

West Northumberland Independent

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VOL. 1 • ISSUE 11

Friday, October 9, 2026

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New deputy chief of police for Cobourg

NATALIE HAMILTON

Reporter

Touted as “a proven policing leader,” the Cobourg Police Service Board officially announced Wednesday (Oct. 7) it has selected superintendent Tina Maier as the next deputy chief of Cobourg Police Service.

With more than 30 years experience, deputy chief-designate Maier will be joining the service following the conclusion of her role with OPP, where she currently serves as superintendent and bureau commander of the security bureau. In that position, she oversees the OPP’s general headquarters detachment, Queen’s Park detachment, justice officials protection and investigations section, security assessment unit, and security enquiries unit. She is responsible for strategic security planning, organizational risk management, security screening standards, and the protection of government assets, infrastructure and public officials.

“The board conducted an extensive search for a proven policing leader who could help guide the future of our organization, and we are proud to welcome Tina Maier to Cobourg,” said Adam Bureau, police service board chair, in a statement. “Superintendent Maier brings exceptional operational experience, strategic leadership and a demonstrated commitment to community safety, member wellness and organizational excellence.”

In his remarks at the press conference, Bureau said: “Tina’s leadership style reflects the values we want to see in our organization – integrity, collaboration, in-

CONTINUED TO PAGE 5



Wandlynn Tinney is the first-ever recipient of MP Philip Lawrence’s Sports and Recreation Civic Award. /Tim Burgess photo

‘Unwavering dedication to serving our community’

SARAH HYATT

Editor/reporter

From veteran volunteers and those who go above-and-beyond in the name of community, to an outstanding youth who answers the call for duty, there is no shortage of extraordinary residents in Northumberland.

This was the message shared during a recent ceremony for Northumberland-Clarke MP Philip Lawrence’s first-ever Civic Awards held at his constituency office

in Cobourg – all with the goal of recognizing residents who’ve made outstanding contributions to local communities and the region through volunteer service, arts and culture, sports and recreation, and civic engagement.

“Thank you for everything you’ve done for your community,” Lawrence told all six inaugural award recipients. “Your achievements (are) truly impressive.

“You deserve every bit of recognition and much, much more.”

CONTINUED TO PAGE 6

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Town of Cobourg News

October 9, 2026

2026 Municipal & School Board Election Protect Your Vote



Cast your ballot privately.

Although the Internet voting option will allow voters to cast a ballot from virtually anywhere, casting a ballot should still be a private exercise. Find a quiet, private place to cast your ballot, free from interference or close observation by others.



Protect your PIN.

Your secret voting PIN will arrive in the mail via Canada Post or may have already arrived. Although a PIN thief would need to know other personal information about you in order to steal and vote using your PIN, it's still important for you to keep your PIN private and out of reach.



Don't give away your vote.

If you decide not to vote, destroy your PIN. Giving your PIN and your vote to another person is illegal.



Reject political interference while voting.

While candidates and their teams are welcome to solicit your support throughout the campaign period, they must not interfere with a voter who is casting a ballot. Ensure that candidates and their campaign volunteers respect your privacy and do not pressure you while you are voting, as well as they shall not provide you with any candidate electronic devices to vote.



Keep your choices private.

Remember that you are not obliged to share your voting choices with anyone, either before or after casting a ballot.

Voter Instruction Letters (VILs)



Your Voter Instruction Letter (VIL) should arrive this week.

Your VIL contains your Personal Identification Number (PIN) and the web address to access Cobourg's secure online voting portal. Keep your VIL in a safe place until voting opens on Friday, October 16, 2026, at 9 a.m.

If you haven't received your VIL by October 16, visit Victoria Hall or a Voter Help Centre during its hours of operation. Bring photo identification that includes proof of address to confirm you're registered to vote and receive your PIN.

Voter Help Centres

Voters needing assistance can contact the Town or visit one of three Voter Help Centres during the Voting Period, where the Town's Clerk's team will help them vote safely at secure kiosks.



Victoria Hall	Cobourg Public Library	Cobourg Community Centre
55 King Street West	200 Ontario Street	750 D'Arcy Street
October 16, 19-25	October 19-23	October 19-22
10 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	10 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	10 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

October 26 (Election Day) | All Locations | 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Youth Essay Contest

My Ideal Town

- Age 17 or younger?
- Live in Cobourg?

Write a 350-word essay and tell us what you would like to see in your ideal town!



Share your ideas with Council!

One lucky winner will read their essay at the inaugural Council meeting!

All entrants will be invited to attend and meet the newly elected Council.

**Contest deadline is
October 26, 2026 at 8:00 p.m.**

For contest information and how to enter, please visit:
CobourgVotes.ca/Youth



Have questions about voting? Get your information directly from the Town's election team.

Clerk's Office - Victoria Hall, 55 King Street West

905-372-4301 x 9520

cobourgvotes@cobourg.ca

'A lasting tribute': Port Hope renames park after Jeff Lees

'He was an advocate for this community and a dedicated volunteer'

INDEPENDENT STAFF

The Municipality of Port Hope is striving to honour long-time local politician and volunteer, the late Jeff Lees, by renaming a park in his memory.

Last weekend, members of council, municipal staff, family, friends, members of community organizations and residents gathered at Kinsmen Park to celebrate Lees' life and legacy. They recognized the former deputy mayor and councillor with the official renaming of the Mill Street North park to Jeff Lees Memorial Kinsmen Park.

"The ceremony recognized Jeff's extraordinary contributions to the Municipality of Port Hope and the many community organizations he served," said municipality, in a release.

The event featured remarks from municipal representatives, colleagues, family members and members of the Port Hope Kinsmen Club, followed by the unveiling of the park's new name and sign.

For more than 25 years, Lees served

on municipal council, "helping guide important decisions and initiatives that shaped the community."

Beyond municipal government, he was widely known for his commitment to volunteerism, dedicating countless hours to local organizations.

"(Lees') impact on Port Hope extends far beyond his years of public service," said Mayor Olena Hankivsky. "He was an advocate for this community and a dedicated volunteer."

"Renaming this park in his honour ensures that future generations will know the lasting contributions he made to Port Hope."

The municipality extended its appreciation to everyone who attended the ceremony and to those who supported the renaming initiative.

"The newly named Jeff Lees Memorial Kinsmen Park will serve as a lasting tribute to a man whose dedication helped shape Port Hope and whose legacy will continue to inspire residents for years to come."



The Port Hope community gathered last weekend to pay tribute to the late Jeff Lees and to honour his legacy with the renaming of the Kinsmen Park to Jeff Lees Memorial Kinsmen Park. /Municipality of Port Hope photo



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porthope.ca



Stay Connected

Connect with the latest municipal information including upcoming meetings, events, and important notices.

2026 Municipal Election

porthopevotes.ca

Voter Information Letters have started arriving in Port Hope mailboxes! If by October 16, you have not received yours, please contact us by email at elections@porthope.ca or by phone at **905-885-4544 ext. 0**. October 16 is also the first day you can cast your vote. Voting takes place by telephone, online, or you can visit one of our voter assistance centres.

Closure Notice - Thanksgiving

porthope.ca/news

A reminder that municipal facilities are closed and transit is unavailable on Monday, October 12 for Thanksgiving. For what is open/closed, review our Public Notice.

Public Art Survey

engage.porthope.ca/public-art

Have your say on the future of public art in Port Hope! We're reviewing our Public Art Policy and inviting residents to help guide what's next - take the survey and share your vision.

Boards and Committees

porthope.ca/careers

Recruitment is now underway for our boards and quasi-judicial committees. Influence change in your community, connect with leaders, and voice your expertise.

Fall Tree Trimming

porthope.ca/news

Our annual Municipal tree maintenance program is underway to help keep community trees healthy, encourage growth and remove branches that could become a safety concern. Fall is the ideal time for pruning, and crews will be working to maintain clear sidewalks, roads, sightlines and overhead infrastructure.

Upcoming Events or Meetings:

porthope.ca/calendar

OCT

15

Fall Fishing Season

The fall fishing season in the Ganaraska

River for atlantic salmon, brown trout, pacific salmon, and rainbow trout runs from October 15 to December 31. Learn more at porthope.ca/fishing

OCT

24

Spooktacular

Join us for a free afternoon of Halloween fun from 1 to

4 p.m. at the Town Park Recreation Centre. Wear a costume and enjoy a variety of festive activities, games, crafts and seasonal entertainment in a welcoming, family-friendly atmosphere. Learn more at porthope.ca/seasonal-activities

Stay Connected: Subscribe to our eNewsletters at porthope.ca/subscribe



EDITORIAL

Give thanks for democracy this Thanksgiving

In Canada, we celebrate occasions stemming from traditions that have shifted over generations.

Some are born from religious practices, some are secular, and some stray so far from one origin that they become something new entirely.

It can be easy for some to remember that our Thanksgiving is very separated from the holiday recognized in the U.S., not only by the date we mark down on our cal-

endars, but by the continued prominence of the American myth of the first Thanksgiving.

In Canada, Thanksgiving is far simpler. It's a time of humility and reflection, when each of us can look at our lives through the lens of thankfulness and remind ourselves of how important it is to recognize the privileges we may forget through the busyness of everyday life.

For some, that may mean giving thanks for family and friends, a safe place to call home, food on the table, good health, meaningful work or the support of a caring community.

This Thanksgiving, one of the privileges to be thankful for is the freedom to have our voices heard through our democracy, particularly as we approach the upcoming municipal elections later this month.

We live in a transformative age. By many metrics, the prominence of democracy on a global level is declining.

In a report released this past September by the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA), an organization based in Sweden that supports legitimate democratic institutions, this moment in history that we find ourselves in is described as a "crisis" for democracies.

International IDEA cited mounting pressures such as political polarization, disinformation, the concentration of executive power and a decline in public trust as drivers of that crisis.

In that report, International IDEA noted that just 21 per cent of the world's population lives in a country considered "free" in 2026, less than half of the 46 per cent from two decades before.

It's a staggering reality of the 21st Century that democracy and freedom are backsliding globally, but that reality makes it as important as ever to recognize the strength of Canada's democracy as the world changes.

However, Canada is not an island. We are not immune to the trends of the world, and we can't allow ourselves to become complacent when it comes to the rights generations of Canadians have fought for.



Port Hope Town Hall clock. /Sarah Hyatt photo

So as the next municipal election approaches, remember to be thankful for the good things in your life, and let your thankfulness push you to participate in this important tradition we call democracy.

Fewer people in the world today have that opportunity than you may realize.

WEEKEND QUIZ

By Jake Grant

1. What is the capital city of New Zealand?
2. Which element has the chemical symbol, Fe?
3. Who painted the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel?
4. Which country is credited with inventing paper?
5. Which boxer was nicknamed Smokin' Joe?
6. In a standard deck of 52 playing cards, how many face cards are there?
7. Which everyday product was originally marketed in the 1890s as a wallpaper cleaner?
8. True or False. Bananas are botanically classified as berries, while strawberries are not.
9. Which famous novel begins with the line "Call me Ishmael"?
10. Which Canadian province is the smallest by land area?

This week's answers are found on pg. 30

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Funded by the Government of Canada.
Financé par le gouvernement du Canada.



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West Northumberland
Independent Guiding Principles

1. Everyone has a story
2. The news should be free for all to enjoy
3. Good news beats bad news
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5. Newspapers document history
6. Newspapers strengthen communities
7. Advertisers, big or small, should profit from their ads (meaning sensible ad rates)
8. Newspapers should be locally-owned and operated

Superintendent Tina Maier will be Cobourg Police Service's first female command officer

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

novation, accountability, and a commitment to people."

Her appointment as the first female command officer in the service's history is significant, said Bureau.

"This reflects not only Tina's exceptional qualifications but also the continued growth and evolution of our organization."

Starting her policing career in Petrolia and Peterborough, Maier went on to serve as a detective and online undercover operator within the child sexual exploitation unit before advancing through several senior leadership roles.

Throughout her career, she has led major provincial initiatives and specialized teams within the organized crime enforcement bureau, provincial anti-terrorism section, provincial traffic operations and security bureau, noted CPS.

Prior to her current role, she served as superintendent of the OPP's healthy workplace team where she led the development and implementation of extensive member wellness and mental health programs.

"Tina's career reflects a combination of operational experience, leadership and innovation," said CPS Chief Chris Leather. "Her background in major investigations, public safety initiatives and member wellness will be a tremendous asset to our organization. I look forward to working with her as we continue building a modern and community-focused police service."

Maier graduated with a bachelor of arts degree with honours from York University and has completed executive leadership programs, including the global policing innovation exchange, Rotman School of Management executive police leadership program and leading transformational change. She is also the recipient of the Women's Leadership Award and a Member of the Order



The Cobourg Police Service (CPS) Board officially announced Wednesday (Oct. 7) it has selected Superintendent Tina Maier as the next deputy chief of police for the Cobourg Police Service. /CPS photo

of Merit of the Police Forces, one of the highest honours in Canadian policing.

"It is an honour and a privilege to be chosen for this role," said Maier.

"I am excited to join (CPS) and work alongside Chief



With more than 30 years of experience, Deputy Chief-designate Tina Maier will be joining CPS on Nov. 2 following the conclusion of her role with OPP. /CPS photo

Leather, the police service board, and the dedicated members of the organization as we continue to advance the service's commitment to community safety, public trust and organizational excellence."

Maier will officially assume her duties in Cobourg on Nov. 2.

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OCT 16-26TH

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'It was unanimous amongst the judges and for good reason'

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

Lawrence said he previously attended a couple similar gatherings initiated by former MP Erin O'Toole in the Durham area, including in O'Toole's hometown of Bowmanville. It was a showcase of terrific people, he noted.

Of course, Northumberland also has more than a few shining stars when it comes to answering the call across the county. Still, as Lawrence and his team put out their first call for nominations, he admitted he anticipated a couple people for each category for a first-year initiative.

The response was anything but.

"We'll be doing this every year for as long as I am elected," he's since said, noting applications came in groups of five, 10 and even dozens.

Lawrence noted for every single category there was tight competition but there was also unity for the selected winners.

"It was unanimous amongst the judges and for good reason."

And here is the rundown for the first-ever MP-led Civic Awards.

For the Senior Civic Award, the winners are duo Margaret Hanlan and Susan Smith.

The duo has been recognized for "their unwavering dedication to serving our community."

This includes their incredible commitment to giving back through support of the Brighton Fare Share Food Bank, as just one example.

Their generosity also goes beyond dollars-and-cents and fundraising – although, they did raise \$5,000 through just one silent auction alone last year. Through their patchwork quilts they raise monies for local charities, as well as knit baby caps and blankets for newborns in local hospitals.

"Margaret and Susan are also dependable leaders at many community events (and) always willing to step up and lend a hand," said Lawrence. "Their kindness, leadership and dedication to helping others have made a meaningful difference in Brighton (and) across our community, and I am pleased to recognize them with



Left-to-right: Award winners Jeff Halligan, Margaret Hanlan, Susan Smith, Rose Wilton, Wandlynn Tinney, and Robert Hildebrand celebrate with MP Philip Lawrence (in the middle back.) /Tim Burgess photo

the Senior Civic Award."

For the Arts and Culture Award, Jeff Halligan took the honours.

"Jeff has made outstanding contributions to the arts and culture in our community through both his leadership and his volunteer work," said Lawrence.

He recalled reading Halligan's nomination as one of the first submissions, and "I said to my team, 'this one's going to be hard to beat.' And sure enough, we were right."

According to his winner's bio, Halligan secured the award for his unwavering commitment to supporting local youth to pursue the arts.

Currently, Halligan is the executive producer of the VOS Theatre – a non-profit, volunteer-run theatre company that awards more than \$7,000 each year to students who have contributed to local arts or plan to pursue the arts in post-secondary education. He's also credited with implementing an accessible "pay-what-you-can" program so those who would otherwise not be able to attend productions can experience the arts.

In other words, he's also created oppor-

tunities for young people to be involved in the arts and chances for students to make meaningful contributions in their community.

The VOS Theatre marks 35 years in 2026.

Halligan also volunteers his digital expertise to other arts programs and at schools, helping to set up their AV areas, projection systems, and more. From producing videos to support student productions, to fundraising efforts, he does it all.

"Jeff's willingness to share his talents has helped make arts more accessible, supported young performers, and strengthened our local creative community," said Lawrence, while reflecting on Halligan's "noble pursuit."

Meanwhile, Wandlynn Tinney – also known as Wanda – is shining with the Sports and Recreation Civic Award.

"Wanda spent many years creating opportunities for people of all abilities to participate in sports, recreation and community life," said Lawrence.

According to Tinney's winner's bio, she's in the spotlight for her organizational involvement in Community Living and

Respite and organizing sports and recreational activities for residents living with disabilities. Think softball, bowling, lawn bowling, skating, basketball, and more.

"Her work has (had an) impact far beyond the activities themselves, she has helped create opportunities for friendship, inclusion, physical activity and a true sense of belonging for participants, families, caregivers, volunteers and staff," said Lawrence.

Tinney's commitment to ensuring everyone has the opportunity to participate and be a part of their community makes her a deserving recipient of this year's Sports and Recreation Civic Award, added Lawrence.

Another long-time familiar and prominent name – Rose Wilton, founder of the Rose Quest – picked up the Volunteer Civic Award.

Lawrence said she "definitely deserves all the recognition in the world for her selfless sacrifice ... for our community." Those who know Wilton know she's dedicated "an extraordinary amount of her time and energy to helping others."

According to her bio, Wilton was selected for her relentless dedication to serving those who need it most. Her quest started after a multi-day power outage, which gave Wilton a glimpse into how people struggling with homelessness with no hygiene products may have felt.

This is the origin story of her starting the Rose Quest, a charity dedicated to donating health and hygiene products to anyone in need. Her devotion has also expanded help to schools, shelters, social services and many more.

"As the founder of Rose Quest, she has built an organization centred around supporting people in need and strengthening the community around her," said Lawrence. "What is especially remarkable is the amount of personal time Rose contributes to devote to her work."

Her commitment is not simply occasionally – it is something she consistently gives her heart and energy through."

"Through (the Rose Quest) and many volunteer efforts, Rose has touched the

CONTINUED TO PAGE 7

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Honouring outstanding citizens for MP's first-ever Civic Awards



Senior Civic Award recipients Margaret Hanlan (left) and Susan Smith (right.) /Tim Burgess photos



Arts and Culture Civic Award Winner Jeff Halligan celebrates with Northumberland-Clarke MP Philip Lawrence.



Volunteer Civic Award Winner Rose Wilton, founder of the Rose Quest, receives her award from MP Philip Lawrence.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

lives of countless individuals and families. Her compassion, generosity and commitment to serving others is a wonderful example of service, and it is a pleasure to recognize Rose with this year's Volunteer Civic Award."

And finally, Robert Hildebrand picked up the MP's first Youth Civic Award.

"For those of you who don't know Robert, he's an exceptional young leader whose dedication to our community has been demonstrated (through) service, perseverance, and remarkable willingness to

help others," remarked Lawrence.

Hildebrand "stands out as an exceptional youth" in the community for several reasons.

He rose to become the highest-ranking cadet in the Northumberland 88 Corps, for one. And he has taken on significant leadership responsibility, including serving as a regimental sergeant major, noted Lawrence.

His winner's bio states he has navigated challenges that demanded perseverance and personal growth. He also views the youngest cadets as the lifeblood of the

program and has devoted his time and energy into nurturing the next generation.

Further, he's become the public face of several community events, "all while balancing the responsibilities of being a teenager."

Lawrence said he's demonstrated extraordinary commitment to dedication and leadership, consistently giving of his time and energy to support his fellow cadets and contribute to the success of the Corps. And he's also helped under recruitment efforts, with training under the important and long-standing tradi-

tion of standing sentinel at cenotaphs and regularly volunteers to help sell poppies to support Remembrance Day initiatives and veterans, continued Lawrence.

"Robert has already demonstrated an impressive commitment to leadership and public service at a young age. He is extremely deserving of the recognition with this Young Youth Civic Award," said the MP, adding he can't wait to see what he excels in next.

Lawrence said the ceremony served as a small but important step in recognizing "the amazing community that we have."

PHAI in the Fall

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Thursday, October 22, 2026

3:30 – 6:30 p.m. • Port Hope Agricultural Building
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- Meet our Contract and Community Partners
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POLICE BRIEFS

Possession, failure to comply with probation charges, warrant arrests

INDEPENDENT STAFF

From drug- and probation-related charges to alcohol-related incidents and more, Cobourg police say they've been busy.

Here's your latest Cobourg Police Service rundown.

POSSESSION, FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH PROBATION CHARGES:

A 32-year-old Cobourg man is facing drug- and probation-related charges.

On Oct. 2, 2026, at about 1:30 a.m., police said they responded to a report of a suspicious person in the Alexandria Drive and D'Arcy Street area in Cobourg.

Police said they found an individual matching the description provided and determined the individual was in contravention of conditions of a probation order and placed him under arrest.

During the arrest, officers allege they found a quantity of suspected fentanyl.

As a result of the investigation, police said a 32-year-old Cobourg man was charged with possession of a schedule I substance and two counts of failure to comply with a probation order.

ALCOHOL-RELATED INCIDENTS:

In the span of just four days, police said they responded to multiple separate alcohol-related incidents.

On Sept. 27, at about 3:45 p.m., police said they responded to the Westwood Drive and Burnham Street area after re-

ceiving reports of an unwanted person approaching members of the public. When officers arrived, they reported finding an individual matching the description.

As a result of the investigation, police said a 50-year-old Cobourg man was arrested for public intoxication.

On Sept. 30, at about 10:30 a.m., police said they responded to a report of an unwanted person at a business near Division Street and Elgin Street. Police said they recognized the individual as the same person who had been trespassed from a nearby business earlier that morning.

The 37-year-old Cobourg man was arrested for public intoxication, reported police.

Later that day, at about 7:15 p.m., police said they responded to a report of an unwanted person near Division Street and Chapel Street. Officers allege they found an intoxicated individual, and as a result, a 57-year-old Cobourg woman was arrested for public intoxication.

On Oct. 1, at about 10:15 p.m., while on general patrol, officers allege they observed two individuals consuming what appeared to be alcohol in the area of Spring Street and King Street.

As a result of the probe, police said two Cobourg men were issued provincial offence notices under the Liquor Licence and Control Act.

WARRANT ARRESTS:

CPS made four arrests in connection with outstanding warrants and alleged



Cobourg Police Service station downtown Cobourg. /Sarah Hyatt photo

breaches of court-ordered release conditions recently.

On Sept. 29, police said a 57-year-old Port Hope man wanted on an outstanding warrant held by the Cobourg Police Service was arrested.

The accused was later released on an undertaking with a future court date, reported police.

On Sept. 30, police on general patrol said they observed an individual wanted on an outstanding warrant for failure to comply with a release order. The 33-year-old Cobourg woman was arrested on the strength of the warrant and held for a bail hearing, added police.

On Oct. 1, a 34-year-old Colborne man was arrested on an outstanding warrant for two counts of failure to comply with probation, said police, adding the accused was then later released on an undertaking

with a future court date.

Also on Oct. 1, police on general patrol said they observed an individual known to be bound by court-ordered conditions exiting a location they were prohibited from attending.

Following an investigation, police said a 59-year-old Cobourg man was arrested and charged with three counts of failure to comply with a release order, adding that the accused was then held for a bail hearing.

CPS said police remain committed to proactively enforcing outstanding warrants and monitoring compliance with court-imposed release conditions to ensure accountability and enhance community well-being.

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

MDMA, replica firearm, knife, more seized after traffic stop

INDEPENDENT STAFF

A Hastings resident and youth are facing charges after a traffic stop in Cobourg last Saturday night, which led to the alleged seizure of drugs, a replica firearm and suspected stolen property, say police.

According to the Cobourg Police Service, on Saturday, Oct. 3, 2026, police on general patrol observed a man wearing a balaclava enter a vehicle in a parking lot on Elgin Street West. Further investigation revealed the driver was suspended from driving and subject to a firearms prohibition order, said police.

Police conducted a traffic stop on Burnham Street and said they arrested the driver for driving while under suspension. During the arrest and subsequent search, officers allege they seized about 30 grams of MDMA, a small quantity of marijuana, numerous sealed and open alcohol containers, a Glock BB gun, a knife, an Ontario licence plate, a balaclava, cellphones, and cash.

As a result of the investigation, police said Stephen Galloway-Ellis, 20,



A Hastings resident and youth are facing serious charges after a seizure following a traffic stop in Cobourg. /CPS photo

of Hastings, was charged with driving while under suspension, possession of a schedule I substance (MDMA) for the purpose of trafficking, unauthorized possession of a firearm in a motor ve-

hicle, possession of a firearm knowing its possession is unauthorized, unauthorized possession of a firearm, carrying a concealed weapon, possession of a weapon for a dangerous purpose, pos-

session of firearm or ammunition contrary to prohibition order, possession of property obtained by crime under \$5,000, possession of proceeds of crime under \$5,000, driving a motor vehicle with an open container of liquor, driving with cannabis readily available, and failure or refusal to comply with a demand.

Police also said they arrested a 17-year-old female passenger who was charged with possession of a schedule I substance (MDMA) for the purpose of trafficking, unauthorized possession of a firearm in a motor vehicle, possession of property obtained by crime under \$5,000, possession of proceeds of crime under \$5,000, person under 19 years having liquor, and consuming liquor in an unauthorized place.

The accused youth was released on an undertaking with conditions and a future court date, and the accused Hastings resident was initially held for a bail hearing, reported police.

None of these charges have been proven in court.

Man accused of trespassing while intoxicated at OPP station

Additional incidents include theft in Trent Hills, RIDE check related arrest



Northumberland OPP has issued a reminder about restricted areas at police stations after police say an intoxicated man recently made his way into a restricted area at the Cobourg OPP Detachment. /OPP photo



A Clarington resident who appeared to police as potentially trying to avoid a RIDE check in Port Hope was later stopped and now faces several charges. /OPP photo

INDEPENDENT STAFF

Northumberland OPP has laid charges in several separate investigations after a recent RIDE check, an alleged theft from a store and a trespassing incident involving an impaired individual at the Cobourg OPP Detachment.

Here's your latest OPP rundown.

TRESPASSING:

On Sept. 29, at about 4 p.m., officers said they found an intoxicated individual in a restricted area of the Northumberland OPP Detachment property on Division Street in Cobourg.

The person had recently arrived in Cobourg through public transport then proceeded on foot on Division Street, said police.

As a result of the investigation, police said a 37-year-old Brantford man was arrested and charged with being intoxicated in a public place and enter premises when entry prohibited.

The alleged incident has prompted Northumberland OPP to issue a reminder to the public to adhere to all posted signage regarding restricted areas at OPP facilities.

Members of the public needing help are asked to use the designated public entrance where a telephone is also available for additional inquiries, explained police.

THEFT FROM STORE:

On Sept. 30, 2026, shortly before 4 p.m., police said they received a report that an individual had stolen a power tool from a business on Grand Road in the Municipality of Trent Hills.

The person left prior to police arriving at the scene, but officers said they obtained a description of the individual and continued their investigation.

As a result of the probe, an individual was identified and arrested on Oct. 1, 2026, reported OPP.

The accused is a 53-year-old Campbellford man who was charged with theft

under \$5,000.

The accused is scheduled to appear before the Ontario Court of Justice in Cobourg in January 2027, said police.

RIDE CHECK:

On Sept. 29, shortly after midnight, officers were conducting a Reduce Impaired Driving Everywhere (RIDE) check on the Hwy. 401 eastbound off-ramp to Ontario Street in the Municipality of Port Hope.

Police said they observed a vehicle appear to avoid the RIDE check and subsequently conducted a traffic stop on Hamilton Road.

After speaking with the driver, officers initiated an impaired driving investigation, which resulted in the individual being arrested, said OPP. Further investigation allegedly revealed additional offences.

As a result of the investigation, police said a 43-year-old Clarington resident was charged with operation while impaired – blood alcohol concentration

(80 plus.) driving a motor vehicle not equipped with an interlock device, driving while under suspension, and being a novice driver with a B.A.C. (blood alcohol concentration) above zero.

Police stated the accused is due in Cobourg court in November.

In addition to being dishd out a future court date, a 90-day licence suspension and a 45-day vehicle impoundment were imposed, added OPP.

Northumberland OPP said police remain committed to public safety, and delivering proactive and innovative policing in partnership with local communities. Officers also value residents' contributions to building safe communities and ask anyone with information about suspected unlawful activity contact OPP at 1-888-310-1122 or Crime Stoppers to remain anonymous at 705-745-9000 or www.stopcrimehere.ca.

Alert issued after distraction theft in Cobourg

INDEPENDENT STAFF

Cobourg police are urging residents to remain vigilant after a recent distraction theft.

The alleged incident has prompted the Cobourg Police Service to issue an alert and reminder.

At press deadline, police said their investigation is still ongoing.

The alert follows a reported distraction theft incident involving jewelry last Friday, Oct. 2 at about 1:30 p.m. in the Parkview Hills Drive and Alder Road area near a community mailbox.

"At this time, the suspect vehicle is described as a black SUV occupied by a male driver and a female passenger,"

said the service, adding anyone with information is urged to contact police.

In the meantime, police are reminding residents to be vigilant and cautious when approached by strangers.

"Distraction thefts often involve suspects engaging victims in conversation, offering assistance, asking for directions or attempting physical contact while stealing jewelry or other valuables," explained police. "If approached by someone you do not know, keep a safe distance (and) protect your personal property."

"If something does not feel right, trust your instincts and contact police immediately."

Stunt driving charge laid in Port Hope

INDEPENDENT STAFF

A recent traffic initiative in Port Hope has led to a stunt driving charge, say police.

According to the Port Hope Police Service, on Oct. 3, 2026, officers with the Port Hope Police Service were conducting traffic enforcement in the Peter Street area, just west of Hamilton Road.

As a result, police said one individual was charged with stunt driving under the Highway Traffic Act.

During the initiative, officers allege they clocked a vehicle at 91 km/h in a posted 50 km/h zone, after just exiting a community safety zone. The driver was subsequently charged with stunt driving,



After clocking a vehicle at 91 km/h in a posted 50 zone after just exiting a community safety zone, Port Hope police say they've laid a stunt driving charge. /PHPS photo

reported police.

The Port Hope Police Service is reminding all motorists that excessive speed puts everyone at risk and that traffic laws are in place to help keep roadways safe for all users.

Police added they continue to conduct proactive traffic enforcement initiatives throughout the community.



hamiltontownship.ca/vote
 905-342-2810
info@hamiltontownship.ca

Your Vote. Your Community. Your Future.

2026 Municipal and School Board Election

The 2026 Municipal Election is almost here. Hamilton Township electors can vote online or by telephone any time during the voting period.



October 16 - 26

Vote anytime, from anywhere, between October 16 at 9:00 a.m. and October 26 at 8:00 p.m.

How to Vote

The Township's election uses a secure telephone and internet voting system. You can vote from anywhere using a touch-tone telephone or connected device by accessing the secure URL address or telephone number provided in your Voter Information Letter. When voting, the system will identify your selections and give you the opportunity to change or confirm your choices before your vote is submitted.

Have Your VIL and PIN Ready

To vote, you will need your Voter Information Letter (VIL). **Your Voter Information Letter is important.** Your VIL contains your unique PIN and the information you need to access the voting system.

Before October 16, watch for your Voter Information Letter in the mail and keep it somewhere safe. Make sure you have access to a telephone or internet-enabled device when you are ready to vote.

If you have not received your Voter Information Letter by October 16, have questions about your voter information, or need assistance, contact the Township at 905-342-2810.

We're Here to Help

Voter Assistance Centres will be available during the voting period for electors who need assistance accessing or using the online or telephone voting system, adding or updating their voter information, and for electors who require accessibility accommodations or other support to vote.

Voter Assistance Centre Schedule

Location	Date
Township of Hamilton Municipal Office 8285 Majestic Hills Drive, Camborne	Friday, October 16: 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday, October 19 to Friday, October 23: 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday, October 26: 8:30 a.m. until 8:00 p.m.
Harwood Fire Hall 5424 Front Street, Harwood	Saturday, October 17: 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Bewdley Community Centre 7060 Lake Street, Bewdley	Sunday, October 18: 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Baltimore Recreation Centre 23 Community Centre Road, Baltimore	Wednesday, October 21: 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Official Election Results

Official Election results will be published on the Township's website following the close of voting on October 26 at 8:00 p.m. The results webpage will be updated when results are confirmed. Bookmark hamiltontownship.ca/election-results.

 @HamiltonTownshipON
  @HamiltonTownshipOntario

Residents can hear about plans for Sackville Bridge

Township, consultants undertaking assessment to explore options for bridge's future

INDEPENDENT STAFF

The Township of Hamilton is inviting residents to attend an upcoming information session about long-term options for the Sackville bridge in Bewdley.

The township is undertaking a municipal class environmental assessment (MCEA) with consultants D.M. Wills Associates Limited to explore options for the future of the bridge, including replacement, rehabilitation, removal or repurposing.

The township is hosting a public information centre (PIC) from 2 to 4 p.m. and from 6 to 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 28 to share information about the study and hear from residents and other interested members of the public. The sessions take place at the Bewdley Community Centre, which is located at 7060 Lake St. in Bewdley.

The PIC is an opportunity for attendees to learn about the environmental assessment and the options being considered, ask questions of the project team and share comments, concerns and local information, said the township.

No decision about the future of Sackville bridge will be made at the meeting.

"The project team will review public input and complete further technical and environmental assessment before a recommendation is made," explained township staff. "The timing of next steps will depend on the work required to complete the environmental assessment."

"The township will provide updates and further opportunities for public input as the study progresses."

Comments and information collected through the study will be maintained on file in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, added the township. Aside from personal information, comments will become part of the public record.

Those who require accommodation to participate can contact Lucas Kelly, manager of road operations, by mail at 8285 Majestic Hills Dr., Cobourg, ON, K9A 4W5, by phone at 905-342-2810, ext. 119, or via at lkelly@hamiltontownship.ca.

Alternatively, they can contact D.M. Wills Associates Limited's Rajeev Shan, P.Eng. manager, structural engineering, by mail at 150 Jameson Dr., Peterborough, ON, K9J 0B9; by phone at 705-742-2297, ext. 236, or via rshan@dm-wills.com.

RE-ELECT

AARON BURCHAT

FOR COBOURG COUNCILLOR

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  Respectful



SAFE, SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

Work with Town staff to prioritize infrastructure investments that improve safety, maintain our assets, and support responsible, controlled growth.



Cobourg Councillor from 2016 -2026
Serving on the following boards and committees:

- Planning and Sustainability Advisory Committee (2014-2018)
- Heritage Advisory Committee (2016-2018)
- Cobourg Police Service Board (2018-2022)
- Joint Animal Control Board of Management (2018-2020)
- Community Emergency Management Program Committee (2018-2022)
- Accessibility Advisory Committee (2018-2022) and (2025-2026)
- Art Gallery of Northumberland Board (2022-2026)
- Cobourg Public Library Board (2022-2026)

For further information please visit www.aaronburchat.ca

aburchat1@gmail.com
905-377-5065

VOTE!

Max LeMarchant

FOR MAYOR OF COBOURG



Advertisement authorized by Max LeMarchant

RESTORE. RENEW. REFOCUS.



OPP warns public of cellphone service provider fraud

Police advise being cautious of unsolicited phone calls

INDEPENDENT STAFF

OPP officers across the province are currently investigating multiple cases of cellphone service provider fraud and are reminding the public to remain cautious of unsolicited phone calls.

Police said fraudsters are impersonating telecommunications company representatives and contacting people with offers of a free or heavily discounted cellphone as part of a promotional program. Callers are persuading people to accept the offer and provide the information required to process the order, explained police.

"Once the device is delivered, the victim discovers that the device was financed under their own account and that they are responsible for the associated payments," said OPP. "The fraudsters then instruct the victim to return, surrender or transfer the phone to a third party due to an alleged error so they can fix the financing issue and apply the promotional offer properly."

Police said the promised refunds, account credits or promotional benefits are never received.

"As a result, victims are left financially responsible for the financed device while the fraudsters retain possession of the phone."

The Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre is offering tips to help prevent people from falling victim to this type of fraud. It begins with recognizing the warning signs, reiterated officials.

One sign is an unexpected call, text message or email offering a discount, upgraded plan or new device. The person pressures the victim to act quickly or says the offer is only available for a limited time.

The caller asks victims to log in to their cellphone ac-



OPP is urging the public to be cautious as fraudsters are impersonating telecommunications company representatives and contacting people with offers of free or heavily discounted cellphones as part of a promotional program. / OPP graphic

count while the caller stays on the line. He or she then requests the account password, security code, PIN or multi-factor authentication code.

The caller then asks the victim to provide a driver's licence, social insurance number or other identification. They are told to open an account with a different service provider.

They then receive a cellphone or tablet and are told to send it to an address provided by the caller. The return address is different from the verified address of the service provider.

To avoid falling victim to a scam, people should be cautious of a caller claiming to be from their cellphone service provider, end the call and contact the company directly. Use the telephone number on a phone bill, account or the company's official website.

Do not use contact information provided by the caller.

Never share passwords, PINs, security codes or multi-factor authentication codes.

Do not provide personal or financial information during an unexpected call, text message or email, said police.

People should also avoid logging into their account while an unknown caller is on the line.

Before opening a new account or accepting a device, confirm the offer directly with the service provider.

If people receive a device they didn't order, they're asked to contact the service provider directly and confirm the correct return process.

Never ship a cellphone or tablet to an address provided by an unknown caller, the release noted.

"The OPP urges individuals and businesses to remain vigilant to instances of fraud. Remember to carefully verify and confirm the legitimacy of any information before following through, even if it appears to come from a trusted source."

People who suspect fraudulent activity or have been a victim of fraud, should report it immediately to their local police service and the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre at 1-888-495-8501, or via reportcyberandfraud.canada.ca.

To learn more about fraud prevention and how to stay safe, people can also visit www.opp.ca/fraud and the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre online.

Todd Attridge For Mayor of Port Hope

The choices we'll make will shape Port Hope for generations. We need to get these choices right.

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Oct. 26th

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County receives nod from privacy body for transparency

'Being selected for the transparency challenge is meaningful recognition'

INDEPENDENT STAFF

Northumberland County has been recognized by a provincial body for an online dashboard that's geared towards making information accessible and transparent.

The county announced recently the Information and Privacy Commissioner (IPC) of Ontario has given a nod to Northumberland's "performance dashboard," which is featured as part of the IPC's 2026 Transparency Challenge. The challenge involves a virtual gallery showcasing innovative projects that advance government transparency, open data and public access to information, according to a recent release.

"Being selected for the transparency challenge is meaningful recognition of the work Northumberland County has undertaken to make government information more accessible, understandable and useful for residents," said Warden Bob Crate. "This acknowledgment from an independent, respected organization reinforces our commitment to going beyond legislative requirements and actively creating opportunities for residents to see how the county is performing against its goals and priorities."

The IPC Transparency Challenge brings together leading transparency initiatives from public institutions across Ontario, highlighting best-in-class approaches that help residents better understand government decisions, performance and outcomes, reads the release. The challenge provides an opportunity for public-sector organizations to "share creative and impactful projects that promote open government and strengthen public trust."

Launched in February 2024, the county's performance dashboard tracks 45 indicators aligned with Northumberland's 2023-27 community strategic plan. Officials



The Information and Privacy Commissioner of Ontario has recognized Northumberland County's 'performance dashboard,' which targets keeping information transparent and accessible for residents. /Natalie Hamilton photo

said it aims to provide people with a clear and accessible way to monitor progress on the commitments outlined in the plan.

The dashboard enables residents, council members, and community partners to access performance information organized under the five pillars of the strategic plan. Updated quarterly, "the dashboard goes beyond reporting numbers by explaining what the results mean, why they matter and how they connect to community priorities."

When performance indicators are not on track, the dashboard identifies actions and next steps, aimed at helping residents understand how the county is responding and continuously improving, explained staff.

The county said the dashboard is one component of Northumberland's broader commitment to accountability and transparency. Residents can also stay informed through the annual report, which provides an overview of programs, services and accomplishments along with annual audited financial statements; the Join In Northumberland community engagement platform, which allows residents to share feedback on county projects and initiatives; and the county's council webpage, which provides access to council and committee agendas, minutes and recorded meetings.

"Transparency and accountability at the municipal level go to the very heart of democracy by meaningfully engaging citizens in their communities and bringing local governments closest to the people they serve," said Patricia Kosseim, Information and Privacy Commissioner of Ontario. "Northumberland County's performance dashboard empowers residents and drives citizen engagement by making municipal performance data easy to find and helping residents track progress, ask better questions, and see first-hand how municipal services and decisions affect their daily lives."

For more information about the performance dashboard, visit the website at Northumberland.ca/Dashboard.

The IPC Transparency Challenge takes the form of an online gallery, with each exhibit represented by a unique piece of artwork. The exhibit for the county's performance dashboard includes an original piece that targets visually capturing the dashboard's purpose – moving beyond compliance-focused reporting to embrace a more proactive approach to transparency, accountability and public engagement.



Northumberland County News

Household Hazardous Waste Seymour CRC dates!

344 5th Line West, just South of Campbellford

Friday Oct. 16th 8:30am - 4:00pm
Saturday Oct. 17th 8:30am - 2:00pm

Also accepted year-round at these Community Recycling Centres:

Brighton CRC Mondays, Wednesdays, Saturdays
Bewdley CRC Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays

Non-perishable food donations are being accepted voluntarily at the Seymour events on behalf of local Food Banks.



Thanksgiving Waste & Recycling Collection Change

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
12 Thanksgiving CPCs closed today.	13 Leaf and Yard Waste Setout Day AREA 2 BY 7AM	14	15	16 HHW collection event at Seymour CRC 8:30am-4:00pm

- Household collection of garbage, green bin and recycling will bump ahead one day the week of October 12th.
- Community Recycling Centres will be closed on Thanksgiving Day, October 12th.

For more information about waste services:

1-866-293-8379

northumberland.ca
wastedept@northumberland.ca

ELECTION PROFILES



Ward 1 Port Hope candidate Norm Orviss

affordability, and the character of our neighbourhoods.

Residents deserve to know what commitments have already been made, what risks taxpayers may carry, and how local benefits will be secured.

If elected, my first action at council would be to request the full public release of all agreements related to Wesleyville and the long-term PHAI/CNL arrangement, subject only to legitimate legal protections. Council cannot represent residents effectively without clear facts, independent analysis and open debate.

From there, I would champion a community-wide planning process involving residents, local businesses, developers, and community organizations. The goal would be a measurable

action plan for infrastructure investment, attainable housing, responsible development standards, environmental oversight, emergency preparedness, and transparent timelines.

I would insist on regular public reporting so residents can track decisions, costs, progress and results. Port Hope needs practical leadership that listens first, protects taxpayers and negotiates firmly for our community.

Growth must serve residents – not happen to them – and every decision should strengthen Port Hope's long-term prosperity, safety, sustainability and quality of life."

Contact information:

Website: www.electnorm.ca

Email: orvissn@bell.net



Ward 1 Port Hope candidate Adam Pearson

including the potential for new nuclear development by Ontario Power Generation (OPG) in our region.

This could bring major opportunities for local jobs, businesses, investment and a stronger municipal tax base. But we need to be prepared. Growth of this scale could also put pressure on housing, roads, water and wastewater infrastructure, emergency services and other municipal services.

My first step would be to champion a comprehensive review of our infrastructure and growth capacity so council can understand what Port Hope needs to be ready for these opportunities. I would also continue to push for early

and meaningful engagement with OPG, the province, local businesses and residents.

We cannot wait until major investment decisions are made before preparing our community.

I believe Port Hope should be proactive, not reactive. We need to position ourselves to capture the economic benefits of potential new nuclear investment while ensuring growth is responsible and consistent with the community's priorities, environment, heritage and quality of life."

Contact information:

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Phone: 905-396-3330



Ward 2 Port Hope candidate Glenn Deeth

for staff and consultants working on capital projects.

It also outlines expectations for developers during the planning process and sets the standards for engineering submissions required for site plan and subdivision approvals.

Consistency is critical. When expectations are clearly defined at the outset, productivity increases and the likelihood of errors decreases. Standardized drawing formats and uniform presentation of information across all projects make reviews more efficient and ensure that construction teams can quickly locate the details they need.

Clear standards reduce discrepancies, improve transparency and minimize unnecessary debate. They create fairness for

consulting firms and developers by ensuring everyone is working from the same set of rules. This saves time and money for all parties and accelerates the review and approval process while upholding Port Hope's requirements.

Developing this document is not simple, but Port Hope does not need to start from scratch. Many neighbouring municipalities have strong examples that can serve as models. I see the creation and implementation of this manual as a priority project that should begin as soon as possible."

Contact information:

Email: GDeeth4Ward2@gmail.com

Facebook: "Glenn Deeth for Port Hope Ward 2"



Ward 2 Port Hope candidate Jamie Ferguson

top issue for the residents of Port Hope. While there are huge impending opportunities on the horizon for the community, Port Hope needs to look at revisiting the existing strategic and capital plans for the community and ensure that the path Port Hope is on respects those already well-thought-out plans and directions.

The work has been done, and it is time to get the town back on track to ensure that an affordable, sensible, needs-assessment proven plan is underway to get things done. The town

has gone off-script and it's time to get back to the plans.

At the same time, Port Hope needs to have a vision greater than four years and be sure that we are setting ourselves up for long-term sustainability. This includes ensuring that regular maintenance is done for the basics (such as) maintaining roads, infrastructure and ensuring that there is a fleet management plan, which makes sense across the organization."

Contact information:

Email: ferguson.farms@yahoo.ca



Ward 2 Port Hope candidate Darrell Toms

comes directly from local residents and business owners, and council's main job is to manage that money with discipline and care.

I take a practical, quiet approach to council work. Before every meeting, I do my homework. I carefully review every report, examine the financial figures and consult directly with municipal staff to get answers. This ensures that when I cast a vote, I am fully informed and standing up for the best interests of our community.

I don't believe in using council meetings for endless debate, personal attacks or photo opportunities.

My focus is strictly on delivering results: Keeping spending under control, keeping tax increases manageable, and ensuring our town prioritizes essential infrastructure and core services.

Port Hope deserves accountable leadership that puts substance ahead of optics. I am committed to working hard behind-the-scenes, asking the tough questions, and delivering practical, financially-responsible governance for our municipality every single day."

Contact information:

Email: diamondshine2013@outlook.com



Port Hope mayoral candidate Todd Attridge

infrastructure bill, a nuclear proposal in Wesleyville, and the ongoing PHAI cleanup. At the same time, residents are dealing with high taxes, limited housing options, and growing concerns about how decisions are made at town hall.

As a councillor, a small business owner, and someone with 15 years of teaching strategy, negotiation, and collaboration, I have the experience and track record to guide our community through these challenges.

As mayor, my first priority is to address taxes. For too long, residents have shouldered the cost for municipal services. My plan is to grow our agriculture and manufac-

turing sectors to diversify our tax base. This will reduce the burden on residents, create local jobs, support farmers and businesses, and keep more money in our community.

This can be done by removing unnecessary restrictions on farms so they can expand and diversify; help existing businesses thrive and make our employment lands investment-ready so companies can grow in Port Hope.

I am committed to working with council and residents to address these challenges together and protect what makes our community special."

Contact information:

Website: www.toddattridge.com

ELECTION PROFILES



Port Hope mayoral candidate Angela Grogan

Angela Grogan is vying for the mayor's seat as one of four candidates in Port Hope in the Oct. 26, 2026 municipal election.

The Independent asked Grogan: What do you see as the top issue for the community, and what will be your first step to champion addressing this issue at the council level?

Grogan said: "The top issue facing Port Hope is trust in municipal leadership because trust affects everything else: taxes, services, transportation, housing, economic development and how residents are treated when they come to town hall.

Residents need to know decisions are transparent, council is listening, and tax dollars are being managed responsibly. Over this term, I have raised concerns about late financial reporting, major expenditures, consultant costs, staff turnover, communication and accountability.

My first step as mayor would be to initiate an independent organizational health check examining governance, communication, accountability and how council and senior administration work together. I would also seek a clear public review of the municipality's financial position so residents understand where we stand.

From there, my focus is practical – scrutinize spending, improve transportation, support appropriate housing for seniors

and families, strengthen relationships with businesses, and make town hall more accessible and responsive.

A mayor cannot govern alone. Effective leadership means listening, working constructively with council and staff, respecting expertise, asking difficult questions and being accountable for decisions.

I will bring preparation, presence, collaboration and accountability to the mayor's office, while reporting clearly to residents on progress, challenges and results, and keeping residents informed before important decisions are made."

Contact information:
Email: Grogan4mayor@gmail.com
Website: Grogan4mayor.com



Port Hope mayoral candidate Olena Hankivsky

Olena Hankivsky is looking to retain the mayor's seat going up against three other candidates in the Oct. 26 municipal election in Port Hope.

The Independent asked Hankivsky: What do you see as the top issue for the community, and what will be your first step to champion addressing this issue at the council level?

Hankivsky said: "Keeping Port Hope affordable while addressing critical social and economic infrastructure is the top priority.

My immediate step at coun-

cil will be to launch an action plan to prioritize urgent infrastructure needs, review water and wastewater rates, and identify funding sources. To ensure transparency regarding tax dollars, this plan will feature a diverse citizen's assembly representing both rural and urban residents to help guide decisions on our spending.

Affordability remains central to my platform. In 2026, I led the motion to lower the municipal tax increase to 2.7 per cent and advocated for county council to reduce its increase to 3.77 per cent. Throughout my first term, I helped secure over \$20 million in outside funding for Port Hope, with another \$30 million in poten-

tial opportunities identified.

Moving forward, I will leverage established relationships with governments, industry and community partners to secure further non-tax revenue. I will continue to focus on diversifying our tax base by carefully evaluating the Wesleyville opportunity, attracting new businesses, preparing serviced industrial land, and connecting with residents on what is important to them.

I know where these files stand, and I know from experience what is needed to move them forward."

Contact information:
Email: olena4mayor@gmail.com
Website: olena4mayor.ca



Port Hope mayoral candidate Ian West

Ian West is one of four candidates in Port Hope's mayoral race for the 2026 municipal election.

The Independent asked West: What do you see as the top issue for the community, and what will be your first step to champion addressing this issue at the council level?

West said: "I think the biggest issue facing our community is that too many people have stopped believing that their voice matters.

People see taxes going up, decisions being made, projects moving forward, and they wonder: "Where is the benefit for me and my family?" At the same time, there are residents who feel they are told "no" while others seem to find a way forward.

My first step at council would be to listen – and not just during an election. I want to understand what residents, farmers, business owners and families are actually struggling with, and then bring those concerns to the table.

I would also challenge council to look at every major decision through a sim-

ple question: Is this making the Municipality of Port Hope a better place to live, work and raise a family?

I don't believe we need more political talk. We need people around the table who are willing to ask questions, look at the numbers, speak plainly and make decisions based on what is best for the community – not what is easiest or most comfortable.

That is the kind of representative I intend to be."

Contact information:
Email: voteianwest@protonmail.com
Facebook: "Ian West BLO"



Township of Hamilton candidate Bruce Buttar

Bruce Buttar is one of five Township of Hamilton councillor candidates running in the Oct. 26 municipal election.

The Independent asked Buttar: What do you see as the top issue for the community, and what will be your first step to champion addressing this issue at the council level?

Buttar said: "The top issue for the community is the Wesleyville nuclear

project. This project would put the largest nuclear facility in the world in our county.

It would have a tremendous impact on not only Port Hope but all the surrounding municipalities. Issues such as housing, infrastructure and environmental concerns must be addressed before a project of this magnitude can proceed.

If elected, the first step as a Hamilton Township councillor would be to become engaged with Ontario Power Generation to ensure the needs of the local municipalities are known and are

being addressed by OPG. There are ongoing consultations that we must be involved in.

We must maintain communication with all neighboring municipalities to be sure we are included in any relevant discussion to allow us to make informed decisions on the project. As a councillor, I am committed to staying informed (and) speaking up for the residents' wishes to be able to make informed decisions on this project."

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Township of Hamilton candidate Jay Chatten

issue.

My initial actions will include the advocacy of the following:

- Formalize a budget target cost plan for an improved balance between the township's revenues and expenses.

- Finalize the township's strategic infrastructure development plan for existing rural and residential zones that includes affordable housing while preparing for the possible Wesleyville impact. This will provide budget revenues.

- Reopen the water system plan to provide high-quality, affordable water to the Baltimore/Creighton Heights area to reduce annual user fees and maintenance budget expenses.

- Place the current \$6.4 million plan "on hold."

- Investigate service possibilities with Lakefront Utilities as the water source provider. This will provide a higher capacity and allow current residential developmental plans to continue. This will provide budget revenues.

- Review the closure of the single user Camborne-Kennedy Road line. This will remove unnecessary maintenance budget expenses.

- Elevate infrastructure grant requests with OPG (Wesleyville site) and the provincial and federal governments; providing a new budget revenue source.

I respectfully appreciate your consideration on Oct. 26."

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Township of Hamilton candidate Rob MacArthur

Rob MacArthur is one of five Township of Hamilton councillor candidates in the running in the 2026 municipal election.

The Independent asked MacArthur: What do you see as the top issue for the community, and what will be your first step to champion addressing this issue at the council level?

MacArthur said: "The top issue I see for Hamilton Township is affordability and ensuring that future growth does not place an unreasonable financial burden on existing residents.

Property taxes are a major

part of that concern, but residents have also raised increasing water costs, road and infrastructure needs, community safety and the costs that will come with future development.

My goal is to work toward keeping annual township tax increases closer to inflation – ideally two-to-three per cent – while maintaining essential services. That requires more than simply cutting expenses.

My first step at council would be to advocate for a detailed review of the 2027 budget, department by department. I would question spending, look for efficiencies, examine contracts and purchasing, pursue available grants and other revenues, and ensure residents

are receiving value for their tax dollars.

I would also look closely at future growth. New development should contribute its fair share toward the roads, water systems, fire protection and other infrastructure it requires rather than shifting those costs to existing residents.

Hamilton Township will face important decisions about future growth and infrastructure. I want those decisions made with one basic principle: Plan responsibly and carefully today so residents aren't left paying unnecessarily for problems tomorrow."

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ELECTION PROFILES



Township of Hamilton candidate Patricia 'Pat' McCourt

Patricia "Pat" McCourt is one of five Township of Hamilton councillor candidates running in the upcoming Oct. 26 municipal election.

The Independent asked McCourt: What do you see as the top issue for the community, and what will be your first step to champion addressing this issue at the council level?

McCourt said: "I would like increased focus on affordable housing. To make our community complete, there should be reasonable housing options for all stages of life.

As a senior, I understand the desire for smaller accessible spaces that allow us to maintain a safe, independent lifestyle. It is also difficult to retain youth because there is a lack of appropriate housing.

Our young people are forced to move just beyond our borders to find apartments or starter homes. They return when they can finally afford to live and raise their families here.

Previously on council, I successfully advocated for a decreased minimum size for homes, as well as bylaw changes to allow attached or separated secondary residential units. Both changes increase the potential for affordable housing. I

supported the construction of a condo apartment unit on Hwy. 45 and the Habitat for Humanity townhouses.

The township's official plan is soon being reviewed. I will look for ways to improve our ability to promote diverse housing options in our community.

I will also encourage staff to investigate solutions used by other municipalities. My goal is that people of all ages can have the opportunity to enjoy safe affordable housing within our township."

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Cobourg candidate Randy Barber

Randy Barber is one of 12 councillor candidates in Cobourg running in the Oct. 26 municipal election.

The Independent asked Barber: What do you see as the top issue for the community, and what will be your first step to champion addressing this issue at the council level?

Barber replied: "I be-

lieve the issue that will subsume council over the near new term is the building heights being proposed by three development applications that recently came before council – King Street, Second Street and Kerr Street. As the town official plan is presently being revised and updated, building heights are restricted to six floors and two of these submissions contain from eight up to 16 floors.

This would fundamentally alter the character

and appearance of our heritage townscape. The Ontario Land Tribunal will be making a ruling and the town will be a party to these proceedings. Thus, some very important decisions affecting our skyline and character may be imposed and will not be inexpensive. The new council will have its mettle tested very soon in early 2027."

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Cobourg candidate Cindy Beman

Cindy Beman is one of 12 councillor candidates in Cobourg running in the 2026 municipal election.

The Independent asked Beman: What do you see as the top issue for the community, and what will be your first step to champion addressing this issue at the council level?

Beman said: "Our town deserves a council that listens, acts, and delivers. I'm running to bring practical solutions, fiscal responsibil-

ity, and a stronger voice for our community. Together, we can build a future where every resident feels heard and valued.

This is our home. Every decision we make today shapes the place our children will inherit tomorrow. I'm committed to transparent leadership, smart growth, and protecting the character of our town while creating opportunities for all.

I believe in progress that respects our roots. As your councillor, I will work tirelessly to improve local services, support small businesses, and ensure every tax dollar is spent wisely – with

honesty, accountability and heart.

Imagine a town where our streets are safe, our economy is thriving, and our environment is protected for generations. That's the vision I'm bringing to council – and with your support, we can make it a reality.

Strong, transferable skills and knowledge include time management, advocacy, communications, banking, social enterprise, (and) building community connections."

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Cobourg candidate Aaron Burchat

Aaron Burchat is one of 12 councillor candidates in Cobourg running in the Oct. 26 municipal election.

The Independent asked Burchat: What do you see as the top issue for the community, and what will be your first step to champion addressing this issue at the council level?

Burchat said: "I believe the top issue facing Cobourg is managing growth responsibly while ensuring our infrastructure and services keep pace.

Cobourg is growing, and we have an opportunity to make

sure that growth strengthens our community rather than putting unnecessary pressure on existing residents. That means planning for housing, roads, water and wastewater, parks, recreation, transportation, and other services together.

My first step at council would be to ensure growth planning is co-ordinated with infrastructure planning and financial sustainability. I would work with council and town staff to identify the infrastructure needed, understand the costs, and ensure projects are appropriately timed before major growth decisions are made.

After 10 years on council,

I understand the importance of balancing growth with the needs of existing residents. I also believe residents need to be meaningfully involved in these decisions.

Growth should not simply mean more homes – it should mean complete, connected communities that maintain the quality of life we value in Cobourg.

As a councillor, I would champion a practical approach – plan ahead, invest responsibly, listen to residents, and ensure Cobourg grows in a safe and sustainable way."

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Cobourg council candidate Alexander Cahill

Alexander Cahill is one of 12 councillor candidates in Cobourg looking for secure your vote for the 2026 municipal election.

The Independent asked Cahill: What do you see as the top issue for the community, and what will be your first step to champion addressing this issue at the council level?

Cahill said: "One of the most prescient issues facing our community is the affordability and accessibility of

housing. Developers are presenting our town with serious challenges by proposing builds that don't match the character and needs of our community.

Our town and our residents should be the ones directing the development of the place they call home.

Through an informed democratic process with the support of evidence-backed expertise we will build the housing that's necessary. At the same time, we can keep the type of housing and neighbourhoods being built in accordance with our needs, our ability to fund infrastructure, and aesthet-

ics. To do that, we must take control of development with a detailed master-plan, sensible bylaws, zoning, and consultations with the community.

We need social housing, supports for people who need them, transparency, accountability, and precision in the delivery of services. We need programs for our youth, and we need a sense of safety, and optimism for our futures.

Together, we can find the creative solutions we need to the challenges we face."

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Cobourg candidate Jeremy Coulis

Jeremy Coulis is one of 12 council candidates in Cobourg looking for your vote for the 2026 municipal election.

The Independent asked Coulis: What do you see as the top issue for the community, and what will be your first step to champion addressing this issue at the council level?

Coulis replied: "The top issue I see for our community is community safety, particularly the growing challenges connected to homelessness, addiction, mental health, and disorder in public spaces. These issues affect residents, families,

businesses, emergency services, and people experiencing homelessness themselves. There are no quick fixes, but complexity cannot become an excuse for inaction.

The first step at the council level should be bringing the right people together to clearly understand the challenges and identify where action is needed most. This means working with police, emergency services, community organizations, businesses, residents, and provincial and federal partners to identify gaps, improve co-ordination, and determine what resources are available.

From there, council can develop a practical, long-term community safety strategy that balances immediate action with solutions to underlying causes.

This should include appropriate enforcement where public safety is affected, while also supporting access to addiction treatment, mental health services, supportive and transitional housing, and recovery programs.

Council should also provide residents with regular updates on actions taken, resources being used, and measurable results. My goal would be to make community safety a sustained priority, build stronger partnerships, and ensure residents know their concerns are being heard and acted upon."

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ELECTION PROFILES



Cobourg candidate Randy Curtis

all depend on.

These pressures are connected. Our roads, water systems, parks and facilities need steady investment, and our town is growing. When maintenance is put off, small repairs become costly emergencies.

When growth outpaces infrastructure, residents pay twice – in higher taxes and in a lower quality of life. Careful budget management protects taxpayer dollars, supports appropriate housing and a safe, vibrant downtown, and keeps the welcoming character residents value.

My first step on council will be to push for the town's budget and long-term infrastructure plans to be reviewed together in public. Residents

and council should see, in plain language, what shape our assets are in, what needs attention first, what it will cost and how it fits within an affordable tax rate. I'll ask informed questions about major spending, put planned maintenance ahead of emergency fixes and make decisions based on evidence.

I've served on Cobourg's economic development committee and downtown coalition advisory committee, and as chair of the transportation advisory committee. I'll bring that experience and my business background to deliver practical results for a stronger Cobourg."

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Cobourg candidate Brian Darling

While many of these challenges require co-operation with upper levels of government, council must focus on the areas where it can make a meaningful difference.

Inflation, rising energy costs, and the increasing cost of fuel affect the municipality just as they affect the homeowners. With revenue coming primarily from government grants, user fees and property taxes, we must find practical ways to manage costs and increase revenue without placing an ever-growing burden on existing taxpayers.

My approach is simple – we need more people paying property taxes, rather than asking the same people to pay more.

This means encouraging re-

sponsible infill development and moderate densification – not necessarily 16-storey apartment buildings, but well-planned development that respects the character of our community. We should work with developers to encourage a mix of lower cost and affordable housing on available lands, including the Tannery lands and Brookside.

Consider the potential – 500 additional residential units, averaging \$4,000 annually in property taxes, could generate \$2 million in additional yearly revenue. That is roughly equivalent to a tax increase of more than five per cent, based on the town's current tax levy."

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Cobourg candidate Lindsay Grimley

Lindsay Grimley is one of 12 councillor candidates in Cobourg vying for your votes in the Oct. 26 municipal election.

The Independent asked Grimley: What do you see as the top issue for the community, and what will be your first step to champion addressing this issue at the council level?

Grimley replied: "I'm honoured to be running in this year's municipal elec-

tion. I am a married mother of three children and a local business owner. My husband and I first established our business in 2017, with our first barbershop, located in Courtice. We opened our second barbershop here in Cobourg in 2021, and our third barbershop in 2024. All operate under the name the Kingsmen.

I feel so much privilege to live in Cobourg. We have so much beauty and charm in our small town, it can instantly captivate people with their first entrance to our downtown.

I feel that the No. 1 is-

sue for the majority of our residents is the safety of our downtown, parks and beach areas. I think there are many things we can accomplish at a council level, starting with creating and strictly enforcing specific bylaws that will ensure safer streets.

My promise is to listen, to work for the community and to always make the decisions that best serve the people of Cobourg."

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Cobourg candidate Mark Mills

nity safety, affordability and transparency. To me, they're all connected.

People want to feel safe downtown and in their neighbourhoods. They're concerned about open drug use, property crime and disruptive behaviour. They're also worried about rising taxes and what we're now learning about the town's finances.

My first step would be getting police, bylaw, the county and service agencies around the same table with clear responsibilities and measurable results. We need consistent enforcement when laws are broken, while pushing for better addiction treatment, mental health services and

housing supports.

We also need to take a hard look at town spending before asking taxpayers for more and be open with residents about where their money is going.

I spent nearly 40 years in municipal government managing hundreds of employees, multi-million-dollar budgets and delivering public services. I know how to set priorities, control costs, hold people accountable and get results.

That's the experience I want to bring to Cobourg council."

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Cobourg candidate Miriam Mutton

Miriam Mutton is one of 12 council candidates in Cobourg vying for your vote come the 2026 municipal election.

The Independent asked Mutton: What do you see as the top issue for the community, and what will be your first step to champion addressing this issue at the council level?

Mutton replied: "Informed. Effective. Approachable. Collaborative. Dedicated. Accountable.

I will continue to work on your behalf to facilitate good governance, to foster open communication and to initiate

action in support of a healthy and vibrant community. Together, we will build upon what we do well, and we will work towards an even better quality of life in Cobourg.

I have been a Cobourg businesswoman and community advocate for more than 36 years. Learning is a lifelong pursuit. In 2015, I completed graduate sustainability studies at Trent University. As a landscape architect in private practice from 1989-2025, (and) a garden design specialist, I continue to research and promote solutions in tune with built and natural environments.

As (an) elected representative of the citizens of Cobourg, I believe it is integral to my role and responsibilities to be

well-informed and prepared about matters coming before council. Along with developing policies, reviewing annual budgets and providing direction to administration, council hears from citizens about what is important to our community, today and for our future.

My priorities are ensuring open communication, building a healthy economy and a thriving community, protecting the environment for our sustainable future, working with council to provide clear direction to administration, and preserving Cobourg's valuable assets for all citizens."

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Cobourg candidate Joel Scott

your money.

The town's own financial report, now public, shows auditors raised concerns for years. On Sept. 23, council voted to release it, send it for independent review, and have staff explain why the 2024 and 2025 audits are late. That's a good first step. The next council must finish the job.

If elected, I will push for three things:

- A clear accounting of where we stand. Audited statements for 2024 and 2025, delivered and explained in plain language.
- A public plan to cor-

rect past issues. The independent reviews should be reported publicly so residents know what's fixed, what isn't, and what it will cost.

- Stronger controls going forward. No major project approved without a confirmed funding plan, and regular public reports from our audit and risk committee so auditors' warnings get acted on."

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ELECTION PROFILES



Cobourg candidate Matthew Sickinger

ty for residents.

I would address this directly by advocating for safe streets with fully supported first-responders. It would be my goal on council to fully examine the social and economic determinants of local crime and calculate what responsible spending would look like to address these issues systematically.

I believe that given the challenges Cobourg is facing, a balanced

approach to support and spending would have the most meaningful impact for residents.”

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Matthew Sickinger is one of 12 councillor candidates in Cobourg running in the 2026 municipal election.

The Independent asked Sickinger: What do you see as the top issue for the community, and what will be your first step to champion addressing this issue at the council level?

Sickinger said: “I believe the biggest issue facing Cobourg is public safe-



Cobourg mayoral candidate Nicole Beatty

heard, real answers and visible results.

Restoring trust, stability and collaboration to town hall is my absolute first priority.

On day one as mayor, I will delegate Strong Mayor Powers back to council and the CAO. I will take direct responsibility for uniting council to deliver on our community’s needs.

We must commit to a strict financial sustainability plan and a fiscal framework that stabilizes taxes, finishes current projects and stops approving commitments without a clear plan to pay for them.

True community safety means real collaboration. We will support Cobourg Police Service Chief Chris Leather’s enforcement strategy and act

on police recommendations for safer parks and public spaces.

We will say no to high-rises in the downtown and heritage districts by completing our official plan so residents know where growth belongs and what infrastructure must support it. At county council, I will champion housing solutions for seniors to prevent homelessness before it starts.

Residents deserve a council they can count on. As mayor, I will lead with steady, predictable and transparent leadership.”

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Nicole Beatty is one of three mayoral candidates in Cobourg vying for your votes for the 2026 municipal election.

The Independent asked Beatty: What do you see as the top issue for the community, and what will be your first step to champion addressing this issue at the council level?

Beatty replied: “The biggest issue I hear is that people are worried about where Cobourg is heading. Between rising taxes, growth pressures and safety concerns, residents feel ignored. They want their voices



Cobourg mayoral candidate Lucas Cleveland

In my “Enough is Enough” letter, I said Cobourg couldn’t carry this burden alone. That call has been answered. With a reimagined county and all new police leadership, the pieces are now in place to finish the job we started.

I support care for those who want it. But criminal behaviour on our streets will not be normalized by a loud and vocal few that declared themselves the most compassionate and moral of us all.

I have eight things that need to be done, with three clear goals. Visit LucasforCobourg.ca to see what we’ve achieved and the job still to finish.

This election isn’t about a council where everyone gets

along. It’s about a council invested in Cobourg’s future; not one whose manifest destiny is removing the “imposter mayor” and going back to the way things were.

When this next term ends, I want to be judged on three things – that I told you the truth, that I faced our realities head-on and made good decisions, and that Cobourg, the town I love, feels safer and more like a feel-good town again.

Vote Lucas Cleveland on Oct. 26.”

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Lucas Cleveland is looking to retain the mayor’s seat going up against two other candidates in the Oct. 26 municipal election in Cobourg.

The Independent asked Cleveland: What do you see as the top issue for the community, and what will be your first step to champion addressing this issue at the council level?

Cleveland replied: “The top issue facing Cobourg is community safety. I hear it from residents, business owners and parents every day.



Cobourg mayoral candidate Max LeMarchant

ties are restoring public safety and addressing homelessness, getting taxes and municipal costs under control, and ensuring responsible planning and land-use management.

On homelessness, we need to move beyond managing the problem in our streets and parks and work collaboratively toward appropriate accommodation and pathways out of homelessness, while restoring public spaces for everyone.

On taxes, council needs to thoroughly review town operations, priorities and service delivery to ensure taxpayers are receiving good value and that municipal spending is sustainable.

On planning, Cobourg ur-

gently needs a clear long-term vision supported by an updated official plan so that growth occurs in the right places, at the right scale, while protecting the character of our community.

Step one is leadership – establish these priorities clearly at council, build agreement around them, and then hold the organization accountable for measurable progress.

My four decades of experience in building, development and business have taught me that good results begin with clear objectives, sound planning and accountability.

Restore. Refocus. Renew.”

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Max LeMarchant is one of three mayoral candidates running in Cobourg for the 2026 municipal election.

The Independent asked LeMarchant: What do you see as the top issue for the community, and what will be your first step to champion addressing this issue at the council level?

LeMarchant replied: “The top issue facing Cobourg is the need for effective leadership and a clear plan to address several serious challenges at the same time.

My three immediate priori-



Cobourg deputy mayoral candidate Adam Bureau

without fear. People struggling with addiction, mental illness or homelessness also deserve a genuine path toward stability and recovery.

My first step as deputy mayor would be to bring forward a motion requesting a co-ordinated community safety action plan within 90 days. I would ask council to direct staff to work with Northumberland County, the (Cobourg) Police Service’s board, health providers and community partners, building on existing work rather than starting another conversation from scratch.

The plan should identify immediate measures to improve safety in public spaces, gaps in treatment and housing supports and opportunities

for co-ordinated enforcement. Every proposed action should include a responsible partner, a timeline, its cost and potential funding sources. I would also seek quarterly public progress reports so residents can see what is working.

My approach is firm on harmful behaviour and compassionate toward people. We cannot rely on policing alone, and we cannot ask Cobourg taxpayers to carry every cost. I will champion practical co-operation and stronger provincial support to deliver a safer, healthier community for everyone who lives here.”

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Adam Bureau is one of two deputy mayoral candidates in Cobourg looking for your votes for the Oct. 26 municipal election.

The Independent asked Bureau: What do you see as the top issue for the community, and what will be your first step to champion addressing this issue at the council level?

Bureau replied: “For me, Cobourg’s top issue is community safety. Residents deserve to feel safe in their homes, in our downtown and in our parks. Businesses deserve to operate



Cobourg deputy mayoral candidate Johnny Percolides

or, the answer to the question of what I see as the top issue for the community seems very clear – public safety.

We need to get this issue under control ASAP, without a doubt. After having met with our new (Cobourg Police Service) chief, I am confident that this will be a priority for everyone. As soon as the new deputy police chief arrives and with a new council after the election, I believe we will be in a stronger and united position to deal with this issue.

I believe we need a better police presence in our downtown core like we had years ago now – (one where) we

would actually see the police on bikes and electric scooters. I would also like to see the police walking the downtown streets and especially to be more visible on the corner of King and Division streets.

I will be working with all members of council to negotiate and communicate a very strong message that illegal drug activity in the parks and on our streets in Cobourg will not be allowed to become normalized. Without public safety, we will never be able to start downtown revitalization.”

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ELECTION PROFILES



Alnwick/Halldimand candidate Terry Carruthers

need to maintain essential infrastructure and reliable services while keeping property taxes affordable.

Residents want confidence that their tax dollars are being used carefully and that roads, bridges, facilities, and other assets are maintained before problems become more costly.

The first step should be a clear public review of the township's asset-management plan and budget priorities. Residents should be able to understand the condition of major assets, which projects are most urgent, the cost of acting

versus delaying, available grants or reserves, and the effect on taxpayers.

Council should then prioritize public safety, legal and environmental obligations, and infrastructure where delays would create greater costs or service risks. I would support a practical, long-term approach that protects essential services, uses grants and reserves responsibly, and communicates clearly about the reasons for decisions."

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Terry Carruthers is one of five councillor candidates in Alnwick/Halldimand looking for your vote for the 2026 municipal election.

The Independent asked Carruthers: What do you see as the top issue for the community, and what will be your first step to champion addressing this issue at the council level?

Carruthers said: "When visiting with residents, a consistent concern is the



Alnwick/Halldimand candidate Jim Hogg

ing for your vote for the 2026 municipal election.

The Independent asked Hogg: What do you see as the top issue for the community, and what will be your first step to champion addressing this issue at the

council level?

Hogg replied: "I would like to see the whole township represented."

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Alnwick/Halldimand candidate Jim McCormack

we love living in this beautiful community.

Five years ago, I retired after a 33-year career in municipal government, specifically in the parks, recreation and culture sector.

As a director, I was responsible for a large staff complement and a multi million-dollar budget. I spent the last six years of my career as director of parks, recreation and culture with the Municipality of Port Hope.

Given my background, I can bring a unique perspective to the council table. I have been paying close attention over the past four years. There are areas we as a local government can improve.

I have built my platform over

three key pillars. They are:

- Increased resident engagement
- Improved municipal processes
- Enhanced communication strategies

By focusing on these three key pillars, we can fundamentally change how we conduct business, thus improving not only the decision-making processes, but improving how residents can become more informed and engaged. All of this leads to a model of strong governance with an emphasis on transparency, collaboration and solid fact-based decision making."

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Jim McCormack is one of five councillor candidates in Alnwick/Halldimand looking for your vote for the 2026 municipal election.

The Independent asked McCormack: What do you see as the top issue for the community, and what will be your first step to champion addressing this issue at the council level?

McCormack replied: "My wife Teresa and I, along with our two teenage daughters at the time, moved to our home on Shelter Valley Road in 2011. This was a decision that we have never regretted and



Alnwick/Halldimand candidate Cathie Ritchie

in the present (and) to protect our future.

Our assets must be protected. Their upkeep is essential to not being blindsided in the future with large expenses that would possibly affect our future budgets and municipal taxes. Our roads need to be maintained to allow for future growth. Our buildings and recreational facilities and outdoor spaces have to be maintained now and into the future for ourselves and future generations.

Our volunteers need to be appreciated for all the effort they contribute. They should be appreciated and welcomed.

Council's and staff communication must be transpar-

Cathie Ritchie is one of five councillor candidates in Alnwick/Halldimand looking for your vote for the 2026 municipal election.

The Independent asked Ritchie: What do you see as the top issue for the community, and what will be your first step to champion addressing this issue at the council level?

Ritchie replied: "Transparency, communication and accountability are essential components of representing our community. We must learn from the past to work

ent. We need to find a way to include our community of all ages from lake-to-lake, from east-to-west. We are one township.

We need to improve the tools we have, to make the township a place that everyone would like to live.

Alnwick/Halldimand's council and employees should be accountable for their actions.

I can and will represent you, the grassroots, the people.

However, regardless, (of) your decision, please protect your constitutional rights and vote."

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Alnwick/Halldimand mayoral candidate Mike Ainsworth

tax increase for present residents.

We currently have too much red tape when it comes to severances and site plans and assessment studies and engineering reports. We need to look at boots-on-the-ground policies and where we can, use incentives to increase the tax base with a percentage of affordable housing and a focus of attainable housing. That (old-style) house that can be sold for \$400,000-\$600,000 or less, not the \$1-million home that only a few can afford.

I will be working with our staff and new council to bring changes to our official plan that help us streamline and open the door for more severances and working with devel-

opers to build these affordable and attainable homes. I'll be working with our local MPP's office with provincial policy statement guidelines and determining growth for our township. As mayor and sitting on county council, I will be working closely with county staff and planning department on helping us with our township goals.

We have such a large part of our township that can handle development and old bylaws and policies are holding us back. We can do this tax base increase and still keep our rural character and not touch agricultural land."

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Mike Ainsworth is one of two mayoral candidates in the Township of Alnwick/Halldimand looking for your vote in the municipal election come Oct. 26.

The Independent asked Ainsworth: What do you see as the top issue for the community, and what will be your first step to champion addressing this issue at the council level?

Ainsworth replied: "One of the main issues for A/H is housing to increase our tax base. We need to increase our tax base so we can slow the



Alnwick/Halldimand mayoral candidate Sherry Gibson

are included in local decision-making.

My first step, working with council, would be a disciplined review of spending. For each significant budget item, we should be able to explain the need, the capital and ongoing operating costs, and whether there are alternatives or opportunities to defer spending.

This isn't simply about cutting costs. It's about having respectful, informed debate and being able to demonstrate that taxpayers' hard-earned dollars are being spent responsibly. Our priorities must begin with safety, including roads and bridges; essential services such as fire and water and maintaining the community

Sherry Gibson is one of two mayoral candidates in Alnwick/Halldimand looking for your vote on election day.

The Independent asked Gibson: What do you see as the top issue for the community, and what will be your first step to champion addressing this issue at the council level?

Gibson said: "The top issue I'm hearing from residents is the need to restore trust, accountability and transparency in township business; particularly around how tax dollars are spent and how residents

assets we already have.

Restoring trust also means creating meaningful opportunities for residents to participate. I support strengthening citizen involvement on township committees, with clearly defined mandates, responsibilities and accountability to council. Just as importantly, council needs to listen, communicate openly and show residents that their contributions are valued.

Responsible government should be able to explain not only what it spends, but why.

Maintain. Improve. Strengthen."

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ELECTION PROFILES



Alnwick/Haldimand deputy mayoral candidate Dave Forbes

are being made openly, and that their tax dollars are being managed responsibly.

Transparency is not simply about meeting the minimum requirements of legislation. It means making it easier for residents to understand what council is considering, why decisions are being made, and how those decisions affect the community. It also means creating meaningful opportunities for residents to participate before important decisions are finalized.

My first step at the council table would be to champion practical changes that improve openness and public engagement. That would include supporting a return to evening council meetings, making

agendas and supporting information available as early as possible, providing summaries of council decisions, and limiting closed-session discussions to circumstances where they are genuinely required.

I would also advocate for an independent review of the township's finances and operations so that the new council has an understanding of our financial position and where improvements can be made.

Trust is earned through actions. My goal would be to begin earning that trust from the very first council meeting."

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Alnwick/Haldimand deputy mayoral candidate Mary Catherine O'Neill

resentation.' The core driver for me is to bring these three things into every meeting and interaction.

Mary Catherine O'Neill is one of three deputy mayoral candidates in Alnwick/Haldimand looking for your vote come Oct. 26.

The Independent asked O'Neill: What do you see as the top issue for the community, and what will be your first step to champion addressing this issue at the council level?

O'Neill replied: "For the past 34 years, I have loved living, working, volunteering and raising my family in Alnwick/Haldimand.

My campaign slogan is 'Responsible, Respectful Rep-

resentation.' The core driver for me is to bring these three things into every meeting and interaction.

Key roles of council include policy development, ensuring accountability, and asset management-based budgeting. I take these roles seriously. Long-term thinking and being well informed are key to making responsible decisions in a way that best serves all of our community including future residents.

The biggest challenge will be completing the asset management plan, which links municipal funds directly to the long-term condition, risk and lifecycle costs of public infrastructure like roads and wa-

ter systems. It is essential for grant readiness.

This strategy stops emergency breakdowns, lowers total repair costs, and proves to taxpayers and senior levels of government that public money is spent wisely. Through the use of an asset-based budget, each year's budget is aligned with the strategic needs to be considered and to be accomplished. That way major capital projects would be funded using both taxpayers' money and grants from federal and provincial sources."

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Website: www.marycatherineforcouncil.ca



Alnwick/Haldimand deputy mayoral candidate Joan Stover

mand affordable while continuing to invest in the services and infrastructure residents depend on.

Having served on council, I know the financial pressures facing a small rural municipality. We have 487 kilometres of roads, aging infrastructure and municipal facilities that require investment, while the cost of providing services continues to rise. Residents are also facing increased costs in their own households. We cannot lose sight of the fact that every tax dollar

matters.

My first step is to continue championing responsible long-term financial planning at the council table. We need to set priorities, find efficiencies, use professional advice and make decisions based on facts. We must also continue to pursue grants, partnerships and other funding opportunities so the property taxpayer does not carry the entire burden."

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Editor's note on election coverage:

In this week's edition, you'll find candidate profiles for the communities of Cobourg and Port Hope, and the townships of Hamilton and Alnwick/Haldimand. All 50 candidates in west Northumberland were offered the same opportunity and amount of space and asked the same question (capped at a 200-word response max) in an effort to provide equal coverage to all and a large number of candidates. Even if a candidate has ceased their campaign or

they were acclaimed, those individuals were also offered the opportunity. Individual decisions to participate or not in these profiles were voluntary. Individuals running as school board trustees, as well as certified lists of all candidates, were listed in previous editions. The Independent encourages residents to check out certified lists for all their candidates for their respective communities via municipalities' websites.

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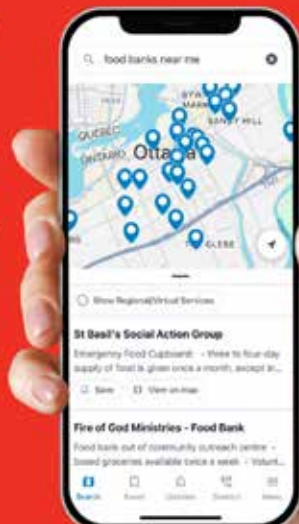
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Cobourg residents can ‘Charge into Fire Safety’

Fire Prevention Week theme targets lithium-ion battery safety

NATALIE HAMILTON
Reporter

The Cobourg Fire Department is educating residents about lithium-ion battery safety with the message that “Safe Charging is a Superpower.” Fire Prevention Week runs from Sunday, Oct. 4 through to Saturday, Oct. 10, and this year’s theme is “Charge into Fire Safety: Safe Charging is a Superpower!” The Cobourg Fire Department is encouraging residents to learn about, understand and take action to limit potential risks and protect themselves from a potential lithium-ion battery fire. “It’s crucial for everyone to understand

that the improper use of lithium-ion batteries can quickly result in a very dangerous situation, especially now that these devices are so common in our homes,” said Aaron Blair, chief fire prevention officer for the Cobourg Fire Department. “But it’s also important to know that these potentially dangerous incidents can be avoided.” Lithium-ion batteries have been linked to several fires across Ontario in recent years, the fire department noted. Typically, an increased risk of fire has been associated with batteries that are not certified by Canadian certification agencies, have been charged with the wrong or an uncertified charger, have been used in

the wrong device or have been altered or homemade. “When used and charged according to manufacturers’ instructions, lithium-ion batteries can be safe,” noted Blair. “However, when used improperly or damaged, over-charged or exposed to extreme temperatures, they can overheat and catch fire or explode.” “These fires grow very quickly and can be a significant challenge for fire departments to extinguish.” The Cobourg Fire Department said some of the key elements of lithium-ion battery safety include only using batteries with a recognized Canadian certification mark such as CSA, cUL and cETL. In addition, use lithium-ion batteries and chargers according to the manufacturers’ instructions, and only for the intended device. Avoid over-charging by keeping the battery in sight and unplug it when charging is complete. Never modify, tamper with or build a lithium-ion battery. When disposing of lithium-ion batteries treat them as household hazardous waste. Always take them to designated recycling

or hazard waste collection sites. Residents can contact the municipality for safe disposal instructions. Lithium-ion batteries are commonly found in many devices at home including phones, laptops, power tools, powered mobility devices, headphones, lawnmowers, e-bikes, e-scooters and electric vehicles. Throughout the week, Cobourg firefighters have been in the community sharing key fire safety messages and helping residents learn how simple, safe charging habits can help prevent lithium-ion battery fires. Tonight (Oct. 9), they will be at the Cobourg Cougars’ game at 7 p.m. for the puck drop. Cobourg firefighters and Sparky will be sharing this year’s Fire Prevention Week message. Meanwhile, on Saturday, Oct. 10, firefighters will be at the Home Depot from 9 a.m. to noon. The fire department invites residents to stop by, meet their local firefighters, and learn more about safe charging and fire prevention.

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Members of the Cobourg Fire Department were recently at Home Hardware in Cobourg, inviting residents to check out the fire trucks and try the fire extinguisher training simulator./ Town of Cobourg photo



Public education first line of defence for fire in Port Hope

Fire Prevention Week focus on lithium-ion batteries timely on heels of fire at retirement residence

SARAH HYATT

Editor/reporter

Port Hope Fire and Emergency Services is calling on residents to take safety messaging during Fire Prevention Week seriously.

Fire Prevention Week runs Oct. 4 to 10 and throughout the week, the department has been teaming up with the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) with hopes of driving home important safety messages, particularly around this year's theme zeroing in on lithium-ion battery safety.

"Public fire safety and the importance of public education ... is the first line of defence for fire safety in any community," said Port Hope Fire and Emergency Services Director and fire Chief Jason Williams. "I mean, we look at public education and then we look at code compliance.

"And the last thing we really want to do is roll our trucks (for) emergency response. Because if we've done everything, we've educated people properly, if we have ensured the codes are being properly followed and enforced, really there shouldn't be any incidents, but we know that there are, right."

This year's theme is also "very timely" on the heels of a lithium-ion battery charging-related fire at a retirement residence on Peter Street Tuesday, Oct. 6, noted Williams.

"There's one worker that discovered the fire (who) was taken to hospital just as a precaution for smoke inhalation, but luckily our crews got there quickly, and the sprinkler system suppressed the fire's development until our guys could get there," said Williams. "So everything all said and done, it could have been a lot worse.

"I think (a) young lady who inhaled some smoke has been discharged from hospital and then the property damage is quite – it was limited – but there is some extensive water damage."

Williams said understanding the risks and hazards associated with lithium-ion batteries is critical – and could turn out to be life-saving.



Port Hope Fire and Emergency Services Director and fire Chief Jason Williams. /Municipality of Port Hope Facebook photo

And this happens to be Fire Prevention Week's theme this year. "Charge into Fire Safety: Safe Charging is a Superpower" emphasizes simple steps people can take in their everyday lives to recharge safely.

"I think there are well over 100 fires attributed to lithium-ion batteries just in 2026 alone," noted Williams, on a larger scale, and while pointing to another recent blaze in Toronto.

While these batteries aren't going anywhere, officials are stressing it's about safe use.

Safe charging is one component – because there's a much higher probability of batteries failing when being charged, added Williams.

Being aware when you're charging your phones, tablets, e-bikes and those types of things – especially with e-bikes and scooters as a lot of folks bring them

in and put them directly in their hallway or their means of egress or access to their home is one tip, explained Williams, who encourages folks to do their research about charging in safe places to prevent hazards.

This also applies to power tools – put them away from exits – as these batteries are larger and store more energy, and if they fail, fires can grow quickly and spread, stressed officials.

Manufacturer-approved chargers and avoiding charging items on things like beds, couches, under pillows or sheets, or on an upholstered chair are also key. In other words, non-combustible surfaces – a granite countertop, table, desk or other hard, flat surface – somewhere if the battery does fail, it's not going to catch something else on fire in a home, develop and cause spread, said Williams.

What's more, if you have a damaged battery or device dispose of those appropriately through hazardous waste materials disposal at a waste facility. Do not just throw them in the garbage because there have been multiple fires throughout the province at land transfer stations and dumps caused by improper disposal of these batteries, said Williams.

If a device feels "very hot," starts to swell, smoke or has a strange smell, these are all warning signs a battery could be damaged or failing.

With more folks buying tech and gadgets online, Williams also urges people to be aware of what they're purchasing nowadays. He also encourages families to talk to kids and ensure they're using and charging devices responsibly.

Recent local public education events this week all aimed to drive home these messages and recognize the importance of fire prevention and public education – and ultimately, are about keeping the community safe, said Williams.

Devices that use lithium-ion batteries include everything from cellphones to tablets, laptops, tools, toys, e-bikes, scooters, and more.

And don't forget to unplug devices when fully charged. Leaving devices plugged in too long can increase heat and stress on batteries.

More information and tips are available via fpw.org and Port Hope Fire and Emergency Services online.



SPORTS

Port Hope Panthers secure first win of the season

'I am very proud of them for persevering through some tough times'

ALAN RIVETT

Sports correspondent

First-year Port Hope Panthers' head coach Drew Allenby says even he is surprised at the strong level of competition that his young Panthers' squad has faced to date.

The Ontario Junior Hockey League Tod Division, he assessed, is filled with teams not only possessing players with experience and skill, but the teams the Panthers have faced thus far also have high level of cohesiveness throughout their lineups. And so far this season, the Panthers are still learning the ropes of what it takes to gel and compete consistently on a nightly basis.

"I think it's surprising for a lot of players to see how disciplined and how skilled, and fast a lot of these teams are," said Allenby, of the stern tests his Panthers have faced so far. "A lot of these teams, I think, have played together, if not here, maybe in minor hockey in the areas they're from. So there's a lot of cohesion when they go out as a group."

And when faced with that level of experience from the competition, it's been an uphill battle for the young Panthers who've been adapting and learning in the early stages of the season.

However, after six consecutive losses to start the 2026-27 campaign, the light finally came on and everything clicked for the Panthers in a well-rounded 5-1 victory over the Trent Hills Thunder at the Sunny Life Recreation and Wellness Centre in Campbellford on Sunday, Oct. 4.

For Allenby, the win for the Panthers not only represented a large monkey being removed from their backs, but also of finally being rewarded for the work ethic that's been present from the players from Game 1 of the season.

"I am very proud of them for persevering through some tough times, not getting down on themselves, and sticking to the game plan," said Allenby on the big win. "The effort has always been there no matter what."

"Even if we're down, I've always been proud of the effort level that they show, and the camaraderie and being (good) teammates. It's a great room and a great bunch for kids. And as I tell them, I think they can go as far as



The Panthers continue to bring in players to bolster the roster, including forward Carter Rightmeyer, along with defenceman Liam Hackett. /Panthers' Facebook photo

they want to go."

"The effort is what we've been building on and so that's why it's so nice to see the kids get the result they deserve. They earned every bit of that (against Trent Hills) and for me, that's the most important part of it. It wasn't just a fluke. They earned everything ..."

Providing the Panthers with clutch play against Trent Hills was starting goaltender Liam Diarias, who allowed a goal on 40 shots to record the victory. Diarias, who recently joined the Panthers, brings a level of experience to the Panthers after returning to Port Hope after trying out for a junior team in western Canada, said Allenby.

Allenby noted two particularly huge back-to-back saves by Diarias on a breakaway and an ensuing rebound while the Panthers were playing shorthanded that preserved a 2-1 Panthers' lead late in the second period. The big saves buoyed the Panthers who went on to score three

unanswered third-period goals to net the team's first win of the season.

"He had a stellar game," said Allenby, of Diarias. "He has a bit more experience playing at the higher level. And I think this will help kind of mentor the other goalies as well."

Forward Ben Laird was also a standout for the Panthers, netting a hat trick to lead the way offensively.

"He's a relentless, complete team player – just a fantastic young man – so I was very happy for him," said Allenby, of the hat trick for Laird. "He deserves it because he worked hard for it."

Caeden Allenby and Liam Barker were the other Panthers goal scorers. Colby Hercia added two assists.

The Panthers are continuing to bring in players to bolster the roster, including forward Carter Rightmeyer and defenceman Liam Hackett.

Rightmeyer comes from the Trent Hills Thunder and is an overage player in his final OJHL season.

"He provides us with some definite speed and some grit with some offensive and defensive capabilities as well," said Allenby. "He's a well-rounded player who fits in well with the guys and we're very, very glad to have him."

As for Hackett, he came over from the Uxbridge Bruins OJHL squad. So far, he's played solidly on the blue line for the Panthers, said Allenby.

"He has been a rock for us back there both offensively and defensively," said Allenby.

Allenby predicts more success in the future for the Panthers if the players continue to work hard and gel together as a team.

"I believe that we now know, if we play at a certain level, play well defensively, that we will have a chance in almost any game we're in, and that's kind of the focus for me right now ... I want to focus on making sure that we play the game right and giving ourselves a chance to be successful in every game."

The Panthers hit the ice next against the Amherstview Jets on Saturday, Oct. 10 at the Jack Burger Sports Complex at 7:30 p.m.

You are invited

Cobourg Mayoral Candidates
Fireside Chat & Q&A



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COLUMNS

'Sustainability Corner': Gender equality



SIMON CHORLEY

Independent columnist

Welcome to Sustainability Corner where each week we will look at a global issue making a local impact.

These issues are based on the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, which were set by governments, including Canada, in 2015, with the aim of achieving them by 2030. The aim is not to provide all the answers, but to spark constructive conversations about our role in addressing

these challenges.

Week 5: Gender Equality

One thing I learnt early on from a mentor was to never agree to be on an all-male panel or board. In conference season the stages were full of speakers who were male, pale and stale. I can say that because I was one of them! Things are getting better now, but we still have a long way to go in advancing women in leadership.

The United Nations reports that women hold 27.4 per cent of parliamentary seats, 35.6 per cent of local government positions and 30.5 per cent of managerial jobs worldwide – all only slight improvements over 2015 levels. At home, women spend about two-and-a-half times as many hours in unpaid domestic and care work as men.

Worldwide, 43.7 per cent of married women lack decision-making power over their sexual and reproductive health

and rights, and 35 per cent of women have experienced physical and/or sexual violence. At the current rate of progress, the United Nations estimates it would take 286 years to close gaps in legal protections and remove discriminatory laws, 140 years for women to be represented equally in positions of leadership in the workplace, and 47 years to achieve equal representation in national parliaments.

In Canada, the Government reports that most working-age women have college or university credentials, even outpacing men, making Canada one of the most educated countries in the world. In 2025, the labour force participation rate of women was 85 per cent, up from 38 per cent in 1976. Between 2015 and 2025, the employment rate among Indigenous women also increased from 63 per cent to 71 per cent.

But women in Canada still face

a gender pay gap that is the second highest in the Group of Seven advanced economies. In 2025, working women earned 89 cents for every dollar earned by a man. The wage gap is even greater for Black, Indigenous, and racialized women.

This is reflected in Ontario. According to the Pay Equity Office, the hourly wage gap has narrowed six percentage points since 1997, to 12 per cent in 2025. But this still means that women make 88 cents on average for every dollar made by a man.

The Pay Equity Office believes that factors such as education, job tenure, part-time versus full-time work, and public versus private sector work, explain only about 30 per cent of the gap in Ontario. About 70 per cent of the gap is due in part to factors such as gender discrimination and societal expectations and constraints.

Could these be some of the rea-

sons for the proportion of women running for council in Northumberland County in this year's municipal elections? For example, only four out of 17 candidates in Cobourg, and only six out of 16 in Port Hope, identify as women, and there is the possibility that we could have all-male councils. When my wife served on Cobourg council four years ago, she initiated a woman in governance program together with her female colleagues to try to address some of these issues.

Perhaps we need a permanent, county-wide version of that now.

Simon Chorley is a Cobourg resident and a human rights and sustainability consultant. He has previously worked at a human rights charity tackling human trafficking, and for the United Nations. Connect with him on LinkedIn.

'Head Space': Enough is a pretty good place to rest your hat



BRANDON W. HAHN

Independent columnist

My whole life, I've wanted. My whole life I've needed.

Want and need.

Money, frivolity, parties, material things. Every day, all day, want and need. Spend. Sometimes save for the big-ticket item. Vacations. Presents. Retail therapy. Things I absolutely had to have that six months later I couldn't find. Other than some

weird-flavoured potato chips.

I've seen people blow lots of money on basically nothing that will change their lives for good.

And sure, I've done it, too.

Recently, after not being OK for a little while, I made a decision.

I have enough. More importantly, I am enough.

That second one took considerably longer.

I don't need to be anywhere I don't need to be. I don't need that party. I don't need a status car. I don't need a watch that works underwater or in the far reaches of space. I don't require Armagnac when Jameson does the trick.

I have enough. I am enough. It's become something of a daily mantra for me.

I'm starting to think that constantly wanting and needing is a

trap. There's always going to be something else. Something newer. Something shinier. Something somebody else has that suddenly makes whatever you have seem inadequate.

I can pay the bills. I can save for a vacation to the tropics. I have people I love. I have things I still want to do.

Enough.

I'm not sure whether this is some new level of understanding or whether I'm just getting older. Maybe I'm tired.

Could be all three.

It just seems OK to be OK with where you are in your life.

Even if it's ground zero. Even if you're starting over.

When you've bottomed out enough times that it starts becoming routine, maybe you eventually realize the bottom isn't necessarily the end. Some-

times, it's just where you get your bearings.

Again.

You don't need the Powerball. You don't need the gold. You might want it, and that's OK, too.

Make your bucket list. Make your wish list. Want ridiculous things. Dream big. I'm certainly not going to stop.

Just don't get sour if some of it never happens. And maybe pay more attention to the little things.

Getting your pajamas on after a nice bubble bath. Resting without guilt. A glass of wine with an assorted sub. A good conversation. A good day. Quiet.

There's something to be said for quiet.

I'm still ambitious. I still have things I want to accomplish. Places I want to go. Stories I

want to tell. There's always another gig.

But maybe the gig isn't the point.

Maybe enough is simply being content with the space you're in while still being curious about whatever comes next.

There's always been another thing I thought I needed to get to.

Another level. Another destination. Maybe there isn't one. Maybe that's the trick.

Enough is a pretty good place to rest your hat. Maybe enough can be the destination?

Brandon W. Hahn is a podcaster, screenwriter and mental health advocate. He hosts Snackable Mental Health on YouTube and writes about the strange business of being human.

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DEMOCRACY'S SECOND ACT

Why Politics Needs the Public

PETER MACLEOD

Democracy's Second Act:
Why Politics Needs the Public

Peter MacLeod Claire Holloway Wadhwani

Join Port Hope resident and author **Peter MacLeod** at the Capitol Theatre for a reading and conversation about his new book, *Democracy's Second Act: Why Politics Needs the Public*.

Peter will be interviewed on stage by Port Hope Councillor **Claire Holloway Wadhwani** as they talk about the state of democracy — and the bigger role each of us can play.

At a time of growing cynicism, polarization and declining trust, *Democracy's Second Act* argues that democracy isn't broken so much as stuck. Drawing on examples from Canada and around the world, the book explores how citizens' assemblies and other democratic innovations can give ordinary people a more meaningful role in public life — treating the public not as a problem to be managed, but as a resource to be tapped.

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York Super Pharmacy
Northumberland United Way
Young's Convenience
Office of Philip Lawrence MP
Prep Food Co.
Readers' Nook
Royal Canadian Legion Branch 133
Shoppers Drug Mart
Staples
Ten Thousand Villages
The Buttermilk Cafe
The Town of Cobourg - Victoria Hall
The Whispering Oak

PORT HOPE

Tim Hortons
Tuggs Furniture
Venture 13
Vandermeer Toyota
A-Plus Convenience
Cameco Capitol Arts Centre
Colour Concepts Benjamin Moore
Community Health Centres of Northumberland
David Piccini, MPP Office
Davis Your Independent Grocer
Dreamer's Cafe
Ed White Appliance
Food Basics
Frosted Flour Co.
Furby House Books
Garden Hill Farmers Market
Garden Hill General Store
Ganaraska Brewing Company
Gilmer's Home Hardware
Happenstance Bakery

Jack Burger Sports Complex
Lakelands Public Health
Mapleleaf Smokeland Variety
Milly's Market
Municipality of Port Hope
Northumberland Arts Gallery and Shop
Port Hope Super Convenience
Pharmasave Port Hope
Port Hope & District Chamber of Commerce
Port Hope Diner
Port Hope Public Library
Queenies Bake Shop
Royal Canadian Legion Branch 30
Shoppers Drug Mart
Super Stop Convenience
The Pulse Cafe & Eatery
Port Hope Town Park Recreation Centre
Victoria Convenience
Village Variety Coffee Shop
Youth Wellness Hub

RURAL

Baltimore Esso-Convenience.
Baltimore Recreation Centre
Bewdley Community Centre
Clark's Dale Road Variety
Harwood Family Variety
Lakeside Supermarket
Red Barn
Scenic Drive Restaurant
Sweetleaf Fuel & Store
The Lass & Ladle
The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 580 Grafton
Township Of Alnwick
Haldimand Town Hall
Township of Hamilton
Municipal Office
Village Variety Store

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Our Pet of the Week is Bonnie. Bonnie is owned by Kim and Wayne Nicolle and is the most gentle and loving dog. She is the guardian of our yard, a daily swimmer in the lake and the best pillow buddy at night. Bonnie is loved beyond measure.



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

THANKSGIVING

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

Turkey
Pumpkin
Harvest
Family
Grateful
Autumn
Stuffing
Cranberry
Cornucopia
Blessings
Feast
Corn
Squash
Pie
Apple
Leaves
Gratitude

Riddles

How many months have 28 days?
All of them.

I have many teeth, but I can't bite. What am I?
A comb.

There's only one word in the dictionary that's
spelled wrong. What is it?
The word "wrong"

What has a thumb and four fingers, but is not a
hand?
A glove.

What kind of band never makes music?
A rubber band.

What can fill a room but takes up no space?
Light.

What two things can you never eat for
breakfast?
Lunch and dinner.

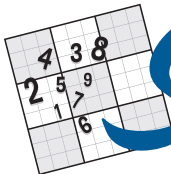
What kind of lion never roars?
A dandelion.



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Sudoku

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

Solutions on pg. 30

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2. Iron
3. Michelangelo
4. China
5. Joe Frazier
6. Twelve
7. Play-Doh
8. True
9. Moby-Dick
10. Prince Edward Island

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SUDOKU ANSWERS

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

COMMUNITY EVENTS Cobourg | Port Hope | Surrounding Areas

DIGNITY DRIVE:

The Rose Quest is hosting a Thanksgiving Dignity Drive on Oct. 10 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Giant Tiger in Cobourg.

The organization is asking people to help their neighbours in need by donating new hygiene products. Items accepted include everything from toothpaste to socks.

Residents can learn more at www.therosequest.ca.

ART SHOW AND SALE:

The Pine Ridge Art Association hosts its 34th annual Art Show and Sale at the Cobourg Public Library on Nov. 6, 7 and 8.

The hours will be 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on the Friday and Saturday, and 1 to 4 p.m. on the Sunday.

The show will feature more than 70 original artworks from local artists who are members of the association. To learn more about the group, email info@pineridgeartassociation.com.

BAKE AND CRAFT SALE:

The Cobourg Legion Ladies' Auxiliary is hosting its bake and craft sale on Nov. 14 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 135B Orr St., Cobourg.

If you're a local artisan, crafter, maker, baker or small business owner, vendors are still wanted. Folks can come showcase their talents, support shopping local and help make the sale a great community event. Interested vendors can contact Janet Richardson call or text at 905-375-8532 or email jayandjanetrichardson@gmail.com.

EMPOWERED WOMEN'S SUMMIT:

Happening on Saturday, Oct. 17 at Cobourg Taekwon-

do, 975 Elgin St. W., Cobourg.

This free community event for women and girls ages 13-plus focuses on awareness, confidence and self-defence.

The summit includes guest speakers covering personal safety, legal rights, trauma and recovery, a survivor's story, and practical women's self-defence seminars. Register for free at www.womenempowermenttraining.com.

COFFEE AND CHAT:

Hosted by Family Network Northumberland on Oct. 16 from 10 a.m. to noon at the Pulse Café in Port Hope. Join in to talk about the network, the highs, and lows of caregiving for a person with a disability, to seek support and/or just relax and connect. (Note: Locations change weekly afterwards.)

90TH PORT HOPE SANTA CLAUS PARADE:

The date is set for the 90th anniversary for the Port Hope Santa Claus Parade happening on Nov. 28. Registration is also officially open for the parade. This

Northumberland Orchestra's first concert of the 2026-2027 season, Mischief and Spirits, features seasonal music.

Join us on Sunday, October 25 at 3 p.m. at Trinity United Church in Cobourg.

Tickets and information are available at northumberlandmusic.ca.

Tickets are also available at the door

year's theme is "Retro Rewind." The parade starts at 1 p.m. and will last about an hour-and-a-half. More details are available via porthope.ca.



1111 Elgin St. W., Cobourg, ON
Ph: 905.372.2225

OCTOBER 2 - 8

RESIDENT EVIL 14
Friday: 7:15
Saturday / Sunday: 7:15
Tuesday / Thursday: 7:15

FORGOTTEN ISLAND PG
Friday: 4:00 | 6:45
Saturday / Sunday: 1:00 | 4:00 | 6:45
Tuesday / Thursday: 4:00 | 6:45

AVENGERS: ENDGAME: ENCORE PG
Friday: 3:30
Saturday / Sunday: 1:30
Tuesday / Thursday: 3:30

VERITY 14
Friday: 4:15 | 7:00
Saturday / Sunday: 1:15 | 4:15 | 7:00
Tuesday / Thursday: 4:15 | 7:00

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OBITUARY

Davis



DAVIS, Lloyd Beverley
On October 3, 2026,
Lloyd Beverley Davis
passed peacefully
surrounded by family.
He is survived by his
wife, Glenda, sons
Raymond, and Philip
(Tonya).

He will be greatly missed by his grandchildren Layne, Mackenzie, and Benjamin.

Lloyd is also survived by his siblings, Don (Debbie) and Carol Clark (Bruce) and predeceased by Maurice (Sybol), Shirley Towes (Jim), Dorothy Sexsmith (Bob), and Beverly (Laura).

At Lloyd's request there will be no services. In lieu of flowers, a donation to the Northumberland Hills Hospital Palliative Care Unit would be appreciated and may be received at Mill Valley Funeral & Cremation Centre.



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