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PETER RICHARDSON PHOTO

THE BEST IN BBQ: The Orangeville Rotary Ribfest returned to the Alder Playing Fields from July 18 to 20 for three days of delicious meats, live music and family fun. About 24,000 people attended the event, and the Rotary Club of Orangeville will know in a few weeks how much money was raised in support of its charitable projects. See more photos on Page A7.

Memorial moving to Orangeville in honour of late volunteer firefighter Dan Little

Written By SAM ODROWSKI

Canada's very first memorial for firefighters had a decommissioning ceremony at the former Gravenhurst Campus of the Ontario Fire College on July 13.

With the Gravenhurst Campus shut down, the Ontario Firefighters' Memorial that was built there in 1988 needs a new home, and that new home will be in Orangeville. The relocation, taking place this fall, is in honour of late volunteer firefighter Dan Little, who served with the Orangeville Fire Service from 1949 to the year he passed, 1989.

Little, who grew up in Shelburne, conceived the idea of creating a memorial after seeing one at the Michigan State Firefighters Conference, which he attended annually for 14 years. Once the idea was formed, Little worked tirelessly over six years to turn his dream into a reality, as a tribute to the bravery and sacrifice of firefighters who have died in the line of duty.

"We are incredibly honoured that the Firefighters Memorial will soon call Orangeville

home. This monument is a powerful tribute to the bravery and sacrifice of firefighters who gave their lives in service," said Orangeville Mayor Lisa Post, who attended the decommissioning ceremony.

"Its move to Orangeville holds special meaning, as former firefighter and Orangeville resident Dan Little was instrumental in its creation. With the closure of the Ontario Fire College, it truly feels like the memorial is coming home. We are committed to honouring that legacy with the care and respect it deserves."

The monument will be relocated to a visible location along Riddell Rd. in Orangeville.

"We are prepared to create a very safe, on-going space, where families can come and recognize the sacrifices of their family members, where we can all come together to pay tribute to all the firefighters who have come before [us]," said Mayor Post.

Orangeville Fire Chief John Snider shared a speech at the decommissioning ceremony, reflecting on the monument and Little's efforts to bring it to fruition.

Continued on Page A4



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

HONOURING HIS DEDICATION: Dan Little, who passed away in 1989, spearheaded Canada's very first memorial for firefighters, which currently sits at the Gravenhurst Campus of the Ontario Fire College. With the Gravenhurst Campus shutting down in 2021, the monument has needed a new home, and what better place than Orangeville, where Dan Little served as a volunteer firefighter for over 40 years. The monument will be relocated to Riddell Street in Orangeville this fall.



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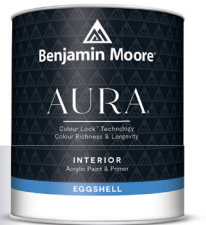
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Headwaters hospital works to bring down deficit spending

Written By JAMES MATTHEWS

The professionals at Headwaters Health Care Centre are focused on partnerships.

Such relationships are paramount at the Orangeville hospital to effectively provide health services to Dufferin County and the region.

Kim Delahunt, the hospital's president and CEO, described some of the health care successes of the past year to Mono council when it met July 15.

"We're really focused on partnerships," she said. "These days you can't do anything alone. All the community partners, the hospital, community providers, we all have a big role to play."

To that end, the crowd at the hospital launched a cardiac wellness program with Orangeville, using one of the municipality's facilities. And approval has been granted by the province for expansion at the hospital's emergency department.

That work is underway, she said.

"It's also going to slightly expand our diagnostic imaging department," Delahunt said. "And our lab department will then move downstairs because all of this will happen within the current building structure."

Thanks to a focus at the hospital on patient waiting, she said Headwaters is one of the top facilities in the province for having some of the lowest patient wait times.

"For any long-waiters, which are individuals that were waiting an extra-long time coming out of COVID, we got that list right down,"

she said.

Further to that focus on the patient experience, Delahunt said the staff of family and patient advisors has been increased.

She said much thought is being given about the future and how to respond to developing challenges. A rapidly aging population in Dufferin-Caledon is reflected throughout the province.

But there's one difference. That is the higher increase in people aged 65 and older in Dufferin-Caledon and residents aged 20-29. Those demographics in the region are growing faster than the provincial average.

"So we are planning at the hospital now for increasing access to senior services," she said. "We're doing that planning."

And then: "We are looking at ensuring that we are fiscally responsible," she said.

In fact, there's provincial effort to have all Ontario hospitals balanced in the next three years. Headwaters started considering that last year and a plan has been formulated.

"We decreased our deficits year over year already," she said. "And we have plans to do so."

Pending approval from Queen's Park, Delahunt said there are plans for a complete redevelopment and expansion at Headwaters for the next 10 years and 20 years.

The hospital will need to add another 239,000 square feet to its footprint to accommodate that growth. There are 86 in-patient beds at the facility and, with the population growth that's expected, the hospital should have 158 beds.



FILE PHOTO

WORKING TOGETHER: Kim Delahunt, the president and CEO at Headwaters Health Care Centre, told Mono council when it met July 15 how partnerships have benefited the hospital.

That means essentially doubling many of the programs and services at the hospital.

"This is a massive addition, massive expansion," she said.

"If you ask somebody in the community if they have any healthcare concerns, two of the things that come up are a lack of physicians and wait times in the emergency department," Councillor Ralph Manktelow said and asked what plans were in the works to deal with those issues.

Delahunt said physician recruitment is a big focus for the hospital.

"We have some short-term plans and long-term plans," she said. "I wish there were more short-term plans and strategies."

Headwaters' partnership with the fledgling Toronto Metropolitan University's School of Medicine is part of a long-term plan. Student doctors are already working at Headwaters and some of them may decide to stay after their schooling.

Benefits were also reaped by the hospital's participation in a one-year pilot program using a physician recruiter with Dufferin County.

"It's a long process," she said. "It's relationship building."

Orangeville woman starts movement, seeking recording of her late father's voice

Written By PAULA BROWN
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Cathie Clarence has started a movement called #FindDadsVoice in the hopes of finding a recording of her late father's voice.

"I lost the last recording I had of him, and now I would give anything just to hear him again — even just one word," the Orangeville resident wrote in an email to the Free Press.

"My dad taught gun safety and conservation across Ontario, and I believe someone out there might have a recording of him from a course, a show, a meeting ... anything."

Robert Edward Lane Clarence, known by most as Bob, was born in Etobicoke and grew up in the west end of Toronto. He went to Thistletown Collegiate Institute and eventually moved to Orangeville where he started his family and lived the rest of his life.

Bob was an outdoorsman, hunter, and teacher. Over the years he taught firearms acquisition licence and then possession and

acquisition licence firearm safety courses. He helped stock local fishing ponds and served as president of a hunters and anglers club.

Bob battled skin cancer in his late 20s and was later diagnosed with colon cancer. He died in October 2021.

"He was deeply involved in the community — always helping others prepare for hunting season, teaching responsibility and safety, and volunteering his time," said Clarence.

As much of an involved community member, Bob also fostered a close relationship with his daughter, Cathie.

"We were incredibly close," she said. "He was my rock, my best friend, and the one person I could always count on. We shared everything — meals, stories, drives, jokes. He wasn't always the most emotional guy, but his love came through in everything he did."

Bob left a final recording for this daughter before he died in which he said: "I want everyone to know that I love my daughter Kathy so very much ... even though she's a pain in

my a**."

"That's the kind of love we had. Real, strong, and full of heart," said Clarence.

The recording of Bob's last message has since been lost.

Speaking with the Free Press, Clarence noted the impact finding a recording of her father's voice would have for her family.

"His voice is the one thing I can't get back — and not being able to hear it feels like losing him all over again. It's like there's a hole in the world where he used to be. Just to hear one word ... it would give me something I could hold on to. Something I could pass on to my son, so he knows what his grandfather sounded like. This search is about more than just me — it's about memory, legacy, and not letting the ones we love disappear completely," said Clarence.

Anyone who may have a recording of Bob Clarence's voice is asked to reach out to Cathie Clarence by emailing, iamcatclarence@gmail.com.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

REMEMBERING: Bob Clarence was an avid outdoorsman, hunter and teacher before his death in 2021 from colon cancer. Before his death, Bob left behind a final recorded message to his daughter, which has since been lost. His daughter, Cathie Clarence, has started an online movement called #FindDadsVoice in the hopes of finding a recording of her late father's voice.



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Firefighters prove they’re up for the challenge at local competition

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

Firefighters from across the region showcased their skills to the local community last weekend.

Ready 4 Rescue, a mobile training and testing service for firefighters, hosted a Firefighter Extreme Challenge at Trainer Games in Shelburne July 19.

“The public holds firefighters at a high standard, but also don’t really know what we do,” said Sabrina Caruso, co-founder of Ready 4 Rescue. “They see the red fire truck, the gear and know you’re going into a fire, but they don’t really understand the steps and what is involved before you even walk into a fire.

“With this, the public can see the exertion, the heat exhaustion, and what it feels like to work under load.”

Firefighters were tasked with making their way through an obstacle course, which included pulling a 200-pound sled, climbing

50 feet, an overhead pike pole, carrying and hoisting tools, and crawling while dragging a charged hose line.

The obstacle course was completed while wearing a 50-pound training pack.

The event saw 10 firefighters compete and about 15 community members test their mettle.

Brendan Neely from Oakville Fire Department placed first in the men’s heat of the course, Christine Martel from Caledon Fire Department place first in both the women’s heat and partners with Brain Ewles, also from Caledon Fire Department.

“It’s a very accurate picture of the physical demands of the job with a well-rounded combination of fitness. Pushing, pulling, and lifting while being aware of where you’re at in time and space,” said Neely, who has been with the Oakville Fire Department for nine years and previously volunteered with the Mulmur/Melanthon Fire Department.

The event also served as a fundraising op-

portunity for the Canadian Fallen Firefighters Foundation with donations collected through a silent auction and “boot drive.”

“Every firefighter knows that there’s a risk involved in their job,” Caruso said. “You never know when you go in that it’s you or a brother or sister that does down on the job. We want to support any non-profit organization that is willing to go the mile to take care of those people and their families.”

Founded in 2003, the Canadian Fallen Firefighters Foundation (CFFF) is a registered non-profit charitable organization dedicated to honouring Canadian firefighters who have died in the line of duty.

In addition to honouring fallen firefighters at an annual memorial ceremony on Parliament Hill in Ottawa, the organization also helps provide financial assistance, support programs, and scholarships and bursaries for the children and spouses of the fallen firefighter.

“Everything we do is through fundraising efforts. Grassroot efforts like this, where we benefit from the money that’s raised, is the lifeline of the CFFF,” said David Sheen, the foundation’s president. “The emotional resilience of the families is so incredible and inspiring. We have found that it means the world to these families to know that their loved ones are not forgotten.”



PAULA BROWN PHOTOS

PUT TO THE TEST: Ready 4 Rescue, a mobile training and testing service for firefighters, hosted a Firefighter Extreme Challenge at Trainer Games in Shelburne on Saturday (July 19). Firefighters from across the region competed in a timed obstacle course that put their training and skills to the test. The event also served as a fundraising for the Canadian Fallen Firefighters Foundation, which aims to assist the families of firefighters who have died in the line of duty.



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UPCOMING MEETINGS

Date	Time	Location	Meeting	To listen in
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*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

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Orangeville Public Library

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The Town of Orangeville will observe modified hours for Civic Holiday

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Alder Recreation Centre*

Sat., Aug. 2	7 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Sun., Aug. 3	7 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Mon., Aug. 4	Closed

Tony Rose Memorial Sports Centre*

Sat., Aug. 2	Closed
Sun., Aug. 3	Closed
Mon., Aug. 4	Closed

Libraries (Alder Street and Mill Street)

Sat., Aug. 2	Alder Street	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
	Mill Street	10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sun., Aug. 3		Closed
Mon., Aug. 4		Closed

Transit

Sat., Aug. 2	7:15 a.m. - 6:15 p.m.
Sun., Aug. 3	No service
Mon., Aug. 4	7:15 a.m. - 8:45 p.m.

* Recreation customer service hours may vary from the facility hours.

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Planner, Development and Community Improvement (full-time)

Infrastructure Services department

Salary range: \$86,450.36 to \$101,650.67

Reporting to the manager of the Planning division, this role is responsible for reviewing planning and development applications, helping update planning policies and rules, and coordinating the Town's Community Improvement Plan (CIP) programs.

Application deadline: Friday, August 1, 2025 at 4 p.m.

Senior Program Leader (part-time)

Community Services department

Hourly range: \$27.15 to \$31.77

Working under the recreation programs and events supervisor, this position helps with planning and running recreation programs and events, supporting program leaders and making sure programs are safe, positive, and meet the needs of participants and the community.

Application deadline: Friday, August 1, 2025 at 4 p.m.

For full duties, qualifications, compensation breakdown, and employment terms or to apply visit orangeville.ca/jobs.

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Decommissioning ceremony held at Gravenhurst Campus of the Ontario Fire College

Continued from Front

“We stand here today at an important moment in Ontario Fire Service history. A moment where we’re here to gather to bid farewell, to an important symbol that has graced the grounds of the Fire College since it was unveiled in 1988,” said Snider. “The firefighter memorial is not just a physical structure, but a poignant tribute that resonates with the unsung heroism, courage and selflessness embodied by firefighters across our province. This monument serves as a steadfast reminder of those firefighters who are no longer with us.”

He added that he would be remiss if he did not acknowledge and celebrate the passionate advocacy that created the monument in the first place.

“It was the dream of a devoted volunteer from Orangeville Fire, Dan Little, whose vision and perseverance ensured this tribute even exists,” Snider said.

Little’s first day as a volunteer firefighter happened by accident, but nonetheless, it marked the beginning of his four-decade-long role at the Orangeville Fire Service.

“Dan was driving his transport truck through Orangeville when the fire chief commandeered it to block traffic at a fire,” Snider recalled. “From that day forward, Dan was a volunteer firefighter.”

“He was a volunteer firefighter by mistake, but the next 41 years were definitely not a mistake, and we cherish every year that he served with us,” Snider added.

Dan Little’s son, Robert Little, attended the decommissioning ceremony and said his family is “ecstatic” about the memorial moving to Orangeville.

Robert remembers the many years Little

spent in meetings, on phone calls and travelling to other communities to ensure the families of firefighters would have a place to pay their respect. He recalls Lt. Governor Lincoln Alexander sitting at the kitchen table of their Elizabeth Street home in Orangeville, discussing plans for the monument.

With no monument for firefighters existing anywhere in Canada before 1988, Little built the very first one.

Reflecting on Little’s dedication to the Orangeville Fire Service, Robert remembers many Christmases and holidays where he wasn’t at the dinner table because he was out extinguishing fires and saving lives.

His mission was to keep people safe.

“Volunteer firefighting is much more than just the firefighter itself. So often, the volunteer firefighter embraces and touches the entire family, whether it be missed birthdays or holidays or those events that are interrupted by the siren or the pager going off,” said Snider.

During his remarks at the decommissioning ceremony, Snider thanked the Little family for the impact the memorial has had on the fire service over the years.

“Thank you to all that are here today for being part of this endeavour, for your support and for keeping the spirit of every firefighter alive in our collective hearts,” he said.

Former Orangeville fire chief and Orangeville councillor Andy Macintosh also attended the ceremony and reflected on his time working with Little.

“Dan had seen a need. He realized there was not a fitting tribute for Ontario firefighters, both past and present. So, it began his six-year journey to correct this. His countless hours of meetings, travelling, phone calls and fundraising finally paid off on Oct. 2, 1988, with the dedication of this very fitting monument.”

Macintosh added, “This monument will have a great home in Orangeville. It’s almost as if, in a way, it’s actually coming home. I would like to thank the Fire Marshal’s Office and all the people that will be involved in the moving of this monument.”

Gravenhurst Fire Chief Jared Cayley spoke at the decommissioning ceremony as well. he noted that for the last four years, the monument has sat outside of the public’s eye. The Gravenhurst location of the Ontario Fire College (OFC) closed down on March 31, 2021.

“The decision to close the OFC grounds left it in limbo, no longer to be seen, to inspire or to promote the remembrance of those who have gone before,” said Cayley. “Soon, it will rest in a new home, a new site from which to remind the next generation



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

NEW CHAPTER: The decommissioning ceremony of the Ontario Firefighter Monument took place at the Gravenhurst Campus of the Ontario Fire College on July 13. Solicitor General Michael Kerzner, Deputy Solicitor General Mario Di Tommaso, Gravenhurst Fire Chief Jared Cayley, Orangeville Fire Chief John Snider, Gravenhurst Mayor Heidi Lorenz, Orangeville Mayor Lisa Post, Orangeville Councillor Andy Macintosh, Deputy Fire Marshal Jon Pegg and Fire Marshal John Macbeth attended the ceremony.

of firefighters what this job really means. A public site where its visibility to the community around it will remind them of what it takes to answer the pager, the gong or the bells.”

“May it stand straight and tall for many years to come,” Cayley concluded.

After the OFC closed the Gravenhurst Campus, the Little family expressed interest in having it preserved in Orangeville.

“I would like to express my sincere appreciation to Dan’s family for Dan’s commitment to the fire service, for his support in establishing this memorial, and for the efforts to preserve Dan’s wishes,” said Deputy Fire Marshal Jon Pegg, during a speech at the decommissioning ceremony.

“Bringing this memorial home to Orangeville will help the community and the province continue to honour his commitments to his neighbours.”

Gravenhurst Mayor Heidi Lorenz also shared a few words at the ceremony.

“I would be remiss to say we aren’t a little disappointed to see the monument leaving Gravenhurst, but I know it will be

in terrific hands in Orangeville, under the care of my counterpart, Mayor Lisa Post and her council and staff,” she remarked. “I want to thank the little family for coming here today and say that I’m grateful for the opportunity to pass along the monument.”

The monument stands at eight feet tall, on top of a two-foot cement base. It is made of black granite from India at a cost of \$125,000 when it was installed in 1988.

Saunders Monuments Co., based out of Orillia, built the monument. The company also made the nine-foot-tall bronze Terry Fox monument that sits near Thunder Bay in 1982.

Little’s dedication to his community and country extended beyond his role at the Orangeville Fire Service. He served as a Canadian Armed Forces member in the Second World War and has volunteered with countless mutual aid associations as well as the Ontario Firefighters Association, where he held several roles, including president.

He is remembered by the community for his dedication to service and keeping Dufferin County residents safe.





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SAUCEY SUCCESS: Six ribbers and several food trucks were set up for the weekend. The Campfire Poets and Larry Kurtz performed to an appreciative crowd on Saturday, July 19. Children enjoyed a climbing wall and various activities throughout the Ribfest. The best ribbers received trophies for bringing excellent flavours to the community. The Ribfest is an annual event that supports the not-for-profit Rotary Club of Orangeville.

PETER RICHARDSON PHOTOS

National Dental Care Day helps provide free dental care to underserved individuals

Written By **BRIAN LOCKHART**

The mayor and council of Orangeville have officially proclaimed October 10, 2025, as National Dental Care Day, joining a movement offering free dental care to underserved individuals.

The initiative provides dental care with no income threshold, paperwork, or judgment. It provides dignity for those who require dental work, but can't afford it.

At the heart of this movement is Dr. Raj Khanuja, who runs Headwaters Dental in Orangeville as well as several other clinics.

His personal mission to serve the underserved has blossomed into a national call to action.

Dr. Raj launched this new initiative after receiving the Ontario Medal for Good Citi-

zenship, in recognition of the over \$385,000 in free dental care delivered through his clinics since 2012.

Every year, Dr. Raj hosts a free dental care day for those who require help. He does not ask why they need free dental care and does not require anyone to provide proof of income.

From offering free care at his clinics to inspiring a coast-to-coast network of kindness, Dr. Raj's journey reflects the best of Canadian values: compassion, dignity, and community service.

"Dentistry isn't just about teeth – it's about dignity, about giving people the confidence to smile again," Dr. Raj said. "No one should miss life's precious moments because they can't afford dental care."

Dr. Raj was inspired to start his initiative

through encounters with patients like a single mother who postponed her own dental care to buy hockey equipment for her son. Another patient, who was a wheelchair user, just wanted to smile in her daughter's wedding photos.

Dr. Raj saw first-hand the transformative power of compassionate dental care.

National Dental Care Day calls on every dental clinic to open at least 'one chair for one day' to individuals in need.

Six provinces and over a dozen cities have issued proclamations supporting the cause, with endorsements growing weekly.

"If each clinic opens just one chair, together we can restore thousands of smiles in a single day," Dr. Raj said.

You can learn more at the movement's official website at NationalDentalCareDay.ca.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

PROCLAMATION: The Town of Orangeville has proclaimed Oct. 10, 2025, as National Dental Care Day. The initiative, led by Orangeville dentist, Dr. Raj Khanuja, encourages dental clinics across the country to provide one dental chair for one day to help underserved people.



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New community hub for sewing and creativity opens its doors in Orangeville

Written By **SAM ODROWSKI**

Art lovers and sewers throughout the region now have an additional outlet to explore.

New retail and creative space, Maudlin, is celebrating its grand opening weekend Aug. 1 to 3, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day, at 234 Broadway.

Maudlin founder Chelsea Bullock notes that it is more than just a shop – Maudlin is a place where people can gather, connect, create and support Canadian-made art.

Maudlin offers sewing classes for adults of all skill and memory levels. Memory items are crafted from sentimental clothing, and there is a thoughtfully curated selection of eco-friendly, Canadian-made goods from small businesses across the country.

“Our goal is to create a warm, inviting space where people can connect, learn something new, and take home something

meaningful,” said Bullock, Maudlin owner and instructor. “Whether you’re looking to try sewing for the first time, preserve memories with a custom item, or discover unique Canadian-made products, Maudlin is a place where everyone is welcome.”

In-store events will be taking place all weekend long at Maudlin to celebrate the grand opening.

“Visitors are invited to tour the new space, learn about upcoming classes, browse the retail section, and enjoy special opening weekend offers. All sewing machines and supplies are provided for classes — no experience or equipment required,” reads a statement from Maudlin on the grand opening.

“Maudlin is proud to champion Canadian small businesses and eco-friendly practices. From custom memory quilts to gifts you can feel good about – every item tells a story.”



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
ARTISTIC ADDITION: Maudlin at 234 Broadway is a new business that offers Canadian-made art and sewing classes. Maudlin is celebrating its grand opening over the weekend of Aug. 1 to 3.

Dufferin Chapter of Project Linus warms hearts of local children and teens facing challenges

Written By **SAM ODROWSKI**

A local not-for-profit group of quilters and blanketeers is providing the warmth of handmade blankets to children and teenagers experiencing illness or difficulty in their lives.

The Dufferin Chapter of Project Linus, established in 2023 by Christine Taylor, consists of dedicated individuals who craft the blankets at no cost to those who receive them.

Since the chapter was formed, over 300 blankets have been donated in Dufferin County.

“All blankets are freshly washed, come packaged in protective plastic bags and include a note card explaining a bit more



about Project Linus and their blanket gifts,” explained Christine Taylor, Project Linus Dufferin Chapter coordinator. “We simply want to offer something special to comfort a child during a difficult time in their lives.”

Taylor, who creates blankets herself, spends much of the first half of the year collecting blankets from generous groups and Project Linus members. During the later part of the year, she drops off the collection of donated blankets to be distributed by organizations.

“The blankets that are provided to the children of this program are a very special gift from members of their community who have quilted, knit, or crocheted blankets with love and care in the hopes that it makes a child or teen feel safe, warm, and cared for during a difficult time in their lives,” said Taylor. “These blankets have comforted children in hospital, receiving treatments for illness, they have been provided to children who are grieving the loss of a loved one, to teens who are struggling with mental health, and to any child who may be facing troubling times and could use the comfort.”

She added, “It is our hope that these blankets provide them with something of their own that they can wrap up in when times feel uncertain or challenging.”

Project Linus recently donated blankets to the women and children that Family Transition Place supports through its emergency shelter.

Caledon Dufferin Victim Services will soon receive a donation of blankets from the local chapter, which are distributed to

its crisis response teams and gifted to children and teens at the scene of a crisis.

The local chapter also provides blankets to the Grand Valley Angel and Hamper Program, that provides food and gifts to children and families in need around the holiday season.

Taylor said that her group is actively seeking more avenues to support people in need.

“I am always looking for new community partners that support children and teens in the Dufferin County area, who can help place blankets into the hands of those who may be experiencing serious illness, trauma, or are otherwise in need of comfort during a troubling time,” Taylor noted.

The Dufferin Chapter is made up of about 15 individuals who regularly contribute blankets. The chapter also receives regular donations from a group of about 25 people, known as the Sewcial Stitchers Guild in Orangeville.

Taylor said her chapter is always looking for more blankets to donate, and more places to donate them to. She can be contacted at projectlinusdufferin@gmail.com for interested people and organizations.

“There are many ways for someone to get involved with Project Linus Dufferin, of course we are always looking for new blanketeers of all skill levels. You can donate one blanket or as many as you would like – every blanket counts towards making a difference,” said Taylor.

“If you are passionate about sewing, knitting or crocheting, get your friends and family involved in making blankets too, it is



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
CRAFTING CAUSE: Christine Duncan, Project Linus Dufferin Chapter founder and coordinator, holds up a bag of blankets that was donated to children and youth in need. Project Linus is a nation-wide not-for-profit that is made up of sewers who craft blankets for children and teenagers experiencing illness or difficulty in their lives.

very rewarding. We also accept donations of quilting fabric, yarn and supplies as it helps our blanketeers keep costs down when making a blanket donation.”

Notice of complete application for an Official Plan & Zoning bylaw amendment (file number OPZ-2025-01)



The Town of Orangeville has received a complete application to amend the Official Plan and Zoning By-law No. 22-90, as amended, pursuant to Sections 22 and 34 of the Planning Act, R.S.O. 1990.

Land subject to this application:
The application includes 4 residential properties municipally known as 9, 11, 13 and 15 Amanda Street. The subject land is approximately 0.87 hectares (2.2 acres) in an area located between Wellington Street and Town Line, south of Broadway.

Purpose and effect of the application:
To permit the development of a five-storey stacked townhouse development with underground parking for vehicles and bicycles. The development will consist of seven townhouse blocks with a total of 120 units. The development will include 132 underground vehicle parking spaces and 124 bicycle parking spaces. Site access will be from Amanda Street.

Official Plan amendment request:
To redesignate the property from Low Density Multiple to High Density Residential, with a Specific Area Policy.

For more information about this matter, including information about appeal rights:
Contact Larysa Russell, senior planner, Infrastructure Services at lrussell@orangeville.ca. Inquiries can also be made in-person at the Planning division offices located at 87 Broadway.

Subject property map





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<p>2021 NISSAN SENTRA SV</p>  <p>STK# 7486T • 125,534 KM • 2.0L I4, CVT, FWD, SUNROOF, SV PREMIUM PACKAGE, HEATED SEATS, APPLE CARPLAY & ANDROID AUTO, REMOTE START, DUAL-ZONE CLIMATE CONTROL, BLIND SPOT WARNING, REAR CROSS TRAFFIC ALERT, AND MORE!</p> <p>\$72 WEEKLY INCLUDE HST 84 MONTHS WEEKLY LICENSING EXTRA \$19,103 ^{+HST/LIC} \$0 DOWN @ 9.49% O.A.C. C.O.B \$7,060</p>	<p>2021 VOLKSWAGEN ATLAS EXECLINE</p>  <p>STK# 7321P • 160,614 KM • AWD V6, HEATED & VENTILATED SEATS, CAPTAIN'S CHAIRS, PANORAMIC SUNROOF, DIGITAL COCKPIT, NAVIGATION, 360° CAMERA, APPLE CARPLAY, ANDROID AUTO, FENDER PREMIUM AUDIO, ADAPTIVE CRUISE CONTROL, POWER TAILGATE, AND MORE!</p> <p>\$124 WEEKLY INCLUDE HST 84 MONTHS WEEKLY LICENSING EXTRA \$32,825 ^{+HST/LIC} \$0 DOWN @ 9.49% O.A.C. C.O.B \$12,130</p>	<p>2021 VOLKSWAGEN TIGUAN HIGHLINE</p>  <p>STK# 7622P • 72,465 KM • 2.0L TURBO ENGINE, 8-SPEED AUTOMATIC, AWD, BLACK LEATHER INTERIOR, PANORAMIC SUNROOF, HEATED FRONT SEATS, HEATED STEERING WHEEL, 8" TOUCHSCREEN, APPLE CARPLAY & ANDROID AUTO, BLIND SPOT MONITOR, BACKUP CAMERA, DUAL-ZONE CLIMATE CONTROL, 19" ALLOY WHEELS, AND MORE!</p> <p>\$107 WEEKLY INCLUDE HST 72 MONTHS WEEKLY LICENSING EXTRA \$27,213 ^{+HST/LIC} \$0 DOWN @ 6.99% O.A.C. C.O.B \$6,123</p>	<p>2020 GMC SIERRA 1500 DENALI ULTIMATE</p>  <p>STK# 7480T • 100,237 KM • 6.2L V8, 10-SPEED AUTOMATIC, 4WD, MULTIPRO TAILGATE, 22" POLISHED WHEELS, BOSE PREMIUM AUDIO, HEADS-UP DISPLAY, HEATED & VENTILATED SEATS, HD SURROUND VISION, WIRELESS CHARGING, ADAPTIVE CRUISE CONTROL, AND MORE!</p> <p>\$206 WEEKLY INCLUDE HST 84 MONTHS WEEKLY LICENSING EXTRA \$54,737 ^{+HST/LIC} \$0 DOWN @ 9.49% O.A.C. C.O.B \$20,227</p>

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Arts & Entertainment



LOCAL COMMUNITY EVENTS

Theatre Orangeville's Young Company musical takes stage at Opera House this weekend

Written By **CONSTANCE SCRAFIELD**

This weekend is Theatre Orangeville's Young Company's musical, a powerful show that is completely different from everything they have ever done. It's more challenging on every level, exciting and life-changing for the young actors and all of us rushing to buy tickets to see it. Four performances are on this weekend from Friday, July 25, through Sunday, July 27.

"This cast of 18 young actors are exceeding expectations," declared Jennifer Stewart, Theatre Orangeville's new artistic director.

Stewart was speaking to the Citizen by telephone from the Orangeville Opera House, where she and the Young Company cast were doing their first tech rehearsal in the theatre.

"They're experiencing a grand sweep with this blend of Greek mythology, Romeo and Juliet, mixed with a modern twist, to bring determination and hope. This is nothing like anything they've ever done- thoughtful, intelligent, really stretching their dancing, singing and acting. This is challenging and super rewarding," said Stewart.

For Stewart, in her first time directing for Theatre Orangeville, it has been weeks of seeing the young thespians grow. When asked why she went with such a challenging show, she noted that it was the Young Advisory Committee that proposed it for Young Company this year.

"It's about teenagers," she said. "It is very poignant to hear them speak these words, the Romeo and Juliet story fresh and new, these actors are really saying."

Stewart noted that the impact this show is having on these teens is a life-changing experience for some who are really young.

She went on to explain that two co-op students are working with the creative team involved in building the sets and learning about lighting. For this show, there is a revolve in the theatre as part of the stage setting, which is a large part of how their first day in the theatre has been spent: understanding how the revolve is going to work, for at first, it didn't. A day of working out the details.

They are up to the challenge, and when the Citizen was talking to Stewart, it was clear the process was fruitful.

"They're all rising to the challenge," Stewart was excited to note. "They can sense the team effort with the problem of the revolve. They were offering solutions, taking the initiative."

Already a winner of eight Tony awards and still playing in New York and London, U.K., where the actors in this show are adults playing teenagers, the Young Company participants are actually teenagers.

"Different story lines all intertwined," she defined it. "The impact on these teenagers for their own lives in the theatre."

It has been wonderful for Stewart, she was emphatic to say, directing this show and especially with the "amazing support of the creative team, who do anything to make anything easier," and the networking with Theatre Orangeville's office team to promote the show, amid the restrictions of its licensing terms.

In brief, this story takes place in the Underworld, where Monster City has been created with a "wasteful wall" to keep freedom in. The intricacies of the story are yours to discover when attending the show.

It is very engaging, Stewart assured. Some of the singing involves six-part harmony, and their singing of the music is beautiful.

All their skills are being tested by this performance.

"It's been hard work," she said. "There have been tears, laughing and frustrations."

How she feels is, "for any show, you go in with an open mind and heart. For me, this is special, and the day of the work is all about the work – how can I make it more clear?"


She felt it was great to be in the theatre for the first day, making the actors as good as they can be. The difference between directing teens and adults has been teaching the terminology of theatre; working on the revolve, realizing that teenagers get ahead of themselves and can be overwhelmed.

She teaches them to "stay in the moment, trust the process, trust yourselves: we have to make you look good."




YOUNG TALENT: Participants of Theatre Orangeville's Young Company program hold tech rehearsal on stage (before costumes) as they prepare for this weekend's production, running July 25 to 27.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO




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Lauren Arnold
Marketing Specialist

Lauren brings creativity and enthusiasm to the marketing team at Macmaster. With a keen eye for design and a passion for storytelling, she helps showcase the dealership's people, promotions, and personality in fresh, engaging ways. Lauren's approachable nature and drive for excellence make her an integral part of the team's success both online and in the community.




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Evan Chamberlain
Sales Consultant

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Orangeville Volkswagen



Drew Crooks
Sales Consultant

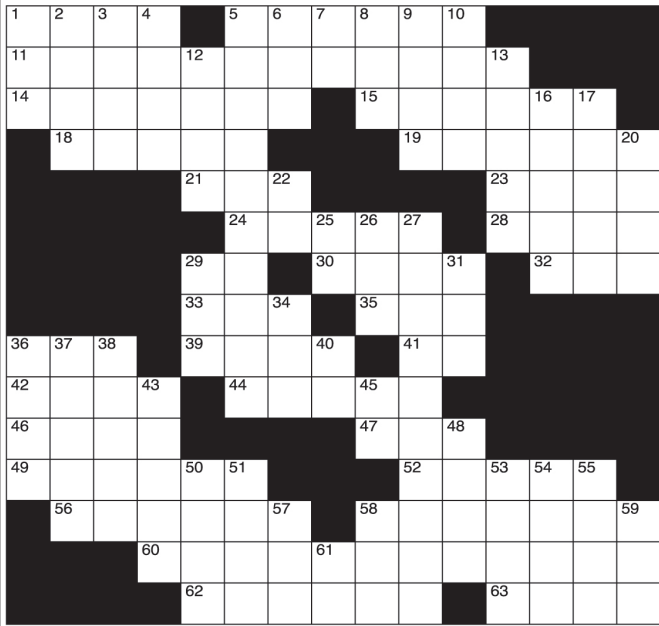
Drew brings a relaxed and easygoing vibe to the showroom, making customers feel right at home. He's dedicated to creating a low-pressure, enjoyable experience for every guest, with a strong focus on listening and finding what truly fits their needs. Drew's approach is honest, approachable, and backed by a genuine love for cars.



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The Citizen CROSSWORD

Puzzle No. 257510 • Solution on page: CLASSIFIEDS SECTION




CLUES ACROSS

- Popular potato snack
- Guards the Pyramids
- Furnish anew
- Herb
- Preoccupy the mind continually
- The lowest adult male singing voice
- NATO commander (abbr.)
- A major division of geological time
- New Zealand parrot
- Notions
- Lump in yarn
- Indicates position
- Lose hold of
- Hindu honorific
- Former OSS
- Electronic data

CLUES DOWN

- Earliest human form: ___Magnon man
- Flavoring
- Notion
- processing
- Cost per mile
- Snake-like fish
- They start the alphabet
- Taylor Swift's tour
- Intermediate ecological stage
- Scarlett's home
- Of he
- Ohio city
- Breakfast item
- An evening party
- ___ Falls
- Linked together
- Mythological spirits
- Small Eurasian deer
- Bundy and Fenwick are two
- Qualities of sound
- One who gets paid
- Expresses surprise
- O.J. trial judge
- Pointed ends of pens
- Shield bugs genus
- Container for shipping
- Upper body parts
- Closes tightly
- Nigerian World Heritage Site
- Volcanic island in Fiji
- Commercial
- ___ denotes past
- They ___
- Confraternities
- A way to gain a point
- Parts per billion (abbr.)
- Brew
- Badgers group
- Sailing boat
- ___ Polo, explorer
- Elder citizen (abbr.)
- Frankish law code
- Exclamation of surprise
- Groan
- It presses clothing
- Do not allow
- Gelatinous substance
- Common Japanese surname
- Present in nature
- Electronic countermeasures
- Last or greatest in an indefinitely large series
- Commercials
- News agency

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



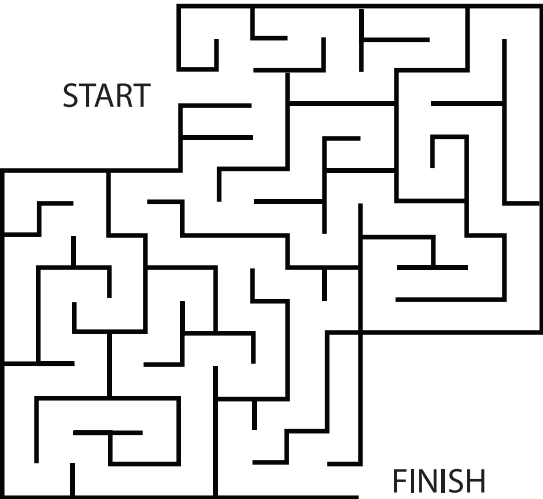
kids' corner

How they say that in...

English: Dolphin
Spanish: Delfín
Italian: Delfino
French: Dauphin
German: Delfin


Maze Craze

Find your way through the center of the maze.



START


FINISH



World FACT:

This beach in the U.S. Virgin Islands was ranked #1 on the list of the "World's 50 Best Beaches."

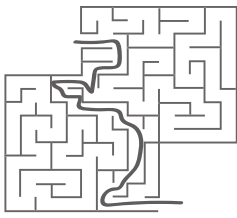
Answer: Trunk Bay




NEW WORD

KELP


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Theatre Orangeville’s Summer Arts Fest is coming to the downtown core

Written By **CONSTANCE SCRAFIELD**

Happy days are here when Theatre Orangeville’s 4th Annual Summer Arts Fest “comes home” to Orangeville’s downtown, over the weekend of Aug. 8 to 10.

With ticketed shows on the David Nairn Stage in the Orangeville Opera House and free events behind it in Alexandra Park, there will be plenty to see over the weekend.

Lisa Lahue, Theatre Orangeville’s technical director, told the Citizen that the Summer Arts Fest was her expansion of the North (519) Best of Toronto Fringe Shows. Lahue originated the idea and is now happy to set it in our midst, a better place in the centre of Orangeville than the original venue at Mount Alverno Resort.

“The town is excited to reintroduce it here in town and grow it in the coming years,” she commented.

The very popular bingo is back inside the Town Hall Atrium, called MUSIC BINGO with drag entertainers from Fluffy Souffle & Troy-

Boy Entertainment. This event is for audiences 19-plus.

From 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, both inside the Town Hall Atrium and in the Alexandra Park next to the Farmers’ Market, will be family entertainment and KidsFEST – all free of charge.

Many other forms of entertainment are promised, such as the magical flea circus, Storytime with Fay & Fluffy, a dance party and much more.

Major among all this, the Artsploration bus will be there, as well as Arts with Jada. Lahue outlined the plan to create a community arts piece with the contributions of all the youngsters doing their bit on the project for the lobby of the Town Hall.

“There is a vendor market of local artisans and their work, which is always welcomed,” she said.

The Fringe shows begin at 7:30 p.m. on Friday at the Opera House, with The Iron Mask: “In ... 1920s Toronto, where jazz and bootleg liquor flow, The Man in the Iron Mask is re-

born as a Prohibition-era musical. Twins — one, a ruthless crime lord draped in silk and sin; the other, a prisoner lost in the underbelly of King St — are bound by fate and a secret buried in blood...promises to be an unmissable ride,” said Lahue.

This story is told with outstanding dance performances by a professional dance company.

The second show, at 9:15 p.m., is “Me and You and the Highland Coo – Jackie and Charlie have a plan: road trip across Scotland, find the perfect Highland coo, and definitely not think about their problems back home in Canada.”

A tale of friendship and self-discovery.

For the first time, a third North (519) Best of Toronto Fringe play is on the schedule for Sunday, Aug. 10 at 2 p.m. A new Canadian Musical, the show is called “Apothecary.” See the write-up for this extraordinary piece at the Summer Arts Festival at theatreorangeville.ca.

The North (519) Best of Toronto Fringe are ticketed shows.

On Friday before the show, The Iron Mask, in the Atrium, Stan Chang and Gary Taylor will be entertaining patrons with their music.

On Saturday, from 6:30 to 8 p.m., Heather Katz will be performing. She may be one of the newest additions to the Summer Arts Fest, but Heather Katz is a long-time, well-known and well-loved performer in this wide region.

“Heather’s performances are straight from her heart to yours,” said Lahue.

These are held in the Lounge Bar, where a bar and concession will be open during the performances.

Lahue is proud that Theatre Orangeville has been able to bring such great Toronto shows to Orangeville. Funded by grants and local supporters, this year’s 6th annual North (519) Best of Toronto Fringe and the 4th Theatre Orangeville Summer Arts Fest will be amazing and once again prove how much the arts mean to this community.

For all the details and to buy tickets, go to theatreorangeville.ca.

PETER RICHARDSON PHOTOS
ECLECTIC PERFORMANCE: Canadian singer-songwriter Emm Gryner took the stage at Windrush Winery in Palgrave on Sunday, July 20 to kick off her summer tour. The three-time Juno nominee performs a gamut of genres, including rock, pop, smooth jazz and heavy metal. A portion of the proceeds raised at the concert will help empower underserved children using the arts at youthLEADarts.com.





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Dufferin Film Festival to feature bold Canadian cinema when it returns next month

Written By SAM ODROWSKI

Downtown Orangeville will soon be transformed into a vibrant celebration of Canadian cinema with the return of the Dufferin Film Festival (DFF) from Aug. 15 to 17.

Keeping up with the momentum from last year's sold-out festival, organizers of the second annual DFF promise to deliver even more stories, voices and immersive experiences beyond the big screen.

The festival will feature 17 Canadian short films, including three world premieres, two Ontario premieres and an Oscar-qualified short film. Six films created by female directors will also be showcased.

The DFF's filmmaker-first approach helps those breaking into the industry to promote their work to a wider audience. With a more intimate feel than other film festivals, the festival is geared towards people searching for a more personal experience.

"We built this to create real connection with Canadian cinema," said festival director Kelly McDowell. "People talk, they connect, they stick around after the credits roll. We celebrate the films, but we also make space for conversation and community. That's what keeps people coming back."

A range of genres will be showcased at the DFF, such as psychological thrillers, animated comedy, fantasy, historical drama, and personal documentaries.

All of the participating filmmakers are Ca-

nadian, and each story shared at the festival reflects a unique perspective from citizens across the country.

A highlight of the festival is the Opening Night Screening, taking place on Friday, Aug. 15. The DFF has curated a powerful selection of short films to kick off the weekend, followed by a Live Q&A and red carpet event at the Orangeville Opera House (87 Broadway).

Also happening Friday, Aug. 15, is a VIP Social at Revival 1863, located in the downstairs area of the Barley Vine Rail Co. restaurant at 35 Armstrong St, Orangeville. This event provides a high-energy evening inside the walls of a hidden speakeasy. Entertainment includes a magician and mentalist, live music by Wild Shot Honey, dancers, prizes and best of all – a chance to connect with film lovers and creators.

A speaker series will kick off on the morning of Saturday, Aug. 16, featuring three industry professionals. This event will provide an intimate morning of insight, mentorship, and conversation about the realities of working in film.

Following the speaker series on Saturday, DFF attendees are invited to two afternoon screenings, featuring fresh, daring and diverse selections of emerging and established talent. There will be a live Q&A as well as a red carpet at the screenings.

Moving into Saturday evening, Social Under the Stars will be held at Greystones Café.

This open-air event will be filled with the smooth sounds of live jazz, while attendees enjoy chef-curated amuse-bouches. This is expected to be a relaxed, refined and radiant event at the DFF.

Last but not least – the Sunday Finale will feature a screening, live Q&A and red carpet at the Orangeville Opera House, followed by the Awards Dinner.

At the finale event, DFF attendees will celebrate the winning films and toast to a standout season over dinner at Greystones Restaurant.

"We've focused on building something that feels honest and connected," said Alex Caucean, DFF film programmer. "Each film is carefully chosen, and the entire weekend is designed to bring people closer — to the work, to each other, and to the joy of great storytelling."

"We built this to shine a light on the incredible filmmaking talent across the country and give them a place where they're not just part of a schedule — they're the main event," adds Nick Rose, DFF's director of



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION: The Dufferin Film Festival (DFF) is set to make a bold return to the local community from Aug. 15 to Aug. 17 and bringing with it bold Canadian cinema.

operations. "And we've worked hard to make the entire experience top-notch — from AV to atmosphere."

With the event selling out last year, anyone interested in attending the DFF should secure tickets early. Tickets are on sale now at dufferinfilmfestival.com. While tickets are available for single screenings, full-access VIP badges are also available for film lovers who hope to take in all the DFF has to offer.

Dufferin County's Youth Climate Activation Circle holds 'Plant Our Future' event

Written By PAULA BROWN
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

A group of young local climate activists are hoping to spark conversations on how native plants can help climate resilience locally with the development of a new garden.

Dufferin County's Youth Climate Activation Circle gathered with community members on June 7 at The Door Youth Centre, located at 9 Centre St. in Orangeville, to plant roughly 240 native plant seedlings.

The native plant garden is part of a project called "Plant Our Future," which was developed by the Youth Climate Activation Circle.

The Youth Climate Activation Circle is a volunteer program hosted by the County of Dufferin that looks to engage youth aged 16 to 25 in climate leadership. Throughout the program, participants receive climate change training, connect with local climate champions and organizations, and participate in a job shadowing program. The program culminates in a youth-led climate action project designed to bring tangible, local change to

the community.

Over the winter, youth ambassadors in the program, with the support of Shaun Booth from In Our Nature Gardens, learned about native plants, their benefits, and how to design an effective garden.

For the native garden at The Door Youth Centre, a mix of seasonal blooming plants, grasses, and edible species was selected to help reduce the need for watering. The selection of plants also provides food and shelter for pollinators and other insects, essential for biodiverse and climate-resilient ecosystems.

"Native species are a vital part of climate action and resiliency," says Youth Climate Ambassador Flora Dickson. "By supporting native fauna, enforcing and stabilizing ecosystems, aiding in mitigation of extreme weather and climate changes, as well as trapping carbon at a higher rate, native plants in Ontario are crucial to climate action".

The native plant garden is the first of many upgrades to the outdoor space at The Door Youth Centre, a drop-in centre that provides a safe and supportive environment for young

people to connect and grow.

The Door is developing an outdoor gathering space for youth and the wider community, including a revitalized greenspace and basketball court. The Door is currently seeking sponsors to bring this community space to life.

"The garden is really just the beginning," said Kerry Duffield, community director of Orangeville Youth For Christ (YFC), which operates out of The Door Youth Centre. "We have a vision for beautifying and better utilizing our outdoor space that includes expanded green space, a new and improved basketball court, a gazebo to offer protection from the elements, and an overall bigger, better space for our youth to gather. That's what we're working on right now – really having a space that will benefit the youth of the community."

Ambassadors in the Youth Climate Activation Program saw firsthand the urgency of their messaging on climate action.

The day before the scheduled event, Environment Canada issued a forecast of "very

unhealthy" air quality conditions as a result of wildfires occurring in Western Canada. In response, the Youth Climate Ambassadors adapted the event schedule to limit time outdoors and planned to supply N95 masks. Overnight winds ended up clearing the smoke in time for the event.

"A wildfire that occurred west of this province affected the air quality and caused changes to 'Planting the Future', which was held the following day," said Youth Climate Ambassador, Adam Shane. "This occurrence indicates how climate change can directly affect initiatives designed for alleviating it."

The County of Dufferin will be welcoming new volunteers to the Youth Climate Activation Circle in September. Dufferin youth between the ages of 16 and 25, who are passionate about climate action and can commit 60 hours to program activities, are encouraged to apply to the volunteer group. The program runs from September 2025 to June 2026.

Applications can be found on www.joinindufferin.com and must be submitted by Aug. 11.

NOTICE OF EVENT AND INCREASED TRAFFIC

July 26-27, 2025

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On July 26th and 27th, 2025, there will be a large event at the place of worship located at 471360 County Rd 11 in the morning.

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Seven Bill Hill Scholarships awarded to students attending post-secondary schools

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

The County of Dufferin has awarded seven local students with scholarships to help them pursue post-secondary education.

The seven students were recognized by the County of Dufferin and presented with the 2025 Bill Hill Scholarship during a special reception held at the Edelbrock Centre in Orangeville on July 9.

Three of the recipients – Ellery Graham, Aislinn Main and Daniel Milone – were graduates from Westside Secondary School. In the fall, Graham will be attending McMaster University for Nursing, Main will attend the University for Political Science, and Milone will attend Wilfred Laurier for Life Sciences.

Damien Bland-Bestward and Imogen Morgan, both graduates from Orangeville District Secondary School, also received the scholarship. Bland-Bestward will be attending Sheridan College for Electrical Techniques, and Morgan will be attending the University of

Guelph for Psychology.

Centre Dufferin District High School's Quinn Millsap was also a recipient and will be attending the University of Western Ontario for Engineering.

Quincy Bradley, who graduated from Columbia International College in Hamilton, received the grant and will be studying at Peking University in China for the Yuke program.

While addressing the recipients, Dufferin County Warden Janet Horner provided some advice to the students.

"If Bill were here, he would encourage you to live your life with courage. Take chances, stretch yourself and stand up for what you believe in. Keep involved in your community. Carry community work wherever you end up. And live well and love. Enjoy life, make new friends, have fun and experience the big world out there."

The scholarship program was introduced by the County of Dufferin in 2014. It recognizes students who pursue post-secondary

education and training in the areas of science and technology, business and social sciences, agriculture and environment studies, arts, and skilled trades.

Originally known as the Dufferin County Scholarship, the grant was renamed in 2018 to honour former council member and Warden Bill Hill. He is regarded as the driving force behind the development of the annual scholarship program.

In 2020, County Council approved adding two more scholarships, within the fields of study, dedicated to recognizing students who identify as Black, Indigenous, First Nations, Metis, Inuit, or Person of Colour.

The seven students selected to receive the Bill Hill Scholarship are awarded a one-time \$2,500 grant.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BRIGHT FUTURE: Seven students from Dufferin County were presented with the Bill Hill Scholarship on July 9 at the Edelbrock Centre in Orangeville.

For more information on the Bill Hill Scholarship Program, visit www.dufferin-county.ca.

Karen Hamilton Field unveiled at opening ceremonies of Memorial Softball Tournament

Written By **JIM STEWART**

The legacy of a longtime Caledon East resident's selfless volunteer spirit was recognized formally during the Opening Ceremonies of the inaugural Karen Hamilton Memorial Softball Tournament last month.

The Lions Diamond at Caledon East Park was renamed Karen Hamilton Field on June 7 to honor the dedicated Caledon East Softball Association coach, executive, and umpire who passed away in 2022 at 79 after a battle with Alzheimer's.

Hamilton's daughter, Kelly McCaffrey, reflected on the poignant unveiling ceremony.

"Having so many people come out and share it with us was the best part of the day. People who knew mom and dad turned out for the 8 a.m. event that we used to kick off the Memorial Tournament. Despite how early it was, so many came out to support mom and dad and the event. I wish mom could have seen this—although she didn't do her volunteer work for the recognition."

The inaugural Karen Hamilton Memorial Softball Tournament was an unbridled success.

As McCaffrey noted, "We raised \$3,000 at our first tournament. \$1,500 was donated to the Alzheimer's Society and \$1,500 was donated to the Avalon Care Centre which was used to purchase a comfortable recliner chair in the palliative care ward. A plaque by the chair will be inscribed with Mom's name on it."

As one of the tournament organizers, Mc-

Caffrey described how each tournament participant was "given a t-shirt and a custom koozie with the tournament logo and date on it. The proceeds from BBQ, which was run by volunteers, contributed to our fundraising total as did local businesses in both Caledon East and Bolton who were so generous."

"In Bolton, SportCheck, Princess Auto, Canadian Tire, Home Hardware, and Party Magic donated raffle prizes which really helped our fundraising. Caledon East businesses that donated prizes and food for players in the tournament included Airport Pizza, Gabe's Country Bake Shop, Foodland Caledon East, and the Caledon East General Store Variety and Convenience."

McCaffrey's own organizational acumen reinforced the adage that the apple doesn't fall far from the tree.

Karen Hamilton's daughter remembered with much fondness her mom's "organizational abilities and her meticulous nature."

"She was generous and humble and she was an amazing seamstress, too. She made bridal gowns and bridal party dresses and could make last-minute alterations for brides and bridesmaids—she thrived on challenges."

One of those challenges was to create a softball league for young players who had aged out of the association's youth leagues but wanted to continue playing recreational ball.

"Mom saw the need for a league so she developed a mixed three-pitch league for the

married players and players in their twenties. The mixed league grew into twelve teams with over 150 players. It was perfect for young couples who wanted to play a sport together and have fun. Mom never did anything for herself. She loved working with people and when she found out that a Caledon bantam softball team didn't have another team to play in their age bracket, she found teams from other nearby towns and they created an inter-town league.

"She did all this for the kids in the Town to ensure they had an outlet and to keep them out of trouble. She even provided transportation for the players who couldn't get themselves to the other towns in the league. She also took her turns running a snack bar at the Lions Park for over thirty years and between her bus runs, she would shop for cases of pop so the snack bar would be well-stocked with drinks for the kids."

Hamilton—a Caledon East resident for more than 55 years and a school bus driver for decades—joined the Caledon East Softball Association executive to assist with House League schedule-making, uniform procurement, to organize season-ending banquets, and, when necessary, devoted time behind the plate as an umpire.

McCaffrey offered insights into Hamilton's love of umpiring.

"There were no on-line courses at the


time so Mom took qualification courses at weekend seminars organized by the provincial association. She knew all the rules—the infield fly rule was her favorite to call or explain when needed. She knew it inside and out."

McCaffrey and her family learned about municipal protocols inside and out when they presented Caledon Town Council with an on-line petition filled with 340 signatures in January 2024 to rename the Lions Diamond at East Caledon Park to Karen Hamilton Field.

Despite some resistance to the renaming of the park due to a municipal policy that discouraged naming Town assets after people, the Hamilton family was undaunted by this kind of technicality.

The success of the Hamiltons' presentation to Council in July 2024 was the result of timely and expert help from one Councillor in particular. According to McCaffrey, "Nick DeBoer was fantastic. He was a totally supportive. Nick helped us work out the fine points of how to prepare for a Council meeting. He knew the family personally and we appreciated his help."

In November 2024, Council passed a motion unanimously to rename the Lions Diamond to honor the memory of Karen Hamilton's contributions to the softball community of East Caledon.



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Deadline for applications is:
August 29th, 2025

Apple heart links local granddaughter and late grandmother together

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

If the apple doesn't fall far from the tree, it also sits close to the heart for a former Shelburne resident, who now lives in Orangeville.

When Jason Monette received a call from his 14-year-old daughter Ella, the last thing he expected was for her to tell him that her grandmother, who passed away nearly four years prior, had made her lunch for the day.

Ella explained to her father that while packing her lunch for school she'd picked a MacIntosh apple to take and, upon closer inspection, she'd found it had a perfect heart shape on the skin. It was a match to one her grandmother had discovered more than a decade before.

"She sent me the picture and it was the same one her grandmother found," recalled Monette. "I stepped back a few steps. It was pretty amazing."

In 2014, the Free Press reported that Monette's mother, Barbara discovered a perfect-

ly shaped heart on her MacIntosh apple.

After a grueling winter in Shelburne, Barbara had gone out and purchased a bag of MacIntosh apples. While washing the bag of apples, she was surprised to find that one was almost completely ripened except for one spot that happened to be in the shape of a heart.

For Barbara, the discovery felt like a profound message: It was a reminder not to lose hope and that spring will eventually arrive.

"When I saw that apple with the perfect heart on it, I thought, with all the turmoil going on in the world it's wonderful to come across something like this," Barbara Monette had told the Free Press.

Barbara passed away in September 2021 at the age of 79.

Speaking with the Free Press, Monette remembered the close relationship Barbara had with her family and grandkids and described her as the kind person who always tried to help others.

Monette said his family has viewed the discovery of the apple as a "heart-lifting" and

"beautiful" coincidence, one that reminds them of their beloved mother and grandmother.

"Grandma was reaching out to her and it was nice to see that. We know she's happy," Monette said.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
APPLE OF MY EYE: Former Shelburne resident Jason Monette's 14-year-old daughter, Ella, discovered a heart shaped mark on her apple while packing her lunch for school. The apple discovery signified a heartfelt moment for the family as more than a decade ago their mother and grandmother, Barbara, discovered her own apple with a heart shaped mark. Barbara was a resident of Dufferin Oaks in Shelburne at the time she made the apple discovery in 2014. The Monette family currently lives in Orangeville.



Melancthon Against Quarries launches letter-writing campaign opposing Strada Aggregate

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

Melancthon Against Quarries (MAQ) is preparing to take the next steps in opposing the construction of a below-the-water-table quarry in north Dufferin County.

The grassroots organization announced in a newsletter on July 16 that they will be launching a letter-writing campaign in opposition to Strada Aggregate's application.

"Letters of objection are huge because Strada must address with you the issues you raise and must attempt to resolve your issues to your satisfaction," Melancthon Against Quarries wrote in the newsletter. "Any unresolved issues identified in your letter of objection will influence the Ministry's decisions and will form part of what it ultimately sends to the

Ontario Land Tribunal for a hearing."

The announcement of the letter-writing campaign comes as a response to Strada Aggregates' notification to the Township of Melancthon on July 11 that they have submitted an application to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forests (MNRF) for a quarry operation within its existing 360-acre sand and gravel pit.

Strada Aggregate initially brought forward a presentation to Melancthon Council in October of 2021, which noted their intention to submit an application for a proposed quarry. The Strada Aggregate quarry was proposed to be constructed in an existing gravel pit, located in the area of 4th Line and County Rd. 17 in Melancthon, and designed to extract 2 million tonnes of aggregate while extending below the water table.

Following the submission of the application, Strada Aggregate's next steps will include giving a "public notice" to the general public, residents, the Township of Melancthon and other government bodies.

During the "public notice" period, which spans 60 days, local residents and members of the public will have the opportunity to provide comments on the application to the Ministry.

At the time of print, Strada Aggregate has yet to provide an official "public notice" of the quarry application.

In preparation for the official "public notice" period, MAQ is advising residents and members of the public to begin drafting their letters and comments for the Ministry.

"Your letter should set out simply and concisely your objections to the first blast quarry in Dufferin County," advised MAQ. "Your letter

can be brief and should contain a simple statement about who you are and why you oppose the quarry."

To help residents submit their letters of concern, MAQ is creating a web-based system, which will allow residents to compose and send their letter of objection directly to the Ministry through the MAQ's website.

"When we know, we will provide you with the names and addresses you will need to send your letter. If you use our website to compose your letter, the names and addresses will be pre-filled by the app."

For more information about the Melancthon Against Quarries initiatives and how to get involved, contact the group by email at info@juststopit.ca. Regular updates can be received by signing up for their newsletter at www.juststopit.ca.

106th International Plowing Match returns this September to highlight Ontario's agricultural living

Written By **RILEY MURPHY**

The 106th International Plowing Match and Rural Expo (IPM) is set to return this Sept. in Grassie, West Lincoln, Niagara Region, and tickets are available now.

Thousands will be descending on the event from all over the province to experience a mix of agriculture, innovation, entertainment and family-friendly fun.

Ontario's agricultural heritage will be on full display, while creating the future of farming through world-class plowing competitions, a

tented city, educational exhibits, livestock displays, live entertainment, food vendors, and family fun zones, said organizers in a media release.

The IPM will have plowing competitions, numerous opportunities to learn about agriculture, hundreds of vendors and exhibitors with large and small equipment, lifestyle items, a wide variety of food, and an RV Park.

This celebration of agricultural living showcases much of what our province, and local communities, has to offer.

As the IPM is being held in Niagara this

year, attendees can also experience the local surrounding wineries.

Six local wineries will serve their product at the event.

Many different surrounding industries will be on display, including peaches, apples, grapes, corn, chickens, dairy, and much more.

Heavily agricultural areas can take advantage of the various agricultural equipment available at the IPM.

Organizers of the event shared representatives from the agricultural sector will be present and available to answer any questions.

"We're really proud to showcase our local community and all the people on the committees are very proud to give back to our community," said Renate McGillivray, Chair of the IPM 2025 Local Organizing Committee.

She said profits generated by the IPM are donated to groups and organizations within the local community where the event is hosted.

The event will run from Sept. 16 to Sept. 20.

Tickets are available for purchase at www.plowingmatch.org/ipm2025/visitor-info/tickets.

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Junior A Northmen eliminate Kitchener-Waterloo in first round

Written By BRIAN LOCKHART

The Junior A Northmen advanced in the Ontario Junior A Lacrosse League playoffs after eliminating Kitchener-Waterloo in the first round in a three-game sweep that wrapped up at Tony Rose Memorial Sports Centre July 17.

It was a fast best-of-five series that was over in five days with just one day off between games.

Game 1 of the series got underway July 13 on Orangeville's home floor at Tony Rose.

That game ended with a 9-8 Northmen win after the Orangeville team took a 3-1 lead in the first period.

Kitchener-Waterloo tied it up twice. A late third period goal from Sean Costigan gave the Northmen some insurance and they took the game with a one-goal lead.

Game 2 of the series took place in Kitchener-Waterloo at the Kinsmen Centre on July 15.

It was a fairly even first period with Kitchener-Waterloo taking a one-goal lead early on. The period ended with Orangeville leading 4-3.

It was the second period where the Northmen took control of the game, scoring four times before KW could respond with a single goal. Orangeville followed up with another goal to lead 11-4 going into the third period. The final period saw only one goal when

Northmen Jaden Ciappara scored with 5:35 remaining on the clock.

The Northmen won the game 12-4.

The teams returned to Tony Rose Arena on July 17 for Game 3 of the series.

It was a powerhouse demonstration by the Northmen that ended this series in three games.

The Northmen were leading 3-0 at the end of the first period on goals from Trey Deere, Dylan Sanderson, and Ayden Matthews.

It was a repeat in the second period when the Northmen shut down the Kitchener-Waterloo offence and placed three more goals into the KW net to lead 6-0 with one period remaining.

Second period Northmen goals came from Deere, Matthews, and Max Kruger.

In a final blast, the series ended when the Northmen scored six times in the third period.

KW managed to avoid the shut-out with a single goal with 3:34 left on the clock.

The final was a 12-1 Orangeville win.

Third period Northmen goals came from Owen Rahn, Sanderson, Aydern Mathews, Liam Mathews for two, and Deere with his third of the game.

In the other series, the Peterborough Lakers eliminated the Six Nations Arrows in three games.

The Toronto Beaches knocked out the Mimico Mountaineers in a three-game



BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO
CLINCHER: The Orangeville Junior A Northmen host Kitchener-Waterloo at Tony Rose Memorial Sports Centre in Orangeville during Game 3 of their best-of-five first-round playoff series July 17. The Northmen won the game 12-1 to clinch the series in three games.

sweep.

The Whitby Warriors advanced after winning Game 5 of their series 11-10 and eliminated the St. Catharines Athletics.

The dates for the next round of playoffs had not been announced at press time.

Junior C Northmen done for the season after loss to Burlington Warriors

Written By BRIAN LOCKHART

Orangeville's Junior C Northmen are done for the season after losing their second-round playoff series against the Burlington Warriors.

The Northmen entered the second round after defeating the Six Nations Stealth in the first round in a series that went the full five games and wrapped up with a 6-4 win in game five on July 6.

In the second round, the Northmen left the floor with an 11-9 win in Game One on July 8 in Burlington.

The series was in Orangeville for Game Two at Tony Rose Arena on July 13.

The Warriors tied the series with a 9-8 win after scoring the only two goals in the third period to take the win.

Holton Marshall was the big scorer for Orangeville in that game, getting a hat-trick for the night.

Burlington took the series lead after leav-

ing the floor with an 11-7 win in Game Three of the series on July 14.

The Warriors had a big second period, scoring seven goals to take the lead.

It was a tie series after the Northmen won Game Four on July 16. Orangeville tied the game in the second period, then went ahead by one on a goal from Rylan Lee late in the period.

Two Northmen goals from Logan Marshall and Cam McClintock in the third period sealed the deal, and the Northmen left the floor with an 8-5 win to even the series and get ready for the teams to have a one-game final showdown to determine a series winner.

The final game took place in Burlington on July 19.

The teams played to a 2-2 tie in the first period.

Burlington got the upper hand in the second period, outscoring the Northmen 8-3 for the period to lead 10-5 going into the final period.

Three more Warriors goals in the third period place the Northmen in a bad situation.

The Orangeville team notched two more goals from Ryan Livingston and Danny Dorval to end the season but it was too late to make any difference in the game, and the Burlington team left the floor with a 14-7 win to end the Junior C Northmen season.

"It was a very successful rebuilding season,

using 14 runners and two goalies that were first-year junior players and a completely new coaching staff," said Junior C Club President Kent Cotton after the final game. "We certainly felt we were capable of winning a provincial title with this group, but there was just a few maturing moments that left us a bit short. We are looking forward to next season with only two graduating players this year."

U15 Boys win first match in iModel C2 division

Written By CHRIS BROOM

The Storm FC U15 Boys evened their record in iModel C2 play with one win and one loss this week, after a convincing 4-0 win over the Football for the World (FFTW) club from Kitchener on Tuesday evening (July 15).

Both teams had competed in May and June in a gruelling pre-season tournament to determine placements in the inaugural iModel West Region league. Orangeville finished eighth in the ten-team U15 Qualifying pool, above the FFTW team. Once the tournament was completed, the top and bottom five teams were separated into two new pools.

Tuesday's game was a messy affair, with each team receiving two red cards, resulting in the ejection of four players from the match. In addition, the FFTW side received several more yellow cards for fouls committed.

Storm FC opened the game with a successful penalty kick goal in the 13th minute of play, as Jonah Traikos scored to give the visiting side a 1-0 lead. Seven minutes later, speedy forward Cameron Izzard doubled the lead to 2-0. Shortly before halftime, Storm FC defend-

er Ben Mazenauer was sent off by the referee, having received his second caution of the match, resulting in Orangeville being reduced to 10 players for the rest of the match.

The second half saw tempers flare on both sides, with an FFTW player being sent off midway through the half for violent conduct in a melee in front of the supporters' sideline that drew a crowd of players.

The teams were now even at 10 players apiece, but not for long. A second FFTW player received a dismissal from the game for intentionally running over the Orangeville keeper. The keeper stayed in the match, but FFTW was now down to nine players.

A short time later, Storm FC forward Izzard was injured on a dangerous tackle, resulting in a free kick that Traikos buried from just outside the penalty area, increasing the lead to three goals.

Unfortunately, Traikos was later ejected from the match for a foul, and both teams were at nine players remaining on the field. A late goal from Payton Deimling sealed the game for Storm FC and the shutout for goalkeeper Wade Myers.

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SUBMITTED PHOTO
FANCY FOOTWORK: Orangeville Storm FC U14 Boys player Shaemus Britnell is seen battling for the ball with an opponent from the Puslinch Panthers in game action on Thursday night. Storm FC prevailed 2-1 in that match. Orangeville remains firmly in second place in the South West District Soccer League U14 Boys Tier 1 division.

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OPINION

Menace to society

“You are a menace to society.”

That’s a phrase a judge in a courtroom would, once upon a time, say to defendants who were repeat offenders and posed a risk to the public.

That was usually followed by a lengthy prison term to keep that person off the street and keep regular citizens safe.

A menace to society could include everything from a person with a history of violence to someone who routinely commits fraud and relieves people of their life savings through deceit and trickery.

I believe everyone deserves a second chance.

Sometimes people do end up on the wrong side of the law, and it doesn’t necessarily mean they are a bad person. People make mistakes.

I know of a few people who were charged with DWI after having a couple of glasses of wine at a wedding or other social gathering. They may have felt sober and good enough to drive, but a roadside breathalyzer showed they were over the legal limit.

In that case, I don’t think a serious punishment is suitable. Most normal people who go through the process of being arrested are probably shaken up enough that it will never happen again.

They were all embarrassed and were all

nice people who just made a bad decision, but they don’t have a criminal mind.

However, there is another type of person who, for some reason, just doesn’t learn from their mistakes. And those mistakes always affect someone else.

I had an acquaintance who was one of these types of people. I refer to him as an ‘acquaintance’ because, as a neighbour, he was one of those guys you had to at least pretend to be friendly with, or you just knew there would be trouble.

He had been arrested for DWI, driving under the influence of drugs, several assault charges and other offences, for which he spent time in jail. After he moved to a different area, he was once again arrested for aggravated assault for stabbing someone in the neck during an altercation.

He had been in numerous fist fights over the years for various reasons – and every time he was drunk. He usually ended up being pummelled into a bloody mess. You think a guy would learn a lesson.

I went to a local event where some of his family were in attendance. I asked if he was going to be arriving.

A family member casually told me that no, he wouldn’t be arriving because he was again in jail on a charge of attempted murder, after stabbing yet another person

in some ridiculous fight.

Yet, three months later, I saw him walking his dog down the street. He had been released – again.

There was a recent traffic collision in Bolton during the first week of July.

As a result, a young man is in the hospital with serious, life-altering injuries, including internal injuries, broken bones, and a head injury. He is currently in a coma, and his family and friends are praying for his recovery.

Traffic accidents happen every day. It’s an inherent danger of driving an automobile.

However, in this case, the person who allegedly caused the accident and put this young man in critical condition in a hospital has already been convicted of drunk driving five times since 2010, and was on three separate lifetime driving bans.

Yet, there he was, driving a car, which he wasn’t supposed to be doing, and driving it while again under the influence, which caused a serious collision that put someone else in serious danger and a life-threatening situation.

After the accident, the man was arrested, again, and charged with Impaired Driving Causing Bodily Harm, one count of Driving With Excess Blood Alcohol, and three counts of Prohibited Driving.

BRIAN LOCKHART
FROM THE SECOND ROW



After being charged, he was released back on the street.

The young man’s father did an interview with CBC News, discussing his son’s current situation and calling for bail reform.

He remained remarkably composed and calm for a man who is probably experiencing a lot of inner turmoil along with the rest of his family.

He questioned why a man with a lengthy criminal record, who is clearly a danger to society and obviously has no concern for anyone else or the law, would again be released back onto the streets while his son languishes in a hospital bed fighting for his life.

Anyone who has been convicted of drunk driving five times, and does it again, and is behind the wheel of a car after being issued three driving bans, clearly is a menace to the roads and society at large.

A lot of people, as well as police, are calling for bail reform to keep the streets safe from people who routinely flout the law and are a menace to society.

Our government needs to step up and ensure public safety.

Next time, it could be you or one of your family members.

Ukraine: Buying time

There was rejoicing when US President Donald Trump announced that he was going to let Ukraine have weapons after all, but it was conspicuously contained joy. Half-smiles and sighs of relief were plentiful; cheers were absent or faked.

The Ukrainians were relieved because this is the first time they will be getting weapons actually ordered by Trump. The stop-go dribble of arms that the US has sent Ukraine at intervals in the past five months was really the tail-end of Joe Biden’s last package, although Trump had to approve each shipment.

What Trump is willing to send now remains unclear, but at least it’s on his own initiative and \$10 billion have been mentioned. And Ukrainians don’t care that the money will really be provided by other NATO members, who will buy the weapons from the US but pass them on Ukraine’s armed forces.

What does concern Ukrainians is that Trump’s threatened ‘secondary tariffs’ (more accurately secondary sanctions) on countries like India and China that are still buying cut-rate Russian oil and gas and supporting Moscow’s war economy won’t kick in for 50 more days.

That gives Russian President Vladimir

Putin 49 more days to bomb Kiev and other Ukrainian cities with impunity, and Trump is notorious for shifting his deadlines to later dates. (TACO, as they say – ‘Trump always chickens out’). Moreover, Trump warned Ukraine not to attack Moscow in return.

So the Russian reaction to Trump’s apparent change of heart was relief that it wasn’t worse. It is mostly “hot air”, wrote Konstantin Kosachev, a senior Russian politician, on Telegram. “A lot can change in 50 days – on the battlefield and in the mindset of those in power, both in the US and in NATO.”

That’s mostly correct, but not so much about NATO, most of whose other members have privately concluded that the United States under Donald Trump is no longer a trustworthy ally.

That leaves them dreadfully exposed if Russia conquers Ukraine and they become the next item on Putin’s agenda. The historical ‘division of labour’ within the NATO alliance has left the Europeans lacking in key military categories like aerial surveillance, satellite data and nuclear deterrence.

Trump imagines that the recent commitment of most NATO countries to spend 5 per cent of GDP on defence – twice or more

than they were spending two years ago – was a response to his demands. It was really a decision to achieve strategic independence from the United States. They have realized they are on their own.

Their problem is that it will take at least five years of strenuous effort to reach that goal, and until then they will still need US support – which explains the fake adulation and fulsome flattery they offer Trump at every opportunity.

Boot-licking is hard work and they probably can’t keep it up for five years, but every month makes a difference. Most European decision-makers understand that a Russian victory in Ukraine must be avoided at all costs, and that they must therefore do whatever they can to keep Trump on side.

Is that really possible? Not if the slide of the United States into a ‘soft fascism’ accelerates. Not if China invades Taiwan and panics the US into a global war. Not if Putin dies or is overthrown, only for an even more ruthless and reckless ruler to take his place.

The negative possibilities are big and plausible – but so are less disastrous outcomes. It is still possible to draw a credible scenario in which the current stalemate in Ukraine

endures for another year or so and then reaches an ‘in-place’ ceasefire like the one that has lasted in Korea for 72 years.

It is possible that the US can be kept in NATO long enough for the European members plus Canada to get their act together and become an independent strategic body. It is possible that China will retain its half-hearted loyalty to the international rule of law and not become another rogue state.

It is likewise possible that the United States, having spent some time under a capricious and authoritarian government, will return to its democratic roots, which run very deep. Regime change in Russia might re-awaken the desire for democracy that was so prominent in the late 1980s and early ‘90s.

It’s not over until the fat lady sings. It’s not even over after the fat lady sings. We are heading into a period where all bets are off because climate change will change all other calculations, and the only rational response will be cooperation on a global scale.

No promises, but despair is rarely the right move.

GWYNNE DYER
OUR WORLD TODAY



Jersey Milk’s demise reveals deeper cracks in economy

The quiet disappearance of Jersey Milk chocolate isn’t just the end of a nostalgic treat—it’s a symptom of deeper economic trouble. A beloved brand dating back to 1924, its removal from store shelves reflects more than changing tastes. It highlights how rising costs, shrinking consumer choice and corporate consolidation are reshaping the Canadian marketplace quietly and at our expense.

After weeks of corporate denials, Mondelez International has finally confirmed what many suspected: Jersey Milk is being discontinued. While the company claims no jobs will be lost—a plausible assertion given that the Gladstone plant in Toronto also produces other brands like Caramilk and Mr. Big—the real story is economic. Jersey Milk had become a low-volume product requiring disproportionately high production resources. In short, it no longer made financial sense.

What’s troubling isn’t just the decision but how long Mondelez took to admit it. Only after weeks of online chatter did the company finally acknowledge what was happening. Companies rarely announce product retirements voluntarily, especially when they involve legacy brands. Jersey Milk was

one of those rare Canadian originals, simple, creamy and a fixture in summer s’mores for generations. For many Canadians, it wasn’t just chocolate—it was a link to childhood, to family traditions and to a brand that felt proudly homegrown.

Behind the silence, though, lies a clearer picture: the economics of chocolate have changed dramatically. Input costs, especially cocoa, have soared.

Cocoa prices have hovered between US\$7,500 and US\$9,000 per metric ton, three to four times the historical average. Since December 2023, prices haven’t dipped below US\$4,000, forcing manufacturers like Mondelez to renegotiate contracts and reassess product lines in an increasingly volatile market. Higher prices don’t just affect luxury items—they drive margin pressures across the board, making companies rethink how many SKUs (stock keeping units) they can afford to maintain.

Each SKU represents a distinct product variation, and managing too many low-volume items can strain efficiency. Even well-known brands can become financially expendable if they no longer justify their shelf space.

While this might seem like the loss of “just

a chocolate bar,” even confectionery tells us something important: when manufacturers pull familiar brands, especially those made domestically, it signals cracks in consumer confidence and broader economic stress. Imported products like Cherry Blossom have also vanished but Jersey Milk’s disappearance feels different. It wasn’t just distributed here—it was created, manufactured and embraced as a Canadian staple. The erosion of domestic production carries symbolic weight.

Canada’s economy is in a strange place. Our population is growing, but productivity and real incomes are stagnating. That leaves food processors and retailers under pressure to streamline offerings and focus only on top sellers.

The gradual disappearance of once-familiar items from grocery aisles is more than just branding—it’s evidence of economic contraction, weaker investment and a drift toward sameness. We’re not just losing products; we’re losing part of the texture of everyday Canadian life. The narrowing of available choices reflects deeper constraints on innovation, risk-taking and consumer engagement.

And that sameness has consequences. Fewer products mean less competition

and less competition means higher prices. As options disappear, large players gain more control over pricing and market access. Consumers lose not just variety but also affordability and agency.

In a healthier economy, some company might take a chance and launch a replacement for Jersey Milk. But in today’s market, where both producers and consumers are cautious, innovation takes a back seat to risk management. It’s easier to cut than to create.

Jersey Milk’s quiet exit is more than a nostalgic loss. It’s a subtle but significant economic signal: when simple pleasures disappear, it’s often because real choice has become a luxury. Chocolate may not be essential—but in hard times, small comforts matter more than ever.

Dr. Sylvain Charlebois is a Canadian professor and researcher in food distribution and policy. He is senior director of the Agri-Food Analytics Lab at Dalhousie University and co-host of The Food Professor Podcast. He is frequently cited in the media for his insights on food prices, agricultural trends, and the global food supply chain.

SYLVAIN CHARLEBOIS
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COMMUNITY VOICES

Monthly Message: Family Transition Place gives hope to survivors of sexual violence

Three simple yet powerful words — we believe you — are at the core of what the Lotus Centre at Family Transition Place (FTP) is about.

For 40 years, hope has always been behind the doors to FTP, and it is found behind the doors to the Lotus Centre, too. Originally established with a grant from the provincial government during the pandemic, FTP's Lotus Centre continues to provide enhanced support to those who have experienced sexual violence, as well as to the family and friends who support these victims.

Working from the premise that sexual violence is “never your fault,” the staff and counselling team at FTP provide a safe place for survivors to flourish and bloom. It is a symbol of strength, resilience and rebirth — of beauty without blemish. At the Lotus Centre, healing is possible, and together, the dedicated team helps clients to discover their inherent strengths and acknowledge their own power.

FTP was granted new annualized funding in 2021 through the Ministry of the Attorney General for Sexual Assault Programming in Dufferin County to enhance its existing sexual violence services. In consultation with partner agencies — Headwaters Health Care Centre (HHCC) and Dufferin Child and Family Services (DCAFS) — FTP developed a model for this new centre to expand the collaborative services available in this community.

HHCC provides important emergency medical attention for any victim of sexual violence, and a dedicated nurse collects important forensic evidence.

DCAFS provides support and counselling for youth. FTP provides support and counselling for those 16 years of age and older. The creation of the Lotus Centre allowed FTP to build on the existing services by providing enhanced mobile crisis response; counselling support to survivors, their family members and friends; peer support and community outreach and education within schools and sports teams. This collaborative approach serves the community well, with each organization delivering services within this scope of practice and expertise.

All genders and identities are served at FTP's Lotus Centre by a team of dedicated experts committed to recognizing the trauma arising from sexual violence — for survivors and their loved ones needing support.



Holding credentials in social work, counselling and psychology, and with many years of experience behind them, the Lotus Centre crisis intake team and counsellors use a variety of strategies, including trauma-focused therapy, to support survivors. Anyone can call directly for help through FTP's 24-hour support line (519-941-4357 or 1-800-265-9178).

Counselling Supervisor Lauren Babcock comments, “The work of healing trauma related to sexual violence has changed to now include providing support to partners, family members, or friends of someone who has been subjected to sexual violence. This is because the Lotus Centre recognizes the impact this can have on those supporting a survivor, and it can be helpful and beneficial to have a space to learn more about the impacts of trauma, how to respond, and how to take care of themselves and survivors through positive coping.”

What is Sexual Violence?

How do you know if the shame, fear of violence or judgement, or any of the many feelings you might be experiencing are because of sexual violence? The answer is simple: “If something didn't feel ‘right,’ then it probably wasn't.” Lauren explains, “It's important to help clients understand and acknowledge that what they went through was indeed sexual violence and in no way their fault. Often, there are reasons why people dismiss or downplay their experiences, and it is helpful to explore that. Ultimately, we meet the clients where they are at.”

FTP is not the only agency to have replaced terms like “sexual assault” with “sexual violence” and “victims” with “survivors.” Empowered survivors who feel “heard, understood and validated” don't think of themselves as victims any longer.

Sexual violence can be historic or recent, but at its core, sexual violence includes being subjected to an unwanted and non-con-

sensual touch or sexual act, sexual abuse, sexual assault or rape, trafficking, stalking, sexual harassment or exploitation, or being exposed to language or behaviour or the non-consensual sharing of images. What matters most, however, is how you felt about what was experienced.

Lauren adds, “We don't want to ‘label’ people's experience, especially if they don't want it labelled...we want to help people work through how something has impacted them.”

Beyond counselling and support, the Lotus Centre has a second and equally important component to its work and that is the important role that education plays in reducing sexual violence. Barb Mason, Sexual Violence Community Engagement Facilitator, shares that education is an essential aspect of the work the Lotus Centre will undertake in the community.

She said, “To be able to provide excellent support to survivors of sexual violence and their loved ones is a priority but, how do we stop the cycle? How do we target the root cause of the issue? How do we get to a point where we actually see a shift in culture that translates into a reduction of sexual vio-

lence in the communities we serve? Education is the key to prevention.”

Since the centre's inception, we have connected with hundreds of individuals through community agencies, youth, school boards, sports organizations and even area businesses to ensure everyone knows about the Lotus Centre, how it can help, and that eliminating sexual violence is the responsibility of us all.

Sparking a sustained cultural change might seem daunting, but if anyone is up to the challenge, it's the team behind the Lotus Centre at FTP.

Here you will find a safe space, counsellors who understand trauma, who are “respectful, gentle and kind,” and who will listen so that you feel “heard, understood and validated.” Perhaps most importantly of all — you will find people who believe you.

If you or someone you know needs support, compassionate staff are available to help 24/7. Call 1-800-265-9178.

If you are in immediate danger, call 911.
Article by Brenman Solecky with excerpts from We Believe You, written by Sherilyn Roman and published in FTP's 2022 HOPE Magazine.



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR: Response to McKenna’s July 17 letter on Zionism

Dear Editor,

It was never my intention to prolong this correspondence to the point of tediousness. Ms. McKenna’s missives are getting lengthier, more repetitive, by her own admission, and are taking on a whiff of desparation.

To address her points briefly, the United Nations provides valued services worldwide but is a deeply flawed organization whose anti-Israel bias has been apparent for many years. Only two years ago, it appointed Iran to chair a conference on human rights! And it continues to ritually bash Israel at every opportunity.

Odd, as she notes, that Palestine was left off the alleged ‘list’ of wrongfully colonized lands – is it possible that those lands were not theirs in the first place? It takes some mental gymnastics to say, on one hand, you are not anti-Semitic, but on the other, that you are against Jews having a homeland.

Strange, again that she cites Nuremberg as providing ‘a measure of justice’ (only 19 convictions, hardly justice for 6 million murders) and then goes on to characterize IDF soldiers and the Jewish state itself as Nazis in everything but name. I won’t take up half the page to address each of Ms. McKenna’s alternative news flashes. I am hoping that readers will take the time to investigate and make up their own minds.

If it is her conviction that Hamas’ stated purpose to destroy Israel is harmless because they don’t have the capacity to do it, then what does Israel’s capacity to destroy the Gazan people and choose not to do it make them? Civilized? Conversely, Hamas has, nevertheless, managed to find the capacity to kidnap, rape, torture, starve and/or murder over 1,300 people, making 10/7 comparable to 9/11 in many ways and done for the same reasons – a visceral hatred of the West and the Enlightenment values our society stands for. Her freedom fighter narrative is to the contrary.

If the Palestinian people still support their jihad, much as Muslims in other regions support ISIS, Al-Qaeda, the Taliban,

Al-Shabaab, etc., it is not as though they have much choice – democracy has been absent from Gaza since 2007 and showing a lack of support for Hamas there can lead to one’s untimely demise.

LeeAnn’s denial of their crimes, especially the gender-based type, appalls me. She also speaks of Muslims here suffering the fallout from the conflict. The Jewish Diaspora is in much worse shape. The vast majority of hate-based crime in Canada (over 70 per cent) is anti-Semitic. A friend of mine, who was the executive director of the Jewish Cultural Centre in Toronto before her retirement, dealt with bomb threats on a near-weekly basis.

This will be my final letter in response to Ms. McKenna. I will leave the last word to her, should she want it, with my blessing. I am hopeful we all can agree that the conflict in Gaza should stop and I believe that a ceasefire is close at hand. What will happen next isn’t clear.

The elimination of Hamas’ ability to wage war on its neighbours for the foreseeable future is a necessity, as part of a wider strategy to do the same to Hezbollah, the Houthis and, most importantly, Iran, all of which Israel should be thanked for.

The fate of the Palestinian people is interwoven with that, and I wish them well. I do not subscribe to Ms. McKenna’s ideological oppressed/oppressor view of the world; it leads one down some very dark pathways and is blind to the complexities of human interaction.

The children in Israel and Gaza have never known a time when their neighbours weren’t trying to kill them. Imagine living in a world like that.

Empty political debates like this one accomplish very little besides raising the temperature and hindering any path to peace. Unless each side can give a little, the hate will continue. As it does almost everywhere.

Sincerely,
Garth Stiebel
Mono



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR: Pollinator mural lauded

Dear Editor,

The volunteers of the Mono Pollinator Garden love the new Mural and what it stands for. It is spectacular. If, in his article, the writer had mentioned the Mono Polli-

nator Garden on Hockley Road just East of Hwy 10, we would have been even happier. Come see it. Visitors are always welcome.

Jutta Holden, lead gardener
Orangeville

Impaired driving charges laid by Dufferin OPP

Motorcyclist charged with impaired driving related offences

Dufferin Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) charged a Shelburne resident with impaired driving-related offences following a traffic complaint on July 11.

Shortly before 9 p.m., officers responded to a report of a motorcycle in the ditch near James Street and Sarah Court in Shelburne. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the male driver and observed signs of impairment, prompting them to initiate an impaired driving investigation.

Justice Hewitt, 30, from Shelburne, has been charged with:

- Operation while impaired - alcohol and drugs
- Operation while impaired - blood alcohol concentration (80 plus)
- Novice driver - B.A.C. above zero
- Possess unmarked cigarettes
- Driver fail to surrender licence

The accused individual is scheduled to appear before the Ontario Court of Justice in Orangeville. Their driver’s licence was suspended, and their vehicle was impounded.

None of the charges have been proven in court

Mischief, impaired driving charges

Dufferin Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) officers charged an Orangeville resident with impaired driving-related offences following a call for service on July 13.

Shortly after 12:15 a.m., officers responded to the call for service at Perry Road in Orangeville. They located the suspect vehicle and conducted a traffic stop. Upon speaking with the male driver, officers observed signs of impairment, prompting them to initiate an impaired driving investigation.

Chad Burt, 49, from Orangeville, has been charged with:

- Operation while impaired - blood alcohol concentration (80 plus)
- Mischief
- Driver fail to surrender licence

The accused individual is scheduled to appear before the Ontario Court of Justice in Orangeville. Their driver’s licence was suspended, and their vehicle impounded.

The charges have not been proven in court.

Operation Safe Driver wraps up in Dufferin County

Written By **SAM ODROWSKI**

Dufferin Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) officers recently concluded the Operation Safe Driver Campaign, which ran from July 13 to 19.

Dufferin OPP officers conducted pop-up inspections to ensure identified Commercial Motor Vehicles (CMVs) met the required safety standards to operate within the community’s roadways, as part of the campaign.

Drivers were also checked for compliance on proper licensing, registration, documentation, pre-check inspections and hours of work. Officers focused on vehicles travelling around these large trucks and high-risk driving behaviour as well.

“It is our mission to promote the safety of all road users throughout the Dufferin Detachment area and reduce the frequency and severity of incidents involving CMVs, including a reduction in fatalities, injuries and property damage resulting from these incidents,” reads a statement from the Dufferin OPP on the campaign.

The initiative was spurred by the increasing and considerable presence of CMVs on roadways throughout Dufferin County.

“Due to the size, weight and loads, these vehicles have increased potential of causing serious collisions due to vehicle mechanical fitness, driver fatigue, improper licencing

and/or driver behaviours,” reads Dufferin OPP’s statement.

Operation Safe Driver began in 2007 as a way of reducing the number of crashes, deaths, and injuries involving large trucks, buses, and passenger vehicles due to unsafe driving behaviours.

Started by the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance (CVSA), the campaign aims to improve the behaviour of all drivers operating in an unsafe manner, especially in or around commercial motor vehicles. This is achieved through educational and traffic enforcement strategies to address individuals exhibiting high-risk driving behaviours.

“Road safety is a shared responsibility, and we all have a role to play. Commercial vehicles are heavy and require greater stopping distance. Motorists are reminded to leave plenty of space for these large vehicles to slow and stop safely,” reads Dufferin OPP’s statement.

As part of Operation Safe Driver, Dufferin OPP shared the following five tips: no phones while driving, leave room and move over, stop tailgating, don’t forget to signal, and have all your paperwork organized.

“We would like to thank the majority of safe drivers who are found to be in compliance. We depend on our professional drivers to help contribute to safe roads,” reads the Dufferin OPP’s statement.

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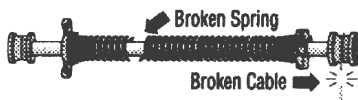
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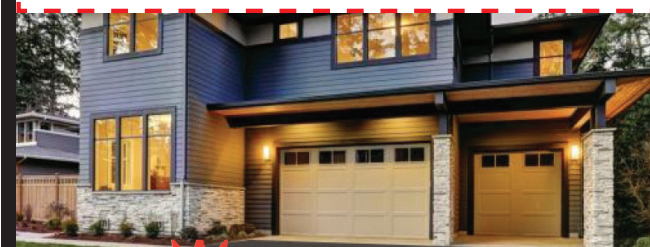
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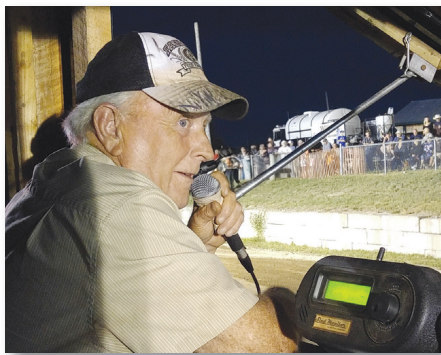
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OBITUARIES



Edward Gardhouse

February 29, 1944 - July 12, 2025

The power of a simple smile was never lost on Edward Gardhouse, who passed away peacefully at Southlake Health on July 12, 2025, at the age of 81. If you ever had a conversation, he probably signed off with a simple, "Keep smiling!" Now, as the community remembers him, they're doing so in the most fitting of ways: smiling with each and every memory.

Born on February 29, 1944, in Malton, ON, Ed had the rare distinction of celebrating only 20 official birthdays — a lighthearted reflection of his unique spirit and big sense of humour. Throughout his life, Ed was known for his kindness, integrity, and unwavering dedication to those he loved — and the communities he called home.

Ed built a life marked by hard work, quiet wisdom, and a deep appreciation for life's simple pleasures. Whether spending time with family, enjoying the outdoors at cattle shows or tractor pulls, or offering a helping hand to a neighbour, he lived each day with grace and humility.

Growing up in a family that raised prize-winning purebred Hereford cattle, which were exhibited all across Ontario, including the CNE and the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair, he began his off-farm working career as a cattle buyer for Gamble & Rogers at the Toronto Stockyards and then Brussels Livestock. Ed later transitioned to being an auctioneer, balancing this work with farming in the once-rural Unionville, and being involved in the local 4-H Clubs as well. When the family relocated to the Schomberg area, Ed started his own auction business, E&M Auction Services, which was a staple in the community for decades.

Ed also loved tinkering, which stood him in good stead when his career shifted from the auction business later in life, first to Reinhart Trailers in Snelgrove (Brampton) then to Hepburn Trailer Sales in Schomberg, where he served as parts manager. If people came in and needed something they didn't have on hand, he didn't hesitate to find a solution or manufacture what was needed — and his family remembers he could build just about anything.

With a voice that became synonymous with countless community events over the years, he was simply driven by a desire to give back, and this extended to his work as a volunteer firefighter in Unionville and surrounding communities in his younger days.

Ed will be remembered for his steady presence, thoughtful words, and the way he made those around him feel seen and valued. He was always a person who could be counted on, was always the first to lend a hand and donate his time. He simply loved people and people loved him.

He is remembered as a big supporter of the Schomberg Agricultural Society and the Georgian Bay Steam Show, bringing laughter, lifting everyone up and making them feel seen and respected, and simply for being a stand-up guy.

Ed is survived by his wife of 40 years, Martha (née Mulholland), his daughter Becky, whom he was so proud of, and his "buddy" and son-in-law, Tom Freiday. He also leaves behind his dear friend Kevin Holmes (Stephanie), whom he loved like a son. He was predeceased by his sister Linda and his parents, Bert and Bertha Gardhouse. He is sadly missed and forever remembered by his niece and nephew, his cousins, extended family and countless friends.

In keeping with Ed's wishes — and true to the way he lived — there will be no formal service. Ed never liked a fuss and didn't want to see anyone sad. Instead, his wish was for a celebration of his life to be held, where stories could be shared, laughter encouraged, and his memory honored with joy — and smiles.

A celebration of Ed's life will take place on Sunday, July 27, 2025 at the Trisan Centre, 25 Dillane Drive, Schomberg, ON, from 1 – 5 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Ed's memory may be made to the Ontario 4-H Association or the Georgian Bay Steam Show — two organizations close to his heart. Online condolences and memories may be left for the family at www.RodAbramsFuneralHome.com.

OBITUARIES

RUTH REAVE (BELL)

JAN. 30, 1929-JULY 12 2025



On July 12, the long and fulfilling life of Ruth came to an end, and with that, the end of a generation of Bowerings.

She was born on January 30, 1929, in the small town of Lambeth, now a part of London. She was the youngest of six children born to Myrtle and Alfred Bowering. They farmed in nearby Melbourne. Their family life was very much like the Waltons. Good but hard during the depression.

She remembered coming home from school on winter's night with the house aglow. They had gotten electricity. She remembered taking produce to the London market by horse and buggy and her father driving the sleigh in the winter, wrapped in a buffalo robe.

The 1950s brought her marriage to Walter Reave, a life as a homemaker, and the birth of two of her children. It was a time of many firsts, primarily a new house which she never thought she would be able to afford.

In the 1960's the world was changing. A move to "Canada's first suburban City", Bramalea. Women were entering the workplace and gaining more independence. Ruth first worked at Northern Electric and then found her calling as a salesperson in jewelry. She retired from that love at 75.

Ruth was predeceased by her husbands Walter Reave and Gordon Bell as well as daughters Sandra and Victoria. She leaves behind her son Stephen and wife Susan, and daughter Tamara and her grandchildren Erin, Sasha, Terra, and Dylan. Finally, to her great joy great grandchildren Jacob, Avery, Robert, and Scotia.

MARGARET JUNE MATSON

Our medical miracle passed away peacefully on Saturday, July 19, 2025, at Chesslawn Farm, surrounded by her grateful family. Margaret June Matson (nee Bowman), at the age of 89. Beloved wife of Hilliard Matson (deceased). Loving mother of Dwight (Karen), Darlene (deceased), Ann, Mary (Brian), and David (Lisa). Idolized grandmother of Stuart (Maria), Robert (Julie), John, Ryan, Nicole, Stephanie, Kayla, David, James, and Emma. Beloved sister of Evelyn (David) Wilson (both deceased), Gordon (Doris) Bowman (both deceased), Helen (George) (deceased) Grainger and sister-in-law of Wilmer (deceased) (Marie) Matson. Aunt of many treasured nieces and nephews.



June was a teacher by training, farmer by lifestyle, and a mother and grandmother like no other. She was never idle and led a busy life raising her children, farming, gardening, sewing, baking (especially pies and muffins), knitting or helping others. She was the best listener and we take comfort in knowing that she told us we will always be able to chat with her.

We are grateful to the strong, talented, compassionate medical teams that cared for her throughout her life through several difficult diagnoses.

The family received their friends at the Egan Funeral Home, 203 Queen St. S. (Hwy 50), Bolton (905-857-2213) on Wednesday afternoon 2 – 4 and evening 6 – 8 o'clock. Funeral service was held in the chapel on Thursday morning, July 24th at 10 o'clock.

Interment Laurel Hill Cemetery, Bolton.

If desired, donations may be made to Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada (<https://www.braintumour.ca/ways-to-give/donate-now>) or a charity of your choice. Condolences for the family may be offered at www.EganFuneralHome.com.

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