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Family Fun at the Fall Fair

The 169th Beeton Fall Fair took place at the Fairgrounds in Beeton from Sept. 12 to 14. It is an annual event that has seen generations of the same families attending over the years. Thousands of people arrived at the fairgrounds to have fun on the rides, visit farm animals, see livestock competitions, watch the tractor pull, visit the vendors, and enjoy some delicious food. The weather was perfect for an outdoor event. See more photos on Page 7.

BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO



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TUFF Therapeutic Riding Foundation uses horses to help at-risk youth

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The equines at TUFF Therapeutic Riding Foundation at Jewel View Farm near Loretto are a large and powerful breed of horses.

They are also gentle and appreciate human contact.

The TUFF Therapeutic Riding program was established at Jewel View Farm near Loretto in 2001 by Ellen Downey to provide therapeutic riding for youth at risk in Ontario. This program empowers youth to address their mental health and, with the help and support of a volunteer team and horses, change their lives.

Using a ten-week program model that has been specifically tailored to youth at risk, they attend weekly for approximately three hours. There is also a five-day intensive model program that is designed for youth who have experienced substantial trauma.

Each youth is matched with a horse and a volunteer who partners with them for the duration of the program. Participating youth address specific treatment goals and issues, including trauma, depression, anxiety, and anger. They learn basic horsemanship and riding skills.

The program received \$179,000 in Resilient Communities Funding from the Ontario Trillium Foundation, which was used to expand programs and allow for additional groups of at-risk youth to take part in the equine therapy program.

Simcoe-Grey MPP Brian Saunderson stopped by Jewel View Farm on Wednesday, Sept. 8, to learn what had been accomplished with the grant and its impact on the community.

MPP Saunderson was impressed with the work being done at TUFF Therapeutic Riding



EQUINE THERAPY – The TUFF Therapeutic Riding Foundation uses horses to reach at-risk youth at its Jewel View Farm near Loretto. Simcoe-Grey MPP Brian Saunderson visited the farm and met with the program's CEO, Ellen Downey, and her staff on Wednesday, Sept. 8, to learn how a \$179,000 Ontario Trillium Foundation grant benefited the programs offered at the farm.

BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

and congratulated the team on their important contribution to helping youth at risk.

“Congratulations to the team at the Tuff Therapeutic Riding Foundation on the positive impact they are making in the lives of youth,” said MPP Saunderson. “This vital provincial funding has been put to excellent use and has allowed the organization to expand its reach, thus helping more young

people build confidence, resilience, and hope for the future. This grant will be used to help you build your resilience and sustainability by hiring dedicated staff to develop new fundraising strategies, opportunities, partnerships, and train staff and volunteers.”

Many of the horses in the program are retired from the RCMP Musical Ride. The RCMP likes retiring their horses to Jewel View Farm because they know the farm provides superior care to its animals.

Because of their training with the RCMP, the horses are friendly and sociable and enjoy meeting the youth who visit the farm.

“I’m a social worker and I work with youth at-risk, and I’m also a life-long rider,” Ms. Downey explained of her background relating to the program. “The program serves youth at-risk with mental health problems. We work with a number of referring agencies throughout Dufferin, Simcoe, and the GTA, as well as some programs from up north.”

She added, “We work with kids in a group

setting. There are two formats – a five-day intensive curriculum and a ten-week curriculum. We teach them basic horsemanship and we work on mental health goals and issues. When they first come, they are afraid of horses – most of them have never been around a horse before. By the end of the first session they are already engaged and developing a relationship with their horse. For many of our kids, just having a relationship is new to them – particularly an unconditional relationship.”

“We serve a wide range of kids. This includes kids with addictions, kids who have experienced trauma, sexual abuse, kids who have been human trafficked, and those that just feel marginalized. We empower kids to be in charge of themselves. Each kid is matched with a horse and a volunteer for the duration of their time here,” Ms. Downey concluded.

The TUFF Therapeutic Riding program is a success in helping at-risk youth gain confidence and be empowered in their own lives.

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County of Simcoe Paramedic Services officially opens new Springwater Post

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The County of Simcoe has opened its newest Paramedic Post located on Snow Valley Road in Midhurst.

County Councillors and staff, and representatives from the Township of Springwater gathered to officially open the new facility on Wednesday, Sept. 3.

The new facility is part of the County of Simcoe Paramedic Services' long-term strategy to enhance emergency response across the region.

Endorsed by County Council in 2008, the plan includes a 'hub and spoke' model where paramedics begin and end their shift at a central hub – the Barrie Simcoe Emergency Services Campus on Fairview Road. Crews will use satellite posts, like the new Springwater location, as rest and support stations throughout the day.

Since 2010, County of Simcoe Paramedic Services has constructed new bases and posts in Alliston, Stayner, Bradford, Beeton, Elmvalle, Collingwood, Barrie, and Orillia. This reinforces its commitment to accessible and timely emergency care by ensuring paramedics are strategically positioned to serve residents more efficiently.

"Our paramedics play a vital role in protecting the health and well-being of our communities," said Simcoe County Warden Basil Clarke. "We're proud to continue building up a stronger, safer Simcoe County. This new Springwater post reflects our commitment to investing in modern infrastructure that supports faster response times and better care for our residents."

The new two-bay, 2,200 square-foot facility is designed to meet the needs of a growing population while prioritizing sustainability and



GRAND OPENING – Representatives from the County of Simcoe and Township of Springwater join to celebrate the opening of the new County of Simcoe Paramedic Services Springwater Post in Midhurst on Wednesday, Sept. 3. The facility is part of the County's 'hub and spoke' model that allows paramedics to use satellite posts. New posts have been created around the region, including the one in Alliston.

BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

operational efficiency. The location supports 911 response times and accommodates anticipated growth in South Springwater and the surrounding area.

Benefits and features include pneumatic air-controlled doors that enable faster vehicle exit

to help reduce response times, and an internally developed RFID sensor system that enhances security and integrates seamlessly with the County's entire fleet.

The facility was designed and constructed to produce zero greenhouse gases, as a net-zero

carbon building. A rooftop solar array offsets emissions from any electricity drawn from the provincial grid.

For added public safety, the site also includes an externally mounted 911 phone and AED for emergency use.

Celebrate heritage sites at Doors Open Simcoe County

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Tourism Simcoe County, in collaboration with its municipal partners, has announced the return of Doors Open Simcoe County.

This is a celebration of the region's rich cultural and heritage assets.

Residents and visitors are invited to explore and experience the stories behind some of Simcoe County's most treasured sites.

"Our region is rich with culture and heritage, and Doors Open is a tremendous opportunity to share that with our residents and visitors," said Simcoe County Warden Basil Clarke. "Our culture and heritage sector is a huge driving force for tourism, and we're proud to work with our partner municipalities and businesses to open our doors and offer this program yet again."

This year, 19 unique locations will partici-

pate, offering free public access to sites of historical, architectural, natural, or cultural significance.

Locations include the Leacock Museum National Historic Site in Orillia, the Coldwater Museum, and the Penetanguishene Sports Hall of Fame.

Doors Open Simcoe County is part of the Doors Open Ontario initiative – a province-wide heritage and cultural tourism program.

Each year, participating sites showcase a diverse mix of modern and heritage buildings. This includes museums and places of worship, to trails, natural areas, and even private businesses.

Whether you are a history buff, an architecture enthusiast, or just curious about hidden gems in the communities, Doors Open Simcoe County offers a rare chance to step inside and discover the stories that shape the region.

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Editorial, Letters & Opinion

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

The Simpsons were right

The Simpsons is the longest-running animated TV show in history, having debuted in December 1989.

I used to watch the show, but haven't really seen it in years.

The Simpsons may be a cartoon, but if you really watch it, many episodes are very clever.

The series has a reputation for predicting the future. Many episodes have storylines that, oddly enough, came true later.

There was one clever episode that aired years ago as part of the show's annual Halloween trilogy of spooky fantasy shows.

For reasons I can't remember, all the advertising logos in town came to life. The giant statues were terrorizing the town and causing destruction all over Springfield.

Finally, Lisa Simpson, the eight-year-old prodigy of the show, along with singer Paul Anka, for some reason, comes up with a solution.

“Just don't look,” they tell the residents of Springfield.

When the local residents turn their backs on the advertising logos and refuse to acknowledge them, they all collapse and are no longer a threat.

That, of course, is a real thing. Advertising only works if someone takes notice of the ads for a product or service. If no

one takes note, advertising won't work.

The same is true in the world of politics.

If a local communist party member was going to deliver a speech, I wouldn't be interested in what they were going to say, so I wouldn't attend a rally.

Even if I decided to attend, just to hear what they were going to preach about, I certainly wouldn't go back a second time if I disagreed with their rhetoric.

Charlie Kirk was murdered in cold blood in front of 3,000 supporters on a university campus in Utah last week. A single bullet ripped through his neck, snuffing out his life as fast as blowing out a candle.

He was a political activist, author, and media personality.

To be honest, before this assassination was reported, I didn't know the name Charlie Kirk.

I do recall seeing a couple of videos that came across my video feed over the last few months that featured him speaking at different campuses. However, I didn't really know who he was.

He came across as very intelligent, poised, well-researched, calm, and confident.

When one of the students would challenge him, his response was quick and made sense from his point of view, he

used a common-sense type of approach and turned the tables very quickly.

Charlie Kirk apparently had quite the following. There were also people who didn't like his way of thinking.

That's politics. Not everyone is going to agree with you.

For some reason, people who didn't agree with his philosophy or beliefs kept showing up when he was speaking on a campus.

Why would you attend a rally that was opposed to your way of thinking or lifestyle? Just stay away.

The investigation into this murder is still in the early stages, but a suspect is already in custody.

A headline in Saturday's news already predicted he would be facing a firing squad in Utah. There hasn't even been a trial, and the news media are already predicting the sentence and final outcome.

The suspect is a 22-year-old man who, at least with the current information, acted alone.

Was this another guy who figured he would become a folk hero in the eyes of certain people and revel in the glory of his admirers, or is he just an angry kook with access to a deadly weapon?

This suspect, if he did it, has accomplished nothing good here – nothing

good at all.

A young man is dead for his beliefs. A young woman is now a widow, and two very young children will never know their father.

The suspect, according to US Customs, if convicted, will never have a free day for the rest of his life.

Maybe 30 years from now, if he isn't beaten to death in prison, he will be sitting in his 8x4 cell at some super-max prison and reflect on his decision to kill a man in cold blood.

He will realize his actions resulted in him never getting married, never having a family, missing family weddings and events, and not being able to attend his parents' funerals. He will never again speak to a childhood friend or go to a high school reunion.

He will not be able to make a single decision for himself for the rest of his life. He will never go out for dinner at a restaurant, visit Europe, or spend a day at the beach.

What a waste.

One man is dead, another man's life is ruined, and countless other people's lives are affected in a negative and horrible way.

What a waste.

BRIAN LOCKHART
FROM THE SECOND ROW



Working 'holidays'

We probably all had to get up in front of the classroom at one point or another to yammer on about what we did on our summer vacations. With the school year in full swing, I'm curious as to how some of the younger kids these days might answer the question.

My go-to answer, as I have written before in this space, was usually a few highlights of the day camps that were ubiquitous in my childhood. Vacations to exotic locales, beyond the odd grocery trip to upstate New York when our dollar allowed for such extravagances, were rare – well, until we found a yearly event close to our former grocery stomping grounds – so I'm sure my audience was bored before too long.

It's a shame we didn't keep up these ice-breaking exercises in high school and university though because, by that point, there were far more interesting things for me to talk about.

After my first year at Carleton was in the books, some of the job opportunities

here at home frowned on the idea of a student who was headed back to Ottawa in just a couple of months, so I took on some volunteer opportunities that were of interest and, most importantly, fulfilling.

The first gig was a bit of a bust for reasons which are still unclear to me – everything seemed perfect on paper – but the second turned out to be something of a game-changer.

This opportunity brought me in touch for the first time with my local Member of Parliament and their enthusiastic and effective constituency team.

Striking up a conversation, the chance to be a volunteer in the Member's Ottawa office while school was in session came up and, as it happened, the chance to carry on many of the same responsibilities, with a few extra thrown in for good measure, as a Summer Student at the constituency level as well.

In the school year that followed back in Ottawa, and then back at home, I was

able to not only conduct research, but also do some writing, and handle case files on subjects as varied as immigration to taxes. I was also able to see what MPs really do on their “summer vacation.”

It was a jam-packed program of community events, advocacy, meeting with hundreds of residents one-on-one to hear their concerns, find solutions, and simply listen.

There was, at least from my vantage point, precious little time to turn off. While it was not the day-to-day House of Commons stuff that is normally front and centre in our consciousness, like Question Period, work nevertheless continued – and sometimes at a pace that was difficult to follow.

Much has been said in recent months about the amount of time MPs have had “off” this year away from the House of Commons, amid the transition from the Trudeau to Carney governments. There is an idea that MPs have spent the dog days of summer – and, let's be frank,

the early part of the season and spring as well – sitting with their feet up while our country faces one existential crisis after another.

That is far from reality, as the number of times you've seen your MP this summer can probably attest. That being said, however, it was nice to see our Federal representatives back in their seats Monday, back at work, back to holding each other to account, in the heart of our nation's capital.

We are living in a time of great uncertainty, and seeing the people who, in so many respects, hold our futures in their hands back at it, is somewhat reassuring – as was the first verbal sparring match on Monday afternoon as Opposition Leader Pierre Poilievre posed his questions to Prime Minister Mark Carney.

Continued on Page 15

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No 'New World Order'

There is no 'New World Order', although there is certainly a new world disorder.

The 'rules-based international order' that was created after the Second World War, mainly under American leadership, had been fading away anyway as the West's long economic dominance declined. The arrival of Donald Trump delivered the coup de grace, but nothing has taken its place.

All the claptrap in the past week about the launch of a new 'Asian century' founders on the hard, unyielding fact that there is no Asia except in the strictly geographical sense. There was a stage-managed coming-out party in Beijing for China's new superpower status, with lots of Asian guests, but no actual deals were done.

True, most Asian countries now have China as their largest foreign trade partner, but that is also true for most other countries in Africa, South America and Australia. It's just business, and it does not necessarily imply either loyalties or alliances.

China's only allies are Russia and North Korea, and neither of those alliances brings Beijing any real strategic benefit. The most that can be said in their favour is that they spare China the expense of guarding those frontiers and are a captive market for Chinese arms exports. Indeed, the lack of other alliances underlines the fact that 'Asia' is not a valid strategic term.

'Europe' is a real strategic concept. Its half-billion inhabitants living in half a hundred countries have cooperated, competed and fought one another for three millennia, and they almost all belong to the same cultural universe. When they split up into rival alliances (as they do most of the time), even that process runs along familiar grooves.

The Americas are also a distinct cultural universe, although one closely linked to the European parent culture. With the exception of Canada and the United States, the relevant countries have engaged very little with the geopolitics of Europe and Asia, and cross-border wars in the region have become rare.

The Asian continent, by contrast, is rife with wars and confrontations – but almost never do they actually involve the entire continent. It's too big, too culturally diverse, too split up by mountain ranges and ocean straits – and fundamentally too lacking in common interests and ambitions that might bring it into conflict.

There have been five Arab-Israeli wars (or six or seven, it depends how you count). However, none of them has expanded beyond the Middle East – the region which is correctly known in the Indian subcontinent as 'southwest Asia.'

There have been three (or four or five) India-Pakistan wars, one of which also gave birth to an independent Bangladesh, but none of these wars spilled out of the subcontinent. The fact that India and Pakistan have nuclear weapons is cause for concern, but it actually deters other countries in the region from getting involved in alliances with them.

Southeast Asia is a semi-detached

region with anxieties about Chinese encroachment and especially about Beijing's claim to almost all of the South China Sea.

ASEAN (the Association of Southeast Asian Nations) is not a military alliance, however, and local conflicts like the current Thai-Cambodian border spat have little potential to spread further.

As for East Asia, which embraces China, Japan, the two Koreas and Taiwan, it is relatively rich but ageing very fast. It is very unlikely that any significant group of 'Asian' nations will band together and seek to dominate the world militarily or even economically. The whole discourse about an Asian century is just so much hot air.

This is not to say that China will not continue to prosper, although the glory days are past and its real economic growth rate is already down to developed-world standards. India may achieve some of its ambitions too, although achieving takeoff about fifteen years later than China leaves it more vulnerable to crippling damage from climate change.

And what about Africa, a continent first divided by its manifold tribal identities and then further divided by different colonial heritages? Some star performers may emerge from the crowd (54 countries at last count), and one can at least hope that the rest will make some progress, but the dream of an African economic miracle continues to recede.

The world did not change last week – or last year either. The greatest threat is still global heating, because a lot of that will happen (though how much is still partially in our hands). Global nuclear war could be even worse, at least in the short term, but it doesn't have to happen at all. And all the other stuff is just details.

Twenty thousand Chinese troops marching perfectly in step, like twenty thousand identical machines, is just show business.

GWYNNE DYER
OUR WORLD TODAY





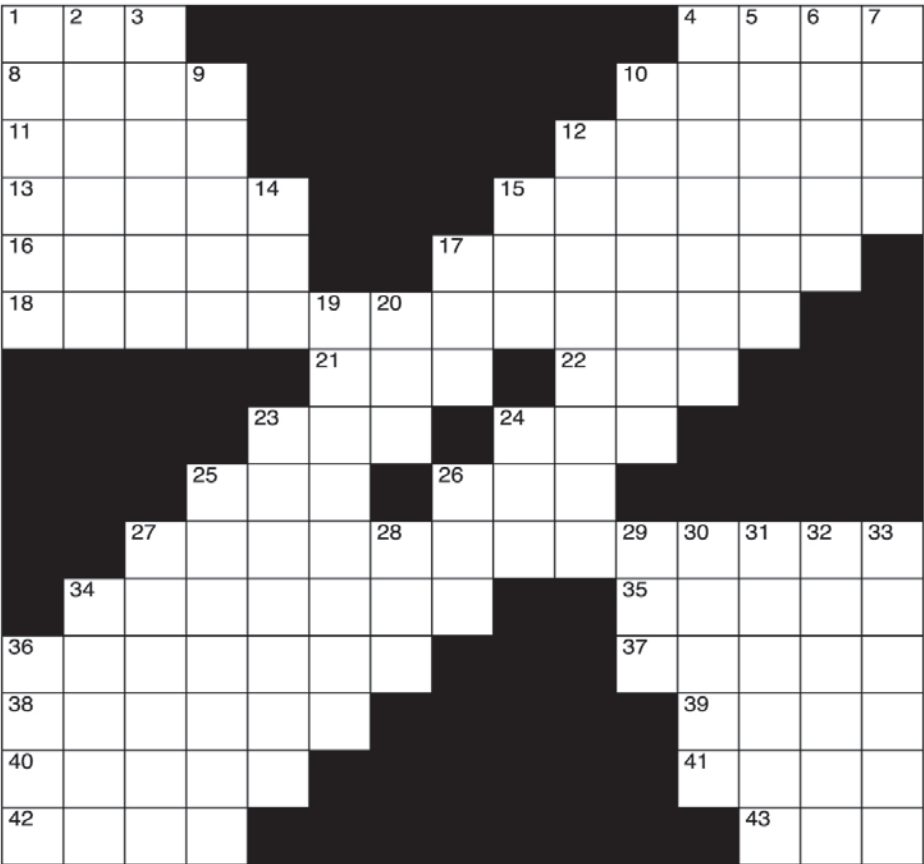
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CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Gas usage measurement
- 4. Muslim mystic of Thailand
- 8. Towards the mouth or oral region
- 10. Monday (Spanish)
- 11. Frame for a coffin
- 12. Rub out
- 13. John __, English educator 1467-1519
- 15. Small round particle
- 16. Chilean seaport
- 17. News service
- 18. Pay for dinner
- 21. Glamorous city
- 22. Subway rodent
- 23. "The Raven" author
- 24. Buddhist festival
- 25. Cost, insurance and freight (abbr.)
- 26. Indigenous person of Thailand
- 27. "The Blonde Bombshell"
- 34. Series-ending episodes
- 35. Bluish greens
- 36. Aquatic mammal
- 37. Unit of measurement
- 38. Eye membranes
- 39. Indian god of dissolution
- 40. People of Scotland
- 41. Leak slowly through
- 42. Rock icon Turner
- 43. Midway between

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Large hat covering accessory
- 2. "From what is earlier" (Latin)
- 3. Celtic
- 4. Retirement region
- 5. A way to change posture
- 6. Touches
- 7. A small island
- 9. Rubbish
- 10. A citizen of Laos
- 12. A place to dance
- 14. 19th letter of Greek alphabet
- 15. Mild expression of surprise
- 17. 17th letter of Greek alphabet
- 19. Descriptions
- 20. Men's fashion
- 23. Thieves of the sea
- 24. Prohibit
- 25. Card game
- 26. French and Belgian river
- 27. Underling
- 28. Downwind
- 29. Type of medication
- 30. German city
- 31. Animal disease
- 32. Martini ingredients
- 33. Get away from
- 34. Stuffed (French)
- 36. Type of precipitation

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

COMMUNITY VOICE

Monthly Message: Volunteers are the heart of the Alliston Food Bank

At the Alliston Food Bank, one truth rings clear: without volunteers, the doors simply would not open.

Every bag of groceries packed, every shelf stocked, and every donation weighed happens because of the generosity of local people who give their time to help their neighbours.

Volunteers are the foundation

Unlike many organizations that rely heavily on paid staff, the Alliston Food Bank operates almost entirely through volunteer power. From the Board of Directors providing leadership, to the drivers picking up donations, to the client support teams greeting families with a smile, volunteers keep the food bank running week after week.

We are proud to say that 92 dedicated volunteers make the food bank what it is today. Each person gives between four and six shifts a month, ensuring that families across New Tecumseth can count on us when times get tough. Their dedication is nothing short of inspiring, and we truly adore each and every one of them for the countless ways they lift up our community.

More than just a helping hand

Volunteering at a food bank is about more



than stacking cans or handing out food. Volunteers bring compassion, consistency, and creativity. They help improve systems, organize food drives, and most importantly, make clients feel welcome and supported.

For families who walk through our doors, the experience can sometimes feel overwhelming. That is why the warm smiles, kind words, and patient listening from our volunteers matter so much. They give more than their time; they give dignity, comfort, and hope.

Meeting a growing need

The demand for food bank services has been steadily rising. More families, seniors, and individuals are reaching out for help as food prices soar and household budgets are stretched thin. Each increase in demand means more food to sort, more shelves to stock, and more clients to serve.

Even with 92 incredible volunteers work-

ing several shifts a month, there are times when covering every role is a challenge. That is why we are always looking for new people willing to lend a hand. Some roles involve direct contact with clients, while others focus on tasks like sorting donations, organizing inventory, or assisting with food drives. No matter your skills or schedule, there is a place for you here, and every contribution makes a difference.

Why people volunteer

Volunteers often tell us that they receive as much as they give. Some enjoy the sense of purpose that comes from making a tangible difference close to home. Others want to stay active in retirement, while younger volunteers see it as a chance to connect with their community. And along the way, many find something unexpected: friendships, laughter, and a shared sense of belonging.

When volunteers come together, the impact extends far beyond our building. They strengthen the fabric of our community, creating a ripple effect of kindness and care. A stronger food bank means a stronger community, one where no neighbour is left behind.

A heartfelt thank you

To our volunteers, all 92 of you who so generously give four to six shifts each month, we cannot thank you enough. You are the lifeblood of the Alliston Food Bank. Because of you, shelves stay full, doors stay open, and families know they are not alone.

We do not just value you; we absolutely love and cherish the time, energy, and heart you bring to this work. You are the quiet heroes of our community, and your impact is felt every single day.

But the truth is, we need more of you. As demand continues to grow, every new volunteer helps us continue our mission of feeding our neighbours with dignity and compassion. Whether you can give a few hours a month or a few hours a week, you can make a real difference.

At the Alliston Food Bank, volunteers are not just part of the work; they are the heart of the organization. With them, we are able to serve our community with hope and care. Without them, the shelves would be empty and the doors would be closed.

For more information about volunteering, or to learn how you can get involved, contact the Alliston Food Bank at 705-435-3255 or visit www.allistonfoodbank.com

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.



Final Release

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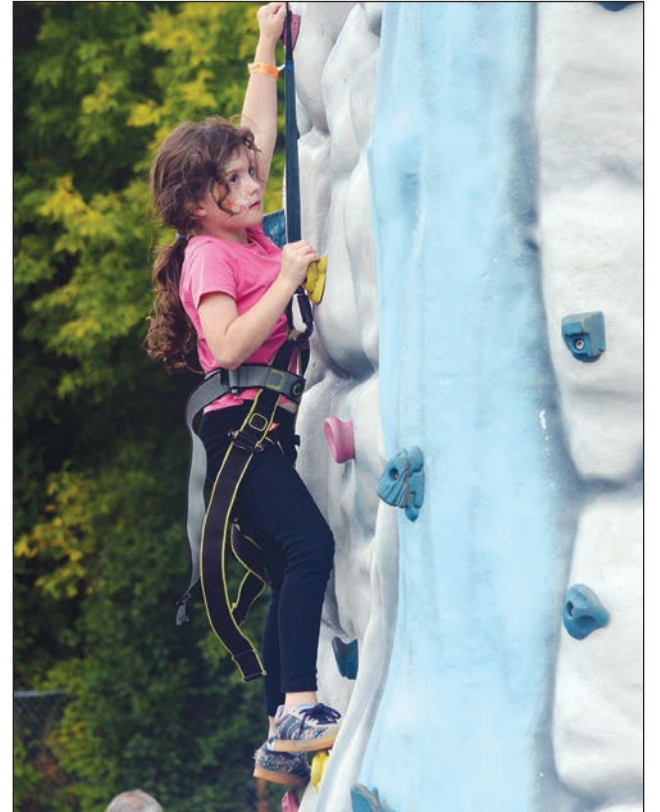




Arts & Local Events



FUN ON THE FAIRGROUNDS: The Beeton Agricultural Society hosted the 169th Beeton Fall Fair from Sept. 12 to 14 with a variety of exhibit, demonstrations, competitions and rides for people to enjoy. Attendees enjoyed demolition derby, 4-H shows, a garden tractor pull, parade and Tot Lot for young kids. The theme for this year's fair was "Autumn in the Country" for a celebration of all things fall.



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DON'T BE LEFT IN THE COLD! To apply to be a vendor at the show, scan the QR code, go to orangevillehollyfest.ca or email shows@lpcmedia.ca for a vendor application form.



Federal policy change will impact local auto production

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

In a major policy shift aimed at revitalizing Canada’s auto industry and shielding it from the impact of U.S. tariffs, Prime Minister Mark Carney announced the delay of the federal Zero Emission Vehicle sales mandate.

That policy was originally planned to begin in 2026.

The move is part of a broader industrial strategy called ‘Building Canada Strong,’ which focuses on strengthening domestic manufacturing, supporting tariff-impacted sectors, and spurring innovation across key industries.

PM Carney said the ZEV mandate, which would have required 20 per cent of new vehicle sales to be zero-emission by 2026, and 100 per cent by 2035, will now undergo a 60-day review to assess its economic impact and feasibility.

This announcement will have a significant impact on New Tecumseth – home to Honda Canada Manufacturing.

A recent slowdown in electric vehicle sales, a pause of the federal iZEV rebate program, and the imposition of steep U.S. tariffs on Canadian-made vehicles have disrupted supply chains and delayed major investments. This includes investments like Honda’s proposed electric vehicle and battery plant.

New Tecumseth Mayor Richard Norcross welcomed the announcement.

“Prime Minister Carney’s decision to delay the ZEV mandate is a critical step toward stabilizing our local economy and protecting jobs in Canada,” Mayor Norcross said. “It reflects the voices of our communities and industry partners who have been advocating for a more flexible, realistic approach to electrification. While this is a big win for New Tecumseth and the Simcoe County Auto Mayors, we must continue working with Ottawa to address the tariff challenges that still threaten our competitiveness.”

Earlier this summer, Mayor Richard Norcross brought together municipal leaders and industry partners to create the Simcoe County Auto Mayors. They issued a joint letter urging the federal government to include non-plug-in hybrid vehicles in the ZEV mandate. Their advocacy emphasized the need for transitional technologies to bridge the gap between traditional gas-powered vehicles and full electrification, especially in light of market pressures and infrastructure limitations.

The announcement was also welcomed by industry leaders, including Honda Canada, whose manufacturing operations in Alliston have long been a cornerstone of Simcoe County’s economy.

“We appreciate the Canadian govern-



LOCAL IMPACT – The Honda Canada Manufacturing plant in Alliston is a strong source of local auto manufacturing jobs. **BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO**

ment’s announcement today of a series of measures indicating its commitment to supporting the auto sector at this critical time, including the announcement to waive 2026 model year vehicles from the ZEV mandate requirement and launch a 60-day review as well as the supports announced under the Strategic Response Fund,” said Dave Jamieson, President and CEO of Honda Canada inc. “We look forward to consulting with the government to explore broader possibilities that better reflect current customer demand and the realities of our manufacturing supply chains, while developing a new broad policy

framework that focuses on reducing greenhouse gas emissions, including policies that promote the sale of made-in-Canada hybrid vehicles. Honda’s current fleet is already among the most fuel efficient in Canada with the Canadian-built Honda Civic Hybrid and Honda CR-V Hybrid which have proven popular with Canadians.”

The announcement signals a renewed commitment to domestic resilience, regional collaboration, and economic growth — with New Tecumseth poised to play a leading role in shaping the future of Canadian auto manufacturing.



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Town to install new pedestrian crossovers at various streets

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Expect to see some new pedestrian crossovers at various locations in town as crews prepare to start work in the fall of 2025.

The Town’s Pedestrian Crossover Project is planned to be phased in over three years; however, work may be completed sooner, subject to budget allocation.

The Town has hired Triton Engineering Services Limited to design new pedestrian crossovers at five locations.

These locations include:

- Main Street at Centre Street in Beeton
- Mill Street East and McGahey Street in Tottenham
- Mill Street East and McCurdy Drive in Tottenham
- Queen Street South and Rogers Road in Tottenham
- Boyne Street and John W Taylor Avenue in Alliston

The design work will proceed through the fall and is expected to finish by the end of the year.

As part of the project, crews will survey the roads and nearby areas, including driveways, trees, fences, and land features.

The work will not affect private property. Work may include drilling small holes in the ground to check for underground pipes and cables.

Three parking spaces will be removed at the pedestrian crossovers.

This includes one spot in front of 94 Queen Street South, and two spots in front of 99 Queen Street South in Tottenham.



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North Dufferin Baseball League senior champions series tied

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The North Dufferin Baseball League senior division best-of-seven senior championship series between the Owen Sound Baysox and the New Lowell Knights is tied after New Lowell had a comeback weekend.

Owen Sound was leading the series 2-0 going into the weekend. The Baysox won the series opener 5-4 on Saturday, Sept. 6, then followed up with a 7-2 win the following day on their home diamond in Owen Sound.

Returning to the diamond for Games 3 and 4, on Sept. 13 and 14, the series was tied after clutch hits in the seventh inning of both games sealed the win for the Knights.

Game 3 began with both teams trading runs in the second inning. Owen Sound took a one-run lead in the third, but New Lowell responded with two runs to go ahead 3-2.

The Baysox again had the lead with back-to-back solo home runs from Bryan Post and Steven Barrett.

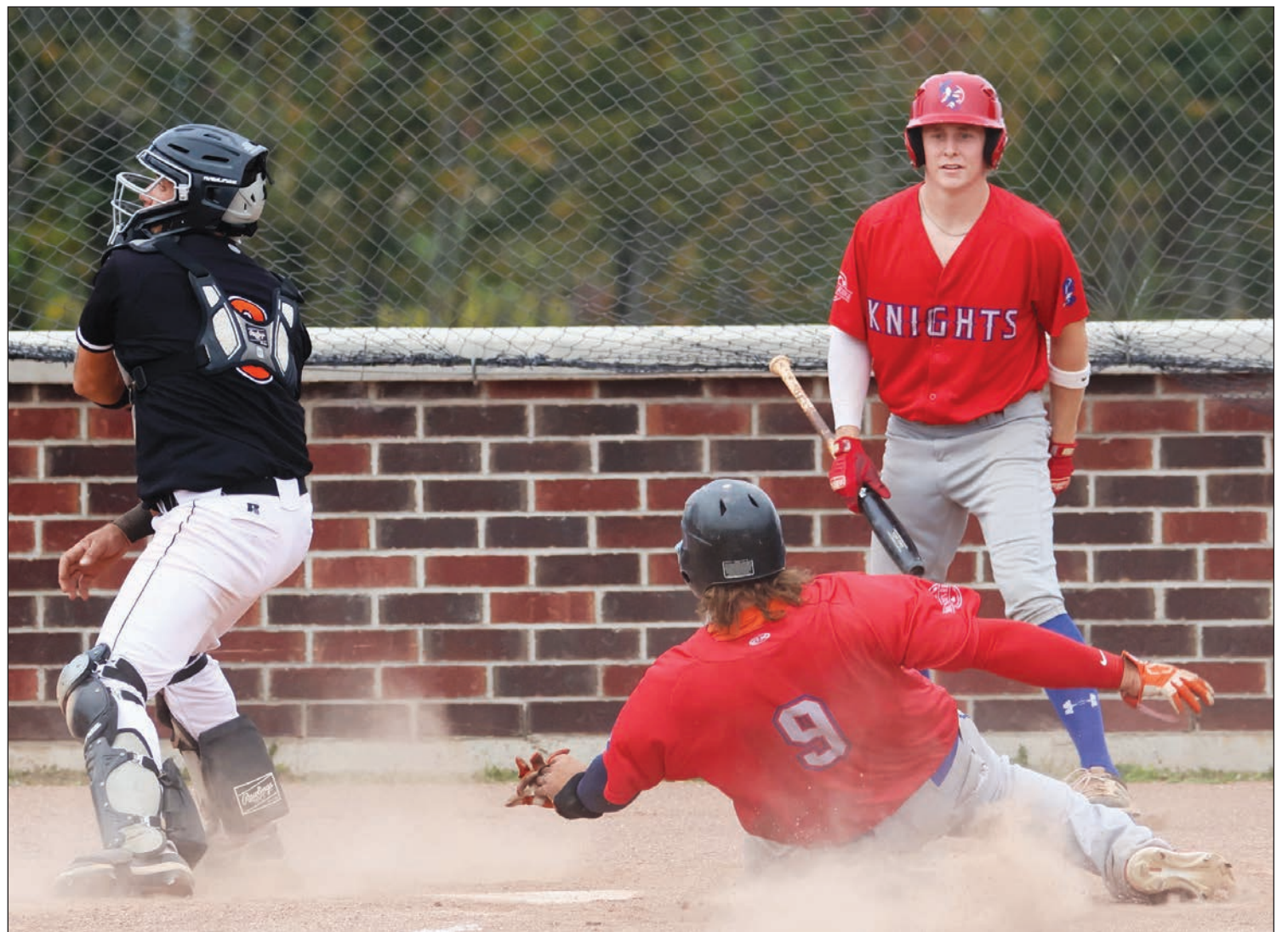
In the seventh inning, the Knights rallied with key hits to tie the game and walked it off with a single from Brett Elliot for the 5-4 win.

In Game 4 of the series on Sunday, Sept. 14, the Knights were on the scoreboard first, scoring in the first and third innings.

Owen Sound tied the game in the third inning with a two-run home run from Steven Barrett.

The game was deadlocked until the top of the seventh inning when Jake Nicholson hit a bases-loaded double to drive in two runs.

New Lowell retired the Baysox at the top of the order in the bottom of the seventh for a 4-2 win.



ALL TIED UP – Tristan Cabral of the New Lowell Knights slides into home plate before the throw to Owen Sound Baysox catcher Travis Bennett during Game 3 of the North Dufferin Baseball League championship series on Sept. 13. **DAVID ANDERSON PHOTO**

The series will continue this week.

Game 5 will take place in New Lowell on Saturday, Sept. 20, at 1 p.m.

The teams will be in Owen Sound on Sunday, Sept. 21, for Game 6.

That game is scheduled to start at 1 p.m.

If necessary, the final game, Game 7, will take place in New Lowell on Saturday, Sept. 27, with a 1 p.m. start.

Tottenham Rainers hockey team announce roster for 2025/26 season

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Tottenham Rainers of the Greater Metro Hockey League (GMHL) have announced their roster for the 2025/26 season.

Rainers management said the new roster is already being hailed as deeper and more talented than the team that reached last season's South Division finals.

With playoff-tested veterans to standout newcomers with proven junior experience, the Rainers are looking to raise the bar even higher this season.

The team is expecting to sign more players as the season approaches.

The North Division of the GMHL has eight teams in competition this year. The South Division also has eight teams entered.

The season got underway on Friday, Sept. 12.

The Rainers started the season with three home games.

Their home opener will take place on Saturday, Sept. 20, at the Tottenham Community Centre arena, when they will host the Toronto Flyers.

Game time is 7:45 p.m.



SEASON WRAP UP – The throw beats the runner at second base during a flag football game between Pilsen and Bar Burito at Keogh Park in Tottenham on Saturday, Sept. 13. Tottenham Ladies Slo-Pitch wrapped up the season over the weekend with final games being held at Coventry Park. **BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO**

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First human case of West Nile virus in 2025 identified in Simcoe County

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit is advising the public to protect themselves against mosquito bites after recent laboratory results confirmed the first human case of West Nile virus in Simcoe Muskoka.

West Nile virus spreads between birds and certain types of mosquitoes. Humans can become infected if bitten by a mosquito that has previously fed on an infected bird.

Locally, the health unit's surveillance program has shown that West Nile virus activity remains within the usual levels for this area.

The risk of getting West Nile virus from an infected mosquito is highest in late summer and early fall. To stay safe, the health unit recommends doing the following:

- Use an approved insect repellent and fol-

low the manufacturer's instructions.

- Wear light-coloured clothing, covering exposed skin by wearing long-sleeved, long pants, socks, and a hat in areas where mosquitoes are present.
- Stay indoors when mosquitoes are most active – at dusk and dawn – when possible, and reduce mosquito-breeding sites on or near your property by removing still water.
- Use screens in your windows and doors to keep mosquitoes out of your home.

Although most people will not become sick if bitten by an infected mosquito, West Nile virus can cause severe illness in some people. Symptoms of West Nile virus include fever, muscle weakness, stiff neck, confusion, severe headache, and a sudden sensitivity to light. In very rare cases, the virus may cause serious neurological illness. Those experiencing symptoms should seek medical advice.

NVCA chair advocates for provincial action on recycling and waste diversion

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority is urging Ontario's Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, the Honourable Todd McCarthy, to strengthen recycling regulations that affect small businesses, community organizations, and local infrastructure.

In a letter sent the week of Sept. 6, NVCA Chair and Bradford West Gwillimbury Councillor Jonathan Scott raised concerns about gaps in the current provincial recycling framework.

They say that without accessible services for small industrial, commercial, and institutional locations (IC&I), there is an increased risk of illegal dumping, blocked stormwater systems, degraded water quality, and heightened flood and erosion hazards.

"Conservation authorities are on the front

lines of protecting people, property and ecosystems from flooding and pollution," said Chair Scott. "When recycling isn't accessible, the environmental costs show up directly in our creeks, rivers and stormwater systems."

The NVCA's Board of Directors has endorsed the call for provincial changes.

The letter specifically urges the province to amend Ontario's recycling regulations, to extend small IC&I waste separation requirements to more businesses and institutions, and extend the Ontario Deposit Return Program to cover non-alcoholic beverage containers.

"Alongside our member municipalities, we are worried about a loss of recycling services to our downtown small businesses and places of worship resulting from unintended consequences in provincial regulations," said Chair Scott. "We hope the province will address these concerns."

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Nottawasaga OPP make an arrest following a fraud investigation

As a result of a police investigation, members of the Nottawasaga Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP), have arrested and charged an individual in connection to a fraud investigation.

On September 11 2025, shortly before 4 p.m. officers were dispatched to a fraud incident located at 2 Queen Street South, in the Town of New Tecumseth. The complainant advised offi-

cers that they believed a customer was attempting to open a bank account with fraudulent documents.

Upon further investigation it was determined that the individual was attempting to open a bank account with a fraudulent ID and fraudulent passport. Upon arrival the male fled from police on foot. Officers were able to quickly locate and arrest the individual.

As a result Abdulazeez Adeoti 33-years-old from Toronto was charged with the following:

- Uttering Forged Passport
- Possession of an identity document
- Forgery
- Possession of a forged document with intent
- Personation with Intent (Identity Fraud)

The accused has been released and is scheduled to appear at the Ontario Court of Justice

on October 23, 2025, to answer to the charges.

This investigation is ongoing. If you have any information in relation to this investigation, please call the Nottawasaga OPP Detachment at 1-888-310-1122, Report Number (E251086647). You can also provide information anonymously by contacting Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or submit your information online at: ontariocrimestoppers.ca

Local police dealing with multiple incidents of impaired driving over the past week

DRIVER ARRESTED FOR IMPAIRED DRIVING FOLLOWING TRAFFIC STOP

Members of the Nottawasaga Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) have charged one individual with impaired driving after being stopped for speeding in the Town of New Tecumseth.

On September 11, 2025, shortly before 11 p.m., A Nottawasaga OPP officer was conducting speed enforcement westbound on Highway 89 near Sideroad 10 in the Town of New Tecumseth when they observed a vehicle speeding with a malfunctioning passenger-side rear taillight. The vehicle was also seen crossing into the oncoming lane, nearly colliding with a parallel vehicle. The officer conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle for speeding and during the interaction, grounds were formed that the driver's ability to operate a motor vehicle was impaired by alcohol, leading to the driver's arrest.

As a result of the investigation, Ronald Velez Sanchez 35-years-old of Alliston was charged with:

- Operation while impaired - alcohol and drugs
- Operation while impaired - blood alcohol concentration (80 plus)
- Speeding 1 - 49 Km/h over posted limit
- Fail to have insurance card
- Fail to notify change of address - licence

The accused is scheduled to attend the Ontario Court of Justice in Bradford on Octo-

ber 9, 2025, to answer to the charges. The driver's licence was also suspended for 90 days, and the vehicle impounded for seven.

SECOND DRIVER ARRESTED FOR IMPAIRED DRIVING ON SAME DAY

Members of the Nottawasaga Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) have charged one individual with impaired driving after being stopped for speeding in Essa Township

On September 11, 2025, shortly after 7 p.m., A Nottawasaga OPP officer was conducting speed enforcement on the 6th Line in Essa Township. The officer conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle for speeding and during the interaction, grounds were formed that the driver's ability to operate a motor vehicle was impaired by alcohol, leading to the driver's arrest.

As a result of the investigation, Nicholas French 40-years-old of Barrie was charged with:

- Operation while impaired - alcohol and drugs
- Operation while impaired - blood alcohol concentration (80 plus)
- Speeding 1 - 49 Km/h over posted limit
- Obstruct plate

The accused is scheduled to attend the Ontario Court of Justice in Bradford on October 9, 2025, to answer to the charges. The driver's licence was also suspended for 90 days, and the vehicle impounded for seven.

DRIVER ARRESTED FOR IMPAIRED DRIVING FOLLOWING A RIDE CHECK STOP

Members of the Nottawasaga Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) have charged one individual with impaired driving after being stopped at a R.I.D.E spot check in Adjala-Tosorontio Township

On September 14, 2025, shortly before 4 a.m., Nottawasaga OPP officers were conducting a R.I.D.E check spot on County Road 14 in Adjala-Tosorontio Township. The officer conducted a stop on a vehicle and during the interaction with the driver, grounds were formed that the driver's ability to operate a motor vehicle was impaired by alcohol, leading to the driver's arrest.

As a result of the investigation, Sarah Tobin 23-years-old of Orangeville was charged with:

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

The accused is scheduled to attend the Ontario Court of Justice in Bradford on October 16, 2025, to answer to the charges. The driver's licence was also suspended for 90 days, and the vehicle impounded for seven.

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. You can also provide information anonymously by contacting Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477).

When you contact Crime Stoppers, you stay anonymous, and you never have to testify.

DRIVER CHARGED WITH IMPAIRED DRIVING FOLLOWING COLLISION

Members of the Nottawasaga Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) have charged one individual with impaired driving following a fail to remain motor vehicle collision in Tottenham.

On September 12, 2025, shortly after 4 p.m., members of the Nottawasaga OPP responded to a fail to remain motor vehicle collision in the area of Mill Street East, Tottenham, where the driver had struck the rear of another vehicle, then fled on foot. Officers were able to quickly make contact with the driver who returned to the scene. During the interaction, grounds were formed that the driver's ability to operate a motor vehicle was impaired by alcohol, leading to the driver's arrest.

As a result of the investigation, Meghan Edwards 50-years-old of Tottenham was charged with:

- Operation while impaired - alcohol and drugs
- Operation while impaired - blood alcohol concentration (80 plus)
- Fail to remain

The accused is scheduled to attend the Ontario Court of Justice in Bradford on October 9, 2025, to answer to the charges. None of the listed charges have been proven in court.

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Continued from Page 4

Brock's Banter: Working 'holidays'

Returned to the House of Commons by Alberta voters in a by-election earlier this summer – hey, that would have made for one heck of a “How I Spent My Summer Vacation” essay – after being rejected by voters in his long-time Ottawa-area constituency in the Spring federal election, Poilievre was back in from the cold.

Whether you agree with his policies and rhetoric or not, it's a value-added to have a fully-functional Opposition in place to hold the government to account after a haphazard, occasionally gaffe-prone, and occasionally aimless-feeling attempt to lead the Opposition without a voice in Parliament.

After all, our democracy is only as strong as all its constituent components.

Carney and Poilievre's first meeting in the House as leaders of the Government

and Opposition at the start of the week was collegial, sometimes funny, often pointed – but functional. So far.

Mind you, I'm under no illusions that this collegiality and good humour will continue... well, until the time you read this, but a good start is a good start. Let's hope that partisanship for the sake of partisanship can take a backseat for the greater good at this unprecedented time.

The challenge of leading a party, whether in the role as Leader of the Opposition, or simply the leader of an opposing party, without being able to be a strong legislative voice in the places where decisions are made has been recently evidenced by former Mississauga mayor Bonnie Crombie, whose term as leader of the Ontario Liberals is now wrapping up.

Despite surviving a leadership review

contest this past weekend as Provincial Liberals gathered in Toronto, Crombie felt her 21 months of somewhat successfully rebuilding the Liberals while leading it without a voice in the legislature, had come to an end.

“I looked out at our audience today and thought about all the conversations I've had over the last few days,” she said in a statement on Sunday evening. “Passionate conversations. Hopeful conversations. Conversations with Ontario Liberals who see that the future of this province is bright and who are ready to make sure it happens with us in the driver's seat.”

“I want to do everything I can to ensure that opportunity is not impeded by any one person. This is more important than ego. This is more important than ambition. This is about the very thing that unites us

all.... Even though I received a majority of support from delegates, I believe it is the best decision for the Ontario Liberal Party to facilitate an orderly transition towards a leadership vote. I have advised the party president of my decision to resign upon the selection of my successor.”

It is a bold decision. Only time will tell whether it was the correct one for the Liberals, but it sure is an opportunity – to look within, to examine the voices they have at the table, and look for someone who will be able to hit the ground running and go toe to toe with Doug Ford and Marit Stiles, without having to wait for a byelection or general election to make it happen.

Whoever it might be will have an interesting tale to tell next summer as they spend that time trying to win the hearts and minds of Ontarians.

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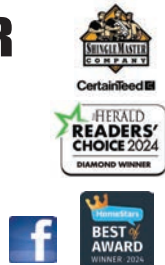


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