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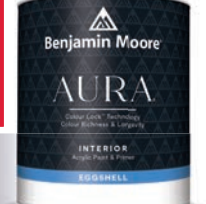
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**EXCELLENCE IN AVIATION:** Heather Hills, a resident of Orangeville, has been announced as a recipient of the Northern Lights Aero Foundation's Rising Star Award, which is a prestigious accolade within the aviation and aerospace industry. Hills enrolled in a nearly two year intensive with the Brampton Flying Centre in 2019 and completed the program in 2021. Following the completion of the aviation program, Hills began working as a flight instructor with the Brampton Flight Centre. In 2022, she joined Porter Airlines as a First Officer and has since upgraded to become a Captain. Read a full story on Page A2.

## Orangeville to receive \$8.1 million for water infrastructure

Written By SAM ODROWSKI

The Town of Orangeville is receiving \$8.1 million for improvements to its water infrastructure capacity.

The Ontario government announced the funding on Aug. 15, which will support the future construction of approximately 3,055 new housing units in Orangeville.

"We are grateful to the province for this significant investment in Orangeville's future. This funding will allow us to move forward critical water infrastructure projects which is the foundation on which new housing, job creation, and economic growth are built," said Orangeville Mayor Lisa Post.

"By unlocking access to additional water supply, we can focus on allocation for development to help address housing needs, attract new businesses, and strengthen our local economy, all while ensuring reliable water services for generations to come. Our Capital and Public Works teams have worked hard to plan for this moment, and this support from the Province will help turn those plans into reality."

The \$8.1 million in funding is being provided to Orangeville through the province's Mu-

nicipal Housing-Enabling Water System Fund stream of the Municipal Housing Infrastructure Program (MHIP).

MHIP invests in housing and community-enabling infrastructure throughout Ontario to assist municipalities in maintaining or building core infrastructure. This includes roads and water systems, which support the construction of new housing units.

"Our government's investment in the Town of Orangeville's water infrastructure is a key step toward unlocking more housing, creating good jobs, and supporting the long-term growth of our community," said Dufferin-Caledon MPP Sylvia Jones. "By laying the foundation for new homes, we are helping ensure Orangeville remains a vibrant and welcoming place for families to live, work, and thrive."

According to the Ontario government, this round of MHIP funding brings the total number of homes enabled through the program to approximately 800,000.

"In the face of economic uncertainty, our government is investing in the future for the people of Ontario by doubling down on our plan to build," said Kinga Surma, Ontario's Minister of Infrastructure.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**FUNDING BOOST:** Orangeville council members, town staff, and Amaranth Mayor Chris Gerrits were joined by Dufferin-Caledon MPP Sylvia Jones at Town Hall on Aug. 15 to celebrate \$8.1 million in funding for water infrastructure, provided by the Ontario government. Councillor Andy Macintosh, Orangeville Mayor Lisa Post, Deputy Mayor Todd Taylor, and Councillor Joe Andrews were in attendance. Amaranth's mayor was also present, as the investment will help to support the growth of Amaranth, in addition to Orangeville.

"With our additional investments in the MHIP, we're unlocking more housing and building critical infrastructure that will protect communities, keep workers on the job and lay the groundwork for a stronger economy."



# Applications open for Dufferin Community Foundaiton's 2025 Fall Grants

Written By PAULA BROWN  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Dufferin Community Foundation (DCF) is looking to support a number of local charities with the return of their Fall Grants. The foundation announced on Aug. 15 that it is now accepting applications for its 2025 Fall Grants, with the addition of two new funding opportunities and more than \$27,000 in funding up for grabs. “I’ve been on the other side of the table and know what it’s like the work that needs to be done in the community, but having to pass the hat around all the time [for funding],” said Shirley Boxom, chair of the DCF Grants Committee. “It’s really important to open up those avenues to better and more consistent funding, given that we really couldn’t be a thriving community without our not-for-profits and charities.” The Dufferin Community Foundation introduced the Fall Grants program for the

first-time last year, with two grants — the Arts and Culture Fund and the Environmental Fund. The Arts and Culture Fund, valued at \$2,000 each, was awarded to four local charities — Dufferin Children and Family Services, Streams Community Hub, Caledon Meals on Wheels, and The Brave Canoe. The Environmental Fund, valued at \$2,500, was awarded to the National Wildlife Foundation. Following the response to the Fall Grant program, DCF decided to introduce two additional grants to the program — the Dufferin Vision Fund and the Refugee Resettlement Fund. The Dufferin Vision Fund aims to provide grants for initiatives that meet urgent community needs or promote opportunities within the county. This year’s grant will focus on funding cultural programs, services, or initiatives that improve mental health for local residents. There are three grants val-

ued at \$2,500 available. The Dufferin Vision Fund was created in direct response to the number of applications DCF received from social service agencies for the Arts, Culture & Heritage Fund. “Half, if not more, of the applications that we received for arts and culture grants were from social service agencies that were using the arts to heal or address their clients,” explained Boxom. “We’re recognizing how integral the arts are for mental health and wellbeing.” The Refugee Resettlement Fund, valued at \$4,000, looks to support groups that help resettle refugees in Dufferin County. To award the grant, DCF will be using a “consensus-based grant decision.” This means the foundation will sit down with key players and members who work with refugees on resettlement and come to a group agreement on where the funds should go. The Arts, Culture & Heritage Grant and the Environmental Fund were both brought

back for the 2025 Fall Grants, with changes to the values awarded. The Arts, Culture & Heritage Grant provides grants to organizations that advance the appreciation and awareness of the arts, community heritage, and cultural traditions within Dufferin County. The grant is available for either one or two applicants with a total amount of \$13,750. The Environmental Fund grant is aimed at organizations taking innovative approaches to community-based environmental management, including technological advances, environmental education, and stewardship of land and natural resources. The deadline to submit an application for the 2025 Fall Grants is Sept. 18 at 5 p.m. From there, the applications will undergo a grant review process, and the recipients will be announced in early November. To learn more about the Dufferin Community Foundation 2025 Fall Grants, visit [www.dufferincommunityfoundation.ca](http://www.dufferincommunityfoundation.ca).

# Orangeville pilot to receive Rising Star Award at upcoming gala for aviation contributions

Written By PAULA BROWN  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

A pilot from Dufferin County is being recognized for her contributions and leadership in the aviation industry with a prestigious award. Heather Hills, a resident of Orangeville, has been announced as a recipient of the Rising Star Award from Northern Lights Aero Foundation (NLAF). Each year, the Northern Lights Aero Foundation (NLAF) grants the prestigious Elsie Awards, recognizing Canadian women who have made a significant contribution to aviation or aerospace. Named after aviation pioneer and human rights activist Elsie Gregory MacGill, the award is given to outstanding women across seven categories – Business, Education, Engineering, Flight Operations, Government, Rising Star, and Trailblazer. The Rising Star Award, which Hills is a recipient of, is granted to a woman between the ages of 16 and 30 who has demonstrated exceptional promise of leadership and contribution in any area of aviation and aerospace or in a volunteer capacity. Hills was nominated by a previous Elsie Awards winner and was chosen as a recipient by a panel of judges. “It’s hard to put into words. I started getting involved with this organization when I was at the beginning of my flight training. Being on the other side is pretty surreal because I remember going to my first gala

and hearing about all these women, and just being in awe,” said Hills. “Six year later, being one of the recipients is very cool and it doesn’t feel real.” A significant part of the Elsie Awards is that it highlights the contributions of women within the aviation and aerospace industry. According to the Canadian Owners and Pilots Association (COPA), women represent approximately seven per cent of pilots in Canada. The Institute for Women of Aviation Worldwide (iWOAW) reports that in 2023, Canadian women received 12 per cent of the 6,354 pilot licences issued by Transport Canada, which is a more than 58 per cent increase from 2010. “When I was younger, I never saw a female pilot so that’s one of the reasons I’m so passionate about doing girls in aviation events. Representation is so important,” said Hills. “If you can see yourself doing something, you’re more inclined to work towards it and dream about it.” Hills began flying recreationally in the summer of 2015, before going to York University to study Business Administration at the Schulich School of Business. After graduating from university in 2019, Hills enrolled in an almost two-year intensive program with the Brampton Flight Centre, which she completed in 2021. “About two years into my degree, I sort of realized that I didn’t want the typical nine to five and I wanted to go back and explore flying,” explained Hills.

Following the completion of her aviation program, Hills worked as a flight instructor with the Brampton Flight Centre. In 2022, she joined Porter Airlines as a First Officer and has since been promoted to Captain. In addition to her flying career, Hills also serves as program coordinator for the aviation program at Conestoga College and is set to begin teaching an introduction to aviation course at the college in September. She also sits as vice president of the Upper Canada Chapter of Women in Aviation and sits on the board for the 2026 Canadian Women in Aviation Conference, having previously co-chaired in 2024. Hills was a part of the Northern Lights Aero Foundation’s mentorship program as a mentee and was later selected to be part of the Junior Board, which she sat on for a three-year term from 2021 to 2024. Hills will be presented with the Rising Star Award during the 16th Annual Northern Light Aero Foundation Awards Gala on Oct. 4 in Toronto.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**FLYING HIGH:** Orangeville pilot Heather Hills will be receiving the Northern Lights Aero Foundation’s Rising Star Award at the 16th Annual Northern Light Aero Foundation Awards Gala on Oct. 4 in Toronto. Each year, the Northern Lights Aero Foundation (NLAF) grants the prestigious Elsie Awards, recognizing Canadian women who have made a significant contribution to aviation or aerospace.



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# Building permits required for most construction projects in Dufferin

Written By **SAM ODROWSKI**

The County of Dufferin issued a statement on Aug. 13, reminding the public that they must secure building permits for most construction projects.

County residents who plan to renovate or build a new structure on their property must obtain a building permit.

Building permits help to ensure construction projects meet minimum safety standards. Permits also ensure compliance with building codes and zoning regulations.

They can help provide a framework for safe construction practices, while protecting homeowners and the wider community.

“Dufferin County’s Building Services Division is dedicated to providing good customer service and helping contractors and residents every step of the way during the permit application process,” said Becky MacNaughtan, the County of Dufferin’s chief building official. “We want to keep our community safe and ensure construction follows all building codes and zoning requirements. That’s where building permits come in. Together, we can ensure local construction is legal and that all building is completed in a safe manner.”

The Building Code Act states that a building permit must be obtained for the construction of any structure taking up an area greater than 10 square meters, consisting of a wall, roof, and floor. This also includes a structural system for plumbing, works, fixtures, or service systems

A permit is also needed for the installation of plumbing not located in a structure, a sewage disposal system, and structures designated in the building code.

Other projects that require building per-

mits include any addition to an existing building, any structural alterations (new windows or doors), finishing a basement, adding a basement entrance or building a new deck or porch.

A full list of projects that require building permits can be found at the County of Dufferin’s website: [dufferincounty.ca/building-services/frequently-asked-questions](http://dufferincounty.ca/building-services/frequently-asked-questions).

When buying a recently renovated home or a property with new additions, the purchaser is required to ensure a permit will be or was obtained for those projects.

Anyone who builds without a permit when it is required is in violation of the Building Code Act and may be on the receiving end of enforcement actions.

Orders may be issued until compliance is achieved, and non-compliance may lead to court proceedings. Fines ranging from \$500 to \$50,000 can be issued, and corporations may be fined larger amounts.

When compliance is not achieved, work may have to be undone and removed altogether.

To legalize any unpermitted work, a building permit must be obtained through the County of Dufferin’s building department. A permit can be obtained online at [dufferincounty.ca](http://dufferincounty.ca).

Anyone who needs support in obtaining a permit can reach out to Dufferin County’s building team at [building@dufferincounty.ca](mailto:building@dufferincounty.ca) or 519 941-2816 ext. 2700.

“Help keep our community safe. Get a permit for all renovations and building and check the history of a property you might purchase or have already purchased,” reads a statement from the County of Dufferin. “The County’s Building Services Division is here to assist you, every step of the way.”

# Town officials maintained a watchful eye on fire conditions during dry period

Written By **JAMES MATTHEWS**

Orangeville was one of a few municipalities that didn’t ban open air fires in recent weeks.

Many southern Ontario cities and provincial campgrounds prohibited burning through much of July and August, before this week’s rain. Heat wave conditions left areas tinder dry and stoked concerns about wildfires.

Natural Resources Canada also warned of the increased risk of fires, which was categorized as extreme in the province’s forested areas.

Heather Savage, the town’s general manag-

er of community services, said during council’s Aug. 11 meeting that Orangeville Fire Chief John Snider worked closely during the summer with his counterparts at fire departments throughout Dufferin County.

The decision not to implement a fire ban in Orangeville was based on multiple factors, she said.

“We have a very comprehensive burn permit program here that prescribes who can burn, who can’t,” Savage said. “We don’t have open space and rural areas like other areas do. And our burn permit program is only for recreational use whereas other municipalities may be for other purposes.”

# Eight faucets stolen from hardware store in Orangeville

Dufferin Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) officers are investigating a shoplifting incident at a hardware store on Fourth Avenue in Orangeville and are seeking the public’s assistance in identifying two individuals.

Dufferin OPP responded to a report of a theft on July 29, shortly before 9 a.m. It was reported that one suspect entered the store and allegedly stole eight faucets, while a second individual remained outside in a white Chevrolet Trax with Ontario licence plate DAW 989.

The suspect who entered the store is described as having a darker complexion, beard and thin build, wearing a baseball-style hat, white shirt, and dark pants.

Anyone with information about this incident is asked to contact the OPP at 1-888-310-1122 with incident number E251008896.

To remain anonymous, you can contact Crime Stoppers at 1-800-822-8477 (TIPS) or visit [www.crimestopperssdm.com](http://www.crimestopperssdm.com).

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**COMMUNITY EFFORT:** The Orangeville Food Bank’s Summerlicious Food Drive was well supported by the community over the weekend. More than 7,000 pounds of food and \$1,777.90 was collected by food bank volunteers on Aug. 16 at Orangeville grocery stores, such as Sobeys, Zehrs, Metro, Fresh Co., and No Frills. The Orangeville Food Bank would like to extend a special thanks to these grocery stores for welcoming volunteers to collect donations.





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# Dufferin Film Festival showcases the best of new film talent

Written By **JOSHUA DRAKES**

As the Dufferin Film Festival kicked off last Friday (Aug. 15), guests were treated to a rich and diverse range of short films, ranging from comedy to political commentary.

The screenings started with *The Trade*, written by Ren Olivieri and directed by David Kalinauskas, at the Orangeville Opera House.

The film centers on Ray, a fantasy sports junkie who lives and breathes at his desk, obsessed with his fantasy lineup. Ray's wife, Karen, calls a reluctant Ray to the kitchen to sit down. Karen explains, much like a manager of a sports team, that Ray isn't "performing" well enough and will be traded to another wife in the area. Ray at first is confused, then angry, arguing that he's devoted his best years to this arrangement, to which Karen counters that it just hasn't been enough, and that his performance has actually degraded over time.

Karen continues by saying that she will be receiving Gary in exchange for Ray, who is younger and more compatible with her needs, and has Ray out the door with his bags already packed and ready to go.

This lighthearted comedy was short and straight to the point. Any viewer would expect Karen's motives would have been confronting Ray about his addiction to fantasy sports and his lack of care and effort for their marriage. One would expect she would have presented him with divorce papers.

Instead, in rich irony, Ray found himself traded out in favour of a younger man and discarded without any care, just like an unpopular roster on his fantasy team.

What truly sells the plot is the casual attitude of the cast, treating this as a totally normal occurrence. Ray insists he deserves to stay on the team, not that he can save the marriage, and Karen treats this as a workplace dispute, with nothing personal between them.

### Ewa's Letter

Next up in the screening was *Ewa's Letter*, written by Hunter Diletti and directed by Keaton James Browning.

The film follows a mother and son living in Poland during the later years of communism. Despite the harsh conditions, both politically and economically, the mother works hard to make sure her son is fed and comfortable, while also writing speeches for the Solidarity Movement opposing communist rule.

The pair leaves the house to collect food, and the mother leaves her son in line to go meet an underground contact, though she is noticed by nearby police. When she hands over her speech, the speaker suggests that next time, she perform it herself, though she declines.

Suddenly, police arrive and grab the man, forcing her to retreat and find her son, who, af-

ter being turned away from the food line, was given food by his uncle. This drives a wedge in the family, as the mother wants nothing to do with him, as he deals in illegal business. Before he leaves, he asks if they can trust the man who was arrested, and implies he might sell them out to the police, which the mother immediately rejects.

This proves to be a mistake, as later, the police arrive and seize her while her son hides away to avoid being taken as well. While she is released, it is a bittersweet moment, as her son greets her, now grown up and a man.

The film makes fantastic use of limited resources, recreating the brutalist architecture of 1980s Poland with exterior shots of Cambridge, Ont., and interior shots are full of small details that make the rooms feel real. Bookshelves aren't just full of books; they have figures, models, toys, and the tables have coasters and mats.

The home of the mother and son feels lived in, and used, even dirty or worn down. You feel the weight of their plight, the minimal resources they have to live with.

Despite it all, however, we see a home that is one of love and support. The hope for better days ahead, for real change.

All of this is heartbreakingly shattered as police arrive and haul the mother away for crimes against the state. What crime? Writing speeches. She was just one of many — numbers in the communist system, but real human beings with lives — to be hauled away on trumped-up charges. A mother who was robbed of seeing her son grow up. A mother who is already losing her husband, knowing her son will now be alone, forced to survive on his own, and the state doesn't care.

It is a timeless reminder that freedom never comes easy. It's a perpetual fight, and it will always come at a cost.

### Midnight Coachmen

The third film screened was *Midnight Coachmen*, written and directed by Enrico Ferri, a dramatic reimagining of the Cinderella fairytale.

Told from the perspective of a dog and a mouse, both in human form until midnight, *Midnight Coachmen* follows everything essentially not happening in the ball itself, but what is happening outside at the time, with only brief glimpses inside.

Both the dog and the mouse have uniquely separate journeys throughout the film. One struggles to make a connection with a woman, and the other explores his surroundings and indulges in his gluttonous side, downing desserts left and right. Both don't seem too in touch with their human forms, but once Cinderella leaves the party, they immediately jump into action and go back to her.

This film was difficult to describe and even



**FILMMAKERS UNITE:** Left photo: The Dufferin Film Festival's organizing team addresses the crowd at the Orangeville Opera House on Friday, Aug. 15. Right photo: Writers and directors participating in the Dufferin Film Festival answered questions from the crowd after their films were screened.



JOSHUA DRAKES PHOTOS

harder to write about. Visually, it is absolutely stunning. The night atmosphere is almost a perfect blend of peaceful quiet and an uncanny eeriness, with the perspective as a viewer skewed somehow, setting up the reveal that the pair of men we've been following aren't quite normal.

Yet, from their perspective, all the humans seen in the film appear to be acting strangely, or acting how they perceive to be strange.

There are multiple flashbacks to the two men with Cinderella, either in a field, lying in some grass, or wandering. Early on, the viewer doesn't understand the significance of it, and might even think it's strange, but once they realize these men are the dog and mouse from the original story, pets and companions of Cinderella, it makes sense. They are simply spending time with her, as she lounges outside or explores the world.

### A Good Day Will Come

The final entry in the mix was *A Good Day Will Come*, written and directed by Amir Zargara.

This powerful film follows Arash, an Iranian pro-wrestler, preparing to win gold at a tournament for his country. However, the country is in the middle of the 2018 protests, and he is constantly burdened by the suffering of his country, which distracts him from his career.

It all comes to a head when his own family is killed during the protests, leading to him arguing with his coach over what to do. His coach insists he focus on his career, and not get involved with politics. Arash, however, feels compelled to take a stand, and so after winning his match, he wears a shirt with a picture of his lost family and the date of their death.

Returning home, he struggles to focus on wrestling, as his political stance has incurred the wrath of the government, which is already watching him from the moment he arrives home.

He finally decides to use his fame to take a stand. Against the advice of his mother, he joins a protest, and as they march towards a confrontation with the military, he manages to dissuade angry protestors from resorting to violence and convinces the military to stand down.

Unfortunately, government enforcers were watching, and shortly afterward, he was arrested while leaving home, presumably never to return.

This film was, by far, the Citizen's favourite screening of the evening. The acting was phenomenal; everyone portrayed themselves brilliantly, especially Arash's coach. Despite being angry and against the idea of any political demonstrations, when Arash makes up his mind, his coach backs him up completely, no matter what his personal feelings are.

The atmosphere felt alive as well. Arash's home was simple, but felt lived in. Little imperfections, home-cooked meals, nothing looked out of place or artificial. It was the home of anyone and everyone, a conduit for anyone to see themselves in his shoes.

The streets of the protests were also choreographed well. When you have a limited cast, but you want the impression of a big crowd, you mold the scenery to make it big.

By using tight alleys and close up camera shots, you can give the impression of a much larger group without having to rely on large numbers.

Finally, the story is another reminder of the sacrifices made for freedom around the world. Arash is based on Navid Afkari, an Iranian wrestler who was arrested and executed under dubious charges of murder.

In stories like these, Arash represents everyone. The wrestlers, the shopkeepers, the students. Anyone who has a voice. Authoritarian regimes target anyone who speaks out, and it could happen to anyone.

Arash's story reminds viewers of the precious privilege they have of living in a free society.

With that, the Dufferin Film Festival's first night came to a close, leaving audiences with more than just an evening of entertainment — they left with laughter, heartbreak, and reflection.

From biting satire to historical struggles, surreal reimaginings to powerful political drama, each film offered a glimpse into the resilience, creativity, and bold storytelling of Canadian and international filmmakers.

## We're Moving!



Starting September 2025, all in-person Dufferin Waste services will be available at the County's 55 Zina Street, Orangeville location. These waste services will no longer be available at 30 Centre Street after this time.

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# Explore Dufferin County’s hidden gem – Luther Marsh Provincial Wildlife Area

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

Dufferin County residents and visitors looking to get out into nature might want to check out the Luther Marsh Provincial Wildlife Area this season.

Marie-Paule Godin, manager of provincial operations in Ontario for Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC), spoke with the Free Press to share why the Luther Marsh is a must-see tourist spot.

“The more the local communities go in and experience the wetlands the more they will form a kind of appreciation for it, and they will value them more,” said Godin.

The Luther Marsh Wildlife Management Area (WMA) is a 6,000-hectare marshland located at the headwaters of the Grand River watershed. Neighbouring the marsh is the Wylde Lake Bog, an extremely rare type of wetland habitat found in southern Ontario.

Visitors to the Luther Marsh can partake

in a number of outdoor activities from hiking and paddling to bird watching and picnicking. The wildlife area is also accessible for sustainable hunting during the fall with permits.

In addition to being a local tourism spot to explore, the Luther Marsh Provincial Wildlife Area is also an important ecological part of Dufferin County.

The wetlands and tall grass prairies of the Luther Marsh serve as a habitat for a number of species found in Dufferin County, such as amphibians, reptiles, pollinators, salamanders, snakes, birds, and turtles; including the Blanding’s Turtle, which is on the threatened species list.

Godin said that they’ve even received reports of visitors spotting the Northern Flying Squirrel.

“It’s not something that is seen very frequently, so that’s neat and different,” she added. “It’s really a gem of a place for wildlife viewing.”

The wetlands are not just important for the species that call them home, but also for the residents of Dufferin County.

Godin explained that the wetlands act as a “sponge” that can help prevent flooding in cases of intense precipitation and the retention of water during droughts.

Sharing the Luther Marsh Provincial Wildlife Area as a must-see destina-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

**HIDDEN GEM:** The Luther Marsh and neighbouring Wylde Lake Bog, an extremely rare habitat in the region, are important to a variety of wildlife, especially during spring and fall migration. It is one of the best bird-watching spots in Ontario, and a popular destination for hikers and hunters.

tion is as much about tourism as it is about increasing conservation efforts, Godin noted.

“The more we value our wetlands for being there for us to enjoy them and for the benefits of wildlife, the more conservation can happen,” she said. “More people can raise awareness within our government about the importance of conservation, and more mon-

ey can be raised for conservation actions.”

For those who visit the Luther Marsh and want to help further conservation efforts, Godin suggests downloading apps, such as iNaturalist, where they can log what kinds of species they see during their visit.

“It’s really helpful because we can better understand the impact of where species are or where they may not be,” concluded Godin.

## Reform Gravel Mining Coalition lauds CAA's advocacy for aggregates policy changes

CAA is joining an industry coalition advocating for increased use of recycled crushed aggregates (RCA) in infrastructure projects.

The Reform Gravel Mining Coalition (RGMC), representing 20 communities across Ontario that oppose new pit and quarry applications, applauds the Aug. 12 announcement by the Toronto and Area Road Builders Association (TARBA).

“CAA joining this coalition proves that building infrastructure and protecting our environment aren’t competing priorities. They’re the same goal,” said Larry Taman, spokesperson for Melancthon Against Quarries. “With Ontario’s existing 6,000-plus gravel pits and quarries holding a 40-year supply, this industry coalition shows that new extraction is simply unnecessary. This is the kind of visionary reform we’ve been fighting for.”

As the TARBA press release states, if Ontario municipalities mandate just 20 per

cent of RCA use in their infrastructure projects, they can save more than \$260 million annually and reduce greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to removing 15 million cars from the road every year.

The industry coalition’s 20 per cent RCA target would also reduce aggregate demand by 18 million tonnes annually – and substantially reduce the number of gravel pits and quarries in Ontario.

The RGMC and its 20 communities are aligned with this goal.

“This industry coalition demonstrates that recycled aggregates deliver real results, massive cost savings and climate benefits,” says Taman said. “RGMC and Melancthon Against Quarries are excited to have more voices added to the fight. Finally, we have industry leaders showing real leadership on climate action.”

**Double climate and local wins**  
Gravel is the feedstock for new highways

and urban sprawl. Most aggregates are used to manufacture cement and construct buildings, roads, bridges, sewers, and other infrastructure.

The cement industry produces 8 per cent of global carbon emissions. That is why RGMC believes reducing CO2 emissions in the aggregate industry is necessary to help mitigate climate change.

“Every tonne of recycled aggregate represents a double win for our communities because we avoid the emissions from extracting and processing new materials while eliminating the heavy truck traffic from long-distance hauling. This coalition shows the future of responsible development,” says Taman

### Local impact in Melancthon

Adopting RCA standards could eliminate the need for the proposed Strada Blast Quarry in Melancthon while protecting water, farmland and the natural environment.

It would help deliver the previously mentioned proven benefits of \$260 million in annual savings and emissions — equivalent to removing 15 million cars from Ontario roads.

RGMC calls on municipalities to immediately implement this reform that the RCA and RGMC are advocating for, and urges the province to place a moratorium on new pit applications while these proven alternatives are scaled up.

“With a 40-year supply already licensed, proven recycled options available, and a visionary industry coalition showing us the economic and environmental benefits, every new quarry application should be rejected,” says Doug Tripp, RGMC co-chair, “We are excited to support the kind of transformative reform this industry coalition is fighting for, and we’re proud to stand with these forward-thinking organizations in this critical fight.”



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# Arts & Entertainment

## LOCAL COMMUNITY EVENTS



### ‘The Neverending Story’ comes to Theatre Orangeville this weekend

Written By **CONSTANCE SCRAFIELD**

What a thrilling spectacle there will be this weekend, Aug. 22 to 24, at the Orangeville Opera House when Theatre Orangeville’s Young Company Drama brings The Neverending Story to the David Nairn Stage. They are performing the on-stage version of this tremendous story, with the script by David S. Craig.

Fantastica (Fantasia), the land of stories, is in danger!

In brief, The Neverending Story begins when young Bastian happens upon a strange book of the same name and hides in his school’s attic to read it. Yet, this is not a simple few hours of leafing through a curious book – this is an all-in adventure, a quest to save our very valuable imaginations.

It seems the “Nothing” has come to steal all the stories and bring an end to imagining, to blank out those stories and leave behind sad emptiness where wondrous tales once lifted our spirits.

Somehow, the Childlike Empress chooses young Atreyu as the hero who must make the quest to save Fantastica. Atreyu is the same age as Bastian. How the story intertwines them and introduces the many characters they face and deal with are among the many reasons we should be filling the theatre to see this amazing production.

Lucas, playing the role of Atreyu, commented, “Atreyu is sent to go on this quest and he has to figure how to and attempt to save Fantastica from the Nothing.”

The production’s 11 actors and director Pat Rundell took a 20-minute break to talk about the show with the Citizen late last week. They outlined many interesting things about the stage production. Primarily, there are many changes to the characters from the movie to the stage.

“The surprise is the difference on our stage from the movie,” the cast said variously. Some of the beloved characters are different, but the new characters are endearing and make up for the change, adding that this script has been performed in many

other professional theatres. The character, Falkor, looks more like a dog in the movie, but on stage, he is a Dragon, “upbeat and comical.”

Bastian, with Kevin in the part, can see Atreyu, but Atreyu never sees Bastian.

The question of how they began to get into the show was answered by Charlotte saying, “We started by learning how to be absolutely more focused.”

The setting is a magical place, one that invites the audience’s own imaginations to travel with the storytellers and the creation of it, along with the many, many characters. There was a sort of role call as they made clear that two actors are supporting five characters each; another three; one with four, and so on, until the quick changes backstage will definitely be in sequence and ready.

Sophie explained that a lot of the set comes from fabric: “We use our imagination so it looks like a process of fabric.”

At the time of this interview, they were still at the rehearsal hall and commented that there would be “lots of discoveries” once they were in the theatre this week, but their assurance was that they are very confident of all being well.

“This show is completely different from anything else Young Company has done, never had so many people involved,” she noted, with the exception being the 2019 open-air production, which included actors from Young Company and Creative Partners on Stage, on the waterfront amphitheatre in the Island Lake Conservation Area.

There are 11 puppets in the story, and one, designed and made by Wendi Speck and her team, that takes all 11 of them to carry it!

When asked who among them looked forward to taking on a life of acting and theatre, several hands went up, grounded as they are in the professional experience the Young Company has given them.

When further asked what brought them to audition and want to be part of this production, once again, they took turns answering, and the room rang with their affection:



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**YOUNG TALENT:** Theatre Orangeville’s Young Company Drama members posed outside the Rehearsal Hall, where they rehearsed “The Neverending Story.” This week, they are at the theatre, putting together all the aspects of tech, lighting, and sound with the crew. The play will be shown this weekend with four performances, from Aug. 22 through 24.

Simon expressed his view, “We come into a warm environment of opportunity to grow and develop our skills.”

“We become a tight community,” Mickey added.

“This story shows the importance of imagination.”

“New friendships are made by working together.”

“We are learning the importance of persevering on doing what you’re trying to achieve.”

Time was nearly out, and there was room for one more question: Why should people definitely come to see this remarkable show?

Payne said, “People aren’t using their imaginations.” and Avary added, “It’s magi-

cal and scary about bringing an end to the world of imagination.”

Sarah is sure, “People will really connect with the characters,” with Madeline offering that “they will appreciate the creative skills it took to build the show.”

Madeline made the point, “We have worked really hard.”

Scarlett wrapped it up by saying, “There is so much emotion.”

To catch tickets for one of the four performances of The Neverending Story this weekend, Aug. 22 to 24, you can go to [www.theatreorangeville.ca](http://www.theatreorangeville.ca) or call the lovely people at the Box Office at 519-942-3423.

A warm welcome at the Box Office invites you to purchase tickets at the Opera House, 87 Broadway.



**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.



**3 Dealerships, 1 Community**

### The Citizen CROSSWORD

Puzzle No. 258410 • Solution on page: CLASSIFIEDS SECTION

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#### CLUES ACROSS

1. Taxis  
5. Space Systems Command  
8. Plant seed by scattering  
11. Alliances  
13. Fiddler crabs  
14. Heroic tale  
15. Yemen capital  
16. Misleading gesture  
17. Cain and \_\_\_  
18. Simple shoe  
20. Hundredweight  
21. Children’s toy in the snow  
22. Gets rid of  
25. Free of deceit  
30. Performed a dance  
31. Chinese philosophical principle  
32. Exaggerated  
33. Refrain from inflicting

38. A doctrine  
41. Can be subdued  
43. A place to bathe  
45. Land used for pasture  
48. Curved piece of iron  
49. Automobile  
50. Fencing sword  
55. Breezes through  
56. Child  
57. NBA legend Iverson  
59. Horsley and Iacocca are two  
60. Midway between northeast and east  
61. Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation  
62. U.S. leader during much of WW2  
63. Lair  
64. Fibrous material

#### CLUES DOWN

1. Home of “60 Minutes”  
2. Expression of sorrow or pity  
3. \_\_\_ fide: legitimate  
4. Immune response  
5. Assistance and support  
6. Glared  
7. Spanish saloon  
8. Pitch black  
9. S-shaped lines  
10. Statistical test  
12. \_\_\_ Paulo, city  
14. Graduation garb  
19. A way to record  
23. Not good  
24. Weather events  
25. A pituitary hormone  
26. Jamie Foxx film  
27. Rocker’s accessory  
28. One point east (clockwise) of due north  
29. One who obtains pleasure from another’s  
34. Consume  
35. Licensed for Wall Street  
36. Sick  
37. Israeli city \_\_\_ Aviv  
39. Removed the husk  
40. Mass of rocks and sediment  
41. Two-year-old sheep  
42. Area units  
44. Prison overseer  
45. Walked  
46. Wartime escort aircraft carrier  
47. Tax  
48. 50 percent  
51. Swiss river  
52. Tattle  
53. Actor Idris  
54. Resist authority (slang)  
58. Egg of a louse

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



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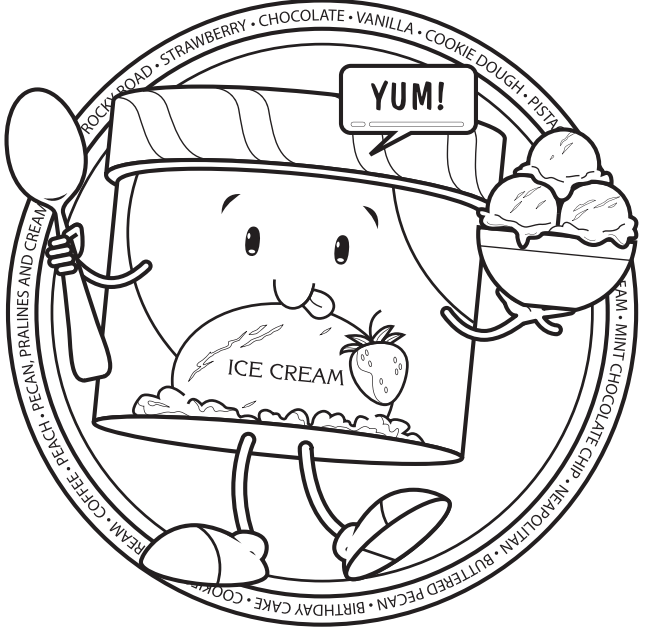
**Get the PICTURE?**



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

Answer: Ice cream cones

### Creative Colouring



YUM!

#### CANADA MONTH HISTORY 1908

The Royal Canadian Mint Opens. The Mint produces all of Canada's circulation coins.

#### CANADA MONTH HISTORY 1866

The colonies of Vancouver Island and British Columbia are united, bearing the Mainland's name as the Colony of British Columbia. The Island capital, Victoria, is set as the seat of government for the colony.



# Artist and environmentalist Piera Pugliese shares her efforts behind the canvas

Written By **CONSTANCE SCRAFIELD**

In 1984, David Attenborough, a famous British naturalist and filmmaker, told the world. “The next 50 years will determine the fate of all life on this planet.”

It was a comment that made a big impression on Headwaters Arts member Piera Pugliese.

“Now we are into 40 years of that 50, and we seem determined to kill off all things.

“It would be hard to to gain appreciation if I painted landscapes of a possible future. I want to paint this is what you’re losing in the next 50 years,” she told the Citizen, speaking from her home in Toronto.

Piera Pugliese did her own solo show at the Headwaters Arts Gallery at the Alton Mill Arts Centre through July, called “The Next 50 Years.”

Although she has not participated in a walking protest as such, Pugliese has written to her MP on the matters of protection for the very waterways and landscapes she loves to paint, especially en plein air.

Sadly, she remarked, “I haven’t been able to paint en plein air because it’s too hot and smoky.”

Pugliese has participated with the McMichael Gallery in Kleinberg for many years and has been trying to find interesting places to paint along the Humber River.

She was recently awarded the 2024 Kleinburg Village Prize for En Plein Air Painting.

“Why we aren’t doing better for the forests and waters,” she quipped. “In Italy, there’s the mafia and in Canada, there are the lobbyists.”

Her husband still has family in Italy. He established the first pizza restaurant in Toronto, called Vesuvio, and ran it for 64 years until the pandemic shut it down.

Pugliese went to study drawing and painting at OCAD in 1992 and went back when her daughter was 12, again drawing and painting. She took electives, getting into “making anything that interested me; I did as much as I possibly could.”

A jewellery course in Haliburton brought

her to the surprises of silver clay, which is molded like clay, and once baked, it becomes silver.

Pugliese agreed that her paintings were like portrait paintings of nature. Much as she enjoyed the many options an artist has for their creativity, she admitted, “By the third year [at OCAD], I realized I had to apply myself to what I was going to do. The rest was just interest, almost play.

“For me, I do a lot of cooking; that’s creative too. As a celiac I have to cook every day. We eat out very rarely. Our pizza was expensive because we used the best ingredients”.

When they had the restaurant, they did find a crust that was gluten free; it had to have its own container and needed very careful handling around the other flours.

One of Pugliese’s two daughters, Ester, is a visual artist who makes interpretive paintings. She goes through a neighbourhood to record sounds which she programs into marks on a sheet of paper, before incorporating shapes and colours with them to tell stories within those paintings.

“They are very beautiful,” her mother praised her.

Three years ago, Pugliese responded to a call for submissions to the Headwaters Arts at the Alton Mill Arts Centre for its annual Fall Festival Show and Sale. Very quickly, she became a member and really enjoyed and appreciated the Mill itself, the resident artists, and the beautiful property. Next, She plans to apply to the Millcroft Inn, where local artists’ work is also hung.

While their restaurant was open, Pugliese’s husband needed her help. Because she could not pursue her art as she wanted, they had a gallery in the restaurant: the Bending Spoons Gallery.

There was a different show every month; different artists.

“It was fun talking to lots of interesting people,” she recalled.

Vesuvio was located on Dundas Street at Hyde Park.

As a member of the Women Artists As-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**PASSION FOR PAINTING:** Piera Pugliese paints at Black Creek Park, painting one of her oil paintings en plein air. She hopes to show what people will be missing if they don’t take good care of the environment and planet Earth.

sociation of Canada (est. 1887) Pugliese is staging her next show in one of the two galleries there.

Her ambition is to keep on painting and have less administration to do – the work of finding new shows and communicating on social media.

In her studio, her method is to bring home her original plein air painting, which is typically done in about four hours and in oils. At the same time, she takes a number of photos to confirm the true light and the colours in the moment she puts the scene on her canvas.

She then begins to modify her plein air painting, where working in the studio is more deliberate, offering much more planning for how to capture the colour, the mood.

She takes it home to discover what is needed to change, to focus the viewer’s eye.

Then the photo references on that day take into consideration whatever the colours need. Sometimes, she uses a much bigger canvas.

“Almost all my paintings are oil. I have two or three on the go all the time for the oil to dry,” she explained. My iPad makes sure the photo I’m working on is clear. The iPad is better.”

What Pugliese wants most is to keep painting for many years; definitely to grow.

“Sometimes I wonder if I’m not making much of a statement. My next show is in the Women Artists Association of Canada gallery.

“It’s all about flowers,” she said. “I painted flowers because they were all gifts.”

To learn more and get in touch with Piera Pugliese, go to [pierapugliese.com](http://pierapugliese.com) or [piera@pierapuglises.com](http://piera@pierapuglises.com)

# Creator of ‘Me and You and the Highland Coo’ shares her journey of bringing it to life

Written By **JOSHUA DRAKES**

When the lights came up on the Toronto Fringe show, “Me and You and the Highland Coo,” at Orangeville’s Summer Arts Fest, audiences saw a quick-witted road trip comedy filled with laughter, conflict, and unexpected heart.

What audiences didn’t see was the years of work put into delivering this unique interactive performance.

For the cast and crew, especially writer and director Sara Masciotra-Milstein, it started two years ago with a desire to present a story that could involve the audience in the narrative, and they’ve been tweaking the script and production since then.

“I thought that audience participation was important, like dramaturgically, to tell this story, because I wanted the audience to feel like they had a part to play in distracting Charlie and Jackie,” Masciotra-Milstein said. “The two girls go on this road trip because they’re avoiding their problems back home, and I thought a fun way to include the audience would be ‘okay, now you have to also help us distract these two girls.”

This angle was actually inspired by her own personal experience in Scotland.

“When I was living in Scotland, I saw that they’re quite big on audience participation,” she said. “I saw a lot of shows happening, like in pubs, very intimate settings, and it always seemed like the audience was invited to participate in one way or another. I wanted to try and recreate that feeling here at the Fringe in Toronto.”

Of course, the risk involved with audience interaction is that, no matter how unlikely, anything can happen. This meant that anytime the cast engaged the audience, they needed to be able to think on their feet and play off of whatever energy the audience gave back to them.

Masciotra-Milstein said that meant improv would be essential for the production. Actors were given not lines, but general guidelines to accompany moments when the audience was brought in, whether that was trivia, drink tasting, or asking them to settle an argument.

Amy Ring, who plays Charlie and worked as co-producer, said that Masciotra-Milstein

asked her to find strong improv actors for this play, and that was how the cast and crew came together.

“Sarah said, ‘Amy, you’re an actor, do you know any actors who are really into improv and would be good at audience interaction and are generally, really funny people?,”” Ring recalled. “I said, Brooklyn Melnyk and Jeremy Lewis, let’s get them involved.”

Both actors regularly perform improv back in Montreal, so they were perfect fits for fast-paced banter with the audience.

The actors settled into their roles very naturally, as Ring described her experience with Charlie’s character.

“Sarah had asked me back in the fall if I wanted to be involved and help her get this thing up on its feet, and she asked me who I wanted to play,” she said. “I really envisioned myself as Charlie, just off the top, because I have a lot of things in common with her. Jackie has, like, this big, big personality, while Charlie is a little bit more of a debbie-downer and pushover, which I related to because I was like that in the past.”

Jackie and Charlie are contrasting characters by design, and Ring said that a lot of her direction of the character came from reacting to how Melnyk portrayed Jackie. As a more passive-minded character, Charlie reacted more than acted first.

“Charlie was born of reacting to Brooklyn’s performances,” she said. “Charlie would not exist without Brooklyn’s version of Jackie. Brooklyn and I had already been friends and co-workers, so we had a lot of chemistry, so her big personality as Jackie helps me find the balance of, ‘where does Charlie play along and think that this is fun and when does she not?’”

Willow’s character also went through a transition as the production went on. What started as a simple GPS-inspired character evolved into the dramatic, flamboyant highland spirit you see on stage.

Jeremy Lewis, who portrayed Willow, said that it was a unique challenge to blend Willow’s character into the cast while still maintaining this unique separation from the story.

“I remember in the first read through, I was like, really sticking hard to the idea of, like a GPS voice,” he said. “So it felt like

Willow was existing in this solely robotic space. Sara said she wanted to have a more human spirit feel for Willow, and I think that allowed for the transition into the other characters to be more approachable.”

Lewis said it gave more clues to the audience to better understand Willow’s motivations, such as why Willow is there and why they are trying to entertain or distract Charlie and Jackie.

This collaborative effort carried over into production as well. As the Toronto Fringe got closer, the team had to figure out the best way to minimize their set to fit within the strict space allotted by the festival for props and sets.

Lewis said that even chairs weren’t safe from the axe.

“Initially, we were going to have chairs on stage with us as car seats,” he said. “But they were taking up too much of the stage and the playing space. We were trying to figure out how to make it work until someone said ‘Do we need these chairs? Couldn’t we just stand behind the car?’”

While Fringe tested the limits of how small they could go with the set, the team said that Orangeville was a breath of fresh air to work with. A larger stage and more space in the audience gave them some much-needed breathing room.

Abi Sanie, assistant director and stage manager, said that they were very grateful for the Theatre Orangeville staff, who, despite a tough time crunch, helped them set up whatever they needed.

“In Toronto, our venue was an eight-foot by 16-foot stage,” Sanie said. “When we got to Orangeville, we realized that the show would live in a very different way, because it’s an incredible space to work with.”

“What’s incredible about Summer Arts Fest is just how fast everything has to go. We got into the theater, we had about a little over an hour to re-space and re-block, and then another two hours or so to completely redo the lighting and sound design in the space, and then do a full run-through. Huge shout-out to the Orangeville staff for helping us make that happen.”

The help they received gave them the opportunity to make full use of the theater, especially with Willow’s character, who could



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**PASSION FOR PAINTING:** Writer and director of “Me and You and the Highland Coo,” Sara Masciotra-Milstein, shares how she put together the script and brought it to life on stage.

now make use of the side and rear doors to fully move through the bigger audience throughout the show.

Despite the festivals now being concluded, the team said they are likely to stick together to continue this story.

“I think we know this is not the end of the coo crew,” Masciotra-Milstein said. “We’re all really dedicated to this story, which is so heartwarming for me, because for so long it existed just in my head. We had the best summer ever for our first fringe as a team. We didn’t expect sold-out shows for our first-ever show together, and then to win the Best of Fringe presented by Theatre Orangeville was just unreal. We’re so grateful for the opportunity to come to Orangeville.”

With high spirits and well-earned awards on their belts, the cast and crew of “Me and You and the Highland Coo” are optimistic and ready for whatever comes next.

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# Jim Cuddy Jamboree raises over \$17,500 for Headwaters

Written By SAM ODROWSKI

An accomplished singer and poignant songwriter recently brought the community together in support of local healthcare. The 20th Annual Jim Cuddy Jamboree came to the Lyric Pond in Honeywood on June 29 in support of the Headwaters Health Care Foundation (HHCF), and it was announced on Aug. 19 that it raised \$17,587. “This beloved community event brought people together this summer through music, generosity, and a shared commitment to ensuring exceptional health care is available at Headwaters Health Care Centre,” reads a statement from HHCF. “The Jamboree, held at Lyric Pond in Honeywood, brought together music lovers and community members for an unforgettable evening of live performances and philan-

thropy. We extend our sincere thanks to Jim Cuddy and friends for lending their time and talent to this meaningful cause.” K.C. Carruthers, CEO of HHCF, noted the foundation’s gratitude for the funds raised through the concert. “We are honoured to be the beneficiary of this year’s Jim Cuddy Jamboree,” said Carruthers. “This generous contribution will help us invest in the equipment and resources needed to continue delivering exceptional care close to home.” The HHCF said it is appreciative of Bill Duron, HHCF board chair, and Heather MacEachern, who both led the organization of the event. “It’s inspiring to see how music and community can come together to support something as vital as local health care,” said Duron, event organizer and board chair. “We’re in-

credibly thankful to Jim Cuddy and everyone who attended for helping us raise funds that will directly benefit patients at Headwaters.” The funds raised through the Jim Cuddy Jamboree support equipment purchases at Headwaters, which aren’t covered by government funding. Headwaters Health Care Centre is located at 100 Rolling Hills Dr., Orangeville.



FILE PHOTO

**JIM’S JAMBOREE:** The Jim Cuddy Jamboree at the Lyric Pond in Honeywood generated more than \$17,500 for the Headwaters Health Care Foundation. The annual concert features Cuddy each year, who is a popular Canadian country-rock artist. He’s best known for his releases with the band Blue Rodeo. Some of the band’s more popular releases include “Hasn’t Hit Me Yet,” “Five Days in May” and “Lost Together.”



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

**AS THE ARTISTS VIEW IT:** The Southern Ontario Visual Artists (SOVA) group, which features several members from Dufferin County, has a show on display in Cambridge’s Langdon Hall Country House and Hotel. An opening reception of the SOVA show, titled “As The Artists View It,” took place on the evening of Sunday, Aug. 17, where attendees had the chance to meet the artists behind the exhibit. The exhibit opened on July 21 and runs until Oct. 29. Three pieces were sold during the event. Left photo: Lynden Cowan, whose studio is at the Alton Mill Arts Centre, sells one of her pieces. Right photo: SOVA artists, from left, are Connie Munson and Helen Duplassie of Brampton, Angela Burdon of Mono, Lynden Cowan and Margaret Pardy of Brampton, Michelle Eissler of Alliston, and Steve Wilson of Niagara Falls.

## Over 160 traffic related charges laid by Dufferin OPP over Victoria Day long weekend

Written By SAM ODROWSKI

Dufferin Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) officers laid 163 traffic related charges while patrolling the region’s roadways over the Civic Holiday weekend. Between Aug. 1 to Aug. 4, 2025, officers conducted several RIDE spot checks as well as traffic enforcement with a focus on the “Big Four” – impaired driving, distracted

driving, speeding, and lack of seatbelt use. The following charges were laid by Dufferin OPP:

- Speeding charges - 93
- Stunt/Racing - 1
- Move over for emergency vehicles - 2
- Impaired driving charges - 3
- Seatbelt charges - 19
- Total charges - 163

“Dufferin OPP would like to thank the

majority of road users that obey laws and assist in keeping our roads safe. Thank you as well to our hard-working officers last weekend for their efforts and dedication in keeping our communities safe,” reads a press release from Dufferin OPP. “If you suspect that someone is operating a motor vehicle, boat or off-road vehicle while under the influence of alcohol or drugs, do not hesitate to call 9-1-1. Highway,



trail, and waterway safety is a shared responsibility. By working together, the OPP and members of the public can ensure everyone’s safety.”



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BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

**YOU'RE OUT!** Orangeville Men's Slo-Pitch is busy on local diamonds as they move toward the playoffs. Olar Mechanical played against Kegmen at Rotary Park on Thursday, Aug. 14. The Olar Mechanical first baseman makes the catch for the out in the second inning of the game.

# Junior A Northmen lacrosse team battles St. Catharines in 2025 Minto Cup

Written By BRIAN LOCKHART

The Orangeville Junior A Northmen won their first two games in the 2025 Minto Cup, taking an overtime loss to the St. Catharines Athletics in their third game of the tournament.

The Minto Cup national lacrosse championship got underway on Saturday, Aug. 16, at the Meridian Centre in St. Catharines.

Four teams from across the country are battling it out for the national Junior A Lacrosse title.

In addition to the Northmen, the Coquitlam Adanacs from British Columbia, the Okotoks Raiders from Alberta, and the host team, St. Catharines Athletics, are playing

for the 2025 Minto Cup.

In their first game, the Northmen were up against the Coquitlam Adanacs on Saturday, Aug. 16.

The Northmen delivered a devastating first period, scoring six unanswered goals to set the tone of the game. The Adanacs didn't score until five minutes into the second period.

Orangeville left the floor with a 12-5 win in their first game of the tournament.

In their second game, the Northmen faced the Raiders.

The game was tied 1-1 at the end of the first period, and tied 3-3 at the end of the second period.

The Northmen shut down the Raiders' of-

fence in the third and scored three goals to win the game 6-3.

In their next game, the Northmen led 1-0 at the end of the first period on a goal from Trey Deere.

At the end of the second period, the score was 6-4 after St. Catharines scored three quick goals over two minutes.

Two Northmen goals came from Max Kruger, and one came from Liam Matthews.

Mathews scored early in the third period, followed by another Orangeville goal from Vince Onofrio.

Max Kruger scored two goals midway in the third to make it an 8-8 game with 10 minutes remaining.

With 2:31 left on the clock, the Athletics

took a one-goal lead.

Liam Matthews tied the game with a goal and 1:07 remaining in regulation time to force the game into overtime to decide the winner.

St. Catharines scored two goals in OT to take a 12-10 win.

Games will continue this week as the teams battle it out to see who will go to the 2025 championship game.

The final will be held on Saturday, Aug. 23, at the Meridian Centre with a 7:30 p.m. start.

After Monday's game, Orangeville's Liam Matthews was leading in points in the tournament.

Matthews scored nine goals over three games for 22 points.

# Four teams face off in second round of the North Dufferin Baseball League's playoffs

Written By BRIAN LOCKHART

Four teams remain in the North Dufferin Baseball League (NBDL) senior playoffs as they battle it out to earn the right to go to this year's Strother Cup Championship.

The second round of playoffs got underway with opening games on Sunday, Aug. 17.

The Creemore Padres, Midland Mariners, Barrie Angels, and Lisle Astros were all eliminated in the first round of a best-of-five series that wrapped up on Aug. 14.

In the second round, the teams will again play a best-of-five series, or in the event of a tie, the first team to reach six points.

The top four teams in the regular season have all managed to stay alive in the playoffs.

The New Lowell Knights finished in first place with a 17-4-1 record and 35 points.

In second place, the Owen Sound Baysox ended the regular season with 34 points.

The Ivy Rangers and Bolton Brewers finished in third and fourth place, respectively.

The second-round competition will be fierce as these top four teams play it out to determine who will make the final this year.

New Lowell is leading their series against the Bolton Brewers after one game, when they left the diamond with a 5-1 win.

New Lowell's Zack Hayward had a big

part in the win when he hit a double that brought in three Knights' runs.

The other series features the Owen Sound Baysox up against the Ivy Rangers.

Owen Sound won the first game of the series 8-5.

## Junior Division

The NBDL's Junior Division championship final series got underway on Wednesday, Aug. 13, with the Creemore Padres up against the Innisfil Cardinals 1 team.

The championship series is a best-of-five competition.

Creemore won the first game of the series 11-2 on Aug. 13.



It was tied up when Innisfil squeezed out a one-run lead in Game Two, leaving the diamond with a 3-2 win.

The Padres prevailed in Game Three of the series with a 13-7 win.

Game Four of the series was scheduled for Tuesday, Aug. 19, in Creemore.

Results were not available at press time.

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BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

**FANCY FOOTWORK:** The Orangeville Women's Recreational Soccer is a popular club in Orangeville with games taking place every week at Rotary Park. Two teams play a match on the soccer pitch on Thursday, Aug. 14.



# OPINION

## Work ethic

An interesting quote arrived through one of my news feeds the other day.

“When there is no consequence for poor work ethic and no reward for good work ethic there is no motivation.”

There was no name listed as the one who uttered the quote, but an online check reveals it may have been journalist JD Roberts.

The quote, however, speaks volumes about why people work and how their contribution keeps society as a whole prosperous and thriving.

It doesn’t take an economist with three Master’s Degrees to explain why having a job is an important part of living in our society.

For starters, it’s a way to earn a living. You make money to pay for housing, feed your family, buy a car, and pay for clothes.

Working provides a purpose in your life. Working contributes to the economy and society in general.

When you work, you can pay for other goods and services, and the people who earn money from that, then spend that money somewhere else.

It’s a big economic circle.

When you work, you pay taxes. Do you think those paved roads you drive on, the

playgrounds your kids enjoy, and garbage pickup are paid for by someone’s hobby?

This nation was built on its work ethic. Pioneers arrived and worked hard to clear the land and build the towns in which we all live.

In this region, the work ethic is still important and obvious through the many families who still work those original farms and work in the nearby towns.

What would have happened if the pioneers arrived and expected everything to be done for them, and got paid to do nothing?

Several years ago, when there was an immigration crisis and unvetted and undocumented ‘refugees’ were simply walking across the border in Quebec, the federal government smiled and had RCMP officers carry their bags for them.

During an interview with a government minister in the economics department, he was asked if any of the ‘refugees’ had jobs.

His answer was, “Why does that matter?”

Well, it does matter. I was close to sending an email to the PM’s office suggesting I should take over the ministry because I had more knowledge of economics than the current minister did. In fact, just about everyone on my street and all my friends

are more qualified and knowledgeable and could have explained to the minister why ‘jobs matter.’

The next video I saw on my news feed was from some guy speaking to his friends in his home country.

I’m not sure if he was some kind of immigration consultant, or what the deal was, because he never explained his part in the process.

However, he was telling his fellow countrymen that when they come here, they should claim to be a refugee.

He tells his friends that the government will pay them, pay for their expenses and food, for a total of over \$80,000 in benefits in the first year alone.

“You live here for free,” he told them.

He then explained the real ‘suckers’ were Canadians, because they work for a living, average only \$63,000 per year, and have to pay for their own way and pay taxes on top of that.

Is this really the type of person we want arriving on our shores?

It is the hard-working people of this county who pay for those who don’t want to work, and the federal government spends your hard-earned dollars to do it. And they spend your money with a smile.

BRIAN LOCKHART  
FROM THE SECOND ROW



Successive federal governments have created a situation where we are indeed a ‘sucker nation’ for putting up with this nonsense.

A recent national poll indicated that the majority of Canadians are not happy with the current immigration system. Ontario is especially feeling the heat of inadequate housing, especially for those who were born and grew up here.

We are not alone. Most countries in Western Europe are also facing a crisis situation and becoming increasingly intolerant of boatloads of people showing up on their shores with their hands out.

The exception is Poland, which feels its current population is fine, and makes it known that they don’t want anyone arriving there looking for a free meal.

In a democracy, the government must listen to the will of the people.

Neither Ottawa nor Queen’s Park seems to listen to what their constituents want.

I have personally questioned local politicians about this topic and have never received a straight answer.

Working provides motivation.

Motivation builds nations.

## The AI crash

As ever, we are living on borrowed time. There’s the familiar old threat of global nuclear war and the growing risk of global climate catastrophe, plus not-quite-world-ending potential disasters like global pandemics and untoward astronomical events (asteroid strikes, solar flares, etc.) Lots to worry about already, if you’re that way inclined. So it’s understandable that the new kid on the block, artificial intelligence, has been having some trouble making its presence felt. Yet the so-called ‘godfather of Artificial Intelligence,’ scientist Geoffrey Hinton, who last year was awarded the Nobel Prize for his work on AI, sees a 10 to 20 per cent chance that AI will wipe out humanity in the next three decades.

We will come back to that, but let’s park it for the moment because the near-term risk of an AI crash is more urgent and easier to quantify. This is a financial crash of the sort that usually accompanies an exciting new technology, not an existential crisis, but it is definitely on its way.

When railways were the hot new technology in the United States in the 1850s, for example, there were five different companies building railways between New York and Chicago. They all got built in the end, but most were no longer in the hands

of the original investors and a lot of people lost their shirts.

We are probably in the final phase of the AI investment frenzy right now. We’re a generation on from the Dot.Com bubble of the early 2000s, so most people have forgotten about that one and are ready to throw their money at the next. There is reportedly now more than 200 AI ‘unicorns’ – start-ups ‘valued’ at \$1 billion or more – so the end is nigh.

The bitter fact that drives even the industry leaders into this folly is the knowledge that after the great shake-out not all of them will still be standing. For the moment, therefore, it makes sense for them to invest madly in the servers, data-centres, semiconductor chips and brain-power that will define the last companies standing.

The key measure of investment is ‘capex’ – capital expenditure – and it’s going up like a rocket even from month to month. Microsoft is forecasting about \$100 billion in capex for AI in the next fiscal year, Amazon will spend the same, Alphabet (Google) plans \$85 billion, and Meta predicts between \$66 and \$72 billion.

Like \$100 million sign-on fees for senior AI researchers who are being poached from one big tech firm by another, these

are symptoms of a bubble about to burst and lots of people will lose their shirts, but it’s just part of the cycle. AI will still be there afterwards, and many uses will be found for it. Unfortunately, most of them will destroy jobs.

The tech giants themselves are eliminating jobs even as they grow their investments. Last year 549 US tech companies shed 150,000 workers, and this year they are disappearing even faster. If that phenomenon spreads across the whole economy – and why wouldn’t it? – we can get to the apocalypse without any need for help from Skynet and the Terminator.

People talk loosely about ‘Artificial General Intelligence’ (AGI) as the Holy Grail, because it would be as nimble and versatile as human intelligence, just smarter – but as tech analyst Benedict Evans says, “We don’t really have a theoretical model of why [current AI models] work so well, and what would have to happen for them to get to AGI.”

“It’s like saying ‘we’re building the Apollo program but we don’t actually know how gravity works or how far away the Moon is, or how a rocket works, but if we keep on making the rocket bigger maybe we’ll get there.” So the whole scenario of a

super-intelligent computer becoming self-aware and taking over the planet remains far-fetched.

Nevertheless, old-fashioned 2022-style ‘generative’ AI will continue to improve, even if Large Language Models are really just machines that produce human-like text by estimating the likelihood that a particular word will appear next, given the text that has come before.

Aaron Rosenberg, former head of strategy at Google’s AI unit Deep Mind, reckons that no miraculous leaps of innovation are needed. “If you define AGI more narrowly as at least 80th-percentile human-level performance [better than four out of five people] in 80% of economically relevant digital tasks, then I think that’s within reach in the next five years.”

That would enable us to eliminate at least half of the indoor jobs by 2030, but if the change comes that fast it will empower extremists of all sorts and create pre-revolutionary situations almost everywhere. That’s a bit more complicated than the Skynet scenario for global nuclear war, but it’s also a lot more plausible. Slow down.

GWYNNE DYER  
OUR WORLD TODAY



## ...of shoes and ships and sealing wax...

Said the Walrus in Lewis Carroll’s humorous poem, *The Walrus and the Carpenter*, in his novel, *Through the Looking Glass*, “Of why the sea is boiling hot and whether pigs have wings...” was the Walrus’ recipe for enlightened conversation. He would be right up there with the chaos of conversation that rules the waves nowadays.

The Walrus’s launch into what he is offering as a diversion is directed to the many oysters he and the Carpenter have persuaded to leave their safe ocean bed and go for a walk but at this juncture, he declares that he and his companion are going to eat them all!

During the course of devouring “every one” of the oysters, the Walrus says how sorry he is, and Carroll writes: “I weep for you,” the Walrus said; “I deeply sympathize/ With sobs and tears, he sorted out/ those of the largest size/ holding his pocket handkerchief/ before his streaming eyes.”

Carroll’s ironic mocking works as well for the modern-day politician as it did in his own Victorian times.

The pandering and hypocrisy of politicians in Carroll’s time and ours is almost indistinguishably alike. Bar how they dressed, the messages are the same, born of favouring the rich with privileges and opportunities and victimizing the poor and disabled, well, here in Canada, with the choice of MAID. MAID is all too frequently used as a means to escape their

pain of being disabled and the help they need by way of food and shelter being withheld.

A documented disabled person here in Ontario has to have a conversation with a government agent that includes a survey of anyone with whom the person might be living.

They are asked questions like, “How much money do you have in your pocket? What jewellery do you have?”

When the much vaunted and intensely pursued Canada Disability Benefit (CDB) was meant to “bring the disabled out of poverty,” it was hammered out through intense debate in Parliament. This included the comment by one well-heeled parliamentarian that he did not want the benefit to “disincentivized the disabled from working.”

There was equally intense campaigning on the part of disabled people and their advocates, calling for a figure that makes sense, that would release the disabled from scraping their poor lives together. Give them enough freedom to deal with their disabilities and allow them a safe space to live reasonably.

Following an 86-day public comment period during which disabled people really began to feel optimistic that they would see enough money to actually pay their rent and eat healthy food, in July of this year, the act became law.

An amount of \$200 a month or \$2,400 per year was settled as the value of the benefit.

How far can \$200 take your monthly budget?

The biggest difference between Carroll’s cartoonish representation of the leaders and influencers of his time and now is that the hypocrisy and cronyism that existed then and exists now, while they are so close as to be identical, today’s privileges are much more dangerous.

Take the plans for Highway 413, a boon to developers, to finally crash into the Green Belt as they have been trying to do for years. Indeed, that seems to be the whole point of the 413, for it has been shown many times that the usefulness of the 413 as a highway does not exist.

With the Ford government’s passing of Bill 5, stripping the environmental laws protecting land, water, and natural habitats, his plans for this \$10 billion project lasting 10 years to build the completely unnecessary projected 51 wandering kilometres of the 413 are a disaster that will ruin this green and pleasant land once and for all.

It truly makes one wonder how our local MPP feels about the destruction of her own backyard, as one might say, how is it not a problem for her?

Protesters have been on the ground with their signs and common sense, but they have been dismissed by Ford (except for his watchful sniper). What better bite can we apply to this and Ford’s many plans for thoughtless and free-wheeling development?

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There is so much more, and the Walrus and his companion, the Carpenter, did eat all the oysters without compassion or thought about more than their own satisfaction. They are the embodiment of what is happening right here in Dufferin–Caledon – terrifying stuff, but the real question is, how do we change behaviour that has been our pattern nearly forever?

In spite of how we think our world and social standards have changed with the total opening of the internet, here we still are with our own Walruses and Carpenters, still sorting out their tears and still wanting it all for themselves without regard for the consequences.

Do the avaricious developers really not see that to destroy such an environment must have consequences, must contribute to the ruin of much more than just this corner of the earth?

When we are digging, fracking, developing more oil fields, when we are building houses that are poorly designed and made of indifferent materials, do we not care about the waste and harm?

When we purposefully kill off our precious waterways and the habitats of the essential life on this planet, is there any place in our minds that understands that no financial gain can possibly be worth the loss of the irreplaceable?

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# COMMUNITY VOICES

## Monthly Message: DBOT to host cybersecurity event for business owners

Let's be honest; most of us don't start a business thinking about hackers or data breaches. We're focused on serving customers, managing staff, and keeping things running day-to-day. But the truth is, cyber threats are becoming part of everyday business life, and no company, big or small, is completely safe.

Think about it: if your customer data, emails, or even your payment systems were suddenly locked or stolen, how would your business cope? Beyond the financial cost, the stress and damage to your reputation could be overwhelming. That's why understanding cybersecurity isn't just "nice to have" anymore; it's essential.

We at the Dufferin Board of Trade (DBOT) know this can feel like a big and complicated topic, which is why we're excited to bring in Nim Nadarajah this September. Nim will break down the hidden dangers lurking in today's digital world



and, most importantly, share what you can do about them.

DBOT's cybersecurity event will be held in partnership with the Rotary Club of Orangeville Highlands on Thursday, Sept. 11, from 5 to 8 p.m., at Monora Park Pavilion (500 Monora Park Rd., Mono).

This event is a chance to get real answers, practical tips, and connect with other local business owners who are facing the same challenges.

Your business deserves protection, and you deserve peace of mind. We'd love to see you there.

Learn more and register at [dufferinbot.ca](http://dufferinbot.ca).



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**LET'S TALK CYBERSECURITY:** Nim Nadarajah will be delivering a presentation on cybersecurity at an upcoming event hosted by the Dufferin Board of Trade and Rotary Club of Orangeville Highlands.

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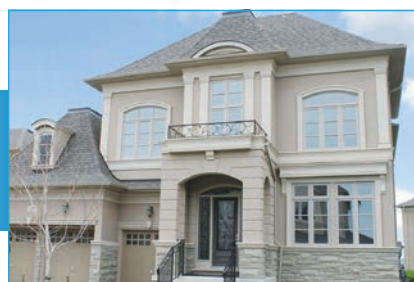
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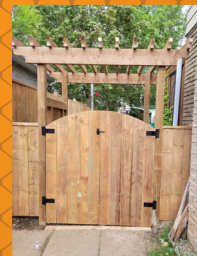
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# Northmen Minor Box Lacrosse teams bring home gold



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

**FIRST PLACE FINISH:** The Orangeville Northmen's Minor Box Lacrosse teams achieved success at the Ontario Lacrosse Festival, which ran from Aug. 1 to 10. The U11 A team (left) won gold after beating a team from Whitby 5-4, out of 96 teams. The U22 B team (right) also won gold after beating a team from Six Nations 7-3. The event stretched over 10 days, with 451 teams competing. Over 8,500 athletes and coaches participated in 933 games and 40 provincial titles across multiple divisions throughout the duration of the festival. Other highlights for Orangeville include the Northmen's U17-1 Boys box team taking home silver and the U17 Girls box team also earning a silver medal.



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# Local author pens book on rediscovering the Old Testament, the Amsterdam way

Dufferin County author Arnold De Graaff has written another book. It is quite different from his last publication, which was about the environment and the economy.

His latest book, *The Prophetic Call to Love and Justice*, is about the Bible, or in the words of the book launch flyer, “What is the Bible about? Not what you might think.”

De Graaff was brought up in a strict Calvinistic home and community in Holland. He said he experienced it as a stifling ‘indoctrination’. His father would read from the Bible three times a day after every meal, and he had to go to church twice every Sunday until he was 17 years old and immigrated to Canada.

There was never any discussion of the Bible passages or sermons, De Graaff said. There was no joy, only a lot of doubt, uncertainty, and fear, for you never knew whether or not you were saved.

Calvinism is most well-known for its emphasis on ‘predestination’, on election and reprobation, and we could add, God’s eternal council, original sin, our total depravity, and a strong emphasis on morality (many do’s and don’ts). It was primarily based on theological, doctrinal concepts.

It did have a beautiful vision about all of life under the ‘kingship of Christ’, whether you were an artist or a lawyer, or a plumber; you were expected to do it in a Christian way, said De Graaff. This was the calling and expectation. There are no secular parts to life; everything is sacred.

“However, this great vision had its negative sides. It soon became too institutionalized, organized, and codified. Everyone seemed to know exactly what God’s will was for every aspect of life. There were ‘eternal creation ordinances’ for the state, family, labor, art, education, etc. that held from all eternity for all cultures and all peoples. It made for a strong ‘conservatism’ before the war,” said De Graaff.

De Graaff knew there was something wrong with this vision as it was lived in his family and community. It fragmented Dutch society along ideological lines and religious affiliations.

“The Dutch called it the ‘verzuiling’ (silos); each in their own corner without much interaction and knowledge of the other, except the conviction that they were wrong. The first waves of Dutch immigrants after the war in the 50’s and 60’s continued this tradition,” De Graaff noted.

“They built Christian Reformed churches; organized Christian schools, a Christian labor union, CLC; a Christian political presence, C.P.J.; Christian colleges, Redeemer in Hamilton and King’s college in Edmonton; a Christian university, ICS; a Christian farmers union, CFF; Christian counseling services; Christian retirement homes. From the cradle to the grave immigrant life was insulated from the bad, secular world.”

Meanwhile, in Holland, there was a strong reaction and rejection of the government’s colonial pre-war policies and lack of social legislation. Within a few decades, Holland

changed from a primarily religious society to a predominantly secular society.

“The Reformed churches represent only a small percentage of the Dutch population. Millions of people left both the Roman Catholic and Protestant churches. Many experienced the new old age pensions and health care, introduced by the socialist governments as ‘heaven on earth’. Most of the immigrants did not grow through this secularization process,” De Graaff explained.

Throughout this book, there are references to how he tried to escape this indoctrination and find an alternative view. Some could just shake off this imprinting when they came of age, but he was unable to do so. Something about this vision and way of life had touched him, so he looked for a genuine alternative. He finally found this in the Amsterdam way of interpreting scripture, as one of the subtitles reads.

Among other things, the book is a faithful record of this Amsterdam tradition, which started in the 30s and 40s as a protest against Nazism, with its destructive vision of life.

Instead of looking for the origin, history, or tradition of any particular text, or its literary beauty, like Homer and Shakespeare, they focused on the prophetic message of each passage or section. In the dominant methods, theologians distinguish at least 14 or 17 different ways of interpreting scripture. They all fragmented the text and left the interpreter with very little meaning, or treated the Bible like any other ancient document.

When De Graaff encountered the Amsterdam way of interpretation, he said it was a great discovery and a joyful experience.

“The Bible started to speak again as the living witness to the great Words and Deeds of God, presenting us with a way of living,” said De Graaff.

Two major books of the Old Testament, Genesis and Joshua, are explored in detail in the book.

In Genesis, the Lord created a good earth for all of humanity, as image bearers of God, both male and female together, to tend the earth for the benefit of all.

“In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.”

Although the book starts on a universal note, it narrows down to a particular people, at least for a time, until the Son could be born in a miraculous way as the many sons before him. From this, “my first-born Son who I have called from Egypt,” the blessing comes to all people and the whole earth.

The second book that the author deals with is Joshua. Again, instead of seeing Joshua as a book of military conquests, it is understood in the Amsterdam approach, more as a liturgical book. The actual ‘conquest,’ which was probably a slow penetration by desert tribes, only takes two chapters out of 24, after the circumcision of the children born in the desert, the celebration of the Passover, and the liturgical walk around Jericho for seven days.

It is a ‘non-historical’ conquest. It truly happened, but not in the way it is described. Joshua was most likely written many cen-

turies later, during their exile. Jericho, as a strong fortified city, did not exist at the assumed time. It was located as the ‘entrance’ to Palestine; from Jericho, the whole land to the south and the north was wide open. Again, it is a confessional account in which all historical and geographical references serve the prophetic message.

Since the present Israeli government and army, as well as many settlers in the West Bank, appeal to the book of Joshua to justify their occupation of Gaza, De Graaff added a separate addendum in his book that addresses all the scriptural references to the Promised Land.

He explains that it is apparent there is no basis for appealing to Joshua in defense of political actions. He demonstrates that the Promised Land becomes the future promise for all: “It shall come to pass in the latter days... many nations shall come... they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree, and none shall make them afraid” (Micah 4:1-5).

Reconsidering Genesis and Joshua prompted De Graaff to add a chapter on humanity’s ‘God image’. It changed his childhood image of ‘fear and guilt’ to the God of

love. God’s mercy and compassion win out over judgment and condemnation each time again, according to De Graaff.

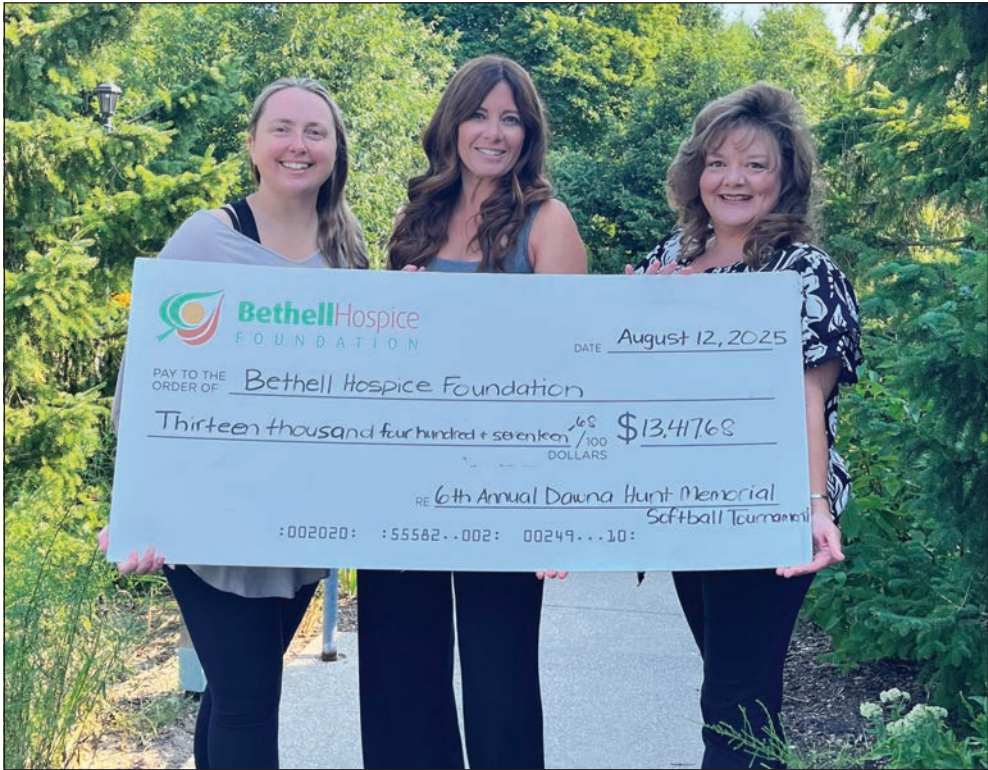
“How can I give you up... my heart recoils within me, my heart grows warm and tender... I will not execute my fierce anger.” (Hosea 11: 8-9). This is God present throughout the scripture, culminating in John’s declaration, “For God is love,” 1 John 4:8.

The rest of the book is devoted to four basic themes that are like crosscuts of the scripture. The last chapter deals with liturgy and worship. Deurloo, one of the founders of the Amsterdam tradition of interpreting scripture, had an unusual gift of bringing the Bible stories down to earth, right in the midst of their lives, without moralism, intellectualism, and historicism, said De Graaff.

The book ends with several examples of Deurloo’s approach. In all of it, *The Prophetic Call to Love and Justice* stands central, giving rise to joy, hope, and thanksgiving.

There will be a book launch of De Graaff’s new book, *The Prophetic Call to Love and Justice*, at Westminster United Church in Orangeville on Thursday, Sept. 18, at 7 p.m.

All are welcome to attend.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**BASEBALL FOR BETHELL:** The 6th Annual Dawna Hunt Memorial Softball Tournament, held on July 26, raised \$13,417.68 for the Bethell Hospice Foundation. The tournament, which brought together eight competitive teams vying for the championship title, also acted as a fundraiser for the hospice. The funds were raised through community sponsors, generous raffle donors, and team members. A cheque for \$13,417.68 was presented by tournament organizers Janine Taylor (left) and Shirley Horsley to the Bethell Hospice Foundation's executive director, Nicole Hand, on Aug. 12.

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LARGE FURNISHED ROOM available immediately, no smoking, no pets, female preferred. \$900/month all inclusive.

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BEDROOM FURNITURE for sale, Table Saw, single bed and queen bed. Call 519-941-5492.

ESTATE SALE GREENHOUSE 40x20. Stainless steel fridge, freezer, gas stove, queen 4 poster bed & armoire dresser, oak table, oasis bathroom heater, 100 watt ceiling fan, Southampton. Southgate area. Please text or call 604-716-5536.

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MOVING SALE in ALTON - call Sherman at 519-941-5492 for items and viewing.

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HANDYMAN SERVICES - Providing an extra pair of helping hands in the Orangeville area. No job too big or too small. One man and a truck services also available. All jobs welcome. Call 519-447-7550, \$25/hr.

RESIDENTIAL SERVICES & REPAIRS

ROM MASONRY - Based in Nobleton. We do big or small jobs. Chimneys, window sills, walls etc. All work guaranteed. Free estimates, seniors discount. Call Spencer at 647-542-0559.

TAI CHI CLASSES

TAI CHI BEGINNERS CLASS at Westminster United Church, 247 Broadway, Orangeville. It is a 4 month program starting Monday, September 8th from 1:00 to 3:00 pm. Cost is \$100.00. Registration at the first class. For information please email: orangeville@canadiantaiacademy.org.

COMING EVENTS

MEMORIAL SERVICE: Please join us Sunday, September 7th, 2025 at 2 pm for our 100th Anniversary Memorial Service with Guest Speaker and Sandhill Pipes and Drums Band. Morning-side Cemetery located at 384 Pine Avenue, PALGRAVE. We ask that you share this information with family and friends. Please bring a chair.

PUBLIC NOTICE

CALEDON SKI CLUB - As of May 1, 2025, the club formerly known as the Caledon Ski Club Limited, filed Articles of Continuance continuing as the Caledon Ski Club (the "Club") under the Not-for-Profit Act (Ontario). All shares previously issued and outstanding have been redeemed and/or cancelled. If you were previously a shareholder of the Club and have any questions about the Club's continuance under the ONCA, please contact Caledon Administration at admin@caledonskiclub.on.ca and provide us with your full name and details of your affiliation with the Club.

OBITUARIES

MURRAY GLEN TAYLOR  
MARCH 9, 1930 - AUGUST 16, 2025

Peacefully at the Wellington Terrace in his 96th year.

Lovingly remembered by his wife of 71 years, Shirley Mae Ritchie; his children Richard (Kathleen Mulliss), Cynthia (Ken Taylor), Jennifer (Todd Hambleton), Jeffrey (DeeAnn Roche), and Joseph (Lydia Della Rocca); his grandchildren Dustin (Laura Hoogendoorn), Brittney (Justin Holm-Laursen), and Hollie (Ely Sokyrko); and great-grandchildren Branson, Lula, Oaklynn, Fox and Emma. Honorary grampa to Nadine Mulliss (Bruce Boswell), and Brent Mulliss and their families.

Survived by his brother Blake and sisters Betty (Roy Hillis) and Kaye (Len Gamble). Predeceased by sister Otha and brother-in-law Robert Harris.

Murray will be missed by his many Taylor and Ritchie relatives.

Born to Ora Church and Hilliard Taylor, he spent his early years on the family farm in East Luther and attended the old school on the hill in Grand Valley.

Murray was an avid curler and lawn bowler. He was a well-known and respected competitor at area Curling Clubs and Lawn Bowling Greens. Throughout his life he excelled in sports and was a talented and skillful 5 pin bowler, lacrosse player, speed skater and baseball player.

Murray and Shirley owned and operated a successful business (Taylor's Dept. store) on Grand Valley's Main St. from 1963 until their retirement in 1988.

The family would like to thank Dr. Stickney, and the staff at Wellington Terrace for the excellent care provided to Murray, and for their kindness and attention to our family during these last several weeks.

As per Murray's wishes cremation has taken place.

Visitation will be held at In Memoriam Funeral Services Inc. (28 Main Street N, Grand Valley, L9W 5S7) on Wednesday August 27, 2025, from 2pm- 4pm and 6pm- 8pm.

The funeral service will be held on Thursday August 28, 2025, at In Memoriam Funeral Services Inc. (28 Main Street N, Grand Valley, L9W 5S7) beginning at 12pm. The family will receive friends one hour prior to the service time.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Canadian Cancer Society or the Kidney Foundation of Canada.

Online condolences can be made at [www.imfunerals.com](http://www.imfunerals.com)

In Memoriam Funeral Services Inc has been given the honour of serving the Taylor Family.



OBITUARIES

AL FORESTER

Peacefully at Etobicoke General Hospital on Saturday, August 16, 2025, Al Forester, at the age of 87 years, beloved husband of Sandra (Sandy) Forester. Loving father of Chris (Nadine) and Diana (Jim). Cherished grandfather of Brett, Nicole, Kayla, James, and Craig. Proud great-grandfather of Baylee, James Paul (JP), Flora, and Owen. Dear brother of Gordon and predeceased by Joe, Jennie, Doris, Raymond, and John. The family will receive their friends at the Egan Funeral Home, 203 Queen St. S. (Hwy. 50), Bolton (905-857-2213) on Saturday, August 23 from one o'clock until time of memorial service in the chapel at 2 o'clock, followed by a reception at the funeral home. The family invites those who cannot attend the service in person to view the service through live streaming at the time of the service or at a later date. Please find the link on our website (EganFuneralHome.com) If desired, memorial donations may be made to the University Health Network (uhnfoundation.ca) or the Alzheimer Society of Dufferin (alzheimercan.ca/dufferincounty). Condolences for the family may be offered at [www.EganFuneralHome.com](http://www.EganFuneralHome.com)



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with \$150 down

\$298<sup>††</sup> bi-weekly for 36 months. Excludes HST.

CX-90 Plug-In Hybrid Also Available

■ Limited time finance offer provided through Mazda Financial Services on approved credit. Representative finance offer based on a new and previously unregistered 2025 CX-90 MHEV Signature model (WXKG85AA00). Vehicle Price is \$66,847.35. 1.95% finance APR for 36 months. Monthly payment is \$1,913.22, which includes: \$2,195 freight and PDE; \$100 A/C charge; regulatory fees (up to \$12.50); Retailer administration fee (up to \$795); lien registration fees (up to \$58.85, including lien registering agent fee); as well as all other applicable fees, levies and duties (all of which may vary by region and Retailer). 36 monthly payments required. Licence; insurance; registration; and applicable taxes are extra. \$0 down payment or equivalent trade-in required. Cost of borrowing is \$2,028.63 for a total obligation of \$68,875.98. Retailer may sell for less. Retailer order/trade may be necessary (but may not be available in all cases). Conditions apply. Offer ends September 2, 2025, and is subject to change or cancellation without notice. Visit [mazda.ca](https://mazda.ca) or your Mazda Retailer for more information. ▲ \$500/\$500/\$3,500/\$3,500/\$1,000/\$1,000 Event Bonus ("Bonus") is available on new and previously unregistered 2025 CX5/2025 CX-30/2025 CX-90 PHEV/2025 CX-70 PHEV/2025 CX-70 MHEV/2025 CX-90 MHEV models that are purchased or financed/leased (on approved credit) and delivered between August 1 and September 2, 2025, from an authorized Mazda Retailer in Canada. Bonus will be applied to the negotiated selling price of the eligible vehicle before taxes and: (i) has no cash surrender or other value; and (ii) cannot be applied to past transactions. Conditions apply. See [mazda.ca](https://mazda.ca) or your local Mazda Retailer for details. ▲▲ Get a bonus off the purchase of a Mazda Added Protection Plan with the purchase of a new and previously unregistered model between August 1 and September 2, 2025, as follows: (i) \$500 Bonus: 2025 Mazda3, 2025 CX-5, 2025 CX-30; or (ii) \$1,000 Bonus: 2025 CX-70 or 2025 CX-90. The applicable discount will be applied to the selling price of the Mazda Added Protection Plan before taxes and: (i) has no cash surrender or other value; (ii) does not apply to fleet sales; and (iii) cannot be applied to past transactions. Conditions apply. See [mazda.ca](https://mazda.ca) or your local Mazda Retailer for details. †† Offer available on retail leases of new 2025 CX-5 GX (NXXL85AA00)/2025 CX-70 MHEV GS-L (XXLF85AA00)/2025 CX-90 MHEV GS-L (WXL85AA00) with a lease APR of 3.75%/1.69% and 104/78/78 bi-weekly payments of \$215/\$291/\$298 for 48/36/36 months, the total lease obligation is \$22,981/\$22,668/\$23,384, including down payment (or equivalent trade-in) of \$600/\$0/\$150 and \$500/\$1,000/\$1,000 Event Bonus. First monthly payment is due at lease inception. 20,000 km per year mileage allowance applies; if exceeded, additional 10¢ per km applies for CX-5 (15¢ per km for CX-70, CX-90 models). Offered leasing available to retail customers only. Offers include \$22.50 Tire Stewardship Fee (all models, covering the cost to Mazda Canada of collecting and recycling tires), \$12.50 OMVIC charge, freight and P.D.E. of \$2,195, \$100 Air Conditioning charge (all models), \$1 oil filter fee and \$795 administrative fee. The administration fee is intended to cover various costs, including documentation, processing, administrative, and other expenses related to the purchase, sale, or lease of the vehicle. Offers exclude HST. Licence, insurance, taxes and down payment (where applicable) are extra and may be required at the time of purchase. Retailer order/trade may be necessary on certain vehicles. Offers valid from August 1 to September 2, 2025, while supplies last. Lease and finance on approved credit for qualified customers only. Offers subject to change without notice. Visit [mazda.ca](https://mazda.ca) or see your retailer for complete details.