

VIEWPOINT

EDITORIAL

What type of premier would Patrick Brown be?

If this is how the Ontario Progressive Conservative Party under leader Patrick Brown is conducting its candidate nomination process, what can Ontarians expect if the party forms the government?

Throughout this past spring and summer, Brown and the Tories have been leaving significant fingerprints all over local nomination races. And while both the Liberals and the NDP have selected so-called "star candidates" to carry their respective political banners, the Tories seem to be making a public mess of it.

Along with some party officials, Brown has become the centerpiece of a number of nomination fights, revealing a penchant for stomping on devoted party members' fingers and toes while trying to get preferred candidates nominated in time for next June's provincial election.

The Hamilton West-Dundas-Ancaster nomination produced a winner that two candidates for the nomination are now challenging in court.

Brown and his cohorts are also attempting to appoint a candidate for Flamborough-Glanbrook, even though there were initially three candidates seeking the nomination. One has dropped out after being told the party was seeking to appoint a candidate. One of the remaining contenders is contemplating his political future.

Other questionable nominations happened in Scarborough Centre, where the police were called to restore order, and Ottawa West-Nepean, where the race featured accusations of ballot stuffing.

Party members should be critical of the nomination process after party president Rick Dykstra stated in an affidavit that the "Nomination Meeting is not determinative of who will ultimately be listed on the ballot as the PC Party candidate in a general election."

In an attempt to tamp down criticism, Brown announced in late spring he has retained the services of PricewaterhouseCoopers to monitor the nominations. However, if you have no nominations, what does PwC have to monitor?

Some provincial PCs have become so frustrated that they are now seriously looking at the rise of the Trillium Party, which recruited MPP Jack McLaren after Brown kicked him out of the PC caucus.

Another group, called I'm Out, is overseen by Carlos Naldinho, an Ottawa-area resident who wants to see a minority government elected in order to force a review of Brown's leadership.

There is also the possibility of a pro-life Ontario Alliance Party entering the provincial election.

If Brown and his party have so little demonstrated regard for the democratic structures in place to nominate eager candidates, what would Brown do if he actually became the premier and had the reins of power under his control?

What do you think?

Is Patrick Brown a good candidate to be Ontario's next premier?

Should Kathleen Wynne be re-elected?

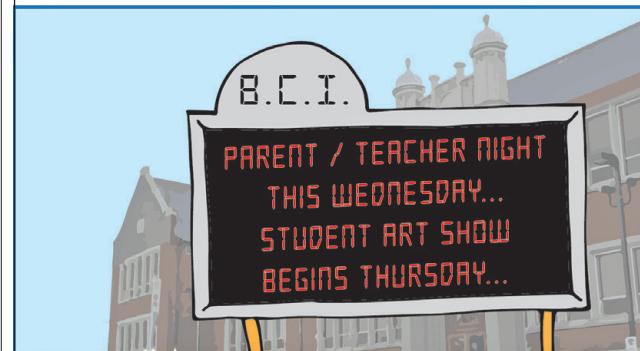
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EDITORIAL CARTOON

THE DECISION TO INSTALL AN ELECTRONIC SIGN AT B.C.I. HAS SOME FOLKS CONCERNED ABOUT HISTORICAL AUTHENTICITY. HERE ARE SOME OF THE HERITAGE-FRIENDLY SUGGESTIONS FOR COMPARISON:



a) SHAMELESSLY NEWFANGLED



b) DELIGHTFULLY OLD-FASHIONED



c) CLASSICALLY NAUTICAL



d) IDEALLY ANTIQUATED

LETTER TO THE EDITOR
Phragmites on the loose

Summer, beaches, and swimming are just around the corner, but what if we told you that favourite areas are under siege? Yes, even your favourite sandy beach is likely under threat.

Ontario's most invasive plant, phragmites, is a tall reed, that is spreading fast along shorelines taking over wetlands and beaches and obstructing your views and destroying habitat.

The spread of phragmites has the potential to negatively impact farmers,

fisherman, and tourism in your area.

Not sure if you've ever seen phragmites? It is a wetland perennial that can grow up to five metres and has a tassel on the top. It can spread over three metres per year and grows in extremely large, continuous clumps, eliminating habitat for native species and out competing natural vegetation along Ontario roads, in wetlands and on beaches.

The plant has spread by almost 30 per cent between 2010 and 2017, with over 5,000 hectares of strongly established colonies of the weed in the province.

The impacts and cost of this invasion is not limited to the ecological and environmental damage to native species, and even the species at risk it outcompetes.

Last year in Ontario, over \$1 million was spent to control the weed. It has also become a significant, and rapidly increasing budget item for many municipalities as control and eradication become a bigger expense.

We know what the problem is with phragmites, but how to fight back?

The Ontario Phragmites Working Group (www.opwg.ca) and the Ontario Invasive

Plant Council (www.ontarioinvasiveplants.ca) have tips on identifying phragmites and steps to take to respond to new outbreaks.

Early eradication remains the best step to take. The Invading Species Awareness Program has a web-based reporting tool to map invasive plants (edmaps.org/ontario).

It's a simple action people can take, with a big impact. Smaller infestations can be managed by cutting but for significant infestations, herbicide control remains the only viable option.

Ontario Invasive Plant Council



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VIEWPOINT

» EDITORIAL

Cheers to volunteers



DAVE LEVAC
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FOR BRANT NEWS

A couple of years ago, a group of us from the Brantford-Brant community came together with the idea of recognizing unique and exceptional individuals who dedicate their lives to volunteering.

We wanted to honour and acknowledge those in our community who freely give their time, resources and skills to help others in need. I am proud to say that we now have a special award that does just that. For three years now, I have had the honour of being on the committee that organizes the Lifetime Achievement Award for Outstanding Volunteerism.

The Lifetime Achievement Award for Outstanding Volunteerism recognizes individuals who have made an exceptional contribution to our communities through volunteerism during their lifetime. This award is presented to a maximum of four residents from one or more of our communities within the riding, with a celebration honouring award winners during National Volunteer Week in April each year. As part of the award, a legacy fund will be established in the name of each recipient and administered by the Brant Community Foundation.

I encourage anyone from Brant to nominate someone who is dedicated to volunteering and demonstrates the qualities of volunteerism. Nomination forms can be downloaded from the website www.lifetimeachievementaward.ca or from a direct link at <http://brant.news/LAAOV>.

Nominees must reside in the County of Brant, the City of Brantford, Six Nations of the Grand River Territory or Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation. Nominees must have made a noteworthy and unpaid contribution to our community and the lives of others over a significant period of time. Contributions may be by volunteering their time, knowledge, skills or resources. All nominations will be kept on record for three years for future consideration.

The 2014 inaugural recipient of this award was Alan Cook, who promoted the arts in Brantford through classical music and church involvement.

The 2015 awards were given jointly to two lifelong volunteers: Paul Mitchell for volunteering with basketball clubs, Meals on Wheels, helping at St. Joseph's Lifecare Centre and the Brantford General Hospital; and David Bailey, who serves on the board for Brantwood Community Centre and is active with the Boys and Girls Clubs in Brantford.

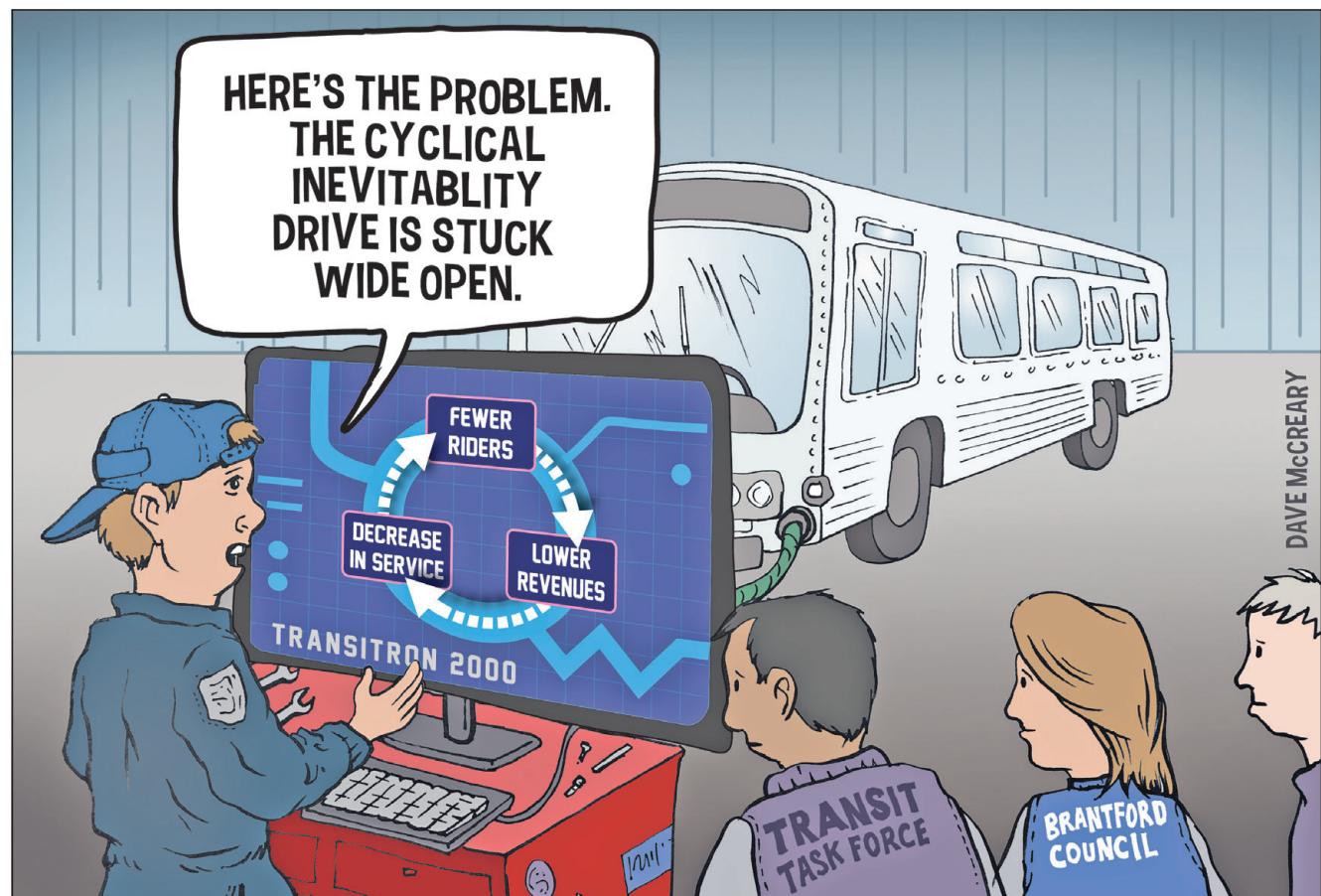
The 2016 awards went to Marilyn McCulloch, who has volunteered as president, treasurer and secretary of the Paris Optimist Club and chairs two significant craft shows; and to Chet Bewick, who is a very dependable volunteer at the Brantford General Hospital, Big Brothers, at a local women's shelter and Meals on Wheels as well.

Volunteers are essential to the vitality and well-being of our communities. Brant is a stronger community because of our exceptional volunteers. Without their hard work and dedication, so many of the organizations and services that the people of Brant rely on simply would not exist. This award recognizes the great gift that volunteering is and the selflessness, generosity and humility behind it.

Nominations are due on Dec. 1. I encourage you to nominate someone you know who has made volunteering a lifetime pursuit. If you would like to know more about this award, please call the constituency office at 519-759-0361, drop by the constituency office at 96 Nelson St. in Brantford, or visit the website lifetimeachievementaward.ca.

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» EDITORIAL CARTOON



» LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Buying federal building a bad idea

Paying \$5.8 million for the federal building and renovating it for \$8.9 million just so you can save \$800,000 a year five years in the future doesn't seem to me to be a good idea.

Why do all city workers have to be located in the same building anyhow?

Also \$5.8 million for an old building like that is way overpriced. You also must know that the \$8.9 million will probably double once everyone realizes how many problems come with an old building – things like mould, asbestos, old wiring, cracked foundations or poor roof.

Then the project will be

delayed and you will need to find temporary space for the workers coming out of Market Square Mall in 2022. There will be no savings, rather instead a huge deficit.

If you must spend the money, please build a new structure on cheap land somewhere in the city. Why not build on the Greenwich-Mohawk brownfield site and add some recreational facilities, as previously suggested, for the public?

This would be the perfect area to both provide indoor recreational facilities for the public such as racquetball, squash, pickle ball and other fitness options, as well as combining city departments under one roof. The city workers could

also benefit from the fitness facilities as well.

Brian Fitzgibbon

Move the bike park

Biking is a mobile activity. It does not matter where a bike park is located, people coming from all over the city will gather and conduct their activities.

It does, however, absolutely matter that an environmentally sensitive area is protected. It cannot be moved as it has naturally developed over the centuries and cannot regenerate itself in a new location. It is lost forever.

Moving the bike park to a new location will not infringe on the rights of

bikers, but disturbing one of our last environmentally sensitive areas within the city limits will certainly impact the rights of all citizens of Brantford who value our natural environment.

Since I believe most bikers are also sensitive to protecting the environment, let's find a sensible and common solution that serves all citizens. Rather than creating opposition among the community, it is the job of our elected city council to find solutions. We can have both a bike park and protect our natural areas. City council, all citizens of Brantford are watching your next move.

Candie Thomas

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VIEWPOINT

EDITORIAL

Giving credit where credit is due

Paramedics don't often get the credit they deserve, particularly in the media.

The work they do is less visible than firefighters and police officers – a product of the need for patient privacy and a lack of resources, to name two reasons – but no less important.

Brantford Police Service has, for decades, typically had an officer assigned to compile and release a rundown of notable incidents to supply the media, but the duty is just one part of the officer's responsibilities.

Years ago, reporters were invited to sit down with the media at headquarters and peruse the incident log for newsworthy items. The County of Brant Ambulance Service does not have the luxury of providing such a service, so their contributions to responding to an emergency situation can often come across as a footnote to the story.

Firefighters and police officers rarely have more than first aid training, but their strengths obviously lie in other areas crucial to helping the community.

So if you are seriously hurt, you want a paramedic to show up as quickly as possible.

However, far too often in Brantford and Brant all of the paramedics on duty are tied up with other calls. In 2015, on more than 1,000 occasions the County of Brant Ambulance Service, which serves both the county and the city, didn't have a unit free to respond to calls.

In such a case, paramedics from neighbouring municipalities are called to respond, but often local firefighters show up first and do what they can to help until the paramedics arrive. The same is true of police officers.

County of Brant Ambulance Service general manager Charles Longeway and his staff have been working with Brant council, Brantford council, municipal staff and consultants to address the lack of resources that often occurs at peak times when calls for service are high. We can only hope these strategies are making a difference.

Meanwhile, paramedics routinely go without breaks and lunches because they are too busy trying to respond to the high call volume or preparing for the next call to come in.

Besides adding crews to busy shifts and redeploying crews to busier times of the day, County of Brant Ambulance Service has also become part of innovative provincial programs such as community paramedicine. The program sends paramedics to areas, particularly apartment building where seniors are many, for proactive visits in which they make sure they are taking their medications, check blood pressure and do anything else they can to help avoid unnecessary hospital visits.

There's even a new program Brant ambulance is hoping to join that allows them to monitor the vitals of residents with chronic health problems.

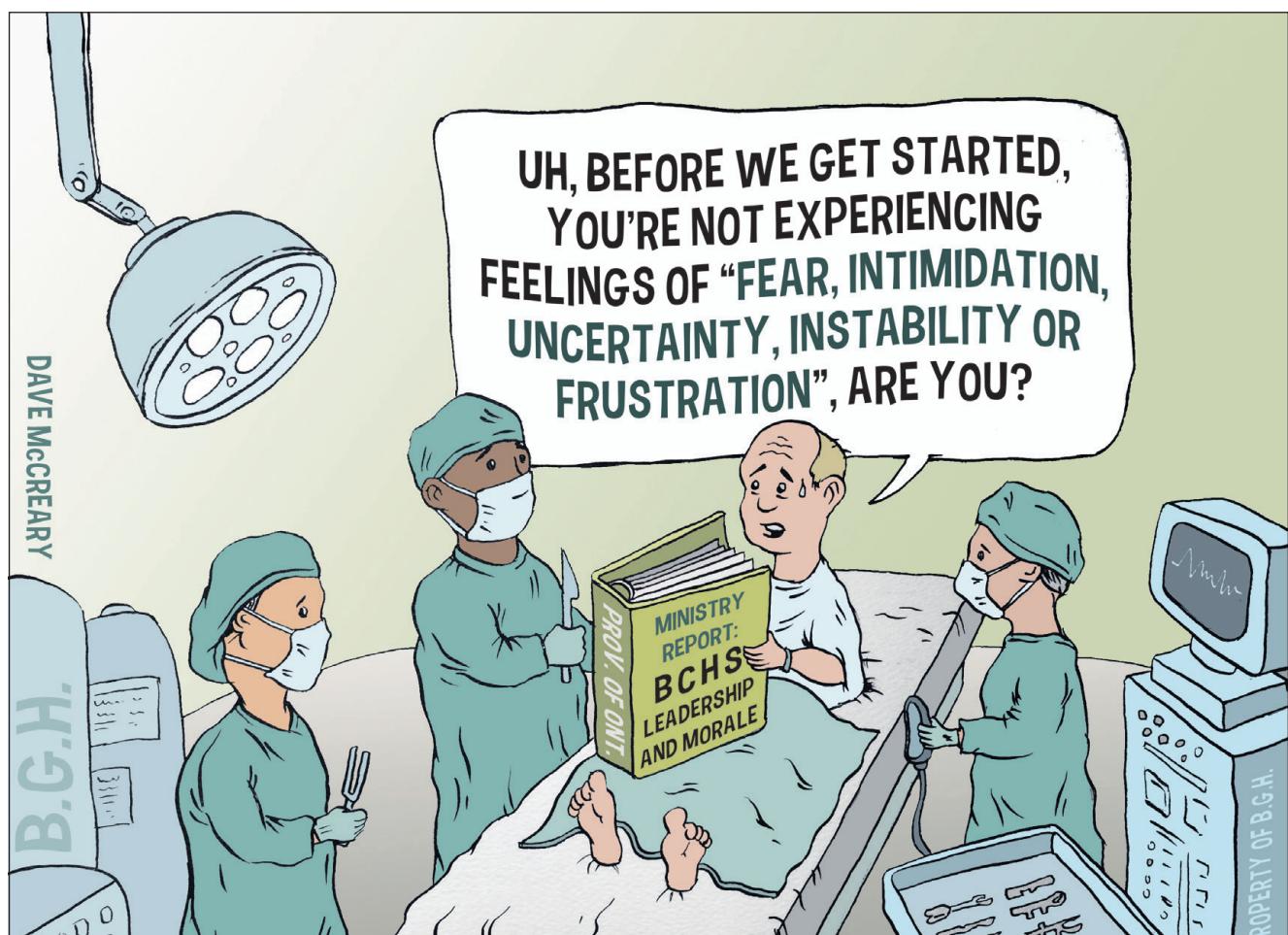
County of Brant Ambulance Service does an amazing job with minimal resources. They need more than the county evidently is willing to fund, so it's to their credit that they are making the best of innovative new programs that are proactive instead of reactive.

So even if you've never needed the help of paramedics, thank one the next time you have the chance.

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EDITORIAL CARTOON



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Reducing impaired boating deaths

Drinking and boating accounts for approximately 40 per cent of boating-related fatalities on Canadian waterways.

To raise awareness and reduce alcohol-related deaths, the OPP is partnering with the Canadian Safe Boating Council (CSBC) to launch year five of Operation Dry Water.

Its goal is to discourage the dangerous practice of boating while impaired by alcohol.

The August long weekend is the perfect time to remind Canadian boaters about the risks of impaired

boating. Combined with sun, wind, waves and the rocking motion of the boat, the effects of alcohol while boating can be greatly increased.

While the responsibility of law enforcement on the water falls on police, the responsibility to ensure our waterways are a safe place to work and play is shared by all boaters.

Alcohol and drug impairment continue to be a factor in boating deaths and injuries and, similar to the efforts on our roadways, we all have a role to play.

Visit CSBC.ca for more information.

Ontario Provincial Police

The howitzer in city's trust

As the First World War-era howitzer at Jubilee Terrace Park was originally to go into a national museum, it would be at home in Brantford's Canadian Military Heritage Museum.

The museum acknowledges the City of Brantford as trustee, which would loan the howitzer to the museum indefinitely, as long as the museum operates.

Because the Canadian Military Heritage Museum rents and pays utilities to the city, the city would know if the museum is still viable.

Due to rent, utilities and

upkeep, the museum must charge admission to pay its bills and, in exchange, visitors will see hundreds of artifacts.

The howitzer needs a climate-controlled environment.

Check out the decay of the fire engine in front of Brant Museum or the wood carriage of the Alexander Park cannon, which shows deterioration and splits in the wood.

The 1812 cannon formerly in Alexander Park suffered a collapsed wheel and disappeared during restoration.

*Richard Waddington
Brantford*

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PC 30 Community Service Award

Dear Judges

October 2017

There are so many instances in community journalism when the sharing of a story ignites action to right a wrong, fill a gap or come to the aid of those in need. We then report on the Good Samaritan or donor who makes change happen in our community.

This time we led the way.

After weeks of reporting about the disappearance of a 72-year-old senior who wandered away from her Barrie home on a frigid February day, Barrie Advance editorial staff was compelled to look for a solution. Despite numerous searches by police throughout 2017, the senior with dementia has still not been found even as I write this letter.

In our coverage of this heartbreaking story, reporter Sara Carson discovered several Ontario communities were using tracking devices to find vulnerable residents within minutes of their disappearances, greatly reducing the angst of family members and cost of police searches. Sara's research reaffirmed what she suspected: tracking devices were valuable tools in the search for missing people.

The newsroom decided to spearhead a fundraising campaign to bring this equipment to Barrie. Capitalizing on my position as a board member of the Barrie Chamber of Commerce, the community newspaper (through its website Simcoe.com) forged a partnership with the chamber to raise seed money of \$25,000.

In May, the City of Barrie, Barrie Police, Georgian Bay Volunteer Search and Rescue, Alzheimer's Society of Simcoe County, County of Simcoe Paramedic Services and the Autism Society of Simcoe County joined with us to form Project Lifesaver Simcoe.

The Barrie Advance reported extensively on the issue and led readers through all stages in the process. Other local media picked up the story, helping us raise funds and awareness.



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October 2017

RE: PC 30 Community Service Award

To whom it may concern:

The Barrie Chamber of Commerce is pleased to partner with the Barrie Advance/Simcoe.com in supporting the development of Project Lifesaver Simcoe.

We appreciate that the newspaper recognized our passion to better our community and gave us an avenue to draw on the compassion of our more than 900 member businesses to make a difference.

When a local woman went missing last year, the whole community was drawn into the search for weeks that turned into months, witnessing the pain of the family, and wondering what could have prevented the situation. Project Lifesaver Simcoe is hopefully the answer to that question; it is a transmitter/receiver system intended to help search and rescue teams more quickly find our most vulnerable residents who have a tendency to wander.

The statistics on the number of residents in our community that have the potential to wander are overwhelming, so when the Barrie Advance/Simcoe.com approached the Chamber with the idea of Project Lifesaver technology, there was no hesitation on the part of its Board of Directors to endorse the concept and support the fundraising initiative for the startup costs.

Thank you for considering Project Lifesaver Simcoe for this award.

Sincerely,

Kris Hughston, Past President
Barrie Chamber of Commerce

Our goal is to launch the program this fall, before the winter weather hits. We are now awaiting delivery of some monitoring bracelets, transmitters and receivers ordered with the approximately \$20,000 raised to date. Police training on the equipment will be held in November.

Like other communities, we plan to lease the bracelets to families for \$400-\$500 but want to ensure all those who need them get them, regardless of their ability to pay. This involves an annual fundraising plan to sustain the project. Our ultimate goal is to extend Project Lifesaver Simcoe throughout Simcoe County, including all seven Metroland community newspapers in the region.

What started as coverage of a news story in our community has resulted in our readers, the business community, city hall, police and local organizations uniting to assist our most vulnerable residents. Project Lifesaver Simcoe is a terrific example of how pivotal a newspaper can be in performing community service while driving positive change within its coverage area.

Thank you for considering the Barrie Advance and Project Lifesaver Simcoe for this recognition.

Sincerely,

Lori Martin
Editor-in-chief
Barrie Advance
lmartin@simcoe.com
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Sara Carson/Metroland

Rick Ellsmere would like more protection for seniors with dementia. In March, his father Robert, 82, went missing from the home they share. Luckily, Robert was found safe.

SARA CARSON
scarson@simcoe.com

Rick Ellsmere pulls into the driveway of his Hillsdale home and immediately fears the worst. His 82-year-old father's nasal oxygen tube dangling from the handle of the snowblower was a clear

indication something was wrong.

Ellsmere, a Springwater firefighter, frantically searched the house and, when he didn't find Robert, he called 911.

"You think about Mandy. Your mind automatically goes to the worst," Rick said.

Mandy Thompson, 72, left her

Barrie home on foot Feb. 3. She has yet to be found as of April 13. Police say Thompson suffers from dementia.

Luckily for the Ellsmere family, Robert was found in the emergency department of Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre. Rick doesn't know exactly how he got

there.

"He's told me about five different stories," Rick said.

Robert has since been diagnosed with dementia.

Rick is looking for a solution to protect Robert from future disap-

● See COUNTY page 6



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County departments not using tracking technology

● Continued from front

pearances. And he's not alone.

Families have been asking the Alzheimer Society of Simcoe County about personal tracking devices, and similar technology, said Laura-Lynn Bourassa, manager of education and support programs.

In Ontario, three out of five people living with dementia will wander at some point. And in Simcoe County, there are approximately 8,400 people over the age of 65 living with dementia, Bourassa said.

That's 5,040 potential wanderers.

Simcoe County departments are not using tracking technology, but some Ontario forces have embraced it.

Guelph Police Service is a member of Project Lifesaver, which uses FM radio frequencies to locate missing people.

Vulnerable citizens voluntarily sign-up and wear a watch-sized bracelet that emits a unique FM radio frequency signal every second. The police have a satellite receiver, and when someone goes missing, it's tuned to pick up their frequency.

"We consider it another tool in the box," said Const. Gord Woods, program coordinator.

When it comes to locating missing people, radio frequencies are more reliable than GPS, Woods said.

"The best analogy is if you think about pulling into a parking garage, your



Graham Paine/Metroland

Halton police Search Incident Response Team (S.I.R.T.) members are trained in Project Lifesaver Halton, a radio frequency tracking program. Halton police S.I.R.T. member Const. Brandon Keeping uses the hand-held frequency receiver to locate a radio signal.

GPS quits working, but the FM radio in your car keeps playing," Woods said. "The technology we use is radio because radio waves will go through structures."

He shared a story about their first client.

"When he did not have the bracelet he went missing on a cold November night. He had been gone seven and a half hours by the time (two citizens) found him," Woods said.

The man was hypothermic and dehydrated and was sent to the hospital.

The cost of this search and rescue alone would have funded all of the Project Lifesaver equipment, Woods said.

When the man came out of the hospital, he joined Project Lifesaver. He went missing again in January on an even colder night.

"It was two officers on duty who found him and had him back within 15 minutes of getting the call," Woods said.

Guelph Police Service has 30 clients using Project

Lifesaver. Clients are charged an initial fee of \$400 for the tracking bracelet. And Woods said families who find the cost too high can get financial assistance from a local service club.

Project Lifesaver is a not-for-profit organization based out of Virginia. Recovery times for its clients average 30 minutes, states its website. In Ontario, Guelph, Niagara, Peel, York and Halton police, among others, use the service.

The transmitter used by Project Lifesaver has an approximate range of 1.6 kilometres under ideal conditions.

Sault Search and Rescue, serving Sault Ste Marie and Algoma in northeastern Ontario, has used Project Lifesaver since 2012.

Randall Roy, past president of the volunteer team, said the startup cost is \$15,000. And there are annual costs to keep the program running. For example, batteries must be

replaced every two months.

Roy said the cost is worth it: "The bottom line is it saves lives."

He would like to see Project Lifesaver throughout the entire country.

Georgian Bay Volunteer Search and Rescue (GBVSR) supports Project Lifesaver, but has not joined because of the cost, said co-ordinator Darren Buck.

"For a volunteer team, it puts a real burden on us," he said, adding they have to sell cookies just to pay for their insurance.

GBVSR is a nonprofit organization providing support to police in the form of equipment and trained search and rescue personnel.

When it comes to protecting Simcoe County residents with dementia, most local police detachments have taken steps with vulnerable citizens' registries.

Participants provide police with their name, birth date, physical descriptors, contact information, and special needs, along with any other details that could prove helpful during a crisis. Including an updated photograph.

Orillia OPP's media and community safety officer, Const. Martin Hill said the registry gives police a head start in the search for your loved one.

"A lot of times we just don't get that information in time. The faster we get it, the better it is for everyone," he said.



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DOUBLEDAY CANADA

WELLNESS

Barrie Olive Oil Co. supports Project Lifesaver

SARA CARSON
scarson@simcoe.com

Project Lifesaver has tugged at the heartstrings of at least one Barrie business owner. Denise Tucker, of Barrie Olive Oil Co., is among one of the first businesses to announce support for the technology used to track vulnerable residents when they go missing.

"Being a local business is not just about setting up locally, and hiring local people, and buying local ingredients. It's about supporting local initiatives and getting involved where you can because you have the time, and the strength, and the power, and the influence to do so," she said.

And for Tucker, this fundraising initiative hits home. Her 82-year-old mother has early onset dementia and aphasia, which means she has lost her communication skills.

"I have found her out on the driveway after being out for two minutes confused about why she's there," Tucker said.

She added: "I can see how someone can just wander off and I wouldn't have any recourse to find her."

And because of the aphasia, her mother wouldn't be able to communicate that she is lost and confused.

Barrie Olive Oil Co. will donate to the cam-



Sara Carson/Metroland

Denise Tucker, owner of Barrie Olive Oil Co., has thrown her support behind Project Lifesaver. The Barrie Chamber Of Commerce and Simcoe.com have pledged to raise \$25,000 to bring the tracking technology to our area.

paign and Tucker plans to enrol her mom in the Project Lifesaver program.

Project Lifesaver is a tool used by police and search-and-rescue teams to track vulnerable people when they go missing. Barrie Chamber of Commerce and Simcoe.com have pledged to raise \$25,000 to bring the technology to our area. All donations are welcome and the chamber has created four sponsorship levels.

On June 12, the Project Lifesaver Simcoe team met with Liz Kent who is leading the program in Wellington and Guelph.

Those communities have used the tool since 2011. In that time, they have conducted 11 Project Lifesaver searches. And all clients were located in 26 minutes, or less, said Kent, executive director of Victim Services Wellington.

"The peace of mind it gives caregivers and family members is phenomenal. It's that one extra tool to help to make sure that they're safe," Kent said.

She supports expanding the program because it will benefit her own Project Lifesaver clients who visit our area.

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* Offer is valid Monday, May 29 – Thursday, June 29, 2017 valid only at the following locations: Aurora Sobeys Extra - 15500 Bayview Avenue, Aurora; Barrhaven Sobeys - 1581 Greenbank Rd, Nepean; Barrie Sobeys - 37 Mapleview Drive West, Barrie; Cambridge Sobeys - 130 Cedar St, Cambridge; Glendale Sobeys - 343 Glendale Ave, St. Catharines. Offer is only valid in a single transaction. Offer is non-transferable for cash. No cash back. Limit one gift card per customer. Limit one offer per customer. Reproduction of this offer will not be accepted. Cannot be combined with other offers for cash.

Mandy Thompson's son is still searching

SARA CARSON
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Everywhere he goes, Paul Thompson is searching. His mom, Mandy, 72, went missing from the Barrie area on a cold February morning nearly five months ago and Thompson still looks for her every day.

"To this day as soon as I get in my vehicle: you're looking in the ditches, you're looking in the fields. Every day," he said.

The day started out like any other. At 8:30 a.m., Mandy came downstairs and entered the kitchen. Her husband was making breakfast and told her it would be ready in 15 minutes.

She left the kitchen and he heard the front door open. Mandy had gone outside and started walking.

"He knew right away because she had left the

house on other occasions," Thompson said.

On the February morning, Mandy was not dressed for the minus 22-Celsius weather. She was wearing light tennis shoes, jeans, and a knitted spring sweater.

Her husband is 82 and has a bad back. He tried to follow her, but she was much faster.

"She is a walker. Can she ever go," Thompson said.

He called the police and they arrived and started their initial search.

Thompson was called and arrived at 10:30 a.m. He started to look through the subdivision.

But, camera footage found days later, shows that by this time Mandy had already reached Robinson Home Hardware on Penetanguishene Road.

Mandy was last seen at Georgian Drive and Penetanguishene Road. Barrie Police, OPP, and Georgian



Sara Carson/Metroland

Paul Thompson's mom, Mandy, went missing from her Barrie home in February. He supports bringing Project Lifesaver tracking technology to this area.

Bay Volunteer Search and Rescue thoroughly combed the area for a week. And when the snow melted,

they searched again.

"All those resources and we couldn't find her. She is still missing to this day,"

Thompson said.

He added: "It's tough on the family. It's the not knowing."

Thompson told his story at a Project Lifesaver team meeting Monday, June 26 at the Barrie Chamber of Commerce. He supports bringing Project Lifesaver vulnerable persons tracking technology to this area.

"If she had had the bracelet maybe she would have been found. Maybe not, but it sure would have helped out," Thompson said.

Ontario's seniors affairs minister Dipika Damerla sat in on the Project Lifesaver meeting. She was in Barrie making an announcement about the creation of a provincial Age-Friendly Community Recognition program.

Kris Hughston, Barrie Chamber of Commerce president, told Damerla that Project Lifesaver

should be provincially funded throughout Ontario.

"If you're truly trying to help the aging community, this is of utmost importance, that we don't lose another senior citizen in Canada," she said.

Damerla expressed sympathy for Thompson and his family. She did not commit to help fund the project.

The Barrie Chamber of Commerce and Simcoe.com have pledged to raise \$25,000 to bring Project Lifesaver to this area.

Donations can be dropped off at the Barrie Chamber of Commerce office at 121 Commerce Park Dr. A. Please make cheques out to Georgian Bay Volunteer Search and Rescue and you will be issued a charitable tax receipt.

For more information contact the Barrie Chamber of Commerce at 705-721-5000.

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COMMUNITY



Chris Simon/Metroland

Innisfil's Pat Dowdell was handed the keys to a Ford Escape by Delta Bingo and Gaming regional manager Tom Aikins July 28. Delta gave away 12 vehicles as part of its 50th anniversary celebration.

Delta Bingo hands SUV to Sandy Cove woman

CHRIS SIMON
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Pat Dowdell is turning a big personal win into community success.

Last month, the Sandy Cove resident's ballot was drawn in a contest for a new Ford Escape. The promotion was part of Delta Bingo and Gaming's 50th anniversary celebration.

Delta, which took over the former Boardwalk Gaming Centre on Bayfield Street in Barrie last year, handed out a total of 12 vehicles at its facilities.

"It's one in a million; you don't think it's going to happen to you and when it does you're shocked," Dowdell said, after being handed the keys to the vehicle and a bouquet of flowers at a ceremony at the downtown Barrie gaming centre July 28, the blue paint and

windows on the SUV sparkling in the sun. "I was just here like anyone else, put my ballot in and they drew my name. I'm lucky if I had five ballots in the box."

Dowdell often volunteers in the community and tries to help neighbours whenever possible. So perhaps it's little surprise that the first stop planned for the vehicle was her neighbour's home. Dowdell agreed to take the woman to a medical appointment.

"I'm going to pick up a friend who had a fall, to take her to get assessed for a walker at the hospital," she said. "She needs help. I'm always out helping others."

As part of the anniversary celebration, Delta is also hosting its biggest jackpot ever, with over \$500,000 scheduled to be won.

"What better way to celebrate 50 years of bingo than hosting our biggest jackpot ever and giving away new vehicles?" Delta CEO Cam Johnstone said.

Delta regional manager Tom Aikins said Dowdell was overwhelmed when her name was pulled.

"Pat's name was the first one drawn and her screams were all the proof we needed that she was present," he said. "Pat told us that she has gone without a car for the past year while she renovates her home. Those work boots aren't made for walking any more."

Delta operates 18 locations across North America, including sites in Downsview, Niagara Falls, Brampton, Fort Erie, Mississauga, Penetanguishene, Pickering and Sudbury. For more information, visit deltabingo.com.

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COMMUNITY

Project Lifesaver gets \$1,500 boost from Colts game

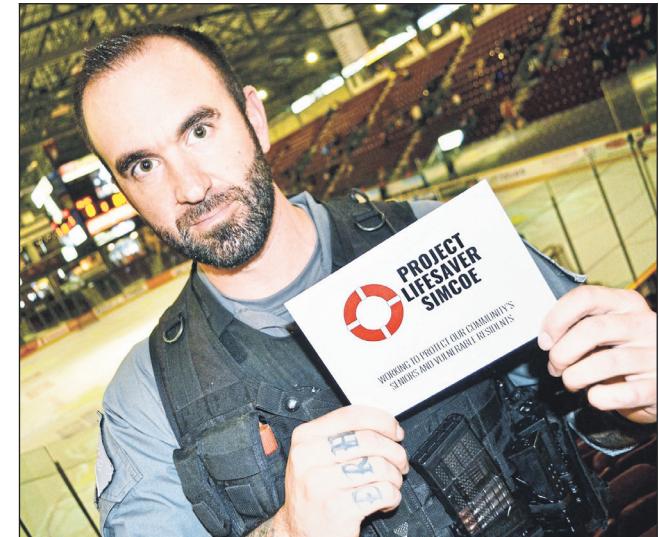
SARA CARSON
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Project Lifesaver Simcoe is \$1,500 closer to its goal thanks to funds raised through a Barrie Colts game held Sept. 14.

Project Lifesaver is a Barrie Chamber and Simcoe.com initiative intended to help protect vulnerable people in our community who have a tendency to wander. The program uses receivers and transmitter bracelets that can be used to locate a person.

Supporters sang O Canada to kick off the Colts match against the Niagara Ice Dogs.

And Georgian Bay Volunteer Search and Rescue and Barrie police manned a Project Lifesaver booth during the event to educate the public on the cause.



Sara Carson/Metroland

Const. Pete Moore, with the Barrie Police tactical unit, at a Barrie Colts game Sept. 14 in support of Project Lifesaver. The game raised \$1,500 for the project.

Project Lifesaver Simcoe is raising \$25,000 to purchase the equipment, with plans to launch a pilot project in Barrie/Innisfil in the fall of 2017.

EDUCATION

College faculty hand bargaining team strike mandate

FRANK MATYS
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The team bargaining on behalf of Ontario's college faculty has secured a strike mandate from 68 per cent of its members.

"College faculty from across the province debated and voted on 16 proposals to improve the quality and fairness of the college system in Ontario," said bargaining team chair J.P. Hornick, of the Ontario Public Service Employees' Union. "Since bargaining started 10 weeks ago, management has ignored every single one of them."

The collective agreement for 12,000 professors, instructors, counsellors and librarians expires Sept. 30.

No strike or lockout deadline has been set.

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Sonia Del Missier, representing the team bargaining on behalf of Ontario's colleges, said she remains committed to reaching a negotiated settlement after a majority of college faculty gave their union a strike mandate.

ulty in academic decision-making are among the issues the union wants addressed.

Sonia Del Missier, of the provincial bargaining team, said her side remains committed to reaching a negotiated settlement.

However, "there are fundamental challenges with the governance changes that they are proposing - the academic control, the staffing ratios," she said. "Those are all proposals that really don't form the basis for a settlement."

Bargaining resumed this week.

College faculty represented by the union include those at Georgian College, which has campuses in Barrie, Orillia, Midland, Collingwood, Bracebridge, Owen Sound, and Orangeville,