

Orangeville Fire Service looking to recruit new volunteer firefighters

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

The Orangeville Fire Service is looking to recruit a new group of volunteer firefighters this year as it works to fill vacancies created through retirements and other departures, ensuring the department maintains enough personnel to respond to big emergencies.

The department expects about four volunteer openings by the end of the year.

While Orangeville maintains a full-time firefighting staff around the clock, volunteer firefighters play a critical role by responding when incidents require additional personnel beyond the department’s regular on-duty crew.

Orangeville Fire Chief John Snider said that the new positions don’t require prior experience to apply. Training and education are provided to recruits.

“We’re diverse,” he said. “There’s a lot of great people who have never had the time or ability to go and do a pre training or do college courses and things like that. We’re happy to train good people. For us, it really is finding a good person that wants to contribute to the community, and this is a great avenue to do that.”

Instead, the department is looking for community-minded individuals who are at least 18 years old and willing to commit to extensive training, emergency call responses and public education events throughout the year.

Candidates must complete an aptitude test, an interview process, and a physical assessment to ensure they can safely perform the job’s demanding tasks.

Despite the title, the term “volunteer firefighter” can be somewhat misleading, according to Snider.

“The name volunteer is a bit of a misnomer,” he said. “I think back 30–40 years ago, it really was volunteer work. They weren’t paid. It was kind of when you could come,

and you came. We obviously put a lot more requirements on them, and they are paid [per call]. We’re one of the best-paid volunteer groups in the province. We try to take very good care of our volunteers, and they would have access to town benefits as well.”

New recruits undergo a six-month training program, attending weekly sessions while also participating in ride-alongs with full-time firefighters to gain practical experience. Although recruits begin responding to incidents after approximately six weeks, becoming a first-class firefighter is a gradual process that typically takes four to five years.

Throughout that time, recruits are paired with experienced firefighters who mentor them, ensuring newer members develop their skills gradually while always working alongside seasoned personnel.

Alongside the requirements to respond to calls, Snider said that volunteer firefighters have a number of other jobs and commitments that come with the role.

“There’s a lot of training,” he said. “We do weekly training, so basically 50 times a year on Mondays we do training for them, and then the expectation of attending the calls that can go off at two in the morning sometimes, and things that are beyond the capacity of our one truck.”

“We do a lot of public education events as well. So they’ll go out and work at the fall fair, they’ll work at Blues and Jazz [Festival] and do some public education with our staff as well.”

Orangeville Fire Service operates as a composite department, with a small full-time complement staffing one truck around the clock and a larger volunteer force of roughly 32 firefighters who respond to larger incidents and support emergency operations across the community.

Snider said that the department responded to thousands of calls last year, and roughly half involved medical responses.

“Last year we ran just under 2,000 calls,”



JOSHUA DRAKES PHOTO

LOOKING TO SERVE: The Orangeville Fire Service is currently recruiting new volunteer firefighters and has issued a call for applicants. Volunteers are expected to be positive, proactive and community-minded individuals willing to learn and work together. Contrary to the title, volunteer staff are compensated for the time they put in, and train regularly to complement the full-time team of firefighters.

he said. “About 50 per cent of our calls involve a patient, so that can be the result of a fire or a car accident, for example. So we do a lot of pre-hospital medical support for paramedics here in Dufferin.”

Firefighters also regularly attend vehicle collisions, automatic alarm activations, carbon monoxide incidents and technical rescues, while approximately 400 calls each year are directly related to fires, ranging from smoke investigations to structure and industrial fires.

Snider said volunteering offers residents an opportunity to make a meaningful difference close to home by helping friends, neighbours and family members during some of the most difficult moments of their lives.

“We get called to people’s places or places of work where they’re having the worst days, and we can have a positive impact and make

it a little less worse,” he said. “You’re doing it for your friends and family and neighbours and your community. You see in all these calls what an impact you have on the community and it is very rewarding.”

With a community-focused department and a variety of roles and advancement opportunities, the Orangeville Fire Service has a lot to offer potential volunteers looking to explore a career in emergency services.

Residents interested in joining the department are encouraged to attend one of the mandatory information sessions, where they can learn more about the recruitment process, speak with current firefighters and determine whether the role is the right fit before applications officially open.

Orangeville Fire will soon announce the dates of the mandatory information session for interested applicants.

Orangeville resident charged in connection to Canadian Tire break and enter

A 42-year-old Orangeville man has been charged following a break and enter investigation at the local Canadian Tire.

Dufferin County OPP responded on July 18 at about 9:49 a.m. to a report of a break and enter at Canadian Tire on First Street in Orangeville. Police said multiple storage containers at the rear of the property had been broken into overnight.

Investigators identified a suspect and vehicle captured on surveillance footage at the time of the incident.

On July 28, officers located the suspect vehicle, a GMC Yukon, and arrested the driver. Police said the individual was found to be in possession of a controlled substance during the arrest.

Members of the Dufferin OPP Community Street Crime Unit, Nottawasaga Community Street Crime Unit and frontline officers executed search warrants at a residence in Orangeville and a second address in East Grafton.

Police said approximately \$9,000 worth

of stolen property was recovered, including children’s play structures, bike racks, trampolines, temporary garages and sheds. The recovered property was returned to its owner.

Jason Dougan, 42, of Orangeville, has been charged with break and enter a place – commit indictable offence, possession of property obtained by crime under \$5,000 – in Canada, possession of property obtained by crime over \$5,000 – outside Canada, and possession of a Schedule I substance – methamphetamine.

Police said approximately 9.5 grams of methamphetamine was seized.

The accused is scheduled to appear before the Ontario Court of Justice at a later date.

None of the charges have been proven in court.

Police are asking anyone with information, dash camera footage or security video related to the investigation to contact Dufferin OPP at 1-888-310-1122. Anonymous tips can be submitted through Crime Stoppers.

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Behind the vote: Orangeville councillors reflect on lessons learned

Written By SAM ODROWSKI

After years of making decisions at the council table, three Orangeville councillors say one of the biggest lessons they have learned is that municipal issues are rarely as straightforward as they first appear.

With the municipal election approaching, sitting councillors Debbie Sherwood and Rick Stevens, along with Deputy Mayor Todd Taylor, reflected on what they have learned while serving in public office. They shared insights into the work that happens behind the scenes and the responsibility of making decisions on behalf of the community.

Their comments come as the nomination period for the 2026 municipal election nears its Aug. 21 deadline. Candidates will be certified by the Town of Orangeville clerk following the close of nominations, with voting taking place Oct. 26.

Decisions are more complex than they appear

For Stevens, who was elected to his first term on council in 2022, one of the biggest lessons has been gaining a deeper understanding of the complexity behind municipal decisions.

“Before I was elected, I think I looked at some issues, like a lot of residents do, and wondered why [they] took so long or why they seemed so complicated,” Stevens said. “Once you’re on the inside, you realize that things are rarely as simple as they first appear.”

He said each issue that comes before council involves reviewing reports, asking questions and considering input from staff, residents and other members of council.

“Sometimes there isn’t a perfect solution, and you have to weigh the pros and cons before deciding what is in the best interest of the community,” Stevens said.

Sherwood, who was first elected in 2018 and re-elected in 2022, said she was also surprised by the amount of preparation required outside of council meetings.

“It surprised me the number of hours spent other than sitting in a council meeting for a few hours a couple times a month,” Sherwood said.

She said councillors must be prepared to learn about a wide range of topics and understand the impact of their decisions.

“You have to listen, you have to be willing to compromise, and most importantly, you have to love the job,” Sherwood said.

The work beyond the council chamber

While residents often see the final vote at a council meeting, members said much of



MORE THAN MEETINGS: Deputy Mayor Todd Taylor says much of a councillor’s work happens behind the scenes, from responding to residents to serving on committees. He is seeking re-election in the Oct. 26 municipal election.

the work happens before an issue reaches the chamber.

Sherwood said councillors spend significant time responding to residents, reviewing information, participating in committee meetings and attending community events.

“This role is a 24/7 job with no week-ends off,” she said. “Any time, day or night we can be taking phone calls, answering emails, handling public inquiries, meeting with residents, taking complaints, and frequently answering questions.”

Councillors are responsible for making decisions about municipal finances and services while considering the interests of residents and businesses, Sherwood said.

Stevens told the Citizen council meetings represent only a small part of the role.

“Before every meeting, there are reports to read, agendas to review, questions to think about, and often conversations with staff to better understand the issues,” he said.

During his term, Stevens has served on four committees and chaired Access Orangeville.

“There is also a lot of time spent talking with residents, answering emails and phone calls, attending community events, and listening to concerns,” he said.

Taylor, who was first elected as a councillor in 2018 and became deputy mayor in 2022, said the amount of behind-the-scenes work is something residents may not always see.

“Yes, I go to meetings, meet with residents, and I am active in my community, but



SERVING ORANGEVILLE: Councillor Debbie Sherwood, who is seeking re-election in the 2026 municipal election, says serving on Orangeville council has required significant time, commitment and a willingness to compromise.

I spend a lot of time doing things people do not see,” Taylor said.

He pointed to time spent responding to emails, serving on committees and keeping up with increased social media demands.

“My point – being on council is a job – a job that requires time if it is to be done right,” Taylor said.

“You have to listen, you have to be willing to compromise, and most importantly, you have to love the job”

Debbie Sherwood, Councillor

One vote among seven

Another lesson councillors highlighted was the importance of understanding their role as individual members of council.

Sherwood said one misconception about municipal government is that a single councillor can make decisions independently.

“One councillor with one vote cannot make a decision on their own,” she said. “Each councillor, including the mayor and deputy mayor, have one vote each and in order for something to pass it takes a majority vote, which is four.”

Stevens said serving on council has rein-



A FRESH PERSPECTIVE: Coun. Rick Stevens says serving on Orangeville council has given him a greater appreciation for the complexity of municipal decision-making. As of Aug. 5, he had not filed nomination papers for the 2026 municipal election.

forced that decisions are made collectively.

“You are one voice around the council table, and the best decisions come from listening, asking tough questions, and being willing to keep an open mind,” he said.

He added that councillors must evaluate each issue based on the information available and what they believe is in the best interest of the community.

Taylor said residents should feel comfortable reaching out to their representatives.

“The people who are on council live in the town too,” he said. “A strong representative will communicate with you, take your concerns seriously, and offer an honest assessment of what can be done.”

Advice for future candidates

As residents consider who may seek office, the Sherwood, Taylor and Stevens offered different perspectives on what makes an effective councillor.

Taylor encouraged prospective candidates to become involved in the community before running for office.

“Show people that you care about your town through consistent leadership in a variety of different causes, committees, or organizations,” he said.

Taylor also encouraged candidates to attend council meetings and learn about the issues facing the community.

Stevens said people considering a run should understand that public office is a responsibility.

Continued on Page A5

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September 10, 2026 at 6:00 pm
Grand Valley and District Community Centre, Grand River Room
90 Main Street North, Grand Valley

County File No: COPA3-26
Location: 063076 County Road 3, East Garafraxa

TAKE NOTICE that the County of Dufferin will hold a Public Meeting pursuant to subsection 22 of the Planning Act to hear public comments on a privately initiated County official plan amendment prior to the County making any decisions at a future meeting.

THE PUBLIC MEETING will be held in-person on Thursday, September 10, 2026 at 6:00 pm in the Grand River Room at the Grand Valley and District Community Centre, 90 Main Street North, Grand Valley. The agenda for the meeting will be posted on the County’s website on the Friday prior to the meeting. As this meeting is for the purposes of receiving feedback from the public on the proposed official plan amendment, no decisions will be made by Council at the meeting. Any person or public body may participate in this process by attending the meeting to speak in-person or by providing written comments on the proposed official plan amendment. Those who attend in-person to speak will have 3 minutes for comments during the meeting. Written comments received prior to the meeting will be circulated to Council as part of the agenda package for the meeting. Written comments will also continue to be accepted by staff until a decision has been made by Council. Written comments can be sent to the attention of the County Clerk by email or by regular mail to the address listed at the end of this notice. All information submitted to the County is subject to the Municipal Freedom of Information Act and Protection of Privacy Act. Personal information collected at the public meeting will be used to support Council in their decision making. Names and comments will form part of the public record. Please note that this meeting will not be recorded or livestreamed.

THE PURPOSE AND EFFECT OF THE OFFICIAL PLAN AMENDMENT is to remove the subject lands from the Employment designation, as shown on Schedule B. The redesignation is to permit the expansion of a previously Ontario Land Tribunal (OLT) approved residential subdivision and leading to an increase in the number of residential units from 58 units to 78 units (+20 units).



AMENDMENT is to remove the subject lands from the Employment designation, as shown on Schedule B. The redesignation is to permit the expansion of a previously Ontario Land Tribunal (OLT) approved residential subdivision and leading to an increase in the number of residential units from 58 units to 78 units (+20 units).

FOR MORE INFORMATION about this matter, including information about appeal rights, visit the County’s website. A copy of the proposed official plan amendment is also available on the County’s website <https://www.dufferincounty.ca/planning-development/planning-applications/>
DATED at Orangeville this 5th day of August, 2026.

Dundalk-Orangeville bus service continues as regional transit study moves ahead

Written By SAM ODROWSKI

Regional bus service connecting Dundalk and Orangeville will continue while officials work toward creating a unified transit network spanning four counties.

Bruce, Dufferin, Grey and Wellington counties, along with Saugeen Mobility and Regional Transit (SMART), announced interim transit services will remain in place or be expanded as a regional transit study moves toward a draft plan expected in the fall.

The study aims to create a seamless transit network across the four counties, with a final decision expected from councils and the SMART Board in 2027.

“To make sure riders aren’t left without service while the study continues, interim bus routes across the region are being maintained or expanded,” said the County of Dufferin in an announcement on July 30.

The Grey Transit Route (GTR) 2 between Dundalk and Orangeville, along with Guelph Owen Sound Transit (GOST), will continue operating.

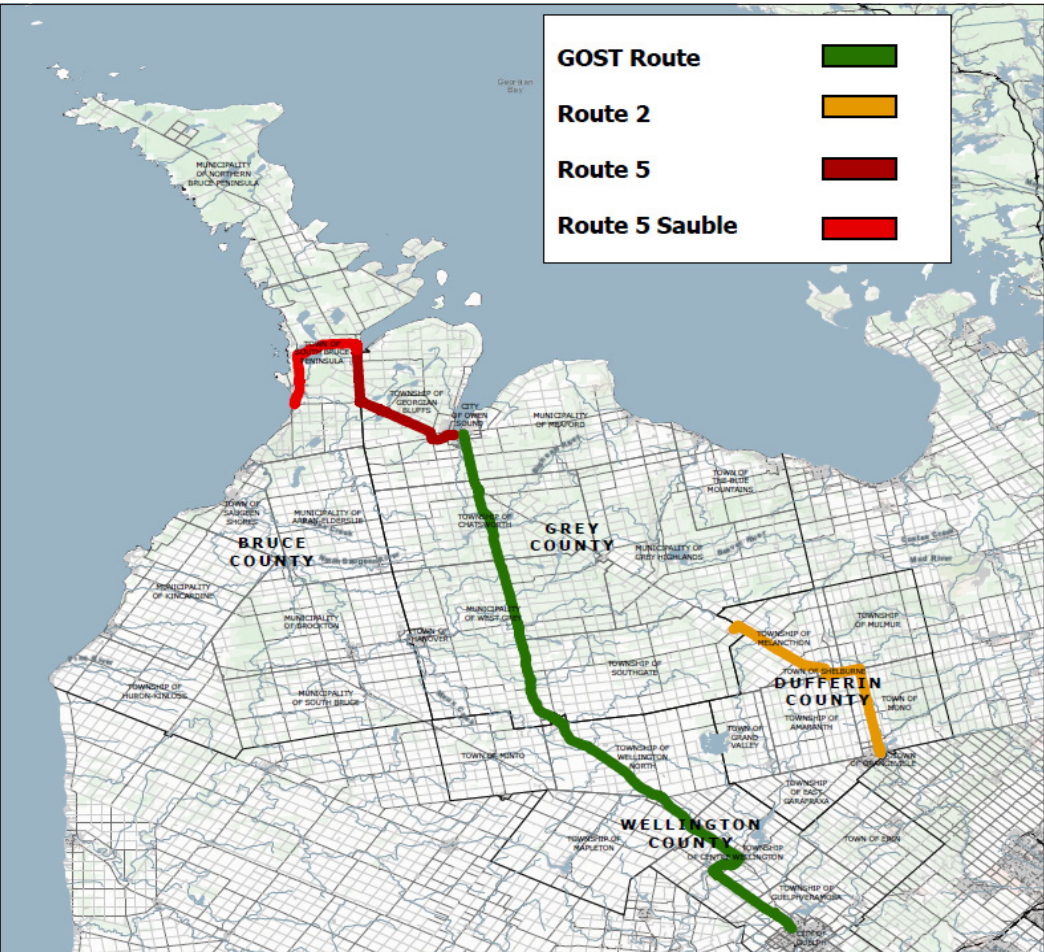
GTR Route 5, connecting Owen Sound and Wiarton, is being reintroduced this fall.

A seasonal extension of Route 5 to Sauble Beach will be considered for the summer of 2027. The County of Dufferin says this will help cover peak tourism season, pending funding approval.

“Continuing these services protects existing ridership and gives residents continued access to transit while long-term options are investigated,” the county stated. “These services are funded within each county’s approved 2026 budget and supported by the Ontario Transit Investment Fund.”

The regional transit study comes as communities across rural Ontario face growing transportation challenges, with population growth, an aging population and the rising cost of living making reliable transit increasingly important.

For Dufferin residents, the study could help shape future connections between Orangeville and neighbouring communities, where limited transit options make regional travel difficult for those without access to a vehicle.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

GOST ROUTE: A map shows the Guelph Owen Sound Transit route, which will continue operating as a regional transit study moves forward.

Mono council considers height limits for certain zoning regulations

Written By JAMES MATTHEWSI

Mono has started the process to consider amending its building and zoning bylaws.

Council directed municipal staff to review the town’s Comprehensive Zoning Bylaw, which includes provisions pertaining to the maximum height and gross floor area of accessory buildings and structures.

Coun. Elaine Cape’s motion was rooted in council’s wish to consider establishing height and lot coverage restrictions specific to accessory buildings and structures with respect to the Suburban Residential (RU), Hamlet Residential (RH), and Rural Estate (RE) zones.

It was suggested that council further direct staff to assess the feasibility of establishing specific provisions regarding accessory buildings and structures in the three zones as part of the overall review of the town’s Comprehensive Zoning Bylaw.

Deputy Mayor Fred Nix said there are height and coverage restrictions in rural zones. But he said he was surprised that such specifications are lacking on structures in the other zones.

“That’s maybe just my ignorance,” he said.

Fred Simpson, the town’s clerk, said restrictions for accessory buildings in the RU, RH, and RE zones are identical to the primary building.

“There is no separate and distinct restriction for accessory buildings,” Simpson said.

Coun. Melinda Davie said everything happens in steps, and the motion is itemizing possible changes to the zones.

“We would like to look at this before we get everybody building accessory buildings in these zones,” she said. “But this is a part of a very big thing that has to happen in steps.”

Suggested amendments would have to go to the Dufferin County level and through the Official Plan process.

“It just goes into the pile of all of the things that we’re looking at on our Unfinished Business list with respect to building,” Davie said.

“The most productive way to proceed with zoning bylaw amendments would be to take on multiple issues at the same time,” said Mike Dunmore, the town’s CAO.

Such amendments require full-scale public consultation with statutory meetings and mailout information.

Dufferin County is revisiting its Official Plan, and Mono was in line to look at its plan, followed by the zoning regulations.

“But we’ve delayed that,” Dunmore said. “From a financial perspective, it just doesn’t make sense anymore. Compiling a list with respect to zoning bylaw amendments is definitely the most productive and most comprehensive way to get to all the residents at one time.”

Mayor John Creelman asked if the Capes’ motion was on the list or the list’s beginning?

Dunmore said staff have a list of issues that are being dealt with, and the zoning bylaw amendment was among them.

“Not the square footage, but the lack of height restriction in these zone was definitely something that we had flagged for addition when we do the zoning bylaw,” he said.

Creelman said he’s been working with a resident farmer who wants to replace a dilapidated barn but is hampered by a height restriction. When somebody is replacing an existing structure, the committee of adjustment process shouldn’t apply, he said.

An existing structure is simply being replaced with a new one of identical size.

“I think we should look at whether or not we should be requiring this (process) in the future,” Creelman said.

Davie said the question may arise of whether or not the original barn was built according to the standard.

Creelman said the barn was appropriately built 150 years ago, but it is now falling down.

“Now things change and so you have to go through the rules,” Davie said. “We’re not planners.”

Capes said the motion merely highlights the idea that height parameters should be considered as part of possible zoning bylaw amendments.

“There’s more to the picture is all I’m saying,” Davie said. “There’s more to it than just the height and the gross floor area.”

Creelman said council has known for years that the bylaw requires revisions. And he said waiting for Dufferin County to finish its work could add more time to that wait for municipal amendments.

“At some point we’ve got to get on with these adjustments,” Creelman said. “While I’m not a planner, I don’t hesitate to have planning opinions.”

Nix said he doesn’t consider a barn to be an accessory structure to a residential house.

“A barn is essential to itself if you’re a farmer,” Nix said. “I think we’ve got a problem with the word accessory in the current bylaw.”

Dunmore suggested he revisit discussions with the planner regarding bylaw changes and Official Plan amendments. He offered to return to council with a verbal update.

Dairy Queen’s Miracle Treat Day returns to Orangeville

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

Orangeville residents can enjoy a Blizzard while supporting children’s health care when Miracle Treat Day returns to the local Dairy Queen on Aug. 13.

The annual fundraiser sees Dairy Queen restaurants across Canada raise money for their local Children’s Miracle Network hospital.

For Orangeville Dairy Queen owner John Lockyer, Miracle Treat Day has become a huge annual event for the restaurant.

“It’s a massive event in our calendar, and it gets everybody going,” he said. “We call it Dairy Queen Christmas. Our team really looks forward to it. We can move close to 4,000 blizzards that day alone.”

The national partnership between Dairy Queen Canada and Children’s Miracle Network hospitals began 42 years ago and has raised more than \$58 million for children’s health care across the country.

The need remains significant, with Canada’s children’s hospitals seeing roughly 3 million patient visits each year.

In Orangeville, proceeds are directed to the SickKids Foundation.

Lockyer said that while every participating Dairy Queen contributes to the campaign, the Orangeville location is among a select number of stores that go a step further.

“In our little restaurant here in Orangeville, we’ve chosen to give the entire price of each Blizzard to SickKids,” he said. “We donate the entire amount, so if the Blizzard’s \$5.99, we will donate \$5.99.”

Other Dairy Queens typically donate the cost of the Blizzard minus the costs associated with making it.

The Orangeville location has participated in the campaign for 24 years, raising more than \$1 million for SickKids in that time.

Last year alone, the restaurant contributed approximately \$85,000 through Miracle Treat Day Blizzard sales, while another \$50,000 is raised annually through year-round custom-

er roundup donations.

The Orangeville location was also one of the first Dairy Queen restaurants in Canada to make roundup donations available every day of the year, rather than as a limited-time campaign. Lockyer said it was one way the restaurant tries to stay involved and engaged with the community while also supporting a good cause.

“We used to do it just for a month, and then we thought, why don’t we just do it every day,” he said. “Just have it [as] part of our culture. It’s a very easy way to help. Of course, not everyone can donate or is in a position to, and that’s absolutely fine. We might catch them next time.”

Preparation for Miracle Treat Day begins well before Aug. 13, with local businesses purchasing hundreds of free Blizzard coupons for employees and customers. On the day itself, the restaurant expects to serve thousands of Blizzards, making it one of the busiest Dairy Queen locations in the country.

Since 2022, Lockyer’s location has been the highest fundraising Dairy Queen in Canada for Children’s Miracle Network, a success he attributes to the generosity of local residents, businesses and his staff.

He said the event represents the power of community support and expressed the restaurant’s gratitude to the Orangeville community and its business partners.

“We’ve been very lucky,” Lockyer said. “It’s all about the relationships that you have with customers, with staff and with the local businesses who support us every single year on this campaign. It’s the power of community. We try to sponsor as much as we can, whether it be sports, whether it be theatre, et cetera. And people give back. We’re all in it together, and we help each other.”

Residents are encouraged to stop by on Aug. 13, try one of Dairy Queen’s classic or seasonal Blizzard flavours and know that every dollar spent on their frozen treat at the Orangeville location will go directly toward helping SickKids continue providing specialized care for children.



JOSHUA DRAKES PHOTO

MAKING MIRACLES: Dairy Queen’s Miracle Treat Day is fast approaching on Aug. 13. For the entire day, the Orangeville Dairy Queen will be donating the full price of purchased Blizzards to SickKids as a way to give back to the community. The national campaign has raised over \$58 million for charity, and the Orangeville location alone has raised \$1 million since beginning in 2003.

Behind the vote: Orangeville council members reflect on lessons learned

Continued from Page A3

“If you genuinely want to serve your community, are willing to listen to people with different perspectives, and are prepared to put in the time, it can be a very rewarding experience,” he said.

Sherwood said prospective candidates should understand the personal commitment involved and be prepared for the scrutiny that comes with public office.

“You need to have a genuine desire to help others and to be compassionate,” she said. “You have to want to make a positive difference.”

Sherwood said prospective councillors must also be prepared to listen to different viewpoints, build consensus and make difficult decisions, even when those decisions are unpopular.

“You have to have a thick skin,” she said. “And you have to put in way more than an eight-hour day.”

Despite the challenges, she added that serving the community has been a fulfilling experience.

“The most rewarding aspect of the responsibility has been seeing all the progress that we have made, whether it was on council or any of the many town committees,” she said.

Stevens said his first term on council has reinforced the importance of making thoughtful decisions on behalf of residents.

“Serving on council has given me a much greater appreciation for the responsibility that comes with the role and the importance of making informed decisions on behalf of our community,” he said.

Taylor told the Citizen that serving Orangeville has also been a rewarding experience.

“I never imagined that being on council would add such joy and satisfaction to my life,” he said.

“It fills my cup in such a fulfilling way.”



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Local daycare's annual Trikeathon keeps support rolling for Headwaters

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

Sandbox Tech Child Care Ltd.'s annual Trikeathon has become a long-running tradition of community giving, with this year's event once again bringing children, families and staff together to raise money for the local hospital.

Held on Thursday, July 30, the fundraiser saw Sandbox children decorate and ride their tricycles and bikes while parents, grandparents and other family members pledged donations in support of Headwaters Health Care Centre, raising \$3,000.

Although the event is limited to children enrolled with Sandbox, organizer Deb Launspach said the goal has always been to teach young people the importance of helping their community while raising money for local health care.

“The whole idea is to get the whole community together for a good cause that helps people, that’s what I really like about it,” she said. “Some of the young kids have no idea the full idea behind it, but their parents do. So some parents donated some money to the hospital, and then grandparents. That’s really how it all started.”

The Trikeathon dates back more than four decades, with Launspach estimating the tradition began around 1985.

It first started when Sandbox purchased a commemorative brick during fundraising for the construction of Headwaters Health Care Centre. Inspired by that campaign, Launspach decided to create an annual fundraiser of her own.

At the time, Sandbox operated out of her home, so the very first Triathlon took place in her driveway, where children pedalled their tricycles while families donated to the hospital.

Sandbox is now located within the same building as Montgomery Village Public School in Orangeville.

As Sandbox expanded over the years, the event moved with it, taking place at several different locations before eventually becoming part of the child care centre's annual calendar. Even after a pause during



JOSHUA DRAKES PHOTOS

LITTLE RIDERS, BIG IMPACT: Sandbox Tech Child Care recently held its annual Trikeathon fundraising at its daycare center on July 30. The campaign invites parents and families of kids enrolled at the daycare to donate to the local hospital and encourages kids to decorate trikes and bikes to attract more attention and promote the initiative. In the end, the event raised \$3,000 for Headwaters.

the COVID-19 pandemic, the Trikeathon returned and continues to attract strong participation from Sandbox families each year.

Launsbach said the event is about more than fundraising totals. She hopes it encourages children to grow up understanding the importance of giving back and reminds families that even small donations can make a meaningful difference when combined across a community.

"In the end, it's up to us to make the community better," Launspach said. "We have to help each other out, we have to think about each other. If everyone in Dufferin County gave 10 bucks to Headwaters, just 10, think about the huge difference it would make. That helps them help you. It helps our com-

munity.”

While final numbers from this year's Trikeathon are still being counted, Launspach said the event has raised over \$20,000 for

Headwaters Health Care Centre over its lifetime, demonstrating how decades of small contributions have added up to support local health care.



Two vehicles and one motorcycle collide on Highway 10 in Mono resulting in serious injuries

Dufferin Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) officers, along with Dufferin County emergency services, attended a serious three-vehicle collision in Mono on July 31.

At approximately 6:30 p.m., officers attended the collision on Highway 10, which in-

volved an SUV, sedan, and motorcycle.

As a result of the collision, the lone motorcycle driver sustained serious injuries and was transported to a Toronto area trauma centre, where he remains in stable condition at the time of print. An occupant in the SUV

was transported to a local hospital and has since been released.

Highway 10 between Highway 89 and 20th Sideroad was closed for six hours while the OPP's Traffic Collision Investigation (TCI) team investigated alongside officers.

The investigation is continuing, and anyone who may have witnessed the collision is asked to contact the Dufferin OPP at 1-888-310-1122. Anyone who witnessed the collision and wishes to speak to victim services can reach Caledon/Dufferin Victim Services at 905-951-3838.

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orangevillehollyfest.ca



To apply to be a vendor at the show, scan the QR code, visit our website or email **shows@lpcmedia.ca** for a vendor application form.

Fountain Tire celebrates grand opening in Orangeville

Written By JOSHUA DRAKES
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Fountain Tire celebrated the grand opening of its Orangeville location on Saturday, July 25.

The event attracted families, local businesses and community members for a day of activities designed to introduce the business to the community. Visitors were treated to hot dogs and hamburgers under an outdoor tent, while a table stocked with Fountain Tire promotional items offered giveaways throughout the day.

Families also enjoyed a petting zoo, and representatives from the Ontario SPCA attended with animals, helping make the grand opening a family-friendly event.

Fabian Mundaca, owner, said that the grand opening exceeded expectations.

“We were thrilled to see so many residents, families, local businesses, and community members come out to support us,” he said. “The response was overwhelmingly positive, and it was great to meet so many people, introduce ourselves, and showcase what we have to offer. The event reinforced that Orangeville is a community that values local businesses and community involvement.”

Fountain Tire Orangeville offers a full range of automotive services, including passenger and light truck tires, commercial tire services, wheel alignments, brakes, suspension and steering repairs, oil changes, diagnostics and general vehicle maintenance.

After working in the automotive industry

and serving in management roles with Fountain Tire, Mundaca said opening his own location was the next step in his career.

“I wanted the opportunity to build something of my own while creating a positive workplace for employees and delivering exceptional service to customers,” he said. “What motivates me most is helping people, whether that’s supporting our team members in their growth, solving problems for customers, or contributing to the community where we live and work.”

He and his family recently relocated to Orangeville, choosing the community because of its continued growth, supportive business environment and welcoming atmosphere.

The new location is staffed by a journeyman technician, an automotive apprentice, a service advisor and additional support from Fountain Tire’s Edmonton operations.

Mundaca said the team places a strong emphasis on communication, teamwork and customer service.



JOSHUA DRAKES PHOTO

NEW TO TOWN: Fountain Tire in Orangeville hosted its grand opening ceremony on Saturday, July 25. Guests were invited to check out the premises and get some free food and swag, courtesy of the business.

While the petting zoo and Ontario SPCA participation helped create a welcoming atmosphere for families, Mundaca said the business also hopes to continue supporting local organizations and community initiatives in the future as it establishes itself in Orangeville.

“I would like to sincerely thank every-

one who came out to support us during our grand opening,” he said. “The warm welcome we have received from Orangeville has been incredible. We invite everyone to visit us, meet our team, and see how we can help keep their vehicles safe and reliable. We look forward to serving this community for many years to come.”

Fatal collision results in death of motorcyclist, four people charged with impaired driving

Dufferin Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) officers, with assistance from Dufferin County Paramedic Services and local fire departments, responded to a fatal two-vehicle collision in Mulmur on Aug. 4.

At approximately 2:32 p.m., emergency crews were dispatched to the intersection of Highway 89 and 3rd Line in Violet Hill for a collision involving a motorcycle and a passenger vehicle.

The driver and passenger of the vehicle were transported to a local hospital with minor injuries, while the motorcyclist, a 63-year-old male from Wellington North, was pronounced deceased.

Members of the OPP Technical Collision Investigation (TCI) unit attended to assist with the investigation.

The investigation remains ongoing.

Anyone with information or dashcam footage related to the collision is asked to

contact the Dufferin OPP at 1-888-310-1122.

Four drivers charged with impaired driving over four days across Dufferin

Four drivers have been charged with impaired driving-related offences following incidents investigated by the Dufferin County Detachment of the OPP from July 25 to 29.

On July 25 at about 3:37 a.m., officers responded to a report of a possible impaired driver in the area of Highway 10 in Mono. Officers located the vehicle at the intersection of Highway 10 and County Road 10 and conducted a traffic stop.

Following an impaired driving investigation, Tristan Hackett, 42, of Shelburne, was charged with operation while impaired – alcohol, operation while impaired – blood alcohol concentration (80 plus), and failing to stop for a red light.

On July 26 at roughly 3:37 a.m., officers responded to a report of a possible impaired driver on Amaranth-East Luther Townline in Grand Valley. Officers located the vehicle in a cornfield and spoke with the driver before conducting an impaired driving investigation.

Abigail Stitt, 25, of Hillsburgh, was charged with operation while impaired – alcohol, operation while impaired – blood alcohol concentration (80 plus), and dangerous operation.

Later on July 26 at about 9:04 p.m., officers conducting traffic enforcement on Highway 89 in Mulmur Township stopped a vehicle after it caught an officer’s attention.

Takelall Persaud, 44, of Keswick, was charged with failure or refusal to comply with demand and speeding 1-49 km/h over the posted limit.

On July 29 at about 10:57 p.m., officers

conducting traffic enforcement on Highway 10 in Mono stopped a vehicle after it caught an officer’s attention.

Tristan Latondress, 27, of Dundalk, was charged with driving a motor vehicle while performing a stunt involving excessive speed, having an entire licence plate not plainly visible, driving a motor vehicle without a currently validated permit, operating an unsafe vehicle, and operation while impaired – blood alcohol concentration (80 plus).

The accused individuals are scheduled to appear before the Ontario Court of Justice in Orangeville at a later date.

None of the charges have been proven in court.

In each incident, the driver’s licence was suspended and their vehicle was impounded in accordance with provincial legislation.



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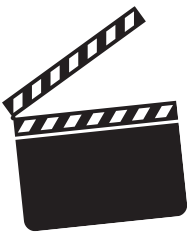
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Arts & Entertainment

LOCAL COMMUNITY EVENTS



Maggiolly Arts hosts Marlene Madole for two days of classes this month

Written By **CONSTANCE SCRAFIELD**

The Canadian Society of Painters in Water Colour (CSPWC) is celebrating its 100th anniversary. Forty years ago, in 1985, the Royal Collection Trust was established together with curators to increase the representation of Canadian watercolour painters in the Royal Collection.

Canadian Marlene Madole is “over the moon” that her fresh fruit watercolour painting has been chosen as a gift to King Charles III through the Royal Collection Trust for private display with the Royal Collection Trust. This is to complete a process begun 40 years ago, in 1985, to increase the representation of Canadian watercolour painters in the Royal Collection.

Madole has been a life member and twice president of the CSPWC.

His Majesty King Charles III is an accomplished watercolour painter and has long been an Honorary Member of CSPWC.

Madole's chosen painting is a watercolour titled “Shadowscape II, Grapes,” a part of her First Fruits series of studio works based on the fruit grown on a family farm in Vernon, B.C.

The painting was selected as the final part of a highly competitive and international juried process conducted by the CSPWC, together with curators of the Royal Collection Trust.

Twenty-five of eighty-six paintings from artists across Canada were chosen, and of those, Madole's painting has been sent as

the final installment to the Royal Collection Trust in Windsor Castle, England, joining the original paintings deposited for the society's 60th Anniversary in 1985.

Although Madole's base is in Glen Williams, she is one of the many fine artists who have come to Maggiolly's Art from far and wide to conduct classes, and many are promised to return in the future.

The range of subjects in the way of creating art on a palette or other surface, the broad spectrum of style choices and the inclination to host classes for all ages as well, speak to the owners' love of the subject of teaching art.

Much more than an arts supply store, Maggiolly, owned by Carl and Emily, has set its sights on being a premier centre for interesting approaches to art, attracting celebrity artists who come to teach and serving as something of a community centre.

Madole's status in the world of art,, with her painting now lodged in the collection of fine works at Windsor Castle, is a tribute to the philosophy fr excellence being promoted at this local shop.

A half-page watercolour, part of Madole's artist statement, explains, “Shadowscape II, Grapes is from the First Fruit Series, watercolours of colourful ripe larger-than-life fruit, fruit still growing in the landscape. Each painting is a close-up of a specific vine or tree, in a single Okanagan Valley orchard owned by my family over 90 years.”

Madole has maintained a studio space at The Williams Mill in Glen Williams for



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CREATIVE SPACE: The classroom at Maggiolly's Art hosts workshops led by accomplished artists from across Canada, including watercolour artist Marlene Madole, whose work was recently selected for the Royal Collection Trust at Windsor Castle.

over 30 years, exhibiting internationally and teaching at leading institutions such as The McMichael Canadian Art Collection, the Royal Ontario Museum, and The Varley Gallery.

The significance of Madole's painting being part of the Royal Collection is part of what puts Canada on the world map of artists producing not only fine work but also innovative, fresh, and determinedly produced

by hand without the involvement of technology.

And Maggiolly on Broadway is its own part of that.

Classes with Madole at Maggiolly are coming up as a special on Aug. 11 and 18.

To learn more about the classes, visit: maggiollyart.com/adult-classes/p/summer-shores-watercolour-with-marlene-madole-2-tuesdays-august-11-18-2026

Fiddle Park movie night returns with Space Jam screening later this month

Residents are invited to enjoy another evening under the stars as the Town of Shelburne continues its free outdoor movie series at Fiddle Park with a screening of the family classic Space Jam on Aug. 29.

The movie will be screened at Fiddle Park, 105 County Road 11, beginning at 8:30 p.m.

Admission to the movie screening is free, and attendees are encouraged to arrive early, as seating is available on a first-come, first-served basis. The Town recommends

bringing lawn chairs, blankets or cushions for comfortable viewing, along with snacks to enjoy during the screening.

Released in 1996, Space Jam stars basketball legend Michael Jordan alongside the animated Looney Tunes characters in a high-stakes basketball game to save Looney Tunes from a group of alien invaders known as the Monstars.

The film has remained a nostalgic family favourite for three decades, blending sports,

comedy and animation into one of the most recognizable family films of the 1990s.

The municipality launched expanded programming this summer following the official reopening of Fiddle Park, which now serves as a hub for concerts, festivals, family activities and more. The free events are intended to encourage residents to gather, connect and enjoy the community's newest outdoor gathering space.

Public consensus was overwhelmingly

positive toward the new park space, and community events in the park continue to draw large crowds to Fiddle Park.

Previously, the Town of Shelburne screened the movie Sandlot, a sports comedy movie starring James Earl Jones, Mike Vitar and Patrick Renna.

Additional information about the movie night series and other community events is available through the Town of Shelburne's online community events calendar.

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David Gauthier
Service Consultant

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Orangeville Chrysler

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.

Orangeville Volkswagen

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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Auto Group

3 Dealerships, 1 Community

The Citizen CROSSWORD

Puzzle No. 268110 • Solution on page: CLASSIFIEDS SECTION

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11	12
13						14				15			
16						17				18			
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54		55				56				57	58	59	
60						61				62			
63						64				65			
66						67				68			

CLUES ACROSS

1. Bleated
6. Snake-like fish
9. Database management system
13. Social evolution anthropologist Service
14. American rocker Grohl
15. Greek personification of compassion
16. Negatives
17. Rescued
18. Self-immolation by fire ritual
19. Assigns tasks
21. Popular type of cigar
22. Discounts
23. The whole quantity
24. New York Giants legend
25. Indicates before
28. Lentils
29. Extremely angry
31. Body part
33. "North Star State"
36. David ___, US playwright
38. Lower and raise one's head
39. Private rendezvous
41. In a way, improved
44. A place to play
45. Astronomical period of 18 years
46. Automobile
48. Something you can take
49. A radio band
51. Jaws of a voracious animal
52. Short-billed rails
54. Chinese province
56. Shameless
60. Horizontal passage from the surface into a mine
61. Indian respectful titles
62. Fail to entertain
63. Dried-up
64. Central Utah city
65. Southern U.S.
66. German river
67. Necessary for breathing

CLUES DOWN

1. Curved segment
2. Wings
3. Yellowish volatile liquid
4. Makes less severe
5. Debit note
6. Overhang
7. The nights before
8. Type of light
9. Lacking enthusiasm
10. Tattle
11. Some is "heavy"
12. One who is canonized
14. Indicates date and place of writing
17. "Peace" in Arabic
20. "Olaf" actor Josh
21. Fragmented rock
23. They ___
25. Advanced degree
26. Backside
27. Influential architect and design couple
29. An act of undue intimacy
30. Words from which later words are derived
32. 10 meters
34. Neither
35. Fungal sacs
37. The law of God revealed to Moses
40. A woolen cap of Scottish origin
42. A promise
43. Challenges
47. British Air Aces
49. Large bank
50. Served as an omen
52. Cavalry sword
53. Vaccine developer
55. Belgian WW2 resistance leader Jules
56. Italian Seaport
57. Hip joint
58. ___ Clapton, musician
59. Insect repellent
61. Constrictor snake
65 "The First State" (abbr.)

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

kids' corner

Math Blocks

Fill in the missing blocks with numbers between 0-20. The numbers in each row add up to the totals on the right. The numbers in each column add up to the totals on the bottom.

		3	28
1	9	10	20
16		6	24
37	14	21	

Get Scrambled

Unscramble the words to determine the phrase.

LCESI FO MNOEL

Answer: Slice of melon

Did You Know?

Watermelon contains 92 percent water. That means that watermelon is both tasty and can help keep the body hydrated.

Health FACT!

This refreshing fruit is an excellent source of lycopene, which helps keep the heart healthy.

Answer: Watermelon

9	2	19
10	6	1
5	3	20

Solution

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Fiddle Park Concert Series continues this weekend with The Amy Experience

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

After a successful launch in July, Shelburne's new Fiddle Park Concert Series is set to continue through August with three free evenings of live music featuring tribute acts, local performers and a variety of musical styles.

Held at Fiddle Park, the Sunday evening concert series has quickly become a new community gathering place, giving residents an opportunity to enjoy live entertainment in the town's recently redeveloped outdoor venue.

Jessica Hanzel, recreation program development and special Events coordinator, said the concert series has already been a huge success.

"The concert series has had a great start," she said. "The grand opening concert brought a lot of excitement to the community, and we've received positive feedback from residents and performers. As this is the first year of the series, we're happy to see people coming out to enjoy live music and experience the park."

The August lineup continues that momentum with performances designed to appeal to a wide range of audiences while showcasing both established acts and local talent.

Hanzel said that the town tries to keep the lineups as diverse as possible so each performance is unique and has something to offer. Town staff achieve this by scouting talent in the community and beyond to find suitable picks for the concert series.

"We try to look for a variety of music styles, feature local artists/bands, as well as bring in new performances to town," she said. "Our goal is to create a line-up that appeals to a wide range of audiences. Earlier this year, we put out a call for artists, and we keep an ongoing list of interested artists and bands. We also get recommendations from community contacts, work with agents, and do our own research and attend other events."

The first August concert takes place on Aug. 9. It features local favourites The Matlocks before headliner The Amy Experience, a tribute to Amy Winehouse featuring a nine-piece band complete with a full horn section.

The series continues on Aug. 16 with The Almost Hip, one of Canada's longest-running Tragically Hip tribute bands. The performance comes just days before the 10th anniversary of The Tragically Hip's iconic final concert on Aug. 20, 2016, making it a fitting addition to the summer lineup.

The final August concert, on Aug. 23, highlights local performers with The Aubry Fill-Harmonics, an a cappella group made up of a mother and her four daughters, opening the evening. They will be followed by singer-songwriter Tyler Delaney Reed.

The concert series has been well received since opening earlier this summer. According to the Town of Shelburne, the grand opening generated significant excitement in the community, with residents embracing the opportunity to enjoy free live music in the park.

Positive feedback has also come from performers, who have praised both the atmosphere and the outdoor setting. Organizers have also continued refining the experience by making adjustments in response to feedback.

"The performers have really enjoyed the

space," Hanzel said. "We've heard positive feedback about the park, the atmosphere, and the opportunity to perform in such a beautiful outdoor setting. As with any new venue we are learning and making improvements as we go. We have made adjustments to stage set up and event logistics to make things run more smoothly for performers and attendees. We are also looking at different vendor layouts and opportunities to improve the overall experience."

For residents who have not yet attended a concert, Hanzel said the series offers an ideal way to spend a summer night.

"Fiddle Park is a beautiful outdoor setting for live music, and it's a great way to spend a Sunday evening with family and friends," she said. "We have food vendors on site, so you can grab dinner, or treat yourself to some ice cream, and sit back and enjoy the music."

With food vendors on site and a relaxed outdoor atmosphere, the concerts offer families and friends a chance to gather, enjoy dinner or a treat, and experience live music in Shelburne's newly revitalized Fiddle Park.

Friends of the Caledon Public Library set to host two-day book sale next weekend

Written By **KATHRYN FRASER**
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Friends of the Caledon Public Library (CPL) are coming together to hold a two-day book sale taking place during and after the Midnight Madness event from August 14 to 15 at the Royal Gardens, 18 King Street East Unit F2.

The sale will support the Caledon Public Library, and all proceeds will go towards activities, events and supplies.

Over the past 30 years Friends of the Caledon Library have been avid supporters of the Caledon Public Library and have held a number of events over the years.

From a large variety of physical books, audiobooks, puzzles, video games and movies, there is something for everyone.

August 13 will be the first day where those looking to donate will be able to bring in good condition used items.

Carts will be left in the second-floor hallway near the door for those to drop off their items.

On August 14, during Midnight Madness, the sale will take place from 6 to 9 p.m. VIPs will be granted first access to the items. Those looking to become VIPs and get early access can pay a \$10 fee.

After the VIP access, August 15 will be open to the rest of the public for no charge at the entrance, taking place from 9 a.m. to

5 p.m.

Those in attendance, both VIP and general access, will have the opportunity to fill up a Friends of the CPL tote bag with as many items as they would like for a flat \$15 dollar fee.

Attendees will also have the option to select as many books as they like without the tote bag with all items being reasonably priced.

By keeping the price of items low, the Friends of CPL want to be able to make it easy and affordable for readers in the community.

Victoria Edwards, President of the Friends of the CPL, says she is hopeful that this event will be able to get people more involved in reading and will bring the community together to support the Caledon Public Library.

"I'm actually seeing a lot of teens coming in because we have a lot. Sometimes we get the manga and all those, and they're that's the first thing to go at a book sale. There're so many young adult books as well, and they are five for a dollar, says Edwards. "We are seeing a bit more. We do get a bunch of people that will come in here and say, 'Well, I don't read.' Okay, but it's so cheap, you could."

Whether you are an avid book lover, occasional reader or even not particularly interested in reading, there is something for you.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

TURNING THE PAGE: An array of books are laid out at the Friends of the Caledon Public Library ahead of next week's book sale.

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MAYBERRY HILL
Grand Valley

2025 GMC SAVANA CARGO VAN 3500



STK# 25764

FINANCE FROM

\$184

WEEKLY +TAXES

\$56,630^{+HST/LIC}

MACMASTER SAVINGS: \$6,400

\$0 DOWN PAYMENT

4.99%

FOR 84 MONTHS

C.O.B. \$10,491.94

2026 GMC SIERRA 2500HD SLE



STK# 26089

FINANCE FROM

\$291

WEEKLY +TAXES

\$89,344^{+HST/LIC}

EMPLOYEE PRICING SAVINGS: \$9,355.50

ADDITIONAL MACMASTER SAVINGS: \$3,500

TOTAL SAVINGS: \$12,855.50

\$0 DOWN PAYMENT

4.99%

FOR 84 MONTHS

C.O.B. \$16,553.02

2025 GMC SIERRA 1500 DENALI



STK# 25764

FINANCE FROM

\$245

WEEKLY +TAXES

\$73,989^{+HST/LIC}

MACMASTER SAVINGS: \$6,400

\$0 DOWN PAYMENT

5.49%

FOR 84 MONTHS

C.O.B. \$15,163.92

2022 CHEVROLET SILVERADO 1500 LTD RST



STK# 25764

FINANCE FROM

\$145

WEEKLY +TAXES

\$43,871^{+HST/LIC}

MACMASTER SAVINGS: \$6,400

\$0 DOWN PAYMENT

5.49%

FOR 84 MONTHS

C.O.B. \$8,991.29

2019 AUDI Q7 PROGRESSIV



STK# 25764

FINANCE FROM

\$104

WEEKLY +TAXES

\$24,989^{+HST/LIC}

MACMASTER SAVINGS: \$6,400

\$0 DOWN PAYMENT

8.99%

FOR 72 MONTHS

C.O.B. \$7,363.58

2024 RAM 3500 LIMITED LONGHORN



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FINANCE FROM

\$323

WEEKLY +TAXES

\$89,989^{+HST/LIC}

MACMASTER SAVINGS: \$6,400

\$0 DOWN PAYMENT

7.99%

FOR 84 MONTHS

C.O.B. \$27,566.47

2021 GMC SIERRA 1500 AT4 CARBONPRO



STK# 25764

FINANCE FROM

\$165

WEEKLY +TAXES

\$49,989^{+HST/LIC}

MACMASTER SAVINGS: \$6,400

\$0 DOWN PAYMENT

5.49%

FOR 84 MONTHS

C.O.B. \$10,245.16

2018 BMW 5 SERIES M550i XDRIVE



STK# 25764

FINANCE FROM

\$202

WEEKLY +TAXES

\$34,989^{+HST/LIC}

MACMASTER SAVINGS: \$6,400

\$0 DOWN PAYMENT

9.29%

FOR 48 MONTHS

C.O.B. \$9,933.55

2018 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE STERLING EDITION



STK# 25764

FINANCE FROM

\$115

WEEKLY +TAXES

\$19,889^{+HST/LIC}

MACMASTER SAVINGS: \$6,400

\$0 DOWN PAYMENT

9.29%

FOR 48 MONTHS

C.O.B. \$3,941.28

2024 FORD MUSTANG DARK HORSE



STK# 25764

FINANCE FROM

\$294

WEEKLY +TAXES

\$81,821^{+HST/LIC}

MACMASTER SAVINGS: \$6,400

\$0 DOWN PAYMENT

7.99%

FOR 84 MONTHS

C.O.B. \$25,064.35

2026 JEEP WRANGLER 85TH ANNIVERSARY



STK# TWO066

FINANCE FROM

\$189

WEEKLY +TAXES

\$61,916^{+HST/LIC}

OCL DISCOUNT: \$2,000

CONSUMER CASH: \$10,000

TOTAL SAVINGS: \$12,000

\$0 DOWN PAYMENT

5.29%

FOR 96 MONTHS

C.O.B. \$14,507.75

DISPLAYED FINANCE OFFER IS BASED ON A \$63,916 SELLING PRICE.

2026 JEEP CHEROKEE LIMITED



STK# TWO066

FINANCE FROM

\$219

WEEKLY +TAXES

\$57,246^{+HST/LIC}

MACMASTER SAVINGS: \$6,400

\$0 DOWN PAYMENT

7.99%

FOR 84 MONTHS

C.O.B. \$23,012.24

2025 JEEP WRANGLER 4-DOOR SPORT S



STK# TWO066

FINANCE FROM

\$270

WEEKLY +TAXES

\$58,106^{+HST/LIC}

MACMASTER SAVINGS: \$6,400

\$0 DOWN PAYMENT

7.99%

FOR 84 MONTHS

C.O.B. \$23,012.24

2025 JEEP WRANGLER 4-DOOR SPORT S



STK# TWO066

FINANCE FROM

\$278

WEEKLY +TAXES

\$60,521^{+HST/LIC}

MACMASTER SAVINGS: \$6,400

\$0 DOWN PAYMENT

7.99%

FOR 84 MONTHS

C.O.B. \$23,752.03

2026 RAM 3500 TRADESMAN



STK# TG0063

FINANCE FROM

\$225

WEEKLY +TAXES

\$82,931^{+HST/LIC}

OCL DISCOUNT: \$3,500

NO-CHARGE DIESEL: \$11,000

TOTAL SAVINGS: \$14,500

\$0 DOWN PAYMENT

5.29%

FOR 96 MONTHS

C.O.B. \$19,618.24

DISPLAYED FINANCE OFFER IS BASED ON A \$86,431 SELLING PRICE.

2026 RAM 1500 REBEL



STK# TA2064

FINANCE FROM

\$300

WEEKLY +TAXES

\$83,396^{+HST/LIC}

MACMASTER SAVINGS: \$6,400

\$0 DOWN PAYMENT

7.99%

FOR 84 MONTHS

C.O.B. \$25,754.65

2023 DODGE CHARGER SRT 392



STK# TA2064

FINANCE FROM

\$323

WEEKLY +TAXES

\$56,121^{+HST/LIC}

MACMASTER SAVINGS: \$6,400

\$0 DOWN PAYMENT

9.29%

FOR 48 MONTHS

C.O.B. \$11,121.14

2026 CHEVROLET SILVERADO 1500 CUSTOM



STK# 23600

FINANCE FROM

\$201

WEEKLY +TAXES

\$57,865^{+HST/LIC}

EMPLOYEE PRICING SAVINGS: \$5,575

CASH DELIVERY ALLOWANCE: \$5,500

TOTAL SAVINGS: \$11,075

\$0 DOWN PAYMENT

2.99%

FOR 84 MONTHS

C.O.B. \$7,173.62

2027 CHEVROLET BOLT LT



STK# 23667

FINANCE FROM

\$128

WEEKLY +TAXES

\$35,855^{+HST/LIC}

FEDERAL EV INCENTIVE: \$4,425

EV EMPLOYEE PRICING SAVINGS: \$1,500 CASH

DELIVERY ALLOWANCE: \$2,300

TOTAL SAVINGS: \$8,225

\$0 DOWN PAYMENT

3.99%

FOR 84 MONTHS

C.O.B. \$5,971.59

2017 CHEVROLET SILVERADO 1500 LT



STK# 23600

FINANCE FROM

\$161

WEEKLY +TAXES

\$27,999^{+HST/LIC}

MACMASTER SAVINGS: \$6,400

\$0 DOWN PAYMENT

9.29%

FOR 84 MONTHS

C.O.B. \$5,548.38

2023 CHEVROLET TRAILBLAZER ACTIV



STK# 23600

FINANCE FROM

\$89

WEEKLY +TAXES

\$26,921^{+HST/LIC}

MACMASTER SAVINGS: \$6,400

\$0 DOWN PAYMENT

5.49%

FOR 84 MONTHS

C.O.B. \$5,517.41

2021 CHEVROLET EQUINOX LT



STK# 23600

FINANCE FROM

\$62

WEEKLY +TAXES

\$18,606^{+HST/LIC}

MACMASTER SAVINGS: \$6,400

\$0 DOWN PAYMENT

5.49%

FOR 84 MONTHS

C.O.B. \$5,813.27

2019 GMC TERRAIN SLE



STK# 23600

FINANCE FROM

\$80

WEEKLY +TAXES

\$19,189^{+HST/LIC}

MACMASTER SAVINGS: \$6,400

\$0 DOWN PAYMENT

8.99%

FOR 72 MONTHS

C.O.B. \$5,654.48

2024 CHEVROLET SILVERADO 1500 LTZ



STK# 23600

FINANCE FROM

\$201

WEEKLY +TAXES

\$60,609^{+HST/LIC}

MACMASTER SAVINGS: \$6,400

\$0 DOWN PAYMENT

5.49%

FOR 84 MONTHS

C.O.B. \$12,421.72

2026 HONDA CIVIC SEDAN HYBRID SPORT TOURING



STK# 23600

FINANCE FROM

\$135

WEEKLY +TAXES

\$37,716^{+HST/LIC}

MACMASTER SAVINGS: \$6,400

\$0 DOWN PAYMENT

7.99%

FOR 84 MONTHS

C.O.B. \$11,553.60

2022 HYUNDAI SANTA FE PREFERRED



STK# 23600

FINANCE FROM

\$96

WEEKLY +TAXES

\$26,616^{+HST/LIC}

MACMASTER SAVINGS: \$6,400

\$0 DOWN PAYMENT

7.99%

FOR 84 MONTHS

C.O.B. \$8,153.41

2023 CHEVROLET TAHOE PREMIER



STK# 23600

FINANCE FROM

\$300

WEEKLY +TAXES

\$83,516^{+HST/LIC}

MACMASTER SAVINGS: \$6,400

\$0 DOWN PAYMENT

7.99%

FOR 84 MONTHS

C.O.B. \$25,583.58

2026 VOLKSWAGEN TIGUAN TRENDLINE



STK# TG2642

LEASE FROM

\$97

WEEKLY +TAXES

\$0

DOWN PAYMENT PLUS SECURITY DEPOSIT

2.99%

FOR 60 MONTHS

12,000 KMS PER YEAR

2026 VOLKSWAGEN TAOS TRENDLINE



STK# TA2654

LEASE FROM

\$98

WEEKLY +TAXES

\$0

DOWN PAYMENT PLUS SECURITY DEPOSIT

2.49%

FOR 48 MONTHS

12,000 KMS PER YEAR

2018 BMW X3 xDRIVE30i



STK# TG2642

LEASE FROM

\$106

WEEKLY +TAXES

\$18,335^{+HST/LIC}

MACMASTER SAVINGS: \$6,400

\$0 DOWN PAYMENT

9.29%

FOR 48 MONTHS

C.O.B. \$3,637.29

2021 VOLKSWAGEN ATLAS EXECLINE



STK# TG2642

LEASE FROM

\$100

WEEKLY +TAXES

\$27,495^{+HST/LIC}

MACMASTER SAVINGS: \$6,400

\$0 DOWN PAYMENT

8.49%

FOR 84 MONTHS

C.O.B. \$6,998.46

2021 RAM 1500 LARAMIE



STK# TG2642

LEASE FROM

\$180

WEEKLY +TAXES

\$49,495^{+HST/LIC}

MACMASTER SAVINGS: \$6,400

\$0 DOWN PAYMENT

8.49%

FOR 84 MONTHS

C.O.B. \$16,194.93

2023 JEEP WRANGLER WILLYS



STK# TA2064

LEASE FROM

\$165

WEEKLY +TAXES

\$45,945^{+HST/LIC}

MACMASTER SAVINGS: \$6,400

\$0 DOWN PAYMENT

7.99%

FOR 84 MONTHS

C.O.B. \$14,074.40

2022 VOLKSWAGEN TIGUAN COMFORTLINE



STK# TG2642

LEASE FROM

\$100

WEEKLY +TAXES

\$27,995^{+HST/LIC}

MACMASTER SAVINGS: \$6,400

\$0 DOWN PAYMENT

7.99%

FOR 84 MONTHS

C.O.B. \$8,575.75

2023 VOLKSWAGEN ATLAS EXECLINE



STK# TG2642

LEASE FROM

\$136

WEEKLY +TAXES

\$37,891^{+HST/LIC}

MACMASTER SAVINGS: \$6,400

\$0 DOWN PAYMENT

7.99%

FOR 84 MONTHS

C.O.B. \$11,607.21

2024 VOLKSWAGEN ATLAS CROSS SPORT COMFORTLINE



STK# TG2642

LEASE FROM

\$169

WEEKLY +TAXES

\$47,195^{+HST/LIC}

MACMASTER SAVINGS: \$6,400

\$0 DOWN PAYMENT

7.99%

FOR 84 MONTHS

C.O.B. \$14,457.32

2023 KIA SPORTAGE X-LINE LIMITED AWD



STK# TA2064

LEASE FROM

\$118

WEEKLY +TAXES

\$32,991^{+HST/LIC}

MACMASTER SAVINGS: \$6,400

\$0 DOWN PAYMENT

7.99%

FOR 84 MONTHS

C.O.B. \$10,106.18

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Local Challenger Baseball program expands opportunities for young athletes

Written By CHRIS PERROTTE

Two seasons after launching in Orangeville, Challenger Baseball is continuing to grow, giving more young athletes with disabilities an opportunity to play the game, build confidence and be part of a team.

Run by the Orangeville and Headwaters Minor Baseball Association, the program is currently in its second year and is expanding with 15 players participating, up from 12 last year. The Challenger program is in partnership with the Jays Care Foundation, an organization that helps run these programs for youth with disabilities across Canada.

Stephanie Coombes, the Challenger Baseball coordinator and coach, shared the program's most fulfilling aspects.

"The most rewarding part of running a Challenger Baseball program is creating a place where every player has the opportunity to experience the joy of baseball in an inclusive, supportive environment," Coombes said. "Watching players achieve dreams they never thought possible, build confidence, develop friendships, and discover the excitement of being part of a team is incredibly meaningful."

She added, "Beyond the game itself, it's about building a community where families feel understood, supported, and connected. Challenger Baseball is more than a league; it's a place where every player is celebrated, everyone belongs, and lifelong memories are

made." As a mother to a son with a disability, Coombes sees firsthand what this program can do for her son. Because of this program, her son can play the game he loves while feeling accepted, supported and celebrated.

"My son's love for baseball has grown tremendously, and he especially loves that Challenger Baseball is partnered with Jays Care Foundation. The confidence, sense of belonging, and joy we've seen in him both on and off the field have been incredible," said Coombes.

"Challenger Baseball has given him far more than the chance to play baseball, it has given him a community where he belongs and memories that will last a lifetime."

Other families involved with Challenger Baseball said the program has helped their children build confidence and enjoy the game in a supportive environment.

"Participating in Challenger Baseball gave Charlotte a place where she could truly shine, build confidence, and feel the pure joy of being part of a team," a parent told Coombes. "For our family, watching her hit the field each week – surrounded by such an encouraging community – was an unforgettable highlight that meant the absolute world to us."

Another parent highlighted the role volunteers play in creating a welcoming atmosphere for Challenger Baseball participants.

"The volunteers — both the incredible



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

LEARNING THE GAME: Coach Stephanie Coombes teaches a player how to grip the bat during practice.

youth buddies and the adult helpers — are the heart of this program," the parent said. "Watching them encourage Henry, patiently work alongside him, celebrate every little milestone, and genuinely connect with each child has been so moving. They don't just teach baseball skills; they create confidence, friendships, and a sense of belonging that extends far beyond the field."

For the young athletes who take part, Challenger Baseball offers more than an opportunity to play — it provides a place to belong, build confidence and create memories that will last a lifetime.

The final game of the season for the Challenger Baseball program is on Friday, Aug. 7, from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Springbrook Field (450 Townline, Orangeville).



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

SWEET SEASON FINALE: Members of the Grand Valley Lions Club — Parul, Karla, Jean, Crystal and Aldo — hand out ice cream to Grand Valley Minor Soccer players during the club's final night of the season on July 29. About 200 players attended the event, where they also received medals celebrating their season.



BREAK TIME: A volunteer buddy (left) and player (right) cool off at a cooling station.



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Otters end season with strong performance at provincial championships

Written By **CHRIS PERROTTE**

The Orangeville Otters Swim Club made some big waves at the 2026 Ontario Swimming Championships that were held at the Toronto Pan Am Sports Centre from July 8 to 12.

Ava Yardley won silver in the 50-metre butterfly and bronze in the 50-metre backstroke.

Wesley Halls, who competed in the Canadian Trials, won the silver in both the 200-metre freestyle and 100-metre butterfly. Kaitlin Malec, 18, also competed in the Canadian Trials and set a new open club record in the 50-metre freestyle. This was Kaitlin's final meet as an Otter.

Also representing the Orangeville Otters for her last time was Nethaya Mahadana-Arachchi. She earned a bronze medal in the 50-metre breaststroke, setting a personal best and a new open club record.

The remaining Otters also made remarkable achievements in the 13 and above events. Some members of the team recorded personal best times in their swim meets.

The Otters' 12-and-under relay team competed in the 4x50-metre freestyle relay and the 4x50-metre medley relay, finishing 12th and 10th, respectively, while recording season-best times in both events.

"Ontario Championships is a great opportunity for our swimmers to see the results of the work they have put in all season," said Sam Kuntz, head coach of the Orangeville Otters.

"Watching athletes step up, compete with confidence and support each other throughout the championship was a highlight of the meet. The progress across all age groups shows the strength and future of our program."

The five-day event featured some of Ontario's top swimmers, including 11 from the Otters. These young athletes helped propel the club to a 31st-place finish out of 91 teams.

The entire Otters team: Ava Yardley, Qyona Egbert, Jemma Harrison, Julia Noronha, Kaitlin Malec, Nethaya Mahadana-Arachchi, Wesley Halls, Joseph Reinhart, Elliot Goulding, Kaiden Norris, and Gabriella Reinhart, helped wrap up another successful season.

The season was filled with personal-best performances, club records, and numerous medals. The Orangeville Otters continue to develop swimmers who improve with the opportunity to compete among the best in Ontario.

Registration for the Orangeville Otters' 2026-27 season opens in mid-August, with



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

STRONG SWIM: From left, Joseph Reinhart, Kaiden Norris, Nethaya Mahadana Arachchi, Julia Noronha, Jemma Harrison, Qyona Egbert, Gabriella Reinhart, and Ava Yardley train together at the Alder Recreation Centre on July 7. The training sessions were held a day before the 2026 Ontario Swimming Championships, which took place from July 8 to 12 at the Toronto Pan Am Sports Centre. Missing from the picture are Wesley Halls, Kaitlin Malec, and Elliot Goulding.

training beginning Sept. 14. The club's first swim meet of the season is scheduled for Oct. 23 to 25 at the Alder Recreation Centre. More information about the club is available on its website and social media pages.

Orangeville Otters swimming team make waves with record-setting performances in Montreal

Written By **CHRIS PERROTTE**

Fourteen-year-old Orangeville Otters swimmer Austin Nelissen broke two Ontario provincial records while competing against the country's top athletes at the 2026 Bell Canadian Swimming Trials in Montreal.

Nelissen, along with teammates Wesley Halls and Kaitlin Malec, represented the club at the national competition, held July 5 to 9 at the Montreal Olympic Pool inside Olympic Park Centre.

The 2026 Bell Canadian Swimming Trials are the country's premier swimming competition and serve as a selection meet for the Pan Pacific Championships, Junior Pan Pacific Championships and Para Pan Pacific Championships.

Qualifying for the event is an achievement in itself, as it allows swimmers to compete against Canada's best. Swimmers who qualify in at least one event can also enter one additional time trial event each day, providing further opportunities to achieve personal best

times.

Head Coach Sam Kuntz said competing at Canadian Trials gives swimmers valuable experience racing in a high-pressure environment.

"Canadian Trials is a unique experience because it puts our swimmers in an environment where every race matters and every detail counts," Kuntz said. "Seeing Kaitlin, Wesley and Austin compete with confidence against the best swimmers in the country was a great reflection of their preparation, commitment and belief in themselves."

Kuntz said the experience will help the swimmers continue to develop as they pursue future goals.

Competing in the Para S10 classification, Nelissen delivered one of the meet's top performances. He broke Ontario provincial S10 records in the 800-metre freestyle and 100-metre backstroke.

Nelissen lowered his personal best time in the 800-metre freestyle by 17 seconds and recorded additional personal bests in the 50-metre and 100-metre freestyle events.

His provincial record swim in the 100-metre backstroke earned him a seventh-place finish in the multiclass Para competition against some of Canada's top para swimmers.

In total, Nelissen competed in six events.

Sixteen-year-old Wesley Halls competed in three events, setting personal bests in each.

Halls posted lifetime bests in the 400-metre freestyle and 100-metre backstroke time trials, finishing ninth in the 100-metre backstroke. He also competed in the main 50-metre backstroke event, where his personal best earned him an 18th-place finish in the Junior division.

His 50-metre backstroke performance also established a new 15-16 Orangeville Otters club record.

Eighteen-year-old Kaitlin Malec earned her spot at the Canadian Trials after qualifying in the 50-metre butterfly. She also competed in the 50-metre freestyle time trial, finishing 10th. Her appearance on the national stage reflected a season of perseverance, dedication and hard work.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

TRAINING DAY: From left, Joseph Reinhart, Kaiden Norris, Nethaya Mahadana Arachchi, Julia Noronha, Jemma Harrison, Qyona Egbert, Gabriella Reinhart, and Ava Yardley train together at the Alder Recreation Centre on July 7. The training sessions were held a day before the 2026 Ontario Swimming Championships, which took place from July 8 to 12 at the Toronto Pan Am Sports Centre. Missing from the picture are Wesley Halls, Kaiden Norris, Nethaya Mahadana Arachchi, Julia Noronha, Jemma Harrison, Qyona Egbert, Gabriella Reinhart, and Ava Yardley.

All three swimmers returned to the community with valuable experience and a taste of what it takes to compete at the national level.

Orangeville Bengals and Challengers players trade local diamonds for Rogers Centre seats

Written By **CHRIS PERROTTE**

More than 300 members of the Orangeville Bengals baseball community took their love of the game from the local diamond to the Rogers Centre, cheering on the Toronto Blue Jays during a special team outing on Aug. 2.

Bengals players and their families attended the Jays' game against the St. Louis Cardinals as part of the program's annual trip to Toronto, now in its third year. A portion of ticket proceeds supported equipment and registration fees for the Orangeville & Headwaters Minor Baseball Association (OHM-

BA), which operates the Bengals program.

In addition to the Bengals players, members of the league's Challenger Baseball program won the opportunity to watch the Blue Jays play against the Texas Rangers from Jay Cares Box seats on June 28. Watching the game live was especially meaningful for athletes from the Challenger Baseball program, which provides opportunities for players with disabilities to participate in the sport. For many Challenger athletes, it was their first opportunity to attend a Major League Baseball game in person.

"We had won the opportunity to be at the

game with our Challenger team who for most would never have the ability to be at a normal game. This opportunity was the first for most and after the event all the parents were thrilled as they were not sure if they could ever attend a game," said Joshua Cabral, vice-president of the OHMBA's house league and 13U Select head coach.

For the Bengals, seeing their favourite Toronto Blue Jays players like Vladimir Guerrero Jr. was a special experience. For 13-year-old Logan, who plays catcher for the Bengals, his favourite player is fellow catcher Alejandro Kirk, who he enjoyed watching in-person.

Cabral said one of the most memorable moments came before the first pitch, when players arrived and took in the atmosphere.

"The most memorable moment for me is honestly the beginning, watching all those kids with beaming smiles walking down the aisle and looking up and seeing a bunch of Bengals jerseys and perhaps some teammates excited for the game to begin," Cabral enthused. "For the kids, I think George Springer's triple had everyone on their feet."

The outing also gave Bengals players and

families an opportunity to connect away from the field as the season approaches its final weeks.

Coaches hope the experience of seeing the Jays live teaches players that baseball is a game of constant improvement, even at the highest level. They also hope that seeing professional players compete inspires them to continue chasing their own dreams.

Even though the Jays lost 5-1 in their Aug. 2 game, the Bengals players enjoyed every aspect of the game, participating in the endless crowd waves and cheering their team right until the last pitch.

Because it was Jr. Jays Sunday, players who were 13 and under were given the opportunity to run the bases on the field, which most players did.

Next on the calendar for the Bengals rep teams will be participation in the York Simcoe Baseball Association playdowns.

The final weekend in August is known as the Champions Weekend. Playoffs will begin for the house league teams, who will compete until the final weekend. A champion will be crowned in each division on Aug. 30, with their name etched forever on the trophy.



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BIG LEAGUE SMILES: Members of the Orangeville & Headwaters Minor Baseball Association's Challengers program share some smiles from the Jay Cares Foundation's box seats, where they watched the Toronto Blue Jays play against the Texas Rangers at the Rogers Centre on June 28. The program's participants won the opportunity to attend for free after applying through a lottery style system in February.

OPINION

Of panicked screams heard on crowded public transport

They're everywhere! My jebus, they're everywhere!"

Only jebus wasn't the word he used, but this is a family newspaper.

"Too many of them! We brought this on ourselves! We have to do something! Though it may be too late! I'm afraid we could be over the point to return acceptability!"

The shouting was unnerving. Never comfortable with shouting. Mine was a childhood in a loud household of many people. The noise rendered me, for a time, like a nervous doggie that piddles at loud noises or shouts.

Stories about emotional outbursts on public transportation have become so common that the motif is almost clich  . Somebody said they were there when somebody else did the outrageous. Or they heard about it from somebody else who was on a train when a guy over-excitedly shouted what seemed to be nonsense.

One such man wore a sharp suit, shiny tie, and visibly high-priced dress shoes. His feet must've felt cradled in soft leather. No briefcase, though. Only a cellphone in his hand, and he excitedly rocked backward and forward in his seat. His rocking wasn't in concert with the train's motion.

"They're all over the place!"

I'll call him Selfless Man because of his desperate warning to the people around him.

"What is, sir?"

Trains are typically quiet as people read from tablets and phones. And that's how it was until the outburst. Then there were sounds of nervous people shuffling in seats. People held their bags or backpacks a little closer to them. Some lifted them from the floor and placed them on laps for some measure of protection. Water bottles and thermal coffee mugs, the long metal ones with heft, were tightly gripped by anybody who had one.

A woman sitting nearest to me looked up from her phone. Her forehead creased, and she did that thing people do with their eyes that said, What're you foolish? And that look said, Leave well enough alone.

I didn't think Selfless Man was well enough at all.

Nobody else looked up from their phones. Thumbs worked glass keyboards, hovered over letters. Texts were received, and replies were sent. Social media channels, society's bane, were scrolled through and updated.

That's the world now in elevators, in waiting rooms, in lineups. Nothing can tear most people away from their phones. Nothing can lift their eyes to the world around them. Not even emotional outbursts on trains.

Selfless Man was quiet for a spell after I addressed him. He rocked back and forth in his seat and looked up and down the rows of seats at other passengers.

I saw I had a few more stops before Union

Station. I like to look toward the back of the train and watch how the cars behind turn with the tracks. It was always interesting to me, as if it were how one's world folds and twists around them.

There are moments when your world feels as if it is bending behind you, even as you think you know where you're headed.

Selfless Man looked at his feet for a long time after another stop.

Then he looked at the phone, pushed his thumb down the screen. He must've been following a text thread without reading.

Selfless Man mumbled to himself. Whisper increased to speaking and rose to shouting. "They're all around us! Does nobody realize! We put them all around us everywhere! Does nobody see what we've done, that the exclamation mark is over-used punctuation!"



JAMES MATTHEWS
THE BUSTLE IN THE HEDGEROW

Cyril Ramaphosa and the law

It's outrageous. You're at your hobby farm in the country, just pottering around, so you stuff the \$580,000 in your pocket under the sofa cushions temporarily just to get it out of the way. Then you forget it when you are gathering things up to go back to the city. It could happen to anybody.

However, thieves break into your country house while you're away and steal the money. You consider reporting it to the police, but you know they are struggling to keep up with the crime wave so you decide to forget about it. And even though it was foreign currency, you don't report it to the tax authorities either because you never got to spend it. Or something like that.

But then events take a turn decidedly for the worse. A man called Arthur Fraser sends a dossier to the police reporting that you got the money and that it was not actually \$580,000 but a whole \$4,000,000. And since Mr. Fraser was the country's former chief spy, they take him seriously and come to you looking for answers. What do you tell them?

This is the dilemma that President Cyril Ramaphosa of South Africa faced in 2022, and the rather far-fetched story above (with few grace notes about the money being the

proceeds of a cash sale of some buffalos to a foreigner) was his explanation to the police. Miraculously, the police believed him, as did his party, which had a majority in parliament.

Now, a few bits of Ramaphosa's story rang true. He did sell prize buffalos and other animals from his game farm, sometimes for cash. And Arthur Fraser was chief spy under Jacob Zuma, Ramaphosa's predecessor, a deeply corrupt man who had a grudge against Ramaphosa for organizing his eviction from the presidency.

On the other hand, Ramaphosa never reported the theft and failed to comply with the requirement to report the receipt of large sums in foreign currency. At the very least, there was a case for him to answer – but it didn't happen until his party, the African National Congress, lost its absolute majority in parliament.

After the 2024 election Ramaphosa remained in the presidency, but the new government was a coalition in which some parties were willing to impeach him. It's now a tag team match between the Parliament, the High Court and the mass media, and the outcome is uncertain, but he really could be impeached. He is just as much

subject to the law as everyone else.

This is as good as it gets. Perfect justice is not on the menu, but a rough facsimile of justice most of the time is good enough for most purposes. There is even an international Rule of Law Index compiled by the World Justice Project that scores and ranks countries on how close they get to that rough facsimile, and it makes for interesting reading.

The four top countries are, of course, the four Scandinavian countries, Denmark, Norway, Finland and Sweden (in that order). The four bottom countries are equally obvious: Haiti, Cambodia, Afghanistan and Venezuela. It's possible that Venezuela has moved up a bit since the US take-over, but there's no clear evidence of that.

New Zealand comes in at No. 5, right after the Fab Four, and most other developed English-speaking countries (Australia, Canada and the United Kingdom) cluster at 11, 13 and 14. But the United States comes in at 27, just behind Slovenia but ahead of Costa Rica – and South Africa ranks at 60 (but still ahead of Thailand and Brazil).

This is not your usual comparison of GDPs or per capita incomes. It is specif-

ically ranking countries on their adherence to the rule of law, measuring categories like Absence of Corruption, Open Government, and Criminal Justice. And a rival rule-of-law list by Freedom House produces almost identical rankings, except that it puts South Africa higher.

So would I. The violent crime rate is very bad (although down by half since its peak in the immediate post-apartheid years), and the inequality of wealth is as bad as in Brazil or Russia. However, South Africa has managed to avoid most of the horrors that lay in wait for it after centuries of colonial rule topped off with half a century of flat-out racist oppression.

The fact that the courts managed to keep their independence right through that decades-long siege was not just a miracle. It was the key factor in preserving enough of the democratic structures of the old whites-only democracy to resurrect a multi-racial democracy from the ruins of the apartheid state.

Of course, I would say that. My wife is South African, and some of my best friends are South African lawyers.



GWYNNE DYER
OUR WORLD TODAY

The ketchup connoisseur

One summer, after my youngest brother got married, he and his new bride invited our side of the family over to their place for the weekend. Wanting to get to know his new bride in a more personal setting, we happily accepted their generous invitation and arrived Friday evening.

The next morning, his bride prepared breakfast for the entire household. Her family had owned a restaurant in Ontario's cottage country for many years before she was married, so she was a great hostess and a wonderful cook.

And the breakfast she served! Eggs sunny-side up, bacon, hash browns, beans, and toast – all cooked to perfection – a delight to the eye and to the palate.

Once I received my breakfast, I did what I always do: I reached for the ketchup and started putting it on my eggs.

But when she saw what I was doing, my brother's new wife was horrified!

"What's wrong with it? What's wrong with it?" she exclaimed, as if I had just committed some sort of mortal sin.

Startled by her reaction, I told her there was absolutely nothing wrong with it. I simply liked putting ketchup on my eggs and dipping my bacon in it while I ate breakfast. I had done that all my life – and always will.

It was only in that moment that I learned serious cooks, both professional and otherwise, see the addition of ketchup to their

culinary creations as a serious insult to their handiwork.

Wanting to keep peace in the family and seeing how personally offended my new sister-in-law was by my actions, I refrained from adding ketchup to anything else she cooked whenever we visited.

And my sister-in-law wasn't the only one who felt that way.

The plant I used to work at in the city had a full-service cafeteria that served breakfast and lunch throughout the week. I noticed that our cook seemed quite agitated one day, and I later found out that some of the other shifts had recently been using more ketchup than usual. Her professional pride wounded, she was concerned that there might be something wrong with her cooking. After finishing my breakfast, I assured her that her cooking was still up to its usual deliciously high standards – and that ketchup was not required.

But that being said, all my life I've been a ketchup connoisseur. To me, ketchup is the staff of life. It's the icing on the cake, so to speak, of an everyday meal. It's one of the four major food groups, as far as I'm concerned.

My love for ketchup started when I was a kid. I was one of those unicorn weirdos who used to eat peanut butter and ketchup sandwiches for lunch (this is the first time I've ever had the courage to publicly admit

this). Delicious—or so I thought as a kid. But most everyone else around me did not feel that way. I went to a friend's place for lunch once, and his mother asked me what I wanted on my sandwich. When I told her, "Peanut butter and ketchup," I remember the look on her face – like she was suppressing a gag reflex!

Back then, I put ketchup on almost everything I ate at dinner. I even tried to put ketchup on my corn one night until my mother noticed and put a stop to it.

As I grew older, my love for ketchup continued. These days, I rarely have a meal without some sort of appropriate contribution from my favourite tomato-based condiment.

As any mature ketchup enthusiast today knows, you haven't truly lived the classic ketchup experience until you've tried to get it flowing out of a newly opened glass bottle. The impatient shaking, the frustrating smacking of the bottom of the bottle to get the viscous, semi-solid liquid flowing before your food got cold – exasperating as it was – was all part of the true ketchup experience we lived growing up. (Plus, you had to be careful where you aimed the bottle, just in case the ketchup unexpectedly let go while you were smacking the bottom!) And how many of us have stuck a butter knife in the bottle to try to get the ketchup flowing? We really had to work for our ketchup back then.

And how things have changed. Today, the plastic squeeze bottle has replaced the glass bottle and changed the entire dynamic of the ketchup experience for a whole generation of kids. Yes, the ketchup comes out faster and easier today, but I'd still like to see today's kids live the aggravation of the classic glass bottle experience just to understand what we had to go through in our day to get our ketchup. (Hey, why should it be so easy today for them?)

Wine aficionados have fine wine cellars and hold wine-tasting parties. If I had my way, I'd have a fine ketchup cellar and hold ketchup-tasting parties. ("I discovered this vintage no-brand in a corner of the Costco! An amusing little blend with a delightful spicy tomato aroma and a pleasant aftertaste!")

And of course, we all know who the 'King of the Ketchups' is. While I won't mention them by name, we all know: "There are no other kinds once you've tasted (this particular brand)!"

Stompin' Tom Connors really nailed it when he wrote "The Ketchup Song". Couldn't have said it better myself. Ketchup really does love potatoes.

Want to enhance your food experience? Put ketchup on it!



KEITH SCHELL
REMEMBERING WHEN

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COMMUNITY VOICES

25 cents, no stigma: Orangeville Food Bank’s vending machine program

This week, we are getting ready for a visit from our friends at North York Harvest Food Bank. They are coming up to talk about our community vending machines. It’s hard to believe that we started this program with just a good idea back in early 2022.

Food insecurity had surged post-pandemic, and it became clear that the traditional food banking model had to change. As the need grew, bringing people to the food wasn’t feasible because our waiting room couldn’t hold everyone who needed support, and people’s needs had changed.

Our shift in focus became food to the people, not people to the food. How could we get food into the community, making it more accessible, reducing the number of people coming to the food bank and ensuring that in off-hours, people still have access to food?

Vending machines seemed like an interesting idea, and offering a nutritious and delicious meal for 25 cents was unheard of. Supported by our community kitchen and the reclaimed food coming in from grocery stores, it seemed possible, but where do we find a vending machine? Turns out, down



County Road 11 at Besley’s Country Market. The machine had been in storage in a barn, as it did not enjoy the dust and heat of being outside. A volunteer quietly stepped up and offered to pay for the machine, which was being offered to us at a very low price, and then the partnerships and community excitement took off.

Our first vending machine was temporarily located at the Orangeville Town Hall until it’s permanent location – The Orangeville Public Library, which was undergoing renovations, was ready. Both locations offered easy access to anyone, but more importantly, the machines removed the ‘us’ versus ‘them’ mentality around food access.

Food Insecurity is a spectrum. You may be fine today, but tomorrow, next month, next year may bring a different set of circumstances. Making sure that anyone could access the machine was critical to moving to a more dignified and less stigmatizing way to access food.

Community members, town staff and council members accessed the machine, had conversations and shared food together, removing stigma and building dignity one meal at a time.

Today, we have two additional locations: 30 Centre Street, which is a social services hub in Orangeville, and the Grand Valley Library at 4 Amaranth Street East.

Community partnerships, Snell’s Delivery, RBC, JB Bickle and quiet donations have been the backbone of the vending machine program. Without their generosity, the program may not be a reality. What began as a good idea four years ago has been nurtured

by our community into three machines that will distribute over 25,000 meals, successfully bridging the gap for many local families by providing enhanced access to fresh, affordable meals.

Our mission statement is “A Well-Nourished Community.” From a good idea four years ago, that was nurtured by our community, to three machines that will distribute over 25,000 meals into our community is mind-blowing. The vending machine program is just one of the many ways that we work to support our community, and our community supports us.

What started as a simple idea four years ago has grown into a life-changing vending machine program that provides over 25,000 fresh, dignified meals to our neighbours for just 25 cents. Please donate today to help us expand this network, bring food directly to those in need, and ensure that nutritious meals remain a right for everyone in our community, not a privilege.

This week’s Community Voice submission was provided by Heather Hayes at the Orangeville Food Bank.

Make room for reading this summer: Local library offers programs for kids to adults

Make room for reading this summer: Local library offers programs for kids to adults

Summer and reading have always gone hand in hand. A book can travel to the beach, the backyard hammock or the cottage, allowing us to relax, reconnect and escape to worlds far beyond our reach.

At the Orangeville Public Library, readers of all ages can take part in our summer reading programs, discover new authors, and share recommendations. Whether you are six, 16 or 60, there is still something exciting about choosing your next book and making time to read simply because you want to.

While the TD Summer Reading Club kicked off on July 1, there is still plenty of time for kids under 12 to register at either branch. Children can earn and submit ballots for weekly prize draws throughout the summer by keeping track of their reading journey and visiting fun programs. Then, on



Aug. 27, we will celebrate another season of reading at our TD Summer Reading Club End-of-Summer Party.

Twens and teens can also participate in their own summer reading challenges. Readers ages nine to 12 have until Aug. 24 to

complete our Tween Summer Reading Bingo. Each completed line earns a ballot for a prize, with bingo cards available at either Orangeville Public Library location.

Teens can enter every book they finish through the library’s online form. Entries will be included in weekly prize draws until Aug. 30, with prizes including a BookLore gift certificate and a back-to-school supply kit. Best of all, every kind of reading counts, whether it’s a novel, a graphic novel or an audiobook borrowed through the Libby app.

Summer reading fun and friendly competition is not reserved for children and teens; the library is also running an Adult Summer Bingo program, which runs until Sept. 21. Come down to either branch to collect your bingo card and submit your progress for a chance to win book-ish prizes.

For those who love to tell others about what they’re reading, there is a Bring-Your-

Own-Book Club on Aug. 12. See the local library’s website for registration.

Of course, today’s public libraries include books and exciting programs. But they are also places where people gather to learn, create, exchange ideas, and experience something new.

On Aug. 9, we will recognize Emancipation Month with a film screening at Mill Street. Later in the month, local author Anita Yasuda and the Dharmic Dancers will bring stories, movement and culture together during our Bollywood Beat Storytime on Aug. 13.

You don’t have to enroll in a program or a reading contest to enjoy the library this summer. You can browse, read, make something, watch a film, meet a neighbour or simply enjoy a welcoming public space.

This article was written by the staff at the Orangeville Public Library.

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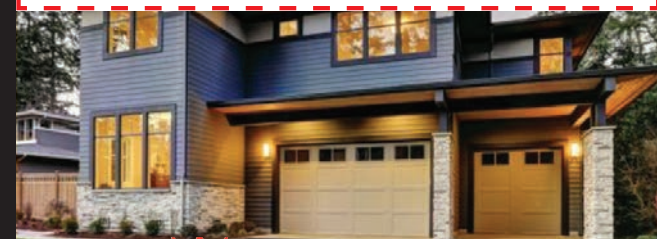
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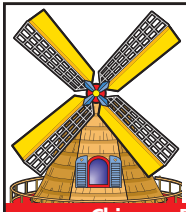
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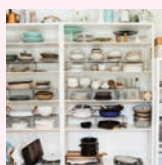
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Free microchip clinic for pet identification coming to Orangeville Train Station

Written By **SAM ODROWSKI**

The Ontario SPCA's Orangeville and District Animal Centre is offering pet owners a chance to have their animals microchipped at no cost this month.

The free microchip clinic will take place Aug. 14 and 15 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Orangeville Train Station, located at 49 Townline.

The clinic aims to make basic pet identification more accessible while improving the chances that lost animals will be reunited with their families.

"Our goal is to make basic veterinary care more accessible for our community by reducing financial barriers that may prevent people from microchipping their pets," said Shannon Bury, community outreach coordinator with Ontario SPCA's Orangeville and District Animal Centre.

"By hosting a free microchip clinic, we want to help improve the chances of lost animals being reunited with their families."

The clinic has been made possible through

the donation of 100 24Petwatch microchips from PetPlace. The Town of Orangeville is also providing the SPCA with free use of its train station to host the event.

Registration is required, with appointments limited to 50 microchips per day. Pet owners will select a one-hour arrival window and may arrive at any time during that period. Pets will be assisted on a first-come, first-served basis during their selected time slot.

Walk-ins may be accommodated if space permits, but registration is encouraged.

A microchip is a permanent form of identification that can help reunite lost pets with their owners when scanned by a veterinarian, animal shelter or municipal animal control service.

Bury said one common misconception is that microchips can track a pet's location.

"Microchips cannot be used as a tracking device," she said. "They are a form of identification that can be checked with a microchip scanner by a veterinarian or animal shelter."

Microchip implantation is also a simple procedure, Bury said, comparing it to receiving a vaccination.

"They are as small and thin as a grain of rice and are easily implanted without anesthesia," she said.

The Ontario SPCA and Humane Society reunited 679 animals with their families last year, including 24 through the Orangeville and District Animal Centre. Bury said many of those reunions are made possible because of microchip identification.

She noted pet owners should ensure their contact information is kept up to date with the microchip company.

The local animal centre recently reunited a lost dog with its family after discovering the dog's microchip information was outdated. Staff contacted the breeder listed on the chip, who helped connect them with the dog's owners.

Bury said the case showed both the value of microchips and the importance of keeping registration information up to date.

"Microchipping is a reliable, permanent,



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

MICROCHIP CLINIC: The Ontario SPCA and Humane Society Orangeville and District Animal Centre is hosting a free microchip clinic Aug. 14 and 15 to help improve the chances of lost pets being reunited with their families.

one-time procedure that helps give you peace of mind for your furry friend's lifetime," she said.

To register for the free clinic, visit: ontariospca.ca/orangeville

Choices opens new transitional housing facility with dedicated family unit in Orangeville



Continued from Front

Edge said the 18 Townline location had already been operating for about two months ahead of the grand opening last Thursday. The organization was able to secure operational funding through the County of Dufferin after successfully proposing that funding previously used for motel rooms through coordinated access and transitional housing be redirected toward the new facility.

She described the building as a significant moment for Choices, particularly because it allows the organization to expand its services beyond that of a traditional shelter. The family unit is also the only one of its kind in Dufferin County, specifically supporting families experiencing homelessness together.

Deputy Mayor Todd Taylor attended the opening on behalf of the Town of Orangeville and congratulated Choices, its staff, volunteers, donors and community partners.

"It's an honour to be here, and it's an honour to represent Mayor Post, who could not be here today, but desperately wanted to be," he said. "A community is not a business. It's not about dollars and cents all the time. It's all related to each other, and the very fact that Choices is branching out and

doing these wonderful things helps us all. If you think about communities that are struggling right now with homelessness and other social issues, Orangeville's so blessed."

"The Town of Orangeville wants to thank and offer sincere congratulations to Choices on the grand opening of 18 Townline, and we are so grateful."

Taylor also recognized Ken and Caroline Mikoliew, whose donation allowed Choices to acquire and renovate 18 Townline for transitional housing, noting that their generosity will help provide a place for people to begin rebuilding their lives.

"Because of your extraordinary generosity, this home will offer hope where there was despair, comfort where there was uncertainty, and a place where new beginnings can take root," he said. "Thank you for believing that every person deserves a place to begin again with heartfelt appreciation."

For the Mikoliew, the project began with a tour of Choices arranged through their involvement with the Dufferin Community Foundation.

"We had a tour here, and we had tours for a couple of other charities, and just in conversation, Jamie [Edge] had said, 'You know, eventually we'd like to buy this house,'" Ken Mikoliew said. "It was just a very casual conversation, and it just clicked and seemed like a really good idea. This amount for a donation is unusual for us, but I had sold a business, and we had some extra money, so it just came together."

The Mikoliew said their community involvement has long been important to them, and their support for Choices offered a chance to make a tangible local contribution.

"We are both already members of the Shelburne Rotary Club," Caroline Mikoliew said. "We're both very community-minded, and I think we've been like that all our lives."

They were particularly drawn to being able to see exactly where their donation went and how it would remain in the community.

The grand opening concluded with a tree-planting ceremony, chosen to reflect the Mikoliew's connection to nature and conservation and to symbolize the opportunity for residents of the new home to put down roots and build more stable futures.

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