

The Orangeville Citizen

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Quality of displays impressive, Cite may become an annual event



Cite 74, Orangeville's largest indoor trade fair got off to a good start Friday afternoon and by the time the dust had cleared Saturday night, members of the Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors were pronouncing the venture a huge success. Over 90 businesses were represented from the town and immediate area. Local merchants, town industries, local government and various community groups all spent several days working on the colorful displays that filled the floor of the sports complex.

Jim Stubbs, president of the Chamber, said what most impressed him was the quality of display. "It was just like going to the Coliseum at the CNE, except that you knew everybody."

Not dominated by big companies

A dog show was held by the Orangeville Dog Obedience Club and the Kinsmen and Kinettes ran a beer garden upstairs.

Al Smith said: "Any fears that the fair might turn into a card table rummage sale were dispelled when the first exhibits appeared Thursday afternoon." It

wasn't dominated by the big companies either. It was the small people that really made the show."

Cite was officially opened Friday evening by Mayor Vic Large and Ross Milne, Federal MP for Peel-Dufferin-Simcoe. The directors of the Chamber worked non-stop from Wednesday through Sunday clean-up, to assure the smooth running of the show. Don Graham was

responsible for getting the Hydro plan approved and installed, working around the clock to have it ready time.

Whether or not Cite will become an annual event depends on the feedback that the Committee receives. If all goes well Mr. Smith promises that next year's Cite will be "bigger, better with improvements when necessary."

Night school registration down

Registration figures at Orangeville District Secondary School Night School are slightly down from last year's numbers, but Mr. R. Houghton,

the Adult Programme and LesVignes, it appears to be down. Mrs. Houghton predicted that would not be the case Monday.

The first night of the program, the registration figures are complete. Students, a

than last year. According to LesVignes, the courses which have proved to be an asset to the school.

Registration figures indicate that cottage crafts, ceramics, carpentry and rug-making, taught for

local teachers, do not seem to become unmoded. Their usefulness in business-oriented, bilingual Canada cannot be overestimated.

Registration figures indicate that cottage crafts, ceramics, carpentry and rug-making, taught for

HELLO!

WITH THIS ISSUE we commence what we hope will be a lasting and happy relationship with you, the residents of the Orangeville area. There surely could be no more fitting time to introduce ourselves to you and to tell you why we have come.

Most new businesses are established in the hope of providing direct news to the community. However, our ventures are none already witnessed providing direct news to the community.

to mind. We hold a belief that where it can afford competition. With a voice with the town obviously a viewpoint on that local news will be reported.

Secondly, we are the only established newspaper in the town. Our newspaper have a reputation that they provide news to the community.

There is a recent two-weekly and a two-weekly. The Star-Vidette in our town has some two families.

Both of these weeklies are run by the same two families. Several of our subscribers have decided to expand and arranged to have a number of small outlets in each community.

Our pledge is to report all the news without fear or favor, to comment on developments whenever comment is warranted, and to serve the community to the best of our ability.

In short, we aim to make the Citizen a good citizen.

BACK IN 74

EXTRA! EXTRA! Read all about it! We're celebrating our 50th ANNIVERSARY.

Join us for a look back at where it all began — including what has happened in Dufferin County over the past 50 years, significant milestones, messages from community leaders, and more.

secret meeting in July to support her allegations concerning the food. Although refusing to restate her, Council did press concern in a resolution passed last week out "food products... purchased by the Administrator." Councillors were holding a decision made earlier by its Dufferin Oaks and personnel committees. On the Oaks Committee Chairman Allan McKelvie (Melancthon), Reeve Ross Brown (East) and Deputy-Reeve Robert Mills (Mono). Those on the personnel committee were Chairman Paul Mulmurry (Mulmur), Deputy-Reeve Robert Rutledge (Melancthon), Reeve John Thompson (Grand Valley) and Deputy-Reeve Charles Ryan (Amaranth).

opposed by Dufferin Shelburne and its close neighbour, Melancthon Township, could become part of the proposed new South Grey Riding. Dufferin County at its September session was adamantly opposed to this latest move at Queen's Park, proposed by the Ontario Electoral Boundaries Commission. Shelburne's Reeve, Allan McKelvie and its Deputy-Reeve, George Morden, spear-headed the opposition. Dufferin Council was assured of the strong support of its member in the Legislature, Mr. John Root. Should Melancthon and Shelburne become a part of the South Grey Riding, Dufferin would be split three ways for voting purposes. Mulmur, Mono and Orangeville would remain in the Dufferin-Simcoe Riding, Amaranth, Grand Valley, East Luther and East Garafraxa would remain in the Wellington-Dufferin Riding. Reeve McKelvie said

councillors that Queen's Park made these proposals according to population. Even the Premier's own Riding of Peel was not left untouched, he said. But the three-way split in Dufferin, he explained, would make it more difficult than ever for Dufferin to stick together. It was a determined County Council that passed the McKelvie-Morden motion to oppose the three-way division. (1) — That this council, representing the County of Dufferin, goes on record as being opposed to the proposal of the Ontario Electoral Boundaries Commission to remove the municipalities of the Village of Shelburne and the Township of Melancthon from the current Electoral District of Wellington-Dufferin, to place these municipalities in a proposed District of Grey South. (2) — Further, we oppose the inclusion of any portion of Dufferin County into any see page 8

appearance of the boulevard. The developers pointed out that transformers placed at the rear of a lot greatly augment service difficulties. A compromise was reached when Sandlo agreed to camouflage each transformer with two evergreens. In addition, a Norway maple is to be planted on each lot. After a brief discussion, the councillors agreed that the entire expanse of Jackson Court should be serviced with sidewalks. As well, Sandlo agreed to pave each driveway from the road to the sidewalk. R. J. Burnside, a professional engineer, has been commissioned to inspect the company's work at the developer's expense. Deputy-Reeve Lloyd Thompson and Reeve Arnold Patterson seemed particularly concerned about the company's wish to display five model homes. Many buyers expect the extra features of a model home to be included on the house they purchase. Consequently, they are disappointed with their purchase, said Reeve

stray dogs were discussed before the contract," he remarked. No one bothered to apologize and Mr. Poot signed the agreement in spite of his complaints. Council okays ice maker and pool manageress Town Council has approved two recommendations of recreation director, Bill McKaig. Pauline Hayes has been appointed to the position of pool manageress at the Orangeville Sports Centre. Miss Hayes, already a well-qualified, experienced member of the pool staff, will receive an annual salary of \$8,100. A new ice-o-matic costing \$3,700 will be purchased for the Arena complex. The present ice-making machine at the Arena requires extensive repair. The Councillors felt that the purchase of a new machine would be more economical than continually repairing the old ice-maker.

American community. Orangeville Legion refused the right to advertise Oktoberfest The Orangeville branch of the Royal Canadian Legion has been turned down in a written application to the Liquor Licensing Board for permission to advertise their forthcoming "Oktoberfest" festival. The reason given to the local legion branch was said to be that the event was not a community sponsored affair. The Citizen contacted the Liquor Licensing Board Headquarters in Toronto and was told by two representatives that, according to their interpretation of a "community sponsored event", the legion's Oktoberfest did not qualify. See race results and entries, pages 7 and 8

grandson of T. F. E. Claridge, proprietor of The Shelburne Economist from 1903 to 1928 and of the amalgamated Free Press and Economist until his death in 1964. Fred M. Claridge, T. F. E.'s only son, ran the paper until the end of 1971 and continues as president of Sheldon Press Limited, custom printer of the Shelburne paper and a dozen other Ontario weeklies. Like Mr. Claridge, Citizen Publisher F. Harry White is a native of Shelburne. However, he has been a resident of Orangeville since 1967. We should like to lay to rest once and for all a rumor that the Citizen is in some way connected with the Inland Publishing chain, the fast-growing network of weeklies run by the Bassett family. What of the future? First of all, we have no pretensions as to our ability to "beat" Lord Thomson of Fleet. We do believe, however, that we can do a good job of serving and informing and as such perform a vital role in the community. We are starting as a "free circulation" paper within the Town limits, with the paper being distributed in its initial weeks through an agreement with Arc Industries. After the get-acquainted period we shall begin a transition to a paid-circulation basis by instituting deliveries on a "voluntary pay" basis. More about that later. In the long run we must charge for the paper if it is to have the finances necessary to permit a healthy balance of news and advertising. Our pledge is to report all the news without fear or favor, to comment on developments whenever comment is warranted, and to serve the community to the best of our ability. In short, we aim to make the Citizen a good citizen.

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Orangeville Citizen marks 50 years of keeping readers informed

Written By SAM ODROWSKI

The Orangeville Citizen is celebrating 50 years of sharing important stories throughout the region.

Founded in 1974 by Tom Claridge, the community newspaper has kept the residents of Dufferin County informed, educated, and interested in local happenings for the past five decades.

But the Claridge's history of newspaper ownership in the region predates the creation of the Orangeville Citizen.

Tom's grandfather purchased both the Shelburne Economist and Shelburne Free Press before merging them in the early 1900s. Tom's father took ownership of the Shelburne paper in 1964 but in 1972, due to bladder cancer, he had to put it up for sale.

"I didn't want it out of the family," said Tom, about the Shelburne newspaper. "I gave him [my dad] \$1,000 down. He took that off the balance of the \$75,000 he had been offered from a guy over in Richmond Hill."

Tom took ownership of the Free Press at the start of 1972, but with the Orangeville Banner taking up what little advertising there was in the community, and the Free Press having no revenue emanating from Orangeville, Tom began thinking about creating the Citizen.

It was in the middle of 1973 that Tom noticed Shelburne's business district was shrinking while Orangeville's was rapidly growing.

"Orangeville, which had a population of 3,000 after the Second World War, had reached 8,000, and the newspaper competition had disappeared during the Great Depression when the Orangeville Sun failed," Tom noted.

Tom saw that the Orangeville population was rising fast, and new residents weren't interested in paid circulation from the Banner. He thought if a newspaper with free circulation was offered in Orangeville, with higher quality editorial content, it could be a success.

Tom also needed to diversify his newspaper business to remain successful.

"I determined the only way of saving the Shelburne paper was to compete with the Banner, so I opened the Orangeville Citizen in September of '74," he said.

It became a truly family-run business with his late wife Pam Claridge as the publisher, and their son Alan Claridge became a reporter, editor, general manager and publisher at the Claridge's newspapers. In addition to the Orangeville Citizen and



SAM ODROWSKI PHOTO

50 YEARS LATER: Standing in front of the Orangeville Citizen office is its general manager, Doug Rowe (left), holding up a recent edition of the newspaper. Beside him stands Tom Claridge (right), the Citizen's founder, editor of over 40 years and current editor emeritus, who's holding an archived edition of the paper from the 1990s. The Claridge family has been heavily involved in Orangeville Citizen's success over the last 50 years and has owned newspapers in the region for generations. Rowe has been the Citizen's general manager since 2016 and played a role in its recent success over the past eight years.

Shelburne Free Press, the Clardige family owned the Caledon Citizen and the Grand Valley Star-Vidette.

Tom said he never expected the Citizen to be overly profitable, and the fact it stands as Orangeville's only newspaper today is beyond his wildest dreams.

He attributes much of the paper's success to its employees. Finding quality editorial staff and ad reps made the business run smoothly.

But that task wasn't easy. There were some challenges along the way.

"In 1978 we had a catastrophe that turned out to be anything but," Tom recalled. "It was the year the Orangeville Mall opened with the two anchors, K-Mart and Dominion, both now long gone."

The Citizen's editorial and advertising staff demanded pay raises and said they would quit unless they were granted. Tom said he'd provide the raises if the ad reps could secure Dominion as an advertising client. K-Mart was already buying ads, but he said the additional ad revenue was needed to cover the raises.

The Citizen's staff didn't feel this was

reasonable and everybody except for the receptionist quit on the spot.

That week Tom and Pam put their heads together and managed to put out the Shelburne paper.

But by the end of the week, the Citizen had rehired a full complement of staff.

Tom said it was during that week that the Citizen hired much of its valued staff that remained with the paper for many years. Among those staff members was Sheila Duncan, who just finished university and was in search of a job. She went on to serve as the Citizen's editor for the following 23 years.

Going forward Tom hopes the newspaper will continue for another 50 years.

And much of that success will have to come from advertising.

"The readers really lost when the supermarket advertising went from newspapers to flyers," he said. "Both the Citizen and the Banner used to have at least four supermarkets advertising at the same time, and the reader could compare the specials in each of them."

Tom also noted that supermarkets moved

away from newspaper advertising before the industry moved to centralized presses capable of printing colour on every page.

But there has been a re-emergence of grocery stores advertising in community newspapers and he said he hopes this trend will continue.

The Orangeville Citizen's general manager Doug Rowe said the Citizen is proud to mark its 50th anniversary and looks forward to continuing to serve the community for many years to come.

"Community newspapers like the Orangeville Citizen are still going strong. Local advertisers see the value in supporting the paper through advertising. With the recent commitment by the provincial government to direct 25 per cent of their advertising budget to local advertising we are encouraged for the future."

He added, "It's hard to believe the Citizen already has 50 years under our belt. Our commitment to strong locally generated news stories continues to be our key to success. That has not changed in 50 years. We look forward to building on our past successes with our strong, committed team."

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Keeping the community informed

Written By SAM ODROWSKI, EDITOR ORANGEVILLE CITIZEN

A year old today

ORANGEVILLE'S JOURNALISTIC baby is a year old this week. And like ordinary parents, the Citizen's are thankful, proud and dreaming of the baby's future.

Thankful, not just to the advertisers who used our columns when they were a totally unproven medium; not just to those who took out subscriptions without knowing whether we'd make it through the first year; but to the whole community, who told us in countless different ways that they, too, appreciated our presence.

Proud, not just that we did make it through the period during which most new newspaper ventures fail; not just that we have a terrific staff willing to work long hours for precious little in the way of financial rewards, but also in the knowledge that we have made a small but significant imprint on the community we try to serve.

As we look to the future we realize that we've a long, long way to go before the Citizen is everything we want to see it be. We want the Citizen to be more than just another "voice in the wilderness." We want it to be a thoughtful voice, even a conscience of the community.

To do this will require more than corporate independence — something we've had since the outset. It will also require greater financial independence, a sort of independence that will come only when the publication is distributed on a paid-circulation basis.

We know conversion to fully-paid circulation will bring about an improvement in the product, allowing us to improve our news-to-advertising ratio and increase our newsroom budget.

However, gearing up for the change-over is proving a difficult task and the likelihood of a postal strike has forced several postponements of a "launch date."

Something else we plan in the weeks ahead is a readership survey which we hope will serve as an annual measurement of our successes and failures. We want to know what YOU want us to be.

The year behind has been an exciting one. We've made our share of mistakes and had our share of crises. Our chain-owned competitor has responded to the new competition both by improving its product and by flooding a wide area with a "loss-leader" flyer. (The former we welcomed; the latter didn't achieve its apparent aim of driving us under.)

Perhaps in the year ahead the Banner will continue to evolve as a regional publication, the Citizen as a paper with more local emphasis. Such a trend would seem to offer the community choice as well as competition.

But whatever the future holds, we enter it in the knowledge that our success or failure will depend entirely on the good will we enjoy among those we serve.

Want to know what's happening where you live? Pick up a community newspaper.

Since the inception of the printing press, newspapers have helped keep communities informed on topics that are relevant to them.

While some people don't see the value of community newspapers in today's digital world, it cannot be understated. Community newspapers provide value in a myriad of ways.

Without them, residents of any particular town would be hard-pressed to keep up-to-date on what's happening with their town council, unless they regularly attended the often long, dry and somewhat boring public meetings themselves.

The value of reporting on these meetings goes beyond keeping the community informed, it also holds municipal politicians accountable, so they can't run amuck on the taxpayers' dime.

Community newspapers share hyper-local stories that wouldn't be picked up by larger media organizations. Publishing the results of fundraisers, a young person's success in local athletics or the opening of a new business can only be found between the pages of a community newspaper.

As the Orangeville Citizen's editor since November 2020, it's been my pleasure to report on these stories.

While I started in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic, and most community events were cancelled or changed to a virtual format,

I immediately got the sense that Orangeville is special.

From the town's emphasis on the arts community to its beautiful downtown area and small-town charm, it's a welcoming place filled with welcoming people.

Some of the first stories I wrote locally were focused on charitable initiatives, such as a 12-year-old boy's effort to raise over 30,000 lbs of food for the Orangeville Food Bank.

Others were focused on initiatives for groups in need like the Santa for Seniors program that provided Christmas gifts to people in long-term care homes who wouldn't likely receive anything over the holidays otherwise.

It quickly became evident to me that this is a community that cares and it's been my pleasure to report on the various things everyday people and groups do to make it an even better place than it was yesterday.

It's important for the Orangeville Citizen to capture those stories, as they're uplifting and deserving of recognition.

If you want to hear about death and destruction going on around the world, turn on the news.

But if you want to read about the good deeds being done in your neighbourhood, pick up a community newspaper.

While I may not be here for the next 50 years — I look forward to helping write the Orangeville Citizen's next chapter, as it looks to adapt, grow and evolve.

I'm not sure where the newspaper business will be in the second half of this century, but I'm confident it won't disappear.

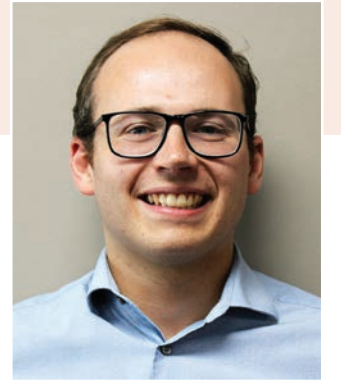
While small-town print newspapers recently took a massive hit when over 70 of them, owned by Metroland Media, switched to strictly posting online, the Orangeville Citizen was not impacted. As an independently owned newspaper, I believe so long as the community continues to value local journalism, we will be here for many decades to come.

People will always want to know what's happening locally, and large media organizations will never have the resources to report on little things that make up the pages of a community newspaper.

And, I believe people enjoy the tactile experience a newspaper offers, physically flipping through the pages, and being able to cut out photos or articles.

This is something that can't be replaced with an online-only business model.

While it can be more convenient to strain your eyes and read through the news on the Internet, nothing beats pouring a cup of coffee on a Thursday morning and flipping through Orangeville's local newspaper.



An article from the September 16, 1975 edition of The Orangeville Citizen celebrating the first anniversary of the paper. In the article it mentions 'we want the Citizen to be more than just another "voice in the wilderness." We want it to be a thoughtful voice, even a conscience of the community.'

Congratulations on 50 years of news

Written By COLLEEN GREEN, ONTARIO NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT

Local community print newspapers are the backbone of our communities. It is right in the name.

Newspapers celebrate our communities' events, organizations, businesses and individuals. In doing so we record history from a global to a local scale. World Wars, elections, marriages, births and everything in between. I am sure we can all think of historic moments immortalized in print.

As the Ontario Community Newspaper Association (OCNA) president, I love print newspapers.

Newspapers are not just a medium but a unique treasure trove of our times. They are moments in history which can be framed and kept, evoking a sense of nostalgia and appreciation. You can't frame a Facebook post, but you can certainly frame a newspaper clipping.

My aunt kept a newspaper clipping of a photo in which she

was translating for immigration when Canada was flooded with immigrants fleeing the 1956 Hungarian revolution. I have a newspaper clipping of my toddlers at a clothing swap. One of my journalist's daughters, who is 12 years old, has a clipping of herself playing hockey. These are moments we cherish. They are tangible memories.

Local newspapers play a crucial role in our democracy. They are the voice of the people, asking the hard questions and shining a light on corruption. Without newspapers, democracy falls. Look at countries like Russia and Cuba. Journalists in more countries than not are under attack by corrupt governments. Our local newspapers empower us and keep us informed.

Local newspapers are owned and operated by members of the communities they serve. Unlike Google or Facebook,

we sponsor the local hockey team and buy cookies from your local Girl Guide Troop. We employ local residents and pay taxes in our local communities.

Your local community newspaper comprises of journalists, columnists, production staff, administrative staff, printers, delivery people, carriers, advertisers and the residents who faithfully read the newspaper.

It takes a community to build a newspaper. Your role as a reader is integral to the 50 years of service the Orangeville Citizen has provided. You should be proud to be a part of this journey.



ADVERTORIAL

DANNY BRACKETT

— A successful businessman who gives back to the community that supports him

By Brian Lockhart

Building a successful and thriving business can be both satisfying and challenging.

For local businessman, Danny Brackett, the automotive world has provided an exciting and rewarding career that allows him to reap the benefits of success while giving back to the community that supports him.

As the owner of MacMaster Buick GMC, Orangeville Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram, Orangeville Volkswagen, Fix Auto Orangeville, the Brackett Detail Centre as well as two dealerships in Huntsville and Sundridge, Danny has created the Brackett Auto Group, after a life-long involvement with the auto industry.

He has always had the entrepreneurial spirit. When he was in college, Brackett and a friend saw the need for a flyer distribution service for local businesses. The enterprise was a success and he had his first taste of running a business.

Moving to the auto industry was a natural progression for him.

"I've always loved cars," Brackett explained. "Between the ages of 16 and 23, I had probably 20 to 25 cars, always buying and selling them. I started selling cars at 23 years old. I always knew I wanted to be in the car business — it was always on my mind."

He started his career selling cars at

a dealership and he soon excelled at his new profession. After spending three years in sales, he became the Sales Manager and was further promoted to General Sales Manager.

In 1962, GM appointed the first Pontiac Buick dealership in Orangeville, which eventually changed to MacMaster Buick GMC on Highway 9, east of Orangeville.

A chain of events and meetings presented Danny with the opportunity to acquire the dealership.

Being able to acquire a dealership is not an easy process. Car manufacturers are notoriously meticulous in their selection of candidates who can effectively operate a dealership.

Brackett fit the bill and moved to Orangeville in 2007.

As an entrepreneur, Danny is always looking for opportunities.

When the Orangeville Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram dealership next door became available in 2015, he seized the opportunity and bought that dealership as well. A complete rebuild transformed that dealership from a tired looking old building to a vibrant and modernized space with a new showroom and drive-in service bay.



That was followed by the acquisition of Orangeville Volkswagen. Once again, he improved the dealership with a renovation and expansion that turned the dealership into a modern, bright, and appealing place for customers and employees.

During the time all this was going on, Danny also acquired two dealerships in Huntsville and Sundridge.

While Brackett is a successful entrepreneur and brilliant businessman, he has remained grounded as a person, and is well liked by his employees, customers, and business associates.

He gives back to the community that supports him in many ways. When the Chrysler building was under renovation, he used a local contractor and local trades people.

During the Volkswagen building renovation, he insisted all the trades people be local.

"It helps the dealership, it helps your customers, it helps your employees, and it helps the community," Brackett said of hiring local people and putting money back into the community. "If we are asked to do something to support the community, if it's community oriented, it's yes."

Over the years, he has sponsored sports teams, Big Brothers and Big Sisters, Headwaters Health Care Centre, the Orangeville Food Bank, and Theatre Orangeville. He is a major supporter of the Orangeville Northmen Junior B Lacrosse team, allowing Junior level lacrosse to maintain a presence in town.

As a pillar of the community, Danny Brackett has achieved personal success while maintaining a sense of community and philanthropy that benefits his employees, customers, and local residents.



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THANK YOU ORANGEVILLE CITIZEN FOR 50 YEARS!

50 YEARS OF *memorable* MILESTONES with the Orangeville Citizen

To mark the Orangeville Citizen's 50th anniversary, the newspaper collaborated with the Museum of Dufferin to share 25 of the most significant events in the region over the past 50 years. These items range from the founding of signature businesses and landmarks to great accomplishments by organizations and people in the community.

Now, the Orangeville Citizen wants to hear from you, our readers! Please email us at contest@citizen.on.ca or mail/drop it off in person to 10 First Street, Orangeville L9W 2C4 (first floor) to share a piece of Orangeville's history over the past 50 years. For a submission to be valid, it must focus on something that happened from 1974 onwards. Deadline to submit is October 31, 2024.

The Citizen will select the best submissions and publish one per week over the next 25 weeks. Once we have collected the additional 25 pieces of history from the community, we will share the full list in the Citizen.

Every entry selected to run will be entered into a draw for four Theatre Orangeville tickets. These tickets are valid for any mainstage performance until May 18, 2025.

In the meantime, here is a look at some of the most notable things to happen in Orangeville and the surrounding area since 1974.

1. Building of Headwaters Hospital

On May 3, 1997, a new acute care hospital and helipad in Orangeville opened at 100 Rolling Hills Drive. Premier Mike Harris and Minister of Health Jim Wilson attended its opening and Eric Nagler, a Dufferin resident and renowned Canadian children's entertainer, had performances for kids.



Image of Dufferin Area Hospital from the pages of the Orangeville Citizen on February 29, 1984. At the time, the hospital had a total of 113 beds and was on a provincial waiting list for expansion.

2. The horse racetrack in Orangeville

The Orangeville Raceway was revamped and opened on Sunday May 3, 1970, and quickly became a popular hub. People as far as downtown Toronto would bus to Orangeville to watch the events. Horseracing was not new to the town. Local legends, like Dr. William Henry Riddell put Orangeville on the map for the sport and inspired racers and fans to carry on competing. In April of 1997, the well-loved track was demolished to make room for the new Fairgrounds Shopping Centre at 95 First St.



Image supplied by Museum of Dufferin

3. Drive-in Movie Theatre in TOWN

The drive-in movie theatre in Orangeville operated from 1950 to 1975. The theatre was founded by Jim and Muriel Merlina, who also operated the Uptown Theatre on Broadway. The theatre was located on the east side of Third Street, north of Fifth Avenue in Orangeville.



Image supplied by Museum of Dufferin

4. Creation of Vicki Barron Lakeside Trail at Island Lake Conservation Area

In 2001, the first 2.5 kilometers of the Vicki Barron Lakeside Trail opened. It was named to recognize the outstanding contributions made by Credit Valley Conservation's retired general manager, Vicki Barron. Since 2007, additional sections have been added to the trail. Island Lake was first founded in 1967 when the local landscape changed dramatically with the construction of two dams. The dams flooded a large cedar swamp, deciduous thicket and a small lake creating a 182-hectare reservoir, first known as the Orangeville Reservoir, but now named Island Lake, not for the Islands the flooding created but for an original settler to the area – Michael Island. There was a lottery for naming the conservation area and it was named "Island Lake" – previously known as "Mickey Island's Lake." It opened to the public as a conservation authority in 1970.

5. First Female Building Inspector in Ontario

Dufferin County received some recognition back in August 1976 when it hired Silvia S. Tang of Marsville as the county's first female Building Inspector in Ontario.

6. The Museum of Dufferin opening

The Museum of Dufferin opened in its current location in October 1994, at the corner of Highway 89 and Airport Road in Mulmur. The Dufferin County Historical Society established the Shelburne Pioneer Museum in 1963. The Museum's artifact collection was officially donated to the County in 1988 and following a devastating fire, was relocated to the Land Registry Office in front of the County Courthouse on Zina St., Orangeville. Construction on the new facility was completed in 1994 and the doors were opened to the public in October of that year.



Image supplied by Museum of Dufferin

7. Broadway Named 2015's Great Street of Canada by the Canadian Institute of Planners

Broadway Ave. in Orangeville was named the Great Street of Canada in 2015 by the Canadian Institute of Planners. The win cited its streetscape and community use for festivals. The medians were constructed in 2006 and have been controversial since their construction, as they reduced the number of lanes along Orangeville's main thoroughfare.

8. Tree Sculptures in Orangeville

Dead trees on public boulevards in Orangeville have been turned into sculptures over the past two decades. The program was started in 2003, inspired by then-mayor Drew Brown's visit to Truro, Nova Scotia, where a similar program existed.

9. Orangeville Mall

In 1977, Orangeville residents saw the opening of the Orangeville Mall at 150 First St., just outside of Orangeville (then) in Mono Township. It was a little rainy but everyone under the tent had a great time. Rumour states that there were plans to build a mall on the Credit Flats on East Broadway where Angel's Diner is located. However, an impacted property owner refused to sell, resulting in the plans being abandoned.

10. Rotary Park

In October 1974 the Rotary Club of Orangeville began work on the new Rotary Park, built on top of the old Town dump. The park was designed to be a show area to host the Lord Dufferin Horse Show (1971-1977), an international show-jumping competition, put on by the Rotary Club as a fundraising event.



Image from the pages of the Orangeville Citizen in February 1984 showing the work that had been done to date within the park

Congratulations

to the *Orangeville Citizen* on 50 memorable years of sharing the stories that make Orangeville and Dufferin County a wonderful place to live, work, and raise a family.

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11. Uptown Theatre sold to Good Friends Fellowship

The Uptown Theatre on Broadway closed in 2002 and was sold to the Good Friends Fellowship non-denominational church, which conducts services in the main auditorium. Sam Merlina first opened the Uptown Theatre in 1927. It originally showed silent movies but was remodelled in the late-1940s to show films with sound. It operated as a single-screen movie theatre until the late-1970's, when a second screen was added on the second floor. It was sold to Stinson Theatres in 1975 before being sold to the Good Friends Fellowship in 2002.



12. Collapse of the Grand Central Hotel

In 1992, during renovations, the Grand Central Hotel on the south side of Broadway in Orangeville was demolished, along with McMillan's Garage and gas station. The loss of these two Orangeville landmarks is where the large open area on Broadway comes from, across from Town Hall. The Grand Central Hotel in Orangeville was erected in 1876, and for years was considered by travellers to be one of the best hotels in the province. In 1962, the Grand Central Hotel was purchased by Joseph de Haas, one of many to emigrate from the Netherlands after the Second World War. Several years later, under his ownership, the hotel made history when it was granted a license to open a beverage room. It provided hospitality for more than 100 years before it was demolished in 1992.

13. 100th Anniversary of Orangeville Fall Fair

The inaugural fall fair was held in 1854 and moved downtown sometime after 1860, when livestock shows and horse races were being held on Broadway. In 1876, the Orangeville Agricultural Society (OAS) bought land for its new fairgrounds located in the plaza where Walmart and Canadian Tire stand today. In 1976, the fair celebrated its 100th anniversary at that location. The fair remained there until the mid-1990s when it was moved to what is known today as the OAS Events Centre on 5 Sideroad in Mono.



Image from the pages of the Orangeville Citizen in 1976 showing Elgin Laughlin examining a turnip during the 100th anniversary of the Orangeville Fall Fair. Assisting Laughlin are John Reid and Harold Meek, both directors of the Orangeville Fair at that time.

14. Olympic Torch passes through Orangeville

The Olympic Flame came through Orangeville in 1988, carried by Daryll Davies, on its way to Calgary, Alberta. The flame passed through Orangeville again in 2010, carried by Bryon Mackie on its way to Pyeongchang, South Korea.

15. Dufferin County Centennial in 1981

Orangeville celebrated with a "Heritage Weekend" on June 17-19, 1981, that included shows, races, demonstrations, an aerobic display over the conservation area and a parade down Broadway. The Lieutenant Governor, John Black Aird, planted memorial trees at Orangeville District Secondary School.

Images from the Centennial celebration in 1981 from the pages of the Orangeville Citizen. Pictured top is Orangeville Mayor Vic Large presenting a horse blanket to jockey William Troy for winning the Orangeville Pace at the centennial races at the Orangeville Raceway. Below is Dufferin County Warden Bill Young and wife, Leigh, arriving at the centennial parade in an antique car owned by Keith Hunter.



17. Orangeville Farmer's Market

The Orangeville Farmers Market has been running off and on since the construction of Orangeville Town Hall in 1875. The current market, operated by the Orangeville BIA, opened in 1990 and has been running continuously since then. Now entering its 34th year, the market has become a tourist attraction on Saturday mornings at the Town Hall.

17. Town Hall Renovation

The Orangeville Town Hall was constructed in 1875. It was built originally as an Opera House on the second floor. At some point during its use, the Hall was renovated to make room for the board of education offices and council chambers on the first floor, removing the Opera House. In 1993-94 the building underwent renovations with a large two-storey addition, restoring the Opera House on the second level. At the time it was completed, however, there was local concern that the building was too low and not imposing enough.

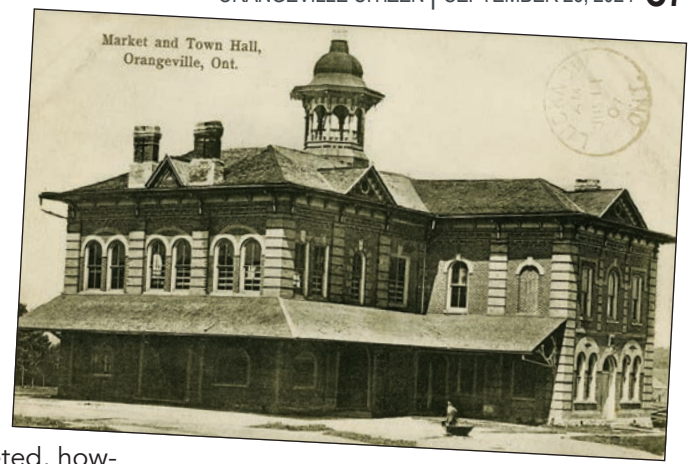


Image supplied by Museum of Dufferin

18. Opening of the Women's Community Centre

The Women's Community Centre opened on January 14, 1977. The Centre was organized and established by Sharon Pilche and Demi Milbank who recognized the challenge many women face in getting out and meeting new people in Orangeville. The centre was seen as an opportunity to bring women together through various social, intellectual, and recreational programs.

19. DACLD created to serve residents with special needs

The Dufferin Association for Children with Learning Disabilities (DACLD) held its founding meeting, on June 29, 1977, led by Betsy and Bob Janse. The DACLD is part of a national organization established to assist parents of children with learning disabilities. While the organization was settled in Orangeville, it was intended to serve all of Dufferin County.

20. Formation of Orangeville & District Historical Society

In August of 1977, the Orangeville Historical Society held its initial meeting. The society was formed in response to Orangeville residents who were concerned their town's heritage was at ongoing risk of being demolished and forgotten.

21. January 8, 1977, Inaugural Ceremonies

The Village of Shelburne becomes the second "town" in Dufferin County. The mayor at the time, George Morden, was presented with the Chain of Office and the new Shelburne flag. It's interesting to note that the actual chain of office presented was that of the Town of Orangeville since the new Shelburne chain had been delayed in the mail.

22. First successful junior kindergarten program created locally

The Dufferin Board of Education, created in 1969, was considered the smallest board in Ontario at the time. Yet, the board was the first to create a successful Junior Kindergarten program in the mid-1970s. It constructed its own building and opened in the fall of 1979.

23. Safe haven for women and children built locally

Family Transition Place (FTP) was founded in 1984 in response to domestic violence in the community. Since then, the not-for-profit organization has been providing critical services to women and children who have experienced abuse, dangerous living situations and unhealthy relationships. FTP is located at 20 Bredin Pkwy, Orangeville. In addition to outreach and transitional housing support, FTP provides emergency shelter services to anyone in need.

24. Theatre joins Orangeville's arts community

Theatre Orangeville was founded in July of 1994 by artistic director Jim Betts. The theatre opened as a professional summer theatre, incorporated with charitable status. The theatre opened in the newly restored Town Hall and Opera House and has operated there ever since.

25. Orangeville-Brampton railway sold for nearly \$32 million

The final train rolled down the Orangeville-Brampton Railway last on Dec. 17, 2021, marking the end of rail services for the region. In 2000, the Town purchased 55 km of Canadian Pacific Railways' (CPRs) Owen Sound Subdivision from Mississauga to Orangeville following the CPRs announcement, in 1995, that the rail line would be abandoned. The short-line operator, Cando Contracting Ltd., provided regular freight service for the industries along the line and used it for a tourist train until GIO Railways Corporation took over as the short-line operator several years ago. In 2020, the user group of the railway provided formal notice to the Town of Orangeville that it would like to terminate its agreement and it was subsequently put up for sale. Almost \$32 million was realized from the sale of the rail line in 2022. The railway became operational 150 years ago, in April of 1871, bringing life and commerce to the settlements along the route. Passenger service to Orangeville ended in 1971, exactly 100 years after it began.

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Independent newspaper with integrity, grit and heart

Written By SHEILA DUNCAN, FORMER ORANGEVILLE CITIZEN EDITOR



Achieving 50 years as an independent community newspaper is significant, particularly in a town that already had an established newspaper. Building a successful connection with the community had to involve a big vision and a lot of effort. Imagine the hours at a keyboard and speaking to people, building a business and connections, hiring good employees, selling ads, setting up production facilities and printing capabilities, and writing the news. Lots of news.

Local newspapers present information, foster debate, instigate change, serve as a watchdog, build trust and connect community members. The Citizen has done this well over the years and I'm proud to have been a part of that story. The original owners, Tom and Pam Claridge, were dedicated to offering a real community conversation every week. It's a tribute to them, their staff, their readers, and local businesses that it continues to evolve as a success story.

Between 1978 and 2003, I worked at the Citizen for 23 years, as the editor. In fact, I was on staff at three different times, in between other editing jobs.

As the newspaper editor, I was speaking on the phone or meeting lots of people every week. I would attend area council meetings and produce several articles from each ses-

sion – a process that could very well involve several interviews to elaborate, clarify or confirm details. It was all about presenting information that was relevant and accurate, possibly with some quotes thrown in for affirmation or entertainment.

Early on, before the printing process and computerization evolved to where it is today, the process could be tedious. Imagine pasting strips of text on a page for headlines and articles, or the challenge of changing wording. Also, consider the hours that went into writing news stories from a Monday night council meeting and then getting up at 4 or 5 or 6 a.m. to put the newspaper together before the printing press deadline. There were times I worked through the night to ensure the articles got written.

Moment of pride: Each week, when the newspaper layout was completed, I'd be so proud of what we had created for the community. Also special was the winning of the Ontario Community Newspaper Awards, especially for the coverage of the 1985 tornado when we worked through the weekend.

In good company: I got to hire and train a lot of reporters over the years. Many of them went on to become editors and reporters at daily newspapers in various parts of the country and I am still in touch with several of them. Some fantastic people started their writing careers in Orangeville.

Constant education: The stories and the people you cover for a community newspaper are diverse. I enjoyed disclosing the existence of mould in school portables at both the public and Catholic school systems. Gumption was needed to pursue that story as the information wasn't just handed over readily.

The same goes for the Freedom of Information inquiry I had to file to eventually obtain salary increases for top staff and council members at Dufferin County. The county CAO of the day described me as a barracuda in heels. I felt the public had a right to know. The election following that disclosure brought significant change.

I also led the charge to open board of health meetings to the public, by gathering news reporters from across Wellington, Dufferin and Guelph to stand outside the meeting door.

A lot of my time was spent at Orangeville Council meet-

ings over the years and I did respect most of the elected officials.

Touch people's hearts and minds: Whether you were speaking with a young person afflicted with a terminal disease or the parent of a murdered victim, you strived to respect and honour their stories, while being accurate with the facts and sensitive to the details.

Challenging times: Late-night Orangeville Council meetings. Any meeting with a certain former politician who dragged any discussion beyond comprehension. When egos outgrow common sense, you've got a problem.

The best articles: The account of the annual warden's banquet – the warden previously got to invite friends and family to a banquet paid for by taxpayers. The practice ended after a Citizen article and thanks to former Orangeville mayor Vic Large.

I will never forget the article I wrote about several members of Dufferin County Council spending part of a session in the county kitchen drinking and playing euchre while their colleagues continued with a council meeting upstairs.

Nor will I forget meeting Canadian choreographer Roland Kirouac at a grass fire at his property. A wonderful character, I remember him saying, "I am used to setting my audiences on fire, not my home." Later, as a town employee, I got him to choreograph the opening of the Alder Recreation Centre.

Share some personality: The best way to give the newspaper some personality was through my personal column. I had a tremendous community response over the years. I still have people approach me on the street commenting on something I wrote or photographed.

Newspaper offices have changed significantly in recent years, with leaner staff numbers, but they remain a valuable and reliable source of information – and offer a connection to the community. I would trust a journalist's account of an event or initiative any day over online discourse. Orangeville is my hometown and I loved being part of the community newspaper team.



Publisher Pamela Claridge and Editor Sheila Duncan in February 1984.

50 years of storytelling and community connection

Written By LISA POST, MAYOR OF ORANGEVILLE



Happy 50th Anniversary to one of the cornerstones of our community, the Orangeville Citizen.

Community newspapers like the Orangeville Citizen are far more than just a source for the news; they are the heartbeat of our towns. In Orangeville, the Citizen has been the eyes and ears of our community for half a century, capturing the stories that matter most to us – stories that might otherwise go unnoticed by larger news organizations. From highlighting local achievements and celebrating community events to covering elections, new businesses, and tragedies, the Citizen ensures that every story is heard.

The Orangeville Citizen keeps residents informed about the decisions that affect our daily lives, from council meetings and municipal planning to community projects and everything in between. By shining a light on these topics, community newspapers encourage civic engagement and empower residents to take an active role in shaping the future of our town.

Additionally, the Citizen plays a crucial role in preserving our local history and culture. Through its reporting, the newspaper captures the essence of our community and chronicles the good, the bad and the everyday moments that define who we are. As we look back on the past 50 years, we can see how the

Citizen has not only reported on our history but has also become a big part of it.

On behalf of the Town of Orangeville, I extend my deepest gratitude to the past and present editors, reporters, contributors and staffers for their incredible dedication to our community. Here's to the future of the Citizen and to another 50 years of storytelling and community connection.



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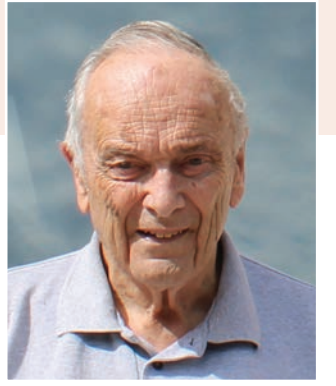


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Half century ago

Written By TOM CLARIDGE, ORIGINAL OWNER OF THE ORANGEVILLE CITIZEN, EDITOR EMERITUS



50 years ago, in 1974, I had owned Shelburne's community newspaper for about two years and was seriously thinking about launching a sister publication in Orangeville.

That would never have happened back in the days when the Orangeville Banner was owned by the McKittrick family and was among the best weeklies in Canada. It helped out the papers in Shelburne and Grand Valley by providing them with coverage of Dufferin County Council.

On the contrary, the Thomson chain, which bought the Banner in 1959, was promoting it as all that advertisers needed to reach customers in the Dufferin area.

The launch of the Orangeville Citizen in September 1974, was predicated on the unproven theory that a locally-owned

paper would succeed if it was available to everyone and at least as good of a read as the chain-owned opposition.

Two years earlier, when I took over the Shelburne Free Press and Economist, it had a state-of-the-art letterpress plant, including a flatbed press previously owned by the Queen's Printer and a Linotype that we bought a few years earlier when it was brand new.

The paper was normally 12 pages, but in the midst of a general conversion to offset printing, it was increasingly difficult to get advertising materials that would work in letterpress plants. I decided to convert to offset printing and join with other area publishers to obtain a rotary press that would print up to 12 pages. The initial customers of Sheldon Press Ltd. included the Dundalk Herald and two new

papers, the Elmira Independent and the Beeton Record, the latter owned by my brother-in-law, Bruce Haire.

The conversion to offset and the new press opened the door to the launch of the Orangeville Citizen.

Joining the launch was Harry White, a boyhood friend who became the Citizen's first publisher and left a year or so later having concluded that we would never survive. The publisher's title was assumed by my late wife Pamela.

One of the first employees was a guy who recently gradu-

ated from the University of Toronto. Dan Needles within weeks started to write a column, Letter from Wingfield Farm, which ran in both the Citizen and the Shelburne Free Press and Economist.

Over the years we employed dozens of reporters and advertising representatives, but three persons stand out as key personnel: Sheila Duncan, Wes Keller and Sandi Jovic.

Sheila joined us in 1978, walking into our office, then in the Mill Street Mall in the midst of a crisis caused by my refusal to give raises to the then editor and reporter until we secured ads from the new Dominion store. She joined as a reporter but soon became our editor and served in that role until being hired by the Town as a communications officer.

Wes was our best reporter, so long as he was sober, and he kept writing until he died of a heart attack at 83.

Sandi served as our receptionist for many years until she was let go as part of a cutback after the Citizen was purchased as a key part of a new community paper chain in Ontario.

Will the Citizen survive for another 50 years?

A lot will depend on the success or failure of attempts to get local advertising, as well as readers continuing to look to the newspaper as a source of information and entertainment.

Just about every Canadian newspaper suffered a huge loss when supermarket chains switched from newspaper advertising to multi-page flyers. Thankfully, Caledon's Garden Foods and Orangeville's M&M have recently switched back to newspaper advertising. Hopefully, others will follow suit.



An couple of advertisements from Orangeville Citizen showing prices and information from years before. Pictured on the left is an ad from May 30, 1979 showing the 50th anniversary Kmart clothing and prices. Pictured right is an ad from September 16, 1975 showing a 1¢ sale at Cash & Carry which was located at 78 1st Street, Orangeville.

Sharing the stories that make Orangeville great

Written By SYLVIA JONES, MPP DUFFERIN-CALEDON



Congratulations to the Orangeville Citizen on 50 memorable years of sharing the stories that make Orangeville and Dufferin County a wonderful place to live, work, and raise a family.

The Orangeville Citizen has been a part of our local news for many in Orangeville and area; keeping us up to date on everything from Town Council meetings to exciting achievements in local sports or promoting the many wonderful events happening in our area. Community newspapers, like the Orangeville Citizen, are the heartbeat of communities across the province.

Community newspapers serve as a platform to allow community members to share their opinions and achievements, giving everyone the opportunity to contribute to our local

dialogue. They support our community's local businesses through advertising and promoting their products and services. Most importantly, our local newspapers build connection, engagement, and a sense of community. As we move towards a more digitized world, local newspapers have proved resilient, adapting and continuing to be a voice for community organizations, small businesses, and so much more through new platforms.

The Orangeville Citizen would not be possible without the journalists who keep them going. Over the last 50 years, many members of our community have published their work on the Citizen's pages. From op-eds, letters to the editors, local news, and cultural or sporting highlights, to celebrating school graduations, our journalists have captured the

pride and opportunity in our community for the last 50 years.

A staple in our community, the Orangeville Citizen has been keeping families informed about what is happening locally, provincially, and beyond. There is no doubt that local newspapers will continue to evolve with the world we live in, and I know they will continue to play a pivotal role in our community for years to come.

Congratulations again to the Orangeville Citizen on a remarkable 50 years, I wish you many more.

ADVERTORIAL

MediCrest Pharmacy joins Orangeville's business community

By Sam Odrowski

While some businesses in Dufferin County are marking major milestones this year, others are writing a new chapter within the local business community.

MediCrest Pharmacy is one of those businesses, opening its doors in Orangeville in June of this year at the Old Mill Hub, 28 Mill St., Unit 104.

The pharmacist-led clinic offers a variety of services, determined to meet the needs of the diverse community of Orangeville. Services include free local prescription delivery, compounding prescriptions, medication review, travel health consultations, vaccines for travel, the flu and COVID-19, compression stockings, blister packing, diabetes management, and smoking cessation counselling.

In addition to these services, MediCrest is also a minor ailment walk-in clinic, able to assess and treat conditions such as urinary tract infections (UTIs), pink eye, and cold sores.

"Skip the line," said MediCrest's owner and pharmacy manager Sheena Thomas. "You don't have to wait for a doctor's appointment for these conditions, just come see your pharmacist!"

Thomas said patients are even able to have assessments completed over the phone for certain conditions, so all they have to do is come in and pick up the prescription. This simplifies how patients receive healthcare.

The Ontario government recently enacted changes allowing pharmacists to assess for 19 common minor ailments and will soon be adding 14 more, highlighting the significant effect pharmacists have in improving community healthcare.

Thomas has worked in Orangeville as a pharmacist for 14 years and truly understands and enjoys the local community.

She said opening her own pharmacy has enabled her to help more people and provide patients with more personalized care through increased one-on-one time. This is a key trait that differentiates MediCrest Pharmacy from other retail chain pharmacies.

"We like to go that extra mile for our

patients," Thomas explained.

To ensure the needs of the community are being met, MediCrest Pharmacy will be hosting two educational events this fall, providing accessible healthcare information closer to home.

On Oct. 26 from 2 to 3 p.m., an information session will be held discussing the effect medications have on nutrient and vitamin levels in your body and how to best manage this.

On Nov. 2 from 2 to 3 p.m., a second session will be held focusing on glucometers (blood sugar measuring devices). Attendees will learn how to optimize the use of their blood glucometers and share tips for successful use in managing diabetes.

Call MediCrest Pharmacy at 519-398-2323 to book a space in either information session as spots are limited due to capacity.

"I love providing patient consultations," said Thomas. "This helps me to connect with patients, and educate [them] about the medications, drug interactions and medication-induced nutrition depletion. This information empowers patients to play an important role in decision-making about their medical conditions and treatments."

Additionally, for the upcoming Fall 2024-2025 respiratory illness season, flu vaccines for children, adults, and seniors will be available soon at MediCrest, with no appointment needed. MediCrest also offers vaccination with the new COVID-19 vaccine working against the KP.2 strain of the virus, available this fall.

Call the pharmacy to book an appointment or book online at medicrestpharmacy.ca.

MediCrest looks forward to being a part of the Orangeville community for many years to come, said Thomas.

Learn more about MediCrest on Facebook, Instagram (instagram.com/medicrest.pharmacy), and their website: medicrestpharmacy.ca.

MediCrest is open Monday to Friday from 10 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.



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A playwright's launching pad

Written By SHEILA DUNCAN, FORMER ORANGEVILLE CITIZEN EDITOR

The Orangeville Citizen and I share birthdays and are exactly the same age. The new paper was the brainchild of Tom Claridge and his partner Harry White, another Shelburne native who had been a friend of my family since I was about eight years old. Tom and Harry were going head to head in competition with the old Thomson weekly in Orangeville, The Banner.

I had just finished a degree in economics at the University of Toronto and the only thing I was certain of was that I had no future as an economist. Harry came to the family farm in Rosemont looking for my sister to see if she wanted a job and instead, he found me surrounded by a motley collection of veal calves, pigs and ducks. He couldn't believe

that I was sitting there with a university education and all the prospects in the world and to his eyes, doing nothing.

"You have to get your ducks in a row," he said and offered me a job on the spot, writing stories for the Citizen.

We opened for business in the Broadway Cleaners building on the main street, right beside the Town Hall in September 1974 with an editor, whose name I conveniently have forgotten, because on the third day, the police came around and picked him up and that was the last we saw of him. So Harry turned to me with his big grin and said, "You took some English courses, didn't you? Do you want to be editor?"

I have a lasting picture in my mind of Harry the salesman, standing by the front window in our new office, in his crisp white shirt and tie and a coffee cup in hand. Absolutely nothing was happening - the phone silent, the copy hook empty and nothing but flyers in the morning mail. With a big smile and a shrug of the shoulders, he would say, "I think I'll take a walk up the street and let a parking brake off and see if I can generate some news."

It was a trick to fill a 16-page newspaper with local news in a town of 7,000 people. There was a strong temptation to lunge for the boilerplate bulletins from the agricultural office about the advance of the alfalfa weevil or planting tips for winter wheat. We had contests to think of the silliest headline in a town with no news. "Snow falls on Broadway" or worse "Still no snow on Broadway". And, at 23, I really had no opinions worth repeating for the editorial page. Tom supplied our opinions like clockwork every week from his berth at the Globe and Mail in Toronto. The first week Harry asked, "Why don't you write

a column?" So I wrote out a title, "Letter from Wingfield Farm" and started telling stories about the two and four-footed characters on the Seventh Line of Mono Township. Over the next two years, Harry became the Dear Ed, in that column, reading the first draft, usually Monday morning, a few hours before we went to press. Making Harry laugh was my weekly objective. If I could make Harry smile I knew there was a chance someone else out there in the readership would wade through it. There were plenty of opportunities to abandon the effort. Like the time I did a rant about snowmobiles and had the Kinsman Club and the small engine repair shop write irate letters to the editor telling me to go back to news reporting.

For several years after I left the Citizen I looked back at the experience as an interesting speedbump on the road of life. But then, in 1984, I gathered up the stories from the columns and fashioned them into a stage play, *Letter from Wingfield Farm* and so began the Wingfield series which is now the longest-running series of stage plays in Canadian theatre history.

I returned to Broadway soon after to the Theatre Orangeville stage, right next door to the old Broadway Cleaners office, and went on to write 14 plays for them.

Tom and Harry continued to be cheerleaders for my work and were delighted that the Citizen, Theatre Orangeville and Dufferin County would prove to be the launching pad for a young playwright and propel me to a national career in the theatre.

As Harry used to say, "Mighty oaks from little nuts doth grow."



Dan Needles working on a story on his Underwood typewriter in the Citizen office beside Broadway Cleaners, just east of the Town Hall in 1974.

Surviving 50 years and looking forward to 50 more

Written By KYLE SEEBACK, MP DUFFERIN-CALEDON



An ad from the January 28, 1976 pages of the Orangeville Citizen.

It's a truly remarkable achievement that the Orangeville Citizen has endured for 50 years, given the challenges community newspapers have faced.

We've witnessed many community newspapers and media outlets come and go over the years and yet the Orangeville Citizen remains a fixture in our community, delivering trusted local news and perspectives. It's a testament to just how much this paper is greatly valued by residents as a constant and reliable source of community information.

Community newspapers, such as the Orangeville Citizen, have endured and continue to play a vitally important role in the communities they serve because they consistently make local news and information accessible that large, national media outlets simply cannot provide.

Residents depend on the high-quality content and local perspectives only community newspapers can deliver, making them trusted resources for the most up-to-date local information. This creates stronger, more unified communities which is increasingly important given the digital age we live in today.

Congratulations to the Orangeville Citizen on its 50th anniversary. This is a significant and exciting milestone, and one that our community celebrates.

I'm looking forward to the next 50 years of the Orangeville Citizen bringing the news to Orangeville.



From Railway to Trailway:

Connecting our past with an active transportation network for the present

One of the key pieces of Orangeville's development and success has been the Orangeville Brampton Railway (OBRy). It has served us in many different ways, over many years, impacting tourism, economic development, and industrial history.

While there have been many changes surrounding the OBRy in the past 50 years, its importance goes back much further. It could be said that the success of Orangeville is directly related to the railway's original days. Regular service began in 1871, leading to Orangeville's place in Central Ontario as a destination, transfer point, midway stop for freight and passenger trains, and industrial shipping mechanism for grain, timber, lumber, and fence rails produced here.

Orangeville became such a notable place that it was even highlighted in an advertising handbook published by the Toronto, Grey, and Bruce railway. With its 11 hotels, multiple law firms, three newspapers, and twice-a-week market, the advertisement noted, "No place appears to have a brighter future than the plucky Town of Orangeville."

Operations continued for more than 100 years, and the historic train station in Orangeville was moved to 35 Armstrong Street to preserve the building. Today, it houses The Barley Vine Rail Co. restaurant and their speak-easy, Revival 1863.

As transportation continued to shift away from trains in favour of automobiles in the 1990s, rail lines like the OBRy also had to shift to continue operations. With the assistance of the Town of Orangeville and Dufferin County, several manufacturers in Orangeville continued use of the line after its abandonment in 1995 by the Canadian Pacific Railway.

A tourist train, called the Credit Valley Explorer, came on board in 2004, running until 2018. Not long after, the manufacturers using railway transportation also stepped away from use of the train, leading to the shutdown of the line. On December 17, 2021, the final train left Orangeville.

The Town of Orangeville found itself in the same situation as many other municipalities – having to determine the best use for a rail line no longer in use. This led the Town to investigate creative ways to best use the corridor for current and future residents.

Alongside other municipalities the corridor passes through (Mississauga, Peel Region, Caledon, Brampton), the Town began to pursue the development of a multi-use trail, fondly known as the rail trail. The initial plan for this trail was adopted as part of the Town of Orangeville's Cycling and Trails Master Plan.

Adapting the rail corridor – making way for an active community

Work on the rail trail is underway, with many steps to take us from conception to completion. The first portion of the trail, running from Veteran's Way to Blind Line has been completed, and over the past year the rail ties and crossings were uninstalled on the remainder of the line from Broadway to Town Line. The rail ties were re-purposed as a cattle fence on a farm backing onto the Simcoe Railway.

Plans for the remainder of the trail are being developed, with the design heading to review for accessibility soon. Once approved, the Town will seek a developer through a tender process and work will begin. Initial concepts for this portion would include a seating area with a pergola, benches, and additional signage. Accessibility features proposed along the trail include leaning structures for those who need frequent breaks while walking, and various other functions to ensure it is accessible and usable for all residents. It will also have major economic and tourism impacts, touching every part of our community.

The trail will eventually link up with smaller trails throughout Town to create an active transportation network, connecting the community from one end to the other.

A community's needs are always shifting. By preserving the integrity of the corridor, the Town is not only preserving an important part of Orangeville's history but allowing for the community of the future to have the flexibility to meet its needs as well.

To learn more about the history of the Orangeville Brampton Railway visit orangeville.ca/HeritageOBRy



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ORANGEVILLE NISSAN
2024 NISSAN GLOBAL AWARD WINNER



Orangeville Nissan receives prestigious global award

By Brian Lockhart

NISSAN ORANGEVILLE has once again been acknowledged for outstanding achievement at its Highway 10, location in Orangeville.

The dealership was recognized with the Nissan National Award of Excellence as well as the Global Award of Excellence.

Only a handful of Nissan dealerships around the world receive the Global Award making Orangeville Nissan one of the best in the entire company.

The awards reflect the over-all performance of a dealership including service, sales efficiency, and customer service.

The dealership received the awards from dignitaries from corporate head office on Thursday, September 19.

"Today we are celebrating National Award of Excellence and the Global Award of Excellence," explained Orangeville Nissan general manager, Jamie Patterson. "For us, it's recognition for customer service, customer loyalty, sales, parts sales, and every aspect of the dealership. It has put us in the top ten per cent in Canada, and globally in the top five per cent."

The Pilla Family and Orangeville Nissan want to thank their valued customers for their support over the years.

With a base of customers in Orangeville and surrounding areas, the Orangeville Nissan dealership has such a solid reputation they also attract customers from around the province.

"We know exactly where our customers come from," Jamie explained. "We have a very strong presence in Orangeville and Mono and we have one of the highest market penetrations in Canada. A large percentage of our business

is from outside of our area. We have customers coming from all over Ontario. We have people coming here from Oshawa, Scarborough, and Toronto. We had customers from as far away as Owen Sound and Thunder Bay."

The fact that people will travel quite a distance to deal with Orangeville Nissan means they are satisfied customers and have likely recommended the dealership to family and friends.

"It's based on reputation, and we have a very good reputation in the marketplace," Jamie said. "We're very blessed. We have a good staff here and good customers."

Orangeville Nissan is located at 633224 Highway 10 and can be contacted by phone: (519) 940-0222.



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