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NAT-WK33

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53 Fourth Avenue, Orangeville
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65 Fourth Avenue, Unit C1-B, Orangeville

Dufferin OPP investigating daytime bank robbery on Broadway

A bank on Broadway in Orangeville was the recent target of a robbery.

Dufferin Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) officers are investigating a robbery that occurred at a financial institution on Broadway in Orangeville and are appealing to the public for any witnesses or information related to the incident.

On August 5, 2025, at approximately 4:15 p.m., Dufferin OPP responded to a report of a robbery at a financial institution on Broadway in the Town of Orangeville. Officers arrived shortly after the incident and spoke with key witnesses to gather information.

According to reports, three male suspects entered the financial institution while a fourth individual remained in a small black vehicle nearby. The suspects are described as Black males, all wearing black clothing, masks, glasses, and gloves.

Victims were restrained as the suspects stole a cash box and multiple phones. The suspects fled the scene prior to police arrival.

The investigation is ongoing and is being conducted by the Dufferin OPP Major Crime Unit, with assistance from the OPP Forensic Identification Services (FIS).

Anyone with information related to this incident is asked to contact the Dufferin OPP Major Crime Unit at 1-888-310-1122. To remain anonymous, you can contact Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS) or visit www.crimestoppersdm.com. You will not be asked to identify yourself, and you will never be required to testify in court.

The effects of crime can be emotionally and physically devastating. If you or someone you know need support, Caledon/Dufferin Victim Services can be reached at 905-951-3838.

Strong Mayor Powers shorten legislated budgeting process for Orangeville council

Written By **JAMES MATTHEWS**

Orangeville council and staff are trying to keep the annual budget process close to past practice, despite provisions afforded by Strong Mayor Powers.

The town streamlined the process it will pursue to ink the 2026 municipal capital and operating budget. Review timelines will be shortened from recent legislative changes under the Strong Mayor Powers provision in the Municipal Act.

As Orangeville is a designated municipality under that provision, Mayor Lisa Post is responsible for developing a budget. But she has delegated that responsibility to staff, which has been the process in the past.

Post has said she doesn't want anything to do with the Strong Mayor Powers that were imposed upon some Ontario municipalities by the crowd at Queen's Park. And that's why town staff have been tasked with drafting next year's budget, as usual.

"However, I've learned that, even though the budget is delegated back to staff to present, it's still the mayor's budget because we haven't gotten rid of the Strong Mayor Powers here in Orangeville," said Councillor Debbie Sherwood, a former town treasurer.

"I have delegated all of the components of Strong Mayor Powers that I am able to," Post said. "There are certain components within the legislation that do not allow delegation."

The proposed timeline seeks to reduce council's legislated amendment period from 30 days to 10 days, and beefs up efficiency by aligning budget adoption with the start of the budget year. That allows for budget tabling and final adoption in December.

The mayor can veto budget amendments up to 10 days following the amendment period. Under the proposed timeline, it is recommended that this window be shortened to five days.

There is also an override period whereby the council can override a mayor's veto with a two-thirds majority. The proposed timeline allows for a day for such override votes.

Overall, the proposed timeline aligns closely with approval timelines of previous years, according to a report to council on Aug. 11.

"We are doing our best as staff to work around the Strong Mayor Powers while still having to follow the legislation," Post said. "We're trying to keep things as status quo as possible but, until the province makes the decision to rescind the legislation in its entirety, there are things that I am not allowed to delegate."

"Council can amend the mayor's budget," said Raylene Martell, the town's clerk. "So it's no different than what happened last year."

The difference is that the mayor can veto any amendments. The budget will return to council, which can then try to override the mayor's veto.

Post said keeping with timelines outlined in the Strong Mayor Powers legislation would not yield a 2026 budget until possibly February. Adhering to past practice could enable budget approval in December, depending on debated items.

Families invited to journey through time at the Orangeville Public Library's upcoming event

August's Expert in the Library event features author and activist Rosemary Sadlier.

Families and curious minds of all ages are invited to get ready for school in a whole new way. On August 24, journey through time with author and activist Rosemary Sadlier, OONt, as she shares her stories from The Kids Book of Black History in Canada.

The event, held in partnership with the Orangeville Public Library and the Dufferin County Canadian Black Association (DC-CBA), pays recognition to Emancipation Day. It is celebrated in Canada annually on August 1, commemorating the Slavery Abolition Act of 1833, marking the end of slavery in Canada and across the British Empire.

Sadlier will lead attendees through an engaging and interactive discussion on the achievements of Black Canadians, the communities that stood behind them and the role of education in their lives.

A past president of the Ontario Black History Society, Sadlier received the Order of Ontario (OONt) for her instrumental work in having Black History Month and Emancipation Day recognized in Canada.

Her wealth of experience and rich storytelling makes this event a fun and inspiring way to explore Canadian history and celebrate diversity. Families and friends can expect to engage in meaningful conversations in preparation to begin the new school year.

Back to School... Then and Now will be held Sunday, August 24 at 2 p.m. at the Mill Street Library.

Town Page

519-941-0440

info@orangeville.ca

orangeville.ca

GET CONNECTED!

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Date	Time	Location	Meeting	To listen in
Thursday, August 28	6 p.m.	Council chambers and by phone	Heritage Orangeville	1 289-801-5774 ID: 421 697 1#

*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.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Senior Climate and Sustainability Specialist (18-month contract)

Infrastructure Services department

Salary range: \$86,450.36 to \$101,134.69

Join our team on an 18-month contract to lead key programs advancing the Town's climate goals. This role oversees climate action plans, greenhouse gas reduction programs and urban forestry initiatives. You'll work with staff, Council, community groups and outside partners to help achieve the Town's environmental goals.

Application deadline: Thursday, August 21, 2025 at 4 p.m.

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

TOWN NEWS

NATURE JOURNALING WORKSHOPS

Mill Street Library
1 to 3 p.m.

Sunday, Aug. 17
Adults (age 18+)

Register at orangevillelibrary.ca.

Our transit routes are changing!

New routes begin September 2

Once there were Orangeville Transit riders and drivers frustrated by routes that didn't meet their needs.

Every day, they rode a bus that didn't always get them where they needed to go, or boarded and left at stops that didn't make sense.

Then one day, they spoke, and the Town listened.

Because of that, new routes were developed with feedback from the community. They launch September 2.

Want to learn more about how we're transforming our transit system?

Visit orangeville.ca/NewRoutes or follow us on X, Facebook, Bluesky or Instagram.

Summer projects underway at home?

Summer is a great time for working on projects around the home. Make sure to work inside of the allowable noise hours so your neighbours can enjoy their properties too!

Home project tools (drills, hammers and power tools)

Monday to Friday – 7 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Saturday and Sunday – 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Statutory holidays – 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Lawn and yard equipment

Monday to Saturday – 7 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Sunday and statutory holidays – 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Learn more at orangeville.ca/Bylaw

End of summer dance party

Tuesday, August 26
6 to 7:30 p.m.

Mill Street Library

Registration required

Power outages

Orangeville Hydro

519-942-8000

After-hours emergency

Related to municipal service

416-736-7096

Emergency services

Police, fire and ambulance

9-1-1

Off-duty nurse jumps into action to help man having medical emergency

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

A Shelburne woman is praising the quick actions of an off-duty nurse from Headwaters Health Care Centre (HHCC), who assisted a man experiencing a medical emergency at a Tim Hortons in Orangeville last month.

Bella Carter was sitting at a table in the Tim Hortons on the morning of July 18 when she watched off-duty nurse, Heather Swayze, step in to assist a man experiencing a medical emergency.

“I had finished a meeting and I turned around to see a man on the ground and he’s bleeding out of his head,” recalled Carter. “She was in action right away helping him.”

Swayze, who lives in Melancthon, was in the Tim Hortons waiting for the brakes on her vehicle to be changed when the medical emergency occurred. Speaking with the Citizen, Swayze said she was standing up to throw away her coffee cup when she was alerted to the medical emergency.

“I heard a big thump and I looked over and a gentleman had collapsed at the front

counter.”

From there Swayze jumped into action and began administering first-aid to the man.

“I checked his pulse and he was having a seizure so I put him into the recovery position. As I put him over, I found there was a big pool of blood under him because he had quite a big laceration on the back of his head,” said Swayze.

While yelling for someone to call 9-1-1, Swayze, who was wearing a shirt over a tank top, ended up using her own shirt to apply pressure to the wound and stem the bleeding.

“I didn’t know if he had a neck injury or any broken bones so I just stayed still until the ambulance came,” she explained.

Swayze has been a nurse at Headwaters Health Care Centre (HHCC) since April of 2023, where she works on the medicine and surgery floor.

Swayze received her practical nursing diploma from Conestoga College in 2018. Her first job in nursing was in Dufferin County as a palliative and end-of-life nurse. She spent two years working at Matthews

House Hospice in Alliston before moving to Headwaters Hospital.

Swayze is currently a part-time student at Toronto Metropolitan University, where she is completing a bachelor’s degree in nursing to obtain her Registered Nurse (RN) license.

Speaking with the Citizen, Carter recalled the emotions of witnessing the medical emergency.

“I was paralyzed in my space and I think everyone was really scared, but the fact she sounded so confident and very calm I think not only comforted the patient, but all of us there,” she said.

Carter reached out to the Citizen to share with the community the action and initiative taken by Swayze to assist the man in distress.

“She exemplified to me, what a good citizen should be and she didn’t even think twice about acting,” said Carter.

Swayze humbly described her actions as simply part of her training as a nurse.

“It’s just my natural intuition because that’s what I do for a living. I feel that the empathy and the compassion that I have is ingrained in me,” said Swayze.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

IN THE NICK OF TIME: Shelburne resident Bella Carter (left) witnessed the quick actions of Melancthon resident and Headwaters Health Care Centre (HHCC) nurse, Heather Swayze, that helped a man experiencing a medical emergency in a Tim Hortons location in Orangeville on the morning on July 18.

Over 40 firefighters extinguish large field fire in Mono amid dry, windy conditions

Written By **SAM ODROWSKI**

A fast-moving field fire in Mono scorched five acres of land by the time Orangeville Fire Service arrived at the scene to extinguish the blaze on Aug. 7.

The fire broke out on a property along 1st Line EHS, Mono, and spread rapidly due to dry and windy conditions. The Orangeville Fire Service called in mutual aid, and roughly 40 firefighters from Caledon, Shelburne, Rosemont, and Grand Valley Fire joined in to stamp out the fire before it reached a nearby farm building, agricultural equipment or adjacent field.

Orangeville Fire’s response began shortly after 3:30 p.m., and the blaze was extinguished in under one hour. Firefighters remained on the scene for an additional hour to ensure the fire didn’t re-ignite.

“Due to the intense heat and physical demands, we established work cycles to rotate fire crews, ensuring adequate rehabilitation and hydration. There were no injuries reported among the firefighters,” said Orangeville Fire Chief John Snider

“This incident highlights the strength of our collaborative partnership and robust mutual aid plan with neighboring fire departments in Dufferin County and Caledon. Our seamless coordination was crucial in manag-

ing this challenging fire.”

The fire appears to have started accidentally by farm equipment operating in the field.

Chief Snider said it’s important to note that a fire ban is currently in place across Dufferin County, including the communities of Mono, East Garafraxa, Shelburne, and Amaranth. While Orangeville is not currently included in the fire ban, residents are urged to exercise caution if they do light a recreational fire.

“While this [field] fire was accidental, it underscores how quickly fires can spread in dry conditions. The burn ban will remain until significant rain or cooler weather occurs,” said Chief Snider.

The ban covers all open-air burning, which includes bonfires, recreational fires, construction burns or any type of outdoor fire.

Approved gas-fired and charcoal barbecues are still permitted for use at this time.





**THEATRE
ORANGEVILLE
YOUNG COMPANY**

August 22nd
to 24th



**THE
NEVERENDING
STORY**

ADAPTED BY DAVID S. CRAIG
BASED UPON THE NOVEL BY MICHAEL ENDE

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CALL 519.938.7584 OR WWW.THEATREORANGEVILLE.CA



hazardous & electronic waste event **COMING SOON!**

Date: Wednesday, August 20, 2025

Time: 3pm-8pm

Location: Grand Valley Agricultural Society Lands
60 Main St. N, Grand Valley



Hazardous waste	includes automotive containers, cleaning products, fluorescent lights, batteries, paints, pesticides, pharmaceuticals, syringes, and much more.
Electronic waste	includes audio equipment, cameras, computers, home entertainment equipment, phones, and household electronic items, including lamps, alarm clocks, microwaves, toasters, and small appliances.
Limitations	No waste from industrial, commercial, or institutional sources. No white goods/large appliances (including any appliances with freon). No garbage, or recycling. No unidentified/unknown materials. No drums of materials.

Visit dufferincounty.ca/waste for updates and a full listing of acceptable materials & limitations.

Future events: September 20, October 25.

See website for details on hours & locations for each scheduled event.

Dufferin County residents, including Amaranth, East Garafraxa, Grand Valley, Melancthon, Mono, Mulmur, Orangeville and Shelburne can attend any of these events.

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CHRYSLER DODGE Jeep RAM

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15 INCOMING

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2024 DODGE HORNET R/T PHEV eAWD



R30002

MSRP **\$59072**^{+HST/LIC}
OC PRICE **\$42072**^{+HST/LIC} includes **\$8500**
OCL BONUS CASH

LEASE FROM
\$108^{+HST/LIC}/week
for 60 months at 2.99%
12,000KM/YR - \$4000 DOWN

2025 JEEP WRANGLER UNLTD SPORT S 4X4 **2024 DODGE CHARGER DAYTONA STAGE 2 AWD**



2 TO CHOOSE FROM

MSRP **\$70767**^{+HST/LIC}
OC PRICE **\$63506**^{+HST/LIC} includes **\$2000**
OCL BONUS CASH

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\$142^{+HST/LIC}/week
for 54 months at 3.99%
12,000KM/YEAR - \$5000 DOWN



RR0019

MSRP **\$107105**^{+HST/LIC}
OC PRICE **\$78482**^{+HST/LIC} includes **\$2000**
OCL BONUS CASH

FINANCE FROM
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for 96 months at 4.99%
COB \$15958 - \$5000 DOWN

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S80005

MSRP **\$78652**^{+HST/LIC}
OC PRICE **\$72829**^{+HST/LIC}

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\$198^{+HST/LIC}/week
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COB \$14539 - \$5000 DOWN

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for up to 72
Months finance on
2025 GRAND CHEROKEE



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MSRP **\$73260**^{+HST/LIC}
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2024 CLEAROUT

2024 DODGE HORNET R/T PHEV eAWD



R30002

MSRP **\$59072**^{+HST/LIC}
OC PRICE **\$42072**^{+HST/LIC} includes **\$8500**
OCL BONUS CASH

LEASE FROM
\$108^{+HST/LIC}/week
for 60 months at 2.99%
12,000KM/YR - \$4000 DOWN

2024 DODGE HORNET R/T PLUS PHEV eAWD



3 TO CHOOSE FROM

MSRP **\$71187**^{+HST/LIC}
OC PRICE **\$51187**^{+HST/LIC} includes **\$10000**
OCL BONUS CASH

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\$133^{+HST/LIC}/week
for 60 months at 2.99%
12,000KM/YR - \$5000 DOWN

2024 JEEP WRANGLER UNLTD RUBICON 4X4



RW0030

MSRP **\$85267**^{+HST/LIC}
OC PRICE **\$71683**^{+HST/LIC} includes **\$4227**
OCL BONUS CASH

LEASE FROM
\$187^{+HST/LIC}/week
for 54 months at 4.49%
12,000KM/YEAR - \$5000 DOWN

2024 JEEP WRANGLER UNLTD RUBICON 4XE



RW0004

MSRP **\$89752**^{+HST/LIC}
OC PRICE **\$76591**^{+HST/LIC} includes **\$4500**
OCL BONUS CASH

LEASE FROM
\$215^{+HST/LIC}/week
for 54 months at 4.49%
12,000KM/YEAR - \$5000 DOWN

2024 RAM 5500 SLT CHASSIS 4X4



RG0067

MSRP **\$93547**^{+HST/LIC}
OC PRICE **\$87621**^{+HST/LIC} includes **\$5926**
OCL BONUS CASH

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2024 DODGE DURANGO SRT 392 ALCHEMI



RC0030

MSRP **\$118122**^{+HST/LIC}
OC PRICE **\$98971**^{+HST/LIC} includes **\$5900**
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S&S Transport fundraises for 22-year-old recovering from workplace accident

Written By **SAM ODROWSKI**

A remarkable display of support unfolded in Dufferin County over the weekend, as the community rallied to aid a young man's recovery. S&S Transport in East Garafraxa held an inaugural S&S Truck Rodeo on Saturday, Aug. 9, and raised \$6,500 in support of a 22-year-old Nobelton resident who was seriously injured in a workplace accident.

Joshua Cristao suffered life-altering injuries at a construction site on April 25, but his resilience has been miraculous, as he continues to recover after seven brain surgeries, several complications, and a serious blood staph infection. Despite medical professionals initially giving Cristao a one per cent chance of survival, he has slowly been making progress in regaining consciousness and relearning basic motor skills. A GoFundMe created on June 26 has raised

over \$343,000 for Cristao as of press time, with funds raised going towards costs related to his future medical treatments, rehabilitation, specialized therapies, and therapeutic equipment. In addition to a thrilling truck rodeo with lots of fun challenges, S&S Transport's inaugural event featured a DJ to keep attendees entertained, along with free refreshments. The event was made possible thanks to many different sponsors in the community. They include Res Group, JTM Cranes, IDriver, J&L Concepts, Gabrielli Crane Erectors, Capital Crane, Arthurs Fuel, BW Automotive, Hooligan Hurricanes, Melhorn Sales, Service & Trucking, Steer Enterprises, Freightliner Tires, and Deckers Tires. S&S Transport would like to thank all the patrons who came to the truck rodeo to support Cristao and his family. To support Cristao's GoFundMe, please visit: gofundme.com/f/support-for-joshua-cristao-the-miracle-man



PHOTOS SUBMITTED BY SAMANTHA B. AND BROOKLYN WILLCOCKS

TRUCK RODEO: S&S Transport fundraised \$6,500 in support of Joshua Cristao, who suffered life-altering injuries from a workplace accident at a construction site on April 25. Against all odds, he has been slowly recovering and starting to regain consciousness. S&S Transport held a Truck Rodeo on Saturday, Aug 9, to fundraise for Cristao, and the community showed its support.

Orangeville council to consider municipal invasive species management for Phragmites australis

Written By **JAMES MATTHEWS**

Orangeville council will soon consider taking steps against the introduction of invasive plant species. Councillor Tess Prendergast gave council colleagues a notice of motion during the Aug. 11 meeting that she intends to bring to council a request for municipal invasive species management and phragmites control measures. Invasive plant species, particularly Phragmites australis, increasingly threaten municipal stormwater infrastructure, wetlands, and ecological integrity by obstructing drainage, reducing pond capacities, and exacerbating flood risks, she said. The Ontario Phragmites Cost-Benefit Analysis

in 2021 identified annual stormwater management costs exceeding \$2 million in the Greater Toronto Area, with provincial ecological and economic damages surpassing \$3.6 billion annually. University of Waterloo researchers in 2020 demonstrated that protecting wetlands from invasive species can reduce flood damage in southern Ontario communities by up to 38 per cent. "Orangeville has experienced repeated flooding events since 2005, and that shows the urgent need for proactive measures and improved stormwater management strategies," Prendergast said. Orangeville's participation in the West GTA Phragmites Management Area, with support from Credit Valley Conservation and from On-

tario Nature, positions the town within a collaborative regional effort that provides shared expertise, access to funding opportunities, and strengthened capacity for ecological resilience and invasive species management. Prendergast will ask council to task the municipal departments of Infrastructure Services, in partnership with Community Services and Planning, to establish a municipal invasive species working group. The group will support the development of a strategy focused on priority plant species such as Phragmites australis with specific attention to their impact on stormwater infrastructure, wetlands, and road rights-of-way. The group will retain consultants to develop and maintain a municipally controlled spatial

database to map and monitor invasive species occurrences across town-managed lands, and to prepare a phased invasive species management strategy to inform removal, treatment, and restoration. Local actions will be aligned with regional efforts and funding streams for resources against invasive species in Orangeville. Staff will integrate invasive species mapping and management into the town's stormwater infrastructure planning, asset management, and climate adaptation strategies. The group will apply to the Invasive Phragmites Control Fund and seek other external grants, partnerships, or cost-sharing models to reduce the financial burden on the municipality. A report will be brought to council late next year that will outline project status, including mapping progress, funding outcomes, and recommendations for phased invasive species control and public engagement. "We do know that invasive species do not respect our geo-political boundaries, so this is something that is done on a regional level and has been worked on for decades," Prendergast said. "This would codify the town's position on invasives." There's mention that the working group would retain a consultant's services. Coun. Debbie Sherwood wondered what the cost for such a service would be. Tony Dulisse, the town's transportation and development manager, said the price tag would be in the area of about \$50,000 to \$75,000. Should council see fit, he said staff will include details in the 2026 budget process. "We do have a plan," Dulisse said. "We just have to assign some costs to it."



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Dufferin County Culinary Collective launches Field Trip Series

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

Dufferin County is inviting the community to celebrate and learn about local food and farming culture through a new field trip series.

The Dufferin County Culinary Collective (DCCC) has launched a hands-on initiative known as the Field Trip Series. The goal of the initiative is to take a “field trip” every other month and introduce Dufferin County residents to different local farms or food production sites.

During these field trips, visitors have the chance to explore the stories, challenges, and innovations behind the region’s culinary and agri-food community.

“We figured it’s better to get out in the community and learn what’s happening instead of just sitting and talking in a room discussing the concerns and opportunities within the sector,” said Jasmine Panesar, economic development officer for the County of Dufferin.

The initiative was created by the Dufferin County Culinary Collective (DCCC), and is made up of businesses, farmers, food producers, restaurants, cafes, breweries, distillers, wineries and educators.

The idea for the field trips stemmed from a growing concern about the lack of knowledge and education around the agricultural sector. It’s also seen as a way to highlight Dufferin County as a culinary destination.

“This is a huge education piece to show who our farmers are, where our food comes from, how it gets out into the community,”

said Panesar. “It’s about focusing and promoting Dufferin County as a vibrant culinary destination.”

According to the Dufferin Federation of Agriculture (DFA), one of the most significant economic contributors in Dufferin County is agriculture, with over 700 farms in the community. The top five farm commodities in Dufferin County include cattle, dairy, potatoes, soybeans and corn.

The DCCC hosted its first field trip for the series back in June, with a visit to Lennox Farm in Melancthon.

The second stop of the Dufferin County Culinary Collective Field Trip Series will take place on Aug. 20 from 1:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. at Hereward Farms, a family-owned lavender farm in East Garafraxa.

During the field trip to Hereward Farms, visitors will have a chance to tour the lavender farm, learn about agricultural tourism as a business while also connecting with fellow culinary, agricultural and business leaders.

Panesar told the Free Press that each field trip will focus on a different topic that is specific to the featured farm, food producer, brewery or restaurant.

Attendees must arrive at Hereward Farms by 1:30 p.m., using their own mode of transportation. Transportation will not be provided.

Spots for the field trip are limited with only 40 spaces available.

Those interested in attending the tour of Hereward Farms can register for the field trip by visiting www.dufferincounty.ca. The event is free to attend.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

FUN AT THE FARM: The Dufferin County Culinary Collective is hosting field trips to various farms throughout the region to help educate people about the agricultural sector and where their food comes from. The first field trip was held in June at Lennox Farm in Melancthon.

Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health Unit confirms first local case of bat rabies

Written By **SAM ODROWSKI**

Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health Unit has confirmed the first case of rabies in a bat this year.

On Aug. 12, a bat tested positive for rabies in Centre Wellington and one person has begun a precautionary treatment protocol for potential exposure to the virus.

“Rabies is a virus that affects mammals and is spread by the saliva of infected animals most commonly through bites, but also through scratches, open wounds or mucous membranes of the mouth, nose and eyes,” reads a statement from the Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health, issued Aug. 13. “In Ontario, the animals most commonly testing positive for rabies are bats, skunks, raccoons, coyotes and foxes. Rabies is near-

ly always fatal once symptoms develop, so treatment must be given as soon as possible if someone suspects exposure to a rabid animal.”

To protect against rabies, avoid contact with wild animals, ensure pets are vaccinated against the virus, supervise pets when outdoors and inform the authorities if an animal is suspected to have rabies.

“Although rabies is rare, it can be fatal when left untreated,” said Dr. Matthew Tenenbaum, associate medical officer of health for Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health.

“Anyone who has been bitten or scratched by an animal should wash the wound with soap and water for 15 minutes and seek immediate medical attention.”

For more information about rabies, visit wdgpublichealth.ca/rabies.



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Summer Arts Festival takes over downtown Orangeville



PETER RICHARDSON PHOTOS

FUN IN THE SUN: Theatre Orangeville Summer Arts Fest featured fun activities for children on Saturday, Aug. 9, in Alexandra Park. The KidsFEST event featured magician Steve Baker, the artsploration bus, a Peanut Butter and Jams Dance Party, face painting and other activities geared towards kids. The KidsFEST is one part of the Summer Arts Festival, which ran from Aug. 8 to 10 and featured performances from North (519) Best of Toronto Fringe, a drag music bingo event, and live music.

Review: ‘Me and you and the Highland Coo’ charms with heart and humour

Written By JOSHUA DRAKES

Over the weekend, the community came alive for Theatre Orangeville’s Summer Arts Fest. Among the standout attractions was Best of Toronto Fringe, a curated selection by Theatre Orangeville of performances from the Toronto Fringe Festival brought directly to town.

One of the featured shows, “Me and You and the Highland Coo” by Happy as a Clam Productions, written and directed by Sara Masciotra-Milstein, stood out.

The play follows Jackie (Brooklyn Melnyk) and Charlie (Amy Ring), two best friends studying abroad in Scotland for reasons left ambiguous at first. Meeting by chance, they quickly form a bond and make a whimsical pact: to take a road trip to Edinburgh and buy a Highland Coo plushie (A Highland Coo is a shaggy Scottish cow).

What should be a simple journey quickly becomes anything but. Their guide, Willow (Jeremy Lewis) — who just might be a mystical highland spirit — works tirelessly to keep the pair’s troubles at bay. Through audience trivia games, music selections, and even Scottish drink tastings, Willow distracts them from the problems waiting for them back home.

Despite Willow’s efforts, unresolved emotions begin to surface. Even Willow’s best efforts can’t stop tensions from finally ex-

ploding — and when they do, it happens in a very familiar setting: a Tim Horton’s parking lot. Honest truths spill out, feelings are re-kindled, and they set off again, more united than before, determined to reach Edinburgh and claim their prize.

One of the production’s greatest strengths lies in its performances, particularly in how it embraces improv and audience participation. Willow often breaks from the story to engage the crowd — handing out drinks with the flair of a British butler, tossing music lists into the air with dramatic flourish, and sneaking around in LED lights while Jackie and Charlie’s story unfolds. The result feels less like a traditional play and more like a shared story told to a circle of friends, where everyone in the room is part of the experience.

Audience interaction is always a gamble, but here it pays off. By inviting the crowd into the story, the show becomes intimate, unpredictable, and alive.

A great example of this is when Charlie and Jackie debate what a Scottish drink actually tastes like, and Willow appears in the audience with samples for guests to try. Their answers play into the debate onstage.

Ring and Melnyk deliver emotionally diverse performances. Jackie and Charlie are both avoiding problems, but in very different ways: Charlie is ready to face hers, while Jackie fears coming to terms with

hers, going so far as to subtly sabotage the trip to prolong their time together.

What begins as small diversions — like a “no phones” rule — builds into overt deception and misdirection. The shift is so gradual that the audience doesn’t fully realize it’s about to boil over until it happens, and when it does, the tone changes instantly. Lighting cools, the room falls silent, and the comedy falls away to stark tension.

Neither character is entirely in the wrong, yet neither has been willing to confront the truth until this breaking point. The moment feels painfully real, and instead of breaking audience immersion, it draws them in even further: Will they reconcile? Will the trip end here?

Behind the scenes, the production’s ingenuity shines. Toronto Fringe venues offer little storage, so Happy as a Clam Productions had to keep everything portable and multi-use.

The main set — the front of a car — is mounted to a wheeled shoe rack, transforming into a bar table or scenic backdrop in seconds. Props are minimal but made unforgettable through performance: a music list flung open midair, an easel repositioned to mimic travel, drinks served with theatrical flair.

With so few physical elements, the cast’s energy and creativity fill in the rest, turning small objects into larger-than-life moments



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

ROAD TRIP: The cast of “Me and You and the Highland Coo” embark on a road trip during the play’s performance at the Orangeville Summer Arts Fest, hosted by Theatre Orangeville, from Aug. 8 to 10.

full of laughs.

In the end, “Me and You and the Highland Coo” delivers far more than a quirky road trip story. It’s a heartfelt, interactive emotional ride — one that blends laughter, tension, and genuine human connection — and it’s well worth seeing.

Nicole Knapp
Administrative Assistant

Nicole plays a key role in keeping the MacMaster team organized and running smoothly. With a friendly attitude and strong attention to detail, she helps ensure that day-to-day operations are handled efficiently. Whether assisting team members or supporting customers behind the scenes, Nicole is always ready to lend a hand and keep things on track.

Chris Welburn
Sales Consultant

Chris brings years of experience and a relaxed, honest approach to the Orangeville Chrysler sales team. He's focused on making the car-buying experience stress-free, offering clear advice and taking the time to understand each customer's needs. His calm, down-to-earth attitude puts guests at ease from the moment they arrive.

Jacob Okula
Sales Consultant

Jacob combines product knowledge with a laid-back approach to help guests feel comfortable and informed throughout the buying process. He takes pride in offering a no-pressure experience, answering questions clearly and helping customers find the right fit for their lifestyle. His goal is to make the journey to a new vehicle feel simple and enjoyable from start to finish.

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The Citizen CROSSWORD

Puzzle No. 258310 • Solution on page: CLASSIFIEDS SECTION

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14				15					16			
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60										62	63	
64										65		66
67										68		69

CLUES ACROSS

1. Mongolian politician
5. Coconut palms
10. Rounded knob
14. Japanese city
15. Covers in soft material
16. Walk around
17. Ancient region in Syria
18. French painter
19. Grandmother
20. Cow part
22. Rocky peak
23. Secret plan
24. Sings to one's lover
27. More (Spanish)
30. Father
31. Chinese philosophical principle
32. Hat
35. In agreement
37. A person's brother or sister
38. Evil spirit
39. Monetary units
40. Partner to cheese
41. About Sun

42. A place to dance
43. Performer ___ Lo Green
44. Beach accessory
45. Recipe measurement (abbr.)
46. Partly digested food
47. Pooch
48. Honorific title added to family name
49. Salts
52. Lichens genus
55. Lowest point of a ridge
56. Type of sword
60. Albanian language
61. Gold measurement
63. Italian seaport
64. Longtime late night host
65. Extremely angry
66. U. of Miami mascot
67. Mid-month day
68. Omitted from printed matter
69. Upper body part

CLUES DOWN

1. Two-toed sloth
2. Cooking ingredient
3. Iranian city
4. Publicly outs
5. Steep-sided hollow
6. Spoke
7. General law or rule
8. Extravagantly theatrical
9. Very fast airplane
10. Arm bones
11. Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea
12. ___ fide: legitimate
13. Gemstone
21. Counsels
23. Top exec
25. Cool!
26. Touch lightly
27. Extract money via taxation
28. Dyes
29. Cloying sweetness
32. Soft drinks
33. Capital of Guam
34. Chemical compound
36. The bill in a restaurant
37. Car mechanics group
38. Late comedian Newhart
40. Health care for the aged
41. Wise individuals
43. A passage with access only at one end
44. Trim
46. Former OSS
47. The upper surface of the mouth
49. Edible lily bulbs
50. Type of reef
51. Vaccine developer
52. Mottled citrus fruit
53. A place to store lawn tools
54. Rare goose native to Hawaii
57. Hollywood pig
58. Musician Clapton
59. Take a chance
61. Spanish soldier
62. Mark Wahlberg comedy

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How they say that in...

English: Adventure
Spanish: Aventura
Italian: Avventura
French: Aventure
German: Abenteuer

1					2
3				4	
				5	
					6
7			8		

ACROSS

1. Wooded areas
3. Water area in desert
5. Conjunction to connect words
7. A well-lit sky

DOWN

1. Sweet-smelling blooms
2. Granular material at the shore
4. Enjoy completely
6. Body of water
8. "The Ocean State" (abbr.)

Nature FACT!

This outdoor activity involves climbing rocky terrain using hands and feet.

Answer: Rock scrambling

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Answers:
Across
1. Forests 3. Oasis 5. And 7. Slarry
Down
1. Flowers 2. Sand 4. Savor 6. Lake 8. RI



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Inaugural Lighthouse Week features ‘Beard Be Gone’ and ‘Hair Be Cut’ fundraisers



PETER RICHARDSON PHOTOS

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS: On Aug. 9, the Lighthouse held a special open house and two haircutting fundraisers – Beard Be Gone and Hair Be Cut – where Rob Lafave and Sheldon Rice had their head and facial hair cut. There was also a free barbecue that helped to spark new connections between the Lighthouse and community members. Over Lighthouse Week, \$11,500 has been raised, with more donations coming in. That money will be used to cover operating costs, including rent, heat, hydro, wages, and food.

Summerlicious Food Drive returning to Orangeville grocers this weekend

Written By **SAM ODROWSKI**

The shelves at the Orangeville Food Bank are quite bare, as the not-for-profit organization sees a yearly decline in donations around the summer months.

To help boost the supply of food, the Summerlicious Food Drive is returning on Saturday, Aug. 16, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., taking place at several local grocery stores.

Orangeville’s Metro, Fresh Co., Sobey’s, No Frills, and Zehrs will have volunteers

accepting donations outside of the stores.

FM101 Orangeville Today will be on-site at Zehrs to help spread the word about the fundraiser and rally community support.

The most-needed items for August include:

- Apple sauce snacks
- Cereal
- Canned tuna/meat
- Toilet paper
- Sidekicks
- Crackers

- Cookies
- Wipes
- Large-size diapers
- Pull-ups
- Dish and laundry detergent

Anyone who can’t attend the Summerlicious Food Drive on Aug. 16 can still drop off donations of most-needed items in the clearly marked food donation bins at each participating store at any time during August.

“Back to School can be a particularly

challenging time for families facing food insecurity,” said Carrie-Anne DeCaprio, donor engagement and outreach manager for the Orangeville Food Bank. “Our Summerlicious Food Drive helps us stock the shelves with the essentials our neighbours need most.”

DeCaprio added that every can, box, and package makes a difference, and that by coming together, the community can ensure that every family in Dufferin County has access to nourishing food this summer.

Dufferin OPP lay cocaine trafficking charges against Alliston and Mulmur residents

Officers from the Dufferin Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) executed search warrants at residences in Alliston and Fergus, as well as on two vehicles, one in Orangeville and one in Alliston.

During the operation, police seized a quantity of drugs, including cocaine, cash, cell phones, and a vehicle. Two individuals were arrested in connection with the investigation.

In the spring, Dufferin OPP launched a drug trafficking investigation targeting Orangeville and Shelburne, based on information received by police.

On Aug. 6, members of the Dufferin OPP

Community Street Crime Unit (CSCU), with assistance from the Collingwood CSCU, Nottawasaga CSCU, and Huronia West CSCU, executed several search warrants.

The operation led to the arrest of two individuals.

Cory Stoneham, 31, from Alliston, has been charged with:

- Traffick in Schedule I substance - Cocaine
- Possession of a Schedule I substance for the purpose of Trafficking - Cocaine
- Possession of proceeds of property obtained by crime over \$5000 - in Canada

Sharle Milks, 57, from Mulmur, has been charged with:

- Traffick in Schedule I substance - Cocaine
- Possession of a Schedule I substance for the purpose of Trafficking - Cocaine
- Possession of proceeds of property obtained by crime over \$5000 - in Canada

The following items were seized during the investigation:

- 61 grams of cocaine
- Large quantity of Canadian currency
- Debt list
- Three cell phones
- Scales



- Food mixers containing cocaine residue

The investigation is ongoing. Anyone with information is urged to contact the Dufferin OPP.

Information can also be anonymously reported to Crime Stoppers at 1-800-822-8477 (TIPS) or crimestoppersdm.com.



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Cheesy

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SAVE \$2

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SOUPS 255 g - 400 mL

SALE
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Written By **BRIAN LOCKHART**

A group of men playing floorball on an indoor ice rink. They are wearing helmets, jerseys, and shorts. One player in a red jersey is in the foreground, and another in a white jersey is in the background. Spectators are visible in the stands.

It was an outstanding effort by the Northmen and a thrilling final game for fans to watch.

Written By **BRIAN LOCKHART**

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OPINION

The guy next door

“The lady doth protest too much.”

That was quite a valid observation written by William Shakespeare in his play, “Hamlet.”

Whenever trouble has occurred and there is a group of people who are suspect, the person who talks the most is most likely the guilty party.

I guess it’s just human behaviour to try to eliminate yourself as a suspect by acting over the top, indignant about what has happened.

Maybe it’s not human behaviour, but a type of personality behaviour.

The same goes for fires. When an arsonist, who is a pyromaniac, sets a building on fire, you can almost guarantee the arsonist will be in the crowd watching the fire from the street.

After graduating college, I had a small one-bedroom basement apartment in the northwest end of Toronto.

One day, I came home from work, and something set off alarm bells. Sure enough, someone had been in my place and had stolen a small amount of money. This included a jar of coins, some of which were spilled on the floor.

I told my neighbour, then went to the local police station to report the break and enter.

Later that evening, I returned home and was called to the second floor, where a group of my neighbours were discussing the incident and were concerned that an apartment in the building had been entered.

One guy in particular, who lived above me with his wife and two small kids, was indignant that this could happen.

“We have to do something about this!” he said excitedly. Then he kept talking about security and other things.

At the time, I found his over-the-top concern a little strange.

It wasn’t too long after that that his wife cut all ties with him. Mail arrived for him, and his wife pasted a big note in the lobby for the mailman.

It stated this man no longer lived there, and if they needed to find him, he could be located at the Mimico Jail.

It turns out, this guy had a long criminal history that even his wife was unaware of.

I realized later that the big and loud talker, was indeed the same guy who had robbed my apartment.

I had no real proof of this, so nothing was done about it. However, he was still in jail on other charges, so I got the last laugh.

The moral of the story is, it’s good to know who your neighbours are.

According to recent reports from credible sources, including the Globe and Mail, there are almost 600 foreign nationals with criminal records who are due to be deported, but have simply disappeared in the country.

Canada Border Services Agency has lost track of them. There is a total of 1,635 foreign nationals convicted of crimes in Canada who are currently facing deportation.

How can you know if you have a dangerous criminal living next door if federal agencies don’t even know?

That’s almost 600 criminals, some convicted of serious crimes like sexual assault, and no one knows where they are. They could be living in the house next door to you.

Immigrating to this country is a privilege, it’s not a right. When you arrive on our shores, you are expected to follow the law of the land – regardless of the fact that in the old country, it is perfectly acceptable to murder your daughter for seeing the wrong boy.

BRIAN LOCKHART
FROM THE SECOND ROW



There was a case in Toronto a few years ago of a man and woman who murdered their five-year-old daughter, cut her to pieces, and stashed her body parts by the lakeshore.

After they were apprehended, the man told police that since he got caught, he figured he would only spend six months in jail, because ‘it was only a girl’ that he killed.

A check on immigration and the courts reveals some other disturbing facts about how the justice system is handling this current situation.

There are plenty of stories about people committing serious crimes and judges giving them a break so it won’t interfere with their immigration status.

In one recent serious sexual assault case, the judge reduced a man’s sentence so it would not affect his wife’s chances of joining him here.

Wait a minute – what about the victim?

Maybe our elected officials should be vigorously questioned about the current situation, and see who protests the loudest.

In the blink of an eye

Look into my eye. Not ‘my’ eye (please DO NOT look at my profile picture), but the word eye. Stare at it like you would a pizza, a new pen (well, that’s how I’m going to look at it). Here, I’ll type it out for you again:

eye.

What did you see? I see a set of eyes. You don’t? Look closer. The letter e is an eye, there’s two; and the y looks like a runny nose. The term for it is autological — words with meaning reflected in their form — like bed, llama, dog. If I look at ‘eye’ long enough, maybe it’ll wink. Maybe, it’ll just roll its eyes at me (like most of you, right now). When you’ve been messing around with words as long as I have, that’s how you start seeing them.

Throughout my life, I’ve paid more attention to words than eyes. I once wrote a poem comparing my grandfather’s blue eyes to a blue sky. My grandmother used to cure people afflicted with the ‘evil eye’. A girl in high school once told me I had beautiful eyes. I remember the first time a set of eyes from a painting followed me around a room. Everything you need to know about Salvador Dali, and his art, can be gleaned from his eyes. I’ve never had a black eye. I know that we can’t see our own eyes in the same way that we can’t bite our own teeth. Like most things, we only pay attention to our eyes when some-

thing is wrong with them. Like when we see stars, streaks, or experience blurred vision.

When I turned 40, I started thinking about my eyes — hard. My vision was shot. It happened over time, but it felt as if I had been ambushed. I couldn’t see the numbers on a watch; I struggled with text messages; I couldn’t see how much salt to add to the flour. I started wearing glasses. I knew things had changed forever when I forgot my glasses for work and had to pick up a pair of reading glasses from Shoppers Drug Mart. Having to focus on anything from a short distance was like a Kafka story — everything draped in mist (which might be good for fiction, but terrible when trying to look at a GPS).

When I was younger, I wanted glasses. The difference between Superman and Clark Kent was a pair of eyeglasses (and tights and a cape). On Scooby-Doo, Velma was always the first to solve the crime. My favourite member of Run DMC was DMC — I loved how he rocked geek-chic with oversized glasses and white Adidas sneakers. I had a poster of James Dean, in round specs, reading poetry. I watched Nardwuar the Human Serviette geek out to music and merch on Much Music. I liked Elvis Costello’s glasses more than I did his music. I liked the way cool people looked in glasses. They looked cool — and smart.

Over the years, I’ve taught books in which eyeglasses played a pivotal role: In “The Great Gatsby,” Dr. T.J. Eckleburg’s bespectacled image witnesses the debauchery and callousness of Gatsby and his cohorts. In “Lord of the Flies,” Piggy’s broken glasses symbolize the loss of rational thinking; In “To Kill a Mockingbird.” Scout’s broken glasses symbolize a shift in the way that she sees her father. Two of my favourite writers, Nelson Algren and James Joyce, wore glasses. My good friend and poet, Harry Posner, wears glasses. When I was 17, I wore fake glasses until they started to hurt my eyes. My father wears glasses.

Today, I don’t have time for fake — I need to take better care of my eyes. When Jorge Luis Borges started to go blind, he began memorizing his favourite verses. In his poem “On His Blindness,” he laments: “Others have the world, for better or worse;/I have this half-dark, and the toil of verse.” Eyeglasses are no longer an accessory; they’re a necessity.

After some vexatious experiences with eyeglasses and salespeople, I needed something better. Our local optometrists carried stock that was predictable and kitschy. I searched online. In store. I gave online sellers permission to access my camera (usually a no-no) so that I could virtually try on frames. Everything felt like a gimmick — until I found

Banton Frameworks.

Banton Frameworks is based out of Glasgow, Scotland, and was founded in 2012 by a couple — Lucy and Jamie. Their first workshop was a shed at the bottom of Lucy’s garden. They make them in small batches and sell them on a subscription basis — available six times a year. Following their story is like following a traditional recipe (we even exchanged emails discussing pizza and sourdough). Craftsmanship matters to them in the same way it matters to a pizzaiolo in Naples, or a baker in France. The way it matters to me. Jamie even customized my frames to ensure I’d be happy with the fit and design. All of this at the same price point as pair of big brands on this side of the ocean. It just meant looking a little harder to find the right fit. I haven’t taken my glasses off since they arrived in the mail.

For the record, I didn’t receive any compensation from Banton for this piece. I’m just happy that there are people like Jamie and Lucy who are doing what they do in the way that they do it. If, in fact, the eyes are the windows to a person’s soul, it’s probably a good idea to bedeck those windows in a pair of frames that feel, and look, this damn good. At least that’s how “eye” see it.

ANTHONY CARNOVALE
OPERATION: BLACK COFFEE



Frown, you’re on camera!

It’s been 25 years since my younger and more careless self got a speeding ticket. Or at least it had been until I suddenly got five in rapid succession across Ontario, all from photo radar, all for driving normally. I’m fighting them all as a gross breach of the social contract and the rule of law. And you should too.

Wait, you may cry. Don’t I deserve all those tickets? Doesn’t the law say that if the speed limit is 50 km per hour, you can’t go faster without risking punishment? Not quite. Rather, the law is what everyone knows it to be.

As philosophers going back to John Locke have explained across the centuries, the rule of law means “a standing rule to live by, common to every one of that society, and made by the legislative power erected in it.” And every driver knows the standing rule for Canada’s roads is that a human police officer won’t give you a ticket for going just slightly over the speed limit, unless you are weaving around, smoking a joint, texting, or engaging in some other dangerous activity. We all get some leeway, at least in good weather.

Unfortunately, once governments began smelling an opportunity to grab some of the cash sitting pointlessly in our wallets, that time-honoured rule went out the lens with their ticket-dispensing Robocops.

Alberta was a surprising early adopter of photo radar, with its first device installed in 1987. More recently, it earned for itself the title

of Canada’s most one-eyed-highwayman-ridden province, with 2,400 of the wretched things raking in \$171 million in 2022. One single digital Dick-Turpin-meets-the-Sheriff-of-Nottingham in Edmonton fired off 52,558 tickets a year.

This so infuriated Albertans that the provincial transportation minister finally vowed to “kill the photo radar cash cow”. The result has been a promised 70 percent reduction in the devices.

Cash cow. There’s the rub. Promoters of speed cameras always preen about safety; one notice from rapacious Wellington County in Ontario, where five newly installed cameras promptly ticketed seven percent of all drivers, hollered “SLOW DOWN! SAVE A LIFE”. But they are lying.

Driving slightly over the limit on a four-lane street in broad daylight endangers nobody. Except you, because you’re now the cash cow. And whether we all spontaneously quote John Locke or not, virtually everyone senses in their gut that there’s something dishonest, unfair, and even dangerous about this misuse of language and law enforcement resources.

We the public, don’t object to enforcement of laws including traffic laws. If any normal person is pulled over by a live police officer in whose judgment our speed, or speed plus other less tangible things, creates public danger, we blush, fess up, and pay up. We don’t even mind photo radar nabbing stunt-driving

speed demons. But if you’d been sitting at that Edmonton intersection (Baseline Road and 17th Street) with your own radar gun watching traffic, how many of those 52,558 vehicles do you suppose you’d have jumped up and gone, “Whoa nelly, dude, slow down!” or “Don’t you know what a red light is?”

When I say everybody knows, I mean everybody. Do you think cops, traffic court Solons, or municipal councillors drive at or below the posted limit to work, shop, or play? Of course not.

Yet they sit there sanctimoniously plotting. In the case of Waterloo Region, in southwestern Ontario, the plan is to ramp up speed camera tickets from the current 70,000 to 875,000 tickets a year by 2029, which works out to more than one per ticket per driver annually. And not because their inhabitants are maniacal scofflaws, but because in the spirit of Bad King John, these authorities have found a way to tax you without representation.

If you held a referendum asking whether posted speed limits should be ruthlessly enforced on everyone, the result, I am confident, would be massively against. If you asked whether they should be raised significantly, then enforced rigorously, it might be different. But the point is, we haven’t been asked. Governments just fell in love with the lucre they could extract and began putting them everywhere. And if you contest the tick-

ets, the conviction rate would have embarrassed Joseph Stalin.

Oh, and in Ontario, they increase the fine if you presume to insist on your day in court. They say it’s not meant as a deterrent, but I say try lowering the fine for anyone who fights and loses and see if incentives matter. I say it’s not just financially dangerous, but socially and politically dangerous as well.

On the bright side, nearly everywhere this nasty experiment has been tried, from Texas to Ontario under Bob Rae, the public managed to put a stop to it, at least temporarily.

So far, my efforts to contest these tickets have been met with surprising contempt for my arguments regarding the Charter of Rights and Freedoms and its promise of “fundamental justice.”

As my quest to get a fair hearing in court continues, readers outside of Alberta should be warned that they, too, could soon be plundered for driving normally under the guise of public safety, by governments so chronically unable to manage their own finances that they raid yours.

My advice: don’t let them do it to you. Fight it in the public arena, in the voting booth, and yes, in the courts. They’ll convict you, of course. But if their administrative costs exceed the booty, they’ll eventually stop.

JOHN ROBSON
C2C JOURNAL



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COMMUNITY VOICES

Monthly Message: When worry and perfectionism get in the way of growth

Today's kids face a great deal of pressure, not just to do well in school, but to perform in sports, music, and other extracurricular activities. While some nervousness is a normal part of growing up, for many children, these situations can trigger intense performance anxiety or perfectionism. These struggles can impact not only their success but also their confidence and emotional well-being.

It's easy to overlook these challenges. A child might appear hardworking or driven, but underneath they may be scared of making mistakes, afraid to disappoint others, or convinced they're not good enough. At WonderTree, we often work with families navigating this hidden stress and offer support to help kids thrive, not just achieve.

Signs to look for

Performance anxiety and perfectionism can take different forms: trouble sleeping, procrastinating, avoiding tasks altogether, or becoming upset over small mistakes. Some children redo work repeatedly, seek constant reassurance, or withdraw when something feels too hard. Others may become highly self-critical, saying things like, "I'll never be good at this" or "It has to be perfect."

These challenges can stem from temperament, but they're often reinforced by outside pressures, academic demands, comparisons to peers or siblings, or a belief that their worth is tied to success. Over time, these beliefs can impact motivation, self-esteem, and joy in learning or performance.

What you can do

While you can't take the test or step on stage for them, you can help your child manage these feelings and build resilience.

- **Start with validation:** Let your child know that it's okay to feel nervous or overwhelmed. You might say, "It's normal to feel this way, this matters to you." Validating emotions doesn't mean agreeing with every thought, but it does create a sense of safety and emotional trust. When kids feel heard, they're more likely to open up and less likely to feel shame around their emotions.
- **Reframe the goal:** Help shift their focus from outcomes to effort. Praise hard

work, persistence, and growth, not just scores or wins. Instead of saying, "You need to get an A," try, "Let's make a plan so you feel prepared." This encourages a growth mindset where mistakes are part of learning, not something to fear.

- **Model healthy self-talk:** Children watch how we respond to mistakes. When you slip up, show them how to move forward with compassion: "Oops, I forgot, that's okay, I'll fix it and try again." This shows that mistakes are manageable, not catastrophic.
- **Set realistic expectations:** Help your child set achievable goals and break big tasks into smaller steps. Perfectionistic thinking can lead to all-or-nothing beliefs, like "If it's not perfect, I've failed." By focusing on progress and small wins, you help your child build confidence and momentum.

• **Build strong routines:** Lack of sleep, poor nutrition, and too much screen time can make anxiety worse. Consistent routines support both physical and emotional well-being. Prioritize sleep, balanced meals, and time for rest alongside school and activities.

- **Teach coping tools:** Help your child learn practical strategies to manage stress. Breathing exercises (like box breathing), visualization, and positive self-talk (e.g., "I've worked hard—I can do this") are valuable tools. Practice them when your child is calm so they're easier to use under pressure.
- **Avoid over scheduling:** Even capable kids can become overwhelmed by too many commitments. Check in regularly: Is your child doing things they enjoy? Or do they feel drained or obligated? Protecting downtime allows space to recharge and

grow in all areas, not just performance.

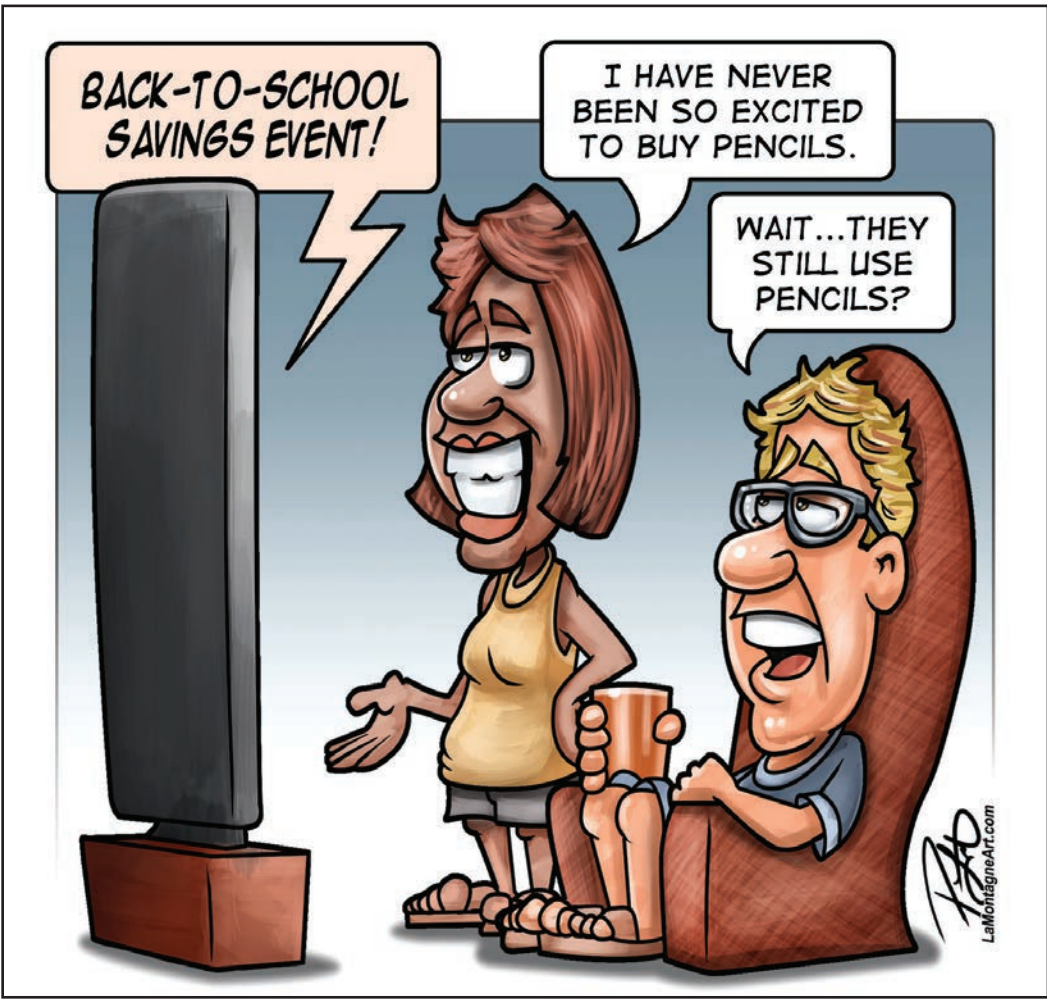
- **Look at the environment:** Sometimes the issue isn't your child's mindset, it's the pressure around them. School culture, extracurricular demands, or comparison-driven environments may need to be adjusted. If expectations are consistently unmanageable, it's okay to explore changes or seek accommodations.

When to seek support

If your child's perfectionism or anxiety leads to distress, physical symptoms, or avoidance, professional support can make a big difference. Therapy can help kids challenge unhelpful thoughts, learn new coping strategies, and rebuild a healthier relationship with success and failure.

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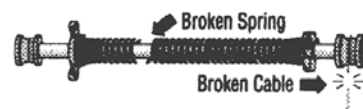
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Thank you to Terry Gauthier and Dods & McNair for helping us in our time of need. And to Reverend Creola Simpson, the service, the thoughts and prayers – Thank You. Also, to the ladies at the Tweedsmuir Church for the wonderful luncheon. Your kindness is greatly appreciated and will always be remembered.

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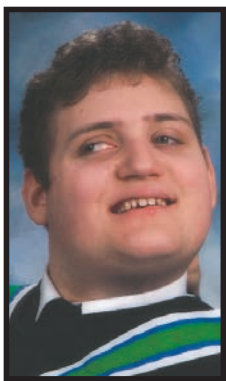
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DRUG PROBLEM? We've been there, we can help! Please refer to georgianheartlandna.org for a complete list of Narcotics Anonymous meetings. Call anytime 519-215-0761.

ARE YOU A WOMAN living with abuse? For safety, emergency shelter, and counseling call Family Transition Place, (519)941-HELP or 1-800-265-9178.

FOR INFORMATION regarding **HEART and STROKE**, call Dori Ebel (519)941-1865 or 1-800-360-1557.

IF YOU or a FAMILY MEMBER are struggling with gambling, Gamblers Anonymous is there to HELP. Call: 1(855) 222-5542 or visit www.gatoronto.ca.

ALZHEIMER SUPPORT GROUPS meet monthly for spousal & family support. Call (519) 941-1221.

LA LECHE LEAGUE Orangeville offers breastfeeding support. For more info call Erin at 519-943-0703.

ORANGEVILLE OVER 65 – Single Social Club. A place to meet and make new friends. We meet every Thursday at 5:30pm. Many activities. For information call Ken 519-278-6341 / Betty 519-942-3090.

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OBITUARIES

JAMES (JIM) ALLAN PIPHER

OCTOBER 8, 1941 - JULY 29, 2025

Jim Pipher, age 83, of Bruce Mines, Ontario, passed away at home on July 29th, 2025, surrounded by family and birdsong, after a courageous face off with cancer. He outlived his prognosis by three years.

Born on October 8th, 1941, in Oshawa, Ontario, Jim was the eldest son of Bill and Dorothy Pipher. He married Barbara (nee Patterson) in 1964 and together raised two daughters, Catherine & Becky on the farm.

Baseball was one of Jim's primary loves. At one point in his youth, he was on three teams at once and was ultimately scouted by the Detroit Tigers in the position of pitcher.

He was a newspaper pressman by trade (Toronto Star) who ultimately followed his heart into farming, inspired by summer work on an uncle's farm. Ever the athlete, Jim was also very active on local hockey teams and belonged to the local men's golf club up until the time of his death. He was a people person who loved the camaraderie of "the game".

Admired for his stockmanship, Jim was sought after for his practical veterinary skills by neighbouring farmers.

In midlife, he became known in purebred beef cattle circles for the prized Hereford herd he raised in his role as farm manager for filmmaker Norman Jewison (also family) in the Caledon Hills north of Toronto.

Jim had a passion for animal husbandry, birding, hunting and the outdoors.

He acknowledged and connected with people from all walks of life who crossed his path, with no discrimination. He was a man of strong values and impeccable integrity.

His friendships are too numerous to count.

Jim is predeceased by his younger brother John and his parents. He is survived by his wife Barbara of 61 years, his daughters Catherine Brown (Phil) and Becky Brownell (Jason), and his one and only grandchild Cayley Brown (Cody).

Open-minded and a lifelong learner, Jim was a mentor to many young people. He was skillful in many disciplines, as most farmers are. He loved the land, the cattle, the birds and wildlife and all the people and places that connected him to his wild way of life.

A celebration of life will be held in Caledon East on September 27th from 1-5 pm. For more details contact the family.



GARY ROBERT COULTER

MAY 5, 1953 - AUGUST 5, 2025

Gary Robert Coulter passed away peacefully on August 5, 2025, while visiting family in St. John's, Newfoundland. He was surrounded by love and warmth in his final moments - just as he lived his life. Born on Cinco de Mayo, 1953, Gary brought color, spirit, and a touch of mischief everywhere he went. He was 72 years old.

Gary made his home in Orangeville, Ontario, where he was a well-known and deeply loved figure in the community. A lifelong entrepreneur, he owned and ran a number of bars and restaurants - places that became more than just businesses, but homes for stories, laughter, and friendship. He had a quick wit, a gentle heart, and a gift for making anyone feel welcome.

He is survived by his loving daughter Angela Rose Coulter, and his five adoring grandchildren: Mackenzie Mae Pittman, Kaylene Paige Coulter Bodhaine, Tea Louise Pittman, Carter Daniel Pittman, and Pierson Che Pittman. He also leaves behind his brother Greg Coulter and Greg's partner Gwen Dumer.

Gary is reunited now with his beloved wife, Lesley Jane Coulter (Jane), and his cherished son, Sean Cameron Coulter. The bond they shared in life endures beyond.

Gary lived with music in his soul, and fittingly, he carried his favorite song with him - "Drink a Beer" by Luke Bryan - tattooed on his arm. That song, like Gary himself, is a reminder to pause, reflect, and remember those we've lost, with love.

He will be deeply missed and forever remembered by all who knew him - for his humor, his hugs, and the quiet kindness that never needed to announce itself.

We'll raise a glass, play his song, and remember the man who gave us so much to smile about.



TED DERBYSHIRE

Peacefully at Bethell Hospice, Inglewood, on Tuesday, August 5, 2025, Edward Gordon Derbyshire, in his 96th year.

Dear father of Steven and Candy Derbyshire, Jeff Derbyshire, Cindy Derbyshire and Pete Brunskole, Chris Derbyshire.

Lovingly remembered by 7 grandchildren, 12 great grandchildren and 3 great great grandchildren. Predeceased by his grandson Jimmy Dupon and his brothers John and his wife Florence Derbyshire, Robert and his wife Shirley Derbyshire. The family received their friends at the Egan Funeral Home, 203 Queen Street S., Bolton on Monday, August 11 from 12 Noon until time of funeral service in the chapel at one o'clock. Interment Laurel Hill Cemetery, Bolton. If desired, memorial donations may be made to Bethell Hospice Foundation, 15835 McLaughlin Road, Inglewood L7C 1H4 (www.bethellhospice.org).

Condolences for the family may be offered at www.EganFuneralHome.com



EDNA LESCHYSHYN

Passed away peacefully with her loving family by her side at Toronto General Hospital on Wednesday, July 30, 2025. Beloved wife of Peter Leschyshyn – 2013. Dear Mother of Brian, Steven

(Laura) and David – 2013. Cherished Grandmother of Justine. Dear Sister of Isabelle Nosworthy, and John Snell (Ruth). Predeceased by her siblings Doug Snell (Ellen), Marie Brown (Don), and Joe Snell. Dearest sister-in-law to Ruth Snell and Grace Buziak. Edna will also be greatly remembered by her many nieces and nephews, other relatives and many friends.

The family received their friends at Dods & McNair Funeral Home, 21 First St, Orangeville on Tuesday, August 5, 2025 from 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm and 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm. Funeral service was held at Tweedsmuir Presbyterian Church, 6 John St, Orangeville on Wednesday, August 6, 2025 at 11:00 am. Interment was at Forest Lawn Cemetery – Mono. Memorial Donations to the Canadian Cancer Society would be appreciated by the Family in lieu of flowers.



ELIZABETH "BETTY" ELEANOR BRECKENRIDGE (NEE COOK)

DECEMBER 14, 1927 - JULY 30, 2025

On July 30, 2025, at the age of 97, Betty peacefully left this world. She was the loving wife and partner of George Breckenridge (2019), with whom she enjoyed 67 years of marriage. Born in Toronto to Sophia and Wesley Cook, she was the youngest of three children.

Betty was the proud and supportive mom of Jane & Angelo Diana, Cathie Breckenridge & Clive Sharpe, Ian Breckenridge & Tracey Hand-Breckenridge, and Beth Breckenridge. She was treasured by her grandchildren Scott, Carrie (Leah), Valerie (Josh), Alex (Genevieve), Nicole (Lance), Sarah (Tim), and Ian Andrew (Jessica). Betty was absolutely delighted to be great-grandma to Ambrose, Luc, Jack, and Liam.

In addition to her family, church was an important part of Betty's life and she enjoyed singing in a number of church and community choirs with George. They spent 19 years living near Orangeville, where they were active in Westminster United Church, later when living in Bowmanville at St. Paul's United Church, and in Toronto at Islington United Church.

Baking, cooking, knitting, crocheting and ceramics were things at which Betty excelled, often entering items in the fall fair. In her earlier years, she was a skilled swimmer and, as the years passed, remained graceful in the pool. An avid gardener, she was a member of the Orangeville and District Horticultural Society and also volunteered at Mono Amaranth Public School. She passed on her love of nature and birds to her children. Betty was a word and number puzzle enthusiast, solving Sudoku, Jumble and Cryptiquip right up until her passing. Betty and George enjoyed many years as snowbirds, travelling between Wilmet Creek and Venice, Florida, where they were active members of their communities. Betty volunteered in the kindergarten of Garden Elementary School in Venice for 30 years. Betty's calm and gentle demeanour and her witiness made her a caring and dear friend to many. She will be missed by her friends at Delmanor West Village and Parkland.

Cremation has occurred, and the ashes of Betty and George will be scattered at a private celebration for immediate family.

If you so wish, donations in Betty's name can be made to the Canadian Cancer Society, Heart and Stroke, or a charity of your choice.

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