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JOSHUA DRAKES PHOTO

CLEANING UP THE COMMUNITY: Terry Brooker, an Orangeville resident and advocate for cleaner parks, spent hours cleaning up Drag-onfly Park, removing piles of garbage that blocked the water flow of Mill Creek on April 22. He found a propane canister, gas cans and hazardous debris that threatens wildlife, among a plethora of other items. Brooker is calling for a better cleaning initiative and proactive measures to better protect parks and natural waterways from pollution. Read a full story on Page A11.

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ORANGEVILLE CITIZEN
Progress Edition
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LOCAL COMMUNITY

Concerns raised over proposed heritage district

Written By JAMES MATTHEWS

The boundaries that will determine a proposed heritage district in Orangeville have yet to be established.

That point was clearly made during a public meeting on April 27 when York Street area residents voiced concerns about how they might be affected by a heritage conservation district (HCD) designation.

SGL Planning and Stantec Consulting Ltd. determined in December 2024 that the York Street neighbourhood meets the prescribed criteria to pursue further study for potential HCD designation.

A project workplan and budget were developed and approved in February 2025.

Lashia Jones, the senior cultural heritage specialist at Stantec Consulting, said the York Street HCD Study was prepared throughout 2025.

Stantec conducted historical background research, inventoried and assessed all properties in the study area, examined archival material, and reviewed existing planning documents for the area.

The HCD study concluded that more than 70 per cent of properties met two or more criteria for designation under provincial rules.

The York Street neighbourhood is a representative collection of mid-19th- to early-20th-century properties, including examples of Gothic Revival, Italianate, Edwardian, Georgian, and Ontario vernacular architecture. There are properties associated with the town's early settlement and those broadly associated with the rapid growth of Orangeville after the arrival of its former railway service. The neighbourhood has historical and physical links to Mill Creek.

"Based on council's direction in proceeding with the plan and feedback received to date, we recognize that there may be adjustments to the boundary as the (heritage conservation) plan phase progresses," Jones said.

Two boundaries have been suggested, one by the consultants and another by town staff. She said council is the ultimate decision-maker. But under the provincial legislation, 25 per cent of more of the properties in the HCD need to meet two or more criteria.

So if the boundary is to be adjusted, that provincial threshold still has to be met, she said.

Mayor Lisa Post said the HCD boundaries haven't been set or even voted on yet.

"As we work through the process, I think it's really important that we continue to tighten in the area to make it be the conservation district

that we want it to be," she said.

Orangeville's Royal Canadian Legion Branch 233 is on nearby John Street. Chuck Simpson, the Legion's past-president, said in a letter to council that members voted in March to petition council to exclude the Legion from heritage conservation.

"It was determined that there was no need to have another level of control added to the operations/mandate of Branch 233 Orangeville," he said.

Scott Wilson and his wife live on Bythia Street at a property determined by Stantec to be of no heritage contribution, he said in a letter to council. His neighbour's property has also been deemed to have no heritage contribution.

"To be required to comply with policies and regulations designed to protect heritage features which don't exist on our properties seems unfair and potentially represents an unnecessary use of time and expense," Wilson wrote.

He said he and his neighbour suggested the municipality set modified HCD boundaries as opposed to those outlined in the Stantec report.

Continued on Page A11

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First-degree murder charge laid in connection with 2024 death of Melancthon man

Written By SAM ODROWSKI

Dufferin Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) officers have charged one person in connection with the 2024 murder of 65-year-old Melancthon resident David Robson.

Jacek Trela, 29, of Mississauga, was charged with first-degree murder, arson and indignity to a dead body on Tuesday, April 28.

The OPP said others may have been involved in the homicide and is seeking information from the public that could lead to further arrests.

“While an arrest has been made in connection with the homicide of David Robson, we believe other individuals may be involved. We continue to urge anyone with information to contact police. Our goal is to hold all those responsible for David’s death accountable and provide answers to his family,” said OPP Detective Inspector Mark Allison.

On April 1, 2024, officers responded to a report of a deceased individual near the intersection of Chinguacousy Road and King Street in Caledon.

The post-mortem examination confirmed that the deceased was Robson, and the cause of death was a homicide.

Before Robson’s body was found, he was last seen on March 21, 2024, in Melancthon. The following day, he was reported missing, along with his vehicle, a black 2017 Kia Sportage with Ontario licence plate DAMZ 252. On the same date, his residence was re-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

EFFECTIVE BILLBOARD: A large billboard that reads “Who murdered David Robson” was installed by the OPP outside of Orangeville, by County Road 9 and County Road 11, in an effort to receive tips from the public to help them find those responsible for Robson’s death.

ported on fire.

Trela remains in custody and was scheduled to appear before the Ontario Court of Justice in Orangeville on Wednesday, April 29. The charges filed against Trela have not been proven in court.

In late March, a public awareness campaign was launched by the OPP, with a bill-

board installed along County Road 9 by the intersection of County Road 11. The billboard displayed Robson’s image along with details of his missing vehicle — a 2017 black Kia Sportage bearing Ontario licence plate DAMZ 252.

“The billboard location was selected due to its high traffic volume, maximizing visibil-

ity among commuters and individuals traveling through the region. Investigators hoped that someone passing through might recognize the vehicle, recall seeing David Robson, or remember details they may not have initially connected to the investigation,” said Provincial Constable Andrew Fines from the Dufferin OPP.

“Following the most recent media release and the installation of the billboard, tips were received by police. While we cannot comment on the specifics of those tips, we are grateful for the continued interest and support from both the media and the public. Public outreach remains a valuable tool in advancing investigations, and we encourage anyone with information who has not yet come forward to contact police or, if they wish to remain anonymous, Crime Stoppers.”

Dufferin OPP’s Crime Unit is continuing the investigation, under the direction of the OPP Criminal Investigation Branch (CIB), in conjunction with the Office of the Chief Coroner and Ontario Forensic Pathology Service. Assistance is also being provided by OPP Forensic Identification Services.

Police believe other individuals may be involved or have information that could assist the investigation.

Anyone with information is urged to contact the Dufferin OPP at 1-888-310-1122. Should you wish to remain anonymous, contact Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS) or ontariocrimestoppers.ca.

Ontario government announces close to \$300,000 in gas tax funding for Orangeville to improve transit services

The Town of Orangeville is receiving nearly \$300,000 from the Ontario government through the provincial gas tax.

The funding is intended to support local transit systems and can be used to maintain or enhance service for residents.

In addition to Orangeville’s funding, the Town of Caledon has been allocated nearly \$570,000.

Orangeville Mayor Lisa Post thanked the province for providing her municipality with annual funding.

“The Town of Orangeville appreciates this continued investment through Ontario’s Gas Tax program,” said Orangeville Mayor Lisa Post. “This funding will help enhance local transit services that residents rely on every day to access work, school, appointments and community amenities. Strong partnerships between municipalities and other orders of government are essential to building complete, connected and resilient communities.”

She added, “Investments like this help municipalities maintain accessible, reliable and sustainable transit options as our communities continue to grow.”

Ontario’s Gas Tax program determines funding based on the amount of gasoline sold in the province during the previous fiscal year, as well as local ridership and population levels.

The gas tax funding can be used by municipalities to extend service hours, purchase transit vehicles, add routes, improve accessibility, and upgrade transit infrastructure.

“Our government is committed to supporting municipalities as they grow and improve local transit,” said Dufferin Caledon MPP Sylvia Jones.

“This funding will help Orangeville and Caledon continue to provide reliable and accessible transit options for residents, connecting people to jobs, services and opportunities in their communities.”

Investigators continue to seek witnesses or dashcam footage of fatal two-vehicle collision in Mulmur

Dufferin Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) officers are once again asking for the public’s assistance in identifying any witnesses to the fatal motor vehicle collision in Mulmur.

On April 19, at approximately 1:30 p.m., a serious two-vehicle collision occurred at the intersection of County Road 17 and County Road 19 (Prince of Whales Road). A six-year-old boy was pronounced dead at the scene, while a two-year-old child who was transported to a Toronto-area trauma centre with life-threatening injuries is now

in stable condition.

Investigators are particularly interested in speaking with anyone who may have witnessed the collision or who may have dashcam footage from the area at the time of the incident.

The investigation remains ongoing.

Anyone with information or dashcam footage 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.

Dufferin OPP reports missing 17-year-old has been found safe

A 17-year-old male who was previously reported missing in the Orangeville Citizen’s March 26 edition has been located safe.

He was last seen at the Bramelea Go station in Brampton on March 13 and the

Dufferin Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) issued a statement on April 20 saying he had been found.

The OPP would like to thank community members for their assistance in this matter.

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M&M Food Market Orangeville honoured with national Community Involvement Award

Written By SAM ODROWSKI

Many Orangeville businesses play an important role in ensuring local sports teams, charities and community groups receive sponsorships and donations as needed.

But one local business is being recognized for its community involvement on a national scale.

Out of 352 M&M Food Market stores in Canada, the Orangeville location was chosen to receive the Community Involvement Award. The award is given to the M&M location that gives the most back to its community and receives the highest overall customer satisfaction rating.

The Orangeville M&M Food Market also received the Club of Excellence Award for the store's overall performance, relating to sales, cleanliness, and community involvement.

Both awards were received by the local M&Ms owners, Laura-Lee and Grant Laverty, during a convention in Niagara Falls from April 13 to 16.

"It was amazing to get these two awards out of 352 stores," said Laverty. "We have an amazing community. We give to them, and they, in turn, support our store."

Laverty said her store is always looking for ways to support the community and regularly donates to Headwaters Health Care Centre, Orangeville sports teams, Big Brothers Big Sisters, and local events. The local M&Ms also accept donations for the Boys and Girls Club of Canada.

While the community focus anchors M&M's values, Laverty said she attributes much of her store's success to her staff, who exemplify those values.

"The team is absolutely phenomenal here," she said. "Their customer service, the way that they welcome our customers into the store, the way that they help them out, carrying groceries to the car, they're just an outstanding team."

Laverty also noted her appreciation for the customers who regularly shop at her store and support the charitable causes it champions.



SAM ODROWSKI PHOTO

COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS: Orangeville M&M Food Market owners Laura-Lee and her husband Grant Laverty hold up their Community Involvement Award trophies they received at an M&M convention in Niagara last week. The award is given to M&M location that gives the most back to its community and receives the highest overall customer satisfaction rating.

"Without them, we would have nothing," she said. "We honestly live in a wonderful community where everybody is so giving and supportive, whether we're donating towards the hospital or somewhere else, the customers are really great and get involved." Looking ahead, M&M Food Market Or-

angeville is hosting its annual Community BBQ on May 23 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in support of Headwaters Health Care Centre. Everyone is invited to join for burgers, hot dogs, chips and drinks, with free samples available as well.

The store is located at 47 Broadway, Or-

angeville.

"We'd like to thank everybody very much for coming in to our store, for their smiles when they come in," Laverty said. "Everybody's involvement within the community and within our store - we really appreciate it."



CONGRATULATIONS to Orangeville M&M Food Market owners Laura-Lee and Grant Laverty on receiving the Community Involvement Award!



From all of us at the Orangeville Citizen, thank you for all your efforts in supporting our community

Black Parent Council hosts info night after release of UGDSB human rights review

Written By JOSHUA DRAKES
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Amid the release of a human rights review of the Upper Grand District School Board's (UGDSB) approach to addressing racism in its schools, a group of parents has formed an advocacy group to campaign for change. The Black Parent Council, formed from black parents and allies from across the UGDSB, sought to directly push the school board to address what they see as systemic failures to address racism in schools across its district.

The group hosted an information session on April 18 featuring human rights lawyer Patrick Case to break down the lengthy human rights review for parents and community members.

The meeting engaged in an open discussion focused on clarifying the review process, its findings, and what potential actions could follow.

Patti Thomas, an Orangeville mother and member of the Black Student Council, said that the event was very helpful in getting a better understanding of what was being discussed. She said that Case broke it all down in

an easy-to-digest fashion.

"Honestly, for myself, I understood it a little bit, but not deep into the context," she said. "Case explained everything, then it made it more understandable for people like me that didn't understand the longer documents."

After learning more about the review, Thomas said she agrees with the findings, the shortcomings, and the next steps to improve. However, she remains skeptical about how these changes will be implemented going forward, given how long they have been campaigning for change.

This fight is personal for her, as she said that her own daughter has experienced racism at a local school ran by the UGDSB. She wants to see concrete plans for change moving forward.

"What are your next steps in moving forward as the board?" Thomas said. "What are you going to do to work with the findings that were provided to you and make a change? You can say we've worked on it, we've dealt with it, but I want to see how you've dealt with it. What are the findings after incidents are addressed? Do the families feel like they've been supported?"

These sentiments were echoed by Black

Parent Council President Nia James, who said that the information session was necessary because the review had not been widely enough shared, leaving many families unaware of its contents or significance.

"In our opinion, it was released too quietly," she said. "There was coverage from a couple of reporters, but as for the knowledge being spread across the board in a way that would be more informative and have people realize it was out there, it was kind of like a self-discovery for us. It wasn't like 'Hey, the review's done, this is what it found', you had to go through several links on their website to be able to get to the actual review to read it."

The meeting also served as a space for community members to discuss next steps and the importance of maintaining public attention on the issue. A central theme throughout the evening was accountability, with participants emphasizing that the review's recommendations will require sustained pressure to ensure they are implemented in practice.

"I think that it's going to be a matter of external pressure as well as internal pressure, because I think there's many people in the education system and in Upper Grand who do want to see these changes happen," James said. "Having the board commit and follow through will be the next step, that means dates, deadlines and clear plans."

The independent review itself examined policies, procedures, and lived experiences across the board, drawing on thousands of survey responses, written submissions, and interviews with students, parents, and staff.

The UGDSB has acknowledged and accepted the review in a statement released on their website.

"We asked for this review because we wanted an honest assessment of how well we are supporting human rights across our schools and workplaces," the statement read. "The reviewers gathered information from students, staff, families, and community members through surveys, interviews, and written submissions. More than 4,000 students and hundreds of staff and community members participated."

The review acknowledges that the board has taken steps toward improving equity, including establishing a human rights office and

developing new policies, though it also identifies ongoing systemic issues.

Findings related to anti-Black racism point to persistent inequities in student outcomes and experiences.

The review also outlines broader concerns that contribute to these inequities, including inconsistent handling of discrimination complaints, lack of clear and accessible reporting processes, and uneven implementation of policies across schools.

The review recommends stronger accountability measures, clearer complaint pathways, expanded data tracking on identity-based outcomes, and mandatory training focused on anti-Black racism and human rights practices.

The board has acknowledged shortcomings and systemic problems that persist in the school system and has promised to implement changes to address them.

"We accept the results of this report," the UGDSB statement read. "We are committed to taking action on recommendations included in the report, and to continuing the work already underway. This includes strengthening reporting and response processes, improving learning and support for staff, creating new advisory committees, improving communication and transparency, [and] providing regular public updates on our progress."

The statement continued, "We know this work will take time. We are committed to listening, learning, and improving. We will share regular updates so our community can see how this work is progressing."

Going forward, the UGDSB has posted a tracking page on its website for visitors to monitor progress toward addressing the recommendations and concerns from the review. It is a step towards greater transparency that parents have been asking for.

For attendees at the Orangeville information session and the Black Parent Council, however, it is just the beginning of the changes they want to see. The focus now shifts to ensuring that those recommendations are enacted and lead to measurable change within the school system.

To view the review, the UGDSB response and their tracking page, go to <https://www.ugdsb.ca/page/human-rights-review> and <https://www.ugdsb.ca/page/human-rights-tracker>.

Dufferin OPP announces reduced load restrictions lifted on all county roadways

The Dufferin Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) is advising the public that reduced load restrictions have been lifted on all County of Dufferin roads effective April 20.

All vehicles must continue to comply with normal weight limits and applicable regulations under provincial legislation.

Please note that this update applies only to Dufferin County roads. Reduced load restrictions on township and municipal roads may still be in effect. Each local municipality will provide updates as they become available. Motorists and commercial vehicle operators are encouraged to contact their local municipality for the most up-to-date information regarding local road restrictions.

Under County of Dufferin By-Law 2005-

32, reduced load restrictions are enforced annually during the spring thaw to protect road infrastructure, as this is when roads are most susceptible to damage.

The Ontario Provincial Police remind all drivers to remain aware of posted signage and to ensure compliance with all applicable regulations.

Members of the Dufferin OPP remain committed to public safety through proactive and innovative policing in partnership with our communities.

If you suspect someone is driving while impaired, call 9-1-1. To report non-emergency information, contact the OPP at 1-888-310-1122 or Crime Stoppers anonymously at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS) or online at www.crimestoppersdm.com.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CAMPAIGN UNDERWAY: Orangeville's Tim Hortons locations have launched the spring Smile Cookie Campaign, which kicked off on April 27 and runs until May 3. Krista Goudreault (right), owner of three local Tim Hortons, decorated smile cookies with Nicole Warren from the Headwaters Health Care Foundation (HHCF) on Tuesday, April 28. So far, around 11,000 cookies have been sold, and 100 per cent of the proceeds are being donated to HHCF. The other two Tim Hortons locations in town are owned by Goudreault's sister, and they're both dedicated to supporting the hospital through the campaign. Last year, \$50,000 was donated, and since the campaign started 20 years ago, over \$500,000 has been raised for HHCF. Goudreault's family has owned the five local Tim Hortons for 41 years and has always been strong supporters of local health care.



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ORANGEVILLE CITIZEN

Water protection is missing from aggregate rules, says Mulmur advocate

Written By JAMES MATTHEWS

Water gives life. That's as well known as the fact that maintaining the integrity of a healthy water supply is paramount.

The Mono Mulmur Citizens' Coalition and the Town of Mono hosted a public meeting on April 18 that provided an overview of watersheds from the Headwaters to the Great Lakes and how they work as a complete system.

Safe and suitable water ensures Mono's future. That was the thrust of the town hall meeting held at the municipality's council chamber.

Stephen Middleton, a coalition board member and Mulmur resident, said Ontario was world-renowned for protecting the watershed, beginning with its conservation legislation dating back to the 1940s.

Numerous different groups and governing bodies focused on environmental issues fractured the effort.

"Today there is no integrated method of looking at the current health of watersheds in Ontario and, basically, looking at the cumulative effect of various things that we do as a society on those watersheds and what it means for the future," Middleton said.

Of 886 watersheds within this jurisdiction, more than 50 per cent are rated in poor to fair condition. The things the government has been adopting, such as Bill 5, the Protect Ontario by Unleashing Our Economy Act, remove environmental protective measures.

Middleton said the legislation reduces impediments to development that were designed to protect watershed health.

"We have a threat, but we have no way of looking at it, and nobody is consider-

ing, also, that we are going into a period of unprecedented climate change," he said. "There's going to be a lot more stress on these water systems and what we are doing right now is actually decreasing the protections of them."

The April 18 town hall gathering in Mono was a venue to discuss some of the things that can be done to ensure the integrity of the watershed and offset the stresses on the water resource.

"Water, air, and healthy soil are going to be our most precious natural resources," Middleton said.

It seems the only way some choose to value the aquifers that sustain millions of people is how the land is worth as quarried aggregate. An economic evaluation of what it would cost to replicate what's provided by local aquifers with water from, say, the Great Lakes would show an immense value.

There is no method for looking at the cumulative effects of a compromised aquifer 50 years from now.

"The planning and the care for a precious resource is really kind of absent," Middleton said.

The Aggregate Resources Act specifically forbids municipalities from asking for a demonstration of need for gravel from a particular place, regardless of how much is available in the area already, he said.

"Not only is it damaging to aquifers, you can't even ask why you need to take this gravel," he said. "We need gravel. I get that, but the need to take this gravel from this place, that question is not permitted."

The part of the legislation that's a voice for water protection directly contradicts the part that deals with aggregate extraction.

"It's a paradox I haven't been able to reconcile in my head yet," Middleton said.

Third Street resident pushes back against proposed pizza restaurant rezoning application

Written By JAMES MATTHEWS

At least one Third Street resident has sounded the alarm about the potential for increased traffic, light pollution, and noise that may come with a proposed restaurant in the residential area.

Properties at 4 Third Street and 6 Third Street are designated as residential in the town's Official Plan, and they're zoned Multiple Residential Medium Density (RM1) in its Zoning Bylaw. Morgan Planning and Development Inc. submitted an application in January on behalf of Anjinov Management Inc., c/o Orangeville Number 4 Inc., to amend the Official Plan and Zoning Bylaw.

The proponents want to build a single-storey pizza restaurant on 6 Third Street and use the 4 Third Street location for parking. PizzaCo63 Pizzeria, the proposed development, will focus on takeout and pickup orders with limited indoor and patio seating.

The dwelling at 4 Third Street will be torn down, while the structure at 6 Third Street will be redeveloped as part of the plan.

To allow that, the land needs to be designated a Central Business District (CBD) in the Official Plan and rezoned to CBD through amendments.

James Hunter of Morgan Planning and Development, who represents the ownership group, said during council's April 27 meeting that the amendments will create a vibrant, supportive community on the land.

Further, the number of technical studies submitted as part of the amendment requests demonstrates that the development is compatible with Orangeville's downtown core, he said.

"We'd like to highlight that there are community benefits to this," Hunter said. "We believe this will create that kind of commercial restaurant node ... creating a neighbourhood hub with integrated infrastructure, enhancing the social and economic vitality of Orangeville's downtown core."

Resident Michael Manuel expressed concerns about the proposed redevelopment. The dwellings on the Third Street parcels have already been partially gutted for renovations, he said.

That work started after people associated with Greystones Restaurant bought the properties "for a substantial amount due to their intention to move forward with their agenda regardless of public opinion or opposition," Manuel said.

"Currently, the activity of the restaurant is much more than a nuisance to the surrounding neighbourhood and any expansion or addition would certainly affect the residents' lifestyle."

Simply, given that the area was intended to be residential, it should prevent the increased patron and vehicle traffic that the proposed redevelopment would likely bring.

"The current area is poorly suited for what is being proposed," he said and added that there are already three pizza restaurants in a two-block radius of the location.

Manuel suggested the proponents consider a different property elsewhere in Orangeville.

One of Manuel's neighbours said that the patrons of the existing restaurant have caused a parking shortage on First Avenue. She said the properties eyed for redevelopment would be better used to help address the dearth of affordable housing.

"I need to tell my visitors to find parking further down First Avenue or at the (Orangeville Town Hall) parking lot," she said.

Councillor Debbie Sherwood said she is concerned about the lack of parking shown in the proposal.

Hunter said the pizzeria will include 11 parking spaces instead of the required 18, but that is acceptable because primarily take-out and pick-up orders will be served.

Coun. Joe Andrews asked if the proposed development requires a traffic analysis study.

Brandon Ward, the town's planning and infrastructure manager, said he believed one of the proposal's supporting technical reports was about traffic.

"That has been reviewed by our transportation group to look at its impact on the surrounding transportation network and its viability," Ward said.

Commercial motor vehicle enforcement results in eight vehicles being placed out of service

Dufferin Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) C Platoon, in partnership with the Ministry of Transportation (MTO), continue to conduct commercial motor vehicle (CMV) safety enforcement initiatives throughout North Dufferin County.

On April 22, officers carried out a focused CMV enforcement initiative, completing a total of 32 inspections. As a result, eight vehicles were placed out of service and eight Provincial Offence Notices were issued.

"The Dufferin OPP would like to thank the majority of CMV operators who take pride in maintaining their equipment and ensuring it is in safe working condition before travelling on Ontario roadways," said Dufferin OPP.

Key CMV Safety Tips for the Public:

- Stay out of blind spots: if you can't see the driver, they can't see you
- Give trucks space: they require longer stopping distances



- Be cautious at turns: large vehicles may swing wide
- Pass safely: only pass on the left and ensure you can see the entire vehicle before merging
- Watch for signals and hazards: pay attention to lights, indicators, and reversing vehicles

If you suspect impaired driving, call 9-1-1. For non-emergency information, contact the OPP at 1-888-310-1122 or report anonymously through Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or online at www.crimestoppersdm.com.

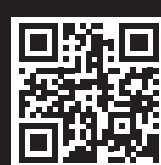
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Inclusive baseball program gives Orangeville children with disabilities a place to belong

Written By SAM ODROWSKI

Access to sports and recreation programs can be a challenge for children with disabilities — but a local baseball league is trying to change that.

The Orangeville and Headwaters Baseball Association is gearing up for another season of its 10-week Challenger Baseball program, open to youth 18 and under with physical or cognitive disabilities.

“We bring them all onto the field, everything from kids that are fully walking to children in wheelchairs, strollers, walkers... everything,” said Stephanie Coombes, the program’s coordinator and coach.

“The goal is to give these kids the vision of playing baseball and make their dreams come true, but also give the parents the breaks that they also need.”

As the parent of a young child with a disability, Coombes saw a lack of activities in town for them to enjoy. While her son currently plays in the Orangeville and Headwaters Baseball Association’s house league, she said he may not be able to keep up with older players in the future, making the Challenger program especially important for her family.

“I’m part of a big group of families here in town that also saw the same challenges — not enough summer sports for our kids, not enough summer activities, not even camp. We just needed something to get them out and keep them active,” Coombes explained.

For 2026, the 10-week program runs every Friday evening from June 5 to Aug. 21 at the ball diamonds in Orangeville’s Springbrook Park. Coombes said she’s hoping the program will grow following the success of its inaugural season.

“The first year went really well. We had a lot of kids who truly enjoyed coming back week after week. They showed up to the fields with the biggest of smiles,” Coombes told the Cit-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

SUCCESSFUL SEASON: The Challengers Baseball program, ran by the Orangeville and Headwaters Baseball Association, had a solid turnout and buy-in from the community for its inaugural season in 2025. The program offers children with disabilities the opportunity to play and is now gearing up for its second season, launching on June 5.

zen. And the participants weren’t the only ones sporting big grins.

Many parents have found the program to be a godsend for their children’s social connections and sense of belonging.

“It’s so nice to see my daughter playing with children who won’t judge her abilities or make comments about the way she walks or the way she talks. Nobody’s patting her on the head — everybody respects the boundaries and understands that everybody comes with their own abilities, and we’re here to do this together,” said the parent of a local participant.

The most rewarding part of running the program for Coombes has been watching the players grow and change over the season.

“We would start at the beginning of the year and they were shy, a little timid to get out there,” she said. “By the end of the season they had it down pat.”

To support accessibility, the Town of Orangeville constructed a crushed-stone path for children using walkers and wheelchairs. This

year, the town will be paving a pathway to the dugout to further improve access.

As impactful as the program has been locally, Coombes stressed that it wouldn’t be possible without the work of supportive volunteers. She added that volunteering with the program can be a very rewarding experience.

“You become a friend, you become a cheerleader, and you become a reason that a child feels competent stepping out onto a field. Watching a player light up after hitting that ball or crossing home plate is exactly why we do what we do,” Coombes said.

“And truthfully, when they see their buddies show up to the field — because commitment is a really big piece of it — it’s like getting to school and seeing their teacher. Their faces light up and they’re so excited to be there and to have their person. It makes a huge impact.”

The program is run in partnership with the Jays Care Foundation, and local participants went to an All-Star Series at the Rogers Centre last year. There were morning and afternoon sessions for participants to enjoy activities out

in the open field, training different skills.

Jays Care Foundation provides the foam bats, foam balls, gloves, and cones used to run the program, free of charge.

Coombes said the program ran with 11 players in 2025, and already has 13 registered for the 2026 season.

There are 124 Challenger Baseball Leagues across Canada, all run in partnership with the Jays Care Foundation.

The Jays Care Foundation offers up to \$350 per child to help with registration fees for eligible families through its First Pitch Fund. Parents can apply online at www.jayscare.com/first-pitch-fund.

Anyone interested in enrolling their child can register at playbaseball.ca and anyone over the age of 12 who is interested in volunteering can email Challengerbaseball@playbaseball.ca.

“We are so proud to bring Challenger Baseball and Softball to our community — and even prouder to help every child get the chance to play, belong, and shine,” said Coombes.

Community Living Dufferin plans month-long event series to celebrate inclusion and connection

Written By JOSHUA DRAKES
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Community Living Dufferin (CLD) is inviting residents across the region to take part in a month of events celebrating inclusion, connection and community during Community Living Month.

The month of May is Community Living Month in Ontario, and Community Living Dufferin (CLD) is planning to celebrate the work of the Community Living Movement and its 125 associations spread across the province.

CLD has planned a range of activities aimed at bringing people together while highlighting the importance of inclusion for individuals of

all abilities. Throughout the month, staff and participants will mark themed days and take part in blue and green spirit days, encouraging the community to show support by wearing the organization’s colours.

A key highlight will be the Community Living Day walk, roll or ride event in downtown Orangeville on May 13.

The event begins at Rotary Park at 10:30 a.m. and will include a stop at Town Hall, creating a visible celebration of belonging in the heart of the community. Local officials, including Orangeville Mayor Lisa Post, are invited to take part alongside residents.

Additional activities will include recognition of Neighbour Appreciation Week and a

closing afternoon social event. Community Living Dufferin will also spotlight the people it supports through a social media campaign, sharing stories from its homes and programs.

To further mark the occasion, the organization’s East Garafraxa headquarters will be illuminated in blue and green throughout the month.

The celebrations will wrap up with the return of the Creative Partners on Stage (CPOS) Festival, running May 29 to 31 at the Theatre Orangeville Opera House.

The CPOS Festival is a weekend celebration of theatre, art and music that highlights the talents of neuro-diverse artists in the community. Presented in partnership with

Community Living Dufferin and Theatre Orangeville, the annual event showcases performances from CPOS participants and other local artists.

This year’s festival features two original productions, Life OFF Mars and Picture This, staged at Theatre Orangeville. In addition to the performances, attendees can enjoy an extended intermission experience with concessions and an artisan market.

Organizers say the month is a perfect opportunity for the broader community to come together and celebrate not just the efforts of local Community Living movements, but also celebrate diversity itself while supporting a more inclusive future.

Town of Orangeville

Upcoming meetings

May 2026

Committee of Adjustment	Wednesday, May 6 at 6 p.m. Council chambers, 87 Broadway
Sustainable Orangeville	Thursday, May 7 at 6 p.m. Council chambers, 87 Broadway
Council (regular)	Monday, May 11 at 7 p.m. Council chambers, 87 Broadway Live stream: orangeville.ca/WatchLive
Access Orangeville	Thursday, May 14 at 10 a.m. Council chambers, 87 Broadway
Community Improvement Plan	Tuesday, May 19 at 12 p.m. Main floor boardroom, 87 Broadway
Age Friendly	Tuesday, May 19 at 1 p.m. Council chambers, 87 Broadway
Heritage Orangeville	Thursday, May 21 at 6 p.m. Council chambers, 87 Broadway
Council (regular)	Monday, May 25 at 7 p.m. Council chambers, 87 Broadway Live stream: orangeville.ca/WatchLive
Orangeville Public Library Board	Wednesday, May 27 at 5 p.m. Mill Street Library, 1 Mill St. Call in: 1-289-801-5774 ID: 687 774 475#

Unable to attend a meeting in person? Connect virtually by following the instructions on the council agenda, or request to join committee meetings virtually (subject to availability) by contacting committees@orangeville.ca or 519-941-0440 ext. 7321 during regular business hours and at least one hour before the meeting.

Meeting dates/times are subject to change.

For agendas and participation details, visit orangeville.ca/meetings.



Sustainable Orangeville 2026 grant applications

Are you passionate about the environment? Do you have a project or run a program that works to improve sustainability in Orangeville?

You may be eligible for Sustainable Orangeville’s grant. **Applications are due June 1, 2026 at 4 p.m.**
orangeville.ca/SustainableOrangeville



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

Carts will be delivered in March and can be used as of April 1.



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circularmaterials.ca/dufferincounty

Mono cemetery to finally mark graves of 19th-century couple

Written By JOSHUA DRAKES
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

A long-forgotten chapter of local history is being illuminated as one man's deep dive into his family's past reveals two ancestors buried for more than a century without markers.

Most people don't regularly think about their ancestors, be it who they were, what they did, and how their lives were lived – but Michael Grimes is tracing his family line back for generations to make sure they are properly remembered.

It all started from a casual comment from his mother that set Grimes on a journey through family history, one that is now culminating in long-overdue recognition for two forgotten ancestors.

"It really kind of got started with my mom," he said. "She said to me one day, 'Did you know that my great grandmother died in the Orangeville jail?' And I started thinking more and more about it from there."

Surprised by the revelation, he began digging into genealogical records alongside his mother, who had long been interested in ancestry research. What began as curiosity quickly became a passion project

as Grimes took on the work of piecing together the story.

"After my mom told me about it, we started to piece stuff together from there," he said. "Originally my mom was doing it, she's been working with ancestry forever. She's almost 90 now, so over time I took it over more and more, because she was worried at first that there would be no one to continue the work."

Through historical documents, newspaper clippings and archival research, Grimes uncovered the story of his great-great-grandmother, Mary Ann (Gibson) Smith, who died in 1899 after spending her final year in jail as a described vagrant – likely suffering from dementia at a time when mental health was poorly understood.

"She likely had mental health issues or a form of dementia," Grimes said. "It was back in the 1800s, so mental health wasn't understood, and they didn't have mental institutions. They just put people like that in jails with criminals. She was actually the last female inmate of the jail."

Her husband, Robert Smith, had died earlier.

Both were buried in unmarked graves at Mitchell Cemetery, a historic site in Mono Township.

With no formal burial records marking their exact locations, Grimes relied on painstaking research. By tracing family members interred nearby – including their daughters and relatives – he concluded the couple was buried near an existing family monument. The cluster of graves, though unmarked, pointed to a shared resting place.

Determined to correct the historical oversight, Grimes approached municipal officials for permission to install a headstone.

"My mom always said that she wanted to put something out there, a stone to properly mark the graves," Grimes said. "We got in touch with Ralph Manktelow, a Mono councillor. He put us in contact with the clerk, and they granted permission for a flat stone. Mitchell Cemetery has been under perpetual care since 1962, so basically it's closed and historic, so we had to get permission to place a stone there."

Along the way, the project has grown beyond a single goal of honouring a forgotten grave. Grimes has connected with a wide network of relatives – some previously unknown – spread across Ontario and beyond.

Many have contributed financially to the

headstone and joined in the research effort, helping uncover generations of family history tied to the Hockley Valley area.

"Along the way while we were doing our research, we found a lot of second cousins, third cousins, a number of them we became really close to," Grimes said. "Everybody's really spread out. People are in Vancouver and Sudbury and all over the place."

"It's fantastic, the stuff that I've learned along the way. It's been a great experience," he added.

The journey has also revealed stories of early settlement, hardship and resilience, from immigration roots to connections with historic events and local landmarks. For Grimes, preserving that history has become just as important as marking the graves themselves.

A dedication ceremony is now planned for May 31 at Mitchell Cemetery in Mono. Grimes hopes to gather as many descendants as possible, along with community members who helped bring the project to life.

The ceremony will formally recognize Robert and Mary Ann Smith, ensuring their names – and their story – are no longer lost to time.



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Mother's Day A CELEBRATION HONOURING MOM



Inspirational gifts for Mother's Day

Mother's Day is devoted to expressing love and showering praise on mothers, step-mothers and any other figure in one's life who has taken on a motherly role.

It is customary to lavish extra praise on moms come Mother's Day, and that often involves gift-giving. The following are five gifts that can ensure Mom knows her efforts and unconditional love have not gone unnoticed.

relate the phrase to rough patches in life, but it also can refer to cherishing all the moments that are fleeting. The book offers many inspirational passages and lessons that can be applied to all aspects of life. It can be a touching gift for a mom, grandmother or another special woman. Available through Amazon, Barnes & Noble and at www.nataliefrisciapancetti.com.

1. Prompt mindful thinking:

The cards from Sunny Present Empowering Questions Cards pose questions to prompt meditation, journaling or simply to practice mindfulness during the day. They are a great way to encourage positive self-talk. Each of the 52 cards feature a door in the Estonian city of Tallinn. Available through Amazon and www.sunnypresent.com.

1. Relaxing home spa experience:

Many people have turned their bathrooms into home spas, particularly empty nesters who now have more time to relax and pamper themselves. Spending time in a relaxing shower is a way for Mom to clear her mind and unwind, and Shower Steamers from Body Restore can set the ideal environment. Purchase on Amazon and include alongside additional home spa necessities like loofahs or a bathrobe.

2. Motivational car-do candles:

A little aromatherapy can treat any mother to an uplifting or relaxing fragrance in her special place in the home. But these inspirational candles from Bianchi Candle Co. feature names like "bravery," "joy" and "gratitude" and a motivational message. Purchase at bianchicandleco.com.

5. Ancestry exploration:

Foster greater bonds in the family by giving Mom an opportunity to further trace her heritage. Popular genealogy companies include Ancestry.com, MyHeritage.com and 23andme.com, enabling anyone to enjoy a look back at the lineage that helped shape who they are today. These companies can help trace ancestors and even connect people with distant relatives.

3. Inspirational coffee table book:

Author and educator Natalie Friscia Pancetti wrote, "This Too... Life-Isms to Savor the Sweetness of Life and Calm You Through the Storms" to pay homage to her parents, particularly her father, who was fond of the phrase, "this too shall pass." Pancetti says people often

Mother's Day gifting can revolve around inspirational and heartfelt gifts that show special mothers how much they are appreciated.

DAY TRIPS MAKE Mother's DAY special

Mother's Day 2026 will be celebrated across the United States, Canada, Australia, and many other countries on Sunday, May 10. Mother's Day is celebrated on the second Sunday in May, and has been since 1914, when President Woodrow Wilson signed a proclamation establishing the day as a national holiday.

the American Revolution. Williamsburg, Virginia, and nearby Jamestown also offer a historical touch. Colonial Williamsburg is a living-history museum where actors in period costume depict daily Colonial life. At Jamestown, walk in the steps of Captain John Smith and Pocahontas and explore a unique locale in American history.

There are plenty of ways to celebrate mothers, grandmothers, and stepmothers, including with gifts and celebrations. However, gift givers also may want to trade wrapped presents for a shared experience. Consider day trips or overnight excursions as options for treating Mom to something special. Here are some day trips that can make lasting memories.

PEACE IN NATURE

Some mothers find that nature is their happy place. A garden tour or a visit to the nearest botanical garden is a great choice. Many beautiful flowers peak in early May, including late tulips, lilacs and azaleas. Roses also may start budding around this time. Butchart Gardens in Canada is a 55-acre National Historic Site known for its Sunken Garden, and can be a lovely spot to tour. Another option is the Longwood Gardens in Pennsylvania, which boasts formal gardens, meadows and large indoor conservatories.

WINE COUNTRY

For moms who love wine, a visit to a nearby vineyard is an elegant way to celebrate. However, there's also the option to travel to historically popular and well-regarded wine regions, such as Napa Valley, Sonoma County or Willamette Valley in the western United States. An even more epic adventure can be a trip to key regions in Europe like Bordeaux, France, Tuscany, Italy, or Rioja, Spain.

COASTAL ESCAPE

When treating Mom to some "vitamin sea," a day trip to the coast cannot be beat. A walk on the sand certainly can be a winning choice, but activities like a Mother's Day brunch cruise on a riverboat or ferry can elevate the excursion.

HISTORIC SITES

Moms who are history buffs can travel to areas of the country that are known for their historical significance. Boston, with its hop-on-hop-off trolley tours, provides an up-close look at sites that shaped

Letting mom experience different day trips can be a special way to set this Mother's Day apart.

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LOCAL COMMUNITY EVENTS

Orangeville-based artist finds beauty in imperfection through wabi-sabi

Written By CONSTANCE SCRAFIELD

Local artist Fabienne Good has been interested in and followed the ideas behind the Japanese philosophy of wabi-sabi in her art. Basically, wabi-sabi embraces the ideas of imperfection, incompleteness and impermanence.

Admitting that nothing lasts forever and accepting imperfection leaves the door open to self-acceptance, that we can be flawed and forgiven.

It also leads to an interesting approach to making art that has captivated Good for some time.

The Citizen interviewed the Orangeville-based artist earlier this week to delve into her philosophical fascination with broken vases, which have been mended with gold in a way that shows the breaks, as a famous example.

"I promote wabi-sabi in art," Good said, noting that she also enjoys working with materials which she dyes in the shibori way. This involves twisting and folding the material, which varies from project to project, creating unpredictable patterns with each piece.

"I keep making knots and twisting the material every time to enjoy the charm of imperfection," she said. "Wabi-sabi talks about aging, too. How we are getting older and celebrating that nothing lasts forever, with a sort-of acceptance of that. Standing against perfection. Celebrating anything not having to last forever."

Some of her work is done in tandem with her friend, Elif Raskin.

Recently, Good worked on an exhibition on the actions of Shifting Landscapes, which was centred on buildings, and she took the opposing stance of their deterioration, which, as she remarked, were not "altogether new ideas."

Good turned her attention to the Dufferin Forest perspective of its changes over time, describing moments when you come across it on your own and "you think you have discovered it."

For a significant portion of her artistic life, Good has been a paper sculptor, using pri-

marily glossy magazines as her medium, to twist into very tight rolls, fine enough to act as straws with which she has woven many pieces of art as sculptures and useful objects, large and small, all the way to baskets of many sizes, shapes and colour combinations to wallets. What was amazing, especially with the wallets, was that they seemed never to deteriorate.

Coming back to paper sculpture, she defined them to represent landscapes as a different way of visualizing what landscapes can be.

During a visit to western Canada, she went to see the Hoodoos, those 20-foot sandstone towers of erosion over millions of years, yet sufficiently fragile that protection against climbing them can result in large fines and even jail time.

Good was less impressed with the magic around them as giants protecting people than she was to see them as something to think about, as shifting landscapes. In this quiet space, she considered the empty time for thinking, the gratitude for boredom, surely a space for creating. As a child, she enjoyed being by herself for a long time with a lot of thoughts.

Back home, she commented in contrast, "I like my hands being busy."

The pieces she has made show her interest not only in the work – the idea and the object – but also in the byproduct.

She keeps circling around the same thing, saying, "Even when you're doing a project you have done before, there are always shades of difference. There is a natural progression until the passing. The interesting thing is when I'm doing different things, the ideas are revolving the same thing."

There are priorities always, and for Good, it is promoting the importance of creativity. People say they are not creative, but those muscles need exercise – like yoga – but you get better like a muscle you have to treat or train.

"I used to teach kids from three to four years old," she related. "They wondered at first what to think but they began filling in their notes – using their own ideas."

She talked about the upcoming Tapestry



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

LOCAL ART: Orangeville artist Fabienne Good stands with her sculpture at the opening night of the 45th Insights Exhibition at the Wellington County Museum & Archives on April 23. The juried show featured 65 pieces of art from Wellington, Dufferin, Grey, Huron, and Perth Counties.

Music and Art event coming up at Headwaters Arts Gallery at the Alton Mill Arts Centre, in which Good is participating and helping with the show. She admires those six-by-six-inch canvases, displaying small artworks, reflected by the music chosen for the single day of the show.

What is so important about creativity, for Good, is that it drives innovation and enhances complex problem-solving.

"It allows individuals to navigate challenges with fresh perspectives, turning obstacles into opportunities, and keeps the mind active," she said.

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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The Citizen CROSSWORD

Puzzle No. 264510 • Solution on page: CLASSIFIEDS SECTION

CLUES ACROSS

- Purchase
- British news organization
- Midway between northeast and east
- Language specialist group
- Fancy automobile
- Small loop or series of loops
- Exploiter
- Don't know when yet
- Group of languages
- One who's finished
- After B
- Angled
- A place to adopt pets
- Swiss river
- Young boy
- Unexciting
- American comedian Vidale
- Peyton's little brother
- Corporate higher-up
- "All in the Family" star
- Strike something forcefully
- Up in the air (abbr.)
- Clay earth pigments
- Means to record brain activity
- Small constellation
- Embraces
- Brief description
- Exclude
- White (French)
- Insect
- A major division of geological time
- Soviet Socialist Republic

CLUES DOWN

- Type of whale
- In tune
- A citizen of Yemen
- Actress Ling
- One who supports
- Circus performer
- Yearly tonnage (abbr.)
- Quantitative fact
- Utah city
- Where a golfer begins
- Attendant
- The ancient Egyptian sun god
- Book of Chronicles (abbr.)
- Benedictine monk
- Not turbulent
- Car mechanics group
- Buffer used in chemistry
- Fall heavily
- Pie ___ mode
- The Brits love it
- Children's TV channel (abbr.)
- Jacksonville footballer
- Helps little firms
- ___ and behold
- A way to resemble
- Fingers
- Excessive indulgences
- You might be an "empty" one
- "How the West Was Won" writer
- European river
- They begin the alphabet
- The body's messenger

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

How they say that in...

English: Shovel
Spanish: Pala
Italian: Pala
French: Pelle
German: Schaufel

Maze Craze

Can you find your way through the maze?

Answer: Bamboo

Nature FACT!

Several species of this plant can grow a few inches each day. Due to the rapid growth, it needs to be contained.

Answer: Bamboo

Get the PICTURE?

Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

Answer: Cactus

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Orangeville residents raise concerns over proposed heritage district

Continued from FRONT

York Street residents Brenda and Terry Giles also ask that their home be excluded from the HCD boundaries. They said in a letter to council that the York Street homeowners in favour of the heritage district should have gone about registering their own properties under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act.

"Instead, they imposed their will on everyone else in the neighbourhood," they wrote. "Homeowners chose not to go this route, which would have carried a small title registration fee of \$70-\$100."

Tens of thousands of Orangeville taxpayers' dollars were used to foot the bill for another heritage study in an attempt to achieve very similar end results, they stated in their letter.

Bythia Street resident Henry Vandendam said he's apprehensive about the amount of control that comes with heritage designation. A homeowner becomes limited in what can be done with their property.

Vandendam said residents would have to use the same material and window shape when carrying out renovations. That means an arched window will have to be replaced with another arched window.

And that could be as much as four times the cost of a square window, he said.

"And if it's a wood window, you need to go with wood," he said. "That's another increase on the cost."

Homeowners can appeal such requirements, he said, and he asked what that would entail and what the cost would be.

"This plan, it's proposed," Vandendam said. "But do you know the actual percentage of the (property) owners that want it? Has that ever been looked at?"

Jones said the HCD plan doesn't include a policy requiring a window to be replaced with one of the same material as in a situation posed by Vandendam. Rather, policy is geared toward maintaining the window shape.

Jones said there are no percentage numbers of property owners who support heritage designation.

Brandon Ward, the town's planning and infrastructure manager, said property attributes are considered during the study process.

"If they meet or surpass certain thresholds for significance, then it warrants pursuit for designation," Ward said.

Not all feedback was against the heritage designation. York Street resident Elizabeth Smith supports the idea.

"The careful, informed guidance for future change is important to keep the area's unique vibe," Smith said. "Some clarification of the day-to-day impacts on house changes would be helpful to all neighbours. There are some conflicting opinions on what is planned or will be decided later."

Bythia Street resident Don Schimp supports the HCD proposal as a means of preserving the beauty and history of Kay Cee Gardens.

Karen Jones also lives on York Street. She agrees with most of the proposed district boundaries, and she hopes residents' concerns can be resolved and all parties will come together in favour of the designation.

Orangeville man clears hundreds of pounds of debris from local parks

Written By JOSHUA DRAKES
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

A local Orangeville man is stepping up where he thinks local authorities are falling short – excessive garbage buildup in public parks, specifically along the Mill Creek.

Terry Brooker, armed with nothing but his own two hands, is taking it upon himself to clean up the garbage buildup in public park spaces. He most recently cleaned Dragonfly Park on April 22.

Brooker began this mission not long ago, after a heart attack forced him to rest and recover, which gave him time to think. Since beginning his cleanup efforts, he has collected hundreds of pounds of trash and debris from Kay Cee Gardens and Dragonfly Park, locations he said should be safe for kids, pets and all visitors.

Brooker said that he just couldn't keep ignoring the garbage buildup.

"I find as you grow older, you realize what's more important, you realize, we can't keep doing this. We can't, we must do better, we have to," he said. "I walked by here (Dragonfly Park) three or four times before I said, I can't walk by this anymore. I'm going to do something about it."

He first started at Kay Cee Gardens after noticing large amounts of garbage building up in the creek under the footbridge. With permission from the Town of Orangeville, he got to work, cleaning out debris.

"I found 300 pounds of garbage at Kay Cee Gardens under the Covered Bridge, like comforters, blankets, telephones, broken glass of all sorts, all sorts of plastic, and styrofoam, you name it," Brooker said. "It filled the 50-gallon barrel to the top, completely. People walk their dogs there,

kids play there. It's completely unacceptable."

After finishing at Kay Cee Gardens, he turned his attention to Dragonfly Park after noticing a large garbage pile had blocked the waterway running through it.

"The river is all dammed, there's so much trash built up in there that the water can't get through," he said. "I decided to clean here next because I feel like a lot of people don't really know about this place, and what it actually is."

As Brooker cleaned out the garbage dam in Dragonfly Park, he said he was shocked and disappointed by what he found floating up the stream.

While he found common garbage items such as scraps, water bottles, cans, and wrappers, he also found items like a partially emptied propane tank, a gas canister, and other chemical containers that would pose a danger to local wildlife.

Brooker said that while he is passionate about what he does, he is still one man, and the only way to keep parks clean is to have consistent enforcement against littering and dumping, regular clean-ups, as well as making it more convenient to properly dispose of garbage in the future.

He said that Orangeville's waterways are what founded this town, and not enough is being done to protect that legacy.

"In the 1830s, Orangeville was settled at this location because of Mill Creek," Brooker said. "I think a lot of the garbage gets in Mill Creek by ignorance, neglect and sadly on purpose. We must come up with better ways to protect Mill Creek through surveillance, enforcement and education."

Maybe the Town of Orangeville could have a get together every year in honor of



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

GARBAGE OVERFLOW: The section of the Mill Creek that runs through Dragonfly Park was filled with debris and trash, before Orangeville resident Terry Brooker rolled up his sleeves and cleared it out. On April 22, he cleared hundreds of pounds of trash from Dragonfly Park and Kay Cee Gardens.

our pioneers with clean up and educational tours... We have to do something different, because what we have now isn't working. We can't have broken glass and gas canisters in parks. It's unacceptable."

Brooker said that he encourages anyone

who is willing and able to join him, or clean up on their own time.

He plans to continue his cleaning activities as long as he is able, demonstrating that just one person and a bit of effort can make a large difference.

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JOSHUA DRAKES PHOTO

SWEET SUCCESS: Crowds browse vendor tables at the second annual For the Love of Buttermarts festival in Orangeville, which drew hundreds of visitors to the Alder Street Recreation Centre on April 25.

Orangeville Butter Tart Festival draws big crowds in second year

Written By JOSHUA DRAKES
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The second annual Orangeville butter tart festival drew hundreds of visitors to town over the weekend, as residents and out-of-town guests packed the Alder Street Recreation Centre for a day dedicated to one of Ontario's favourite desserts.

The "For the Love of Buttermarts festival" is now in its second year, and saw steady crowds throughout the day on April 25, with long lines forming at vendor tables and a constant flow of attendees browsing the indoor market.

The strong turnout marked a noticeable step up from the event's inaugural year, highlighting its growing popularity within the community and beyond.

Dozens of vendors filled the venue, offering a wide range of products that went well beyond traditional butter tarts.

Lynn Deakin, from St. Catharines, was one such vendor and had her display full of gluten-free and vegan butter tarts. She started

her butter tart business during COVID, and it has just taken off since then.

"We actually first got started in 2022, during the pandemic," she said. "I started out signing up for events just like this one, but over time, they started to find me first, which is fantastic, because it expands our range considerably."

"We're thrilled to be back in Orangeville again. This town and its people never disappoint. They come out, they have huge lines, and I've had more than a few people say they bought from us last year and came back for more."

While the classic Canadian treat remained the main attraction – with variations ranging from plain to pecan and inventive specialty flavours – visitors could also sample hot sauces, baked goods, confections and other locally made items. The diversity of offerings contributed to a lively marketplace atmosphere, with something to appeal to nearly every taste.

Bringing some heat to the festival was Andrew and Lisa Laidlaw and their sauce busi-

ness, "Class Clown Chilli Sauce Co." Based right here in Orangeville. Andrew said that they are educators by trade and run the hot sauce business on the side. He added that they love bringing their stock out to local events.

"We grow all of our peppers right here in town, and we turn them into sauces at the [commercial kitchen at] Westminster Church," he said. "We sell them quite often, at least once a month, at the farmers' market. We actually originally started this as a classroom project, then grew into a business over time. We've come to this festival every year – it's fantastic."

Along with the food vendors, there were also special vendors who went above and beyond for charitable causes.

Rita Anand was that vendor. She was at the Butter Tart festival with 'Friend of a Friend,' selling custom-made art and designs with a twist – all proceeds go to initiatives that combat human trafficking.

"I was working with girls that escaped from human trafficking," she said. "I start-

ed this little project as a way to give back to them. I make inspirational charms, cards, and a bunch of little items. The money goes right back to helping with education, medical care, mental health support, and more. The things these girls have been through can be deeply traumatizing."

Friend of a Friend has online resources available at <http://www.friend-of-a-friend.online>.

All together, "For the Love of Buttermarts" was another success in its second year, and underscored the continued appetite for local, small-scale food festivals in Dufferin County, as well as local commitments for charitable causes that go beyond desserts.

By combining a focused culinary theme with a broader vendor market, organizers attracted both dedicated butter tart enthusiasts and casual visitors seeking a family-friendly outing.

With consistent foot traffic and strong vendor participation throughout the day, the festival is showing signs of becoming a fixture on Orangeville's annual events calendar.

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Orangeville man wins \$50,000 through instant scratch ticket

Written By SAM ODROWSKI

An Orangeville resident has an extra \$50,000 in his bank account after winning on a scratch ticket.

Jonathan Byart, 44, recently won an Instant Cash in Multi-Win after buying the ticket at Ro-9 Convenience on Rolling Hills Drive in Orangeville.

Byart is an automotive service manager who said he's been playing the lottery once or twice a week with OLG for about 20 years, primarily purchasing instant scratch tickets.

He played his ticket at the store and discovered his first big win just minutes after buying it.

"At first, I was frozen in shock," he said. "A wave of emotions hit me and I started to tear up. There were a few others in the store who asked me if I was okay. When I told them I

won the lottery, they were so happy for me. It was overwhelming and beautiful to share that moment with complete strangers."

When asked how he plans to spend his winnings, Byart said he's going to invest some for the future and consider how to best spend the rest.

The big win came with a mix of "disbelief and gratitude," according to Byart.

"I never thought I'd win this much money. It feels almost unreal — like I'm waiting to wake up from a dream," he said.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

LOCAL WINNER: Orangeville resident Jonathan Byart, 44, is celebrating his win of \$50,000 through an Instant Cash in Multi-Win scratch ticket. He purchased the ticket at Ro-9 Convenience on Rolling Hills Drive in Orangeville.



Run for Honeywood marks Mulmur's 175th, fundraises for arena upgrades

Written By JOSHUA DRAKES
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Run for Honeywood will bring runners, walkers and families to the rolling hills of Mulmur for a community-focused fundraiser that pairs fitness with local history and hospitality.

As part of Mulmur's ongoing 175-year anniversary celebrations, the North of 89 Alliance, a local charity fundraising organization, has organized the Run for Honeywood event on May 2, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Lisa Thompson, one of the event organizers, said that the running event aims to be accessible to a broad mix of abilities — from competitive runners to casual walkers and seniors looking for an afternoon outing — and promises scenic views along rural roads that showcase the area's landscape and heritage. "It's all going to start from Honeywood,

and they are going to go 5k one direction, 10k in the other," she said. "We have options available, and there's even a relay portion for kids that want to participate. It's going to be a fantastic experience, up at the top of Honeywood, the view of the local area, the landscape is just beautiful."

The run's primary purpose is to raise funds for the Honeywood Arena, a longtime community hub that hosts hockey, birthday parties, gatherings and other events. Thompson said that the facility needs significant upgrades to remain safe and welcoming for all residents.

"For this particular run, we're not only celebrating Mulmur's 175 but we're also trying to continue to raise money for the Honeywood arena," she said. "It desperately needs a lot of money to upgrade it to the building that it should be."

"Mulmur doesn't have a true downtown,

so this arena is our community space. That's where families go to not only play hockey, but they're going for birthday parties, for weddings, they're going for celebrations. It is our community hub," Thompson added.

Key priorities include making the building wheelchair accessible — installing ramps, accessible doors and an elevator so people with mobility challenges can view events — as well as addressing urgent mechanical and structural repairs such as a failing condenser and roof leaks.

Initial estimates put the total capital needed between \$6 million and \$10 million.

Spearheading the fundraising and broader community initiatives is the North of 89 Alliance, a small nonprofit born from the My Honeywood campaign.

"Originally, they had come up with the My Honeywood fundraising group... tasked to envision what the building should look like,

what it needs," Thompson said. "Eventually, we branched off into the broader North of 89 Alliance, because North Dufferin, anything north of 89, is kind of forgotten about."

With the mantra 'good people doing good things,' the alliance formed to pull together fundraising for the arena while also directing support to local food banks in Alliston and Shelburne.

Organizers of the Run for Honeywood hope that visitors from neighbouring towns — and even people who are just passing through — will stop, spend time locally and discover the attractions that make Mulmur unique in the region.

The Run for Honeywood aims to be an inclusive day of family fun while raising critically needed funds for great causes.

For more information, go to <https://www.zeffy.com/en-CA/ticketing/run-for-honeywood>.

Three people charged with impaired driving throughout Dufferin County over four days

Dufferin Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) officers have charged three individuals with impaired operation-related offences following separate incidents.

On April 16, 2026, at approximately 1:10 a.m., Dufferin OPP officers were conducting a RIDE (Reduce Impaired Driving Everywhere) spot check along Broadway in Orangeville. A vehicle entered the checkpoint and was stopped by officers. Following a brief interaction with the driver, an impaired driving investigation was initiated.

As a result, Jessica Keam, 51, Orangeville, has been charged with:

- Operation while impaired - blood alcohol concentration (80 plus)
- Operation while impaired - alcohol

On April 17, at approximately 9:22 p.m., Dufferin OPP officers responded to a report of a possible impaired driver in the area of Centre Street in Shelburne.

While officers were in the area, additional information indicated the vehicle was travelling at a high rate of speed southbound on County Road 11 in Amaranth. Officers subsequently located the vehicle in the area of County Road 109 and conducted a traffic stop. Following an interaction with the driver, an impaired driving investigation was initiated.

As a result, Lucas Black, 29, of Fergus, has been charged with:

- Operation while impaired - blood alcohol concentration (80 plus)
- Operation while impaired - alcohol
- Driving a motor vehicle with an open container of liquor
- Dangerous operation
- Owner operate a motor vehicle without insurance
- Drive motor vehicle - no currently validated permit

On April 19, 2026, at approximately 11:21

a.m., Dufferin OPP officers responded to a report of a possible impaired driver that had previously been observed in the Caledon area.

Officers conducted patrols and located the vehicle in the area of Winterton Court in Orangeville. Following an interaction with the driver, an impaired driving investigation was initiated. As a result, Raymond Massey, 36, from Orangeville, has been charged with operation while impaired — drugs.

The accused individuals are scheduled to appear before the Ontario Court of Justice in Orangeville. None of the listed charges have been proven in court.

We want to hear from you!

Dufferin County is updating our 2018 Long-Term Waste Management Strategy and we'd like your input! The LTWMS Update has reviewed the County's current waste management systems and has proposed recommendations for ten potential options for the future of waste management in the County.

Scan the QR code or visit joinindufferin.com to fill out our Spring Survey! Contact us if you'd like to fill out a paper copy of the survey instead!

The Spring Survey is open until **May 17 (at 11:59pm)**. Tell us your thoughts on the survey for a **chance to win 1 of 10 \$25 gift cards** to a local retailer or restaurant!

We are also holding two **Open Houses** to discuss the LTWMS Update and the potential options on:

- Thursday, May 14, 3:30pm – 6:00pm, Shelburne Public Library – 201 Owen Sound Street, Shelburne
- Thursday, May 14, 6:30pm – 9:00pm, Alder Recreation Centre – 275 Alder Street, Orangeville

Join us for a draw & giveaways at the Open Houses! Questions? Contact Dufferin Waste!



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VOLUME 7, ISSUE 4

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JOHN WALKINSHAW

Local realtor provides expertise to national real estate conference

In the real estate industry, the more you know, the better you can serve your clients and help them achieve their goals.

Local realtor, John Walkinshaw, who along with daughters Carley and Laura are the Walkinshaw Partners with eXp Realty Canada in Shelburne, attended the eXpCon real estate conference held at the Marriott hotel in Vancouver, B.C. on Apr. 20 to 22, where John was asked to share his expertise in the industry with 700 eXp real estate agents from across the country and the US.

An experienced and knowledgeable real estate agent, John credits eXp Realty as a company that has a culture of sharing information with its realtors that helps everyone become better at their job and produce the best results for clients.

"eXp, like no other real estate company, has such collaboration where agents are willing to share their secrets about what makes them successful with everyone in the company, so the company itself becomes more successful," John explained.

As a company, eXp Realty is worldwide with over 80,000 real estate agents serving their communities.

John was a key speaker at last year's national conference, and after a successful presentation, he was asked to return for the 2026 conference and bring his depth of knowledge of the real industry to this year's event.

The conference featured seminars delivered by experts as well as smaller gatherings where knowledge was shared between real estate agents eager to learn more about the industry and how they can be more successful at their jobs.

The smaller gatherings focused on more specific areas of the industry.

At this year's conference, John spoke about how to properly set the price for a property and when it is appropriate to adjust the price for a sale. He also spoke about the importance of communication with a client.

"I spoke on how to price a property and when it is appropriate to reduce the price and everything related to that," John explained. "Also important is the communication required to make sure you communicate with your client through the entire process of having a listing."

John understands that buying or selling a home can be a very daunting and stressful time, and he works with clients to make the process as easy as possible.

"It can be a very stressful experience for buyers and sellers," John explained. "We need to make sure we are communicating and making sure they know is happening next, or what could happen next so the situation is less stressful."

John was in the top 20 eXp realtors in the company and number one in Ontario for residential sales.

After his presentation at the conference, there was a question period where those in attendance could ask for advice or learn more about the industry and benefit from John's knowledge of how the real estate industry works.

"The conference proved to be a real success," John said. "Everyone was going home feeling like they are better equipped to serve the customers they are dealing with."

In the local real estate market, John said the spring season is robust with an increase in local properties being placed on the market. Trends are pointing to a two to three percent growth in sale prices for this year.

John Walkinshaw is the local real estate agent who has the experience, knowledge, and expertise to provide clients with a positive experience when buying or selling their home. He has earned the trust of residents in the region for his professionalism and ability to get their homes sold for a fair and equitable price.

You can learn more by visiting the Walkinshaw Partners website at www.johnwalkinshaw.com, or by calling John at 519-942-7413, or Carley at 519-278-5149.

Written by Brian Lockhart



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A guide to buying your first home

Buying a home is one of the most significant financial commitments a person can make.

Individuals may wonder when is the right time to jump in to the real estate market. The answer may boil down to affordability.

The housing market is continually evolving. Buying a home now is a little bit different than it was even a few years ago, as inventory is starting to recover from a lengthy period with limited offerings, according to Realtor.com. But even though inventory may have increased, home prices have not come down. The median home price now sits at around \$410,000 in the United States and approximately \$676,335 in Canada, and interests rates hover around 6 percent for a 30-year fixed rate.

Before it's time to sign a contract and get the keys, potential buyers can follow this guide as they navigate buying a home for the first time.

KNOW YOUR BUYING POWER

Before browsing home listings, buyers should conduct a financial audit to see how they stack up. It's

worthwhile to sit down with a mortgage broker who can run your numbers. Credit score is a significant variable that will be checked during such consultations. If necessary, identify ways to boost that score in the months before applying for a mortgage.

FOLLOW THE 30 PERCENT RULE

Rocket Mortgage says the 30 percent rule dictates that total monthly housing costs, including principal, interest, taxes, and insurance (PITI) should not exceed 30 percent of a borrower's gross monthly income to maintain financial stability.

BUDGET FOR THE EXTRA COSTS

Buyers should concern themselves with all of the costs that go into buying a home. In addition to the down payment, closing costs can come in at around 2 to 5 percent of the home's price. An inspection and

appraisal can run around \$1,000. Additional costs may include termite inspection, and other out-of-pocket costs to get the home up to code.

LOWER YOUR COSTS

A rising trend in home buying is a surge in down payment assistance (DPA). Bankrate says DPAs provide eligible individuals, typically first-time or low-to-moderate-income buyers, with assistance that covers costs like down payments and closing fees. These programs may be offered by the government, non-profits or private lenders.

UTILIZE A REPUTABLE INSPECTOR

A home may seem like a dream until a person pulls back the curtain on some hidden red flags. It's always worth the expense to have a housing inspector or a trusted contractor walk through the property prior to making

an offer to ensure that the home is in good condition.

CHOOSE A VALUE MARKET

First-time home buyers may want to select metro areas that offer the best balance of earnings versus home prices. According to a 2026 report from Realtor.com, areas that provide the best value in the U.S. are largely concentrated in the Northeast and Midwest. Hartford, CT; Rochester, NY; Worcester, MA; Toledo, OH; and Providence, RI, are some of the top housing markets for the year. Real estate experts at CalgaryHomes.ca found Alberta, Newfoundland and Labrador, and New Brunswick offer the best value for home buyers.

First-time home buyers must consider a range of variables as they inch closer to making their home ownership dreams a reality.



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MARKET UPDATE

Is a sunroom right for you?

There is no denying the appeal of a sunroom. Sunrooms bring more of the outdoors inside by bridging the gap between home and yard.

Demand is shifting, with more than 61 percent of homeowners now preferring four-season insulated rooms for year-round use, according to Market Reports World. A sunroom has the potential to offer a roughly 50 percent return on investment and can cost anywhere from \$22,000 to \$72,000 on average.

A sunroom addition is a significant investment and a decision not to take lightly, as it changes both the interior floor plan and backyard space. To decide if a sunroom really is a worthwhile endeavor, it's important for homeowners to consider the footprint of their homes/yards, how they plan to use the space, and the amount of sun the home receives.

HOME FOOTPRINT

Professionals with the National Association of Realtors say that a sunroom should not consume more than 30 percent of the remaining backyard and urge homeowners to avoid over-developing a lot. If installing a sunroom will leave a homeowner with only a small patch of yard afterwards, the result can feel heavy and unbalanced. It also won't match the neighborhood. Another consideration is the local zoning ordinances where a person lives. The City of Los Angeles, for example, warns that most towns require a setback between the sunroom structure and the property line. It's also important to look at the home's roof and whether or not the sunroom will fall right under the eaves or if it will require an expensive tie-in to the existing roof.

UTILITY

It is vital that homeowners determine how they will use the space and when. This will dictate the type of sunroom that should be built. A three-season room is typically uninsulated with only single-pane glass. This is ideal if someone is looking for a screened-in retreat without all of the bugs and a little weather protection. Four-season rooms are fully insulated and tie into a home's HVAC system. This space will be functional all year long, but it is a more expensive undertaking as well.

LIGHT EVALUATION

The purpose of a sunroom is to benefit from the sun. The value of the space will depend entirely on which

way the room faces. North-facing sunrooms have soft light with minimal heat or glare that likely can be used all day. Morning people can appreciate an east-facing sunroom while drinking coffee or reading, and the space will cool down in the afternoon. South-facing rooms will be bright most of the day and may need high-end HVAC hookups or shades to stay comfortable, even in cooler months. West-facing sunrooms are great for watching sunsets, but the hot afternoon sun must be considered. UV-rated glass to prevent floor fading and even sunburn likely will be needed.

It is important to work with a company that specializes in sunrooms. Such firms are experienced in helping homeowners design and ultimately build these spaces to avoid common pitfalls, advises Champion, a window, sunroom and home exterior company.

In general, a sunroom is not a DIY project since it typically involves a major structural change. It can be a viable addition to a home when built correctly to remain durable through every season.



Orangeville Statistics - March

	March, 2026	March, 2025	% Change
# of Active Listings	120	102	17.65%
# of Homes Listed	73	70	4.29%
# of Sales	26	33	-21.21%
List Price vs. Sale Price Ratio	97%	98%	-1.02%
Average Days on Market	52	38	36.84%
Average Sale Price (all types)	\$749,392	\$767,833	-2.40%
Detached	\$851,606	\$897,147	-5.08%
Semi-Detached	\$634,833	\$690,500	-8.06%
Freehold Townhouse	\$675,000	\$713,333	-5.37%

Orangeville Statistics - Year to Date

	Jan - March 2026	Jan - March 2025	% Change
# of Homes Listed	169	181	-6.63%
# of Sales	56	87	-35.63%
List Price vs. Sale Price Ratio	97%	98%	-1.02%
Average Days on Market	55	38	44.74%
Average Sale Price	\$751,783	\$837,417	-10.23%
Detached	\$866,573	\$971,037	-10.76%
Semi-Detached	\$660,188	\$684,773	-3.59%
Freehold Townhouse	\$681,200	\$701,615	-2.91%

Buyers Market vs. Sellers Market

Current Number of Homes for Sale	120
Divided by Sales per Month	26
Months of Inventory	4.6

There is currently 4.6 months of inventory on the Market in Orangeville. In a Buyers Market, there is normally more than 6 months worth of inventory.

Peel - Caledon Statistics - March

	March 2026	March 2025	% Change
# of Active Listings	335	187	79.14%
# of Homes Listed	191	237	-19.41%
# of Sales	49	67	-26.87%
List Price vs. Sale Price Ratio	94%	96%	-2.08%
Average Days on Market	40	25	60.00%
Average Sale Price	\$1,359,992	\$1,311,587	3.69%

Peel - Caledon Statistics - Year to Date

	Jan - March 2026	Jan - March 2025	% Change
# of Homes Listed	490	595	-17.65%
# of Sales	144	164	-12.20%
List Price vs. Sale Price Ratio	95%	95%	0.00%
Average Days on Market	43	32	34.38%
Average Sale Price	\$1,159,506	\$1,317,781	-12.01%

Buyers Market vs. Sellers Market

Current Number of Homes for Sale	335
Divided by Sales per Month	49
Months of Inventory	6.8

There are currently 6.8 months of inventory on the Market in Caledon. In a Buyers Market, there is normally more than 6 months worth of inventory.

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FOR SALE **314 MAIN ST E, SHELBURNE** **\$749,900**

Timeless charm, exceptional craftsmanship and flexible layout potential - this is a stunning family home that could also make an incredible investment opportunity with its Main Street Shelburne exposure. Featuring front and back driveway access, 4 bedrooms, including a main floor primary suite, and over 2000 square feet of living space, rich in architectural detail.

FOR SALE **7 ROSE ST, ORANGEVILLE** **\$965,000**

Stylish comfort and everyday convenience - this beautifully updated family home in one of Orangeville's most desirable west-end neighbourhoods features over 1,768 square feet of living space plus a finished basement. With 3+1 bedrooms & 4 bathrooms, this home is designed for both entertaining and family life.

FOR SALE **10 MCKITRICK DR, ORANGEVILLE** **\$979,900**

Set on a large lot in sought-after West-end Orangeville, this inviting & well maintained family home offers the perfect blend of space, comfort, and outdoor living. With 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms and a finished basement, there's room here for the whole family to grow and thrive.

FOR SALE **9 WELLINGTON ST, ORANGEVILLE** **\$1,499,900**

Historic charm meets modern luxury - this grand 1926 home offers 4,200+ sq ft with 6 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, and a self-contained 3-level apartment, perfect for extended family or income potential. Set on a deep, private lot just steps to Broadway, it's an exceptional opportunity in one of Orangeville's most prestigious locations.

FOR SALE **24 FAULKNER ST, ORANGEVILLE** **\$1,699,000**

Standing proudly since 1908, 24 Faulkner Street is Orangeville royalty! Blending timeless character with modern updates, this home is stunning inside and out, featuring 5 bedrooms, a stunning third-floor primary retreat, and over 2,300 sq ft of elegant living space, rich in history and original details.

FOR SALE **7 IRONWOOD CRT, MONO** **\$1,899,000**

Tucked away on a prestigious court in Purple Hill, this impressive home offers 3,389 sq ft of living space, including 3 bedrooms and 4 bathrooms, with a main-floor primary suite. It sits on a private 0.55-acre lot backing onto protected forest, just steps from Island Lake.



Contact me today for more details or to find out what your home is worth in today's market'.

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Did you know?

A well-manicured lawn appeals to homeowners when they look out their windows.

BUT SUCH A VIEW also can look nice when homeowners peruse their bank statements after selling a property. According to the "2023 Remodeling Impact Report: Outdoor Features" from the National Association of Realtors®, standard lawn care service yields an estimated cost recovery of 217 percent. Landscape maintenance, with an estimated cost recovery of 104 percent, and an overall landscape upgrade (100 percent) also yield great returns for homeowners. The NAR® report also noted the effects of such projects related to homeowners' desire to spend time on their property. Among homeowners who participated in the NAR® report and committed to standard lawn care service, 58 percent indicated they had a greater desire to be at home since completing the project, while 46 percent indicated they have an increased sense of enjoyment when spending time at home.



Cost-effective curb appeal booster

One shouldn't judge a book by its cover. However, that often is hard not to do, particularly when it comes to homes.

Curb appeal bears significant influence regarding how a property is perceived. A property that is neat and aesthetically appealing probably will be preferable to one that looks like the homeowners did not maintain it.

Boosting curb appeal is a common focus of sellers before listing a property. But what can those who don't have big budgets for major overhauls do to improve their curb appeal? Plenty of projects can offer maximum output with minimal investment.

REFRESH THE FRONT DOOR

Painting the front door can add brightness and improve the look of a home's entryway. Most exterior paint costs between \$30 and \$40 per gallon, so this is undeniably a budget-friendly improvement. If money allows, replacing the door altogether will generate bang for your buck.

IMPROVE OR ADD LANDSCAPING ELEMENTS

Landscaping should be designed to highlight the home's best features. It should look symmetrical and feel manicured. If it's not possible to plant new flowers or bushes, simply cleaning up debris and weeds, and trimming existing greenery can make it feel neater and more polished.

CLEAN UP

Power-washing the siding, cement walkways and garage door can create instant impact. It's amazing how much dirt and mildew can reduce the luster of a home. Cleaning off years of grime can be a fast and inexpensive refresh.

RESEAL THE DRIVEWAY

Make sure the driveway is clean and tidy. If it has cracks or discoloration, filling in cracks and applying a new coat of sealer will make a big difference. Homeowners can hire someone to seal the driveway or do the work on their own.

ADD MORE LIGHTING

Updating front porch lights and accent lights around the property will cast a more positive glow on a home, both literally and figuratively.

ADD A SEATING AREA

If space by the front door allows, add a bench or some chairs to create a welcoming seating area. A potted plant or two nearby will help the area seem intentional.

Improving curb appeal doesn't have to cost a lot of money. A few easy touches can boost the look of any property.

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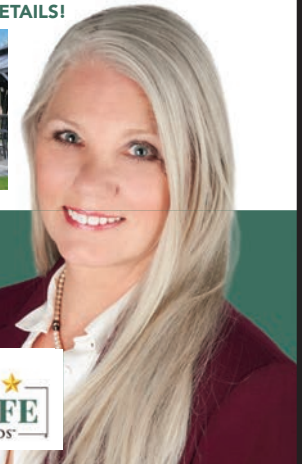
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Notable features of MODERN BATHROOMS

Bathrooms are more than just places to wash up. These spaces are evolving from utilitarian rooms to high-tech sanctuaries with all the modern conveniences one can imagine.

Homeowners are increasingly investing more into their bathrooms, reflecting a growing desire for quiet luxury and personal health.

According to the 2026 National Kitchen & Bath Association (NKBA) Trends Report, 72 percent of designers report that clients are enlarging their bathrooms to accommodate new wellness-centered features. Modern bathrooms are defined by some notable features.

HOME SPA SHOWER

The NKBA reports more homeowners now prioritize a larger, feature-rich shower over just a bathtub. Steam showers are no longer niche; they integrate aromatherapy and chromotherapy (mood-enhancing light) systems into the designs. Although open, walk-in showers are still popular for their accessibility, there's a rising trend in shower pods, which are enclosed, cozy spaces that more effectively retain heat and steam.

AGING IN PLACE ELEMENTS

Features once associated with getting older are now being rebranded as high-end design elements. According to Forbes, curbless entries and built-in benches are some luxury safety features built into modern bathrooms.

SMART TECHNOLOGY

Polaris Market Research says the global smart bathroom market is projected to exceed \$11 billion in 2026. Technology focused on efficiency and hygiene is popular. Intelligent toilets that have self-cleaning UV nozzles, heated seats and motion-activated lids are rising in popularity. Smart faucets with precise flow control and leak detection are also becoming standard, with Houzz saying sustainability features like these are a must-have for 84 percent of renovators.

EVOLVING MINIMALISM

Organic minimalism is a defining style within modern bathroom trends for 2026. This idea prioritizes clean looks with natural materials like stone and wood, which are replacing cool grays and stark whites that have been dominating bathroom schemes for some time, according to Re-Bath design expert Jenny Mars. Designers favor large-format slabs or tiles to minimize grout lines. Earthy tones like sage green, terracotta, and warm wood vanities are also popular.

LAYERED LIGHTING

Design pros are using lighting as a functional tool, and say that task lighting must be layered for the best effect. Nighttime-specific low-glow lighting and integrated mirror LEDs support a natural circadian rhythm while offering comfort and safety. The NKBA says 91 percent of respondents cite lighting as a top priority in their bathroom designs. Mood lighting in showers and other lighting features are popular requests.

Modern bathrooms continue to evolve with features that add aesthetic appeal, sustainability and technology to these historically utilitarian spaces.



DID YOU KNOW?

The waterfall edge style of countertops has evolved from a high-end niche trend into an increasingly popular staple of modern architectural design. Unlike traditional countertops that end at the edge of the cabinet, a waterfall edge makes a 90-degree turn and continues down to the floor, covering a kitchen peninsula or island. According to Angi, waterfall edge countertops are known for their seamless and continuous appearances that really are show-stopping to see. They tend to make a bigger visual impact compared to traditional horizontal slabs. It's im-

portant to note that not every stone fabricator is willing or able to execute the waterfall effect. Installation requires a precise mitered edge, which risks chipping the fine-cut corner. The added expense also is nothing to take lightly. Waterfall edges also can make cleaning more involved. There is no lip at the end of counters, so it's hard to get a dustpan flush to catch crumbs off the surface. Also, the side panels of stone mean there's extra surfaces to clean and seal. The uniqueness of waterfall edge countertops merits careful consideration prior to installation.



Preventing spring water leaks

Ah, spring! The snow has its last hurrah and warmer days are back for good... or almost. Since spring also means rain, there's unfortunately also a higher risk of water damage. Take a good look around your property to make sure your home stays dry during this year's spring showers.

Roof

- Examine the condition of the roofing materials for signs of wear and aging (missing or loose shingles, buckling, upturned corners, etc.).
- Make sure there is enough gravel to fully protect the layer of asphalt. Gravel prevents black surfaces from overheating and reflects ultraviolet rays, preventing premature damage to the membrane.

If your roof needs to be replaced, there are some shingle options that are more resistant to harsh weather changes – some high-performance shingles are resistant to winds of up to 220 km/h, others such as Class 4 shingles that can withstand hailstones of up to 2 inches in diameter.

Roof maintenance can be dangerous. If necessary, seek the help of a professional.

Gutters, downspouts and drains

During winter, the weight of the ice and snow may have weakened your gutters, and they may be blocked by various debris. This is why spring maintenance is important. Here's what to do:

- Remove leaves that have accumulated in the gutters.
- Check that the gutters are securely attached.
- Pour water into the gutters to ensure that there are no leaks and the water is escaping down the drainpipe.
- Make sure the downspouts divert water as far away from the foundation as possible.

Doors and windows

Heavy rain can seep through any opening. That's why you should do the following in the spring:

- Inspect the seals around doors and windows to make sure they are watertight.

- If needed, repair caulking and replace weatherstripping.
- Get rid of any debris from the window wells that could prevent water from properly draining away from them.

Foundation

Once the ground has thawed, it's very important to check the foundation's condition to identify any problems and prevent damage due to water seepage.

- Thoroughly inspect the foundation, both inside and out. Have a specialist repair any cracks immediately.
- Seek professional advice if there are signs of efflorescence (white deposits), seepage or localized humidity. This can mean a foundation drain malfunction (e.g. clogged drain).

Drain in front of the basement garage door

The accumulation of leaves or other debris can prevent the drain from working well. What should you do?

- Clear the grate of the drain in front of the door of any debris (e.g., leaves, ice, snow) in order to allow water to escape.
- Also clean the drain underneath the grate so that the drain is not obstructed.
- Move the gutter drainpipes that empty onto the slope of the garage entryway to prevent the drain from becoming overloaded.

Backwater valve to stop sewer back-up

The backwater valve is part of the plumbing system and is located in the basement. Its simple open-close flap does an important job: making sure the municipal sewage system doesn't back up into the drains. You'll need to clean it as part of your seasonal routine in order for it to work properly. Here's how:

- Remove the cover and unscrew the access plug (note: if you have a cast iron valve with a bolted cover, it's best to have a plumber do it).
- Make sure the flap opens and closes freely. Remove any debris and check the condition of the gasket.
- Remove the flap door and clean the sealing gasket.
- Replace the flap and make sure there's nothing preventing it from opening and closing.
- Screw the access plug back on tightly and replace the cover.

Your property insurance

These precautions will help you welcome spring and avoid unpleasant surprises. But, for peace of mind, it's best to be properly insured as well. Find out about the insurance coverage available from Desjardins Insurance.

If you're interested in more ways to protect your home, give me a call to discuss your property needs – and, visit [desjardins.com/en/tips](https://www.desjardins.com/en/tips).



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- Four car garage with workshop
- 21 Bartley Dr., Caledon \$2,499,000

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Spring clean your way to a successful sale

Clean like you're preparing your home for sale—or get your home ready for sale by doing the ultimate spring clean. Either way, you win.

When it comes to selling your home, first impressions are everything. A deep, intentional spring clean doesn't just freshen up your space—it helps buyers emotionally connect, visualize themselves living there, and ultimately drives stronger offers.

THE 5 MOST IMPORTANT AREAS TO FOCUS ON

1. DECLUTTER & DEPERSONALIZE
Think less "your home" and more "a home." Remove excess furniture, clear countertops, and pack away personal photos and niche décor. The goal is to create space, light, and a blank canvas where buyers can picture their own lives unfolding.

2. KITCHENS & BATHROOMS: THE DEAL MAKERS
These are the most scrutinized rooms in any home.

- Deep clean appliances (inside and out)
- Polish fixtures until they shine
- Scrub grout, caulking, and tile
- Eliminate any odors

A spotless kitchen and bathroom signal that the home has been well cared for.

3. FLOORS, WALLS & HIGH-TOUCH SURFACES

- Buyers notice what you've stopped seeing.
- Vacuum and steam clean carpets
 - Wash baseboards and walls
 - Wipe down doors, trim, and light switches
 - Clean interior windows for maximum natural light

These details elevate the entire feel of the home.

4. STORAGE SPACES (CLOSETS, GARAGE, BASEMENT)

- Buyers will open everything.
- Neatly organize closets (less is more—aim for 50–70% full)

- Tidy the garage and storage areas
- Create a sense of usable, abundant space

An organized home suggests there's "room for life."

5. CURB APPEAL & OUTDOOR LIVING

Your home's first impression starts before buyers even walk in.

- Rake, sweep, and refresh landscaping
- Clean walkways and driveways
- Add simple touches like fresh mulch or seasonal planters

A welcoming exterior sets the tone for the entire showing.

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- ✓ **The Front Door Moment**
One of the most overlooked—but powerful—details. Thoroughly clean both the exterior and interior of your front door, polish the hardware, and consider a fresh coat of paint if needed.

It's the first impression when entering and the last when leaving—make it count.

✓ **Light & Air Quality**
Swap outdated bulbs for bright, warm lighting and open windows to let fresh air in. A clean-smelling, well-lit home feels bigger, newer, and more inviting instantly.

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Orangeville District Secondary School girls rugby team wins season opener

Written By BRIAN LOCKHART

The Orangeville District Secondary School (ODSS) Scarlett Bears girls' varsity rugby team is back on the field for this season and is looking good after their first game of the season.

The Bears team started practising back in January with indoor training to get ready for the spring high school athletic season.

First up for the regular season schedule was a trip to Erin to take on the Erin District High School Raiders on Wednesday, April 22.

Both teams scored early in the game. The Bears went ahead on a second goal, but that was matched by Erin before the whistle sounded to end the half.

The ODSS squad put out a huge effort in the second half and kept the pressure on the Raiders.

A late-game goal and successful kick gave the Bears a 29-12 win to start the season.

The Bears have been working hard to put together a successful team this year.

"I think this game was beautiful," said ODSS's Maddie McInerney after the game. "I think we played great. There's some things we can fine-tune, as always. I think we're a strong team and we're moving up. On offence, I think we had a good, straight offensive line. We made a lot of good tackles and had a good offensive line. Because it's a contact sport, we had to start practising quite early in the year."

Teammate Sarah MacCoubrey said she thought the team put a lot of effort into their first game of the season.

"I think today's game went quite well for our first game of the season," Sarah said. "Everybody put their heart and soul on the field and did everything they could to bring home that win. On defence, our tackles



BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

RIVETING RUGBY MATCH: The Orangeville District Secondary School (ODSS) Bears girls varsity rugby team won their season opener, 29-12, over the Erin District High School Raiders in Erin on Wednesday, April 22. ODSS's Lilian Beattie sprints into the Erin zone during the second half of the game.

were phenomenal. We had one or two small slip-throughs. On defence, our tackles were perfect, and on offence, our passes were so good. I think we played an overall amazing

game. We started practicing back in January, then when the weather got a little better, we started going outside."

The Bears will now play three road games.

They return to their home field at ODSS on Wednesday, May 6, to host Centennial Collegiate Vocational Institute. Game time 3:30 p.m.

Junior B Orangeville Northmen open the season with a win over Hamilton Bengals

Written By BRIAN LOCKHART

The Orangeville Junior B Northmen have started the regular season and picked up a win in their first game of the year.

During pre-season exhibition games, the Northmen went undefeated, winning over Cambridge and Halton Hills.

They played their season opener against the Hamilton Bengals in Hamilton on Thursday, April 23.

It is a rebuilding year for the Junior B Northmen. The team lost 15 players from last year's team.

This included five overage players and around ten players who moved up to the Northmen Junior A team.

Junior B Northmen GM Lindsay Sanderson said losing players in a town with more than one junior-level team is a part of the game.

"The nice thing about it is we're a lacrosse town and there are some really good quality kids that played for us last year that will do well with the Junior As," Sanderson said.

"There will be four or five of the top U17 players that will make our team, and we will probably take three or four from the Junior

team who have played a couple of years in Junior C, and now they're ready for Junior B."

Sanderson added, "We also brought in a couple of young men from Nova Scotia on an inter-provincial transfer, so we're filling the void. We lost 15 players from last year's team. Ten of them will probably move up to the Junior A team, and five of them went over age. It's a rebuild year that we are working on."

Players who complete their minor lacrosse career are eligible to move to the Junior leagues.

In the season opener against Hamilton, the Northmen took a 3-1 lead in the first period on goals from Levi Spindler, Nolan Sanderson, and Wes Mills.

The game was a lot closer at the end of the second period when Hamilton outscored the Northmen 4-3 for the period to make it a 6-5 game with the Northmen still in the lead.

Second-period Northmen goals came from Kieran Witte, Tyler Gronroos, and Sanderson.

Orangeville went ahead 7-5 when Gronroos got his second goal of the night.

The Northmen finished off with two more



goals from Robert Kee and Gronroos.

Hamilton scored two more in the third period, but the Northmen stopped them from tying it up and left the floor with a 9-8 win to start the season.

The Junior B Lacrosse League has 24 teams this season, split into 12 East and 12 West divisions.

The West Division has teams mostly located in central-western Ontario; however, the division extends from Owen Sound in the

North down to Windsor.

East Division territory stretches from Orillia down to Mimico.

The Kahnawake Hunters are defending 2025 champions and will be looking to repeat this year.

The Orangeville Junior B home opener is scheduled for Saturday, May 2, when they will host the Wallaceburg Red Devils at the Alder Street arena in Orangeville. Game time is 7 p.m.

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OPINION

Don't worry – it's paid for

Throughout history, Western societies have always understood that sometimes people experience hardships beyond their control.

A person could become sick and unable to work, or an injury could prevent them from doing their job and earning a living.

If the breadwinner of a family died suddenly through disease or accident, a young widow with children could find herself in a desperate situation.

Older people who had completed their life's work could be vulnerable, alone, and in need of help.

Even during medieval times, cities and small towns across Europe organized a type of community chest that was used to help the vulnerable and people in need.

I emphasize Western society because in certain societies in other parts of the world, it was easier to throw a widow on her husband's funeral pyre and kill her rather than use resources to keep her alive. In some historical circumstances, the old and weak were dragged off to a field and left to die so their family members wouldn't be burdened with helping them.

The concept of a type of welfare system is not new. However, a community chest or welfare system was in place to help people temporarily when they really needed assis-

tance.

Those community chests were not designed to support able-bodied people who were lazy.

The modern Canadian welfare system began in the 1930s and expanded significantly in the 1960s.

There is a lot of good that comes from this system.

I don't think any kid should go to bed hungry because their caregiver doesn't have money for food, or go without health care because they can't afford a vaccination to prevent measles.

However, modern welfare systems seem to have lost the idea of helping the vulnerable, and started doling out money – taxpayer money – to anyone who wants it.

The Canadian system doesn't seem to be as mismanaged as some other countries.

There was a rather famous case in the UK where a Pakistani immigrant demanded – not asked for – but demanded a free larger new home, because his wife had just given birth to their sixth child and they needed more room.

The man hasn't worked a day in his life and lives free on welfare, courtesy of the British taxpayers.

Not surprisingly, the local response from

taxpayers was not sympathetic. Most people suggested the man try getting a job to support the family he was raising – just like everyone else.

I was at a local football game a couple of years ago and standing next to relatives from the visiting team from Mississauga.

The group of five or six younger people was all excited about going out and partying that night, because they had all just received their public assistance cheques in the mail.

There is no reason a young, able-bodied person should be receiving welfare paid for by the rest of us.

If government agencies can coordinate welfare payments, the same agency can coordinate with employers to find people jobs to support themselves.

I visited a local manufacturing company not too long ago. They were desperately trying to find employees.

At the same time, there is a local public parking area where people sleep in their cars. There is a very simple solution for both problems here, and it doesn't take a genius to figure it out.

There is a theory from several lobby groups that generational welfare is a simple but effective government solution for controlling the population.

BRIAN LOCKHART
FROM THE SECOND ROW



The theory is that if you give people just enough money to get by every month, they will toe the line to keep receiving those funds, because if they don't, they will be cut off and actually be forced to find money somewhere else.

There's a lot of merit to that theory. What better way is there to control people than financially?

I don't understand how a person can raise a family and remain on welfare.

A job gives you a reason to get up in the morning, and it provides a level of self-respect knowing you earned the money to feed the children you brought into the world.

Now there are suggestions of creating a 'guaranteed income' system, where people receive more taxpayers' money for simply being on the planet.

That's a perfect way to weaken society.

Sooner or later, and judging by the amount of debt the federal government has incurred, it's going to be sooner, they will run out of other people's money to spend.

This country wasn't built by people who relied on government money.

It was built by strong people who knew the value of work and what it accomplishes.

Speaking English badly

It is a matter of chronic surprise that politicians, otherwise well-trained in saying just the right thing for the audience they are addressing, forget that whatever they say can be heard everywhere. Right away. By anybody who cares to listen, including journalists always hungry for the next story.

And thus to Kenya's President William Ruto, who was in Italy last week talking up his country's virtues. One of his claims was that Kenyans speak "some of the best English in the world" – and then, noticing that the audience was dozing off and in need of a joke, went on to say that Nigerian-accented English, by contrast, was incomprehensible.

He got such a big laugh (most of the audience were Kenyans living in Italy) that he kept going. "If you listen to a Nigerian speaking, you don't know what they are saying - you need a translator." Another big laugh – and then the social media all over Africa lit up with protests.

How dare Ruto mock fellow Africans? Why should Africans be speaking a colonial language like English anyway? And who the hell did he think he was to judge the quality of Nigerian English? He was thoroughly spanked and sent to bed without supper by the media – but it does open some interesting questions.

Why, more than 50 years after most countries in sub-Saharan Africa got their independence, do almost all of them still teach the language of their former colonial ruler in their schools? It's mainly because at least 1,500 living languages are still spoken in those countries, and very few of them are spoken widely enough to be the sole language of an entire country.

A few do reach that bar – Somali, for example – but the more usual situation is for a country to have three or four or more major languages (more than a million speakers, say), plus a large number of smaller languages.

Five thousand years ago almost everybody lived in little communities defined by kinship and language. However, the empires rolled back and forth across Eurasia for all of those years, grinding those little tribal groups into far larger language communities.

Eurasian diseases then almost wiped out the vulnerable native populations of the Americas and Australia (the real 'great replacement' of history), leaving only Africans (who were not vulnerable to Eurasian diseases) still alive and living mostly in smallish groups, each with its own language.

It was a triumph, of sorts: they were the

last people standing who retained their original languages and cultures. But the colonialists arrived in the past few centuries, drew much wider borders – and then left in a hurry, leaving the Africans themselves to rationalize the pot-pourri of ethnic groups that they left behind those new frontiers.

The only way to avoid a century of border wars was to freeze every colonial border where it was, however illogical, and the old Organization of African Unity (now trading as the African Union) got that right. Then the newly independent states behind those borders had to have a common language to function at all.

Again, the solution was arbitrary but unavoidable. If there is no language that is spoken by, say, at least three-quarters of the population, then choosing any indigenous language to be the sole national language will create a large permanent grievance in the parts of the population that do not speak it.

Far better to build on the existing school system (which will be operating in French, English or Portuguese already) and put everybody at the same disadvantage. It may not even be a disadvantage, in the end: those languages will have much bigger vocabularies and allow access to far more

copious resources.

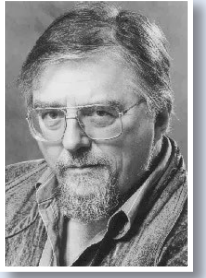
It's working out fairly well, in the sense that almost everybody has a 'home' language which they use for most domestic purposes. At the same time, around half the people in most countries also has a least a limited command of the 'colonial' language, in which they can communicate with everybody else.

This doesn't justify anybody mocking the way Nigerians speak English, but there's more going on here than meets the eye (well, ear). Nigeria is Africa's giant, with twice the population of any other African country, and Nigerians are not shy about blowing their own horns. This earns them the disdain and the envy of other Africans in about equal measure.

But enough of this mealy-mouthed 'on-the-one-hand; on-the-other-hand.' What you really want to know, I'm sure, is whether other English-speakers really need to call in a translator when they are talking to a Nigerian.

The answer is no, it's not that bad – but I do find that I'm working much harder to understand a Nigerian's English than a Kenyan's. Almost as hard as when I'm talking to a working-class Glaswegian.

GWYNNE DYER
OUR WORLD TODAY



Middle East stranglehold on oil is dead

The blockade of the Strait of Hormuz is pushing prices higher and cutting demand but, more importantly, forcing the global energy system to find alternative sources of supply.

People and businesses are already cutting back on energy use. The International Energy Agency says "demand destruction" is already underway. It shows up in reduced consumption, flight cancellations and policy measures, advisories and restrictions aimed at cutting fuel use.

Energy-rich Canada is no exception. Canadians are already feeling it at the pump. Even though Canada produces its own oil, global prices still largely determine what Canadians pay for gasoline and other fuels. Citing Heather Exner-Pirot of the McDonald Laurier Institute, Kiera Miller said that, despite being a major oil exporter, Canadians are not insulated from higher prices.

The disruption exposes a weakness in how global oil is supplied and moved around the world. Global oil supply relies

on maritime chokepoints and remains concentrated in the Middle East. When one is disrupted, the system starts to come under pressure. Confidence in the Strait of Hormuz has been shaken and producers and consumers alike are now being forced to look elsewhere for supply.

Alternative routes in the Middle East cannot make up the shortfall. Saudi Arabia can divert some crude to Yanbu Port on its Red Sea coast but most of its oil is produced in the east and normally shipped from Ras Tanura, its main export terminal on the Persian Gulf. Getting oil to Yanbu depends heavily on the East-West pipeline, which can carry up to seven million barrels per day, but not all of that capacity is available for export. The UAE's Abu Dhabi Crude Oil Pipeline provides another bypass to the port of Fujairah on the Gulf of Oman. Combined, these routes offer roughly 8.5 million barrels per day. That is insufficient to replace flows through the Strait of Hormuz.

Additional capacity from Iraq to the Eastern Mediterranean via Turkey exists,

but it is underutilized and unlikely to expand quickly.

Some countries are moving to secure alternative suppliers, including the United States, as they look to replace disrupted Middle East flows. Canada's ability to respond to increased demand is limited by years of constrained pipeline and export capacity, the result of policy and regulatory decisions made by the Liberal government over the last decade that have restricted access to global markets.

Others are using the disruption to start speeding up plans to diversify their energy sources. China, the world's largest importer, is expanding renewable energy. Governments in Europe and Asia are pushing electrification in transport and heating. Investment in solar, wind and battery technologies is rising.

Shifts like this tend to stick. The oil shocks of the 1970s forced lasting improvements in energy efficiency and reduced oil demand per capita. This time, the effect is likely to be deeper because supply is more diversified and alternative

sources of energy are already viable at scale. The cost of solar panels has fallen sharply, wind power has become more competitive and battery prices have declined to the point where substitution is realistic.

The blockade of the Strait of Hormuz is no longer just a supply shock. It is cutting demand and forcing a shift away from Middle East supply. The adjustment is already underway, and it may not be easy to reverse.

Toronto-based Rashid Husain Syed is a highly regarded analyst specializing in energy and politics, particularly in the Middle East. In addition to his contributions to local and international newspapers, Rashid frequently lends his expertise as a speaker at global conferences. Organizations such as the Department of Energy in Washington and the International Energy Agency in Paris have sought his insights on global energy matters.

RASHID HUSAIN SYED
GLOBAL ISSUES



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COMMUNITY VOICES

Monthly Message: Local survivors speak out in video about gender-based violence

The silence is breaking. A powerful new video, *It Happens Here*, is calling on communities to confront a difficult truth: gender-based violence is not something that happens somewhere else, it is happening here, in our homes, on our streets, in our neighbourhoods.

This release comes at a strategic and meaningful time. May is Sexual Violence Prevention Month, a time dedicated to raising awareness, challenging stigma, and supporting survivors of sexual and gender-based violence. Across communities, this month serves as a reminder that these issues are widespread, often hidden, and require collective action. It is also an opportunity to amplify survivor voices, foster understanding, and encourage people to move from awareness to meaningful support and change.

Created by survivors from Dufferin County and Caledon, this deeply moving video brings raw, lived experiences into the light. It reveals the hidden realities of gen-



der-based violence in rural and small-town communities, places often defined by trust, familiarity, and the illusion of safety. Behind closed doors, in quiet farmhouses, family homes, and apartments above local shops, survivors are navigating fear, control, and isolation every day.

Through their own voices, survivors speak to the barriers that keep abuse hidden: stigma that silences, fear that paralyzes, financial dependence that traps, and the painful lack of accessible supports. But more than anything, they speak to the urgent need for

communities to listen and to believe.

"This is not a distant issue. This is ours," says Barbara Mason, coordinator of the Survivor Group.

"For too long, gender-based violence in rural communities has been buried under the comforting lie that 'things like that don't happen here. But they do. They always have. This video is survivors standing together: see us, hear us, believe us. Your belief could mean the difference between despair and hope—between danger and safety."

The message of *It Happens Here* is both simple and deeply personal: survivors are not invisible; they are part of every community.

"I am your neighbour. Your coworker. Your friend, one survivor shares. "And I am a survivor."

The video calls on every member of the community to move beyond silence and discomfort, to listen without judgment, to reject victim-blaming, and to stand beside survivors with compassion and courage.

Watching this video is an important step in that process. It offers a rare opportunity to hear directly from survivors, to better understand the realities of gender-based violence in our own communities, and to reflect on how each of us can contribute to a culture of safety, respect, and support.

It also honours the extraordinary resilience of those who have lived through gender-based violence and continue to rebuild their lives.

"Being a survivor means I met fear and kept moving forward, another voice declares. "My story does not carry me. I am still here."

By sharing these truths, survivors are not only reclaiming their voices, but they are also creating a path forward. A path where stigma is replaced with understanding, where silence gives way to support, and where anyone experiencing violence knows one critical thing: they are not alone.

To watch *It Happens Here* on YouTube, visit: youtu.be/z5_fSOv4_Rw

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR: Response to 'Rumours'

Dear Editor,

Your April 23rd issue had a column by Brian Lockhart titled "Rumours." I feel that the article is misleading at more than one level.

While I do not pretend expertise in every relevant scientific domain, I can state with certainty that his assessment of Y2K is superficial. Mr. Lockhart is presenting the "visible" consequences predicted to happen if the year 2000 issue in computers of the epoch is not addressed. The fact that the preventative efforts by countless IT specialists worked, he concludes it with a "Then - nothing." Yes, then nothing, exactly because things were taken seriously and correction measures were successfully implemented, not because - as the article seems to suggest - the fear of consequences was exaggerated uselessly.

Mr. Lockhart mentions predictions of flooding New York coastal cities due to global warming, predictions which (luckily) did not materialize. Climatology is notoriously complex and therefore models are used to help understanding it and yes, some predictions will miss the mark. Were the climatologists completely wrong? Low lying islands and atolls in the Pacific and Indian

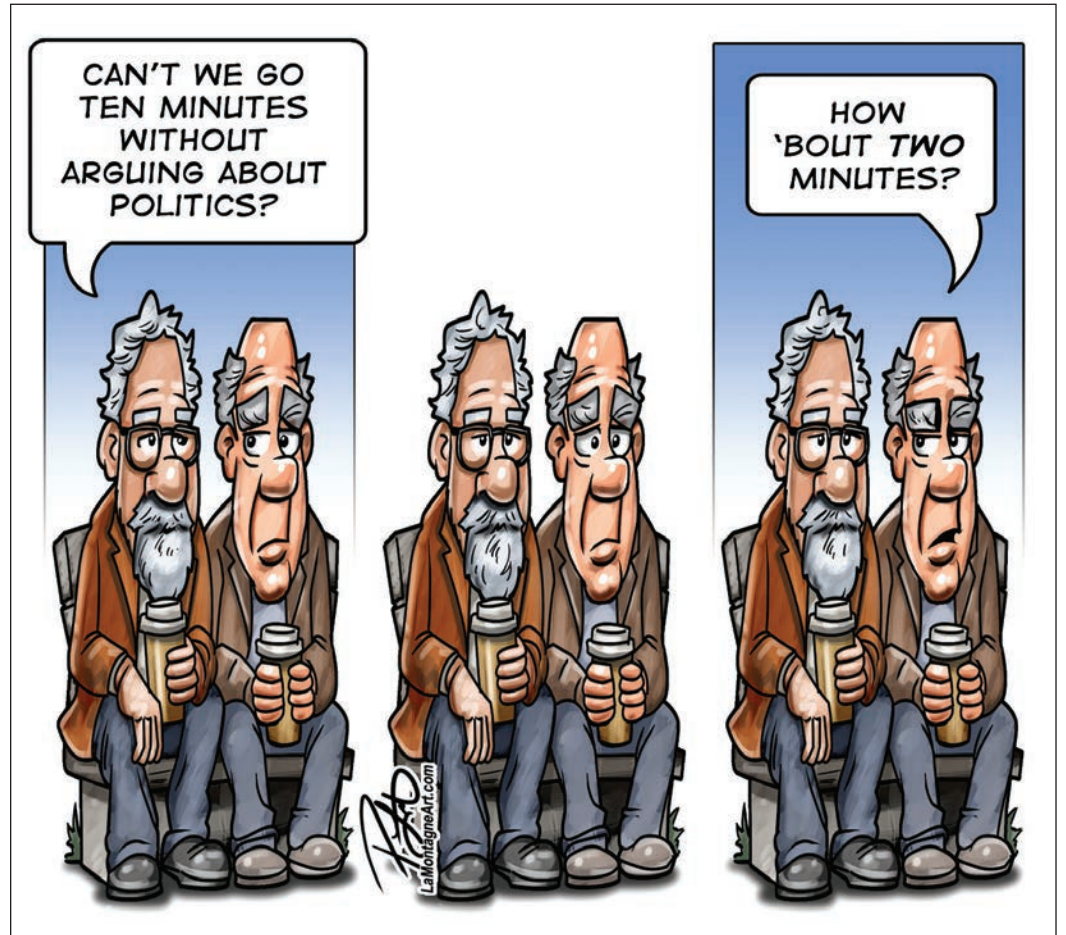
oceans are actually feeling the pressure of rising waters already.

A similar comment can be made on the measures to prevent the spread of Corona virus - a highly contagious and, at least for some individuals, debilitating one. Epidemiology works with models as well, due to the complexities of that field, and scientists concluded that is more prudent to isolate each-other, and it's not worth the risk of exposure for the convenience of regular life.

And here is the undercurrent of the article: scientists are not to be trusted when they predict problems, it's just rumours. This, I will argue, is patently wrong: scientists cannot predict accurately the future, and sometimes will just be wrong. However, the scientific method allows for corrections and improvements.

In more practical terms, I think it is better to figure out all these scenarios and prepare for them, than to "let the chips fall where they may, and get on with life without worrying," and I hope your readers will opt for the ounce of prevention too.

Sorin Schwimmer
Orangeville



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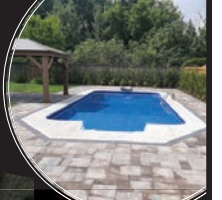
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Caledon mayor announces retirement ahead of upcoming election

Written By RILEY MURPHY
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

In a Facebook post shared on Friday evening, April 24, Caledon Mayor Annette Groves announced her retirement. This announcement follows a decades-long career in Caledon politics. Groves was first elected to Caledon council in 2000 and re-elected in 2003 and 2006, when she was elected to Regional Council. Upon losing the 2010 mayoral election, she had a four-year hiatus from politics before returning to win the 2014 Ward 5 Re-

gional Council race, and again in 2018. In 2022, she was elected Mayor by the Caledon community. In the post shared to her Facebook account, Groves said this decision came after "much reflection," and that this was "not a decision that comes lightly, but one made with careful thought and a deep sense of gratitude." "Serving the residents of Caledon has been the honour of a lifetime," continued Groves in her video message. "I am deeply thankful for the trust, support and encouragement I have received over the years."

She said the strength and spirit of the community is what makes Caledon "such a special place." In the remainder of the video, she expressed her gratitude to Town Staff and thanked her Council colleagues. Groves called her friends and family her constant support system, and thanks them for their patience, encouragement, and for "standing by me throughout this journey." She expressed her appreciation to her team and said she could "not have done this without you." "Finally, I thank God for guiding me along

this path for the opportunity to serve. While this chapter is coming to a close, my commitment to this community will always remain. Thank you, and God Bless you all," closed Groves. The video, posted after 9 p.m. on Friday evening came the same evening as her Mayor's Charity Gala. With Groves announcing her retirement, there will be no incumbent for Caledon's top job in this year's municipal election, slated for Oct. 26. The nomination period for the election begins on Friday, May 1.

OBITUARIES

NORMAN 'ROSS' MCALPINE

It is with profound sadness that the family announces the passing of Norman 'Ross' McAlpine peacefully on April 22, 2026.

Beloved father of Karen (Scott)Hannon and his grand puppies Gus and Coffee Girl and Polly his grand cat. Amazing Grandfather to Ashley Stubbs and Tyler Parker and Jaime and Martin Olsen, Eve and Dennis Hannon. Great Grandfather to Lyra and Haven and grand puppy Kiko. Predeceased by his wife Mildred (Sanders) McAlpine

Predeceased by his parents Norman and Jean McAlpine

Brother to Shirley (Bill)(d), Lorne, Grant (Debbie), Marg (Ron), Helen (John)(d) Allen, Glen, Roy (Pam) Heather (Alan)(d) Bev (Mac).

Stepfather to Donald (Marj) Sanders, Joy (George) Stubbington and Wesley (Irene) Sanders

Dad spent 65 years in the concrete industry. After he retired, he would go back and make sure the operation was going well.

After Mildred passed away Dad had a great group of friends. Coffee dates with Tim and Tom in Cheltenham, Thursday morning coffee with John and the gang at Timmie's and his nightly chat with Melanie and Sunday morning breakfast with his brother Lorne

Kim Clarkson was a blessing to both Mum and Dad. Thank you for the care you gave Dad in the last weeks of his life

I am so thankful that I had the best dad in the world. Spending the last few weeks with you to make sure you were taken care of and not in pain. I luv and miss you Dad

A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date.

Online condolences can be made at www.imfunerals.com

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



Local groups protest outside Caledon mayor's charity gala, attended by Premier Doug Ford

Written By RILEY MURPHY
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

On Friday April 24, just hours before announcing her retirement, Caledon Mayor Annette Groves held her annual charity gala in support of community organizations in Caledon.

The event was held at the International Centre in Mississauga.

Many local leaders and politicians were in attendance that evening, including Premier Doug Ford, who even received a special custom team jacket courtesy of the Humberview Huskies.

Ford was not the only guest that evening.

Two dozen protestors gathered outside the event venue holding signs protesting Ford and Groves' leadership.

Two community groups, HeadwatersStopThe413 and Democracy Caledon, were involved in the protest alongside other individuals.

Signs could be seen reading "Don't pave the

greenbelt" and "Caledon's Dirty Deals are not Dirt Cheap."

Member of HeadwatersStopThe413, Sharon Sommerville, says they thought this was a strong opportunity not only to make a statement to Ford but also to the Mayor.

"Protesting and rallying is one of the few tools that you have," said Sommerville. "We were there to send a strong message of opposition to the way Annette Groves has been leading Caledon in total opposition to her electoral promises."

"Double whammy, we can rally against Mayor Groves and her leadership and policy choices and Doug Ford, his leadership and policy choices."

She added many in attendance were tired of Ford's "thoughtless policy decisions," as well as many who had hoped for a "slow growth approach" for Caledon following Groves' campaign back in 2022.

"You have to respect your constituents, and that goes for Doug [Ford], and that goes for Annette [Groves]," says Sommerville.



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To view a comprehensive overview of the position, please go to <https://jobs.dayforcehcm.com/en-US/irss/CANDIDATEPORTAL/jobs/4103>
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Features: Minnitoys Shell Oil Tanker Truck & Trailer; Minnitoys Pressed Steel “Winnipeg Supply” Tanker Truck; Minnitoys Pressed Steel Heinz Tomato Juice Transport Truck & Trailer; RC2 Joy Ride Diecast General Lee Model - The Dukes of Hazzard – Sealed; Jada Diecast Hollywood Rides - Ghostbusters Ecto-1 - Sealed; First Gear Supertest 1953 Diecast Kenworth Wrecker; Danbury Mint Diecast 1953 Chevy Wrecker Model – DM Road Service; The Floppers 1320 Don Schumacher’s Stardust Diecast Model; GMP Diecast Barnstormer Model - Tommy Ivo; Marvel Comics “The Invincible Iron Man” No. 1 Big Premiere Issue Comic Book; large assortment of Britains Soldiers Lead Figures including No. 2111 Colour Party; Bandai Tin Cadillac Friction Car; Nomura Tin Litho Buick Police Patrol No. 1125 Friction Car; Corgi Diecast Handley Page Halifax B.III LV607 ‘Friday the 13th’ Model – Sealed; Sports Trading Cards including 1959/60 #2 Maurice Richard Montreal Canadiens; 1973 #193 Carlton Fisk Boston Red Sox; and 1955 #50 Jacques Plante Montreal Canadiens; Beaver Coin-Op Vending Machine; silver tone lighters; glass displays; play sets; model trains & tracks; and much more.

MAY 15TH – Strike It Rich: The Coins & Currency Auction

MAY 26TH to 30TH – Straight Shooter Sale

JUN 12TH – Antiques and Collectibles Auction

JUN 26TH – AVAILABLE
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JULY 10TH – Tool & Equipment Auction

JULY 17TH – Currency Sale

JULY 24TH – Farm Sale

AUG 7TH – Gas and Oil / Toy / Sports Memorabilia Auction

AUG 17TH to 22ND – Straight Shooter Sale



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