

# BARRIE Advance

MISUNDERSTANDING LEADS  
TO RESIGNATION RUMOURS **PAGE 12**

LESSONS FOR LOCAL SHELTERS  
FOCUS **PAGE 20**

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DAILY NEWS, BREAKING STORIES ONLINE

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## Bus kills woman, 84

BY LAURIE WATT  
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An 84-year-old woman has died after being hit by a Barrie Transit bus Wednesday afternoon.

She was hit at Essa Road and Burton Avenue and was rushed to Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre shortly after 2 p.m. but died before she could be airlifted to a Toronto hospital.

PEDESTRIAN P3

## Seniors' complex on tap

BY LAURIE WATT  
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A vacant seven-acre site that spans Lakeshore Drive and Bradford Street could become a seniors' village.

Fortress Realty Capital and City Core Developments are purchasing the site that was to become Blue Sails. The fully-approved development included two very tall towers – which required a bylaw exemption for 24 and 25 storeys – along with townhomes and retail.

Listed by Forest Hill Real Estate, the site is on the market for \$11,995,000.

Fortress Realty president Jawad Rathore said the deal to purchase closes at the end of April, but work on Harmony Village Lake Simcoe has already begun.

"It's a really exciting concept. The idea is a full-service seniors residence, with a 25,000 to 30,000-square-foot community centre.

CONDO P10



PHOTO STAN HOWE

## WINTER GAMES COME TO BARRIE

Barrie will host some of the province's best young athletes this weekend. The Ontario Winter Games are being held at different venues throughout the area. The speed skating events take place at the Allandale Recreation Centre on Friday and Saturday. Jenny Milne is a 16-year-old skater with the Barrie Speed Skating Club. She has spent three years training, and has set herself the goal of becoming a competitive skater in the future. Go to [www.barrieadvance.com](http://www.barrieadvance.com) Friday for photos from local Games events.

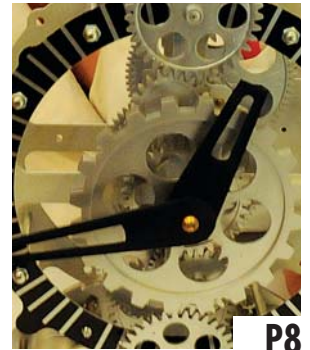
## MEET THE NEW BOSS



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## SPRING FORWARD



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# City hires prestigious firm to fight Allandale suit

BY LAURIE WATT  
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Barrie's lawyers will appear in Orangeville court in May to fight a legal manoeuvre to derail development at the Allandale Station.

The city has retained WeirFoulds to fight a \$28-million lawsuit launched by the Correct Group of Companies for allegedly failing to implement a May 12, 2009 preliminary agreement, for associated site costs and for damages.

Established in 1860, WeirFoulds is one of Canada's oldest law firms and among its four focuses is government law. It is listed as one of the top development firms in the GTA as well as being included in the Chambers Global Guide to the World's Leading Lawyers and in the who's who of global commercial litigators.

"Barrie's lawyers, WeirFoulds, were in court in Orangeville on Monday morning," said Ingrid Peters, Barrie's legal services director. "At that time, a date of May 22, 2012 was set for a hearing on the city's motion to remove the Certificate of Pending Litigation (CPL) from title to the Allandale lands."

On Feb. 27, Correct filed the CPL to support its revised claim for damages. The certificate is registered on title and could stop the city from selling or signing a development agreement.

The city and Correct signed a preliminary agreement on May 12, 2009, said Correct president Alan Furbacher.

"We were supposed to close this deal within two months of signing. We were supposed to start building the first condo seven months from May 2009," said Furbacher.

The court claim says the entire nine-acre site was to be sold to Correct within two months of the preliminary agreement for a price of \$2 million.

In July 2010, however, the city told Correct it would only sell the lands based on a new appraisal – and only sell 4.6 acres. In September, the city received an appraisal for \$3 million. Talks continued, but failed in November 2010, the claim states.

The city put the lands on the market in June 2011 and the city has been pursuing other potential partners ever since.



HOLLY PIPHER PHOTO

The intersection at Essa Road and Burton Avenue was closed Wednesday afternoon after a pedestrian was struck by a city bus. She was taken to RVH, but died before she could be airlifted to Toronto.

# Pedestrian dies after collision with bus

« P1

Barrie police Const. Toni Dufour said officers were waiting to notify next of kin before releasing the woman's name.

Kawsu Camara, 17, was on the bus when the woman was struck.

From a seat at the front of the Barrie Transit bus, camara was headed downtown to the Barrie Public Library, when he saw an elderly woman struck as the bus made a right turn onto Essa Road.

"I believe it was a green light, but an old woman started walking across the road. It was hard to see," he said shortly after talking to a Barrie Police Services officer.

"She was hit. Her head banged against the windshield. I was just speechless. It was shocking."

A customer in the Mac's Convenience Store at the intersection ran in and told store management to call 911.

"They were doing CPR like crazy. Her heart must have stopped," camara added.

"When I'm on the road now, I'll be watching like crazy."

Barrie Fire and Emergency Services deputy chief Rick Monkman said the 911 dispatch centre reported a pedestrian was struck and trapped under a city bus.

"We didn't have to jack (the bus) up. It

was just a matter of properly stabilizing her and bringing her out," said Monkman. "We did not have to lift the bus off her."

Barrie police Const. Toni Dufour said traffic reconstructionists were on scene with the forensic identification unit to take photos and video footage.

Officers were interviewing witnesses. Dufour said no charges were laid yet. "Our officers are just starting their preliminary investigation, I don't know if anyone's going to be deemed at-fault for this," said Dufour at 3 p.m. Wednesday.

She said the entire intersection was closed off for about four hours.