

Merry Christmas!

from

Kyle Seeback, M.P. Dufferin-Caledon



❄️ Christmas is here ❄️ Dufferin-Caledon!

It's the best time of the year —
the lights are up, the music's playing, and
our community's alive with Christmas spirit.

This season, let's support our local charities and
shop local to keep our small businesses strong.

Wishing you and your family a Merry Christmas
and a happy, healthy New Year.

Sincerely,
Kyle Seeback, M.P.
Dufferin-Caledon



Kyle Seeback, M.P. Dufferin-Caledon
Constituency Office
180 Broadway, 3rd Floor, Unit B
Orangeville, ON L9W 1K3
Phone: 519-941-1832
Toll Free: 1-866-941-1832
Website: www.kyleseeback.ca
E-mail: kyle.seeback@parl.gc.ca



Christmas in the Park



Don't forget to visit Christmas in the Park with your loved ones during the holidays. The **Orangeville Optimist Club** has been bringing this free, annual event to our community for 33 years. It's full of incredible light displays, illuminated characters, and great music. It's something the whole family can enjoy together, running now until December 31st. For more details, please see below:



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HOLIDAY EVENT



JOSHUA DRAKES PHOTO

SUPPORTING LOCAL LITERATURE: Members of the IODE Lord Dufferin Chapter Judy Yack, Liz Smith and Petra Thomas hand over an \$800 cheque to Orangeville Public Library CEO Laura Warner and librarian Kim Carson on Dec. 11. The funds will go towards purchasing VOX audiobooks to promote literature among children. See a full story on Page A3.

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Orangeville mayor picks up the mantle of county warden

Written By JOSHUA DRAKES
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Orangeville Mayor Lisa Post is Dufferin County's new warden.

County councillors elected Post to be the 149th warden on Dec. 12, replacing Mulmur Mayor Janet Horner in the role.

Post said it was an honour to be chosen warden for the final year before council's term ends and provincewide municipal elections are held Oct. 26. Her role is one of service, advocacy for the county and its member municipalities, and collaboration. "The county is at a pivotal moment," Post said.

It is growing and evolving. Dufferin County faces many of the same pressures and challenges as communities across the province, particularly around housing, homelessness, affordability, and infrastructure deficits, she said.

Post acknowledged that a one-year term at the helm is a relatively short time when there are such difficult challenges.

She would like to see the successful launch of the county's Health and Human Services Hub, inclusive of the Homeless and Addiction Recovery Treatment Hub and the

Youth Wellness Hubs of Ontario platforms.

Post said she is eager to watch the implementation of some recommendations from the Homelessness Task Force and, of course, a successful budget process set to begin in January.

"We are facing huge budget pressures and we need to address our challenges while being fiscally responsible," Post said and thanked Horner for her stewardship over the last year.

Post will pick up the mantle of advocacy through partnership to explore all possibilities toward addressing the issues the county and its communities face.

And the Orangeville mayor said she has a track record that points to the effectiveness and importance of parties working together.

She has spent much time over the last few years building relationships beyond the county with partners in the provincial government, the Western Ontario Wardens Caucus, and the Small Urban GTHA Mayors Caucus.

"I have been using those connections to elevate the needs of our residents and I intend to do the same at the county level," she said.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

NEW LEAD: Orangeville Mayor Lisa Post stands with her fellow Dufferin County councillors after being named the 149th Warden of Dufferin County at a meeting on Dec. 11. She replaces Mulmur Mayor Janet Horner who held the position over the last year.

Benjamin Moore

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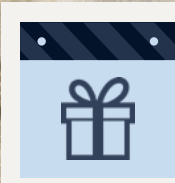
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Former Mono mayor and Dufferin County warden passes away

Written By JAMES MATTHEWS
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Mono and Dufferin County lost a stalwart contributor to the community.

Former Mono Mayor Laura Ryan, though she'd last been on council a number of terms ago, remained a friend to the town's decision-makers, said current Mayor John Creelman.

She died in early December in Prince Edward Island, where she relocated following her retirement.

Flags at Mono Town Hall and Dufferin County's administrative offices at Zina Street flew at half-staff in her memory.

"It came as a great shock to me and probably to all of us," Creelman said.

She was a great public servant in her own right during her years on council, Creelman said.

Ryan served her Mono community from 2010 to 2021 when she resigned as mayor. In that time, she represented the municipality at the upper tier and as the county's

warden twice.

She served on the county's community services committee four times.

Creelman said at the start of town council's Dec. 9 meeting that Ryan also held a seat as a school board trustee for nine years.

She served on the county's economic development committee and as Dufferin's representative on the Hills of Headwaters Tourism Board, as well.

She participated in efforts to raise funds for the Friends of Island Lake to build a boardwalk connecting the south and north sides of Island Lake.

Ryan was an Amaranth Lions Club member, and she was a significant force in the formation of the Dufferin Community Foundation.

"We were deeply saddened to hear of the passing of Laura Ryan, one of our founding directors," the foundation posted on its social media pages. "She was a strong advocate for our community."

The post continued, "Laura was a bright light, a community leader and a special

friend to all who knew her.

Deputy Mayor Fred Nix said many people loved Ryan.

Councillor Ralph Manktelow served on council when Ryan was mayor. Her going-away party was hosted at his farm, in fact.

"I thought she handled the mayoral duties very well," Manktelow said. "She was a pleasant person to work with. She was deeply embedded in this community and was a powerhouse here."

Mike Dunmore, the town's CAO, said Ryan was on council when he started with the municipal staff.

"Staff knows of her professionalism when she came to the office and she will be missed by all staff, that's for sure," Dunmore said.

Coun. Elaine Capes said Ryan was a very good neighbour and friend.

"She was missed when she moved down east, and now she will be missed even more and I'm grateful to have known her and learned a lot from her," Capes said.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

LOSS OF LOCAL LEADER: The former mayor of Mono and warden of Dufferin County, Laura Ryan, recently passed away. Flags at Mono Town Hall and Dufferin County's administrative offices at Zina Street flew at half-staff in her memory.

Lord Dufferin IODE donates funds for audiobooks to Orangeville Public Library

Written By JOSHUA DRAKES
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The ceremonial cheque handover was done on Thursday, Dec. 11, at the Orangeville Public Library's Mill Street Branch.

Continuing its mission to support the community, the IODE Lord Dufferin Chapter, based out of Orangeville, presented an \$800 cheque to the Orangeville Public Library. This is an annual donation that the IODE makes to the library. Judy Yack, education officer for Lord Dufferin IODE, said that it has been a long-running tradition.

"IODE Lord Dufferin Chapter has made donations to the Orangeville Public Library for many years now," she said.

The funds donated to the library will go towards helping the library with a specific focus: audiobooks, according to Yack.

"The funds donated to the Orangeville Public Library will help to purchase English/French version VOX books for our youth," she said. "A VOX book is an audiobook that transforms an ordinary print book into an all-in-one read-along. No need for computers, tables, or CDs, a child simply pushes a button to listen and read."

This program fits right into the IODE's goal of supporting youth, education, and community services. The IODE is no stranger to fundraising for local initiatives, as it has for the annual library donation.

The IODE Lord Dufferin has a long and storied history of supporting the community. Founded in 1907, the IODE Lord Dufferin is a venerable women-led charity organization, having been founded just seven years after the IODE itself was formed on a national level.

The chapter has remained committed to improving living conditions for everyone

in the area, and even was responsible for some pioneering projects in Orangeville.

"IODE Lord Dufferin is a women's charitable organization dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for individuals through education support, community service, and citizenship programs," Yack said. "IODE Lord Dufferin originated the (first) Orangeville hospital, which was located on First Street, which is now the home of Lord Dufferin Retirement Lodge."

This donation to the Orangeville Public Library is just the latest in a very long history of community support for the IODE Lord Dufferin.

Town Page

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GET CONNECTED!
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The Town of Orangeville will observe modified hours for Christmas

Town Hall and offices

Wed., Dec. 24	8:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Thurs., Dec. 25	Closed
Fri., Dec. 26	Closed
Sat., Dec. 27	Closed
Sun., Dec. 28	Closed
Mon., Dec. 29	Closed
Tues., Dec. 30	Closed
Wed., Dec. 31	Closed
Thurs., Jan. 1	Closed
Fri., Jan. 2	8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Recreation centres (Alder and Tony Rose)

Wed., Dec. 24	Alder Tony Rose	7 a.m. - 1 p.m. Closed
Thurs., Dec. 25		Closed
Fri., Dec. 26		Closed
Sat., Dec. 27	Alder Tony Rose	7 a.m. - 6 p.m. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sun., Dec. 28	Alder Tony Rose	7 a.m. - 6 p.m. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Mon., Dec. 29	Alder Tony Rose	7 a.m. - 10 p.m. 7 a.m. - 10 p.m.
Tues., Dec. 30	Alder Tony Rose	7 a.m. - 10 p.m. 7 a.m. - 10 p.m.
Wed., Dec. 31	Alder Tony Rose	7 a.m. - 6 p.m. Closed
Thurs., Jan. 1		Closed
Fri., Jan. 2	Alder Tony Rose	7 a.m. - 10 p.m. 7 a.m. - 10 p.m.

* Recreation Customer Service hours may vary from the facility hours.

Transit

Wed., Dec. 24	6:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.
Thurs., Dec. 25	No service
Fri., Dec. 26	No service
Sat., Dec. 27	7:15 a.m. - 7:15 p.m.
Sun., Dec. 28	No service
Mon., Dec. 29	6:30 a.m. - 8:45 p.m.
Tues., Dec. 30	6:30 a.m. - 8:45 p.m.
Wed., Dec. 31	6:30 a.m. - 11:45 p.m.
Thurs., Jan. 1	No service
Fri., Jan. 2	6:30 a.m. - 8:45 p.m.

Orangeville Public Library (Alder Street and Mill Street)

Wed., Dec. 24	Closed
Thurs., Dec. 25	Closed
Fri., Dec. 26	Closed
Sat., Dec. 27	Alder Mill 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sun., Dec. 28	Alder Mill 12 p.m. - 4 p.m. 12 p.m. - 4 p.m.
Mon., Dec. 29	Alder Mill 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Tues., Dec. 30	Alder Mill 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Wed., Dec. 31	Alder Mill 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Thurs., Jan. 1	Closed
Fri., Jan. 2	Alder Mill 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Family Fun Match Game

Tuesday, Dec. 30 from 2 to 4 p.m.
Mill Street Library

How well do you know your family?
Let's put your knowledge to the test!

Register at orangevillelibrary.ca

orangevillelibrary.ca

LEGO CHALLENGE

Master builders ages 8 to 12

Wednesday, Dec. 31 at 2 p.m.
Mill Street Library

Join members of our Teen Advisory Group for an hour of LEGO building fun.

Space is limited. Registration required.

orangevillelibrary.ca

2026 Heritage Orangeville calendars now available

Pick up your free calendar during regular business hours at:

- Town Hall
- Lakeview
- Mill Street Library
- Tony Rose Memorial Sports Centre
- Alder Recreation Centre
- Alder Library

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TEEN TRIVIA NIGHT

Join us for trivia, snacks and prizes!

Friday, Jan. 2, from 7 to 8 p.m.
Mill Street Library

Registration is required at orangevillelibrary.ca

orangevillelibrary.ca

Orangeville sets 3.3 per cent tax increase in 2026 spending plan

Written By JAMES MATTHEWS
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Orangeville taxpayers will shoulder about \$120 more in property taxes from the town over the next year.

That's for an average property. The 2026 municipal operating and capital budget was finalized during a special Orangeville council meeting on Dec. 10.

David Smith, the town's CAO, said municipal staff and council focused on improving community services and protecting it now and into the future while keeping costs at a reasonable level.

"There's no gaming in Orangeville in our budget," he said. "There's no secret or hidden stuff."

Those municipal services account for about two per cent of the tax levy increase. When the OPP services bill is added, the total tax impact to ratepayers will be 3.3 per cent.

That's without any annual increases from the County of Dufferin, and for education.

So the annual property tax bill is a combined total of all three, with about 62 per cent from the town and 38 per cent from the county and school boards.

Cheryl Braan, the town's treasurer and chief financial officer, said staff managed about \$1.3 million in savings, of which about \$625,000 was related to the town's levy and about \$125,000 was in policing through grants.

"There are some savings as well in the rate-funded areas of infrastructure services," she said.

According to a press release from the town, municipal budgets require careful and strategic balancing of cost pressures

with community expectations.

"The adopted budget does this with financial stability and sustainability in mind," the release stated. "In 2026, it prepares for the continued rise of inflation and tariff pressures, addressing infrastructure needs and preserving the quality and reliability of Orangeville's many services."

Orangeville will maintain reliable services and deliver on key projects and community priorities, which are already underway. Some of the planned projects and service enhancements include upgrades to Rotary Park, maintenance at the west sector reservoir, expanded transit, and continued trail development.

Those investments represent support for what matters most to the community, according to the release. That is strong infrastructure, dependable services, greater mobility, public safety, and attention to quality of life.

This year, the policing increase from the province is in the range of \$6.5 million, excluding a one-time adjustment from the province in 2025.

"This budget is the product of extensive work, months of rigorous review, thoughtful planning, and deep collaboration," Mayor Lisa Post said. "It reflects dedication of an incredible staff team and the collective commitment of this council."

She said the final budget of this term is grounded in responsible priorities, finishes what council started and maintains focus on the essential services in which residents rely.

"It does something more than that too," Post said. "It positions Orangeville for long-term financial sustainability, setting a foundation that supports resiliency, and that vision matters."

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Yellow Briar IODE presents donation of knitted goods to Beacon Outreach Ministry

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

As winter settles into full swing in Orangeville and the wider Dufferin County, warm clothing remains in demand.

To help make up for a growing need in securing warm clothing, the Yellow Briar IODE is making connections between community organizations across town to make sure those looking to give can reach those needing to receive.

On Monday, Dec. 15, the IODE presented a large collection of hand-knit items to The Beacon Outreach Ministry. These items included knitted hats and scarves, along with other warm clothing for the winter, made by the Orange thREADs stitchery group.

The items were warmly received by The Beacon, with Rebecca Contin, outreach manager, saying they fit right into the program's communal atmosphere.

"The Beacon has always been a place that feels like a big family," she said. "It started years and years ago, and it was created as a place to just be yourself and feel safe. We run Monday and Wednesday from 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., and it's open to everyone to just come in and be social, and have a good time. We play games, do some arts and crafts, that kind of thing."

The Beacon operates out of and is supported by St. Mark's Anglican Church, at 5 First Avenue, Orangeville. It is a completely drop-in event, and everyone is welcome. Community members are invited to drop in

on Monday and Wednesday afternoons, not just for activities, but also guest speakers and fellowship.

Despite typically making donations to seniors' groups, the Yellow Briar IODE decided this year to support The Beacon because they were impressed by the commitment it shows to the community on a regular basis.

Deb Pearce of the Yellow Briar IODE said they also felt seniors have been well taken care of this year, so they refocused on broader needs.

"We used to do the seniors, but we felt that seniors are well taken care of in this community, and there are a lot of other needs in our community," she said. "And so we thought we would adopt The Beacon this year, so we reached out to Rebecca, who does a phenomenal job here of running this for as long as she has. It's a great program for people to just feel safe. They do some kitchen stuff sometimes, and coloring, and just hang out. It's a very good program, and very welcoming."

Pearce also made sure to highlight the donated goods from Orange thREADs.

"We want to mention and acknowledge Orange thREADs, the ladies from the library. They knit and donate all of the knitted goods, so we're extremely grateful to them," she said.

The IODE, the Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire, is a long-running women's charity that has been operating for 125 years since its founding in 1900 by Margaret Polson Murray of Montreal.



JOSHUA DRAKES PHOTO

KNITTING OUTREACH: Yellow Briar IODE members, from left, Rebecca Contin, Linda Coleman, Janice Sullivan, and Deb Pearce met at the St. Mark's Anglican Church on Monday, Dec. 15, to hand off a donation of knitted items to The Beacon, represented by Contin. All knitted items were made by the Orange thREADs group that meets regularly at the Orangeville Public Library.

The Yellow Briar chapter has been active since 1985, and is currently celebrating its 40-year anniversary. Since its inception, the chapter has been active in charity work, donating to the Orangeville hospital, supporting Family Transition Place, Theatre Orangeville, and many more initiatives across town.

The donations made are the culmination of long-standing cooperation between community groups across Orangeville and the wider Dufferin County, who always come together in times of need to ensure people aren't abandoned but feel heard, appreciated, and cared for.

Local hospital honours community champions with Headwaters Heroes Awards

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

Several people dedicated to supporting health care in the community were recently recognized at a local ceremony.

The 2025 Headwaters Heroes Award recipients were announced in a press release issued by Headwaters Health Care Centre (HHCC) on Dec. 15.

The awards recognize Headwaters staff and volunteers who embody kindness, accountability, respect and teamwork.

"These awards honour the people who go above and beyond every day to support our patients, families, and colleagues," said Kim Delahunt, president and CEO of HHCC. "Our Headwaters Heroes remind us that health care is not only about clinical expertise, but also about compassion, collaboration, and community."

She added, "The Headwaters Heroes Awards reflect the hospital's commitment to recognizing the people who make health care extraordinary. Our award recipients inspire us every day. They remind us that true heroes are often those working behind the scenes, ensuring others can succeed."

During the 2025 Headwaters Heroes Award Ceremony, the Kindness Award went to two hospital volunteers – Mike F. and Dan W.

"Mike and Dan are the welcoming faces behind the information desk every Tuesday morning. Their warmth, patience, and compassion set the tone for the day, ensuring patients and families feel supported," reads HHCC's press release. "Their dedication goes beyond their scheduled shifts, driven by genuine care for the community."

Continued on Page A9



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

RECOGNIZING HEALTH CARE HEROES: Headwaters Health Care Centre recently recognized its volunteers and staff at the 2025 Headwaters Heroes Award Ceremony. The Kindness Award, Accountability Award, Teamwork Award, Respect Award, Teamwork Award and Shield of Heroes Award were distributed during the ceremony. Award recipients were honoured for going above and beyond to support patients, families and colleagues.



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Stop the Strada Melancthon Quarry petition launches online

Written By JOSHUA DRAKES
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The petition is continuing the fight against the proposed Strada Quarry.

The public comment period has officially closed for Strada’s quarry expansion proposal in Melancthon, but objections are still just as firm as ever, as local voices have promised to keep up the pressure on Strada and the Ontario government of Doug Ford.

Nanci Malek, a local resident and community leader opposed to the quarry development, said that just because public comments are no longer being accepted doesn’t mean people should be silent.

“The reason why I put this petition out there on Dec. 12 is to keep up the pressure,” she said. “I don’t want people to forget or get complacent while Strada answers the questions that were submitted. We absolutely have to keep our voices up and going.”

Part of the urgency stems from a seemingly uninvolved provincial government. Throughout the story of the Strada quarry proposal for expansion, Malek said that multiple attempts to contact and involve the provincial government have been ignored or brushed aside. This means the community will need to forge ahead alone despite attempts to draw attention during the comment period.

“I honestly don’t think the commenting period was enough to get us attention,” Malek said. “Even if we got thousands and thousands of comments, it wouldn’t be enough. I’ve attempted to contact Sylvia before, I’ve even invited her to coffee, but it’s been dead silence in response.”

Despite the silence from the provincial government and its representatives, Malek said the community has received support from federal politicians, with Kyle Seeback echoing the community’s concerns about the quarry project.

The reality, Malek said, is that Strada and the government don’t truly understand

the effect the deep quarry will have on the environment, specifically the water levels. According to local experts and third-party studies, up to half of the water flow in the Horning Mills area may be cut off or disrupted.

“On this side of the quarry, there’s going to be a 50 per cent reduction in water flow,” she said. “That is going to kill off so many species, including those already at risk like the Brook Trout, this area is their habitat, it’s their breeding area.”

On dry land, the concerns continue. The quarry will naturally include more trucks on the roads, and with the speed limit through Shelburne reduced to 40 kilometres per hour, they’ll be passing through even smaller roads and communities, according to Malek.

“These trucks will not go down 124 anymore because of the reduced speed limits,” she said. “They’ll be going down County Road 17 and along Prince of Wales. The speed limit is 60, and they won’t be doing that. There’s also a school right there. There will be much more heavy vehicle volume.”

All of these concerns, Malek feels, haven’t been properly addressed by Strada or the province, despite the public comment period. This uncertainty made the petition all the more important for her to launch and encourage everyone to support.

The petition will be sent to more than just Strada or Doug Ford.

It’ll be directed to Todd McCarthy, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks; Tim Hodgson, the Minister of Energy and Natural Resources; Dufferin–Caledon MPP Sylvia Jones, the Minister of Health; Honourable Joanne Thompson, Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard; Julie Dabrusin, who serves as Minister of Environment and Climate Change; and Dufferin–Caledon MP Kyle Seeback.

To access, read or sign the petition, go to: win.newmode.net/stopthestradamelancthonblastingquarry/stopthestradamelancthonquarry

Local hospital honours community champions with Headwaters Heroes Awards

Continued from Page A8

The Accountability Award went to Diagnostic Imaging Technician Nicole B., who has elevated breast health care at Headwaters as a mammography senior.

“She led one of the most successful Breast Cancer Awareness months to date and represents the hospital regularly at community events. Nicole’s advocacy ensures patients have access to high-quality diagnostics close to home,” reads HHCC’s press release.

Dufferin County Paramedic Scott Price received the Respect Award, recognizing his professionalism, leadership and collaborative spirit.

“He created instructional videos to ease the transition to new technologies, contributes actively to the Paramedic Action Committee, and is known for his relentless pursuit of excellence, strengthening both his

team and the community,” reads HHCC’s press release.

The Teamwork Award went to Eric C. and Pantera P., both of whom work as senior financial analysts at Headwaters.

“Eric and Pantera are known as a powerhouse duo,” reads HHCC’s press release. “Their collaboration and expertise support leaders across the hospital, from capital projects to funding analysis. Their partnership exemplifies trust, accountability, and innovation, elevating the performance of the teams they serve.”

The IT Team at Headwaters received the Shield of Heroes Award.

“The IT Team are celebrated as the ‘glue’ that holds the organization together. Their tireless support, knowledge-sharing, and problem-solving ensure smooth operations across the hospital. Their teamwork and positivity embody all of Headwaters’ values,” reads HHCC’s press release.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

SIP AND SHINE: The 3rd Annual Orangeville Christmas Village took place at the Orangeville Fairgrounds on Dec. 13 and 14, featuring over 80 local vendors. The sip and shine style event featured a holiday cocktail bar, coffee/cocoa bar, festive selfie stations, live Christmas music and visits from Santa Claus both days. The event was hosted by Neighbourhood Events.



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Arts & Entertainment



LOCAL COMMUNITY EVENTS

Theatre Orangeville’s Academy opens up registration for new season

Written By JOSHUA DRAKES
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Theatre Orangeville’s Academy is inviting youth across Dufferin County to step into the spotlight this spring, with a wide range of after-school classes, camps and programs made to build confidence, creativity and collaboration.

Kaitlyn Gallant, program coordinator for Theatre Orangeville, said that the Academy offers programming for students from junior kindergarten through Grade 12, with options for beginners and experienced performers alike.

“Right now we have the full grade range available,” Gallant said. “So if you’re enrolled in JK all the way to grade 12, there is something here for you. There is a class for you to join in. We have T.O.Y.S. (Theatre Orangeville Youth Singers) if you’re interested in singing, which is for grades two through to high school, and then Young Company is that grade seven to 12.”

Recreational after-school classes require no audition and focus on creative play, storytelling and performance fundamentals.

Gallant said that this is the best place for youth to get involved if they’re curious but inexperienced. Theatre Orangeville also has programs for those who are not entirely sure if they’re ready to commit to regular classes.

“This is really meant for beginners; you don’t have to bring any previous experience with you,” Gallant said. “If you’re not sure if the whole after-school program is for you, come out and try a camp like a PA day camp for one day; it’s an opportunity to dip your toe in.”

Older kids with some more experience can explore acting, movement and scene work in more advanced classes.

Participants will have the opportunity to work with professional creative teams to develop vocal technique, movement, and storytelling through song, culminating in a public spring performance complete with sets, costumes, and choreography.

“This is really meant for beginners; you don’t have to bring any previous experience with you ... If you’re not sure if the whole after-school program is for you, come out and try a camp like a PA day camp for one day; it’s an opportunity to dip your toe in.”

Kaitlyn Gallant, program coordinator for Theatre Orangeville

The Academy’s most intensive offering is Young Company, an audition-based summer program for grades seven to 12.

The four-week program immerses students in a professional rehearsal process, guided by industry professionals.

“We have our Academy classes, which are our after-school rec programs, which then can catapult into our summer program, which is the Young Company, which is an audition-based program,” Gallant said. “It’s an intensive program. One month is a musical, one month is a straight play. There, we work with our professional team to get them to produce a full, fully realized show.”

Past productions have included Hometown: Teen Edition and The NeverEnding Story. While performance is central, students also have opportunities to explore technical and production roles. Students can follow customized tracks in areas such as sound design, prop building and stage management.

Registration for the next session of after-school classes is currently open and will remain open until classes are full. Summer camp registration opens in mid to late January, with Young Company audition and interview information expected in January as well.

Theatre Orangeville’s Academy offers a



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

STEPPING INTO THE SPOTLIGHT: Theatre Orangeville’s Academy offers beginner, intermediate, and advanced audition-based programs designed to build kids’ confidence and skills as they grow. Starting with one-day workshops and after-school programs, the Academy will lead students to the Young Company summer programs, should they choose to follow that path. All are welcome, regardless of skill level or area of interest.

flexible, collaborative approach to teaching all facets of theatre, from acting to lighting and sound design. With something to offer everyone, it’s a safe and welcoming environment for anyone curious about getting involved in theatre.

For more information on the Academy, go to theatreorangeville.ca/academy/overview.



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1. Light cavalry
5. Coconut palms
10. Rounded knob
14. Central Japan city
15. Sandwiches
16. Shape produced by a curve
17. Ancient region in modern-day Syria
18. French modernist painter
19. Grandmother
20. Mammary gland of cattle
22. Rocky peak
23. Secret plan
24. Songs to one’s lover
27. More (Spanish)
30. Father
31. Chinese principle underlying the universe
32. Ballplayer’s accessory
35. Together
37. A person’s brother or sister
38. Evil spirit
39. Monetary units
40. Partner to cheese

CLUES DOWN

1. Two-toed sloth
2. Fat from a pig’s abdomen
3. Romanian city
4. Specifies
5. Rounded, glaciated valley
6. Spoke
7. Collection of sacred books
8. Extravagantly theatrical
9. Very fast airplane
10. Forearm bones
11. Ancient kingdom
12. Legitimate: ___ fide
13. Semitransparent gemstone
21. Counsels
23. Head honcho
25. Cool!
26. Touch lightly
27. Extract money via taxation
28. Dyes
29. Cloying sweetness
32. Sodas
33. Coastal village in Guam
34. Chemical ring
36. The bill in a restaurant
37. Car mechanics group
38. One-time presidential

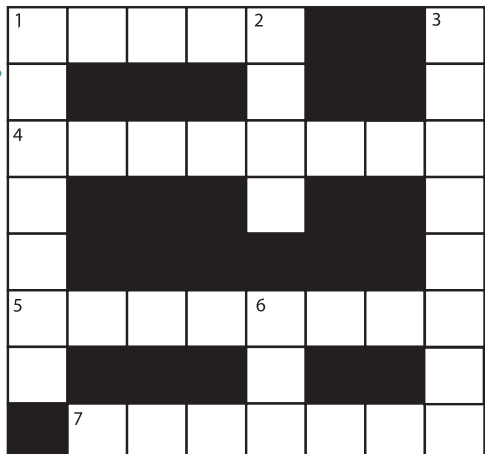
candidate Dole
40. Health care for the aged
41. Wise persons
43. Passage with access at one end
44. Make a wound
46. America’s spies
47. Roof of the mouth
49. Plants of the lily family
50. Pinkish-red color
51. Vaccine developer
52. Mottled citrus fruit
53. A place to store garden tools
54. Rare goose native to Hawaii
57. Popular Hollywood pig
58. Musician Clapton
59. A move exposing one to danger
61. Historic Spanish soldier
62. CNN’s founder

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English: Dough
Spanish: Masa
Italian: Impasto
French: Pâte
German: Teig



ACROSS

1. Chocolate powder
4. Fruit growing areas
5. Outside of a place
7. Eats

DOWN

1. Handheld desserts
2. Not at home
3. Sweet treats
6. Fish eggs

Food FACT:

This dessert is made from dough that is either rolled, cut or pressed into shape.

Answer: Cookie

Did You Know?

Twisting the cookie cutter when cutting out the cookie dough can prevent the dough from rising properly and create inconsistent shapes.

Answers: 1. Cookies 2. Away 3. Desserts 6. Roe Down 1. Cocoa 4. Orchards 5. Exterior 7. Ingests

Dragonfly Arts on Broadway shares praise of two new artists

Written By **CONSTANCE SCRAFIELD**

“She is an amazing girl,” said Joan Hope, owner of Dragonfly Arts on Broadway, who was referring to a new artist, Jennifer Main, a potter bringing her “stunning pottery” to the shop.

The Citizen contacted Jennifer Main to learn more. She is a Mulmur-based “potter on the side,” as she said, “I am a full-time visual arts teacher in Centre Wellington District High School (CWDS),”

She runs the Four Monkeys Studio in her home, which offers children’s art classes on Saturday, and she hosts Shelburne Life drawing there.

“I guess I don’t (know) how to say no,” she laughed at the long list, adding that on Saturday afternoons, she is part of Studio 20 in Chatsworth, from September to June.

“Yet,” she said, “I’m an art teacher who doesn’t do art.”

With her colleague Bobbi Benthass-Reynolds, she embarked on professional development in pottery, taking a two-hour course at Farmhouse Pottery and a week-long course with Jason L’Abbé (Clay and Glass Gallery) in Waterloo.

They both enjoyed it. Benthass-Reynolds runs Huron Shores Pottery, J. Main Studios.

In the course with Jason L’Abbé, they learned to hand-carve for texture after wheel-throwing to make functional mugs and bowls.

Main came to Dragonfly by a recommenda-

tion from Roslyn Levin, Sumi-e artist at the store.

She remarked that she wants to get better as an artist to make herself a better teacher.

Her request to run a full pottery course at CWDHS has run successfully for three years, kilns and all.

Joan Hope reported that “Dragonfly is doing great. It’s a nice time of year. Everything is great in the back. The artists are doing really interesting things.”

She had praise, too, for Gillian Beveridge, who, by recycling material, has been producing whimsical and practical items such as scarves and mittens, dolls, and hand warmers.

Beveridge, now living in Tottenham, is exactly what her background would anticipate: she was raised in the house her parents built from two barns in Churchill, near Brampton. As a youngster, the farm family grew and exchanged what they needed with their farming neighbours. Nothing was wasted; everything that could be was recycled.

Always a maker of things, Beveridge came to Dragonfly 12 years ago and suggested to Hope that she place her things in the shop. Hope was pleased to agree. They are all mitts and hats, hand warmers and baby dolls, ornaments, made with recycled materials.

Beverage offered a history in a brief interview with the Citizen, recalling that recycling was normal. Her father was a “massive garbage picker. He brought things he found – bicycles tools, lots of things and renewed and

distributed everything.”

“As a teenager, I wanted to be a fashion designer; I went to Sheridan College to be a fashion designer,” she said.

Discovering that fashion is a cutthroat industry was a revelation that sent her back to what was her own way of life. Her ambition is not about money.

“When I was seven, my father put me at the end of our driveway with a basket of goose eggs to sell: “That day, I understood how I could sell something that we produced, and that was very rewarding. That set me on the road to be an entrepreneur.”

Selling her produce takes Gillian to markets and stores, as well as to as many craft shows as she can – mostly during November and December.

Despite creating a wide range of hand-made items, Beveridge also has a day job at a call centre for Peel Police. She can take her sewing with her.

Whimsical soft sculptures and wooden ornaments from material people give her, which she finds in second-hand and thrift stores, are selling very well at Dragonfly.

“To make the amount of mittens and so many other things that I do, I need all the product; for Christmas, I have to be out shopping and on the search,” she said.

She added, “To my family, it’s just what I do – it’s normal for them. I honestly thought every family drank goats’ milk for breakfast and recycled everything.”

Truly, Beveridge is happiest when she is



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CUTE DISPLAY: A charming and whimsical doll by Gillian Beveridge and a hand carved mug by Jennifer Main are currently on display at Dragonfly Arts on Broadway.

going out.

“Every year, I add a product or two in my stock. It’s a lot to do,” was her comment. “When people come back to thank me that is very rewarding.”

Her husband is a huge help in setting up and handling business tasks.

Gillian Beveridge said, “I wouldn’t have it any other way.”

Museum of Dufferin generates over \$76,000 in sales at Holiday Treasures Craft Market

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

The Museum of Dufferin’s (MoD) annual Holiday Treasures Craft Market has been a resounding success again, raising tens of thousands of dollars for local businesses and the museum, to be reinvested in improving services for guests and visitors.

The market ran from Nov. 26 to Dec. 7, and Jasmine Proteau, MoD’s services manager, said it has been a long-running fundraising event that has never failed to attract talented creators and large crowds.

“This was our 21st annual market, we’ve been doing it for a long time, and really honed it to a science,” she said. “We bring in local creators from around the community, selecting a variety of vendors and giving them a table in the museum for 10 days, the length of the market. The vendors don’t actually have to stay here during the market; they can set up, and then we handle the sales and take care of everyone’s payments.”

This streamlined approach allows local businesses that are usually busy at events like this during the holiday season a stress-free environment to sell their goods while

potentially participating in another market at the same time.

The financial success of the MoD’s hands-off approach speaks for itself.

“We made \$4,381 in just donations at the door, the market was admission by donation, and we had 1,773 people, so that was already successful,” she said. “Our total sales this year, which isn’t just for us, it’s the vendors too, is \$76,499. That’s how much merchandise we moved at the market.”

Unlike many markets in the area, Proteau said they take a very moderate cut of sales from vendors to encourage their businesses and growth in the community. That cut is 25 per cent, which could put their fundraising money into the tens of thousands of dollars, all of which will be reinvested to improve the museum.

“The fundraising really does help all our programs and help improve what we have to offer,” she said. “In most cases with our workshops and things, we only charge enough to cover expenses, not to make a profit, so this helps us with getting money towards specific improvements, especially where accessibility is concerned.”

“For example, if there is a building you

can’t access because you can’t get up stairs, we can install an iPad outside with some interpretive materials of that building so you can look at the inside of the building without actually having to go in. We want to make our museum a more accessible place,” Proteau added.

The market was a culmination of cooperation between the community and the MoD, bringing in dozens of local vendors to give them a chance to showcase their unique talents, and a boon to the museum, helping secure important fundraising money to support ongoing improvement efforts around the property.

The MoD encourages any vendor interested in applying for the next market to do so. No favourites are factored, and they seek to maintain a fresh set of options for



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

MUSEUM MARKET: The Museum of Dufferin’s annual Holiday Treasures Craft Market featured dozens of local vendors from across the region from Nov. 26 to Dec. 7, raising tens of thousands of dollars. Local shoppers could enjoy a rich selection of local products, including art and handcrafted items, supporting charity and local creators at the same time.

shoppers every year.

For more information on the MoD’s Holiday Treasures Craft Market, go to dufferin-museum.com/holidaytreasures.

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Nancy Frater reflects on 36 years of owning Orangeville’s Booklore

Written By **CONSTANCE SCRAFIELD**

In an extensive email interview with the Citizen, Nancy Frater walked us through a history worthy of one of the very books she sells.

In preparation for their opening, they did extensive research and “planned, planned, planned,” but even then, they were overwhelmed on opening day.

She and her late business partner, Ellen Clare, had long wanted to open a bookstore, and, as opposite personalities, they worked really well together. They both believed in putting their “very best effort into producing a good bookstore, to be inventive and to roll with change.”

Expressing only praise for, as she put it, “BookLore has been blessed with a great staff who share these ideals – my manager Brenda Juno and bookstore besties Jan, Jadea, Kristen and a few treasured former staff who often return to help us out.”

“Of course,” she admitted, there were “heart-pumping moments – the rise of mammoth stores, the internet, digital readers, Amazon, two recessions, when the dollar was at parity, when the dollar was low,” but they managed to stay on course.

Reflectively, she finds it comforting to know that independent bookstores are now making a comeback, “I think folks want their dollars to stay in their community and they want personalized service.”

Frater wants their store to be about community.

“People move here because they want the friendliness, the support and the quality of life offered by a strong community. What you put into your community always comes back to make your life better” is her philosophy.

Part of Frater’s stunning achievements has been bringing established authors to town. Recently, she was “so proud to hold up a t-shirt advertising the tour of Chris Hadfield with his latest book.”

“The third stop on his tour was Orangeville mixed in with large cities such as Toronto, Vancouver and Halifax,” Frater explained.

The extended list includes some of the who’s who of the literary world, such as David Suzuki, Margaret Atwood, Timothy Findley, Peter Mansbridge, Adam Shoalts, Allan Doyle, Marc Garneau and many more.

“My absolute favourite events were two events with local authors,” Frater wrote in an email to the Citizen. “One event was with WWE great, Adam Copeland. Over 300 people showed up at BookLore, lining up on a cold November evening to get him to sign his autobiography. The WWE sent eight security guards for crowd control.

“Little did they know we had it under control. Little did they know he was in his hometown!

“The other event was an evening on stage

at the Opera House, an event produced by Sofie Weber. They featured acclaimed choreographer Roland Kirouac and rising comedian Michael McCreary who were releasing their autobiographies. There was an electricity in the air that was magical.”

Frater wants to champion local, independent authors. She says she is “in awe of people who have (the) courage to put pen to paper to tell a story... and we all have stories.”

There is every reason to come to a bookstore.

“There’s always a book for everyone,” Frater is sure, promising, “we just have to find the right fit. There’s always a desire for the classics, but support for the growing trends in anything Canadian, fantasy, romance and romantasy, plus teen books.

Some years ago, Signe Ball, founder and owner of the beautiful magazine In the Hills, told the Citizen about the magazine’s very early days and Frater’s contribution at its outset. She had taken her nascent magazine to Frater to tell her about how it would focus on the broader community and the arts, with the plan to publish quarterly. Ball was asking her to place her first advertisement.

Ball said, “Nancy didn’t even hesitate. She said yes right away, and she was the first person to place an ad in In the Hills.

“This was a fine example of how Nancy Frater has always been a tremendous supporter of the arts.”

From Frater herself, “I hope bookstores



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

COMMUNITY COMMITMENT: In a moment of levity, Nancy Frater peeks behind the book “Murder your Employer.” Frater, celebrating 36 years with her award-winning independent BookLore, is celebrating those 36 years of selling books and bringing celebrity authors to Orangeville. Her focus has also been to support the arts in Orangeville.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

PAW-SOME VISIT: Headwaters Health Care Centre welcomed a group of puppies and their handlers from Therapeutic Paws of Canada on Dec. 10. Staff, volunteers and patients enjoyed interacting with the four-legged furry friends, named Lottie, Sadie, Whimsy, and Night.



HOLIDAY INTERRUPTION FOR WASTE COLLECTION

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
December 14	December 15	December 16	December 17	December 18	December 19	December 20
December 21	December 22	December 23	December 24	CHRISTMAS DAY	December 26	December 27
double up		December 29	December 30	December 31	NEW YEARS DAY	January 2
January 4	January 5	January 6	January 7	January 8	January 9	January 10

Monday ZONE

Tuesday ZONE

Wednesday ZONE

Thursday ZONE

Interruption no collections

Happy Holidays!

There will be **NO** waste collection on Christmas & New Years Day. Waste collection will be interrupted on Thursday **only**. Place all Garbage, Blue Boxes & Greens Bins at the curb **ONE DAY LATER** following Christmas & New Years. Waste collection on Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday will remain the same.

Place up to **two (2)** untagged bags/containers of garbage out on your collection day during the week of December 29th.

double up days

REMEMBER!

Always search an item on the **DufferinWaste** app to see if it's acceptable in the Dufferin program **before** placing it in the Garbage, Blue Box or Green Bin.

This holiday season, remember to place the following items in the GREEN BIN:

- All food waste, including bones
- Peelings/egg shells
- Paper plates (non-waxy)
- Paper straws
- Napkins

adopt a cat

Derrick

Derrick is a stunning 2 year old male. Derrick loves to frolic around with the volunteers, making everyone laugh. He is often rolling around, playing or doing Derrick-things.

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SAVE \$3 each

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42-48 SHRIMP
454 g

Cocktail Sauce included

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SAVE \$5

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907 g

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Sirloin Beef Meatballs
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Turkey Meatballs
78-83 PIECES 750 g

SAVE \$3

14⁹⁹ each

SAVE \$2

12⁹⁹

Italian Style Beef Meatballs
89-95 PIECES 907 g

MEAL KITS 840 g - 1.05 kg **8 VARIETIES**

Chicken Fajitas

SAVE \$2

19⁹⁹ each

SINGLE SERVES 275 g - 340 g **21 VARIETIES**

SALE

4⁹⁹ each

Cabbage Rolls

Six Cheese Tortellini

HOLIDAY MEAL IDEAS

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Turkey Breast Roast 875 g

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Sweet Potato Mash 500 g

SAVE \$2

12⁹⁹

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Gourmet Floret Medley 300 g

STEAKS IN THE WOOD

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STEAKS IN THE WOOD

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4⁹⁹ each

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11⁹⁹

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16⁹⁹

Chicken and Pineapple Mini-Skewers 20 PIECES 500 g

Also available, Chicken Satay with Peanut Sauce 20 SKEWERS 500 g \$16.99 **SAVE \$3**

SAVE \$2

17⁹⁹

Bacon Wrapped Scallop Medallions 9-13 PIECES 300 g

22⁹⁹

Shrimp Platter 61-70 SHRIMP 624 g

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Bistro Chicken 114 g

Choose from: Ricotta & Spinach • Swiss

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SALE

8⁹⁹ each

Chocolate Cake Pops 6 PIECES 216 g

NEW!

3⁹⁹

Blossoms 2 PORTIONS 230 g 3 Varieties

SALE

22⁹⁹

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LIMITED TIME ONLY

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Warm up with a rich, chocolate beverage

NOTHING BEATS SIPPING A HOT, soothing beverage after a day of choosing the perfect Christmas tree or lobbing snowballs in the backyard. Teas, hot toddies, coffees, and mulled ciders certainly can fit the bill, but a mug of rich hot chocolate is a holiday season staple.

Hot chocolate can be whipped up quickly from premade packets, but many such packets are loaded with sugar. Chocolate lovers should have a reliable hot chocolate recipe to lean on when the moment is right. This recipe for “Real Hot Chocolate” from “Chocolate” (Parragon) by the editors of Love Food is sure to please.

★ Real Hot Chocolate ★

Serves 1 to 2

Ingredients:

1 1/2 ounces semisweet chocolate, broken into pieces

1 1/4 cups milk

Chocolate curls to decorate

Directions:

Place the chocolate in a large, heatproof pitcher. Place the milk in a heavy-bottom saucepan and bring to a boil. Pour about one-quarter of the milk onto the chocolate and leave until the chocolate has softened. Whisk the milk and chocolate mixture until smooth. Return the remaining milk to the heat and return to a boil, then pour onto the chocolate, whisking constantly.

Pour into warmed mugs or cups and top with the chocolate curls. Serve immediately.

Season's Greetings 2025

Cake Pops

to light up kids' eyes this holiday season

There's no denying Christmas Eve is a little more special in homes where kids are excited about an overnight visit from Santa Claus. Indeed, kids' joy and enthusiasm helps to make the holiday season such a special time of year.

Since kids add so much to the holidays, it makes sense to prepare something special for youngsters. Of course, treats such as these “Christmas Tree Cake Pops” from Lines+Angles also may appeal to festive adults.

Christmas Tree Cake Pops

Makes 24 cake pops

Ingredients:

1 box vanilla cake mix

3/4 cup canola oil

1/2 cup unsalted butter, softened

1 cup confectioners' sugar

1 teaspoon vanilla extract

1 teaspoon milk

3 1/2 cups green candy melts

24 cake pop sticks

Icing dots

Icing stars

Directions:

1. Prepare cake according to package instructions, adding 3/4 cup canola oil to the cake mix before baking.

2. Once cake is cool to the touch, transfer to a large mixing bowl and break up into crumbs. Allow to cool completely.

3. In a medium bowl, add the butter, sugar, vanilla, and milk. Use an electric mixer and beat on medium speed for about 4 minutes until light and fluffy.

4. Add 3/4 of the frosting to the cake crumbs and mix until mixture can hold together well. Refrigerate for at least an hour.

5. Using your hands, shape the cake pop mixture into 24 conical shapes.

6. Melt the green candy melts. Dip one end of each of the cake pop sticks into the melted chocolate before inserting into the bottom of the cake pops. Dip each cake pop into the melted chocolate, making sure to cover completely, allowing excess to drip back into bowl.

7. Use a toothpick to create the textured look of the tree and decorate with the icing dots and stars before standing upright to dry completely.

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Season's Greetings 2025

Connect THE Dots



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Wishes you all the
best this holiday season!

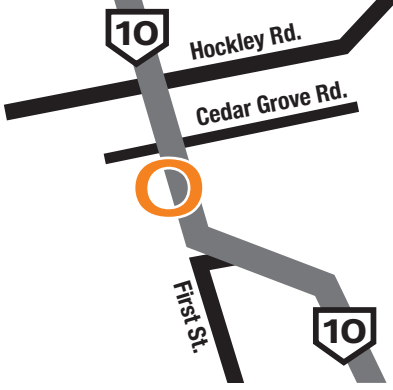
Orangeville Nissan is ringing in the holidays by accepting donations to the Orangeville Food Bank.
Brie Boddaert and Lucas Kitazaki-Hall drop off bags of donated goods to the little Christmas House donation centre at the dealership.

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Decorative cookies
Santa can't resist

Kids know that cookies are a vital component of the holiday season. Come bedtime on Christmas Eve, youngsters want to make sure Santa Claus gets all the nourishment he needs to continue delivering presents to kids all over the globe. That sustenance is often provided in cookie form. With that in mind, families who want to be certain Santa won't leave their homes hungry this Christmas can whip up a batch of these "Chocolate Star Christmas Decorations," courtesy of Lines+Angles.

Chocolate Star
Christmas Decorations

Makes 4 dozen

Ingredients:

- 2 cups flour

1/2 cup Dutch processed cocoa powder, unsweetened

1/2 teaspoon baking powder

1/2 teaspoon salt

1 cup unsalted butter, softened

3/4 cup sugar
- 1 large egg yolk

1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract

1 large egg white

1 pinch cream of tartar

2 cups confectioners' sugar

Sprinkles, for decorating

Directions:

1. Whisk together flour, cocoa powder, baking powder, and salt in a bowl.

2. Beat butter and sugar in a separate bowl with an electric mixer until pale and fluffy, about 2 minutes, then beat in yolk and vanilla. On low speed, beat in flour mixture just until a dough forms.

3. Divide the dough in half, flatten each piece into a disc and then chill them, wrapped in plastic wrap, until firm, for 2 to 3 hours.

4. Preheat oven to 350 F with racks in top and bottom thirds. Line 2 baking sheets with parchment paper. Roll out 1 piece of dough between sheets of parchment paper into a 14-by-10-inch rectangle (1/8-inch thick). Cut out as many stars as possible, reserving and chilling scraps, then quickly transfer cookies to the baking sheet, arranging them 1/2-inch apart. (If dough becomes too soft, return it to the freezer until it is firm.)
5. Bake until firm and slightly puffed, about 10 minutes. Cool cookies on baking sheet for 5 minutes, then transfer to a rack to cool completely. (Cookies will crisp as they cool.) Make more cookies with remaining dough and scraps, re-rolling scraps only once.

6. To make the icing, in an electric mixer fitted with the whisk attachment, beat egg white and cream of tartar until foamy. Sift in half the sugar and beat until smooth, about 1 to 2 minutes. With mixer running, gradually add remaining sugar and beat on high speed until icing is smooth and thick. Icing should be thick, but not too thick to be pressed through a pastry bag. Adjust consistency with more confectioners' sugar or water.

7. Transfer icing to a pastry bag with a small round tip. Pipe icing onto cookies and add decorations of your choice before icing hardens.



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Season's Greetings 2025



A hot punch to warm up this
holiday season

Images of warm family gatherings dominate millions of people's holiday season memories. But the warmth inside a home come the holiday season does not mean it's not cold outside. Indeed, snow-filled landscapes and/or temperatures below freezing are not uncommon come late December. As the mercury drops outside, families can warm up inside with a batch of "Hot Holiday Punch" courtesy of Lines+Angles.

Hot Holiday Punch

Makes 14 servings
Preparation time: 20 minutes Cooking time: 15 minutes Total time: 35 minutes Difficulty: Easy

Ingredients:

16 cups water, divided
5 cups cranberries, fresh or frozen, plus extra for garnish
2 1/2 cups granulated sugar
1/2 cup red hots cinnamon candies
3 tablespoons fresh lemon juice
12 whole cloves
3 cinnamon sticks
1 lemon, sliced
Cheesecloth

Directions:

1. In a large saucepan, set over medium-high heat, bring 1 quart of water and cranberries to a boil. Reduce heat, cover and simmer for 8 to 10 minutes or until the cranberries begin to pop. Drain, reserving liquid and cranberries. Put cranberries through a fine mesh strainer or food mill. Set aside.

2. In a Dutch oven or large pot, combine sugar, red-hots, lemon juice, cranberry liquid and cranberry pulp, and remaining 3 quarts of water.

3. Place cloves and cinnamon sticks in a double thickness of cheesecloth. Tie with string to form a bag; add to pan with the punch. Bring to a boil; stir until sugar and candies are dissolved. Discard spice bag. Strain juice through a fine mesh strainer. Serve hot with lemon slices and cranberries.





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Season's Greetings 2025

A post-meal treat tailor-made for holiday parties

The festive nature of the holiday season is on display in many places throughout the month of December, and that includes private homes. Gatherings with family and friends fill celebrants' social schedules throughout the holiday season and present various opportunities to catch up with loved ones in a fun, warm and welcoming setting.

Gatherings undoubtedly make the holiday season more special, and food plays an important role during this festive time of year. Dessert might not be on the menu year-round, but a tasty post-meal treat certainly makes for a fitting ending to a holiday meal with loved ones. With that in mind, hosts can whip up this recipe for "Chocolate Pudding and Mixed Berry Trifle" courtesy of Lines+Angles.



Chocolate Pudding and Mixed Berry Trifle

Makes 8 servings

Ingredients:

- 1 1/2 cups sugar
- 1 1/3 cups all-purpose flour
- 2/3 cup unsweetened cocoa powder
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 3/4 cups strong brewed coffee
- 3/4 cups buttermilk
- 6 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 2 large eggs
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 2 tablespoons sugar
- 2 tablespoons cornstarch
- 2 tablespoons unsweetened cocoa powder
- 1/8 teaspoon salt
- 1 1/2 cups whole milk
- 1/2 cup heavy cream
- 2/3 cup good-quality milk chocolate, chopped
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 6 cups fresh raspberries
- 6 cups fresh blueberries
- Milk chocolate, shavings for garnish

Directions:

- For the cake: In a large bowl, sift together the first 6 ingredients. Add the coffee, buttermilk, eggs, oil, and vanilla and mix until just combined. Transfer the batter to a parchment-lined baking pan. Bake at 325 F for 25 to 30 minutes, until a toothpick inserted into the cake comes out clean. Cool and then cut the cake into 2-inch pieces.
- For the chocolate pudding: Whisk together the sugar, cornstarch, cocoa powder, and salt in a large saucepan. Gradually whisk in milk and cream. Bring to a boil over moderate heat, whisking constantly. Boil until mixture thickens, about 2 minutes — it will get thick very quickly. Remove from heat and whisk in chocolate and vanilla quickly. Continue whisking until smooth. Transfer to a bowl and chill, placing a piece of plastic wrap directly on the pudding to prevent a skin from forming. Chill until cold, at least 2 hours.
- To assemble the trifle: Get out eight small serving cups (approximately 8 ounces). Place cake pieces, a bit of raspberries and blueberries at the bottom of each serving cup. Spoon chocolate pudding on top, spreading it into any spaces in the cake layer and smoothing the top so it is as flat as possible. Continue with the second layer of cake pieces, berries and pudding. For the third top layer, sprinkle only pieces of cake and berries and then garnish with shaved milk chocolate.

Happy Holidays

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Scarlett Bears girls' hockey team defeat St. James at Tony Rose

Written By **BRIAN LOCKHART**

The Orangeville District Secondary School (ODSS) Scarlett Bears girls varsity hockey team are 2-2 after a win over the St. James Catholic High School Lions from Guelph.

The game was held at Tony Rose Arena on Monday, Dec. 8, in front of a large crowd that packed the arena.

ODSS took an early lead with two quick goals in the first period. At the end of the first period, the Scarlett Bears were leading 4-0.

St. James got on the scoreboard early in the second frame.

The Bears scored again to make it a 5-1 game with one period remaining.

The St. James scored again early in the third period.

ODSS finished off the game with two more goals to leave the ice with a 7-2 win.

"I thought we capitalized on a lot of our chances," said ODSS forward Peyton Price after the game. "I think we played well as a team. We were passing and communicating

on the ice. I like that we got a lot of shots through and that we had net presence, staying out in front of the net. On defence, we regrouped a lot. We didn't spend a lot of time in our end."

Teammate Meika Schenkel said the team played a well-executed game.

"I think we did some good passes and had good communication," Meika said. "We passed to our defence a lot and had our heads up. The defence got shots to the net instead of hitting people's shin pads. We were good at getting back in our zone when they were on offence. We were slowing the play down and making sure we got the puck out clean."

The Bears are now in third place in the District 10 standings after John F. Ross Collegiate Vocational Institute and Centre Wellington District High School.

The Scarlett Bears will be back on home ice at Tony Rose Arena on Tuesday, Jan. 5, to host Bishop Macdonell Catholic High School.

Game time is 2 p.m.



BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

WINNING MATCH: The Orangeville District Secondary School Scarlett Bears varsity girls hockey team takes on the St. James Lions at Tony Rose Arena in Orangeville on Monday, Dec. 8. The Bears had a good game and left the ice with a 7-2 win.

ODSS Scarlett Bears senior boys take third place in District 10 basketball standings

Written By **BRIAN LOCKHART**

The Orangeville District Secondary School Scarlett Bears senior boys' basketball team is in third place in the District 10 standings, but it is a very competitive season, with three other schools competing for the top spot.

Four high schools in the District have recorded three wins so far, with the standings determined by a points-for/against ratio.

The Bears have a 3-2 record and six points so far this season.

John F. Ross, Centre Wellington, and Centennial Collegiate all have six points and three wins so far this year. Ross is the only school that is undefeated.

There are eight high schools entered in the District 10 senior competition, and it is turning out to be a very competitive season.

It is a 14-game regular season, so a lot could happen before the final games are

played on Feb. 10.

The playoffs will get underway with the quarter-finals on Feb. 17, followed by the semi-finals on Feb. 19.

The District championship is scheduled for Feb. 24.

The Bears hosted Centre Wellington District High School in the gym at ODSS on Tuesday, Dec. 9.

It was a well-played, fast-paced game by both teams.

When the final buzzer sounded, Centre Wellington left the court with an 83-76 win.

The Scarlett Bears will be back on their home court on Tuesday, Jan. 6, when they will host Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic High School from Guelph.

Game time is 5:15 p.m.

Junior

The ODSS Scarlett Bears junior boys' bas-

ketball team is in fifth place in the District 10 standings with a 2-3 record.

John F. Ross is in first place in the standings, going undefeated after four games. They are followed by Centennial Collegiate, St. James, and Centre Wellington.

The Bears are averaging 64 points per game. That's considerably higher than three of the teams that are ahead of them in the standings, so the Bears are having a good year with a lot of potential over the rest of the regular season.

The Junior division plays a 14-game schedule.

The playoffs will get underway on Feb. 17 with the quarterfinals. The semi-final round will take place on Feb. 19, with the District championship scheduled for Feb. 24. The highest-seeded team will have home-court advantage.



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BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

SHOOTING FOR THE HOOP: The Orangeville District Secondary School (ODSS) Scarlett Bears senior boys basketball team take on Centre Wellington District High School in the gym at ODSS on Tuesday, Dec. 9. The Bears had to settle for an 83-76 loss in this game. Currently, the Bears are in third place in the District 10 standings.

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OPINION

Don't steal from my house

I used to have a friend who came from a fairly large family. There were six or seven children who, by the time I met them, were all grown adults. An older sister was in her mid-30s, married with a house and three children. One day, that sister just walked away from her life. She abandoned her home, her husband, and her children. No one was sure why she chose to do that. Several years went by, and no one heard from her. Another sister saw her in a casino and approached her. The woman claimed to have amnesia and said she didn't know anyone, and quickly ran off. The sister reported she appeared dishevelled and was hanging out with a questionable group of people. A few years later, my friend answered a knock at the door of her home. Her parents had moved, and she had taken over the former family home. It was the long-lost sister and her boyfriend. She described them as looking like 'a couple of bums.'

The sister said they needed a place to stay, and asked if they could stay at the house for a couple of weeks.

My friend was leery, but at the same time, the woman was still family, so she let them in. It didn't take very long for things to go wrong. My friend returned home from work and noticed that a collection of pop bottles she had been saving to return for the deposit were all missing. It wasn't the amount of money the bottles were worth that was the problem. The problem was, they were hers. They weren't there for the taking. A day later, she noticed that the jar full of coins she kept in her bedroom was empty. It was obvious that the couple of visitors were stealing from her. She did an inventory of the house and found that other items were missing. The next morning, my friend told her visitors to leave and not to come back. The long-lost sister was livid. How could she not be allowed to stay there? After all, she was family. It just didn't occur to this woman that she was the problem. Stealing from your host will, no doubt, usually end with you being asked to leave. There has been a problem with extortion

among certain communities in this country. Notably, some groups extort money from their own community through intimidation and violence. Recently, in Surrey, British Columbia, 15 individuals were charged with extortion. None of the accused are Canadian citizens. It is questionable if any of them should even be here in the first place. So what did these people do after being arrested? They all filed for refugee status to avoid being deported. B.C. has already been hit by a wave of extortion crimes and shootings, mostly targeting the South Asian community. The mayor of Surrey, Branda Locke, has done something you rarely see local politicians do. She made a statement saying she is 'appalled' to learn these criminals are claiming refugee status to evade deportation. Good for her. We need local politicians to speak up and demand justice at the provincial and federal levels, to protect local people, because criminals are not being punished in our legal system. Mayor Locke went on to say these suspects "must face swift justice."

The Canadian Border Services Agency

states that "persons found inadmissible" for such reasons as "serious criminality," or "organized criminality," won't have their refugee claims heard and instead will be ordered to leave the country. However, CBSA doesn't have a very good reputation for protecting our borders. Extortion rackets, while using violence, are part of both "serious criminality" and "organized criminality."

Canadian citizens are getting fed up with this constant stream of news that persons who don't belong here in the first place are committing crimes, and are still being allowed to stay, to commit more crimes. Denmark just released its latest crime figures, and it has a very serious problem. The number of crimes committed by refugees from a certain country is huge, way higher than the regular population, and now they don't know what to do. The statistics are readily available. The answer is simple – if you're a guest in my house, don't steal. If you steal or commit a crime in my house, you will be sent packing.

BRIAN LOCKHART
FROM THE SECOND ROW



Musk's Starship: If it sounds too good to be true...

Elon Musk promised to build a spaceship that would put people and cargo into Earth orbit at one-hundredth of the current cost per kilo and even enable human beings to create a colony on Mars. A great many people were seduced by the idea, including me. His project is running well behind schedule, however, and now British freelance journalist Will Lockett, writing on the website Medium, has called Musk out (in slightly less brutal language) as a failure and a fraud. Basically, Lockett is saying that 'Starship,' the heavy-lift two-stage rocket that was alleged (by Musk) to be a revolutionary advance in space flight, is a badly engineered, over-hyped machine that can never work well. His latest article on that theme, entitled 'SpaceX Keeps Proving My Little Starship Theory Right,' is about the remarkable accident at Musk's Starbase last weekend that destroyed Super Heavy Booster 18. It was meant to lift the first 'Version 3' Starship off the pad next month, but they are now removing the wreckage of that booster and replacing it with another one. And here's the thing. The reports said Booster 18 had 'exploded', but it was a

very soft explosion because the vehicle had no fuel in it. It was just a pressure test of the Composite Overwrapped Pressure Vessels that store various gases or liquids in the rocket (not fuel for the main engines). But the pressure they put on the tanks ruptured them. You would obviously test the tanks with a somewhat higher pressure than they normally run at – but NOT with pressure that bursts them like a popped balloon. You would do it at maybe 1.5 times the designed maximum pressure, just to be sure the tanks are strong enough to withstand any modest over-pressure they might encounter. But this time — bang! Actually, there have been a lot of bangs. Musk's original pitch said Starship could lift 100 tonnes to Low Earth Orbit (LEO), but five of the 11 launches so far have ended in explosions and none have yet gone into orbit. In fact, SpaceX has already blown through an unplanned Version 2 of the rocket and January will see the first flight of Version 3. Each version is lighter and more powerful than its predecessor, which suggests that someone got the original calculations wrong. As Lockett put it, "Musk ignorantly overstated how much thrust their

rockets could generate (to comical levels) and grossly underestimated how much a rocket this giant would need to weigh." The standard excuse for all those explosions is Musk's preference for the 'iterative testing method,' in which you test your best guess of a design, learn why it failed, test a modified design, learn again, and so on until finally you arrive at a version that doesn't fail. But he's not there yet, and all his 'fixes' involve making the rocket both lighter and more powerful. The suspicion, therefore, is that Musk arrogantly assumed that throwing enough money and engineering talent at the project could somehow overcome the constraints of Russian scientist Konstantin Tsiolkovsky's classic 'rocket equation' of 1903. That's the one that says around 90 per cent of a rocket's launch weight has to be fuel if you want to put it into Earth orbit. The rocket equation means that the vehicle's body, its engines, its cargo and its people all have to amount to no more than 10% of the rocket's launch weight. That, in turn, explains why nobody else has managed to radically lower the cost of per kilo of getting things into orbit – and the equation applies to Musk's rockets too. It's not impossible that Starship could be

made to work more or less as intended, although the promise of 100 tonnes of cargo seems far out of reach. But the only way Musk can try to fix things is to make the ship even lighter and the engines even more powerful. Those, alas, are two remedies that work against each other. More and bigger engines use more fuel and add more weight, so there's not much room for improvement there. They also cause more stress and vibration, while the ship's hull, tanks and pipes are getting more fragile and accident-prone with every kilo he cuts. Starship has never yet even reached orbit and the doubts about SpaceX's basic engineering competence are accumulating. NASA gave the job of building the Artemis III lunar lander to SpaceX in 2021, but in October it reopened the contract to rival companies as well. We will probably still see human beings back on the Moon by the end of this decade one way or another (Americans or Chinese), but if the promise of \$10 a kilo to orbit turns out to be false there won't be a great deal happening beyond lunar orbit in the next decade.

GWYNNE DYER
OUR WORLD TODAY



Grandma's 'practical' Christmas gifts

Christmas is always an exciting time for little kids, and growing up, we were certainly no different. The yuletide joy and anticipation in our family leading up to Christmas morning each December was palpable—it could be felt throughout the house. When Christmas morning finally arrived, we kids could barely contain our excitement! But once everyone was up, Mom always insisted we eat breakfast together as a family before opening any gifts. On those mornings, we never ate so fast in all our lives! With breakfast finally over, we'd rush into the living room to start opening presents. Of course, discovering what we got was always the most thrilling part of Christmas morning. But there was always one gift we dreaded receiving every year, no matter how loving or well-meaning it might have been. And that gift was the clothing item from Grandma. It's not that we didn't love our grandma dearly—we absolutely did. But she had lived through the Depression, and the poverty and hardship of that time shaped her attitudes for the rest of her life. Because of those hardscrabble years, every Christmas gift she ever gave her grandkids had to be "practical" and useful, rather than

fun. Grandma liked to knit, and her practical Christmas gifts to us grandkids were usually her own handmade woolen socks and mittens, usually made from the itchiest wool she could find! But sometimes, if she spotted a toque or sweater on a good sale in a store's clothing department, she'd pick up a bunch for her grandkids and stash them away for Christmas. The problem was that most of those items were usually on sale because no kid would ever be caught dead wearing them! And most of the time, Grandma didn't realize how much we'd grown and often misjudged the size of whatever clothing item she gave us each year. God knows we loved our grandma, and she meant well, but the clothing items she gave us for Christmas each year were almost always too big, too small, too itchy, or too ugly! After I opened grandma's dreaded Christmas gift and saw what it was, Mom's practical side would kick in. She always said the same things to me every year: If the gift was too big, she usually said, "You'll grow into it" (Rats!). If the gift was too small, she usually said, "Maybe your brothers can wear it" (a lucky break for me, but not so much for my little brothers). If the gift was too itchy, she usually said,

"You can wear something underneath it, so it won't itch." And if the gift was too ugly, she usually said, "At least wear it around Grandma so you won't hurt her feelings." Mercifully, the clothing gift I always got from Grandma was usually too small. But sometimes—horror of horrors—it actually fit! The trouble with that was, Mom might do the unthinkable and actually make you wear it to school! And if you wore something that was uncool on the playground at recess, you risked getting beaten up by the bigger kids — or at the very least, being severely razzed by your own friends. So, you'd try your best to keep the uncool item out of sight on the playground under your jacket, and if you were lucky, you'd usually get by. To avoid embarrassment, some kids would "accidentally-on-purpose" try to lose the item on the playground. But an eagle-eyed teacher who saw you wearing it at the start of recess would tell you to pick it up and bring it back with you to class. And if you were ever lucky enough to lose it forever, you might still be forced to reclaim it on "lost and found" day at the end of the school year — especially if it had your name tag sewn in the collar. When my youngest brother got married and had kids, my little niece and nephew had no idea how lucky they were to have

our mom as their grandma. She was a cool and enlightened grandma and usually gave her grandkids things they actually wanted for Christmas — rather than things she thought they needed. Though always given with good intentions, Grandma's practical Christmas gifts were usually disappointing to us as kids. But that didn't mean we didn't love her dearly. When she knew we were coming to visit, she'd bake giant sugar cookies the size of pot lids just for us! She saved the Sunday colour funnies from the newspapers for us to read and did all kinds of other endearing "Grandma" things to show how much we meant to her. And she always tucked a dollar or two into our birthday cards to help make up for her Christmas gifts—and that was a lot of money back then! So, all in all, we have very fond and happy memories of her being a pretty good Grandma, despite her dreaded but well-meaning Christmas gifts. I smile at the memory now. To all the other kids out there—both past and present—who have had to endure their grandma's "practical" Christmas gifts over the years: have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

KEITH SCHELL
REMEMBERING WHEN



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Monthly Message: Best gift this season? Supporting local

The holiday season has officially arrived, bringing with it a time for celebration, connection, and reflection.

This year has presented its share of challenges for many of us, which makes supporting one another more important than ever. What better way to celebrate the season than by choosing local, whether that's shopping for gifts, dining out, or giving back to our community.

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es to essential services.

When you support local, you're not just checking items off your holiday list; you're strengthening our community and helping neighbours thrive.

To our local business owners, this season is both exciting and demanding. Remember to take care of yourself amidst the hustle; listening to your body and allowing yourself rest is just as important as meeting your customers' needs.

Consider collaborating with local chari-



ties or nonprofits to spread holiday cheer and raise awareness for important causes. Having a short checklist of recommended gifts, products, or services on hand can also be helpful, as customers often look to you for guidance during this busy time.

Accessibility is key, especially during winter months – keeping walkways clear and spaces safe helps ensure everyone feels welcome.

Most importantly, this is a wonderful opportunity to connect with your customers,

build trust, and strengthen relationships. Supporting fellow businesses and sharing the spotlight reminds us that we truly are stronger together.

As the year draws to a close, it's hard to believe how quickly the time has passed. With a new year just around the corner, now is the perfect moment to reflect, set goals, and look ahead with optimism.

From all of us, we wish you a joyful holiday season and a happy, healthy New Year.

Let's continue to shop local, support local, and celebrate all that makes Dufferin County such a special place to live and do business.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR: Tree-cutting bylaw

According to two reports in the Orangeville Citizen (11 December), a tree-cutting bylaw (TCB) is being proposed again – and by the same proponent as in 2012. She and others are concerned that housing developers strip the land clear of trees when they start to build.

Careful reading of the Municipal Act reveals that about thirteen exemptions are imposed by the Ontario government on any TCBs. One immunizes developers with approved plans. It also appears that provincial law forbids any legislative intrusion by municipal councils into private property unless expressly allowed by Ontario legislation. However, I think the first few feet of town lots

belong to the municipality; the homeowner must maintain acceptable care for that land, but the town can plant trees upon it.

I was disappointed that, after eliminating angle parking on Broadway, Orangeville chose to pour a concrete “mill” in its centre instead of planting trees there, which would have consumed less space and shaded the street on summer days. About two years ago, a tree was planted in the mill.

You report that many townsfolk carefully preserve their trees, but want the right to prune or thin them as they age and threaten property damage or injury. I support them.

Your report includes large majority percentages of support for a TCB in Orangeville.

Surveys are always suspect because the wording of the question and its dissemination to a small number of citizens can lead to bias in the results. How was the consulted population chosen? What was the question?

In the same issue of the Citizen, columnist Brian Lockhart observed that he sometimes feels like an astronaut strapped into a rocket hurtling toward the moon, unable to do anything. In Mr Lockhart's instance, it is federal government legislation that has strapped him down. He can hardly move because of the restrictions. Citizens confronted with yet another by-law, this time of questionable value, must feel the same straps tightening around them.

To improve the national environment a tiny bit, I bought a farm and – with considerable help – planted over 25,000 tree seedlings of more than two dozen varieties. I plant a few dozen more every year to fill gaps. Sequestering carbon was not my intention; anyway, no government will ever pay carbon “offsets” to farmers for their woodlots, even if we asked. Those woodlots are grown only for farm purposes. I will object if any government at any level tries to limit my forest management. It's one of four agricultural farming functions, and is being farmed as I see fit.

Charles Hooker
East Garafraxa

Tax dollars at work?

Auditor General Shelley Spence began her 10-year term on Jan. 8, 2024. She is appointed to a 10-year term by the Ontario Legislative Assembly after being anonymously recommended by a bipartisan panel of MPPs in December 2023. Shelley Spence works for the people of Ontario to ensure their hard-earned tax dollars are used in the best way for the people of Ontario.

Our Auditor general recently released yet another scathing report about the misuse of our tax dollars, re-vealing a lack of oversight, overspending, political favouritism, and waste from Doug Ford's PC Government.

#1 Healthcare: Our Minister of Health, Sylvia Jones, and her staff are not properly overseeing doctors' billings. The auditor pointed out that numerous physicians billed up to 500 patients a day and or 366 days a year.

This works out up to an estimated \$665 million in tax dollars being lost to over-billing.

At the same time, the auditor revealed that 2 million Ontarians still don't have a primary health care provider. The audit found that the Ministry of Health and Ontario Health did not consistently have programs in place to plan or oversee initiatives to improve patients' access to primary care providers.

Also, the Ministry of Health found itself with over 1 billion extra items of PPE from the COVID-19 out-break. The best thing they could come up with was to burn all of it. The incinerated items cost taxpayers \$1.4 billion. Sylvia Jones was unavailable for comment. This seems to happen quite often with Sylvia when its time to answer the tough questions.

#2 The Skills Development Funds Scandal: The \$2.5 billion in public money for the Skills Development Fund is being misused by the Minister of Labour, David Piccini. The auditor pointed out that many of the successful applicants had political connections and or

ties to Doug Ford's PC party. There is a lack of transparency and secrecy on how applicants were chosen and how much public money they received from the Skills Development Fund. Smells like more corruption from the Ford PC's.

#3 Advertising: The auditor general's report revealed Doug Ford's PC's spent a record \$112 million on taxpayer-funded advertising last year, with the province's auditor saying 38 per cent (\$42 million) was used in advertising to leave people with a “positive impression” of Doug Ford's government.

The Ford PC's spent more money on advertising (propaganda) last year than any other government in Ontario's history. This does not include the \$75 million spent on the anti-tariff ad that aired during the World Series in the U.S this fall, and we all know how effective that was for our tariff talks.

I think some of the people in Ontario vote

for the same party over and over rather than the actual person running for office. It's time to vote for a leader who has integrity, honesty, and the ability to speak to the people without marketing agents, expensive commercials, and teleprompters.

We need a leader for the greater good of all of Ontario, not for the greater good of all their buddies. We need a political party that isn't being continuously investigated by the RCMP (Greenbelt Scandal) to this day.

We need a political party that does not spend our tax dollars like kids in a candy store. At the same time, we are in a housing, healthcare, mental health, homeless and addiction crisis. Our food banks are barely keeping up with demand.

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Orangeville

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Dufferin OPP issue notices about shoplifting and snowplow safety



Dufferin OPP remind motorists of snowplow safety as winter conditions arrive

Dufferin Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) are reminding motorists and residents to exercise caution around snowplows as winter weather arrives across the region.

Snowplows are essential to keeping roads safe, but the size, weight, and limited

visibility of these vehicles can create significant hazards when drivers or homeowners do not give them the space they need to operate.

Snowplows carry large amounts of heavy equipment, can weigh several tonnes, and require extended stopping distances. Passing too closely or attempting to overtake a working plow can be extremely dangerous. The Dufferin OPP urges motorists to stay well back, be patient, and allow operators to clear the roads safely.

Safety Tips for Motorists

- Keep a safe distance behind snowplows, if you can't see their mirrors, they can't see you
- Never pass a working snowplow; whiteout conditions behind a plow can make visibility zero
- Reduce speed, drive according to road conditions, and watch for sudden stops or turns
- Allow extra travel time during winter weather events

Winter Parking & Property Reminders

- Refrain from parking on the street during prohibited winter parking hours, allowing plows to do their job effectively
- Do not push or blow snow from drive-

ways onto the roadway, as this creates unexpected hazards for drivers and plow operators

- Avoid placing garbage bins or recycling at the roadside too early, especially during overnight hours
- Keep children away from roadside snowbanks when plows are operating

Our plow operators work tirelessly through harsh weather conditions and long shifts to keep our roads safe. Giving them the space they need allows them to return home to their families safely and allows you to get to your destination safely with yours.

OPP warn the public of rise in shoplifting and porch pirates

Dufferin Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) officers are reminding residents and local businesses to remain vigilant during the holiday season, as December is historically one of the busiest times of the year for both shoplifting and package thefts—commonly known as “porch piracy.”

With increased foot traffic in retail stores and a surge in online shopping, opportunistic thieves often take advantage of the busy season. The Dufferin OPP encourages everyone to take simple steps to help prevent crime and protect their property.

Holiday shopping safety tips

- Stay aware of your surroundings while shopping
- Keep purses closed and secured; keep

wallets in front pockets

- Do not leave purchased items visible inside your vehicle
- Park in well-lit areas and lock your vehicle at all times
- Avoid leaving bags or personal items unattended

Preventing porch pirates

- Track deliveries and bring packages inside promptly
- Sign up for delivery alerts from couriers
- Consider using parcel lockers, pickup locations, or workplace delivery
- Install a doorbell camera or visible home security system
- Ask a trusted neighbour to collect packages when you're away

The Dufferin OPP encourages retailers to ensure adequate staff coverage during peak hours, maintain clear sightlines throughout stores, and secure high-value merchandise.

“While the holiday season should be a time of enjoyment, it unfortunately also brings increased theft activity,” says the Dufferin OPP. “A few preventive measures can go a long way in keeping your holidays safe.”

If you witness suspicious activity or have information related to thefts or other unlawful behaviour, please contact the OPP at 1-888-310-1122. To remain anonymous, contact Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS) or visit www.crimestoppersdm.com.



Credit Valley Conservation's Draft Updated Regulations Mapping open for public consultation

Credit Valley Conservation (CVC) has prepared draft regulations mapping to conform to requirements under the Conservation Authorities Act and Ontario Regulation 41/24.

Property owners in the Credit River Watershed can now review and comment on the draft updated regulation mapping until Jan. 18, 2026 at cvc.ca/RegulationMappingUpdate.

CVC has a provincially delegated responsibility to regulate development in areas subject to natural hazards in order to avoid and prevent the loss of life and damage to property due to flooding and erosion.

“Regulation mapping is a tool CVC uses to show where regulated natural hazards and regulated features such as wetlands and valley lands are located in the Credit River Watershed,” said Jakub Kilis, CVC's senior manager of infrastructure and regulations. “Up-

dates to regulation mapping ensure natural hazard limits are kept up to date to inform the planning and permit process to protect people and property. Landowners with property located within a regulated area, may require approval (a permit) from CVC before starting their project.”

Residents and landowners in the Credit River Watershed are encouraged to review CVC's draft updated regulation mapping. If there are inconsistencies between the features on their property and the draft updated regulated area mapping, they are invited to submit comments. Comments received will be reviewed by staff, and refinements may be made to the mapping were deemed appropriate and in keeping with current legislation and best available information.

For more information, visit CVC's website at cvc.ca/RegulationMappingUpdate

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OBITUARIES

FRANK BAKER
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Frank passed away peacefully on Tuesday, December 9th, 2025. He was predeceased by his loving wife Joan (2016), and his siblings Maureen, Irene, Brian and Harry. Frank will be missed by his son Peter (Kim), daughter Tracy (Chris), stepdaughters Brenda (John), Bev (Larry) and predeceased by Brian (Lori). Frank leaves behind his grandchildren Kevin, Holly (Mathieu), Rachael, Kirsten (Zsolt), Brandon (Carol), Cassandra (Kevin), Karlee (John), Natalee (Mike), Chloe (Gerald) and 8 great grandchildren. A heartfelt thanks to the caring PSW staff at 20 Walker Road, Caledon East.

Cremation has taken place. The family will receive their friends at the Egan Funeral Home, 203 Queen Street S. (Hwy 50), Bolton (905-857-2213) on Saturday, January 31st, 2026 for a celebration of life from 1:00-3:00pm with words of remembrance at 1:30pm. Condolences for the family may be offered at www.EganFuneralHome.com



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DONALD SHAPCOTT

With a heavy heart we announce the passing of Donald Shapcott on Sunday, November 30, 2025 at Inglewood Hospice after a long stay at Headwaters hospital.

He is sadly missed by his wife Irene and family.

Per his wishes cremation has taken place and a celebration of life is being planned for July closer to his birth date.



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O.A.C. C.O.B \$20,239

2021 VOLKSWAGEN TIGUAN COMFORTLINE



STK# 7852T • 60,514 KM • STONE BLUE METALLIC, 4MOTION AWD, 2.0L TURBO ENGINE, HEATED SEATS, APP-CONNECT, DIGITAL COCKPIT, DUAL-ZONE CLIMATE CONTROL, BACKUP CAMERA, BLIND SPOT MONITOR, LED LIGHTS, ALLOY WHEELS, AND MORE!

\$93

WEEKLY INCLUDE HST 84 MONTHS WEEKLY LICENSING EXTRA

\$26,683

+HST/LIC \$0 DOWN

@ 6.99%

O.A.C. C.O.B \$7,075

2023 NISSAN KICKS SV



STK# 7671T • 72,577 KM • 1.6L I4, CVT, FWD, FRESH POWDER WHITE, CHARCOAL BLACK CLOTH, HEATED FRONT SEATS, REMOTE START, 8" TOUCHSCREEN, CARPLAY & ANDROID AUTO, SAFETY SHIELD 360, 17" ALLOY WHEELS, AND MORE!

\$86

WEEKLY INCLUDE HST 84 MONTHS WEEKLY LICENSING EXTRA

\$22,875

+HST/LIC \$0 DOWN

@ 9.49%

O.A.C. C.O.B \$8,453

2024 HYUNDAI ELANTRA LUXURY



STK# 7784T • 20,132 KM • LEATHER INTERIOR, HEATED SEATS, HEATED STEERING WHEEL, SUNROOF, APPLE CARPLAY, ANDROID AUTO, WIRELESS CHARGING, ADAPTIVE CRUISE CONTROL, BLIND SPOT MONITOR, LANE KEEP ASSIST, REARVIEW CAMERA, DUAL-ZONE CLIMATE CONTROL, 17" ALLOY WHEELS, AND MORE!

\$103

WEEKLY INCLUDE HST 84 MONTHS WEEKLY LICENSING EXTRA

\$27,456

+HST/LIC \$0 DOWN

@ 9.49%

O.A.C. C.O.B \$10,145

2023 JEEP WRANGLER UNLIMITED WILLYS



STK# 7686P • 27,412 KM • 2.0L TURBOCHARGED I4 ENGINE, 8-SPEED AUTOMATIC TRANSMISSION, 4X4 WITH ANTI-SPIN DIFFERENTIAL, HEATED FRONT SEATS, HEATED STEERING WHEEL, UCONNECT 4C NAV WITH 8.4" TOUCHSCREEN & GPS NAV, ALPINE PREMIUM AUDIO SYSTEM, APPLE CARPLAY & ANDROID AUTO AND MORE!

\$176

WEEKLY INCLUDE HST 84 MONTHS WEEKLY LICENSING EXTRA

\$46,785

+HST/LIC \$0 DOWN

@ 9.49%

O.A.C. C.O.B \$17,288

2023 TOYOTA RAV4 HYBRID SE



STK# 7683P • 44,940 KM • 5L 4-CYLINDER HYBRID ENGINE, ELECTRONIC CONTINUOUSLY VARIABLE TRANSMISSION (ECVT), AWD, HEATED FRONT SEATS, 7" MULTI-INFO INFORMATION DISPLAY, 8" TOUCHSCREEN WITH APPLE CARPLAY & ANDROID AUTO, DUAL-ZONE AUTOMATIC CLIMATE CONTROL, SMART KEY WITH PUSH-BUTTON!

\$179

WEEKLY INCLUDE HST 84 MONTHS WEEKLY LICENSING EXTRA

\$51,986

+HST/LIC \$0 DOWN

@ 9.49%

O.A.C. C.O.B \$17,592

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