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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

EXTINGUISHING FLAMES: Firefighters respond to a blaze at Fur-Ever Farm-Canada and Fur-Ever Able Dog Rescue & Rehab in Mono on March 8. A fire in the workshop, damaging vehicles, equipment, and power lines. The farm has paused all of its events while it recovers from the fire damage. See a full story on Page 2.

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Lineup announced for Orangeville Blues and Jazz Festival

Written By SAM ODROWSKI

The 22nd Annual Orangeville Blues and Jazz Festival is taking over Orangeville from June 5 to 7, featuring over 40 acts performing the very best of both genres.

For the 13th consecutive year, the Orangeville Blues and Jazz Festival has maintained its place on Festivals and Events Ontario's annual Top 100 list.

The award-winning festival will continue to be a celebration of blues and jazz music, while once again transforming downtown Orangeville into the region's largest music festival and event venue.

The three-day event attracts 30,000 to 40,000 attendees and generates around \$2.5 million in economic activity for the area.

"On behalf of the Festival Board of Directors, staff, and volunteers, we are thrilled to present another three-day weekend of exceptional music and events for thousands of local residents and visitors," said Festival Board of Directors President Nancy Claridge.

"This incredible event is made possible with support from the Orangeville Business Improvement Area, local businesses, the Town of Orangeville, government funding agencies, our featured performers, and the enthusiastic audiences who attend."

This year's headliners at the TD Mainstage and Opera House include Miss Emily,



FILE PHOTO

READY FOR RETURN: The Orangeville Blues and Jazz Festival will return to the downtown core from June 5 to 7, with over 40 acts performing across the two genres.

Emilie-Claire Barlow, Paul James Band and Blackburn Brothers. Additional featured artists include Steve Marriner, Durham County Poets (Quebec), The Sugar Darlings, and Vinyl Paradise.

There will also be a Jazz Society Big Band Tribute to Sinatra, featuring John Amato, that won't disappoint.

"We are especially proud to highlight an incredible roster of Canadian artists. With over 40 acts scheduled, the 2026 festival will feature some of the finest talent in blues and jazz music," said Larry Kurtz, festival founder and artistic director.

Continued on Page A6

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Fire at Fur-Ever Farm Canada destroys equipment, sparks urgent donation drive

Written By JOSHUA DRAKES
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

A fast-moving fire has destroyed a key outbuilding at a joint farm animal sanctuary and dog rescue in Mono, resulting in significant equipment losses and prompting an urgent appeal for community support.

The blaze broke out in Fur-Ever Farm Canada's garage and workroom on March 8, quickly consuming the structure and its contents. Embers from the farm's maple syrup evaporator managed to slip out of the machine, igniting a blaze that completely destroyed the workshop and everything inside.

Ashley Andrews, founder of Fur-Ever Farm-Canada, said that it was a freak accident that produced a blaze unlike anything she had ever seen.

"Everything in the garage went up like a dried Christmas tree; it was horrible," she said. "The flames were so big and so hot. It's nothing like I've ever seen in my whole 40 years of being alive, I've never seen a fire like that."

In an online statement on March 9, the organization informed its supporters that the damage was severe but that no one was injured, and it could have been much worse.

"Our garage and workroom caught fire, and we lost almost everything inside," Fur-Ever Farm Canada and Fur-Ever Able Dog Rescue & Rehab said in a joint statement. "This space held our tools, lawn maintenance equipment, standby generators, and many of the items we rely on to keep the farm running every single day."

While all people and animals were safely accounted for, the not-for-profit organization estimates more than \$70,000 in losses related to tools and supplies alone, not including the building itself.

The destroyed building had recently undergone upgrades, including a new roof and hydro installation completed two years ago. The fire also damaged the hydro line and destroyed a puppy transport trailer.

Several essential pieces of equipment used in daily operations were lost, includ-

ing tools, lawn maintenance machinery, and standby generators.

Thankfully, by luck, some heavy machinery was spared.

"We were incredibly lucky in one way," the statement said. "Our tractor had been taken out earlier in the day for chores, otherwise it would have been lost as well."

Andrews extended her sincere thanks to the fire departments that responded to the fire.

"We are so grateful," she said. "Rosemont fire came out, Alliston, Orangeville, Shelburne, like everybody, there were so many fire trucks. The firefighters, they were just so sweet. They were so nice. They were working so hard, and focused on saving the buildings from not going up that had animals in them."

In the aftermath, the organization is working to replace critical items needed to maintain daily operations.

While insurance claims are underway, many essential tools are required immediately to continue caring for animals and maintaining the property, so the farm is seeking any excess equipment in the community.

"We know times are tough for everyone, so we are not asking anyone to go out and buy anything new," the farm said. "But if you happen to have items sitting in your garage or shed that you no longer use, they would help us tremendously as we rebuild."

The group has issued a public request for donated items, particularly used tools and equipment. Immediate needs include toolboxes, hand tools such as hammers, wrenches, and screwdrivers, as well as power tools like drills and saws.

Farm and yard equipment, including wheelbarrows, shovels, rakes, pitchforks, hoses, and extension cords, is also needed.

Larger items such as a portable generator, pressure washer, air compressor, and lawn maintenance equipment are also being sought.

For now, Fur-Ever Farm-Canada is focusing on recovery, meaning some upcoming programs and events may be put on hold,



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

THE AFTERMATH: Fur-Ever Farm-Canada is looking for used farm equipment to rebuild its inventory following a fire that destroyed its workshop. The blaze started from a single ember escaping their maple syrup extractor machine, igniting the building into a blaze so intense it damaged nearby vehicles, equipment and power lines. Currently all upcoming events are on hold as they clean up in the aftermath.

but Andrews stressed that doesn't in the slightest mean the farm will ever be closing. The mission hasn't changed.

"We're not stopping at all, that was never even remotely on our minds," she said. "We can't do our events because it's just very dangerous right now with the cleanup, and the building's smack dab in the middle of our property. But everything else can be fixed and rebuilt. It's just going to take some

time to get there."

Fur-Ever Farm Canada is an animal rescue that provides shelter and care for animals, relying on equipment and community support to sustain its operations. The loss of its garage and workroom represents a major operational setback as it continues its recovery efforts.

For more information on how to help, go to facebook.com/fureverfarmcanada.

Making Orangeville a space for all: nominations open for Accessibility Champion Awards

Creating an accessible community is a goal achieved by having people and organizations who actively work to find innovative and existing ways to make spaces more inclusive. The Town of Orangeville is now accepting nominations for the 2026 Accessibility Champion Awards, celebrating those who show a passion for accessibility in Orangeville.

"The people and organizations who go above and beyond in our community work hard to remove barriers. This is one way we can show them our gratitude," said Councillor Rick Stevens, chair of the Access Orangeville committee. "Highlighting their work can hopefully help inspire more people to join the pursuit of an Orangeville that is welcoming and inclusive for all."

The awards highlight champions in three categories: individual/volunteer, commercial business and community group/organization.

Nominations can be submitted from now until April 10 at 4:30 p.m. To be considered, the nominee must be one of the following:

- a resident of Orangeville

- a business/business owner in Orangeville
- a community organization or group serving Orangeville

Selected recipients will be honoured during National Accessibility Week (May 31 to June 6).

To learn more or submit a nomination visit orangeville.ca/AccessOrangeville.

Starting in April, recycling in Dufferin County will be even more convenient with a new recycling cart.



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12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
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Mono council provides noise exemption to fall fair, waives fee

Written By **JAMES MATTHEWS**

The Orangeville Agricultural Society (OAS) has applied to have a Mono noise by-law exemption fee waived.

Jen Arnold, the general manager of the OAS Events Centre, and Matt Patriquin of Good Times Truck Pullers Association spoke to Mono council during its March 10 meeting.

The new bylaw was adopted in February to replace the former rules that council had said were antiquated and unenforceable. The former bylaw had been on the books without update since 2004.

The OAS previously said the parameters of the new bylaw are too restrictive and may eliminate some events that community groups host at the OAS Events Centre in the town. That would mean less money to those groups and a large cut to the events centre's annual revenue.

If the events centre can't keep the lights on, then even the groups that put on events that don't generate noise will also be on the hunt for a new venue.

The OAS hosts the annual Orangeville Fall Fair, a three-day community event featuring activities from 9 a.m. to 11 p.m.

The society, in a letter to Mono council, said that event times may vary slightly due to operational requirements, weather, or unforeseen circumstances, and that amplified sound is used only during scheduled event periods.

The noise exemption comes with a \$500 fee, a sum that the OAS has said is a significant financial challenge for the group.

"As a non-profit society funded primarily through donations, sponsorships, and volunteer efforts, this additional cost impacts the sustainability of the (fall fair) and raises concerns regarding equitable treatment of longstanding community functions," the group stated in a letter to council.

Patriquin said the fall fair has brought the community together for almost two centuries.

"It represents the rural character and heritage that communities like ours were built on and continue to be a part of," he said.

The truck-and-tractor pull, a demolition derby, and live music have become enjoyed facets of the annual fair, he said. They're events that are louder than everyday life, he said, but they happen just once a year.

The fair is run almost entirely by volunteers who work to keep the tradition going. During the fair, visitors from elsewhere inside and outside the county dump money into the local economy.

"Granting this (noise) exemption is not about ignoring bylaws," Patriquin said.

Mayor John Creelman said the OAS has indicated the \$500 exemption application fee is a significant hurdle for the group. He asked Arnold if there was an auditor's report to prove that assertion.

"I can provide that," Arnold said.

"And how soon can we see that?" Creelman said. "Because, ultimately, we'll make a decision based on your viability."

Arnold said she could provide the documents the following day.

Councillor Elaine Capes asked Arnold whether monetary prizes are awarded to

participants in various events.

Arnold said money is indeed paid out in that respect.

Patriquin said he's gathered about 950 signatures over two weeks on a petition for the fair's bylaw exemption.

Creelman asked if people who signed the petition had indicated where they live.

They're from the area, Patriquin said.

Deputy Mayor Fred Nix said he doesn't enjoy noisy demolition derbies, but he's in favour of granting the exemption. However, he said he wasn't quite sure about waiving the \$500 fee.

"It's not that I want to be hard on you financially," he said.

Arnold said the fee wouldn't be paid by the OAS. Rather, the fee would come from the community groups and exhibitors that take part in the fair.

"The sponsors are paying for that \$500," she said. "The fair is a different entity from the building."

Mono taxpayers who donate money for the fair and those who are society members ultimately pay that exemption fee "to the town that we live in (and) we also pay taxes in," she said.

"You get a very favourable tax rate," Nix said, and added that events like demolition derbies are agricultural activities.

Creelman said agricultural societies are 100 per cent exempt from taxes.

Arnold said the first tractor pull at the fair took place in the 1930s, while the derbies have taken place since the 1960s.

"Most of the people taking part in those activities are farmers," Patriquin said.



FILE PHOTO

Creelman said the town is not trying to ban activities by way of an exemption application. The town is hoping to get a handle on how much noise is created and the hours during which it occurs. He doesn't think it is necessary for fall fair events to go as late as 11 p.m.

"But I could be dissuaded on that," he said.

Capes said other fall fairs in other municipalities have to apply for exemptions.

"It's not unusual, so I don't think we should exempt that fee," Capes said.

Council voted to issue the noise exemption for this year's edition of the fall fair in September. Amplified noise has to end at 11 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, and at 10 p.m. on Sunday. The application fee was also waived.

The OAS also has to provide a phone number to somebody who will be on site should they need to be asked to turn down the volume.

Dufferin County council to consider feasibility of a unified regional transit network

Written By **JAMES MATTHEWS**

Preliminary findings show a number of benefits of a unified transit network across four counties.

Dennis Kar, a partner at Dillon Consulting Ltd., told Dufferin County council on March 12 that a transit system across Dufferin, Bruce, Grey, and Wellington counties is a boon toward a seamless experience across regions.

It boosts ridership and minimizes transfers.

The four counties and Saugeen Mobility and Regional Transit (SMART) are assessing the feasibility of a unified regional transit network.

"Demand for transit across the region continues to grow, driven by population increases, an aging demographic, and rising living costs," according to a report to council. "At

the same time, many communities have limited or no public transit options, and travel between counties without access to a personal vehicle remains challenging."

Consultants have been assessing service needs, evaluating opportunities for service integration, and identifying a governance and implementation framework for a potential regional network.

A key focus of the study is exploring opportunities to better coordinate and integrate the region's existing transit services.

This includes examining how shared resources, such as vehicles, scheduling and dispatch systems, trip-booking platforms, administrative functions, and customer service tools, could contribute to more efficient, consistent, and sustainable service delivery.

"Outside of Orangeville, if you want to travel locally within your environment or even connect to an inter-community corri-

dor, you have limited options to do that," Kar said.

A unified transit study identified primary and secondary destinations.

Among the primary destinations are Guelph, Orangeville, Owen Sound, Collingwood, and the GTA via Guelph and Orangeville.

Secondary destinations include Shelburne, Fergus-Elora, Listowel, Hanover, Bruce Power, Meaford, and the Blue Mountains.

A number of commuter routes were identified within the area of those destinations.

"As part of this work, it was also important to develop a vision and guiding principles for what transit should look like should it be implemented," Kar said.

Basically, he said, that describes what exactly is hoped to be achieved.

"Connecting communities," he said. "Building a better future through a seamless, multi-modal transit network."

Correction

The outline of the front-page photo in the March 12 edition of the Orangeville Citizen incorrectly identified Heart of Education Award winner Giasmine Samaniego as Simrin Chahal. Chahal wasn't in the printed photo, but was honoured

as School Community Champion at the Upper Grand Occasional Teachers Local event on March 7.

The Citizen would like to apologize for any confusion or inconvenience this may have caused.

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Learn more: orangeville.ca/AccessOrangeville

Dufferin OPP's 2026 Polar Plunge to foster Canadian spirit

Special Olympian and seasoned plunger Ryan MacBean shares words of wisdom for first-time plungers

Written By SAM ODROWSKI

"Don't think, just jump."

Those are the instructions that long-time polar plunger and Special Olympics athlete Ryan MacBean shares when asked for advice on participating in the Dufferin Ontario Provincial Police's 2026 Polar Plunge for the very first time.

The annual plunge, which fundraises for Special Olympics Ontario, will be held from 4 to 6 p.m. on March 29 at the Centre Dufferin Recreation Centre ice rink.

"We are the only plunge in Canada, if not the world, that's actually doing it indoors, in a hockey arena," said Jeff McLean, a Dufferin OPP officer who's been organizing the plunge since its inception in 2017.

There's a Canadian theme for this year's event, since it's happening on an ice rink. Participants are encouraged to dress Canadian, with a costume contest for the best-dressed individual, group and Special Olympian. There's also a wrestling belt, awarded to the plunge's highest fundraiser.

MacBean, an Orangeville resident who's been doing law-enforcement-led polar plunges throughout the region since 2016, will be leading the charge at the local polar plunge on Sunday, March 29. He's looking to raise \$1,500 or more to compete at the Special Olympics National Games in Medicine Hat, Alberta.

MacBean has competed with the Special Olympics Ontario for over 10 years but has never had the opportunity to compete on a national level.

He qualified to compete in the national games earlier this year in the 50-metre and 100-metre breaststroke categories.

To boost his fundraising efforts, he's teamed up with Insp. Michael Di Pasquale, Dufferin OPP Detachment Commander, who is participating in the polar plunge for

his first time this year.

"I'm looking forward to the opportunity to jump alongside with Ryan and raising money for a very worthy cause in our community," said Insp. Di Pasquale.

McLean has been a central figure in organizing the Dufferin Polar Plunge since its original launch in 2017, under the Shelburne Police Service (SPS). He was also involved with the SPS's Law Enforcement Torch Run, held prior to his first plunge.

It was actually MacBean who inspired him to first take the plunge all those years ago.

"When I originally started doing Torch Run initiatives, I had no connection to Special Olympics. It was at the first Torch Run that I met Ryan and [his dad] Kevin," said McLean. "Just seeing Ryan out at the events and seeing him compete inspired me to want to give back and long-term friendships have grown out of it."

Describing his first polar plunge, McLean said, "It's definitely shocking when you hit the water," but it's all about having the right mental state and attitude.

"It's mind over matter, where as long as you're in the right mindset, then the human body can do anything," he added.

Over the past few years, the OPP's polar plunges have averaged 75 plungers and 300-400 spectators.

McLean said the numbers are inspiring and show what a small community can accomplish when it comes together to support a good cause.

He said he would encourage everyone in the community to support the event and donate, ensuring Special Olympic athletes like MacBean can succeed.

Funds raised help cover the costs of training athletes, travelling to competitions, and purchasing uniforms.

The Dufferin County community has stepped up to support the Special Olympics



SAM ODROWSKI PHOTO

FREEZIN' FOR A REASON: Dufferin OPP Detachment Commander Insp. Michael Di Pasquale (left) joined Special Olympian Ryan MacBean (second from left), Polar Plunge mascot (second from right) and Dufferin OPP Provincial Const. Jeff McLean (right) at the OPP's Orangeville station on March 10. The group is looking forward to participating in the Dufferin OPP's 2026 Polar Plunge at the Centre Dufferin Recreation Centre next Sunday, March 29.

through the Dufferin OPP's Polar Plunge for the past several years. Since 2017, the community has raised over \$300,000.

Special Olympics is the charity of choice for the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police. The Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics is a key global fundraiser that has ensured the longevity and success of the Special Olympics over the years. Over \$1 billion has been raised worldwide since the run launched in 1981.

Special Olympics Ontario leadership has often stated that without the Law Enforcement Torch Run, the games would not be able to operate in certain regions or at their

current level.

There are over 50 registered Special Olympics athletes in Dufferin County and more than 23,000 across Ontario.

MacBean is among those 50 registered athletes, spending three days a week in the gym and three days in the pool to train for the Special Olympics. MacBean said he enjoys being competitive and likes to win, which is why he trains so hard throughout the week.

His dad, Kevin MacBean, said he's incredibly proud of his son and grateful for the support he receives through the Special Olympics.

Two-vehicle collision in Melancthon results in death of 78-year-old Listowel woman

Dufferin Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) officers alongside Dufferin County Paramedic Services and local fire departments, responded to a fatal two-vehicle collision in Melancthon.

On March 11, at approximately 11:35 a.m., emergency crews were dispatched to the intersection of County Road 124 and County Road 21 following reports of a serious collision.

As a result of the crash, a 78-year-old female from Listowel was transported to a Collingwood-area hospital, where she was

later pronounced deceased.

Anyone who witnessed the collision and wishes to speak to victim services, Caledon/Dufferin Victim Services can be reached at 905-951-3838.

The investigation remains ongoing.

Anyone with information or dashcam footage of the incident is asked to contact the Dufferin OPP at 1-888-310-1122, or report anonymously through Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 or online at ontariocrimestoppers.ca, with Incident Number E260323971.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

FATAL COLLISION: A Dufferin OPP cruiser is spotted near the scene of the two-vehicle collision that claimed the life of a 78-year-old woman.



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Mono council gives first reading of proposed election sign bylaw

Written By SAM ODROWSKI

Mono's town staff have kicked into gear the preparations for this fall's municipal elections.

Fred Simpson, the town's clerk, told council during its March 10 meeting that alternative means to cast a vote have been approved. Residents can choose their preferred council panel by way of the Internet and telephone in addition to marking a ballot.

He said October's municipal election will be the third time voters have had those voting methods available to them.

There is also an advance voting period that begins 10 days before voting day, Simpson said.

"And it's open continuous without break until the close of voting at 8 p.m. on voting day," he said.

Voting day is Oct. 26.

"This proved successful during the previous elections and gave electors ample opportunity to vote by Internet or telephone, whichever was their preference," Simpson said. "While not required to be detailed in the Alternate Voting Methods Bylaw, the intention is to operate a Voter Help Centre at town hall."

Voter assistance will be available Oct. 16 from 10 a.m. until 4:30 p.m., Oct. 19-23 from 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m., and from 8:30 a.m. until the close of polls at 8 p.m. Oct. 26.

Electors can call or attend in person to receive assistance with voting during these times.

The final day for nominations and hopeful candidates to ink their names on the ballot is Aug. 21. And that's the day when candidates are permitted to erect campaign signage throughout the municipality.

According to a report to council, empirical evidence suggests that the presence of campaign signage can have a measurable, positive effect on voter mobilization and overall turnout.

"Beyond mere name recognition, signage serves as a vehicle for voter expression and participation," the report read.

In the last two municipal elections, Mono has seen an increase in candidates who wish to use election signs in their campaigns. However, this growth has highlighted a gap in municipal governance.

"The lack of clear, standardized rules has historically created challenges for both candidates and enforcement," Simpson said in his report. "Establishing a comprehensive bylaw will provide the necessary clarity to manage this increased demand while ensuring fair play and public order."

Simpson said this will be the first election for Mono to have a campaign sign bylaw.

"This will give the town the ability to set some rules and regulations for election signs," he said.

There are a number of standards to ensure consistency and maintain community aesthetics that candidates have to adhere to regarding campaign materials.

Signs cannot be displayed before nomination day, and they must be removed within three days after the voting period.

To decrease traffic hazards to motorists and pedestrians, signs must not obstruct traffic signals, sight triangles, or pedestrian pathways. All signage must adhere to established standards regarding size, height, and illumination.

A sign deposit is collected by the municipality from election candidates. Any signs that remain after three days after voting day may be removed by town staff, and the cost will be deducted from the candidate's deposit.

An election sign bylaw didn't suit all councillors.

"I guess it's inevitable, but I'm disappointed to see this," Councillor Ralph Manktelow said.

Coun. Melinda Davie shared that disappointment.

Manktelow said Mono has been a relatively sign-free municipality in past political contests. He said signs are not important in a municipal election, and they mess up the landscape.

He said allowing signs 1.5 square metres is just too much.

It is a common size limit for signs used in provincial and federal elections, Simpson said.

Manktelow had a measuring tape and illustrated how long a 1.5-metre-wide sign would be.

"That's ridiculous," Manktelow said.

"It is absurd for a municipal election," Davie said.

Creelman asked if council was going to exempt federal and provincial political parties from using signs of those dimensions.

"I think we've got to be consistent across the board," Creelman said.

If the size in federal and provincial elections were to be restricted, Simpson said there would likely be pushback from the parties. However, should council wish, a sign bylaw can be adopted.

"I'm okay if we had a bylaw that says no election signs in the Town of Mono," Coun. Elaine Capes said and suggested that a motion be made for a decision to that end.

Davie said she would second such a motion.

"I think we need to think about this, frankly," Creelman said and suggested the issue be deferred until a future council meeting.

Simpson said he will write a report for council detailing any risks associated with an all-out ban on election signs. Regardless, he felt there wasn't time to bring a bylaw forward to govern signs for the October election.

The status quo is nothing on the books governing election signs in Mono, including sign size, Simpson said.

After much back and forth, council agreed to give first reading to the proposed bylaw to regulate the placement and size of election campaign signs.

Branching Out Support Services organizes community sock drive to support those in need

Written By JOSHUA DRAKES
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER



A new community sock drive organized by Branching Out Support Services (BOSS) is set to launch on March 21 and run through April 21, focusing on collecting socks for individuals in need.

Organizer Sarah Clarke says the initiative is centred on a simple but critical need — new socks. The initiative was based on her personal experience seeing the need while working at the food bank.

"Being an intake volunteer at the Orangeville Food Bank, there was more than one occasion when I would ask someone, 'Is there anything else that I can help you with today? Is there anything else that you need?' And I'd get just a sort of heartbreaking response, 'Would you happen to have any socks?'" she said. "I'll never forget that, and with the fact that there's never really been a sock drive in the community, it just felt right."

The drive encourages residents to donate unused socks, which will be distributed to community members who may be struggling to access basic necessities.

Partnered organizations that will receive donations for this event are Family Transition Place, Choices Shelter, and the Orangeville Food Bank/Dufferin Food Share.

The campaign is being driven by growing demand for support services and the recognition that socks are among the most needed yet least donated items.

Clarke highlights that individuals experiencing homelessness or financial instability often lack access to clean, dry socks, which are essential not only for comfort but also for maintaining health, particularly during colder weather conditions.

Beyond meeting an immediate need, the sock drive also reflects BOSS's broader mission of fostering inclusion and community support. The launch of the sock drive also corresponds to another awareness campaign for the neurodiverse community.

"The community sock drive is being launched in coordination with Branching Out Support Services, who, of course, pro-

vide services to neurodiverse people, and they love to be involved when it comes to anything to do with community fundraising," Clarke said. "We are also launching on March 21, which is World Down Syndrome Day."

"The theme of that day is 'rock your socks,' so we picked that day to launch the campaign so that we could also celebrate the neurodiverse community as well," Clarke added.

The sock drive is another initiative BOSS is spearheading to extend its impact beyond its core programs into the wider community.

Clarke points to the importance of collective action, noting that small contributions from many people can add up to meaningful support for those who need it most.

The drive also offers residents an opportunity to engage in a tangible act of kindness, reinforcing a sense of connection and shared responsibility within the community.

"Really, it's just about how even a small donation, a pair of socks, is an act of kindness that just goes a long way," she said. "There's seniors that need socks, there's babies that need socks. There's homeless men and women that need them. It's a very important part of daily life."

As the campaign begins, organizers are hopeful that strong local participation will help ensure a steady supply of donations. In addition to addressing an immediate need, the initiative aims to raise awareness of the ongoing challenges faced by vulnerable populations in the area.

More information about how to donate or get involved is available through the Branching Out Support Services website, <https://branchingoutsupportservices.ca/blog/community-sock-drive/>

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LAMINATE

CLICK LAMINATE

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COMMERCIAL LAMINATE

AC4 IN STOCK FROM **\$139** /SQFT



WATERPROOF LAMINATE

14MM THICK PAD ATTACHED FROM **\$199** /SQFT



HARDWOOD

CLICK ENG. HARDWOOD

HOT BUY IN STOCK FROM **\$199** /SQFT



WIRE BRUSHED HARDWOOD

WHITE OAK 3/4" THICK IN STOCK FROM **\$399** /SQFT



WHITE OAK HARDWOOD

7.5" WIDE 3/4" THICK IN STOCK FROM **\$599** /SQFT



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PORCELAIN TILE

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SUBWAY TILE

MANY STYLES IN STOCK FROM **\$189** /SQFT



ACCESSORIES

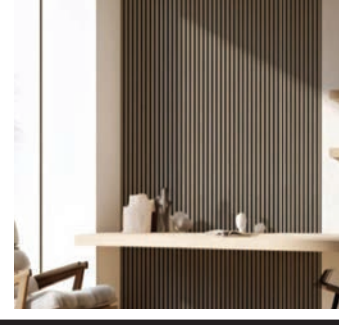
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Blues and Jazz Festival to feature top-tier roster of Canadian talent

Continued from FRONT

“Our headliners have won major awards such as Juno’s and Maple Blues awards. You will be treated to some of the finest talent in the country. There is great diversity in the bands and performers and with three stages, there is something for most musical tastes.”

He added, “If you like acoustic blues or jazz, then the Opera House is where you will want to be. Our main stage will feature lots of rocking blues, but also big band and classic jazz.”

In addition to world-class talent at the Opera House and TD Mainstage in Alexandra Park, which comes at a nominal cost, there

is still plenty to do and see, completely free.

Performances on the TD Broadway Stage are free to enjoy, along with the Classic Cars Blues Cruise on Broadway and the Blues & Bikes Show & Shine Event. There is also the Broadway Ramble, featuring over 35 food and artisanal craft market vendors, as well as workshops at the Mill Street Branch of the Orangeville Public Library.

Street performers will be set up in the downtown core as well, providing intimate performances throughout the weekend.

“We are very proud of our festival and think it is tremendous value for a very low price for our visitors and attendees. We have been awarded as one of the Top 100 Festivals and Events in Ontario for 13 years

running. We have a great reputation in the Canadian music scene as a place that musicians love to perform at,” said Kurtz.

Tickets to the Orangeville Blues and Jazz Festival go on sale Saturday, March 21, and provide access to both the TD Mainstage and Opera House. Weekend passes are \$40 and single-day passes are \$15 for Friday, \$30 for Saturday and \$10 for Sunday.

“We feel the festival offers high quality at a very reasonable price. Most events are free,” Kurtz said. “This is such a bargain thanks to our generous sponsors and government support who make our festival super affordable.”

Visit orangevillebluesandjazz.ca to purchase a ticket once they go on sale.



“Come out and enjoy one of the most fun and entertaining weekends of the year. We love seeing everyone getting together and forgetting their problems for a few hours while enjoying some of the greatest music Canada has to offer,” Kurtz enthused.

New high-tech indoor golf track brings advanced training tools to Broadway

Written By JOSHUA DRAKES
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

A new high-tech golf experience has arrived in Orangeville: Ace Track Golf recently opened its latest fully automated indoor facility, bringing advanced training tools and virtual play closer to local residents.

The business, launched by an Ontario entrepreneurial couple, is built around a self-serve model that allows customers to book, access and use the space without on-site staff.

Co-founder Kristina Brown said she saw a lack of indoor golf options and jumped at the opportunity.

“We noticed that there was a gap in this technology, which is the higher end technology for golfers in the area when we moved north,” she said. “So my husband and I were thinking about maybe seeing if there’s like a franchise or an opportunity, but then when we started looking into it, we said, why don’t we just start our own and build this from scratch?”

That’s exactly what they ended up doing.

The concept is designed to reduce overhead costs while maintaining access to premium golf simulation technology, including systems powered by TrackMan, widely used by professional golfers and coaches.

The Orangeville location at 210 Broadway, Unit 110, is the company’s sixth in just over two years, following earlier expansions into communities such as Aurora, Collingwood, Midland and Owen Sound.

“Our goal has kind of been to find cities that we think could benefit from this automatic model that’s giving people the best technology at the best rate,” Brown said.

The facility features four simulator bays equipped with software that tracks dozens of swing and ball metrics and provides access to hundreds of virtual golf courses worldwide.

The system incorporates interactive features, including practice modes, competitive play and game-based options aimed at younger users, making the space suitable for both experienced golfers and beginners.

Unlike traditional golf venues, the automated model allows for flexible booking times, with sessions starting at short intervals and extending as needed. Customers can enter the facility via a digital access system tied to their reservation, with bays automatically activating at the scheduled time.

This streamlined approach has been designed to appeal to users seeking convenience and efficiency, particularly in a smaller community setting where access to full-scale golf courses may require travel.

Affordability has also been positioned as a key component of the business. By eliminating staffing costs and focusing on streamlined service, the company aims to offer lower hourly rates than traditional simulator venues while still maintaining access to high-end equipment.

“Because of us making our business around a fully automated facility, we’re able to offer the highest technology on the market for the best rates possible,” Brown said. “People sometimes can’t believe our prices, we’ve had people call and ask to rent a private bay, and they think for example, the charge of around \$30 is per person, but it’s for the whole hour.”

Early responses from the community have indicated strong interest, particularly among golfers who previously travelled outside the area for similar experiences.

With plans to introduce leagues and further refine its booking systems, the company is now shifting its focus from rapid expansion to enhancing user experience and building a presence within the Orangeville community.



JOSHUA DRAKES PHOTO

FULLY AUTOMATED: Since opening, Ace Track Golf in Orangeville has already seen local success with its business model. Offering high-tech and compact golfing spaces, players can swing for sport or practice right off Broadway, making golfing even more accessible and affordable. With an automated system that streamlines building access, guests who book a slot can come in and play without ever interacting with staff.



Next exit: Making the meeting

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TOWNSHIP OF
East Garafraxa

NOTICE OF RESCHEDULED STATUTORY PUBLIC MEETING
Township of East Garafraxa - Official Plan Review

Further to the Notice of Open House and Public Meeting dated November 6, 2025, please be advised that the Statutory Public Meeting originally scheduled for Wednesday, February 18, 2026, at 4:30 p.m. was postponed due to inclement weather. The Open House was held on December 17, 2025, and proceeded as scheduled.

This notice is being given in accordance with Sections 17 and 26 of the *Planning Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. P.13*, as amended. Notice is hereby given that the rescheduled Special Council Meeting/Statutory Public Meeting will be held as follows:

STATUTORY PUBLIC MEETING DETAILS

Date: Wednesday, April 22, 2026

Time: 4:30 p.m.

Format: Hybrid (in-person and remote participation available)

In-Person Location:

Township Administration Office
065371 Dufferin County Road 3, Unit 2
East Garafraxa, ON L9W 7J8

Remote Participation:

Registration is required for those wishing to attend remotely. The Zoom registration link will be posted on the Township website calendar under the applicable meeting date (<https://calendar.eastgarafraxa.ca/council>).

Electronic participation is provided as a convenience and is dependent on third-party platforms, internet connectivity, and user equipment. While the Township will make reasonable efforts to ensure the technology functions properly, uninterrupted access cannot be guaranteed. If technical issues arise, the meeting may proceed provided quorum is maintained. The Township is not responsible for a participant's inability to connect due to technical difficulties outside the Township's control.

PURPOSE OF THE MEETING

The purpose of the Statutory Public Meeting is to consider the proposed Draft Official Plan for the Township of East Garafraxa, which is intended to replace the current Official Plan.

An Official Plan is a legal document required under the *Planning Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. P.13*, that sets out the municipality's long-term land use strategy for growth and development.

The proposed Draft Official Plan is intended to:

- Conform with the County of Dufferin Official Plan and applicable provincial plans;
- Be consistent with the Provincial Planning Statement, 2024;
- Address matters of provincial interest; and
- Reflect community needs and the long-term vision for the Township of East Garafraxa.

Council will consider all written and oral submissions before making a decision regarding adoption of the proposed Official Plan.

PARTICIPATION AND SUBMISSIONS

Any person or public body may attend the Special Council Meeting/Statutory Public Meeting and make written or oral submissions in support of or in opposition to the proposed Official Plan.

1. Written Submissions

Written submissions should be addressed to the Township Clerk using the contact details provided at the bottom of this notice.

Written comments will be accepted no later than **Wednesday, April 15, 2026**.

If you wish to be notified of the adoption or refusal of the proposed Official Plan, you must make a written request to the Township Clerk prior to adoption.

2. Oral Submissions

Oral submissions may be provided to Council at the Public Meeting, either in-person or remotely.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Additional information regarding the proposed Draft Official Plan, including Draft Official Plan Version 2 (V2 - January 2026), is available:

- In-person at the Township Administration Office during regular office hours (065371 Dufferin County Road 3, Unit 2, East Garafraxa, ON L9W 7J8); and/or
- On the Township website: (Official Plan and Official Plan Review Page - <https://www.eastgarafraxa.ca/business-and-development/official-plan-and-official-plan-review/>)

Materials related to the Introductory Official Plan Workshop (Special Council Meeting) held on September 17, 2025, and the Open House held on December 17, 2025, are also available on the Township website at the link provided above.

DOCUMENT UPDATES

Following the Introductory Official Plan Workshop (Special Council Meeting) and Open House, and comments received to date, updates were made to Draft Version 1 (V1) of the Official Plan. These updates are reflected in Draft Version 2 (V2 - January 2026), which has been posted on the Township Official Plan and Official Plan Review project webpage (link provided above). Highlighted changes include:

- Incorporated feedback received during the September and December 2025 meetings, and written comments received to date, including revising the minimum agricultural lot area size recommendation from 40 ha to the current 20 ha with respect to agricultural severance policies;
- Updated data layers in Schedules (maps) to best reflect the most up-to-date Natural Heritage information and restructured the contents of the schedules to best match the proposed standardization from the Province; and
- Restructured the document to align with the Provincial proposed standardization of Official Plans. This is the most significant visual change from Draft V1. Draft V2 Table of Contents has been reorganized to reflect the proposed standardization structure from the Province.

PROJECT NEXT AND FINAL STEPS

Following this Statutory Public Meeting, final changes may be made to the Draft Official Plan (V2) to incorporate written and/or oral comments.

At a later date, a final draft version will be presented to Township of East Garafraxa Council for review and decision (adoption). Once adopted by Township Council, the final Official Plan will be submitted to the County of Dufferin for approval pursuant to Section 17(2) of the *Planning Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. P.13*.

PLANNING ACT REQUIREMENTS

If a person or public body would otherwise have an ability to appeal the decision of the Council of the Township of East Garafraxa to the Ontario Land Tribunal but the person or public body does not make oral submissions at a public meeting or make written submissions to the Township before the proposed Official Plan is adopted, the person or public body is not entitled to appeal the decision.

If a person or public body does not make oral submissions at a public meeting or make written submissions to the Council of the Township of East Garafraxa before the proposed Official Plan is adopted, the person or public body may not be added as a party to the hearing of an appeal before the Ontario Land Tribunal unless, in the opinion of the Tribunal, there are reasonable grounds to add the person or public body as a party.

If you wish to be notified of the decision of the Council of the Township of East Garafraxa on the proposed Official Plan, you must make a written request to the Township Clerk at the address provided below.

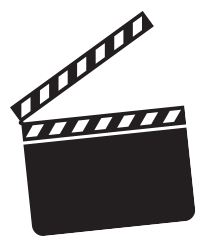
For more information about this matter, including information about appeal rights, contact the Township Clerk using the contact details provided below.

Should the proposed Official Plan be adopted by the Council of the Township of East Garafraxa, it will be submitted to the County of Dufferin for approval pursuant to Section 17(2) of the *Planning Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. P.13*.

Dated this 9th day of March 2026

Jessica Kennedy, Dipl.M.A., Clerk

TOWNSHIP OF EAST GARAFRAXA
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Arts & Entertainment

LOCAL COMMUNITY EVENTS



Review: 'Murder at Ackerton Manor' delivers killer performance

Written By **JOSHUA DRAKES**
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Murder at Ackerton Manor is a hilarious escapade that will keep you guessing with every turn and every twist.

Without spoiling Theatre Orangeville's latest production, it's hard to describe exactly what you're in for when you sit down to watch *Murder at Ackerton Manor*. It's obviously a murder mystery, reminiscent of Agatha Christie classics.

The story centers around the murder of the bombastic Roger Ackerton (Jamie Cavanagh), Lord of Ackerton Manor, who finds himself murdered rather dramatically by unknown forces shortly following a dinner party.

With no other options, the police are called, and an eccentric and specifically Belgian detective soon arrives, introducing himself as Pierre Pierrot (Jamie Cavanagh), assigned to solve the case.

With stormy weather and a warm body on their hands, he confines everyone to the manor. No one leaves or comes in until the case is resolved and the guilty party is arrested.

The detective has to work through an equally eccentric collection of characters who all have various connections to Roger Ackerton and potentially motives for wanting him dead. They include: the Butler, Curtis (Tyronne Savage), Ariadne Ackerton (Christy Bruce), Sterling the gardener (Tyronne Savage), one Bavarian professor (Christy Bruce) and a wealthy southern woman (Tyronne Savage).

The plot is a love letter to Agatha Christie's classic literature, blending subtle, distinct movements and lines with plot twists that'll catch most off guard. You'll find plenty of subtle details layered throughout the story that might just give you some hints about the guilty party, and it is a joy to try to piece it together.

But all of that detail and nuance is compounded with another element, the chaotic

comedy of Mel Brooks.

While each character is subtle and layered, they're also loud, eccentric and charming in their own way. Curtiss the butler is over-the-top British, Pierrot is stereotypical French, and their Bavarian professor is very German.

Put together, this wacky cast stumbles its way through a very serious murder mystery with tons of laughs and plenty of memorable moments that'll make you say "I should've seen that coming!" at nearly every turn.

That's the beauty of this play, and what makes it such a joy to watch. Done seriously, this story will have many more hints or noticeable details that would clue audiences into the killer earlier on, but each character is so wacky and over the top that you get more distracted by their larger-than-life personalities that you fail to notice they are still moving with a very distinct purpose.

More than a few blink-and-you'll-miss-it moments will fly by you, but that's part of the fun.

This is a murder mystery that doesn't take itself seriously, not at first anyway, but is still loaded with deliberate detail that one could enjoy as both a comedy and a mystery plot, or one could enjoy both at once.

What truly sold this production was the tremendous skill of the cast.

Jamie Cavanagh brought a truly explosive presence to the stage that undoubtedly set up the play for success. His introduction as Roger Ackerton was loud, obnoxious and demanding, a perfect introduction to the rich, egotistical victim not many people would mourn.

He plays a perfect British aristocrat in all his pompous glory, and projects his voice so well you'd think he was yelling at you in the back row to bring his dinner immediately.

This skill wasn't exclusive, as he brought a hilarious performance to Pierre Pierrot, the Belgian detective. Pierrot reminded me

a lot of Inspector Clouseau from *The Pink Panther*. Somewhat clumsy, but dedicated.

Christy Bruce also brought compelling performances to her roles. Roger Ackerton's sister, Ariadne Ackerton, was a very three-dimensional character, embodying multiple overlapping goals and strategies into one very interesting woman.

From the moment you meet her, you can tell she has a lot of pieces at play, with many subtle details you'll have to observe for yourself. There's more to that woman than meets the eye.

Bruce's performance as the Bavarian professor was likely one of the wackiest and most entertaining parts of the performance. I imagine being told to throw on some lederhosen, don a thick German accent, and stroll on stage must have been as entertaining for her as it was for the audience. Every scene with the professor was hilarious.

Last but certainly not least, Tyronne Savage was a one-man army on stage. Juggling three characters on a good day is difficult, but doing all three in a fast-paced play is incredible work.

Savage did an expert job switching from an uptight, rigid butler to a dirty, slouching gardener, and then, of course, a woman in a bright red dress. All three characters are so radically different and change so frequently that it would be easy to make mistakes, but that didn't happen once, at least not in my view.

Savage made each character memorable, funny, and dynamic, alongside the entire cast.

On one or two occasions, I did observe some of the accents getting away a bit, sometimes becoming difficult to understand or follow, likely a result of the accents being exaggerated by design. This led to a couple of minutes of slight confusion as I felt like I could have missed an important detail, with this being a mystery and a clue-based plot.

I think grounding the accents slightly



BOB SMITHSON PHOTO

MURDERY MYSTERY: Loaded with laughs, wacky twists and ominous hints, *Murder at Ackerton Manor* is a must-watch for Theatre Orangeville fans and fans of classic literature. It's a murder mystery and a comedy rolled into one, and it delivers on both fronts. The play is on until March 29.

when characters are emoting strongly, or yelling, would fix this issue easily, as it only really presented itself in those specific moments.

The set design was also impressive and well executed. For a moment, I felt like I really was dropped into a Victorian-era mansion and not sitting in a theatre chair. It felt warm, lived in, and dynamic.

All the furniture was utilized, rather than simply placed as decoration.

The actors made full use of the stage, moving to the very front edge, to the very back, and treated it like a real room, touching things and adjusting items. While that is barely noticeable at first, it adds an extra level of immersion that improves the overall visuals of the scene.

Overall, the production is extremely well crafted, with a brilliantly designed set supporting a larger-than-life cast that will leave you guessing and laughing.

Murder at Ackerton Manor is absolutely worth the watch, maybe even two viewings, so be sure to catch it while it's available!

The play runs until March 29.

David Gauthier
Service Consultant

David brings a calm, customer-first mindset to every service appointment. As a MacMaster Certified Service Consultant, he works hard to ensure every visit is smooth and stress-free. Whether you're dropping in for maintenance or need help navigating a repair, David is ready with clear communication, helpful insight, and a friendly attitude.

Maurice McDonald
Service Consultant

Maurice is the kind of advisor who makes service feel easy. He's known for his warm, approachable style and his ability to keep customers informed every step of the way. With strong product knowledge and a passion for helping people, Maurice takes the guesswork out of vehicle service at Orangeville Chrysler.

Jazz Matharu
Service Consultant

Jazz combines technical knowledge with an easygoing, professional style that customers appreciate. Bilingual in English and Punjabi, he makes sure every guest feels heard and understood. Whether it's a routine visit or a more involved repair, Jazz helps keep the process efficient, transparent, and tailored to your needs.

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Puzzle No. 263310 • Solution on page: CLASSIFIEDS SECTION

CLUES ACROSS

- Inclined to do
- Sketches
- Book of Chronicles (abbr.)
- Atomic #58
- Dorm official
- Small Eurasian deer
- Southern constellation
- Workers' groups
- Former
- Excellent
- Romance language related to Spanish
- Reference
- Equally
- Dirty towels
- A cargo (abbr.)
- Ammunition
- You get one in summer
- Slang for trucks with trailers
- Swiss river
- Exchange rate
- British School
- College teacher
- Foreign Service
- Horse gear
- Cost to fly
- A salt or ester of boric acid
- Mocking
- One who bird-watches
- Concluding passage
- A major division of geological time
- Sodium
- A way to produce
- Soak
- Laughed loudly and harshly
- Affirmative

CLUES DOWN

- Moth species phalonidia
- Quantum of energy
- Break the law
- Location of White House
- Official cancellation of a decision
- Where rockers work
- Cut of beef: __ mignon
- Nocturnal burrowing reptile
- Atomic #62
- Genus of evergreen shrubs
- Flowering plant of the legume family
- Inches per minute (abbr.)
- Tropical fruit
- Hot fluid beneath the earth's crust
- James __, painter
- Popular dessert
- Payment (abbr.)
- Cuisine style
- Genus of true flies
- City in western France
- Arrogance
- One holding a position of command
- Weekday
- An evening party
- Print errors
- Not good
- Egyptian Sun god
- East German town
- Olfactory property
- Atomic #37
- "Pollock" actor Harris

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

How they say that in...

English: Rain
Spanish: Lluvia
Italian: Poggia
French: Pluie
German: Regen

ACROSS

- Rainy day tool
- Incorporated
- Widely admired
- A sea eagle
- Opposite of stand
- State of atmosphere

DOWN

- Positive notion
- Most rain
- Sport with netted stick
- Means or skill

People FACT:

The collapsible version of this device was made popular by Parisian merchant Jean Marius in the early 18th century.

Answer: Umbrella

Did You Know?

A vented canopy on an umbrella is an extra layer that allows air to pass through. This helps to prevent the wind from carrying larger umbrellas away.

ANSWERS:
Across
1. Umbrella 5. Inc. 6. Icon 7. Erne 8. Sit
Down
1. Upside 2. Rainiest 3. Lacrosse 4. Ability

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Dufferin County CAO announces plans to retire

Dufferin County announces that after 15 years of dedicated service as the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), Sonya Pritchard is retiring from the organization at the end of 2026.

"During her time with the County of Dufferin, Pritchard exemplified a true dedication to public service, Dufferin residents and County staff," said Dufferin County Warden Lisa Post. "Under her leadership, the County has managed significant change and growth while honouring its rural and agricultural roots, and provided quality services to foster a thriving, equitable and resilient community for all."

Post added, "We are grateful for her guidance, vision and commitment for the more than two decades she held leadership roles here. On behalf of county council and staff, I wish her all the best in her retirement."

Pritchard first joined Dufferin County in 2001 as county treasurer for five years. She

then moved on to the Town of Orangeville as director of Parks and Recreation before returning to Dufferin County as CAO in 2011.

She has spent almost 27 years in municipal service. Over the years, she has built strong community partnerships with numerous organizations, including Headwaters Communities in Action, Services and Housing in the Province, and Headwaters Health Care Centre.

Pritchard developed community housing, led the county through the challenges of the COVID pandemic, oversaw the initial development and current renewal of the Edelbrock Centre as a Health and Human Services Hub, and implemented hundreds of strategic plan initiatives.

She also served as treasurer for the Western Ontario Wardens' Caucus, a not-for-profit organization representing 15 upper- and single-tier municipalities across approximately

300 communities, and is currently a director with the Ontario Municipal Administrators Association.

"I want to express my sincere gratitude to County staff for their dedication, passion, and the integrity they have brought to their work, and to County Council for their support and collaboration over the years," said Pritchard. "I am immensely proud of everything we have accomplished together for our community. We have strengthened services and built an organization rooted in collaboration, accountability, innovation, compassion, and courage. It has been a privilege to serve as your CAO."

Dufferin County has immediately begun recruitment for the CAO position and has retained Waterhouse Executive Search to lead the recruitment process. Pritchard will continue through the recruitment and the transition phase to a new CAO.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

LIFETIME OF PUBLIC SERVICE: Sonya Pritchard has announced she is retiring as CAO of the County of Dufferin at the end of the year. After 15 years in the role and 27 years in municipal service, she leaves behind a legacy of dedication to the public service.

Study shows much room for waste diversion in Dufferin County

Written By **JAMES MATTHEWS**

There are ever-evolving factors to be considered in waste management.

Dufferin County's long-term waste management strategy, developed in 2018, is a roadmap for waste reduction, diversion, and long-term disposal planning. Updating that will reflect changes in legislation and system performance and will include community input.

Lori Andrews, an associate at Dillon Consulting Ltd., provided county council with details on work to update the long-term waste management strategy during its March 12 meeting.

As part of continuing effective waste management programming, an updated strategy means assessing expansion of the organics program; exploring textile collection options; advancing waste reduction and reuse initiatives; exploring enhanced contamination-monitoring technologies; and assessing long-term disposal service options to mitigate cross-border dependency.

Andrews said Ontario's garbage is currently trucked to Michigan. But that has become complicated with the recent trade difficulties with the United States.

At home, Ontario's landfill capacity is expected to be exhausted in about 10 years, she said.

A transition to producer responsibility under the Resource Recovery and Circular Economy Act has shifted responsibility for residential Blue Box recycling and eliminated the county's access to recycling tonnage data.

That means a comprehensive diversion rate is no longer a feasible primary performance metric. So county staff will consider household waste disposed of, supported by waste audits, participation studies, and program monitoring tools.

Waste audits indicate that while the Green Bin program performs well, a sizable portion of materials currently disposed of as garbage remain recoverable, including organics, recyclables, and textiles.

"There's still a lot of potential for diversion," Andrews said, and added that about 46 per cent of disposed trash in garbage bags is materials that can be diverted through reuse or recycling.

Primary barriers to diversion include sanitation concerns, infrastructure anxiety, and Blue Cart size and acceptability.

Andrews said other worrisome factors in attempts to promote diversion are illegal dumping of materials in ditches and back-road forest tracts, and what's called seasonal mismatch. That is mismatched yard waste.

Potential waste management avenues for growth include accepting more organic waste in the Green Bins, enhancing the textile collection program, and adopting curbside giveaway days of larger reusable items.

Councillor Gail Little, Amaranth's deputy mayor, asked about agricultural waste such as net wraps and plastic used in large volumes.

Melissa Kovacs-Reid, the county's waste services manager, said there is an option for collecting that material, but it comes with an associated cost.



STOCK PHOTO

"It's one of those areas where there hasn't been a lot of movement, unfortunately," Kovacs-Reid said.

Little suggested using bins in strategic locations across the county for such agricultural materials.

Coun. Darren White, Melancthon's mayor, said the county's long-term waste management strategy has two major problems that will likely persist.

He said there aren't enough Household Hazardous Waste Days and too few collection sites.

"Nobody wants to go and wait four hours to drop off three cans of paint," White said.

"We continue to make them do it and then we wonder why things are showing up in ditches."

The second problem in his estimation is public access to drop-off places for household construction waste from renovations. White also noted that the price for somebody to bring refuse to the Orangeville transfer station is four times more than the cost of bringing refuse to other transfer stations.

"It's a captive audience, it's a captive market, it's a monopoly, it's ridiculous," he said. "I don't know how they (GFL) manage to get away with it other than you don't have a choice."

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Shelburne, Dufferin and Area Job Fair coming to Centre Dufferin Recreation Complex

Written By JOSHUA DRAKES
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Town of Shelburne will host its fifth annual Shelburne, Dufferin and Area Job Fair on April 23, bringing together employers and job seekers from across the region for an afternoon of in-person recruitment and networking.

The event will take place from 1 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. at the Centre Dufferin Recreation Complex (CDRC) in Shelburne.

Organized by the town's economic development office, the job fair aims to connect local businesses with potential employees while supporting the development of local workforces throughout Dufferin County and surrounding municipalities.

Now in its fifth year, the job fair has grown into a significant local employment event. According to organizers, more than 650 visitors attended the 2025 event.

Carol Maitland, economic development officer for Shelburne, said this year's event is set to be even more significant than last year, promising more opportunities and connections. She also thanked this year's sponsor, Senco, for its support.

"Every year this event gets stronger," she said. "There's something powerful about putting employers and job seekers in the same room, connections get made that just

wouldn't happen any other way. I'm proud to bring this back for a fifth year and excited to have Senco on board. If you're hiring or looking for work, April 23rd is the day to be at the CDRC."

The event is designed to provide opportunities for face-to-face conversations between employers and job seekers, offering an alternative to online applications and allowing attendees to make direct industry connections with hiring managers.

The event is open to all backgrounds, including students, newcomers to the area, skilled trades workers and professionals.

Attendees are encouraged to bring resumes, and some employers may conduct interviews on-site during the event.

The job fair is being delivered in partnership with the Centre for Career and Employment Services at Georgian College and the Upper Grand District School Board. Representatives from both organizations will be present to provide information about employment resources, education pathways and training opportunities.

Employers from a range of industries are invited to participate. Booth spaces are available for \$90 plus HST and include an eight-foot display area, a table, two chairs, and refreshments for up to two representatives.

Spaces are available on a first-come, first-



FILE PHOTO

LOCAL OPPORTUNITIES AWAIT: The 2025 Job Fair drew 650 guests looking to find employment and to network with industry experts in the area. This year's event, the fifth annual job fair, is looking to maintain that momentum. All employers and job seekers are encouraged to attend and bring their knowledge and connections to Shelburne.

served basis.

Employer setup will take place from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. ahead of the public opening at 1:00 p.m.

Admission is free, and no pre-registration

is required for job seekers.

For more information, email ed@shelburne.ca or go to <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/employers-wanted-2026-shelburne-dufferin-area-job-fair-tickets-1980107880975>

Orangeville man charged with impaired driving

Dufferin Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) officers have charged an Orangeville resident with impaired operation-related offences following a reported traffic complaint.

On March 13, at approximately 7:53 p.m., Dufferin OPP officers responded to a report of a possible impaired driver in the area of Oak Ridge Drive in Orangeville.

Officers located the vehicle of interest and conducted a traffic stop.

After speaking with the driver, officers

initiated an impaired driving investigation.

As a result of the investigation, a 51-year-old male from Orangeville, has been charged with:

- Operation while impaired - blood alcohol concentration (80 plus)
- Operation while impaired - alcohol and drugs
- Fail to surrender insurance card

None of the listed charges against the 51-year-old male have been proven in court.

Orangeville woman charged with impaired driving after allegedly falling asleep in running vehicle

Dufferin Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) officers have charged an Orangeville resident with impaired driving related offence after receiving a call from a concerned citizen.

On March 16, at approximately 12:11 p.m., Dufferin OPP officers were dispatched to the area of Broadway and Dawson Road in Orangeville for a report of a female slumped over the wheel of a running vehicle.

Police arrived on scene and attempted to gain the driver's attention. After several attempts, officers were able to speak with the

driver. Following a brief interaction, police initiated an impaired driving investigation.

As a result of the investigation, Lauren Miller, 30, from Orangeville, has been charged with operation while impaired - alcohol and drugs. The charge has not been proven in court.



DUFFERIN (SHELBURNE) POLAR PLUNGE
Sunday, March 29, 2026

Location: Centre Dufferin Recreation Complex (Centre Ice)
Registration : 2pm | Plunge : 4pm

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Diana

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Caledon Meals on Wheels Tasting Event celebrates nutrition and new projects

Written By RILEY MURPHY
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Caledon Meals on Wheels (CMOW) opened the doors of St. James Anglican Church to the community last week for their new tasting menu event.

The free event was a chance for attendees to try new proposed menu items and give their feedback on what they'd like to see and how they like the dishes.

The new meals were the brainchild of CMOW's new chef, Arielle Santos.

"All these five dishes are extensions of myself in different parts of my life, whether it comes from my Filipino roots to being in an Italian bistro as a pastry chef, to now being in management for the past 8 to 10 years," Santos told the room that day.

Some items featured on the menu were beef mami, chicken katsu, ginger garlic shrimp, lumpia, and a tiramisu that seemed to be a fan favourite, as it disappeared quite early in the event.

Santos told The Citizen she gravitated towards CMOW because she was looking for something different. After working in management for over eight years, she felt she had hit a ceiling and that her creative freedom was being pushed down.

"Luckily, they decided to take a risk on me and allow me to have the creative freedom to develop the menus that I have so far, and also be able to apply the management skills that I've had from before and hopefully inspire the other two chefs that are in my kitchen," says Santos.

"Being here, albeit it's been a little bit short, but it's been very, very rewarding. Everyone's attitude has been so positive that it's infectious that I actually get up in the morning and look forward to going to work," she adds.

She commutes up to five days a week from Toronto, and what gets her up in the morning is looking forward to being able to feed somebody because "that's the fulfillment I get being in culinary."

When brainstorming the new menu, she says she enjoys mixing different cultures and flavour profiles.

She adds she wants to make sure everyone can "have their cake and eat it too," meaning abiding by all dietary restrictions while also bringing good flavours to the table.

Looking out at the full room of attendees, Santos says it was a real feeling of community.

CMOW had plenty of reasons to celebrate

that day; the event also marked the launch of their new podcast series, Aging Out Loud Caledon, which focuses on the lives and stories of local older adults in the community, each with a unique story to share.

The podcast was made possible through a \$90,800 seed grant from the Provincial government's Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF), which also helped support CMOW's completion of its 12-month intergenerational pilot, designed to reduce social isolation by creating opportunities for youth and seniors to build meaningful friendships.

Recognizing that achievement on the big day was Dufferin-Caledon MPP Sylvia Jones.

"Caledon Meals on Wheels has been doing amazing work for so many decades," said Jones, and, speaking to the OTF grant, adds that it allows organizations such as CMOW to continue the work they do in the community.

Executive Director for CMOW, Kim Rodrigues, said the day was about recognizing the grant, celebrating their organization, their new chef, and their new food, and sharing it with the community.

"This funding gave us the opportunity to really strengthen our work in a way that was both practical and deeply meaningful,

in supporting our efforts to reduce social isolation among adults, strengthen intergenerational connections and better prepare our organization for the future," said Rodrigues.

The grant also supported their community-building efforts, and seniors experienced greater social connection and engagement, said Rodrigues.

Finally, it also supported the development of CMOW's strategic plan through research and stakeholder engagement.

"It's helping us redefine how we engage our community, strengthen support services, and retain our volunteers. Just as importantly, it's giving us a clearer roadmap for the future and how we can continue to grow sustainably while continuing to meet the needs of older adults in our community," said Rodrigues.

"We're really proud of the work that has been made possible by this grant, not only in terms of activities and outcomes, but in the sense of connection, dignity, and belonging to help foster everyone being included. So, to the Ontario Trillium Foundation, thank you for believing in this work and for investing in our community. Your support has helped us build something that will be really lasting."

Headwaters Arts to hold third themed members art show of the year: Colour Gone Wilds

Written By RILEY MURPHY
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

For those needing a little colour in their life as they face the eternal March grey, or the battle between the endless winter and a hopeful spring, Headwaters Arts' newest show may be the perfect remedy.

Their third themed members' art show of 2026 is titled Colour Gone Wild, and they're inviting the community to view the explosion of colours and light that their artists were challenged to bring to the show.

The opening reception for the members' art show will be held this Saturday, March 21, from 1 – 3 p.m. at the Headwaters Gallery in the Alton Mill Arts Centre.

Twenty-seven artists took inspiration from the quote, "Color helps to express light—not the physical phenomenon, but the only light that really exists, that in the artist's brain" by Henri Matisse, and submitted pieces filled with colour.

The show will feature more than 40 artworks in a variety of mediums and subjects, including: acrylic, watercolour and oil paintings, photography, mixed media, stained glass, paper collage and textiles.

Artist Wayne Hudson from Caledon submitted his piece "Quiet Waters Painted Turtles" for the show.

"Water provides an amazing canvas to explore the reflection of colour and light. The same scene can change dramatically



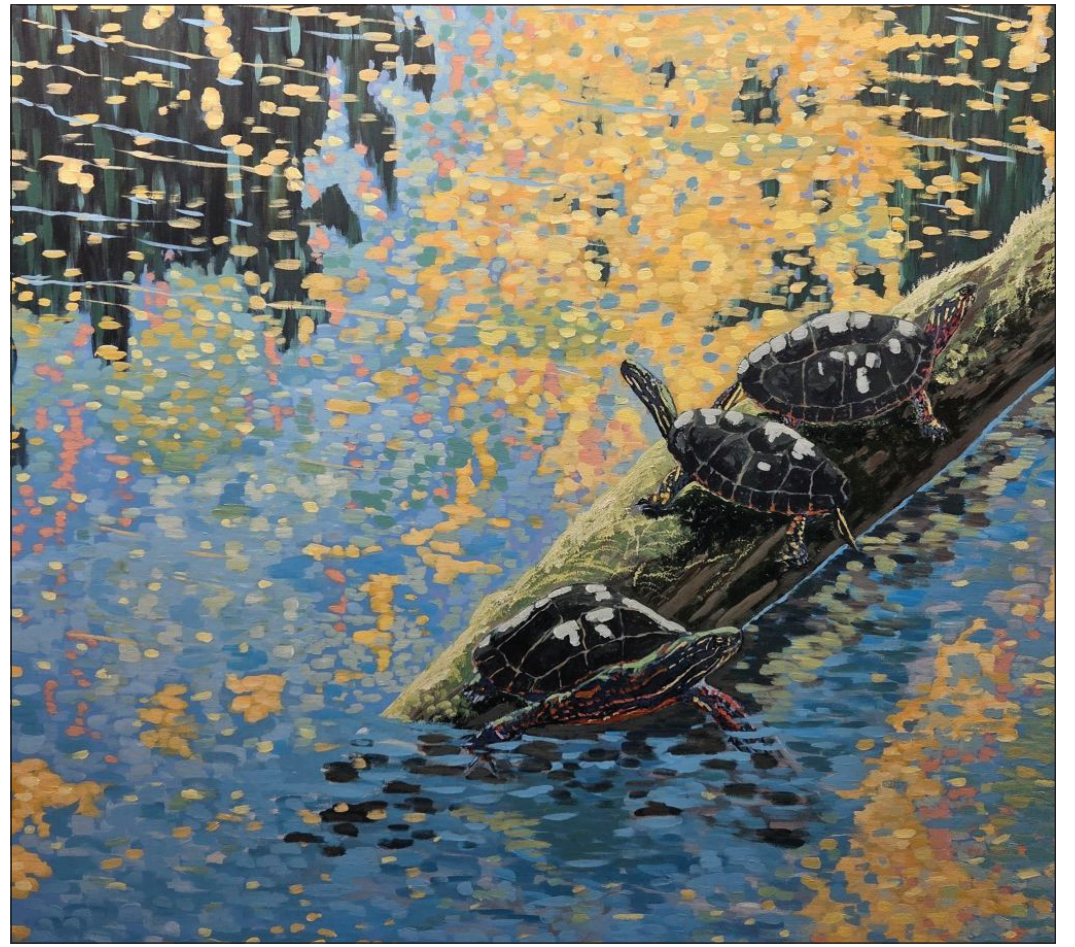
depending on the timing or type of light on a given day. This painting explores the joy and beauty of colour in a simple scene," says Hudson.

The other artists taking part in the third themed members' art show will be Bill Carroll, Deb Menken, Emilia Perri, David Moir, Gail Backus-Clark, Helen Duplassie, Hildegard Sausik, Jason Misurka, Jeffery J Nagy, Jorge Nascimento, Kareen Hague, Katia Howatson, Kevin Ellis, Krishna Tyagi, Leslie Larsen, Linda Murphy, Lynn Gilbank, Monica Kerr-Coster, Nahid Azari, Reg Lecky, Sheryl Teasell, Stephanie Schrim, Susan Powell, Suzanne Hornemann, Suzanne Walsh, and Trish Miller.

Attendees of the opening reception will also have a chance to meet the artists behind the works.

Colour Gone Wild will run from March 18 to April 19th.

The Headwaters Gallery is open Wednesday-Sunday, 10am to 5pm at Alton Mill Arts Centre.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

HEADLINE HERE: "Quiet Waters Painted Turtles" by Wayne Hudson is among the many pieces of art on display at Headwaters Arts new show.

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ORANGEVILLE HOME & GARDEN SHOW



Friday, March 27th
5pm to 9pm

Saturday, March 28th
9am to 5pm

Sunday, March 29th
10am to 4pm

Located at the Orangeville Fairgrounds - 247090 Five Sideroad, Mono



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Get inspired at the Orangeville Lions Home and Garden Show

Discover the best in home improvement, lifestyle, and decor across 145 vendors at the Orangeville Fairgrounds

Written By SAM ODROWSKI

For many, the Orangeville Lions Home and Garden Show marks the unofficial start of spring – an opportunity to refresh living spaces after months of winter.

The annual three-day event, running from March 27 to 29 at the Orangeville Fairgrounds, brings many of the community's best home improvement businesses into one centralized location. Attendees won't have to look very far to find inspiration, expert advice, and exclusive offers.

"The Orangeville Lions Home and Garden Show is an opportunity to explore the latest in home improvement, decor and design. It's a celebration of our local businesses and the strength of our community," said Yasmine Slater of the Orangeville Lions Club, who is helping organize the event.

"By attending, residents are directly supporting local contractors, artisans, suppliers and service providers who live and work right here in our area. All the proceeds and participation help keep dollars circulating locally, strengthening small businesses and fostering connections between neighbours."

Slater added, "Whether someone is planning a renovation, or gathering ideas, or simply looking to connect, the Home and Garden Show offers inspira-

tion while investing back into the community we all call home."

In addition, the event is a great fundraiser for the Orangeville Lions, who contribute to local charitable causes and projects.

"One recent project we're proud to support is the refurbishment of the Lion BMX park at Alder Recreation Centre into a new pump track, providing exciting and accessible space for riders of all ages," said Slater, who added the pump track is slated to open later in the spring.

There are a few new additions and changes to this year's Home and Garden Show.

Entry to the show has moved from the side entrance to the front entrance of the building on the north side.

There is a 50/50 draw this year with tickets available for \$10 each at the Orangeville Lions E73 Booth. Proceeds from the draw will go towards the Lion's Charitable Trust.

Another exciting addition is a Scavenger Hunt, with a few draw prizes for lucky winners. Upon entering the event, attendees will receive a card to fill out and return.

GSC Orangeville Take Home Meals and Catering will be operating the Food Court this year, with breakfast and lunch items available.

Near the food court is an area dedi-



cated to nonprofit organizations, where attendees can discover other ways to get involved and support the wider community.

"One thing we are excited about is giving nonprofits a place to share what they do. There are so many services, programs and volunteer opportunities out there and the Home and Garden Show helps people discover how they can access support or get involved," said Slater.

"When you can meet face-to-face with community organizations it increases awareness, support and connections to the work being done."

This year, the nonprofit area will feature booths from Orangeville Blues and Jazz Festival, Friendship Gardens at Headwaters Health Centre, Georgian College Motorcycle Training, Girl Guides of Canada, Headwaters Nature Club, Monora Lawn Bowling Club, Fellowship of Christian Farmers, and Island Lake Rowing Club.

In total, 145 vendors will be set up at this year's event, and organizers anticipate 5,000 attendees over the three days.

The home and garden show is a great opportunity to identify new trends, enjoy product demonstrations, and support local businesses.

Parking and admission are still free.

The show runs from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Friday, March 27; 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, March 28; and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday, March 29.

To learn more about the event, visit orangevillelions.org/homegardenshow or the Orangeville Lions Facebook page at [facebook.com/OrangevilleLions](https://www.facebook.com/OrangevilleLions)

The Orangeville Fairgrounds is located at 247090 5 Sideroad, Mono.



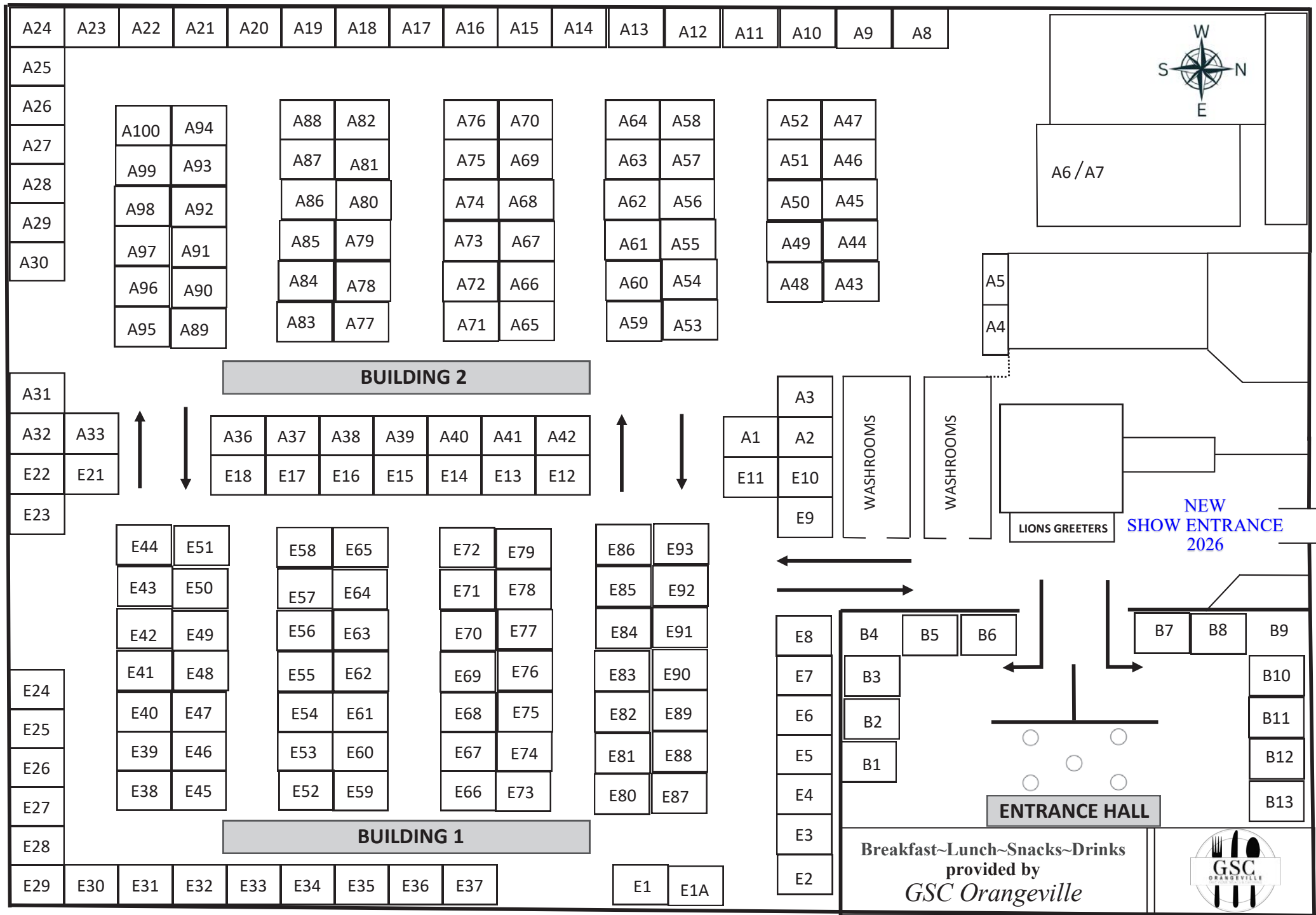


ORANGEVILLE
HOME & GARDEN SHOW

floor map

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Note: Sketch not to scale



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A 40	A.M. Travel Inspired	E 34	Fellowship of Christian Farmers	E 28, 29, 30	Orangeville Equipment Rentals Ltd
A 37	A&G Concepts Inc	A 48	Ferguson Fine Homes	A 100	Orangeville Hear Canada
A 43	AB Design	E 40,41,42,43	Floor Plus	A 92	Orangeville Hydro
E 44	AC Custom Reno	A 66	Focus on Decorating / Benjamin Moore Paints	A 61	Orangeville Landscape and Design Inc
A 74	Advisor Anthony	E 27	Frameworks Renovation Ltd	E 73	Orangeville Lions Club
E 21, 22, 23	All-Mont Ltd	B 7-13	Friendship Gardens	A 67	Paul Downey Electric
E 51	Allpro Roofing Inc.	A 29, 30	Gardens of Prestige Ltd	E 45	Pine Meadows Retirement Community
A 65,71	AM Group Exteriors	B 7-13	Georgian College Motorcycle Training	E 47	Proper Crop Pest Control
A 5	Associated Billiards	B 7-13	Girl Guides of Canada	A 39	Quality Homes
E 4	Avalon Retirement Lodge	A 16, 17	Golden Lion Tractors Ltd	E 79	Royal Lepage RCR Realty
A 68	Bath Fitter	A 49	Grand Valley Lions Club	A 63	Rural Rescue First Aid Training
A 42	Bin There Dump That	A 94	Green's Your Colour Inc.	A 95	Shade Plus Inc
E 69	BioPed Foot Care	B caterer	GSC Orangeville	A 50	Shades of Home
A 62	Blue Water Energy Inc	E 39	Gutter Pros Ontario Ltd	A 69, 70	Shelburne Golf & Country Club
E 59	Brighter Future Homes Ltd	A 13	Hardscape Supply Landscape & Stone Yard	E 12,13,14,15	Shelburne Home Hardware Building Centre
E 9, 10, 11	Bryan's Fuel	E 76	Headwaters Construction Ltd	A 64	ShelfGenie
E 1A, 2	Butcher Furniture	E 52	Headwaters Landscaping	E 55	Sherwin Williams Orangeville
E 6,7	Cedarport Window & Door Centre Inc	B 7-13	Headwaters Nature Club	E 24, 25, 26	Sinovi Masonry
E 90,91	Celtic Carpet Ltd	A 53, 59	Hear Well Be Well	A 58	Snell Contracting Services Inc
A 56	Century 21 Millenium Inc	E 70	Heirloom Kitchens	E 61	Steve of All Trades
E 60	Certapro Painters	E 85	Hickory Dickory Decks	E 75	Student Works Painting
E 68	Chartwell Retirement	A 75	Hitch Haul	E 63	Sylvia Jones, MPP
A 86	Circular Materials	A 1,2,3	Hyde-Whipp Heating & A/C	E 80, 81	Synergy Exteriors
A 14	Clem's Wood Designs	A 15	Island Lake Rowing Club	E 18	TCM Healthcare Inc
A 44,45	Concrete Near Me	A 8,9,10	Islandview Farm Equipment	E 48,49	The Concierge
E 35,36	Coppertone Paving Ltd	A 72 JD	Home Solutions	A 20 to 26	The County of Dufferin
A 83.84,.85	Cover Ups Flooring	E 77,78	JDC Custom Homes	A 89	The Gravel Guys
A 80	Credit Valley Conservation	A 60	Jerry Gould of Re/Max	E 66, 67	The Mayer-Harman Real Estate Team
E 48,49	Crown Commons Inc	A96	JTL Stonework	E 87	The Outside Guy
E 38	Culligan Water	E 8	Kawigga Pet Products	E 5	The Ten of Tarts
E 74	DDD Landscape and Contracting INC	E 72	Leaf Filter North of Canada Inc	A 97	The Weed Man Lawn Care
A 27,28	Dean's Tree Care	A 38	Leon's Furniture	A 57	Timbermart Inc
A 12	Deker Electric Ltd	E 16,17	Magic Windows	A 88	Time To Renovate
E 57,58,64,65	Don's Heating and Cooling	E 92, 93	Manax Plumbing	E 53	Town of Orangeville
E 71	Downsizing Diva Dufferin Caledon	A 54	Mark's Orangeville	A 93	TruView Windows and Doors Inc
E 86	Dufferin Family Chiropractic	E 56	Meadowood Tree Service Inc	E 24, 25, 26	Tumber & Associates Ltd
E 3	Dufferin Lawn Life	E 31,32,33	Millbank Family Furniture	A 4	Unfurled Plant Boutique
A 82	Dufferin Mutual Insurance	E 62	MK Landscaping & Design	A 90, 91	Uniques by Q
A 31, 32	Dufferin Storage Initiatives Ltd	E 89	Moe's Painting	A 18, 19	UPLP Group Ltd
A 55	Dufferin Tree and Grounds Care Ltd	B 7-13	Monora Lawn Bowling Club	A 36	Valley View Landscaping & Construction
A 81	Dufferin Wildlife	A 6, 7	Motion Mazda	A 77	Walkinshaw Real Estate
E 48, 49	Dunk Disposal	A 11	Mullin Group - Royal LePage RCR	E 83, 84	Watermaker Orangeville
A 41	Dutch Touch Landscaping and Pools	E 54	Muscat Real Estate	A 73	WaterMike
A 98, 99	Eco Choice Windows & Doors	E 37	NAK Cabinetry & Tile	E 82	Weedcomb
A 87	Elite Surfacing	A 76	New Level Contracting and Handyman Services	A 78	Wet Paint Cabinet Painting Inc
E 46	Escarpment Contracting Co. Inc	E 50	Nixon Electric	A 51,52	Whispering Pines Landscaping
A 33	Expedia Cruises Orangeville	E 1	Ontario Provincial Police - Dufferin	E 88	Winmar Property Restoration-Orangeville
B 5,6	EZ Rides	E 48.49	Orangeville and Area Handyman		
A 46, 47	FayTrim Aluminum & Siding	A 79	Orangeville Blues and Jazz Festival		

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Spring planting pointers



Many people view spring as a season of rejuvenation. That renewal may be somewhat metaphorical for human beings, but it's literal for lawns and gardens that begin to grow anew as temperatures rise and hours of daylight increase in spring.

Each spring presents an opportunity for homeowners to get back outside and tend to their gardens. As the temperatures rise, homeowners can consider these spring planning pointers to ensure their landscapes look lush and full in the months ahead.

- Start with the soil. Soil can serve as the starting point each spring. Winter can take its toll on a garden and even overwhelm the area with debris over the colder months. Clear rocks and other debris from the area before loosening the soil. The Farmer's Almanac recommends loosening soil to a depth of at least eight inches if planting a new garden. An existing garden may only need to be loosened to a depth of around six inches, after which homeowners can mix compost into the soil in early spring. Compost is organic matter that provides nutrients and helps to build strong plant roots.

- Consider a raised garden in colder climates. The Farmer's Almanac notes raised gardens can help homeowners in colder climates dry out and warm up wet, cold soils more quickly. Homeowners in such regions also can cover their beds with black plastic or cardboard prior to planting. Doing so can protect the beds from late-season snow and spring rains and also helps to overcome erosion.

- Take soil temperatures. Unpredictable weather is among the noticeable effects of climate change in recent years. That lack of predictability can make spring planting a little more tricky than it once was. Experts note that soil temperatures around 50 F are best for cool-season crops, while soil should be 60 F or warmer when planting warm-weather plants such as tomatoes.

- Work with a garden center to identify what to plant. The right plants for one region may not be ideal for another, so homeowners are urged to work with a local landscaper or garden center before planting. Such a consultation can be especially useful for homeowners planting a new garden. Landscapers and garden center professionals will know which plants work in the local climate.

- Consider planting vegetables in the spring. Various garden experts note that spring is an ideal time to plant a vegetable garden. If planted at the right time, a vegetable garden can save homeowners money on their grocery bills and provide a season's worth of fresh veggies. Lettuce and spinach are sun- and shade-friendly vegetables, which can make them good options for a spring garden. Cool-season root vegetables, which include beets, carrots and swiss chard, are some other notable veggies that can thrive in early spring.

Spring is a season of rejuvenation for gardens. That's even more true when homeowners consider some conventional planting wisdom in early spring.

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Prepare a yard for evening entertaining

Even when the sun goes down, the opportunity to entertain outdoors is still possible. Transforming a backyard into an evening oasis does not necessarily require major renovations, but it should involve adjusting the atmosphere to facilitate comfort and visibility. The following tips can help hosts optimize outdoor spaces for nighttime events.

Layered lighting

Lighting is the main priority when hosting at night. Lighting establishes ambiance and creates safety in the space. Hosts should avoid floodlights which can be too harsh and create a clinical feeling. Instead, melding different lighting options together can set the scene. String lights provide a warm, even glow that can outline the perimeter and “ceiling” of an outdoor room. Low-voltage LEDs or solar lights can make walkways more visible and call attention to changes in elevation. Accent lighting, such as small spotlights uplighting trees or architectural features, will create depth and keep the yard from feeling like an abyss beyond the patio or deck.

Create focal points

Individuals will gather around various focal points in the yard. These established zones will encourage conversation and other activities. A fire pit is a natural magnet for outdoor events. Arrange seating around the fire pit to keep conversation flowing.

An outdoor bar also is a great place for people to gather, whether it's stocked with alcoholic or non-alcoholic drinks. Mark off an area where people can mingle and dance. Set up an outdoor speaker in this area.

Outdoor comfort

Contending with bugs and weather is a natural side effect of spending time outdoors, particularly in the evening. Citronella candles can keep mosquitoes and gnats at bay. A simple electric floor fan also can be effective against mosquitoes, which are weak fliers that can't fly against the breeze. A fire pit, propane patio heater and a basket of blankets can help tame the chills if the temperature drops. Keeping pop-up canopies at the ready will help if rain starts to fall.

Accessibility to food and drink

Beyond the bar, having self-service stations in various spots enables guests to grab food or drink as needed instead of having to trek indoors. Make sure these spots are well-lit. Space drinks away from the food to prevent traffic jams. Invest in some covered containers that will keep food safe from ants or flying insects and trays to easily transport glassware and other items back into the house.

A yard can be a magical place to entertain at night when hosts take a few extra steps to ready the space.

-Metro Creative Connection



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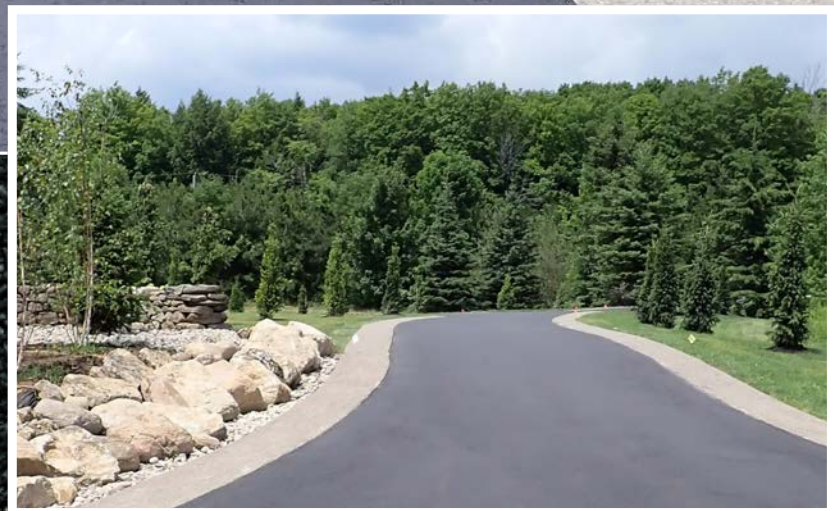


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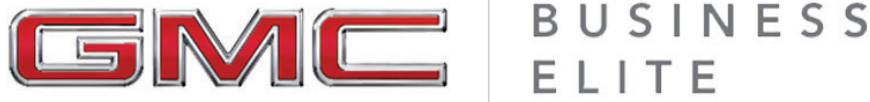



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Orangeville Blitz tied with Six Nations Ironmen in semi-final series

Written By BRIAN LOCKHART

A loss in Game 4 on Sunday, March 16, leaves the Orangeville Blitz tied in their semi-final series against the Six Nations Ironmen.

Getting underway on March 6, the best-of-seven series leads the way to the Northern Premier Hockey League's Apex Cup championship.

Game 1 of the series ended with a 5-3 win for the Ironmen on Blitz home ice at the Alder Street arena in Orangeville.

The series was tied after the Blitz won Game 2, 7-3, on Ironmen home ice.

Returning to the Alder Street arena on Saturday, March 14, for Game 3, the Blitz secured a decisive win that gave them a series lead.

Six Nations scored first in the game with a late-period goal.

Orangeville's Andrew Whitton tied the game with 1:21 left in the period.

The Blitz took the lead in the second period on goals from Cameron Searles and Luke Perovic.

The Ironmen scored at the midway mark.

It was a 4-2 game when Chase Spenser hit the back of the Ironmen's net with 4:59 left on the clock.

Six Nations closed the gap with a goal in the third period to make it a 4-3 game.

Alex Gilmour gave the Blitz some insurance with 1:24 left in the game to give the Orangeville team a 5-3 win to lead the series 2-1.

It was back to Six Nations for Game 4 of the series on Sunday, March 15.

Orangeville's Cameron Searles opened the scoring in the first period.



BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

IMPORTANT WIN: The Orangeville Blitz are tied 2-2 in their semi-final series with the Six Nations Ironmen after taking a loss in Game 4, on Six Nations home ice. Blitz forward Andrew Witton scores the first Orangeville goal of the night during Game 3 at the Alder Street arena on Friday, March 13. The Blitz won this game 5-3.

Six Nations tied it up four minutes later. The Blitz moved ahead with a goal from Matthew Dunlop late in the period. Neither team could hit the back of the net

in the second period. It was the third period that cost the Blitz the game when they couldn't score and gave up two goals to the Ironmen.

The Six Nations team left with a 3-2 win. The series will return to Orangeville on Friday, March 20, for Game 5 at the Alder Street Arena. Game time is 8:00 p.m.

Youth running program helps kids develop fitness and a healthy lifestyle

Written By BRIAN LOCKHART

With so many young people spending a lot of time glued to their screens rather than being active, a local running program is encouraging kids to get out and run to build a foundation of fitness, confidence, and healthy habits, and to improve their athleticism.

Rising Runners is a youth running program that was launched in the fall by two local coaches.

Richard Pady, a former coach with the Orangeville Otters and a former professional triathlete, and Rob Berg, a track and field and cross-country running coach at Orangeville District Secondary School, started the program when they realized there was a need to get kids out there and active.

"Many kids today specialize early in a single sport. Running is one of the most effective ways to improve overall athleticism," Pady explained. "Rising Runners is designed not only for kids who enjoy running, but also for young athletes involved in sports like soccer, hockey, lacrosse, basketball, and swimming, who want to build endurance, speed, and durability that will benefit their primary sport."

Each session includes warm-ups, skill-based games, age-appropriate running workouts, and fun group challenges that keep the environment positive and engaging.

The goal is to help kids develop proper running technique, learn pacing and race skills, build confidence, and, most importantly, discover a lifelong love of movement.

The program is open for kids ages 10 to 13.

Pady said that over the years, he has noticed that many sports require young athletes to be dedicated to one sport while neglecting other important physical activities that contribute to an athlete's success.

"Sports seem to be becoming something where you have to be 100 per cent into that sport," Pady explained. "We're trying to expose kids to running because that translates to every sport. Running is proven to be one of the best ways to build your aerobic base. The idea is to get kids out and exposed to running so when they do get to high school, maybe they do want to be on the track team. We're trying to expose kids to running in a fun, non-competitive manner. We run these programs in the fall and in the spring."

Pady gave an example of how running translates into better athleticism and endurance.

"Look at lacrosse, which is so big here in Orangeville. Your shift on the floor may be only 30 to 40 seconds long, but it's an hour-long game. You need to be fit enough to be able to play for that duration. The fitter you are, and the more you can send oxygen to



your muscles, the faster you will recover when you get back on the bench."

The program teaches running form and technique, speed and agility, and develops endurance, strength and mobility. It also inspires teamwork and motivation in a fun setting.

"We teach them in an environment that's fun," Pady explained. "We play games, and

sometimes they don't realize they are running, but they are running. The idea is to introduce them to running in Grades 6, 7, and 8."

The next 10-week youth program will run from April 14 to June 16.

You can learn more and register for the program by visiting online at www.risingrunnersorangeville.com.

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SEMI-FINAL SUCCESS: The Provincial Junior Hockey League is moving into division championships after completing the semi-final round of playoffs. Eight divisions will battle it out for this year's championships. The remaining eight championship teams will go to the Schmalz Cup provincial championship playoffs. The Alliston Hornets take on the Orillia Terriers on Friday, March 13, at the New Tecumseth Recreation Complex in Shelburne. The Hornets won the series in four games and will face the Stayner Siskins in the championship final series.

BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

OPINION

I didn't vote for this!

The thing about democracy is that you are able to vote for the person you want to represent you in municipal, provincial, and federal government.

At the municipal level, you are voting for a person you hope will do a good job of making sure your area of town is taken care of when it comes to potholes and having the streets plowed. You also hope they will listen to your voice when the city or town makes major decisions about spending your tax dollars on things like parks and infrastructure.

At the provincial level, you enter the world of party politics where decisions could have a major impact on your life.

Things like healthcare, new highways, and government spending become very important, and these decisions have a major impact on the provincial economy and, thus, your quality of life and standard of living.

At the federal level, the stakes are huge. The federal government controls the national economy, trade with other countries, foreign relations, and whether or not your son will be drafted into the military during some kind of international crisis.

"Democracy is the worst form of government, except for all the others," is a quote attributed to former UK Prime Minister Win-

ston Churchill.

I agree with that statement. I believe the parliamentary system of government is the best form of government currently in use on the planet.

Parliamentary government allows debate and does not place absolute power in the hands of a single person. The resignation of Prime Minister Justin Trudeau in January 2026 is a good example of parliamentary government in action.

The republican system used in the US is not bad, and may come in second place, but the US is not a true republic. It's a democracy.

The mechanics of that statement are a whole other column.

The one failure of parliamentary governments is that you don't have the ability to vote directly for the prime minister.

However, if you did vote directly for the PM, the system wouldn't work as it does. How can you elect one person as the PM if his party only holds a minority in Ottawa?

Most people, it seems, favour one political party. Although based on election results, many people do change their vote over the years.

It is likely you vote for a particular party based on its ideology – sort of – and the campaign promises about what they hope

to achieve over the next four years if elected.

Recently, several Conservative MPs have switched teams, moving from the Conservative caucus to the Liberals.

Some political analysts see this as an attempt by the Carney government to lure Conservatives across the floor to ultimately secure a majority in parliament without an election.

For a sitting MP to switch parties AFTER an election is a betrayal of their constituents who voted for them based on their party affiliation.

It's no different than paying a paving company to do your driveway, then having them change their mind after completing half of the job – while keeping all the money.

An MP who abandons a party after an election should be required to resign immediately, as they no longer represent the voters who elected them.

I'm not sure what kind of reaction took place in the ridings of the three MPs who changed teams. There doesn't seem to be much news on that; however, I'm pretty sure those who voted for a Conservative member aren't happy about seeing their vote reduced to a meaningless X on a worthless piece of paper.

If someone enters the election as a mem-

BRIAN LOCKHART
FROM THE SECOND ROW



ber of a political party, then they are obligated to carry through with the policies of the party for which they were elected.

If, for any reason, they have changed their mind or have reservations about the party that nominated them to run in that riding, the honourable thing to do is resign – not change teams.

There are no legal boundaries to an MP crossing the floor; they can switch parties at any time.

With the Carney government so close to a majority, they will only need a couple more MPs to make the switch to control the House.

This, of course, raises the question: Did the Carney government approach these defecting MPs and make them a lucrative offer?

It doesn't seem very logical that a person would go to all the trouble of seeking a nomination, running an election campaign, speaking to, and making promises to their constituents to gain their trust and vote, then suddenly wake up one morning and think it's a good idea to cross the floor.

At the very least, there should be an immediate by-election and let the voters decide.

The fire this time

In 1953 Ray Bradbury, an American writer, published a book entitled simply 'Fahrenheit 451'. It was a novel about an American fireman in a not-too-distant future who realised that he was doing his job all wrong – because his job was to burn books, which were banned in that future America. (451°F is the temperature at which paper catches fire.)

The book got a lot of attention and won some major prizes, because it was the time of the second Great Red Scare in the United States: anti-Communist witch-hunts, Senator McCarthy's Congressional hearings, and of course book bans. But Bradbury's 'fireman' hero secretly reads the books, learns the truth, and ends up working to preserve knowledge.

Just what we need right now, in fact, and the ideal hero for our redemptive tale is Russell Vought, Donald Trump's Director of the Office of Management and Budget. He was a lead author in the 'Project 2025' plan for transforming the US government into a tool of the hard right, and he urgently needs to be redeemed.

Vought's current project is to destroy American climate science, which he regularly refers to as "climate alarmism" or "climate fanaticism." He is currently taking point in an official drive to break up or close down all the climate-linked scientific institutes that

receive federal government money in the United States. (If the facts don't suit your politics, just erase them.)

His primary target is the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR), the 'jewel in the crown' of American climate science: 830 climate scientists and engineers in a purpose-built building in Boulder, Colorado. Since its creation in 1960 to do research projects bigger than any single university could handle, it has certainly fulfilled its promise.

This week (16 March) is the deadline for proposals for the disposal of various parts of this world-famous institute, whose personnel, equipment and possibly even records will be scattered to the winds. (And the bids will never be disclosed, so no last-minute billionaire angel can swoop in and buy NCAR up as a job lot. This is stake-through-the-heart stuff.)

Some of NCAR's assets may end up in good hands. The supercomputer will probably go to the University of Wyoming, its severe weather research may go to the University of Oklahoma, and a Virginia-based contractor called Lynker is interested in taking over its space weather research.

However, climate scientists will no longer have first call on these research assets, and lots of research that promises no obvious

near-term profit will simply be abandoned. Above all, the collegiality and cross-fertilisation of having 830 intelligent and dedicated people with the same research interests in the same building will be lost. There's nowhere else like that.

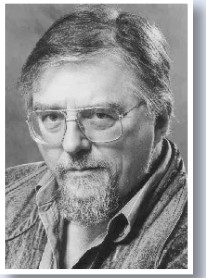
All other government-backed climate research in the United States is also facing destruction.

the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the world-renowned Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Laboratory at Princeton University, NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies: they are all on the Trump administration's hit list.

It doesn't mean that a couple of thousand American climate scientists will be begging on the streets. The best ones will be snapped up by universities and institutes abroad, especially in Germany, Scandinavia, the United Kingdom and Australia (where you are already tripping over emigré American scientists in the better universities).

The younger and more adventurous ones may go farther afield, to big countries like Brazil, India, Indonesia and China where governments are scrambling to build up their climate science communities as the threat of catastrophic climate damage come ever closer (for there is where it will hit first and hardest).

GWYNNE DYER
OUR WORLD TODAY



Of course, there are still many hundreds of climate scientists in American universities, but their prominence in the international community is fading fast. Only 46 U.S.-based scientists were chosen as authors for key Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) reports this time, down from 210 in the previous cycle.

The greater loss for the rest of the world is NCAR, the single biggest node for climate research in the world. Only the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research in Germany (300 researchers), the Met Office Hadley Centre in England (200 researchers), and the Climate Change Research Center (300 researchers) of the Institute of Atmospheric Physics in Beijing even come close.

Numbers matter. Critical mass matters too. It's already clear that making it though the next half-century without a climate calamity that radically changes the living conditions on this planet will be a near-run thing. The rest of us cannot afford to lose the Americans.

In the meantime, somebody give Russell Vought a book that isn't the Bible. He might learn something, even though he is a self-avowed 'Christian nationalist.'

The old men warn: Parents must be warriors too

Revered Canadian Suzuki and staunch climate advocate David Suzuki will celebrate his 90th Birthday on March 24.

He warns parents not to presume that fighting to protect the planet is simply up to their teenage and young adult children. In a YouTube interview with two college students late last year, he declared that the adults running this planet are responsible for this emergency, and they must join their children in fighting for it.

David Attenborough, world-famous scientist and environmentalist, the only person to be twice knighted in the UK, cannot stress enough in a recent interview that "This is an emergency!"

Attenborough is famous for his many movies about the natural world.

His 100th birthday will be celebrated in many ways in the UK on May 8.

That anxious declaration of his is backed by the terrifying news that global emissions hit a record high in 2025.

This comes after 30 years of COP's international meetings to discuss the dilemma of global warming, and with every meeting, countries promised to do better, to face the damage humanity has inflicted on this once-perfect world. The cause is clear and indisputable: our addiction to fossil fuels and our compliance in

allowing our governments to endlessly support gas and oil companies – some of the richest corporations in the world - with massive tax breaks and large subsidies.

In 2025, the Canadian government spent close to \$30 billion in various ways to support the fossil fuel industry, according to an April 2022 analysis by Environmental Defence.

In his wholly passionate way, Suzuki delivered, "This is an emergency!"

By the end of COP 30 in Nov. 2025, in Belém, Brazil, the state of emergency was barely reflected in the resulting agreements made, for money really took the day, as it does for any negotiation. There were concessions, some promises about supporting countries more vulnerable to floods and consequences that the planet's warming has and will cause; there were ambitions displayed, but the big problems saw few guarantees from countries so dependent on the sale of their fossil fuels. Among the disappointments was Canada.

We are planning another pipe at exactly the very time we must begin to shut fossil fuels down.

Scientists like Suzuki and Attenborough are clenching their teeth the way one does while watching a frightening film. Yet, none of this is fiction, but without a seriously dedicated campaign to reduce our emissions, well, even sci-

entists, knowing the likelihoods are paused to fully predict the future.

Floods, fires and extraordinary storms are already a huge part of what is becoming "normal" conditions, but why are we not in fact recycling every bit of garbage; why isn't solar power the answer for electricity everywhere, especially in tropical and subtropical regions?

The issue is that what is needed to convert away from fossil fuel is already at hand and already in use, but still on too small a scale, worldwide.

The heartbreak comes when, in 1959, the evidence was clear that the use of gas and oil was harmful, but there was so much money to be made.

Then, the Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS) tells us, "Some 1,700 of the world's leading scientists, including the majority of Nobel laureates in the sciences, issued this appeal in November 1992. The World Scientists' Warning to Humanity was written and spearheaded by the late Henry Kendall, former chair of UCS's board of directors."

That is 34 years ago, and those scientists came from 81 countries, as Suzuki reported.

This link takes one to the very page, which the UCS has maintained and updated to make clear the sad story that is today's.

The worst part about it all is that money,

hence politics, is at the base. With the burgeoning gap of wealth disparity that is established now, the rampant corporations will have to understand that there must be an urgent shift in how we power our world. What alternatives are able to take on that task and can do the job are already being manufactured, no matter what is insisted otherwise.

One in five people on this increasingly crowded planet lives in poverty with all the deprivations that implies. The matter of global overpopulation could bring very difficult conversations. As a species, we must begin in earnest to change how we live, consume and handle our waste; the weight of numbers might be less of a factor than it is now.

It is now that we are all on the hook to protest and let our governments know that this collective of generations insists on a clean future for our children – what are we promising them for their futures? Will we simply sit back and hope Suzuki will live forever to speak out and keep saying this is an emergency?

We all know it is. Oil and gas know it is, but they continue to promote their dangerous fiction that gas is here to stay, at least for many decades.

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Bill C-22 embraced by law enforcement to curb online crime

Written By MARK PAVILIONS

Law enforcement officials across the province are welcoming changes contained in Bill C-22 (Part 2), that focus on electronic service providers (ESPs).

The Bill, Securing Access to Information (Bill C-22 – Part 2), aims to curb criminals who exploit the use of the “digital ecosystem” and carry out online crimes of various descriptions.

Public Safety Canada notes law enforcement agencies and CSIS have worked for decades with “outdated laws that have not kept pace with our new technological and digital reality. As a result, investigations are missing critical information needed to generate leads or help identify and prosecute individuals or groups involved in serious criminal activities or national security threats. In some cases, investigations are abandoned due to these challenges.”

Part 2 of the Bill C-22 does not create new authorities for law enforcement agencies and CSIS to intercept communications or obtain information. It focuses solely on ensuring that electronic service providers (ESPs) are able to comply with existing legal orders, which are found in the Criminal Code, and the Canadian Security Intelligence Service Act.

Currently, Canada relies on a 1995 condition of license that only covers voice telephony despite vast technological changes, including the internet, satellite and messaging platforms. Law enforcement agencies and CSIS can obtain authorization, though a warrant or production order, to intercept

communications or obtain information; however, there is no corresponding requirement for an ESP to actually establish and maintain a system capable of providing the communication/information in question. Furthermore, outside of voice telephony services, the support of ESPs to fulfill lawful access requests is entirely voluntary.

The Bill would require select ESPs, to develop and maintain the capabilities necessary to enable law enforcement and CSIS to effectively obtain communications and information they are legally authorized to have for their criminal and intelligence investigations, while respecting rights and freedoms.

Instead of requiring whole sectors, including small enterprises, to have the same capabilities in place, the proposed framework adopts a more targeted approach for technical capability development. Under the proposed Bill, there are two ways by which an ESP could be mandated to develop and maintain lawful access capabilities: ESPs designated as ‘core providers’ and through Ministerial Orders.

The Minister of Public Safety could issue a Ministerial Order (MO), subject to approval by the Intelligence Commissioner, to electronic service providers (ESP) compelling the development of specific capabilities. MOs would be based on operational needs, as threats evolve and new technologies develop, and could be issued to both core and non-core providers. In deciding whether to issue an MO, the Minister must consider the same factors as the Governor in Council when making regulations for core-provid-



ers. MOs would be reviewable by the courts.

MOs are a powerful tool that allow the Minister of Public Safety to request a broad range of technical capabilities in a confidential way to avoid tipping off threat actors. The Intelligence Commissioner’s role in MO approvals strengthens the framework by providing an external oversight mechanism. The addition of an annual report and parliamentary review, three years after the Act comes into force, further increases transparency.

Currently, law enforcement and CSIS may have the legal authority to obtain information from ESPs, but there are no laws that require ESPs to maintain a system that can effectively respond to requests. This means that despite having the requested communications and information in their systems, an ESP may be unable to provide it. This lack of technical capability has caused investigations to stall or not begin at all. The issue

can be as simple as an ESP not having the secure infrastructure to transfer information to these agencies in a useable format. In other cases, they may not be able to retrieve the information within a certain timeline, or to ensure its accuracy.

Compliance enforcement under the current framework is extremely limited.

To promote compliance, SAAIA would create monetary penalties for contravening obligations under the Act. SAAIA sets out parameters for the issuance of administrative penalties, including in what amount and how an ESP can request a review from the Minister.

In addition to administrative monetary penalties, SAAIA also contains offences for contravening provisions.

Penalties are required to make sure that a regulatory regime can be properly enforced.

Proposals under Bill C-22 provide additional oversight and transparency.

Dufferin OPP issue stunt driving charges after driver strikes tree in Mono

Dufferin Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) recently issued a statement, reminding motorists that regardless of perceived driving abilities, public roadways are not a personal race track.

On March 12, at approximately 12:35 a.m., officers responded to a single motor vehicle collision in the area of County Road 7

(Hockley Road) in Mono. Initial investigation revealed the vehicle lost control while traveling at a high rate of speed and struck a tree.

As a result of the investigation, a 25-year-old male from North York has been charged with the following offences:

- Careless Driving
- Fail to Surrender Permit for Motor Vehicle

cle

- Drive Motor Vehicle - Perform Stunt - Excessive Speed
- Driving Motor Vehicle with Open Container of Liquor
- Speeding 50+ km/h over the posted limit
- Drive Motor Vehicle - No Currently Validated Permit

- Owner Operate a Motor Vehicle Without Insurance
- Obstruct Plate

The 25-year-old male’s vehicle was impounded, and his driver’s licence was suspended.

None of the listed charges have been proven in court.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR: Many thanks!

I was at McDonald’s at the Orangeville Walmart on Thursday, March 12, around 5 p.m. I saw they had Playmobil figures with the Happy Meal.

I asked the cost to purchase one for my Grandson. A Father and his son (8-10) were waiting for their order. They heard my request and offered to give me theirs, it was

an eagle. The boy had two and came back to give me the second one as they were leaving.

Your kindness has left me with a wonderful memory.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Debra Shaddock
Caledon

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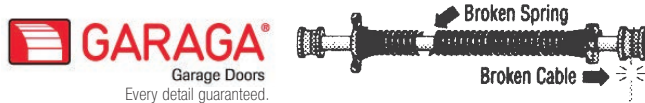
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THIS NEWSPAPER!

Yard waste season kicks off early April in Dufferin County

Yard waste is collected seasonally between April and November in Dufferin County. As the beginning of yard waste season approaches, the county would like to remind residents of some tips to ensure they're ready for collection.

Collection routes

- Collection for Week A in Orangeville will begin the week of April 6.
- Collection for Week B in urban areas of Grand Valley, Shelburne and rural subdivisions, begins the week of April 13.

Not sure if you live in a rural subdivision? Visit dufferincounty.ca/waste-services/yard-waste for a list of neighbourhoods.

Collection in rural areas begins the week of April 6. Yard waste is collected on a monthly call-in basis. To be added to the list, contact GFL at 1-888-941-3345 ext.1 one week in advance of the scheduled collection each month.

You can also check out the Yard Waste Collection Map at dufferincounty.ca/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Yard-Waste-Map.pdf to determine your route.

For Weeks A and B, collection starts on Monday at 7 a.m. and continues throughout

the week until the area is completed.

Please note that your yard waste collection may not be the same day as your regular collection day.

Only include acceptable items in yard waste

- Acceptable items for yard waste include:
- Fallen fruit from trees
 - Grass clippings
 - Hedge trimmings
 - Leaves
 - Tree prunings (sticks, twigs and small branches)
 - Weeds
 - Yard and house plants (no soil)
 - Yard and garden trimmings

Bags or bins?

Place yard waste in paper bags, open labeled containers or bundles. Dufferin Waste also provides yellow yard waste stickers for personal containers. Contact the team at 519-941-2816 ext. 2620 or email dufferin-waste@dufferincounty.ca.

At the curb Label yard waste containers. Plastic bags are not permitted.

Each bag/container should not exceed 125 litres (33 gallons), 20 kilograms (44 pounds). Bundles should not exceed 1.25 metres (4 feet). Secure bundles with twine.

Mow it, then leave it!

Did you know grass clippings help nourish your lawn? Grass clippings are made up of 80 to 90 percent water and decompose quickly, allowing the soil to receive nutrients, such as nitrogen, potassium and phosphorus. This helps avoid the use of synthetic fertilizers. Grasscycle this season for healthier grass, plus less raking and bagging!

Properly dispose of noxious weeds

Noxious weeds like giant hogweed, wild parsnip, garlic mustard and more are not accepted in the County's green bin or yard waste collection programs and should be handled with care.

Noxious weeds are considered garbage and have additional rules for disposal:

- Material must be double-bagged in clear garbage bags
- Once bagged, please leave bags in the sun for at least a week
- After a week, set it out for curbside collection or take it to the GFL Transfer Station



For curbside collection: any bags of noxious weeds that exceed the one bag limit will require a garbage bag tag.

For a complete list of bag tag vendors, visit dufferincounty.ca/waste-services/garbage.

For safety reasons, please notify GFL prior to collection: 1-888-941-3345 ext.1.

Drop-off at GFL transfer station: a per bag disposal charge will apply. Please call the GFL Transfer Station (519-943-0101) to notify them of the disposal. Residents are asked to bring the material first thing in the morning. The GFL Transfer Station is located at 473051 County Road 11, Amaranth.



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Caramelized Onion Dip
450 g
LIMITED TIME ONLY

SAVE \$2 each

Buffalo Chicken Dip
450 g

9⁹⁹ each

16⁹⁹ SALE

Asian Party Pack
38-46 PIECES
632 g

Also available, Puff Pastry Quartet 32 PIECES 576 g
Indian Party Pack 32 PIECES 740 g
Pub Party Pack 32 PIECES 576 g
\$16.99 each SALE

SOUPS 255 g - 400 mL

Wonton

SAVE \$2
4⁹⁹ each

French Onion

CHOOSE FROM 5 VARIETIES.

SAVE \$2 each

Fried Battered Pickles
10-12 PIECES
390 g

Classic French Style Mini Quiche
16 PIECES 340 g

Also available, Mini Quiche Florentine
16 PIECES 340 g
\$9.99 SAVE \$2

TIP-OFF SNACKS **SAVE \$2 each**

12⁹⁹ each

Fried Battered Mushrooms 300 g

Jumbo Coconut Shrimp
16-19 SHRIMP 340 g

Battered Cheese Curds
280 g

SAVE \$3 each

Cream Cheese and Cheddar Stuffed Jalapeños
10-13 PIECES 360 g

Also available, Cream Cheese Stuffed Jalapeños
10-13 PIECES 360 g
\$9.99 SAVE \$3

Cauliflower Bites
450 g

Sauces included
Parmesan Buffalo

Also available, Jamaican-Style Beef Patty Bites 500 g
\$9.99 SAVE \$3

WATCH PARTY BITES

SAVE \$5
14⁹⁹ each

Shrimp Ring
42-48 SHRIMP
454 g

Cocktail Sauce included

Turkey Meatballs
78-83 PIECES
750 g

SAVE \$3

Cheese Stuffed Mushroom Caps 300 g

SAVE \$5

Sirloin Beef Meatballs
60-70 PIECES 907 g

SAVE \$5

Chicken Spring Rolls
6 PIECES 432 g

Vegetable Egg Rolls
10 PIECES 570 g

Mini Vegetable Spring Rolls
16 PIECES 384 g

MULTI-SERVE MEALS 350 g - 907 g

SALE
13⁹⁹ each

15 VARIETIES

Cabbage Rolls

Butter Chicken

Chicken Pad Thai

Three Cheese Pasta Bake

GRAB AND GO

SAVE \$2
12⁹⁹ each

Boneless Rib Style Pork Cutlettes
6 PIECES 680 g

Wagyu Beef Sliders
9 SLIDERS
x.51 g/1.8 oz

Montreal Smoked Meat
2 POUCHES x 200 g

SAVE \$4
15⁹⁹ each

Pulled Pork
2 POUCHES x 340 g

Philly Beef Steak
4 PORTIONS
336 g

PREMIUM SINGLE SERVES 400 g **6 VARIETIES** **SALE**

8⁹⁹ each

Italian Style Sausage and Penne

Chicken Dumplings and Noodles

Chicken Burrito Bowl

SAVE \$2
17⁹⁹ each

Chicken Satay with Peanut Sauce
20 SKEWERS 500 g

Chicken and Pineapple Mini-Skewers
20 PIECES 500 g

Seniors Day Every Tuesday 10% off Regular Priced Items!

SAVE \$3
14⁹⁹

Fall Off the Bone® Back Ribs
1 FULL RACK OF RIBS 510 g - 680 g

CHOOSE FROM 4 VARIETIES.

SAVE \$3
9⁹⁹ each

Flatbreads
460 g - 515 g

Hot Honey & Chicken

Bruschetta

CHOOSE FROM 4 VARIETIES.

SWEET SENSATIONS

SALE
5⁹⁹ each

Mini Cream Puffs 250 g

Caramel Cream Puffs 240 g

Mini Eclairs 12 PIECES 200 g

Lavaliicious® Chocolate

Cakes 2 CAKES 228 g - 280 g

27⁹⁹ SAVE \$2

Cheesecake Variety Pack
12 SLICES 1 kg



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PROUDLY SERVING CANADIANS SINCE 1980

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