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PHOTO BY KATE CARKLINS OF CLIK'D IMAGES

READY, SET, GO: Over 850 people participated in the 12th Annual Compass Run for Food on June 14, and in the end, they raised \$64,000 for food banks and elementary school nutrition programs in Dufferin County. In addition to a high level of community participation, the event's success is thanks to the many businesses, individual donors and volunteers who pitched in. All of the proceeds raised through the run and 100 per cent of registration fees are donated to causes that fight food insecurity locally. See more photos and a full story on Page A6.

Community votes for design of playground redevelopment at Orangeville's Rotary Park

Written By **SAM ODROWSKI**

The votes are in, and the community has made its decision. The two-week voting period to select a design for the new playground at Rotary Park has concluded, and Concept 3 is the winner.

Nearly 1,000 votes were cast, and 51 per cent of survey respondents voted for the winning concept.

"The Town will work with its consultants, the playground contractor, and the Rotary Club of Orangeville to move the project forward," reads a press release from the Town of Orangeville.

With the design now selected, an equipment order is being sent to the manufacturer, and preparations will be made to the site for installation.

The Town of Orangeville anticipates the playground will be ready for the fall.

"Choosing a playground concept is one of the earliest steps to breathing life into the future of Rotary Park," said Heather Savage, Orangeville's general manager of community services. "We're excited to begin work and can't wait to welcome everyone back to play when it's done."

The Rotary Park redevelopment project is a much-anticipated undertaking by the



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

DESIGN CONCEPT: Just under 1,000 votes were cast by community members to determine the design for a new playground area at Rotary Park in Orangeville. The park is slated for redevelopment, with several features being enhanced or added.

Town of Orangeville, as the first stage of updates happened last year. These updates include work on a watermain and playground removal.

A presentation on the concept for the full

Rotary Park redevelopment was delivered to Orangeville Town Council by Town staff in June 2022.

Continued on Page A2

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Community votes for design of playground redevelopment at Rotary Park

Continued from Front

The presented concept includes several different types of upgrades, with everything from parking lots to sports fields, tennis courts and more.

The project has six stages, and the first stage, which entails watermain work, is already complete.

Next, play structures and play areas will be installed.

This will be followed by the construction of tennis and pickleball courts, a parking lot, an artificial skating loop, a clubhouse and sports field improvements.

The project is being funded by the Town and the Rotary Club of Orangeville (RCO). Rotary has committed to donating \$250,000 over seven years to the project.

Contributions will be based on fundraising efforts from revenue-generating events like the annual Rotary Ribfest, which takes place on the Alder Playing Field Grounds from July 18 to 20.

“As a community club we’re really excited about this project,” said RCO President Ingrid Sproxton. “Rotary Park has been an important part of our community since it opened in the 1980s. This project allows the park to continue meeting the needs of Orangeville now and as it moves into the future. We look forward to seeing it completed.”

Rotary Park is located at 80 2nd Avenue, Orangeville.



CONTRIBUTED IMAGE

VISION FOR ROTARY PARK: The design concept for the playground at Orangeville’s Rotary Park will upgrade the existing amenities for young children and their families. The Rotary Park redevelopment is being funded by the Town of Orangeville and Rotary Club of Orangeville. The local club has committed to donating \$250,000 over seven years to assist in financing the project.



PETER RICHARDSON PHOTOS

SYNERGY CELEBRATES: Synergy Exteriors held a grand opening event on Saturday, June 14, at its location – 42 Green St., Orangeville. The event featured a warehouse clear-out sale and free BBQ lunch. Dufferin–Caledon MPP Sylvia Jones and Orangeville Councillor Debbie Sherwood were in attendance and congratulated Synergy Exteriors owners and staff on their grand opening.

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Canada Day fun awaits at Alder Recreation Centre and Island Lake

Written By **SAM ODROWSKI**

Canada’s 158th birthday is fast approaching and the Town of Orangeville has several activities planned to celebrate on July 1.

At the Alder Recreation Centre, residents can enjoy free swims, a 65-foot mega obstacle course, a photo booth, lumberjack competitions and face painting, from 12 to 5 p.m.

Canada Day celebrations will be capped off with fireworks at the Island Lake Conservation Centre, starting at 10 p.m.

Orangeville Mayor Lisa Post noted the importance of coming together as a community to celebrate Canada Day.

“Canada Day is a time to come together and celebrate everything that connects us — our shared values, our diverse stories, and the communities we call home. This year, the

world has felt really divided and these moments of unity matter more than ever,” said Mayor Post.

“I hope everyone will join us in celebrating what it means to be Canadian — kind, resilient, and stronger together.”

The Great Canadian Lumberjacks shows are this year’s signature events and will take place at Alder’s Red Rink at 12:15 p.m., 2:15 p.m., and 4:15 p.m.

“What’s more Canadian than flannel and lumberjacks? This year’s main stage entertainment is the Great Canadian Lumberjacks show featuring traditional and modern loggersport events,” reads a Town of Orangeville press release dated June 17. “Head to the red rink to watch four lumberjacks battle it out in events like chainsaw carving, axe throwing, chainsaw races, and more.”

The press release continued, “Join the fun in this high-energy show, where the emcee tries to keep the lumberjacks in line and gets the audience involved in the action.”

Opening ceremonies of Orangeville’s Canada Day activities are planned for noon at Alder, featuring greetings from the mayor and council, a cake cutting and singing of O’Canada.

Three free swims, each 1.5 hours long, are planned at Alder. The swims start at 12:30 p.m., 2 p.m. and 3:30 p.m.

Pre-registration is required to ensure participation in the swim and will open three days ahead of July 1. There will also be limited drop-in spots available on Canada Day.

The free swims will feature special appearances by Buddy the Lifeguard and the Life-saving Society will be awarding water safety

prizes.

The Family Fun Zone, located in Alder’s Green Rink from 12 to 5 p.m., features the 65-foot obstacle course and other activities geared towards kids, such as a rock wall, thunder slide run and bouncy castles.

Additional activities include the Town of Orangeville’s Neighbourhood Block Box. It will bring summer fun and activities to the event from 12 to 5 p.m.

The Neighbourhood Block Box is a mobile programming trailer, offering activities for people of all ages, abilities and interests.

Be sure to watch the fireworks display at Island Lake to finish off Canada Day. Entrance to the park is not required to view the display.

“For those interested in viewing from the park, entrance is free after 9 p.m.,” reads the Town’s press release.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS



TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALL GAME: On Saturday, June 14, the Town of Grand Valley was pleased to host the grand opening of two new ball diamonds at their new park on Concession 2-3. Grand Valley Mayor Steve Solomon thanked everyone who participated in building the new diamonds and explained the 100-year history of baseball in Grand Valley. Former players were on hand to throw the opening pitch, and Grand Valley Minor Ball held pitching and batting contests while the Grand Valley Lions served up hot dogs and hamburgers for those attending. The new diamonds expand Grand Valley’s recreational facilities and more new facilities will soon be constructed on the site to further expand recreation.



Town Page

519-941-0440 | **info@orangeville.ca** | **orangeville.ca**

GET CONNECTED!

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Date	Time	Location	Meeting	To listen in
Monday, June 23	7 p.m.	Council chambers and virtual	Public meeting	Youtube @orangevillecouncil
Wednesday, July 2	6 p.m.	Council chambers and by phone	Committee of Adjustment	1 289-801-5774 ID: 117 041 308#

*Start time of council and committee meetings is subject to change

*For more information on how to participate and to view council and committee agendas, please visit orangeville.ca/meetings

PUBLIC NOTICES

Notice of public meeting

June 23, 2025 at 7 p.m.
Town Hall, 87 Broadway

This public meeting is to allow the public to learn about and comment on two newly proposed bylaws: the Clean Yards bylaw and the Administrative Penalty System (APS) bylaw. These bylaws will help community well-being by promoting safety and keeping processes running smoothly.

Clean Yards bylaw

The Clean Yards bylaw will regulate private properties to make sure they are kept clean and safe. This bylaw will cover the removal of garbage from yards, cutting long grass and weeds, and removing abandoned or unusable vehicles.

Administrative Penalty System (APS) bylaw

The APS bylaw will create a process allowing the municipality to issue penalties for bylaw violations, like parking or property issues, without going to court first. This makes the process more efficient and faster for everyone.

Meeting participation: Residents, taxpayers, service providers, or anyone speaking on behalf of an association or organization that serves the Town of Orangeville are invited to participate in the meeting. A question and comment period will be held following the mobile food vendor presentation.

Virtual questions: Call 1-289-801-5774 and enter conference ID 504 678 344#

Watch online: orangeville.ca/YouTube

Feedback submitted in writing to the Town and comments and questions made during the meeting are considered public information and will be entered into the public record.

Read the proposed bylaws: Posted online on June 19 with the meeting agenda at orangeville.ca/Meetings

For more information:
Clerks division – 519-941-0440
clerkdept@orangeville.ca

WHAT’S HAPPENING

After School Club

Monday, June 23
4:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Mill Street Library

AGES 7-12

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orangevillelibrary.ca

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Chief Executive Officer
Orangeville Public Library (full-time)
Salary range: \$151,933.78 – \$177,741.03

To fill an upcoming retirement, we are seeking applicants for our next Chief Executive Officer to guide the Orangeville Public Library forward.

Application deadline: July 11, 2025 at 4 p.m.

Program Leader
Community Services department (casual)
Hourly range: \$17.48 – \$20.45

This position will instruct and assist with various recreation activities like children’s instructional programs, school holiday programs, public skating and shinny, after school programs and other special events.

Application deadline: July 16, 2025 at 4 p.m.

For more information or to apply visit orangeville.ca/jobs

TOWN NEWS

2025 final property taxes

The taxpayers of the Town of Orangeville are reminded that the first installment of the 2025 final tax bill is due:

Wednesday, June 25, 2025

Please note: failure to receive a tax bill does not relieve the taxpayer from the responsibility for payment and/or late penalty charges. Penalties are charged at a rate of 1.25 per cent on the first day of each month following the due date.

To obtain a copy of your tax bill contact customer service:
Phone: 519-941-0440
Email: propertytaxes@orangeville.ca
In person: Town Hall, 87 Broadway

Mayor Post’s public town hall meeting

On June 25, join Mayor Lisa Post to learn all about this year’s construction projects from our manager of Capital Works. Plus, hear committee and board updates from Deputy Mayor Todd Taylor and Councillor Debbie Sherwood.

- June 25 at 6:30 p.m.
- Tony Rose Memorial Sports Centre

Have questions? Stick around for the public question period!

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Local partnership ensures sustainable future for MoD

Written By **PAULA BROWN**
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

A new partnership between the County of Dufferin and Dufferin Community Foundation (DCF) is helping ensure that the Museum of Dufferin (MoD) will remain an educational treasure for generations to come.

The County and DCF jointly announced in a press release on June 11 that an endowment fund had been established for the local museum.

The Museum of Dufferin Endowment Fund will be a “forever fund”, where donations are invested permanently and the annual income is used to provide grants to the museum each year. The Dufferin Community Foundation will be responsible for the investment and management of the endowment fund.

“The Museum of Dufferin is the living, breathing pulse of our community. It brings our local history and traditions to life, while also championing today’s talent and ever-evolving culture. What we have here is not just an institution, it’s a local treasure,” said Michele Fisher, executive director of the DCF. “The Museum of Dufferin Endowment Fund is going to provide a secure source of income that they can count on annually to continue bring this level of excellence to the community.”

To create the endowment, the County of Dufferin has gifted \$750,000 from the Museum Trust to the Dufferin Community Foundation.

“The Museum of Dufferin is a historical and cultural gem in Dufferin County, and we are so lucky to have it here in our community. It plays an essential role in preserving Dufferin’s heritage and helps enrich our lives with qual-

ity programming for people of all ages and interest,” said Janet Horner, Warden of Dufferin County. “The County is excited to announce this partnership with the Dufferin Community Foundation. With this Endowment Fund, we will help ensure the MoD can be enjoyed by community members and Dufferin visitors for years to come.”

The Museum of Dufferin, located at 936029 Airport Rd in Mulmur, collects and preserves the stories of the people, places, and culture of Dufferin County both past and present. The local museum features three galleries with permanent and rotating exhibitions and art shows, as well as four historic buildings. The Museum of Dufferin is also the location of the Dufferin County Archives, where visitors are welcome to research the history of the community.

“We’re very excited to have an endowment to increase the sustainability and stability of the Museum and its place in our community for generations to come. Over the last few years, the team at the MoD has been dedicated to increasing our programs and improving our facilities, and the support of this endowment will only strengthen our continued success for the future,” said Jasmine Proteau, MoD’s manager of museum services.

Those wishing to donate to the Museum Endowment Fund can contact the Dufferin Community Foundation at info@dufferincommunityfoundation.com or by calling 519-938-0780. Donors will receive a charitable tax receipt for their gifts.

For more information on the Dufferin Community Foundation and other donation opportunities, visit www.dufferincommunityfoundation.ca.



PAULA BROWN PHOTO

FOREVER FUND: Representatives from the County of Dufferin, Dufferin Community Foundation (DCF), Museum of Dufferin and Dufferin County Multicultural Foundation gathered to celebrate the announcement of an endowment fund for the museum. The County of Dufferin gifted \$750,000 from the Museum Trust to the DCF to create the endowment fund, where donations are invested permanently and the annual income used to provide grants to the museum each year.

Gearing up for wildfire season

Written By **JAMES MATTHEWS**

The Rosemont District Fire Department has grown in a couple of ways.

Fire Chief Mike Blacklaws told Mono Town Council when it met on June 10 that two new firefighters joined the ranks and have completed training since January 2024. The department also put a new pumper truck on the road at that time.

The department services some communities in Dufferin and Simcoe counties.

A Community Emergency Preparedness Grant was put toward readying the department to tackle any wildfire, should they occur.

“We see that as a current (challenge) and (one that) can only get worse (with the) type of exposures that we’re going to have in this area,” Blacklaws said.

The biggest purchase to increase wildfire readiness was a drone that will be used for high-level observations of fire scenes, he said.

“It’s also equipped with thermal imaging so it can be used for search and rescue at night or at any time, really,” Blacklaws said. “With zoom lenses and everything, we can sort of pick up objects at a distance.”

To that end, there are three firefighters who have been trained to pilot the drone. The chief said others will be trained as well.

“This drone is of a size that you have to be certified to an advanced level to fly it,” Blacklaws said.

er agencies as required such as police should the incident not be covered in one of the above categories,” the report said.

Mono Deputy Mayor Fred Nix said fire-fighting governance is top of mind in Dufferin County. Adjala-Tosorontio Township considered breaking from the Rosemont fire board. The Rosemont department would still be serving those homes near the town line, even if the township broke away.

“Would you be doing it on the basis of mutual aid, in which case there would be no revenue for that service?” Nix said. “Or would you be charging Adjala-Tos for the calls?”

If Adjala-Tosorontio took over that part of the geography, Rosemont would only be called for mutual aid, Blacklaws said.

“And there is no fee for mutual aid,” he said.

“So they can leave the fire board and still get your trucks to come for mutual aid, but they wouldn’t pay a cent,” Nix said. “That concerns me.”

“Yes,” Blacklaws said.

“I know it’s died down now, but it does concern me,” Nix said.

Mike Dunmore, the town’s CAO, said the 911 emergency call service would identify the township by address in the event of a call and reach out to the appropriate department.

Councillor Ralph Manktelow said he believes the frequency of wildfire incidents will increase in the future. He said he’s encouraged the fire department is concerned about that.

“Because a wildfire in a forest is a different matter,” he said.

“I’ve been trying to raise the alarm now for years about fire protection in the provincial lands within the Town of Mono,” Mayor John Creelman said. “In particular, what is the fire plan for, say, Mono Cliffs Park or the Hockley Reserve.”

Whenever he put such questions to provincial officials, Creelman said the response would be to put it in the hands of local fire departments.

“Parts of Mono Cliffs would be completely inaccessible to virtually everything but a water bomber,” he said.

Blacklaws said teams from the Ministry of Natural Resources are available to local fire departments.

“It’s just a matter of time for them getting here,” he said and acknowledged that municipal fire departments would be the initial responders.

Public education continues to be a major initiative, he said. A component of that is the distribution of an annual fire safety calendar.

“That’s our primary focus, getting the fire safety message out to the community,” he said. “We also hold open houses throughout the year and that’s another way of reaching out.”

Nineteen per cent of their calls in 2024 were for motor vehicle accidents, 43 per cent were medical responses, 26 per cent of the calls were actual fires, and 13 per cent were categorized as other.

These could include but are not limited to carbon monoxide investigations, burn complaints, public hazards like downed power lines, hazardous material incidents, search and rescue, and mutual aid calls where we are requested to provide stand-by coverage in a neighbouring fire department’s coverage area but not respond to the emergency scene itself, according to a report to council.

“This category also includes assisting oth-

Members of Mono Town Council say they remain accessible to the public

Written By **JAMES MATTHEWS**

At least one Mono resident would like town councillors to be more accessible.

Mono resident Anthony Hosein said in an email to Mono Town Council on June 10 that there have been “a few residents” who tried to contact members of council but have been unsuccessful. He said some residents would like to meet one-on-one with municipal elected officials but he is uncertain about a possible protocol to make such a meeting happen.

“Speaking for myself, I try to get back to people in writing by way of email,” Mayor John Creelman said.

The mayor asks anybody who wants to meet with him what it is regarding so he can best prepare, he said.

“And is it something that we can do over the phone or do by way of email as opposed to in person?” he said.

Most recently Creelman said he was asked about starting a drop-in opportunity on a semi-regular basis for people who wish to speak to council.

“Unfortunately, the Municipal Act says that the minute there is three of us (councillors) in the same location, it can be construed as a council meeting,” he said. “And I presume that’s even including shopping at Zehrs together. So there are limitations on making ourselves available in numbers of three or more.”

Councillor Ralph Manktelow said he will see people who ask for a meeting, either at their place or his own.

“Usually at their place because it often involves something local,” Manktelow said, and added that email addresses are available on the town’s website for people who would like to reach out to councillors.

Coun. Elaine Capes said she’d like to know who tried to contact council but failed.

In his email to council, Hosein said there have been a few residents unsuccessful in getting a note to Creelman and other councillors.

“I have seen no note asking about this,” she said. “Maybe it’s not about this. I’m not sure what that means.”

She said she isn’t entirely sure what’s meant by Hosein’s question.

“The other thing is, some of us engage on Mr. Hosein’s favourite electronic media, that being Facebook,” Creelman said. “And when people address me directly on Facebook, I usually try and respond to them either in the

open or by way of a private message.” Capes said she responds to all emails and telephone messages to her.

“I’ve never had this one-on-one meeting request, so I don’t understand the question,” she said.

“If someone wants to meet with me, I’m game,” Deputy Mayor Fred Nix said.

“If ever I get a phone call or if I get an email, I respond,” Coun. Melinda Davie said. “I’m not sure, it just may be that they really want to talk to the mayor.”

Residents need to know councillors are not meeting all the time, Davie said.

“There isn’t a bunch of discussion that happens on any topics ever, except right here with all of us,” she said.

Davie said a resident who sends the same email to all of council isn’t going to receive a reply from each councillor.

“Or you shouldn’t,” Davie said and added that she doesn’t use Reply All if there is a recipient chain when she responds to emails.

“I know that it’s terrific to have a community spokesperson, Mr. Hosein, but perhaps it would be nice if the actual residents themselves came forward with the questions,” she said.

“And, quite frankly, make public their complaint if we don’t get back to them or if we refuse to meet,” Creelman said. “I do meet with people, but I try to triage the requests as they come in. Most of the time, they can be dealt with over the phone or through email.”

Mono resident Emerson Pendleton asked in a separate question what it takes to get the mayor to reach out to somebody passionate about an issue. He said a new resident asked at a recent meeting about the paving of town roads.

Pendleton said Creelman gave the resident a card and asked that the resident contact him.

Pendleton, who has attended multiple council meetings, said he is very passionate about some issues such as the proposed municipal firearms bylaw.

“I’m trying to save my powder and do things in the right way, but I’ve had no response,” he said. “I can email each councillor individually, if that’s what you’d wish. But I would like there to be some two-way participation.”

Creelman said he’s given his contact information to a number of people and that he’s listed in the telephone book and on the town’s website.

“I think I’m fairly accessible,” he said.

Shelburne teen wins Dufferin County Law Association’s 2025 Gillian Shute Award

Written By **JOSHUA DRAKES**

A local Shelburne student took on a challenging debate within Canada’s legal system – the “Right to be Forgotten” and the question of reintegration into society. Her essay on the topic ultimately won her the Gillian Shute Award, a yearly bursary named in memory of Gillian Schute, a passionate and dedicated local lawyer, and awarded by the Dufferin County Law Association (DCLA).

Harnoor Bhogal, a Grade 12 student from Centre Dufferin District High School (CDDHS) said that sometimes, individuals who have an embarrassing or compromising past — or criminal record — can face harsh judgment as they try to change their ways and reintegrate into society.

Bhogal set out to discuss the pros and cons of Canada taking legal steps to erase people’s pasts to help them get back into society with a fresh start.

She said that while she believes in second chances, there are risks to weigh as well.

“I felt this scholarship was an oppor-

tunity to express my legal thinking,” said Bhogal.

“In the digital age, past mistakes — like a regrettable social media post or a criminal record — can permanently impact an individual’s life,” she said in her essay.

Bhogal said that with the rise of social media, it can be extremely difficult for individuals to wipe the slate clean. Old pictures, videos and can be dug up at random, and can completely reshape how that person is seen in the present, whether they’ve made an effort to change or not.

Beyond this, those who have exited the prison system are often weighed down by the ghosts of their past.

“Individuals that have served their sentences may still face stigma from their criminal records, which can hinder their reintegration into society,” she said in her essay. “Similarly, past social media activity can lead to discrimination during job applications. Allowing people to delete or hide digital history could help them rebuild their lives.”

Continued on Page A6



JOSHUA DRAKES PHOTO

LEGAL MIND: Harnoor Bhogal, the 2025 bursary recipient (centre), plans to continue studying law at Brock University in an advanced program that accepts just 30 students each year. She’s joined by Justice G. Miller (left) and Justice R. Schwarzl (right).

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Community raises \$64,000 at 12th Annual Compass Run for Food

Proceeds from run to support food banks, school’s nutrition programs in Dufferin County

Written By **SAM ODROWSKI**

The 12th Annual Compass Run for Food race was held on June 14 to combat food insecurity in Dufferin County.

The race began at Compass Community Church in Orangeville with 866 participants taking part in a family-friendly five-kilometre run/walk and 10.5-kilometre run through the scenic trails of the Island Lake Conservation Area.

“Thanks to each participant, numerous business sponsors, and gracious donors – as well as an excellent team of volunteers – the race will be donating \$64,000 to food banks and elementary school nutrition programs in Dufferin County,” reads a press release from the Compass Run For Food dated June 18. “Over the past 12 years, 7,166 people have participated in this race enabling the Com-

pass Run for Food to donate an incredible \$596,000 to local food insecurity initiatives that help feed kids, families and seniors in the community.”

All of the proceeds raised through the run and 100 per cent of registration fees are donated to causes that combat food insecurity locally.

Race Executive member Steve Coburn noted the significance of generating donations with the event each year.

“Compass Run for Food is important because we’re helping to fight social justice issues. When we feed, we educate and empower people,” he said.

Three course records were broken during this year run.

In the five-kilometre race, Emily Shuell finished with a time of 19:25 and Logan Willcott finished with 15:40.



PHOTOS BY KATE CARLINS OF CLIK'D IMAGES

FIGHTING FOOD INSECURITY: The 12th Annual Compass Run for Food saw a great level of participation, with 866 participants embarking on a family-friendly five-kilometre run or walk and a more competitive 10.5-kilometre run through the trails of Island Lake.



Grade 12 student feels overwhelming excitement after winning 2025 Gillian Shute Award

Continued from Page A5

On the contrary, however, Bhogal acknowledges that not every situation can be simply forgotten. Context matters, and so does the field that the individual is trying to enter.

“Advocates argue that digital histories must remain accessible for accountability,” she said in her essay. “In professional fields like law and medicine, past misconduct should not be hidden if it poses risks to the public. Transparency helps ensure that individuals in positions of trust are held accountable.”

This topic and Bhogal’s approach caught the attention of the judges evaluating the es-

says, and it ultimately won her the prize.

In a ceremony inside the Orangeville Court (10 Louisa Street), Bhogal received her certificate and prize from the DCLA and two Justices from the Court.

“It was very overwhelming,” Bhogal said. “It was my first time being in a courtroom, but despite that, I feel great about it, I feel pretty smart.”

The essay was a gamble that paid off, coming in at roughly half the word count that was asked for. Bhogal argued that in the legal world, getting to the point and not wasting time with bloated writing is key.

“Rather than just dragging the topic out, it was very concise and straightforward,”

she said. “I think last year when I wrote this piece, I was pretty much over the limit, around two pages. But in this essay, I only had 395 words, and the judges agreed with me, it was very concise,”

“At the same time, though, I wanted to make sure my point gets across, rather than not having enough information.”

Now with this award under her belt, what comes next for Bhogal is simple - going to university for law.

“I plan on going to Brock University for critical criminology, it’s a four year program,” she said. “I chose Brock because when I went there, it felt like home, it felt like comfort. I don’t think I would be able to feel that at any

other school.”

Bhogal has also secured herself an extremely exclusive program beyond critical criminology.

“Brock actually is very unique in their law field, because they offer a Law Plus program to students,” she said. “It helps you kind of go more in depth of what law and the legal field is. It’s actually offered to 30 students, and I got accepted.”

With a thoughtful approach to justice, accountability, and reintegration, Bhogal’s award-winning essay not only earned her a scholarship — it showcased a legal mind already grappling with the nuances of modern rights and responsibilities.

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Mono silences American circus noise exemption request

Written By **JAMES MATTHEWS**

Not everybody loves the circus. At least, not everybody has an ear for the anticipated noise a circus may create.

The municipal noise bylaw permits a person or corporation to apply for an exemption to any of the bylaw's provisions. So All American Entertainment Productions LLC has requested such an exemption for its circus show.

Each Great Benjamins Circus show will be about 90 minutes long and speakers emitting a volume of up to 80 decibels will be used during shows as part of its public address (PA) system.

According to a report to Mono Town Council, that sound level is equal to a noisy restaurant. Ninety decibels is thought to be equal to a lawn mower.

“At The Great Benjamin’s Circus, we believe in the transformative power of entertainment to bring people together and create lasting memories,” the request reads. “We are seeking to bring the community in Orangeville an amazing weekend, full of magic and incredible acts of international quality.

“We are an ambassador of multiculturalism and have great appreciation for performance art. (Ninety minutes) of energy, beauty, and excitement.”

The applicant wants the waiver to cover shows on June 20 at 4:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., June 21 at 1:30, 4:30, and 7:30 p.m., and Sunday at 1:30 and 4:30 p.m. A PA system will be used until 9 p.m. on each of those days.

Deputy Mayor Fred Nix said noise heard a

kilometre away from the OAS Event Centre, where the circus would be held, is equivalent to about 20 decibels.

“Which is less than a whisper,” he said. “When I look at that circle, how many houses are within that one kilometre circle, there’s not a lot and, for the record, that one kilometre circle does not hit Blue Heron Drive.”

So the people on Blue Heron Drive would hear less than a whisper, he said.

At 250 metres, the sound would be less than what a refrigerator would make, he said.

“In between a whisper and a refrigerator, yes,” said Mike Dunmore, the town’s CAO.

“So for the public that are listening, that’s what we’re talking about,” Nix said.

Mono resident Val Hoge communicated her objection to the circus being granted an exemption to the municipal noise bylaw. It was one of five such objections received before Mono Council met on June 10.

Hoge pointed out that there are three events planned for June at the Orangeville Agricultural Society Event Centre in Mono. The RAM Rodeo took place earlier in the month and the circus and the Headwaters Medieval Faire will close out June.

“All of these events generate loud amplified noise, set-up noise, crowd noise, and extensive traffic,” she said in an email to council. “Then add on the construction starting on the 5th Sideroad adding more congestion and noise.”

She said performers may camp overnight at the fairgrounds and create additional noise well into the evening and early morning.

“I am also struggling (with) how the circus, and other events held here, fits into the agriculture vision of the OAS Event Center,” Hoge said.

She and other nearby residents are left with just one June weekend to “enjoy the serene, beautiful nature in my backyard,” she said. “The whole reason I moved here was the peace and quiet of the area as well as the birds and the wildlife. I find the noise generated offensive and unacceptable.”

Councillor Ralph Manktelow said while people enjoy a circus, the waiver application was received late. Applications should be received within 90 days.

“This one is within 32 days so I’m not quite sure why, and this is a question to staff, why we’re considering it,” he said.

Coun. Elaine Capes asked if Great Benjamins Circus was the same event held at the Event Centre last year that generated complaints.

Municipal staff confirmed it was indeed the same outfit that drew complaints last year.

Capes asked about the number of Mono residents who attended the Great Benjamins Circus last year and how many plan to trek out to it this month.

“I don’t know if there’s anyone within earshot who would know the answer to that,” Mayor John Creelman said. “And I think it’s beside the point in terms of do we grant a noise exemption or not? I have strong feelings about the notion that it’s only a whisper that you hear.”

Sound is dependent upon wind direction, humidity, and how sound carries over water.

Mayor Creelman said the circus event is described as a “typical amplification.” But other events have had typical amplification and have aggravated residents within earshot.

“I want to clarify,” Capes said. “This is an American company, American circus, American performers. What is the Canadian content?”

The United States helmed by President Donald Trump has started a trade war of tariffs with many countries, Canada included. Many municipalities and some corporations have supported retaliation by trying to source Canadian products and resources.

“What is the Canadian content and what percent are Canadians who are putting this circus on?” Capes asked.

A representative of Great Benjamins Circus and All American Entertainment Productions who attended the June 10 council meeting said they have been venturing north for about six years.

“We don’t have just American people working there,” he said. “We have people from other countries as well. As now, we don’t have any Canadian performers but we do support the Canadian economy.”

Regarding the 90-day application timeline, Dunmore said the town clerk was able to process the waiver request and a 14-day notification process timeline was met.

In the end, council voted against the noise bylaw exemption.

“This pertains only to the request that we grant an exemption from the noise bylaw,” Creelman said. “So the noise bylaw as it currently exists is still enforced and enforceable.”

TD Summer Reading Club to kick off season with Touch-a-Truck event

Adventure awaits this summer with the return of the TD Summer Reading Club to the Orangeville Public Library. The annual program kicks off this month with Touch-a-Truck, a chance for hands-on exploration with some big fun.

“Join us on June 28 from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Alder Recreation Centre to check out a fire truck, Zamboni, cement truck, snowplow and more — up close and hands-on,” reads a press release from the Town of Orangeville. “The event is free and open to everyone.”

Curious about the trucks or the equipment? First responders and community helpers will be there to answer your questions!

“We’re really excited to launch the TD Summer Reading Club with this unique event,” said library CEO Darla Fraser.

“There are so many ways to encourage our young readers to connect, discover and soar, and Touch-a-Truck is a great way to show that spirit of learning in fun ways.”

While you’re there, sign up for the TD Summer Reading Club with the library’s summer students, Evelyn and Katie. Pick up a brochure to stay up to date on weekly events all summer long.

New to the TD Summer Reading Club? It’s designed to inspire kids to explore the fun of reading in a way that works best for them and encourages reading all summer long.

It’s Canada’s biggest, bilingual and free summer reading program for kids of all ages, interests and abilities. Over 2,200 libraries participate every year.

“The Orangeville Public Library extends its thanks to the community partners that

helped make the event possible: Orangeville Fire, the Town of Orangeville’s Public Works and Community Services teams, Greenwood Ready Mix, Dunk Disposal, and Artsploration,” reads a press release from the Town of Orangeville.

Looking for more information on the club? Find out more at tdsummerreading-club.ca

For programs, events and library information visit orangevillelibrary.ca.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

UP CLOSE LOOK: The TD Summer Reading Club at the Orangeville Public Library is celebrating the start of the program with a Touch-a-Truck event on June 28 from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Alder Recreation Centre. There will be a fire truck, Zamboni, cement truck, snowplow and other vehicles on display.

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Shelburne family says GoFundMe organizer withheld funeral funds

Text messages reveal over \$8,000 was used for gambling instead of going to grieving family

Written By **PAULA BROWN**
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

When Allan Oliver lost his 23-year-old brother Aidan late last October, he was overwhelmed by the outpouring of support shown by the Shelburne community through a GoFundMe campaign.

But, what he never expected was that seven months after his brother's funeral he would be fighting to receive more than \$8,000 in donations collected on behalf of his family.

Following Aidan's sudden passing on Oct. 30, 2024, a friend's mother launched a GoFundMe campaign to help raise donations to cover the cost of his funeral. The campaign raised a total of \$15,200 to support the Oliver family during their time of grief.

“At first, I was overwhelmed to know that the community had our back,” said Oliver. “A bunch of people were donating and showing support and love. Seeing that from the community was overwhelming in a good way because it made me feel comfortable to know I’m not going through this alone.”

On the day of the funeral, Oliver said the organizer handed his sister \$7,000 in cash, but claimed that the outstanding \$8,200 was being held up by GoFundMe until they submitted a death certificate.

“We thought the money was secure, so we didn’t push because we thought once they resolve it, they’ll give us the money,” said Oliver. “I followed up with the organizer to say I can give any documents they might need to release the funds, but they didn’t respond to me at all.”

Records from GoFundMe show all of the money raised through the online fundraiser was withdrawn in November 2024. The records also show that \$1,800 was withdrawn on the day of Aidan Oliver's funeral.

For months, Allan Oliver attempted to get in contact with the organizer of the GoFundMe event, with little to no response. During that time, the weight of the outstanding balance for his brother's funeral bill hung over the Oliver family.

"I wanted to give them the benefit of the doubt and never wanted to think they would use the money, especially because they're a family friend. The money was raised so clearly for a funeral of a young member of the community," said Oliver.

GoFundMe officially launched a fraud investigation at the end of May. The organization has a Beneficiary Guarantee policy that protects donations and reimburses donors from potential loss of funds due to organizer misuse.

GoFundMe told Oliver that he would have to attempt to remedy the issue with the organizer before they enacted the policy.

“The remedy was poor to be honest. We have confirmation that this person has committed fraud, she’s taken money from half of the donors and admitted to gambling [with] the money, and I had to set up a payment plan with her and document and track it,” said Oliver.

The Oliver family has filed a police report with the Toronto Police Service.

After months of waiting, Oliver received a shocking text message at the beginning of June from the organizer, confessing that they'd used the money to gamble and offering to repay it in installments.

"It hurt a lot, to think that someone would use my family's pain and trauma for their own personal gain or wouldn't think about what the purpose of the donations were. The money was raised for something devastating to my family and the community, and this person went out of their way to solicit donations," said Oliver.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

LOSS FOR THE COMMUNITY: Aidan Oliver, who was a student at Western University in London, Ont., passed away at 23 years old on October, 30, 2024. He is remembered for his kind and gentle nature and humble, down to earth, outgoing social personality. Over \$8,000 raised through a GoFundMe campaign to assist in covering funeral costs were withheld by the organizer and used to gamble. The organizer of the GoFundMe who took the money has since repaid it back.

In early June, Oliver received an e-transfer from the organizer with the outstanding funds of \$8,200.

Now that his family has received the outstanding donations, Oliver is calling on GoFundMe to implement better safeguards.

“GoFundMe needs to increase both their reactive and preventative measures to fraud on their platform. They didn’t reach out to

verify my family was the intended beneficiary, and they didn't reach out to verify we'd received the fund," said Oliver. "As a platform, GoFundMe enabled a bad faith organizer to profit off of my family's pain and when they were notified that my family didn't have the money, even months before, they didn't proactively do anything."

Oliver is hoping that by sharing his family's story, he can help educate others to prevent similar experiences in the future.

"If someone else has a GoFundMe up on your behalf, whether you know them or don't, do everything in your power to reach out to GoFundMe and be added as a beneficiary or co-organizer on the event," said Oliver. "You cannot just trust that the third-party organizer is going to disperse the fund to you as a beneficiary."

With the financial burden now lifted, Oliver is looking to find closure and focusing on remembering his little brother.

"Aidan was the kind of person that the first time you meet him, you love him. Any community that he stepped into, he had a support group around him and people who loved him because he was that fun, outgoing guy people liked to hang out with and be around. He was the baby of our family and it was a tough loss for us. He always brought joy and light into every situation he was in."

Oliver added that the family is now able to properly express their gratitude to the Shelburne community, who rallied to support them during a difficult period.

“We thank you so much for showing your support and love throughout this time,” said Oliver. “This situation doesn’t dampen the compassion that the community has shown us and I don’t want it to overshadow their donations. It is still very much appreciated and we know [the community] had our family in mind.”

Purolator's Tackle Hunger campaign delivers more than 5,000 pounds of food

Written By **SAM ODROWSKI**

The second annual Purolator Tackle Hunger® Red Bag campaign came to Grand Valley and Waldemar from June 8 to 15, and saw community members donated more than 5,000 pounds of food.

Purolator delivered the food to the Dufferin Food Share to help those facing hunger in the community.

The Red Bag campaign saw volunteers drop off 1,800 Red Bags throughout the Grand Valley and Waldemar communities with residents

asked to fill up their bags with non-perishable food items and leave them on their doorsteps for collection by Purolator employees.

“In leading Purolator Tackle Hunger Red Bag campaigns, I get to watch the community come together— neighbours, families, and local businesses — all uniting for a common cause. There’s something special about that collective energy, and it reminds me how powerful it is when we all step up to support each other,” said Melody Scarlett, senior sales account executive for Purolator. “Every Red Bag that gets filled and every food item

donated is a sign of hope—hope that someone's needs will be met, and that people care enough to do something about it."

The Dufferin Food Share is a partnership between the Grand Valley Food Bank and Orangeville Food Bank, with the two organizations joining forces last year to better address food insecurity within Dufferin County.

The Dufferin Food Share saw a 46 per cent increase in individuals accessing its services from December 2023 to December 2024. The number rose to 112 visitors from 70.

The Orangeville Food Bank has seen a 19 per cent increase in the number of households it served in December 2024, compared to December 2023.

“When the food arrives at our food banks, we are overwhelmed with gratitude and amazed by the generosity of the community,” said Carrie-Anne DeCaprio, donor engagement and outreach manager, Dufferin Food Share. “The food donations really allow us to support those in need. We are so grateful to Purolator and the community for helping us fight food insecurity.”

Residents of Grand Valley and Waldemar can continue to support Canadians facing food insecurity through online donations at purolortacklehunger.com or by bringing non-perishable food donations to any Purolator Shipping Centre across Canada.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

RED BAG CAMPAIGN: Residents of Grand Valley and Waldemar generated 5,000 pounds of food for the Orangeville Food Bank's Dufferin Food Share, through Purolator's Tackle Hunger Red Bag campaign that ran from June 8 to 15. The Dufferin Food Share assists individuals in Grand Valley who are food insecure.

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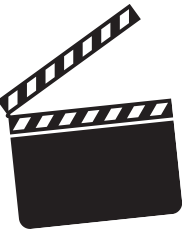
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Arts & Entertainment



LOCAL COMMUNITY EVENTS

Theatre Orangeville celebrates David Nairn's contributions as artistic director

Written By **CONSTANCE SCRAFIELD**

Over 150 people attended a party on Monday (June 16) that had been kept a close secret as a surprise for David Nairn, artistic director of Theatre Orangeville. Nairn passes the job to Jennifer Stewart on July 1. Stewart has spent the last six months learning the intricacies of how this theatre has worked under Nairn for the past 26 years and it will be her responsibility to decide how it will carry on.

The mood in the Monora Pavilion was euphoric with the glad greetings of theatre people who have known Nairn – and each other – for years, some for decades. What they all have in common is their association with Theatre Orangeville, where they wrote plays or acted in them; the creative teams who put the plays on the stage; and the staff who have worked for years at the theatre.

Everyone had a story or many memories of Nairn's brilliance as a director, his vision of what a theatre should be, namely the heartbeat of the broader community in which it stands. The initiatives Nairn inspired have placed Theatre Orangeville as a unique organization in Canada.

The highlight of the party was the speakers who had been invited to tell their own versions of Nairn's time at the theatre.

Before this very fine parade began and in order to draw the attention of the crowd and still the heady flow of conversation, Elisabeth DuBois stood near the podium and sang the opening lines to "For Good" from Wicked. It only took a few seconds for hers to be the only voice and a few seconds for the singer across the room to sing the lyrics in response – then, in seconds more, members and alumni from Young Company joined and the lovely song became rich and David Nairn was rich in the affection he received in all those song-filled moments.

Jim Betts, the founding artistic director in 1994, brought the tribute poem he penned and read it to the assembled crowd. The story begins with Betts himself, inspired but not quite able to make the money work for the theatre as a summer theatre. After five years of try-

ing, he approached David Nairn, whom he had known and worked with for several years.

In 1999, Nairn took on the task of artistic director and began by changing Theatre Orangeville to a regional theatre with a full five-play season from October to May, including a significant production for the Christmas season.

Two years ago, Nairn replaced traditional Christmas stories with a holiday Pantomime. He even co-writes them with Debbie Collins. The two productions so far have each filled the house for most performances during a full month's schedule.

Betts' poem touches on all this with lines like "...the town did need/a director most artistic./But then he appeared/Blond hair and a beard/And the women went ballistic..."

There were three "generations" of artistic directors attending the event: Jim Betts, David Nairn and Jennifer Stewart all in one place.

Avery Saltzman, co-artistic director of the Harold Green Jewish Theatre in Toronto, told us that he had met Nairn in 1976 at university, and they've enjoyed "50 years of friendship." He noted the projects on which they had collaborated over all that time. Among them, Saltzman had performed a number of times on the Theatre Orangeville main stage, most memorably, perhaps, in Norm Foster's "Kiss the Sun, Kiss the Moon."

Truly Nairn's cup flowed to very full in the number of folk who stood at the podium mic to tease, praise and add snatches of history.

A note from Norm Foster talked about the play he wrote specifically for himself and Nairn to perform and tour, "Jonas And Barrie In The Home," which they did, numbering an impressive 206 performances.

It is a list of speakers too long to number the details they brought. But among them was Nancy Frater, the long-time owner of Book-Lore, with whom Nairn established the New Play Development Program. Basically sponsored by the Authors on Stage feature, the program has given Theatre Orangeville the thrill of seeing some of the country's most august authors.

All of them show up here as invited by Frater, whose charm and powers of persuasion ap-



CONSTANCE SCRAFIELD PHOTO

NEW CHAPTER: Artistic director David Nairn (centre of back row) and the entire staff and crew at Theatre Orangeville celebrated his 26 years with the organization – 'Twas a wonderful affair! Jennifer Stewart (centre front row), the new artistic director, will begin the role on July 1.

parently none of them can resist.

Orangeville Mayor Lisa Post, along with Council, awarded Nairn by naming the Orangeville Opera House stage the David Nairn Stage at the 'Twas the Night Gala, last November. She had little more to add to her remarks at the time but wanted to say that she would miss his morning call at the town hall offices, "Good morning, your worshipfulness!"

Sylvia Jones, MPP for Dufferin–Caledon, spoke briefly about her appreciation and admiration for his passion for making arts so vital in Orangeville.

It reached the point where many had spoken and each had hugged and been hugged by Nairn when the man himself took the floor, disdaining the mic. This celebration was a surprise for Nairn, so he had no notes but he has always spoken from the heart. This heart needs no notes.

He talked primarily about how only with the full support of the company, none of Theatre

Orangeville's landmarks would have been possible.

"I'm not the one who has done all this," he declared, arms spread wide, "you are – but for your hard work and unflinching support – none of this could have happened."

He told the Citizen about being contacted by Theatre Orangeville to come for an interview for the position of artistic director. He and Leisa Way were living and acting in Detroit. They were all but applying for their green cards but he came to Orangeville; then, came a second call to come for another conversation; but the third time, they asked him and they asked him to "bring Leisa."

"Because they knew," he told her directly while including all of us, "how important you are to me, I couldn't have done this job without you – 26 years, the two of us living it through."

And he told her – he told us, "Leisa, I love you!"

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The Citizen CROSSWORD

Puzzle No. 256410 • Solution on page: CLASSIFIEDS SECTION

CLUES ACROSS

1. Computer manufacturer
5. Noted space station
8. Kurt Russell film "Captain"
11. Automaton
13. Everyone has one
14. Incline from the vertical
15. Fights
16. Dunn & Bradstreet (abbr.)
17. Finishes off
18. Places to store things
20. Dutch painter Gerard —
21. Smaller quantity
22. There's a North, South and Central of these
25. In an early way
30. More spacious
31. Short-term memory
32. One who possesses

33. Sesame
38. Forbid
41. A way to explain
43. Not around
45. Evoke or suggest
47. Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea
49. Dekameter
50. Fencing sword
55. "Luther" actor Idris
56. Affirmative (slang)
57. Afflicted
59. One point north of northeast
60. Born of
61. Arabic name
62. Hong Kong food stall: — pai dong
63. Not the start
64. Post

CLUES DOWN

1. Creative expression
2. Fiber from the outer
3. City in ancient Syria
4. College army
5. More disturbed
6. Pays no attention to
7. Restored
8. Competitions
9. Lyric poems
10. Famed American lawman
12. Expression of disappointment
14. Scars
19. Satisfy
23. Central European river
24. Brass instrument
25. One who gets paid to perform
26. Propel with oars
27. Long period of time
28. Woman (French)
29. Type of plane
34. Pitching stat

35. Pointed end of a pen
36. Pro sports league
37. Body part
39. Inoffensive
40. Yellowish cotton cloth
41. Feline
42. Does not tell the truth
44. Set out to attract
45. Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation
46. Abba —, Israeli politician
47. Repair
48. Genus of flowering plants
51. Tributary of the High Rhine
52. Prejudice
53. C. European river
54. Restrain
58. Father

No one has more self-confidence than the person who does a crossword puzzle with a pen.

kids' corner

World FACT:

Burj Khalifa is the tallest skyscraper in the world. It is 2,722 feet tall and can be found in this country.

English: Elevator
Spanish: Ascensor
Italian: Ascensore
French: Ascenseur
German: Fahrstuhl

Answer: United Arab Emirates

Did You Know?

As of 2024, the tallest skyscraper in Canada was the First Canadian Place in Toronto, with a height of 298 meters.

NEW WORD
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Answer: Skyscraper top

HIGH-RISE
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Orangeville Music Theatre presents ‘Alice in Wonderland Junior’

Written By **CONSTANCE SCRAFIELD**

Orangeville Music Theatre (OMT) director Heather Holmes, who is sharing the job with Jamie Connelly, is really pleased with how well preparations are coming along for the stage and 26 youngsters singing, dancing and speaking in the junior production of “Alice in Wonderland.”

“We started rehearsals at the end of March,” Holmes told the Citizen in a recent telephone interview.

One show will take place on Friday, June 27, starting at 7:30 p.m.; two shows are planned for Saturday, June 28, starting at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., and one on Sunday, June 28, starting at 2 p.m.

The cast are all eager to work hard and have a lot of fun.

Holmes has been with OMT, joining them 12 years ago. When asked what keeps her interested, she admitted she has done “lots of roles over the years,” and she is currently the president of OMT.

“I really enjoy working on a creative thing; I like to create in various ways,” she said, adding that she owns Tritone Music Studios in Orangeville.

This rendition of Alice is the Disney version, the fairy tale’s cartoon style.

Alice discovers many strange things when she happens upon Wonderland and meets

all the 25 characters, including the Queen of Hearts.

Holmes noted, “The show has so many characters and we saw a lot of returning cast members. There are 25 named roles, a lot of kooky ones. We did Alice many years ago.”

Holmes added to the roll call, saying there were also several new young people coming, from ages eight to 17.

A 17-year-old plays the Queen of Hearts.

What else keeps Holmes coming back is, “You make friends in theatre. [Co-director] Jamie is a really good friend. That is part of the reason we all come back to the theatre – because of the friends.”

The young cast has been really doing a great job coming to rehearsal from rehearsing at home.

“They learn in rehearsal and practice at home,” she said practically, to the point, as she was proud to let us know, “There’s been no challenges with (the) cast. They’re having a lot of fun. When they enjoy what they’re doing, it’s a wonderful cycle.”

In brief, the story is about Alice who is a little bored one afternoon and dozes off that sunny afternoon to be awakened by the fairies who begin her zany but well-loved story with the White Rabbit and the very many characters she meets – the Cheshire Cat bears a never-ending smile and those other characters we might still refer to in common conversation –



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

TAKING THE STAGE: Orangeville Music Theatre (OMT) with a cast of 26 eager and talented youngsters is presenting Alice in Wonderland Junior over the weekend of June 27 to 29. The performance will take place at the Orangeville Opera House.

the Dormouse, the Hare and the Mad Hatter who invite Alice to tea and dazzle her with odd conversation and silly puzzles.

Alice meets the Queen of Hearts and even stands up to her.

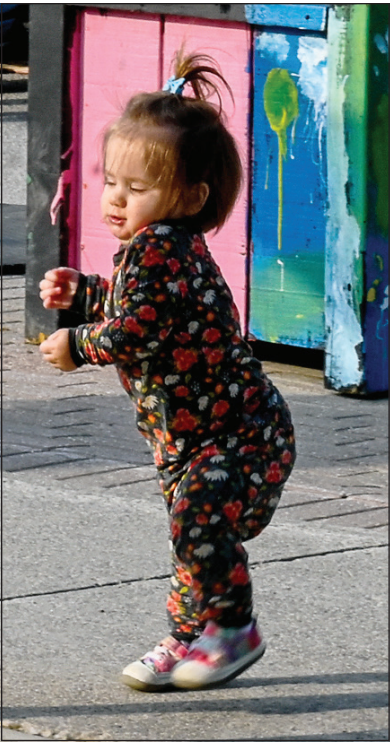
“Alice is a classic story we all know,” Holmes noted as a reason to come and enjoy the production.

“With characters we can relate to, there are

colourful, beautiful costumes – Disney shows are always a blast. The artistic team is really excited to get this show on stage and share it with Orangeville.”

Alice in Wonderland Junior is on at the Orangeville Opera House at 87 Broadway from June 27 to June 29.

For details and to purchase tickets go to www.orangevillemusictheatre.com.



PETER RICHARDSON PHOTOS

FRIDAY FUN: The first of five “Fridays in the Park” events at Jack Downing Park in Shelburne occurred on Friday, June 13, with popular local cover band, the Campfire Poets, headlining. The event featured lots of entertainment families, such as Elvis the Magician, Ninja Turtle Raphael, face painting, balloon animals and an area with local vendors. The next Friday in the Park is on June 28, featuring Adriano Clarke – Free the Nation, Too Nice Reggae, Bhangra Dancers, and Stitch from Lilo & Stitch. The three final events take place on July 11, July 25 and Aug. 29.

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Trillium Ford celebrates legendary vehicle with Bronco Roundup

Written By BRIAN LOCKHART

It was designed as one of the first sport utility vehicles and built to compete with other early off-road trucks in the 60s.

The Ford Bronco went through several generations of design updates before being discontinued in 1996. The Bronco was re-introduced in 2021 with a sixth-generation design.

Trillium Ford Lincoln in Shelburne held a Bronco rally on Saturday, June 14, to celebrate this iconic SUV and have some fun.

The Bronco Roundup: Ride, Shine & Dine, invited owners of the vehicle to bring them to a rally that started at the Trillium dealership and followed a route around the region, including an off-road segment.

There were Broncos from different years including one from 1996 with the original design.

“We have 65 Broncos from all eras, including the original Bronco, and models right up to today,” explained Trillium Ford marketing manager Wendy Gabrek. “1966 was the first year they came out. They then went on a 26-year hiatus, and now they’re back again as of 2021.”

Gabrek continued, “We have around 150 people here today. We all met here at the dealership and we had our safety discussion. Everyone checked in and signed the waivers before they headed out on the road.

“Our first stop was Misty Meadows Market,

which is the Mennonite owned market. From there we went to McGowan Falls in Durham. Then we caravanned to the next location, which was Hoggs Falls, just outside of Flesherton. Then they went off-roading near Southgate. When they arrived back at the dealership, we had a free barbecue and car wash for everyone.”

The off-road segment took the vehicles along a narrow rural route well-suited for a Bronco, and the drivers loved taking a road that provided a challenge and some concentration to keep the vehicle on the path.

Bronco driver Sunny Diddha arrived with his 2024 model and said he thought the event was a great idea, as it provided a chance to meet other drivers who share an interest in the vehicle.

“I like the off-road capabilities of the Bronco,” Sunny said. “It’s fun to drive. It gets a lot of looks – it really stands out. Today was my first time off-roading and it was amazing. There was a lot of dips in the road, creaks and valleys. It was a lot of fun. I like talking to other people about their ownership experience. Everyone has their vehicle customized, every one is different. There’s a lot of accessories for Broncos – there’s a lot of aftermarket stuff.”

The Broncos all returned to the dealership for a barbecue and a draw that handed out prizes to drivers.



BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

RIDING HIGH: Ford Bronco lovers turned out at Trillium Ford Lincoln in Shelburne for the Bronco Roundup: Ride, Shine & Dine event on Saturday, June 14. Bronco enthusiasts headed out on the open road for a rally that included an off-road segment, before returning to the dealership for a barbecue.

CCRSA calls for faster action on improving safety on Highway 50 with petition

Written By RILEY MURPHY

Highway 50 was recently ranked seventh on CAA’s list of the worst roads in the Province and Caledon Community Road Safety Association (CCRSA) has come out with a petition to go to Peel Region asking them to accelerate improvements to Highway 50 and Coleraine Drive.

“We understand that’s going to be a challenge because there’s a lot involved with road widening and doing those improvements. But even if they can’t accelerate it greatly, if they can make some changes, temporary changes to the road that help improve safety, that will help,” shared Amanda Corbett from CCRSA.

Corbett said some of the most significant issues they’ve seen have been road congestion, the vast amounts of trucks on the road, and illegal yards.

She spoke from personal experience what she has seen driving on these roads.

“They’re driving like crazy, pulling U-turns, driving into oncoming traffic, driving in the wrong direction on the shoulder. You have to have your head on a swivel,”

said Corbett.

The petition is currently sitting with over 100 signatures, and they’re hoping to collect many more before sending it off to the Region.

“It’s a chance to get your voice heard. You can send emails, you can send letters, and that’s great too, but a lot of people don’t have time to sit down and write an email. This is a really quick and easy way for you to get your voice on the list and say, okay, we need something to be done,” said Corbett.

The petition is collecting signatures at Coffee Time in Bolton, who said in a social media post, “Let’s not shrug this off. Stop by to sign the petition and show your support for safer roads. Every signature helps make our voices louder.”

Councillor Mario Russo, who is involved with the Traffic Safety Advisory Committee, said he feels this issue should have been approved years ago, particularly before the extension to Major Mackenzie Drive.

When Councillor Russo initially tabled a motion at the Region of Peel to expedite improvements, it was passed unanimously.

However, shortly after that, the Province put forward Bill 112, which called for the dissolution of the Regional Municipality of Peel.

Councillor Russo shared that this stalled change dramatically.

“We welcome CCRSA and any and all resident or business associations that help us bring awareness and urgency to the issue,” shared Councillor Russo.

“The Region still has these improvements as priorities with construction slated for 2027-28, and with expropriations and service relocations happening as we speak,” said Councillor Russo. “But anything that will continue to stress the urgency of these road improvements and the buy in from our neighbours in York Region and possible intervention or investment from the Province is something we’ll continue to pursue, a united voice on this matter is imperative, improvements should have occurred a decade ago and we’ll do our very best this gets done as soon as possible.”

Councillor Doug Maskell, who also sits on the Traffic Safety Advisory Committee, said what is occurring on Highway 50 south

of Mayfield Road is what he would call a “foreseeable disaster.”

He said during the four-year construction period on 427, there needed to be simultaneous road improvements on Rutherford Road, Major Mackenzie Drive, Coleraine Drive and Highway 50 to deal with the volume of truck traffic on those roads.

“Unfortunately, none of this was done and chaos has ensued,” said Councillor Maskell.

He shared that although he feels Highway 50 warrants its designation in CAA’s ranking, he was disappointed it was labelled as “Caledon” because it lies within the borders of Brampton. It is under the joint jurisdiction of Peel Region and York Region.

Regarding the petition, he stated that the CCRSA has done an exemplary job highlighting road safety issues in Caledon, Peel and York Regions.

“Their petition is a powerful reminder of the increasing frustrations of residents who are demanding that Peel Region, York Region and the Province accelerate a solution to the unacceptable situation on Highway 50,” said Councillor Maskell.

East and west Broadway corridor planning study

Open house – June 26, 2025

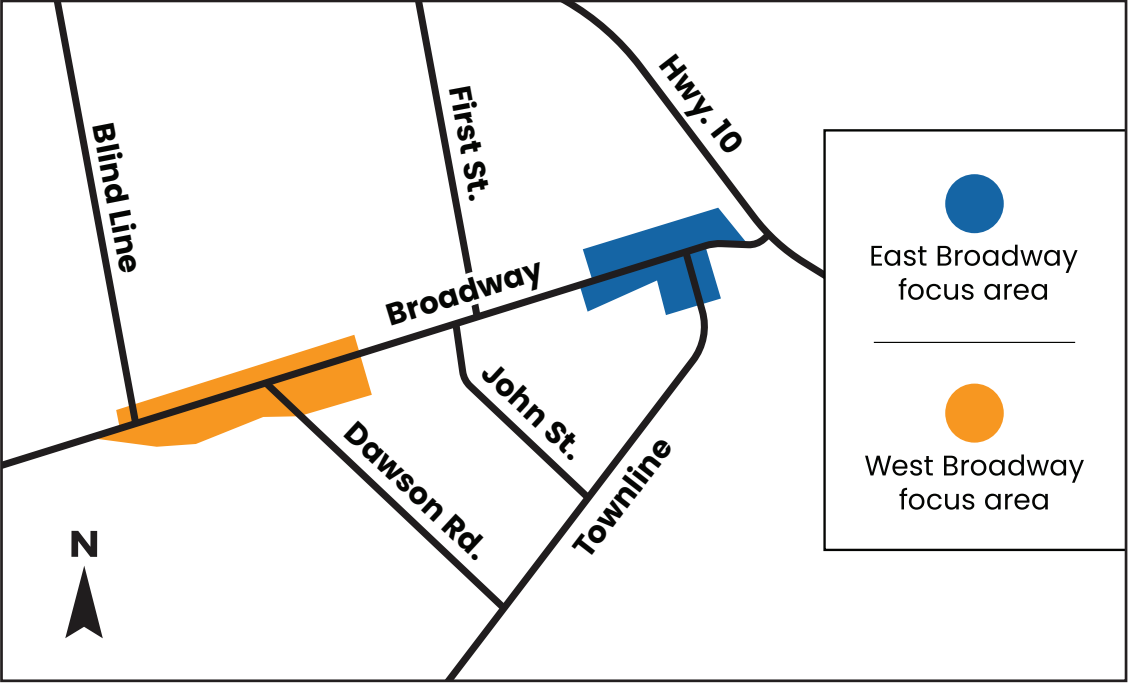


The Town of Orangeville is working on a study to plan for the future of the east and west Broadway corridor. The goal is to help guide future growth while keeping Orangeville’s unique character and heritage. This means determining how to keep it vibrant, accessible and sustainable while accommodating that growth.

The study focuses on two distinct areas on either side of downtown: **east Broadway** (Third and Wellington Streets to Highway 10) and **west Broadway** (Centre and Clara Streets to Blind Line).

For each study area, we will:

- evaluate the existing uses and infrastructure
- establish a vision
- create a plan for how land and public spaces are used (land use/public realm plan)



The study will take place over three phases:



Join us!

We want to hear your feedback on the proposed vision, land use, and public space ideas for the study areas. Join us at the open house on:

June 26, 2025 from 5 – 7 p.m.

Town Hall, 87 Broadway, Orangeville

- View the draft vision, land use and public realm plans and give feedback.
- Tell us what you want to see for the future of the study areas.
- Ask questions and enjoy refreshments.

Find out More

We’ve created a dedicated webpage for information about the study and ways to participate.

Visit orangeville.ca/BroadwayStudy or contact the Planning division for more information at planning@orangeville.ca.

Melancthon Against Quarries to hold public info session next Thursday

Written By PAULA BROWN
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Residents and community members concerned with the proposed Strada Aggregate quarry are invited to attend a public information session.

Melancthon Against Quarries announced in a press release on June 15 that

they will be hosting a community information event called “Water for Life” on June 26 at 7 p.m. at the Horning’s Mills Town Hall in Melancthon.

The meeting will focus on the potential impacts of the quarry on local water resources, the environment and community health. The event will also provide updates on the quarry application process and ex-

plore ways for the community to stay informed and engaged.

Attendees will have the opportunity to hear from guest speakers, ask questions and learn more about how they can get involved.

The “Water for Life” meeting is organized by local residents and community advocates who are seeking to ensure the voices of Melancthon and surrounding area residents are heard in the ongoing discussion about the proposed Strada Aggregate quarry.

The information session is open to all members of the public.

Those interested in finding out more information can contact Melancthon Against Quarries by email at info@juststopit.ca.

Vélocity Ride: Meet the inspirational team members behind this year’s event

Written By RILEY MURPHY

Vélocity 2025 Ride for Seniors, run by Caledon Community Services (CCS), set out into the community on Saturday.

More than 176 riders, 56 volunteers, and numerous supporters celebrated the occasion this weekend.

After riders took off for their routes from 8 to 10:30 a.m., they all met back at Caledon East Park to celebrate their rides and the milestones they had achieved.

At the time of this article, Vélocity raised almost \$53,000 of its \$70,000 fundraising goal.

Every dollar raised goes towards helping Caledon seniors stay healthy, active, and independent.

CCS CEO Geraldine Aguiar, spoke on this year’s theme for the ride.

“CCS has been a champion for the community. But we couldn’t be a champion for the community without each and every one of you. All of us here play a part. And today, our theme is Together We Can, and together is exactly how we’re going to make a difference in this community,” said Aguiar.

Awards and prizes were presented to recognize individual members’ and teams’ hard work and effort.

Team Silcotech was the largest team this year and one of the top sponsors.

Isolde Boettger and Michael Maloney announced during the celebrations that Silcotech will no longer be ONE of the top sponsors next year, but THE top sponsor of the 2026 Vélocity ride.

Boettger also shared that this year, Silcotech purchased all of the bikes for their team so that everyone could take part.

They will go on to store the bikes so that people can borrow them, go out on their own, and have them available for next year’s event.

As the event fell on Father’s Day weekend, Vélocity honoured all the family teams participating.

Mortons in Motion is a family team that raised almost \$3,000.

Gordon, Elizabeth, and David Morton

have participated in the Vélocity ride for the past few years. They all biked the trail route together, enjoying the beautiful weather and the time well spent together.

David, Gordon and Elizabeth’s son, flies down to take part in the ride with them, as well.

He shared that it’s also the perfect time to spend some time with his dad for Father’s Day.

They have been cycling together for about 12 years now.

“I see the important work that CCS does for seniors so it’s a way to support what I think is important and do what we all like doing,” shared Gordon Morton.

To no surprise, one man who held the most titles this year was Ted Webb from Ted’s Terra Cotta Trailblazers.

Webb has carried the title for multiple years and has no plans to stop.

“If you want to live to my age, keep cycling,” Webb said to the Vélocity crowd.

Webb shared that he’s been cycling as long as he can remember; growing up in England, it was often the way to get around.

But, like a trail route, Webb faced many twists, turns, and rough terrain to get to where he is today.

In 1939, Webb was part of the mass evacuation out of London, where Germany was invading.

He moved around to multiple different places and ended up in the forces.

Here, he met Canadian soldiers, and Webb said they were friendly, fun-loving people.

“And I said, look, you know what? If everybody’s like that in Canada, I’m going. Two years later, I immigrated and now I’m here. No regrets.”

Now, Webb lives in Terra Cotta, surrounded by his family and neighbours, and now his teammates for Vélocity.

“I wouldn’t be here if it wasn’t cycling. I wouldn’t have met my good friends that I’ve had for years through cycling,” shared Webb.

At 92 years old, he isn’t slowing down; he plans to cycle 5,000 km this year.



RILEY MURPHY PHOTOS

HIGH VELOCITY FUNDRAISER: Participants of Caledon Community Services’ Vélocity 2025 Ride for Seniors generated almost \$53,000, with 176 people participating and 56 volunteers helping out to make the event a success. Riders took off on routes and met back at the Caledon East Park when they finished the ride. Funds raised help support seniors.



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James Wilson Morrice (1865–1924), *Woman at a Café* (detail), c.1901, oil on panel, 19 x 25.5 cm, Private Collection, Montreal. Photo: Toni Hafkenscheid.



JIM STEWART PHOTO

RECOGNIZING LOCAL TALENT: Student Athlete Olivia D'ambrosio of Robert F. Hall Catholic Secondary School led the Wolfpack to ROPSAA Semifinals.

Student Athlete of the Week at Robert F. Hall leads the Wolfpack to ROPSAA Semifinal

Written By JIM STEWART

Student Athlete Olivia D'ambrosio is nearing the completion of her high school career.

The star rugby player at Robert F. Hall Catholic Secondary School led the Wolfpack to the ROPSAA semifinals where the East Caledon squad suffered a “heart-breaking defeat.”

As that chapter of her life closed, a bolder adventure began when D'Ambrosio accepted an offer to study Nursing at Queen's University where she will also compete for the Golden Gaels' CIS rugby squad.

D'ambrosio was filled with gratitude to those who steered her athletic transition from a competitive gymnast to an avid rugby player.

“I got into rugby after spending over 10 years as a competitive gymnast – I never expected to fall in love with a team sport. Thanks to all my amazing coaches and teammates, I was inspired to play club rugby. A special thank you to Mr. Paolucci, Mrs. Harrison, the rest of the coaching staff, and especially Priscilla for pushing me to tryout in Grade 10. One of my favourite parts of rugby is seeing the new players fall in love with the sport on the pitch.”

The Grade 12 Honor Roll student's final year at Hall has been filled with success and her impact on the rugby team and the broader community was described by Wolfpack Coach Victoria Galati: “Olivia displays exceptional leadership on the team. She inspires her teammates through both her actions and her words. She often mentors new players and consistently motivates and encourages them. Olivia is an extremely hardworking student. She actively takes initiative in her classes when completing tasks and pursuing goals. She is responsible and effortlessly balances her academics and athletic commitments. The leadership she displays on the pitch is also evident in her academic endeavors.”

What impresses Coach Galati the most is D'ambrosio's “resilience and determination. She continually displays unwavering mental toughness when responding to challenging situations or setbacks. Rugby is a very physically and mentally demanding sport. Olivia was always eager and ready to play, even after very taxing moments in games.”

D'ambrosio's key performance moment this season, according to Coach Galati, occurred after a crushing playoff loss.

“After the semi-finals and a heart-breaking loss, Olivia conducted herself with the upmost honor and integrity. She uplifted many of her teammates and reminded them of their success in the season. She expressed her pride in the new players and that the highlight of the season for her was helping them grow and learn the sport.”

Olivia D'ambrosio took time from her end-of-semester studies and practices with the North Halton Highlanders U18 teams to answer our interview questions:

Caledon Citizen: What qualities did you demonstrate in your sports season to earn Student-Athlete of the week honours?

Olivia D'ambrosio: “This season, I demonstrated leadership by helping new players both on and off the pitch and keeping my team player who communicated well and constantly focused on staying positive during gameplay.”

Caledon Citizen: What were your key statistics and performance moments from the 2024-25 season that you are most proud of?

Olivia D'ambrosio: “I'm proud of scoring two tries and consistently gaining possession of the ball throughout the season. I started and played in every game, contributing both defensively and offensively for my team.”

Caledon Citizen: In addition to your high school sports teams, what other community teams do you play for and at what level?

Olivia D'ambrosio: “I play for North Halton Highlanders U18 teams in both 7's and 15's rugby. I was also selected to be part of the Ontario Blues Developmental Program, where I trained with elite coaches and athletes.”

Caledon Citizen: How would you describe yourself as a student at Robert F Hall? To which sports teams and clubs do you belong to?

Olivia D'ambrosio: “I'm a committed student with an overall 90% average. I am part of the Sports SHSM program, a leader of the Girls Empowerment Movement (GEM) and played for the flag football team for the first time in grade 12. I've also managed the junior and senior boys football team and been a Pack Leader, a program that helps Grade 8 transitions to Grade 9. I've also been active in my school's leadership program.”

Caledon Citizen: What are your post-secondary plans regarding prospective academic/athletic destinations?

Olivia D'ambrosio: “I've accepted an offer to study nursing at Queens University through their direct-entry program. I plan to continue playing rugby at the university level and stay involved in competitive gymnastics coaching alongside my academic journey.”

Caledon Citizen: Who is your role model in terms of the person you most admire the most?

Olivia D'ambrosio: “My mom is my role model – she's taught me to always stay open-minded, give my best and never give up. Her persistence and strength has shaped the way I approach sports and life in general.”

Caledon Citizen: How do you feel about being nominated as the Caledon Citizen's Student-Athlete of the Week?

Olivia D'ambrosio: “I feel very grateful to be selected and honored that my coaches nominated me. It means a lot to know they believe in me and I truly respect and look up to them for all their support and guidance.”



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Environmental Defence raises concerns around Bill 5’s impact

Written By **CONSTANCE SCRAFIELD**

Phil Pothén of Environmental Defence didn’t pull any punches when speaking with the Citizen about the Ontario government’s newly passed Bill 5.

“Contrary to what was said, this is not a mining bill nor emergency response to Trump,” Pothén began, “It is an unfettered power grab for or against any person or business; that includes singling a person out to strip away their rights – any person or business for any provincial law they chose singling our power for stricter laws – for any or no purpose.”

The ‘Special Economic Zones Act’ was defined by the CBC with its own cautions, “One part of Bill 5 would creates a new provincial law called the Special Economic Zones Act. It’s arguably the most powerful section of the bill.”

Pothén said, “It would give cabinet the authority to designate any location in Ontario a special economic zone, where the government can exempt companies or projects from complying with provincial laws or regulations.”

Further from Pothén, “They don’t have to get the approval of parliament to approve. The government can do this even if it is opposed by the majority of MPP’s. They can change union rights, minimum wages, basic health and safety rules. Every law in Ontario is open to abuse”.

This power does not extend to MPPs, only the province’s premier and cabinet.

The Special Economic Zones Act removes all protection to wildlife species and that is not limited to special mining’

“The government has done a passable job of rushing this through before the public has had any real chance of understanding it,” Pothén commented. “It’s described as a mining bill – it’s not.”

He continued to explain how democracy, even in parliament, is weaker, as a result of Bill 5.

“There is no way for a back bench or anyone to say no to this and it applies to labour laws – basic health and safety, rules about water. This is about every law in Ontario, whatever the government decides to do,” said Pothén.

“The Ontario government promised it was running on its platform of protecting Ontario from what is happening in the United States. Instead with Bill 5, the Ford government is as much as possible, in our Canadian system, copying the opposite precise path to power that Trump is, to intimate public; the suppression, to threaten lawyers and civil society going against the bill, just imitating what Trump is trying to do.”



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

SPEAKING OUT: Local activist Sharon Sommerville (right) holds a “Kill Bill 5” banner at the FordFest in Etobicoke’s Centennial Park last Friday, June 13. Helping her with the banner is Victoria Creese (left), who is very active in the Grandmothers Act to Save the Planet organization. A man in a military uniform is seen on the roof above the stage, during the event.

Pothén said Premier Ford is replicating these tactics under the guise of a “modern bill.”

“We have been blessed to have those checks and balances that stopped others who had tried to undermine democracy before,” said Pothén.

Local activist, Sharon Sommerville, who’s a member of Headwaters Stops the 413, made a point of attending parliament in response to Bill 5. She witnessed the reading, debate, amendments and passing of the bill over the three days that were allotted by the government.

She told the Citizen, “The opposition members were fantastic. They did everything they could to stall the bill going through, motioning for recesses; they did a filibuster and more. They really worked hard to get it stalled until the end of sitting and let it sit over the summer. The government only responded with disrespect and mocking through all the amendments brought forth by the opposition.”

When Sommers attended the annual Ford Fest in Etobicoke last week, protesters had spray painted “F*** Fascists” somewhere on the site. She told the Citizen there were snipers on the roof of the arena behind the stage and wondered if the gesture had inspired the presence of the gunmen.

Aside from that, Pothén added: “The fact the government is prepared to do this with

anyone. They are prepared to find approval by, who will get approvals first. They have to frighten business owners against it to condone it for better access to approvals for projects when they want it.”

He gave us sharp warnings by saying that if we allow this to become normalized; the less we protest it over the summer, the greater the risk it will be accepted. His advice is people need to “kick up as much of a ruckus as they can and to do it early on before it’s too late.”

Pothén illustrated the immediate future’s needs a story from the past but not too long ago. The public barely knew about the Green Belt plans to build houses there before it was passed but “we challenged their reasons for doing it by showing there was plenty of land to not to build in the Green Belt and we discovered the corruption. We won then and we can again this time,” said Pothén.

Now is the time for the similar power of people protesting and making it personal with regular emails to MPPs, finding good places to stage protests, and informing people about Bill 5. Informing the public on the risks it supports, the misconceptions it publishes in contrast to the facts, and the dismantling of the Endangered Species Act. The bill removes all protection for endangered species and other environmentally valuable laws and acts.

Even if a Conservative MPP opposed the bill, they could be shut down, is the assurance.

The danger is taking the power of the rule of law away from civil servants and giving it to politicians.

“People are appalled because of the bill itself – but to grow their business they will have to be silent,” Pothén said. “If we allow this bill to become normalized, the harder it is going to be to displace it; the harder it will be to stop it.”

Pothén said people need to make this summer a living hell for the Ford government and make every MPP understand the public is against it.

“If you voted for it, your job has to end” unless they repeal this law, Pothén noted.

“Challenge them about this overreach, this centralized power grab; making it personal,” he said.

“Confront them quietly and calmly in the grocery stores, on the streets, wherever you see them.”

It is not illegal to confront an MPP in a civil way, as long as you do not make them feel harassed.

Pothén made the point that politicians are accountable to their constituents, and their duty as politicians is to answer questions, even outside in public.

For more on what Pothén has to say, read his full statement on Bill 5’s threats to the rule of law and endangered species at: environmentaldefence.ca/2025/06/05/bill-5-threatens-rule-of-law-and-endangered-species/



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Junior C Lacrosse League’s Orangeville Northmen remain in second place

Written By BRIAN LOCKHART

The Orangeville Junior C Northmen won at home, then lost on the road over the weekend.

It was home game night at Tony Rose Arena in Orangeville on Friday, June 13, when the Northmen hosted the Wilmot Wild.

The Northmen took an early 2-1 lead in the first period on goals from Seth McCalum and Connor Leskey.

The Wild fought back in the second period scoring early to tie it up, then following up with two more goals to take a 4-2 lead.

Northmen’s Holton Marshall notched a goal with 8:59 on the clock to close the gap, but the Wild scored again to make it a 5-3 game.

Keaton Walsh scored with 1:18 left in the second period to leave the Northmen trailing by one goal going into the final period.

It was the final period that made all the difference for the Orangeville squad when they blasted out onto the floor and scored three goals in just under two minutes.

All three Northmen goals came from Holton Marshall for the third-period hat trick.

Wilmot scored with 1:06 remaining on the clock but it was too late for the Wild to get back into the game and the Northmen left the floor with a 7-6 win.

This is a rebuilding year for the Junior C Northmen after losing 11 players who graduated from their junior careers last season.

“We have around 14 new players this year, we have a very young team,” said Junior C Northmen club president Kent Cotton. “It’s surprising how well they’ve played with all these young guys in the line-up. They’ve adjusted really well. We’re doing better than expected, we figured we would be at around .500, and we’ve lost only four games so far. Most of the new guys are 17-18 years old,



BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

WIN AT HOME: The Orangeville Junior C Northmen host the Wilmot Wild at the Tony Rose Arena in Orangeville on Friday, June 13. The Northmen won the game 7-6, and are in second place in the Western Division of the Ontario Junior C Lacrosse League.

fresh out of [the] Midget [division]. Both goalies are from out of town – one from Al- liston and one from Brampton.”

The following night, the Northmen were on the road to Fergus where they took on the Thistles.

This time they took a 10-2 loss.

Northmen goals came from Rylan Lee and Devan Doig in the second period.

After the weekend, the Northmen are in second place in the Western Division of the OJCLL team with an 8-5-1 record and 17 points.

The Junior C Northmen have three road games left on the regular season schedule.

Local swimmer competes in Bell Canada’s 2025 Junior Olympic trials in B.C.

Written By BRIAN LOCKHART

Local swimmer Matthew Blackwell continues to do well in national competitions, attending meets across the country while improving his place in the standings.

In March, Blackwell won two gold medals competing in the 16-year-old category. He won gold in the 100-meter and 200-meter butterfly events.

In April, Blackwell travelled to the Canadian Open Swim Championships held at the Edmonton Kinsmen Sports Centre.

He made the A final in the 200-meter butterfly and was the top seed in the B final for the 100-meter butterfly. He finished eighth overall in two races in an event against all age groups.

Blackwell competed in the 2025 Bell Canadian Olympic and Junior Olympic Trials, held at the Victoria Saanich Commonwealth Place in Victoria, B.C, from June 7 to 12.

He competed in an event for swimmers born in 2007 and younger. Blackwell finished sixth in the Junior Final.

He tied for first reserve in the 50-meter butterfly. There was a swim-off to determine who would be first and Blackwell swam a personal best of 25.26 seconds to be the first reserve.

This was a huge effort from Blackwell. He arrived seeded 54th among all entries. After his qualifying swim, he achieved a personal best and moved up to the 22nd seed position.

Blackwell is looking forward to this year’s events and achieving more success in the pool.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

ASPIRING ATHLETE: Local swimmer Matthew Blackwell continues to do well in national competitions. Blackwell recently competed at the 2025 Bell Canadian Swimming Trials, where participants attempt to qualify as Olympic or Junior Olympic swimmers. The trials were held in Victoria, B.C., June 7 to 12.



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OPINION

Justice denied

During the period of November 1957 to January 1958, 19-year-old Charles Starkweather, accompanied by his 14-year-old girlfriend Caril Ann Fugate, murdered 11 people in Nebraska and Wyoming.

No one is really sure why Starkweather became a mad dog killer.

Caril Ann later claimed she was an unwilling hostage, however, prosecutors pointed out she had many opportunities to escape from her so-called captor.

As killers go, it doesn't get much worse than Starkweather. His first murder was a shopkeeper who refused to sell him something on credit. Starkweather kidnapped the man and shot him to death.

After meeting Caril Ann and becoming infatuated with her, he turned up at her family home asking for her. Caril Ann's mother and stepfather weren't too keen on having a 18-year-old man they didn't like, pursuing their young daughter, and they told him to go away.

Starkweather responded by fatally shooting both of them and then clubbing Caril Ann's two-year-old sister to death.

The pair then went on a murderous rampage over several months, killing seven more innocent people.

He was finally captured. During his trial, he claimed Caril Ann had been the killer in sev-

eral murders.

That seems unlikely, and Caril Ann claimed she didn't kill anyone.

Both Starkweather and Caril Ann were tried on murder charges. Caril Ann was convicted on charges of being an accomplice to murder and served 18 years behind bars.

Starkweather went on trial for his murders. He was found guilty and sentenced to death on May 23, 1958.

Just over a year later, Starkweather was executed in the electric chair at the Nebraska State Penitentiary.

The entire process from arrest to trial, and the final result, took just under a year and a half.

It doesn't matter if you're a proponent of or against the death penalty in this case. The point is, that there was a speedy and fair trial, and justice was carried out swiftly. That is the way the justice system is supposed to work.

I usually don't care what happens in the U.S. justice system, but what is going on down there sure demonstrates why a federal criminal system, like we have here, is superior.

This past week in the U.S. state of Alabama, the state executed a man for the murder of his girlfriend. That in itself is not surprising. He was the 15th person executed in Alabama over the last five years.

BRIAN LOCKHART
FROM THE SECOND ROW



row for more than 20 years. One languished on death row for 34 years before being executed by lethal injection.

None of these men were Boy Scouts. They all committed heinous crimes and deserved severe punishment.

However, carrying out a death sentence almost 40 years after a crime was committed is not justice. It's a broken system.

In most countries, after serving 40 years, an inmate would likely be up for parole consideration and no longer considered a threat to society.

The long process it takes to execute someone is blamed on the appeals process.

When a man's life is hanging in the balance, having a judge say, "I'll get back to you with my decision in three years," just isn't acceptable.

That decision is then appealed, and several years go by before another decision is made.

If a judge takes that long to make a decision, perhaps being in a profession where decisions determine the course of a person's life, isn't the right place for them.

Justice is supposed to be blind.

In these cases, justice is totally disabled.

Netanyahu's Wars

Israel's war with Iran is definitely the war that Prime Minister Binyamin 'Bibi' Netanyahu has wanted all along, but he may have bitten off more than he can chew.

In the past three months Israel has bombed Syria, Lebanon, Yemen and now Iran. It has an open-ended war involving tens of thousands of Israeli troops in the Gaza Strip, and a lower-intensity counter-insurgency war in the occupied West Bank that also soaks up lots of Israeli troops. And now it is also at war with Iran, a country of 90 million people.

This is less of a burden on the 7.5 million Jewish Israelis than it would seem, since geography decrees that the wars with Iran and Yemen do not require ground troops. (Neither country has a land border with Israel.) However, the air wars will hurt Israel's population and damage its infrastructure, and its reservist soldiers are already exhausted by twenty months of war.

So is the civilian population of Israel, which is emotionally drained by the long-running drama of the hostages. It is also deeply divided by Netanyahu's decision to use this moment of maximum Israeli power to try to wipe out every potential challenge to the country's status as the Middle East's dwarf

superpower.

Netanyahu has declared that Iran is on the brink of getting nuclear weapons half a dozen times in the past twenty years, always in the hope that he could get the US military to do the heavy lifting in a war to 'disarm' it. And each time, after the US president of the day declined to do so, the Iranian 'threat' magically receded – only to be revived for the next president.

Bibi made some headway with Trump in his first term, convincing the latter that he should pull out of the treaty putting strict controls on Tehran's nuclear activities that Barack Obama had signed with Iran in 2015. But it turned out that Trump wasn't up for an actual war with Iran; he was just on a mission to destroy all the achievements of his predecessor.

Nobody could have been more pro-Israeli than Joe Biden, but he wouldn't go to war with Iran for Netanyahu either. Initially the Israeli prime minister thought that he was making more headway with Trump 2.0, but Trump's promises are as empty as his threats; by May he was negotiating with Iran for a thinly disguised return to the treaty he had cancelled in 2018.

At this point Netanyahu took the decision

he had probably always promised himself never to make: he gave the order to attack Iran without a guarantee of full American support. He forgot that Trump, almost uniquely among post-1945 US presidents, has never committed the United States to a war overseas.

True to form, Trump posted on his Truth Social platform that "The U.S. had nothing to do with the attack on Iran tonight." That may not be strictly true, in the sense that he certainly must have known Netanyahu's plans, but it's accurate in the sense that he did not approve of them. Indeed, Bibi was deliberately preempting a possible revival of the 2018 treaty.

Saving face always comes first with Trump, so he was soon trumpeting "If we are attacked in any way, shape or form by Iran, the full strength and might of the U.S. Armed Forces will come down on you at levels never seen before." But he says that every time, to any country he disagrees with, and they are all still here. TACO.

The reality is that Netanyahu has broken his lifelong rule and attacked Iran without Washington's full support because he cannot bear to miss this opportunity to attack

his enemies when they are all far weaker than ever before. He cannot actually lose this war he has begun with Iran, but he may find it almost impossible to end in a satisfactory manner.

There are three problems for which he has no apparent solution. One is that he lacks the specialized bombs that would enable him to destroy the Iranian centrifuges, labs and enriched uranium that are buried deep inside mountainsides. Trump would have to give them to him.

The second is that Trump is extremely petty and vindictive when defied or 'disrespected'. If he decides that he no longer wants to deal with Netanyahu, he holds such power over the country's fate that a different prime minister would be found to replace him.

Finally, Iran has a 'nuclear option' that has nothing whatever to do with nuclear weapons. It can cut the world's oil supply by 20 per cent and cause a global recession simply by closing the Strait of Hormuz. And a recession is what Donald Trump fears above all else.

GWYNNE DYER
OUR WORLD TODAY



The art of protesting

It was in the 1500s when the art of protesting was a fledgling. In Western Europe, there were growing challenges to the papacy in both religious and political thinking, with the rise of Protestant thinking and reformation.

The Renaissance, a period of great cultural awakening, began in Italy in the 1300s and eventually moved across Western Europe, where it brought many of the greatest artists, writers and thinkers of all time. From this explosion of tremendous creative energy began our evolution into an epoch that saw us move from "the Middle Ages to Modernity."

A movement in thinking and a certain freedom grew with us as humanity, to believe in common people as worthy of having their own opinions and the freedom to express them. In Western society, this freedom has been confirmed in law and the list is long indeed of protests that changed history in surprising ways.

When Europeans began their ruthless advancement into and brutal colonization of the "new worlds," once there were enough of them to establish their colonies' governments and increase control of the countries they had taken, the laws granting protests came with them, mark you, only for the invaders, not for the people who were already living there.

In those days in the early 1700s, protests led to complete political overhauls. The

American Revolution in the mid-1700s, effectively ousted British rule in America, south of Canada.

In France only a little later, protests against the opulence of royal living exaggeratedly contrasting to the hardships of the lower classes erupted into the French Revolution, when royal heads did their role and a republic was born.

Why this very brief history, you may well ask. I offer it as a reminder in a time when too much is controlled by leaders who seem to be experiencing a longing for the kind of tyranny that history books describe.

In their modern dress of suits and ties is ancient thinking and a re-born trend to reassemble laws so that restraints melt away and the leader has voted in power outside the laws, voted our balanced laws virtually null and void.

Right before our eyes and in real-time. And we are protesting and I confess – in this day and age – all we know and can know is at the touch of a click – anything, everything – all about what is good and what is bad for us, for our children and for where we live here on planet Earth. It is as though the brain disease that must have possessed those first invaders and mad brutes as they "discovered" these lands and did as much harm as they could, all the way right up to 1997 with the closing of the last residential school.

Early on there were savages among those

early explorers and it seems they planted similar seeds growing still today. Then, they did as much harm as is unimaginable and now, here we are again at the side door, one might say of equal brutality, equal brain-sick destruction when we know full well and with no doubt that the current regime in this moment is taking a dangerous, unfeeling and even crazed grip on the other members of this world's inhabitants. Now we are about new aggression that sees no barriers – not only by the humans living in the many areas to be depleted and ruined but also by the creatures living there.

Here is the giant puzzle: that click under our fingers tells us for sure that this earth needs those creatures – indeed, we need them to survive. Every endangered species pushed that one step more to die out completely is an irrecoverable loss, another stab in the heart of the planet.

Every grove of trees trashed for logs, for mining or to service the makers of luxury toilet paper depletes our access to breathable air.

Click – read it for yourselves – we are allowing our government to steal and destroy at will everything that really matters and – for what? Industry. Where the profits grow in proportion to the damage.

Am I talking about the Ford government's Bill 5? You bet I am.

A person I recently interviewed about Bill

5 could not exaggerate the dangers of it, not only for the cavalier way in which it dismisses the need to protect our land and wildlife but for the wholesale dismantling of our legal system here in Ontario: all the power in the hands only of the cabinet. A full-scale attack on the rule of law, sneaking in – as all such attacks are made – by promising that which sounds good but actually leads to a complete reversal and betrayal.

My interviewee was emphatic, instructing us to make our protests about this egregious bill personal. He urges us to speak to our MPPs wherever we see them and tell them that if they don't rescind Bill 5, they will not be back in parliament next election.

"Go ahead and be loud," he said. "Ask them in public why they voted for it – do they understand what it really says."

He made the point that politicians have the duty to account for themselves and as long as we are civil, we are within our rights to ask hard questions.

It is personal when our laws are trampled, the wildlife is put in extreme danger and precious land and farmland is dug under concrete because so, then are we, our children, our home. The right to protest is still ours. Let's use it.

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COMMUNITY VOICES

Monthly Message: Celebrating LGBTQ+ safe space businesses in Dufferin

What began as a tourism initiative has grown into a community-wide effort to promote inclusivity and values-driven leadership across Dufferin County. Through the Level Up Dufferin program, local businesses and nonprofits are stepping up to create welcoming, inclusive spaces for everyone who lives, works, and visits here.

The program offers a range of training opportunities — from learning how to improve accessibility for customers and employees to taking action in becoming an LGBTQ+ Safe Space. Some local businesses have even gone a step further by earning their official Rainbow Registered designation, demonstrating their deep commitment to



fostering a safe and affirming environment.

This Pride Month, we're proud to shine a spotlight on the businesses and organizations that have committed to being LGBTQ+ Safe Spaces. You can discover and support these inclusive leaders by visiting our online Directory and looking for the "Safe Space" listings.

Creating an LGBTQ+ Safe Space is about

more than just signage — it's about fostering a culture of respect, visibility, and belonging. For many 2SLGBTQIA+ individuals, feeling seen and supported at work, in stores, and in community spaces can have a profound impact on their well-being. Businesses that commit to inclusivity not only build stronger relationships with their customers and staff, but also help move our region forward as a vibrant, diverse place to live and thrive.

Supporting Pride Month can be as simple as shopping local and choosing businesses that celebrate diversity. You can also show your support by sharing posts from LGBTQ+ Safe Space businesses, attending

local Pride events, displaying Pride materials in your space, and educating yourself and your team through training programs like Level Up Dufferin. Small gestures can make a big difference.

If you're a business leader or organization ready to showcase your values and create a more inclusive and accessible workplace, we invite you to connect with us. Our team at the Dufferin Board of Trade offers on-site training sessions at your facility, or you can join one of our upcoming in-house workshops. Let's continue building a more inclusive Dufferin — together.

Happy Pride Month from all of us at the Dufferin Board of Trade!

Odds Poilievre stays as Tory leader?

PETER BLACK
POLITICAL PERSPECTIVE



There are so many betting platforms out there surely one of them must be giving odds on how long Pierre Poilievre will survive as leader of the Conservative Party of Canada.

A realistic reading of the political landscape leads to the conclusion Poilievre is more than likely done as leader; the question is when and how.

The "when" could be January, according to various media reports, with the staging of a post-election party convention, at which time, as per party policy, Poilievre will face a leadership review vote. The date next year might disappoint hard-core Poilievre loyalists wishing to limit the time potential enemies would have to organize a coup.

With a vote of confidence in Poilievre on the horizon, Canadians will soon enough be treated to yet another Shakesperian epic of Conservative plotting and back-stabbing resulting in the choice of the fifth Tory leader since Stephen Harper's ignoble departure in 2015.

Folks will recall that Harper resigned almost immediately after losing to Justin Trudeau, Andrew Scheer resigned almost as quickly after losing to Trudeau in 2019, and Erin

O'Toole was swiftly forced out by the Tory caucus — a purge Poilievre organized — after losing to Trudeau in 2021.

Now it's up to Poilievre to decide whether he can win a fight to retain his leadership and earn another shot at the Liberal leader who just beat him and who is very pointedly not Justin Trudeau.

Fighting to keep the leadership he has so long coveted, incidentally, begins with Poilievre winning a byelection in a safe Alberta riding which Prime Minister Mark Carney could call for as early as August.

Being back in the House of Commons when it resumes in September certainly would enhance his standing with a caucus troubled by a leader who didn't win his seat in Ontario, a place where the party otherwise made significant gains.

And, most importantly, Conservatives — and Canadians as a whole — will be able to judge what lessons Poilievre has learned from the last election by his performance in the House.

Suffice it to say the "Ripper" — the title of a recent bio of the Conservative leader — had it easy when Trudeau was his punching bag in Question Period.

Can he bring his inner attack dog to heel and refrain from using "woke" or "whacko" on an opponent who is decidedly neither? Can he find effective lines of attack on a stack of policies essentially pilfered from his party?

The last time the Conservatives put a leader to a test was in March 2005 when Harper faced a vote following the 2004 election in which he held a predicted Liberal majority under Paul Martin to a minority.

Harper won that leadership vote by 84 per cent and forthwith won a Conservative minority government in the election the next year.

Prior to that, there was the startling experience of Progressive Conservative leader Joe Clark, the guy who beat Pierre Trudeau in May 1979 and then coughed up government to him less than a year later.

Naturally, the PCs were somewhat peeved that Clark had thrown away power over a botched Parliamentary confidence vote, so the knives were out, including a rather lethal blade wielded by Brian Mulroney.

At the first leadership review in February 1981, Clark considered a 66 per cent vote a strong enough endorsement to carry on. At a second convention in January 1983, however,

Clark decided essentially the same percentage was inadequate.

He called a leadership convention for June of the same year, and lost to Mulroney by 259 votes on the fourth ballot. A little more than a year later Mulroney led the PCs back to the promised land of power and all was forgiven.

Whether Poilievre is or should be "one and done" will be the question consuming Conservatives for the foreseeable future. Meanwhile, Carney, busily seizing the moment with a dizzying agenda of action, could be contemplating a trick employed by another Tory leader, John Diefenbaker.

The Prairie renegade won a slim minority in the 1957 election, then nine months later called a snap election that delivered the largest majority in Canadian history.

That's the kind of majority Poilievre was poised to win until Carney came along. Polls now show Carney is about 25 points ahead of Poilievre in popularity; the same gap the Tory leader had over Trudeau a mere few months ago.

Place your bets.

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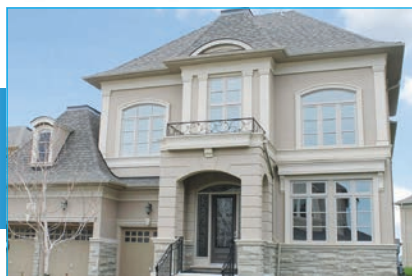
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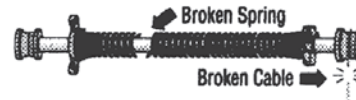
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR: Here’s what the community is saying...

Re: Response to letter on Zionism

Dear Editor,

I give credit to LeeAnn McKenna for her persistence.

Justifying her support for Hamas as legitimate resistance, while simply shameful on the face of it, is only worsened by citing Donald Trump’s actions in Syria as good reasons to do so.

Does she believe that Hamas and Hezbollah will one day be celebrated as heroes? I am not going to get into the nuts-and-bolts of whether U.N. conventions override a country’s sovereignty or right to defend itself; it’s obvious that argument is already settled in her mind. What disturbs me, once again, is her willingness to distort or completely misrepresent the truth to justify her anti-Semitism, for it is now out in the open. Renaming

the Israeli Defense Force the Israeli Occupation Force and then believing that assigning it the acronym ‘IOF’ makes it a reality is delusional.

Repeating what is already known; that the IDF was late in responding and that ‘friendly fire’ killed some civilians is one thing. Using it to somehow excuse Hamas’ rape, massacre and kidnapping of men, women and children and implying that Hamas ‘had no plans to attack the Supernova Rave’ as though it was just a happy coincidence, misrepresenting how many casualties there actually were and additionally implying that the IDF killed their own female spotters is simply hateful.

I had thought that the terrorists’ use of their own people as shields was accepted truth and one of the reasons Hamas was

designated as a terrorist group; apparently not so in Ms. McKenna’s mind. For her information, embedding military infrastructure including military tunnels, rocket launch sites, and other infrastructure in densely populated areas; storing military equipment, including rockets and ammunition in homes, schools, and mosques and firing rockets from residential areas, are all considered the use of human shields, to protect their military assets.

And finally, there is UNWRA, not an insignificant player in this unfortunate conflict, to say the least. I wonder how many organizations exist whose employees’ involvement in terrorist actions results only in them losing their jobs? It’s not hard to imagine why Israel won’t let them back into Gaza anytime soon.

Ms. McKenna’s glowing report of their history, notwithstanding her cavalier dismissal of Hamas’ written founding principle to exterminate all Jews, everywhere, as unimportant, is revealing, considering what this war is all about and no, not genocide.

If Israel wanted to exterminate all Palestinians it could have done so long ago.

To conclude, I believe that when someone tells you about themselves, you should believe them. Thank you, LeeAnn, for telling us about yourself.

Garth Stiebel
Mono

P.S. The Hannibal Directive was revoked in 2016.

Re: 11A York Street townhouse proposal

Dear Mr. Seeback,

The developer has created months of red tape and needless staff planning time by deliberately exceeding what they could have built right away, within the Town Official Plan and the existing Zoning.

The letter we needed from you for the June 9, 2025 Council meeting would have announced infrastructure funding to build the new well, previously called the Pullen Well, and the accompanying millions of dollars to expand the struggling sewage plant in Orangeville.

Infrastructure funding from the federal government would create the opportunity to unleash the many hundreds of new subdivision units that remain on HOLD, already approved to be built in Orangeville, some for over five years, waiting for water and sewage infrastructure.

That would be a much quicker path to More Homes Faster. Time continues to be wasted squandering town resources on completely unnecessary re-zoning, when four new houses could be breaking ground now, at 11A York Street if they met the cur-

rent zoning.

Of course, council voted unanimously against the 11A York Street subdivision proposal, half in a floodplain, with no regard for abutting-built homes, neighbours’ safety, garbage day overflow, and years of construction noise and impacts to KayCee Gardens.

The ‘new well’ has been just waiting for the county to allocate the amount of that shared water to be taken for Orangeville. The town should be able to get the new well up and pumping in a timely way.

The 11A York Street proposal is the wrong location to build 12 housing units, creating a needless distraction from the real ability of Orangeville to get More Houses Built Faster. Orangeville really needs to have someone in government to champion the financing to build the needed water, sanitary sewage and stormwater management for the already planned existing and future residents.

Sincerely,
Karey Shinn
Orangeville

Increased access to Level 1 EV chargers needed in Orangeville

Dear Editor,

The Town of Orangeville could take a very meaningful step to addressing climate change while saving taxpayers money, by simply encouraging every multi-unit residential building to install a 120-volt electrical outlet at each overnight parking place.

This is the same type of outlet that Christmas lights are plugged into. Since most homes will have a 120-volt outlet in their garage or parking area, this would enable almost anyone to own an electric vehicle (EV) and charge it overnight with a Level 1 charger at the cheapest off-peak rates.

An overnight charge with a Level 1 charger provides about 80 kilometres of EV range. This is a full charge for a plug-in hybrid (PHEV) that runs on electricity and gasoline. A week of charging on off-peak hours provides over 500 kilometres of range on a Level 1 charger, enough for most fully electric cars. Combined with a periodic top up at a Level 2 or fast charger, overnight charging on a Level 1 charger would meet the needs of almost all EV owners.

Installing 120-volt outlets at each parking place would cost condominium boards far less than installing 240-volt Level 2 chargers.

It would ensure that the condominium owners have access to the cheapest electricity by avoiding the need to have a third-party company install a Level 2 charger, and charge a premium for the electricity delivered.

When electric vehicles are charged with Level 1 chargers vs Level 2 chargers, the need for infrastructure upgrades at the building and for Orangeville Hydro are minimized. By delivering electricity for EVs off-peak, Orangeville Hydro could dramatically increase revenue and profits. Since the Town of Orangeville owns Orangeville Hydro, this could increase the dividend that the Town

receives and save taxpayers money.

If every overnight parking spot in Orangeville had access to a 120-volt outlet, everyone would have the option to buy an EV or PHEV, they would save the most money once they did own one, the costs to condominium owners and Orangeville Hydro would be minimized, and the Town would receive bigger dividends from Orangeville Hydro. A simple step into the future that saves us all money.

Rob Strang
Orangeville

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Pride month

I've promised in the past and will continue to maintain that I will always acknowledge and celebrate Pride Month. After all, what's not to celebrate? Love, family, friends, and a world where we all just simply accept one another for who we are regardless of colour, race, religion, ethnicity and yes, sexual orientation.

This simple acknowledgement of being human is represented by a rainbow flag full of all the beautiful colours we see naturally occurring in this wonderful world of ours. As a simple piece of fabric billows in the breeze it's a beautiful symbol of a movement, and of acceptance. Or is it?

Unfortunately, a flag is often the most divisive scrap of material you'll ever come across.

Flags come in all shapes and sizes representing nations, specific causes, unity and peace, trade unions, or even businesses and non-profits, yet it seems the simple act of raising a flag invites some of the very worst behaviours in some people to emerge.

What a world we live in and right now, that world only seems to be getting worse with those on the far-right feeling more embold-

ened every day to spew hatred, and in some cases even violence, towards those in the LGBTQIA+ community.

This backward slide is manifesting itself in a number of ways both locally and globally. Companies, particularly large U.S.-based organizations, are bailing on sponsorships of local Pride-related events. Here at home, Pride celebrations in Toronto have been impacted by both Google and Home Depot withdrawing their support completely and another large organization, Merck Canada, a pharmaceutical company, reducing their contribution amounts.

Kojo Modeste, executive director of Pride Toronto, has also said "other sponsors, namely Nissan Canada and Adidas, have also not renewed their sponsorships, while The Abnormal Beauty Company and Tim Hortons have lowered their contribution amounts."

It's been suggested that much of this is a reflection of America's walking back of DEI initiatives.

It's wrong there, and it's certainly wrong here.

Pride7, an affinity group of "independent, non-governmental individuals that work to create policy recommendations," and which include organizations like Egale Canada, are working to "promote and protect the rights of LGBTQ+ people among G7 member states."

With the G7 meeting in Alberta underway, they are "calling on top government officials to meaningfully advance LGBTQ2S+ rights," noting that "Even in the world's most advanced economies, 2SLGBTQI rights are under threat," according to Helen Kennedy, executive director of Egale.

"Rising hate, disinformation, and policy rollbacks show that progress is not guaranteed. G7 leaders must take this seriously – by listening to LGBTQIA+ voices, adopting the Pride7 Communiqué, and recognizing Pride7 as an official part of the G7 process."

It would seem now, more than ever, that such efforts are very, very necessary.

Locally, this upcoming weekend, Orangeville will host Celebrate Your Awesome, a weekend-long Pride event full of fun activities and plenty of entertainment. Sadly, it looks like all the nasty voices are coming out of the

woodwork to comment on it.

I've been told again and again not to engage in a thought war in an echo chamber because it's a waste of time, but at what point do we stop letting the hateful comments slide and fight back? You don't have to be rude, just ask a very basic question of our fellow community members: where is your sense of common humanity? We are all just humans trying to exist in this world. What happened to some of you that you have so much hate in your heart directed towards one group of people?

We cannot go backwards.

My hope for this weekend's celebration, for the Pride Toronto celebrations and for the flag that represents Pride, is that communities gather in celebration of the fact that Love is Love.

It really is that simple.

Let the flag be a representation of acceptance, and let Canada be an example to the world of that philosophy – locally, and on the world stage at the G7 summit.

SHERALYN ROMAN
TALK CALEDON



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR: Here's what the community is saying...

Mark Carney must present a budget

Dear Editor,

During the election, Mark Carney said that a plan beats no plan. A budget is a plan, and Canadians need a plan now more than ever. Instead, he's saddling Canadians with more debt, more bureaucracy, and more inflation.

Last week, Mark Carney introduced half-a-trillion dollars of spending with no budget. It's the first time outside of COVID that has occurred in decades. His proposal would in-

crease government spending by 8 per cent with much of this spending going towards bureaucracy, consultants, and contractors. This makes Mark Carney even more expensive than Justin Trudeau. Under Carney, consultant spending will skyrocket 37 per cent, costing Canadians \$26 billion a year.

Mark Carney's spending bill will drive up inflation and interest rates above and beyond what they would otherwise be. He's

doing this at a time when Canada is witnessing a record increase in the number of people who are unable to pay their bills.

Conservatives urged Mark Carney and his Liberal government to introduce a budget before the House of Commons rises for the summer, outlining how he will pay for all this spending. He promised that he had a plan ready to go during the campaign and he now refuses to introduce one, making it

a year since Canadians received a clear look at the government's finances.

Canadians cannot afford an even more expensive Liberal government. It's time for Mark Carney to present a plan to lower government spending and the cost of living for Canadians.

Kyle Seebach
MP for Dufferin-Caledon



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Peacefully at Headwaters Health Care Centre on Wednesday, June 11, 2025, at the age of 93.

Beloved husband of Jane Adams, and the late Gwen Adams (1994). Cherished father of Rob Adams (Jane), Andrew Adams (Christine), Lynne Adams, and Alan Adams (Emily). Proud and loving grandfather of Alex, Emily, Johnathon, Matthew, Ben, Hugh, Liam, Anderson, Madeleine, Gwen, Thomas, Spencer, Evan, Cade, and Tate. Loving brother of Patricia and the late Margaret (2003). Fondly remembered by Jane's family—Helen Dowd (Tim), Dorothy McKay (Carl)—as well as extended family, dear friends, and the Orangeville community, who will deeply miss him.

Clark was a lawyer, judge, entrepreneur, father, grandfather, author, skier, pilot, cottager, gentleman farmer, and world traveller. Born on April 29, 1932, in Long Branch, Ontario, he graduated from the University of Toronto's Ontario Agricultural College (OAC) and subsequently from Osgoode Hall Law School. He moved to Orangeville, Ontario in 1962 and practiced law for over 30 years. A passionate contributor to his community, Clark served on many local organizations, including the Rotary Club, and was Chair of the Dufferin County School Board. He was appointed Queen's Counsel and was honoured by the Law Society of Upper Canada with the Bicentennial Award of Merit for Public Service.

A lifelong optimist, Clark had the perfect temperament to be a devoted Toronto Maple Leaf fan. His sharp wit, dry humour, and deep love of music were well known. He had a beautiful singing voice—performing in musicals in his youth—and continued to sing nightly alongside Jane at the piano, even at 93.

Clark led by example, modelling kindness, humility, and unconditional love. He was a devoted father and grandfather, never missing a game, recital, or milestone, and always beaming with pride at his family's accomplishments. He lived a remarkable life, but his greatest legacy is the strong and loving family he built.

A Celebration of Life will be held at the Dods & McNair Funeral Home & Chapel, 21 First Street, Orangeville, on Thursday, August 14, 2025, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Memorial donations may be made to the Headwaters Health Care Centre Foundation.

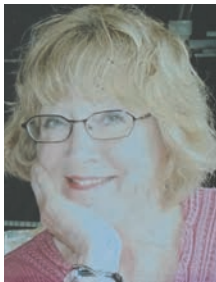
A tree will be planted in Clark's memory in the Dods & McNair Memorial Forest at Island Lake Conservation Area. Condolences may be offered at www.dodsandmcnair.com



SHELAGH MARGARET JANE ROBERTS

JUNE 29, 1941 - MAY 30, 2025

Shelagh Roberts, who passed away at home in Orangeville on May 30, 2025 at the age of 83. Beloved daughter of May & Lou Roberts (deceased), sister to Kathy Duncan and husband Bruce, and the fun-loving Aunt of Matthew and Russell Duncan, and Kate Hart with many beloved friends.



Shelagh will be remembered for her immense generosity, adventurous spirit and the strength she had every day. Shelagh was amazing one woman show, blending the precision of IBM with her love of attending the Stratford stage annually. She wasn't one to mince words, but you always knew where you stood - and she made you laugh while telling it like it is.

She had a passion for travel in her younger days and a life long love affair with fine materials - whether sewing up a storm or quilting a masterpiece of words, she stitched joy into every project.

Friends are invited to a Celebration of Life in Orangeville on July 6th at the Museum of Dufferin Historic Corbetton Church from 1-4 pm. Address: 936029 Airport Road, Mulmur, Ontario

In lieu of flowers, donations in Shelagh's memory to the Orangeville Food Bank would be a fitting encore.



DIANE DARLENE TEETER NEE FUDGE

NOVEMBER 20, 1945 - JUNE 5, 2025

It is with great sadness that the family of Dianne Darlene Teeter announces her passing on Thursday, June 5, 2025. Beloved wife of Wayne Teeter, dear mother of Brad and his wife Joanne as well as daughter Kim. Cherished grandmother of Drew Roper.



Predeceased by her brother, David, Fudge, and parents Gordon and Eileen, Fudge.

Dianne will be greatly missed by other relatives and friends.

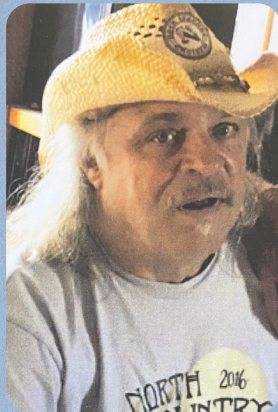


As per her wishes, Dianne chose to be cremated and laid to rest with her husband Wayne Teeter at the Erin United Cemetery and forego the traditional funeral service.

We invite you to celebrate her life in your chosen way privately with your families and friends. We appreciate your understanding and support during this difficult time to honour my mother's wishes, I know she will be present with us in spirit.

IN MEMORIAM

In Memory Of



Brian (Beau) Paul Callaway
June 20, 2024

A light from our lives has gone

A voice we loved is still

*A place is vacant within our hearts
Which never can be filled.*

*A bouquet of beautiful memories
Sprayed with a million tears
I wish God could have spared you
If just for a few more years.*

*So rest in peace dear loved one
And thanks for all you've done
We pray that God has given you
The crown you've truly won.*

Love you son, brother & uncle

Mom - Marilyn
Clayton & Rosanne
Tyler, Tara, Derek & Jacob
And all his loyal friends

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

**CELEBRATION OF LIFE
for Eric George Bryant**

A celebration of life for Eric George Bryant will be held on Saturday, June 21st, 2025, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. in the Museum Room at the Shelburne Legion, 203 William Street, Shelburne.

If desired, donations to the Canadian Cancer Society or Diabetes Canada would be appreciated. Online condolences and donations may be made at www.jackandthompsonfuneralhome.com



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