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Volume 52, Issue 3

Thursday, October 9, 2025

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JAMES MATTHEWS PHOTO

SHOVELS IN GROUND: A groundbreaking ceremony for the Hansen Boulevard extension in Orangeville was held on Wednesday, Oct. 8, at the intersection of College Avenue and Hansen Boulevard. The ceremony marked the beginning of construction on the final segment of Hansen Boulevard, which lays the foundation for the upcoming Five Creeks community. Orangeville Mayor Lisa Post, members of council, and the Great Gulf team were in attendance. Turn to Page A4 for a full story.

Community Living Dufferin holds inaugural fundraiser

Written By JOSHUA DRAKES

Community Living Dufferin (CLD) held an inaugural fundraiser over the weekend, bringing together residents, local businesses, and volunteers to support people with developmental disabilities in the community.

On Saturday, Oct. 4, the CLD building in East Garafraxa came alive with music, games, food, and art as people from all walks of life gathered to take part in the “Community for Community Living Fundraiser.”

CLD executive director Diane Kite said the day was a major success for fundraising.

“We did very well, we raised approximately \$2,800 on the sale of our baked goods from our shop and the food that was served,” she said. “While we’re still in the throes of doing our silent auction, and there’s still donations coming, I think we’re going to raise approximately \$10,000 from our fundraiser.”

The event featured activities for people from all walks of life. Kids could enjoy a game room with board games and a face-painting station, while adults were able to browse local art and baked goods, with every dollar going back into CLD. Live music by The Campfire Poets filled the courtyard

throughout the afternoon.

Local politicians also attended to show support, including Deputy Premier and MPP for Dufferin-Caledon Sylvia Jones, who praised CLD’s ongoing community impact.

“Community Living Dufferin has done an incredible job leveraging partnerships, working together with organizations that already are thriving in Dufferin County, and making sure that opportunities are available for everyone in the community,” Jones said. “To the 150-plus individuals who call Community Living Dufferin home, I hope that you continue to find enrichment, opportunities, employment working with CLD, and I know that our community is behind you.”

Following Jones’ remarks, Michael Parsa, Ontario’s Minister of Children, Community and Social Services, addressed the crowd, thanking Kite and her team.

“Diane, I really want to thank you for your leadership, and I want to thank the entire team here,” he said. “It’s partnership, it’s collaboration, it’s all of us coming together to improve the lives of every single person that lives in our communities. I can tell you what the work that we’re doing as a government is, but all of that takes a backseat to the work



JOSHUA DRAKES PHOTO

COMMUNITY SUPPORT: The Community Living Dufferin team, including Mascot Duffy and director Diane Kite, prepare to welcome guests to the fundraising event. The front desk raised almost \$3,000 in donations alone.

that you do on the ground.”

Parsa added that the provincial government remains committed to serving everyone in the province.

Continued on Page A2

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Community Living Dufferin holds inaugural fundraiser, featuring Campfire Poets

Continued from FRONT

“We’re working together to make sure that supports and services are flexible, that they can adapt over an individual’s lifetime. That’s our goal and our vision ... that no one in our province is left behind. That’s a commitment that we’ve made as a government,” said Parsa.

After the speeches concluded, Kite spoke about how the event represented the collaboration and community spirit that keep Dufferin County, and CLD, going strong.

Kite said the fundraiser would not have been possible without the support of local sponsors and partners, who have a long history of cooperation with CLD.

“Our sponsors were local businesses throughout Dufferin County, and of course the local food bank that we also raised funds for, they donate food back to CLD as well to help support our people,” she said. “The one thing I can say about Dufferin County is that the organizations are so incredibly collaborative and open to helping one another.”

“It’s a fantastic area to be a part of, and just the leadership across Dufferin County is absolutely incredible.”

Despite the strong community support, Kite said one persistent challenge remains – adequate funding.

“Funding is always, certainly a big challenge, the developmental service sector is an underfunded sector, and there needs to be more funding to sustain what we currently have,” she said. “In order for us to grow and meet the growing need for the individuals who currently are not accessing our services, funding is absolutely the number one challenge that we have.”

Even so, Kite said the CLD team continues to meet challenges head-on, crediting their dedication and passion for making a difference. She encouraged anyone interested in volunteering to reach out.

“There is exceptional work being done every single day for the men and women with intellectual disabilities that we support across Dufferin County,” she said.

“Any support is welcome, is needed, and CLD will continue to provide the highest quality of care. I’m exceptionally proud of the work that we do, the incredible employees that we have at CLD, and that it is because of the incredible men and women that we sup-



JOSHUA DRAKE PHOTO

WELCOMING ATTENDEES: Diane Kite speaks to guests during Community Living Dufferin’s inaugural Community for Community Living Fundraiser on Oct. 4.

port, who inspire us every single day to do the work that we do. They are our motivation.”

With their first annual fundraiser finding success, CLD plans to continue the event next year – and for hopefully many more to come –

to build a stronger, more inclusive community. For more information about CLD’s services, visit communitylivingdufferin.ca. To participate in CLD’s ongoing silent auction, visit the Community Living Dufferin Facebook page.

Mono residents will have option to cast their ballot online in next year’s municipal election

Written By JAMES MATTHEWS

There can be few procedural excuses for Mono residents not to vote in the municipal election next year.

Residents will be able to use online voting in the October 2026 political contest.

Mono council authorized alternative voting methods last fall for municipal and school board elections. Those alternate methods included telephone and internet voting.

Council also directed staff to ink an agreement with Intelivote Systems Inc. to provide services for both Internet and telephone voting. Intelivote was utilized by the town for the

2018 and 2022 municipal elections.

Mono is among seven of eight Dufferin County municipalities to sign on with Intelivote Systems for next year’s election.

While each municipality is entering into separate contracts, Intelivote has provided pricing based on the combined total number of electors in seven of the county’s eight municipalities. The cost is broken down into two elements: e-vote services per elector and voter letter and postage.

The cost of preparing and delivering the voter letter has increased from the 2022 election. The e-vote, however, has gone down.

The increase in preparing and mailing the

voter letter is indicative of postal rates having gone up. It cost \$0.92 to send a letter in 2022. Today, that same letter costs \$1.24.

The fees will be based on the number of eligible electors on Oct. 26, 2026.

There were 7,472 eligible electors during the 2022 election. Staff does not anticipate a significant change in the number of eligible electors for the 2026 election. Based on 7,472 eligible electors, the fees for Intelivote’s services are estimated at \$22,416 plus HST.

Councillor Melinda Davie said the ease with which online voting will enable eligible residents to mark a ballot should draw more people to the process. There should be little reason

for the last election’s low 25 per cent voter turnout to occur again.

“Seven municipalities have embraced it now,” Davie said of Mono’s county counterparts. “Last time, we were almost the only ones, I think. With a two-week window to vote, when the voting comes around there’s really no excuse. I would like to see more than 25 per cent of people vote when the vote comes around on Oct. 29, 2026.”

Fred Simpson said there would be a voting period greater than a single day.

“The last couple of times, it was 10 days (to cast a ballot),” Simpson said. “The window hasn’t yet been set, but it will be similar.”

Orangeville mayor’s #RootedInCommunity Fall Food Drive brings community together to combat food insecurity

Written By SAM ODROWSKI
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Orangeville Mayor Lisa Post’s #RootedInCommunity Fall Food Drive generated 6,063 pounds and \$8,172 in monetary donations over the weekend.

The food drive, in support of the Orangeville Food Bank, was held on Saturday, Oct. 4. It divided Orangeville into 10 Community Zones, each competing to collect the most donations.

Zone 8 (Brown’s Darm/Montgomery Village) was crowned the top zone, taking in the

most monetary and non-perishable food donations. But it was a close finish, as Zones 2, 7, and 9 had donation totals that were 40 pounds or less apart.

Mayor Post noted that beyond the numbers, what makes the #RootedInCommunity Food Drive special is the stories she hears from people making donations.

She said one man brought a single can of food to donate, because that’s all he could give. An elderly woman, who uses a walker, stopped by to write a cheque because she couldn’t get to a store to purchase donations.

Mayor Post said other heartwarming stories

include a couple who used their PC points on double-points day to fill eight banana boxes with food to donate. As well, an older gentleman, who struggled to walk, carried in boxes he had collected from his neighbours to donate to the drive.

A woman who dropped off a donation gave Mayor Post a hug and told her that she previously used the Orangeville Food Bank and is now able to give back.

“Every can, every cheque, every dollar, and every hug made a difference. Thank you, Orangeville, for showing once again that we are truly Rooted in Community,” said Mayor Post.

Mayor Post would like to thank the Orangeville Blitz, Hughes Real Estate Team, and Instaplus Printing for sponsoring the event.

ASG Home Exteriors played an important role in fundraising this year. The local business held an inaugural Greenskeepers Revenge Golf Tournament, which raised \$5,100, and was donated to the food bank in support of the #RootedInCommunity Fall Food Drive.

The Orangeville Food Bank serves roughly 1,500 people per month, and every donation received helps to combat food insecurity locally.



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Celebrating local wilderness: Dufferin’s Bruce Trail Day sees record turnout

Written By JOSHUA DRAKES

The Dufferin Hi-Land Bruce Trail Club celebrated Bruce Trail Day with true outdoor spirit on Oct. 5, bringing in nearly 170 visitors to explore the local forests, enjoy live entertainment, and learn about local conservation efforts.

The turnout marked a record for Bruce Trail Day in Dufferin County.

Don Stewart, community outreach director for the Dufferin Hi-Land Bruce Trail Club, said the turnout had matched his club’s expectations, nearly hitting their anticipated turnout and surpassing it with extra trail-goers.

“We were aiming for 150 people, and we ended up with 147 attendees - plus another 20 or so who came through on their own and didn’t know about the day,” Stewart said. “All told, about 169 people came out.”

Stewart said the atmosphere was extremely positive, and attendees were very responsive to what the club had planned, buying much more merchandise than expected.

“Split Rock Narrows is a very popular and picturesque part of the trail,” he said. “It’s an easy walk, relatively speaking, people were very happy with the day. We had a record merchandise sale; people were bellying up and buying everything. [It] kind of surprised us, because we have a couple of other events coming up, and now we have to restock our inventory.”

The highlight of the experience, however, was the musicians dispersed throughout the trail loop. Local artists were brought on to give a little extra life to hikers passing through, and the forest echoed to the sounds of guitars and drums. The Fitzees, Sandy Harron, Dean Woods, Break Even Boys, and Carl Tafel were among the local musicians in attendance.

Bruce Trail Day is an annual, trail-wide event organized by the Bruce Trail Conservancy and its local clubs to celebrate the Bruce

Trail, which runs from Niagara to Tobermory on the Huron Lakefront. The event also introduces people to nature, conservation, and outdoor recreation.

Held each fall, the public is invited to explore sections of the trail through guided hikes, educational displays, and family-friendly activities. Its purpose is to raise awareness of the Bruce Trail’s environmental and cultural importance, promote conservation of the Niagara Escarpment, and encourage community involvement through volunteering, membership, and stewardship.

But the work the Conservancy does goes above and beyond maintaining what’s there — they are also actively working to restore ecosystems to their natural state before human interference.

“We’re preserving a very unique, bio diverse area, which has been recognized as a UNESCO biosphere,” Stewart said. “We’re just not building a trail. We’re trying to get rid of the invasive species and replant the natural species that need to be in the area, some of which have just disappeared. All the clubs are finding, you know, what is indigenous to their areas, and replanting and removing.”

This is no easy undertaking. It requires a dedicated team of workers to maintain the trails on a consistent basis and to respond to damage. They rely on a small but dependable team to see the work done.

“You have to have certification through a course to go out and remove or clear out trees, so I couldn’t do it,” Stewart said. “So what the rest of us can do is identify the areas that need to be worked on or cleared, and then arrange for the guys to do it. It’s got to be a minimum of a three man team, usually four men, because you need people on watch, making sure a hiker isn’t coming through as a tree comes down. They are an amazing team.”

Another ongoing challenge, Stewart said, is land development. As human settlement



JOSHUA DRAKES PHOTO

WELCOMING GUESTS: Bruce Trail Conservancy staff and volunteers greet participants for Bruce Trail Day, offering guided hikes and educational materials on Bruce Trail Day (Oct. 5).

pushes farther north out of the Greater Toronto Area, developers are also eyeing tracts of land the Conservancy hopes to acquire or protect.

“We’re fighting against developers, of course,” he said. “They want the same land we want, with all the beautiful views and vistas and whatever. So we need money, yes, because the developers have got deep pockets, and they want to buy the same land that we want to buy.”

Fortunately, the club maintains a good working relationship with local landowners who allow trails to run through their properties in support of the Bruce Trail.

“We are very fortunate that most of the people whose property we either walk on or walk close to, they’re very supportive of the Bruce Trail and its concept,” he said. “When land

comes available, typically they will contact us first and say, ‘do you want to talk to me?’ so we have an opportunity first. And then, you know, it starts getting down to dollars and cents.”

With a supportive community and a record-breaking Bruce Trail Day, the Dufferin Hi-Land Club is going into the fall with spirits high. But there is always more to come. Their next trail event is the 25-kilometre challenge hike on Oct. 18, and they are currently looking for volunteers to join their biodiversity team to remove invasive Buckthorn plants from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Oct. 25.

For more information on the Bruce Trail, anyone interested can visit www.bruce-trail.org, and for more information about the Dufferin Hi-Land Bruce Trail Club, visit www.dufferinbruce-trailclub.org

Town Page

GET CONNECTED!



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UPCOMING MEETINGS

Date	Time	Location	Meeting	To listen in
Tuesday, Oct. 14	7 p.m.	Council chambers and virtual	Council	Youtube @orangevillecouncil
Thursday, Oct. 16	6 p.m.	Main floor boardroom and by phone	Heritage Orangeville	1 289-801-5774 ID: 830 244 878#



*Start time of council and committee meetings is subject to change
*For more information on how to participate and to view council and committee agendas, please visit orangeville.ca/meetings.

WHAT’S HAPPENING

The Power of the Little People:
Book launch with Bomgiizhik Isaac Murdoch

Wednesday, Oct. 29 7 p.m.
Mill Street Library

All ages welcome
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Business at Breakfast

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TOWN NEWS

The Town of Orangeville will observe modified hours for Thanksgiving

Town Hall and offices

Sat., Oct. 11	Closed
Sun., Oct. 12	Closed
Mon., Oct. 13	Closed

Alder Recreation Centre*

Sat., Oct. 11	7 a.m. to 10 p.m.
Sun., Oct. 12	7 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Mon., Oct. 13	Closed

Tony Rose Memorial Sports Centre*

Sat., Oct. 11	7 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Sun., Oct. 12	7 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Mon., Oct. 13	Closed

Libraries (Alder Street and Mill Street)

Sat., Oct. 11	Alder Street 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Mill Street 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sun., Oct. 12	Closed
Mon., Oct. 13	Closed

Transit

Sat., Oct. 11	7:15 a.m. to 6:15 p.m.
Sun., Oct. 12	No service
Mon., Oct. 13	No service

* Recreation customer service hours may vary from the facility hours.

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Thursday, Oct. 30 6 p.m. at Mill Street Library
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2024 financial reports

Our 2024 financial reports are available now.

Current and past financial reports can be found online at orangeville.ca/budget.

Ground breaks on road to Orangeville housing development, bringing Hansen Boulevard one-step closer to completion

Written By JAMES MATTHEWS
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The long wait for some Orangeville residents and perhaps some people who will become residents is officially nearing its end. That wait refers to the spell of time College Avenue-Hansen Boulevard residents have spent waiting to see when mounds of sand and dirt would make way for a piece of road that would mark the continuation of a housing development project. Great Gulf's residential development division and municipal officials broke ground

Oct. 8, where the College-Hansen thoroughfare had been interrupted. Continuation of the residential development, dubbed Five Creek Estates, will connect Hansen with College Avenue and Mason Street. It will be an east-west corridor across the town's north end. More than a kilometre of new thoroughfare will be built, including the infrastructure required for water, sewer, gas, hydro, and communications services. "Once complete, the Hansen Boulevard extension will serve as a major transportation corridor for Orangeville's north end,"

according to a Great Gulf press release. Five Creeks Estates, previously known as the Edgewood Valley Phase 2B subdivision, is Great Gulf's newest planned community. It will bring a mix of housing options with natural open spaces and modern infrastructure. The development previously proposed 51 single detached dwelling lots, 17 on-street townhouses, and a low-density residential block of about 50 condominium townhouses. Plans and projections for the project, its amenities, and scope have evolved in the

time since the land parcel was first eyeballed as a proposed low density multiple residential future development block about 3.7 acres south of Hansen Boulevard and to the west of the Meyer Drive extension. This block had been identified in the 2B Plan for a future residential development in the form of condominium townhouse units or a similar housing form. "The Five Creeks community is anticipated to include over 350 residential dwellings a park, an elementary school, environmental protection lands, and 1.5 kilometres of new trails," according to the press release.

Headwaters invites women ages 40-72 to a 12-hour mammogram marathon

Written By SAM ODROWSKI
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

A marathon of mammograms is coming to Headwaters Health Care Centre (HHCC). The hospital is inviting women ages 40 to 74 to stop by on Thursday, Oct. 24, for a 12-hour community mammoth. October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, and this event, running from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., aims to encourage routine breast cancer screening, along with self-care. "As a general surgeon who works with

breast cancer patients, I know that early detection saves lives," says Dr. Grace Wang, Chief of Staff and Vice President of Medical Affairs at HHCC. "We want to make it as easy and welcoming as possible for women in our community to access this safe and vital screening." The hospital is encouraging eligible community members to book their mammogram appointments prior to the event. "Bring a friend and make the day one of wellness and connection. Participants will be greeted with a flower and entered into a draw for a gift basket," HHCC shared in a

statement on Oct. 7. State-of-the-art digital radiography is utilized by Headwaters' mammography program, which is fully accredited by the Canadian Association of Radiologists (CAR). HHCC also proudly participates in the Ontario Breast Screening Program (OBSP). It's important to note that women ages 40 to 74 can self-refer to book a screening at HHCC directly, without a referral from a physician. "The community mammoth follows the success of Headwaters' staff mammoth held on Friday, Oct. 3. During that

event, eligible hospital staff booked their own mammograms in a show of leadership and awareness. The initiative was met with enthusiasm and underscored the hospital's purpose of providing excellent care, close to home," reads HHCC's statement. To book an appointment for the Oct. 24 community mammoth, call 519-941-2410 ext. 2842. Walk-ins will be accommodated as availability permits, and any patient who is unable to book appointments on Oct. 24 will be booked in for upcoming appointment times.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

NEW ACCESS: The Dufferin Hi-Land Bruce Trail Club celebrated the grand opening of a new parking lot on Oct. 1 at the Pine River Reserve. The new parking lot is located at the corner of 15 Side Rd. and Prince of Wales Rd. in Mulmur. It is the fourth new parking lot opened by the Dufferin Hi-Land Bruce Trail Club to support the use of its trails.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

TAKE BACK THE NIGHT: It was a powerful moment of community solidarity against sexual violence and gender-based violence when residents gathered in support of Family Transition Place's annual Take Back the Night and Sisters in Spirit event on Oct. 2. The event featured guest speakers and a two-kilometre empowerment march through Orangeville, starting at FTP (20 Bredien Parkway). Take Back the Night is a global movement held annually in September to raise awareness and take a stand against sexual and gender-based violence. Sisters in Spirit Day, observed across Canada on Oct. 4, honours and remembers Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and 2SLGBTQIA+ people (MMIWG2S+), and calls for justice and meaningful action.



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OPEN WEDNESDAY TO SATURDAY

Dufferin OPP lay several charges throughout County

Mono man faces several charges after colliding with vehicles between Orangeville and Mulmur

A driver is facing several charges after allegedly striking vehicles from Broadway in Orangeville to Primrose in Mulmur.

Dufferin Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) recently issued a press release, noting that a Mono resident has been charged with multiple Criminal Code driving offences related to the incident, which occurred on Wednesday (Oct. 1).

Officers responded to reports of a vehicle driving out of control and striking vehicles, leaving behind a trail of destruction. The officers acted quickly and located the heavily damaged vehicle in question at the intersection of Highway 10 and 89 in Mono.

Officers successfully blocked the vehicle from proceeding further, preventing additional damage and ensuring the safety of community members.

Brian Halbert, 46, from Mono, has been charged with:

- Assault with a Weapon (two counts)
- Dangerous Operation
- Failure to Stop After Accident (two counts)
- Flight from Peace Officer

None of the listed charges have been proven in court.

Anyone with information related to this investigation is asked to contact the Dufferin OPP at 1-888-310-1122. To remain anonymous, please call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS) or visit www.crimestoppersdm.com. Anyone who leaves a tip will not be asked to identify themselves or testify in court.

Impaired driving charges laid following motor vehicle collision

Dufferin Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) has charged a Shelburne resident in connection with impaired driving-related offences.

On Oct. 3, shortly after 10 p.m., officers responded to a motor vehicle collision on Highway 10 in Mono. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the individuals involved and observed signs of impairment. An impaired driving investigation was initiated.

As a result, Sweetan Bath, 27, from Shelburne, has been charged with the following offences:

- Dangerous operation
- Operation while impaired - alcohol and drugs
- Failure or refusal to comply with demand
- Possess more than one licence

The accused individual is scheduled to appear before the Ontario Court of Justice in Orangeville. Their driver's licences have been suspended, and their vehicles impounded.

The listed charges have not been proven in court.

Second fire at business is being investigated as arson

Dufferin Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) cThe Dufferin Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) are investigating a suspicious fire at a local business.

On Oct. 2, just after 3:30 a.m., members of the Dufferin County OPP and Dufferin County Crime Unit, responded to a structure fire at a business on Riddell Road in Orangeville. Police responded with fire crews and confirmed there were no injuries.

This fire has been deemed suspicious and is being investigated as an arson.

On July 18, 2025, members of the Dufferin County OPP responded to a call for service at this same location for reports of multiple gunshot holes to the storefront.

A larger than normal police presence would have been observed for both of these incidents.

Anyone with information regarding these investigations, or anyone who may have dashcam footage on Riddle Road between Richardson Road and Caledon/East Garafraxa Townline, for the evening of July 17 to the morning of July 18, and the evening of Oct. 1 to the morning of Oct. 2, are asked to contact Dufferin OPP at 1-888-310-1122 or Crime Stoppers to remain anonymous at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477).

Police cruiser stuck by driver while attempting to reverse, charges laid

Dufferin Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) officers have charged an Orangeville resident with impaired driving-related offences after they struck a police cruiser while attempting to reverse.

On Oct. 3, shortly after 11 p.m., officers responded to a fail-to-remain motor vehicle collision in the area of Sherwood Street in Orangeville.

A short time later, officers located the suspect vehicle. While attempting to get the driver's attention, the individual reversed directly into a fully marked police cruiser. Officers observed signs of impairment, and an impaired driving investigation was initiated.

As a result, Gagandeep Brar, 38, has been charged with the following offences:

- Failure or refusal to comply with demand
- Operation while impaired - alcohol and drugs
- Dangerous operation
- Failure to stop after accident
- Driving while under suspension (two counts)
- Driver - fail to properly wear seat belt

The accused individual is scheduled to appear before the Ontario Court of Justice in Orangeville. Their driver's licence have been suspended, and their vehicle has been impounded.

The listed charges have not been proven in court.

HOLIDAY INTERRUPTION FOR WASTE COLLECTION

Collections for the day of the holiday and the rest of the week will be shifted to one day later.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
October 5	October 6	October 7	October 8	October 9	October 10	October 11
October 12	THANKS GIVING	October 14	October 15	October 16	October 17	October 18
October 19	October 20	October 21	October 22	October 23	October 24	October 25

Monday
ZONE

Tuesday
ZONE

Wednesday
ZONE

Thursday
ZONE

Interruption
no collections

Happy Thanksgiving!

Due to the holiday on Monday, October 13th, garbage, Blue Boxes and Green Bins will be collected **one day later** that week. Regular collection will resume the following week.



dufferinwaste
519.941.2816 ext. 2620
dufferincounty.ca/waste
dufferinwaste@dufferincounty.ca

WINTER WARMTH
Clothing Swap & Share

Saturday, November 8th
10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Sunday, November 9th
12:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Grand Valley Public Library
4 Amaranth St. E, Grand Valley

Bring your unwanted hats, mittens, jackets and other winter clothing, and swap them for something else for free!

Don't have anything to bring? Stop by anyway! All are welcome!

Clothing drop-off options:
November 5th (6pm - 8pm)
November 6th (6pm - 8pm)
November 7th (10am - 6pm)
November 8th (9am - 10am)

All clothing must be clean and in good condition.

For all event guidelines, visit dufferincounty.ca/waste



dufferinwaste
(519) 941-2816 ext. 2620 | dufferincounty.ca/waste

THIS WEEKEND ONLY!
FRIDAY - SUNDAY



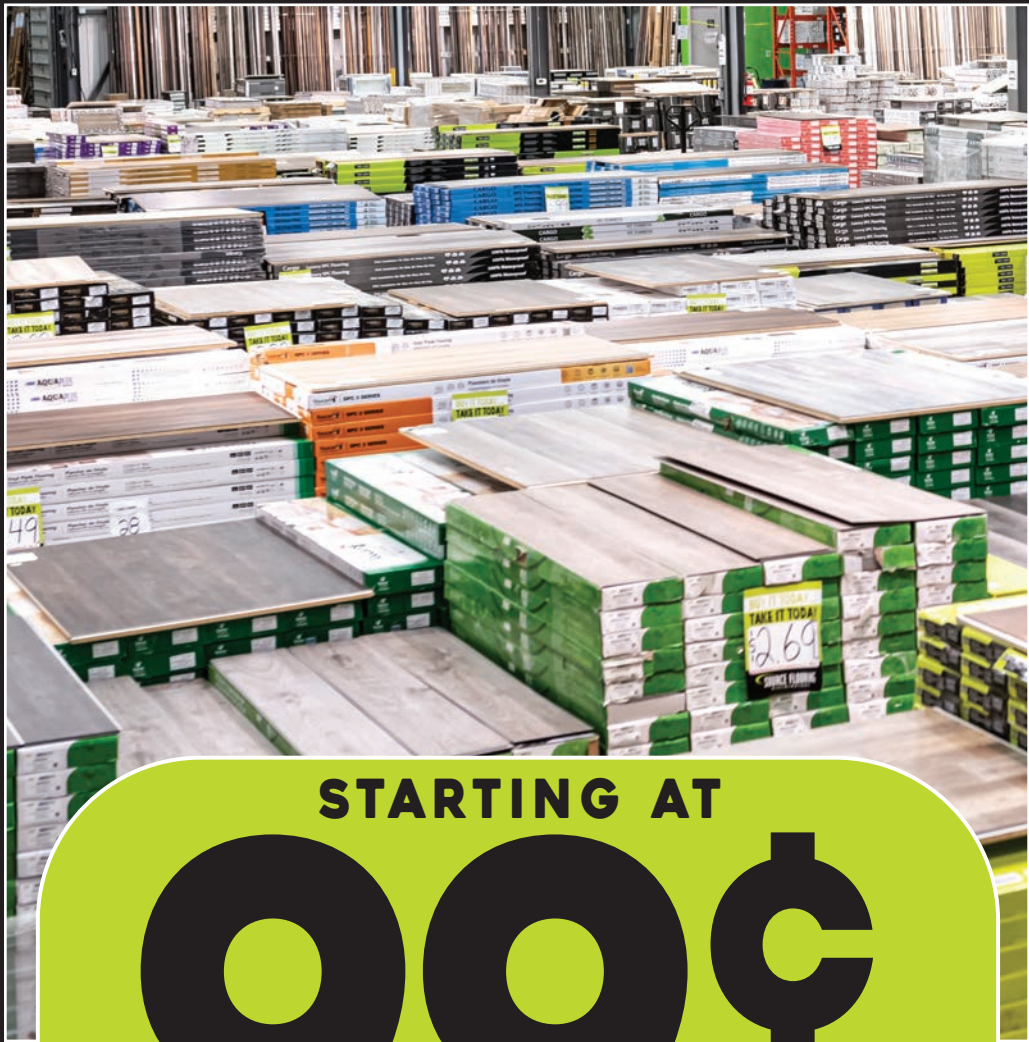
10 TRUCKLOADS OF
LUXURY
WATERPROOF
VINYL
HAS ARRIVED!

3 DAYS ONLY!

FRIDAY OCTOBER 10 8AM-8PM

SATURDAY OCTOBER 11 9AM-6PM

SUNDAY OCTOBER 12 10AM-5PM



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SAT 9-6 SUN 10-5

Shelburne Public Library welcomes new CEO Shannon McGrady

Written By PAULA BROWN
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

A familiar face at the Orangeville Public Library is taking over as CEO of the Shelburne Public Library.

Shannon McGrady, who's worked at the Orangeville Public Library for 12 years, is taking over the role as Shelburne Library CEO from Rose Dotten, who worked in the role for 17 years.

"I'm extremely excited and feel honoured to be able to take on this role, and lead the library into this next chapter. I've heard only incredible things about the team and how well loved the library and the staff are in the community. It really sounds like it's the heart of the community. I think it's a privilege to have the opportunity to lead it forward," said McGrady.

Raised in the Dufferin County community, McGrady studied at York University, where she received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Children, Childhood, and Youth. She also received a Bachelor of Education.

McGrady joined the Orangeville Public Library in 2013, working on the library's children's programming. During this time, she was also studying to obtain a Master's degree in Gender, Feminist, and Women's Studies.

"I fell in love with the library land, and everything that libraries stand for. How they're the cornerstones of community, and how they work to help develop everyone in the community. Everybody is welcome there," recalled McGrady.

Over the next 12 years, McGrady would move from children's programming to doing all ages programming for the library, and in 2019, she became the program and research coordinator, focusing on community outreach and community engagement.

In addition to working at the Orangeville Public Library, McGrady is an avid volunteer in the community, working with the local food bank and assisting veterans and service members. She was a key member in the construction of Bravery Park in Orangeville, which looks to honour Canadian soldiers and create awareness around serving soldiers.

She also serves as Chair of the Children and Youth Services Committee with the Ontario Library Association.

McGrady will be taking over as chief executive officer as her predecessor, Rose Dotten, retires after holding the position for 17 years.

"Definitely big shoes to fill, that's for sure. Rose has left and incredible legacy at the Shelburne Library. She's helped position the

library the way it is, and it's so well loved by the community. She's developed a great team," said McGrady.

Speaking with the Free Press, McGrady spoke about what she hopes to bring into the head role of the Shelburne library.

"Anytime someone new comes in, they bring lots of new ideas and I'm known for having lots of outside the box ideas. My first priority entering into the library is to find out what Rose's vision and the team's vision is and how I can help them carry that forward, while also seeing what new opportunities there are from an outside perspective."

McGrady is a dutiful reader of non-fiction books, specifically memoirs and biographies, and also enjoys reading contemporary fiction.

Her first book recommendation for Shelburne readers to pick up is "My Friends" by Roderick Bachman, whom she considers one of her favourite writers.

"It's a powerful tale of friendship and the power of art to transform our sense of self and our sense of the world. It's masterfully crafted," said McGrady.

McGrady will officially take over as the new CEO of the Shelburne Public Library on Oct. 20.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

NEW CHAPTER: Shannon McGrady, who worked at the Orangeville Public Library in various roles since 2013, has been named the Shelburne Public Library's CEO, amidst the retirement of Rose Dotten.

Southern Ontario Visual Artists return with ‘As the Artists View It II’ exhibit

Written By PAULA BROWN
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Artwork created by several southern Ontario professional artists will once again be on display in the Town of Shelburne.

The Southern Ontario Visual Artists (SOVA) has returned to the community to host an exhibit titled "As the Artists View It II," at the Shelburne Town Hall Art Gallery from Oct. 6 until Oct. 24.

"I don't know how to best describe it, but we do like it up there. We enjoy the setting, it's nice and small, and the people that are there are great," said Lynden Cowan, founder of SOVA, about returning to the Shelburne Town Hall Art Gallery. "We [SOVA] go to different settings and we have a lot of artists from up in this area."

The exhibit features over 40 pieces of art from eight SOVA members: Robert Chisholm, Lynden Cowan, Helen Duplassie, Margaret Pardy, Lynne Schumacher, Steve Wilson, Michelle Eissler, and E. Connie Munson.

The artists showcased in the exhibit work in a variety of different mediums to depict their unique perspectives, including pastel, acrylic, oil, ink, and photography.

"Art is really an emotion, and looking at art stirs emotions in people. When you see different ways of presenting the subject, it brings

something out in everyone," said Cowan. "In this show, there's something for everyone to enjoy; it's not limited. It's different, but it all seems to click together."

"As the Artists View It II" is a sequel to SOVA's first exhibit at the Shelburne Town Hall Art Gallery from Aug. 6 to 23, 2024, titled "As the Artists View It."

The Southern Ontario Visual Artists is an exhibition group of artists that originally formed in June of 2014 and hosted their first art showcase the following September.

From the first year as a group, SOVA has been active in the art community, assisting in an anti-bullying campaign at The Arts Project in London, Ont., helping to paint sculpted horses for the Pan Am games that were showcased throughout the Headwaters area, and hosting an exhibition of their work in the Fall's Gallery of the Alton Mills Arts Centre.

Each year, the group looks to be involved in up to five exhibits displaying the work of its members.

Those interested in finding out more information about the artists who are a part of the exhibit and their pieces of work can visit the Town Hall Art Gallery page on the Town of Shelburne website – www.shelburne.ca.

More information about the Southern Ontario Visual Artists group can be found at southernontariovisualartists.com.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

COLLECTION: The Southern Ontario Visual Artists (SOVA) have returned to the community with an exhibit titled, "As the Artists View It II," at the Shelburne Town Hall Art Gallery from Oct. 6 until Oct. 24. The exhibit features over 40 pieces of art from eight members of SOVA and showcases a variety of mediums to depict the artist's unique perspective including pastels, acrylic, oil, ink and photography.

Open house

Transportation Master Plan

The Town of Orangeville is developing a vision that shapes how our community will move in the future—and focuses on helping us keep our community connected now. The Transportation Master Plan (TMP) looks at how our roads, trails, sidewalks and transit work together to keep people connected.

Get informed

We're working to keep our community in the loop about this project. This open house is a great opportunity to see our work so far and what data we've collected on our transportation networks.

Get involved

- attend the public open house and learn about the first ideas for the TMP
- ask questions and hear directly from the project team
- share your thoughts and feedback on the TMP

Meeting details

Date: October 23, 2025
Time: 5 to 7 p.m.
Location: Tony Rose Memorial Sports Centre, Northview Room

Stay up to date

Interested in being added to a mailing list for future updates? Send an email to address below.

For more information

Brandon Maynard-Spasov
Transportation and Development Technologist
Town of Orangeville
519-278-1291

Kevin Jones
Consultant Team Project Manager
Paradigm Transportation Solutions Limited
416-479-9684 ext. 513

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SPECIAL CURBSIDE COLLECTION

November 3 - 6, 2025

Place battery bag on top of your Green Bin or beside your Garbage on your regular collection day.

Due to the Canada Post strike, Battery Bags will be available for pick-up at the County office or your local municipal office. See the website for additional pick-up locations! Clear resealable bags can also be used.

NO loose batteries in the Blue Box, Green Bin or Garbage.

If you miss the collection date, or do not receive curbside collection, visit our website for a battery recycling location near you.

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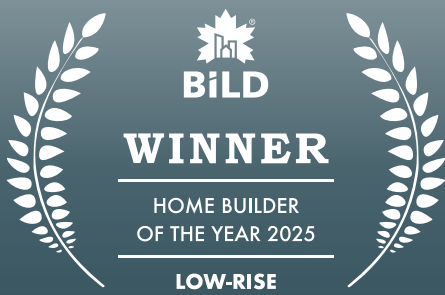
40' DETACHED

1,920 – 3,575 SQ. FT.*
4 – 5 BEDS
FROM THE LOW **\$1.1M**



45' DETACHED

2,190 – 4,525 SQ. FT.*
5 – 7 BEDS
FROM THE LOW **\$1.2M**



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OC PRICE **\$40808**^{+HST/LIC}
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for 96 months at 4.99%
COB \$7276 - \$5500 DOWN

2024 DODGE HORNET R/T PLUS PHEV eAWD



2 TO CHOOSE FROM
MSRP **\$71662**^{+HST/LIC}
OC PRICE **\$51662**^{+HST/LIC} includes **\$10000**^{OCL} BONUS CASH
LEASE FROM
\$141^{+HST/LIC} /week
for 54 months at 1.99%
12,000KM/YR - \$4000 DOWN

2025 JEEP WRANGLER UNLTD SPORT S 4X4 2024 DODGE CHARGER DAYTONA STAGE 2 AWD



2 TO CHOOSE FROM
MSRP **\$71176**^{+HST/LIC}
OC PRICE **\$62161**^{+HST/LIC} includes **\$2000**^{OCL} BONUS CASH
LEASE FROM
\$157^{+HST/LIC} /week
for 60 months at 8.19%
12,000KM/YEAR - \$5000 DOWN



RR0018
MSRP **\$107800**^{+HST/LIC}
OC PRICE **\$73003**^{+HST/LIC} includes **\$8000**^{OCL} BONUS CASH
FINANCE FROM
\$199^{+HST/LIC} /week
for 96 months at 4.99%
COB \$14781 - \$5000 DOWN

2025 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE ALTITUDE 4X4 2025 RAM 1500 BIG HORN SPORT CREW 4X4



3 TO CHOOSE FROM
MSRP **\$67981**^{+HST/LIC}
OC PRICE **\$61285**^{+HST/LIC}
FINANCE FROM
\$165^{+HST/LIC} /week
for 96 months at 4.99%
COB \$12355 - \$5000 DOWN
OR **0%**
for up to 72
Months finance on
2025 GRAND CHEROKEE



SN0006
MSRP **\$73269**^{+HST/LIC}
OC PRICE **\$65893**^{+HST/LIC} includes **\$1800**^{OCL} BONUS CASH
FINANCE FROM
\$178^{+HST/LIC} /week
for 96 months at 4.99%
COB \$13164 - \$5000 DOWN
OR **0%**
for up to 72
Months finance on
2025 RAM 1500s

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Monday, October 13th, 2025.
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STK# 04482 • 86,563 KM • X1.5L TURBOCHARGED 4-CYLINDER, SPORTTRONIC CVT, ALL WHEEL DRIVE, HEATED CLOTH BUCKETS, HEATED WHEEL, 5-PASSENGER, 18 INCH ALLOYS, BLUETOOTH, DUAL-ZONE CLIMATE, POWER WINDOWS/LOCKS/MIRRORS, APPLE CARPLAY/ANDROID AUTO, BLIND SPOT, REAR CROSS TRAFFIC, FORWARD COLLISION ALERT!

\$94 WEEKLY + HST
84 MONTHS WEEKLY LICENSING EXTRA

\$24,912 +HST/LIC
\$0 DOWN

@ 9.49% O.A.C.
C.O.B \$9,206

2021 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE 80TH ANNIVERSARY



STK# U821071 • 74,375 KM • 3.6L PENTASTAR V6, 8-SPEED AUTOMATIC, 4X4, NAV, HEATED/COOLED LEATHER, HEATED WHEEL, HEATED 2ND ROW, POWER LIFTGATE, PANORAMIC SUNROOF, REMOTE START, UCONNECT 4C, APPLE CARPLAY/ANDROID AUTO, ALPINE AUDIO, REAR CAMERA, PARK ASSIST, HID LIGHTING, 20 INCH GRANITE WHEELS!

\$142 WEEKLY + HST
84 MONTHS WEEKLY LICENSING EXTRA

\$37,712 +HST/LIC
\$0 DOWN

@ 9.49% O.A.C.
C.O.B \$13,936

2022 JEEP WRANGLER UNLIMITED WILLYS 4X4



STK# U272469 • 147,758 KM • 3.6L V6, 8-SPEED AUTOMATIC, 4X4, HARDTOP, NAVIGATION, HEATED CLOTH BUCKET SEATS, HEATED WHEEL, DUAL ZONE CLIMATE, REMOTE START, 17 INCH MOAB BLACK ALLOYS, UCONNECT 7.0, POWER WINDOWS/LOCKS/MIRRORS, REAR CAMERA, LED LIGHTING, BLACK GRILLE, ALPINE AUDIO, TOW PKG!

\$142 WEEKLY + HST
84 MONTHS WEEKLY LICENSING EXTRA

\$37,712 +HST/LIC
\$0 DOWN

@ 9.49% O.A.C.
C.O.B \$13,936

2023 RAM 1500 CLASSIC WARLOCK CREW 4X4



STK# 25746A • 54,864 KM • 3.6L PENTASTAR V6, 8-SPEED AUTOMATIC, 3.21 AXLE, 5.7FT BOX, NAVIGATION, UCONNECT 5, ALPINE AUDIO, HEATED CLOTH BUCKETS, HEATED WHEEL, REAR CAMERA, PARK ASSIST, REBEL STYLE GRILLE, FENDER FLARES, PROJECTOR STYLE HEADLIGHTS, DUAL ZONE CLIMATE, REMOTE START, HITCH, TOW PACKAGE

\$165 WEEKLY + HST
84 MONTHS WEEKLY LICENSING EXTRA

\$43,812 +HST/LIC
\$0 DOWN

@ 9.49% O.A.C.
C.O.B \$16,191

2021 JEEP WRANGLER UNLIMITED SAHARA ALTITUDE 4X4



STK# U567854 • 76,172 KM • 2.0L TURBO 4-CYLINDER, 8-SPEED AUTOMATIC, NAV, HEATED LEATHER BUCKET SEATS, HEATED STEERING WHEEL, HARDTOP, REMOTE START, DUAL ZONE CLIMATE, REAR CAMERA, ALPINE AUDIO, LED LIGHTING, SAFETYTEC, ADVANCED SAFETY, TOW PKG, 1-OWNER, NO ACCIDENTS, OCL ORIGINAL, 5YR/100K GOLD!

\$161 WEEKLY + HST
84 MONTHS WEEKLY LICENSING EXTRA

\$42,912 +HST/LIC
\$0 DOWN

@ 9.49% O.A.C.
C.O.B \$15,858

2020 NISSAN QASHQAI S AWD



STK# B12690 • 86,889 KM • 2.0L, CVT, 5-PASSENGER, HEATED CLOTH BUCKETS, CLIMATE CONTROL, BLUETOOTH, 17 INCH ALLOY WHEELS, 2 SETS OF TIRES/WHEELS, POWER WINDOWS/LOCKS/MIRRORS, REAR CAMERA, REAR PARK ASSIST, NISSAN SAFETYSHIELD, 1-OWNER, LEASE RETURN!

\$75 WEEKLY + HST
84 MONTHS WEEKLY LICENSING EXTRA

\$19,912 +HST/LIC
\$0 DOWN

@ 9.49% O.A.C.
C.O.B \$7,359

2019 JEEP WRANGLER SPORT 4X4



STK# U687299 • 60,681 KM • 2.0L TURBO 4-CYLINDER, 8-SPEED AUTOMATIC, A/C, CD/MP3, UCONNECT 5.0, 16 INCH WHEELS, FOG LIGHTS, CLOTH BUCKETS, HARDTOP, REAR CAMERA!

\$142 WEEKLY + HST
72 MONTHS WEEKLY LICENSING EXTRA

\$33,812 +HST/LIC
\$0 DOWN

@ 9.49% O.A.C.
C.O.B \$10,565

2022 FORD MAVERICK XL HYBRID



STK# B12681A • 171,829 KM • SUPERCREW, 2.5L HYBRID 4-CYLINDER, CVT, FWD, CLOTH BUCKET SEATING, CLIMATE, POWER WINDOWS/LOCKS/MIRRORS, SYNC, 5-PASSENGER, REAR CAMERA, CERTIFIED AS-TRADED!

\$86 WEEKLY + HST
84 MONTHS WEEKLY LICENSING EXTRA

\$22,912 +HST/LIC
\$0 DOWN

@ 9.49% O.A.C.
C.O.B \$8,467

2020 FORD F-150 XLT CREW 4X4



STK# B12640A • 101,221 KM • SUPERCREW, 3.3L V6, 6-SPEED AUTOMATIC, 5.5FT BOX, 3.73 AXLE, 4X4, CLOTH BENCH SEATING, CLIMATE, SYNC, CHROME BUMPERS, 17 INCH ALLOY WHEELS, REAR CAMERA, POWER WINDOWS/LOCKS/MIRRORS, TOW PACKAGE!

\$131 WEEKLY + HST
84 MONTHS WEEKLY LICENSING EXTRA

\$34,912 +HST/LIC
\$0 DOWN

@ 9.49% O.A.C.
C.O.B \$12,902

2018 DODGE GRAND CARAVAN GT



STK# U242763-0C • 136,614 KM • 3.6L V6, 6-SPEED AUTOMATIC, 7-PASSENGER, 17 INCH BLACK ALLOYS, HEATED LEATHER SEATING, HEATED STEERING WHEEL, STOW N GO, TRI-ZONE CLIMATE CONTROL, REAR CAMERA, UCONNECT, REMOTE START, DUAL POWER SLIDING DOORS, POWER LIFTGATE, POWER DRIVERS SEAT!

\$105 WEEKLY + HST
72 MONTHS WEEKLY LICENSING EXTRA

\$24,912 +HST/LIC
\$0 DOWN

@ 9.49% O.A.C.
C.O.B \$7,784

2019 JEEP CHEROKEE SPORT



STK# U216238 • 104,860 KM • FWD, 2.4L 4-CYLINDER, 9-SPEED AUTOMATIC, HEATED CLOTH BUCKETS, HEATED STEERING WHEEL, REMOTE START, CLIMATE, UCONNECT 4, LED LIGHTING, REAR CAMERA, 17 INCH ALLOYS, 6000 KMS!

\$75 WEEKLY + HST
72 MONTHS WEEKLY LICENSING EXTRA

\$17,712 +HST/LIC
\$0 DOWN

@ 9.49% O.A.C.
C.O.B \$5,535

2022 RAM 1500 BIG HORN CREW 4X4



STK# U121998 • 121,271 KM • 5.7L HEMI V8, 8-SPEED AUTO, 3.21 AXLE, 5.7FT BOX, UCONNECT 5 NAVIGATION, HEATED CLOTH BUCKETS, HEATED STEERING WHEEL, 20 INCH CHROME ALLOY WHEELS, REMOTE START, DUAL ZONE CLIMATE, TOW PACKAGE, REAR CAMERA, CHROME BUMPERS, FRONT/REAR PARK ASSIST, BIG HORN LEVEL 2 GROUP!

\$162 WEEKLY + HST
84 MONTHS WEEKLY LICENSING EXTRA

\$42,912 +HST/LIC
\$0 DOWN

@ 9.49% O.A.C.
C.O.B \$15,858

2021 RAM 1500 LARAMIE CREW 4X4



STK# U528026 • 141,428 KM • 5.7L HEMI V8, 8-SPEED AUTOMATIC, 3.21 AXLE, 5.7FT RAMBOX, NAV, UCONNECT12, PANORAMIC SUNROOF, HEATED/COOLED LEATHER BUCKETS, HEATED SECOND ROW, HARMAN/KARDON AUDIO, REMOTE START, DUAL ZONE CLIMATE, LARAMIE LEVEL 2 GROUP, 360 CAMERA, PARK ASSIST, ADAPTIVE CRUISE, SAFETY TECH, TOW PACKAGE, HEADS UP DISPLAY!

\$169 WEEKLY + HST
84 MONTHS WEEKLY LICENSING EXTRA

\$44,912 +HST/LIC
\$0 DOWN

@ 9.49% O.A.C.
C.O.B \$16,597

2019 RAM 1500 CLASSIC SXT PLUS QUAD 4X4



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Celebration held to mark 200 years of Belfountain celebration

Written By RILEY MURPHY

Belfountain is celebrating its 200th birthday, and the community celebrated in style. Hundreds of community members and residents gathered on the streets of Belfountain for an all-day celebration on October 4.

Complete with a parade, live music, statue unveiling, and historical re-enactments, this day was one for the books.

The Belfountain Heritage Society planned the day in collaboration with other community groups and various organizations over the course of many months.

Attendees trickled in during the morning, taking in the surrounding shops and vendor market that had been set up throughout the streets.

The Heritage Art Show and displays in Belfountain Community Hall were bright with colour and history, and will remain open until October 13 for those who missed it.

The parade kicked off at 11:00 a.m., moving down Mississauga Road past crowds of people and onto Bush Street.

The parade featured the Sandhill Pipes & Drums Band, the 2nd York Militia & Canadian Volunteers of 1812 re-enactment company, horses, a plethora of vintage cars, the Erin Air Cadets, and more.

It concluded with Sarah Bohan, President, Belfountain Heritage Society & Chair, Belfountain Bicentennial Committee, riding down the street in style on her horse.

Music rang through the streets as the party of the parade faded away, only to pick back up again for the opening ceremonies.

Caledon's Town Crier, Andrew Welch, opened the ceremonies with a message from Prime Minister Mark Carney.

"We are the product of our history. Our technology allowed us to harness the river and use the forests to create industry, which changed the land. Those choices of how we live are still being made, so that this is not just a time to look back, it is a time to look forward another 200 years, which is seven generations."

"200 years, what a remarkable milestone for this beautiful and historic community. Belfountain has long been known for its charm, natural beauty, and strong community," said Mayor Annette Groves. "I always say, it's a little bit of heaven here. Today, we not only celebrate its past, but we also look ahead to its future with pride and optimism."

During the ceremony, Councillors Christina Early and Lynn Kiernan, Mayor Groves, and MPP Sylvia Jones recognized the hard work and dedication of all the volunteers and groups involved.

The message of the day was simple, wheth-

er you were a member of Belfountain or not, everyone that day was a "Belfontaineer."

This historic birthday was marked by the unveiling of a new commemorative sculpture that will stand in Belfountain's Gardens, alongside the recent addition of the community garden and an Indigenous placemaking feature in Belfountain.

Belfountain artist Wendy Mitchell, who runs Tree House Pottery in the community, was the mastermind behind the statue, which stands more than six feet tall, "Escarpment's Embrace."

The statue depicts the rich history of Belfountain and the Forks of the Credit area by carving and incorporating various iconic features.

"I was so honored to be part of this celebration, and I didn't think twice about jumping in, creating something that was larger than me, and in so many ways larger than me, and I put all my effort into listening and all the help that everybody gave me, trying to bring together all of our little parts that make this place so special, and I hope I've accomplished that, and I hope this sculpture lives on to speak to that specialness," says Mitchell.

The piece begins at the bottom with the early formation of the geology coming from the fossils embedded into the Niagara Escarpment; this central piece of rock Mitchell shared was almost like a pediment.

Mitchell also wanted to encapsulate the rich flora and fauna, which can be seen through the ancient tree wrapping around the central piece of the rock, as well as the waters and rivers flowing throughout.

She said she wanted to tie those three elements together and tell the stories around them.

As you move around the statue, you will begin to notice various animals, including beavers, salamanders, turtles, and more.

Mitchell also incorporated a fire into the statue, representing those who lived in the community before.

Moving up the statue, you can see the draft horse representing the animals moving into the area and the settlers.

Near the historic railway trestle on the statue is the Forks, where Mitchell incorporated recognizable features such as the ski hill and the two Forks of the Credit.

At the top of the piece are markers with wreaths symbolizing and honouring fallen soldiers with an active remembrance.

Adorning the very top is the historic Belfountain Fountain, built in the early 1900s.

When asked about some of her favourite components of the piece, Mitchell mentioned the hen depicted and her brood of ducklings.

She's perched, looking ahead to the future.



RILEY MURPHY PHOTO

UNVEILING: Belfountain artist Wendy Mitchell stands with her six-foot tall statue, called "Escarpment's Embrace," at Belfountain's Gardens.

Mitchell shared that creating the statue, with all the support from those around her, has been one of the "best events of her life."

As the statue was lowered into the ground the night before, Mitchell and those in the society took a moment to sign the bottom, symbolizing the hard work and terrific feat they had accomplished.

RCI Studios was the foundry that cast the piece.

Those who worked to install the piece were originally from the area, creating a poignant full-circle moment.

With all the small details visible throughout the statue that should be appreciated and learned about by all, the Belfountain Heritage Society is actively accepting donations to fund a plaque that will be installed to describe Escarpment's Embrace.

"Wendy has a long history of producing this kind of wonderful organic [pieces], rich in history and rich in the narrative," says Bohan.

At the opening ceremonies, Bohan said that "joy happens when the good that you're trying to achieve is fulfilled," and her heart was filled with joy that day.

"Two centuries ago, settlers chose this very spot atop the Niagara Escarpment, nestled in the beauty of the Credit Valley, to build a community. What began as a small settlement has grown into a vibrant, welcoming, and proud community that we know today. Over the last 200 years, Belfountain has been home to farmers, entrepreneurs, artists, and families that have worked hard and cared for one another and cherished the natural beauty around us," said Bohan.

"Each generation has left its mark, building not just homes and businesses, but traditions, friendships, and a sense of belonging that defines our hamlet. Today, as we stand on the shoulders of those who came before us, we honor their legacy and look forward to our future."

"This bicentennial is more than a celebration of years gone by. It's a celebration of community, spirit, and resilience, and of the people who make Belfountain such a special place to live and visit."

In attendance were not only those who were honorary "Belfontaineers" for the day, but also those whose history has a long-standing presence in the hamlet.

Bob and Charlie Trimble's grandfather opened his blacksmith shop in the community in 1924.

In later years, it became a garage, currently marked by the "Trimble and Sons" garage sign that sits above the stores of Narcissus & Echo and Higher Ground Cafe.

Their mother wrote three separate books on the history of Belfountain.

Looking just down the street, you can see their family home just a stone's throw away.

Bob Trimble says that it was nice to see so many people out and about, including those that they haven't seen since they were children.

At the 150th celebration for Belfountain, Charlie's car was in the parade, marking another full-circle moment for the historic day.

The celebrations didn't end after the ceremony; a new historic plaque was unveiled, and historical re-enactments ran at Foresters Park for hours to come.

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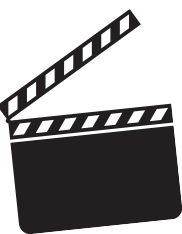
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Arts & Entertainment

LOCAL COMMUNITY EVENTS



Andie Trépanier uses art to advocate for the protection of Swan Lake in Caledon

Written By **CONSTANCE SCRAFIELD**

When Andie Trépanier took the time to talk to the Citizen late last week, they were in the throes of getting ready for the Caledon Studio Tour over the weekend. Yet, there is another subject in addition to their art and the passion they feel for it. It is a matter of concern they had shared with their famous father, painter of the Arctic and far north, Cory Trépanier, who died in November 2021.

Cory Trépanier began his wilderness painting by travelling to the rugged northern shores of Lake Superior and Georgian Bay for one month each season, with his wife, Janet. They also brought their two very young daughters, Sydney and Andie. Yet, the Arctic called to their father once those trips had whetted his appetite to experience the astonishing beauty of the even more northern landscape above the Arctic Circle. What Andie has taken from those childhood experiences and the empathy their father felt for the environment has led them irresistibly in this moment, to blend their art with a mission: protecting Swan Lake.

The subject of Swan Lake was their first real agenda for this interview, although some background did begin the conversation, as they talked about being home-schooled until they were 12 years old. At the time, they were mainly drawing in pencil, but their artist father encouraged them to do their own thing.

Since 2019, they have been painting in oils.

"I really asserted my own voice," Andie said, and, moving to the subject of Swan Lake, they added, "Now I'm asking what do I have to say? What can I share from my experience?"

A call to action was on once they accidentally heard that Swan Lake is to be used as a dump for waste fill from the surrounding planned construction. Swan Lake is a pristine 44-acre body of water set in the Greenbelt. It is a rehabilitated gravel pit,

the license for which was surrendered in 2023.

"They call it a 'pit' to justify using it as a dump," Andie said with outrage. "But it's not a pit; it is a lake with good ground water that people and the wildlife depend upon."

They went on to say, "I love Caledon. My father worked to protect the environment. What's being held over our heads – they have the provincial mandates."

Soon enough, Andie had their own answer: "I'm an artist. I care about the environment."

Making the point of how they and the local farmers and residents deserve access to safe water, Andie made the best move they could.

Before Caledon Mayor Annette Grove called a July 8 public meeting, Andie made a point to go out and meet all the local farmers, who are concerned about the safety of water in Swan Lake if dumping is permitted.

With the permission of their neighbouring farmer, they climbed up onto the roof of one of his buildings with their paints and equipment to paint the lake as it is. They captured the reality of this place.

Elaine Li, a videographer, accompanied them. She took photographs and a video of everything.

"It was 5 a.m. when we climbed up onto that roof and saw what [Mayor] Grove refers to [as] the site, calling it a pit. It is rehabilitated, already approved fully with protection. They are not using the right vocabulary to justify their plans.

"Hundreds of people have shown up at meetings," they said with the worry that there is not enough good representation for the lake.

Developers say, "we gotta put this fill somewhere," but the question comes back to "how can this be the only place?"

Andie insists this is a violation of human rights and grieved, "It's a shame not to have my father here, who fought to protect the environment in this area."

They related that when Caledon Council



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

SAVE SWAN LAKE: Andie Trépanier climbed up to a neighbouring farmer's roof to paint the scene of Swan Lake to show what must not be ruined by converting it into a waste dump, which Caledon Council, under Mayor Annette Grove, is planning.

first brought out the proposal, 200 people came to protest.

When Council had another meeting, Andie noted there was no recording of the meeting. But Andie recorded it, and there were consistent numbers of over 100 people then and coming to other meetings, proof of the widespread and urgent push-back.

They complained about the speed of the attempts to push the bylaw through and the sloppiness of its wording.

On the board making these decisions, not a single person lives in this area, Andie said.

"It is hard to see our basic rights pushed aside, hard to watch but if we want to see a change, we need new leadership. The big-

gest thing is apathy – I started by painting a lake. We have to call on each other or we will be grieving the loss of our democracy," they told the Citizen.

About Andie's art, they said they are painting non-stop, how they became close by the land, like being a settler. They are bringing their paints with them to Algonquin Park,

"Communing with the land."

What is it they want to paint?

"Usually portraits and surreal paintings. I find the puzzle pieces exhilarating."

Now, Andie is back in the studio in Caledon for schedules.

"Love binds people," they philosophized. "We'll keep working to protect Swan Lake."

Rebecca Donaldson
Sales Consultant

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Lindsay brings a welcoming and attentive presence to the MacMaster team. Known for her positive attitude and strong communication, she ensures every guest feels supported throughout their vehicle journey. Whether you're buying your first car or upgrading, Lindsay is committed to making the process stress-free.

Logan Brown
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Logan brings a fresh and friendly approach to the Volkswagen sales floor. With a passion for helping customers find the right fit, he's always ready to guide guests through the buying process with clarity and care. Logan's approachable personality makes the experience easy and enjoyable from start to finish.

3 Dealerships, 1 Community

The Citizen CROSSWORD

Puzzle No. 25A310 • 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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56		57	58		59				60		61
62		63	64				65				66
67		68							69		
70							71				

CLUES ACROSS

1. Martial arts in China
6. The butt of jokes
12. Nevertheless
16. Sportscaster Michaels
17. A firm believer
18. Atomic #18
19. One's bestie
20. Of I
21. Hamburger accessory
22. Thus
23. Partner to Pa
24. Scottish tax
26. Cuts away
28. Require
30. Government lawyer
31. Own (Scottish)
32. Body cavity
34. Brew
35. Young woman (French)
37. Platforms
39. Pair of points in mathematics
40. Attack suddenly
41. Aviators
43. Make perfect
44. Yearly tonnage (abbr.)
45. Neither
47. The center of a city
48. Sacrifice hit in baseball
50. Singer Redding
52. Dragged forcibly
54. Puncture with a knife
56. Belonging to me
57. Expresses surprise
59. Haul
60. The Golden State
61. Biblical Sumerian city
62. Integrated circuit
63. Opposed to certain principles
66. Sodium
67. Qualities
70. Walk
71. It awaits us all plant

CLUES DOWN

1. Ate quickly
2. Peyton Manning's alma mater
3. Moves through water
4. Run away from
5. Utah resident
6. Natural objects
7. Children's game
8. Obligation to prove
9. Ancient Greek building for performances
10. Soldier
11. Decorated
12. Catches
13. Russell ___, author
14. Speak indistinctly
15. Students get them
25. Japanese warrior
26. Dessert
27. Doleful
29. Most cushy
31. Moon crater
33. Small evergreen
Arabian tree
36. Something fugitives are "on"
38. 007's creator
39. Paintings on hinged panels
41. Type of bomb
42. Japanese classical theater
43. U.S. gov't department
46. Flightless bird
47. One who cuts wood or stone
49. Buttock and thigh together
51. A way to gather
53. Body part
54. Argentinian city
55. Undergarments
58. Jai ___, sport
60. Container for shipping
64. Type of screen
65. Get free of
68. Indicates position
69. Business department

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How they say that in...

English: Case
Spanish: Caja
Italian: Scatola
French: Boîtier
German: Schatulle

ACROSS

2. Involves the eye
6. In a line
8. Abbreviation for "hours"
9. Stings or pains

DOWN

1. Vision
3. Foot treatment
4. Corrects vision
5. Bends
7. One who plays

These devices stay on the eye due to surface tension of tear fluid and the eye's curvature.

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SOLUTION
a liquid mixture used for cleaning and storing contact lenses

Answers: 1. Eyeglass 3. Ped 4. Contacts 5. Curves 7. Gainer Down 9. School 2. Optic 6. Straight 8. Hrs 9. Burns

Sumi-e artist Roslyn Levin shares artistic adventure in Japan

Written By **CONSTANCE SCRAFIELD**

“I don’t know if my feet will ever be entirely on the ground,” said sumi-e artist Roslyn Levin, who is based in Orangeville. “My trip to Japan was just wonderful!”

Katherine Stark, who was Levin’s travel companion, is her friend and her student of sumi-e, about whom Levin said, “Katherine has travelled extensively. I haven’t travelled.”

The two of them had discussed the idea of travelling to Japan, imbued as they are in the culture of traditional Japanese brush stroke painting and calligraphy.

Finally, they decided: “We should go for it!”

They started researching and worked together, and then “the plan to go to one place, Nara, for a whole month, came together beautifully.”

Nara was the first established capital of Japan in 710 A.D.

They decided to make their own residency – the trip was mainly about sumi-e, visiting a few ink and brush makers.

It was a journey of hospitality and happy meetings. When they arrived in Nara, they were very pleased to discover the accommodation they had booked was a whole house that was very beautiful.

“We visited the company, Kobaïen, that makes my sumi (ink) that I have been using for almost 50 years,” she said.

Her contact at Ichi Ink, Keitaro, acted as their host and took them through Kobaïen, where they have been making ink for sumi-e and shodo (Japanese calligraphy) for over 600 years. Their other guide, the other manager of the Kobaïen store, told them the story of how the ink is made.

Also, “We stood in the room where the oil is burned to make the soot for the ink,” she related.

Another day, they experienced “Ink gripping,” which refers to a hands-on workshop at the historic Kinkoen.

“We worked with Kinkoen’s sixth-generation artisan, Bokuen Nagano, who honoured

us by allowing us to call him Yoshi,” Levin said.

In this workshop, you knead soft, fragrant sumi-e ink into a unique, hand-shaped piece, creating a one-of-a-kind artifact that preserves the imprint of your fingers and hands. This experience allows visitors to connect with the rich history and culture of Japanese ink-making, culminating in a beautifully packaged keepsake.

“We returned to visit with Yoshi again and met his wife, seven-year-old grandson, and his son, who will take over the position of head ink-maker from him. He presented us each with a work of calligraphy by one of his close friends,” Levin recalled.

Later, they had “a brush-making experience with Chiyomi Tanaka, the only official female Japanese brush-maker.”

They talked about feather brushes, which Levin likes to make. All are perfect for traditional Japanese brush stroke painting.

As their exploration of Nara continued, the two travellers found out about places from other people.

There was a family running a shop for six generations, and other brush-making facilities.

They travelled by train to a small town called Ayabe, stayed overnight with their host, Teruyuki, and his family, in a small village. The following day, they went to Kuritano, an ancient paper-making facility “whose paper I have used for many years, and made paper.”

A Sumi-e museum called them and they went there by train.

On the second floor, in a little glass area, was a man who weighed and rolled ink and set it aside, a small roll at a time, very quickly.

They ventured into a place of lacquer work, inlay, and paper, and created wonderful objects.

Setting the picture of a woman working on a piece, Levin explained, “There was a wood bowl, huge with inlays of mother of pearl and, using lacquered paper she was repairing

her grandmother’s bowls.”

Another picture of “a lady was making pottery and putting her pieces in the shop she owned.

“We worked on pottery for two hours; the glazier offered, he would glaze one of ours or one of his. I took one of his and Katherine asked for him to glaze one of her own.”

Part of what made their time so special was that they were there for a month: “We did shodo and we were there for a month, but mainly, people stayed for only a few days,” said Levin.

“People really appreciated us because we stayed there for a whole month.”

Before long, someone said, “I heard about you.” Nara is a town of about 30,000 people.

Their guide took them to a traditional Japanese lunch.

In the small village, two children asked if they wanted to see fireflies by a lake. There were hundreds of fireflies, and they took pictures. A four-year-old girl was putting fireflies in her basket to look at them and letting them go.

Nara city is a twin city with Jerusalem, and there is a statue of Anne Frank, they learned. Two cultures intersecting.

Chance had them make paper in the paper-making factory. “We were the first people who came and bought paper; the first to come who knew about it.

The house they stayed in was a six-minute



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

ADVOCATING: During their visit to Nara, Japan, Roslyn Levin (left) and Katherine Stark (right) stood in the room where oil burning is used to produce the ink on a wick that is hand-braided. The soot collected makes the ink sticks, and some have essential oils infused. Levin’s ink sticks have indigo powder, which gives a blue-black colour to the ink.

walk from one of two train stations, where there is a huge grocery store, where they stopped.

To have small gifts to give back to people where Levin and Stark were visiting, they had painted 5x7 paintings of “just whatever I wanted” on cards.

“It was so nice to have something to give. NARA is the first capital city of Japan where shodo and sumi-e entered the country,” said Levin.

They took time to paint while they were there too.

Roslyn reflected, “I already loved what I do. It was a renewed joy in my world – brought back what it was like when I first started.

Be sure to check out Levin’s sumi-e paintings in the window of Dragonfly Arts in Orangeville.

They are wonderful.

Annual Witches Walk aims to return to downtown Erin in support of Headwaters

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

An enchanted evening of shopping is on its way to the Erin community with the goal of bringing the magic of the season to life while raising funds to support Headwaters Health Care Centre (HHCC).

The Wellington Dufferin Women’s Association (WDWA) has announced the return of the annual Witches Walk, which will take place on Oct. 24 in downtown Erin.

“Organizing the Witches Walk is one of the

highlights of our year,” said WDWA President Sarah Majeski. “It’s a night where we celebrate women, community, and giving back – all while having a blast. We can’t wait to welcome everyone back for another unforgettable evening.”

Started in 2022, the Witches Walk has become a beloved tradition in the Erin community, bringing a mix of community spirit, themed festivities, and charitable giving tighter for one night. Each year, hundreds of participants dress in their finest witch attire to enjoy a night of shopping, raffles, and mystical experiences.

Local businesses along Main Street in Erin are transformed into a “witchy market” offering exclusive coupons, themed products, and a one-of-a-kind raffle.

Last year, the Witches Walk raised over \$5,000 for Headwaters Health Care Foundation to help fund vital equipment for the local hospital. This year, organizers of the event are hoping to surpass the amount raised in 2024.

“We are absolutely thrilled to be the beneficiary of this year’s Witches Walk once again,” said Shauna Santarossa, senior development

officer at Headwaters Health Care Foundation. “The energy and generosity of this event are truly inspiring, and we’re so grateful to the WDWA and the Erin community for their continued support of local health care.”

Tickets for the 4th Annual Witches Walk are available now for \$25. Attendees are encouraged to dress in their most spellbinding costumes and prepare for a night of laughter, connection, and community magic.

For more details about the Witches Walk and to purchase tickets, visit the WDWA’s official event page at www.wdwa.ca.

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Stories Woven Through Fabric reclaims identity – one ribbon at a time

Written By **BROCK WEIR**

Co-executive director of the Dufferin–Caledon based Indigenous led not-for-profit, the Brave Canoe, Sharon Rigby, is a student of Indigenous Community and Social Development at Georgian College. During her studies, she saw how proud many of her peers were coming to class wearing a distinctive garment.

Rigby, a Mohawk/Ojibwe artist from Akwesasne Reserve in Quebec, who now lives in Mississauga, was keen to learn more about her culture and its histories, but she did not have a ribbon skirt of her own – and, with some fabric and needles, she set out to reclaim this vivid part of her sartorial culture.

The results of this journey can now be seen on walls throughout the Aurora Cultural Centre as it hosts Rigby’s first solo show, Stories Woven Through Fabric.

On now through Nov. 30, Rigby uses the medium of ribbon skirts to “share the lived experience of Indigenous individuals impacted by the Sixties Scoop and residential school systems,” says the Centre.

“Ribbon skirts hold deep cultural signif-

icance for many Indigenous communities across Canada and North America,” says the Centre. “While their meanings vary between nations, they are recognized as symbols of identity, connection to heritage, and the land, and tools for healing. Through her art, Rigby creates a space for truth and reflection, inviting members of her community to share their stories and, in doing so, foster a sense of healing and understanding surrounding National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.”

Choosing ribbon skirts as a medium has allowed Rigby to collect threads of her own story, one that was and continues to be impacted by both residential schools and the Sixties Scoop.

“They are works of art – a lot of creativity goes into them, a lot of story, and I wanted to tell my family’s story within a skirt, and all of that came together while I was in the program at Georgian College,” says Rigby. “Initially what I wanted to show through my ribbon skirts was my matriarchal line. I have one ribbon skirt that is dedicated to my family and in that I have three prominent ribbons that go vertically.... One of them is for my grandmother, one is for myself, and one is

for my mother. My grandmother was a part of the residential school system, my mother was part of the Sixties Scoop, and in the middle is myself, stepping forward to reclaim our culture and our history.”

Coming out of the residential school system, Rigby says her grandmother had “no concept of showing love” and had never told her daughter that she loved her. Her mother, in turn, as a result of the Scoop, grew up disconnected from a feeling of familial belonging.

“My mom was very strict and very disciplined with me and it took a lot for her to start talking about how she grew up and some of the things she was having a hard time doing when she was raising me,” says Rigby. “It took a lot for my mom to finally step forward and start talking to me about our history.

“When she recognized that I was on that path of going to school, being involved in the community and engaging, she started to open up. The whole concept of this Ribbon Skirt exhibition was, for many years, Indigenous people were not willing to talk, and for the same amount of years, the non-Indigenous weren’t ready to listen. What came about

because of that is a lot of people trying to reclaim their culture, having grown up surrounded by trauma, and having to step forward out of that and be these strong Indigenous individuals reclaiming their histories. It’s very difficult to do, but what I was really hoping is through my artistry and through listening to others who felt the same way I did, that by having that story on their skirt would help them find healing. Through that medium myself, I find healing as well.”

It has been a journey of healing, reclamation and growth for the family, and now Rigby’s children have continued on the path of cultural interpretation, fire-keeping, and furthering the Ojibwe language.

“My mom was overwhelmed,” says Rigby of her family’s reaction to the exhibition. “My sister-in-law was reading to her a portion of the stories that were on the skirts and my mom said something that many people came up to me and said on the opening day, ‘We recognize a similar thread through each and every story.’ For people trying to find their connection and trying to find their footing, it’s a little bit of an eye-opener and it also makes them realize they’re not the only ones.”

From COVID car ride to community tradition: Orangeville Hallowe’en Haunt Patrol returns

Written By **SAM ODROWSKI**
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Hallowe’en is fast approaching, and an Orangeville-based house-decorating contest is returning for its sixth year.

The Orangeville Hallowe’en Haunt Patrol (OHHP) has become a well-known event in the community, where homeowners are encouraged to compete in a friendly competition, with community judges scoring the scariest houses in town.

OHHP was started in 2020 by Orangeville resident Michelle Hartley when the global COVID-19 pandemic prevented trick-or-treating. To still celebrate Hallowe’en with her young child, Hartley did what she always does on Hallowe’en, hopped in her car, and drove through Orangeville to enjoy decorated houses.

From her drive around town, she developed a list of the best-decorated houses and uploaded it to her personal Facebook page. From there, she was encouraged by friends to make it into a bigger, more formal event.

Shortly thereafter, OHHP was launched, and it’s been building every year since.

The OHHP Facebook page now has over 2,000 followers, who eagerly wait for the annual Top 10 List of best decorated homes to be posted each year.

“What started out as a way to still enjoy [Hallowe’en] from the car in 2020, has turned into, dare I say, a new community tradition,” said Hartley. “Every year, I receive emails and photos of families, several in full

Hallowe’en costumes, telling me that this is their first, second, third family tradition of enjoyment. [It] starts with dinner out in our town and then laughs, screams, and photos galore. And not to forget – lifetime memories.”

The OHHP will select the Top 10 List for home and yard displays for this year’s contest on Friday, Oct. 24, from 7 to 10 p.m., and announce the list on its Facebook page around 11 p.m.

The top 10 homes will be scored by community judges on Saturday, Oct. 25, between 7 and 10 p.m.

The winners will be announced around midnight, once all the judges’ score cards are tallied.

The houses are judged on 10 categories: creativity, personal workmanship, sound, lighting, special effects, attention to detail, animation or live action (dressed up), storyline or theme, arrangement/display/placement, and overall presentation.

All of the judges scoring the top 10 homes are residents of Orangeville, and dignitaries, such as Mayor Lisa Post, Deputy Mayor Todd Taylor, and Councillor Debbie Sherwood.

The top 10 homes will be asked by OHHP to join the group in promoting a “daylight fright” on judging day (Oct. 25), from 2 to 4 p.m., for young kids and people with accessibility limitations. The daylight fright is less scary, since it takes place during the daytime.

Prizes will be given to the homes that place first, second, and third. There will also

be an honourable mention, people’s choice, and the president’s pick.

New this year is the addition of a donation box to the top 10 homes for Oct. 25 in support of the Orangeville Food Bank.

“I’m truly excited to see how much food donations we can bring to our local food bank,” Hartley enthused. “Last year, on judging night, there was 2,000 attendees, even if each family donates one food item to one home, our community benefits twice – first with the fun, and second with the pay-it-forward food.”

Also new this year is a Child-Friendly Rating for houses decorated without blood and gore. OHHP’s Facebook page will post child-friendly homes for young families to enjoy.

Déjà vu Diner is again sponsoring OHHP, providing the prize for the People’s Choice Award, which is selected via community vote, after the contest.

In August, OHHP had a booth for the second year at the Orangeville Fall Fair’s Kids Zone area, with a “Carn-evil” theme.

Home Depot sponsored OHHP’s booth with an animated witch prize, while Debbie Van Wkyk - Family Tree Real Estate donated candy to hand out.

The OHHP looks forward to being back at the fall fair in 2026.

“In the last two years while at the Fall Fair, I have spoken to many outside of Dufferin County who come to enjoy our OHHP event,” said Hartley.

She noted that people travelled from as



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

FRIGHTFUL FUN: A spooky display is up on Highland Crescent in Orangeville, and other neighbourhoods are getting into the spirit of Hallowe’en.

far as Newmarket, Alliston, Guelph, Arthur, Shelburne, Dundalk, Brampton, and Mississauga to enjoy Orangeville’s Hallowe’en display last year.

Hartley looks forward to bringing the community and visitors together again for another season of frightful fun.

The OHHP Facebook page can be found online at facebook.com/profile.php?id=100070080250955.

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County of Dufferin provides update on battery bags amidst Canada Post strike

Written By **SAM ODROWSKI**
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Special battery collection is happening from Nov. 3 to 6.

Due to the Canada Post strike, battery bags will be available at the County of Dufferin office, located at 55 Zina Street (enter from 10 Louisa Street) or your local municip-

pal office before Nov. 3.

Please visit www.dufferincounty.ca/waste for additional pick-up locations. A clear re-sealable bag can also be used.

Households are asked to fill up their battery bags with old single-use and rechargeable household batteries.

The County of Dufferin says residents must place battery bags on top of their green

bin or beside their garbage – not on top of a blue box – by 7 a.m. on their collection day the week of Nov. 3.

No batteries can be placed inside blue boxes, green bins or garbage

Residents are also advised to follow the instructions on the battery bag to make sure collection and proper recycling of batteries.

Nine-volt battery terminals are to be covered with masking tape.

It's important to note, single-use and rechargeable household batteries can also be dropped off at battery drop-off bins around Dufferin County.

Residents can visit <http://www.dufferincounty.ca/waste> for more information on curbside battery collection.

Five people charged with impaired driving along Dufferin County roadways last month

Five people charged with impaired driving along Dufferin County roadways last month

Dufferin Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) charged five individuals with impaired driving-related offences between Sept. 19 and 29.

Anton Bilonozhenko, 38, from North York, has been charged with:

- Operation while impaired - blood alco-

hol concentration (80 plus)

- Drive motor vehicle - perform stunt - excessive speed
- Speeding 50+ km/h over posted limit

Arvindpal Dhillon, 44, from Shelburne, has been charged with:

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

Asdrubal Sibaja Burke, 26, from North York, has been charged with:

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

Josue Delgado, 26, from North York, has been charged with:

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

Gregory Sweet, 31, from East Garafraxa, has been charged with:

- Operation while impaired - alcohol and drugs

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

Their driver's licences have been suspended, and their vehicles were impounded.

None of the listed charges have been proven in court.

Ontario SPCA's Draws for Paws 50/50 Lottery underway with guaranteed jackpot of \$75,000

Written By **SAM ODROWSKI**
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Rake in cash while helping animals with the Ontario SPCA's Draws for Paws 50/50 Lottery

A lottery in support of animals runs now until Nov. 18.

The Draws for Paws 50/50 Lottery, hosted by the Ontario SPCA and Humane Society, is returning, with participants again having the chance to win big while caring for animals in need.

The guaranteed jackpot is \$75,000, and the pot grows with each ticket sold. The SPCA's 50/50 lottery in the spring awarded the winner with over \$127,000.

“Get your paws on tickets early and you could fetch even more! There are four Early Bird prizes up for grabs, with draws taking place Oct. 9, 16 and 30 and Nov. 6. The Grand Prize draw takes place on Nov. 18 and you can get in on the action for as little as \$10 for 10 tickets,” reads a press release from the Ontario SPCA. “Don't miss your chance to win big and help animals get the care they deserve.”

Funds raised through the Draws for Paws 50/50 Lottery support a new grant program that helps SPCAs and human societies throughout the province, called the Ontario SPCA's Community Access to Resources, Education, and Support (CARES) Fund.

The fund provides financial support to-

wards programs or initiatives that support animal welfare, such as spay/neuter programs, shelter improvements, and veterinary care.

“This lottery is about more than just the excitement of winning,” said Stephanie Miller, vice president of development at the Ontario SPCA and Humane Society. “Every ticket sold helps fund vital programs across the province that improve the lives of animals. Through your support of the Draws for Paws 50/50 Lottery, we're able to extend support where it's needed most and create lasting change for animals in our communities.”

Tickets are available online at ontariospcalottery.ca.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Dufferin OPP asks public to remain vigilant during period of increased theft from businesses

The Dufferin Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP), in collaboration with local businesses, is alerting the community to a noticeable increase in theft-related incidents during the months of October, November, and December.

As the busy holiday season approaches, businesses are encouraged to remain vigilant and take proactive steps to safeguard their property, staff, and customers. There is typically a rise in shoplifting, theft from commercial properties, and other retail-related crimes, this time of year.

Common Theft Tactics

- Distraction techniques: One individual diverts staff attention while another commits the theft.
- Concealment: Items are hidden in bags, clothing, or strollers.
- After-hours break-ins: Businesses with limited lighting or surveillance may be targeted.
- Busy periods: Offenders often take advantage of peak hours when staff are occupied.

Theft Prevention Tips for Businesses

- Secure high-value items and position them away from entrances.
- Ensure security cameras are fully operational and cover key areas, including entranc-

es, exits, and cash registers.

- Train staff to recognize suspicious behaviour and respond appropriately.
- Restrict access to staff-only areas and stockrooms.
- Display signage indicating the use of surveillance cameras.
- Maintain adequate lighting both inside and outside the premises.
- Minimize on-site cash and make regular, discreet bank deposits.

The Dufferin OPP will continue working closely with local business owners, Business Improvement Areas (BIAs), and community

partners throughout the fall and holiday season to promote safety and prevent crime.

“Members of the Dufferin OPP remain committed to public safety and to working in partnership with the community to prevent and investigate crime. Community awareness and vigilance play a key role in helping keep our local commercial areas safe,” reads a press release from Dufferin OPP.

Anyone with information about suspicious or unlawful activity, is asked to contact the OPP at 1-888-310-1122, or report it anonymously through Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS) or online at crimestoppersdm.com.



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HOME & GARDEN

Trends that seem ubiquitous one day can seemingly vanish before the sun rises again just 24 hours later.

THAT'S ESPECIALLY TRUE IN THE DIGITAL AGE, when overnight celebrities and viral videos can be on the tips of everyone's tongue before being forgotten entirely when the next online sensation emerges in an increasingly rapid news cycle.

Home trends typically benefit from a longer shelf life than viral videos and other fads that originate on the internet, and that's something renovation-minded homeowners should consider when improving their homes. Homeowners preparing to do just that can

consider these notable trends, which the online renovation experts at Houzz suggest will be particularly popular in the year ahead.

Rounded furnishings
Houzz noted that gentle curves and rounded edges embody the organic modern styles that many current homeowners love. Rounded dining tables and similarly circular coffee tables may merit consideration among homeowners who want to embrace popular trends.

Arches
Houzz cites arches among the more popular modern trends, and the experts at Better Homes & Gardens note this unique, eye-catching style has been gaining popularity for several years. Better Homes & Gardens suggests that part of the appeal of arched doorways could be their deviation from a more traditional door

shape. That uniqueness draws the attention of residents and visitors alike, and Houzz notes that arched windows, cabinets and even millwork details are part of the pivot toward arches.

Store alcoves
If it's a touch of history homeowners want, kitchen range alcoves might be just the project for them. Range alcoves call an earlier time to mind when wood burning stoves were commonplace. The report from Houzz notes range alcoves immediately draw attention, which undoubtedly adds to their appeal.

Wood for warmth
Homeowners who hear "wood and warmth" might think fireplaces, but Houzz reports that wood elements are being incorporated into interior designs as a means to giving homes a more cozy vibe. Ceiling

beams, trim, wall paneling, and cabinetry are utilizing wood to add warmth to a home.

Trends come and go, but home trends typically have more staying power than styles that emerge in other arenas. Homeowners who want to upgrade their home interiors can consider the latest trends and choose those that align with their own personal tastes.





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visualize new siding, roofs, windows, and more in various colours and styles before committing.

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From routine maintenance to full replacements, fall is an ideal window for action. Consider in-specting your roof for missing or damaged shingles, clearing gutters and downspouts of debris, checking window and door seals for drafts, and assessing siding or trim for rot or cracks. Delaying repairs now can lead to leaks, ice dams, or costly interior damage once winter sets in.

Synergy Exteriors doesn't just respond to prob-lems—they help prevent them. Their main-tenance plans and warranties offer homeowners peace of mind, ensuring that when winter's heaviest snow and cold arrive, your home is ready. For residents wanting to safeguard their investment, stay cozy, and avoid emergency repairs later, Synergy is a trusted local option worth considering.

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Together with its sister company, ABL Air Heating & Air Conditioning, The Fireplace Stop has earned a reputation for tackling challenging projects with professionalism and precision. From all types of fireplaces

and premium barbecues to full-scale HVAC systems, their experienced team has you covered.

“If it contributes to your home’s comfort, we’re involved,” Leonard adds.

The Fireplace Stop proudly serves a wide area across Ontario, including Toronto and cottage country, with some installations completed at properties accessible only by snowmobile or boat—highlighting their commitment to getting the job done, no matter the challenge.

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Customer satisfaction is the top priority at The Fireplace Stop. Each project benefits from personalized service and a team passionate about excellence in sales, service, and installation. The business proudly carries a curated selection of premium brands, including Napoleon, Marquis, Fireplace Xtordinair, Da Vinci, Kozy Heat, Tempest Torch, Enviro, Regency, Valcourt, RSF, Lopi, Delta Heat, Pacific Energy, Twin Eagle, Spartherm, and STÜV America—ensuring long-lasting quality and comfort.

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The Fireplace Stop’s administration team of Kelsey Leonard, Kevin Snell, Renee Noble, Jody Koerssen and Jennifer Russell keeps the business running smoothly and clients happy. (Contributed photo)



The Fireplace Stop’s courteous and highly skilled installation team—including Alexander Lord, Bobby Worth, Daniel Newton, Aaron Hwang, Eric Newton, Scott Leonard, Lucas Dowdle, Richard McAnsh, Corey Hillier, and Mateusz Welna—is dedicated to completing your project with precision, professionalism, and complete customer satisfaction. (Zachary Roman photo)



Andrew Leonard, Ron Rice, Cristina Ventresca and Andy Leonard make up The Fireplace Stop’s dedicated sales team. (Contributed photo)

A TEAM LIKE FAMILY

The team at The Fireplace Stop operates like a close-knit family, many of whom have been with the company for decades.

Head installers Scott Leonard and Eric Newton lead an elite installation team, with Eric’s brother, Daniel Newton, adding further expertise. Corey Hillier over-

sees service operations, while Richard “Tricky Ricky” McAnsh is renowned for handling the most complex jobs with ease. Mateusz Welna manages shipping and receiving while also supporting the install team, and Lucas Dowdle contributes to installs alongside talented co-op students Alexander Lord, Bobby Worth, and Aaron Hwang—each showing great promise in their careers.

Custom cabinetry is expertly handled by Glen Rueda, adding a distinctive finishing touch to many projects. Sales are led by Andrew Leonard, working alongside seasoned professionals Ron Rice, Cristina Ventresca, and Andy Leonard himself. Kelsey Leonard heads administration, supported by Kevin Snell, Renee Noble, and Jennifer Russell. Jody Koerssen oversees the accounting department.

These dedicated professionals are the heart and soul of The Fireplace Stop. Their teamwork, experience, and passion for excellence are what truly set the company apart.

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The basics of basement conversion projects

The real estate market has been highly competitive in recent years, and home prices have remained high as a result. That reality has prompted some current homeowners who feel they have outgrown their homes to look for ways to increase the usable space in their existing properties. Basement conversions are one way to add more space. Homeowners mulling a basement conversion project can learn the basics of the project as they try to determine if such renovations are right for them.

• **BASEMENT CONVERSION PROJECTS CAN BE COSTLY.** Though the final cost of a conversion project can vary widely depending on the condition and accessibility of the existing space, estimates range from around \$45,000 to as much as \$150,000. The home renovation experts at Angi.com note that the average price for excavation is \$37,000. Of course, homeowners who are simply hoping to repurpose an existing basement likely won't need to pay for excavation. Accessibility is another notable variable that can affect the final cost. If the current space is a crawl

space, potentially costly structural changes may be necessary to ensure contractors and eventually residents can access the area. Basements that are already easily accessible won't require such expenditures.

• **VENTILATION IS A MUST.** Finished basements must be adequately ventilated so moisture can be controlled. Without sufficient ventilation, the damp conditions common in many basements can foster the growth of mold. The Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America notes that inhaled mold spores can trigger allergic reactions in some people, potentially leading to runny nose, postnasal drip, red and watery eyes, and itchy eyes, nose, ears, and mouth, among other symptoms. Waterproofing systems and adequate ventilation can prevent mold growth in a basement, and these should be integral components of the design.

• **PERMITS ARE PART OF THE PROCESS.** Basement conversions are considered major projects, and thus typically require homeowners and contractors to secure permits before any work is done. Per-



mits may be necessary at various stages of the project. Homeowners who ignore laws regarding permits will have trouble selling their homes down the road, as it can be difficult if not impossible to secure a certificate of occupancy if renovations were made without securing the proper permits. In addition, securing necessary permits for each phase of the project can ensure final approval of the project. If permits are not secured along the way, local officials may insist work be redone to adhere to local laws, which can make the project even more costly.

• **BASEMENT CONVERSIONS TAKE TIME.** The time a project takes will depend on the condi-

tion of the space at the start of the project and various details unique to each conversion. However, various contractors indicate projects take about two to three months once they begin. That timeline does not include the pre-project process of finding a contractor, soliciting design plans or preparing the rest of the home for such a significant and lengthy undertaking.

Basement conversion projects can add significant square footage to a home. Recognition of what such projects entail can help homeowners decide if this is the best way for them to increase livable space in their homes.

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CEDARPORT WINDOW & DOOR CENTRE has been installing high-quality window and door solutions in Dufferin County and the surrounding area for 40 years. "We encourage everyone that needs new windows and doors to stop into our new showroom and see the products we carry," says Dave Patterson, Presi-

dent of Cedarport Window & Door Centre. "Once you see the product, touch it, and view the available options, you'll understand why we chose the product lines we carry. Something as simple as a new front entrance can really update your home and give it the facelift it needs. We take pride in our offering and provide top-notch installation with installers who are seasoned and know what they are doing." Cedarport's showroom is located inside the Mono Plaza on Highway 10 in Unit A8 and is open Monday to Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and Friday until 4:00 p.m. "If our operating hours don't work with your schedule, give us a call, and we will work with you," said Patterson. "Cedarport has been at the Mono Plaza for a while now. Our showroom has expanded a few times over the years and we just moved to the front of the building. We are really proud of our new bright and wel-



coming showroom. It has the most extensive window and door display in the Orangeville area. We have found that the showroom assists our customers in making choices that can really change and modernize the exterior and interior look of their home and most importantly, provides them with excellent quality energy efficient solutions," said Patterson. "The difference that premium quality windows and doors can make in a person's home is quite dramatic. "Window technology has advanced significantly in the last 10-15 years, so residents with older windows who struggle with temperature control at home will notice a major difference when they upgrade. "The glass in windows can be fine-tuned to fit any

homeowner's needs. Too much sun & heat coming in your kitchen window? There is glass for that," explained Patterson. "We invite you to come see us at our Mono Plaza showroom at 633419 Hwy 10, Orangeville. We know your house is your pride and joy. We have great products, helpful office staff, and really great installers on our team ready to assist you." To learn more about Cedarport, visit their website at www.cedarport.ca You can also call the office at 519-941-7208 to arrange an appointment.



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Nestled in a century-old building at the corner of Highway 10 and King Street, Caledon Fireplace Ltd. has been a cornerstone of warmth and craftsmanship in the community since 1989.

AS A FAMILY-OWNED BUSINESS, they've built a reputation not just for selling fireplaces — but for creating cozy, elegant living spaces that reflect both tradition and innovation.

Specializing in wood, gas, and electric fireplaces, Caledon Fireplace offers an impressive range of indoor and outdoor heating solutions. Whether you're

dreaming of a rustic hearth or a sleek modern fire table for your patio, their curated selection of fire pots, burners, and built-in BBQ kitchens ensures there's something for every taste and lifestyle.

What truly sets Caledon Fireplace apart is their commitment to education and service. Their extensively trained staff guide customers through every step—from choosing the right fireplace to understanding safety accessories and operation. And with licensed installation experts on hand, understanding safety accessories and operation. And with licensed installation experts on hand, homeowners can rest easy knowing their investment is handled with precision and care.

Beyond products, Caledon Fireplace embodies a philosophy of customer-first service. They work within your budget and needs, ensuring that each purchase is not just a transaction, but a tailored experience. Their pride in traditional quality and dedication to satisfaction has made them a trusted name in Caledon and beyond.



Caledon Fire Place changed ownership in 2021 and the new owners have enjoyed serving the community for the past four years.

For those looking to elevate their home's ambiance or extend their outdoor entertaining season, Caledon Fireplace is more than a store—it's a destination. With over three decades of expertise and a passion for fire, they continue to light the way in home and garden maintenance.



WHY HIRING A PAINTER IS THE RIGHT CHOICE

FEW HOME IMPROVEMENTS can change the look of a room faster and more affordably than a painting makeover. In fact, homeowners often turn to paint before they make any other renovations. Home Light, a real estate technology company, says painting a home's interior can net a return on investment as high as 107 percent.



Although painting is a project that can be tackled by do-it-yourselfers, there are various advantages to calling in a professional to handle painting projects. Here is a look at some of the benefits to working with a professional painter.

Reduce your workload

A professional painter can reduce the project timeline. Painters have the skill set and experience to complete a project in a timely manner. This means the job will be streamlined from preparation to clean-up.

Pay attention to details

Professional painters are likely to do a job that is nearly flawless, especially after homeowners exercise their due diligence and vet painters carefully. Professionals will pay attention to the small details that less experienced painters wouldn't think about.

Reduce your workload

Painting can be a time-consuming job, and most of it occurs even before you pick up a brush. It can take hours to prep walls, patch holes, remove moldings, and apply painter's tape. Homeowners who do not have much time are better off leaving trusting the project to a professional.

Painters already have equipment

Do-it-yourselfers may need to buy new tools before beginning the job. This means brushes, rollers, tape, tarps, trays, and much more. Unless you plan to paint multiple times, this can make stocking up a considerable investment. Professionals already have all the right gear and tools of the trade.

Lasting results

Professional painters understand which products will produce the desired results, depend-

ing on the wear and tear of the space. Paints are not all created equal, and certain walls, floors and trim may require unique priming and preparation that novices are not familiar with. Professional painters can help ensure durability and save homeowners from having to do the job again in a few months or years.

A safer experience

Painting can be a challenging job when it involves painting hard-to-reach spaces and/or climbing and balancing on tall ladders. Homeowners are not at risk of injury when hiring a professional painter. In addition, professional painters should be licensed and insured. This means if an injury or incident occurs, the homeowner will not be on the hook for the cost.

Leaving the work to a professional can ensure a job is done correctly and beautifully and completed on time.



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If home is where the heart is, then the kitchen is where that heart spends most of its time. Kitchens are where family and friends tend to congregate during holiday celebrations, and many a homework assignment has been completed at a kitchen island while parents prepare dinner.

The popularity of kitchens is reflected in the attention these rooms get from renovation-minded homeowners. Data from the National Association of Home Builders indicates kitchens are the most popular room to remodel. Upgrading kitchen storage is a popular renovation project, and it's also one that has practical appeal. Adding more storage in the kitchen gives the room a more organized feel, which can make preparing meals more enjoyable and create space when hosting and guests inevitably congregate around an island. With those benefits in mind, would-be organizers can consider these strategies to create more storage space in the kitchen.

Take stock of the spice rack

Creating more storage space does not necessarily have to involve tools like screwdrivers, hammers and nails. Spice racks can easily become overcrowded as amateur cooks expand their culinary repertoire. A crowded spice rack inevitably spills out onto the surrounding countertop. Take stock of the spice rack and discard any spices or seasonings you haven't used in a while. This can create a more organized look and free up extra counter space.

Make a digital cookbook

If your go-to recipes are filling a binder or two, those binders are almost certainly taking up precious storage space. Scan printed recipes and covert your physical recipe collection into a digital cookbook you store on a tablet.

Install roll-out shelving in the pantry

Roll-out shelving puts the entire pantry to use. Without such shelving, items are destined to be relegated to that nether region known as the back of the pantry. Some items never emerge from this area, as cooks forget they're there and then purchase duplicates, which inevitably contributes to storage issues. Roll-out shelving ensures all items in the pantry can be found and greatly reduces the likelihood that cooks will have lots of duplicate items taking up precious kitchen space.

Remove single-use gadgets from the kitchen

Much like spices and seasonings vital to the preparation of specialty meals have a tendency to be used just once, kitchen gadgets that lack versatility have a way of gathering dust and taking up storage space. Whether it's a popcorn maker, a seldom-used but space-needy wok or another gadget that's used infrequently, if at all, store single-use gadgets in the garage or another area of the house where they won't get in the way or contribute to a less-than-organized look in the room.

A handful of simple strategies can help anyone create more storage space in the kitchen.

What to expect of a room addition project

There are many reasons homeowners consider adding a room to their current homes. Some outgrow an existing space, while others take up new hobbies or have different needs that were not apparent when purchasing the home. Indeed, a room addition can remedy a host of issues affecting a home.

Those considering adding a room may wonder what is involved in this type of project. According to The Spruce, no home improvement project is more complicated or expensive than building an addition. The National Association of Realtors says building an addition can cost between \$90,000 and \$270,000, depending on the size and intended purpose of the room. An addition structurally changes a home, which requires the work of professionals whether homeowners plan to build upwards or outwards.

With so much to ponder when considering a home addition, here's a look at what homeowners can expect of the process.

Design and planning

Homeowners must determine the purpose behind the addition and how it will integrate with the existing home. A bedroom design likely will be different from a garage addition or family game room.

Hire an engineer and contractor

An addition changes the footprint of a home. Homeowners will require professional contractors and structural engineers/architects to properly design the addition and ensure that it will not compromise the existing structure. Detailed architectural plans will be

drawn up considering the layout, size and integration with the existing structure. The home may require a new property survey as well.

Comply with building codes

The project will have to meet with local zoning regulations, building codes and homeowners association rules.

Timing involved

Adding a room is a major overhaul of a space. It may require months of a home being in upheaval. If the renovations are particularly extensive, homeowners may need to temporarily move out of the space. Electrical, plumbing and HVAC must be considered, and drywall and finishing the interior are some of the last steps to make the room habitable.

Demolition

Adding a room may involve taking down walls or modifying existing spaces, necessitating hiring a dumpster to remove debris. This is an added consideration and expense.

Putting an addition on a home is a complex process that will take time and money. Such a project requires careful planning and consultation with an array of experts.



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What is water softening?

Water softening is a specialized treatment process that addresses hard water (water containing high levels of calcium and magnesium) through ion exchange.



While these minerals don't typically pose direct health risks, they can cause a range of aesthetic and household challenges, including:

- Scale buildup in pipes and appliances
- Reduced soap and detergent effectiveness
- Dry skin and hair irritation
- Stiff, scratchy laundry
- Shortened lifespan of water-using appliances

The water softening process uses negatively charged resin beads to attract the positively charged calcium and magnesium ions, removing them from your water supply before it flows through your home. As a result, the water quality improves for everyday use and prevents damage to you and your home.

HOW IS MUNICIPAL WATER TREATMENT REGULATED?

The water treatment process is guided by regulations that set safety standards for drinking water quality.

In Canada, Health Canada provides the Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality, which serve as the basis for enforceable standards set by individual provinces and territories.

While these guidelines are designed to provide safe drinking water, there are important limitations to keep in mind:

PRIVATE WELLS ARE NOT REGULATED: Health Canada does not directly regulate private well water. Well owners are responsible for testing and maintaining their own water quality.

WATER QUALITY CAN CHANGE AFTER TREATMENT: Even if water meets regulatory standards at the treatment plant, it may accumulate new contaminants as it travels through aging pipes or household plumbing. For example, lead can leach into drinking water from older service lines or plumbing fixtures.

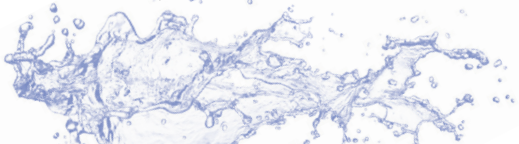
EMERGING CONTAMINANTS MAY NOT BE COVERED: Some substances, including certain pharmaceuticals, PFAS chemicals and disinfection by-products, are still undergoing scientific review or have limited or not-yet-implemented regulation. While Health Canada and the EPA have proposed new rules for PFAS maximum contaminant levels, it will take years for these to become fully enforceable across all water supplies.

AESTHETIC CONCERNS AREN'T ALWAYS REGULATED: Issues like taste, odor and discoloration are often categorized under secondary water quality standards, which are not legally enforceable but may still impact the household and drinking experience.

For these reasons, even residents connected to municipal water treatment plants may choose to implement home water filtration or softening solutions. These systems provide an extra safeguard by addressing both regulated and unregulated contaminants, as well as aesthetic issues that affect water quality.

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They offer a full suite of heating, cooling, and ventilation services, from regular maintenance to emergency repairs and full installations. They emphasize individualized service: rather than promoting one-size-fits-all solutions, Allen HVAC works with customers to assess their specific heating and cooling needs and present tailored options.

A key focus of their offering is indoor air quality (IAQ). They note that HVAC systems in homes move over a million cubic feet of air daily, making them prime places to address air purity. They provide products such as:

- An IAQ 1000 Polarized Media Air Cleaner capable of removing particles as small as 0.3 microns, helping allergy and COPD sufferers and improving system efficiency
- An IAQ 3000 dual-wavelength ultraviolet purification system (using UVC and UVV) to control viruses, bacteria, mold, chemicals, odors, and off-gassing, which comes with a lifetime warranty.

Allen HVAC services both residential and commercial clients. They combine high-quality parts and equipment with a commitment to workmanship, backing their installations and repairs with warranties.

In short, Allen HVAC positions itself not just as a repair or installation company, but a partner in home comfort and air quality. By taking time to understand each customer's needs, offering advanced IAQ solutions, and guaranteeing their work, they aim to build long-term trust in the communities they serve.



GET READY FOR A FURNACE CHECKUP

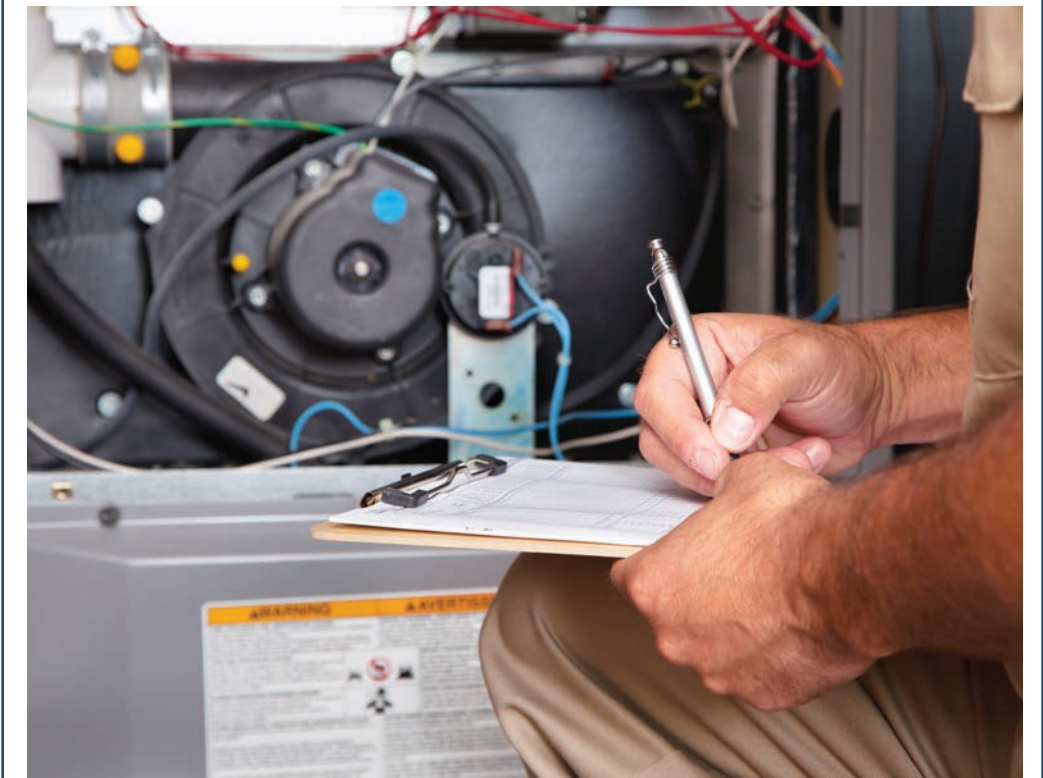
Turning on the heat may be the furthest thing from homeowners' minds come the end of summer or early fall. After all, there are plenty more days of comfortable temperatures to expect over the weeks to come. However, failing to inspect a furnace prior to when it is needed could lay a foundation for cold evenings.

HVAC technicians are busy at the start of summer and winter. If a furnace is not working correctly, it could take some time before a professional can make a service call. Having the furnace and related equipment checked prior to when it's time to turn on the furnace means homeowners will not be left in the lurch or potentially spending premium prices for repairs.

It is important to get a furnace checkup for a variety of reasons. Doing so can make the HVAC system run more efficiently, which could result in savings over the winter. Regular maintenance also can help the furnace last longer, delaying the need for a costly replacement. No one wants the furnace to break down in the middle of a frigid night. Annual checkups can help reduce the risk of that happening. In addition, many furnace manufacturers offer warranties on their systems that require annual maintenance from a professional. Failure to have the system inspected could void the warranty.

MANY HVAC EXPERTS recommend that homeowners get their furnaces tuned up before the first cold spell arrives. When the heat is needed for the first time, it will be guaranteed to work if it's been examined and any underlying issues have been addressed.

Even if homeowners are floating in the pool and cranking up the air conditioning, they should give consideration to having their furnaces inspected and serviced soon to prepare for the colder months ahead.





(NC) When it comes to perfecting the trending look of vintage modern décor, it's about striking the right balance between old and new.

Although gorgeous versions of this style can be found everywhere, it can be difficult to know where to start. Get ideas for your next project with these creative ways to fashion vintage-inspired décor from Sharon Grech, colour and design expert for Benjamin Moore.

ANTIQUÉ IT: Adding antiques or vintage furniture to your collection will warm up the clean, modern lines in contemporary design. “Buying vintage doesn't have to break the bank,” Grech confirms. “Antique markets or garage sales are some of the best places to find older tables, cabinets or chairs. Once you've found your pieces, give them new life with a fresh coat of paint and new fabric if necessary.”

You can create a weathered look with paint by sanding away any peeling or high gloss paint, and picking a colour that works well for antiquing, like whites and brights. Use waterborne interior alkyd paint and a high quality synthetic paint brush. Grech recommends ADVANCE® paint from Benjamin Moore, which is ideal for furniture

projects because it is self-levelling and has a longer dry time, allowing you to achieve a high-end finish.

For the perfect weathered texture, allow paint to dry, and then sand some of it off using 80-grit sanding paper. Focus on the legs, drawers and edges. Don't worry about imperfections, which will make the furniture look like it aged naturally. For a finishing touch, update the hardware on cabinets or coffee tables — brass, nickel or rubbed bronze finishes will keep it classic.

FOCUS ON THE BRIGHT SIDE: Nothing says vintage like the right colour hues — but be careful not to go overboard. Grech recommends adorning the walls in Wythe Blue HC-143 or Fernwood Green 2145-40 to mix vintage exuberance with modern appeal. If you prefer neutral walls, add colour in with bright retro chairs, patterned rugs or art-deco inspired artwork.

ACCESSORIZE WITH VINTAGE GAME AND HOBBY PIECES: Use vintage pop art to bring the family together and to add to the theme. “Right now, it's all about 1950s inspired furniture and games. Record players, retro bikes and ping pong tables are great collectibles, but are also fantastic for entertaining,” says Grech. “Old picture frames, light fixtures and antique jars, vases or bowls will also help add finishing touches to your room.”

Learn more about antiquing your furniture at www.benjaminmoore.ca.

www.newscanada.com

Why it pays to create a mudroom in a home

HOMEOWNERS Considerations for room additions or space modifications generally involve rooms that will add value or function to a home. Mudrooms certainly fit that description, as they can add aesthetic appeal in more ways than one.

As the name implies, mudrooms are entire rooms or areas near entryways of homes where muddy shoes and other items can be stored. By having a set space for messy shoes and coats, homeowners do not need to worry about dirt and other debris being tracked throughout the home. Mudrooms also can provide a welcoming space for guests.

Homeowners who have adequate space to add an entirely new room may have no difficulty putting in a mudroom. A mudroom addition is a job best left to a professional. Ideally, this new mudroom can be adjacent to an entry by the garage, or a side or back door. The footprint of the mudroom needn't be too large, either. All it requires is a small amount of space to place a bench, coat hooks and shoe storage.

According to This Old House, homeowners also can convert a porch, create a mudroom by expanding into an adjacent room or closet, or even repurpose space in an attached garage. U.S. News and World Report indicates that a well planned and executed mudroom has the potential to increase a home's value. Depending on the scope of the work, the average cost of a mud-

room project ranges from \$2,500 for a simple porch conversion to \$30,000 when a new foundation is needed and the build-out is extensive.

Budget-conscious homeowners can create a mudroom in an existing foyer or another entryway. Adequate storage is essential for any mudroom, and should include coat racks, hooks, a bench to facilitate removing shoes safely, shoe storage, and additional considerations, like shopping bag storage or umbrella holders. Creating a door from the outside into an existing laundry room can enable homeowners to use the space as both a mudroom and laundry area with minimal changes necessary.

There are some extra considerations for mudrooms that homeowners should think about. The flooring, walls and furniture/storage used in the mudroom should be durable and easily cleaned. As wet and dirty shoes and clothing will be in the space, it's essential to make clean-up a breeze. Look for nonslip flooring so entering the mudroom safely is not an issue.

Although a mudroom is a utilitarian space, creature comforts can be added to integrate the space with the rest of the home. Cover a storage bench with indoor-outdoor fabric that coordinates to the colors used in a home. Add some decorative drawer pulls and cabinet hardware to elevate the space. Washable throw rugs also can add some design appeal to the room.



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Inspect your opener—replace batteries and ensure

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KEEPING KALA'S MEMORY ALIVE: The annual Kala's Wings Softball Tournament took place at Rotary Park and other ball diamonds in Orangeville on Saturday, Oct. 4, and Sunday, Oct. 5. Organizers Don and Colleen Menard, along with volunteers, started the tournament to raise awareness about suicide in memory of their daughter Kala.



BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTOS

EYE ON THE BALL: A runner is out at first base during a game between TBD and the Pinksox on the diamond at Rotary Park during the Kala's Wings Softball Tournament on Saturday, Oct. 4. Twenty-four teams were entered in competition this year, bringing the total number of players to over 300.

Kala's Wings Softball Tournament raises awareness and funds for suicide prevention

Written By **BRIAN LOCKHART**

The annual Kala's Wings Softball Tournament took place at Rotary Park and other local ball diamonds in Orangeville on Saturday, Oct. 4, and Sun. Oct. 5, to bring awareness to suicide prevention and raise money for a good cause.

The tournament's namesake, Kala, was a 26-year-old Orangeville woman with two children. She committed suicide in 2018.

Her parents, Don and Colleen Menard, started the tournament in her memory to raise funds for charitable causes and raise awareness about suicide.

Suicide is often considered a taboo subject that many people don't want to talk about.

"This is our fourth year doing this, we had a break during COVID," Don explained. "Our daughter passed away from suicide and we do this in her honour, and we're trying to help others by doing this. Our main goal is to raise awareness that mental health is real and it's something people need to talk about. This year we're raising money for the Men's Outreach Orangeville."

This year, the tournament had 24 teams playing over the two days, with a round-robin style of play on Saturday and elimination

games on Sunday.

"Teams are guaranteed four games," Don explained. "We're playing on four diamonds. We're playing at Rotary Park, Idlewild, and Princess of Wales park. We have the Tap-house helping out with beer, and we have beverages and food."

Over 300 players took part in the tournament. To keep things moving, games were limited to 45 minutes each.

Funds raised will go to help Men's Outreach Orangeville, which is a group that meets at St. Mark's Anglican Church in Orangeville.

"It's a support group, we meet once a

week from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.," explained group organizer Paul Trickett. "We get anywhere from six to 10 guys out, some are regulars. We usually start out by asking 'How was your week?' We go around the table, and most times we have a topic dealing with things like relationships, anxiety, and stress. We have an open dialogue. Men in general, internalize and keep things in until it's too late. We have an open forum to talk about your feelings, or you can just stay and listen."

The tournament was a success, and the weather cooperated to make for great playing conditions for the final time on the diamond this season.

Westside Secondary School's senior girls basketball team remains undefeated in District 4

Written By **BRIAN LOCKHART**

The Westside Secondary School Thunder senior girls' basketball team is having a stellar season, going undefeated after four games into the District 4 season.

The Thunder hosted the Emmanuel Christian High School Eagles in the gym at Westside on Wednesday, Oct. 1.

After leading in the first three quarters

of the game, the Thunder finished with a strong final quarter for the win.

At halftime, Westside was leading 26-17.

They stayed ahead in the third quarter, matching points with the Eagles to lead 32-25 with one quarter remaining in the game.

In the fourth quarter, the Thunder put up a strong defence and stopped the Eagles from scoring while recording 11 points to end the game with a 42-25 win.

"I think it was a good game," said Thunder player Abby Leigh after the game. "Our passing was good, our plays were good, our rebounds were good. I think we did good on shooting and faking out some passes. I think we all did well on calling out for back up. The mood on the team is very happy and positive. We practice two times a week, sometimes three."

The Thunder are averaging just over 46 points per game. At the same time, they are allowing an average of only 19 goals against in the four games of the season.

Westside is now in first place in the District 4 standings with a 4-0 record.

Emmanuel Christian High School is in second place with a 3-1 record.

They are followed by Centre Dufferin District High School, Erin District High School, and Norwell District Secondary School.

The Thunder will be back on their home court on Wednesday, Oct. 15, when they will host Centre Dufferin District High School.

Game time is 2:30 p.m.

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BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

UNSTOPPABLE TEAM: The Westside Secondary School Thunder girls' basketball team hosts the Emmanuel Christian High School Eagles in the gym at Westside on Wednesday, Oct. 1. The Thunder won the game 42-25 and are undefeated for the season. Westside is in first place in the District 4 standings.



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OPINION

Hello Tilly Norwood

The name Tilly sounds, at least to me, a little old-fashioned. Names come and go, then come back into fashion over time. I've never met a woman named Tilly, but the name sort of conjures up the idea of an older woman with her grey hair in a bun – sort of like the little Granny who used to keep Tweety Bird as a pet. However, there is a new Tilly in town – Tilly Norwood. Tilly Norwood is an attractive young woman with long, dark brown hair and a beautiful smile. Her publicity agent has released some photos of Tilly in the hopes of securing a movie contract through a talent agency. The thing is, Tilly doesn't exist. She is an AI-generated person. She's not real. I wrote about this a few weeks ago, predicting that movies will soon be using AI-generated actors. I didn't think it would happen so soon, but apparently, Tilly is ready to be cast in the next Hollywood blockbuster. Hollywood has reacted with rather negative emotions when hearing about Tilly. The Actors Union has already made some

rules about the use of AI-generated actors. I guess they have already considered that this could be coming. Some actors have made comments that an AI-generated person does not have the experience to recreate human emotion on screen. I don't blame them for not liking this development in the industry – after all, it's something that could take jobs away from professional actors. I haven't seen any live action of Tilly on screen. I'm not sure how she would be inserted into a film; however, if they could mix cartoon characters and live people in a movie like they did in "Who Framed Roger Rabbit," in 1988, I'm sure the technology to insert an AI-generated person into a movie already exists. AI has really made strides over the past few years. A few months ago, I had to contact a 'help centre' for some reason I can't remember. However, prior to someone answering the telephone, there was a voice that told you the person you would be speaking to was actually an AI-generated voice. We had quite the conversation. The voice spoke intelligently and sounded like a real

person. It answered my questions immediately and was very pleasant. It was an odd experience to have a conversation with someone who you knew didn't exist. The voice was so authentic, you pretty much forgot it wasn't a real person. You may remember the TV show, "Star Trek: The Next Generation." I was never really a Star Trek guy, but I did like this series. On the Starship Enterprise, they had something known as the Holodeck. It was an AI-generated room that could create places and people in a 3D environment. The people and places appeared to be real – but could only exist on the Holodeck, and they couldn't leave it. In one episode, someone programmed a lounge, and one of its patrons was a beautiful woman, who, of course, all the Star Trek guys were falling for. It turns out, she was created to respond to each guy, exactly as he would want her to act. Basically, she was every guy's dream girl. The problem was, she couldn't leave the

Holodeck because she wasn't real. As AI actors become more commonplace, I'm pretty sure the Star Trek girl type of persona will exist, at least on screen. Filmmakers will be able to create the exact person you will want to see in a movie. Do you need a beautiful ingénue for your film? Easily created. Maybe you need a horror film villain that will scare the pants off the audience. No problem, we can create one. Change can be scary, but good at the same time. I recall a conversation in a college class when we were introduced to digital technology, when it was just being created. The conversation turned to this new technology and the visual media. One guy said, "Nothing will ever replace film." Another guy said, "Don't be so sure, nothing lasts forever." Turns out, he was right. AI technology has a lot of potential, both good and bad.



BRIAN LOCKHART
FROM THE SECOND ROW

The 20-point plan

When a bad man does a good thing, we should honour him for it even if his motives are selfish. Donald Trump is only trying to 'bring peace to the Middle East' because he wants the Nobel Prize, they say. He blusters and threatens and lies. He boasts about the seven wars he claims to have settled/ended/avoided, but he cannot even tell the difference between Armenia (which did recently have a war) and Albania (which didn't). All true, but so what? Trump's motives don't matter, and neither does his geopolitical ignorance. As US president he is the only person with the power to force the Hamas group in Gaza and the current Israeli government to discuss making peace, and after long hesitation he has finally deployed that power. That certainly does not guarantee success. Neither the Hamas extremists who rule the Gaza Strip nor Israel's Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu actually want peace on the terms implicit in Trump's draft 20-point peace plan. Hamas would definitely welcome a lengthy ceasefire. Most of its leaders and at least half its fighters have been killed in the past two years of fighting. The dead leaders have been replaced by less experienced men and

the rank-and-file by new recruits, but there has been a steep drop in their combat efficiency. They need time to rest and rebuild. However, the draft peace plan does not offer them that. It requires the prompt return of all the Israeli hostages, Hamas's last bargaining chip, in return for nothing except the freedom of 1,950 Palestinians held in Israeli jails and a ceasefire of unspecified length. Israel could arrest them all again if the shooting restarts, and it broke the last cease fire only six months ago. It gets worse for Hamas if the peace talks make further progress: it would have to hand over all its weapons and disband its organization. This is an Islamist organization whose members truly believe that they will go instantly to paradise if they die in battle with the infidel. They might play for time, but they will always choose glorious death over unconditional surrender. The resistance to a peace deal is also strong right inside the leadership on the Israeli side. Many Israelis believe that the prime minister needs the war to continue to placate ultra-religious and extreme nationalist members of his cabinet who would bring the government down if he makes any concessions to the Palestinians. That doubtless plays a major role in 'Bibi'

Netanyahu's calculations, but there is also a real ideologue hiding inside the wily and apparently cynical tactician. That fanatical Bibi was on show last month when he launched what he hoped would be the final offensive in Gaza and urged Israelis to become a 'super-Sparta.' If the expulsion of the Palestinians would lead to an isolated, militarized and widely hated Israel, he implied, that would still be a price worth paying. Bibi's entire political career has been devoted to preventing the creation of a Palestinian state. Why? Because the emergence of a genuine Palestinian state would foreclose the option of building a 'Greater Israel' by annexing the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and replacing the existing Arab population with Jews. That project has been doing well recently – one-quarter of the West Bank's population are now Jewish settlers – but the Gaza war has created the opportunity for a rapid expulsion of all two million Palestinians in the Strip. All Netanyahu's actions in Gaza this year, like breaking the last ceasefire, driving Gaza's whole population to the southwest corner of the Strip and starving them, have been directed at making that outcome

more likely. However, they were only possible thanks to Donald Trump's unstinting, unquestioning support. Sometimes Trump seemed aware of the implications of his actions and unashamed by them: the notion of turning the Strip into a Palestinian-free 'Middle Eastern Riviera', for example. At other times he seemed to be just blindly following Netanyahu's lead. But for the moment, at least, Trump seems fully awake and not at all happy about Netanyahu's genocidal project. This may not last – Trump has a very short attention span – but he was able to bully Netanyahu into at least the opening stages of a ceasefire. However, Bibi will sabotage the process every chance he gets, and the 20-point plan is full of holes he can exploit. Hamas will also turn against the plan as soon as negotiations get into critical issues like surrendering its weapons and going into exile. The 20-point plan may not be dead on arrival, but it is extremely vulnerable. There will be some performative peace mongering for a while, but the plan to cleanse Gaza of its Palestinians could be back on track well before the end of the year.



GWYNNE DYER
OUR WORLD TODAY

The comic book purchase

It was a gorgeous fall Friday afternoon in 1970. School was done for the week, work was done for Dad, and my family was in town for our weekly shopping trip. I was ten years old, had just received my allowance from Dad, and the money was burning a hole in my pocket. But what should I spend it on? I already had a pretty good idea. I wanted the kid's equivalent of fine literature: I wanted to buy some comic books! There were two places I frequented on Main Street to buy comics: the local drugstore and the local variety store. They were right across

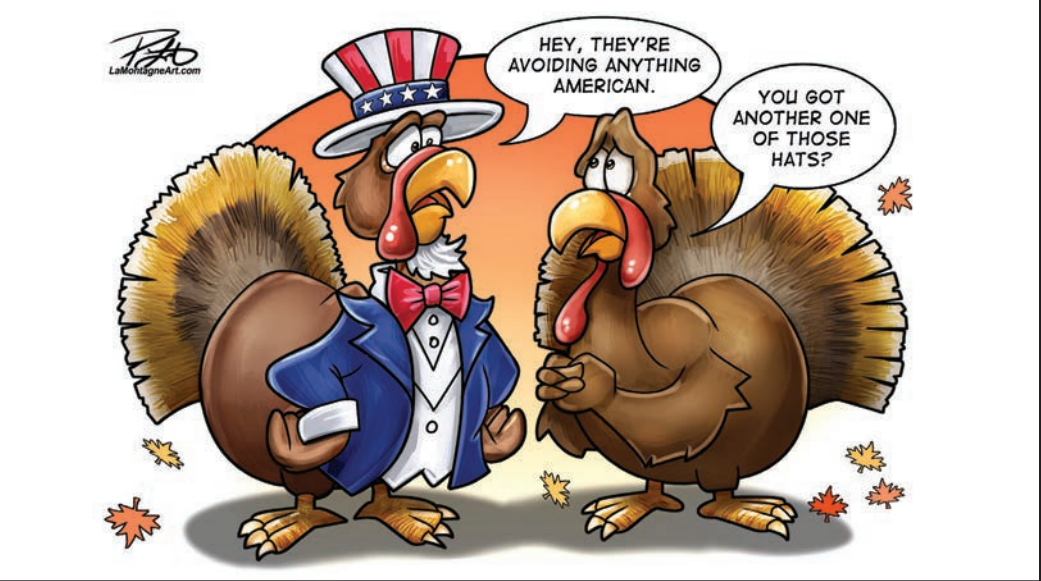
the street from each other, so I had to decide on my way to Main Street which store would earn my patronage that day. This time, I chose the variety store. I thought it was a pretty cool place! I still remember the 'ding-a-ling' of the little brass bell above the door, announcing my entrance. Instead of heading straight for the comic book carousel, I sometimes wandered through the entire store to see what they had for sale that week. Like a kid exploring a toy store, I would slowly walk the aisles, browsing through shelves filled with knick-knacks, bric-a-brac, snacks, and every type of kitschy tourist

ist souvenir imaginable, all stamped with our town's name—coffee mugs, ashtrays, snow globes, decks of cards—you name it! (I even snuck past the naughty magazine rack in the back corner!) After perusing everything the store had to offer, I finally found the carousel rack where the comics awaited. As I slowly rotated it, the carousel squeaked in stiff protest, broadcasting my purchasing indecision to the entire store. Of course, I had to sample the wares a bit before making my decision. I usually read a comic or two at the rack before making my purchase. Hey, when you buy a car, you take it for a test drive, right? Since I was a paying customer, no one ever really said anything. (Or more accurately, I don't recall anyone ever saying anything!) When I was very little — long before I graduated to the DC and Marvel universes — my taste in comics reflected my age; I gravitated toward Harvey comics like "Casper the Friendly Ghost" and "The Ghostly Trio," "Spooky the Tuff Little Ghost" (with his girlfriend Pearl, or 'Poil', as he called her), "Nightmare the Ghost Horse," "Hot Stuff the Little Devil," "Richie Rich," "Baby Huey," "Wendy the Good Little Witch," "Little Audrey," "Little Dot," and "Little Lotta." Great comics for young kids! Occasionally, I also bought comic books from other publishers, like Archie Comics ("Archie and the Riverdale gang"), Gold Key (Disney-based comics like "Mickey Mouse," "Donald Duck," and "Uncle Scrooge"), and

Charlton Comics (War comics for the boys—cool!—and romance comics for the girls—yuck!). Then came the agonizing moment of truth: the purchase. As a kid who wanted to buy every comic on the rack, I had to decide which books to spend my limited allowance on. I weighed the merits of one comic over another, agonizing over my choices until I finally made my selection. And when I didn't read them in the car on the way home, I had to find just the right atmosphere to read them at our house — either my bedroom or the family reading room, better known as the bathroom. Sadly, Harvey, Gold Key, and Charlton Comics — publishers of many of the comics from our childhood — are no more, having ceased publishing well over 30 years ago. They began experiencing circulation drops when television became more accessible, providing kids with a multitude of free cartoons and entertainment. It was a classic case of "change or die" — they couldn't adapt to the changing times and eventually just faded away. But new publishers have stepped in, producing a variety of children's entertainment — both printed and digital — to keep the current generation of young kids engaged and entertained. And the beat goes on.



KEITH SCHELL
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COMMUNITY VOICES

Monthly Message: Preventing professional burnout, finding balance in busy careers

WonderTree Child, Adolescent, & Family Practice is inviting professionals from Orangeville and surrounding areas to a Community Building Brunch for Healthcare and Mental Health Providers. This event is designed as a restorative morning of connection with other providers, care, and conversation.

No matter what profession you're in, chances are you've felt the weight of burnout at some point. The deadlines pile up, the demands keep coming, and suddenly, even the work you once loved feels overwhelming. Burnout has become one of the most common challenges facing professionals today, whether you're in healthcare, education, business, or any other field.

Burnout isn't just "being tired." It's the slow draining of energy, enthusiasm, and purpose. It can show up as exhaustion, irritability, or a feeling of detachment from your work. For many, it's accompanied by the guilt of not being able to give their best, when in reality, burnout is a natural response to prolonged stress and overextension.

The good news? Burnout is preventable and, with the right tools and support, it's possible to rediscover joy and fulfillment in your career. Preventing burnout often starts with the basics: giving yourself permission to rest, setting boundaries around your time, and finding small ways to recharge daily.



This could be as simple as a lunchtime walk, saying "no" to commitments that drain you, or scheduling breaks with the same importance you'd give to a work meeting.

But there's also a bigger picture. Burnout doesn't happen in isolation; it thrives in disconnection. When we feel alone in our struggles, it's harder to regain balance. That's why community is so essential. Surrounding yourself with peers who understand your challenges, sharing stories, and learning from others can remind you that you're not alone. Connection not only helps lighten the load, but it also helps reignite a sense of belonging and purpose.

Another powerful strategy in preventing burnout is practicing self-compassion. Too often, professionals set impossibly high standards for themselves and carry the belief that they must do it all. Shifting the focus

from perfection to progress and reminding yourself that it's okay to be human can ease some of that pressure.

One of the most important, yet often overlooked, tools in protecting your energy is setting healthy boundaries. Boundaries are not about shutting people out; they're about recognizing your limits and honoring them. Saying "no" when you need to, ending your workday at a reasonable time, or limiting after-hours emails are all ways to safeguard your well-being. Boundaries create space for you to show up more fully, both at work and in your personal life, without burning the candle at both ends.

Part of setting boundaries also means becoming aware of your "social battery." Just like your phone, your internal battery has limits, and it can only run for so long before it needs recharging. Some days you

may have the capacity for meetings, social events, and helping others, but other days you may notice your battery draining faster. Recognizing when your energy is running low and allowing yourself to rest, recharge, or decline additional commitments is a crucial step in preventing burnout. Honoring your social battery is not a weakness; it's a form of self-awareness that helps you stay present and engaged when it matters most.

At the heart of it, thriving in our professional lives is not just about avoiding exhaustion; it's about creating a sense of balance and fulfillment. When we invest in caring for ourselves and supporting one another, we're better equipped to do the work we're passionate about for the long haul.

Join us on Wednesday, November 12th, 2025, from 9am-11am at the Monora Park Pavilion in Mono for a nourishing brunch, reflections on burnout and belonging, and an inspiring talk by Kathleen Killen, Registered Psychotherapist, titled "From Burnout to Belonging: Reclaiming Purpose in Clinical and Medical Practice."

The brunch is a chance to reconnect with peers, find encouragement, and walk away feeling grounded and re-energized. Tickets are \$45 + tax per attendee, and registration is available through www.wondertreeppractice.ca.

We are in this together!



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR: Stand on Guard legislation

I moved to Canada two years ago, in part to raise my family away from the danger of gun violence in the United States, where I grew up. For this reason, I am deeply concerned by the push of our federal representative, Kyle Seeback, to pass "Stand on Guard" legislation.

Canadian law permits the use of force, including deadly force, if a person reasonably believes that an attacker may use force against them or another. The "Stand on Guard" proposal would presume any use of force to be reasonable if used against a person who unlawfully enters a house and poses a threat to those inside. The changes are subtle, but significant.

This proposal is modeled on "Stand Your Ground" legislation in the U.S., adopted in

nearly 30 states since 2005. In the intervening 20 years, rigorous studies have consistently found one impact: more homicides. Encouraging homeowners to meet perceived threats with deadly force has tragic consequences.

Consider two incidents, occurring within 48 hours of each other in April 2023. In Missouri, 16-year-old Ralph Yarl mistakenly rang the wrong doorbell at 10 p.m. The homeowner shot Ralph in the head and arm, and Ralph's recovery is ongoing. Two nights later, in rural New York, 20-year-old Kaylin Gillis was fatally shot after two cars carrying her and her friends turned into the wrong driveway. Ralph Yarl's shooter later told police that he was "scared to death" of Ralph's size. He did not allege any aggression. Kaylin

Gillis's shooter believed that the multiple vehicles turning onto his property created an atmosphere of fear and menace.

Neither shooter successfully claimed "Stand Your Ground" as a defense; both were found guilty, one of assault, the other of murder. Yet it is hard to imagine that their actions were not influenced by a national movement assuring people they can shoot first without fear of prosecution. These are only two of many stories where fear, confusion, and a firearm proved a deadly combination.

I recognize the hardship of Canadians who, in defending themselves, have faced prosecution. Prosecutors must exercise sound judgment in such cases, and recent examples raise questions about why charges were brought when facts suggested a strong

claim of self-defence. But taking a human life must always face scrutiny. If the choice is between occasionally overzealous prosecutions or a policy that increases the chance of innocent neighbours killing one another, the safer choice is clear.

The very name of the proposal, "Stand on Guard," evokes a community on edge — armed, anxious, and expecting violence. That is not the greater Orangeville I know, a community defined by warmth and welcome. I urge Rep. Seeback to address crime in ways that strengthen, rather than unravel, the fabric of our community.

Respectfully,
Isabel Carey
Mono

adopt a cat



Mildred

Mildred is our sweet and adorable senior gal. She is 8 years old and came from a colony of over 100 cats. She has won over everyone's hearts with her sweet eyes and love for pets. Mildred would love a quiet home to live out her retirement days.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR: Proposed redevelopment of Chipwoods Park

Dear editor,

I am writing to express my deep concerns regarding the proposed redevelopment of Chipwoods Park on 3rd Line in Melancthon. As someone who values the integrity of our rural communities and natural landscapes, I believe this project poses significant risks to the area and its residents.

The plan to introduce 224 new leasehold residences raises serious questions about environmental sustainability, infrastructure capacity, and community impact. The proposed stormwater ponds will discharge into tributaries of the Boyne River, potentially disrupting local ecosystems and water quality. Additionally, the decommissioning of existing wells and installation of advanced sewage systems could interfere with the water table, which is vital to both agriculture and residential life in Melancthon.

From a planning perspective, the development appears to bypass traditional zoning standards and seeks alternative residential regulations that may not align with the township's Official Plan. This sets a concerning precedent for future land use changes that could threaten farmland and the rural character of the region.

Moreover, the leasehold model proposed for these homes may not offer long-term stability or equity for residents, potentially leading to a transient population and weakening community cohesion. The increase in traffic and demand on municipal services such as emergency response and waste management also raises red flags.

Lastly, the lack of transparent public engagement — evident in the developer-led community meeting held in August — undermines the democratic process and leaves many residents feeling unheard and excluded from decisions that directly affect their community.

Numerous concerns were voiced at the meeting, ranging from environmental risks and infrastructure strain to the social and economic impacts of the leasehold model. This is why it is crucial for residents to get involved, attend township meetings, voice their concerns, and demand that proper consultation and environmental accountability be prioritized before any approvals are granted.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,
Anne Ignasz
Melancthon

Ontario Land Tribunal

Sir:

I appreciate the notice that you published regarding a one-hour online Q&A session on Oct. 9 about the new Ontario Land Tribunal.

From the brief description in the advertisement, three groups would attend a Land Tribunal to reach a decision on use of a piece of land: the owner, the municipality and the housing developer. There would also likely be an adjudicator appointed (and instructed) by the province.

During OLT disputes, given Premier Ford's consistent preference for population growth, farmland development and general impatience, I suspect that three of the participants will form a majority and OLT decisions will likely be against the landowner.

In the 2018 election, Premier Ford promised

to balance the budget by 2021 and leave the Greenbelt as it existed; he did neither. Since then, he gave some \$40 billion to two or three battery plants (that have not yet produced a battery) simply to move them into Ontario instead of the USA.

His support for former Liberal PM Trudeau and current PM Carney was evident during COVID, the Freedom Convoy protests and re-

cent statements; Ontario Prosecutor Karimjee has been particularly vindictive toward protesters Lich and Barber, who caused Trudeau to leave Ottawa by their arrival.

With such a background, I fear the worst about OLT hearings.

Charles Hooker
East Garafraxa

Federal intrusion

Sir:

The federal government funds the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) to fund Partners for Climate Protection (PCP) agents and pursue federal goals, bypassing provincial governments. PCP claims that it has penetrated 522 Canadian municipalities to urge "green energy" activities such as children's camps, staff training programs and EV charging stations to achieve the PCP's five goals.

The last goal is to have a municipality create a "Climate Action Plan;" Dufferin County created a Plan that recommends several restrictions on farmers and others.

I'm concerned about federal attempts to impose restrictions directly on municipalities

with no input or agreement from provincial legislatures.

The federal government tried to offer money directly to small Alberta towns in return for promises to adhere to DEI policy, but Alberta Premier Smith put a stop to that. I wonder if any of the PCP's "522 municipalities" — especially in Ontario — have been offered DEI money as well as PCP guidance.

Canada has such diversity in populations, climates and geography that a single federal government cannot administer them directly. That is why we have provincial and municipal governments. Bypassing them to achieve a "one-size-fits-all" policy can't work.

Charles Hooker
East Garafraxa



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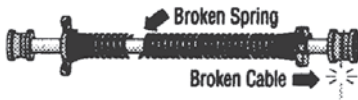
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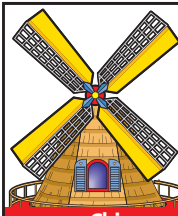


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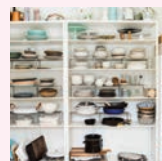
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Credit Valley Conservation Hosts Free Workshop on Invasive Plants

Written By SAM ODROWSKI
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Calling all rural landowners!
Credit Valley Conservation (CVC) is hosting a free workshop on invasive plants on Saturday, Oct. 18, at the Warwick Conservation Centre in Caledon Village, from 10 a.m. to noon.
“This workshop will give landowners the tools and resources they need to protect their land from invasive species while supporting healthy forests and ecosystems in the Credit River Watershed,” said Kate Hayes, CVC’s senior manager of ecosystem restoration and management.
Since 1954, when the CVC was first established by the Ontario government, the organization has been focused on protect-

ing, restoring, and enhancing the natural environment of the Credit River Watershed.
Forests across Ontario are being impacted by invasive species. Without proper management, these invasive species can out-compete native species and make certain parts of a property inaccessible.
The free interactive workshop on invasive plants will teach participants how to recognize key invasive plant species within the province and understand their impacts on native ecosystems.
Participants will learn about practical control techniques and best management approaches for rural properties, as well. There will also be a focus on available funding programs to support landowners in initiating management projects.

The invasive species workshop will be spearheaded by CVC’s Rural Residential Engagement Team. They will work with private landowners to sustainably manage their land and water features on their property.
The event is free and open to rural landowners in the Credit River Watershed. To see what properties fall within the CVC watershed, visit cvc.ca/watershed-look-up-map.
To attend the event, interested individuals must register online by Oct. 14 at cvc.ca/event/reclaim-your-forest-hands-on-solutions-for-invasive-plant-control/.
Anyone who can’t attend the workshop can connect with a stewardship coordinator from the CVC at 905-670-1615 ext. 5530 to discuss potential opportunities for their



property.
The Warwick Conservation Centre, where the free workshop will be held, is located at 15526 Heart Lake Road, Caledon Village.

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Equipment Spare Kubota RCK72RF-36 - 6' mower deck; Del Morino model XRM235 - 8' finishing mower; Bear Cat model 72854 - 3 ph pto wood chipper; Meteor 5' 3 ph snow blower; King Cutter 6' 3ph grader blade; MF 3ph post hole auger; Kubota model FL1020 - 4' 3 ph rototiller; George White tank used for water tank only; sm. flat rack wagon; Smith - Roles 3 ph vertical wood splitter; Moto Master ATV/lawn mower jack; Contour pedal boat;

Golf Cart 2014 Yamaha Concierge FI fuel injection, 4 seater, gas golf cart as new only 45.8 hrs; plus antiques, collectibles and tools. Full list on website.

Terms Cash or known check. Interac or e-transfer. Visa & M/C with 3% service charge. 10% Buyers Premium. Neither the owners nor Auctioneer will be responsible for accident or property loss. Washroom. Lunch Booth.

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TOOLS & EQUIPMENT AUCTION

Whether you're looking for heavy-duty equipment, farm essentials, or collector tractors, this auction has something to power up every project. Fill your shop, shed and truck bed with this wide-ranging lineup.

Lots begin closing at 5pm on Oct 17th.

Preview: Fri Oct 17th, 10am – 4pm, or call for appointment on another day.

Pickup: Sat Oct 18th, 10am – 5pm. Call or text if you need more information.

Pickup & preview at Home Office Base — 438280 4th Line, Melancthon L9V 1S9 (north of Shelburne).

Featuring: 2019 Mercedes Sprinter Van; 2000 Honda Shadow 750 motorcycle; 2012 JD XUV Gator; 1969-1970 JD Patio Series Lawn Tractors; Belarus 611 tractor w/ loader; MF 5455 DYNA-4 tractor w/ quicke loader; INT 454 tractor w/ loader; Toro Wheel Horse 523 Dxi tractor w/ 44in snowblower; qty JD lawn tractors; Husqvarna lawn tractor; David Brown 995 tractor; MF 510 combine; MF 50A backhoe; 16 ft flatbed trailer; Bauman hay tedder; tillage equip; MF 228 sq baler; Howes grain cleaner; NH 680 manure spreader; bale thrower wagon; new hot water power washer; canoes; snowmobiles; chainsaws; chain hoists; generators; transformers; engines; tool storage; elect and mech supplies; cedar lumber bundles; and more tools than you can imagine.



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OBITUARIES

GABRIELE MARIA LAUER
(NEE LACHENMEIR)

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Gabriele Maria Lauer, who left us on Monday September 29th, 2025 at the age of 93.

She is predeceased by her beloved husband of 72 years, Arthur, daughter Carol (Peter Sulkye) and son Michael. Loving mother of daughters Gabriele (Robert Matchett), Belinda (Dale Moore) and devoted grandmother (Oma) of 8 and great-grandmother of 12.

Never one to live on the sidelines, she embraced adventure and challenge from an early age, immigrating to Canada as a new bride at the age of 21. After moving from the big city of Toronto to the small town of Orangeville, with determination and perseverance, she and Arthur overcame many challenges, growing the company they started in their garage to a thriving manufacturing business that is still in operation today. While Arthur managed the business at home, Gabriele was able to indulge her passion for travel, not only with her "sidekick" Christine, but also with family and friends, both new and old.

Oma to many, she had a gift for making everyone feel welcome. Her strong will and lively spirit were matched only by her kindness, generosity and open hospitality. No one dropped by 80 Townline without the offer of joining for a meal, coffee or a bottle of good German beer.

In her 20's, a knock at the in door in Toronto changed her life. Even though her English wasn't fluent, she recognized the ring of the truth and after studying with Jehovah's Witnesses for just a short time she was baptized in December 1957. One of the great joys in her life was sharing with others her confidence in a loving Creator and the wonderful Bible hope that she cherished. Our hearts are comforted knowing we will see her again in Jehovah's new world, where her faithfulness and hard work will be remembered and pain and suffering will be a thing of the past. Isaiah 25:8

A memorial service will be held on Saturday October 18th, 3:00 pm at The Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses, 389 Blind Line, Orangeville, L9W 4X1. Friends and family are invited to come share stories, laughter, and love in honor of a life well-lived.

Condolences may be offered to the family at www.dodsandmncnair.com



APARTMENT
FOR RENT

HOCKLEY VILLAGE: 2 Bedroom apartment for rent. Upper floor, no pets, no smoking. 9275 County Road 1. Call Sandro at 416-407-4352.

ROOM FOR RENT

ROOM FOR RENT: Shared bathroom and kitchen. Located just south of Tottenham on the Tottenham Road. References required. \$150 per week or \$780 per month. Available immediately. Please call John at (647) 206-5930.

SHARED
ACCOMODATIONS

GREAT OPPORTUNITY for low rent for young couple (\$1,500.00 month half house) or individuals (\$800.00 month room and share house) in Christian country home (100 acres) with retired couple. (Caledon East area). All amenities included. Call for appointment and coffee/chat to see if this works for you. Ask for Roy 905-584-9772

WANTED TO RENT

ELDERLY RETIRED COUPLE looking for furnished accomodation in Orangeville area from January - April 2026.

CONDO FOR SALE

CONDO for SALE in SHELBURNE. A cozy, safe, comfortable, bright, spacious condo. \$440,000, negotiable. Call Cathy 519-925-6216.

VEHICLES WANTED

SCRAP CAR DISPOSAL – CASH PAID for Cars, Trucks, Vans – Big or Small. Call Joe at 647-294-2796.

WE PAY CASH for Scrap Vehicles - any size. We also buy construction and , equipment. Open 7 days a week. Call 905-859-0817 (Peter)

TRUCK FOR SALE

23 F150 XLT SPORT, 75th Anniversary, 5L, 4 x 4 supercab. Loaded. Only 37,000 km. New condition, still under warranty. Certified. Asking \$55,000. Call 905 868 6921.

SUPPORT **LOCAL** SHOP **LOCAL**!

ARTICLES
FOR SALE

CLOTHES DRESSER for SALE! 519-941-5492.

RESIDENTIAL
SERVICES & REPAIRS

HOME RENOVATIONS – kitchens/bathrooms, tiles/vinyl floors: plumbing, painting, drywall, fences. Call Alex at 519-938-7727, Alex.

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

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

FIREWOOD

PURE HARDWOOD SLABS – 15" long, no small pieces. \$700/delivered. Call 519-369-6123 / 519-379-5528,

SEASONED HARD MAPLE - \$375/bush cord. Delivered, volume discounts. 519-379-6447 / 519-922-1117 or email: kathy.winters77@gmail.com.

WELL SEASONED HARDWOOD - 12" or 16" lengths, campfire wood as well. Delivery is available. 519-994-6075.

COMING EVENTS

Meet & Greet at Campbell's Cross Farm

Meet agents of social justice, visiting from the Dominican Republic. Coffee available for purchase on site, and home-made food will be provided / included! No cost for entry. All are welcome. Please note that Sister Maude speaks Creole, French and Spanish. Translators will be present, but more are welcome!

Date: Monday, October 20, 2025

Time: 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Location: 3634 King Street, Inglewood ON L7C0R5

RSVP – please send a text message to 416-902-3041

ADVERTISING
LOCALLY WORKS!

STORAGE

STORAGE AVAILABLE: 20 yard sea can container for storage located in Nobleton. Safe location. For more information, please call 905-859-0817.

IN MEMORIAM

PENROSE, Ronald

1936-2009

The love we feel helps us through each day

In our hearts you will always stay

Never far ... only a memory away

The memories, like treasures, still light the way

Angel Baby

SERVICES

RETIRED TEACHER offering **TUTORING** (Kindergarten to Grade 8), Child Care, Companionship / Respite Care, Home / Pet Sitting. References, vulnerable sector check, CPR and First Aid. How can I assist YOU?. Call Jean 519-939-1980.

TREE PRUNING and REMOVAL as well as minor landscaping. Free estimates. 20 plus years experience. Call Russ 416-802-9180.

The LORD DUFFERIN CHAPTER IODE holds their meetings at the Lord Dufferin Centre on the 4th Tuesday of every month. We are looking for women who would like to help in the Community. Call 519-941-1865.

IF YOU WANT to keep drinking, that's your business. **IF YOU WANT** to stop drinking, that's our business. **Call Alcoholics Anonymous Hot Line, 1-866-715-0005.** www.aanorthaltonerin.org.

DRUG PROBLEM? We've been there, we can help! Please refer to georgianheartlandna.org for a complete list of Narcotics Anonymous meetings. Call anytime 519-215-0761.

ARE YOU A WOMAN living with abuse? For safety, emergency shelter, and counselling call Family Transition Place, (519)941-HELP or 1-800-265-9178.

FOR INFORMATION regarding **HEART and STROKE**, call Dori Ebel (519)941-1865 or 1-800-360-1557.

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SERVICES

IF YOU or a FAMILY MEMBER are struggling with gambling, Gamblers Anonymous is there to HELP. Call: 1(855) 222-5542 or visit www.gatoronto.ca.

ALZHEIMER SUPPORT GROUPS meet monthly for spousal & family support. Call (519) 941-1221.

LA LECHE LEAGUE Orangeville offers breastfeeding support. For more info call Erin at 519-943-0703.

ORANGEVILLE OVER 65 – Single Social Club. A place to meet and make new friends. We meet every Thursday at 5:30pm. Many activities. For information call Ken 519-278-6341 / Betty 519-942-3090.

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FINANCE A 2025 TIGUAN FROM 0% FOR 24M

2025 VOLKSWAGEN ID.4



6 TO CHOOSE FROM

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2026 VOLKSWAGEN GOLF R



ORDER NOW!

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2025 VW TAOS TRENDLINE 4MOTION



8 TO CHOOSE FROM

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FOR 48 MONTHS AT 3.99% - COB \$2,435 - 12,000 KM
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STK# 7733P • 59,064 KM • 1.5L TSI TURBO, 8-SPEED AUTOMATIC, HEATED FRONT SEATS, REMOTE START, DIGITAL COCKPIT, ADAPTIVE CRUISE CONTROL, DUAL-ZONE CLIMATE CONTROL, APP-CONNECT (APPLE CARPLAY & ANDROID AUTO), REARVIEW CAMERA, BLIND SPOT MONITORING, POWER-ADJUSTABLE & HEATED MIRRORS!

\$104 WEEKLY INCLUDE HST 84 MONTHS WEEKLY LICENSING EXTRA | **\$29,879** +HST/LIC | **@ 6.99%** O.A.C
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STK# 7734P • 60,554 KM • 1.5L TSI TURBO, 8-SPEED AUTOMATIC, PANORAMIC SUNROOF, HEATED FRONT SEATS, REMOTE START, ADAPTIVE CRUISE CONTROL, DIGITAL COCKPIT, APPLE CARPLAY & ANDROID AUTO, DUAL-ZONE CLIMATE CONTROL, REARVIEW CAMERA, BLIND SPOT MONITORING!

\$107 WEEKLY INCLUDE HST 84 MONTHS WEEKLY LICENSING EXTRA | **\$30,671** +HST/LIC | **@ 6.99%** O.A.C
\$0 DOWN | C.O.B \$8,133

2024 VOLKSWAGEN GOLF R



STK# 7687P • 33,635 KM • 2.0L TURBOCHARGED 4-CYLINDER ENGINE, 7-SPEED DSG AUTOMATIC WITH PADDLE SHIFTERS, 4MOTION AWD, BLACK NAPPA LEATHER INTERIOR, CARBON PACKAGE, HEATED & VENTILATED FRONT SEATS, POWER DRIVER'S SEAT WITH MEMORY, HEATED REAR SEATS, HARMAN KARDON PREMIUM AUDIO!

\$189 WEEKLY INCLUDE HST 84 MONTHS WEEKLY LICENSING EXTRA | **\$50,267** +HST/LIC | **@ 9.49%** O.A.C
\$0 DOWN | C.O.B \$18,575

2023 HONDA CR-V HYBRID TOURING



STK# 7579T • 47,990 KM • 2.0L ATKINSON I4 HYBRID, ECVT, AWD, BLACK LEATHER INTERIOR, HEATED FRONT & REAR SEATS, HEATED STEERING WHEEL, POWER DRIVER & PASSENGER SEATS, POWER PANORAMIC MOONROOF, WIRELESS APPLE CARPLAY & ANDROID AUTO, HEAD-UP DISPLAY, BOSE PREMIUM AUDIO!

\$165 WEEKLY INCLUDE HST 84 MONTHS WEEKLY LICENSING EXTRA | **\$43,892** +HST/LIC | **@ 9.49%** O.A.C
\$0 DOWN | C.O.B \$16,219

2023 JEEP WRANGLER WILLYS



STK# 7686P • 27,412 KM • 2.0L TURBOCHARGED I4 ENGINE, 8-SPEED AUTOMATIC TRANSMISSION, 4X4 WITH ANTI-SPIN DIFFERENTIAL, UCONNECT 4C NAV WITH 8.4" TOUCHSCREEN & GPS NAVIGATION, DUAL-ZONE AUTOMATIC CLIMATE CONTROL, COLD WEATHER GROUP, TECHNOLOGY GROUP, CONVENIENCE GROUP!

\$176 WEEKLY INCLUDE HST 84 MONTHS WEEKLY LICENSING EXTRA | **\$46,785** +HST/LIC | **@ 9.49%** O.A.C
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2021 VOLKSWAGEN TIGUAN HIGHLINE



STK# 7739T • 55,871 KM • 2.0L TSI TURBO, 8-SPEED AUTOMATIC, 4MOTION AWD, -LINE EXTERIOR PACKAGE, FENDER PREMIUM AUDIO, POWER LIFTGATE, ADAPTIVE CRUISE CONTROL, REMOTE START, APPLE CARPLAY & ANDROID AUTO, PANORAMIC SUNROOF, DUAL-ZONE CLIMATE CONTROL, R-LINE FLAT-BOTTOM STEERING WHEEL!

\$108 WEEKLY INCLUDE HST 84 MONTHS WEEKLY LICENSING EXTRA | **\$31,213** +HST/LIC | **@ 6.99%** O.A.C
\$0 DOWN | C.O.B \$ 8,277

2021 TOYOTA GR SUPRA



STK# 7698P • 10,578 KM • 3.0L TWIN-SCROLL TURBOCHARGED IN-LINE-6 ENGINE, 8-SPEED AUTOMATIC TRANSMISSION WITH PADDLE SHIFTERS, REAR-WHEEL DRIVE, HEATED FRONT SEATS, DUAL-ZONE AUTOMATIC CLIMATE CONTROL, 8.8" TOUCHSCREEN INFOTAINMENT WITH NAVIGATION, APPLE CARPLAY, ADAPTIVE CRUISE CONTROL!

\$237 WEEKLY INCLUDE HST 84 MONTHS WEEKLY LICENSING EXTRA | **\$62,862** +HST/LIC | **@ 9.49%** O.A.C
\$0 DOWN | C.O.B \$23,229

2020 TOYOTA COROLLA LE



STK# 7607P • 110,112 KM • 1.8L 4-CYLINDER ENGINE, CVT AUTOMATIC, FRONT-WHEEL DRIVE, HEATED FRONT SEATS, APPLE CARPLAY & ANDROID AUTO, BACKUP CAMERA, TOYOTA SAFETY SENSE 2.0, ADAPTIVE CRUISE CONTROL, LANE DEPARTURE ALERT, PRE-COLLISION SYSTEM, AUTOMATIC CLIMATE CONTROL, REMOTE KEYLESS ENTRY!

\$92 WEEKLY INCLUDE HST 72 MONTHS WEEKLY LICENSING EXTRA | **\$21,777** +HST/LIC | **@ 9.49%** O.A.C
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