

West Northumberland Independent

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Cultivate in Port Hope knocking down accessibility, inclusion barriers

SARAH HYATT

Editor/reporter

Reflecting back on about a decade ago, Cultivate's executive director Jeff Bray remembers the roots of a once small food and music festival in Port Hope.

Since this time, the volunteer-powered Cultivate Community has grown to become a registered charity with a mission to strengthen local communities through arts, culture and year-round programming – and attracted more than 60,000 audience members since with its signature festivals and events.

The economic impact of its festivities have also been far-reaching and well-documented over the years, while shining a light on everyone from local musicians and artisans to farmers, and more.

This coming September will also mark the 10th anniversary of the Cultivate Festival – and the organization has announced a significant change to knock down barriers and promote accessibility and inclusion with a pay-what-you-can model.

"For years, we've heard from people who wanted to come but simply couldn't afford it," shared Bray. "Becoming a charity challenged us to ask an important question: If we truly believe the arts build stronger communities, should cost ever stand in the way?"

CONTINUED TO PAGE 3



After a 25-year departure, the canine unit has returned to the Cobourg Police Service. /CPS photo

'A unique and invaluable policing resource'

NATALIE HAMILTON

Reporter

When his snout isn't to the ground sniffing out a human scent or contraband, Atos might be found soaking up rays in his handler's sunny backyard and savouring a liver treat or two when he's being a good boy.

While Atos, a one-and-a-half-year-old German shep-

herd, enjoys his downtime, he's happiest with his paws on the pavement in active training for his role as the new four-legged member of Cobourg Police Service.

After a 25-year hiatus, the canine unit is returning to CPS. During a recent police services board meeting, attendees were introduced to Const. Amrit Gill and Atos, following the duo's recent graduation from an intensive

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'Enhanced capability': Canine unit returns after 25-year hiatus

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

canine training program led by the Guelph Police Service.

Gill and Atos have been immersed in exercises alongside canine teams from the Halton Regional Police Service, Guelph Police Service, Belleville Police Service, Brantford Police Service and Windsor Police Service, and were supported throughout the process by Guelph police's trainer Const. Jay Hall.

During a ceremony last week, CPS police services board chair Adam Bureau and retired sergeant Don Missen, the service's former canine handler, presented the official canine unit badge to Gill and Atos, symbolizing the return of a program that has had a meaningful place in the service and for the Town of Cobourg, CPS said.

Cobourg Chief of Police Chris Leather told the Independent the canine unit will once again have an important role for CPS moving forward.

"At the very basic level, it's enhanced capability to apprehend and detect folks who are fleeing from the police – let's say in the case of a break-and-enter in-progress or a vehicle pursuit where suspects are trying to leave the area because police are already onsite or coming on scene," said Leather. "Canine gives us tremendous ability for those apprehensions."

He said the unit is also extremely useful in controlled environments like searches of large areas – fields, large structures, out-buildings, et cetera.

"Even in residences (while) searching for certain contraband, including firearms or illicit substances, the dog is going to be able to help us greatly with that as well," the chief noted.

He earlier called the introduction of Gill and Atos "an important investment in public safety and investigative excellence. Police service dogs are a unique and invaluable policing resource."

They assist in locating vulnerable people, tracking suspects, recovering evidence and "supporting front-line officers in dynamic situations. We are extremely proud of the dedication and commitment shown by (Gill) throughout this training process and look forward to the positive impact this team will have on our community."

For Gill, becoming part of the canine unit has special significance.

"As a kid, I was fascinated by police dogs," said Gill.

"I still remember when (Missen) and his K-9 partner visited my classroom. Seeing that connection between the officer, the dog, and the community left a lasting impression on me and played a big role in inspiring my decision to become a police officer," explained Gill.

"I would like to thank the service and the board for their support and the community and trainers. It's incredibly rewarding to now have the opportunity to help bring a canine unit back to Cobourg, enhance community safety, and hopefully inspire the next generation the



Police board Chair Adam Bureau and retired CPS Sgt. Don Missen present Const. Amrit Gill and Atos with a K-9 badge. /CPS photo

same way I was inspired."

It's early days, but the possibility of Gill and Atos visiting schools in a controlled setting may occur in the future, noted Leather.

While Atos now lives with Gill, he hails from Poland's Shallow Creek Kennels. The kennel provides police and military canines across North America. This particular kennel travels to Europe to evaluate canines in the working-dog market, providing canine prospects from all over the world, CPS noted.

"Atos was one of these canine prospects," explained Lisa Munday, CPS's manager of communications.

"Working with the kennel, (CPS) was able to assess a broad range of canine candidates and identify the dog best suited for service."

Also, during the meeting, the police services board officially welcomed the canine unit back to Cobourg and congratulated Gill and Atos on successfully completing their training.

"Today, Amrit and Atos are carrying that legacy forward, supported by strong community partnerships and a shared commitment to enhancing public safety and



Meet Const. Amrit Gill and Atos with CPS' new canine unit. /CPS photo

positive outcomes for the residents of Cobourg," said Bureau, at the time.

Like the development of the original CPS canine unit, the return of the program has been made possible through strong community support and partnership, the service noted.

CPS has extended its appreciation to Justin's Pet Store in Cobourg and Port Hope Veterinary Emergency Clinic and Services in Port Hope for their support in establishing the program and the Belleville Police Service for its partnership and ongoing assistance throughout the development of the initiative.

CPS previously operated a canine unit from 1997 to 2003 under Missen's leadership. During that time, the sergeant worked with two canine partners. K9 Wally Justice, a German shepherd, served from 1997 to 2000 as a patrol dog assisting with tracking, article searches, and criminal apprehensions. Following Wally's retirement, K9 Percy, an English springer spaniel acquired from the RCMP and specially trained in drug detection, served from 2000 to 2003 before continuing his career with the Toronto Police Service.

West Northumberland Independent

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'For years, we've heard from people who wanted to come but simply couldn't afford it'

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

"We decided the answer is no."

And the shift doesn't just apply to the upcoming Cultivate Festival hosted at Haute Goat Farm in Port Hope from Sept. 25 to 27. As of this summer, all Cultivate programs have also shifted to this model.

This means the Road to Cultivate and winter Hibernata Festival, too, are being offered through a free or pay-what-you-can model.

"What started this (all) was we became a charity in the middle of 2025, and for the first time in really 10 years of existence, we slowed down enough to take stock and start making plans for our future and think about what was most important to us," Bray told the Independent. "And that piece was about really just opening the doors to more people and making sure that we weren't exclusive or only for folks who can afford a ticket."

A strategic planning session followed, leading to the birth of what Bray describes as "the ABCs of Cultivate," which translates to "access, belonging and connection" as cornerstones for the non-profit organization.

This is also what earlier led to Hibernata being offered through this model and Cultivate's latest announcement of the introduction of the model ahead of its long-time signature fall festival.

Breaking down barriers under the new model – that's the celebration portion of the 10th anniversary – but attendees can also expect more than 100 Canadian artists across three stages at the picturesque Haute Goat Farm, which spans 200 acres, noted Bray.

In addition, festivalgoers can also explore workshops and Indigenous programming, local food and drink, camping and family fun, an arts hive, markets, and interactive community experiences.

And yet, one of the most special parts to this, is it still feels "really community-focused."

"There's nothing major about what we do. It feels alive, it feels world-class, it feels like something that people from this community can be really proud of – but without all the kind of rigmarole I think often comes along with festivals, like long lineups, inexpensive ticket prices and big crowds so you can't see the stage, and charging for parking ..."

It's not supposed to leave people exhausted at the end of the weekend, but rather energized from the experience, said Bray, adding this is what's most important to those at the helm now.

With arts organizations nationwide citing struggles amid financial pressures in the current economic climate



The three-day Cultivate Festival returns Sept. 25 to 27 at Haute Goat Farm in Port Hope. /Jeannette Breward photo

and increasingly over recent years – as well as uphill battles after the COVID-19 pandemic – some may see the changeup as a bold move. Meanwhile, Bray believes the expansion is a shift in the right direction long-term – and it will build strength locally.

The shift from relying mostly on ticket sales means Cultivate programs will be driven through a combination of government funding, sponsorships, charitable donations, foundations, memberships and community fundraising initiatives.

This September, Bray added hopes are to also attract an even larger crowd with the new model – and expect lots of stellar artists.

This work to enhance year-round programming and make major events free or pay-what-you-can, "is something we're really proud of."

There are also lots of volunteering opportunities with Cultivate, which is usually supported by more than 120 volunteers annually who donate thousands of hours. More information is accessible via cultivatefestival.ca.



Terra Lightfoot will perform at the 2026 Cultivate Festival. / Lyle Bell photo

Despite the pay-what-you-can model, you do still need to get festival tickets due to space limitations.

Throughout August, the Road to Cultivate concert series also continues to light up Memorial Park and downtown on Thursday evenings.

In terms of the three-day September festival, you can expect performances from artists such as Lemon Bucket Orchestra, Terra Lightfoot, Cuff the Duke, Waahli, Durham County Poets, Melissa Payne, the Jimmy Bowskill Band, Sharon, Lois and Bram Singalong, Doghouse Orchestra, Polky, and Pete Moss.

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For the 10th edition of the Cultivate Festival, there's a new free or pay-what-you-can model. /Jeannette Breward photo

EDITORIAL

From printing to delivery: The week one experience



STEWART GRANT

Publisher of the West Northumberland Independent

Since this printed newspaper is a new development in the community, I thought you may be interested in some of the behind-the-scenes activities that go into getting the West Northumberland Independent printed and distributed.

The newspaper comes together, first in digital form, through collaboration between our team members in editorial, sales, and graphic design. Most of the publication is completed on Wednesday night but we schedule our press time for early Thursday morning so to incorporate late-breaking council developments or other time sensitive stories.

The digital file is then uploaded to our web printer in Mississauga who prints the newspapers on Thursday afternoon/evening. For the first week, we printed 7,500 copies of the Independent and will adjust future quantities based on demand.

Last Thursday, and this Thursday as well, I stopped at the printer and loaded the 150 bundles (strapped in 50s) into my Toyota Highlander for the drive to Northumberland County, arriving late in the evening. In the future, a delivery service will take my Thursday night run from the printer to Cobourg/Port Hope.

A few of us from the team then met up first thing on Friday to deliver the first edition, just as we did this week with issue number two.

It's always interesting showing up somewhere for the first time with a bundle (or bundles) of newspapers, especially when it's been a while since there's been a print newspaper.

Some store owners had already contacted us in advance hoping for copies after reading about us on Facebook, while just as many were surprised (but intrigued) to learn that a print newspaper had come back to the region.

Usually, it is the big brand grocery stores that are the toughest for us to break into, and at a couple (but not all) places last week I heard the familiar phrase "we will need to check with corporate". I get it – at least in the begin-

ning. In the communities that we serve in southwestern Ontario, this challenge has always been overcome thanks to the constant questioning of customers who say to the stores, "why don't you carry the local newspaper?" So, I encourage our readers to ask certain grocery stores if they would carry our free community newspaper.

All considered though, the delivery experience last week was extremely positive, with probably 95% of the

places that we went to being thrilled to be a venue for local news. The day was full of smiles and happy receptions from readers, and my sincere thank you goes out to all who have welcomed us.

Like any new venture, there are logistical challenges to iron out but we'll keep trying and keep evolving to meet the needs of the community. To reach out to us on this matter, please email us at info@wnuindy.ca or call our general line at 289-251-7079.



Cobourg resident Brenda Ferris and Grant Haven Media publisher Stewart Grant posed on Friday, July 31 with a carload of the first edition of the West Northumberland Independent / Robert Picard photo

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8. Newspapers should be locally-owned and operated

Man accused of voyeurism, child sexual abuse material offences

Independent staff

An 18-year-old Port Hope man is facing charges after an investigation into alleged voyeurism and child sexual abuse material offences, says the Cobourg Police Service. In July 2026, the Cobourg Police Service said police launched an investigation after receiving a report involving alleged voyeurism, possession of child sexual abuse material and making child sexual abuse material.

On July 30, 2026, the service said their investigation culminated in a search warrant being executed at Spicer Street residence in the Municipality of Port Hope. The warrant was executed by members of Cobourg's criminal investigation bureau, the canine unit, uniform officers and the Port Hope Police Service's criminal investigation bureau, reported police.

In a subsequent release, as a result of the investigation, police said an 18-year-old Port Hope man was arrested and charged with voyeurism, making child sexual

abuse material, and possession of child sexual abuse material.

None of these charges have been proven in court.

Police said the name of the accused is being withheld to protect the identity of the victim.

Police are asking anyone with information relating to this investigation to reach out to the service at 905-372-6821 or leave an anonymous tip with Crime Stoppers by calling 1-800-222-8477 or visiting stop-crimehere.ca.

Police are reminding the public that reporting of any online exploitation can also be made to Canada's national tipline for reporting online sexual exploitation of children at cybertip.ca.

Youth under the age of 18 who are concerned intimate images of themselves are being shared online can further access support through NeedHelpNow.ca, added police.

No other details were released at press deadline.



Cobourg police station. /Sarah Hyatt

'Diversity of thought is one of democracy's greatest strengths'

Residents encouraged to submit questions, take part in upcoming debates

NATALIE HAMILTON

Reporter

As the 2026 municipal election approaches, Cobourg resident Maria Papaioannoy is hoping to engage many community members by hosting all-candidates debates to give voters the opportunity to hear directly from those seeking to represent them.

Papaioannoy, the organizer of the volunteer-led local debate planning committee, said municipal government decisions are important as they have a direct impact on residents' daily lives. From roads and infrastructure to housing, parks, policing, recreation, taxes and community services, the decisions made by local council affect every household.

"Elections provide the public with an opportunity to choose those who will shape the future of the community, and informed voters are essential to a healthy democracy," said Papaioannoy.

That's why she's leading the charge to host upcoming debates for both councillors and deputy mayor positions, along with a separate debate for the mayoral candidates, explained Papaioannoy.

"We want to create an opportunity where candidates can speak directly to residents in a structured, respectful environment, and where the questions being asked truly reflect the concerns of our community."

The committee is actively collecting and reviewing questions submitted by residents, will be developing debate questions that reflect the most important is-

sues, establishing fair rules and procedures for all candidates, and ensuring debates remain respectful, non-partisan, and focused on ideas and policy.

"Diversity of thought is one of democracy's greatest strengths," noted Papaioannoy.

When forming the committee, she said the desire was to bring together people with different backgrounds, experiences, and viewpoints.

"When people with diverse perspectives work together in good faith, we ask better questions, create stronger conversations, and ultimately serve the community better."

The debates will not endorse candidates or political positions. They will instead focus on creating a transparent process that encourages informed decision-making by voters, she said.

"At a time when public trust in institutions and political discourse continues to face challenges, community-led forums provide an important opportunity to encourage respectful dialogue, accountability, and public participation."

Planning meetings around the debates are getting underway, with the debates expected to take place in the weeks leading up to the municipal election, which is on Monday, Oct. 26.

"Volunteers have filled out nicely. We want (to get the word out) to get people to participate in the questions. We need community members of Cobourg to submit questions and get excited about this debate."

The committee has also launched CobourgDebates2026.ca, which will be populated with content in the weeks to come.

"We expect to announce the venue, dates and additional details shortly after Thursday, Aug. 27," she noted. In the meantime, questions can be sent to hello@northumberlandwomen.com.

WEEKEND QUIZ

1. Who played Allie Hamilton in The Notebook (2004)?
2. Two lines that never intersect are said to be what?
3. What year was WestJet founded?
4. What crop was known as maize?
5. Heidelberg is a city in what country?
6. Name the big three parent grocery companies in Canada?
7. What sensory organ do starfish have at the end of each arm?
8. How many musical families are there in a standard orchestra?
9. What is Africa's oldest continuous democracy?
10. What kind of fruit juice is used to mix a Tom Collins?

This week's answers are found on pg. 22

Quote of the Week

"Lincoln is a resilient community, but resilience alone cannot shoulder the burden of increasingly frequent and unprecedented climate events. We need our provincial and federal partners to stand with us, not only in responding to today's emergency, but in investing in the long-term infrastructure solutions that communities across Niagara need."

- Lincoln Mayor Sandra Easton said after the Niagara area was put under a state of emergency from major flooding resulting from over 170 millimetres of rain in 24 hours after two previous storms.

POLICE BLOTTER: Three charged for having open liquor in public

Independent staff

It was a busy long-weekend for the Cobourg Police Service.

Here's a recap of some of the reports: THREE CHARGED UNDER LIQUOR LICENCE AND CONTROL ACT:

On Aug. 4, at about 6:50 p.m., police said they responded to the D'Arcy and Water streets area after a report of a man consuming alcohol in a nearby park.

Officers allegedly located an individual in possession of open alcohol containers and determined he was wanted on an outstanding warrant held by another police service.

The 30-year-old man was arrested on the strength of the warrant and charged under the Liquor Licence and Control Act for having open liquor in a public place, said police, adding he was later released on a provincial offence notice.

In a separate incident on Aug. 2, at

about 8:40 p.m., police on general patrol reported locating an individual in possession of open alcohol in the King Street and George Street areas. The 48-year-old man was also charged for allegedly having open liquor in a public place.

On Aug. 3, at about 8:50 p.m., police said they responded to another report of an individual causing a disturbance in the parking lot of a business in the King Street West and Spring Street area.

Officers said they found a man showing signs of intoxication who was also in possession of open alcohol containers, leading to a 48-year-old being arrested and charged.

PROPERTY CHECK LEADS TO CHARGES:

A 32-year-old Cobourg woman is facing multiple charges after police said they conducted a property check.

On Aug. 4, at about 6:30 a.m., police said the check occurred at a property in the King Street West and College Street area. Police said one individual wanted



Cobourg police station. /Sarah Hyatt photo

on two outstanding warrants was found.

As a result of the investigation, police said the 32-year-old Cobourg woman was arrested and charged with failure to attend court, theft under \$5,000, possession of property obtained by crime, possession

of a schedule I substance, and failure to comply with a probation order.

None of the charges in the above unrelated alleged incidents have been proven in court.

RIDE check leads to alleged drug bust, four arrests

Independent staff

After a RIDE check over the long-weekend, Northumberland OPP says police have seized suspected cocaine, fentanyl, pills, a prohibited weapon and a large quantity of cash.

According to OPP, the seizure followed a Reduce Impaired Driving Everywhere (RIDE) stop on Aug. 2 shortly after 3 a.m. in the Albert Street West and Bridge Street North Trent Hills area. After stopping the vehicle, officers reported initiating a drug investigation, resulting in four arrests.

"As a result of the investigation, police seized quantities of suspected cocaine, fentanyl and unidentified pills, along with a prohibited weapon, drug-trafficking paraphernalia and a large quantity of Canadian currency," said Northumberland OPP.

As a result of the probe, police said a 37-year-old Trent Hills resident, a

45-year-old Trent Hills resident, and a 32-year-old Trenton resident, were all charged with possession of a schedule I substance for the purpose of trafficking – cocaine.

A 33-year-old Trent Hills resident was also charged with possession of a schedule I substance for the purpose of trafficking – cocaine, and possession of a weapon for a dangerous purpose.

None of these charges have been proven in court.

All of the accused are scheduled to appear in Cobourg court on Sept. 16, 2026, reported OPP. Police added that work continues through proactive enforcement and drug-trafficking investigations to protect communities and ask anyone with information relating to illegal drug activity contact OPP at 1-888-310-1122 at any time. Alternatively, Crime Stoppers is an anonymous option by calling 1-800-222-8477 or visiting www.crimestoppers.ca.



A RIDE check over the long-weekend led to an alleged drug bust and four people charged. /Northumberland OPP photo

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Work continues on new climate adaptation, resiliency plan

'It's important that we have a proactive plan in place to ensure we are ready to respond to potential challenges'

NATALIE HAMILTON

Reporter

Northumberland County is moving ahead on efforts aimed at protecting infrastructure and nature alike from climate-related risks like rising temperatures, unpredictable precipitation, shoreline erosion and more.

The county has announced it is starting to implement its new "climate adaptation and resiliency plan," which was recently endorsed by Northumberland County council. The plan is designed to help the community respond to the impacts of climate change.

As part of the second phase of the county's climate action strategy, which was launched in early 2025, this plan focuses on protecting infrastructure, economy and the natural environment from climate-related risks, including more frequent severe weather events, noted county officials.

The Federation of Canadian Municipalities' (FCM) Local Leadership for Climate Adaptation (LLCA) program, with support from the Government of Canada, provided \$76,993 for the project.

"The completion of the climate adaptation and resiliency plan is an important step toward building a climate-ready community," said Rachel Barton, a Northumberland County sustainability officer, in a statement.

"Since the mid-20th century, the average surface temperature over land in Canada has risen by two degrees Celsius and continues to increase," said Barton. "Higher temperatures can contribute to an array of effects that impact our natural, built and socioeconomic systems, such as increased severe weather and risk of drought, flooding and wildfire. It's important that we have a proactive plan in place to ensure we are ready to respond to potential challenges, so we can protect the health and safety of our community and maintain strong and reliable infrastructure."

The plan is supposed to build on the corporate greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction plan developed as part of the first phase of the climate action strategy, which focuses on reducing GHG emissions related to county operations. The second phase of the plan takes a broader look at other impacts of climate change on the community as a whole and identifies actions the community can take together to adapt to changing climates, explained officials.

The plan identifies key action items to complete in the coming months, some of which include:

- Developing an information hub for climate adaptation and building resiliency.
- Creating an inter-municipal working group to co-ordinate adaptation planning.



Northumberland County says efforts continue to protect the environment and infrastructure from climate-related risks. /Sarah Hyatt photo

ning.

- Delivering educational content to help people learn about adaptation actions they can take.

The county noted the plan was developed as a collaborative initiative, created through broad engagement with the public and with a 21-member "adaptation and resiliency group," representing interested groups from across the community. Northumberland County also partnered with ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability Canada – in the development of the plan.

"Prioritizing climate adaptation helps safeguard communities and delivers real economic benefits for residents," said Rebecca Bligh, FCM president.

"These plans are a critical first step in building climate resilience, enabling local governments to identify risks and put practical measures in place to protect infrastructure, maintain services and support quality of life now and into the future."

People can visit Northumberland.ca/ClimateAction to learn more.



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'Beachside Jams' light up Cobourg



There were no shortage of smiles as Harry Hannah on guitar, Amberlyn Rutherford and Allison Leroux on violin performed at the Cobourg Beach Food Truck Court. / Tim Burgess Images



Harry Hannah is seen rocking the guitar and singing here. / Tim Burgess Images



Deborah Lynn performs as a solo artist at 'Beachside Jams.' / Tim Burgess Images

“Beachside Jams” at the Cobourg Beach Food Truck Court was a hit on July 31, 2026, featuring live performances by local artists with a waterfront view.

The summer night by the lake experience attracted a full house with performances from Amberlyn Rutherford, Harry Hannah, Deborah Lynn and the Hicktown country rock party band. County Heaven Pub and Grill sponsored Beachside Jams, making admission free.

Honky Tonk Record Co. was on hand to sell merchandise and answer questions about Rutherford and Hannah, who are both signed to the label. Hannah, hailing from Baltimore, is working on an album now, while Rutherford, a Castleton resident, has already released two singles.

If you missed this show, you can see them perform at the Castleton Sports Fields on on Sept. 26.



Amberlyn Rutherford belts out a song for packed crowd at 'Beachside Jams.' / Tim Burgess Images



Allison Leroux wowed a full house on the violin. / Tim Burgess Images



Amberlyn Rutherford is seen here singing with Deborah Lynn on guitar and Allison Leroux on violin, along with the Hicktown Live Band. / Tim Burgess Images

'Touch-a-truck' big hit in Township of Hamilton

Fifty-plus kids get up-close look at emergency vehicles, learn more about first-responders

Independent staff

More than 50 kids were able to check out police cars and firetrucks and ask questions of first-responders during a recent "touch-a-truck" event in the Township of Hamilton, says OPP.

The Northumberland and Whitby detachments of the OPP took part in the Township of Hamilton's summer camp "touch-a-truck" event, alongside local firefighters, providing campers with a chance to meet emergency personnel and learn more about emergency services.

Attendees explored police and fire vehicles, asked questions and participated in an afternoon of excitement, learning, and the sounds of sirens echoing throughout the grounds, shared OPP.

The event was the first of two

planned engagements with campers. Northumberland OPP said it is looking forward to welcoming the group to the detachment in coming weeks for a day of activities, a barbecue and an opportunity to learn more about policing.

"A highlight of the upcoming visit may include a special appearance from the OPP canine unit and emergency response team.

"News of the possible visit quickly spread among the campers, generating plenty of excitement and anticipation for the return visit."

Northumberland OPP thanked the Township of Hamilton's summer camp staff and the local fire department for the invitation and "their ongoing commitment to providing meaningful opportunities for youth to engage with first-responders in a positive and interactive environment."



Young campers in the Township of Hamilton had a chance to interact with members of Northumberland and Whitby OPP, alongside firefighters, during a recent summer camp "touch-a-truck" event. /Northumberland OPP photo

Port Hope Jazz Festival 2026 rundown

Independent staff

The four-day Port Hope Jazz Festival is just around the corner and will celebrate 25 years of Canadian jazz musicians in 2026.

The festival is all set to start on Thursday, Aug. 20.

This year, organizers have announced there will be free and ticketed events, as well as indoor and outdoor shows, during the mornings, afternoons and nights.

"There are many genres to choose from performed by Canadian jazz musicians representing music from different parts of the world," said organizers. "There's straight-ahead jazz, jazz with a Hispanic groove, and we're paying tribute to two jazz masters during the centenary of their birth.

"There will be free-wheeling improvisation, big band music and performances of brandnew music, too."

Here's a look at the schedule:

The Memorial Park bandshell downtown will be jam-packed with performances starting on the night of Thursday, Aug. 20, with the Angela Pincente Big Band. On Saturday, Aug. 22 and Sunday, Aug. 23, the festival hosts concerts on the youth jazz stage in the afternoons. The Ganaraska Brewery will also have a beer garden in the park, added organizers.

Later Thursday, the Dánae Olano Quartet performs at the BLOU Room. The

after-hours jam will also take place in the BLOU Room on Friday and Saturday night with musicians Michael Shand, Duncan Hopkins and Lorne Nehring hosting.

Musicians are invited to bring their instruments and sit in, noted organizers. JABFUNG will play contemporary jazz from their latest release on Saturday afternoon. They'll be joined by Virginia McDonald, Luis Deniz and Mike Ragonese.

Organizers said the Hotel Carlyle and Restaurant will also host three events. Genevieve "Gigi" Marentette and Michael Shand will perform on Friday night (Aug. 21), and Eliana Cuevas and Jeremy Ledbetter will perform Saturday evening. On Sunday morning, Alex Samaras, Allison Au and Todd Pentney will be there for the restaurant's jazz brunch.

The festival presents three concerts at Port Hope United Church this year. Vocalist Emilie-Claire Barlow will entertain residents Friday night and Saturday and the festival also pays tribute to John Coltrane during his birth centenary, shared the organization.

Adrean Farrugia, Marcus Nance, Pat LaBarbera, Jake Koffman, Mark Kelso and Dan Fortin honour the album "John Coltrane and Johnny Hartman" and other essential Coltrane recordings, explained organizers.

On Saturday morning, Colleen Allen will have a conversation with Pat La-

Barbera at the Port Hope Public Library. Bring your coffee and enjoy stories from LaBarbera's incredible career in jazz music, added Port Hope Jazz.

The Ganaraska Hotel will also be busy Saturday. The Dixie Demons perform Dixieland jazz in the afternoon. Canadian Blues award-winning Angeli-que Francis and her band will electrify crowds in the evening, according to a recent release.

On Sunday, the second centenary birth celebration of the festival – this time for Miles Davis – will be performed by the Steve Holt Impact Quintet at the Ganaraska Brewery.

The final performance of the festival will be Sunday afternoon at Port Hope United Church. Featuring Gord Sheard on piano and Allen on saxophone, they will perform "Jazz Vespers."

Port Hope Jazz is described as a volunteer-driven, non-profit organization passionate about delivering the best of Canadian Jazz to residents and visitors in Port Hope, Ont. People can learn more via www.porthopejazz.com.

The Port Hope Jazz Festival follows the Port Hope Arts Festival this weekend and Arts Month celebrations throughout August.

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MAYORAL COLUMN

Entrepreneurial skills are the job-proofing our kids need



LUCAS CLEVELAND

Independent Columnist

On Wednesday, Aug. 12, between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m., the Staples in Cobourg will be taken over by business owners. Some of them are eight years old.

The Business and Entrepreneurship Centre Northumberland's Youth Entrepreneurship Showcase brings together more than 20 ventures built and run

by young people from across this county.

The product list alone tells you something about the imagination at work here: Mobile auto detailing, photography, branded apparel, lawn care, asphalt sealing, 3D printed toys, Spanish lessons, home décor and – my personal favorite – horse rodeo rope.

The numbers behind the showcase are worth pausing on. The My Future My Career program for ages eight to 14, delivered with Northumberland County, drew a record 24 participants this year.

In six years, it has backed 89 young entrepreneurs and distributed more than \$39,000 in micro grants. Alongside it, nine young people came through the provincial Summer Company program for ages 15 to 29, sharing \$27,000 in provincial funding, along with training and mentorship.

That is real money and real coaching going directly into the hands of young residents who had an idea and decided to act on it.

Why does this matter beyond the charm of it? Because the skills these programs teach are exactly the ones the labour market is asking for.

The World Economic Forum's Future of Jobs Report projects 170 million new roles emerging by 2030, alongside 92 million displaced positions – an enormous churn. That churn is being driven above all by AI, and the skills rising fastest alongside it are the human ones machines don't supply – creative thinking, resilience and adaptability, curiosity and a willingness to keep learning – which is precisely the list of skills a 12-year-old picks up while pricing a lawn care route or a 19-year-old figures out why her apparel line isn't selling. Ana-

lytical thinking tops the same report's list of essential skills for the third consecutive year, cited by seven in 10 employers. That is the curriculum.

It also matters because this is who our economy actually is. As of 2024, small businesses employed 5.8 million Canadians – 46.6 per cent of the private labor force. In a county like ours, that share is the whole ballgame.

I'll be honest that my interest here is not purely civic. My own working life has run through the restaurant industry, oil and gas, the grocery business, and now this office. On paper, those have nothing to do with one another.

In practice, they demanded the same handful of skills: Read the numbers and believe them, talk to the customer rather than about the customer, fix the problem in front of you without waiting to be told, and get back up quickly when something

goes wrong – because failure isn't the detour; it's the road for a business owner. I learned these lessons in kitchens, on a rig up north and behind a desk, the hard way and late. These kids are learning them at 10, with a mentor and a small grant behind them. That is an advantage most of us never had and it will follow them for the rest of their working lives.

Come out on Aug. 12. Ask them what they're selling and why. Buy something. And if you miss it, several of them will be at the Cobourg Farmers' Market on Youth Day on Aug. 22 from 9 a.m. to noon at Rotary Harbourfront Park.

Bring cash and see you all there.

Lucas Cleveland is the mayor of the Town of Cobourg.

MAYORAL COLUMN

Port Hope leaders gearing up for AMO Conference, to celebrate the arts



OLENA HANKIVSKY

Independent Columnist

On Aug. 16 to 19, members of council and senior staff will attend the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Conference in Ottawa – one of the most important opportunities of the year for municipal leaders to connect with provincial

decision-makers, advance local priorities, and advocate for the needs of their communities.

I will be attending alongside CAO Mike Melinyshyn, Deputy Mayor Adam Pearson, Coun. Claire Holloway Wadhwani, and key municipal staff. This year, the municipality has secured 10 ministerial delegations with the province to discuss issues that matter to our community, including infrastructure, housing, economic development, healthcare, transportation, energy, tourism, workforce development and education.

The AMO Conference is an important forum for learning, collaboration and advocacy, helping ensure Port Hope's voice is heard, and our interests are represented as decisions are

made that affect municipalities across the province.

Moving on to summer events.

As we transition into August, summer is in full swing in Port Hope. Our parks, trails, downtown streets, and gathering spaces are alive with activity. With countless community-run events like Road to Cultivate, farmers' markets, Irie Vibes, Jazz Festival, car shows, and a sidewalk sale, there is truly something for everyone. These events reflect the passion, creativity, and dedication of the people who make Port Hope such a welcoming and vibrant place to call home.

This weekend, I encourage everyone to take part in our annual Port Hope Arts Festival as we celebrate August as Arts Month. The festival returns this

Saturday (Aug. 8) with a full day of creativity, culture, and community, featuring favourites such as the 10-minute play series, Art Around Town, an outdoor artisan market, hands-on activities, live performances, and community programming throughout our downtown and Memorial Park.

The arts have always played an important role in shaping Port Hope's identity. Our talented local artists, musicians, performers, writers and creators contribute to a rich and diverse arts scene that enriches daily life and strengthens our economic and social vitality.

The festival showcases this spirit, transforming downtown into a welcoming outdoor gallery and performance space where residents and visitors can

discover new experiences and support local creators.

Equally important is the opportunity these events provide for connection. Whether you are watching a play, browsing the artisan market, listening to live music or simply enjoying a conversation with a neighbour, community events remind us that shared experiences are at the heart of a healthy and inclusive municipality.

I hope to see you out enjoying all that Port Hope has to offer as we make the most of the final weeks of summer.

Olena Hankivsky is the mayor of the Municipality of Port Hope.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT GRANTHAVEN.COM

COLUMNS

Grey Matters: The growing world of wellness



MICKI MCLEAN

Independent Columnist

Not long ago, the only thing a watch did was tell time.

Today, many watches and fitness bands can count your steps, monitor your heart rate, remind you to take medications, track your sleep, detect falls, and even call for help if you can't. What once seemed like something out of a science fiction movie or the Jetsons cartoon has become an everyday tool that is helping many older adults stay healthier, safer and more independent.

But here's the good news: You don't need the latest smartwatch to take charge of your health.

Wellness tracking simply means paying attention to your health and noticing changes

over time. Whether you use a notebook, smartphone, blood pressure monitor or a smartwatch, the goal is the same: To better understand your body and make informed decisions about your health.

Why is wellness tracking important?

As we age, our bodies naturally change. Sometimes, small changes happen slowly and are easy to overlook. Tracking certain aspects of our wellness can help us notice changes sooner and take action when needed.

Wellness tracking can help you: Recognize changes in your health before they become bigger concerns; have more meaningful conversations with your health-care provider; stay accountable to healthy habits; maintain independence by taking an active role in your own well-being and provide family with reassurance that you are staying safe and healthy.

The goal isn't to worry about every number or become obsessed with tracking, it is simply about being aware. Knowledge gives us the chance to make choices that support our health.

Many seniors still prefer the traditional method of using a

notebook to record blood pressure, blood sugar, weight, medications, exercise, water intake or even how they're feeling each day if you are fortunate enough to live in a retirement home, the nursing staff and wellness person tracks and records your vitals and weight monthly. Looking back over your notes can help you recognize patterns and provide valuable information to share with your health-care provider.

If you enjoy technology, your smartphone can become a useful wellness tool. There are many easy-to-use apps that can track blood pressure, medications, water intake, exercise, nutrition and even your mood.

Many create simple charts so you can easily see your progress over time.

Fitness trackers and smartwatches offer even more options. Depending on the model, they can monitor daily steps and activity, heart rate, blood oxygen levels, sleep quality, medication and hydration reminders, breathing exercises, GPS location, fall detection and emergency calling.

For many seniors and their families, fall detection provides

valuable peace of mind. Some watches can detect a serious fall and if you don't respond, automatically contact an emergency contact or emergency services. Heart rate monitoring can also alert you to unusual changes that may be worth discussing with your health-care provider.

Wellness tracking isn't limited to wearable devices. Home blood pressure monitors, blood glucose meters, smart scales, pulse oximeters, and even a simple thermometer can all help you keep track of your health between appointments.

It's also important to remember that wellness isn't only physical. Good health includes emotional well-being, too. Some people track their mood, keep a gratitude journal or simply ask themselves each day whether they laughed, spent time with someone they enjoyed, did they get outside or move their body or do something that brought them joy?

These small check-ins can be just as valuable as counting steps.

The goal of wellness tracking isn't to chase perfect numbers or compete with anyone else. It is about becoming more aware of

your own health and noticing changes early. If you're interested in getting started, choose one area to focus on like walking, sleep, blood pressure or water intake. Small habits often lead to meaningful improvements over time.

Technology continues to evolve, but one thing hasn't changed: Staying active, eating well, getting enough rest, keeping your mind engaged, maintaining social connections, and seeing your healthcare provider regularly remain the foundation of healthy aging.

Whether you wear the latest smartwatch or still prefer the trusty watch you've owned for years, the most important thing is paying attention to your health. After all, sometimes the smartest device isn't the one on your wrist, it's the person wearing it.

Micki McLean is the general manager at Palisade Gardens Retirement Residence. Her Grey Matters' column dealing with all matters related to seniors and health and wellness for residents will be published monthly.

From where I sit: The Concert Band of Cobourg and me



DIANA STOREN

Independent Columnist

When I came to Cobourg in 1971, I asked if there was a band I could play in.

I didn't challenge the answer when I was told the band was for men only.

But the second time I inquired, I was not denied. And so, I be-

came the first woman ever to play in what is now the Concert Band of Cobourg.

We may be a concert band, but we don't just play sitting down. We perform intricate marching routines while we play. We have recorded five CDs. We travel. We do special events, and of course, parades.

When I joined in 1972, music director Roland White didn't know what I should wear. Eventually – and thankfully for only a short period of time – I had to wear a black skirt with red stripes down both sides! This was someone's idea of the female version of the trousers the men wore then, and we all do now.

For many years, we've been permitted to also call ourselves the Royal Marines Association Band of Ontario, which allows

us to wear white pith helmets when we march, along with our now familiar red tunics.

Thankfully, as of last July, we now have summer uniforms.

I have participated in dozens of Santa Claus parades – some of them even at night and thankfully, on pavement.

I remember it being so cold before one daytime parade that the band waited inside the Osawa Centre, lining up between the washers and dryers in the appliance section of Eaton's. When we finally set off, all went well, until our instruments froze. Then we had to sing.

In 1997, the band travelled to Coburg, Germany for a twinning ceremony between our two towns. That's when we had to contend with cobblestones! And extreme heat.

We played and marched in lit-

tle towns and villages near Cobourg, usually at noon, when it was extremely hot. (And hard on the feet.)

Since Paul Storms took over as director of music, our schedule has remained as busy as ever. Because of our association with the Royal Marines, we were invited to participate in the 2002 Battle of Plattsburgh Commemoration, in Plattsburgh, N.Y. We represented the British.

Our first concert in 2002 took place in a wonderful setting outdoors, near a river. As we played our final number, I looked up and was stunned. The audience was on its feet, arms linked, everyone swaying back and forth as we played "United We Stand."

For the next 17 years, we returned to Plattsburgh and ended every concert with that same

piece of music.

Audience reactions are usually enthusiastic. Only once do I remember the total indifference of those nearby: The cows, grazing in a pen in front of us at the Port Hope Fair, completely ignored us.

During the summer, we play Tuesday evenings at 7:30 p.m. in Cobourg's Victoria Park. Our friends, the Cobourg Legion Pipes and Drums, will join us on Aug. 25. Bring a lawn chair and enjoy.

Diana Storen is a long-time Cobourg resident who spent her entire teaching career at Cobourg District Collegiate Institute West and formerly served on the Cobourg Star editorial board and as a columnist for the paper.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT GRANTHAVEN.COM

Cobourg launches new 'Keepin' Up in Cobourg' initiative

Online resource offers frequently asked questions about municipal services, projects, events

Independent Staff

From queries ranging about parking in Cobourg to the source of sediment on the surface of Lake Ontario, the Town of Cobourg is endeavouring to answer these questions and more through a new online resource.

The town's communications department has announced the launch of "Keepin' Up in Cobourg," an Engage Cobourg webpage and digital resource to provide answers to commonly asked questions. Described as a living document that grows and evolves based on the questions residents are asking, "Keepin' Up in Cobourg" is designed to be a go-to place for residents to ask questions and find answers about town events, services and current projects.

"The Town of Cobourg is committed to keeping residents informed with clear, accurate and timely information," reads a press release on the launch.

"Our communications department



The town's communications department has announced the launch of 'Keepin' Up in Cobourg,' an Engage Cobourg webpage and digital resource to provide answers to residents' commonly asked questions. /Natalie Hamilton photo

works closely with customer service and teams across the organization to

identify common questions and provide factual answers. By sharing informa-

tion proactively and creating space for residents to ask questions, the goal is to assist community members to stay informed about the issues that matter to them." Residents can learn more at engagecobourg.ca/keepinup.

People are also invited to submit their questions through the open form on the webpage.

Communications staff will post a new question and answer to the town's social media channels each week, with the topics archived on the Engage Cobourg page for future reference.

Keepin' Up in Cobourg's social media pages are Facebook @TownofCobourg and Instagram @TownofCobourg.

The town encourages residents to create an Engage Cobourg account to follow and participate in

Cobourg's public engagement projects, along with opting-in to receive newsletter updates.

To register, visit engagecobourg.ca/register.

Construction underway in Grafton, targets better road conditions, pedestrian safety

Urban road reconstruction project 'an investment in the safety and long-term livability of the community'

NATALIE HAMILTON

Reporter

Construction has kicked off in Grafton. "Urban renewal" work started on Tuesday, Aug. 4, with the project expected to continue through to October. The construction work is targeted at improving road conditions, enhancing pedestrian safety, and replacing aging infrastructure in the village, said the county.

The rehabilitation project is a collaborative effort between Northumberland County and the Township of Alnwick/Haldimand. Construction is taking place along County Road 2 starting around the Haldimand Community Memorial Arena to 150 metres east of Lyle Street South/County Road 23, including the Lyle Street South/County Road 23

intersection north for 200 metres.

"The Grafton urban road reconstruction project is an investment in the safety and long-term livability of the community," stated Peter Deshane, associate director of engineering.

"By co-ordinating roadway rehabilitation with pedestrian safety improvements and infrastructure upgrades, we're able to deliver lasting benefits for residents, businesses and visitors while making the most of this construction window."

Project improvements include:

- Relocating the existing pedestrian crossover at Old Danforth Road to the east side of the intersection, complete with overhead and advanced signage, flashing beacons and stop bars.
- Installing a new pedestrian crossover

at the Haldimand Community Memorial Arena with overhead and advance signage, flashing beacons and stop bars.

- Constructing new sidewalk along Old Danforth Road in front of local businesses, including the re-configuration of on-street parking from County Road 2 to about 60 metres south of County Road 2.
- Replacing sections of the existing storm sewer infrastructure.
- Removing and replacing the full-depth asphalt roadway.
- Completing minor curb and gutter replacements.
- Applying new pavement markings upon completion of construction.

Aimed at minimizing impacts on the travelling public, at least one lane of

traffic will remain open throughout construction hours, with two lanes re-opened outside of working hours whenever possible, the county noted.

Motorists should expect temporary lane closures, reduced speeds and periodic delays while work is underway.

Residents, businesses and visitors are encouraged to plan for additional travel time, obey all construction signage, and use caution when travelling through the work zone. Access to local businesses and properties will be maintained throughout construction, said the county.

For project updates, visit Northumberland.ca/RoadConstruction.

Check out 'Movies Under the Stars' in Cobourg

Movies run at Victoria Park or Cobourg beach

NATALIE HAMILTON

Reporter

The Town of Cobourg and Experience Cobourg are inviting residents and visitors to set up a lawn chair or lay out a blanket and settle in for the annual "Movies Under the Stars" series this summer. The Town of Cobourg and Ex-

perience Cobourg will have the cameras rolling for several movies being shown at Victoria Park or Victoria Beach. Movies start at dusk, which is at about 8:30 p.m. for most of the flicks.

Here's the line-up for the rest of the summer:

- Saturday, Aug. 8: "Lilo & Stitch" is being shown in Victoria Park. This

movie was also rescheduled from its original slated date due to weather conditions.

- Saturday, Aug. 22: "Superman" is being shown on the Cobourg beach.
- Saturday, Sept. 5: "Hoppers" is being shown in Victoria Park.

Finally, there will be a special feature screening Marie Dressler's Oscar-win-

ning film "Min and Bill" on Saturday, Sept. 12 at about 7:45 p.m. in the Esplanade area.

Visit experiencecobourg.ca/movies for further details.

SPORTS

Cobourg and District Sports Hall of Fame extends call for 2027 inductees

Nominate deserving athletes, sports community-builders by Sept. 30

NATALIE HAMILTON

Reporter

From a Grafton man with a decorated career in hockey and baseball to a Cobourg woman who made integral contributions to the town's hockey scene, the Cobourg and District Sports Hall of Fame (CDSHF) is shining a light on local athletes and sports community-builders.

Since 2016, the CDSHF has documented the histories of more than 100 local sports and collected more than 1,100 pieces of unique sports memorabilia, many that are now on display at the Cobourg Community Centre.

The CDSHF is now accepting applications for nominations for the 2027 induction into the Sports Hall of Fame. The deadline for applications is Wednesday,

Sept. 30.

"If you know a deserving athlete or builder that should be in the hall of fame, you can find applications on our website," the CDSHF stated.

Residents are encouraged to read and thoroughly review the information and guidelines before making a nomination.

"Each year the CDSHF selection committee has the very difficult task of selecting candidates for induction to the hall of fame. This is a task that each member takes very seriously and spends many hours reviewing and discussing each nomination form.

"In many cases, the selection committee does not know the applicant and are not aware of that person's contribution to the local sporting scene. This makes the nomination form absolutely critical for their deliberations."

The selection committee will then review all nominations, make its selections and announce the new inductees in March 2027.

Application forms are available at www.cdshf.ca under the inductees tab.

Also on the website, residents can see the names of past inductees and learn about their achievements and contributions to the local sports scene.

Two 2026 inductees are Grafton's Marty Kernaghan and Cobourg's Liz Basinger.

Kernaghan demonstrated exceptional skills in hockey and fastball from a young age, his bio reads. A few highlights of his career include winning three Ontario amateur softball association championships and an Ontario Minor Hockey Association championship, among other titles.

He was also a member of Team Canada for the 1983 Pan Am championships and the 1992 ISF men's world championship, winning gold in both competitions.

Basinger, a life-long Cobourg resident, has been a fixture of the local sporting scene, "but also a driving force whose countless volunteer efforts" have fundamentally enriched the sporting life of the community, her bio reads. She began volunteering her time and skills with the Cobourg Community Hockey League in the 1970s, which included coaching. In 1977/78, Basinger coached the Cobourg Wholesaler Bantams and later made the jump from minor hockey to the Cobourg Junior C Cougars as a member of the community-based board of directors.

To read more about Basinger, Kernaghan and the other 2026 inductees, visit www.cdshf.ca.

RECREATION

Take on the '30x30' challenge in Port Hope

'It's time to get back to your senses and make nature a habit': Ontario Parks

NATALIE HAMILTON

Reporter

The Municipality of Port Hope is encouraging residents to take 30.

That entails devoting 30 minutes every day to spend time in nature for 30 days this month.

Port Hope is challenging residents – #PortHope30x30 – to participate locally in the "Healthy Parks, Healthy People 30x30 Challenge," which is a provincial initiative hosted by Ontario Parks and Healthy Parks Healthy People, running in August.

"This August, take the opportunity to reconnect with nature – and with yourself – by participating in this community-wide initiative designed to make spending time outdoors a daily habit," the municipality stated.

"Research shows that time in nature can significantly reduce stress, improve mood and support overall well-being. The 30x30 nature challenge is simple – spend 30 minutes in nature every day for 30 days.

"Whether it's a walk through the woods, tending to your garden or relaxing in a local park, this challenge is about creating a healthy and lasting connection with the natural world."

The municipality offers a few ideas to help residents kick off the challenge:

- Take a walk through a local trail or con-

servation area.

- Sit quietly in the backyard or amidst a balcony garden.
- Visit a park and listen to the sounds of nature.

The purpose of the Ontario Parks' challenge is to engage people in nature and foster an improved sense of well-being.

"Studies show that being regularly immersed in nature can decrease stress and the scent of fresh pine has been known to reduce depression and anxiety," noted Ontario Parks. "It's time to get back to your senses and make nature a habit."

By accepting the 30x30 challenge, people make a commitment to enjoy nature for 30 minutes daily for 30 days.

"By doing this, you will be creating a nature habit that supports a healthy lifestyle."

The Ontario Parks 30x30 Challenge runs for the month of August. However, Ontario Parks encourages people to extend their new habit beyond 30 days.

People can join the challenge at any time in August.

"Time in nature is about getting outside and taking time to notice and connect with the sights and sounds around you ... Even a small urban park can be beneficial if you relax and use your senses. Listen for bird songs, breathe fresh air and watch for local wildlife." Greenspace can be as close as the neighbourhood park or even in a resident's own garden. For a change of scenery, On-



The Municipality of Port Hope is encouraging residents to participate in the 'Healthy Parks, Healthy People 30x30 Challenge,' which is a provincial initiative hosted by Ontario Parks and Healthy Parks Healthy People and promotes spending time in nature daily. /Sarah Hyatt photo

Ontario Parks offers several parks within 100 kilometres of many city centres.

"Ontario Parks are diverse and offer plenty of trails, beaches, breathtaking views and fresh air."

Participants are encouraged to post their pictures, videos, discoveries and daily na-

ture interactions on social media channels.

Connect with Ontario Parks on Facebook or share to X @OntarioParks and use #HPHP and #30x30challenge to share healthy nature habits.

NFS announces fall 2026 film series

KEN FORSYTH

Special submission by NFS

This September, Northumberland Film Sundays will celebrate its 23rd year of bringing the best of contemporary cinema to Northumberland audiences.

The 2026 fall film series will open on Sunday, Sept. 20 at the Rainbow Cinema, marking their 301st screening in Cobourg. NFS will screen five films on alternate Sunday afternoons starting at 3:30 p.m.

Over the years, this community arts group has offered a diverse range of critically-acclaimed films specially selected from the TIFF Film Circuit – films in limited theatrical release that would not otherwise be available locally. The organization's mission is to showcase films of high quality, which serve to entertain, inform and offer perspectives from the world of contemporary Canadian and international cinema with a focus on stories and storytelling.

The films in the NFS fall series will transport audiences to the contemporary London arts scene, a Belgian maternity shelter, an epic 14,000-kilometre global expedition, Lagos, Nigeria in the early 90s, and a Cape Breton retirement home.

The group was founded by the late Ken Prue, a well-known local arts promoter and impresario, whose outstand-

ing contributions to the Cobourg arts scene have left a lasting legacy. These include not only the creation of Northumberland Film Sundays, but also his unique programming at the Loft where he offered live music and specialty films including opera – and later his numerous concert productions at Victoria Hall featuring live music, particularly Jazz performers.

Northumberland Film Sundays is a not-for-profit group run entirely by volunteers, with all surpluses regularly donated to Northumberland County organizations. Since 2003, the organization has donated more than \$50,000 back to the community and will be announcing the 2026 recipient at the Sept. 20 screening.

NFS is grateful for the ongoing support of its local partners, particularly the wonderful staff and management at Rainbow Cinema, as well as their amazing ticket outlets, including the Readers' Nook in Cobourg and Bibelot in Port Hope.

Tickets for the fall series go on sale at these outlets, as well as at the Rainbow Cinema's box office, starting Aug. 7. Ticket packages for all five films are \$45 and single tickets will be available for \$10 starting Sept. 20.

Full information on all films and schedules in this series is available via northumberlandfilm.com



Northumberland Film Sundays is gearing up to open its fall film series on Sept. 20 at the Rainbow Cinema. /NFS photo

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NHH celebrates 'exemplary standing' accreditation

President says designation result of staff's 'hard work and unwavering commitment to exceptional patient care'

NATALIE HAMILTON

Reporter

Northumberland Hills Hospital (NHH) is celebrating the achievement of the highest possible designation for an accredited organization through the national hospital accreditation program.

Accreditation Canada recently issued a formal decision letter congratulating the team at the hospital, which serves west Northumberland, for achieving "accreditation with exemplary standing."

This is the second consecutive time that NHH has achieved this designation.

Accreditation Canada is described as an independent, not-for-profit organization that sets standards for quality and safety in healthcare and accredits health organizations in Canada and around the world.

"I am extremely proud of our staff, physicians, midwives and volunteers, inclusive of our board, foundation, auxiliary and patient and family advisory council," said Susan Walsh, NHH president and CEO, in a statement.

"This designation is the direct result of their hard work and unwavering commitment to exceptional patient care even during a time of increased demand for our services and fiscal restraints in the health-care sector. I extend my congratulations and gratitude to the entire NHH team for showing up for our community each and every day."

Every four years, the hospital invites a team of Accreditation Canada surveyors to NHH to evaluate the hospital on more than 2,700 standards related to quality, safety, efficiency and inclusion. The hospital participated in the voluntary process in March when it welcomed Accreditation Canada surveyors into the facility.

In late July, NHH was notified that it had achieved the exemplary standing designation, which is awarded to "organizations that go beyond Accreditation Canada's



Northumberland Hills Hospital President and CEO Susan Walsh. /NHH photo

requirements and demonstrate excellence in quality improvement."

According to a news release, the on-site peer surveyors commended NHH for the hospital's strong alignment with service excellence standards, its consistent emphasis on people-centred care and interdisciplinary collaboration, and its focus on clear communication and meaningful partnerships.

"Ensuring quality is central to the board's mandate," said Michael McAllister, NHH board chair.

"The NHH board has strongly supported the hospital's participation in this important process, which offers an opportunity to highlight continuous quality improvement made across the organization since 2022, while also learning from others about evolving best practices. We appreciate the effort that went into achieving a second consecutive exemplary standing and look forward to continued alignment with Accreditation Canada standards in the years ahead."

For more information and the full report, visit nhh.ca and check out the "quality and safety tab."

Restoration work underway on Victoria Hall's clock tower in Cobourg

Independent staff

The time has come for restoration work on the Victoria Hall clock tower in downtown Cobourg.

The Town of Cobourg's corporate services division said restoration work on the town hall's clock tower, which started the first week of August, will continue until mid-October.

During this time, scaffolding will surround the tower while crews restore the exterior woodwork and paint. The support cradle for the historic tower bell is also being replaced due to its condition, the town noted. As a result, the hall's bell and clock mechanisms will be out of service during this time.

This type of restoration, including painting and general maintenance, is required every 10 to 15 years to preserve the tower, town staff noted.

"The town thanks residents and visitors for their patience as this work continues on one of Cobourg's most iconic landmarks," said staff, in a recent release.

The project is being funded by the town's 2026 capital budget.

The Victoria Hall Maintenance Trust group is helping to fund the repairs to the bell cradle.

For any questions related to the project, residents are asked to contact Cobourg's customer service team by emailing customerservice@cobourg.ca or calling 905-372-4301.



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Independent

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Rising young artist set to perform for SONG benefit concert

‘Mary Frances represents so much of what SONG believes in’

SARAH HYATT

Editor/reporter

A rising young Canadian artist is coming to light up Port Hope’s historic Capitol Theatre to help local kids and youth, SONG has announced.

This is a concert that celebrates music, family tradition, local culture and Northumberland youth, explained Sounds of the Next Generation (SONG) executive director Miles Bowman.

With help from presenting sponsor Kawartha Metals, SONG has announced Mary Frances as the featured artist for its sixth annual headliner concert at the theatre coming up in October.

“Mary Frances represents so much of what SONG believes in,” said Bowman. “She is an extraordinary young artist with deep musical roots; tremendous skill and a performance style filled with joy and connection.

“Bringing her to the Capitol is a celebration of Canadian talent, rural culture and the next generation of musicians.”

According to a recent release from SONG, Frances, who now lives in the region with family, “brings both national momentum and a meaningful location connection to the Port Hope stage.”

At just 20 years old, she’s already built an impressive career as a 2025 Canadian Folk Music Award Young Performer

winner – and her debut solo album “First Light” earned critical praise and the 2024 Cape Breton Tourism Award for its title track, added organizers.

She’s also already performed more than 650 live shows.

“Mary Frances Live at the Capitol” is set for Oct. 10, 2026. Tickets are \$50 for adults and \$35 for students and are available at the Capitol Theatre box office.

So what can people expect for the show?

“From the celebrated MacMaster-Leahy family, Mary Frances grew up surrounded by music, dance and storytelling,” reads a recent release. “A fiddler, pianist, composer and step dancer, she blends Celtic, jazz and Latin influences into a live show filled with energy, joy and exceptional musicianship,” said SONG.

Frances has appeared at several major festivals already in Canada and on international stages.

The Capitol Theatre noted some of her performances have also included sharing stages with artists such as Yo-Yo Ma and Béla Fleck. She’s also been building a rapidly growing online following with her performances, amassing hundreds-of-thousands – and even millions of views at times – added the theatre.

The Capitol described the upcoming show as an unforgettable evening of music and storytelling.

The benefit concert will also mean help



Young rising star Mary Frances is bringing national talent and local connection to the Port Hope Capitol Theatre as part of a SONG benefit concert. /SONG submitted photo

for SONG’s free music programs, which help kids and youth across Northumberland. These programs also aim to help kids build confidence, creativity, resilience and social development.

Cobourg releases ‘StoryMap’ detailing how town manages assets residents use daily

‘Asset management is ultimately about caring for the systems our community depends on’

NATALIE HAMILTON

Reporter

From turning on the tap in the morning, to driving to work or walking through a park, the Town of Cobourg is inviting residents to check out a new resource that demonstrates how municipal assets – like drinking water, roads, and parks – are all managed over time.

The Town of Cobourg’s public works and engineering division has released a new “StoryMap” with the aim of showing how carefully managing Cobourg’s assets supports everyday life.

The StoryMap, entitled “2026 Asset Management: An Annual Review,” explains how the infrastructure people rely on is planned, maintained and renewed to support a safe, reliable and sustainable community, noted the town, in a press release.

“Asset management is ultimately about caring for the systems our community depends on every day,” said Melanie Chatten, GIS co-ordinator and creator of the StoryMap.

“This StoryMap helps illustrate that asset management is not just a technical exercise but about making thoughtful, informed decisions so Cobourg’s infrastructure continues to serve the community now and into the future.”

For the most part, asset management may happen be-

hind-the-scenes, but it plays a critical role in daily life, town staff noted.

“From turning on the tap in the morning, to driving to work, walking through a park or relying on emergency services, residents benefit every day from municipal assets that are carefully managed over time. With a combined replacement value of more than \$1.12 billion, the town utilizes asset management plans as strategic snapshots built from evolving data.”

The new StoryMap is designed to explain how the town uses data, planning, risk analysis and lifecycle management to make informed decisions. The StoryMap highlights real-life asset management examples in action, including the King Street West culvert replacement project and the replacement of a fire pumper truck.

In addition to showing the scale and complexity of municipal infrastructure, the StoryMap also addresses one of the most important challenges facing municipalities – the infrastructure funding gap, officials noted. By helping residents understand what the town owns, what condition assets are in and how priorities are set, the StoryMap aims to provide greater awareness around infrastructure planning and investment.

Residents can learn more at Cobourg.ca/AMStoryMap.



The Town of Cobourg’s public works and engineering division has released a new ‘StoryMap’ detailing how managing Cobourg’s assets well supports everyday life in the town. / Sarah Hyatt photo

OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO:

Thoughtful walking in Ottawa



PAUL KNOWLES

Independent Columnist

There are thousands of destinations we can visit that offer lovely places to stroll. Beaches, boardwalks, elegant main streets, the works. But there is something unique and special about walking in our nation's capital. Because in Ottawa, while there is certainly lots to be seen, there is even more to be thought about.

On our recent visit to Ottawa, we walked the route from the National War Museum to the National Gallery of Canada (that's mostly along Wellington Street), and found many reasons to pause and ponder.

I wrote, a few months ago, about the war museum, so I won't go there again this time. But just across the street from the war museum is a thoughtful and sobering monument – the National Holocaust Monument, which is entitled *Landscape of Loss, Memory and Survival*.

The monument is relatively new, designed by a team led by architect Daniel Libeskind, and inaugurated in 2017 to mark one of the most horrific chapters in human history, the mass extermination of six million Jews and many, many others. When we visited, we were the only people in the place, which seems a shame and yet felt like an honour. It's a powerful place that tells its somber story in art, word and images. The experience of visiting the space reminded me of my visits to Anne Frank House in Amsterdam, where everyone leaves in contemplative silence.

As you walk from there up Wellington, toward the Parliament Buildings, you pass the Supreme Court of

Canada. Frankly, that might have not meant a lot to me in past years. But in these days, when we hear far too much about the blatant politicization and manipulation of the U.S. Supreme Court, it was worth a moment or two to stand and think about our much more objectively fair and just system, and to feel thankful for the sane and equitable way our country is run.

There is a plaque mounted near the street that points out that, "The Supreme Court is independent and impartial... and makes sure laws are applied clearly and fairly across the country. Also, it is the only supreme court in the world that is both bilingual... and bijural (hears and decides on cases from two legal traditions: common law and civil law)." As you read that plaque, you are standing in Ontario, with a primarily English and common law tradition, but just behind the Supreme Court building, across the Ottawa River, is Québec, with its primarily French and civil law tradition. The twin foundations of our nation.

The other thing you will notice on the plaque is that among the nine Supreme Court Judges are five women... a proportion you are unlikely to find in most countries in the world. And one of them, The Honourable Michelle O'Bonsawin, is also co-president of the World Assembly of Indigenous Judges. All of this should leave thoughtful Canadians feeling proud.

From the Supreme Court, let's take a two-minute detour onto Sparks Street, to honour a true Canadian hero. In a rather unlikely retail-oriented spot, considering all of the statuary that dots the Parliament Hill region, is a fine sculpture of Terry Fox, honouring the heroism and sacrifice of that great Canadian.

And speaking of statues and Parliament Hill, visitors can spend hours contemplating all of the history commemorated in the statues around our still-shrouded, under-continual-renovations Parliament buildings. There are many inspiring sculptures here – I particularly like the statue of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, gazing at the iconic hotel

that bears his name!

But a more recent addition caught our attention – the War of 1812 Monument, entitled "Triumph Through Diversity." Designed by Adrienne Alison, was created and installed in 2014, marking the 200th anniversary of the end of the War of 1812-1814. That war took place because the United States launched an expansionist effort to take over what is now Canada, but the American effort was rebuffed. Just this morning, I read that Prime Minister Mark Carney has a small figure of War of 1812 hero Sir Isaac Brock on his desk as a constant reminder that Canada can and must stand strong in the face of threats from south of the border.

The War of 1812 Monument bears these words, on a bronze plaque: "Fought on land and water, the War of 1812 helped shape the future of Canada. To defeat the American invasion, people from various walks of life came together – men and women; military personnel and civilians; English, French and Aboriginal peoples." The impressive monument reflects that Canadian diversity.

That's just a few of the thoughtful pauses available on an Ottawa stroll. There is much more – the eternal flame on the grounds of Parliament and the temporary home of the Canadian Senate that was once an opulent railway station (and the Famous Five, "Women Are Persons" monument that is now located there). The historic Rideau Canal, with its system of locks. And at the far end of this walk, the National Gallery of Canada, our finest repository of great art.

My on-line map says the walk from the War Museum to the National Gallery takes 40 minutes. Actually, it can take you through centuries, and into multiple worlds of contemplation... and gratitude.

Paul Knowles is an author and travel writer, and Past-President of the Travel Media Association of Canada. To contact Paul about travel, his books, or speaking engagements, email pknowles@golden.net.



The temporary home of Canada's Senate was once an opulent railway station. / Paul Knowles photo



The Terry Fox statue. / Paul Knowles photo



Some young visitors explore the 1812 monument on Parliament Hill. / Paul Knowles photo



Ottawa's memorial to the Holocaust. / Paul Knowles photo

Thank you to the community for making this newspaper a reality



Thank you to our dedicated readers in Cobourg. /Town of Cobourg Facebook photo



A beautiful way to start the morning last Friday as our GM Peter Dounoukos hand-delivered newspapers for our inaugural edition. /Peter Dounoukos photo



ExperienceCobourg: Who says kids don't read newspapers? / Experience Cobourg Facebook photo

The West Northumberland Independent team can't say thank you enough to the community for the outpouring of support shown last Friday, July 31 as we delivered the inaugural edition of the Independent.

The community has ultimately made it possible for the return of a print newspaper in this area. To see the smiles, surprise and joy on residents' faces as we hand-delivered our first edition, it meant everything to us. To mark this occasion in print, we wanted to share a few photos shared by you in the community.



A huge shoutout goes to the Port Hope and District Chamber of Commerce for its support. /Chamber Facebook photo



Justin's Pet Store owner Justin McClenaghan is seen here taking a break before the long-weekend and catching up on local news. /Justin's Pet Store Facebook photo



The morning crew at Queenies Bake Shop downtown Port Hope is seen here reading the first edition of the Independent. /Queenies Facebook photo

COLUMN

‘Community Presence’: A dinner delayed



ANGIE MORRISON

Independent Columnist

I had just sat down to eat my dinner when my phone pinged and the message read: “I’m done, ready for pickup.”

My son, who worked at a local dairy farm, was finished his evening chores. I sighed to myself as I covered my plate, my stomach grumbling as I begrudgingly got in the car feeling slightly irritated at the disruption.

As I approached Ward 2 – the term often used to refer to the

large, rural area of Port Hope – it wasn’t long before the frequency of houses dropped away, giving in to meandering green fields and distant silos. Arriving to no child in sight, I surrendered to waiting and stepped out of the car.

Right away, the sweet smells of cows and manure washed over me, permeating the evening air and making the idea of reheated dinner seem quite unimportant. Looking to the west, the fiery sky of orange and pink set the rolling hills aglow with a spectacular sunset and my body began to melt into relaxation.

My son exited the barn, and I looked at him standing in his mud-covered boots, bits of hay stuck to his body. His strong arms belied his soft heart as he introduced me to the heifers he called “his sweeties.” He ever-so-casually reached out to pat the bull on its giant head, a beast outweighing him several times over.

As we sauntered down the lane together, he told me of a calf that had been born in the field during the night, and how he’d carried her back to the barn this morning with mama cow following closely, nudging him in the rear and licking at his back. I heard stories of births and deaths, responsibilities and work ethic, enthusiastically told by a 16-year-old receiving an education that extends far outside his school.

I recognized that my little boy had become a dependable young man, a part of the hard-working farming community so essential for our well-being.

Arriving home with the moon now rising, the fertile farmland soil having soaked up the anxieties of the day, I realized my dinner wasn’t interrupted – it was simply postponed for an “internal service announcement.”

My trip had unexpectedly reminded me of the importance of



A sunny day on the farm on Dale Road. /Angie Morrison photo

slowing down and feeling connected – to the land, to the farmers who feed us and to family. And I’ll tell you, my dinner sure tasted delicious that night.

Angie Morrison is a yoga/mindfulness practitioner and

Port Hope resident.

You can find her wandering through forests and gardens or on Instagram @flow.with.amo.

Honouring champions of inclusion, accessibility

What you need to know for nominations due Aug. 31

NATALIE HAMILTON

Reporter

The Town of Cobourg is calling on residents to help recognize people, businesses and organizations championing inclusion and accessibility in the community.

The town’s accessibility advisory committee is now accepting nominations for the 2026 accessibility awards.

The new accessibility awards program is designed to celebrate businesses, residents, organizations and youth who are championing initiatives that create a more accessible and inclusive community for residents of all abilities, the town has announced.

Community members are invited to nominate Cobourg residents, organizations or businesses who have made positive contributions to accessibility during the past three years.

The nomination period is open until Aug. 31.

To qualify, nominees must:

- Be a Cobourg resident, organization or business.
- Have demonstrated accessibility con-



The Town of Cobourg is accepting nominations for its accessibility awards program to recognize people, businesses and organizations who are advancing accessibility and inclusion locally. /Sarah Hyatt photo

tributions within the past three years.

- Not have accessibility-related responsibilities as part of their paid role – unless demonstrating exceptional contributions outside formal job duties.

To nominate a person, business or organization:

- Review the award categories and select the most appropriate category.
- Complete the online nomination form.
- Include all required information as

outlined for the accessibility awards program.

- Submit the nomination form by Aug. 31 via email to clerk@cobourg.ca, in-person at 55 King St. W., or mail it to 55 King St. W., Cobourg, ON, K9A 2M2.

Award-winners will be selected by the Town of Cobourg’s accessibility advisory committee, legislative co-ordinator, and the clerk based on one or more of the following criteria: Built environment, customer service, education, employment, and/or information and communication.

Nominations that are incomplete, lack sufficient detail or do not meet award criteria may be deemed ineligible and not considered by the selection committee, the town noted.

For questions and/or assistance filling out a nomination form, residents can also contact the clerk’s office at 905-372-4301 or email clerk@cobourg.ca. Residents can also learn more via www.Cobourg.ca/accessibilityawards.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT GRANTHAVEN.COM

Riddles

- What is the richest nut?
A cash-ew!
- Why did the fruit salad skip its own wedding?
It had a lot of can't-elope!
- What kind of beer won't get you tipsy?
Root beer!
- What kind of poultry is always going to the bathroom?
Chick peas!
- Why did the citrus tree go to the hospital?
Lemon-aid!
- You cut me, slice me, dice me, and all the while,
you cry. What am I?
An onion!
- What kind of apples do computers prefer?
Macintosh!
- What has many ears but cannot hear?
Corn!
- I'm a bird, a person, and a fruit. What am I?
A Kiwi!
- I'm the father of fruits. What am I?
A papa-ya!
- What vegetable always loses in every competition yet is a terrific rapper?
Beets!
- What vegetable can you use to tie your shoelace?
A string bean!

Sudoku

	9	7	6	2	5	4	3	
		3						
	1		9					
	8			9			5	
5	2			7				
9		1	5	4	8	6		
	5				7		8	2
3			1					
						5		3

Solutions on pg. 22

Pet of the Week 🐾 🐾 🐾

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HONEY

Honey is a 9 year old long haired chihuahua! She's got so much personality and thinks she a little tough guy but she's just a big softy inside. She loves to go on her evening car ride around town and is very well known around the downtown Port Hope area where she lives with her mom - Shelley, and sister - Alex.



Nominate your pet to be a Featured by emailing info@wnuindy.ca

JULY 2026 NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

C O M M O N W E A L T H G A M E S H C D
S E G W B O B O P C G W J G H L V L A G
J I E O F Z E T Q E T K B A W S R I S B
T O D R E O J I X R B B C N U S B N P D
A F M L H Y K F S H C E X D N F V D A R
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I E G C D U A I K N O G C B N L R E N R
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W E S T J E T T A L K S R D U A G G U K
N A T O S U M M I T L R A D O H S F Z T

- World Cup
- Spain victory
- Ontario wildfires
- Air quality
- Tariff threats
- Lindsey Graham
- McConnell Mystery
- The Odyssey
- Andy Burnham
- NATO Summit
- Gordie Howe bridge
- Commonwealth Games
- WestJet talks

COMMUNITY EVENTS



Cobourg | Port Hope | Surrounding Areas

August 7
Victoria Hall FREE Tour
10:00 AM
Take the FREE historic Victoria Hall Tour this summer, running every Thursday and Friday through to the end of August!

August 7
Community BBQ's
12:00 PM
Please Join us for our Community BBQs this summer, in collaboration with Hope and Light Urban Outreach.

August 7
Youth Shinny (age 12-17)
12:15 PM
If you are looking for fun local activities this summer, Youth Shinny gives players ages 12–17 the chance to lace up, stay active, and enjoy some friendly competition.
Learn more at cobourg.ca/ccs.

August 7
Victoria Park Beach, parkrun
8:00 AM
A free, fun, and friendly weekly 5k community event. Walk, jog, run, volunteer or spectate – it's up to you!

August 7
10:30 AM to 11:15 AM
Story time in the Park
Join us under a tree in Memorial Park for family and kids' story time!

August 8
10:30 AM to 12:00 PM
Poetry Workshop-Writing to Heal
Port Hope Public Library

This is in partnership with the Municipality of Port Hope as well as Furby House Books.

August 8
Cobourg Farmers Market
8:00 AM
Cobourg's Farmers' Market was established in 1839 and offers locally grown and certified organic produce, crafts, flowers, plants, cheese, farm fresh meats, breads, pastries, and other delectables.

August 8
Cobourg's Sandcastle Festival
9:00 AM
Join us Saturday, August 8, 2026, for the award-winning Sandcastle Festival on Cobourg's stunning white-sand beach. Enjoy live music, kids' activities, and an inflatable fun park.

August 8
SONG's NextGen SoundStage: Port Hope Arts Fest Edition
11:00 AM
Port Hope, Memorial Bandshell
Youth performers welcome. Let's keep growing local talent — one stage at a time.

August 8
8:00 PM
Under the Marquee

Nicholas Campbell & The Metre Cheaters
Celebrate ArtsFest with an outdoor concert that you won't soon forget!
August 8
Flower Show & Tea
1:30 PM - 3:30 PM
Cobourg Garden Club will host a Summer Flower Show and Tea, Cobourg Public Library. Visitors are most welcome.

August 8
Movies Under the Stars
8:00 PM
All movies begin at dusk (approximately 8:30 p.m.)
Here are the 2026 dates:
• Saturday, August 8 | Lilo + Stitch
• Thursday, August 13 | Superman

Special Presentation: Tragically Hip: A National Celebration | **Saturday, August 22**
Find more info and updates here!

August 10
11:00 AM to 12:00 PM
Baby Time at PHPL!
Drop in to the Port Hope Public Library for a special baby time program of songs, stories & bubbles for babies ages 1 and under!

August 10 2026
2:00 PM to 3:30 PM
Unfinished Stitchery
Port Hope Public Library
The Unfinished Stitchery Group is a relaxed, welcoming group for anyone who loves knitting, cro-

chet, cross stitch, embroidery, or any other fiber craft..

August 13
Victoria Hall FREE Tour
10:00 AM
Take the FREE historic Victoria Hall Tour this summer, running every Thursday and Friday through to the end of August!

August 13
Junior Choir: Ages 6-12
4:30 PM
New Members Welcome to Join the Choir
St. Peter's Church invites both adults and young singers to be part of our welcoming choir community.

August 13
Movies Under the Stars
8:00 PM
All movies begin at dusk (approximately 8:30 p.m.)
There is no cost, no registration and no reason not to come!
• Thursday, August 13 | Superman
• Saturday, September 5 | Hoppers

August 14
Cobourg Rotary Presents 18th Annual Northumberland Rib Fest and Music Festival
4:00 PM
Victoria Park will be alive with great food, music, kids zone, food trucks and refreshment tent for three fun filled days. Live music from opening to closing each day.

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PICK UP LOCATIONS

**Subject to change based on availability*

COBOURG

Beer Store
Best Western Plus Cobourg Inn & Convention Centre
Black Cat
Burnham Family Farm Market
Canadian Tire
Centennial Pool (outdoor season)
Clark's Dale Road Variety
Cobourg Community Centre
Cobourg Public Library
Dancing Bee Equipment
David's NOFRILLS Cobourg
Dollarama
Downtown Cobourg
Foodland Cobourg
Garden Hill Farmers Market
Garden Hill General Store
Giant Tiger
Just Brew It!
LCBO (Albert St)
LCBO (Elgin St)
Metro
Millstone Bread
Mucho Burrito Fresh Mexican Grill

Northumberland Central Chamber Of Commerce
Northumberland County Community & Social Services
Northumberland Family Health Team
Northumberland Hills Hospital
Northumberland Mall
Northumberland United Way
Office of Philip Lawrence MP
Prep Food Co
Readers' Nook
Rebound Child & Youth Services
Northumberland
Royal Canadian Legion Branch 133
Shoppers Drug Mart
Staples
Ten Thousand Villages
The Buttermilk Cafe
The Home Depot
The Hub Canton
The Market & Smør
The Town of Cobourg Administrative Offices (Victoria Hall)
The Whispering Oak
Tim Hortons (Division St)

Tim Hortons (Elgin St W)
Tim Hortons (King St E)
Tim Hortons (William St)
Township of Hamilton Municipal Office
Venture13
Village Variety Coffee Shop
Walmart Supercentre
YMCA Northumberland Cobourg
PORT HOPE
Antiques on Queen
Beer Store
Cameco Capitol Arts Centre
Colour Concepts, Benjamin Moore
Community Health Centres of Northumberland
David Piccini, MPP Northumberland-Peterborough South
Davis' Your Independent Grocer Port Hope
Dollarama
Dreamer's Cafe
Food Basics
Frosted Flour Co.
Furby House Books
Ganaraska Brewing Company
Gilmer's Home Hardware Building Centre

Happenstance Bakery & Coffee Roastery
Jack Burger Sports Complex
Lakelands Public Health
LCBO
Milly's Market
Municipality of Port Hope
Northumberland Arts Gallery and Shop
Pharmasave Port Hope
Port Hope & District Chamber of Commerce
Port Hope Public Library
Primitive Designs
Queenies Bake Shop
Royal Canadian Legion Branch 30
Shoppers Drug Mart
The Hub Canton
The Pulse Cafe & Eatery
Town Park Recreation Centre
Youth Wellness Hub
HAMILTON
Baltimore Recreation Centre Arena
Bewdley Community Centre
Harwood Family Variety | Pizza | LCBO & BEER STORE
Lakeside Supermarket

West Northumberland
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WEST NORTHUMBERLAND
INDEPENDENT**

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QUIZ ANSWERS

1. Rachel McAdams
2. Parallel
3. 1994
4. Corn
5. Germany
6. Loblaws, Empire Company Limited (Sobeys), & Metro Inc.
7. An eye
8. Four
9. Botswana
10. Lemon

SUDOKU ANSWERS

8	9	7	6	2	5	4	3	1
2	6	3	7	1	4	8	9	5
4	1	5	9	8	3	2	7	6
7	8	6	2	9	1	3	5	4
5	2	4	3	7	6	9	1	8
9	3	1	5	4	8	6	2	7
6	5	9	4	3	7	1	8	2
3	4	8	1	5	2	7	6	9
1	7	2	8	6	9	5	4	3

'Incredibly close to my heart': Ball raises \$25K for NHH

Funds raised to help with equipment like neonatal warmers, delivery carts

SARAH HYATT

Editor/reporter

"A Night in Emerald City" has translated to a major \$25,000 win for Northumberland families relying on the hospital's maternal child care unit.

The tally is in from the "Northumberland Ball – A Night in Emerald City" fundraiser held at the Best Western Plus Cobourg Inn and Convention Centre on July 10, and a staggering \$25,500 was raised to help with high-priority equipment needs for the unit, including neonatal warmers and delivery carts, a Northumberland Hills Hospital Foundation spokesperson told the Independent.

The foundation said this critical fundraiser proved "there's no place like community" after announcing the final tally raised on Wednesday, Aug. 5.

The fundraiser was made possible thanks to a dedicated team of volunteers and event organizers, the support of attendees, as well as sponsors and community partners who rallied to help Northumberland Hills Hospital, and ultimately, their community.

"As a mother of three children, all of whom were born at NHH, supporting the maternal child

care unit is a cause that is incredibly



Organizers of this year's 'Northumberland Ball' event are seen here with NHH Foundation CEO Rhonda Cunningham celebrating a \$25,500 donation to help with high-priority equipment needs in the maternal child care unit. /NHH Foundation photo

close to my heart," said Heather Brown, on behalf of the

organizing committee. "That unit holds so many special memories for my family and many

others, and we are so fortunate to have such an exceptional hospital serving our

community."

This fundraiser has become a cherished tradition for many families locally, the foundation noted, adding the 2026 planning committee also welcomed new and returning members who mixed fresh ideas and long-time favourite compo-

nents to make this year's ball an incredible success.

"It was an honour to join Katie and Jenna Traugott in expanding the committee this year,

alongside Julie Powell and Carly Wardle, to continue this wonderful tradition," added Brown.

"We hope every family left with memories they'll treasure for years to come while knowing their attendance has helped support local healthcare for future generations."

Courtney Ker, manager of community giving with the hospital foundation, has also said the team is incredibly grateful to the organizing committee and everyone who came together in support of the hospital.

"Third-party fundraisers such as this help to fund essential medical equipment and technology at

our hospital," explained Ker. "This event goes beyond one evening of family fun – its impact will make a lasting difference for patients of the maternal child care unit for years to come."

To learn more about the foundation, visit www.NHHFoundation.ca.

Cobourg police hunting for new deputy chief

Board leadership wants accomplished active-duty police leader with strong business acumen

SARAH HYATT

Editor/reporter

The hunt is on to find a new deputy chief for the Cobourg Police Service.

The Cobourg Police Service Board announced the launch of its recruitment process to fill the position left vacant by former Deputy Chief Jeff Haskins on



CPS Chief of Police Chris Leather. /Sarah Hyatt photo

Wednesday.

The board described the position as a key executive leadership role within the service.

"The position opened on Aug. 5, 2026, with applications being accepted until Aug. 29, 2026," said the board. "Reporting directly to the chief of police, the deputy chief will provide strategic leadership and oversight for human resources, finance, the business services unit, the V13 Policetech Accelerator, and the criminal investigations bureau."

In the detailed job description, the business services unit is also described as a criminal record check business that "manages a multi-million-dollar revenue and a significant component of the service's business operations."

Board leadership described the ideal candidate as "an accomplished active-duty police leader with a strong business background, demonstrated leadership experience and a commitment to public service."

Officials also noted that the successful candidate will be tasked with contributing to organizational strategy, governance and operational excellence, as well as acting as chief in Chief of Police Chris Leather's absence.

People looking to learn more can visit the Cobourg Police Service's website

under careers.

Meanwhile, just last week, Leather told the Independent that he and the board were aligned in stabilizing command and filling this position, as well as others, and shared hopes the service would be able to round out the team sooner than later.

"We hope to have the deputy (chief) in place by September-October, depending on where they're coming from, as well as on the operational side, a new inspec-

tor will be taking up a position there as well to help stabilize and repurpose command with the Cobourg police," Leather told the Independent.

Leather just had his official swearing-in ceremony on July 23 and took over the helm of the service on June 1, 2026.

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- 4PM: Little Peter & The Elegants
- 6PM: The Jackson Fox Band
- 8PM: Hotel California (The Original Eagles Tribute)

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