OVERDOSE CALLS DOUBLE PAGE 8

REMEMBRANCE DAY FEATURE PAGE 18

West Northumberland Independent

SERVING COBOURG, PORT HOPE AND SURROUNDING AREAS

VOL. 1 • ISSUE 16 Friday, November 6, 2026 FREE

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‘Survivor Night’ recognizes life-saving efforts of first-responders

NATALIE HAMILTON

Reporter

When Joe Palumbo collapsed suddenly during a tennis match in Cobourg in May 2025, bystanders immediately started CPR, coached by dispatch ambulance communications officers.

When Northumberland County paramedics and firefighters arrived at the Coverdale Tennis Club, they took over his care, with firefighters assisting with chest compressions while paramedics delivered advanced lifesaving interventions.

From the actions of the first caller to the first-responders, Palumbo’s heart finally started beating again before he was transported to the hospital for further care, shared Northumberland County.

Palumbo’s story was among those shared on Oct. 27 when first-responders, survivors and their family members gathered as Northumberland County hosted the 11th annual Survivor Night ceremony.

The theme for this year’s ceremony was “The Moments After,” and highlighted the critical actions and teamwork in the minutes following an out-of-hospital cardiac arrest.

Survivor Night recognizes the people and co-ordinated efforts behind cardiac arrest responses, includ-

CONTINUED TO PAGE 5



MPP David Piccini presents Friends of Wesleyville Village Chairperson Sue Stickley with a certificate of recognition and congratulations during the grand reopening for Wesleyville Church. To the right is Paul Rosebush, chair with the Ontario Trillium Foundation grant team, who was at the celebration to highlight how grants helped with restoration of the church after the April 3, 2021 fire. /Tim Burgess photo

‘Achieved a milestone in the history of our indomitable little village’

SARAH HYATT

Editor/reporter

Five years ago in 2021, during the early-morning hours on the Easter long-weekend, a heartbreaking fire ravaged the 1860s Wesleyville Church.

But almost immediately, the Friends of Wesleyville Village (FOWV) vowed to rise from the ashes and save the cherished church and heritage heart of activity in the village.

Fundraising initiatives quickly launched, and residents, business leaders and more didn’t hesitate to answer the call – and continued to answer the call for help

CONTINUED TO PAGE 6

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Town of Cobourg News

November 6, 2026

Voter Satisfaction Survey

We want to hear about your experience with the 2026 Municipal and School Board Election.

The Town of Cobourg's Legislative Services Division is seeking feedback from electors about their experience with the 2026 Municipal and School Board Election.

This short, voluntary survey provides an opportunity to share your thoughts on the voting process, including what worked well, any challenges you experienced, the resources you used and how you received election information.

All responses are anonymous, and no personally identifying information will be collected. Your feedback will help the Town evaluate the 2026 election process and identify opportunities to improve the voting experience and accessibility for future elections.

To complete the survey, visit:
http://www.EngageCobourg.ca/VoterSurvey

Survey is open until Wednesday, November 25, 2026

Winter Parking in Effect

The Town of Cobourg Parking Bylaw 048-2023 states no parking on designated collector and arterial roads, between November 1 and March 31, between the hours of 2 a.m. and 7 a.m. (see Schedule K). The bylaw further states that no person shall park a vehicle that obstructs the removal of snow from the streets; Sec. (15(1)(a)) and prohibits parking a vehicle on any highway within the Municipality during a snow or significant weather event when notice has been given; Sec. 16(1).

The bylaw also states no parking at any time, on all cul-de-sacs and wide corners, laneways, one-way streets and lay bys during the winter season (Schedule L).

The Town of Cobourg appreciates the efforts of its residents in parking off-street to assist with snow removal operations.

For more information:

www.Cobourg.ca/Snow

905-372-8380 - Municipal Law Enforcement and Licensing Office

bylawenforcement@cobourg.ca

View the Interactive Winter Parking Map

Carbon Monoxide Awareness Week - November 1 to 7, 2026

New carbon monoxide (CO) alarm rules have come into effect for existing homes — including detached and semi-detached houses, townhomes, and cottages:

You must have carbon monoxide alarms if:

- You have a fireplace
- You have a fuel-burning appliance (like a furnace, water heater, or stove)
- You have heated air that comes from a fuel-burning appliance not located inside your home

Where to install CO alarms:

- Adjacent to each sleeping area (near all bedrooms)
- On every storey of your home, even storeys without bedrooms

Choose alarms with a recognized certification mark (CSA, ULC, or ETL) and follow the manufacturer's installation instructions. Protect your family from the "silent killer."

Check your CO alarms now and install alarms on every storey of your home.

For more information: **Cobourg.ca/FirePrevention** **905-372-9789**

You are invited to the

COBOURG MUNICIPAL COUNCIL INAUGURAL MEETING

of the newly elected 2026-2030 Mayor and Council

Tuesday, November 17, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.
Victoria Hall, 55 King St. West, Cobourg

Public reception to follow.

View the livestream at Youtube.com/TownCobourg

Have a question? Contact our Customer Service team:
905-372-4301 x 0 | customerservice@cobourg.ca
55 King Street West, Cobourg, ON, K9A 2M2

Upcoming Committee and Board Meetings
Visit calendar.cobourg.ca/council

‘Long-term’ water main repair work underway for Port Hope’s Walton Street Bridge

SARAH HYATT

Editor/reporter

Water main repair work for the Walton Street Bridge in Port Hope is underway until the end of the month.

According to the Municipality of Port Hope, the bridge – between Mill Street South and Queen Street – is being reduced to one lane eastbound until the end of November to accommodate crews tackling “long-term repairs to the water main located beneath the bridge and river.”

The repairs are related to the water main break that happened last December, noted municipal staff.

The work started on Monday, and there was also some overnight work throughout this week on the west and east sides of the bridge and in the Mill Street South area. Staff said the overnight work was meant to help minimize water service interruptions to businesses during regular operating hours.

Municipal staff also said the north sidewalk of the bridge has been closed due to the work.

“Pedestrians can use the sidewalk on the south side of the bridge,” added staff.

Meanwhile, anglers are being asked to avoid accessing the river trail beside Queenie’s Bake Shop and instead use Brogden’s Lane to access the ramp north of the bridge.

“River access will remain available.”

In terms of additional impacts, transit services will also be avoiding the work area through the month, resulting in bus stops A1 and B1 out of service during the closure.

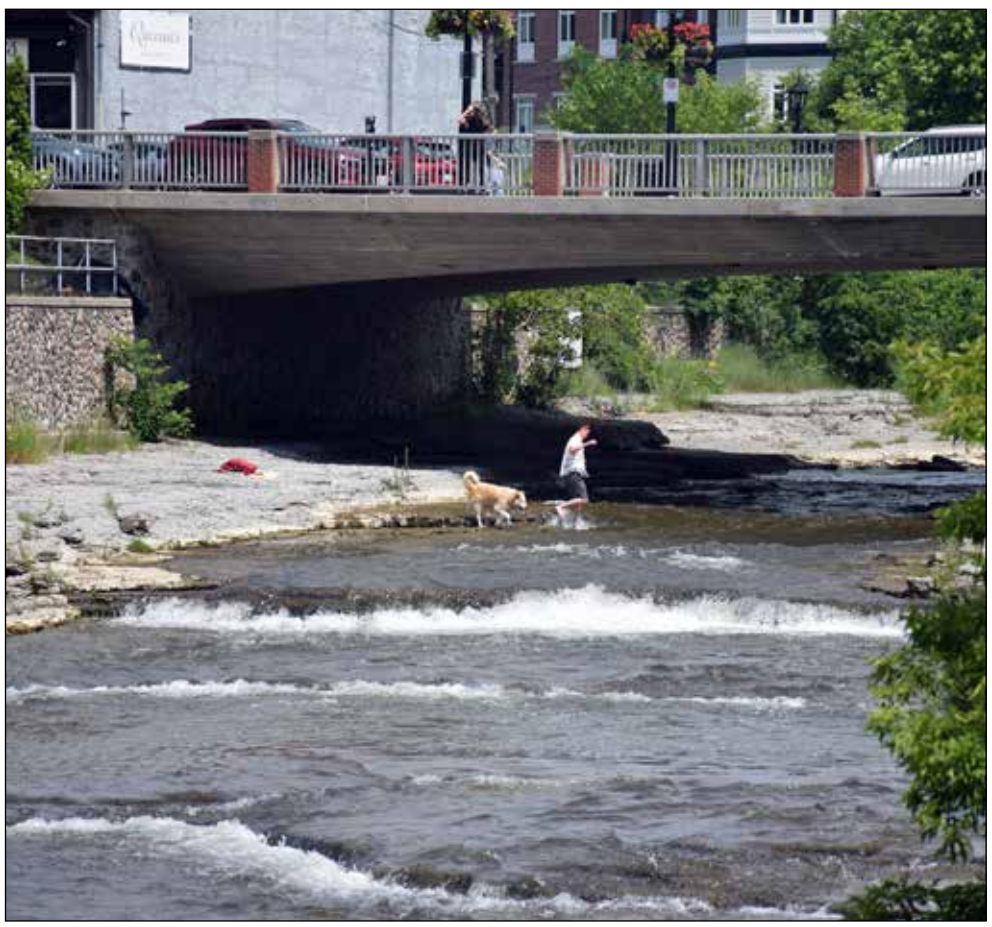
The water main break last year occurred during the morning of Dec. 28 at the northwest corner of the bridge over the Ganaraska River.

Following this – and despite challenging winter conditions at the time – municipal crews and contractors reportedly worked to excavate and cap the water main at both ends of the bridge and tackle immediate work that continued into earlier this year. The bridge also closed temporarily following the break to accommodate a precautionary structural evaluation.

Back in the summer, the bridge was closed again while crews tackled repairs to road cuts on both sides related to the water main break. At this time, the municipality also noted additional work would be needed again in the future to plan for the long-term repair of the water main.

The impacted section of water main was installed after the 1980 flood and wasn’t included in the scope or budget of the multi-million-dollar Walton Street reconstruction project, officials earlier explained, while also noting there was no impact on the safety or quality of the water supply due to the incident.

The cause was reportedly identified as a break in a 300mm ductile iron water main several metres east of the section replaced during Phase 2 of the reconstruction project, according to the municipality.



The Municipality of Port Hope says river access will remain available during Walton Street Bridge long-term water main repair work through the month but anglers are being asked to avoid accessing the trail beside Queenie’s Bake Shop. /Sarah Hyatt photo

MUNICIPALITY OF PORT HOPE porthope.ca

Stay Connected

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

Remembrance Day

porthope.ca/news

On November 11, Members of Branch 30 of the Royal Canadian Legion Port Hope will gather for the Remembrance Day Service beginning at 10:30 a.m. at the Memorial Park Cenotaph (44 Queen Street). The ceremony at the Canton Cenotaph (5325 County Road 10) will begin at 2 p.m. All are welcome to attend. A reminder that road closures will be in place and many municipal services will be closed on November 11.

Public Meetings for Zoning By-law Amendment Applications

porthope.ca/news

Complete applications have been received for two Zoning By-law Amendments. A Public Meeting for both applications will be held on December 8, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. at Town Hall.

ZB05-2026 | 5351 6th Line: Seeks to recognize and permit an Additional Residential Unit within an existing accessory building.

ZB04-2026 | 1516 Wesleyville Road: Seeks permission for a temporary works yard and storage area on a portion of the subject lands for a period of three years.

Visit our website to view the full notices, including application details, maps, and information on how to submit comments.

Construction Update

engage.porthope.ca/VTreconstruction

Progress continues on the Victoria Street Reconstruction and Toronto Road Watermain Upsizing project. We want to thank our community for their patience during this major infrastructure work along one of our key transportation corridors. Check out the project page and follow for updates.

Upcoming Events or Meetings:

porthope.ca/calendar

NOV 17 **Inaugural Council Meeting** The incoming Council will be inaugurated on November 17, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. The ceremony will take place in the Council Chambers, located on the second level of Town Hall at 56 Queen Street. Residents are welcome to attend in-person, pending capacity, or watch the live ceremony on our YouTube Channel.

NOV 27 **Candlelight Festival** Join us for the Candlelight Walk, late night shopping, park lighting ceremony, fire pits, wagon rides and more: **porthope.ca/candlelight-festival**

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EDITORIAL

Wear your poppies as a visual pledge to never forget

In this week's edition, you'll find several pages dedicated to Remembrance Day.

We all know that Remembrance Day comes once a year on Nov. 11 but that the act of remembrance is something we should carry with us always – and many of us do whether in a simple gesture or by supporting a legion fundraiser, to name just a few examples.

You will read about what you need to know participate in ceremonies next Wednesday, as well as events leading up to Nov. 11.

Readers are also reminded of the importance of the poppy and what it means to wear one. It may seem like a small gesture to someone who has never served – or maybe it's something you have been doing your whole life – but it's so much more.

The poppy is meant to serve as a visual pledge to never forget those who paid the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom. It's not just a symbol of remembrance, but a show of respect and a reminder of the cost of freedom that many paid for with losses of loved ones and friends or their own lives.

The red flower also serves as legions' symbols for poppy campaigns across the nation – and these campaigns do so much.

The history of the poppy can be traced back to the Napoleonic Wars in the 19th Century. According to the Royal Canadian Legion, records from this time indicate thick poppies grew over the graves of soldiers in Flanders, France.

And fields that were described as barren before battle later exploded with "the blood-red flowers" after fighting ended.

Most people are familiar with the story of how the poppy was first introduced to Canada and the Commonwealth during the First World War by Lt. Col. John McCrae, who penned the famous "In Flanders Fields" poem on just a scrap of paper back in May 1915 a day after the death of a fellow soldier.

Hailing from Guelph, Ont., the Canadian Medical Officer's poem was published in Punch Magazine later that year in December.

Now, 111 years later, that poem and the significance of the poppy has endured – and we should, too.

This Remembrance Day, take part in a local event, talk to your legion and its volunteers – stop to talk to the people, youth and volunteers who've dedicated their evening or time with poppy boxes at local grocery stores. Talk to your kids taking part in school Remembrance Day activities.

Did you know that legion volunteers started planning and working on these events in some instances months ago? In just Port Hope, the poppy campaign and remembrance planning committee starting co-ordinating local events back in mid-August.

Surely we can take some time to attend a local service, a fundraising dinner or even just wear a poppy.

Be sure to also read on in this week's paper to learn more about the difference donations to poppy campaigns make for veterans and their families. These campaigns also help with local programming for youth so that remembrance carries on, and so much more.

"Lest We Forget."



Sarah Clayton, poppy chair with the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 30 in Port Hope, is seen here with Northumberland-Peterborough South MPP David Piccini, who is among those who've dedicated their time recently to help distribute poppies locally as part of area legion campaigns. /Port Hope legion photo

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West Northumberland Independent **Have something to say?**

Submit your Letter to the Editor to us at **sarah@granthaven.com**

West Northumberland Independent **Guiding Principles**

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

‘We recognize the skill, compassion and professionalism demonstrated by first-responders in their work’



Northumberland County recently hosted its 11th annual Survivor Night ceremony, which recognized 126 first-responders across 11 dispatch, paramedic, fire, and police services. Survivor Joe Palumbo, centre, is surrounded by first-responders. / Northumberland County photo



The 11th annual Survivor Night ceremony shone a light on the life-saving efforts of first-responders, recognizing more people than ever before, says Northumberland Paramedics Chief Susan Brown. /Northumberland County photo

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

ing paramedics, firefighters, police officers, dispatchers, and the bystanders whose actions can make a life-changing difference.

This year, 126 first-responders from across 11 dispatch, paramedic, fire and police services serving Northumberland were formally recognized for their roles in the resuscitation of 22 people who experienced cardiac arrest in 2025.

“It was the most stories we’ve ever had,” said Northumberland Paramedics’ Chief Susan Brown.

In addition to Palumbo, four other survivors attended the ceremony.

“We really (demonstrated) that chain of survival in an emergency” through the stories that were shared, she said.

That chain encompasses calling 911, starting CPR, making use of an automated external defibrillator (AED) if available, and then the arrival of first-responders on the scene.

“Every cardiac arrest is a powerful reminder that outcomes are shaped in the moments that follow,” said Brown. “Whether it’s a family member or bystander starting CPR, a dispatcher providing instructions over the phone or first-responders working together at the scene, every action plays an important role when seconds matter most.”

The annual ceremony reinforces the importance of recognizing cardiac arrest and taking prompt, appropriate action.

“Survivor Night reminds us that behind every emergency response is a team of dedicated professionals and community members working together to help others in their time of greatest need,” said outgoing Warden Bob Crate.

“As we mark the 11th annual ceremony, we recognize the skill, compassion and professionalism demonstrated by first-responders in their work, the courage of bystanders jumping into action, and the stories of survivors, who remind us what these collective efforts make possible – more time, more moments and more memories with the people who matter most.”

First-responders recognized from the Cobourg Fire Department were Andrew Hardy, Brody Waller, Chris Post, Daniel Lagrois, Darren Goodwin, Jack Dillon, Jeff Briggs, Matthew Diminie, Mitchell Blair, Nigel Hall, Patrick Wilson, Rachel Dunbrack, Sorab Bulsara, Scott MacDonald and Steve Lagani.

Joel Rashotte from Cobourg Police Service was also recognized at the ceremony.

Meanwhile, from the Township of Cramahe Fire Department, Chris Watton and Mike McMurray received recognition.

From the Township of Hamilton Fire Department, Kevin Cameron, Nick Kennedy, Scott Hie and Tyler Corvers were formally recognized.

First-responders recognized from Brighton Fire and Rescue were Adam McCurdy, Adam Walsh, Andrew Hutchinson, Deeanna Gerow, Dominik Lagace, Emma Moon, John Mifsud, Ken Robertson, Kory Hietala, Olivia McMurray, Paige Jeffreys, Paul Martin and Stephanie Lubig.

From the Lindsay Central Ambulance Communications Centre, Allyssa Bowen, Anna Charlton, Ashley Howard, Ben Strating, Brooke Jewell, Carissa McQuade, Deanna Marucio, Glenda McElwain, Janice Dunigan, Jean Langsford, Jesse Lappan, Jordan Gannon-Lean, Josh Eldridge, Kathryn Heard, Maggie Denney, Michelle Holmes, Molly Burt, Nicole Paquette, Paige Cooke, Peyton Forbes, Sandi McLeod, Shelley Harrison, Star Rutherford, Sydney Lodwick, Tamara Kimball and Tammy Lockwood received recognition.

From Northumberland OPP, Amit Kumar, Brandon Malcolm and Darryl Meyers were honoured.

From Northumberland Paramedics, those recognized included Abby Todd, Anna DeKleer (former county paramedic), Ava Patterson, Bob Cranley, Bobby Harris, Brooklin Raven, Bryan Brockbank, Cameron Kendall, Christian O’Neill, Christipher Hopkins, Christine Bruhm, Dan Dulmage, Dexter Barrett, Emery McLaughlin (former county paramedic), Emily Lloyd, Erin Gregus, Galen Burrows, Greg Donnan, Hannah Han (former county paramedic), Hayley Martin, Heidi Brown, Jacob Platanitis, Jaden Leblanc, James Sandzuik, Joseph Fleming, Joseph Sakuma, Justin Fraser, Kayla Baggaley, Kevin Payne (former county paramedic), Laurie McKenna, Lexus Rocha, Matthew Rollwagen, Mike Stumpf, Molly Matwey, Morgan Steinmiller (former county paramedic), Nick Kennedy, Rob Woollard, Ronni Williams, Sarah Buckle, Sarah Ghey, Shea Eddison, Stephanie Lubig, Steven Nurse, Tamara Perron, Taylor Janevski, Taylor Ward-Forrester, Thomas Muzik, Tiffany Storms-Stoakley and Zack Caddick.

The ceremony also recognized Abigail Teno, Allison Mullins, Claire Rowden, Hayley Mugford and Stephen O’Neil from Port Hope Fire and Emergency Services. Meanwhile, Port Hope Police Service’s Michael Worts received recognition.

From the Trent Hills Fire Department, Allison Gratton, Brian Buchanan, Charlie Murphy, Emerson Durcak, Ian LeBlanc, Jennifer Greenly, Jon Trotter, Kyle Finch, Liam Glovier, Mateusz Swoboda, Noah Robertson, Paul Dawson, Shawn Jamieson and Victor Balas were honoured.

As for Palumbo, one month after his cardiac incident, he returned to the tennis club to join club officials in accepting an AED for the facility, donated by paramedics.

WEEKEND QUIZ

By Jake Grant

1. What are the two birthstones for November?
2. What is the more common name for the Fibonacci sequence?
3. What is the color of liquid oxygen?
4. What is the largest power plant in Canada?
5. In what year did Korea split?
6. What is a popular 1990’s slang for very short cutoff jeans?
7. What is a full moon in November called?
8. What kind of stone is the Taj Mahal made of?
9. What are the small bones that make up a backbone called?
10. What continent is Andorra in?

This week’s answers are found on pg. 38

Wesleyville Church reopens after 2021 blaze ravaged 1860s beloved structure



Attendees at the Wesleyville Church reopening celebration learned about the many partners who rallied in the community to help restore the church after a fire ravaged the historic building back in 2021. In addition to speeches, displays were set up inside the church.



Glen Green points to his name etched on the brick wall during Sunday's Wesleyville Church grand-reopening celebration after years of restoration work following a fire in 2021. Green was a student at the Wesleyville Schoolhouse in 1965. /Tim Burgess photos

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

in the years that followed.

"One thing about our community … is we are indominable," said an emotional Sue Stickley, chairperson of the FOWV board of directors, while speaking to restoration supporters, project partners, leaders, residents and more, who all gathered last Sunday, Nov. 1 for the official grand-reopening of the church, marking a monumental turning point in the village's story.

"We really have faced many challenges, and we're going to conserve this village and it's going to be used by the community for many, many years to come."

Her pointed introductory remarks of: "Well, folks, isn't it great to be back," received a roaring round of applause.

The reopening celebration offered people a chance to step into the now beautifully-restored church – and take in the new steps to the 1899 schoolhouse. There was music, displays, a harvest-inspired lunch in the schoolhouse, gifts, and fundraising, which included the return of the popular "Celebrity Baking Auction" featuring Northumberland-Peterborough South MPP David Piccini as auctioneer. Local leaders brought in homemade contributions to help, including Cobourg Mayor Lucas Cleveland who gifted some "beautiful cupcakes."

Well-known Port Hope resident Blake Holton, who is also a former FOWV director, served as emcee for the celebration.

Holton spoke of the restoration work that had been underway leading up to the fire.

Prior to blaze – which in the community is commonly cited as believed to be "an act of arson" – the volunteer-driven FOWV group was known for working tirelessly to restore the historical buildings housed at the village – including the church, which was the Friends' first restoration project – and ultimately transforming the area into a rural heritage community hub for all kinds of activities. Wesleyville has long been considered a community gem because it offers a special heritage experience with its natural landscapes and historic buildings, which provide a glimpse into the past.

"And then some people came one night and started a fire," said Holton, explaining this meant all that earlier money and work that had gone into the building prior "went up in smoke."

Damages from the fire were earlier described as significant near the entrance and to the interior despite a quick knockdown by firefighters.

Holton shared that he imagines one day, the person(s) responsible will come to the restored site as grown-ups – they'll see people working on the lawn or inside, and they'll become volunteers and make amends.

And the future is bright, attendees of the gathering heard.

"It's not a church anymore," noted Holton. "It's a public meeting space, it's a concert hall, it's going to be so many things to so many different people …"

During the gathering, there were a lot of thank-yous – the number of people who came together and tackled some painstaking work to bring the church back to life were many. But it wasn't just about honouring accomplishments – there was also a focus on securing Wesleyville Village for future generations to come.

The reopening also shone a light on community supporters, project partners, and municipal and provincial support, including Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) capital grants totalling $176,900 in 2025 and 2026 to support church restoration efforts and historic schoolhouse improvements.

"I think this is what a community is all about when you have people who give back to protect our heritage and rich history, and I'm honoured to be here to celebrate the reopening of Wesleyville Village Church, this gathering place, (and) the incredible work that has gone in the schoolhouse as well," said Piccini, while calling for a round of applause in support of the FOWV board for members' relentless efforts to see this restoration through.

"Of course, the history dates back to the mid-1800s, and it was such a focal point for the community I believe operating the schoolhouse into the early 1960s and has been a place where we've gathered as a community," continued Piccini. "And I know, as you heard Blake say, (there was) some really horrific arson that ravaged this building before – but when community can come together, there's no stopping the incredible fortitude and work ethic of Sue (Stickley) and the board and team who have been working collaboratively with the Ontario Trillium Foundation through the Government of Ontario to support the restoration of this space, in addition to incredible philanthropy from community members like all of you," he told attendees.

Paul Rosebush, chair with the OTF grant review team for the Durham, Haliburton, Kawartha and Pine Ridge area, noted the team's coverage area is massive and they receive hundreds and hundreds of grant applications. Put another way, he admitted it can be hard to get their attention.

"(But) this one we found so deserving of the support of the province and the support of the (Ontario) Trillium Foundation. This is history, but this is also community, and I think those two things really help support the mission of Trillium, which is to build healthy, strong and vibrant communities.

"And the work of the entire team has really shown that can be accomplished when good people come together …"

The hope is this restoration will mean the church stands for another century.

Stickley also said it was a true team community effort to get the doors reopened. There were "saviors" on the board of directors and others working as directors on FOWV committees, such as Robert Sculthorpe, who chaired the property committee and managed the project, as just one example, community partners, and many more. At Sunday's celebration, there were also displays honouring supporters adorning the inside of the church.

"Looking around, I see reflections – reflections of the beautiful sunshine that comes through the stained-glass windows and gleams across the floor – and really what it brings to my mind is a reflection of you and the pride that each and every one of you has on your faces from accomplishing this goal – thank you all," Stickley told attendees.

"And for the financial aspects, we have invested over half-a-million dollars to restore this building (and) of that, about 42 per cent came from provincial and Municipality of Port Hope grants," explained Stickley. "But the rest of it came from the community, from professionals like Reno Piccini, who contributed his time and ef-

CONTINUED TO PAGE 7

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‘We’re here to stay, and we hope you can support us’

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

fort to do our architectural work, along with Phil Carter … Phil also worked really hard on the design for restoring the church, and then Henderson Construction … they made many contributions.”

And the list goes on, acknowledged Stickley, who later pointed to ACO Port Hope stepping up to help fund a new roof needed in order to tackle interior restoration, as just one more example. She also said Rod Stewart and Masumi Suzuki contributed and helped with the design of the “beautiful entrance door,” (which the fire ripped through this area.)

Of course, Stickley also said the OTF grants were significant and key to making year-round community use at the village possible.

The first $154,400 grant in 2025 specifically helped restore the interior of the fire-damaged church and with work on floors, walls and ceilings. These improvements also helped the church regain an occupancy permit.

Meanwhile, this summer, the Friends got an additional $22,500 capital grant to support improvements to the schoolhouse, including to help with repairs to the entry stairs and interior heaters.



The Wesleyville Church on Lakeshore Road has officially reopened as of Nov. 1 after years of restoration work following the Easter long-weekend blaze back in 2021. /Tim Burgess photo

But Stickley was also quick to note that grants don’t cover all costs. There’s still more work to do to upgrade, maintain and actually operate the village for the community, she explained.

“Look around the church and you’ll see there’s much more work to be done. We want to continue using, enjoying and sharing it for years to come.

“We’ve achieved a milestone in the history of our indominable little village. We’re here to stay, and we hope you can support us.”

Residents can learn more about the Friends via www.wesleyvillewillage.ca.

In terms of the fire, Northumberland OPP Const. James Clarke told the Independent there are no new updates to share on the investigation, which is still ongoing. He again echoed the call for anyone with information to reach out to OPP at 1-888-310-1122.

The Office of the Fire Marshal previously handed the probe over to OPP back in 2021.

It’s believed the blaze occurred during the early morning hours on April 3, 2021, with crews responding to reports of a fire just after 5:30 a.m.

-With files from Tim Burgess

Province announces $113K for ‘Seniors Active Living Centres’

‘Programs like these play an important role in helping seniors stay active’

INDEPENDENT STAFF

Northumberland-Peterborough South MPP David Piccini has announced provincial funding intended to help seniors in Port Hope and Cobourg remain fit, active and connected with others.

The Government of Ontario is investing a combined $113,476 in annual funding to support two local Seniors Active Living Centres (SALC) through the Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility.

For 2026-27, the SALC at the Cobourg Seniors Activity Centre will receive $55,880. Located in Cobourg, the centre serves about 1,000 older adults and seniors from Cobourg and the broader Northumberland community each year. Programming includes social activities, gentle and high-intensity exercise classes, creative expression activities and pickleball, according to a recent release.

The SALC at the Ruth Clarke Activity Centre will also receive a reported $57,596. Located at the Town Park Recreation Centre in Port Hope, the centre serves nearly 700 older adults and seniors. Programs include recreation, arts and culture, fitness, cards, educational workshops and clinics, dining, social activities and transportation.

“Programs like these play an important role in helping seniors stay active, build friendships and remain connected to their communities,” said Piccini. “Our seniors deserve opportunities to stay engaged, maintain their independence and enjoy a high quality of life close to home.

“I’m proud that our government is continuing to invest in these valuable programs across Northumberland-Peterborough South.”

This year, Ontario is investing a record amount of close to $23 million to support 416 SALC programs across the province, including 97 new ones, the recent release from Piccini’s office reads.



Northumberland-Peterborough South MPP David Piccini (left) and Minister for Seniors and Accessibility Raymond Cho are seen here at Piccini’s third annual senior’s seminar event. /David Piccini photo

“(SALCs) keep our seniors, fit, active, healthy, socially connected, close to their homes and in their communities,” said Minister for Seniors and Accessibility Raymond Cho. “Thanks to Ontario Premier (Doug) Ford’s leadership, our government is making the largest investment in (SALC) programs in Ontario’s history.

“This will help even more seniors, no matter where they live, including those in a city or rural, remote and northern communities live more healthy, happy and independent lives.”

This year marks the 60th anniversary of the first six “Elderly Persons’ Centres” – now known as SALC programs – established under the Elderly Persons’ Centres Act, 1966.

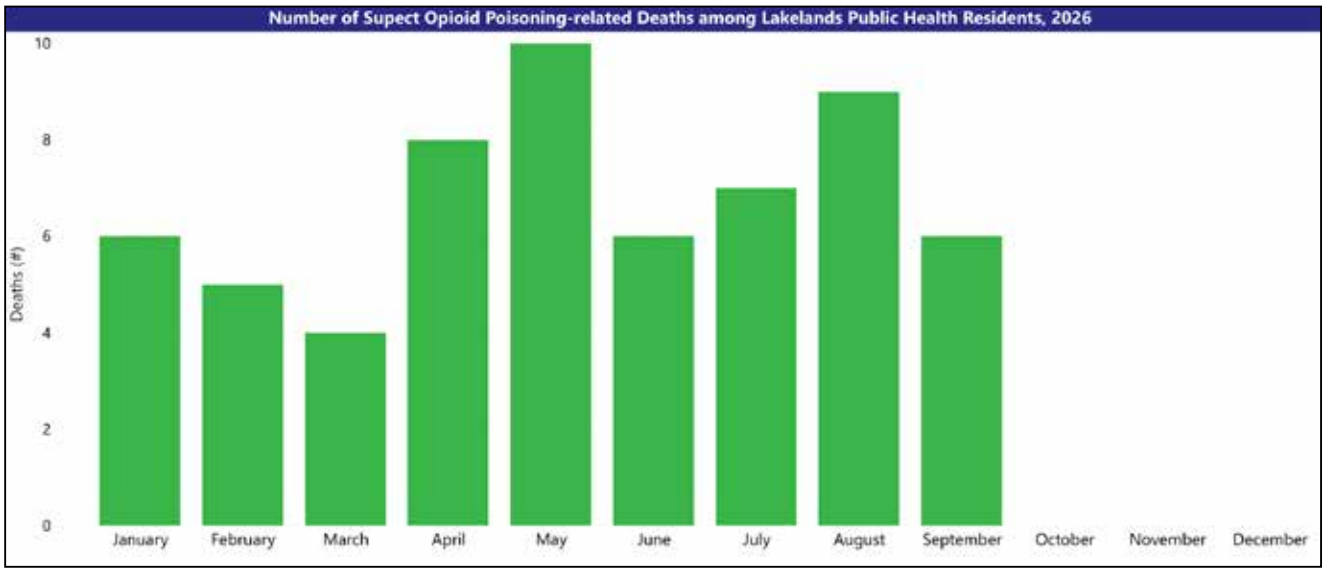
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Toxic drug supply alert issued after 18 overdose calls

'It has been described as dark pinky-brown with purple flecks and crumbles easily'



In the wake of a high number of suspected drug poisonings, the health unit has issued a toxic drug supply alert, warning of a substance suspected to be fentanyl or 'tranq' circulating. Officials say multiple doses of naloxone may be needed. /Lakelands Public Health photo



This screenshot of Lakelands Public Health's opioid poisoning weekly alert dashboard shows suspected opioid poisoning-related deaths across the region so far for the year. Another six have initially been reported for last month. /Lakelands Public Health screenshot

SARAH HYATT

Editor/reporter

After overdose calls to paramedics doubled in recent weeks, public health has issued a warning about a toxic drug supply circulating in Northumberland.

"Lakelands Public Health is issuing an alert due to a high number of suspected drug poisonings related to paramedic service calls reported in Northumberland County," said the health unit, in a recent release.

According to public health, the substance suspected to be behind the poisonings is fentanyl or "tranq" – which is also medically known as xylazine. According to a Government of Canada description, xylazine is a non-opiate veterinary sedative and analgesic that is not approved for human use in Canada. It can decrease bodily functions such as heart rate, breathing and blood pressure, and can also cause skin infections leading to necrosis.

The substance circulating locally has been connected to reports causing "extreme sedation, lasting hours, and may be difficult to rouse the individual."

"It has been described as dark pinky-brown with purple flecks and crumbles easily," explained public health staff.

Officials have also warned multiple doses of naloxone may be needed.

The health unit's alert was issued last Friday Oct. 30 towards the end of the business day.

In response to follow-up inquiries around the alert that references increasing paramedic calls, Northumberland Paramedics Chief Susan Brown told the Independent that over the two-week span of Oct. 18 to 31, there were 18 overdose calls to paramedics.

In comparison, for the two-week reporting period prior – from Oct. 4 to 17 – there were nine calls over that 14-day period. For the two-week reporting period prior – from Sept. 20 to Oct. 3 – there were 12 calls, confirmed Brown.

Put another way, that totals 39 calls – solely to paramedics – since Oct. 3. Brown confirmed these figures with the Independent towards the end of the day on Tuesday, Nov. 3.

Meanwhile, at this time, on Lakelands Public Health's opioid poisoning weekly alert dashboard, it indicates for the week of Oct. 18 that there were 10 suspected drug overdoses reported through emergency departments. However, this is regional data not broken down by counties – and these were the latest figures available at press deadline.

There were also six suspected opioid-related deaths for the month of October, according to the latest online health unit data. The Independent also reached out to the health unit with additional inquiries surrounding the alert and recent deaths but did not hear back at press deadline.

Looking back at data for the last six months, the health unit's figures indicate there were also six suspected opioid-related deaths in September, nine in August, seven in July, six in June, and 14 in May, translating to 48 suspected deaths specifically related to opioid poisonings. Figures for the four months prior total 23, translating to 71 suspected deaths across Lakelands Public Health's area so far this year.

In its warning about the "pinky-brown" substance circulating, officials also reiterated that the unregulated drug supply may be contaminated with other substances. However, naloxone should still be used in all suspected overdoses due to the possibility of opioid contamination and/or poisoning, explained public health. The health unit also included a reminder that naloxone kits are free and available at its offices, certain pharmacies and other agencies.

The health unit also continues to encourage anyone who sees a person experiencing a drug poisoning to intervene, call 911, administer naloxone and start rescue breath and/or chest compressions. Officials are reminding residents that the Good Samaritan Act protects people trying to help in these emergency situations from possible legal repercussions – as well as protects people at the scene of an overdose from being charged for using or possessing drugs for personal use.

Public health issues "focused toxic drug supply alerts" in line with provincial practices when data and information received indicates "this information is urgent and could help the community."

More information on harm reduction practices, local resources, naloxone, and signs on how to identify an overdose is accessible via the health unit's website. Lakelands Public Health also has a drug information reporting form online, which people can access to anonymously report drug poisonings and/or drug-related information to help with local responses.

Port Hope Garden Club beautifies Walton Street



On a recent beautiful fall day, members of the Port Hope Garden Club rallied to plant bulbs in the new boulevard planters along Walton Street as part of the club's community outreach program. In a little more than three hours, members planted 500 bulbs, which means next spring people can enjoy a splash of colour with the mix of tulips and daffodils that will sprout up. /Darlene Mack submitted photo



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‘We are so grateful’: Cornerstone’s Walk a Mile raises record-breaking $72K

Community shows up for women, kids, youth impacted by gender-based violence

SARAH HYATT

Editor/reporter

Cornerstone’s 19th Walk a Mile fundraiser has shattered all previous records, raising more than $72,000.

The Cornerstone Family Violence Prevention Centre’s signature fundraiser was held back at the start of October in downtown Cobourg, but the final tally just announced.

“We are so grateful to everyone who came together to make this year’s Walk a Mile such a success,” said Nancy Johnston, Cornerstone’s executive director. “The incredible support we receive from our community allows us to continue being there for those when they need us most.”

Funds raised through the event mean help for women, kids and youth across Northumberland – and ultimately help strengthen access to Cornerstone’s shelter and housing supports, counselling, violence prevention education, family court support and other essential programs.

Meanwhile, Johnston also earlier told the Independent that the need for Cornerstone’s programs and services only continues to grow.

Last year alone, Cornerstone reported helping more than 2,400 residents across Northumberland.



This year’s Walk a Mile event in support of Cornerstone has raised a record-breaking $72,000-plus. /Cornerstone photo

Walk a Mile has been a long-time success thanks to an outpouring of community support year-after-year – and the 2026 edition represents the highest amount ever raised in the event’s history.

“For (the) total of all 19 years combined – including this year – (this) brings us to $736,500 that Walk a Mile has raised,” Cayne Fordham, Cornerstone’s manager of fundraising and communications, told the Independent after the 2026 total was announced. “This year’s net proceeds (represent) about a 30 per cent increase from last year.”

Cornerstone’s work is only made possible through the ongoing generosity of donors, sponsors, volunteers, and community supporters, highlighted the organization when announcing the $72,000-plus raised this year.

“We want to extend our sincere thanks to everyone who participated, fundraised, donated and helped spread the word about Walk a Mile,” said Johnston. “A heartfelt thank you to our lead sponsor Cameco, as well as Canadian Tire Cobourg, Ontario Line Clearing and Wharram Tree Service, Balder, Dez Capital, and all of our sponsors for making this event possible.”

Cornerstone said the event was supported by several community partners who also helped make the day memorable for participants.

“We are incredibly thankful to the Lions Club of Cobourg and Pulse Coffee House for helping us welcome participants with breakfast and coffee,” added Johnston. “This event could not happen without our community partners – thank you to the Cobourg Fire Department, Cobourg and Port Hope police services, Ontario Provincial Police, the Cobourg Police Service Pipes and Drums, and to everyone who came out and showed their support.”

Walk a Mile is also meant to serve as a show of solidarity and support for women, kids and youth impacted by gender-based violence.



People flooded downtown Cobourg for the 2026 Walk a Mile in a show of support for women, kids and youth impacted by gender-based violence in Northumberland. /Cornerstone photo



Members of the Cobourg Fire Department show off their red pumps sported during this year’s Walk a Mile fundraiser. /Cornerstone photo

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County calls on volunteers to support warming room

'Volunteers will provide hospitality-type supports'

NATALIE HAMILTON

Reporter

From having a cheerful chat to offering a hot drink, Northumberland County is calling on volunteers to lend a hand at its warming room in Cobourg.

Northumberland County opened the overnight warming centre on Monday (Nov. 2) for people in need of escaping the season's chilly nights. As the service opens, the county is inviting residents to consider applying to volunteer their time.

"Volunteers will provide hospitality-type supports, such as preparing refreshments, organizing donations, and engaging with clients in friendly conversation," Kate Campbell, the county's director of communications, told the Independent. "The warming room will be staffed with two personnel at all times."

Located at 600 William St., the warming room is intended to provide a safe, heated overnight space for people experiencing homelessness during the colder months. It operates seven nights a week from 8 p.m. to 8 a.m.

Volunteer duties include preparing and serving coffee, snacks and light refreshments, spending time with guests, and ultimately helping create a welcoming and respectful environment, noted the county.

"There are many different ways people can contribute, and we want to make volunteering accessible to anyone who has some time and wants to help," said Bill Smith, the county's manager of homelessness services, community and social services. "People can volunteer for an hour, an evening or whatever time works for them.

"There is no minimum time commitment. Sometimes something as simple as sitting down with someone, having a conversation and making them feel welcome can make a real difference."

Those interested in applying to volunteer are asked to visit Northumberland.ca/Volunteer and complete a volunteer form.

The county said staff members will then follow-up with interested volunteers about the opportunity and arrange an interview to discuss the applicant's interest and ensure the role is a good fit. The county will provide orientation and training.



Northumberland County is preparing for winter and calling on residents to consider giving their time as volunteers for the warming room in Cobourg that opened as of Nov. 2. Pictured here are cars submerged after a historic dumping of snow last winter. /Sarah Hyatt photo

West Northumberland Independent
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This event is being hosted by the Municipality of Port Hope in partnership with the Older Adult Centres' Association of Ontario (OACAO)

Town activates traffic signals at D'Arcy Street, University Avenue East

Project part of traffic signal improvements at three intersections

INDEPENDENT STAFF

The Town of Cobourg has given the intersection of D'Arcy Street and University Avenue East a green light.

Cobourg's public works and engineering division recently announced the new traffic signals at D'Arcy Street and University Avenue East were activated as of Oct. 30.

In July, the Town of Cobourg shared its plans to make traffic signal improvements at three intersections.

New traffic signals were installed at D'Arcy Street and Elgin Street East in partnership with Northumberland County. The D'Arcy Street and Elgin Street East traffic signals were activated earlier in October.

The third project is at Division Street and University Avenue, where existing traffic signals are being upgraded to include left-turn signals for all approaches to the intersection. This work is still ongoing, noted the town.

Town staff said the work on these intersections was approved as part of the 2026 capital budget and funded through the infrastructure reserve with Northumberland County contributing costs for the D'Arcy Street and Elgin Street East traffic signal infrastructure, and the town contributing costs for curbs, pavement markings, and more.

"This initiative reflects the town's commitment to improving safety for children, pedestrians, and the broader community," said town staff, in a recent release.



The Town of Cobourg has announced that signal work at the intersection of D'Arcy Street and University Avenue East has wrapped. /Town of Cobourg Facebook photo

OPG hosting info sessions for proposed Wesleyville nuclear project

Residents can hear more about proposal, studies underway, reactor technologies being assessed

INDEPENDENT STAFF

For residents looking to learn more about the proposed Wesleyville nuclear project, there are several OPG public information session in the works.

In a Township of Hamilton release, it states Ontario Power Generation (OPG) will host one of the sessions on Wednesday, Nov. 18 at the Baltimore Community Centre at 23 Community Centre Rd. from 6 to 8 p.m. The sessions are supposed to be provide residents with a chance to learn more about the proposal.

"OPG is continuing its regional outreach and engagement as work progresses on the proposed project," reads the township's notice. "The public information session will provide an opportunity for residents to learn more about the project, the studies underway to support the impact assessment process, and the reactor technologies currently being assessed."

The Township of Hamilton is "part of a series of public information sessions taking place across the region in November and December," reads the notice.

Before the Township of Hamilton session, there is supposed to also be one in the works for next Tuesday, Nov. 10 at the Port Hope Community Hub from 6 to 8 p.m. and one in Brighton on Nov. 17 at the Owen Gibb Community Hall, again from 6 to 8 p.m.

After this, sessions are in the works for Nov. 26 at the Cavan Monaghan Community Centre in Millbrook, the Newcastle Community Hall on Nov. 30 and then virtual sessions planned again for Dec. 7. The online sessions are set for 1 to 2:30 p.m. and 6 to 7:30 p.m.

Registration details for all sessions and more information are accessible via opg.com/wesleyville. Online, it also states OPG team members will be on-hand to talk with residents and discuss potential new nuclear developments in the Municipality of Port Hope during a free public swim event at the Jack Burger Sports Complex on Nov. 21 from 2 to 4 p.m.

Meanwhile, OPG's "Nuclear Discovery Centre" at 115 Toronto Rd. in Port Hope is also open Monday to Friday 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Back to the information sessions, in the township's release, officials said residents will also be able to ask questions and speak with OPG representatives about the proposal and ongoing work.

Winter parking restrictions return in Cobourg

Parking not permitted on designated roads between hours of 2 and 7 a.m., say town staff

INDEPENDENT STAFF

Winter parking restrictions are back in effect in the Town of Cobourg.

The restrictions officially came back into effect as of Nov. 1 and are needed to ensure safe and efficient snow removal operations during the winter season, said town staff.

"It is especially important that collector and arterial roads (major roads) remain clear for safe

passage," explained staff.

What this means for residents is there's no parking permitted on designated collector and arterial roads until March 31 between the hours of 2 a.m. and 7 a.m.

In accordance with the town's parking bylaw, officials are also reminding residents to not park vehicles in any way that obstructs snow removal this coming winter season – and that parking is prohibited on any highway when a snow or significant weather event declaration has been made.

Staff added that a full list of streets people can't park on overnight is available via the town's website.

In terms of additional reminders, Cobourg's bylaw also states that during the winter no parking at any time is permitted on all cul-de-sacs and wide corners, laneways and one-way streets.

More information relating to snow clearing and the like is accessible via www.cobourg.ca/snow.



Winter parking restrictions are back in effect as of Nov. 1, 2026. /Sarah Hyatt photo

OPP auxiliary recruitment info session in the works

Attendees will have a chance to meet current members, ask questions, learn about experiences, more

INDEPENDENT STAFF

If you're looking for a way to give back, Northumberland OPP is looking for community-minded individuals who are eager to learn more about volunteer opportunities with the OPP auxiliary unit.

To offer people a chance to learn about opportunities, OPP has a recruitment information session in the works for Nov. 12 at 7 p.m. at the Cramahe Fire Department hall.

"The information session will provide attendees with an overview of the OPP auxiliary program, including volunteer opportunities, training requirements, and the important role auxiliary members play in supporting policing and community safety initiatives across Ontario," explained Northumberland OPP. "Participants will also have an opportunity to meet auxiliary members, ask questions about the recruitment process and learn firsthand about their experiences serving their communities."

In addition, attendees will have a chance to get up-close with OPP vehicles and talk with auxiliary members about careers, volunteer service and community engagement initiatives.

"The OPP auxiliary program offers volunteers a unique opportunity to contribute to public safety while supporting community events, crime prevention initiatives, traffic safety campaigns and public education programs alongside police officers," said OPP.

While people interested in learning more and attending are being encouraged to register in advance through Eventbrite online, registration isn't mandatory and walk-ins are welcome, noted police.

OPP also has more information available on its auxiliary program via www.opp.ca.

"Anyone with a strong commitment to community service, professionalism and public safety is encouraged to attend and discover how they can make a difference through volunteer service with the OPP auxiliary unit."

The Cramahe Fire Department hall is located at 232 Purdy Rd.



Northumberland OPP is calling on community-minded residents to consider volunteering through the OPP auxiliary program and has a recruitment session coming up on Nov. 12. Pictured here is OPP auxiliary member S. Manor. /OPP photo

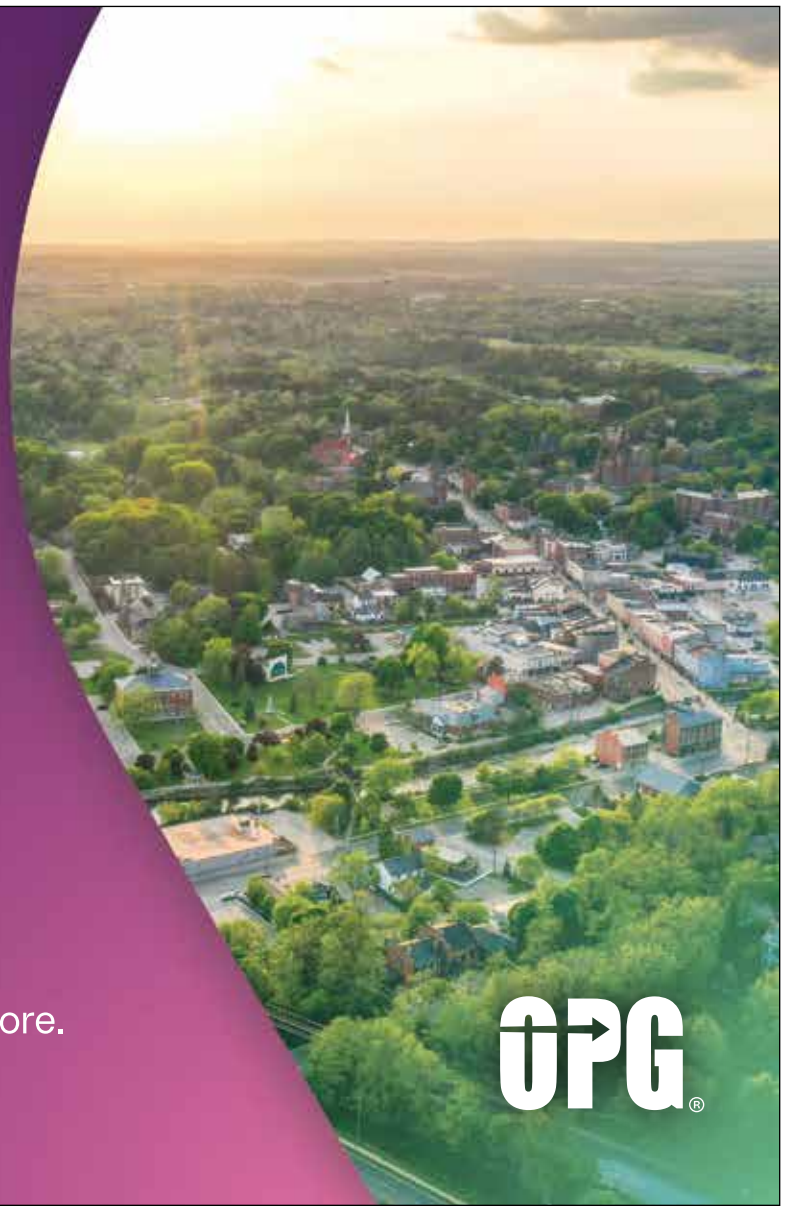
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  Hamilton Township, 6-8 p.m.
  Baltimore Community Centre
- **Nov 26**
  Peterborough County, 6-8 p.m.
  Cavan Monaghan Community Centre
- **Nov 30**
  Newcastle, 6-8 p.m.
  Newcastle Community Hall
- **Dec 7**
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  & 6-7:30 p.m.

Visit **opg.com/wesleyville** to register and learn more.



OPG®

POLICE BRIEFS

2 youth facing assault charges, woman accused of hitting paramedic, more

Police also make two separate arrests in intimate partner violence investigations

INDEPENDENT STAFF

Here's a look at a number of recent Cobourg Police Service calls, which include a 14-year-old youth charged after an assault investigation, a Cobourg woman being accused of hitting a paramedic and another 16-year-old youth charged with assault with a weapon.

There were also two separate arrests related to intimate partner violence investigations, and more.

NEIGHBOURHOOD DISPUTE LEADS TO ARREST:

A 73-year-old Cobourg woman has been charged after an investigation into a neighbourhood dispute.

In August 2026, police said they opened an investigation after receiving a report of an assault stemming from a neighbourhood dispute at a residence on King Street East.

As a result of the probe, on Oct. 21, 2026, police said a 73-year-old Cobourg woman was arrested and charged with assault. The accused was released on an undertaking with a future court date, added police.

YOUTH CHARGED AFTER ASSAULT PROBE:

A 14-year-old Cobourg youth is facing charges following an assault investigation.

According to police, on Oct. 19, officers received a report that a youth had allegedly been assaulted and personal property was damaged.

As a result of the investigation, on Oct. 22, police said they arrested and charged a 14-year-old with assault and mischief. The youth was released on a youth undertaking with conditions, reported police.

ARREST MADE AFTER SHOPLIFTING CALL:

A Cobourg woman is facing charges after a shoplifting investigation at a Cobourg business.



The Cobourg Police Service station on King Street West. /Sarah Hyatt file photo

On Oct. 22, police said they responded to a report of shoplifting at a business on Elgin Street West.

After reviewing video surveillance, police said they were able to identify and arrest a suspect who is accused of leaving the store with unpaid merchandise.

As a result of the investigation, police said a 35-year-old Cobourg woman was charged with theft under $5,000, possession of property obtained by crime under $5,000, and two counts of failure to comply with a probation order.

MAN CHARGED AFTER ATTEMPTED VEHICLE ENTRY REPORT:

A Cobourg man has been charged after police said they investigated a report of attempted vehicle entry.

On Oct. 22, at about 12:45 a.m., police said they received a report from a resident who observed an individual on a doorbell camera attempting to open the door of a vehicle on their property.

"Officers reviewed video footage, identified the individual and located the individual nearby."

As a result of the investigation, police said a 25-year-old Cobourg man was arrested and charged with trespass at night and failure to comply with a probation order. The accused was released on an undertaking with a future court date, added police.

IPV INVESTIGATION LEADS TO ARREST:

A 54-year-old Cobourg man is facing an assault causing bodily harm – spousal – charge after an intimate partner violence investigation.

On Oct. 22, police said they responded to a report of an assault at a residence after a verbal argument escalated.

The accused was subsequently arrested and charged and then released on an undertaking with a future court date, said police.

'STRUCK A PARAMEDIC:'

A Cobourg woman accused of hitting a paramedic is facing an assault charge.

According to police, on Oct. 24, at about 4:30 p.m., officers responded to a report of an assault after an individual being transported by ambulance allegedly "became combative and struck a paramedic."

As a result of the investigation, police said a 32-year-old Cobourg woman was arrested and charged with assault. The accused was released on an undertaking with a future court date, reported police.

MAN CHARGED AFTER IPV INVESTIGATION:

A 46-year-old Alderville man has been charged after an intimate partner violence investigation, said police.

On Oct. 24, at about 1 a.m., police said they responded to a disturbance in the Town of Cobourg.

As a result of the investigation, police said the man was arrested and charged with assault –spousal, breach of recognizance, and failure to comply with probation.

COURTICE YOUTH CHARGED AFTER POLICE RESPOND TO FIGHT:

A 16-year-old Courtice youth has been charged after police said they responded to a fight.

On Oct. 27, at about 3 p.m., police said they responded to the area of Elizabeth Street and Westwood Drive for a report of a disturbance involving a group of individuals. Police added that they obtained video footage of the alleged incident.

As a result of the investigation, police said a 16-year-old Courtice youth was arrested and charged with assault with a weapon. The youth was released on a youth undertaking with a future court date, added police.

Man allegedly found unresponsive with BB gun charged

'Paramedics advised police that the individual appeared to have a firearm'

INDEPENDENT STAFF

After responding to a call to help paramedics with a man who was found unresponsive and who initially appeared to have a firearm in his pocket, Cobourg police say they've laid charges.

According to the Cobourg Police Service, on Monday, Nov. 2, at about 1 p.m., police responded to the George Street and Princess Street area to assist paramedics with a man who had reportedly been found "unresponsive."

"Paramedics advised police that the individual appeared to have a firearm," said CPS.

After police arrived at the scene and located the man, they said they observed "what appeared to be a firearm in his pocket."

However, police said further investigation determined the item was a CO2-powered BB gun that resembled a handgun.

As a result of the investigation, police said a 45-year-old Cobourg man was arrested and charged with carrying a concealed weapon, possession of a weapon for a dangerous purpose, and failure to comply with a probation order.

None of these charges have been proven in court.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.GRANTHAVEN.COM

POLICE BRIEFS

Charges laid after crash, IPV investigation, more

INDEPENDENT STAFF

From a crash probe to following up after a possible impaired driver report and an intimate partner violence investigation, Cobourg police say they've been busy fielding a number of incidents.

Here's a look at some of the Cobourg Police Service's recent calls.

CARELESS DRIVING LAID AFTER CRASH:

Police said they've charged a driver after a two-vehicle crash in Cobourg.

On Oct. 28, 2026, at about 6 p.m., police said they responded to the collision at Elgin Street East and Birchwood Trail. Two people were sent to hospital as a precaution, reported police.

As a result of the investigation, police said one driver was charged with careless driving, but police provided no details about the accused.

Both vehicles were reportedly towed from the scene.

THEFT FROM VEHICLE ARREST:

A 44-year-old Cobourg man has been charged after police said they responded to a report of individuals entering a vehicle.

On Oct. 28, at about 9:30 p.m., police said they responded to the John Street and James Street area after receiving a report about two individuals entering an unoccupied vehicle.

Police said they spoke with the vehicle owner and a witness and located a man matching the description of the individual who allegedly entered the vehicle.

As a result of the investigation, police said a 44-year-old Cobourg man was arrested and charged with theft under $5,000 from a motor vehicle.

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

IMPAIRED DRIVING CHARGE:

A 20-year-old Cobourg man is facing charges after an impaired driving probe.

On Oct. 29, at about 3:45 p.m., police said they received a report about a possible impaired driver in the Campbell Street and University Avenue area. After locating the described vehicle, police said they initiated a traffic stop.

As a result of the investigation, police said a 20-year-old Cobourg man was arrested and charged with operation while impaired – blood alcohol concentration (80 plus.)

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

The Cobourg Police Service continues to encourage the public to report suspected impaired driving by calling 911.

MAN CHARGED AFTER IPV INVESTIGATION:

A 58-year-old Cobourg man is facing charges after an intimate partner violence (IPV) investigation.

On Oct. 13, police said they responded to a disturbance report at a Cobourg residence.

Police said they learned a verbal dispute between a couple escalated, resulting in a woman allegedly being assaulted by her partner. A second individual who intervened was also assaulted, and minor injuries were reported, added police.

As a result of the investigation, police said on Oct. 29, a 58-year-old Cobourg man was arrested and charged with assault – spousal, assault with a weapon – spousal, assault causing bodily harm, and two counts of failure to comply with a probation order.

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

Allegations of sexual assault, forcible confinement

The accused include two Port Hope residents, one Bowmanville resident

INDEPENDENT STAFF

Port Hope police say they've made three arrests in connection with allegations of sexual assault and forcible confinement involving a female victim.

According to the Port Hope Police Service, on Oct. 27, 2026, police responded to "a disturbance" in the area of Phillips Road in Port Hope.

"An investigation resulted in three individuals being arrested and charged in connection with allegations of sexual assault and forcible confinement involving a female victim," said police.

Police said the investigation was led by the service's criminal investigations branch, with help from the Cobourg Police Service.

As a result of the investigation, police said Jean Paul Vachon, 49, of Bowmanville, was charged with three counts of sexual assault, forcible confinement, aggravated assault, overcoming resistance by administering or attempting to administer a drug, and three counts of possession of a schedule I substance for the purpose of trafficking – cocaine.

Police also said Natasha Fisher, 32, of Port Hope, was charged with forcible confinement, sexual assault, and assault with a weapon.

Finally, Erich Braun, 30, of Port Hope, was also charged with forcible confinement and sexual assault, reported police.

None of these charges have been proven in court.

During the investigation, officers also allege they seized about 11 grams of suspected fentanyl, 4.7 grams of crack cocaine and two grams of powder cocaine, along with items consistent with drug-trafficking.

Search warrants were subsequently executed at residences in Port Hope and Bowmanville as part of the probe, reported police, adding the accused were initially held for bail hearings and subsequently remanded into custody.

The investigation remains ongoing, noted police.

No other details were released by police at the Independent's press deadline.

Port Hope woman, 62, facing impaired driving charges

INDEPENDENT STAFF

An OPP tip about a possible impaired driver has led to the arrest of a 62-year-old woman, say Port Hope police.

According to the Port Hope Police Service, on Oct. 30, 2026, at about 6:30 p.m., police received a report about a possible impaired driver.

Officers said they located and stopped the suspect vehicle on Dorset Street West.

Following an investigation, police said a 62-year-old Port Hope woman was arrested, and breath testing allegedly registered readings that exceeded twice the legal limit.

Police said the accused was charged with operation while impaired, operation while impaired – blood alcohol concentration (80 plus,) failure to surrender an insurance card, failure to stop on the right for an emergency vehicle and driving without a proper rear light.

None of these charges have been proven in court.

The accused also had her licence suspended and the vehicle was impounded. She was released on an undertaking with a future court date, added police.

OPP make arrest after alleged shoplifting incident

INDEPENDENT STAFF

A shoplifting probe in the Municipality of Trent Hills has led to an arrest, says Northumberland OPP.

According to OPP, on Oct. 27, 2026, shortly after noon, officers received a report of a theft from a business on Front Street South. The complainant reported that merchandise valued at about $280 had been stolen.

As a result of the investigation, police said they identified and arrested an individual on Oct. 28.

The accused is a 39-year-old Campbellford resident who was charged with theft under $5,000 – shoplifting, and failure to comply with a probation order, reported OPP.

None of these charges have been proven in court.

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Picturesque Pumpkin Parade lights up Port Hope

SARAH HYATT
Editor/reporter

Port Hope capped off the spooky season in style with the picturesque eighth edition of the Critical Mass Pumpkin Parade last Sunday.

The annual parade offers people a chance to show their creativity and let their jack-o-lanterns shine one last time the day after Halloween and lights up Lent Lane in downtown Port Hope.

"It's a whimsical annual event that wraps up spooky season with a showcase of community creativity in an outdoor gallery-like setting," Debbie Beattie, with Critical Mass, told the Independent.

Beattie said the total pumpkin count was about 548, with these creations lighting the way from the Little Station House down Lent Lane and almost to Walton Street. The event is also popular for people wanting to take photos during pumpkin viewing and setup, and as the pumpkins are all later lit with a tea light or LED candle.

"Turnout to view the pumpkins was about 1,500 people," she added.



Thirteen-year-old Bohdan Radchenko from Port Hope wrestles to help with a large pumpkin during the Critical Mass parade Sunday.

This year's event was again made possible through volunteer efforts and brought together several community partners, including the Municipality of Port Hope, Harnden Haulage and Excavation, Hope Community Church, and the Port Hope Panthers.

Yearly, Harnden Haulage also provides a bin and helps take pumpkins away after the parade to feed animals at area farms and handles composting, with the municipality co-ordinating all this, explained Beattie.

Meanwhile, the church chips in with free hot chocolate for attendees to enjoy during the jack-o-lantern display, and rallies volunteers to help hoist pumpkins from cars to Lent Lane, as well as co-ordinates with the Panthers to have players come and help with some of the heavy lifting.

Any pay-what-you-can donations collected during the event help Critical Mass continue its efforts to ensure the arts and related programming are accessible locally.

Critical Mass: A Centre for Contemporary Art is described as a Port Hope-based not-for-profit arts organization, which is led by a volunteer group of curators, artists and art supporters who are dedicated to bringing contemporary art experiences to the community.



It took many volunteers to organize and set up the Pumpkin Parade. In the back for her sixth year wearing the pumpkin is Alex Kirkham, a volunteer with Critical Mass. Volunteers in the front row from left-to-right include Critical Mass volunteers Morgan Kroeger and Bazel McGrickin, along with youth Coun. Leah Ferguson.



Critical Mass volunteer Alex Kirkham checks out one of the pumpkins before placing it in a large row for the jack-o-lanterns display.



Curious as to what is inside of the pumpkins making them bright is Jack Campbell brought out by his grandma Marleen from Port Hope.



Participants line Lent Lane in Port Hope to take in all the creations, which tallied more than 540 jack-o-lanterns, for the Critical Mass Pumpkin Parade.



Pastor Ben Mills with Hope Community Church helps move pumpkins into position along Lent Lane. /Tim Burgess photos

Five Counties 'All-o-ween' makes sure 'no one gets left behind'

'We had approximately 50 families join us for the fun, sensory-friendly, inclusive trick-or-treating event'

SARAH HYATT

Editor/reporter

Five Counties' "All-o-ween" once again made the difference for dozens of local families last week in Cobourg.

"We had approximately 50 families join us for the fun, sensory-friendly, inclusive trick-or-treating event," Bill Eekhof, communications co-ordinator with the Five Counties Children's Centre, told the Independent. "Our staff (and) volunteers dressed up for the event, decorated office doors and then handed out treats and toys to Five Counties clients/kids, their siblings and family members."

Held on Oct. 28, this marked the third consecutive year for the centre's All-o-ween event, which shines a light on the significance of accessibility and inclusion. The goal was to ensure kids of all abilities could participate in festivities for the spooky season.

"The best part of All-o-ween is seeing the absolute joy on the faces of kids and families because they get to enjoy a relaxed and inclusive trick-or-treating experience," explained Hayley Hodges, client and family experience lead at Five Counties and All-o-ween organizer, leading up to the big day. "Many families say All-o-ween is very meaningful event for them since they might not otherwise be able to go out trick-or-treating with their child over Halloween.

"Halloween is one of those days or festivities that every child should be able to experience and enjoy," said Hodges. "And by organizing All-o-ween, we can ensure everyone participates and no one gets left behind."

Last year, All-o-ween also made a difference for more than 200 local kids and youth of all abilities who made their way to Five Counties' locations for these events.



The community rallied to make the third edition of 'All-o-ween' at the Five Counties Children's Centre location in Cobourg a success, including the Cobourg Lions Club that also provided a barbecue at no cost. /Five Counties photo

This year's local event was again hosted at the Five Counties' office on Division Street in Cobourg.

The event was geared to current Five Counties' families but also those who previously came to the centre and those who are on the wait-list for services.

This year, several community partners also came together to make All-o-ween a hit.

"We were joined by representatives of Community Living, Northumberland OPP, Autism Ontario, Northumberland EarlyON Child and Family Centre, as well as many of our staff, volunteers and others," said Eekhof. "The Cobourg Lions Club also attended and generously did the barbecue at no cost to Five Counties."



Northumberland OPP Const. James Clarke helps local kids and families enjoy Five Counties' 'All-o-ween' event held on Oct. 28 in Cobourg. /Five Counties photo



Five Counties' third edition of its 'All-o-ween' event with a focus on accessibility attracted about 50 families to join in the fun and for a sensory-friendly and inclusive trick-or-treating experience. /Five Counties photo

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2026

Remembrance Day · LEST WE FORGET

‘The most important thing is people wearing a poppy’

Helicopter landing, new veteran’s crosswalk, more lined up in Port Hope

SARAH HYATT

Editor/reporter

With plans for a helicopter landing, the unveiling of a new veteran’s crosswalk, traditional services and more, Port Hope has quite the agenda lined up to ensure those who made the ultimate sacrifice are honoured this Remembrance Day.

Sarah Clayton, poppy chair and public relations officer with the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 30 in Port Hope, said work through the legion’s poppy campaign and remembrance planning committee started back in mid-August.

And a lot of volunteers and legion members have been working tirelessly behind-the-scenes to co-ordinate events.

Those like Clayton are hoping the community answers the call to mark Remembrance Day through several events leading up to and then on next Wednesday, Nov. 11 with traditional observances.

“But of course, the most important thing is people wearing a poppy,” she was quick to add. “I mean, it’s a visual pledge to always remember – it’s the ultimate symbol of sacrifice.

“We don’t care how much you donate,” continued Clayton, explaining while donation boxes are out there and those donations do make a difference in the community, the poppies are free.

Clayton said the show of support means a lot to those who have served and sacrificed, those who continue to serve and their families.

The Port Hope legion’s poppy campaign officially kicked off on Oct. 24 and continues through to next Wednesday.

Funds raised during the campaign go into the Poppy Trust Fund, which Clayton noted strictly follows legion bylaws, with monies going directly to help veterans and their families, and related supports.



Sarah Clayton, poppy chair with the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 30 in Port Hope, helps launch the legion’s poppy campaign by pinning the first poppy on Mayor Olena Hankivsky. /Port Hope legion photo

In the past, she said they’ve built wheelchair ramps at homes and helped with additional special equipment or healthcare needs, as well as initiatives such as the “Leave the Streets Behind” program that provides support to veterans experiencing homelessness or “Operation Service Dogs,” to name just a few examples.

“We also contribute, of course, to our youth education programs, so every year we do the poster and literary contests in all of our schools. We do that in eight schools and that’s really important to make sure that the future remembers as well.”

The legion also works closely to support the 116 Skeena Royal Canadian Sea Cadet Corps. – and youth help the legion, too. Residents may have noticed youth helping to distribute poppies at grocery stores and the like recently, and the cadets also participate in Nov. 11 ceremonies.

And when it comes to engaging the younger generation, there’s also the Ganaraska Trails march and colour parade event today (Friday, Nov. 6) at 10 a.m.

The Kindergarten students at Ganaraska Trail Public School make poppies and march with the legion’s colour party and behind a piper to the Veteran’s Plot at Union Cemetery for a ceremony, explained Clayton, noting police will also block off the road. The kids then place their poppies on the veterans’ graves, she said.

On Saturday, at 7:30 p.m., the Port Hope Panthers will host a “Salute to Veterans” ceremony at the Jack Burger Sports Complex, which will also feature a piper, music, live singers for O’Canada, the colour party and veteran Vincent O’Hanley – who also serves as sergeant-at-arms and is an air force captain – taking part in a ceremonial puck drop. (The doors will open at 6:30 p.m.)

Legion members will be handing out poppies. Players will sport poppy stickers on their helmets.

On Sunday, there will be a Remembrance Day service at Port Hope United Church led by Rev. Kevin Moore at 10:30 a.m. that the legion is also participating in.

Then Wednesday marks the big day with traditional services at Port Hope and Canton cenotaphs.

On Nov. 11, legion members will gather near the Capitol Theatre at 10:25 a.m. to march down Queen Street to the Memorial Park Cenotaph for the service starting at 10:30 a.m.

Members of the Canadian Armed Forces’ 450 Tactical Helicopter Squadron from Petawawa are also set to attend and join the parade, with this team flying into Port Hope on the CH-147F Chinook helicopter estimated to land at the 74 Queen St. parking lot for the day between 9 and 9:30 a.m. The helicopter is expected to depart later in the day at about 3 p.m. – all this mission and weather permitting. (People are being asked to obey traffic control personnel and stay about 75 metres back from the landing zone.)

After the Memorial Park ceremony, there will be an official unveiling and ribbon cutting ceremony for the new crosswalk on Augusta Street at about 11:15 a.m. Augusta Street was shut down earlier this week to facilitate installation of the crosswalk, which is a collaborative project with the legion and municipality that council approved back in July.

“The crosswalk is intended to honour local veterans and serve as a lasting tribute to their service and sacrifice,” added the municipality.

Later in the day, the ceremony at the Canton Cenotaph is set for 2 p.m. And to conclude the day, Branch 30 will host its remembrance dinner and ceremony at the Port Hope Lions Recreation Centre at 5 p.m. (At press deadline, tickets were going “fast” for the dinner.)

All are encouraged to take part in Remembrance Day events.

In the meantime, residents can find poppy boxes in local stores, and the campaign continues, along with work on commemorative wreaths (more than 70 at press deadline) and ribbons. Clayton noted this year there are partnerships with close to 100 businesses to support the poppy campaign, as well as community organizations, area schools, and more.

Poppies continue to be distributed by volunteers and through community partnerships.

There will be road closures and parking impacts next Wednesday to accommodate services.



2026

Remembrance Day · LEST WE FORGET

Cobourg honours veterans with special events

Remembrance Sunday observance, parade, Nov. 11 service among activities

NATALIE HAMILTON

Reporter

The Town of Cobourg and the Cobourg branch of the Royal Canadian Legion are inviting residents to honour veterans by taking part in special remembrance events on, and leading up to, Wednesday, Nov. 11.

To start the week, the community can attend a "Remembrance Sunday" observance on Nov. 8 at St. Peter's Anglican Church, which is located at 240 College St.

"An Act of Remembrance" will also take place on Sunday at the Victoria Park Cenotaph at 9:30 a.m., led by the air cadets and royal marines. The observance will continue with a 10:30 a.m. Choral Mattins Service, featuring the Concert Band of Cobourg and the Royal Marine Association of Ontario.

On Tuesday (Nov. 10), members of 598 Sabre Squadron, Royal Canadian Air Cadets, will hold an overnight vigil at the Victoria Park Cenotaph.

"The vigil is a solemn tribute to Canada's veterans and those who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to our country," noted the town. "Cadets will stand watch at the cenotaph throughout the night as a mark of respect, remembrance and gratitude."

Residents are welcome to visit the cenotaph during the vigil to pay their respects and recognize the cadets' participation.

"The involvement of the air cadets is a meaningful reminder that the tradition of remembrance continues with the next generation, ensuring the stories and sacrifices of those who served are never forgotten."

To officially mark Remembrance Day on Wednesday, the Cobourg Royal Canadian Legion Branch 133 is holding a service parade that starts at 10:15 a.m. at the legion on Orr Street. The parade continues north on Hibernia Street, east on King Street, and winds onto Church Street to make its way into Victoria Park.

The branch then hosts the Remembrance Day ceremony at 10:30 a.m. at the Victoria Park Cenotaph. Residents are invited to attend and reflect.

"I just hope to see the community come together to remember those (who) laid their lives down for us," said Jennifer Robison, president of the Cobourg legion.

Following the service, there will be a lunch served at the branch. Dinner will also be offered later in the day. Tickets are $25 a person. Veterans attend for free.

All town-owned flags across the community will be lowered to half-mast on Wednesday in honour of Remembrance Day.

The following roads will experience intermittent traffic stops between about 10 a.m. and noon on Wednesday to accommodate the Remembrance Day parade: Hibernia Street from Orr Street to King Street, King Street from Hibernia Street to Church Street, and Church Street from King Street to Victoria Park.

Downtown Cobourg is also currently lined with memorial banners honouring local veterans and the men and women who served. These banners, which were made possible through a partnership between the Town of Cobourg and the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 133, "pay tribute to those whose courage, dedication and service helped protect the freedoms we enjoy today."

In late October, the Cobourg legion marked the start of its annual poppy campaign. Robison and Ladies' Auxiliary President Janet Richardson presented the first poppy to Cobourg Mayor Lucas Cleveland on Saturday, Oct. 24.

The legion said every contribution to the campaign makes a difference in supporting veterans, their families, and the programs and services that strengthen the community.

"When you give, you help us honour the sacrifices of those who served and ensure that their service and sacrifices are never forgotten," said the legion. "Please give generously.

"Remember them. Support them. Honour them."

The Independent reached out several times to the legion president for further details about Nov. 11 and to delve into the importance of Remembrance Day, but interview requests weren't granted before our print deadline.

The Cobourg Legion was chartered on Nov. 6, 1928 as Branch 133 of the Canadian Legion of the British Empire Service League, deriving its charter members from the Great War Veterans Association. It has been the largest service club in Cobourg for many years.



Royal Canadian Legion Branch 133 President Jennifer Robison and Ladies' Auxiliary President Janet Richardson present the first poppy to kick off the poppy campaign to Cobourg Mayor Lucas Cleveland. /Branch 133 Facebook photo





2026

Remembrance Day · LEST WE FORGET

Royal Canadian Legion celebrates veterans with massive Toronto mural

LEE GRIFFI

Reporter

The Royal Canadian Legion has unveiled four uniquely designed murals, each of which tells the story of a fallen Canadian service member.

The featured mural tells the story of Allan "Scotty" Davidson who, at just 22 years old, was the captain of the Toronto Blueshirts, the team that would become the Toronto Maple Leafs. In 1914, he led his team to that city's first Stanley Cup. Five months after that victory, he left his team, his career and his home behind to become one of the first professional hockey players to volunteer for the Canadian Expeditionary Force. Serving in France and Belgium, accounts describe acts of remarkable bravery, including rescuing wounded officers and fighting on the front lines.

L-Cpl. Davidson was killed in action on June 16, 1915, when a shell exploded near him in the trenches. Another mural honours him and the more than 120,000 Canadians who gave their lives in service to our country, whose names and stories should never be forgotten.

The mural was unveiled on Oct. 24, the first day of the Poppy Campaign. It stands 23 feet tall and 13 feet wide, and Davidson was chosen because of his connection to Toronto and the fact it was going to be located inside Union Station.

"He and others, their faces and their stories represent all Canadians who have died in the line of duty," said Nujma Bond, the Legion's national communications manager. "It encourages people to think about that, to remember all of them, connect a little more deeply with their personal stories and realize, just like you and I, they had lives and hopes and passions."

The mural is made of about 5,000 sticky notes and on those notes are messages from Canadians across the country speaking about their gratitude for veterans.

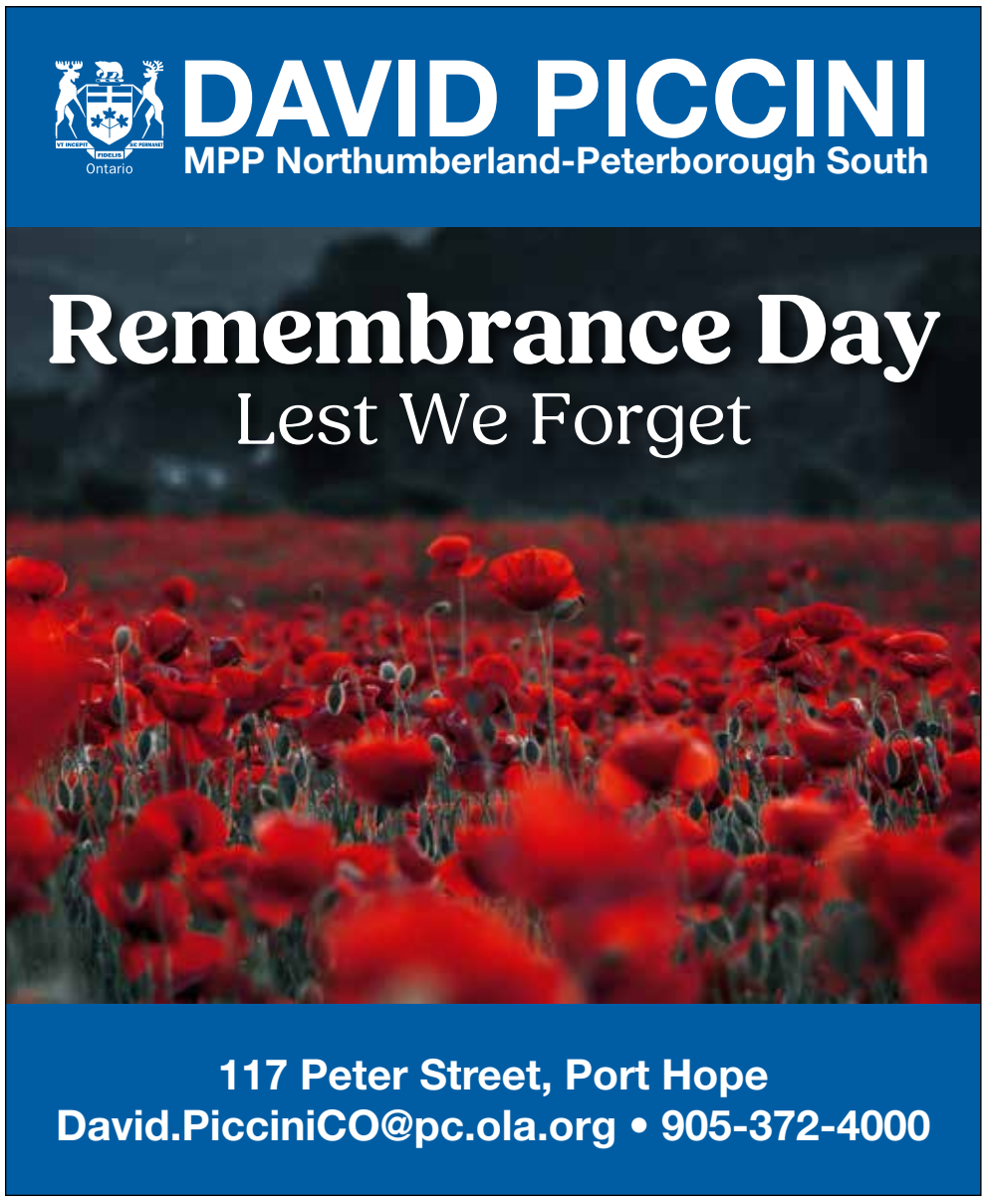
"There are also memories people have of family members who served. They are all very personal messages and those are what compose that huge mural. It's quite amazing to see it in person but you can get a good sense of it online in the photos at www.legion.ca."

Bond said Canadians will be fascinated to read about the stories behind the people in the three other murals.

"It puts a face to the name and helps us

CONTINUED TO PAGE 21







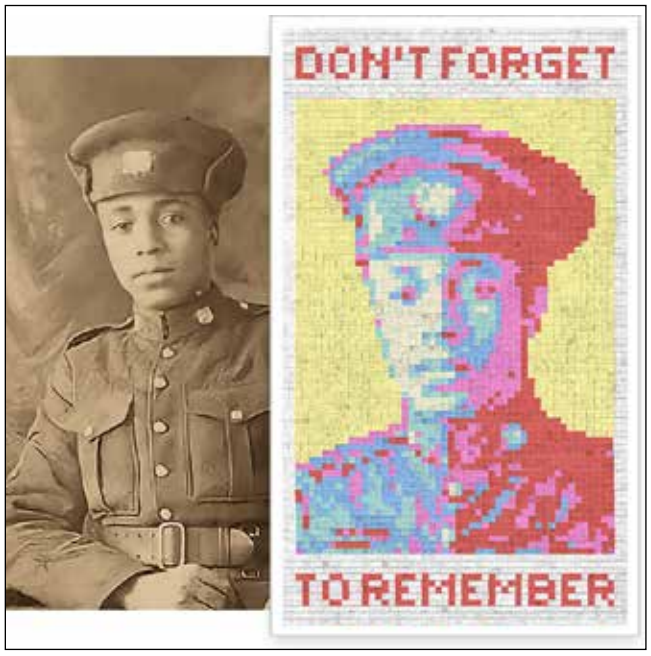
2026

Remembrance Day · LEST WE FORGET

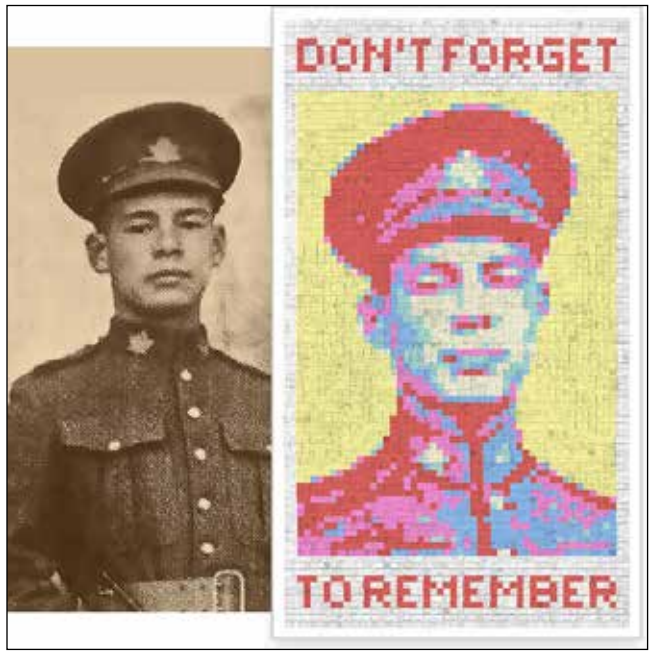
Other murals honouring veterans to be unveiled



Alexina Dussault (1882-1918), nursing sister, Canadian Army Medical Corps. Alexina Dussault served as a nursing sister during the First World War, caring for the sick and wounded. On June 27, 1918, she was aboard the Canadian hospital ship Llandovery Castle when it was torpedoed by a German submarine. She was one of 14 nursing sisters who lost their lives that night. She was 36 years old.



John Mansfield (1876-1918), private, No. 2 Construction Battalion. John Mansfield was born in Dartmouth, N.S., and enlisted in 1916. He served with No. 2 Construction Battalion in France, supporting the Canadian war effort during the First World War. In January 1918, he became seriously ill while serving overseas and died on Jan. 14 at the age of 42.



Frederick Lee (1895-1917), private, 47th Battalion. Born in Kamloops, B.C., Frederick Lee was the son of Wong See Lee, originally from Canton, China. He enlisted in 1916 and served with the 47th Battalion during the First World War. On Aug. 21, 1917, Frederick was killed in action during the Battle of Hill 70 in France. He was just 21 years old. /Contributed photos

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19

tell the story of remembrance itself, why we do this and why it is so important. It all leads back to the freedom we have in Canada today and the ability to live our lives as we wish."

In addition to local poppy campaigns, the Royal Canadian Legion launched its official Amazon.ca storefront on Oct. 25, 2024. The storefront offers lapel poppies, available for donations of $2, $5, $10 or $20, red neon window poppies, "We Remember" lawn signs and other official Remembrance merchandise.

One hundred per cent of the money raised through poppy donations goes directly to the Legion's Poppy Trust Fund to support veterans and their families. More than 20,000 lapel poppies were distributed through Amazon in 2024, and total sales surpassed $200,000.

New this year is the ability to tap to donate to the campaign with a debit card, credit card or digital wallet via tap-on-phone. Legion volunteers from participating branches can use their own compatible smartphones to collect contactless donations.

"This is very exciting. It allows the region to increase its reach and as these methods expand across the country and more branches take part, it means a Legion volunteer who has an app on their phone can potentially collect donations anywhere they are; not just at their branch, but maybe at the grocery store where someone is looking to donate."

Bond said society is becoming more cashless, though there is no plan to eliminate the poppy cash boxes located across the country. There are also about 2,000 tap to donate boxes available in some areas.

The Legion's inaugural year of rolling out the new technology is supported by BMO.

"For a century, the poppy has carried a profound promise; that the sacrifice of Canada's Veterans will never be forgotten," said Mike Bonner, the head of Canadian personal and business banking distribution for BMO.

"BMO is honoured to stand with The Royal Canadian Legion in keeping that promise. Having recently had the privilege of addressing delegates in Winnipeg at the Legion's 50th Dominion Convention in celebration of their 100th anniversary, I remain humbled by how much those in uniform have done and continue to do in service to Canada."

The Legion continues to offer free memberships, something Bond said has resulted in a huge increase.

"We have seen well over 100,000 people join this year. We were already seeing an increase over the past few years and we are really excited. With new members come new ideas, new energy and we are able to harness that and allow people to use their skillsets and put them to use at the local level."

She added there are now over 300,000 members across the country.

"It really tells us that Canadians are very supportive of the Legion's mission and they want to be a part of it. They are supportive of our veterans, our families and they see the Legion as a community hub and community supporter. It bodes well for the future."



2026

Remembrance Day · LEST WE FORGET

Legion hosts Nov. 11 ceremony at Grafton Cenotaph

Alnwick/Haldimand's Remembrance Day service starts at 11 a.m.

INDEPENDENT STAFF

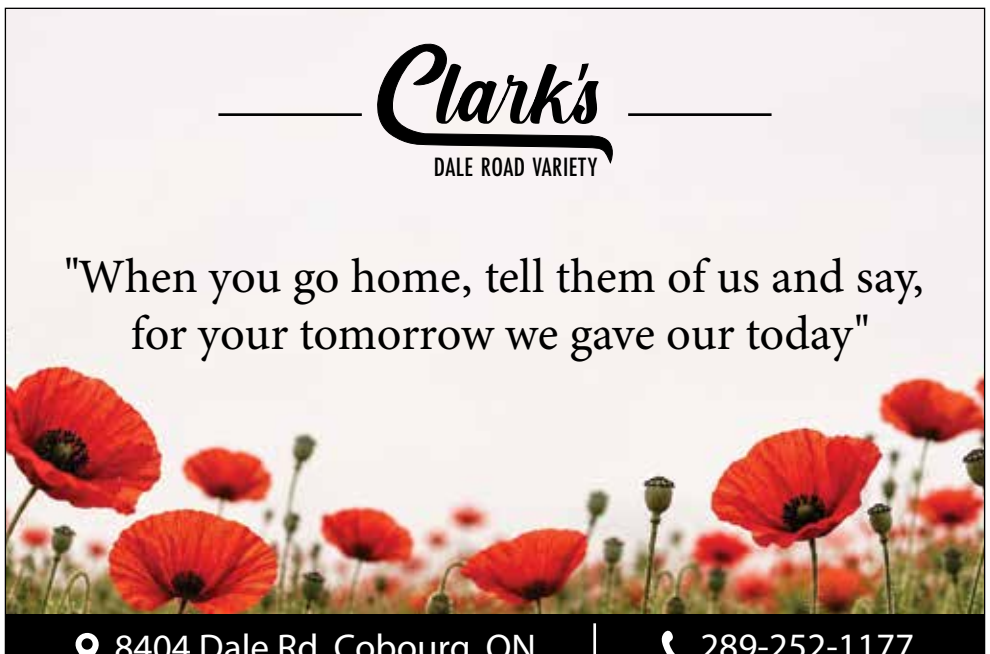
Residents of the Township of Alnwick/Haldimand looking to mark Remembrance Day can attend a service in Grafton on Nov. 11.

The Grafton legion branch is hosting a Remembrance Day service starting at 11 a.m. at the Grafton Cenotaph.

"We are expecting an excess of 500 students from the three (area) schools with a choir from Grafton Public School," John Grozelle, a Grafton legion member, told the Independent.

Road closures will start at 10 a.m. to accommodate a colour party parading from St George's Anglican Church, which is located at 10792 County Rd. 2 in Alnwick/Haldimand.

The Grafton Cenotaph is located at 10766 County Rd. 2.



Township of Hamilton hosts two Remembrance Day services

INDEPENDENT STAFF

The Township of Hamilton is calling on residents to honour and remember fallen heroes this Remembrance Day.

There will be two commemorative ceremonies for 2026 Remembrance Day services.

One of the services will be held at the Cold Springs Cenotaph (3844 Burnham St. N.) starting at 10:45 a.m. Another will be held at the Bewdley Cenotaph (5063 Main St.) starting at 11 a.m.

Municipal staff have noted that the administration office at 8285 Majestic Hills Dr. will be open next Wednesday, Nov. 11.



$154K OTF boost for Elgin Street Sport Park project

INDEPENDENT STAFF

The Elgin Street Sport Park rehabilitation project in Cramahe is getting a $154,600-provincial boost.

Northumberland-Peterborough South MPP David Piccini, Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) and Township of Cramahe officials gathered on Friday, Oct. 30 to celebrate the capital grant funnelling through the OTF in support of Phase 1 for the project.

"Our government is proud to invest in the infrastructure that keeps our communities strong," said Piccini. "By supporting the rehabilitation of recreational facilities like Elgin Street Sport Park, we're helping ensure families and residents of all ages can stay active and connected in their own communities."

As part of this project, improvements include resurfacing the tennis and basketball courts, repairing and painting the ball hockey rink, replacing basketball nets and hardware, upgrading fencing where needed, and installing new lighting, according to a release from Piccini's office.

The project was reportedly developed by Township of Cramahe staff and a volunteer parks and recreation committee with the support of council.

"Our community will greatly benefit from this OTF grant," said outgoing Mayor Mandy Martin. "It ensures these vital recreational spaces will remain accessible for all through sport, play and community events."

A second phase – estimated at $100,000 – is planned for the future, noted officials.

Matthew Dunleavy, chair of the parks and recreation committee, also called the OTF investment "great news" for the community.

The OTF is an agency of the Ontario government. For the 2025-26 year, investments reached nearly $107 million, translating to help for 746 community projects.



Dignitaries and project partners gathered on Oct. 30 to celebrate a $154,600 boost through the Ontario Trillium Foundation for the Elgin Street Sport Park rehabilitation project in Cramahe. /MPP Piccini photo

County wins industry award for annual report

'The annual report is a key transparency measure for the county'

INDEPENDENT STAFF

Northumberland County has received an industry award for its annual report.

The county received the "MarCom Gold Award" for the design of its 2025 annual report. The 2025 report is Northumberland's first digital version of the yearly publication.

"The annual report is a key transparency measure for the county – it's about accountability to the people we serve," said outgoing Warden Bob Crate. "We have produced this resource every year for the last 12 years and throughout that time, we have continued to evolve how we present information to make it accessible and engaging for residents.

"This award is wonderful recognition of that ongoing commitment, and of the creativity and care our staff bring to helping residents understand the work of the county and the value of the services we deliver."

The 2025 annual report provides an overview of the county's financial performance from that fiscal year, including access to the full audited financial statements for the organization, explained county staff.

In addition, the report includes information about county services and advancements and accomplishments from 2025, along with priorities being addressed in 2026. The report aims to equip residents with a better understanding of how their tax dollars are being put to work to deliver services in the community, added officials.

This year's award marks the eighth consecutive year that Northumberland County has received recognition for the design of its annual report publication.

The report is available to view via Northumberland.ca/AnnualReport.

The annual MarCom Awards are described as an international creative competition that honours excellence in marketing and communication. The awards are administered by the Association of Marketing and Communication Professionals – an organization that consists of several thousand marketing, communication, advertising, public relations, digital and web professionals from around the world.

Northumberland County has received a 'MarCom' award for the design of its 2025 annual report. /Natalie Hamilton photo

'Marie Dressler Celebration Day' coming up Nov. 9 in Cobourg

RICK MILLER

Special submission

In 1868 a little girl named Leila Koerber came into this world here in Cobourg.

Who was to know that some 60-plus years later, Leila, now named Marie Dressler, would become an Academy Award winner for best actress and would be the highest-grossing movie star in the world for the years 1932 and 1933?

On Nov. 9, 1933, in the depths of the Great Depression, Louis B. Mayer, head of MGM, hosted an enormous birthday party for Marie's 65th birthday. It was the biggest party that Hollywood had ever seen to that time. Here in Cobourg, a radio link was set up with Hollywood and the festivities in Cobourg were hosted that evening by Mayor J.P. Delanty at Cobourg's Capitol Theatre.

Marie Dressler and her natal home at 212 King St. W. are an important part of Cobourg's history and Dressler House is now home to the Canadian Women in Film Museum, which features a permanent exhibition about Marie Dressler.

We invite and encourage citizens to attend a celebration to be held in the Citizens' Forum at Victoria Hall on Monday, Nov. 9 starting at 1:30 pm.

There will be movie screenings, as well as a book talk by author Paul Langan on the release of his new book "Crossing the Border: Canada's Forgotten Actresses of the Silent Film Era." And, of course, there will be refreshments and door prizes.

Visit mariedressler.com to learn more about this remarkable woman.

Rick Miller is president and chair of the board of directors for the Marie Dressler Foundation, a registered charity, and owners and operators of Canadian Women in Film Museum and Vintage Film Festival.

Ontario providing flu, COVID-19 vaccines

Immunizations now available to all six months and older

INDEPENDENT STAFF

Northumberland County residents ages six months and older can now get their flu and COVID-19 vaccines.

With the intent of protecting families and communities during respiratory illness season, the Province of Ontario announced recently free flu and COVID-19 vaccines are now available for the general population at participating pharmacies, public health unit offices and doctor and nurse practitioner offices across Ontario.

"Getting immunized is one of the most effective ways to protect yourself, your loved ones and our communities," said Deputy Premier and Minister of Health Sylvia Jones, in a press release. "You can help prevent serious illness, reduce the spread of respiratory viruses and keep Ontario healthy this fall and winter with our free, safe and effective vaccines available across the province."

In the release, officials state staying up-to-date with routine and recommended immunizations "is the best way to protect yourself and your community this fall and winter."

Getting both the COVID-19 and the flu vaccines at the same time is safe and recommended to avoid multiple trips to a health-care provider, the province also said.

The adult RSV immunizations Abrysvo or Arexvy are also available and recommended for everyone 75 years of age and older. This builds on the government's expansion of the RSV prevention programs that also includes certain high-risk adults aged 60 to 74, such as residents of long-term care homes or retirement homes, infants up to eight months of age born on or after April 1, 2026, and high-risk children less than 24 months of age, reads the release.

Pregnant women also have the option to receive the RSV vaccine Abrysvo, which can help provide protection to infants at birth, added officials.

"With flu and COVID-19 vaccines now available across the province for everyone, there is no better time to get protected," said Chief Medical Officer of Health Dr. Kieran Moore. "Vaccination helps reduce the risk of severe illness and hospitalization, particularly for older adults and other vulnerable populations.

"I encourage Ontarians to get vaccinated as soon as possible to help keep themselves and their loved ones healthy this season."

Vaccines in Ontario's routine immunization schedule are provided free-of-charge if the eligibility criteria is met. The province recommends residents who are unsure about which immunizations they and/or their loved ones require, have received, or are eligible for, speak with their health-care provider or contact their public health unit.

It's also recommended that people contact their health-care provider about co-administration of flu and COVID-19 vaccines and RSV immunization.

The risk of severe outcomes from RSV infection is highest among infants under six months of age, as well as children under 24 months of age with health conditions such as chronic lung disease, congenital heart disease, weakened immune systems or neuromuscular disorders.

Older adults are also at increased risk of severe outcomes from RSV, especially those with certain chronic health conditions.

In addition to immunization, the province recommends residents wash their hands often, cover their mouth when coughing and sneezing, clean surfaces and shared items regularly, and stay at home when sick.

Availability of immunizations may vary across providers. Call ahead to ensure health-care providers have a supply available.

People can also visit Health811 online or call 811 (TTY: 1-866-797-0007 toll free) for health advice and information 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Hospital foundation kicks off online auction

INDEPENDENT STAFF

Northumberland Hills Hospital (NHH) Foundation is "Singin' in the Rain."

The foundation has launched an online auction in support of the "Singin' in the Rain: Hollywood Style Gala," which is on Saturday (Nov. 7.)

Bidding is now open for more than 120 items and experiences, and bids will be accepted until 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 10.

"Every year, the support from businesses and individuals across our community is remarkable," said Therese Brennan-Hunt, auction chair. "We are very grateful to all those who donated for their willingness to support our hospital.

"This year, with some exciting new items, as well as many returning favourites, there really is something for everyone."

Proceeds from this year's gala, including those raised through the auction, will help modernize breast healthcare at NHH. Key investments to be made related to the breast health program include a new 3D mammography unit with contrast capabilities, an ultrasound machine, a bone mineral density scanner and wire-free breast tissue localization technology.

A full listing of auction items, which includes sports and concert tickets, unique stay experiences, local packages, family outings, culinary delights, home décor, and more can be found by visiting www.NHHGala.ca before 7 p.m. Nov. 10.

Those with questions about the auction or Singin' in the Rain: Hollywood Style are encouraged to email Megan Fluxgold at mfluxgold@nhh.ca or call 905-372-6811 ext. 3071.

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Port Hope United Church women host annual 'Christmas Fayre'

'Almost everything you'll need for Christmas giving and hosting'

NATALIE HAMILTON

Reporter

With all-things-homemade, from the crocheted pieces to the jellies and preserves, it's the season for the Port Hope United Church Christmas Fayre.

For 88 years, the Port Hope United Church Christmas Fayre has offered gifts and treats to kick-off the festive season. This year's event is on Saturday, Nov. 21 and features creations by the United Church Women (UCW.)

The "fare at the fayre" also includes knitted and sewn items, along with pies, cakes, squares, brownies, and more.

"With all our craft and food items, you can find almost everything you'll need for Christmas giving and hosting," said Val Nippard, UCW president.

The term fayre has been used for a number of years.

"A quick Google search will tell you that fayre is a pseudo-archaic word that has been used for both fair and fare to give an event a traditional or historic feel. Held in a beautiful big church that is over 151 years old, shoppers will certainly be surrounded in tradition and history," noted organizers.

In addition to the handmade and homemade UCW items, there will also be a variety of vendors with their own products and other gift items available.

Money raised through the fayre is directed towards UCW charitable endeavours.

"We try to support local, national and international causes, particularly ones that affect children and families," said Janet Tedford, UCW treasurer.

Organizers added that the works accomplished or funded by the UCW include the Mission and Service Fund of United Church of Canada, general funding for projects through the Eastern Central Ontario Region UCW, teacher and student support for a girls' school in Zambia, and Food for the North Program, which provides groceries for fly-in communities in Northern Canada.



United Church Women (UCW) members meet year-round to work on various crafts for its annual Christmas Fayre, which is on Saturday, Nov. 21 at Port Hope United Church. /UCW photo

Closer to home, the women support organizations including Habitat for Humanity Northumberland, Community Care Northumberland and Ed's House, and Five Counties Children's Centre.

In addition, group members knit or crochet "prayer shawls," which are given to people who are ill, grieving or need a small reminder of the church's support.

Money raised also helps the UCW purchase necessary items for the church such as kitchen equipment and funds ongoing maintenance projects. Sometimes the purchases are fun, such as buying new Christmas trees for the sanctuary.

"We try to do the most good we can by directing funds to organizations that are important to our group," said Tedford. "We support the United Church of Canada to keep it a viable, important institution for communities across Canada."

The fayre runs from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the church, which is located at 34 South St.

A light lunch will be served from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The meal includes homemade soup, a roll, coffee or tea, and a homemade butter tart for $12.





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‘Stay ABreast’ raises $7K for breast cancer care at NHH

Port Hope event brings together people living with or recovering from a breast cancer diagnosis

INDEPENDENT STAFF

A recent evening in Port Hope bringing together women living with or recovering from breast cancer has raised more than $7,000 for Northumberland Hills Hospital.

Northumberland Hills Hospital (NHH) Foundation said “Stronger Together: Stay ABreast” was a success, generating $7,630 to support breast cancer care at NHH. The event, which took place Oct. 7 at the Capitol Theatre in Port Hope, encompassed education and helped foster encouragement and a strong sense of community and support, said the foundation.

“This was an important event and a fitting partnership as we focus efforts on supporting major investments in the breast health program at NHH in the coming year,” said Rhonda Cunningham, NHH Foundation CEO. “We are grateful to all who attended, sponsored and supported this event.

“Together with our community, we can continue the conversations started during this impactful evening, invest in the future, and ensure modern care remains accessible for patients and families facing breast cancer in our community.”

Emcee Jenny McCaig kicked off remarks for the evening, sharing a brief reflection on her own breast cancer journey before turning things over to the first speaker Jennifer Ellis, who shared details of the journey and treatment she is actively undergoing. Ellis was supported by a panel of health-care professionals including Dr. Sepideh Karkhanechi, a radiologist with clinical fellowship in women’s imaging, Dr. Kaes Al-Ali, a fellowship trained breast surgical oncologist with oncoplastic training, and Dr. Leta Forbes, a medical oncologist specializing in breast and gynecological cancers.



‘Stronger Together: Stay ABreast’ raised more than $7,000 for breast cancer care at Northumberland Hills Hospital. Pictured here are Jennifer Ellis (left) and Sandy Ward who spoke at the event held in October. /NHH Foundation photo

Speaker Sandy Ward also took to the podium to share her story of survivorship.

A more than 20-year survivor of breast cancer, Ward reflected on the community of support that has helped her live her best post-cancer life, the foundation noted. She was supported by a panel of speakers including Sharyn Dunn, president of Survivor Thrivers, Dr. Stacey Fritsch, a naturopathic doctor, and Mike Walton, a strength and resilience coach.

Concluding the event, Susan Walsh, NHH President and CEO, shared a look at four substantial investments that will be made at NHH in the year ahead. Walsh referenced a new 3D mammography unit with contrast capabilities, an additional ultrasound unit, a new bone mineral density scanner, and wire-free breast tissue localization technology.

Hosted in partnership by NHH Foundation and the Survivor Thrivers, Stronger Together: Stay ABreast served as both an event to raise awareness and money for the two organizations.

Proceeds will help to modernize the breast health program at NHH and support the Survivor Thrivers in purchasing a new dragon boat for their team of residents living with a breast cancer diagnosis.

Event sponsors included Cobourg Nissan, TD Wealth Harbourstone Wealth Management – Kristy MacDonald and Gunther Rappl – and J.J. Laracy Contracting.

“The support of these sponsors, along with that of attendees, silent auction donors, and exhibitors helped raise awareness, strengthen local breast cancer care, and support those whose lives have been touched by breast cancer,” said the foundation.

County adds two yard waste collection days

Residents should place bags at curb by 7 a.m. on Monday of set week

INDEPENDENT STAFF

Northumberland County is giving residents another chance or two to rake their leaves and collect their yard waste before the snow flies.

The county has added two additional leaf and yard waste collection dates for December. These two additions are specifically for residents who live in collection areas three and four.

These will be the last two leaf and yard waste collection opportunities for residents across Northumberland County this year before the program pauses until April.

Residents who have regular garbage collection on Wednesday are in area three. Those who get garbage pick-up on Thursday are in area four. Residents in the rural ward of Port Hope are in area three. Households that receive waste collection on Monday are in area one. Those who receive garbage pick-up on Tuesday are in area two.

The remaining November dates are Monday, Nov. 9 for area two, Monday, Nov. 16 for area three, and Monday, Nov. 23 for area four.

The December collection dates are Monday, Dec. 7 for areas one and three, and Monday, Dec. 14 for areas two and four.

The county reminds residents to place their leaf and yard waste at the curb by 7 a.m. Bags will be collected between Monday and Friday during residents’ designated set-out week, said the county.

Leaves and grass clippings must be placed in paper yard waste bags. Each bag must weigh less than 44 pounds. Residents are asked to roll down the tops of the bags to shield the waste from the rain and snow and prevent leaves from falling or blowing out.

The county also asks people tie brush into bundles no longer than three feet and with no material larger than two inches in diameter.

For collection schedules, area maps, and additional information about leaf and yard waste collection, visit Northumberland.ca



Northumberland County has added two December dates for yard waste collection. /Natalie Hamilton photo

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SPORTS

Cougars send six to Zach Hyman Prospects Series showcase

‘Just go out there, give it my all, work hard, just win’: Isaac Tracze



Cobourg Cougars’ forward Isaac Tracze is one of six Cobourg players named to the Zach Hyman OJHL Prospect Series.



Cougars’ Coach Derek Smith is happy to see six local players heading to the Zach Hyman OJHL Prospect Series. /Alan Rivett photos

ALAN RIVETT

Sports correspondent

The Cobourg Cougars will be well represented at the 2026 Zach Hyman OJHL Prospects Series showcasing some of the league’s most promising young talent, with two of the games hosted at the Cobourg Community Centre next month.

According to an Ontario Junior Hockey League (OJHL) press release, the series will feature many of the OJHL’s top 16- and 17-year-old players, bringing together an impressive group of young prospects, including numerous Ontario Hockey League (OHL) draft selections and players with National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) commitments.

Five Cougars will play on the East Conference’s Team White, including Jayson Synnott, Daniel Tout, Isaac Tracze, Garrett Jones, and Jesse Bruce. Another Cougars’ player – goaltender Max Grovestine – will play on East Conference’s Team Red. Team White will suit up against Team Orange at the Tribute Communities Centre in Oshawa on Tuesday, Nov. 10 at noon.

Meanwhile, Grovestine and his Team Red squad will play Team White at the Cobourg Community Centre on Tuesday, Dec. 1 at 12:30 p.m. A game between Team Red and Team Orange will also be played at the CCC on Tuesday, Dec. 22 at 7:30 p.m.

For Cougars’ head coach Derek Smith – who coached in the event last year – the prospect series games represent an excellent opportunity for players to compete against other league players of their own age in front of OHL and NCAA representatives.

“Yeah, it’s exciting. I mean, I was part of it last year,” said Smith. “We had some guys on the team (who) had some success, and you know, it’s good for them to get in front of OHL teams, their drafted teams or others (who) are looking, you know, at some younger guys.

“And it’s good for them to play against guys their own age … to compete against guys (born in) 2009 (and) 2010 is exciting, and it gives them an opportunity to play in some situations that they wouldn’t every night – power play, special teams. It’s a cool experience, and it’s something the league’s done very well with.”

Right winger Isaac Tracze, drafted by the North Bay Battalion in 2025, said he was initially excited to be named to the prospects’ game and representing the Cougars, but now it’s all business to perform as well as he can.

“Just go out there, give it my all, work hard, just win,” said the Belleville resident, who’s in his first season of junior hockey after playing his minor hockey within the Quinte Red Devils AAA organization.

So far this season, the six-foot, 183-pound forward has scored three goals in 11 games with the Cougars.

Tracze noted the junior game is much faster and more physical than playing at the AAA level, but he’s adjusting to the speed and the physicality while also enjoying the experience.

“It’s been so far so good. I’m having fun. It’s a lot faster than minor hockey, and it’s a lot harder,” he noted.

In the OJHL release, it states the 2026 event will feature six teams, with three representing the East Conference and three representing the West Conference. Each roster has been assembled to highlight emerging talent from across the league and provide players with an opportunity to compete against their peers in a high-level environment.

The series continues to build on the success of its inaugural season, which featured 90 OHL draft selections and saw numerous participants advance to play on OHL rosters.

“The Zach Hyman OJHL Prospects Series is an incredible opportunity to showcase the next generation of talent coming through our league,” said Chris Vanstone, OJHL vice-president of Hockey Operations. “With so many OHL-drafted players and promising young prospects participating, this series gives players a chance to compete at a high level, gain valuable exposure and take another important step in their development.

“It’s a great example of our commitment to preparing players for the next level.”

The 2026 Zach Hyman OJHL Prospects Series championship game is anticipated to take place in early January 2027 at the TD Civic Centre in Brantford, home of the OHL’s Brantford Bulldogs.

The official date and puck-drop time will be announced once finalized.

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Cougars put it all together in thrilling OT win over Newmarket

Overtime victory marks seventh consecutive win for OJHL club

ALAN RIVETT

Sports correspondent

Since the start of the Ontario Junior Hockey League (OJHL) regular season, Cobourg Cougars' head coach Derek Smith has been preaching, cajoling and perhaps behind closed dressing room doors, flat-out demanding that his players pay closer attention to detail on the defensive end of the rink.

Crisp play in the defensive zone, said Smith, would be the chef's kiss for a Cougars' team that's already blessed with offensive firepower. And as of late, a blend of these facets of the game has aligned to produce winning hockey for the home side to the tune of a seven-game winning streak.

"We've talked a lot this year, and early in the year, there were a lot of positives offensively, but we needed to work on, you know, the defensive side of the puck," explained coach Smith. "And you know, the last couple weeks, guys are really trying to figure out what makes us successful as a team, and that is, it is being hard to play against.

"It's good-checking hockey. It's paying attention to the details defensively, and it's really helped our transition game, it's helped our goaltending – it's helped everything," he added.

The latest evidence of solid two-way play emerged for Cobourg in a thriller of a game as the Cougars eked out a well-deserved 3-2 overtime victory over the visiting Newmarket Hurricanes in OJHL regular-season action at the Cobourg Community Centre on Monday, Nov. 2.

Playing less than 24 hours previous where they produced an important 3-2 victory on the road against the first-place Markham Royals on Sunday, Nov. 1, the Cougars' juggernaut nonetheless continued to roll against Newmarket in producing the tight-checking extra-time victory.

Chase Del Colombo – the third star of the contest – potted the game-winning goal in the three-on-three, five-minute overtime frame after finding the top left corner of the net with a mere 8.4 seconds remaining in extra time against Newmarket.

For Smith it was nice to come out on the winning end of a game that contained plenty of excitement from beginning to end.

"I thought we had a really good first period. Their goalie played really well in the first and it kind of allowed Newmarket to get their legs.

"And, as the game went on, it was tight. It was a good hockey game. Obviously, I think looking back at our game and their game, there was parts of the game where I'm sure that we want to tighten things up, but it was exciting."

And over the past three wins, the Cougars have done without top scorer Briir Long who's been out of the lineup. Smith said Long's absences were for "maintenance" and expects the forward to return soon.

"Just maintenance. Everybody goes through it, and you know, the guys have done really well the last week-and-a-half without him, but we're definitely excited (for Long) to come back," he said.

And Smith wasn't aware following the game that his club had put up seven wins in a row, with the winning streak starting back on Oct. 12 where the Cougars defeated the Stouffville Spirit 4-3 at the CCC.

"Is that what it is? Oh nice," said Smith, who was genuinely surprised by the length of the winning streak. "That number seven, though. Yeah, I mean, it's coming together."

The seven-game winning streak has propelled the Cougars (14-3 with an overtime win, an overtime loss and a shoot-out win) into second place in the OJHL's East Conference with 29 points, three points back of conference-leading Markham Royals who have 32.

Far from believing his Cougars have peaked, Smith is not prepared to have his club rest on its laurels, convinced there's more work to do in improving the play of his club.

"So we still got a (way) to go, but for right now, where we are, we're happy."

Meanwhile, Cayden Smith and Jonny Brooks were the Cougars' goal scorers during regulation time against Newmarket. Brant Romaniuk recorded two assists, with single helpers to Brooks, Smith, Del Colombo and Keegan Shirley.

Isaac Larmand, Garrett Jones and Romaniuk scored for Cobourg against the Markham Royals.

The Cougars play a back-to-back, home-and-home series against the Toronto Warriors, playing at Scotiabank Pond on Sunday, Nov. 8 and then return home to play the Warriors at the CCC on Monday, Nov. 9 at 7 p.m.



Cobourg Cougars' forward Chase Del Colombo is followed closely by Newmarket Hurricanes' Rowan Eaton during OJHL regular-season play at the Cobourg Community Centre on Monday, Nov. 2. The Cougars needed overtime to vanquish the visiting Hurricanes 3-2 for their seventh consecutive win.



Cobourg Cougars' defenceman Alexis Boily prepared to move the puck up the ice as Newmarket Hurricanes' Georgi Garimov and Cougars' captain Isaac Larmand headed out of the zone during OJHL regular-season play at the CCC on Monday.

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Panthers fall 6-2 after hard-fought battle against Thunder



Port Hope Panthers' forward Caeden Allenby (15) takes an elbow from Trent Hills Thunder forward Jake Lawrence (12) in the first period. Allenby scored the Panthers' first goal in the second period, with assists from Hudson Needham (10) and Ethan Baker (20.)



Panthers' forward Ethan Baker (20) easily gets around the Trent Hill Thunder to score a goal in the third period. Baker was assisted by Cameron Curran (88) and Hudson Maro (13) giving the Panthers their last goal of the game.



Port Hope Panthers' Cameron (88) Curran plays hard to get the puck. Cameron was an affiliate player pulled up from Oshawa for this game. Curran netted one assist in the game.



Port Hope Panthers' forward Colby Hercia (14) comes in for a shot on net meeting up with Trent Hills Thunder defence Matt Hinan (23.)



Trying to protect Trent Hills from scoring in front of their net is Port Hope Panthers' affiliate player Cameron Curran (88) and defence Liam Hackett (16) who took a stick to the head. The Panthers' newly signed goalie Wesley Kolesnikowicz (31) played hard but the team came up short Friday night (Oct. 30) in Campbellford falling 6-2 to the Trent Hills Thunder.



Port Hope Panthers' defence Eddie Shaw (44) battles it out in front of the Thunder net. Trent Hills Thunder had camouflage-coloured jerseys Friday night with Royal Canadian Legion patches in honour of the fallen and Remembrance Day coming up. On Saturday, Nov. 7, at the Jack Burger Sports Complex, the Panthers will also honour veterans with a 'Salute to Veterans' Remembrance Day event. /Tim Burgess photos

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‘Head Space’: You can suffer without being your suffering



BRANDON W. HAHN

Independent columnist

I’ve been thinking a lot about suffering lately. Not necessarily why we suffer, but what we do with it.

I’ve always believed that suffering puts hair on your chest, but it doesn’t necessarily make you wiser. You can go through terrible experiences and come out the other side having learned absolutely nothing. Wisdom isn’t guaranteed just because you’ve had a rough time.

One question I’ve learned to ask myself is: “How is this serving me?”

It’s a simple question, but the answer isn’t always simple.

I have a habit of revisiting painful experiences. Sometimes they’re my own. Sometimes they belong to other people. I tend to take on other people’s suffering as though it were mine to deal with.

I want to fix things. I want to fix myself. I want to help fix other people.

What I don’t want is to carry the responsibility for fixing everything. And yet, that’s exactly what I sometimes do.

When something doesn’t work out, I can feel as though I’ve failed. Even when I know perfectly well that the outcome was never within my control.

That’s the strange thing about suffering. You can understand something intellectually and still struggle with it emotionally.

I’ve also realized that I’m much better at forgiving other people than I am at forgiving myself.

When I forgive someone, I’m not necessarily looking to make myself feel better. I want that person to be free of whatever happened between us. I don’t want them carrying it around forever.

But apparently, I have a different set of rules for myself.

I can forgive someone else for being human yet struggle to extend that same courtesy to the man looking back at me in the mirror.

I’ve come to believe that forgiveness has a great deal to do with time and understanding.

Sometimes it takes years to understand what happened. Sometimes we never get all the answers. And sometimes the answers wouldn’t change anything anyway.

We can’t go back and rewrite the past. Believe me, I’ve tried. Apparently, nobody is accepting revisions.

What we can do is change how we live with it.

Maybe we don’t have to find a lesson in every painful experience. Maybe suffering doesn’t have to serve some greater purpose.

And maybe forgiveness isn’t something we have to earn.

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.

‘Grey Matters:’ Have you experienced ageism?



MICKI MCLEAN

Independent columnist

We talk about ageism as though it only happens when someone says something obviously insulting about getting older.

But sometimes it is much sneakier.

I have to admit; ageism has been on my mind a little more lately. Maybe it’s because I’ve recently reached the age where someone offered me my first “senior’s discount.” I’m not sure whether I was supposed to feel proud, offended or simply ask if there was a discount for people who still don’t feel like seniors!

It was a funny little moment, but it did make me think about how quickly we attach expectations to a number. At 55, I don’t suddenly feel like a completely different person than I did a few years ago. Yet somehow, a number on my driver’s licence can change how other people see me.

And that’s really what ageism is about. It is somewhat perception as well. I have toured seniors in there 90s not ready to move into a retirement home stating “there is too many old people there.”

It can sound like: “You probably wouldn’t understand that.” Or “at your age, do you really need to learn that?” Or my personal favourite – someone talking to the person standing beside you instead of talking to you – as though turning 70 suddenly made you invisible.

Ageism is treating someone differently, making assumptions about them or limiting them simply because of their age. And the tricky part is that sometimes it is so casually woven into everyday life that we don’t even recognize it.

Someone assumes you don’t use technology. Someone assumes you don’t want to travel. Someone assumes you’re retired, so you must have all the time in the world. Someone assumes you’re confused because you didn’t hear them the first time. Or someone decides that because you’re older, they should make the decision for you.

None of these things necessarily look dramatic. But put enough of them together and they can leave a person feeling as though their age has become the most important thing about them.

It isn’t.

So how do you spot ageism?

Pay attention when someone’s age becomes the reason given for what they can, can’t, should or shouldn’t do. Ask yourself: Would they have said or done the same thing if I were 20 years younger?

If the answer is no, you may have spotted it.

Ageism can happen at work, in healthcare, stores, restaurants, banking, online and even within families. And sometimes, it comes from people who genuinely think they are being helpful. That doesn’t necessarily make it OK.

You don’t have to start an argument every time someone makes an age-related comment. Sometimes a simple response is enough.

“I’m quite capable of making that decision myself.”

“I’d appreciate it if you spoke directly to me.”

“My age doesn’t mean I can’t do that.”

Or when appropriate, a little humour can go a long way.

“Don’t let the grey hair fool you. I know how to use Google.”

The important thing is not to automatically accept the assumption being made about you. Ask questions. Speak up. Correct people when they make assumptions. And don’t let someone else’s idea of what a person “your age” should be become your definition of yourself.

We can also check ourselves.

Ageism isn’t always something other people do. Most of us have probably made an assumption about someone’s age without even realizing it.

We might assume an older person won’t understand technology, while assuming a younger person couldn’t possibly have enough experience to understand something important.

Both are assumptions.

Getting older doesn’t automatically make someone wise, helpless, outdated, difficult or wonderful. It makes them older.

And underneath that age is still a person with their own personality, experiences, abilities, opinions and plans.

Maybe the biggest thing we can do about ageism is stop treating age like a personality.

Because 60 isn’t a personality. Seventy-years-old isn’t a personality, 80 isn’t a personality, and 90 certainly isn’t a personality. They’re numbers.

People are much more interesting than that.

So the next time someone says: “At your age…” maybe stop for a moment and ask yourself: “And exactly what is that supposed to mean?”

You might be surprised by how often that little question starts a much bigger conversation.

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



COLUMNS

‘From where I sit’: ‘Paw-litics’ should it happen here?



DIANA STOREN

Independent columnist

The recent municipal election reminded me of a curious phenomenon that has been occurring in the United States since 1981.

It’s dog-gone amazing – the election of canine mayors!

Yup. It’s paw-sitively true. These four-legged leaders don’t have to do very much – just represent their municipalities in parades and make other public appearances. They might also attract visitors who are curious to see what a dog mayor does.

Sometimes the elections are used as ways to make money for worthy causes like animal shelters by charging voters a fee to cast their ballots. I discovered that there was a hotly-contested election in Kitimat, B.C., just a few days before Ontario voted.

Kitimat is a small town of about 9,000 inhabitants located a few hundred kilometres north of Vancouver. It’s the home of Koko and Gus, the candidates who ran in the Oct. 17 election for the ceremonial position of mayor.

During the town’s last election, voter turnout was very low. This time, something had to be done to encourage citizens to get out and exercise their civic duty. Dogs are popular – and kids especially love them.

And so, this is how the honorary position had its origin: kids encouraged their parents to vote, and not just for Koko or Gus, but for the human candidates as well. And the children were allowed to vote for the dog mayor! There was new enthusiasm for the election.

Gus, an Australian Labradoodle, ran on a campaign of making Kitimat “better and more pet-friendly than ever.” He promised a better and “fuzzier future,” which included free universal pet healthcare, expanded poop bag access in local parks and more fire hydrants.

His opponent Koko is a Goldendoodle. Her platform pledged pet-friendly emergency vehicle sirens (dogs have sensitive hearing,) dog days at the pool and property tax reductions for dog owners. And, as a role model for kids, she gets her teeth brushed every night!

Gus was the winner, but the election was close. He received 569 votes. Koko’s 435 votes put her in second place. I wonder if she will be asked to serve as deputy mayor. The canine mayor’s term is four years.

Tuxedo Stan, a black-and-white Nova Scotian cat, ran for the position of mayor in Halifax in 2021. Apparently both Ellen De DeGeneres and Anderson Cooper endorsed him!

The cat’s owners nominated their pet to draw attention to the feral cat problem in their city, and although Stan was not allowed to have his name on the ballot, he managed to raise both awareness and funds during his campaign, and through merchandise sales.

On the front page of the Oct. 16 issue of this newspaper, there was an interesting article about the expansion plans of the Northumberland Humane Society (NHS.) A lot of money will be needed – so perhaps the NHS could approach the municipalities of Northumberland with the suggestion that they organize elections for dog mayors. They could work out a payment system. It could be lucrative and a lot of fun.

I hope my suggestion is considered. After all, when animals and people work together, almost anything is paw-sible.

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

‘The Mason Line’: In defence of the arts and humanities



PAUL NICHOLAS MASON

Independent columnist

I graduated from Trent University in the early 1980s with an Honours degree in English literature. That wasn’t an exotic choice then.

Many young people graduated with degrees in English, modern languages, history, geography, religious studies, politics, theatre or music. These were all considered perfectly reasonable preparation for our lives as citizens and workers.

In the decades since, these choices have fallen sharply out of fashion. Governments pushed STEM, and students followed. Between 2011 and 2021, enrolment in Canadian arts and humanities programs fell by almost 28 per cent. Last year, York University paused admissions to 18 programs, among them classics, religious studies and Spanish.

There is nothing wrong with engineering, computer science or business. We need scientists, programmers and businesspeople. But we don’t need them to the exclusion of people who know languages, literature, history and religion.

And the safe bets may not be so safe. Some experts predict that within a few years, artificial intelligence will wipe out entire categories of white-collar work: Data entry clerks, call centre agents, bookkeepers, legal assistants, loan officers, translators and even writers. That may prove true, but so far Statistics Canada has found no clear evidence of disproportionate job losses.

Meanwhile, look at who else is at risk. Statistics Canada counts software developers and accountants among the workers whose tasks AI could most easily replace. In the United States, recent computer science graduates face an unemployment rate of seven per cent, and computer engineering graduates nearly eight. For history graduates, it’s just over four. For foreign language graduates, it’s under two.

Jobs that require hands, presence or empathy look relatively safe – the trades, nursing, childcare, social work, physiotherapy, the clergy (in those churches that remain), some teachers and professors, elite creatives, and researchers working hand-in-hand with AI.

What kind of education do these people need? For the trades, hands-on experience combined with math and communication skills. That’s what they need for work. But they also need an education that equips them to serve as citizens and enriches their lives as human beings. That’s where the arts and humanities come in. For the other workers on my list, it’s even more obvious.

When a machine can produce a fluent paragraph in a second, the scarce skill is no longer writing sentences. It’s judging whether they’re true. Employers seem to know it. In the World Economic Forum’s latest global survey, analytical thinking ranked first among the core skills employers want, with creative thinking in the top five.

My argument, then, is that to thrive in the future, most young people will need to be generalists. They will need real proficiency in their own language and competence in at least one other. They will need to understand the history of their own country and civilization, and ideally others, too. They will need to know when a politician is trying to sell them a pack of lies.

And even arts majors will need enough math to understand loans, mortgages and investments.

So parents if your child wants to study theatre, music or English literature, don’t despair. Say, “Fine, but also take a course or two in economics, biology, astronomy or business.”

Paul Nicholas Mason is an actor and author, most recently, of Sackville House.

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COLUMNS

‘The fall triple threat’: Arming yourself against the season’s biggest bugs



DR. THOMAS PIGGOTT

Independent columnist

The leaves are falling, the kids are back to school and many families are settling into fall routines.

Unfortunately, as we spend more time inside, this time of year also marks the return of respiratory virus season. Influenza, COVID-19, RSV and other common viruses tend to spread more easily as people spend more time indoors.

This year, respiratory season appears to be arriving early. Lakelands Public Health recently confirmed the first case of influenza in our region, about a month earlier than last year. While most people will recover from these illnesses, they can still cause serious complications, especially for older adults, young children, pregnant individuals, and people with underlying health conditions.

One of the most important things we can do is pay attention to prevention.

For me, one of the biggest concerns is that fewer people are choosing to get vaccinated against influenza. Only about one in three Canadians now get their annual flu shot and vaccination rates have fallen since the COVID-19 pandemic. At the same time, misinformation about vaccines has become widespread. It can be difficult to know what information to trust when so much is circulating online.

The reality is that influenza vaccines are safe, well studied and continue to be one of the best tools we have to reduce serious illness. Some people criticize the flu vaccine because it is not as effective as vaccines for diseases such as measles. That comparison misses an important point.

Even in a year when the flu vaccine is about 50 per cent effective, that is still a meaningful benefit. Imagine you and I are both exposed to influenza. If one of us avoids getting sick because we were vaccinated, that is a pretty good success.

Fewer infections mean fewer doctor visits, fewer missed days of work and school and fewer people ending up in hospital or dying. Did you know that around 6,000 Canadians die from influenza every year – that’s about the same number as those who die from breast cancer.

Many people also underestimate the risk that influenza poses to kids. While children often recover well, they can become seriously ill and every year five to 10 kids in Canada die from the flu.

As the father of two young girls, I take that risk seriously. My children receive their flu vaccine every year, and I hope every family takes time to consider the protection it can offer.

Vaccination is only one part of the picture. Staying home when sick, washing hands regularly, covering coughs and sneezes, improving indoor air quality through improved open windows, running your furnace ventilation and in-room air filters, and wearing a mask when appropriate can all help reduce the spread of viruses.

Small actions taken by many people can make a big difference across our community.

Free flu and COVID-19 vaccines are now available to everyone ages six months and older who lives, works or attends school in Ontario. Additionally, RSV immunizations are available for eligible high-risk individuals, including adults 75 and older, pregnant women, and young infants.

You can safely receive your flu and COVID-19 shots at the same time by booking an appointment through participating pharmacies, public health units or your family doctor.

We also encourage residents to stay informed. Lakelands Public Health offers a respiratory infections dashboard that tracks local respiratory virus activity. This fall, we also launched enhanced wastewater surveillance for respiratory viruses across the Lakelands region (sampling conducted in Haliburton, Lindsay, Peterborough and Cobourg).

Wastewater monitoring can provide an early signal of rising virus activity before many people begin seeking healthcare.

If you want to stay up-to-date, consider subscribing to our new dashboard and surveillance newsletter by visiting lakelandsPH.ca. It is a simple way to get timely information about respiratory virus trends and risks in our region.

Respiratory virus season is a fact of life in Canada. But serious illness does not have to be.

By staying informed, using common-sense prevention measures, and getting vaccinated when eligible, we can help protect ourselves, our families and our communities staying healthy throughout the months ahead.

Dr. Thomas Piggott is the medical officer of health and chief executive officer for Lakelands Public Health.

‘The Garden Path’: Winter can be beautiful



TANYA CROWELL

Independent columnist

As a gardener in a northern climate, winter can be a burden to bear.

It can seem long, a time of nothingness, a season of sticks. One tries to learn to love the outline of bare trees against sky, colorful bark, carpets of leaves, and of course, snow. Snow in other climates creates a beautiful frosty blanket that makes garden leftovers sparkle anew.

Here in Northumberland that can happen but eventually the garden design is lost in a thick blanket of white not to be seen again until March or even April, when it emerges looking bedraggled and lonely until growth begins.

In order to create some delight and beauty to lift my spirits in winter, I make winter containers filled with boughs and berries. This month, I want to encourage you to do the same by offering some tips. Containers that were used in summer can be repurposed as long as they are resin or plastic. Avoid terracotta or ceramic that can break in freeze-thaw cycles.

Use leftover potting mix from summer containers – no need to buy specialty materials. Heap the potting mix up in the middle of the container to make a mound. This will make it easier to form a nice shape as you insert greenery branches. You can insert some branches so that the inner side shows to form a nice shape and enhance colour contrast.

If you have coniferous trees on your property such as cedar, hemlock or pine, you’ll have a ready source of boughs. Judicious pruning, always clean cuts at nodes, is required. If not, they can be purchased at local garden centres.

Personally, I access pine, hemlock and cedar on my property, as well as dogwood branches and birch bark to create a centre of red and white. I supplement by purchasing magnolia leaves, variegated boxwood, and red plastic berries as real berries tend to turn brown quickly. If the berries are worked into the boughs, they look quite real. Avoid berries with plastic coating over styrofoam, as they break in the cold.

For even more creativity, consider using hydrangea blooms that can be spray painted in gold or silver, sumach berries, coneflowers, juniper branches or anything in your garden that you feel adds to your creation. Containers usually freeze in place and stay green until the first warm days of spring, after which, they will brown quickly and you’ll be ready to move on.

If all this sounds inviting but you are unsure of your skills, there are a number of nurseries that offer day courses to make your container, and they usually provide the materials, too. This can be a wonderful way to enjoy the creative process and socialize as well.

You’ll revel in the beauty every time you pass your doorway and so will your friends and family – so even in winter, you can enjoy your garden!



Columnist Tanya Crowell walks readers through making winter containers filled with boughs and berries so you can still enjoy your garden during the winter months. /Tanya Crowell photo

Tanya Crowell is trained as a master-gardener and lives and gardens on eight acres in Northumberland.

COLUMNS

‘Sustainability Corner’: Ending forced labour



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 8: Ending forced labour

It’s not every day you get to go on a police raid to tackle modern slavery. But that’s where I found myself one day in Cambridge, England. As part of a victim support agency, we rescued 11 young men who were being forced to work at a restaurant. Their documents had been taken away from them; they slept six men to a room above the restaurant and were rarely allowed to leave.

They worked 12-hour shifts every day of the week, and although they were paid, it was much less than minimum wage. They had been told that if they tried to leave, they would be arrested, imprisoned, and deported by the authorities.

I have other stories that I could tell you about. I could tell you about a teenage boy who was trafficked to work as a domestic slave in a wealthy house. I could tell you about the group of young men who were kept locked in a house and forced to grow illegal drugs. I could tell you about the homeless men who were tricked into working for a construction company without pay.

Behind every statistic is a story, and with these stories the common thread is economic vulnerability and exploitation, fuelled by recent geopolitical uncertainty, sluggish global economic growth, and supply chain disruptions. Labour productivity gains have remained insufficient to boost real wages or reduce poverty.

While the global unemployment rate fell to a record low of 4.9 per cent in 2025, the United Nations reports that nearly 58 per cent of workers remain informally employed, which is largely unchanged since 2015, and leaves them without full access to social protection or legal safeguards.

Youth unemployment continues to outpace that of adults. Young people are nearly four times more likely to be unemployed, and one in five young people globally is not in employment, education or training. While global child labour fell by more than 20 million since 2020, 138 million children remain affected – 59 million girls and 78 million boys – accounting for almost eight per cent of children globally.

Eliminating child labour by 2030 would require progress to accelerate 11 times faster than the current pace.

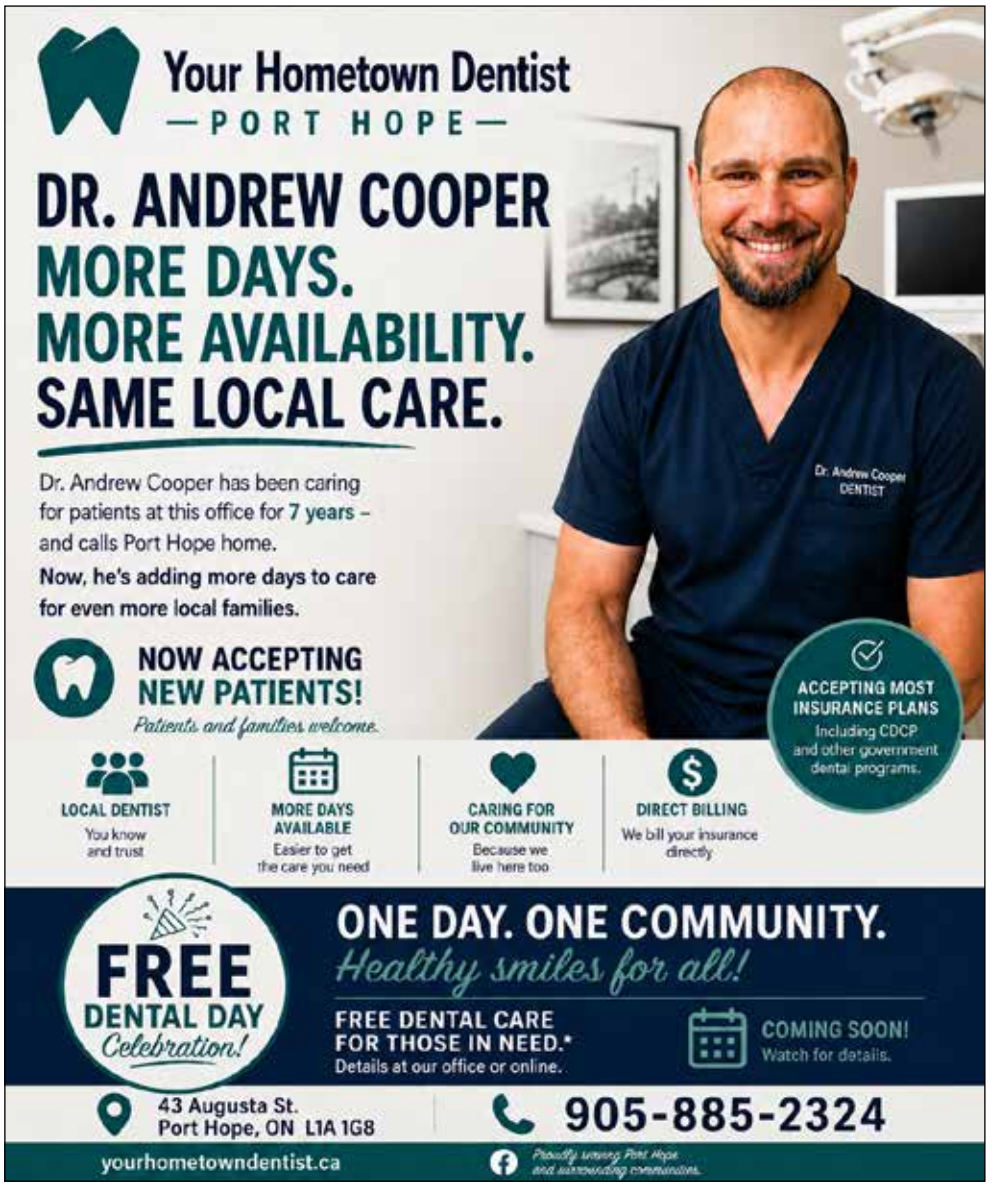
Canada is not immune. The Global Slavery Index estimates that 69,000 people in Canada are in a situation of forced labour, or nearly 1 in every 500 Canadians.

Upon moving to Ontario, I volunteered with a non-profit organization that supported 19 men to escape from forced labour in the construction industry. They were forced to work all day without pay, held in basements and fed table scraps. They slept on the floor and couldn’t shower for weeks. Eventually one of the men was brave enough to escape and alert the police. Several members of an organized criminal gang were subsequently arrested and sentenced.

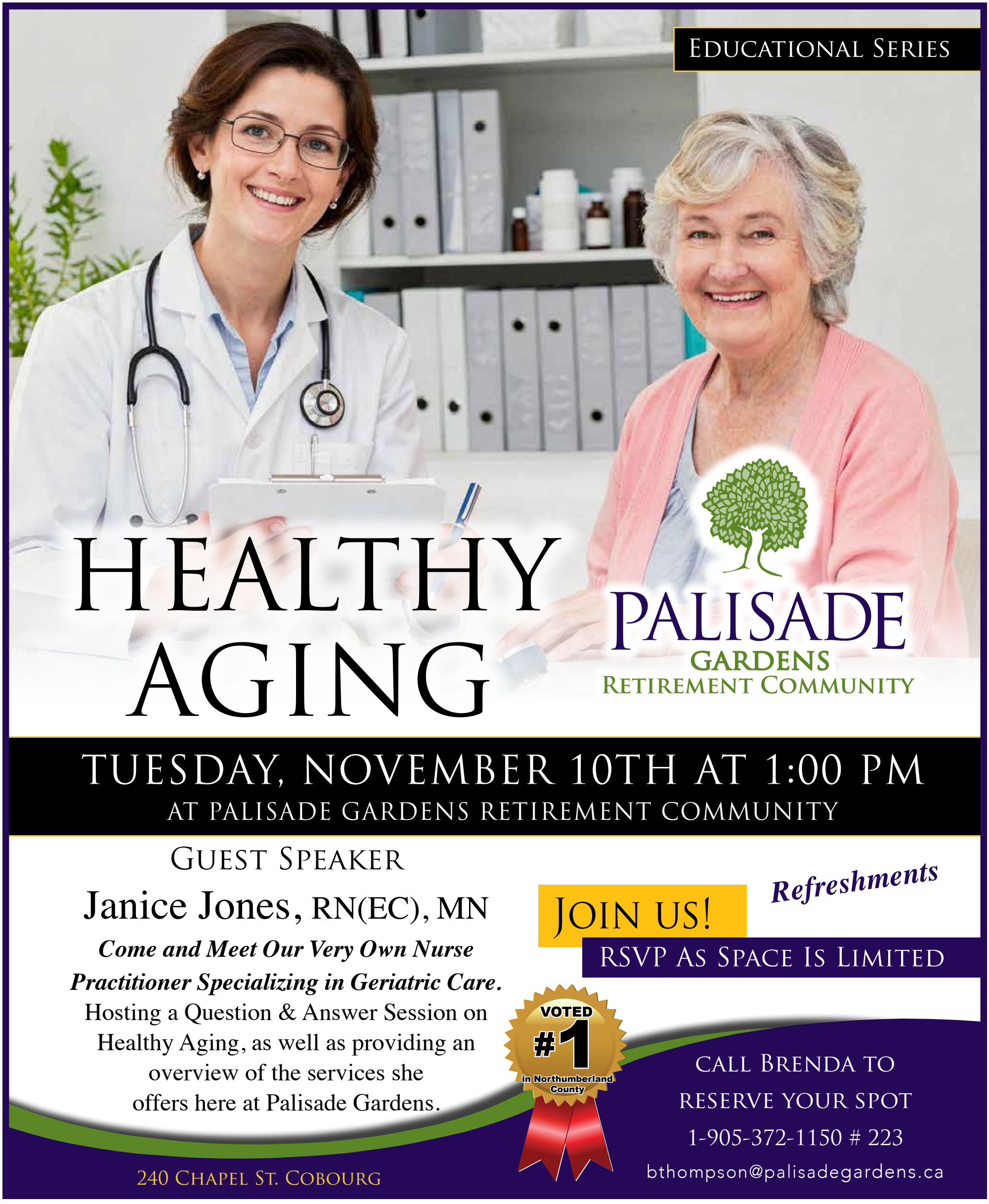
Would you know the signs of exploitation? Would you know who to call for help? For more information, visit https://canadianhumantraffickinghotline.ca.

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.





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

OCTOBER NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

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Riddles

What has 13 hearts, but no lungs, feet or bellybuttons?
A deck of cards.

What five-letter word becomes shorter when you add two letters to it?
Short.

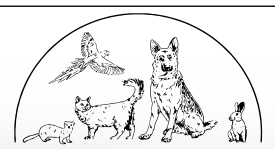
I speak without a mouth and hear without ears. I have nobody, but I come alive with the wind. What am I?
An echo.

What is always in front of you but can never be seen?
The future.

What starts with a 'P', ends with an 'E', and has thousands of letters?
A post office

Give me a drink, and I will die. Feed me, and I'll get bigger. What am I?
A fire.

What breaks as soon as you say its name?
Silence



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

Solutions on pg. 38

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COMMUNITY EVENTS

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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

FUNDRAISER MOVIE DAY: 'SHREK' FOR THE ROSE QUEST:
Happening on Saturday, Nov. 7 at the Rainbow Cinema in Cobourg.
The movie starts at noon. Come early to get snacks and see other surprises.
Email therosequest@gmail.com for more information.

CHRISTMAS TEA AND BAKE SALE:
Happening on Saturday, Nov. 14 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church (200 King St. W., Cobourg.)
Tea is $15 for adults and $3 for kids age 10 and under. Serving scones, jam, cream, assorted pastries, tea and coffee. There is no charge to shop for homemade baking and preserves.
Free parking available. Enter through the back door. Cash only.
For more details, visit https://www.facebook.com/standrewscobourg/.

ST. MARK'S HOLLYBERRY BAZAAR AND TEA:
Happening on Nov. 7 from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at 51 King St., Port Hope.
The event features lunch in the tea room, home baking, a wide selection of preserves, speciality items, accessories, white elephant, books and puzzles. The quilt raffle is at 1:30 p.m.

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.

FESTIVE BAZAAR:
The Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Women's League Port Hope hosts its festive bazaar on Saturday, Nov. 7 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus Hall located at 1 Elias St., Port Hope. There will be crafts, gifts, art, baked goods, and more.

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4. Bruce Nuclear Generating Station
5. 1945
6. Daisy dukes
7. The Beaver Moon
8. Marble
9. Vertebrae
10. Europe

SUDOKU ANSWERS

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

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OBITUARY

Bothwell



Henry James Campbell Bothwell

March 18, 1945 - October 17, 2026

After a long fight, it is with great sadness that we announce the passing of our Dad, Papa, partner, brother, uncle & friend, Henry Bothwell on Saturday October 17th, 2026 at the Northumberland Hills Hospital at the age of 81. Henry is the beloved father of Julie (Percy), Jared (Sara) & Laird. Cherished Papa to Cree, River, Tiger, Winter, Aydren & Keeyah. Dear partner to Tina. Of Aberdeen Scotland, Predeceased by his parents, Robert & Violet Bothwell (Campbell) and Late sister Kathleen. Siblings, Robert, Violet (late John Beggs) Margaret Johnstone (late John) Carol Christie (Dave), Loraine, John (Eileen) Henry will be dearly missed by many friends, extended family and members of the community.

A Celebration of Henry's Life will be held at the Alderville Community Centre, 8913 Hwy 45 on Saturday November 7th, 2026 at 12 noon with lunch & sharing of stories. If desired, memorial donations to Salvation Army would be appreciated by the family.

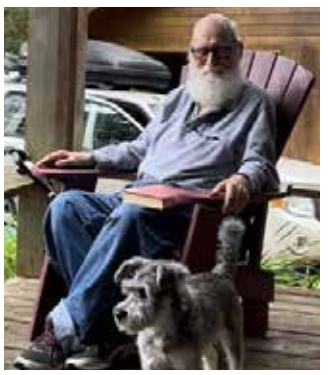
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OBITUARY



Whiston

David Alan Whiston – January 16, 1933 – October 3, 2026

David was born in Halifax, Nova Scotia to Marjory Beryl (Hirst) Whiston and Norman Herbert Whiston. He was the oldest of 4 children; David, Mindy, Bill and Joy.

David trained for and joined the RCMP, but decided he really didn't like guns (or riding horses). Also, he really wanted to go to church on Sundays. His superior in the RCMP suggested he train to be a minister and that's what he did. While he was studying to become a minister of the United Church he met Marlene. She was studying to be a teacher at Mount Alison University. They fell in love and he asked her to marry him. She wanted to have children – he agreed and they married in August 1958.

While David finished his studies in Halifax, Nova Scotia their first daughter Bethune (Reza) was born. Their first son Keith (Crystal) was born 2 years later in Red Deer Alberta, where the family moved for David's first pastoral charge. Glen (Alma) followed 5 years after that while they lived in New Mills, New Brunswick, and Julianna (Franck/Patrick), their youngest daughter, was born in Nova Scotia as they finished their longest stay in any of Dad's pastoral charges, 8 years in Upper Stewiacke. Dad was posted to other pastoral charges – including Sturgeon Falls, Elliott Lake, Flinton and Camborne. Mom was also ordained as a minister during this time. They bought a home in 1996 and settled in Port Hope, Ontario. During his ministry David was well known for his lovely speaking and singing voice. He was a very handsome man, even as he aged with his snowy white beard.

After retiring, David continued to work in the church, assisting with services at the Port Hope United Church and the Alderville First Nation United Church (one of Marlene's congregations).

Dad and mom not only gave of themselves in their ministry, they also gave generously to the church and other causes and cared for two foster children, while their children were young. One a baby boy and the other a teenaged girl. Dad and Mom welcomed all cultures into their homes and, over the years, many into the family.

Dad was a Royal Canadian Sea Cadet for several years when he was growing up. One of Dad's fondest memories is being selected from many young people who were in the Cadets across Canada for a trip on the HMCS Ontario, a training ship for the Royal Canadian Navy on the Pacific Coast. In early February, 1951 the ship left, with a small highly select group of top-performing Sea Cadets on board, from her home port of Esquimalt, British Columbia for her famous 19,000-mile Australasia training course. They sailed to Australia and back, passing Hawaii, Samoa and Fiji on the way there and Tasmania and New Zealand on the way back. Dad remembers many things from that trip, including a burial at sea, and the tragic death of a photographer and a pilot from a helicopter that got too close to the sea during that fateful burial.

David got involved early in his marriage with the Royal Arch Masons, an organization that focuses on morality, brotherhood and charity. David attended many meetings across Ontario and achieved a number of high positions within the Masons leadership. He spoke often of his work with the Masons and really valued the friendships he made during his many years in the organization.

While in Upper Stewiacke, David was a youth leader in 4H, a non-profit youth development organization for children and teens that focuses on hands-on, experiential learning. Keith, Glen and Beth all participated.

Dad was also a very creative person. He built many toys for the children. One was a large slide that was painted to look like a giraffe. He painted early in his married life and wrote at least one poem that won an award. Dad's favourite colour was royal blue. He was also mischievous, enjoying playing with the children. When we were eating together and someone's plate went missing while they weren't looking, it certainly wasn't DAD that took it! We had many trips to get the yearly Christmas tree, Children's Day trips to an amethyst or a coal mine in Quebec, or the museum of Alexander Graham Bell in Cape Breton.

Dad never did like being in the water but he really enjoyed canoeing and camping. When the children were young, the family drove across Canada from Nova Scotia to Alberta to visit his parents, camping along the way. After the children left home, he and Marlene would often spend several weeks to a month every summer camping in the Bancroft area. Dad also enjoyed being on boats. Their daughter Bethune and her family took them on a cruise to the Caribbean and a cruise to Alaska. Their son Keith made sure dad had regular camping and canoeing trips. David had many other interests included curling and classical music. He was very easy to buy Christmas gifts for.

We all gathered in Halifax for Dad and Mom's 60th anniversary in 2018. All the children and all the grandchildren were there, as well as many other extended family members and loved ones. David and Marlene had 8 grandchildren. In order of age – Alex (Glen), Grace (Keith), Sarina (Bethune), Sierra (Glen), Hannah Paule (Julianna), Amelia and Sydney (Glen) and Salvator (Julianna). They each had a special connection with Dad.

Dad and Mom got to travel to Nova Scotia to see Glen's family and other relatives on many occasions after they had moved to Ontario, (especially later in life).

Mom went to live with Julianna and her family in Montreal during COVID after she broke her leg and it became difficult for Dad to care for her. In April 2022, Dad joined Mom in Montreal living with Julianna, Hannah and Sal (as well as many pets). Animals were always constant companions in the Whiston family. After dad became bedridden he moved into a care facility across the street from Julianna's work and she would have lunch with him most days.

The plan was always to bring David home to Port Hope though. Dad's grandchild Alex, and Alex's wife Jerica, moved from Nova Scotia to Port Hope several years ago to renovate and care for the family home. They spent years readying the house for Dad's return and he finally came home on September 7, 2026.

On October 3, 2026, on a walk in his wheelchair, with Julianna and Sal and their dog Bear, after enjoying the sunny warm weather and the colourful leaves in his old neighbourhood, Dad passed peacefully away.

David is survived by his children, 8 grandchildren and his brother. How fortunate we all were to have him for 93 years.

Memorial service is Saturday, November 7th, 2026 at 2:00pm, Port Hope United Church - 34 South Street, Port Hope, ON.

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