SECOND WORLD WAR TRAILBLAZER PAGE 10 | VETERANS CROSSWALK UNVEILING PAGE 11

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'Alderville sent many men and women to serve alongside our allies'

NATALIE HAMILTON
Reporter

With National Indigenous Veterans Day falling last Sunday, Nov. 8, Verna Beaver and her great-granddaughter Dallas lay a wreath at a ceremony held in Alderville First Nation in honour of Arthur Beaver, Verna's uncle, who was killed in the Second World War.

It was an important moment for Beaver and many other members of the First Nation community.

When the Second World War was occurring, men and women from Alderville First Nation were answering the call of duty.

"Alderville sent many men and women to serve alongside our allies in World War I, World War II, and the Vietnam War," said Alderville First Nation Chief Taynar Simpson.

Further, citizens of First Nation communities enlisted for both world wars at a higher rate than any other group of people, he said.

Locally, as a result, "our annual (Armistice Service) is one of our most cherished annual events – dating back to World War I," said Simpson.

The weather co-operated for this year's gathering of remembrance and reflection, as the rain held off and it

CONTINUED TO PAGE 3



'MORE THAN REMEMBERING THE PAST'

Alderville First Nation Chief Taynar Simpson calls out the names of the fallen during the community's Armistice Service on Nov. 8. /Tim Burgess photo

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Police board seeking firm to conduct forensic audit

LUKE EDWARDS

Reporter

Officials are waiting to see which firms submit proposals to conduct a forensic audit of Cobourg Police Service financials before moving ahead with the planned review.

With the police services board trying to get its finances under control and in the face of a looming budget overrun, finance manager Anna Jacob provided the update during the Tuesday, Nov. 10 Cobourg Police Service Board meeting.

A request for proposals went out in early November, with firms having three weeks to submit proposals. The deadline for submissions is Nov. 23.

"The objective is to give the board and finance committee a much clearer picture of our underlying operating requirements," Chief of Police Chris Leather told the board at the meeting. "We need a 2027 budget that is both financially responsible and operationally sustainable."

The current timeline would see a firm selected and service agreement signed by mid-December.

Jacob's update suggests the audit would start in January at the earliest, with a draft report delivered in late February.

While the results of that audit are still a few months away, Leather told board members that there has already been plenty of work reviewing financials and reducing cost overruns.



The Cobourg Police Service station. /Sarah Hyatt file photo

In a separate financial report, Jacob said the newest numbers show a roughly $1.28-million budget variance, which remains nearly unchanged from a summer update. They're projecting a $1.7-million deficit, though Jacob cautioned that could still go up based on potential costs that are out of their control.

The total 2026 police budget for Cobourg is $13.9 million. Spending through September totalled $11.7 million, the bulk of which went to police administration. Jacob's report said the year-to-date budget is about $10.4 million leading to the $1.28-million variance.

"It sounds like the financial bleed has more or less stopped at this time," said Chair Sean Graham, referring to the mostly unchanged budget variance.

Earlier this year, at a special council meeting held in October, a majority of Cobourg council also approved a lengthy motion that made several calls to improve financial accounting and transparency and requested the town's treasurer work with the board to make improvements in the wake of recent concerns.

Leather said they're looking at all options to reduce costs – from fleet purchases to overtime allocations.

"I look forward to, in the not-too-distant future, providing a more detailed update to the board," he said.

Graham pointed to a $261,000 variance that came from an increase to the minimum staffing complement requirements that were negotiated. Member Ron Kerr said the idea behind the increase to platoon levels was to decrease the amount of overtime.

"That obviously has not proven to be the case," he said.

Jacob said the forensic audit will be a more detailed and rigorous review of the service's financials, and the winning bidder will be required to provide recommendations. In the meantime, Leather isn't the only one looking to implement changes.

Graham said he's interested in developing a benchmarking network, singling out municipalities like Owen Sound and Brockville, which he said are quite similar to Cobourg in terms of population, policing needs and social issues.

Graham also thanked Jacob for her work providing the financial updates.

"I know it takes some courage to work through that stuff so thank you very much," he told her.

Northumberland county

Northumberland County News

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Armistice Service 'one of our most cherished events'



Thomas Marsden, 16, along with seven-year-old Brock Marsden, head past the colour party towards the cenotaph to place a wreath for the Alderville Community Trust during Sunday's Armistice Service. /Tim Burgess photos



County Road 45 was closed from Alderville Community Centre to the cenotaph Sunday for the annual Armistice Service march, which was led by the Cobourg Legion Pipes and Drums and followed by members of neighbouring legions, dignitaries and residents carrying wreaths to be placed at the cenotaph.

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

wasn't too cold.

In 2027, Alderville First Nation's cenotaph will be 100 years old.

"We are planning a restoration and potential recognitions for next year," said Simpson.

National Indigenous Veterans Day is marked on Nov. 8 to honour generations of First Nations, Inuit and Métis Peoples who have defended Canada throughout history, including times when they faced discrimination and were denied the recognition and equality they deserved, noted Commander of the Canadian Army and Canada's Lt.-Gen. Michael Wright, and Assistant Deputy Minister (Infrastructure and Environment) Peter Hammerschmidt, defence team co-champions for Indigenous Peoples, in a joint statement about National Indigenous Veterans Day.

"Honouring Indigenous service is about more than remembering the past. It means recognizing the experiences, contributions, and leadership of Indigenous veterans and serving members, and ensuring they are respected and valued within the defence team," they stated.



Don Ramsey, Zone F2 Deputy Commander with Royal Canadian Legion Branch 133 Cobourg, waits to be called to lay the legion's wreath at the base of the cenotaph during Alderville First Nation's Armistice Service.

"The legacy and continuing contributions of Indigenous peoples are present throughout the defence community, reflected in the cultures, traditions, perspectives, and symbols that Indigenous members and communities share with us and that enrich our institution.

"This legacy is also reflected in lasting acts of remembrance, including the First Nations, Métis, and Inuit spiritual symbols represented at the National Military Cemetery."

It's also reflected in opportunities for Indigenous peoples to experience military life while remaining connected to their cultures and communities. Annual Indigenous summer programs benefit from the leadership and direct involvement of Indigenous community leaders, who provide participants with cultural experiences and teachings alongside their military training, they said.

In addition, defence Indigenous advisory groups play an important role in ensuring Indigenous voices and perspectives "inform and shape our institution. This insight helps us strengthen relationships, build trust, and make better-informed decisions."

As co-champions, the duo's responsibility is to listen, learn and help create the conditions for Indigenous voices to be heard and respected across the defence team.

"We all have a role to play in recognizing the service and heritage of Indigenous peoples and in building an institution where they can contribute, serve and lead."

They also noted while recognition is an important part of reconciliation, it must be accompanied by action.

"By recognizing the service of Indigenous veterans and serving members and learning from the experiences and perspectives they choose to share, we can help ensure their contributions are understood and respected today and into the future."

Locally, at least 100 people participated in the Armistice Service, and the Alderville First Nation Community Centre hosted a large group of guests following the ceremony.



EDITORIAL

Remembrance Day is about loss

On Wednesday, residents made their way to local cenotaphs for annual Remembrance Day ceremonies.

Today, they move on, focused on early Black Friday deals and Christmas shopping.

Yet some do not move on so easily, and historically, many struggled to move on after serving their country.

Remembrance Day pays tribute to those who fought and the thousands who died for Canada in the First World War, Second World War, Korea, and Afghanistan. In the First World War, 66,000 Canadians lost their lives. Not 20 years later, global conflict arose again and another 45,000 Canadians made the ultimate sacrifice.

The numbers are even more staggering, though, as many who returned home did so with injuries and memories forever scarred by what they saw in these conflicts. What we now call post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) was common for decades among those who served.

One of the worst examples of war's impact was seen in the First World War when 801 soldiers of the Newfoundland Regiment went into battle at Beaumont-Hamel. By day's end, only 68 weren't dead or wounded. Every community on the island was impacted.

Numbers in the Second World War are even more colossal. Estimates are that worldwide 60 to 75 million people died, including military personnel, civilians and deaths from disease and famine. That was three per cent of the global population at the time.

Today, thankfully, the majority of us don't know the tremendous sense of loss associated with the death of a young child or sibling at the hands of a foreign foe in battles across the globe. We also don't understand what it is to live with someone who suffers from PTSD.

Yet, halfway around the world, the war in Ukraine continues as casualties mount. Estimates are more than 500,000 deaths, and another million casualties on the Russian side, and about 560,000 total Ukrainian casualties and losses.

There are growing concerns in NATO governments that the war will spread. While that conflict, like others of the past, is driven by foreign leaders' expansionist agendas, it raises the question: Have they forgotten the sacrifices of the past?

To ordinary citizens who ultimately pay the price of war, we continue to pay tribute to losses of the past, and hope global conflict won't return.



Alderville First Nation hosted its annual Armistice Service on Sunday, Nov. 8. Pictured here is Chris Devlin from the Cobourg Concert Band, who was the bugler for the ceremony. /Tim Burgess photo

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8. Newspapers should be locally-owned and operated

‘A strong appetite for these conversations’

Port Hope hopes to attract leaders at supply chain growth breakfast

SARAH HYATT

Editor/reporter

Work is continuing in Port Hope to prepare for future growth and an energy and manufacturing supply chain readiness initiative, say officials.

For the latest movement, the Municipality of Port Hope has announced plans to draw in industry leaders for a supply chain growth breakfast event.

According to the municipality, the goal is to bring together local businesses, key industry representatives and regional partners for an “industry breakfast and networking event” next Wednesday, Nov. 18 at the Jack Burger Sports Complex.

This is all part of Port Hope’s business retention and expansion (BR&E) and energy and manufacturing supply chain readiness initiative, which is supposed to help examine how local and regional businesses can “strengthen competitiveness and better position themselves for emerging opportunities.”

In the words of municipal staff, registration so far – and at the Independent’s press deadline – had already attracted significant interest from businesses and industry and economic development partners.

“The response tells us there is a strong appetite for these conversations,” said Julian Douglas, Port Hope’s manager of economic development. “Port Hope has an opportunity to help businesses build the connections, capabilities and readiness needed to compete as new investment and supply-chain opportunities emerge.”



The Municipality of Port Hope has announced plans for a supply chain growth breakfast with hopes of attracting industry leaders at the special event next Wednesday, Nov. 18. /Sarah Hyatt photo

Earlier this year, the municipality announced the new program, saying the goal was to strengthen the readiness of businesses to compete in the energy and advanced manufacturing sectors.

Funding in part through the Ministry of Rural Affairs rural Ontario development program helped with the launch – and at this same time, a request for proposals for a complementary energy and manufacturing supply chain readiness analysis was announced.

“The initiative comes at an important time for Port Hope and the wider region,” said the municipality, back in September. “Port Hope is home to Cameco’s Port Hope Conversion Facility – Canada’s only uranium conversion facility.

“The municipality is also working with Ontario Power Generation (OPG) through a signed memorandum of understanding to explore potential new nuclear generation at the Wesleyville site.”

In other words, with these major projects being eyed in the area, the idea is to ensure area businesses, workers and infrastructure are prepared.

For this upcoming breakfast-style event, businesses involved in manufacturing, construction, engineering, fabrication, logistics, transportation, skilled trades, technology and industrial services are also being encouraged to participate.

“These businesses do not need to currently supply the energy or nuclear sectors,” noted municipal staff. “A key focus of the initiative is identifying companies with transferable capabilities, understanding what may be required to enter new markets and connecting businesses with industry, training and business-support resources.”

The breakfast will include an update on the BR&E and supply chain readiness initiative, industry perspectives, business networking and access to regional business support organizations, added officials.

The breakfast is set for Wednesday, Nov. 18 in the community room at the sports complex at 60 Highland Dr. from 8 to 10 a.m.

Officials have noted that space is limited and those in targeted sectors are encouraged to learn more and RSVP via engage.porthope.ca/industry-readiness. There is also a survey available online.

As previously reported, the BR&E and supply chain readiness initiative is also being delivered in collaboration with area partners such as the Northumberland Manufacturers Association, Port Hope and District Chamber of Commerce, Port Hope Heritage Business Improvement Area, Workforce Development Board, Loyalist College’s applied research and innovation office and Northumberland County.



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WEEKEND QUIZ

By Jake Grant

1. How many times has Donald Trump been impeached?
2. What sport’s lingo uses the term “Bonspiel”?
3. In the game of Battleship, how many hits does it take to sink the submarine?
4. Which actor bought the first Hummer made for civilian use?
5. What is the Minion’s primary language called?
6. Lego originated from what country?
7. What is the tallest type of horse?
8. Which ocean does Bangladesh have direct access to?
9. In the beer world, what does the abbreviation IBU stand for?
10. Who is the “Father of Country Music”?

This week’s answers are found on pg. 30

‘Not every struggle is visible’: United Way needs your help

United Way planning 250 ‘Comfort and Joy’ boxes to help tackle growing need

SARAH HYATT

Editor/reporter

In the wake of an affordability crisis and as living and housing costs soar, demand for help is only continuing to skyrocket across Northumberland.

From food banks to social services, to community non-profits and organizations like United Way Northumberland, increasing calls for help have been made clear – and even more so in recent years.

Under just partnerships through United Way’s funded agencies, those numbers have risen from 63 to 118 when comparing the last two fiscal years.

This November, United Way is calling on Northumberland to help in a new way, hoping the community will rally to tackle filling “Comfort and Joy” boxes for kids, teens, adults and seniors across the county who “could use a little extra comfort and joy.”

“This is brand-new initiative,” executive director Alicia Vandine told the Independent. “It was born out of our Period Promise program and hygiene cabinets.”

The program and cabinets make basic hygiene products, as well as incontinence supplies, freely available and accessible when people are in need. As part of this work, it also became clear that many are struggling “quietly, out of sight,” noted the organization, while announcing plans to distribute 250 boxes for this brand-new initiative over the holidays.

“What we heard a lot in the community was that need is certainly increasing,” Vandine told the Independent. “And we know that because of the national financial anxiety report that was done by United Way, but we’re also hearing it from our local partners.

“And of course, the demand (through) our Period Promise and hygiene cabinets has increased. And so, we just thought this was a good way to do a little bump up at Christmas time.”

“Not every struggle is visible,” added Vandine. “Some of our neighbours are living in their cars. Some rely on the food bank because there’s nothing left in the budget.”

At its core, this new initiative is ultimately about making sure people know their community cares for them this holiday season.



Executive director Alicia Vandine says more people are reaching out for help than ever before and with hopes of meeting some of this need, United Way Northumberland is rolling out a brand-new ‘Comfort and Joy’ holiday initiative. /United Way photo

At the inception of the project, Vandine shared the team had started to think about how people who are struggling with basic essentials are likely also not going to have as merry holidays as affordability issues persist – and then what could they do about it.

“And so, we created this idea of the ‘Comfort and Joy box’ to start with, at the foremost, some of our hygiene items that we place in our cabinets, and how can we expand it to give even more comfort and joy?” she explained.

Now, United Way is calling on workplaces, schools and community groups to consider hosting November donation drives to help get this holiday-inspired fundraiser over the finish line.

Elsewhere, the team has been asking businesses and individuals to make donations to help fill these boxes, which will also be complete with old-fashioned, hand-written cards/notes meant to serve as another heartwarming gesture to let residents know they are not alone.

“We’re going to do some for kids, some for teens, some for adults and some for seniors, and looking for age-appropriate things, (such as) crossword puzzles, books, candy, food items, tea, (and) coffee – anything that brings you comfort and joy is what we’re thinking of placing into these boxes,” shared Vandine.

This means these boxes won’t just help with the everyday essentials that can sometimes be taken for granted – such as shampoo, conditioner, soap, hair products, toothpaste, toothbrushes, body wash, hairbrushes and socks, plus, the extras for each of age groups (like those examples listed above.)

Some of the additional recommended items for kids include small toys and trinkets, and for teens, magazines, body wash, gloves and toques. For adults, comfort items like body cream or hand wash and tea or instant coffee are encouraged.

And for seniors, the large-print puzzle books are always a hit, along with tea, tissues and hand creams.

“We’re looking at so much more need in the community, and how can we just bring a little bit of the holiday season to folks who may be struggling,” said Vandine.

In terms of a first-year initiative, she noted the 250-figure seemed manageable.

“… We’ll spread them out across Northumberland County and we’re working with local agencies to make sure that folks (who) are being taken care of through other programs are set – these are going to folks who aren’t currently receiving those supports. We’re leaning on the same model that we do for ‘Backpacks for Kids’ and we rely so much on the other community support services that are operating in Northumberland County to identify the candidates who should receive these boxes.

“And so, it’s really just that network that we have, that ability that we have to reach out to a lot of different groups to find out what (those individual needs are.)”

United Way has noted that drives can also focus on a single category or item, whether shampoo, kid’s toothpaste or the popular large-print puzzle books.

Vandine added that this project will ultimately be successful through the generosity of Northumberland, which continues to shine bright across the county when it comes to helping in their neighbours time of need.

Meanwhile, in terms of demand for help, she has also noted some shifts – like more than ever before people are reaching out for supports for the first time. From local seniors to younger families, as just two examples shared, it’s a real struggle for people to make ends meet, she explained.

Even if it’s just one item donated, it can make a difference, United Way is also reminding residents. Put another way, giving back doesn’t have to mean a big commitment.

“Imagine if everyone in your office brought in just one item,” said April Day, United Way’s program and communications manager. “On its own, it might feel small – but when we’re filling 250 boxes, every bottle of shampoo counts.

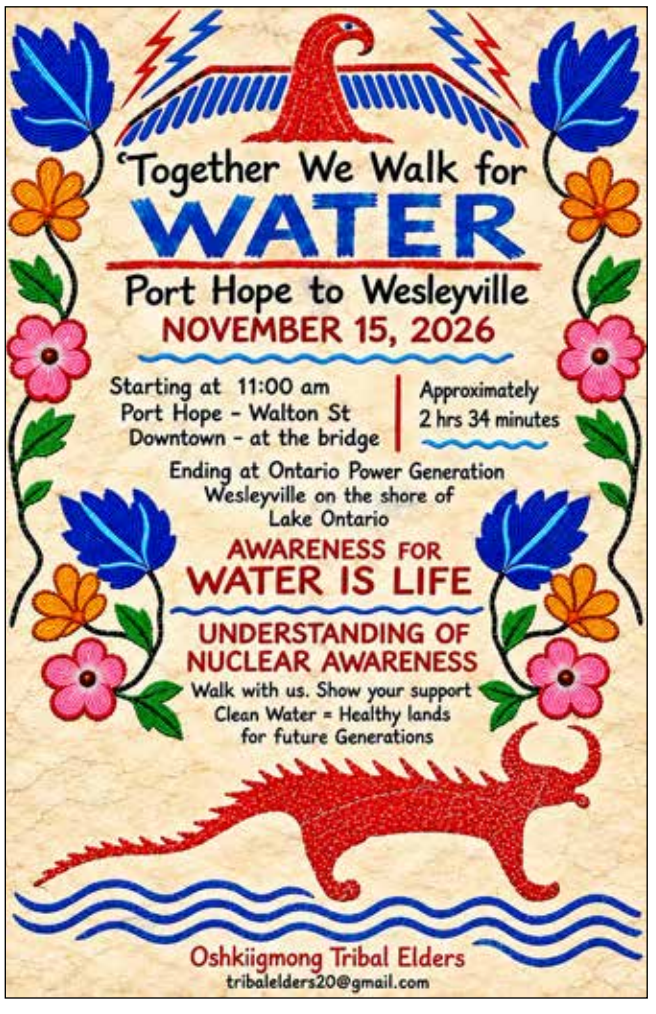
“This is how we do things at United Way – with community, in community, for community.”

Volunteers are also needed to help write the hand-written notes adding a special touch for the boxes on Dec. 14 and 15 at the United Way Northumberland office.

Meanwhile, for those who are interested in brightening the holidays but prefer United Way do the shopping, that is an option, too. People can visit www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/northumberland-united-way and use the drop-down menu to designate a gift to the “Comfort and Joy” project.

On average, United Way’s work across the county translates to help for more than one in every four residents – and this is despite immense growth across the region in recent years. Put another way, that’s more than 24,000 people here in the community.

Aside from government, United Way Northumberland is also described as the largest funder of social service programs in the area.





Town wants input on residents' voting experiences

Complete a survey, help inform future municipal elections

INDEPENDENT STAFF

The Town of Cobourg is calling on residents for their input about their experiences related to voting in the recent municipal election.

Cobourg's legislative services division is inviting electors to share their feedback on the voting process for the 2026 municipal and school board election through a new voter satisfaction survey.

The anonymous survey asks residents about their experience with the voting process, including how they learned about the election, the resources they accessed, the ease of voting and their confidence in online voting.

The town said residents' feedback will help the team evaluate the 2026 election process, identify opportunities for improvement and enhance the voting experience for future municipal elections.

The survey takes a few minutes to complete and is available online at EngageCobourg.ca/votersurvey until Wednesday, Nov. 25.

October busy month for drug enforcement: police chief

$80K worth of drugs taken off the streets in single Oct. 14 probe

LUKE EDWARDS

Reporter

Police arrested nine people last month in what Cobourg's police chief described as three "significant" drug investigations.

In his update to the Cobourg Police Service Board at the Tuesday, Nov. 10 meeting, Chief of Police Chris Leather said the arrests also included seizure of 162 grams of fentanyl, 94 grams of cocaine, 26 grams of crystal meth and 30 grams of MDMA. Police seized nearly $80,000 worth of drugs in a single Oct. 14 investigation, he reported.

Police also allegedly seized cash, weapons, cellphones, scales and other trafficking-related items.

"October was a particularly active month for drug enforcement," said Leather.

He credited the work of several officers across various teams and departments.

The fall has also seen police lay four charges for sexual offences, including three for sexual assault and one for child luring and child sexual assault and material.

"These are disturbing and highly complex and sensitive investigations," he said, of the sexual assault cases.

Rounding out his update, Leather said police made three arrests based on two fraud investigations.



Cobourg Police Service Chief Chris Leather says October was a particularly active month for drug enforcement. During his board update on Tuesday, he recapped how nine people were arrested last month after three 'significant' drug probes. /Sarah Hyatt photo

The Town of Cobourg is currently seeking applications for:

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Port Hope remembers, honours veterans, the fallen



Padre Comrade Kevin Moore, right, was the master of ceremonies at the Port Hope Remembrance Day service at the Memorial Park Cenotaph on Wednesday, Nov. 11.



Port Hope Royal Canadian Legion Branch 30 Sergeant at Arms Vincent O'Hanley took part in the Port Hope Remembrance Day service at the cenotaph.



The Ganaraska Trail Public School Pop Up Choir participated in Port Hope's Remembrance Day ceremony at the cenotaph.



A piper led the way in the parade to the cenotaph during the Port Hope Remembrance Day service on Wednesday.



Members of the 116 Royal Canadian Sea Cadet Corps Skeena laid a wreath at the cenotaph during the 2026 Remembrance Day service.



Port Hope Mayor-elect Todd Attridge and Deputy Mayor Adam Pearson laid a wreath at the cenotaph as the community gathered to remember the fallen and those still serving on Remembrance Day. /Alan Rivett photos

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Cobourg woman makes waves during Second World War

New documentary focuses on Canada's first woman to serve as a wireless radio operator at sea



Cobourg's Fern Blodgett Sunde sends and decodes morse code messages aboard the Norwegian merchant ship M/S Mosdale. /Graham Beer Media submitted photo



Fern Blodgett Sunde's family and members of the Cobourg and Farsund, Norway statue committees visit the Fern Blodgett Sunde 'Make Waves' statue in Cobourg in September 2025. /Graham Beer Media photo

NATALIE HAMILTON

Reporter

Growing up on the shores of Lake Ontario during the 1920s and 1930s, Fern Blodgett Sunde aspired to be a sailor.

And when the Cobourg woman sent that wish into the universe, she was indeed swept out to sea.

The late Blodgett Sunde was Canada's first woman to serve as a wireless radio operator on the water. A Second World War trailblazer who made waves in more ways than one, she is now the subject of a new documentary.

Graham Beer Media has announced "Sparks at Sea" is currently in production and aims to capture the extraordinary life and enduring connections of Blodgett Sunde, who sent and decoded morse code messages aboard the Norwegian merchant ship M/S Mosdale.

Beer shared his thoughts with the Independent about what inspired him to tell her story.

"Fern was a young girl from Cobourg with ambitious dreams, and she defied the odds to achieve them," said Beer. "Having grown up in the same town with dreams of my own, I felt personally drawn to her story.

"Seeing our community come together to honour Fern made me want to help bring her story to a wider audience."

In addition to capturing her journey, Beer said the documentary will also show how decades later, two communities on opposite sides of the Atlantic have come together to preserve Blodgett Sunde's legacy. Twin statues, sculpted by Tyler Fauvelle, now stand in Cobourg, and in Farsund, Norway, her husband's hometown, where the couple settled after the war.

Blodgett Sunde's story encompasses how she was determined to serve at the onset of the Battle of the Atlantic. She became the first Canadian woman to earn a second-class wireless operator's certificate. Despite her qualifications, Canadian and British ships prohibited women from serving at sea.

However, a Norwegian merchant ship in Montreal urgently needed a radio operator. With no such restrictions aboard Norwegian vessels, Blodgett Sunde joined the crew of the M/S Mosdale.

Amid the dangers of war, she was also swept off her feet and married the ship's captain, Gerner Sunde.



Graham Beer films with Fern Blodgett Sunde's family in Farsund, Norway. Pictured, from left, are daughter Solveig Ann Eiken, Beer, daughter Fern Sunde Sletten, and granddaughter Ragnhild Eiken. /Graham Beer Media photo

She completed 78 Atlantic crossings, transmitting and receiving vital morse code messages under the constant threat of German U-boats.

Her courage broke barriers for women and "inspired a sisterhood of radio operators to join the war effort," said Beer.

"Blodgett Sunde is a Canadian hero whose story speaks powerfully to our time. In moments of global uncertainty, Fern reminds us that our allies make us stronger. We have a responsibility to preserve our Canadian stories and share them with the world."

The film is produced and directed by Beer, who is dedicated to preserving the stories of veterans. He started documenting Fern's story in 2020 and has since filmed interviews and commemorations in both Canada and Norway.

He brings her life to the screen with the support of Blodgett Sunde's family, statue committee members in both Cobourg and Farsund, and storytellers in both countries.

"It's really admirable what my mother could achieve by virtue of courage, patience and endurance," said Fern Sunde Sletten, the Cobourg woman's daughter, in a statement. "Her unwavering belief in peace and democracy guided her throughout life.

"I hope my mother's story will inspire future generations to carry those values forward."

For Beer, making the documentary and seeing the impact of her legacy on people in both Canada and Norway "has been deeply moving."

"Her story connects people across generations and borders in ways I never imagined."

Beer said it has also been rewarding to uncover photographs, newspaper articles, and touching stories about both Blodgett Sunde and her husband.

"I hope the documentary reaches audiences across North America and Europe, and that Fern's story encourages people to believe in their own dreams."

Production will continue through 2027 across North America and Europe. Beer said Sparks at Sea will be made possible through the support of sponsors and donors, with a fundraising campaign launching soon.

People can follow the production of Sparks at Sea on Instagram, Facebook, TikTok and YouTube at @sparksatseadoc or visit grahambeermedia.com/sp.

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‘We owe you our gratitude, our respect and our commitment to never forget’

New Veterans Crosswalk unveiled, dedicated in Port Hope

ALAN RIVETT

Correspondent

It was a labour of love and remembrance for the legion’s Vincent O’Hanley at the dedication of the Veterans Crosswalk in Port Hope on Remembrance Day.

Located on Augusta Street near the cenotaph in front of town hall, the crosswalk is a remembrance of those who paid the ultimate sacrifice, as well as pays tribute and homage to those who have served in defence of Canada. The dedication was well attended by those who had also attended the earlier Remembrance Day ceremony.

“I am very proud of it (and) to see it in its physical form,” said O’Hanley, who serves as the sergeant-at-arms at the Port Hope Royal Canadian Legion Branch 30, in an interview after the dedication.

“It was a lot of work to get there. A lot of endless nights, but we got there. Look at that. It’s beautiful,” he added.

O’Hanley said the initial idea for the crosswalk started in July. And with the help of the Municipality of Port Hope and numerous generous donations by local businesses, the crosswalk came to fruition. He said in addition to remembering the fallen, it pays tribute to Port Hope veterans and those currently serving in Canada’s armed forces.

“We were able to put this dedication of this crosswalk not only to the veterans, but to the current serving members, which you’ve seen some of them in the crowd because these people are the ambassadors of peace for Canada. And that’s what this stands for.

“They paid a great sacrifice – some will pay a great sacrifice. And this is there for them, and for the community.”

Current Deputy Mayor and Ward 1 councillor-elect Adam Pearson said the crosswalk will be a permanent reminder of those who have served Canada.

“This Veterans Crosswalk will be a visible and lasting reminder of the men and women who have served our country. It will be a part of our community, woven into the everyday lives of residents, visitors, for generations to come,” Pearson told the crowd.

Pearson also paid tribute to O’Hanley – a retired air force captain – and to the legion for spearheading the effort to have the crosswalk as a permanent fixture in the municipality.

“Vince, your dedication, leadership and commitment to recognizing our veterans has played an important role in bringing this project forward,” said Pearson. “It takes someone who believes in an idea, who is willing to put in the work and continues to push that idea until it becomes a reality.

“More importantly, to our veterans and to our community – to the entire membership of the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 30, thank you. The legion plays an important role in our community.

“Through your work, your ceremonies, your advocacy, and your continued support of our veterans and their families, you ensure remembrance is not simply a once-a-year occasion. You keep their stories alive and help pass that responsibility onto our future generations.”

Legion Padre Comrade Kevin Moore also gave remarks at the crosswalk dedication, noting there’s a movement to have several more crosswalks in other locales in town, including in front of schools.

“The speed with which this project was introduced and made a reality is a remarkable accomplishment,” he said. “Having this crosswalk so close to the cenotaph and in the heart of our downtown core, is particularly meaningful.”

Moore talked about a desire to create other crosswalks around the community, particularly near schools.

“I am thrilled with how schools have taken up the mantle of keeping the act of remembrance alive in their classrooms. A Veterans Crosswalk that children would cross every day will be a continued powerful reminder of what so many have done on their behalf,” explained Moore.



A large crowd was on hand for the dedication of the Veterans Crosswalk on Augusta Street near town hall. /Alan Rivett photos

Pearson commended personnel within the various departments of the Municipality of Port Hope who went above-and-beyond to make the crosswalk a reality.

“These projects require co-ordination, planning, and a lot of work behind-the-scenes, and I want to recognize that and thank them for their hard work.”

Pearson also thanked veterans for their service.

“Whether you’ve served overseas, here at home, in the Canadian Armed Forces, or in times of peace, please know that your service and your sacrifices are very valued. We owe you more than words, more than a ceremony, and certainly more than recognition one day each year.

“We owe you our gratitude, our respect, and our commitment to never forget.”

As people pass through the community and walkway, Pearson said he hopes they take a moment to recognize what the crosswalk represents.



Port Hope Royal Canadian Legion Branch 30 Sergeant at Arms Vincent O’Hanley presided over the scissors to cut the ribbon to officially open the Veterans Crosswalk on Augusta Street.

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What you need to know about upcoming inaugural council meetings



Incoming Deputy Mayor Adam Bureau is seen here on election night at Victoria Hall in Cobourg. The inaugural meeting for the new Cobourg council is set for next Tuesday, Nov. 17. /Natalie Hamilton photo



Adam Pearson, who currently serves as deputy mayor in Port Hope through appointment as a Ward 1 councillor, is among incumbents returning around the horseshoe for the next term of council. /Alan Rivett photo

SARAH HYATT
Editor/reporter

Inaugural council meetings will get underway starting next week in west Northumberland.

For both Port Hope and Cobourg, the inaugural meetings are set for next Tuesday, Nov. 17.

In Port Hope, the new council will make their declarations of office at the 6:30 p.m. meeting in council chambers at town hall. This will officially mark the start of the 2026-30 term.

"No council business will be considered at the inaugural meeting," the municipality has noted.

The new Port Hope council will be led by outgoing Ward 1 Coun. Todd Attridge, who unseated incumbent Mayor Olena Hankivsky in the 2026 municipal and school board election.

Others returning to council include Vicki Mink, who is shifting from Ward 2 to Ward 1. Adam Pearson and Claire Holloway Wadhwani are also back in their seats in the urban ward. The only newcomer for Ward 1 is Caleb Carrisse.

For Ward 2, Coun. Darrell Toms was re-elected and Jamie Ferguson is joining council.

Municipal staff are reminding residents that seating in council chambers is limited and available on a first-come, first-serve basis. Doors at town hall are set to open next Tuesday evening at 6 o'clock. People can also watch the meeting live via the municipality's YouTube channel.

Meanwhile, a "watch party" is also in the works for next Tuesday at the Port Hope Community Hub (5325 County Rd. 10) "to make attendance easier for Ward 2 residents," said the municipality. Again, doors are set to open at 6 p.m.

In Cobourg, the town's legislative services division is also calling on residents to get involved with their new council and take in the official swearing-in ceremony, marking the start of a new chapter for the next four years.

"During the meeting, the mayor, deputy mayor and members of council will take their oath of allegiance and declaration of office," explained town staff, in a recent notice. "Council will also consider motions related to appointments to represent Cobourg on Northumberland County council."

As previously reported, Mayor Lucas Cleveland is back at the helm of council for a second consecutive term after defeating outgoing Deputy Mayor Nicole Beatty and Max LeMarchant in Cobourg's mayoral race.

Meanwhile, Adam Bureau is stepping into the deputy mayor's seat and incumbents Brian Darling and Miriam Mutton also held onto their councillor seats. In terms of new faces in council chambers – but definitely not the community – Joel Scott, Mark Mills and Randy Curtis will round out council for the new term.

Cobourg's meeting is set for 7 p.m. at Victoria Hall.

"Reserved seating will be available in council chambers, while additional guests are welcome to watch the meeting from the citizen's forum or foyer," noted the town.

Staff said the gathering will also be a chance for residents to celebrate with their new council and take in interactive displays in the foyer. There will be refreshments and residents can stay for a reception afterwards to meet and connect with their newly-elected representatives.

Residents also have the option of watching online through the town's website and YouTube channel.

In the Township of Hamilton, the inauguration of the 2026-30 council is happening Tuesday Nov. 17 but at 1 p.m. in council chambers at the municipal office. Residents here also have an option of livestreaming via the township's YouTube channel if unable to attend in-person.

As previously reported, Mayor Scott Jibb is still at the helm, as he and Deputy Mayor Larry Williamson were acclaimed. Councillors Bruce Buttar and John Davison are also back in the mix for the 2026-30 term, along with Pat McCourt returning to the fold.

As for the Township of Alnwick/Haldimand, the inaugural council meeting will come the week after, on Tuesday, Nov. 24.

As previously reported, Sherry Gibson secured the mayoral seat in the 2026 race over outgoing Coun. Mike Ainsworth.

Meanwhile, the deputy mayoral race was won by outgoing Coun. Mary Catherine O'Neill. Residents will also see change with the additions of incoming councillors Jim McCormack, Jim Hogg and Cathie Ritchie.

At the Northumberland County level, the outgoing council had its last meeting Thursday, which was past the Independent's press deadline. The inaugural meeting at the county level is set for Wednesday, Dec. 19.

Beautifying downtown Port Hope



The Port Hope Garden Club rallied recently to help the Downtown Port Hope Heritage Business Improvement Area (HBIA) with holiday decorations, including beautifying wreaths for lamps downtown and additional décor. /Port Hope Garden Club photo

‘It’s going to be a great team’: Alnwick/Haldimand mayor-elect

Sherry Gibson ‘excited by the council I have to work with’

NATALIE HAMILTON

Reporter

As Sherry Gibson prepares to don the chain of office as mayor of Alnwick/Haldimand Township, the mayor-elect says she’s “excited” to get to work.

Since securing the township’s top seat in the recent municipal election, Gibson said she’s resigning from her role as the director at Ed’s House Northumberland Hospice to invest her time in council.

“I knew going into the election that if I won, there would be no way that I could give 100 per cent to each one of those roles,” said Gibson. “I’ll have my full attention on the township and the county (in her role as a county councillor.)”

Locally, she said she’s encouraged by the make-up of the new council.

“I think they all bring individual skills and experience and enthusiasm to the council table. It’s going to be a great team moving forward.”

She said council will be busy out-of-the-gate with municipal budget deliberations.

“It’s something that we heard while we were campaigning – people want to keep their taxes under control. We’ll be doing a line-by-line review, which I think would be something that any new council coming in would want to review (to understand) where spending is happening.”

She’s hoping there will be a draft, preliminary budget by January 2027.

Next, she’d like to get together with council and senior leadership staff to develop a strategic plan for the township. She said the existing strategic plan is ready to be reviewed and renewed.

“It’s a good thing to always be looking at what will our future hold, our vision and our values and if we’re in line with where people want the township to be.”

Gibson said she is eager to involve residents in day-to-day advisory committees and generally ensure “we communicate well” with the people who live in Alnwick/Haldimand.

“I want to make sure we have robust involvement in parks and recreation and involvement with community centres. We’ve got a lot of great space across the township that isn’t being utilized, and I think the people who live in those communities where the centres are – Roseneath, Fenella, Vernonville, and Centreton – they’re the people who should be giving us the guidance on what is missing in the community and what can we offer.”

She said if a community centre is open and operating, people should have the opportunity to attend programs and activities that appeal to their interests.

She’d also like to see a heritage committee and expects to speak with council about bringing one back to the township. In addition, she heard from residents about the desire to ensure Nawautin Nature Sanctuary is well-managed, and she intends to garner residents’ input via an advisory committee for that asset as well.

Prior to her winning the election, Gibson said: “I believe the top issue facing our community is rebuilding trust and confidence in municipal government. Residents need to know that their concerns are being heard that decisions are being made openly, and that their tax dollars are being managed responsibly.”

“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,” said Gibson.



Sherry Gibson shares her top priorities for Alnwick/Haldimand as the township’s mayor-elect. /Sherry Gibson photo

“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.”





POLICE BRIEFS

Impaired driving, possession, harassment charges laid

INDEPENDENT STAFF

Cobourg police say efforts to combat impaired driving continue after three separate investigations over the past week.

According to the Cobourg Police Service, on Nov. 4, 2026, a 28-year-old Cobourg man was charged with failure or refusal to comply with a demand after an approved screening device demand was made during a traffic stop and the driver was given multiple attempts to provide a suitable sample.

On Nov. 7, police on general patrol said they conducted a traffic stop after observing a vehicle that had been reported earlier for suspected impaired driving. A roadside sobriety test was administered using an approved screening device, and a result of the probe, a 31-year-old Cobourg man was charged with impaired driving, added police.

On Nov. 8, police said they conducted a traffic stop after a resident reported observing a vehicle swerving on the roadway in the King Street and Cottesmore Avenue area. As a result of the investigation, police said a 24-year-old Smooth Rock man was arrested and charged with operation while impaired – blood alcohol concentration (80 plus.)

In all three incidents, the accused were released on undertakings with future court dates, reported police, adding that the vehicles were impounded and the drivers' licences were also suspended.

Police are continuing to urge citizens to report suspected impaired driving by calling 911, stressing these actions can help keep roads and waterways safe. Further, police are reminding people to take the time to plan for a safe ride home, designate a sober driver or call a friend, relative or taxi.

Here's a look at some other recent CPS calls.

FOOT PATROL LEADS TO POSSESSION CHARGE:

Foot patrol efforts downtown have led to the arrest of a 64-year-old Cobourg man.

On Nov. 7, police conducting a downtown foot patrol reported allegedly observing two individuals engaged in open-air drug use in plain view in the King Street area.

As a result of the investigation, police said a 64-year-old Cobourg man was arrested and charged with possession of a schedule I substance – fentanyl.

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

CRIMINAL HARASSMENT CHARGE LAID:

A 48-year-old Cobourg man is facing a criminal harassment charge after an intimate partner violence investigation, according to police.

On Nov. 8, police said they responded to a Cobourg residence after receiving a report of a disturbance involving an ex-partner. Police said they were then called back after the man allegedly returned to the property and attempted to enter the building.

Following an investigation, police said a 48-year-old Cobourg man was arrested and charged with criminal harassment. The accused was released on an undertaking with a future court date, added police.

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

Possession, failure to provide necessities of life charges

INDEPENDENT STAFF

Two Cobourg residents are facing charges as a result of what police called "proactive drug enforcement" in town.

According to the Cobourg Police Service, on Nov. 4, 2026, as part of ongoing enforcement efforts related to open-air drug use, possession and trafficking, members of CPS' street crime enforcement unit were conducting an investigation "targeting individuals engaged in the possession of controlled drugs and substances in the area of Covert Street and Division Street in Cobourg."

"With the assistance of the CPS canine unit and uniform patrol, an arrest was executed after two people were (allegedly) observed to be engaged in behaviour that was deemed to be unsafe in the presence of a child," said police.

As a result of the investigation, police said a 49-year-old Cobourg man and a 43-year-old Cobourg woman were arrested and charged with possession of a schedule I substance and failure to provide necessaries of life. The woman was further charged with failure to comply with a probation order, added police.

None of these charges have been proven in court.

The identities of the accused are being withheld for the protection of the victim, said CPS.

Police are continuing to ask residents that if they witness suspicious activity or suspected drug activity in town to report it to CPS.

"Timely reporting can help police identify emerging trends, support ongoing investigations and ensure resources are deployed where they are needed. Every tip can make a difference," said the service.

Man accused of uttering threats at business, vehicle theft

INDEPENDENT STAFF

A 59-year-old Oshawa man is facing charges after police say they responded to a report of a man uttering threats at a Cobourg business.

According to the Cobourg Police Service, on Nov. 4, at about 7:45 p.m., police responded to a business in the area of King Street and Division Street after receiving the report.

Police said they learned that an individual allegedly uttered threats to cause death after being refused service. During the investigation, police said they also determined that the vehicle the individual was driving had been reported stolen from Oshawa earlier that evening.

As a result of the investigation, police said the 59-year-old man was arrested and charged with theft of a motor vehicle over $5,000, possession of property obtained by crime over $5,000, two counts of uttering threats to cause death or bodily harm and driving while under suspension.

None of these charges have been proven in court.

Intimate partner violence investigation arrest

INDEPENDENT STAFF

A 48-year-old Cobourg man has been charged after an intimate partner violence investigation.

According to the Cobourg Police Service, on Nov. 4, 2026, police responded to a local residence for a report of an alleged assault.

As a result of the investigation, police said the accused was arrested and charged with assault – spousal.

This charge has not been proven in court.

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

No other details were released.

Port Hope woman, 80, facing careless driving charge

INDEPENDENT STAFF

An 80-year-old Port Hope woman has been charged after a crash involving a fire truck, say police.

According to the Port Hope Police Service, on Nov. 4, 2026, at about 10:30 a.m., a vehicle collided with a parked fire truck while firefighters were attending to an unrelated call.

Following an investigation, police said an 80-year-old Port Hope woman was charged with careless driving.

This charge has not been proven in court.

Police are continuing to remind motorists to remain attentive and exercise caution around emergency vehicles.

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Celebrating emergency services, history



Katie Kennedy, curator of the Northumberland County Archives and Museum, talked to visitors and shared emergency services-related historical items like police books from the early 1800 and 1900s at an emergency services event hosted at NCAM over the weekend. Archive fire insurance plans are seen in front of her. Visitors wanting to see the archives firsthand can register online for a tour of the collections hall on the fourth Friday of every month.



Three-year-old Jensen Anderson, of Baltimore, was happy to sit in the front seat of a Cobourg Fire Truck during last Saturday's emergency services event hosted at the Northumberland County Archives and Museum. Northumberland Paramedics, Cobourg police and the Cobourg Fire Department also had vehicles and information for visitors.



Inside the Northumberland County Archives and Museum last Saturday, Nov. 7 there were tours and activities for families to enjoy during an event that showcased emergency services. Pictured here is eight-year-old James Callahan from Hastings working on a drawing. James was enjoying the day with his parents, and his father has been a volunteer firefighter with the Municipality of Trent Hills for 17 years. /Tim Burgess photos

St. Mary's Cemetery
GRAFTON, ONTARIO

PUBLIC NOTICE

St. Mary's Cemetery, Grafton:
By-Law Amendments

The Roman Catholic Episcopal Corporation for the Diocese of Peterborough (Parish of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary), operating as St. Mary's Cemetery, 103 Lyle Street South, Grafton, Ontario, has amended its cemetery by-laws, including updated standards for monuments, markers and decorations.

Cemetery prices will increase effective **January 1, 2027.**

The amendments are subject to the approval of the Registrar, Funeral, Burial and Cremation Services Act, 2002, Bereavement Authority of Ontario (www.thebao.ca).

Copies of the by-laws and price list are available at the Parish Office or from Tina Mullin, Chair, St. Mary's Cemetery Board, (905) 409-3433, tinamullin8@gmail.com.



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Town kicks off holiday season with 'Christmas Magic'

Lights illumination, holiday market set for Nov. 20

INDEPENDENT STAFF

There will soon be "Christmas Magic" in the air in Cobourg.

The Town of Cobourg and Experience Cobourg mark the 30th anniversary of Christmas Magic on Friday, Nov. 20 with the annual "Light Up Ceremony" and "Holiday Market."

The official countdown and lights illumination event will kick-off around 6 p.m. at Rotary Harbourfront Park, marking the start of the Christmas Magic season in Cobourg.

Through collaboration with Downtown Cobourg, local businesses, vendors and community partners, the celebration will extend beyond the park, bringing holiday spirit throughout the downtown core, the town has announced.

Residents can take in holiday music, carolers, bell ringers, line dancing and performances by local dance troupes.

"DJ Joel Wesley will keep the festive atmosphere going at Rotary Harbourfront Park, while the Christmas Magic Market and Downtown Cobourg Holiday Market contribute to the evening with opportunities to shop local, find unique gifts and enjoy seasonal treats," noted the town, in a recent release.

Participants are being encouraged to help brighten the holidays for local families by bringing a donation for the Northumberland Fare Share Food Bank. In exchange for a donation, people will get a glow item to light up during the ceremony.



The Town of Cobourg and Experience Cobourg are gearing up for the 30th annual 'Christmas Magic,' which is on Friday, Nov. 20. /Experience Cobourg Facebook photo

Starting at 4 p.m. and running until 9 p.m., residents can enjoy horse and wagon rides, festive shopping, seasonal treats and activities throughout downtown. Rides will run from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m., with pickup at Rotary Harbourfront Park.

The 30th anniversary of Christmas Magic is a community-wide celebration, with local businesses, vendors and community partners helping bring the holiday spirit to downtown Cobourg.

Meanwhile, the "Christmas Magic Market," located on the oval at Rotary Harbourfront Park, will be open from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m., featuring artisans and food vendors offering unique gifts, festive treats and seasonal finds, said the town.

The "Downtown Cobourg Holiday Market" will also take place as part of the evening's festivities, "adding to the downtown shopping experience and encouraging visitors to explore local businesses and vendors.

"Together, these activities create a festive downtown experience surrounding the official Christmas Magic Light Up Ceremony at Rotary Harbourfront Park."

The town noted there are several parking options throughout downtown, including municipal parking lots and on-street parking on both the north and south sides of King Street.

The Town of Cobourg offers three hours of free parking year-round. For parking locations and information, visit cobourg.ca/parking.

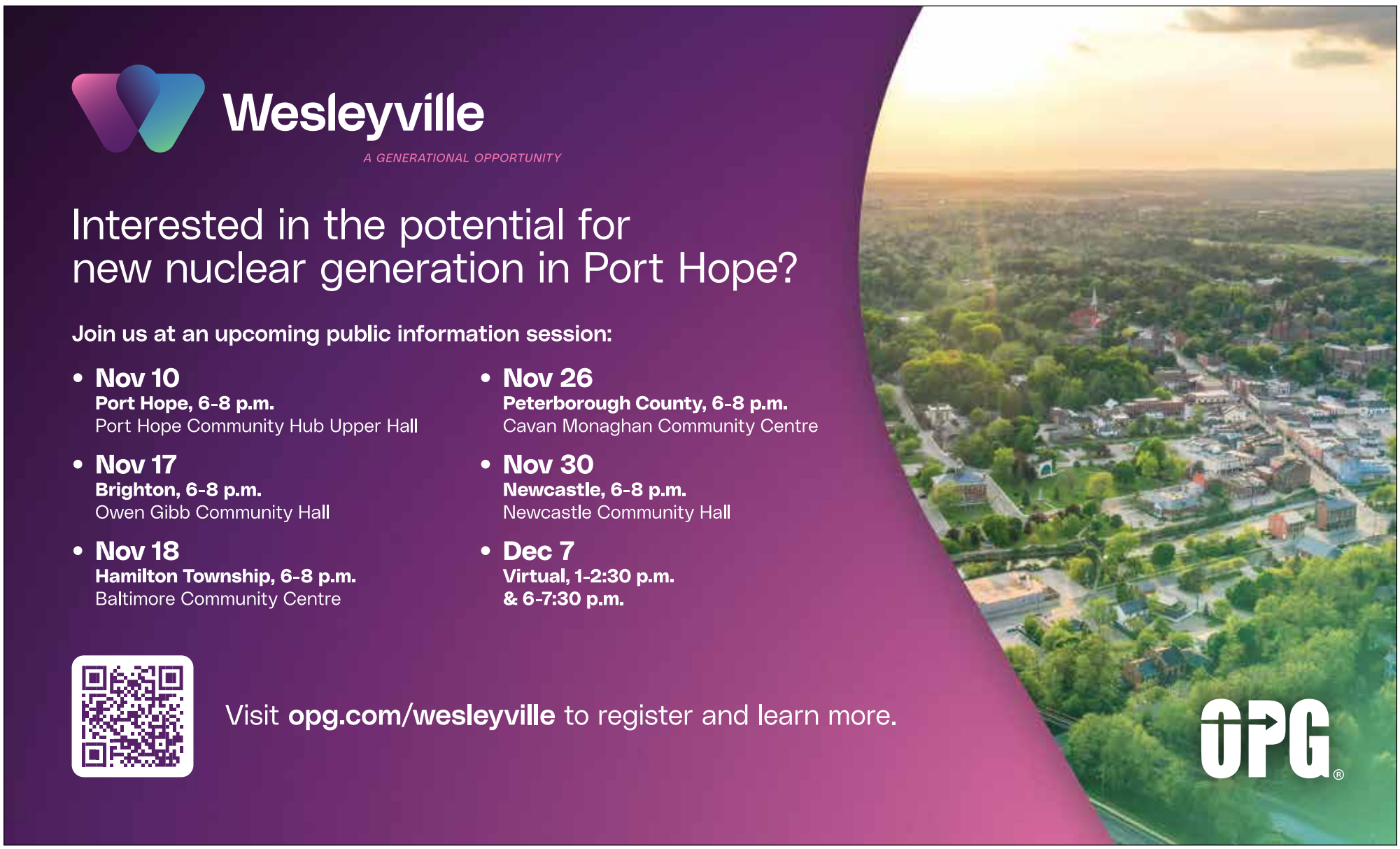
There will be road closures to accommodate the events, including Albert Street from Third Street to Division Street from noon to 9 p.m., King Street West from Spring Street to Division Street from 2 to 10 p.m., and Second Street from King Street West to Albert Street from 2 to 10 p.m.

Cobourg Transit's fixed-route service will have a downtown detour route in place. No stops will be missed; however, passengers may experience delays, noted the town.

The downtown terminal will temporarily relocate from Albert Street to Third Street behind the LCBO during the event.

Also on the bill for the evening, Disney's "Frozen" will be shown at 7 p.m. at the Concert Hall in Victoria Hall. Tickets are available through the box office in the lobby of Victoria Hall or online at ExperienceCobourg.ca.

The Christmas Magic displays in Victoria Park will shine nightly from Nov. 20 through to Jan. 3, 2027 while the displays in Rotary Harbourfront Park will remain illuminated from Nov. 20 through to Feb. 15, 2027.



Celebrate 90 years at Port Hope Santa Claus Parade

SARAH HYATT

Editor/reporter

It's a big year for the Port Hope Santa Claus Parade – and with a "Retro Rewind" theme, residents can celebrate by turning back in time and mark 90 years of holiday magic.

The parade makes a return on Saturday, Nov. 28. And if you're interested in being in the history books, businesses, community organizations, service clubs, sports teams and festive groups have until next Friday, Nov. 20 just before midnight to register to participate in the parade.

"Whether you're planning a classic-inspired float, gathering a spirited walking group or bringing your very own throwback twist to the route, now is the time to get your entry on the record," said municipal organizers, while encouraging residents to dust off their disco balls, dig out their decade-inspired décor and get pumped to make some holiday memories.

Registration details are accessible via the municipality's website.

This year's parade is set to light up Port Hope starting at 1 p.m. and will last a little more than an hour. Again, the parade will follow the long-time Candlelight Festival tradition to kick-off the holiday season in the community.

The parade route this year is Ridout, Walton and Queen streets, finishing at Port Hope Town Hall. The parade kick-off is at the intersection of Ridout and Julia. The route and staging locations have had to change due to the Victoria Street South reconstruction project, municipal staff have noted.

Road closures will also be needed to accommodate the parade.

For those able to give back, food bank donations will again be collected along the route, as well as Canada Post collection for letters to Santa, about 15 minutes before the parade start time of 1 p.m.

The first Port Hope Santa Claus Parade was held back in 1937.

As for the Candlelight Festival, the date is set for Friday, Nov. 27 and registration is also open for the outdoor artisan market but only until Monday, Nov. 16 just before midnight (or as vendor spaces are available.)

"With hundreds of visitors expected downtown for holiday shopping, live entertainment and beloved Candlelight traditions, this is a great opportunity to share your work with the community and be part of one of Port Hope's most magical evenings," said Port Hope's events office.

This year, the plan is to take the celebration back to the streets, and if you're a talented artisan or maker and can help fill the market with one-of-a-kind gems, organizers want to hear from you.

Of course, Port Hope's beloved Festival of Lights and Trees also returns as of Nov. 20 through to Dec. 31 at the historic Capitol Theatre. This year marks the 30th edition for the fundraising festival, which is expected to attract more than 10,000 visitors throughout display times.



The Port Hope Santa Claus Parade is making its return with a 'Retro Rewind' theme celebrating 90 years on Saturday, Nov. 28. /Municipality of Port Hope Facebook photo



‘Tis the season for the Santa Claus Parade

Town invites residents to embrace holiday spirit with Nov. 28 event

INDEPENDENT STAFF



The Town of Cobourg’s annual Santa Claus Parade is at 6 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 28. /Town of Cobourg photo

It may seem like Halloween was just yesterday, but Santa Claus is coming to town in no time.

The Town of Cobourg is inviting residents to celebrate the festive spirit at the annual Cobourg Santa Claus Parade at 6 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 28.

This year’s theme is “A Vintage Christmas,” and aims to mark the “timeless charm, nostalgic traditions, and “storybook wonder of the holiday season,” said the town, in a recent release.

“From festive floats and twinkling lights to cheerful music and the excitement of Santa’s grand arrival, the parade is a picture-perfect way to kick-off the season,” said the town.

Residents from local schools, community groups, and organizations will be showcasing their creativity through themed floats, performances and more.

The parade will travel along King Street, starting at the Cobourg Public Library, and move east through downtown, ending at D’Arcy Street.

The Town of Cobourg’s Santa Claus Parade is made possible through the support of local community sponsors. This year’s sponsors include “Holly Jolly Sponsors” – Arthur’s Pub and Moffatt Bros Roofing Ltd., “Santa’s Sleigh Sponsor” – Blake Construction Services, “Light Up Sponsor” – Lions Club of Cobourg, and “Community Partners” – Cobourg Police Service, Northumberland Fare Share Food Bank, and The Town of Cobourg.

Experience Cobourg is accepting registrations from community organizations, groups and businesses that want to take part in the parade. Visit experiencecobourg.ca/santaclausparade for the application form. Entries must be submitted by Thursday, Nov. 26.

Before the parade starts, residents can visit the kids’ zone in front of Victoria Hall to make a Christmas craft hosted by the Art Gallery of Northumberland and/or to play in the inflatable fun park.

At the start of the parade, the Northumberland Fare Share Food Bank will be collecting non-perishable food items and cash donations. The town encourages parade attendees to bring a donation and help support local families this holiday season.

Meanwhile, Santa’s elves from Canada Post will also be collecting children’s letters to Santa at the beginning of the parade.

For those unable to attend in-person, the parade will be livestreamed with commentary on COGECO’s YourTV Northumberland (Cable 10/HD Cable 700.)

There will be road closures on Nov. 28 to accommodate parade staging, the parade route and float disembarkation, including:

• William Street, from University Street to King Street, will be closed from 3:30 p.m. until 7 p.m.

• King Street, from William Street to Margaret Street, will be closed from 3:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.

• Ontario Street, from University Street to Albert Street, will be closed from 3:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.

• King Street, from William Street to D’Arcy Street, will be closed 3:30 p.m. until 8 p.m.

• King Street, from D’Arcy Street to Cottesmore Avenue, will be closed from 6 to 8 p.m.

Vehicles parked within the parade route closure area must be removed before 3:30 p.m. Vehicles remaining after this time will be towed, noted the town.





Herd Dispersal Live Auction Sale

of 135 Bred Cows/Heifers

Saturday November 21, 11:00am

to be held at 554447 Mono-Amaranth TLine, Mono, ON

Preview on day of sale, or by appointment

Directions: Go west through Orangeville on Hwy 9 to County Rd 16 (Veterans Way at Greenwood Cemetery), turn north 5 miles to farm on East side. OR From Shelburne go east on Hwy 89 for 2 miles to Mono-Amaranth Townline, turn south & go 5 miles to farm on East side.Townline, turn south & go 5 miles to farm on East side.

Cattle: (79)Heifers: (18) Char, (17) Blk Simm, (33) Angus, (11) Red -1st time calvers, bred Angus & Limo, vacc. **(18) X-bred Heifers** - bred Black Angus, vacc. **(17) Angus Heifers** - bred Black Angus. **(10) Blk Angus cows** - all bred Black Angus, vacc. **(8) Charolais Cows** - bred Charolais, vacc. **(3) Mixed Cows** - with calf at side, vacc.
All Cows will be preg checked prior to sale.
Lunch Booth
Washroom Available
Terms & Conditions: Cash or cheque with proper I.D. on day of sale. Owner & Auctioneer will not be responsible for any accidents or loss on day of sale. All announcements on day of sale will take precedence over printed ads.

Auctioneers: Kevin McArthur (519) 942-0264
Scott Bessey (519) 843-5083
Email: mcarthurbessey@gmail.com
www.theauctionadvertiser.com/KMcArthur
- full listing & photos

Town calls on citizens for library, police services boards

Deadline to apply for board positions is Nov. 20

INDEPENDENT STAFF

Cobourg is looking for residents to consider joining the town's library and police services boards.

The Town of Cobourg's legislative services division has put out the call for local citizens to fill vacancies on the Cobourg Public Library board and Cobourg Police Service Board.

Town of Cobourg advisory committees and local boards provide citizen input into the strategic direction of council, said the town, in a recent release.

"Committee and board members develop and maintain a deeper level of knowledge on matters of technical nature, providing insight to council and supporting a positive exchange of information between council and members of the public."

Those who are passionate about local government and want to apply their knowledge and expertise to support the business of council can fill out an application. Residents can apply by visiting the committees and boards page of the town's website at www.Cobourg.ca/committees.

For the library board, the town is seeking five to seven members to fill vacancies. The Cobourg Public Library Board operates under the authority of Ontario Public Libraries Act. The board is responsible for providing governance and strategic direction for the Cobourg Public Library, reads the town's release.

Board members help shape the library's future by setting strategic priorities, approving policies, overseeing the CEO's performance, advocating for library services, monitoring financial stewardship, and ensuring the library continues to meet the evolving needs of the Cobourg community, explained the town.

Meanwhile, the town is looking to fill a vacancy for one member for the police board.

The police board is responsible for providing civilian governance and oversight of the police service, including setting strategic priorities, establishing policies, appointing and evaluating the chief of police, overseeing the police budget and complaints process, and ensuring the delivery of adequate and effective police services to the community, reads the town's release.

For assistance applying, residents can call the legislative services division at 905-372-4301 or email the clerk at clerk@cobourg.ca.

The deadline to apply is at 4:30 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 20.



MUNICIPALITY OF
PORT HOPE

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO AMEND DESIGNATION BY-LAW 3054 UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 30.1 OF THE ONTARIO HERITAGE ACT, R.S.O. 1990 AS AMENDED

Take Notice that the Municipality of Port Hope intends to amend By-law 3054, for Union & St John's Cemetery, 114 Toronto Rd, Port Hope, under Part IV, S. 30.1 of the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990.



Union & St John's Cemetery, 114 Toronto Rd, Port Hope

Purpose and Effect of Amendment

On June 16, 2026 the Council of the Municipality of Port Hope passed a motion to initiate the process to amend Heritage Designation By-law No. 3054 affecting the property known as the Union & St John's Cemetery. The amendment seeks to:

- amend the description of the Union Cemetery Mortuary Chapel;
- include the Union Cemetery Caretakers Cottage as a contributing heritage structure;
- include the Union Cemetery Dead House as a contributing heritage structure; and
- include key exterior attributes within the broader Union Cemetery that contribute to the contextual heritage value including the landscaping, topography and the Tempest Gates.

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

The property comprises the non-denominational Union Cemetery, which reflects Port Hope's late nineteenth-century establishment of a picturesque garden cemetery. The property includes several features of cultural heritage value, namely the Mortuary Chapel, the Caretakers Cottage, and the Dead House, each of which demonstrates design, historical, and contextual significance.

More information and a full statement for each identified structure can be found on the Municipality of Port Hope website or contact heritage@porthope.ca. Additional information relating to the proposed amendments is also available for review between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. at the Municipal Development Services Office, 5 Mill Street South, Port Hope.

Objections

NOTICE of Objection to the proposed designation, together with a statement of the reasons for the objection and all relevant facts may be served on the Municipal Clerk no later than the 13th day of December, 2026.

Art show, sale shines for 34th year at Cobourg library



The Pine Ridge Art Association hosted its 34th annual Art Show and Sale at the Cobourg Public Library last Friday through Sunday. Visitors had a chance to view one-of-a-kind pieces by local artists, and many artists were on-hand to answer questions and sell their work.



Artist Linda Coffee, a member of the Pine Ridge Art Association for 34 years, is seen here with her work at the annual art show and sale over the weekend.



The Pine Ridge Art Association's 34th annual Art Show and Sale spanned three days – from last Friday, Nov. 6 to Sunday, Nov. 8 – and filled up the Cobourg Public Library featuring more than 70 original artworks. The association has about 40 members. The show attracted several visitors.



Artist and President/Chair of the Pine Ridge Art Association of Northumberland Douglas Syrota is seen here beside some of his acrylic pieces. Syrota says he's inspired by the beauty of the Cobourg area and will paint from photos he has taken in the community. Beside Syrota is his wintery painting of 'Peace Park,' a local attraction for walkers and artists.



Sandy Gimblett and Dennis Burnham, friends of local artist Linda Coffee, came out to support Coffee and view artwork from other local artists during the Pine Ridge Art Association's 34th annual Art Show and Sale over the weekend held at the Cobourg Public Library. /Tim Burgess photos

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SPORTS

Smith's natural hat trick paces Cougars to OT victory over Warriors



Toronto Warriors' goaltender Bogdan Bogomolov (31) kicked out a shot while Cobourg Cougars' Jonny Brooks (18) and Toronto Warriors' Maguire Proulx (18) were camped in front of the net during hockey action at the CCC on Monday, Nov. 9. Bogomolov earned third-star honours after kicking out 45 of 48 shots, but the Cougars claimed a tight 3-2 OT win over the visiting Warriors.



Cobourg Cougars' forward Cayden Smith accounted for all the home side's scoring, netting a hat trick in a 3-2 overtime victory over the visiting Toronto Warriors at the Cobourg Community Centre on Monday, Nov. 9. /Alan Rivett photos

ALAN RIVETT

Sports correspondent

For Cayden Smith, a dominant offensive force in a thrilling 3-2 OT victory over the visiting Toronto Warriors on Nov. 9, there was a little extra motivation in seeing the Warriors vanquished to the overtime loss column.

You see, the Toronto Warriors were once the Cobourg Cougars before they left town this past summer taking lock, stock and jock straps down Hwy. 401 to Scotiabank Pond in Toronto.

The Cougars' cause was then taken up by current co-owners Paul Wilson and Ryan Ramsay, who elected to move their former team – the Haliburton County Huskies – to Cobourg to fill the junior hockey void.

And Smith explained it was all about winning one for his newly-adopted hockey home Cobourg and hanging a loss on the former franchise in Ontario Junior Hockey League action at the Cobourg Community Centre.

"I mean, yeah, those guys, obviously, you know, the history of them here, so we wanted to take the win for the town," said the 19-year-old forward. "We had so many (scoring) chances, we outshot them like 50 to 10 (actual shots on goal were 48-18 in favour of the Cougars), so we just got more goals in the end, but, yeah, it was a good learning curve."

And those "more goals" came off the stick of Smith who provided a natural hat trick, including the game winner on the power play 39 seconds into the five-minute extra frame. After accepting a pass from linemate Brant Romaniuk, Smith sidestepped a Toronto defender and delivered a quick wrist shot behind Toronto goaltender Bogdan Bogomolov who was otherwise stellar for the Warriors.

Despite outshooting and outplaying the Warriors by a wide margin in the contest, the Cougars actually trailed the Warriors 2-1 well into the second period. Smith's power play marker with 5:32 left in the second knotted the game at 2-2.

Neither team was able to score in the third to set up the five-minute extra frame.



Cobourg Cougars' forward Cayden Smith (21) and Jonny Brooks (18) scrambled for possession of the puck against Toronto Warriors' Cameron Jansa (86) and Zachary Wang (11) during OJHL regular-season action at the Cobourg Community Centre on Monday, Nov. 9.

Coach Smith said a five-minute misconduct and subsequent game misconduct assessed to Cougars' forward Isaac Tracze in the second period was a pivotal moment in the contest. The Cougars killed the five-minute penalty successfully, which shifted the momentum in favour of Cobourg.

"That five-minute PK in the second period was probably the turning point where we did a pretty good job of keeping them outside, and they didn't really get many chances (from then on)," explained Coach Smith. "It was a little closer than my liking, but it is what it is.

"The guys stuck with it, and that's probably the biggest thing. The last two nights we've been able to stick with it and not stray from the game plan and just rely on, you know, each other to get the job done."

Overtime hero Smith, who has shifted to centre of late, said he's been shooting a little more than he normally does, and that philosophy definitely paid off against the Torontonians.

"I shot the puck a bit more because I've been needing to do that a bit. Obviously, it worked out, so I'm just gonna keep doing it, I guess," said Smith, who is currently tied with Briir Long as Cougars' points leaders, each with 31 points.

It was the second victory over the Warriors in as many nights for the Cougars, as they defeated Toronto 4-2 at Scotiabank Pond on Sunday, Nov. 8. The back-to-back wins also extended the Cougars' consecutive win streak to nine games.

Cobourg currently sits second in the OJHL's East Conference with a mark of 16 wins, three losses, two OT wins, one OT loss and a shoot-out win for 33 points, three back of front running Markham Royals.

Coach Smith gave full credit to younger Smith who's been a major contributor to the team's success so far this season.

"You know what, he's obviously been amazing for us this year. We've had him on the wing a lot this season, playing with Long, and with Romaniuk lately, but with Long out (for Monday's game) he went back to centre today, and, you know, he's

CONTINUED TO PAGE 25

Cougars extend consecutive win streak to nine games

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 24

turned into quite the workhorse for us.

"He plays a lot; he was on the PK (penalty kill) today. He's one of the best face-off men I've ever seen in this league. I think he's around 90 per cent, which is unbelievable.

And, obviously tonight, you know, he led us with three goals, which was huge."

The 19-year-old said he's in a perfect situation as a member of the Cougars and he's eager to see what the remainder of the season holds for him and his teammates.

"Personnel wise, we've got a really good team. I love everyone in that room, so it's gonna be good.

"I'm excited to see what we have coming," he said. "I think we can win it, win it all, honestly. The East (Conference) is wide open this year, so I think we can definitely do something."

Coach Smith is also encouraged by his team's strong play of late. But he cautioned, the Cougars are only a third of the way into the season with a lot more hockey left to come.



Fallen Toronto Warriors' player Pavel Barclay (13) attempted to control the puck while surrounded by Cobourg Cougars' Joseph Cadorin (16) and Isaac Larmand (17) at the CCC. The Cougars took home the win over the visiting Warriors for their ninth consecutive victory on Monday, Nov. 9. /Alan Rivett photo

"Obviously, the wins are huge, and we're getting points in the standings and trying to get some separation from teams a little bit below us. But at this point in the year, it's just about continuing to get better, and it's not where we are now, it's where we are in February and March, and hopefully (in playoff time) in April or May. So, we've got room to grow."

Assisting on Smith's goals were Jonny Brooks with two, Keegan Shirley, Graydon Jones and Romaniuk all with one.

In the first game of the home-and-home series with the Toronto Warriors on Nov. 8, the Cougars fell behind 2-0 in the first period but responded with four straight goals in the second and third frames to secure the 4-2 victory. Chase Del Colombo, Smith, Liam Oravsky and Romaniuk scored for the Cougars. Adding assists were Long with three, Romaniuk, Joseph Cadorin, Nole Faulkner and Del Colombo each with one.

The Cougars played on the road in Lindsay against the Huskies on Friday, Nov. 13 after our press deadline. The Cougars are also on the road for a game against the Trenton Golden Hawks on Sunday, Nov. 15.

The next home action for the Cougars is against Toronto's St. Michael's Buzzers at the CCC on Monday, Nov. 16 at 7 p.m.

Port Hope Panthers remember with 'Salute to Veterans' ceremony



The Port Hope Panthers hosted a 'Salute to Veterans' ceremony ahead of Remembrance Day before their game against the Amherstview Jets on Saturday, Nov. 7. Port Hope lost the game 5-2 but it was a heartwarming show of support for veterans for the ceremony. Pictured here are Lt. (N) Chris Barker with the 116 Royal Canadian Sea Cadet Corps (RCSCC) Skeena (left) and Royal Canadian Legion Branch 30 Port Hope Sergeant at Arms and retired air force Captain Vincent O'Hanley.



Pictured here during the official ceremonial puck drop for a 'Salute to Veterans' ceremony are Jacob Bone (17) with the Port Hope Panthers and Gibson Lakins (9) for the Amherstview Jets. Helping to drop the puck are retired air force Captain and Sergeant at Arms for the legion Vincent O'Hanley (right) and Lt. (N) Chris Barker with the 116 Royal Canadian Sea Cadet Corps (RCSCC) Skeena.



The Port Hope Panthers hosted a special 'Salute to Veterans' ceremony ahead of their home game against the Amherstview Jets last Saturday in a show of support ahead of Remembrance Day.



Prior to last Saturday's Panthers versus Jets game, the Port Hope team was given poppy stickers to sport on their helmets. /Tim Burgess photos

COLUMNS

‘Sustainability Corner’: Universal Internet access



SIMON CHORLEY

Independent columnist

Welcome to the Sustainability Corner where each week we’ll 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 9: Universal Internet access

I was travelling back to Cobourg from Ottawa last week and was attempting to complete some online work on the train. Any of you who have tried to do that will know what a big mistake that is!

It doesn’t matter if you try to use the train’s wireless broadband or your mobile phone network – whenever you pass through rural or remote areas, you lose your connection. Digital connectivity might be expanding rapidly, but it’s not yet universal.

The United Nations reported that in 2025 5G networks covered 55 per cent of the world’s population (84 per cent in high-income countries), while 4G coverage reached 93 per cent. Overall, 96 per cent of the world’s population lived within reach of a mobile broadband network.

In Canada, the government reports that 96.4 per cent of Canadian households have access to high-speed Internet services, up from 84.3 per cent in 2016. Canada is therefore on track to meet the domestic target of connecting all Canadians to high-speed Internet by 2030.

However, a digital divide remains. Only four per cent of people in low-income countries have access to 5G networks. And while 96 per cent of the world’s population has access to mobile broadband, that figure is considerably lower in low-income countries, where 16 per cent of people remain outside 3G-or-better coverage.

Progress in Canada is also uneven. For households in First Nations reserve areas, access to high-speed Internet services has risen, but only from 27.3 per cent in 2016 to 65.7 per cent in 2024. And for households in rural and remote areas in Ontario, this increase was only from 29.5 per cent in 2018 to 77.5 per cent in 2024.

There are concerted efforts in Northumberland County to close this digital divide. Over the summer, the Northumberland Broadband Project announced that they had surpassed 1 million metres of network conduit installed as part of construction of a county-wide broadband network. Substantial underground infrastructure is now in place and more than 600 kilometres of fibre optic cable have been pulled through the conduit.

Once finished, more than 11,000 under-served and unserved households and businesses – including locations across rural Northumberland and Alderville First Nation – will have access to reliable high-speed internet service. This is being funded by $18.4 million from the Government of Canada and $45.8 million from the Government of Ontario.

The benefits of being connected are common to the human experience, whether you live in Africa or Alderville. Remote working, online learning, healthcare access, agricultural innovation, and digital business operations are just some of the outcomes, and we certainly saw some of the benefits of this during the COVID-19 pandemic.

But these benefits can only be realized if connectivity is affordable and if people have the digital literacy to know how to make the most of it. And perhaps being constantly connected can also reduce our in-person interactions and overall wellbeing.

While I was getting frustrated trying to regain my internet signal on the train, the people behind me were making new friends and having meaningful conversations. A reminder to me to sometimes disconnect and keep it human.

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.

‘Making space for creativity:’ Juried exhibitions matter



OLINDA CASIMIRO

Independent columnist

A juried exhibition is about much more than selecting artwork for a gallery wall.

It is about creating opportunities, building connections and ensuring that artists have a place to share their work, be recognized and contribute to the cultural life of their communities.

At the Art Gallery of Northumberland (AGN), our juried exhibition is one of the most anticipated events in our exhibition calendar and an important part of our commitment to supporting the artistic community across Northumberland County and beyond.

For emerging artists, a juried exhibition provides an opportunity to exhibit their work publicly, gain confidence and take an important step in their artistic journey. For established artists, it offers a platform to share new ideas, challenge their practice and connect with fellow creatives. For audiences, it provides an opportunity to discover new artists, experience different perspectives, and appreciate the remarkable breadth of artistic talent within our region.

In rural communities, access to professional exhibition opportunities can be limited. Juried exhibitions help bridge that gap by creating accessible platforms for artists, encouraging creative exchange and strengthening connections across geographic communities. They also challenge the perception that artistic excellence and innovation are concentrated in major urban centres.

Creativity thrives everywhere – in small towns, rural landscapes, studios and communities where artists make meaningful contributions to our cultural identity.

The response to the AGN’s 47th juried exhibition is a wonderful reminder of the importance of these opportunities. A remarkable 163 people attended our opening celebration, bringing together artists, families, collectors, supporters and members of the community. This level of participation demonstrates the appetite for arts and culture in our region and the value of creating opportunities for people to come together through shared creative experiences.

As executive director, this is one of my favourite exhibitions each year. I particularly enjoy seeing the diversity of artistic approaches, the unexpected discoveries, and the connections that develop between artists and audiences. There is something special about seeing artists from across Northumberland County and beyond represented together, reinforcing that our region has a vibrant and diverse creative community.

For a regional public gallery, providing this platform is both a responsibility and a privilege. It represents an investment not only in individual artists but also in audience development, community engagement and the long-term cultural vitality of our region.

I encourage artists who have not yet participated in a juried exhibition to consider submitting their work in the future. Taking that step can open doors, build confidence and create connections that extend well beyond the exhibition itself.

Ultimately, the value of a juried exhibition lies in the opportunities it creates and the voices it brings together. It sends an important message to our artistic community: your work matters, your perspective matters, and there is a place for your creativity here.

At the AGN, we are proud to provide that place.

Olinda Casimiro is the executive director of the Art Gallery of Northumberland.

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SCAN TO READ ONLINE PAPER

SCAN FOR PICK UP LOCATIONS

‘Head Space’: Imagination is a strength



BRANDON W. HAHN

Independent columnist

Remember when imagination was practically our full-time job?

As kids, we could create entire worlds with a handful of toys, a cardboard box and absolutely no money.

We had imaginary friends. We invented characters. We sang, danced and occasionally held very serious conversations with people who weren’t there.

The grown-ups called it a phase. Apparently, we were supposed to grow out of it.

I never really did. And I’m glad.

My Mum once told me that “a thought can change the world.”

I took that pretty seriously. Maybe a little too seriously.

These days, I spend a considerable amount of time deliberately daydreaming. Not because I’m bored or trying to escape reality, but because imagination has become one of my greatest creative tools.

I make movies in my head. Television shows. Commercials. Music videos. Entire conversations between characters who don’t technically exist yet.

Some of them have been hanging around for years. I should probably start charging them rent.

I sometimes refer to this as “third eye theatre.” Not necessarily in a mystical sense, but as a way of describing the pictures and stories I can see in my mind.

It’s my own little screening room. And admission is free.

I’ll sit quietly for a few minutes and revisit a story. Add a character. Change a scene. Imagine a different ending.

A little like meditation.

As a screenwriting student, I’ve learned that imagination is only part of the process – a foundation.

Eventually, you have to write something down. That’s where the real work begins.

But I don’t think imagination should belong exclusively to writers, artists or people working in creative professions. Everybody has it.

Some people imagine building businesses. Others imagine travelling, learning something new or making their homes a little more comfortable.

Some imagine a better life.

And sometimes, imagining that life is the first step toward creating it.

Living with a serious mental health condition has also taught me to appreciate the difference between a healthy imagination and thoughts that can become overwhelming or difficult to separate from reality.

They’re not the same thing.

But I’ve discovered that when I’m grounded and feeling well, deliberately using my imagination can be an excellent coping mechanism. It gives my mind somewhere productive to go. Something to create instead of something to worry about.

I still have a handful of movies, television series and other projects floating around between my ears.

I’d love to see some of them on an actual real-life screen someday. Preferably while I’m still around to collect the royalties.

But even if they never make it that far, I don’t consider the time spent imagining them wasted.

It’s time spent creating. And I think we could all use a little more of that.

My Mum was right. A thought can change the world.

But first, you have to allow yourself to have one.

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.

‘Community Presence’: Lessons in gold



ANGIE MORRISON

Independent columnist

Change in life often brings about stress, whether pleasant or unpleasant.

Recently, I experienced a fracture in a relationship that is important to me and it was sitting at the forefront of my mind, constantly reminding me of the discomfort I felt. The lingering weight in my body signalled the need to go for a walk.

I felt the unusually warm November air, listened to the birds chirping, and saw the beautiful colours of autumn leaves almost radiant in the sunlight. And of course, the familiar smell of salmon-season coming to a close in Port Hope brought the distinct sourness of decaying fish that permeates the air.

The acrid scent drew my attention to the river where there were still many salmon journeying upstream to their final destination, although they appeared to be struggling and in poor health.

I sat down and began to wonder.

Do these fish know they are collectively swimming to the ultimate ending? As they lose energy and approach the end of their lives do they worry about the generations to come? Do they feel any kind of way about the life-altering changes taking place?

While my imagination created a narrative to answer these fishy existential questions, I settled on a rock at water’s edge, watching the gentle swirls of water pass by, moving past just as quickly as my thoughts. Mesmerized by the light bending through water, I spotted a deceased salmon directly in front of me. I was immediately intrigued by its unusual colouring.

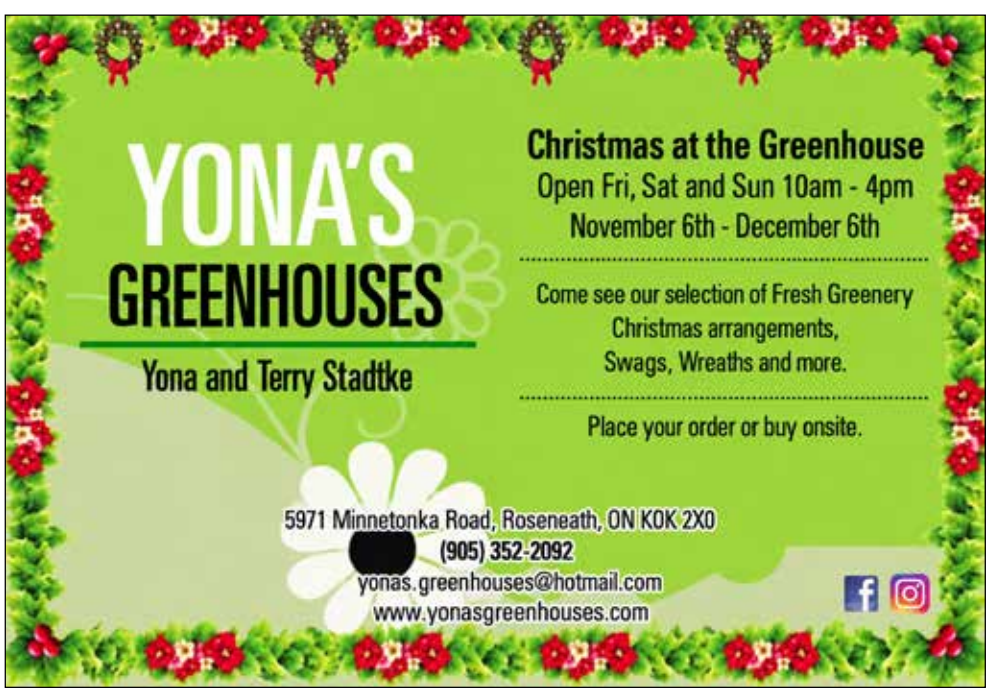
It was still fully intact – a majestic-looking specimen with a curved jaw and massive, rounded body. Its head and belly were adorned with markings of almost sparkling gold, as though its scars had been gilded with the precious metal. I’d never seen such colours before, the scales illuminated, shimmering beneath the moving water and creating the appearance of something valuable, just slightly out of reach under the surface.

There was something beautiful about the discovery of this gem, as though even after its final transformation, the salmon still had something magnificent to share with the world.

I suppose I could never answer the questions I’d asked about the life of this salmon. I couldn’t know what it had experienced and endured – if it had awareness or if it had suffered – but as I sat in awe of the gleaming treasure before me, I began to understand something about my own questions.

Perhaps the golden nuggets are there all along. Perhaps it takes time, presence, an ending, and a readiness to see them before we can embrace the gold on the underbelly of change.

Angie Morrison is a yoga/mindfulness practitioner and Port Hope resident. You can find her wandering through forests and gardens or on Instagram @flow.with.amo.





Princesses flock to Port Hope Public Library



Ahead of the VOS Theatre's production of Disney's 'Frozen' starting Nov. 19 at the Concert Hall at Victoria Hall in Cobourg, members of the cast gathered for a special book reading at the Port Hope Public Library. The event attracted families and many young princesses on Saturday, Nov. 7. Cast members pictured here left-to-right are the Royal Guard Glorp played by actor Jake Lauder, Princess Anna is Monique Soleil, and Kristoff is played by Ben Zopf.



At the end of a 'Frozen' themed book reading at the Port Hope Public Library on Saturday, Nov. 7, princesses from the group were encouraged to get pictures with members of the VOS Theatre cast for the upcoming show. Pictured here with actors Jake Lauder, Monique Soleil and Ben Zopf is four-year-old Everly Brown, of Port Hope. /Tim Burgess photos

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PICK UP LOCATIONS

*Subject to change based on availability

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Burnham Family Farm Market
Campbells Convenience
Canadian Tire
Circle K
Cobourg Community Centre
Cobourg Public Library
Convenience K
David's NO FRILLS Cobourg
Foodland Cobourg
Giant Tiger
Just Brew It!
Justin's Pet Store
Kawartha Vision Care
Metro
Millstone Bread
Mucho Burrito Fresh Mexican Grill
Northumberland Central Chamber Of Commerce
Northumberland County Main Office
Westwood Convenience
Woody's Smoke Shop
Northumberland Hills Hospital
YMCA Northumberland Cobourg
Northumberland Mall
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
Tim Hortons
Tuggs Furniture
Venture 13
Vandermeer Toyota

PORT HOPE

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Frosted Flour Co.
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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
Scenery 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

Pet of the Week

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

NATURE

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

Acorn
Bark
Breeze
Canyon
Cave
Cliff
Cloud
Ecosystem
Forest
Grass
Habitat
Lake
Maple
Moss
Mountain
Oak
Pond
Rainbow
River
Roots
Soil
Stream
Sunrise
Sunset
Trail
Waterfall
Wilderness

Riddles

I'm full of keys but can't open a single door.
What am I?
A piano

I fly without wings. I cry without eyes.
Wherever I go, darkness flies. What am I?
A cloud

What has a neck but no head, and often wears a cap?
A bottle

I get wetter the more I dry. What am I?
A towel

I'm tall when I'm young and short when I'm old.
What am I?
A candle

I have a tail and a head, but no body. What am I?
A coin

What has many teeth but never bites?
A comb

You can catch me but not throw me. What am I?
A cold



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Sudoku

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

Solutions on pg. 30

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COMMUNITY EVENTS

Cobourg | Port Hope | Surrounding Areas

COBOURG ART CLUB OPEN HOUSE:
Happening on Tuesday, Nov. 17 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Rotary Room at the Cobourg Public Library.
Drop in to meet artists, discover a unique gift or join the club. Cobourg Art Club members meet weekly to paint and learn together. The club welcomes new members.
Website: www.cobourgartclub.ca
Facebook: Cobourg Art Club (Ontario)
Instagram: CobourgArtClubOntario

THE WORLD WE FEAR: ARTIST TALK AND DISCUSSION:
Architectural designer Simon Martignago discusses his exhibition "The World We Fear," which imagines what a nuclear station at Wesleyville could give back to Port Hope, with public grounds, gardens and places people want to go. The talk is followed by an open discussion with the audience.
The discussion is set for Nov. 28 at 1 p.m. at the Art Gallery of Northumberland and is free and open to the public. The exhibition opened at the gallery on Oct. 3 and continues until Nov. 28.

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 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.

PORT HOPE UNITED CHURCH PRESENTS 88TH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS FAYRE:
Happening Saturday, Nov. 21 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 34 South St., Port Hope.
Join the team for this wonderful seasonal sale of homemade baking, preserves, and delicatessen foods, as well as handmade crafts, Christmas decor, and knitting. Many local vendors will be on hand to enhance your shopping.
Free admission, free parking, and wheelchair accessible. Every-one is welcome!
For more information visit https://www.facebook.com/PortHopeUnitedChurch/.

HOOKS AND NEEDLES GUILD:
Gathers the third Tuesday of each month at the Port Hope legion from 2 to 4 p.m. Join in for a relaxing and informative afternoon of needlework and sharing. The guild will also be at the Cobourg Creates event on Saturday, Nov. 28 at the Cobourg Public Library.

ST. JOHN'S ANGLICAN PORT HOPE CHRISTMAS BAZAAR:
Happening on Saturday, Nov. 14 from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. The event features baking and crafts, Best of the Treasure Trove, lunch from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., and a silent auction that ends at 1:30 p.m. There will also be Christmas portraits. The church is located at 33 Pine St. N., Port Hope.

AI FOR SENIORS: HOW TO OUTSMART AI SCAMS:
Happening at Venture13 at 739 D'Arcy St., Cobourg, on Dec. 1 at 6:30 p.m.
Artificial intelligence (AI) is already part of everyday life and it brings real benefits – but it also brings new risks. Whether or not you ever use AI yourself, scammers do. No technical knowledge needed; no dumb questions. Donations to the Northumberland Fare Share Bank will be gratefully accepted at the event.
Contact dlaytonj2@gmail.com for more information.

THE BATTLE OF BRITAIN:
The Cobourg and District Historical Society hosts its next monthly presentation on Tuesday, Nov. 24 at 7:30 p.m. at Victoria Hall.
Ted Barris will tell the story of the Battle of Britain: Canadian Airmen in their Finest Hour. Members attend for free. Guests pay $5. All are welcome.

COME TO THE MANAGER CAROL SING:
Happening on Friday, Dec. 11 at 7 p.m.
Come join in for carol singing at the Nativity Scene at Welcome Corners. Dress warmly. All are welcome.

INNER WHEEL FUNDRAISER:
Happening on Friday, Dec. 4 from noon to 3 p.m. at St. Mark's hall at 51 King St., Port Hope.
Hosted by the Inner Wheel Club of Cobourg, enjoy a three-course lunch and share some holiday cheer with the women of the club. Learn about the vital work the club does to support women and girls in need. Cost is $50 per person in support of the Northumberland Fare Share Food Bank.
To reserve a spot, email iiw.cobourgontario@gmail.com. People are asked to also bring a non-perishable food donation.

NORTHUMBERLAND ANTIQUE/VINTAGE SHOW AND SALE:
Happening on Sunday, Nov. 22 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Cobourg Lions Community Centre in support of the Canadian Fire Fighters Museum. Admission is $5 but kids 10 and under attend for free.

TAMMIE'S JAMMIES LAUNCH PARTY:
Happening on Thursday, Nov. 19 from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Ganaraska Financial Credit Union.
The Port Hope Police Service and credit union are collecting pajamas for the Children's Foundation. Bring a pair new pajamas for ages newborn to 18 for a chance to win great prizes.

QUIZ ANSWERS

1. Twice
2. Curling
3. Three
4. Arnold Schwarzenegger
5. Minionese
6. Denmark
7. Shire
8. Indian ocean
9. International Bitterness Units
10. Jimmie Rodgers

SUDOKU ANSWERS

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

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OBITUARY

Hope



Dorla Louise Hope
February 20, 1938 - November 7, 2026

It is with great sadness that the family announces the passing of Dorla Hope on Saturday November 7th, 2026 at Extendicare Port Hope at the age of 88.

Beloved wife of the late John Hope and cherished mother of Tracy Kelly and Steven Hope. Sister of Wally Keeler. Aunt of Kelly Keeler. Loving Nan to Spencer(Carly) and Charlotte(Omar) Kelly. Great-grandmother to Bo and Eli Kelly. Dorla will be dearly missed by her family and other extended family members.

Dorla was an avid golfer, card player and traveller. She enjoyed volunteering and attending the Opera at the Capital Theatre. She also enjoyed helping at the Port Hope United Church and Trinity United Church. Dorla knitted hats for newborns at the Northumberland Hills Hospital.

If desired, memorial donations to the Trinity United Church in Cobourg would be appreciated by the family.

St. John's Anglican
Port Hope
Christmas Bazaar
Sat. Nov. 14th 2026
9:30- 2pm
Baking and Crafts
Best of Treasure Trove
Lunch 11am-1:30
Silent Auction (Ends at 1:30)
Christmas Portraits
33 Pine St. North Port Hope

Christmas will be here before you know it
– let's get your ad on the nice list!
Share the Spirit of Christmas with the
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Get a head start on the season with the West Northumberland Independent's Christmas Greetings, publishing December 18 — a great way to wish the community a Merry Christmas and thank your customers for their support. A portion of proceeds will be donated to the Northumberland Hills Hospital Foundation, helping provide care and comfort to local families.
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NOVEMBER 13-19

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Saturday: 1:00 | 4:00 | 7:00
Sunday: 12:45 | 4:30 | 7:00

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Friday / Tuesday / Thursday: 3:15 | 6:45
Saturday: 1:15 | 6:45
Sunday: 1:00 | 6:45

EBENEZER — PG
Friday: 4:15 | 7:15
Saturday / Sunday: 1:30 | 4:15 | 7:15
Tuesday / Thursday: 4:15 | 7:15

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Atlas Execline pictured

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