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GAVIN WALKER PHOTOGRAPHY

SANTA SPOTTED IN ORANGEVILLE: Santa Claus waves to spectators lining Broadway during Orangeville's annual Santa Claus Parade on Saturday, Nov. 21. The 2026 parade, themed "A Storybook Christmas," featured 65 floats and drew sizeable crowds to downtown Orangeville. Turn to Page A8 for more photos.

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Community support shines at second Orangeville HollyFest

Written By **SAM ODROWSKI**

Holiday spirit was on full display as thousands of visitors flocked to the second annual HollyFest Christmas market in Orangeville.

More than 5,500 people attended, helping raise nearly $7,400 and over 2,300 pounds of food for the Orangeville Food Bank.

The event came to the OAS Events Centre at the Orangeville Fairgrounds on Nov. 21 and 22, with over 130 artisans and vendors, specializing in unique holiday gifts, seasonal goods and handmade creations.

"What an incredible weekend. The community's support and enthusiasm exceeded our expectations — it was truly special," said Janine Taylor, HollyFest event manager.

Food donations to the Orangeville Food Bank more than doubled compared to last year, with 2,327 pounds given, compared to 1,131 in 2025. Cash donations are up from $5,400 in 2025 to $7,381 in 2026.

"We are absolutely thrilled at the increase in donations from the visitors to the Orangeville HollyFest this year. At a time when the need is greatest, our community always steps up to meet the challenge," said Doug Rowe, HollyFest director.

Continued on Page A12



SAM ODROWSKI PHOTO

FIGHTING FOOD INSECURITY: From left, Orangeville Food Bank volunteer Deanne Mount, fund development specialist Carol Maitland, executive director Heather Hayes, HollyFest manager Janine Taylor and HollyFest director Doug Rowe hold a cheque for $7,381.90 at the Orangeville Food Bank on Nov. 25. The funds were raised through the second annual HollyFest Christmas market, which also collected 2,327 pounds of food for the food bank.

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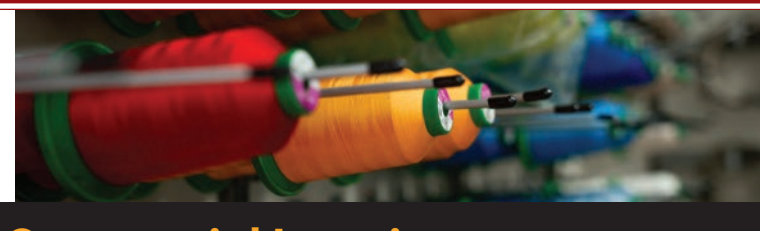

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Orangeville council suggests laundry service for Out of the Cold program

Written By **JAMES MATTHEWS**

A deal that gives people in need of a safe place to lay their head out of the cold has been extended for another winter.

The agreement extension extends the Out of the Cold program delivery from Dec. 1 to April 1, 2027. Orangeville council agreed to give $30,000 when it met Nov. 23. It was money previously earmarked in a three-year agreement.

Heather Savage, the town's community services general manager, said staff will meet with Dufferin County and officials from Choices Shelter to discern what future agreement may look like.

"And it may possibly be for a longer period of time," she said.

A total of $50,000 is proposed to support the safe operation of the 2026-2027 Out of the Cold Program. The town will contribute $30,000, and Dufferin County will put $20,000 toward program operations.

While the county's direct contribution is lower than previous commitments, Dufferin County also provides financial support to Choices for related homelessness-response services, including transitional housing initiatives and shelter staffing.

Choices operates the program at its Orangeville facility and provides participants with a safe place to sleep, beds and clean bedding, meals, washroom and shower access, hygiene supplies and protection from seasonal weather.

It is made possible by a partnership between the Town of Orangeville, Dufferin County, and Choices to serve people experiencing homelessness during the winter.

The program operates with a low-barrier approach to help reduce barriers for individuals who may be unable to access other shelter services and basic supports.

The program last winter supported 37 individuals and provided 307 overnight stays, which was an increase of 118 per cent from the previous season.

While colder weather and greater snowfall may have contributed to increased use, the results demonstrate an ongoing local need for seasonal overnight shelter services.

Coun. Debbie Sherwood has volunteered at the program, and she said she was happy to see council consider the request. It's quite something to see that 37 people need and use the program, she said.

There were many nights when nobody showed up to avail of the service in the first year she volunteered, she said. Other nights, maybe one person showed up.

"It shows that it's something that's very much needed in town," she said. "You can see now that the word is out and people know that they now have a nice warm place to go."

Sherwood suggested laundry service access should be provided to people in general and to those people accessing the overnight shelter service.

Savage gave the nod to an amended agreement for laundry service.

Missing Orangeville woman found deceased, Dufferin OPP say no foul play is suspected

Dufferin OPP have located Xanthe Weeks, 31, who was reported missing from Orangeville on Oct. 29.

She was found deceased in Mono on Nov. 17.

"At this time, no foul play is suspected," said Dufferin OPP. "Out of respect for the family's privacy and during this difficult time, no further details will be released."

The investigation remains ongoing and is being conducted by the Dufferin OPP Crime Unit, with assistance from the OPP Emergency Response Team (ERT), OPP Canine Unit, the Office of the Chief Coroner, and the Ontario Forensic Pathology Service.

Anyone impacted by this incident or who may require support can contact Caledon/Dufferin Victim Services at 905-951-3838.

Firelight & Frost weekend brings winter spectacle to downtown Orangeville

Fire performers, live ice carving and an outdoor skating rink that doesn't need freezing temperatures is turning the downtown core into a winter spectacle for the Orangeville BIA's Firelight & Frost weekend, closing out the 2026 Joy + Lights Festival.

From Friday, Nov. 27 through Sunday, Nov. 29, visitors can watch ice sculptures take shape before their eyes, experience the heat and excitement of live fire shows, and skate outdoors on Second Street. The weekend will also feature the Very Merry Holiday Market, visits with Santa and free family activities.

Firelight & Frost follows a successful opening weekend that brought residents and visitors downtown for the traditional Tree Lighting, Santa Claus Parade and Holiday Market.

"We were thrilled to see so many people come together downtown for the opening weekend," said Alison Scheel, Executive Director of the Orangeville Business Improvement Area. "Firelight & Frost offers a completely different festival experience, combining the excitement of fire and ice with holiday shopping, family fun and the warmth of our downtown community."

The synthetic outdoor skating rink on Second Street, presented in partnership with Prevail Activations, brings a little winter magic downtown regardless of the temperature. Families can also visit Santa on Second Street and stop by Orangeville Town Hall for a free holiday craft activity.

The Very Merry Holiday Market returns with charming wooden vendor chalets offering handcrafted gifts, holiday décor and seasonal treats. Visitors can warm up with festive refreshments at the licensed Fireside Sips Lounge, all just steps from downtown's festive shops and celebrated restaurants.

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Beautifully decorated storefronts, welcoming cafés and restaurants, independent shops filled with gift-giving ideas, and a European-inspired holiday market bring the warmth and charm of small-town holiday traditions to life.

Visitors are encouraged to explore downtown businesses while collecting Joy Book stamps at participating locations. Shoppers will receive double stamps throughout the festival weekend while they shop, dine and discover everything Downtown Orangeville has to offer.

Every local purchase supports the people and businesses that help keep the community vibrant throughout the year.

Bundle up, bring your favourite people and make Downtown Orangeville part of your holiday traditions.

For the revised schedule and details, visit downtownorangeville.ca and follow @downtownorangeville on social media for updates.

Activities, times and locations are subject to change.

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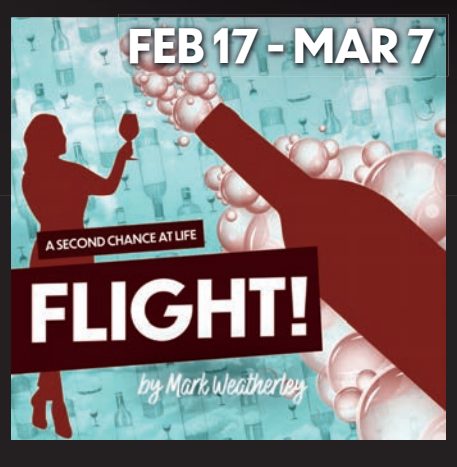

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Government needs to step up against food insecurity, says head of food bank

Written By **JAMES MATTHEWS**

The need for food bank services in the region continues to increase.

Heather Hayes, the Orangeville Food Bank's executive director, painted a picture of ever-increasing visits to the facility and its site in Grand Valley, during council's Nov. 23 meeting

After a dozen years in her role, Hayes said she remains flabbergasted that one in four Ontarians remains food insecure.

"When I stood here years ago, I used to talk about putting ourselves out of business," she said. "That was the goal. I don't talk about that anymore because we're not going to be put out of business.

"(Government) policy isn't there to support what people the need. And that's really sad. It makes my stomach hurt."

She said it blows her mind that the province is still without a ministry responsible for food. Kids get school lunches from one program. The Ministry of Agriculture manages the local food infrastructure funds.

"But no ministry supports food, and that's bananas," she said.

One of the best things to do for people is to feed them when they're young and keep them fed as they age so they can make good choices toward a productive life, she said.

And there are numbers that show a growing need for a Ministry of Food.

The Orangeville Food Bank has seen an increase of 84 per cent since 2022. Last year, there were 25,535 visits to the Orangeville and Grand Valley food banks. And a drop in food donations of 11 per cent in 2025-26.

The food bank saw 1,683 individuals through its doors in October. They're on track to process about 800,000 pounds of food this year between the Orangeville and the Grand Valley locations.

"Pre-COVID, the town was a different place. The food bank was a different place. Needs have increased, and both organizations have met those needs as they have come up," said Hayes.

Of the increases this year, 33 per cent were children, while 32 per cent were working people, 20 per cent were seniors, and 45 per cent of the households were single adults.

The only way those numbers will get better is to change policy, she said.

"Because food banks will not be able to support the increase that we continue to see year after year coming down the pipeline," Hayes said. "It's not going to stop until we find a way to change policy."

The number that really bothers her, Hayes said, is the increase in seniors who require the food bank. But another standout statistic is the increase in single adults who require assistance.

"There aren't additional supports for them," Hayes said. "It's a real struggle for them."

It was said to Hayes years ago by mentors that she had a choice: run a middle-of-the-road service that follows the status quo with other organizations or she could run the best of the best.

And, she said, that struck something inside her.

"I have sat across from other desks in other services in our communities, and it didn't feel good," she said. "It didn't feel good to me. There was shame attached to accessing services.

"Nobody likes to do that kind of thing. I thought if we're going to do this thing we're going to do it well and we're going to do it with dignity and kindness at the heart of what we do."

To that end, the crowd at the food bank have strived to creatively get food into the community with dignity and kindness.

"And I think we're done a pretty good job," she said.

Community food support includes vending machines at libraries in Orangeville and Grand Valley and the Dufferin Hart Hub. There have been 11,600 meals distributed to the community by way of the machines this year.

The community food share supports more than 15 organizations with 74,000 pounds of food.

And there are monthly seniors markets throughout Dufferin County that offer produce, milk, eggs, and prepared meals. There were 728 seniors served last year.

The Town of Orangeville has also tried in its way to meet the need by offering free transit. Dufferin County has also stepped forward, she said.

"Dufferin as a whole has always punched above their weight, and I'm very proud to be a part of the service that we provide as well as a part of Dufferin and this town," Hayes said.

Coun. Joe Andrews said putting the food bank out of business is the ultimate goal and it's something that has been discussed at the town level.

"I guess our role has evolved into being more of an advocate for a variety of different agencies and non-profits and, certainly, making sure that the province is aware of the need," he said.

Andrews said the 11 per cent drop in donations is concerning and he asked Hayes if she is able to get into the minutia of finding out why that is the case."

Hayes said people simply don't have the resources to give.

Everybody is in the same economic circumstance and shares common financial pressures. She and her husband work to have a decent income. They're empty-nesters, but even she and her husband make second choices at the grocery store.

"We're buying 50 per cent off meat in order to save money," Hayes said. "We are skipping meat a meal or two in a week so that we don't have that expense."

She said a common puzzlement is that "we all walk out of the grocery store with seven items in a bag for $100."

Food prices have increased 30 per cent since 2019. And that's just the start.

"Fuel has gone up, rent has gone up, mortgages," she said. "It keeps continuing to grow, and yet our wages have not kept pace with the expenses that we are asked to maintain."

Santa and Mrs. Claus join Dufferin Peel Skating Club's annual Holiday Show at Teen Ranch

Written By **CHRIS PERROTTE**

For 34 years, the Dufferin Peel Skating Club (DPSC) has put on its annual Holiday Show. This year, the event took place on Nov. 22 at Teen Ranch Ice Corral. Even Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus came out to celebrate at this fun-filled event.

"Anytime Santa can get a little exercise in before the big day — [with] all those milk and cookies and calories — is a good thing. But seeing the smiles and excitement on all the kids' faces, young and old, puts a smile on my face. It's also important to do community events and connect with people to keep the spirit of the season alive," said Santa.

DPSC's annual Holiday Show provides its skaters with a great opportunity to showcase their skills and talents in front of family and friends.

"For some skaters, it is their first time skating in front of an audience. This non-pressure situation can build confidence towards other performances and make the transition to competitions a little easier," said Amy Broom, one of the head coaches at the Dufferin Peel Skating Club.

The annual show features all of the club's skaters from beginner level up to provincial competitors. Every year after the show, families get the opportunity to go skating and take pictures with Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus.

"Everyone gets so excited to see Santa and Mrs. Claus when they come out for the finale," said Broom. "Santa and Mrs. Claus have been friends of the Dufferin-Peel Skating Club for a very long time. We are happy to have them come skate with us whenever they get the chance."

The Dufferin Peel Skating Club has been preparing for months for this festive event. Since early October, they have been selecting music, and then during regular lesson routines before the show, the club incorporates holiday show practices. Full run-through rehearsals are done during the week before the show.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

HOLIDAY SKATE: Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus joined skaters for the Dufferin-Peel Skating Club's annual Holiday Show at Teen Ranch Ice Corral on Nov. 22.

"We had lots of parent volunteers and four coaches all working together to make sure everything ran smoothly on the day of the show. The skaters all had a great time, and it really showed in their performances. We are very proud of all of our skaters and the hard work they put in to make it a very successful event," said Broom.

The Dufferin Peel Skating Club are still welcoming new members of all ages and abilities to join their club. Visit teenranch.com or contact us at dufferinpeelskatingclub@gmail.com for more information.







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$123 WEEKLY + HST & LIC | $16,789 +HST/LIC | $0 DOWN | @8.99% O.A.C. FOR 36 MONTHS | C.O.B $2,380.06

2024 RAM 3500 LIMITED LONGHORN



STK# 25545A • 56,750 KM • 6.7L CUMMINS HO DIESEL, 6-SPEED AISIN AUTOMATIC, 3.73 AXLE, 8FT BOX, 4X4, NAV, SUNROOF, UCONNECT12, HEATED/COOLED LEATHER BUCKETS, HEATED SECOND ROW, HARMAN KARDON AUDIO, LONGHORN LEVEL 1 GROUP, SURROUND VIEW CAMERA, TOW PACKAGE, REAR AIR SUSPENSION, 5TH WHEEL PREP, TOWING TECHNOLOGY GROUP AND MORE!

$311 WEEKLY + HST & LIC | $86,769 +HST/LIC | $0 DOWN | @7.99% O.A.C. FOR 84 MONTHS | C.O.B $26,580.08

2023 GMC SIERRA 1500 DENALI CREW CAB 4X4



STK# 261223A • 82,283 KM • WHITE FROST TRICOAT, ATMOSPHERE/BROWNSTONE LEATHER, 6.2L V8, 10-SPEED AUTOMATIC, SUNROOF, BOSE AUDIO, HEATED AND VENTILATED SEATS, HEAD-UP DISPLAY, SURROUND-VIEW CAMERA.

$184 WEEKLY + HST & LIC | $54,821 +HST/LIC | $0 DOWN | @5.89% O.A.C. FOR 84 MONTHS | C.O.B $12,106.35

2023 GMC YUKON XL SLT 4WD



STK# 26828A • 40,765 KM • SEVEN SEATS, 5.3L V8, BLACK LEATHER, HEATED AND VENTILATED FRONT SEATS, BOSE AUDIO.

$262 WEEKLY + HST & LIC | $77,989 +HST/LIC | $0 DOWN | @5.89% O.A.C. FOR 84 MONTHS | C.O.B $17,222.64

2018 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE STERLING EDITION



STK# B12808A • 170,509 KM • 3.6L PENTASTAR V6, 8-SPEED AUTOMATIC, QUADRA-TRAC II 4X4, SELEC-TERRAIN SYSTEM, PANORAMIC SUNROOF, NAV, NINE-SPEAKER ALPINE AUDIO WITH SUBWOOFER, HEATED FRONT AND REAR SEATS, HEATED STEERING WHEEL, REMOTE START, TRAILER TOW PACKAGE, CLASS IV HITCH, REAR LOAD-LEVELLING SUSPENSION, AND MORE!

$132 WEEKLY + HST & LIC | $17,969 +HST/LIC | $0 DOWN | @8.99% O.A.C. FOR 36 MONTHS | C.O.B $2,547.34

2021 GMC YUKON DENALI



STK# 25145A • 158,771 KM • JET BLACK LEATHER, 6.2L V8, 10-SPEED AUTOMATIC, AUTOTRAC 4X4, SEVEN-PASSENGER SEATING, POWER SUNROOF, HEATED AND VENTILATED FRONT SEATS, HEATED SECOND ROW, HEATED STEERING WHEEL, HEAD-UP DISPLAY, GOOGLE INFOTAINMENT, NAVIGATION, BOSE AUDIO, TRI-ZONE CLIMATE CONTROL, POWER LIFTGATE, 22-INCH ALLOY WHEELS, AND MORE!

$226 WEEKLY + HST & LIC | $55,989 +HST/LIC | $0 DOWN | @7.99% O.A.C. FOR 72 MONTHS | C.O.B $14,530.97

CHRYSLER | DODGE | Jeep | RAM | FIAT

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$3,000 BONUS CASH

- $3,000 Bonus Cash on eligible 2026 vehicles
- One month only special
- Stackable with Consumer Cash, Loyalty Bonus Cash, and alternative finance or lease rates

2026 RAM 1500

0% FINANCING FOR UP TO 84 MONTHS OR TOTAL CASH DISCOUNTS UP TO $16,500

- Targeted Inventory Certificate continues on eligible 2026 Ram 1500 Sport and Rebel models equipped with leather seats
- Stackable with Consumer Cash, Loyalty Bonus Cash, and alternative finance or lease rates

2026 RAM HEAVY DUTY PICKUPS

NO-CHARGE LEGENDARY CUMMINS® HIGH-OUTPUT TURBO DIESEL

$11,000 VALUE
PLUS Up to $1,500 Loyalty Bonus Cash

2026 JEEP OFFERS

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Offers available in November 2026. See dealer for complete details, eligibility, and model availability.

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2026 CHEVROLET SILVERADO 1500 LT TRAIL BOSS 4X4



STK# 23606

FINANCE FROM $247 WEEKLY +TAXES

$75,306+HST/LIC
CASH OFFER: $10,000 NSCDA OFF $90,704
FINANCE AMOUNT $89,775.84
EFFECTIVE RATE 4.3%. CASH ALLOWANCE AND FINANCE PROGRAM ARE SEPARATE.
$0 DOWN PAYMENT

0% FOR 84 MONTHS

2026 CHEVROLET COLORADO Z71 CREW CAB SHORT BOX 4X4



STK# 23534

FINANCE FROM $199 WEEKLY +TAXES

$57,320+HST/LIC
$0 DOWN PAYMENT

5.49% FOR 84 MONTHS
C.O.B. $12,301.00

2022 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE 4XE OVERLAND 4X4



STK# 10895A • 39,935 KM • BLACK LEATHER, PLUG-IN HYBRID, 4X4, DUAL-PANEL PANORAMIC SUNROOF, NAVIGATION, SURROUND-VIEW CAMERA, HEATED AND VENTILATED SEATS, HEAD-UP DISPLAY, WIRELESS CHARGING, ADAPTIVE CRUISE CONTROL, LANE ASSIST, REMOTE START, POWER LIFTGATE, AND MORE!

$139 WEEKLY + HST & LIC | $38,616 +HST/LIC | $0 DOWN | @7.99% O.A.C. FOR 84 MONTHS | C.O.B $11,829.30

2024 CHEVROLET SILVERADO 3500HD HIGH COUNTRY



STK# B7804 • 8,387 KM • HEATED/COOLED SEATS, HEATED STEERING WHEEL, HEADS UP DISPLAY, ADAPTIVE CRUISE CONTROL, WIRELESS CHARGING, BOSE SOUND SYSTEM, 360 CAMERA, WIFI HOT SPOT, XM RADIO, ONSTAR, SPRAY ON BED LINER, RAIN SENSE WIPERS.

$284 WEEKLY + HST & LIC | $84,716 +HST/LIC | $0 DOWN | @5.89% O.A.C. FOR 84 MONTHS | C.O.B $18,708.19

2026 GMC SIERRA 1500 AT4



STK# B7794 • 17,937 KM • 6.2L V8, 4X4, AT4 PREMIUM AND TECHNOLOGY PACKAGES, POWER SUNROOF, HEATED AND VENTILATED LEATHER SEATS, HEATED STEERING WHEEL, SURROUND-VIEW CAMERA, BOSE AUDIO, ADAPTIVE CRUISE CONTROL, HEAD-UP DISPLAY, TONNEAU COVER, AND MORE!

$251 WEEKLY + HST & LIC | $74,716 +HST/LIC | $0 DOWN | @5.89% O.A.C. FOR 84 MONTHS | C.O.B $16,499.85

2027 CHEVROLET EQUINOX RS AWD (DEMO)



STK# 23718 • 5,143 KM • 1.5L TURBO, 8-SPEED AUTOMATIC, AWD, PANORAMIC SUNROOF, HEATED AND VENTILATED FRONT SEATS, HEATED REAR SEATS, HEATED STEERING WHEEL, HD SURROUND VISION, REAR CAMERA MIRROR, REMOTE START.

$181 WEEKLY + HST & LIC | $49,820 +HST/LIC | $0 DOWN | @7.99% O.A.C. FOR 84 MONTHS | C.O.B $15,414.60

2024 CHEVROLET SILVERADO 1500 LTZ



STK# B7800 • 72,291 KM • ONE OWNER, ACCIDENT-FREE, HEATED AND VENTILATED SEATS, HEAD-UP DISPLAY, HEATED STEERING WHEEL, ADAPTIVE CRUISE CONTROL, SPRAY-IN BEDLINER, TRAILERING PACKAGE, WIRELESS APPLE CARPLAY, WIRELESS ANDROID AUTO, REMOTE START, AUTOMATIC HIGH BEAMS, XM RADIO, ONSTAR, DUAL-ZONE AUTOMATIC CLIMATE CONTROL, AND MORE!

$182 WEEKLY + HST & LIC | $54,216 +HST/LIC | $0 DOWN | @5.89% O.A.C. FOR 84 MONTHS | C.O.B $11,972.75

2024 CHEVROLET TRAVERSE Z71 AWD



STK# 23354A • 70,247 KM • Z71, 2.5L TURBO FOUR-CYLINDER, LL-WHEEL DRIVE, SURROUND-VIEW CAMERA, REMOTE START, HEATED FRONT SEATS AND STEERING WHEEL, WIRELESS CHARGING, ADAPTIVE CRUISE CONTROL, AND MORE!

$173 WEEKLY + HST & LIC | $51,616 +HST/LIC | $0 DOWN | @5.89% O.A.C. FOR 84 MONTHS | C.O.B $11,398.58

2024 CADILLAC XT4 SPORT



STK# B7812 • 26,399 KM • CERTIFIED PRE-OWNED, ACCIDENT-FREE, MIDNIGHT SKY BLACK METALLIC, BLACK LEATHER INTERIOR, 23.5K KM, TURBOCHARGED ENGINE, ALL-WHEEL DRIVE, 9-SPEED AUTOMATIC TRANSMISSION, SPORT SUSPENSION, ULTRAVIEW SUNROOF, HEATED FRONT SEATS, HEATED STEERING WHEEL, WIRELESS APPLE CARPLAY & MUCH MORE!

$156 WEEKLY + HST & LIC | $45,995 +HST/LIC | $0 DOWN | @6.29% O.A.C. FOR 84 MONTHS | C.O.B $10,893.84

2024 CADILLAC XT6 AWD SPORT



STK# 10983A • 89,398 KM • LEATHER CABIN, HD POWER AND AWD, PANORAMIC ROOF, FRONT-SEAT HEATING AND VENTILATION, REAR-SEAT HEATING, BOSE AUDIO, NAVIGATION, HEAD-UP DISPLAY, SURROUND-VIEW CAMERA AND SECOND-ROW CAPTAIN'S CHAIRS.

$175 WEEKLY + HST & LIC | $51,621 +HST/LIC | $0 DOWN | @6.29% O.A.C. FOR 84 MONTHS | C.O.B $12,226.35

Orangeville Volkswagen

519-941-3317
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orangevillevw.ca

2026 VOLKSWAGEN TIGUAN TRENDLINE 4MOTION



STK# TG2656-NEW

LEASE FROM $108 WEEKLY +TAXES

$41,710+HST/LIC
$0 DOWN PAYMENT
PLUS SECURITY DEPOSIT

2.49% FOR 48 MONTHS
12,000 KMS PER YEAR

2027 VOLKSWAGEN TAOS TRENDLINE 4MOTION



STK# TA2706-NEW

LEASE FROM $102 WEEKLY +TAXES

$500 DEALER BONUS INCLUDED

$35,765+HST/LIC
$0 DOWN PAYMENT
PLUS SECURITY DEPOSIT

3.99% FOR 51 MONTHS
12,000 KMS PER YEAR

2024 VOLKSWAGEN TIGUAN HIGHLINE R-LINE 4MOTION



STK# B272T • 72,182 KM • TITAN BLACK LEATHER; TURBOCHARGED 2.0L POWER, AUTOMATIC TRANSMISSION AND 4MOTION TRACTION. INCLUDES A PANORAMIC ROOF, FRONT-SEAT HEATING AND VENTILATION, REAR-SEAT HEATING, NAVIGATION AND PREMIUM HARMAN KARDON SOUND.

$117 WEEKLY + HST & LIC | $32,494 +HST/LIC | $0 DOWN | @7.99% O.A.C. FOR 84 MONTHS | C.O.B $9,553.94

2023 VOLKSWAGEN JETTA GLI DSG



STK# 8325T • 100,321 KM • DEEP BLACK PEARL, TITAN BLACK LEATHER, 2.0L TURBO, DSG AUTOMATIC, SUNROOF, HEATED AND VENTILATED FRONT SEATS, BEATSAUDIO, NAVIGATION, ADAPTIVE CRUISE CONTROL.

$90 WEEKLY + HST & LIC | $24,992 +HST/LIC | $0 DOWN | @7.99% O.A.C. FOR 84 MONTHS | C.O.B $7,655.84

2021 RAM 1500 LARAMIE



STK# 7603T • 81,475 KM • 5.7L HEMI V8 WITH ETORQUE, 8-SPEED AUTOMATIC TRANSMISSION, 4X4, BLACK LEATHER INTERIOR, FRONT BENCH SEAT, LARAMIE LEVEL 2 EQUIPMENT GROUP, HEATED AND VENTILATED FRONT SEATS, HEATED SECOND-ROW SEATS, NAV, ADAPTIVE CRUISE CONTROL, BLIND-SPOT MONITORING, SURROUND-VIEW CAMERA, HARMAN KARDON AUDIO, HEAD-UP DISPLAY, AND MORE!

$170 WEEKLY + HST & LIC | $41,995 +HST/LIC | $0 DOWN | @7.99% O.A.C. FOR 72 MONTHS | C.O.B $10,899.07

2023 JEEP WRANGLER WILLYS



STK# 7686P • 27,412 KM • 2.0L TURBOCHARGED 4-CYLINDER ENGINE, 8-SPEED AUTOMATIC TRANSMISSION, 4X4 WITH ANTI-SPIN DIFFERENTIAL, SILVER ZYNITH EXTERIOR, HEATED FRONT SEATS, HEATED STEERING WHEEL, ALPINE PREMIUM AUDIO, APPLE CARPLAY, ANDROID AUTO, DUAL-ZONE CLIMATE CONTROL, COLD WEATHER GROUP, TECHNOLOGY GROUP, CONVENIENCE GROUP, AND MORE!

$142 WEEKLY + HST & LIC | $34,495 +HST/LIC | $0 DOWN | @7.99% O.A.C. FOR 84 MONTHS | C.O.B $12,098.56

2023 VOLKSWAGEN TIGUAN COMFORTLINE 4MOTION



STK# B230P • 69,470 KM • TITAN BLACK LEATHERETTE, 2.0L TURBO, 8-SPEED AUTOMATIC, 4MOTION ALL-WHEEL DRIVE, PANORAMIC SUNROOF, DIGITAL COCKPIT PRO, WIRELESS APPLE CARPLAY AND ANDROID AUTO, HEATED FRONT SEATS AND STEERING WHEEL, REMOTE START, ADAPTIVE CRUISE CONTROL, FRONT ASSIST, REAR VIEW CAMERA, DUAL-ZONE CLIMATE CONTROL, KEYLESS ACCESS, AND MORE!

$94 WEEKLY + HST & LIC | $26,244 +HST/LIC | $0 DOWN | @7.99% O.A.C. FOR 84 MONTHS | C.O.B $8,039.36

2023 VOLKSWAGEN ATLAS EXECLINE



STK# B025P • 106,640 KM • V6 ENGINE, 4MOTION ALL-WHEEL DRIVE, PANORAMIC SUNROOF, DIGITAL COCKPIT, HEATED AND VENTILATED FRONT SEATS, HEATED REAR SEATS, HEATED STEERING WHEEL, NAVIGATION, APPLE CARPLAY, ANDROID AUTO, ADAPTIVE CRUISE CONTROL, BLIND-SPOT MONITORING, LANE ASSIST, FRONT ASSIST, 360-DEGREE CAMERA, POWER LIFTGATE, 20-INCH ALLOY WHEELS, AND MORE!

$122 WEEKLY + HST & LIC | $33,995 +HST/LIC | $0 DOWN | @7.99% O.A.C. FOR 84 MONTHS | C.O.B $10,413.74

2021 VOLKSWAGEN JETTA HIGHLINE AUTO



STK# 8340P • 64,039 KM • PYRITE SILVER METALLIC, TITAN BLACK LEATHERETTE, 1.4L TURBO, 8-SPEED AUTOMATIC, SUNROOF, HEATED FRONT SEATS, NAVIGATION, APPLE CARPLAY AND ANDROID AUTO, REARVIEW CAMERA.

$87 WEEKLY + HST & LIC | $21,532 +HST/LIC | $0 DOWN | @7.99% O.A.C. FOR 84 MONTHS | C.O.B $5,588.26

2023 KIA SPORTAGE X-LINE LIMITED AWD



STK# B180T • 53,223 KM • 2.5L GDI ENGINE, 8-SPEED AUTOMATIC TRANSMISSION, PANORAMIC SUNROOF, 12.3-INCH DUAL CURVED DISPLAYS, NAV SYSTEM, APPLE CARPLAY, ANDROID AUTO, HARMAN KARDON PREMIUM AUDIO, HEATED & VENTILATED FRONT SEATS, HEATED REAR SEATS, HEATED STEERING WHEEL, SURROUND VIEW MONITOR, BLIND-VIEW MONITOR, SMART POWER LIFTGATE, AND MORE!

$109 WEEKLY + HST & LIC | $30,495 +HST/LIC | $0 DOWN | @7.99% O.A.C. FOR 84 MONTHS | C.O.B $9,341.58

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Community gathers for first weekend of Firelight & Frost Festival











GAVIN WALKER PHOTOGRAPHY

A SEASON OF JOY: Downtown Orangeville welcomed the holiday season during the opening weekend of the Joy + Lights Festival, Nov. 20–22. Ahead of the Christmas tree lighting on Nov. 20, festivities included a fire and hula hoop performance, a dance presentation by Citrus Dance Inc. and Theatre Orangeville's David Nairn reading 'Twas the Night Before Christmas.







GAVIN WALKER PHOTOGRAPHY

CHRISTMAS CHEER: Community groups, colourful floats and festive displays made their way through downtown Orangeville during the annual Santa Claus Parade on Nov. 21, as part of the opening weekend of the Joy + Lights Festival.

Town of Orangeville

Notice of bylaw consideration

Consolidated user fees and charges bylaw

The Town of Orangeville is preparing the consolidated user fees and charges bylaw pursuant to s. 391 of the Municipal Act, 2001, for 2027.

Council meeting

Date: December 14, 2026, at 7 p.m.

Location: Council Chambers, Town Hall – 87 Broadway

Public participation: Residents, taxpayers, service providers and those speaking on behalf of an association or organization in Orangeville are invited to participate. Participants may speak during open forum or submit a delegation request at least seven days before the meeting.

Submit a delegation request at orangeville.ca/HowToPresent.

Virtual viewing options

- view the livestream at the above date and time at orangeville.ca/WatchLive
- to attend via Zoom visit the meeting agenda at orangeville.ca/Meetings

Orangeville

Town of Orangeville

Upcoming meetings

December 2026

Committee of Adjustment	**Wednesday, December 2 at 6 p.m.** Council chambers, 87 Broadway
Council (regular)	**Monday, December 14 at 7 p.m.** Council chambers, 87 Broadway Live stream: orangeville.ca/WatchLive
Orangeville Public Library Board	**Wednesday, December 16 at 5 p.m.** Mill Street Library, 1 Mill St. Call in: 1-289-801-5774 ID: 693 583 03#

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

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

Orangeville

adopt a cat



Quinn is an adorable kitten ready for a loving home. She has come out of her shell and is greeting us for pets. She loves to hunt toys and climb towers.

Quinn is spayed, dewormed, flea treated, vaccinated and microchipped

Adoption is $300

Check our facebook page to see the other kitties looking for their forever home. Donations always needed to help care for the cats as we are not funded at all, and rely on donations and fundraisers. If you would like to volunteer as well we are always appreciative.

Quinn

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Thank you, Dufferin County!

Orangeville Citizen

HOLLYFEST

YOU MADE THE MAGIC HAPPEN!

What an incredible weekend! The second annual Orangeville Citizen HollyFest Christmas Market was filled with holiday spirit, community pride and generosity — and it's all thanks to YOU!

Together, we raised an amazing $7,300 and collected 2,200 lbs. of food for the Orangeville Food Bank.

Your support, generosity and enthusiasm made this year's HollyFest truly special. Whether you came to shop local, enjoy the festivities, bring the family or make a donation, you helped make a meaningful difference in our community.

From our HollyFest team, volunteers and vendors, thank you for showing up, spreading the holiday cheer and helping make a difference for local families.

That's the magic of community!

We can't wait to celebrate with you again next year.

The Orangeville Citizen HollyFest Team

To learn more about HollyFest, follow us on Facebook and Instagram, or go to:

orangevillehollyfest.ca

Arts & Entertainment
LOCAL COMMUNITY EVENTS

Theatre Orangeville's Spotlight fundraiser shines a light on local talent

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

Theatre Orangeville welcomed supporters to its annual Spotlight fundraiser on Nov. 15, introducing a new afternoon luncheon format that organizers say was met with an enthusiastic response.

Held at Hockley Valley Resort, the event brought together theatre supporters for an afternoon of entertainment, socializing, food and fundraising, featuring performances that highlighted the talent appearing on Theatre Orangeville's stage.

Marketing manager Amanda Doerrie said the afternoon provided plenty of opportunities for guests to connect and take in the entertainment.

"Overall, the change to an afternoon luncheon was very well received, and there was a buzz and air of excitement in the room," she said. "Everyone was in a great mood, lots of socializing, generosity, and everyone really enjoyed the entertainment.

The afternoon also recognized a longstanding partnership between Theatre Orangeville and BookLore owner Nancy Frater. During the event, Stewart and Theatre Orangeville board chair Laura Austin honoured Frater for more than 12 years of support through the Authors on Stage program.

Proceeds from the Authors on Stage events support Theatre Orangeville's New Play Development Fund. Throughout the partnership, Frater and BookLore have contributed more than $200,000 toward the development of new Canadian theatrical works.

Entertainment throughout the afternoon featured a variety of performers associated with the theatre. The Theatre Orangeville Youth Singers Choir (T.O.Y.S.) Choir opened the performances, followed by the theatre's Young Company musical troupe, which performed selections from this summer's production of Into the Woods.

Jennifer Stewart performed three numbers from Broadway musicals and Hollywood favourites, while Ben Skipper and Kiely Apted, who will star as Aladdin and Victoria, respectively, in the upcoming production of Aladdin: A Lad in Dufferin County, gave guests a preview of their vocal talents.

Stratford Festival performer Scott Beaudin also took the stage, earning a standing ovation for his rendition of "Bring Him Home" from *Les Misérables*.

Fundraising efforts included silent and live auctions, along with a Golden Ticket Draw. The winner of the draw received a pair of WestJet tickets for a trip to Ireland.

While final fundraising totals remain unavailable as organizers await outstanding invoices, Austin described the event as a success, particularly for its ability to introduce new people to the theatre.

"One of the town councillors who attended Spotlight asked me at the inauguration if TOV's event was a financial success," she said. "Which I qualified as a yes. Because it was lunch, we couldn't charge as much for the event tickets. However, with new attendees becoming potential subscribers and theatregoers, it was a big win. We may not have generated millions of dollars, but we attracted new theatre supporters."

Austin said feedback following the event was also positive, with many longtime attendees considering it one of the theatre's most engaging fundraisers to date. First-time guests also responded favourably to the afternoon luncheon format.

She added that attracting new supporters is an important part of the event's success, as introducing people to Theatre Orangeville could lead to future subscriptions and attendance at productions.

Organizers said they plan to announce a date for next year's Spotlight event soon.

Bethell's Butterfly Bereavement Project features nearly 4,000 handcrafted butterflies

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

A colourful display honouring loved ones who have died is bringing a message of connection and support to the Shelburne Public Library through the annual Butterfly Bereavement Project.

Organized by Bethell Hospice, the project features nearly 4,000 individually decorated butterflies created by residents throughout Dufferin County and Caledon. The installations recognize National Grief and Bereavement Day and National Children's Grief Awareness Day, both observed in November.

The Shelburne Public Library became an official installation partner this year after previously hosting community workshops where participants created butterflies to be included in displays across the region.

CEO Shannon McGrady said the display has naturally encouraged conversations between families, friends, neighbours and strangers, with visitors sharing stories and memories of loved ones in a supportive space provided by the library.

"Libraries are safe spaces where people of all ages and backgrounds interact," she said. "As librarians, we witness relationships develop every day through conversations that are sparked at programs, in the stacks over a shared love of reading, or while working side by side at our public computers."

McGrady added, "In this environment, where everyone feels a sense of safety and belonging, it is easier to have more meaningful conversations, including those about grief and loss — something we all experience. The installations are striking and naturally spark conversation and moments of connection between families, friends, neighbours, and strangers. It has been lovely to witness the sharing of stories and memories of loved ones."

Continued on Page A12



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

SPREADING THEIR WINGS: Shelburne Mayor Wade Mills and Shelburne Library CEO Shannon McGrady join members of Bethell Hospice on Nov. 18 for a Butterfly Bereavement Project installation event at the library. The project installations recognize National Grief and Bereavement Day and National Children's Grief Awareness Day, both observed in November, and allow participants to channel grief into butterfly art projects arranged into art displays that have been set up across the Headwaters area.

MacMaster Buick GMC | Orangeville Chrysler Jeep RAM | Orangeville Volkswagen



David Gauthier
Service Consultant

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



Maurice McDonald
Service Consultant

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



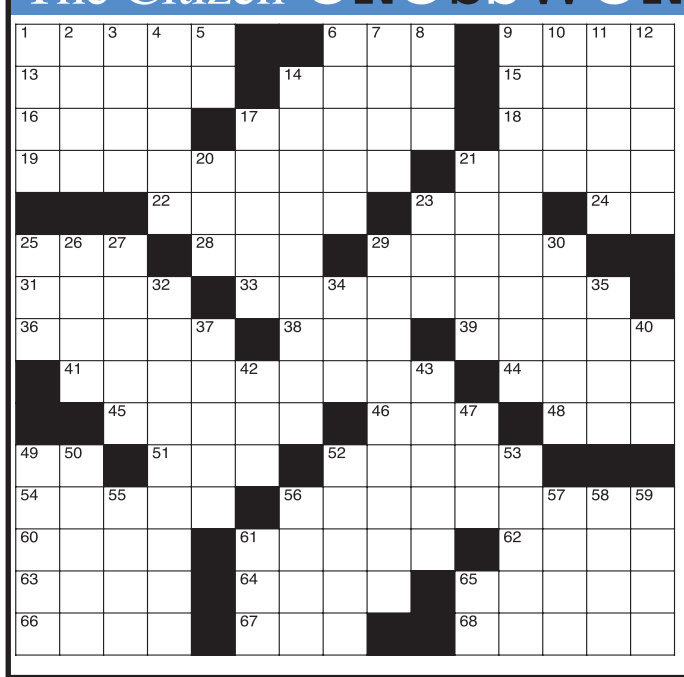
Jazz Matharu
Service Consultant

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

BRACKETT Auto Group
3 Dealerships, 1 Community

The Citizen CROSSWORD

Puzzle No. 26C110 • Solution on page: CLASSIFIEDS SECTION



CLUES ACROSS
1. Bleated
6. Snake-like fish
9. Database management system
13. Benny Goodman trumpeter
14. Foo Fighters frontman Grohl
15. Ancient Greek City
16. Negatives
17. Rescued
18. Self-immolation by fire ritual
19. Assigns tasks
21. Former Mavs principal owner Mark
22. Discounts
23. The whole quantity
24. NY Giants great
25. Indicates before
28. Split pulses
29. Extremely angry
31. Body part
33. American state
36. David __, US playwright
38. Head motion
39. Private rendezvous
41. Improved
44. Urban gym
45. Astronomical period
46. Automobile
48. Target
49. A radio band
51. Jaws of a voracious animal
52. Short-billed rails
54. Chinese province
56. Shameless
60. Horizontal passage
61. Indian titles of respect
62. Fail to entertain
63. Dried-up
64. Central Utah city
65. Southern U.S.
66. German river
67. Invisible substance around the Earth
68. Make law

CLUES DOWN
1. Curved segment
2. Wings
3. Volatile liquid
4. Makes less severe
5. Domain name
6. Overhang
7. Days right before an occasion
8. Light bulb type
9. Lacking enthusiasm
10. Tattle
11. Some is "heavy"
12. One recognized as holy
14. Indicate where and when
17. Peace (Arabic)
20. The voice of "Olaf" Josh
21. Fragmented rock
23. They __
25. Master's in nature of knowledge
26. Backside
27. "The Indiana Jones of beer"
29. Failure to conform to good taste
30. Words from which later words are derived
32. 10 meters
34. Neither
35. Little-used computer language
37. Law of God in Hebrew scriptures
40. A woolen cap of Scottish origin
42. Solemn promise
43. Challenges
47. British Air Aces
49. Major financial institution
50. Served as an omen
52. Cavalry-sword
53. Vaccine developer
55. Belgian Dominican friar
56. CBS news bigwig Weiss
57. Hip joint
58. Musician Clapton
59. Insect repellent
61. Constrictor snake
65. Delaware

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Math Blocks

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The numbers in each row add up to the totals on the right.
The numbers in each column add up to the totals on the bottom.

		15	27
	1		6
9		10	21
19	10	25	

How they say that in...

English: Paw
Spanish: Garra
Italian: Zampa
French: Patte
German: Pfote

Pet FACT:

These animals have traits and behaviors that make them both good predators and loving companions.

Answer: Cat

NEW WORD

TOM
a male cat that has not been neutered

CANADA MONTH HISTORY

1784
In response to Loyalist demands, the Crown creates New Brunswick out of Nova Scotia.

Did You KNOW?

Providing cats with spots to play and rest will help to keep them happy and less likely to scratch and damage furniture.

Get the PICTURE?



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

Answer: Cat's eye

Solution

10	2	9
0	1	5
15	7	5



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Butterfly Bereavement Project brings message of remembrance

Continued from A10

The display has resonated with visitors, with over 250 coming to see the display since it opened on Nov. 11.

Bethell Hospice's associate director of marketing and communications, Kelly Stronach, said the project began in 2022 with approximately 400 butterflies. Since then, it has grown considerably, with nearly 4,000 now included in the cumulative collection.

The butterfly was selected as a symbol of change, hope and transformation, while the translucent vellum material allows participants to express personal experiences through colour and words.

With the Shelburne Library already working alongside Bethell Hospice last year, a full partnership was soon to follow this year, as the library was already a vibrant community hub, well suited for a display like this one.

"The Shelburne library participated in hosting a grief workshop last year, where one of our grief counsellors from Bethell Hospice invited participants to share their grief stories as they personalized their butterflies," Stronach said. "A workshop was held again this year, as well as a pick-up and drop-off station which allowed more time for people to learn about the project and participate. Bethell Hospice is relatively new to the Shelburne region and the library is a wonderful hub for community engagement and was therefore chosen as part of the outreach."

"Participation in the project last year led to an inquiry of making the Shelburne Library an official partner to this project. CEO/head librarian, Shannon McGrady, eagerly welcomed the opportunity to share the project with the library team and the community that it serves."

Stronach said the project aims to give people a meaningful way to express their grief, regardless of artistic ability, while reminding participants and visitors they are not alone.

This year's installations can also be viewed at Headwaters Health Care Centre, Orangeville Public Library's Mill Street location and Caledon Town Hall.

Bethell Hospice provides grief and bereavement support to individuals and families throughout Dufferin County and Caledon. Community organizations interested in hosting workshops or establishing butterfly-making stations can contact the hospice throughout the year.





JANINE TAYLOR PHOTOS

HOLIDAY SHOPPING: Shoppers browse vendors' booths during the second annual HollyFest Christmas market at the OAS Events Centre in Orangeville on Nov. 21 and 22. The two-day event featured more than 130 vendors offering holiday gifts, seasonal goods and handmade creations.

Second annual Orangeville Hollyfest Christmas market sees incredible community support

Continued from FRONT

Orangeville Food Bank executive director Heather Hayes said the donations from HollyFest were particularly meaningful because they helped replenish the food bank's shelves and provided money to purchase essential items.

"When you're food-scarce and resource-scarce, and you come into the food bank, the first thing you do is look at those front shelves to see what's on them, and that's where you can see people relaxing. 'They think, 'okay, there's enough food for me. It's going to be okay,'" she said.

"What the community did to put food on our shelves and make financial donations so we can go out and buy the things that we need — they dropped so many people's shoulders."

For the Orangeville Food Bank, the holiday season is a time of increased usage from the public, which makes donations particularly important through the winter.

"We always know that our numbers will go up this time of the year because the utilities go up," Hayes said. "Now you're starting to pay for hydro and gas that you didn't have to pay for during the summer."

The two-day event featured a festive atmosphere, with Orangeville-based Dufferin DJs spinning an upbeat mix of Christmas music.

Santa and Mrs. Claus added to the market's holiday spirit, as they roamed the event, greeting shoppers and posing for photos.

The Orangeville Agricultural Society held a Breakfast with Santa event on Nov. 21, providing children with the opportunity to have a visit with Santa, alongside stations for colouring, storytelling, and writing letters to the North Pole.

"Whether you came to shop with our vendors and small businesses, enjoy the festivities, snap a photo with Santa or simply spend some time with family and friends, we are so grateful to everyone who joined us at HollyFest. The generosity of our community and the donations we received will make a meaningful difference for local families. That is what the spirit of the season is all about," said Taylor.

She said she looks forward to adding new experiences as HollyFest continues to grow over the coming years.

For Hayes, the donations collected at HollyFest represent more than food and money — they reflect a community willing to step up for its neighbours.

"In this community, we take care of each other. We pull together. We work together to ensure that people have the resources they need to thrive," she said.



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Westside's senior girls basketball team returns to CWOSSA

Written By **CHRIS PERROTTE**



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

DEFENDING CHAMPIONS: Members of the Westside Thunder senior girls basketball team receive their championship plaque after winning the District 4 Championship for the second consecutive year, defeating the Erin District High School Raiders 48-30 on Nov. 13 at Westside Secondary School.

On the home basketball court of the Westside Secondary School, the Westside Thunder successfully defended their 2025 District 4 Championship title by defeating the Erin District High School Raiders 48-30 on Friday, Nov. 13.

"Winning District 4 was one of our goals at the start of our season, so it feels great to accomplish that. We had a couple of close games throughout the regular season (including one with Erin DHS), so it was nice to see us play a great game in the final against Erin," said Rob Marchildon, head coach of Westside's senior girls basketball team.

"There are only eight girls on the team, and four of them are in Grade 12, so this was their last year playing. I have had the privilege of coaching them throughout their entire high school career, so it was amazing to close it out with a District 4 Championship."

To reach the finals against Erin District High School, Westside dominated the Norwell District Secondary School Varsity Reds 76-12 at their Westside Gymnasium on Nov. 11.

During the regular season, both Westside and Erin finished in first and second place, respectively. Westside finished with a perfect 8-0 record with 16 points. That puts them four points ahead of Erin, who finished with six wins and two losses, 12 points overall. Two of their losses came at the hands of Westside.

Their championship game versus Erin was a close match for the first three quarters until the Thunder pulled away in the fourth. Westside's biggest challenge was shutting down Erin's best player. According to coach Marchildon, he feels his team did a great job of not allowing her great looks at the basket.

This team can be called a dynasty. Not only were four of these Westside girls instrumental in winning the Senior Championship last year, but they also won the junior title the year before in 2024.

"It is a special group of girls who really play for each other. I will miss them all so much," said Marchildon.

Being crowned as D4 Senior Girls Basketball Champions again, the Thunder had the privilege of representing Westside at the Central Western Ontario Secondary Schools Association (CWOSSA) AA Girls Basketball Championship Tournament that was held on Nov. 20 and 21.

The tournament consisted of eight teams and was hosted by Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Secondary School in Guelph.

The Thunder won their first games of the tournament by narrowly defeating Holy Trinity Catholic High School from Simcoe, Ont., 40-33, before soundly beating the St. Mary's High School Mustangs from Owen Sound 50-15. Westside advanced to the semi-finals to face the North Park Collegiate and Vocational School.

"In the semis, we came out flat and had no energy to compete against a team who was clearly hungrier than we were. We had beaten them last year to reach the CWOSSA final (which we lost to Bishop MacDonnell out of Guelph). It was not the ending we hoped for, but overall a great season," said Marchildon.

Despite the results at the CWOSSA tournament, Marchildon was pleased that his team got the opportunity to represent their school.

"It is always great to represent the school at CWOSSA. It's a great feeling to know you are with the best schools from the CWOSSA region, which covers a very large geographical area. We never take CWOSSA for granted and cherish the opportunity to go," said Marchildon.

Looking back on the season, Marchildon reflects on the challenges his team faced and how well they worked together as a team. Because of issues with their gymnasium facilities, the Thunder had to play three out of four of their home games at the Orangeville District Secondary School gym. Their practices were limited to half a court, which made them challenging.

"To get through that and still win is a great feeling. I feel that our team really gelled in the championship game. The smiles on their faces at the end told you everything you needed to know," said Marchildon.

For Marchildon, these girls were a joy to coach throughout the year as they showed teamwork and determination on the road to back-to-back championships

Orangeville Otters win Owen Sound Aquatics Club Team Challenge

Written By **CHRIS PERROTTE**

The Owen Sound Aquatics Club (OSAC) hosted the OSAC Team Challenge at the Julie McArthur Regional Recreation Centre in Owen Sound from Nov. 20 to 22. The Orangeville Otters participated in the event and swam away victorious as champions of the challenge.

Sixty-four Otters swimmers participated in the three-day event that had seven clubs involved in the challenge. The clubs included the Breakers Swim Team, Cambridge Aquajets, Collingwood Clippers Swim Club, Hanover Swim Club, Orillia Channel Cats and the host Owen Sound Aquatic Club.

The challenge consisted of a six-session meet over the three days. Otters head coach Paige Miller was impressed by how her team stepped up to the competition.

"A Team Challenge format really comes down to depth and collective effort. Just a few top finishers don't win it; it's won by every single swimmer stepping up to contribute points across all six sessions," explained Miller. "Our success came down to the consistency our athletes have shown in training since the start of the short-course season, paired with their ability to execute race strategies, like sharp turns and strong finishes under pressure."

What impressed coach Miller the most about her squad throughout the Challenge was their resilience and team spirit.

"A three-day meet with early mornings and late finals is gruelling, especially by Sunday afternoon. Watching our older swimmers step up as leaders to cheer on our 12-and-under athletes, and seeing swimmers dig deep for best times in their seventh or eighth events of the weekend, showed what this club is all about," said Miller.

Continued on Page B5



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OPINION

The patches on our jeans

KEITH SCHELL
REMEMBERING WHEN



When we were growing up, our clothes could wear out pretty fast sometimes. We were active kids, always playing, always doing something, and always getting into things. Because of that, the knees of our jeans always seemed to have holes in them from playing on our hands and knees on the floor in the house or outside in the dirt with our toys.

While we weren't poor, money was generally tight in the early days. So being a practical person, our mother would put patches on our jeans where necessary to make them last as long as possible. Iron-on patches on the knees were a staple in our house back then for making our jeans last as long as they possibly could. Usually, the patch stayed put when Mom was finished ironing it, but sometimes, if the iron-on patch was too stiff, it wouldn't hold properly. Mom would put a few inconspicuous stitches in our jeans just to hold the patches in place on our pants when we played.

Since it wasn't that big a deal to our mother, she would sometimes send us off to school with a patch or two on our jeans when we were very young. She always made sure that the patches were on the inside of our jeans so as not to be too conspicuous, and it made our jeans last a lot longer. She grew up in a large family where money was a constant concern, and going off to school at times with a discreet patch or two on her clothes was just a normal part of growing up for their family.

Back then, most of the families around her were hard-working, active families like their own, and many of them had the same money issues. Most of the kids around her came to school at times with a patch or two on their clothes. That was just the way it was back then.

But when our father found out that our mother had sent us off to school in patched jeans, he was absolutely mortified! Our father was a man's man, and his provider's pride had been stung at the thought of what Mom had done. He didn't want the town to think that his family was so poor that he had to send his children off to school in patched jeans! So, it usually wasn't long after that the money was found to buy a new pair of jeans for us to go to school in, and our patched jeans then became our play jeans for around the house.

A few kids I went to school with back in the day actually came from dirt-poor families and always came to school with an occasional patch or two on their clothes, although we kids rarely noticed or made an issue of things like that, or at least I never did. Because many of us back then had the occasional patch on our own jeans at times, we tended to look with the innocence of children at the person wearing the clothes instead of at the patches, although some mean-spirited kids and their parents might have noticed these things and thought otherwise.

In our day, patches and holes and rips in jeans usually indicated working clothes or financial hardship on the part of some families. But nowadays, holes and rips and patches on young people's jeans are the current and trendy fashion, and incredibly, young people today actually pay good money to look like that, although God only knows why. What made you look disadvantaged back in our day makes you look cool today! Go figure.

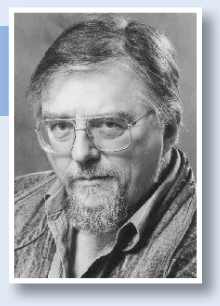
Patches on a set of clothes do not always lessen the worth of a person, although some people may tend to think that way. Some of the most prominent people in the world today grew up in poverty with patches on their clothes, and their humble and hardscrabble roots helped motivate and shape them into the hard-working and prosperous people they ultimately became in their adulthood.

So, wherever you can, if you can, please try to look at the quality of the person first and foremost and not always at the patches on their clothes.

And if you are able to do that one little thing, granting a hard-working or disadvantaged person the dignity they deserve, it can help make today's world a little better place.

Serbia and Hungary

GWYNNE DYER
OUR WORLD TODAY



Early this month the recently fired ex-dictator of Hungary, Viktor Orbán, went to Belgrade to commiserate with the even more recently unseated ex-dictator of Serbia, Aleksandar Vučić. (They accepted the verdict of free elections, so they are still free to move around.)

Being very modern men, they made a snappy little video to celebrate their reunion, and just at the end of it Vučićad-libbed a promise: "We'll come back." That's very unlikely in Orbán's case, but for Vučićit may actually come true.

The defeat of the two men, who are not technically 'dictators' because they do submit to the discipline of having to win elections or lose power, was part of a broader trend this year. From Donald Trump's massive losses in the US mid-term elections to Orbán's rejection after sixteen years in power in Budapest, populist authoritarian leaders faced humiliation or defeat.

The tide really did seem to be turning. 'Lula' da Silva beat apprentice autocrat Flávio Bolsonaro in the second round of Brazil's presidential election. National Rally leader Marie le Pen in France, Reform UK leader Nigel Farage in Britain, and hard-right leader André Ventura in Portugal all lost ground. Orbán and Vučić were sent packing.

The thing about tides, of course, is that they come in and go out again with monotonous regularity. Spain's long-serving left-wing president, Pedro Sánchez, will almost certainly lose the current election and be replaced by a conservative coalition that includes the far-right Vox Party. A turnover of political parties in power is inevitable and indeed desirable.

The nightmare that this year seemed to dispel was the fear that far-right populists may have discovered a set of techniques that will give them permanent power. Exploit the new media, 'flood the zone' with lies, bribe the voters with their own money, bread and circuses for all, and the corrupt, cynical people who have won power will stay in power forever.

That was never a very plausible fear, but those populist techniques did enable the autocrats to stay in power for a very long time: Orbán was in office for sixteen years, and Vučić for twelve.

Could the populism start spreading again? Of course, it could. For example, while Hungary seems to have been thoroughly immunised by its experience with Orbán, Serbia is still in play.

It has already backslidden once. After a decade of wars with Croatia, Bosnia and Kosovo as (elected) dictator Slobodan Milošević tried to build a Greater Serbia on the ruins of the former Yugoslav state amidst genocides, sanctions and economic collapse, a non-violent popular uprising drove him from power in 2000.

The Serbian revolution inspired several emulators elsewhere and Milošević faced charges of genocide and war crimes at an international tribunal in The Hague (he died in 2006). However, there was never a full purge of the state apparatus, and by gradual erosion the Serbian state had fallen back into the hands of ultra-nationalist populists by 2012.

That is the regime that was driven from power last month by student-led non-violent protests, and we should hope that this time the revolutionaries can hang on to their victory. They are certainly aware of the danger, which is why they insist on collective decision-making and shun charismatic 'leadership'. Yet their own history is against them.

Serbia is the most nationalist country I have ever spent time in. It is belligerent, chip-on-the-shoulder, everybody-hates-us-and-we-don't-care nationalism, and the great majority of the people you meet are affected by it to one degree or another. Many Serbs are aware that these attitudes play straight into the hands of the populists, but old habits are hard to break.

Almost all Serbians have a soft spot for Russia, because it often came to their rescue in the country's long struggle to break free from the Ottoman empire. Fewer than half are interested in joining the European Union. Almost nobody accepts that Kosovo, an Albanian-majority fragment of former Yugoslavia, is an independent country and not part of Serbia.

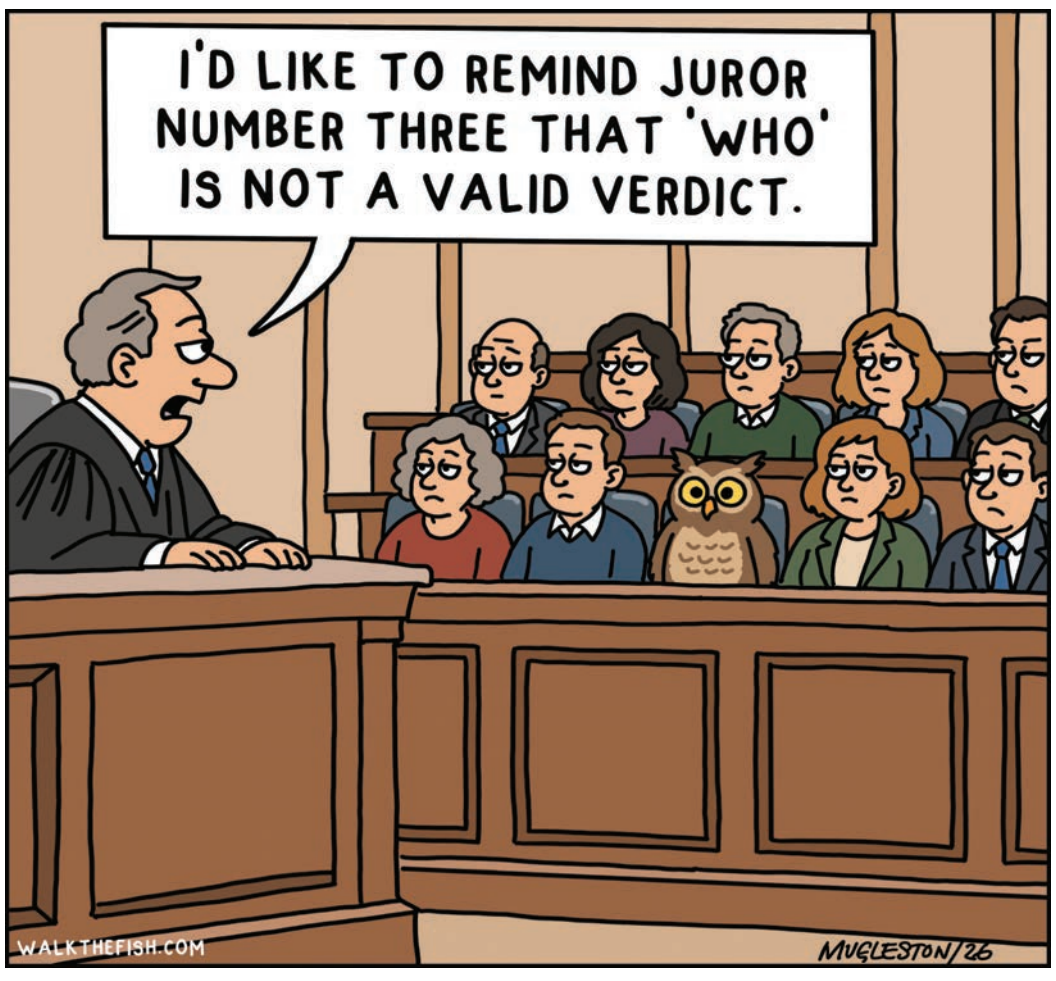
For that matter, almost no one in Serbia admits that their country was responsible for state-sponsored massacres in Croatia, Bosnia and Kosovo that far exceeded the scale of other ethnic killing in the accursed decade of the 1990s. All this makes it very hard for Serbia to take its rightful place as just another Balkan country with a troubled history.

This does not mean that Serbia is doomed to slide back into tyranny again, or even that it must change its attitudes to fit in with the rest of Europe. Every country carries a lot of history around with it, and many (maybe most) prosper without ever coming to terms with it.

Just don't take the success or failure of democracy in Serbia as a harbinger for anybody else's future.

How winter weather can affect your septic system and what homeowners can do

A septic system does not stop working when winter arrives, but conditions around it can change considerably. Two of the more easily overlooked concerns are compacted snow and the way freezing weather changes surface drainage. Both can affect a leaching bed without anything being wrong inside the septic tank.



An undisturbed layer of snow provides insulation. Repeated snowmobile traffic, driving or walking the same path over a bed can pack that snow down, reducing its insulating value and allowing frost to penetrate deeper. Vehicles and equipment can also compact the underlying soil or damage system components. The best approach is to leave the area over the bed undisturbed through the winter.

Snow clearing introduces another consideration. A leaching bed should not become a place to push or store snow from driveways and parking areas. Large piles can add weight to the area, and when they melt, they introduce water the bed does not need. If a contractor clears snow near your system, make sure they know where the bed is. Markers may be helpful where a driveway or clearing area is close to it, but they are not necessary on every property.

The less obvious problem is what happens to drainage. In warmer months, shallow swales, ditches and the natural grade of a property carry surface water away. In winter, those routes can become blocked by frozen ground, ice buildup or banks of plowed snow. During a thaw, water that would normally drain away can back up and collect in areas that are usually dry.

That matters around a septic bed. The soil needs to accept and treat wastewater from the system. If melting snow or runoff is directed onto the bed, the extra water can saturate the soil and interfere with how well the system performs. A property that drains properly in October may behave quite differently during a February thaw or the spring melt. Pay attention to where water is pooling, and keep existing drainage routes and outlets clear where practical without driving equipment over the bed or changing the grades.

Winter also makes routine septic servicing less convenient. We pump tanks year-round, but snow cover, frozen soil and buried lids can make access more difficult. If the tank is due for pumping, arranging the work before conditions deteriorate can save time and effort. Many households use a three-to-five-year pumping interval as a starting point, adjusted for tank size and use. There is no need to pump a tank simply because winter is approaching.

Inside the house, fixing a running toilet or other leak helps avoid sending unnecessary water to the system. And if you notice persistent alarms, sewage backing up or unusually wet ground around the bed, have the problem investigated rather than assuming a pump-out will solve it.

The most useful winter preparation is to protect the snow cover over the bed and understand where surface water will go when the ground freezes and thaws. Those two conditions are easy to overlook and can make a real difference to how a septic system performs through the winter and into spring.

This article was submitted by Nick Acchione, general manager of Allto Construction in Orangeville. The company designs, installs, maintains and pumps septic systems as well as handles excavation, site servicing and civil construction.

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COMMUNITY VOICES

Thirty-seven years later: Their memories live on and our responsibility continues

On Dec. 6, 1989, 14 women were murdered at l'École Polytechnique de Montréal simply because they were women. A gunman entered the university, separated male and female students in a mechanical engineering classroom, declared that he was fighting feminism and opened fire. In approximately 20 minutes, 14 young women lost their lives, and another 14 people were injured (10 women and 4 men).

The Montréal Massacre changed Canada. It exposed the devastating consequences of misogyny and gender-based violence (GBV), prompting national conversations about women's safety, gun control and the urgent need to address violence against women.

In 1991, the Government of Canada established Dec. 6 as the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women. It is a day to remember the 14 women whose lives were taken, honour all those who have experienced GBV and recognize that creating meaningful change begins with each of us.

As we approach the 37th anniversary of the Montréal Massacre, we are reminded of the progress that has been made, while also recognizing how much work remains to ensure that violence against women is not just acknowledged, but challenged and ultimately prevented.

While our awareness and understanding of GBV has evolved, violence against women and gender-diverse individuals continues to affect people across Ontario and throughout Canada. Behind every statistic is a person, a family and a community that is forever changed.

At Family Transition Place (FTP), we know these stories are not distant or unfamiliar. They are happening in our own communities. Sadly, Dufferin and Caledon are not immune. GBV does not discriminate based on age, income, education, culture or postal code. It can happen behind closed doors, in workplaces, in relationships and in places where people should feel safe.

Each year, FTP joins communities across Ontario in recognizing Dec. 6 and remembering those whose lives have been lost to GBV. We also honour the individuals included on the Ontario Association of Interval and Transition Houses' (OAITH) Annual Femicide List.

OAITH defines femicide as the gender-based killing of a woman, child, trans woman, Two-Spirit person or gender-nonconforming individual where a man has been charged in connection with the death in Ontario. Importantly, this list represents only those deaths that meet its criteria. It cannot capture every life lost to GBV, particularly when charges have not yet been laid.

Femicide represents just one part of a much broader and deeply rooted issue of GBV that continues to impact individuals, families and communities.

For every life lost, there are countless individuals experiencing abuse, intimidation, coercive control, harassment and other forms of violence. Some are living in fear in their own homes. Others are navigating unsafe workplaces or relationships, and the sad truth of the matter is that many never disclose what is happening to them.

Ending GBV is everyone's responsibility

It requires us to look beyond the statistics and consider the attitudes, behaviours and systems that allow violence to continue. It means challenging sexist comments and harmful stereotypes, recognizing the warning signs of unhealthy relationships, believing survivors when they speak out, and creating environments where people feel safe asking for help.

It also means recognizing that preventing violence requires more than supporting those directly affected. Families, friends, employers, educators, community organizations and all levels of government have a role to play.

As a community, we have opportunities every day to make a difference. Whether it's talking with young people about respect and healthy relationships, speaking up when we witness harmful behaviour, ensuring employees understand workplace violence policies, or supporting organizations that provide safety, shelter, counselling and education—every action contributes to creating a safer and more supportive community.

These actions may seem small individually, but together they help create a culture where violence is not normalized, excused or ignored.

This December, FTP invites the community to join us in remembering the 14 women murdered in Montréal in 1989 and all those whose lives have been taken by GBV.

Join us for our annual candlelight vigil

The candlelight vigil takes place Thursday, Dec. 3, from 5 to 5:30 p.m. at FTP (20 Bredin Parkway, Orangeville).

This outdoor gathering will provide an opportunity for our community to come together in remembrance, reflection and solidarity. We encourage everyone to attend and stand with us in our commitment to ending GBV.

Since it's an outdoor event, please dress accordingly.

This week's Community Voice column was provided by FTP, which is available to provide healthy relationship education and presentations to workplaces and community groups. To learn more about educational opportunities or ways to become involved, contact Brennan Solecky, Director of Development & Community Engagement, at 519-942-9142 ext. 240, or brennan@familytransitionplace.ca.

Find a little comfort and joy at the Orangeville Public Library this holiday season

There is something magical about Orangeville at this time of year. Downtown has been bustling and alive with the Christmas market, tree lighting, and Santa Claus Parade. These events bring joy to thousands, reminding us of how special it is to come together as a community.

And while the holiday season brings much to celebrate, it can also be one of the busiest times of the year. Between shopping, entertaining, family commitments and seemingly endless to-do lists, it can be easy to forget to slow down and enjoy the season itself.

Your public library might be just the place to do that.

Whether you're looking for a festive romance, a classic holiday film or a good mystery to read under a blanket on a snowy afternoon, we have plenty to help you embrace the season.

If you're hosting friends and family, looking for decorating inspiration or hoping to try a new holiday recipe, our digital magazine collection offers a wealth of ideas. With your library card, you can browse magazines from the comfort of your home, without the expense of individual subscriptions. And the digital library is open 24/7 online.

For families, an in-person visit to the library can become a holiday tradition of its own. Let your children pick out books to read together, discover something new or simply spend time together away from the distractions of everyday life.

The library can also help bridge the generations gathered around your table. Borrow a cookbook and make a recipe with someone who remembers preparing it years ago. Find a favourite childhood story to share with your grandchildren or ask a teen what they're reading. See how these conversations bring you together.

Of course, you don't need a particular reason to visit the library. You can find a comfortable chair, read a newspaper, get lost in a book or enjoy a quiet moment to yourself.

At a time of year when so much revolves around spending, the public library offers something increasingly rare: a welcoming space where there is no expectation to buy anything.

The holidays can also look very different for each of us. For some, they are filled with gatherings and celebrations; for others, they can be a quieter or even difficult time. Whatever the season looks like for you, there is a place for you at your library.

As the days grow shorter and the snow begins to fall, I hope you'll make a little time for the simple pleasures of the season. And perhaps, somewhere between the shopping, wrapping, and celebrating, you'll find yourself at the library.

We'd love to see you.

This bi-weekly column is submitted by the team at the Orangeville Public Library.

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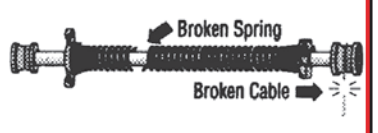

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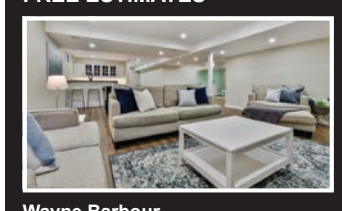

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Orangeville Otters win Owen Sound Aquatics Club Team Challenge

Continued from the SPORTS

One of those older swimmers was 17-year-old Henry Mountjoy, who participated in both individual and team relays. He was happy that his performance was able to help the team gain points in order to win.

"I would say that my individual performance was good. I got many best times throughout the weekend in most of my events, and I'm happy with how I contributed points towards the team. Being part of the championship victory made it even better because it showed how everyone's individual efforts came together to get the win," said Mountjoy.

One of the events Mountjoy participated in was the 100m backstroke. His placement in the race was good enough for him to qualify for the Ontario Age Group Championships.

A provincial meet that will take place from March 4 to March 7 next year. This accomplishment was his proudest moment of the weekend.

"It felt amazing after all the hard work in practice paid off, and then seeing all my teammates at the end of the lane cheering me on really made it something special," said Mountjoy, who is a first-time qualifier for the provincial event.

Here is a list of some of the Otters who competed in the weekend events and broke club records:

Individual:

- Aiden Arbeau: 800m Free Age 15-17 & Open and 200m Free Lap Age 15-17 & Open
- Kaiden Norris: 200m Free Lap Age 13-14
- Jemma Harrison: 400m Individual Medley Age 11-12, 100m Fly Age 11-12 and 50m Fly Age 11-12
- Qyona Egbert: 200m Free Lap Age 11-12 and 50m Breast Age 11-12
- Gracie Chapman: 200m Breast 10 and under
- Joseph Reinhart: Age 13-14 50m Breast and Age 13-14 50m Breast Lap

Relays:

Girls 11-12 - 4x200m Free: Jemma Harrison, Ava Yardley, Ella Finan, Qyona Egbert

Girls 15-17 - 4x200m Free: Anika Bennett, Gabriella Reinhart, Grace Milone, Dia Manota

Girls 10 and under - 4x50m Free: Gracie Chapman, Nora Bennett, Hannah Herzog, Natalie Reinhart

Boys 15-17 & Open - 4x200m: Wesley Halls, Henry Mountjoy, Kaiden Norris, Aiden Arbeau

For the Fly events (50m, 100m, 200m and medley relays), money prizes were also awarded to the winners.

Each event winner was awarded $25 or $75.

The winners are as follows:

Girls:

- Jemma Harrison: Age 11-12 winner, 50m and 100m fly ($50)
- Julia Noronha: Age 13 winner, 50m and 200m fly ($50)
- Gabriella Reinhart: Age 15 winner, 50m, 100m, 200m ($75)
- Anika Bennett: Age 16 and over winner, 50m, 100m, 200m ($75)

Boys:

- Kaiden Norris: 14-year-old winner, 50m, 100m, 200m ($75)
- Wesley Halls: 16 and over winner, 200m ($25)

Relays:

In this event, a $100 split was given between all swimmers

- Mixed 4x50 Medley Age 13-14: Imogen Pipher-Swyer, Joseph Reinhart, Kaiden Norris, Julia Noronha
- Mixed 4x50 Medley Age 15 and over: Anika Bennett, Gabriella Reinhart, Wesley Halls, Aiden Arbeau

Through the Otters' efforts, they won the OSAC Team Challenge with a total of 4,696 points.

Their dominant performance was 848 points better than the second-place Collingwood Clippers, who scored 3,848 points.

This accomplishment means a lot to the club in terms of building confidence and momentum for the swimmers as the season continues.

"Winning the OSAC Team Challenge is a huge validation of the hard work our swimmers, coaching staff, and supportive families have put in over the past few months. For a club like ours, bringing home a championship banner reinforces the culture we're building. One where athletes push each other to be better while genuinely celebrating each other's successes," said Miller.

"Heading into the heart of the winter season, this gives our swimmers tangible proof that their preparation is paying off. Knowing they can go head-to-head with strong regional clubs and come out on top builds a different level of belief," she added.

"We're going to carry that confidence and energy straight back into practice as we work toward qualifying times and bigger championship meets later this season."

Next for the Orangeville Otters is the Rising Waves Challenge, hosted by the Otters on Saturday, Nov. 28. On Dec. 5, the older Otters will participate in the Guelph Marlin Aquatic Club GMAC Dash and Cash Event.

The Otters' own Austin Nelissen will be participating in the 2026 Ken Demchuk Para Swimming International Invitational that will take place in Laval, Que., from Nov. 27 to 29 at the Complexe aquatique de Laval.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

FIRST PLACE FINISH: Members of the Orangeville Otters celebrate and hoist the Team Challenge Trophy after winning the Owen Sound Aquatics Club Team Challenge with 4,696 points, finishing 848 points ahead of the second-place Collingwood Clippers. The three-day meet was held Nov. 20 to 22 in Owen Sound.

OBITUARIES
FOREVER IN OUR *Hearts*

DAVID ROBIN LOVELL



October 06, 1961 - November 10, 2026

Leaving a remarkable legacy, David Robin Lovell passed away on November 10, 2026 at the age of 65, following a valiant battle to recover from a major stroke 15 months earlier.

Dave lived his life with an energy and intention that left all awestruck. In his youth, he was an exceptional student, athlete, musician, and student council leader at Orangeville District Secondary School. When registering for engineering at University of Waterloo, he persuaded administration, despite the rules, to allow the addition of a music course on top of their gruelling co-op program. He built a career in engineering, research, high tech start-ups, consulting, and global project management in Ottawa, Vancouver, Kyoto (Japan), and Toronto. Dave married Andrea Fanjoy in 1990 and built a family life with their two sons that was full of time together, coaching and serving as a director in minor hockey, travelling, concert going, annually attending the Toronto IndyCar race, and consistently gathering with extended family. From his childhood to age 61, Dave was goalie for countless hockey teams. In the early 2000s he took up rowing at the Argonaut Rowing Club, where he remained a highly engaged member and volunteer for the rest of his active life. Cycling was also a regular part of his fitness regimen. He made time throughout his career and retirement to pursue a personal passion for writing both fiction and non-fiction, leading to multiple published books and short stories. Throughout his busy years of work and fatherhood, Dave continued to grow as a musician. Having started with piano and then drums in his childhood and youth, he turned to classical guitar then bass guitar in his adult years, performing with two jazz bands in his retirement.

In addition to big pursuits, Dave stood out in many small acts of consideration. He first caught Andrea's eye when he gathered and washed all the coffee mugs after a meeting where they met as volunteers. He cooked most meals in the early years and all once he retired, always from scratch. For years, he phoned his Mum every day at 2:00 p.m. He also organized father and son hockey tournaments for our close-knit neighbourhood.

Dave will live on in the hearts and minds of many. He will be deeply missed by his wife Andrea, sons Marcel (Jensen) and Ryan (Emily), grandson Greyson, his mother Jeanne, brother Mike (Kim Couse), brothers-in-law Bruce Fanjoy (Donna Nicholson) and Steve Fanjoy (Dawn), and nieces and nephews Morgan, Ben, Adrienne, Sarah, and Laura. Dave was predeceased by his father Robin Lovell and parents-in-law Nan and Emery Fanjoy. Dave will also be fondly remembered by the many friends he made throughout a life fully lived, including his rowing mates from the Argonaut Rowing Club, his band mates, members of his writing groups, neighbours, and those met over many decades who remained a special part of his life.

The family is grateful to the many healthcare professionals who supported Dave after his stroke. Eight hospitals in Alberta and Ontario plus palliative care support from Dorothy Ley Hospice, with countless doctors, nurses, PSWs, physiotherapists, speech therapists, and occupational therapists, all made it possible for Dave to find comfort and happy moments. Special gratitude is extended to GP Dr. Itamar Tamari for his dedication to Dave and our family for over 20 years. We are also deeply grateful to the many friends and extended family who enriched Dave's life over the past year and lovingly helped us make the most of a heartbreaking time.

In lieu of flowers, anyone wishing to make a difference in honour of Dave is invited to contribute to their charity of choice. Messages of condolence and memories of Dave can be shared at www.cardinalfuneralhomes.com

A celebration of Dave's life will be held the afternoon of February 6th at the Argonaut Rowing Club. Further details will be posted in the new year at the website above.

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Freelance Reporter Wanted

Orangeville Citizen / Shelburne Free Press
Location: Dufferin County, Ontario
Application Deadline: December 11, 2026

Description
The Orangeville Citizen is seeking a freelance reporter to cover assignments throughout Dufferin County, with a primary focus on Orangeville and Shelburne.

The role involves covering community events, public announcements, cheque presentations, photo opportunities and other noteworthy local happenings. Assignments may also include interviews, community features and general news coverage.

The successful candidate will receive weekly assignments and be compensated for each article and/or photo published in the Orangeville Citizen and/or Shelburne Free Press.

Availability on evenings and weekends is required, depending on event coverage needs.

To apply, please email your resume and writing samples to sam@citizen.on.ca by December 11, 2026.

Qualifications
- Experience writing publication-ready news stories in CP style
- Strong understanding of journalistic ethics/reporting standards
- Diploma or degree in journalism, or equivalent experience

Requirements
- Valid driver's licence and reliable vehicle
- Strong interviewing and communication skills
- Ability to work independently and meet deadlines
- Residence in Dufferin County or Caledon

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Big Brothers Big Sisters OF DUFFERIN AND DISTRICT

CASEWORKER
(Full-Time 35 hours per week)

We are currently seeking a full-time Caseworker to join our agency. Ideal candidates should be passionate about serving youth, families and volunteers.

For a complete job description please visit:
www.bigbrothersbigsisters.ca/dufferin

Please submit résumé by December 20th 2026 to
nancy.stallmach@bigbrothersbigsisters.ca

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR: Thank you!

As pensioners, my husband and I are often dismayed at how people treat us – if they acknowledge us at all.

But on Thursday, Nov. 19, around the 300 block of Hanson Blvd. my reactive dog, on seeing another dog, tripped me, sending me head first into the tarmac. I was knocked senseless. My spectacles were smashed. When I tried to rise from the road, blood streamed down my face, into my right eye, onto my jacket, and then dripped on the ground. I was shocked and scared.

Imagine how I felt when about 20 people ran from their homes to help me. A young girl offered to take care of my dog; a woman brought me water; a young lad found a wet cloth to wipe the blood from my face, and when I couldn't do it, he did it for me with such carefulness and concern that I was lost for words.

The woman who gave me water also called 911 for an ambulance as did others; people called my husband. When my husband arrived, the young lads asked him how they could help and offered to carry me home!

Because of everyone's contribution I was tended to at the hospital, got stitches, a tetanus shot, slept for a couple of days and the bruises and pains are now subsiding.

The concern and kindness each of these people showed me was not just reassuring to my husband and I at the time, it changed our opinion of the world we live in.

I would love to thank each of those people who helped me, but don't know who they are.

However, just think of this: these wonderful people live somewhere on Hanson Blvd. in Orangeville. That must make Orangeville one of the greatest towns in the country, and Hanson Blvd. the greatest street.

Dorothy Pedersen
Orangeville

Response to Rob Strang's Oct. 22 letter

Sir:

Rob Strang's Oct. 22 Letter to the Editor is correct: Orangeville should grow in quality, not in quantity.

I've seen Orangeville try to expand its borders three times. In the first case, the town asked East Garafraxa for land to be used for "industry." My township acquiesced, donating the land between C Line and B Line, provided that Orangeville maintained B Line.

Orangeville rezoned the land and planted residences upon it. In 1997, it asked for more land by commissioning a "study" that confirmed Orangeville needed more land to double its size. Studies bought and paid for usually arrive at the funding town's conclusions, but the plan was defeated in the Dufferin County council. A third attempt met the same fate.

More recently, Highway 109 was extended around Orangeville so east-west traffic need not pass through the town. The bypass was a highway only briefly because growth was allowed on both sides. A large shopping centre now sits on one side and an elder-care home on the other, so a traffic light was installed. Now many stores have been built, and traffic has increased, so six more lights were added to the "bypass." It is no longer attracting smaller vehicles as large trucks stop at and crawl away from the lights.

I donated a U.S. army engineers' design handbook for city and town to the county; apparently no one has read it yet. I remind the council that Dufferin County is largely agricultural and my township in particular is, by design and plan, mostly farmed — because we residents like them that way.

Ontario Premier Ford has largely usurped municipal authority to dictate where houses, ALTO and battery plants can be built. He has undertaken to replace school boards with single administrators, and may try to seize more direct power. But municipalities know their lands far better than the province (which once tried to zone a wetland as an "aggregate resource."

Local voters must be made aware of provincial plans like ALTO so they can express their approval or concern, both in and between elections. I hope the Citizen will continue to do its good work.

Charles Hooker
East Garafraxa

Budget 2026 is a failure

A recent trip to the grocery store the other morning initiated an all too familiar conversation. Upon checking out, the cashier working there said to me, "It adds up fast, doesn't it." This led to a conversation about how expensive groceries are. Another cashier said, "what about car insurance and gas." We talked for a few minutes about how hard life is these days. And life is really hard for so many people.

It wasn't always like this. I did not have these conversations almost every day a decade ago.

I know there is no silver bullet to fix the high cost of everything overnight, but Mark Carney was supposed to be the guy who would make life better and more affordable.

It's been 18 months and nothing is better. In fact, things are worse. For example, according to Food Banks Canada, food bank use has more than doubled since 2019 and in March 2026, there were 2.35 million visits to food banks in Canada, the highest number on record.

What's really sad to me is Budget 2026 will do nothing to fix any of this. It will only make everything more expensive by adding an estimated record-smashing $765 billion of debt over the next five years, $44,000 for every household in Canada. The fastest-growing item in the budget is debt interest. A family of four pays almost $6,000 in federal government debt interest costs this year alone!

Budget 2026 is a failure by Mark Carney. He would benefit from spending some time talking to people at the grocery store.

For my more detailed review of Budget 2026, please visit kyleseeback.ca/budget2026

Kyle Seeback
Dufferin–Caledon MP





AUCTIONS





PROPERTY WANTED

CASH BUYER SEEKS ACREAGE with river or lake frontage and forested area with or without houses or buildings, close to small town. Call 905-868-6921.

WANTING TO LEASE

SCHILL LAND AND LIVESTOCK looking for farmland for lease for 2027 and beyond. Dustin Schill 519-323-8143.

VEHICLES WANTED

SCRAP CAR DISPOSAL – CASH PAID for Cars, Trucks, Vans, Farm Equipment – Big or Small. Will pick up loose metal as well. 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).

ARTICLES WANTED

BUYING VINYL RECORDS - STEREO – 45's. Cash for antiques and collectibles-stamp-coins. Call James at 416-569-9976.

WORK WANTED

INSTALL ALL TYPES of TILES and LAMINATE!! Mono resident with over 30 years of experience. Call Bob at 416-407-7828.

FIREWOOD

SEASONED HARDWOOD – mostly maple, 15"-16" long. 1 2/3 bush cord delivered - $775. Call Ian at 705-444-4475.

RESIDENTIAL SERVICES & REPAIRS

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 seasonal lawn maintenance also available. All jobs welcome. $25/hr. Call 519-447-7550.

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.

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

PLEASE RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER!

SERVICES

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.aanorthhaltonerin.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.

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.

ORANGEVILLE SENIOR SOCIAL CLUB - A place to meet and make new friends. We meet Thursdays at 5:30 pm. and twice a month at 1:30 pm. Many activities. For more information call Betty at: 519-942-3090.







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