlain sprints through the Fighting Owls' line during the second quarter of the game. The Marauders were leading 12-7 in the second half. A late touchdown by Collingwood gave them a one-point lead, and the Banting team had to settle for a 13-12 loss.

BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

Hornets remain undefeated for the season after two weekend games

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Alliston Hornets remain undefeated and in first place in the Carruthers Division of the Provincial Junior Hockey League (PJHL) after winning both weekend games.

The Hornets hosted the Muskoka Bears for their Friday night home game at the New Tecumseth Recreation Centre on Friday, Oct. 3.

It was an unusual scoreless first period when neither team could find the back of the net.

The Hornets took a 2-0 lead early in the second period on goals from Noah Larmon and Jacob Jackson.

Muskoka was on the scoreboard late in the period with a single goal.

Alliston's Tristen Pitt notched the Hornets' third goal with 40 seconds remaining in the period.

The game was tied in the third period when the Bears scored two goals in the first four minutes of the period.

The Hornets responded by scoring three to end the night.

Alliston's goals came from Nick Lamont, Mark Coish, and a final marker from Jax Bellwood with 58 seconds of the clock.

The final was a 6-3 win for the Hornets. On Sunday, Oct. 5, the Hornets travelled to Huntsville to take on the Otters at the Canada Summit Centre.

At the end of the first period, the game was tied at two.

Nick Farrington and Tristen Pitt got the first-period Alliston goals.

The second period was more of a turkey shoot when the Hornets scored six unanswered goals to lead the game 8-2.

Second period Hornets goals came from Ben Smith, Noah Larmon, Jacob Jackson, Ben Smith for two, and two more from Tristan Pitt to give him a hat-trick for the night.

The Hornets scored five more in the third period while allowing one Huntsville Otters goal, to end the game with a 13-3 Alliston win.

Third-period Hornets goals came from Jax Bellwood, Gavin Williams, Duncan Grube, John Rosato, Noah Cochrane, and one more from Ben Smith to give him a hat-trick for the night.

The Hornets will have five road games before returning to home ice.

They will be back at the New Tecumseth



Recreation Centre on Friday, Oct. 24, to host the Innisfil Spartans.

Game time is 7:30 p.m.

Continued from Page A16

Stories Woven Through Fabric reclaims Indigenous identity – one ribbon at a time

“Initially what I wanted to show through my ribbon skirts was my matriarchal line. I have one ribbon skirt that is dedicated to my family and in that I have three prominent ribbons that go vertically.... One of them is for my grandmother, one is for myself, and one is for my mother. My grandmother was a part of the residential school system, my mother was part of the Sixties Scoop, and in the middle is myself, stepping forward to reclaim our culture and our history.”

Coming out of the residential school system, Rigby says her grandmother had “no concept of showing love” and had never told her daughter that she loved her. Her mother,

in turn, as a result of the Scoop, grew up disconnected from a feeling of familial belonging.

“My mom was very strict and very disciplined with me and it took a lot for her to start talking about how she grew up and some of the things she was having a hard time doing when she was raising me,” says Rigby. “It took a lot for my mom to finally step forward and start talking to me about our history.”

“When she recognized that I was on that path of going to school, being involved in the community and engaging, she started to open up. The whole concept of this Ribbon Skirt exhibition was, for many years,

Indigenous people were not willing to talk, and for the same amount of years, the non-Indigenous weren’t ready to listen. What came about because of that is a lot of people trying to reclaim their culture, having grown up surrounded by trauma, and having to step forward out of that and be these strong Indigenous individuals reclaiming their histories. It’s very difficult to do, but what I was really hoping is through my artistry and through listening to others who felt the same way I did, that by having that story on their skirt would help them find healing. Through that medium myself, I find healing as well.”

It has been a journey of healing, reclama-

tion and growth for the family, and now Rigby’s children have continued on the path of cultural interpretation, fire-keeping, and furthering the Ojibwe language.

“My mom was overwhelmed,” says Rigby of her family’s reaction to the exhibition. “My sister-in-law was reading to her a portion of the stories that were on the skirts and my mom said something that many people came up to me and said on the opening day, ‘We recognize a similar thread through each and every story.’ For people trying to find their connection and trying to find their footing, it’s a little bit of an eye-opener and it also makes them realize they’re not the only ones.”

Drivers encouraged to be cautious of farm equipment on roadways during harvest season

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

As harvest season begins, it is important to share the road with farm equipment traveling around the region.

The Ontario Federation of Agriculture is encouraging drivers to stay alert and take precautions to help prevent collisions involving farm vehicles.

Here are some tips for motorists who encounter farm equipment on the road.

Be patient and pass only when safe. Modern farm equipment is larger than ever. Narrow shoulders make it difficult for operators to pull over to the side of the road.

Look for the orange triangle on the back of farm vehicles. This triangle means the equipment is legally limited to speeds of 40 km/h or less.

Watch for turn signals and remember that gaps between slow-moving vehicles and oncoming traffic can close quickly.

Farmers also play a key role in road safety when they are travelling.

Farmers should conduct a daily 360-degree safety check before heading out onto roads.

A vehicle check should include inspecting hitches, brakes, tires, and power take-offs. The driver must ensure everything is maintained and ready for the road.

Make sure lights are functional and the slow-moving vehicle sign is clearly visible and secure.

Everyone plays a vital role in keeping roads as safe as possible.

By working together, everyone can do their part to make sure everyone returns home safe this harvest season.



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Nottawasaga OPP arrest impaired driver after public complaint

A complaint by a member of the public resulted in members of the Nottawasaga Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police charging one individual with impaired driving.

Shortly before 7:30 p.m., on Monday, Sept. 29, Nottawasaga OPP responded to a public complaint of an impaired driver on

Second Street in the Town of New Tecumseth.

Witness reported that a male was believed to be impaired after dropping his children off at a community program.

Officers located the vehicle and spoke with the driver.

Based on their observations, officers deter-

mined the driver was impaired and placed him under arrest.

As a result of the investigation, Thomas DeCristoforo, 36, of Beeton, was charged with:

- Operation While Impaired – blood alcohol concentration (80 plus)
- Operation While Impaired – alcohol

and drugs

None of the listed charges has been proven in court.

The OPP remains committed to ensuring Ontario roads are safe from impaired drivers. If you suspect that someone is driving while impaired by alcohol or drugs, it is important to call 9-1-1 to report it.

Driver charged with impaired operation after putting vehicle in ditch

Members of the Nottawasaga Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) have charged one individual with impaired driving following a single motor vehicle collision in the Town of New Tecumseth.

Officers responded to a single-vehicle col-

lision on 10 Sideroad between the 3rd and 4th Line in the Town of New Tecumseth on Sept. 30, shortly before 5:30 p.m., where a vehicle went into the ditch.

Officers located the vehicle and met with the driver.

During the interaction, grounds were

formed that the driver's ability to operate a motor vehicle was impaired by drugs, leading to the driver's arrest.

As a result of the investigation, Matthew Harrison, 27, of Beeton, was charged with:

- Operation while impaired - alcohol and drugs

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

The accused is scheduled to attend the Ontario Court of Justice in Bradford on Oct. 30 to answer to the charges.

None of the listed charges has been proven in court.

Firearms seized after police stop vehicle travelling 70 kilometres over speed limit

On Sept. 26, South Simcoe Police were conducting proactive traffic enforcement in Bradford West Gwillimbury. At approximately 10 p.m., a uniform patrol officer observed a dark-coloured vehicle travelling at a high rate of speed. The vehicle was recorded travelling at 150 km/h in a posted 80 km/h zone.

Police initiated a traffic stop, and the officer engaged with the driver and a front-seat passenger. During the interaction, the officer detected a strong odor of cannabis. Police conducted an investigation and with the assistance from

additional uniform patrol officers, a search of the vehicle was conducted pursuant to the Cannabis Control Act (CCA).

During the search, officers located a Glock 9mm handgun and a loaded magazine in a satchel. The driver and the passenger in the front seat were arrested.

As a result of the investigation, a 30-year-old male from Maple and a 29-year-old male from Maple have been charged with the following offences:

- Unauthorized Possession of Firearm – C.C.

Section 91(1)

- Possession of Prohibited or Restricted Firearm with Ammunition – C.C. Section 95(a)
- Possession of Weapon for Dangerous Purpose – C.C. Section 88
- Carry Concealed Weapon – C.C. Section 90
- Occupant of Motor Vehicle knowing there was Firearm – C.C. Section 94
- Knowledge of Unauthorized Possession of Firearm – C.C. Section 92(1)

In addition to the criminal charges, the driver

of the vehicle is facing additional charges under the Highway Traffic Act (HTA) and CCA, as follows:

- Stunt Driving – HTA Section 172
- Drive a Vehicle with Cannabis Readily Available – CCA Section 12(1)

Additionally, the accused driving the vehicle had his licence suspended for 30 days and the vehicle was impounded for 14 days. Both the accused were held in custody for a bail hearing.

None of the listed charges have been proven in court.

South Simcoe Police lay 155 charges while targeting vehicle identification offences

During the months of August and September, South Simcoe Police conducted a traffic enforcement campaign focused on vehicle identification offences.

This proactive initiative led to 155 charges related to obstructed, altered, or unauthorized licence plates, as well as failure to display a front licence plate where required.

These offences can hinder the ability of police to identify vehicles involved in violations, making investigations and accountability more challenging. Addressing these issues is crucial in ensuring road safety and bringing offenders to justice, according to

the South Simcoe Police.

“This campaign underscores the commitment and diligence of our officers in keeping our roadways safe for everyone and holding drivers accountable. Road safety is a shared responsibility, and the cooperation of the public in identifying and rectifying these

offences has been instrumental,” said the South Simcoe Police in a press release.

“We urge all drivers to regularly inspect their vehicles for compliance with the Highway Traffic Act and thank our communities for their support in promoting safer roadways for all.”

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Preview: Fri Oct 17th, 10am – 4pm, or call for appointment on another day.

Pickup: Sat Oct 18th, 10am – 5pm. Call or text if you need more information.

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REMINDER

LIVE AUCTION SALE

for **Emidio Dos Santos**

Saturday October 11, 10:00am

713630 Durham Rd B, Grey Highlands, ON — From the corner of Hwy 10 & Cty Rd 9 (at the Dundalk corner), come north on Hwy 10 for 12.5km to Rd 170. Turn left & go 3.2km to junction with Durham Rd B. Turn left & follow for 200m to sale. OR From the corner of Hwy 10 & Grey Cty Rd 4 (the four corners in Flesherton), come south 7.5km to Rd 170. Turn right & go 3.2km to junction with Durham Rd B. Turn left & follow for 200m to sale. **** PARKING ON SITE****

Tractors & Skid Steer: JD 6200L 4x4 tractor, Quicke loader; Ford 5640 4x4 tractor, Reist loader; NH 555 skid steer, material bucket. **Bulldozer & Excavator:** Case 450 bulldozer, 7' blade, blade angle & tilts, working; JD 690-A excavator, new motor this year. **Livestock Trailer, Car, Truck, Trailer, 4-wheelers, Dirt Bike (all sold as is):** 1987 Featherlite cattle trailer, 20ft, single divider, gooseneck pin/ball hitch; 2003 Volkswagen Golf TDI, diesel; 2000 Dodge SLT pickup, cab & 1/2, Cummins diesel; 16' tandem axle dump trailer; (3) 125 four wheelers - off road only; sm dirt bike. **Mach/Equip:** JD 430 round baler; Walco Whistler 4.5 rotary mower; Int 16 run seed drill; NH 489 haybine; NH 488 haybine; grapple bucket - ALO hookup; 20' steel round bale wagon, Horst u/c; 9' cultivator; 12' packer; JD 780 hydra push manure spreader; 12' disc; 18' cultivator, with harrows; (2) 3 furrow plows; 8' cultivator; 10' pull type cultivator; 14' cultivator; Husky 8' 2 angle snowblower; Spread Master fert spreader; 12' Ford disc-needs work; 4ft 3pth rototiller; NH 488 haybine-parts; cultivator-parts. **Sawmill/Shop/Farm Rel:** Woodland Mills HM-126 portable sawmill; 8'x6' walk-in cooler (to be removed by purchaser); gas cement mixer; post hole auger; 9' & 12' steel beams; One Sixteen ATV trailer; Powermate 60 gal air comp; (2) round bale feeders; (50) screw jacks; fencing suppl; MTD riding lawn mower-needs work; ARE truck cap; dog kennel; wagonload; and more!

Lunch Booth & Washroom Available **Preview: Friday October 10, 1-6pm**

Terms & Conditions: Cash or Cheque with proper I.D. on day of sale. Owner and/or Auctioneer will not be held responsible for accident or loss on day of sale. All items are sold "As Is". All verbal announcements on day of sale take precedence over written ads.

Owner: Emidio Dos Santos (416) 705-7021

Auctioneers: Kevin McArthur (519) 942-0264 Scott Bessey (519) 843-5083
Email: mcarthurbessey@gmail.com

www.theauctionadvertiser.com/KMcArthur - full listing & photos

LIVE AUCTION SALE FOR ARTHUR & LOIS KELLER 7900 - 5TH LINE ESSA TWP

Directions: Come north of Baxter at the lights on Simcoe County Rd 10 for 3.1 km to 20th Sideroad of Essa, turn east 1 km. Turn left on the 5th Line for 1.4 km to sale on west side. Note entry to sale at the top of the hill w/steel gates & open field for parking.

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708 OBITUARIES

In Memory of Jerauldean Ann Kuti



Born on June 23, 1937, Jerauldean Ann Kuti, known as Ann or Anie, surrounded by family and friends lost the battle of life to cancer on September 07, 2025.

Ann lived a life full of passion, dedication, and love for those around her. As a Registered Nurse, she spent many years of her life caring for others, offering compassion and expertise to patients and colleagues alike. Her nurturing spirit extended beyond her work, as she also devoted herself to her family, children and community.

Ann's love for horses led her to become a respected race trainer, where she found joy in both the challenge and the triumphs of the sport. She worked tirelessly with her horses, earning the admiration of those in the racing community for her knowledge and commitment.

She was the cherished mother of Gregory Joseph James Kuti and Karen Ann Kuti, whose lives were profoundly shaped by her love, guidance, and wisdom. Ann was also a proud grandmother of Danielle Ann Jonston, and her legacy of care, strength, and perseverance will live on through her family and all who knew her. A woman of grace and resilience, Ann touched the lives of many, and her passing leaves a void that will never be filled. She is preceded in death by brothers Brian, Richard and Dennis.

Ann will be laid to rest along side her father John, mother Noreen and brother Gregory. Her family is comforted by the memories of her unwavering support, the warmth of her presence, and the lessons she imparted. As she now rests in peace, we remember Ann for the kindness she showed to everyone she encountered, her passion for life, and her deep love for her family.

A celebration of her life will be held at St. Mary Magdalene's Anglican Church, location 116 Church Street, Schomberg, Ontario L0G1T0 on October 18, 2025. There will be a short service at 1:30 till 4:30. Jerauldean will be laid to rest in a private family gathering on October 11, 2025, in Port Colborne.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Southlake Cancer Centre or to Guelph University Equine Research or the Long Run Charity for Racehorses.

May her soul rest in eternal peace

Please contact Greg Kuti at 416-807-3276 or email gregkuti1@gmail.com with any questions.

Elmer: Thomas Arthur "Tom"

Peacefully on October 4th, 2025 at Southlake Regional Health Centre Newmarket. Tom Elmer at the age of 75 years, loving husband of Kathy Elmer (née: Burns). Beloved father of Juliana Elmer and Drew Elmer (Dee Furlotte). Caring grandfather to Kiaran, Liadan, Freya, George II, and James. Tom is survived by his mother Sylvia Elmer (the late Ted). Loving brother of Sharon (Greg Murphy), Ray, Faye, Keith (Susan), Brenda, Cindy and predeceased by sister Dorothy. Forever in the hearts of his nieces, nephews, extended family and many friends.

A drop-in Celebration of Life will be held on Friday, October 10th, 2025, from 5pm until 12 midnight at the Royal Canadian Legion Branch #329 (25 Richmond Street East, Tottenham, Ontario). Donations in Tom's memory to the charity of your choice would be appreciated. Funeral arrangements entrusted to Rod Abrams Funeral Home 905-936-3477. Online memories and condolences may be left for the family at www.RodAbramsFuneralHome.com.

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Continued from Page 4

Brock's Banter: Encouraging and fostering Truth & Reconciliation

"That abuse of state power tore families apart, silenced languages and shattered lives. True reconciliation is about restoring control to Indigenous peoples over their own lives – control that should always have been theirs – and partnering to deliver real results.

"Working side by side, we will end the government overreach resulting in horrors like the Residential School system. We will acknowledge the survivors and pursue reconciliation: unlocking responsible resource development with willing Indigenous partners, creating good-paying jobs, building revenue for communities, and protecting firearms rights needed for hunting and traditional ways of life. On the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, we commit to healing historical wrongs by unleashing opportunities for all Indigenous peoples as

true partners in prosperity."

And the other?

"The federal government is moving forward on the important work of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action, including supporting Indigenous communities to uncover unmarked and undocumented graves and burial sites at residential schools. We are advancing the Calls for Justice from the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act.

"We are building together – in health care, housing, education, and economic opportunity – upholding Indigenous rights and empowering communities with security and prosperity. Canada's new government will be a steadfast partner by respecting

self-determination, by prioritising Indigenous equity and co-ownership as vital principles of building, and by recognising that true partnership first requires shared understanding and that building Canada requires Indigenous and non-Indigenous voices to lead in the shared stewardship of this land.

"Because it is vital that we build, but equally vital how we build – with Indigenous leadership, prosperity, and opportunity being foundational. Reconciliation is a generational task – lived and practised every day."

The first statement came from Opposition Leader Pierre Poilievre, while the second came from Prime Minister Mark Carney. While both underscored the importance of Indigenous prosperity, it was encouraging at the very least that the PM acknowledged

there is more work to be done on addressing the Calls to Action.

Citing the residential school system as purely an example of government overreach – sidestepping, of course, the role churches played in this debacle, while also tying it to party platform planks – shows, in my opinion, a lack of vision for what's truly needed for the reconciliation challenges ahead, and needlessly adds fuel to an already politicized fire.

Indigenous peoples have every reason to be skeptical of getting true action from their leaders at this point, regardless of party, but I know which statement I found more encouraging.

We may have come a long way from the first Orange Shirt Day in 2013, but we still have a long, long way to go – and leaders need to meet the moment.

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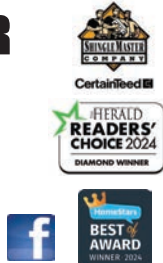


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