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Town of New Tecumseth to host Municipal Open House

BY BRIAN LOCKHART LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Many local residents enjoy the town's amenities but may not be aware of everything New Tecumseth has to offer.

Whether you are new to the community or just curious about what is available, the Town

Open House to provide information to residents. The focus will be on the various activities and programs available, and providing representatives.

This is an opportunity to discover local community services that are available. Local ven-

You can try out some new, fun activities with the Town Recreation Program Team.

Town councillors will be at the event, so you residents with the chance to speak with local can meet them and put a face to the name if you don't already know them.

There will be free face painting for the kids. The Week of Welcome: Municipal Open dors will be on site as well as community orga- House will take place on Thursday, Sept. 18, of New Tecumseth will be hosting a Municipal nizations that do good work in the community. at the Town Hall in Alliston from 6 to 8 p.m.

At-home kit from public health gives more options for STI testing

BY BRIAN LOCKHART LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

has announced a new ongoing effort to reduce officer of health. "This service offers a conve- GetaKit by visiting www.getakit.ca. the stigma surrounding HIV and other sexually transmitted infections.

free and discreet at-home, self-testing for infec-

This will promote early detection and treatment and ensure equitable access to sexual health services.

who may face barriers accessing traditional understand their results and access appropriate health care, to take control of their sexual care. The Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit health," said Dr. Colin Lee, associate medical nient testing option that can be delivered straight tive and overall health if left untreated."

> testing for other STIs, including chlamydia, person's address. gonorrhea, syphilis, and hepatitis C.

For these tests, online or mail-delivered req- within three to seven days. uisition forms are provided by a licensed physi-

The service also provides recommendations for preventive care, such as vaccinations other services offered by the Simcoe Muskoka

"GetaKit is designed to support individuals offers resources and support to help individuals

Residents of Simcoe Muskoka can access

The platform offers personalized guidance to someone's door. GetaKit allows people to to help users select the most appropriate tests The Health Unit has created a partnership test for serious infections that are easily trans- based on their individual needs. Test kits are with GetaKit – an online service that delivers missible and can significantly impact reproduc- discreetly packaged to ensure privacy, and lab requisition forms can be printed, sent directly In addition to HIV testing, GetaKit allows to a chosen local laboratory, or delivered to a

Test results are typically available online

GetaKit is available to residents age 17 and cian, ensuring proper authorization and confi- older. HIV self-testing is specifically available to those aged 18 and older.

For more information about GetaKit and and HIV prevention strategies. GetaKit also District Health Unit, visit smdhu.org/GetAkit

CORRECTION

A story in the Sept. 4, edition of the New Tecumseth Times about a public input session on next year's budget at the New Tecumseth Administration Centre incorrectly stated the date as Monday, Oct. 8. It should have read Wednesday, Oct. 8.

The Times would like to apologize for any confusion or inconvenience this may have caused.



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Town of New Tecumseth working on improvements for off-leash dog park in Beeton

LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Stewart Street off-leash dog park in to transport fill and mulch. Beeton will be receiving some upgrades to improve the park's overall usability.

The park has had long-standing drainage and restore green space. concerns with some low-laying areas collecting water during wet and rainy days.

southeastern portion of the park closed until plete. spring 2026 to allow hydro-seeded areas to be fully established and stabilized.

The work is expected to take around five weeks and includes a series of upgrades.

The fence between the small and large dog areas will be temporarily removed to allow access for construction equipment and grad-

Internal pathways will be closed during construction to ensure safety and allow for equipment movement.

There will be drainage improvements in low-lying areas that frequently collect water.

Heavy equipment will be used on the site Select areas at the park will be hydro-

seeded to encourage healthy grass growth Approximately 75 per cent of the park will

be covered with mulch to enhance drainage Construction began on Sept. 8, with the and comfort once the elevation work is com-

The improvements to the park are expected to be completed by Oct. 13.

UPGRADING - In an effort to improve the facility and correct areas that routinely collect water, the Stewart Street off-leash dog park in Beeton will undergo some upgrades. The construction is expected to be completed by

BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO



Local hospital foundation announces the success of \$1 million Matching Gift campaign

BY BRIAN LOCKHART LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Stevenson Memorial Hospital Foundation has announced the remarkable success of the Building Your Stevenson for Tomorrow, Together campaign's \$1 million matchwith Brian and Kathy Gibson.

the impact of community donations towards the dedication and desire our community the hospitals' vital redevelopment project.

Since its inception on Sept. 1, 2024, the care services. Every dollar raised supports

from individuals, local businesses, and organizations across the region.

"Thanks to the incredible generosity of Brian and Kathy Gibson, and the passionate support from our community, we are thrilled ing gift initiative, launched in partnership to have reached this milestone," said Frank Cerisano, CEO of Stevenson Memorial Hos-This campaign has successfully doubled pital Foundation. "This success highlights has to support strengthening local health-

initiative has inspired overwhelming com- our Because of YOU \$80 million campaign success. With Kathy being born at Stevenson enhanced healthcare facility.'

> The \$1 million matching effort has surpassed expectations.

this \$1 million matching gift because supporting our hospital is our way of supporting our entire community and the people who together to make this fundraising initiative a cal services.

munity support with donations pouring in and will go directly toward transforming Ste- and both of us raised here, we truly believe venson Memorial Hospital into a modern, that investing in our hospital is investing in the future of our community."

The Because of YOU campaign for hospital redevelopment is an ambitious effort to "We were proud to support Stevenson with raise \$80 million through community support to help build the future of Stevenson Memorial Hospital.

The transformation will triple the size of call it home," expressed Brian and Kathy the hospital, providing expanded emergency Gibson. "It's inspiring to see so many oth- care and advanced diagnostic imaging, ers in New Tecumseth and surrounding areas including Stevenson's first MRI suite, modnot only share that enthusiasm but also come ern inpatient facilities, and specialized surgi-







This beautifully appointed Briar Hill bungalow will not disappoint you. From the moment you enter the spacious front foyer, you will notice the quality finishings this open concept Chilton model offers. From the beautiful hardwood flooring, to the 8' interior doors, to the crown moulding and abundant pot lights throughout - this is a wonderful home. The gorgeous kitchen features things like upgraded soft close cabinets, upgraded quartz countertops, waterfall on the peninsula and the backsplash; upgraded floor tile, beautiful KitchenAid eel appliances including a double oven, a pot filler over the stove and upgraded lighting throughout. The open concept living and dining areas offer great spaces to relax or entertain guests. The built-in cabinets (with remote control lighting) on either side of the fireplace are a beautiful addition to the room. The deck - off the living room is a wonderful spot for morning coffee or evening BBQs. The large main floor primary bedroom has a 'spa like' ensuite and a walk-in closet. This level also features space for a home office or den overlooking the front garden. This home has a main floor laundry room and direct entry to the house from the garage – so handy! Heading down to the lower level, you will immediately feel the quality of the upgraded carpet and under pad beneath your feet. The family room is a wonderful spot to read a book by the fire - or enjoy a game of cards alongside the built-in bar (remote control lighting)! There is also a space off to the side to use as a place to work on that hobby you have been wanting to get into. The lower level is complete with a beautiful bedroom for guests and a gorgeous 4 pc bath. Come by on Sunday - I would love to give you a tour!





Editorial, Letters & Opinion

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

~ Stanislaw Jerzy Lec

Self defence

A recent incident in Lindsay, Ont., has caused some controversy when a victim of a crime was charged with some very serious offences after an intruder broke into his apartment around 3:20 a.m.

The victim, who was alone in the middle of the night, did the obvious thing and defended himself against an intruder in his home.

However, in the aftermath, the police charged the apartment dweller, the victim, with aggravated assault and assault with a weapon.

The intruder was no Boy Scout. Also from Lindsay, the man has been charged with possession of a weapon for a dangerous purpose, break and enter, theft, mischief under \$5,000, and failing to comply with probation. Police said he was also wanted on unrelated offences.

The intruder was not the kind of guy you want in your home at any time - and certainly not as a stranger in the middle of the night.

As a result of his criminal activity, the intruder ended up in the hospital with lifethreatening injuries.

As he spends time in his hospital bed. severely injured, hopefully, he can reflect on his decision to break into someone's home in the middle of the night.

The incident has many people, including Ontario Premier Doug Ford, questioning why the victim in this case was charged with a crime.

In Canada, a person can defend themselves with 'reasonable force' against an attack or home invasion.

This isn't Florida with its 'stand your ground' law, where you can open fire on a trespasser simply for being on your property.

'Reasonable force' is a common sense way of saying you can defend yourself, but it's not your place to seek revenge for an incident.

If you are attacked on the street and a person raises their fist to you, reasonable force would be to defend yourself and hope you are a better boxer than the other guy.

In the case of an intruder in your home, the stakes are much higher.

I'm sure in this mentioned case, the apartment dweller was scared to death to find a stranger in his home in the middle of the night. Having a strange, shadowy figure in your bedroom would no doubt cause you to believe they intend to do harm to you or your family.

So what would constitute 'reasonable force' in a case like this?

A baseball bat to the side of the intruder's head would likely be considered reasonable. It would be better to swing a bat than wait and find out the intruder is armed and intends to harm your family.

However, if you give him a good beating and drive him out of the house, your part in the incident is over. It is then that you call the police and let them take it from there.

Using unreasonable force, would be if you chased the intruder down the street and beat him into a coma several hundred metres from your house.

Several years ago, a friend of mine and her family were getting ready for bed around 11 p.m. She heard her husband call out, 'Call 9-1-1, there's an intruder in the house.'

Her husband had discovered a young man, around early 20s, in his daughter's unoccupied bedroom, wearing only boxer shorts, his clothes lying on the floor.

The man had a minor scuffle with the intruder as the stranger tried to leave the

The stranger seemed more confused than threatening. After a few moments, the husband let the guy walk out through the front door.

It was the middle of winter and -20 degrees. The police found him standing on a street corner in his underwear and

It turns out the guy had gone out drinking with friends. He knew he was too drunk to drive, so he called for a taxi.

He gave the taxi his home However, address. the location where he was picked up was between two towns.

BRIAN LOCKHART FROM THE SECOND ROW

> The taxi driver dropped him off at the right address, but in the wrong town.

It just happened that my friend and her husband both thought the other person had locked the home entrance from the garage that night.

The intruder simply walked into the house because, in his drunken state, he thought he was home.

What would have happened if my friend's husband were a gun-toting feller with a 'shoot first and ask questions later' philosophy?

Part of the problem in cases like what happened in Lindsay is the reluctance of police to provide information to the public. Ontario police are notoriously tight-lipped when it comes to keeping the public informed, always stating that providing information will 'compromise the

Although most people probably sympathize with the victim in this case, knowing the full story might provide insight as to why the police thought it was necessary to charge a person, even though they were the apparent victim of a crime.

Stature with the rye?

Commuting sometimes gets a bad rap - but it needn't. Depending on how you commute, there are some opportunities

If you're not driving yourself to work, an hour or so on the bus or train can give you some time to plan for the day ahead, or unwind from the day that was. It gives you some time to polish off a book, catch up on emails, or simply to catch up with loved ones around the world, as I've seen so many on video calls doing just that.

When I became a more regular commuter in February of 2024, I dreaded the prospect, but soon came to enjoy the time with a good book, getting the day in order, or, on the occasional mornings that began at an ungodly hour, catching up on a few missed winks before the day began in earnest.

As anyone who takes transit can attest, however, mornings and evenings are not always quiet hours that allow for contemplation. Sometimes, it involves having what's sometimes described as the "theatre of the living" unfold before

On one of my first commutes from where I'm now living, my quiet time with a new novel was once interrupted by some sort of domestic squabble at the back of the vehicle. While the couple in question seemed to be enjoying their verbal sparring, which was occasionally punctuated by a thwack with a backpack in either direction, it was, of course, dis-

Attempts to kick the brawlers of the bus were unsuccessful, so they decided to shuffle the rest of us onto a waiting vehicle while transit officials stayed with the loving couple until police arrived.

Outside of the commute, the GO Tra ride home after spending some time in distance – until being felled in that evethe city can be equally vivid.

While I'm yet to see a couple have an all-out war in the Quiet Zone, I have, within some of my fellow passengers,

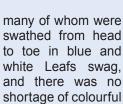
despite my best efforts, been privy to heated divorce negotiations, thanks to a boom-voiced lawyer sitting adjacent to me, and even a young boy who took the opportunity of the long ride to finally ask his parents where babies came from. Unfortunately, this question was voiced just moments before we arrived at my stop, so while I didn't get to hear what passes for "facts of life" talk these days, I hope the kid got the info he wanted!

Another curiosity unfolded earlier this year when I had to take the train back from Toronto on the same evening the Toronto Maple Leafs were eliminated from the playoffs.

Hopes, as we know, were high amongst the more sports-minded of us, as they are every single year, and it looked like the team was set to go the ning's hurdle.

Needless to say, blood was boiling

BROCK WEIR BROCK'S BANTER





how only they - whoever happened to be speaking - knew what would have righted the ship and taken the home team to the next level. Because, of

Same old, same old, but what really stuck with me was their vehemence, one ripping off his jersey upon getting off the train in York Region and stomping it into the pavement, and another threatening to burn his own jersey, in an effort to stick it to... someone.

The players? They probably had bigger fish to try.

Management? See above.

Continued on Page 15

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Gaza – not so much a genocide; more a real estate opportunity

GWYNNE DYER OUR WORLD TODAY

A motley band of greedy fantasists got together at the White House a week ago (Aug. 27) and came up with a cunning plan to bring peace to the Middle East while lining their own pockets at the same time. It was 'leaked' within days, as it was clearly meant to be, and since then the sound of outraged clucking has been loud in

It is "a Trumpian get-rich-quick scheme reliant on war crimes, Al and tourism," wrote the Israeli daily Ha'aretz.

"It's a textbook case of international crimes on an unimaginable scale: forcible population transfer, demographic engineering and collective punishment," said Duncan Grant, head of Swiss-based human rights group Trial International.

"It's insane," said H.A. Hellyer of the Royal United Services Institute.

They are right, so far as they go – but they only know the half of it. The other half is that this is an insane crime that could actually happen.

As you would expect at a meeting chaired by Donald Trump, half the participants were real estate developers by trade - himself, his ignorant 'Special Envoy for the Middle East' Steve Witkoff, and his son-in-law Jared Kushner. Marco Rubio was there as National Security Adviser, and former British prime minister Tony Blair to raise the tone a bit.

He can't raise it all that much, because he is a war criminal himself. (He has admitted that he would have invaded Iraq even if he had known that there were no 'weapons of mass destruction' there.) But he and his Tony Blair Institute (TBI) have spent the past nine years scrounging money from various Middle Eastern potentates and investors, so he has contacts.

The meeting was intended to flesh out the plan for 'cleansing' Gaza of its 2 million current residents that Trump first mooted early this year and replacing them with an unspecified but wealthy 'international' population who would turn it into 'the Riviera of the Middle East'. You know, like Saint-Tropez, Antibes and the Cinque Terre, only flatter and farther east.

The Palestinians who are living and dying in Gaza now would be 'relocated' to some other country while 40 mil-

> lion tonnes of rubble, unexploded ordnance and decomposed bodies are cleared away and a shiny new city is built on the ruins. Property owners will be given digital tokens that they can spend to resettle elsewhere or maybe even buy property in Gaza again.

> The United States will govern Gaza as a 'trusteeship' for at least 10 years, with no information on what happens after that. The immense cost of clearing up the devastation and building a new 'Land of Oz' would be borne by private investors, who could expect a fourfold return on their capital in a decade. And everyone will live happily ever after.

There are different levels of self-deception operating among the various political and financial groups that may be inveigled into supporting this bizarre and illegal project. Most naive are those who

believe this is a sincerely meant and viable plan. This may include Donald Trump, who is probably blinded by the ever-receding vision of the Nobel Peace Prize.

Then there are those who pride themselves on their cynicism and have worked out that it is just 'a cover story for ethnic cleansing', as the Washington Post put it. It gives Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin 'Bibi' Netanyahu something to say while his troops drive the Palestinians into exile, and he can just 'change his mind' later about letting them return.

And then there are the true cynics, most of them Arabs, who know all of the above and still think that the Riviera of the Middle East may come to pass. They base this view on their conviction that the governing Arab elites have given up on the Palestinians and would accept Israeli annexation not only of the Gaza Strip but also of the West Bank.

Here's what Ragheda Dergham wrote on Aug. 31: "Trump and Kushner have calculated that Arab states, particularly in the Gulf, will not jeopardize their prized bilateral relationships with the Trump administration. Eventually, they believe, these countries will accept the new status quo in Gaza and, later, the West Bank, however bitterly...

"Neither Arab states nor the Islamic Republic of Iran, nor Turkey or the broader Islamic world, will do more than protest — albeit in varying forms against US support for Israeli plans to remove Palestinians from Gaza and the West Bank through either

forced or 'voluntary' displacement, in service of the biblical project to remake these territories into a singular Jewish state."

I'm afraid she may be right, in which case Israel may have 'King Bibi' forever. Of course, Ragheda Dergham lives in Lebanon. In most other countries of the Arab world, she'd be in jail.



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IF PRICES YOU CAN HAVE KEEP RISING, MY COFFEE WHEN WE'RE GONNA YOU PRY IT FROM HAVE TO CUT MY BROKE, BACK. SLEEPING HANDS

CROSSWORD

10 13 15 16 18 19 21 22 27 28 35 40 48 49 50 51

CLUES ACROSS

1. Carved into

7. __ Rogers, cowboy

10. Unruly locale

13. Influential

noblemen

15. David __ George,

enterprises

27. It's everywhere

28. Fictional ad exec

36. Subway rodent

12. Edible mushroom

14. Rattling breaths

Brit PM

16. Musician Clapton

18. Invests in little

19. Perimeter

21. Chicago ballplayer

22. Animal body part

these days

1. Root of taro plant

33. Mr. T character

34. Against the current 4. A way to sing

37. Armor plate

38. Hair on the head

39. Strong insect

40. Swollen lymph node

41. A way to lessen

44. Walter White

poison

45. Sleeveless garment

49. Without features

50. Yankee great Mattingly

51. Removes from

record

CLUES DOWN

2. Those ones

3. Appliances have one woman's name

Puzzle No. 259310 • Solution in Classifieds

5. Midway between

east and southeast

6. Animal dwelling

7. An object that as

survived from the past

8. Oil cartel

9. Affirmative 10. Foul smell

11. Brisk tempo

12. S. American

14. Restored

17. Official

18. Skin lesions

Electroencephalograph

23. Middle Eastern

country

24. Extremely angry

25. Title used before a

26. British thermal unit 29. By the way (abbr.)

30. Anger 31. Nullifies

32. Ones who acquire

35. Time zone

36. Arabic name

38. Protein in mucus

40. Ballpoint pen

41. Mimics

42. Humans have a

lot of it 43. Expressions of

good wishes

44. Cool!

45. One point east of due south

46. City of Angels

football team (abbr.) 47. A way to save for

retirement

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

COMMUNITY VOICE

Monthly Message: Walk with purpose and champion seniors in need at Grand Parade

In the heart of New Tecumseth, a powerful movement is taking shape — one that blends community spirit, compassion, and a good pair of walking shoes. The Grand Parade, a national family-friendly fundraising walk, returns this September for the third year with a mission that resonates deeply: supporting seniors in need.

The Grand Parade is more than just a walk — it's a lifeline for aging Canadians who are struggling with isolation, financial hardship, lack of transportation, and loss. On Sept. 20, the community of New Tecumseth will gather to walk together, raise funds, and celebrate the resilience of our local seniors.

Supporting local

The Grand Parade is designed to be inclusive and engaging. Participants of all ages are encouraged to join, whether as individuals, families, or teams. The route begins on Mill Street, saunters down Victoria Street, and concludes at Banting Memorial High School, where a complimentary BBQ and celebration await.

We are so grateful to community supporters like Giant Tiger, McDonald's, and M&M Food Market for supplying a delicious BBQ lunch and treats, and to The Printing House and Jumping for Joy Mascots for their support of this event. We are excited to have Lachlan McGurk, owner of



Bern's Flowers and talented bagpiper, lead the parade this year.

Walkers who raise over \$150 (or \$75 for youth) earn the iconic Grand Parade 'Life is Grand' t-shirt — a symbol of solidarity and support.

Every step taken and every dollar raised will directly support programs that help our local seniors live healthier, more connected lives. CONTACT Community Services uses these funds to provide essential services to seniors who need them most.

Why this walk matters

Seniors are facing a growing list of challenges. Rising costs of living, limited transportation options, and social isolation are just a few of the issues that CONTACT sees daily. Many older adults live alone, far from family, and struggle to access basic necessities. The Grand Parade shines a spotlight on these issues, reminding the community that aging should never mean being forgotten.

Tina de los Santos, executive director of CONTACT Community Services, emphasizes the importance of the event: "Our goal is to raise awareness of the unique challenges faced by seniors in our community and to rally support from our neighbours and friends to help make a difference in their lives."

Community comes together

The Grand Parade is also a celebration of community. Local businesses, government officials, and organizations proudly participate, forming teams and competing in friendly fundraising challenges. Prizes are awarded for the most funds raised by individuals and teams, as well as for best team spirit — costumes are not only welcome but encouraged.

This year's Alliston scoreboard already shows impressive momentum. Teams like "Legion Legends III," "TLC Thrifters," and "CONTACT Your Councillor" are leading the charge, raising funds and rallying their networks to support the cause.

Brenda Pufek, CONTACT's manager of community engagement and development, shares her excitement: "We encourage every person to help us make this event a success. We service the most caring communities, and I know that the residents of New Tecumseth will show the rest of Canada what this really means at this event."

How you can help

Whether you're a seasoned walker or simply someone who cares, there are many ways to get involved:

• Register to walk: Join as an individual

or form a team with friends, family, or coworkers.

- Donate: Every contribution helps fund vital services for seniors.
- Volunteer: Help out on event day with setup, registration, or cheering on walkers.
- Spread the word: Share the event on social media and encourage others to participate.

To register, donate, or learn more, visit the official Grand Parade Alliston pagehttps://thegrandparade.org/location/alliston.

A step toward dignity

The Grand Parade in Alliston is more than a fundraiser — it's a statement. It says that seniors matter, that their stories are valued, and that their well-being is a shared responsibility. As walkers take to the streets on Sep. 20, they'll be carrying more than banners and water bottles — they'll be carrying hope.

In a world that often moves too fast, The Grand Parade invites us to slow down, walk together, and remember the people who paved the way before us. And in New Tecumseth, that walk is leading straight toward a future where every senior is seen, supported, and celebrated.

For more information about The Grand Parade in Alliston, Bradford, or Collingwood, please reach out to brenda@contact-communityservices.ca.

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.





Clear skies and giant kites fill the skies for Adjala-Tosorontio's 2025 KiteFest







FILLING THE SKIES - The 2025 Adjala-Tosorontio KiteFest on Sept. 6 saw several kite clubs bring their monster kites to the event, and they could be seen from several kilometres away. **BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO**

St. John's United Church gives thanks for successful pancake breakfast

BY BRIAN LOCKHART LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

St. John's United Church in Alliston and other organizations. hosted its 50th Potato Pancake Breakfast on Alliston Potato Festival.

The pancake breakfast started in 1973 smoothly. along with the Potato Festival; however, due to COVID, all activities were sus- help and youthful enthusiasm. pended for two years.

and chairs in the parking lot, got the grills unteers. up and running, mixed the pancake batearly morning start.

Tickets went on sale at 7:30 a.m.

sold out of pancake mix.

A total of 1,073 were sold.

The event had a lot of support from volunteers from both the church congregation

Members of the 4-H club and their super-Aug. 9, as one of the events in the popular visors, as well as high school volunteers, did a great job keeping things running

Organizers thank the volunteers for their

Like many churches, the congregation The breakfast began on Saturday morn- has many older members, and it would be ing when volunteers started placing tables difficult to host the event without the vol-

The St. John's United Church pancake ter, filled the coffee urns, and got the juice breakfast is an important part of the Potato boxes and other condiments in place for an Festival and has become an annual tradi-

> Proceeds generated through the 50th nity.







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THERE IS SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE!

National Forest Week recognized with tours of local forests

BY BRIAN LOCKHART LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Simcoe County is joining communities across Canada in recognizing National Forest Week.

National Forest Week takes place from Sept. 21 to 27. The week celebrates the vital role forests play in the environment, economy, and daily lives.

This year's theme is "Roots of Resilience: From Seed to Canopy." It honours the strength and interconnectedness of forest ecosystems and the people who care for them.

Sept. 20 to 26 also marks Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) Forest Week. This is an international campaign led by the FSC to raise awareness about responsible forest management and the importance of choosing FSC-certified products.

To mark the occasion, the County of Simcoe is hosting a series of guided forestry tours across various County Forest locations.

Open to all ages, these tours will showcase diverse forest types, including hardwood, coniferous, and wetland

Visitors will learn about sustainable forest management practices aligned with FSC principles and conservation

efforts such as reforestation, invasive species control, and habitat restoration. They will also learn about the role of forests in carbon storage, water protection, and community wellbeing.

"With more than 34,000 acres, the Simcoe County Forest is more than just trees; it's a living system that helps shape our way of life, protect our climate, and preserve our local culture," said Simcoe County Warden Basil Clarke. "By celebrating our forests, we're acknowledging how important it is to care for them and make smart choices that protect these natural treasures for the generations to come."

Details about tour schedules and location maps are available on the County's website at www.simcoe.ca/forestryguidedtours.

Local tours include:

- Wednesday, Sept. 17, at the Baxter Tract (6807 County Road 56, Essa) at 5 p.m.
- Sunday, Sept. 21, at the Baxter Tract (6807 County Road 56, Essa) at 12 p.m.
- Sunday, Sept. 21, at the Tottenham Tract (6631 2nd Line, Tottenham) at 12 p.m.
- Wednesday, Sept. 24, at the Tottenham Tract (6631 2nd Line, Tottenham) at 5 p.m.



FOREST WALK - National Forest Week will be recognized from Sept. 21 to 27, with tours of local forests taking place. These tours educate the public about the importance of forests for the environment and communities. There will be **BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO** two tours of the Simcoe County Forest Tottenham tract during National Forest Week.



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Baysox leading in North Dufferin Baseball League final series

BY BRIAN LOCKHART LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

North Dufferin Baseball League (NBDL) best- Sept. 1. of-seven final series for the 2025 Strother Cup championship.

The Baysox are the defending league champions, having won the title in 2024.

New Lowell came to the final series after the diamond with a 5-4 win. finishing the regular season in first place with a 17-4-1 record.

Owen Sound finished the regular season in second place with a 17-5 record and 34 points. 7-2 win to lead the series 2-0.

With the two top teams in the final series, the stage was set for some exciting playoff base- home run by Ryan McNeill and a two-run

New Lowell eliminated the Creemore Padres in the first round of the playoffs in a series that end. went five games.

They went on to dispatch the Bolton Brew- 13, in New Lowell, with a 1 p.m. start. ers in the second round in a series that took four games to finish. That series wrapped up Sound on Sunday, Sept. 14, with a 1 p.m. start. on Aug. 28.

Owen Sound eliminated the Midland Mari- New Lowell on Saturday, Sept. 20, at 1 p.m.

ners in the first round of the playoffs in a series that went four games.

In the second round of playoffs, the Baysox The Owen Sound Baysox have taken a two- knocked the Ivy Rangers out of competition in game lead over the New Lowell Knights in the a series that went four games and finished on

> The NDBL championship series between the Baysox and the Knights got underway on Saturday, Sept. 6, in New Lowell.

In Game One of the series, Owen Sound left

Game Two of the series took place the following day, Sunday, Sept. 7, in Owen Sound.

Owen Sound again came out on top with a

Highlights of the game include a three-run home run by Paul Van Cedar.

The series will continue this coming week-

Game Three is scheduled for Saturday, Sept.

Game Four of the series will be in Owen

If necessary, Game Five will take place in



TIE GOES TO THE RUNNER - A player is safe at home after touching the plate the moment the ball lands in the glove during a Tottenham Women's Slo Pitch game between Tottenham Chiropractic and Affordable Optical on the diamond at Keogh Park in Tottenham on Tuesday, Sept. 2. Slo pitch is now in playoff mode around the region. **BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO**



STINGING LOSS - The Alliston Hornets take on the Georgina Ice during the Hornets' annual unior C tournament at the New Tecumseth Recreation Centre, which took place from Sept. 4 to 7. The Hornets took a 4-3 loss in that game. The Alliston team was eliminated after a 3-2 loss to the Hanover Barons on Saturday, Sept. 6. In the final game of the tournament, the Uxbridge Bruins came out on top with a 3-0 win over the Penetang Kings to win the tournament. **BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO**



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Southlake Village expands reach to those with "specialized needs" Hospital, LTC residence receive Provincial funding boost

BY BROCK WEIR

residence associated with Southlake Health, will be able to welcome new residents with health care gem, for the exceptional work that specialized needs, following a funding boost from the Provincial Government.

The Newmarket-based hospital marked further \$35,590 to Southlake Village itself on Thursday afternoon.

This new funding comes from the Ontario Government's Local Priorities Fund (LPF), which includes a \$35 million investment province-wide to support residents with complex needs. It is "part of the government's plan to protect Ontario by ensuring long-term care residents get the quality of care and quality of life they need and deserve," said the Province.

Locally, the funds will enable the facility to "admit residents with specialized needs and support current residents with complex needs."

"This funding will go directly towards specialized equipment, innovative services and staff training – all designed to make sure that residents with complex needs right here receive the care that they need right here in the right place and, of course, right in their own home," said MPP Gallagher Murphy, who made Thursday's announcement in her capacity as Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Long-Term Care.

She noted the money in question is for the 2024-2025 fiscal year.

"This means that Southlake Village will be even better equipped to admit new residents with specialized needs and support current residents without the stress of unnecessary hospital visits. It's about keeping care close to home in an environment where residents feel safe, supported and a part of the community they know and trust.

"Now, while these investments seem small, items like IV equipment, ladder scanners, slip-proof mats and wraparound bed rails, the impact of these items are truly significant. It means safer, more comfortable living for residents and greater peace of mind for their families... As our population ages, investments Newmarket-Aurora and across Ontario, have and comfort is a priority."

the quality of life they deserve. I want to sincerely thank the team at Southlake Village, as Southlake Village, the long-term care well to all the staff and to all the volunteers, and as well to Southlake Health, our local they do every single day. You are not only providing care, you are providing comfort, stability and dignity to our loved ones as they grants of \$127,096 to Southlake Health and a age. Together we are building a long-term care system and a health care system that protects, supports and honours our seniors, now and for generations to come."

Gail Seddon, Executive Director of Community Strategy for Southlake Health, who also serves on the Board of Southlake Village, said the money will make a true difference to the people Southlake serves.

"We're proud to share this property and the strong commitment to the health and wellbeing of those we serve," she said. "Our proximity and our shared focus on seniors means we work closely to ensure residents have access to the right care, in the right place, at the right time. This is especially important in northern York Region and South Simcoe County. These communities are among the fastest-growing and aging in Ontario. Naturally, the needs of our community evolve with those changes. Seniors now make up more than half of all admitted patients through our Emergency Department, and in its first year alone, the acute care for the elderly unit served more than 750 patients, with the average age being 85 years of age.

"Southlake's specialized programs for seniors, like the Acute Care of the Elderly (ACE) unit, the Aging Well Clinic, ensure older adults receive care that is tailored to their needs. They also support independence and help older adults avoid unnecessary trips to the Emergency Department. Investments like the one announced today through the Local Priorities Fund help us meet the needs of our communities. With this funding, we're able to get the right equipment, support staff training, and deliver innovative service close to home. All those things support better care and better experience for our residents and families of Southlake Village. This announcement is a clear signal that our seniors matter, like this will ensure that seniors, right here in that their care matters, and that their dignity

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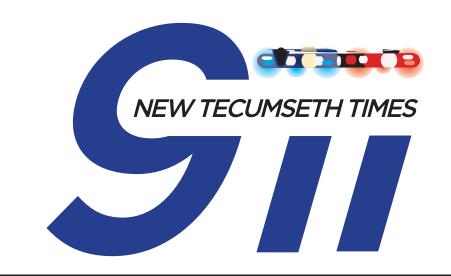
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Nottawasaga OPP release description of vehicle in fatal collision

BY BRIAN LOCKHART LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Nottawasaga Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police released information regarding a recent fatal collision involving a vehicle and a pedestrian in New Tecumseth.

On Sunday, Aug. 24, at approximately 1:30 New Tecumseth near the Adjala-Tecumseth Townline.

deceased at the scene, and the vehicle a person was on the roadway. involved is believed to have fled the scene.

The road was closed for several hours cating that the vehicle involved in the incident a.m., officers responded to a report of a pedes- while the OPP's technical collision investiga- is believed to be a 2020-2025 Ford Escape. trian struck by a vehicle on the 13th Line of tors and reconstructionists assisted with the investigation.

A 23-year-old male was pronounced come forward, as they may not have realized

They have now released information indi- 1-800-222-8477.

Police are asking anyone with information, including dashcam or security footage, to Police asked for the driver involved to contact the Nottawasaga OPP at 1-888-310-1122 (reference #E251145368). Anonymous tips can be submitted to Crime Stoppers at

Nottawasaga OPP lay 130 charges against two Bradford residents connected to distraction theft

BY BRIAN LOCKHART LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

An investigation into distraction thefts that targeted senior citizens across Ontario has resulted in two individuals facing a total of 130 charges in relation to the thefts.

In the spring of 2025, the Ontario Provincial Police Central Region Crime Unit identified a pattern of criminal activity that began tion and use the stolen card to withdraw funds last October 2024.

The investigation, named Project Final, cards. was led by the Nottawasaga Detachment Major Crime Unit and focused on multiple distraction thefts across Ontario.

The investigation revealed that the two have been charged.

accused individuals employed tactics such as 'shoulder surfing' to observe victims entering been charged with: their PINs at financial institutions.

Once the PIN was obtained, the suspects would engage the victim in a verbal or physical distraction, during which the victim's debit card was covertly swapped with a previously stolen card.

This allowed the suspects to delay detecor make purchases, often in the form of gift

The average age of victims was 75 years

As a result of the investigation, two people

Sasha Popisan Bravo, 24, of Bradford, has

- · Fraud under \$5,000 24 counts
- · Property obtained by crime under \$5,000 one count. 24 counts
- · Theft of credit card 23 counts
- Conspiracy to commit an indictable offence – one count

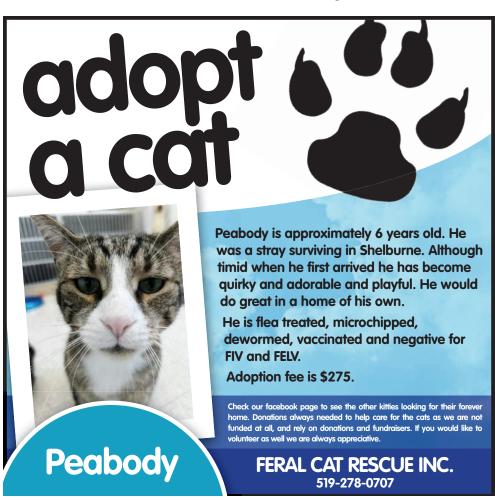
Cylan Chancafe Bravo, 18, of Bradford, has been charged with:

- · Fraud under \$5,000 eight counts
- · Property obtained by crime under \$5,000 nine counts
- · Theft of credit card eight counts

- · Unauthorized use of credit card eight counts
- · Conspiracy to commit indictable offence

The accused are believed to be responsible for at least 23 identified occurrences involv-· Unauthorized use of credit card - 24 ing distraction-style thefts targeting vulnerable individuals.

> The OPP continues to investigate and encourages anyone who may have been a victim of similar thefts to come forward by contacting the Nottawasaga OPP at 1-888-310-1122 and reference E250367401. Anonymous tips can be submitted to Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 or online at ontariocrimestoppers.ca.





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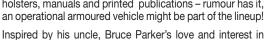
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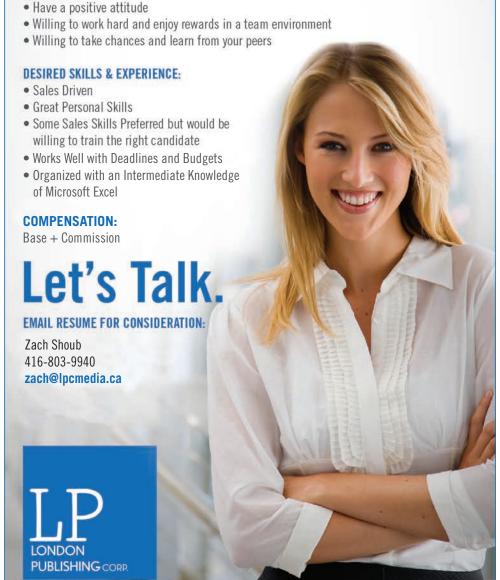
military history was instilled in him from a young age. What began with hunting shops for the latest airplane models later turned into scavenging "junk stores" for parts of the real things. His collection reflects his devotion to remembering Canada's contributions through warring times and to the honorable men and women who served. It is through his collection that we may remember them and him.

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Brock's Banter: Stature with the rye?

MLSE? Well, they've already made a podium, bearing the oft-seen "Protect bag of hammers' for the decision." tidy profit from the garment, so chances Ontario" banner. are they probably wouldn't care.

probably cost him upwards of a hundred bucks.

I wonder how much Premier Doug Ford's now infamous bottle of Crown lutely as smug as they come... they're Royal cost him?

in Kitchener, he dramatically poured out a large bottle of the Canadian rye whisky to protest the decision of their parent company, which operates plants out of Ontario, Quebec and Manitoba, to close their Amherstburg facility.

Royal," he said, as he poured the liquid adding the company was 'a few fries with an arm stretching out in front of his short of a Happy Meal,' and 'dumb as a

he (a) he took it off first and (b) felt like really speak to what he thought about sation as the company in question will his point was being made because it the company in and of itself, but a recent report from CBC filled in many of the blanks.

"'They're sitting around, just absohurting Ontario residents,' Ford said Last week, the Premier caused a of the company following an unrelated stir when, during a press conference announcement," the CBC reported. "'A message to the CEO in France: you hurt my people, I'm going to hurt you. You're gonna feel the pain in February when these people don't have a paycheque.'

"I encourage all Canadians, all Ontarians, stand up for the people, because "This is what I think about Crown you don't know if you're next,' Ford said,

The sound of the trickle against the a trade war for Canadians to let their for the potent potable, and the money If the jersey-bearer in question even- pavement, coupled with applause from wallets do the talking, in our intercon- spent is still on the companies' bottom tually took a match to his shirt, I hope people standing behind him, didn't nected country, it's a nuanced conver- lines. keep its plants on either side of Ontario operational, with their headquarters remaining in the GTA. A call to boycott the product might feel good in Ontario, same trade war. but do we really want to potentially harm workers in Quebec and Manitoba as be going anywhere, let alone showing well? We're all in the same trade boat any signs of letting up. here, after all.

> tainly a headline-grabbing move, but need more than strongly-worded let-I couldn't help but think that as far as ters, slogans and stunts. sending a message to the powers-thatbe goes, it was about as effective as the Federal level and photo-ops at the Proyoung man on the train stomping his Leafs jersey in a fit of pique or the one Hopefully, as Parliament and the Legwho was threatening to set his ablaze.

They shelled out their dough for the see real action resume.

jerseys, presumably the Premier or While it is important in the middle of a well-wisher spent upwards of \$60

> There were valid points made at that podium which were, from my perspective, sacrificed for the visual.

The entire country is fighting the

It's a trade war that doesn't seem to

It's a fight that's certainly worth fight-Pouring out the bottle of rye was cer- ing, but, if we want to get anywhere, we

> The "Elbows Up" sentiment at the vincial level can only take us so far. islature gear up for the fall session, we

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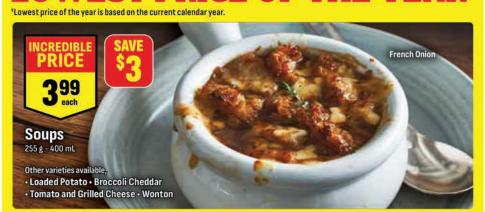
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