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JOSHUA DRAKES PHOTO

BUSINESS BREAKFAST: Orangeville Mayor Lisa Post cracks a smile while answering a question during a mayors' panel at the Dufferin Board of Trade's State of Business breakfast on Jan. 22. The mayors took questions and spoke about issues and initiatives currently facing the region. They highlighted the growing sustainability challenges of municipal taxes and infrastructure funding, and took time to acknowledge positive developments across the region, including regional transit, park development, and efforts to address recent copper thefts. Read a full story on Page A2.

Orangeville Food Bank looks to raise \$200,000 through annual Coldest Night of the Year walk

Written By JOSHUA DRAKES
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Orangeville Food Bank is preparing to host its annual Coldest Night of the Year walk, a community fundraiser that shines a light on local food insecurity.

Participants can choose a two- or five-kilometre route that begins at the Orangeville Food Bank and winds through downtown streets before returning for an outdoor celebration.

Carrie-Anne DeCaprio, Donor Engagement and Outreach Manager for the food bank, said that the walk is meant to allow residents to experience – briefly – the conditions that the homeless population must endure every day.

"We walk to raise awareness for those in our community that are living with food insecurity," she said. "This walk will give people the feeling of what it is like for a short period of time to be in their shoes."

"As much as we're raising funds, we're raising awareness for what's happening in our community, and the more people that can come out and support, the better," DeCaprio added.

Continued on Page A3



READY FOR RETURN: Coldest Night of the Year will return on Feb. 28, with two- and five-kilometre routes for participants. The event kicks off at the Orangeville Food Bank, 3 Commerce Rd., with registration opening at 4 p.m. and the walk commencing at 5 p.m.

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Dufferin Board of Trade hosts annual State of Business in Dufferin breakfast

Written By JOSHUA DRAKES
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Dufferin Board of Trade's annual State of Business breakfast on Jan. 22 brought local business leaders together to discuss taxes, housing, trade, and infrastructure.

Dufferin's mayors, Dufferin-Caledon MPP Sylvia Jones, and Dufferin-Caledon MP Kyle Seeback, delivered remarks at the gathering, which DBOT Executive Director Diana described as the organization's primary advocacy event.

"As the Board of Trade, we're the voice of business in Dufferin," she said. "We have a series of moderated questions... about how the provincial, federal, and municipal governments are all working to support the issues that our local businesses are facing this year."

Seeback focused heavily on Canada-U.S. trade and the looming review of the CUS-MA agreement, warning that recent rhetoric from U.S. President Donald Trump is a serious concern for the Canadian economy.

"Canada's economy is around 75 per cent trade, and 75 per cent of that is with the United States. We're in their top three trading partners," he said. "If you take out energy exports... trade with Canada's worth about three per cent of US GDP."

"I think it should be all hands on deck. I know we've signaled in the Conservative Party our willingness to help in any way with any contacts we have to try and get this deal done, because it's critical to the economy, and I hope that it is going to be the number one focus of the government as of today," Seeback added.

Seeback also addressed housing concerns, the importance of streamlining the process, and the need to support first-time buyers. He said that in Canada, housing faces two critical problems: the supply of houses and the speed at which construction is approved. He suggested removing HST on all home purchases to help incentivize buyers.

"I've heard from the Ontario Home Builders Association that the market could be in real trouble in the next six to eight months because people simply can't buy," he said. "That's why we've proposed taking the HST off all new homes under \$1.3 million, which they said would be an amazing boost to help deal with the cost of new homes."

"All three levels of government need to work together to make market housing more affordable, while also investing in non-market housing for people who wouldn't be in the market anyway," Seeback added.

Jones also spoke at length about recent initiatives and concerns in Ontario.

She defended the province's move to stan-



DUFFERIN BOARD OF TRADE PHOTOS

MEETING OF THE MINDS: Mayors from across Dufferin County, as well as Dufferin-Caledon MP Kyle Seeback and Dufferin-Caledon MPP Sylvia Jones were present at the Dufferin Board of Trade's annual State of Business breakfast event. They answered questions and commented on the key issues facing the region.

dardize recycling rules across the province and shift costs back onto producers, emphasizing that the blue box system is, at its core, a residential program. She noted that while municipalities can offer additional services if they choose, the formal producer responsibility framework will remain focused on household waste.

"This is really returning back to that producer responsibility," she said of blue box changes. "The blue box was... started as a residential program, and that really is the roots of where the focus is."

When asked whether there are any new, positive initiatives being put forward at the Ministry of Health, Jones highlighted recent investments in local healthcare, including the new MRI at Headwaters and a province-wide push to expand access to family medicine through team-based care.

She said Ontario's \$2.1 billion primary care initiative is designed to attach hundreds of thousands more patients to regular providers by funding multidisciplinary teams, which are multiple different practitioners that operate under one banner, to offer more streamlined service to patients, rather than bouncing them between different clinics.

"Many communities are talking about the need for primary care and primary care expansion," she said. "So there's a lot of interest in the \$2.1 billion investment that we have set aside to expand and fund primary care teams. New grads love working in interdisciplinary teams, and of course, patients get



better outcomes."

In the mayors' panel, municipal funding and property taxes dominated the discussion.

Orangeville Mayor Lisa Post said the current funding model is broken, noting that municipalities receive only a small share of the overall tax dollar while carrying major infrastructure responsibilities.

"Out of every dollar you pay in taxes, only 11 cents actually stays with the municipality," she said. "The rest of it is paid in either federal or provincial taxes, so we are wildly underfunded for the work that we need to do."

Mono Mayor John Creelman agreed.

"I think the model for funding municipalities is severely broken," he said. "It's unsustainable to expect ratepayers, property taxpayers, to fund the majority of municipal services. It cannot go on. Something's got to change."

Shelburne Mayor Wade Mills stressed that municipalities are facing the same inflationary pressures as residents while trying to maintain services.

"It costs us more this year to provide the same level of service than it did last year," he said. "We have to walk a fine line... we don't want taxes to be so high that (people) can't afford those items... but... we have to make sure that the services that they rely upon are going to be there when they need them."

While the panel of mayors acknowledged these challenges, they also focused on some

positive initiatives as well to balance out the session.

Mayor Lisa Post highlighted Orangeville's free transit and its success in increasing bus ridership.

"One of the things that our council is most proud of is our implementation of free transit," she said. "It's an innovative program that has really supported businesses, community members and everybody. It's been wildly successful, we're seeing about a 250 per cent increase in ridership."

Mayor Wade Mills highlighted progress in Shelburne as well, particularly in utilities and recreation.

"We have made record investments over the last three years in the Parks and Rec sphere," he said.

"We've done it strategically so that most of that money has come from reserves. If you've been through Shelburne lately, you'll see lots of projects going on, and I'm hoping that those are all going to be things that our community can enjoy for years to come. We (also) have some great partnerships and cooperation with our provincial partners in terms of movement on the wastewater plant."

Taken together, the morning underscored both the challenges and the opportunities facing Dufferin.

Business leaders, MPs, MPPs, and mayors agreed that securing trade and housing, and investing in health care and core infrastructure, will require closer cooperation across all levels of government.

MTO to conduct vehicle safety enforcement

Dufferin Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) partnered with the Ministry of Transportation (MTO) to conduct commercial motor vehicle (CMV) safety enforcement in Orangeville.

On Jan. 21, officers conducted pop-up inspections specifically targeting CMVs to ensure they were operating safely. Most CMV operators passed inspections without issue, but two vehicles were removed from the road due to defects.

"The Dufferin OPP would like to thank the majority of CMV operators who take pride in maintaining their equipment and ensuring it is in top condition before heading out on the road," reads a press release from the Dufferin

OPP.

Key CMV safety tips for the public

1. Stay Out of Blind Spots: If you can't see the driver, they can't see you.

2. Give Trucks Space: Trucks need longer to stop; don't tailgate or cut in front.

3. Be Careful at Turns: Trucks swing wide; never try to squeeze between them and the curb.

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Food bank sets \$200k goal for Coldest Night Walk amid rising grocery costs

Continued from FRONT

The event invites residents to experience, for a short time, the harsh winter conditions that many unhoused and struggling neighbours face far more often, while raising vital funds to keep food support programs running.

The Orangeville Food Bank has operated Coldest Night of the Year since 2018, and community support has grown steadily. In its first year, the event raised just under \$48,000. This year, with more than a month still to go before walkers hit the streets, fundraising has already surpassed that original total.

"The first year in 2018, we raised a total of \$47,796, which was absolutely amazing," DeCaprio said. "This year already, and we still have 37 days until the event... we've already

raised \$54,484."

Last year, by the end of the fundraiser, the food bank raised \$176,000 in donations.

Organizers have set a target of \$200,000 to help offset the rising cost of groceries, especially the perishable items the food bank must purchase, such as milk, eggs, and fresh produce.

Local service clubs, churches, volunteer teams, schools, sports groups, and informal social circles all play a major role, both by walking and by volunteering on event day. Despite showing up all year to help run the food bank's operations and committing so much time to charity, these groups continue to throw themselves into the walk and fundraiser, leading teams in donations and helping to organize the walk itself.

"Not only do they volunteer with us all

year long, they're captaining these teams, they're spearheading this event," DeCaprio said. "Then they come, and they still support the Coldest Night of the Year by volunteering the night of the event, which takes over 100 volunteers to run."

The 2026 walk is scheduled for Feb. 28, with activities centered at the Orangeville Food Bank. Registration opens at 4 p.m., although organizers recommend that most participants arrive closer to 4:30 p.m. to avoid waiting in the cold.

Shortly before 5 p.m., there will be opening remarks and final instructions, followed by the official start of the walk at 5 p.m. Walkers are expected to finish between 6 p.m. and 7 p.m., returning to a community gathering in the back parking lot featuring food, music, burn barrels, and a festive atmosphere.

The Orangeville-based DJ company, Dufferin DJs, will be spinning the tunes at CNOY to create a celebratory atmosphere for walk participants.

Everyone is welcome and invited to attend the walk and participate in the fundraiser, but DeCaprio said not to be discouraged if you're not in a position to donate; advocacy is still greatly appreciated.

"Even if somebody feels that they're not able to raise any donations, register for the walk," she said. "Come on out. As much as we're raising funds, we're raising awareness for what's happening in our community, and the more people that can come out and support, the better."

For more information about the Coldest Night of the Year walk and donations, go to <https://en.cnoy.org/location/orangeville>.

Attack on agriculture: Orangeville supports Green leader's bill to preserve prime farmland

Written By JAMES MATTHEWS

Ontario's food security is threatened.

Mike Schreiner, leader of the Green Party of Ontario, said during Orangeville council's Jan. 26 meeting that it is time for political and jurisdictional lines to be erased in the interest of defending food sovereignty and the province's agri-food economy.

The province has as many as 49,000 farms that grow more than 200 different types of crops. Those farms contribute about \$52 billion to the provincial economy and employ more than 875,000 people, he said.

One in nine jobs in Ontario is related to the agri-food sector.

"By far, the largest employer in the prov-

ince of Ontario," he said. "And all of that is currently under threat."

That's because the province loses 319 acres of farmland every day. That measures about one in nine family farms lost every week.

What makes that particularly concerning is that only five per cent of the province is arable. Less than one per cent of that is "prime farmland," he said.

Schreiner inked his name to Bill 21, the Protect Our Food Act. It's legislation broached last year that proposed establishing a foodbelt protection plan advisory committee to work toward protecting farmland by creating a foodbelt in Ontario.

"Without farmland, there are no farms,

there is no food, there is no future," he said. "And I would argue that food security is national security and we need to maintain that food security now more than ever."

Orangeville's council agreed to get behind the effort and support the goals of Bill 21.

Councillor Joe Andrews asked about any involvement by the Dufferin Federation of Agriculture (DFA).

Schreiner said the DFA has endorsed the proposed legislation through the Ontario Federation of Agriculture. All such groups have back Bill 21 by supporting the industry's provincial body.

Coun. Tess Prendergast said half of Dufferin County's land mass is farmland.

"So we're very much part of that agri-busi-



ness here in Orangeville," she said. "Supporting Bill 21 is really about ensuring communities like ours benefit for generations to come because we all eat."

Increased funding needed to better address homelessness: Dufferin County council report

Written By JAMES MATTHEWS

More federal and provincial money is required to address homelessness and housing needs in Dufferin County.

County staff presented a report to council when it met Jan. 22. The report contained updated data on homelessness in Ontario from the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, in conjunction with the Ontario Municipal Social Services Association and Northern Ontario Service Deliverers Association.

The report, titled Municipalities Under Pressure One Year Later Updated Report, shows continued growth in homelessness despite increased investment.

That's starkly illustrated by the 84,973 Ontarians who experienced homelessness in 2025, which is a 7.8 per cent increase from 2024 and nearly 50 per cent more since 2021.

According to the report, people are staying homeless for longer periods of time. Chronic

homelessness now accounts for 53 per cent of all homelessness. Rural communities saw a 31 per cent rise.

There were nearly 2,000 encampments throughout Ontario. And there are more than 301,000 households on a waiting list to be housed. The average wait time is about 65 months.

The report indicates that Ontario homelessness could double by 2035 under steady conditions, and could triple in an economic downturn.

Despite \$4 billion invested in 2025, homelessness continues to rise. In Dufferin County, the trend identified in the report aligns with what is being experienced.

County council approved staff's recommendation to continue to advocate for increased federal and provincial investment. Staff will also continue to implement system-level improvements and report on progress and funding opportunities.



HOMELESSNESS ON THE RISE: A staff report received by Dufferin County council on Jan. 23 shared data on homelessness in Ontario. Data shows that nearly 85,000 Ontarians experienced homelessness in 2025, which is an almost 8 per cent increase over 2024. Since 2021, the number of homeless people in Ontario has increased by nearly 50 per cent.

STOCK PHOTO

Public notice

Zoning bylaw amendment

A complete application has been submitted to amend the zoning bylaw for this property. The proposed land use change would allow for semi-detached dwellings.

What's being proposed

- Two-storey semi-detached dwellings, two units
- Two parking spaces per unit
- Retain existing single-detached dwelling

Application details

File number: RZ-2025-02

Location of subject lands: 73 Townline

Zoning bylaw amendment request: to rezone the property from 'Residential Second Density (R2)' to 'Residential Second Density (R2)' with Site Specific Provisions' and 'Residential Third Density (R3)' with Site Specific Provisions'.

Notice issued: January 29, 2026



Subject property map

Learn more and share feedback

Public meeting

Date: February 23, 2026

Time: 7 p.m.

Location: Council Chambers, Town Hall, 87 Broadway

Watch online: orangeville.ca/WatchLive

Join by phone: call 1-647-374-4685 and enter meeting ID 943 9456 8630 #

Meeting agenda to be posted by February 18, 2026.

How to participate

- learn how to speak at a council meeting at orangeville.ca/SpeakUp
- to attend via Zoom visit the meeting agenda at orangeville.ca/Meetings

Submit written comments

Send comments before the meeting using the contact information provided. All feedback becomes part of the public record.

For more information

For more information about this matter, including information about appeal rights, contact

Larysa Russell, MCIP, RPP
Senior Planner

lrussell@orangeville.ca

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County fears provincial housing legislation may disadvantage renters

Written By JAMES MATTHEWS

Provincial legislation to spur housing development affects the relationship between landlords and their tenants.

Bill 60, the Fighting Delays, Building Faster Act, introduces significant changes that will accelerate eviction timelines and reduce tenant protections.

Brenda Wagner, Dufferin County's Health and Human Services manager, said in a report to county council that the legislation risks increasing housing instability.

According to Wagner's report to council, the potential rise in evictions and rental turnover could lead to higher rents and reduced affordability. That will compound existing challenges for vulnerable populations.

"Proactive planning and collaboration with community partners will be essential to mitigate these impacts and uphold the county's commitment to equity, stability, and well-being for all residents," she said in her report.

With changes affecting the Landlord and Tenant Board, eviction proceedings for non-payment of rent are reduced from 14 to seven days.

Tenants have 15 days to appeal an eviction order. That's shortened from 30 days. Issues such as maintenance will not be heard at non-payment hearings unless

In total, 50 per cent of arrears are paid.

When meeting the personal use criteria and providing 120 days' notice before termination, landlords are no longer required to provide a month's rent or an alternative

rental unit to tenants.

The changes may lead to outcomes that further strain already-thin resources, such as homeless shelter space and food banks.

Councillor Fred Nix, Mono's deputy mayor, suggested that the county write a letter to the crowd at Queen's Park to highlight some of the concerns about the legislation.

Nix said the public should know what is happening between landlords and tenants. Orangeville has the majority of renters in the county.

According to the 2021 Census, Orangeville has 2,690 households renting. Shelburne has 600; Melancthon and Amaranth each have 155; Grand Valley has 200 households renting; East Garafraxa and Mulmur each have 75; and Mono has 145 households renting.



Warden Lisa Post, Orangeville's mayor, agreed with Nix that a letter stating the county's reservations about Bill 60 needs to be communicated to the provincial government.

County staff will draft such a letter for council's feedback.

Homelessness and Addiction Recovery Treatment Hub launches in Orangeville

Written By SAM ODROWSKI

Orangeville has been selected as one of 28 new Homelessness and Addiction Recovery Treatment (HART) Hubs in Ontario.

The provincial government announced \$550 million to open the 28 new hubs in March, and on Jan. 23, a celebration marking the opening of the local hub was held with Services and Housing In the Province (SHIP). Orangeville Mayor Lisa Post, Dufferin-Caledon MPP Sylvia Jones, community leaders, emergency services, and HART Hub partners were in attendance.

The local hub is operated by SHIP and improves access to treatment services for people with unstable housing, mental health challenges, and addictions. The hub also offers social services and employment support.

"Our government is delivering on its promise to build a stronger, more connected system of mental health and addictions care that better reflects the needs of communities and focuses on lasting recovery," said Jones, who's also the Deputy Premier of Ontario and Minister of Health. "The opening of this new HART Hub will ensure that those struggling with mental health and addictions challenges in Orangeville and across Dufferin County can access compassionate care and support services that prioritize their path to recovery and strengthens community safety."

While the Dufferin HART Hub is now open and offering services in Orangeville at the Edelbrock Centre (30 Centre St.), a satellite site in Shelburne will soon launch. A mobile clinic will follow in the spring to expand access to care throughout the region.

"Dufferin County is committed to work-

ing with our partners like SHIP, other local agencies and the Province of Ontario to ensure those most vulnerable in our community have access to the essential services that they need, when they need them," said Orangeville Mayor Lisa Post. "The new HART Hub will provide local access to mental health, addiction and housing supports so that our community members get the care they need, right here in Dufferin. We are grateful to the province for this investment and look forward to continuing to work together to address housing instability, quality care and community safety in Dufferin County."

The HART Hub, operated by SHIP, delivers services through a collaborative network of clinical, social service, and care providers working together to connect people with the supports they need, when they need them.

In addition to the services previously mentioned, the local hub provides primary care, basic needs support (food and hygiene products), transitional beds, and supportive housing services.

"HART Hubs are about meeting people where they are and connecting them to the care and supports they need," said Vijay Thanigasalam, Ontario's Associate Minister of Mental Health and Addictions. "By expanding services in Dufferin County, we're helping more individuals access treatment and recovery closer to home, while strengthening partnerships that make a real difference in communities."

HART Hubs will not offer safer supply, supervised drug consumption, or needle exchange programs. The focus is on treatment and recovery.

"As the operator of the HART Hub in Duf-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CARING FOR THE COMMUNITY: The opening of a Homelessness and Addiction Recovery Treatment (HART) Hub in Orangeville was celebrated by local leaders, dignitaries, and community partners on Jan. 23. Orangeville Mayor Lisa Post, Dufferin-Caledon MPP Sylvia Jones, and HART Hub partners were in attendance and hold up plaques recognizing the hub's grand opening. The local hub is operated by Services and Housing In the Province (SHIP) and is designed to help support people with unstable housing, mental health challenges, and addictions. The hub also offers social services and employment support.

ferin, SHIP is proud to work alongside community and health system partners to deliver integrated, compassionate, and recovery focused supports for individuals experiencing mental health challenges, addiction and housing instability," said SHIP CEO Susan Doyle.

"The HART Hub represents a fundamentally different approach that meets people

where they are, connects them to coordinated care, and supports pathways to stability and long term housing, while advancing the core priorities of Dufferin's safety and wellbeing plan. SHIP is grateful for the province's leadership and investment and looks forward to continuing this important work in Orangeville, Shelburne and across Dufferin County."

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Town of Orangeville Upcoming meetings

February 2026

Committee of Adjustment

Wednesday, Feb. 4 at 6 p.m.

Council chambers, 87 Broadway

Sustainable Orangeville

Thursday, Feb. 5 at 6 p.m.

Council chambers, 87 Broadway

Council (Regular)

Monday, Feb. 9 at 7 p.m.

Council chambers, 87 Broadway

Live stream: orangeville.ca/WatchLive

Economic Development and Culture Committee

Tuesday, Feb. 10 at 8 a.m.

Lakeview boardroom (upper level),
200 Lakeview Crt.
Call in: 1-289-801-5774 ID: 573 203 676#

Access Orangeville

Thursday, Feb. 12 at 10 a.m.

Council chambers, 87 Broadway

Community Improvement Plan

Tuesday, Feb. 17 at 12 p.m.

Council chambers, 87 Broadway

Orangeville OPP Detachment Board

Tuesday, Feb. 17 at 6 p.m.

Council chambers, 87 Broadway

Live stream: orangeville.ca/YouTube

Heritage Orangeville

Thursday, Feb. 19 at 6 p.m.

Council chambers, 87 Broadway

Council (Public Meeting)

Monday, Feb. 23 at 7 p.m.

Council chambers, 87 Broadway

Live stream: orangeville.ca/WatchLive

Orangeville Public Library Board

Wednesday, Feb. 25 at 5 p.m.

Mill Street Library, 1 Mill St.

Call in: 1-289-801-5774 ID: 687 774 475#

Unable to attend a meeting in person? Request to join virtually (subject to availability) by contacting committees@orangeville.ca or 519-941-0440 ext. 7321 during regular business hours and at least one hour before the meeting.

Meeting dates/times are subject to change.

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

 Orangeville

Orangeville council joins CVC in opposing amalgamation

Written By JAMES MATTHEWS

Credit Valley watershed growth brings opportunities to communities, but also increases pressure on green spaces.

Terri Leroux, the CAO at Credit Valley Conservation Authority (CVC), said during Orangeville council's Jan. 26 meeting that the group wants to preserve a local voice against amalgamation to best address watershed concerns and opposed the consolidation of authorities.

The provincial government has a plan to create the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency, which will consolidate regional watershed conservation agencies into seven entities from 36.

"Orangeville does not want to get lost in this consolidation," Councillor Joe Andrews said. "I think our voice needs to be heard."

Larger centres with louder voices south of Orangeville may render smaller northern voices to whispers.

Leroux said the CVC opposes such a move to ensure local issues aren't washed out by those of larger centres.

"Across our watershed in all programming areas, we're responding to three major trends: accelerating climate impacts, increasing natural hazard risks, and population growth and demand for green space," she said.

The authority anticipates "wilder, wetter, and less predictable" conditions in the coming years. These include intense storms, flooding, and heat waves, and their impacts on people in the watershed.

Intensifying weather events are increasing such risks across the watershed, including floods, erosion, ice-jam hazards, and the havoc the fallout from those events will have on municipal infrastructure.

The CVC's budget this year contains measures to enhance real-time flood forecasting and ice-jam prediction. Flood plain maps will also be updated and modernized.

"We give municipalities the tools to pro-

tect residents," Leroux said.

In 2026, the CVC will accelerate land acquisition and implement an invasive species strategy and a sustainable forest management plan.

For Orangeville specifically, Leroux said the CVC will update Mill Creek and Monora Creek floodplain mapping. A multi-risk flood analysis of municipal properties will be undertaken to support emergency preparedness.

"This gives the town a clearer picture of which assets are most vulnerable," she said. "And where proactive investment will have the most impact."

The CVC will investigate how groundwater issues contribute to the risk of basement flooding. And water quality impact assessment data will be provided to the town to support wastewater treatment requirements.

Other plans for the year touch on drinking water issues, monitoring restoration on private lands, hazard tree management at Island Lake Conservation Area, and public engagement by way of community stewardship events.

The municipal general levy for Orangeville, the town's contribution to the CVC's budget this year, will increase by about two per cent or a little more than \$5,000 over last year's contribution.

Deputy Mayor Todd Taylor said he was critical of the CVC last year. But he acknowledged the "great strides" the organization has made over the last few months.

Coun. Tess Prendergast said money received from the municipal levy can't be used for programs at Island Lake. Rather, it has to go toward practical initiatives like floodplain work and such.

That leaves revenue from public admissions and parking fees that can support recreational pursuits.

"If we're looking to increase services at Island Lake, I think we need to start going through the main gate," she said.

Weapons, drugs seized after citizen reports drug transaction in Orangeville

Dufferin Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) officers have charged an Orton resident with multiple offences following a traffic stop that resulted in the seizure of a large quantity of cash, weapons, including an imitation firearm, and cocaine.

On Jan. 20, just before 10 p.m., members of the Dufferin OPP B Platoon received information from a concerned resident regarding a possible drug transaction in the area of Fourth Avenue in the Town of Orangeville. Officers located the vehicle while responding to the call, conducted a traffic stop, and spoke with the driver.

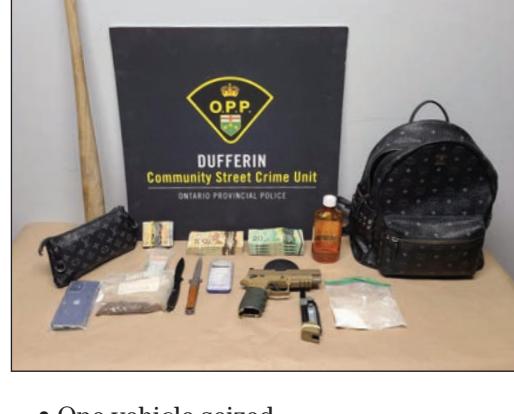
Following consultation with the Dufferin OPP Community Street Crime Unit (CSCU), officers continued the investigation, which resulted in the following:

Josh Perkins, 23, of Orton, has been charged with:

- Obstruct plate
- Possession of a Schedule II substance for the purpose of Trafficking (three counts)
- Possession of a prohibited device or ammunition (two counts)

Items Seized:

- 26.7 grams of cocaine
- One bag containing a substance believed to be opium
- One half-filled bottle of codeine
- Two spring-loaded knives (prohibited devices)
- One imitation firearm
- One baseball bat



- One vehicle seized
- Cash seized as proceeds of crime
- One cellular phone

The accused individual is scheduled to appear before the Ontario Court of Justice in Orangeville.

The accused was held for a bail hearing before the Ontario Court of Justice in Orangeville.

The listed charges have not been proven in court.

The Dufferin OPP would like to remind residents to remain vigilant and to report any suspicious activity. Anyone with information, dash camera footage, or security video related to this incident is encouraged to contact the Dufferin OPP.

The OPP can be contacted at 1-888-310-1122, or Crime Stoppers anonymously at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS) or online at www.crimestopperssdm.com.

The Ontario SPCA reminds pet parents to take extra care during extreme winter weather

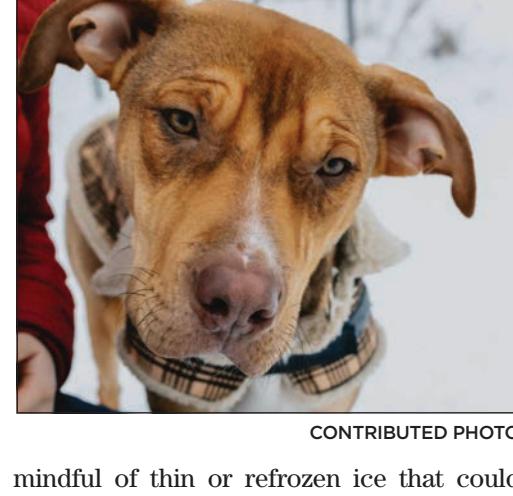
Written By SAM ODROWSKI

As bitter cold settles across the province, the Ontario SPCA and Humane Society are reminding pet parents to take precautions to help keep their animals safe. Extreme winter weather poses serious risks, such as frostbite and hypothermia. Animals rely on their owners to protect them from the elements.

"Even a short time in severe cold can be dangerous for animals," says Dr. Joey Tang, Interim Medical Director, Ontario SPCA and Humane Society. "By watching for signs of discomfort and making small adjustments to your routine, you can help keep your pets safe this winter."

Some animals love the snow, but prolonged time outdoors can quickly become hazardous in frigid temperatures. Keep a close eye on your dog when they are outside playing and watch for early signs of cold, such as shivering or lifting their paws. Cats, puppies, seniors, and short-coated animals are especially vulnerable during cold snaps. An insulated sweater or coat can offer much-needed protection for dogs who need an extra layer. But even with winter clothing, animals should only be outside for short periods during extreme cold.

As temperatures drop, frozen lakes and rivers may look inviting to curious pets, but ice can be unpredictable. Keep your pet close, steer clear of the water's edge, and be



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

mindful of thin or refrozen ice that could break without warning.

The Ontario SPCA also urges caution around vehicles. Cars cool rapidly in winter, making them unsafe places for pets. Engines remain warm for a while after being turned off and can attract cats seeking shelter. Before starting your car, knock on the hood or honk the horn to make sure no animals are hiding under the hood.

If you're worried about the safety of an animal, call the Government of Ontario's Provincial Animal Welfare Services team at 1-833-9ANIMAL (1-833-926-4625) or contact your local police. In an emergency, call 911.

For more information on winter pet safety, visit ontariospca.ca

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Mono council finalizes rules surrounding backyard chicken coops

Written By JAMES MATTHEWS

Mono residents can avail of licences to keep backyard chickens in town areas other than rural areas.

Allowing backyard chickens became an issue in February 2023 when a Mono resident asked that a coop be allowed in his backyard. He was told chickens weren't allowed because his property was zoned as suburban residential.

Brampton, a much larger municipality, permits two hens per household. And Mississauga and nearby Orangeville had undertaken pilot projects to investigate the possibility of allowing four and three hens per household, respectively.

A survey of Mono residents last year garnered 59 responses, of which 10 were duplicate submissions. So there were 49 usable responses. That tally was well below the 344 considered the minimum for statistical validity.

Of the 49 responses, only 13 indicated they lived in properties zoned residential. Nineteen people said they were or might be interested in keeping backyard chickens. Thirty-five of the 49, or 71 per cent of respondents, indicated they had no concerns about keeping backyard chickens in residential zones.

Those who indicated concerns cited noise, odour, disease, predation, and animal welfare.

A penalty structure was completed for the bylaw's third reading during council's Jan. 13 meeting. Monetary fines are listed for eight types of infractions, ranging from \$250

to \$750.

Deputy Mayor Fred Nix said it was suggested when work began on a bylaw that a three-metre setback from the property line was tight.

"I don't know what the right length (is)," he said.

He asked if a property owner finds that three metres between the property line and the structure is too restrictive, could an exception be made on a case-by-case basis, or would the bylaw need to be amended?

"The bylaw does not include any appeal mechanism whatsoever," said Fred Simpson, the town's clerk.

A chicken coop licence would be denied in such cases, he said.

Councillor Melinda Davie said council has to remember that this is a pilot project.

"I kind of think that we should just kind of go ahead with it as opposed to muddying it to allow an appeal at this stage," she said.

Of the penalty structure, Coun. Elaine Capes said a \$500 fine for the "slaughter of backyard chickens on property," as the report to council states, is too light. She said that should merit a \$750 fine, such as would be levied for obstructing or hindering a bylaw officer.

"Slaughtering on your property is not allowed and I think there has to be a heavier set fee for that," Capes said.

Having gone through the trouble of getting a permit, why are they then murdering the fowl? Mayor John Creelman said.

Simpson said slaughtering on the property is a best practice recommendation. That's why it is included in the draft bylaw.



STOCK PHOTO

PILOT PROGRAM LAUNCHES: Backyard chicken coops are now permitted in more urbanized parts of Mono. A pilot program recently launched, with licenses available to interested homeowners who qualify.

Davie said the \$500 fine for slaughtering the chickens on a Mono property is sufficient. The obstructing a bylaw officer offence should net the highest fine, she said.

Davie said a resident may be stuck with four chickens if the pilot project proves to

be a "fiasco." So what are they to do with the animals?

Davie said chickens can't be given away because of the bird flu. She said residents could take their chickens to a nearby processing facility "for just a few bucks each."

Orangeville encourages nominations for Community Recognition Awards

Orangeville launches Community Recognition Awards to celebrate local excellence

New program invites residents to nominate people who strengthen, connect and inspire the community

The Town of Orangeville is launching the Community Recognition Awards, a new program created to celebrate the people who make Orangeville a better place to live.

New in 2026, the Community Recognition Awards shine a light on individuals and groups whose efforts help build a healthy, thriving and welcoming community. The program recognizes volunteer service and community achievement across a range of categories, celebrating the care, commitment and pride that residents bring to Orangeville every day.

"Orangeville is stronger because of the people who step up, give back and help oth-

ers feel connected," said Mayor Post. "These awards are celebrating the people who embody the idea of being rooted in community and striving for excellence."

Public nominations are a key part of the Community Recognition Awards. Residents are encouraged to nominate people whose contributions have made a meaningful difference in the community. Nominations close on Feb. 27 at 4:30 p.m.

Nominations must be completed online. All required sections must be filled out to be considered. Accessible formats and assistance with completing forms are available upon request.

Each nomination package includes several items that must be completed as part of the process, including an impact statement about the nominee and supporting evidence.

To ensure fairness and integrity, self-nom-

inations and nominations from immediate family members are not accepted.

Award categories include:

Volunteer Service Awards, recognizing Orangeville residents for long-term volunteer contributions in:

- community and social services
- sports and recreation
- arts and culture

Citizen Achievement Awards, recognizing Orangeville residents, teams or groups who have achieved success at the provincial, national or international level in:

- sports and recreation
- arts and culture

Community Champion Award, recognizing a person who has made a lasting impact on community life through at least 10 years of continued effort. This award is only presented when merited.

Mayor's Special Achievement Award, the program's highest honour, recognizing an extraordinary or timely achievement that brings distinction to Orangeville and does not fit within other categories. Public nominations are not accepted for this award.

The Community Recognition Awards aim to reflect the diversity of Orangeville and recognize people fairly across different ages, genders, cultural backgrounds, abilities and community interests. The adjudication process includes bias awareness training and strives to include a range of lived experiences.

Together, the Community Recognition Awards celebrate the people whose dedication, generosity and achievements help Orangeville thrive.

To learn more or submit a nomination, visit orangeville.ca/RecognitionAwards.

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Routes often change in the winter to give snow plows enough time to clear the roads. To ensure collection, make sure your garbage and green bins are out on the curb by 7 am on your collection day.

Do not place your waste bins on a snowbank, icy surfaces or on the road.

Shovel a part of the curb/collection area to make room for waste bins/bags OR place them at the end of your driveway to ensure the safety of waste collectors and snowplowing of your road. GFL cannot collect any waste placed on snowbanks or buried in snow.

Do not let food scraps freeze to the bottom of your green bin.

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For missed collections, call GFL at 1-888-941-3345 ext. 1

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New executive director Teresa Waldner takes helm at Alzheimer Society of Dufferin

Written By JOSHUA DRAKES
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Alzheimer Society of Dufferin County is a local nonprofit organization that supports people living with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias, as well as their families and caregivers. They now have a new executive director, Teresa Waldner.

Waldner is bringing deep not-for-profit and healthcare experience to the Alzheimer Society of Dufferin County, returning to work in her home community.

"I feel very grateful to be able to land back in my community and bring anything I may have learned throughout my career with me," she said. "I'm looking forward to engaging with anyone and everyone within the community that has an interest in Alzheimer's."

Waldner's career began in marketing for the arts, but was reshaped by personal loss and exposure to hospice and palliative care, leading her to pursue roles across the not-for-profit healthcare sector.

She has held leadership positions with organizations such as Bethel Hospice and Community Living, steadily building expertise in community care and organizational leadership.

In her new role, Waldner said that she has identified three key priorities.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

NEW LEAD: The Alzheimer Society of Dufferin County's new executive director, Teresa Waldner, has identified three key objectives she wants to focus on as she takes the helm: programming, partnerships and awareness. They are the cornerstones of her mission to create a truly dementia-friendly community.

"It's still early days for me, but there are three pillars of our work that I really want to focus on," she said. "The first is programming — making sure we have enough programs, and the right programs, for the people we serve. The second is partnerships, strengthening the relationships we already have and forging new

ones. The third is awareness and education, ensuring people can access the information they need and really pushing the idea of a dementia-friendly community."

She is particularly focused on advancing the vision of Orangeville and Dufferin County becoming a dementia-friendly community, where businesses, emergency services, and citizens are trained to recognize and support people living with dementia.

"I'd like to challenge Orangeville to become a dementia-friendly community," Waldner said. "Orangeville and Dufferin County and businesses can do that by reaching out and asking for training."

"We can train their staff, whether it's not for profit, for profit, and then we can all work together to ensure our residents who are or will have dementia in the future have a safe place to live with access to all of the services that they should have," she added.

Underlying her approach is a belief in connection, compassion, and collaboration as the foundation of both individual well-being and a healthier, more supportive community.

Waldner's priorities and goals are the cornerstones that define the Alzheimer Society of Dufferin County.

Their goals and work aim to ensure that no one faces dementia alone by providing educa-

tion, emotional support, practical guidance, and advocacy, while also building a more informed and dementia-friendly community.

There are more than 1,500 people living with dementia in Dufferin County, and the society supports hundreds of residents each year through education programs, caregiver support groups, one-on-one counselling, and safety and care-planning initiatives.

To support this work, Waldner said community support is crucial, from donations to volunteering to simply helping spread awareness.

"We're always fundraising, and we're always encouraging people," she said. "Our big fundraiser is the walk in May. Besides that, we're always encouraging people to volunteer, with a number of different roles, and we provide training within those roles. We always appreciate monetary support, too, of course, but the awareness is what truly brings us to our goal of having a dementia-friendly community."

With a dedicated team behind her that made settling in easy, Waldner said the Alzheimer Society of Dufferin County will continue to forge ahead with its mission and will continue providing the high-quality care and support it has become known for.

For more information on the Alzheimer Society of Dufferin County, go to <https://alzheimer.ca/dufferincounty/>



Caledon \ Dufferin Victim Services

Board Recruitment

Caledon\Dufferin Victim Services (CDVS) supports victims of crime, abuse, and tragedy enabling the continuum of recovery through rapid response, informed referrals, and community partnerships.

We are seeking passionate community members to become involved in our Board of Directors. A position on the CDVS Board of Directors is a meaningful way to make a difference and give back to your community in a leadership role.

Board members represent the diversity and interests of the people of The Town of Caledon and the County of Dufferin. The work of the Board helps guide the organization and focuses on governance, strategic direction, and accountability. Board members are community residents and are elected for a term of three years. The Board meets between 6-10 times a year on a weekday evening for approximately 2-3 hours per session. Most of the meetings are held virtually but the Directors try to meet in person at least twice per year.

Board members will receive required materials and training and will be oriented to our model of Board Governance. Community focus and relevant experience or expertise will be considered regardless of previous board experience. Please include this information in your cover letter.



Interested individuals may forward their resume and letter of interest using the following methods:

EMAIL: president@cdvs.ca | **MAIL:** Chair, Board of Directors
15924 Innis Lake Road, Caledon East, ON L7C 2Z1

Applications are accepted on an ongoing basis.

To learn more about Caledon Dufferin Victim Services, please visit our website:

WWW.CDVS.CA

CDVS is committed to the principles of equality and inclusion with regard to race, colour, religion, nationality, social or ethnic origin, sex, age, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity and/or expression, domestic partnership status or any other status that is representative of the communities we work in. CDVS encourages applicants from all communities.

Arts & Entertainment

LOCAL COMMUNITY EVENTS

Theatre Orangeville presents 'Common Ground,' an 80s romantic comedy

Written By JOSHUA DRAKES
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Theatre Orangeville is going back in time with Common Ground, a romantic comedy premiering Feb. 6 that blends heartbreak, humour and hope against a distinctly 1980s backdrop.

Directed by Theatre Orangeville Artistic Director Jennifer Stewart, Common Ground explores what happens when long-standing relationships suddenly fall apart – and what can grow in their place. Set in 1984 in a small town in New Brunswick, the play introduces audiences to Pam and Jake, two strangers whose spouses have abruptly run off, leaving them blindsided and struggling to make sense of their new realities.

Instead of depicting the breakups themselves, the play drops viewers directly into the emotional aftermath. The story follows Pam and Jake as they navigate betrayal and rediscovery – with plenty of awkward moments and laughs along the way.

Lauren Bowler, who plays Pam, describes her character as highly cerebral and cautious, someone who lives largely inside her own head. Pam is grounded by her best friend Lizzy, whose confidence and spontaneity challenge Pam to reconnect with herself and rediscover what she wants from life.

"Pam really lives in a constant state of stress throughout this entire show," Bowler said. "She has to go on a journey of reconnecting with herself, and Lizzy is this beautiful prompt of a friend to encourage her to take those next steps."

Lizzy, played by Heather McGuigan, is described as an unapologetic free spirit. Loyal, outspoken and largely unmoved by social expectations.

"Lizzy was given an extraordinary amount of confidence to live the way that she wants to live," McGuigan said. "She either tries to encourage other people to embody that freedom, or she's not bothered by a world that doesn't like it. She is fiercely loyal to

her friends."

On the other side of the story is Jake, portrayed by Jamie Mac. At first glance, Jake appears to be a simple farm boy, but Mac says there is much more depth beneath the surface. Jake is plain spoken and direct, someone who may come across as unsophisticated, but who possesses a grounded wisdom shaped by a quiet life.

"I think Jake is more sophisticated than might meet the eye from the start," Mac said. "In some ways, he's just a farm boy who doesn't have a lot of social experience or worldliness, but he discovers a certain kind of earthly wisdom through the eyes of someone special."

Mac adds that Jake's straightforward nature can be misread.

"He's a bit of a square peg no matter where he goes," he said. "People might find him offensive, but he wouldn't view himself that way. I think he's lived a pretty simple life, and he's desperate for a lot more connection than he's ever had before."

As Pam and Jake meet while picking up the pieces of their lives, the play explores themes of self discovery, healing and the possibility of new love. The question isn't just whether romance will spark, but whether these characters can build meaningful connections and support systems after everything they thought was stable has fallen apart.

Stewart said casting was central to making the small cast production work, particularly given the balance required between comedy and emotional weight.

"It's about casting the actors you think will work well together, then rehearsing the play and figuring out all the moments," Stewart said. "What do they want? What do they need? What's their arc? Then helping them get there through rehearsals so they feel confident and ready to tell the story in a way that's engaging, interesting and truthful."

The decision to set Common Ground in 1984 was also deliberate. Stewart said the



JOSHUA DRAKES PHOTO

IN THE LIMELIGHT: Still early into rehearsals, Common Ground has a long way to go while the actors find their strides and settle into their characters. But even early into rehearsals, the chemistry that Director Jennifer Stewart (right) was looking for is already manifesting. The cast and crew of Common Ground are excited to bring this 1980's story to life.

era helps ground the story while raising the stakes for the characters. The culture around affairs, or divorce, was less progressive and less support was available at the time.

Combine that with a nosy, small town, and the stakes have risen significantly.

"Everyone knows everyone, word gets around fast, and anything deemed not right or not nice is hugely troubling and shameful," Stewart said. "It's a bit of a fishbowl, so the stakes are extremely high."

Despite those tensions, Stewart emphasized that Common Ground remains firmly a comedy. The production leans into humour through misunderstandings, awkward encounters and sharp dialogue, all underscored by a distinctly 1980s soundtrack.

"We decided on 1984 because it was an exceptional year for hits that are still around," Stewart said. "Girls Just Want to

Have Fun, What's Love Got to Do With It, When Doves Cry, and I Wear My Sunglasses at Night – they're songs people still recognize and respond to."

The goal, Stewart said, is to create an immersive, feel good experience that allows audiences to escape for a couple of hours while still connecting with something meaningful.

"We're encouraging people to come in their '80s best," she said. "Dress up — it's going to be a fun night out. Humans need hope, whether it's in relationships, friendships or life in general. There's always hope. We can never give up."

Common Ground premieres Feb. 6 at Theatre Orangeville, promising laughs, romance and a nostalgic trip back to the 1980s.

For tickets and more information, visit theatreorangeville.ca.



David Gauthier
Service Consultant

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



Maurice McDonald
Service Consultant

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



Jazz Matharu
Service Consultant

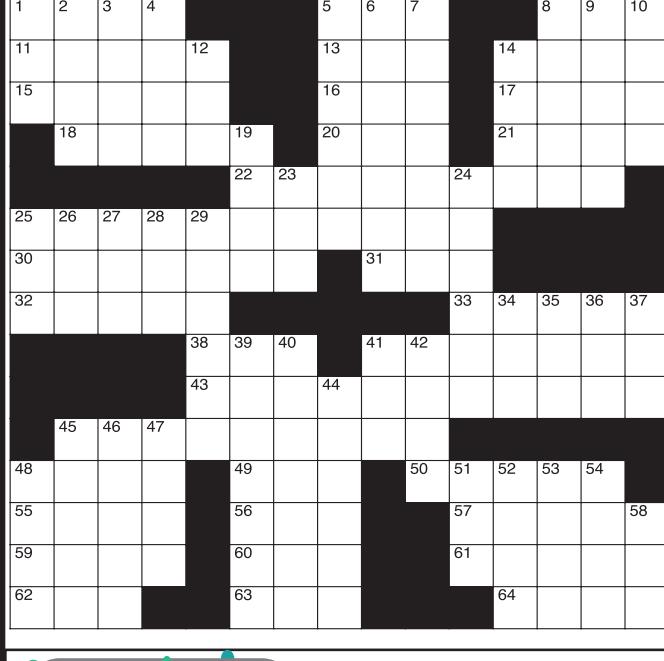
Jazz combines technical knowledge with an easygoing, professional style that customers appreciate. Bilingual in English and Punjabi, he makes sure every guest feels heard and understood. Whether it's a routine visit or a more involved repair, Jazz helps keep the process efficient, transparent, and tailored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

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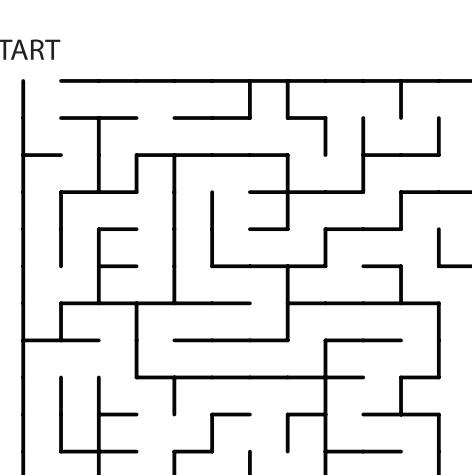
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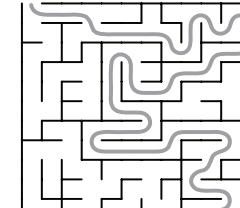
This sweetened beverage was once a bitter drink made from roasted cocoa beans.

ANSWER: Hot chocolate



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: Hot chocolate



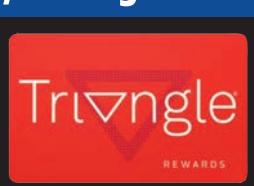
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Hiking writer to bring stories from north of the Arctic Circle

Written By CONSTANCE SCRAFIELD

Hiking book author Nicola Ross assures one and all that she is still doing a lot of hiking and selling her hiking books. It was over COVID that her initial success took off with her Loops and Lattes books. She wrote in the best of detail, showing how to enjoy the best hiking, first in Caledon and then in a series of books, each thoroughly discovered and left ready for even the most reticent hiker to explore and bloom.

The Citizen recently interviewed Ross about her trip as a host with Canoe North and

Adventure Canada.

Although the cruise around Greenland and Labrador is set for the summer of 2027, people can sign up now. Adventure Canada is offering a 25 per cent discount until Jan. 28.

Ross has travelled to the north for two canoe trips with Canoe North, to Mountain River and Greenland, but this coming trip will take her above the Arctic Circle for the first time.

During the Mountain River and Greenland trips, she was designated "writer in canoe" by the humorous Al Pace, co-founder of Canoe North and a well-known potter at the family gallery and store, Farmhouse Pottery in Mono.

Those two canoe trips brought the idea of Ross acting as host on the Adventure Canada cruises. There were a couple of delays, settling at last for 2027.

"They offered me to be a host," Ross said, "looking for people with a bit of a following, to be a good host, I'll have that host position on the cruise. For people, that comes as part of Canoe North trip."

"My job is to be there," she said.



GILLIAN STEAD PHOTO

ARTIC ADVENTURES: Hiking book author Nicola Ross enjoys the view of Georgian Bay while hiking the Bruce Trail with her dog, Frida. Ross has been invited by Canoe North to act as host on an Adventure Canada cruise ship visiting ports located above the Arctic Circle. Bookings can be made through Canoe North.

"It doesn't require that much," Ross commented, "There a lot of excursions – I'm really looking forward to getting to Labrador and hiking in the mountains there."

Generally, the passengers are an older crowd, as the trip is not inexpensive.

The group that goes tends to be quite active, and the ship offers good service.

Ross elaborated. "This is a smaller ship, more intimate. One of the key things, others have interests in birds or wildlife; it can be a very active trip."

The background and success of her hiking books carried a story with it, too.

"There was no magic to it – it was a lot of hard work. I had self-published a couple of books, then it made sense, I took boxes of

my books to shops for them to sell on consignment and I sell my books at functions," Ross said.

She has sold over 55,000 books about hiking, a publisher of only "one book-hiking," while Freisen Publishing prints her books, Ross has her own book designer and editor.

"People have bought those hiking guides in droves," she told the Citizen.

At the beginning, there's a love story. Ross tells it, "I was working with my partner on canoe trips. He had a lodge in French River. On my birthday one year, he told me he would pay my basic expenses for two years to do what I needed to start what I wanted."

She could stop working full-time and make it all happen.

Ross has 14 books, and the Arctic trip could be the next, with the permission of the other people on board.

Hiking or, she is clear, "walking, is a great thing to do"

Recently, she has taken up drawing to illustrate, lessons at the Alton Arts Centre with CJ Shelton, who told her, "Art is in the right side of the brain."

From her Camino hike, Ross wanted to draw... "seeing the trail in front of you."

Looking forward to the Arctic trip, she said, "From the East coast in Newfoundland – this is the only way I will be above the Arctic Circle. The overall thing is a new way of exploring."

A brief conversation with Beth at Canoe North offered more details about the cruise ship and the trip on board with Adventure Canada.

"Our canoeing customers still want to go north even if they don't want to camp any more."

So, partnering with Adventure Canada since 2017 was a good plan. As Beth added, every year, 24 to 30 people also join the organization's trips, as they did last year.

With the ship, they can take people of any age, and some disabled people as well. On these trips, Adventure Canada always gives something to one of the communities they go to, hockey gear after a game, for example.

Hiking Guides look after the group, and Adventure Canada has its own experts; Nicola helps people with minor issues.

Beth said, "When you do an AC (Adventure Canada) trip you become a big family. It inspires people to get out to learn about the world."

There is history, ornithology, an artist, and a musician – turn your trip into your own experience.

Credit Valley Conservation encourages nominations for Environmental Awards

Written By SAM ODROWSKI

Nominations for the 40th annual Friends of the Credit Conservation Awards are officially open.

Through the awards program, Credit Valley Conservation celebrates people and groups who have made a lasting impact on the local environment.

Now in its 40th year, the CVC is encouraging the community to submit nominations so it can shine a spotlight on the many residents who protect, restore, and enhance natural spaces.

"Do you know someone whose dedication is creating a healthier, more sustainable environment? Nominate them today and join CVC in recognizing the champions

who are caring for the Credit River Watershed," reads a press release from the CVC.

Holly Nadalin, the CVC's manager of community outreach and education, noted the importance of ensuring the work of people and organizations to improve the local environment doesn't go unnoticed.

"CVC's Board of Directors and staff proudly celebrate the incredible people who help our watershed thrive," said Nadalin. "This milestone year is a tribute to the passion and dedication of our communities. For 40 years, we have achieved so much together, and we will continue celebrating the environmental champions who protect and enhance our community."

Landowners, community groups, schools, municipalities, and businesses that take on

a leadership role to ensure a green future are eligible to receive nominations.

An example of this would be a landowner who takes action to protect and restore nature on their property. Local businesses, municipalities, or regional governments could be nominated for adopting innovative or environmentally-friendly approaches to infrastructure.

There can also be nominations for individuals or businesses that donate or purchase land to ensure its long-term protection.

As well, youth or individuals who have taken action to protect and improve the natural environment in their community are suitable for nomination.

Another area of focus is leadership and

initiatives that advance diversity, equity, and inclusion, engaging people from diverse backgrounds and cultures to support a sustainable future.

There are eight categories open for nominations: Youth Achievement, Outstanding Volunteer, Environmental Awareness, Landowner Stewardship, Corporate Leadership, Green Cities, Watershed Excellence and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Leadership.

Nominations are currently open on the CVC's website and will close on Feb. 20. The nominations will be reviewed by the CVC Board of Directors, who will select the winners for each category.

To learn more, visit cvc.ca/Conservation-Awards.

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Mono artist Natlia Rose gets in her 'zone' painting nature's wonders

Written By CONSTANCE SCRAFIELD

"My mom makes jokes I was always drawing something in nature – I was always late coming home from school because I had stopped to pick a flower to draw later," said Mono-based artist Natlia Rose, when describing a defining childhood memory to begin her interview with the Citizen earlier this week.

Except for watching online workshops on how to understand and use oils, Rose is entirely self-taught and has come to the time when she can say, "I am reaching the point where I'm really happy with my work and my exploration to grasp new techniques."

Rose wants to paint in her own way, and while she is painting, she says she is in her "zone," that place of being fully involved that often comes in the creative process.

"It's my way to connect to the world," she called it. "It helps me get through different moments – the world is still a beautiful place. There is wonder in things – plants, flowers, the light and shadow, and how they flow."

"As an artist, you are giving definition, catching the moment but then, in particular, to catch the love," Rose said.

When it comes to larger scenes, like her landscapes, Rose likes to use her camera to hold the memory of what calls to her to paint. So, she takes lots of photos as an expression of her vision of the world. Yet, when she brings the photos home, she never edits them at all.

A barn fronting a meadow, a snap of a place in Portugal, and another while in Spain are included in the collection, along with lots of flowers, grasses, and insects that inhabit them. One might say these are intimate pictures of nature at home, a peek into the lives of the tiny souls we do not always observe.

Rose came to Canada with her family from Europe when she was 18, landing in Montreal, and then the family moved to Toronto. Five years ago, she, her husband, and son moved to a country home in Mono. Their son is training to be a nurse.

Moving to the countryside in Mono, she commented, "It was the best decision to come here. We love it."

Although initially Rose paints from an irrepressible desire to do so, she paints for her own need to reflect the world of nature; she also wants people to love her paintings and does commissions.

People order something special, something they love, often a pet portrait.

She expressed what it means when the work is done, and she gives the painting to the people who ordered it. There is a deeply emotional response when they receive a painting of their dog, for example.

Natalia Rose went to Seneca College to study as a law clerk, but she did not enjoy it. Moving on to an education in economics and as a business analyst, Rose now works full-time as a product manager for a large insurance company. Thankfully, as she remarked, she is able to work remotely most of the time.

While painting has been her passion, she has been considering how to begin creating art in 3D.

"It's been on my mind for a while," she said. "to start to use plaster to create objects; I just want to try to see what it's like to make art with your hands and then it takes its own space."

There are sculptures at Headwaters Arts' current show, Gathering Light, in which Rose has three paintings. The sculptures are an inspiration to her. There is always meaning to what they create, and when artists talk about sculpting, it inspires her to try.

For her own part, Natalia Rose would encourage young artists to try to just draw and find their own style, but not with the use of AI.

"If you find yourself not good, start trying anyway, and you will develop. If they think about what they want, they will come to enjoy it."

"You have to just start," she said.

Gathering Light at Headwaters Art Gallery in the Alton Mill Arts Centre is running until Feb. 8.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

NATURE LOVER: Mono artist Natalia Rose is very happy with her flower painting, full of fun and beauty. She loves to bring the wonder of nature to her work.

Parked transport trucks are not welcome on Mono residential properties: mayor

Written By JAMES MATTHEWS

Transport trucks parked on residential properties are becoming a blight to the Mono landscape.

Mayor John Creelman said during council's Jan. 13 meeting that parked transport trucks need to be addressed.

"We are again experiencing seeing properties that are being converted over into storage lots and I'm worried that it's going to get out of our control," he said. "We really need to move on this as quickly as possible."

In Ontario, parking large transport trucks

on residential property long-term is generally restricted by local municipal bylaws, which often limit vehicle size by length, height, and weight.

Mono council was asked in September 2024 by a resident about amending its by-laws, as Caledon had done, to prohibit transport trucks from parking on front lawns in rural neighbourhoods.

According to the town's Unfinished Council Business, the issue will be revisited in this year's second quarter.

Creelman said the "offending property" is on 10 Sideroad near Hurontario Street, and has been "the subject of a number of

phone calls to me."

"I think we all got calls on this," Councilor Melinda Davie said.

Councillors aren't driving around the municipal sideroads, checking behind barns and such.

With this in mind, she said it's important for residents to make those calls to councillors or town staff.

"This isn't a situation of bylaw enforcement so much as it is strengthening our Official Plan, strengthening our zoning (by-laws)," Creelman said. "It becomes crystal clear that these are not welcome in the Town of Mono."



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Provincial funding for Dufferin–Caledon fire departments doubles to \$20 million

Ontario's Fire Protection Grant is providing twice as much money to the five departments across Dufferin–Caledon this year.

The grant has doubled from \$10 million to \$20 million this year. It will be used to enhance cancer prevention measures for firefighters and improve emergency-response capabilities for lithium-ion battery related incidents.

"Our firefighters face new and evolving risks, and our government is committed to giving them the tools they need to stay safe," said Dufferin–Caledon MPP Sylvia Jones. "This expanded funding ensures fire departments across Dufferin–Caledon are better protected, prepared and equipped to respond to emergencies."

This year, several fire departments across Dufferin–Caledon will receive targeted investments, including:

- Town of Caledon – Purchasing and installing a self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) air compressor and filling station to support clean-air operations.

- Rosemont District Fire Department – Installing a Circul-Air Toro-Decon SCBA, personal protective equipment (PPE) & and Hardgoods decontamination unit to reduce carcinogen exposure.

- Orangeville Fire Services – Purchasing

40 sets of extrication coats, pants, and belts for use during technical rescue operations, reducing reliance on heavier gear and lowering contamination risks.

- Shelburne Fire Department – Purchasing a hose washer and 10 sets of flame-fighter turnout gear to support safer decontamination practices.

- Mulmur/Melancthon Fire Department – Purchasing 30 new SCBA facepieces and storage bags and completing minor hall renovations to install a dedicated cleaning station to improve decontamination procedures.

- Grand Valley Fire Department – Relocating existing and new PPE extractors to a suitable location in the fire hall, with required structural, plumbing and electrical work, followed by the installation of a new extraction unit to enhance cancer-prevention protocols.

"Dufferin–Caledon's fire services play a vital role in protecting our communities," reads a press release from Jones, announcing the funding.

"This investment ensures local departments can upgrade critical equipment and infrastructure and respond safely to emerging hazards, reducing long-term health risks for firefighters."



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

FUNDING BOOST: The Orangeville Fire Department accepts a cheque for nearly \$20,000 through the provincial government's Fire Protection Grant. The funds will be used to purchase 40 sets of extrication coats, pants and belts for rescue operations.

Headwaters Health Care Foundation announces lineup of fundraising events throughout 2026

Written By SAM ODROWSKI

Headwaters Health Care Foundation (HHCF) has released its official lineup of events in 2026 to fundraise for essential equipment and facility upgrades not funded by the government.

The first event of the year is the Headwaters Golf Classic on June 22, it will be followed by the Headwaters Gala, "Headwaters in Wonderland" on Sept. 11, and to finish off the year, Headwaters Hike to Fight Cancer will occur on Oct. 8.

"These events are more than celebrations, they are a lifeline for local health care," said HHCF CEO K.C. Carruthers. "Last year, our signature events raised

over a million dollars to support care in our community. We look forward to seeing our community at all these events again this year as we build a healthier future for Headwaters."

2026 Headwaters Signature Event Lineup

- Headwaters Golf Classic: Presented by Crewson Insurance & Dufferin Mutual Insurance Company, The Headwaters Golf Classic is hosted at TPC Toronto at Osprey Valley (North Course & Heathlands). The Headwaters Golf Classic is bigger and better than ever this year, expanding to two courses for a full day of golf, on-course food stations, activities, a silent auction, and a post-event cocktail reception featur-

ing a live auction and prizes. Funds raised will support Headwaters upcoming Emergency Department (ED) expansion, a vital project for our growing community. Sponsorships and foursomes are available for purchase now.

- The Annual Headwaters Gala: This year's theme is sure to dazzle. Head down the rabbit hole with Headwaters in Wonderland at Hockley Valley Resort on Friday September 11th. Step into a world of wonder and whimsy inspired by Alice in Wonderland. Guests will enjoy cocktails and culinary delights, live and silent auctions, dancing and games, and a night of transformative philanthropy. Last year, the Gala raised \$925,000 for vital surgical equipment; this year's proceeds will help fund the Emergency Department expansion. Space is limited, an unforgettable evening awaits, tickets go on sale March 2.

- Headwaters Hike to Fight Cancer: Lace up and make every step count. The Headwaters Hike aims to raise \$60,000 to support life-saving cancer care close to home. On Thursday Oct. 8, at 5 p.m. choose between a 1 kilometre or 3 kilometre route at the picturesque Caledon Ski Club. All ages welcome! Registration opens April 1. The first to register can win an early bird prize – ski/snowboard passes for four at the Caledon Ski Club, rentals from Skiis & Biikes, and two semi-private lessons (Total prize value: \$950).



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Dufferin OPP to face off against Orangeville Fire in annual charity hockey game

Written By SAM ODROWSKI

Nothing connects Canadians quite like hockey, and on March 21, an annual game will bring the community together in support of a charitable cause.

The Orangeville Fire Department will face Dufferin Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) in their third annual Charity Hockey Game at the Alder Street Recreation Centre, from 5 to 8 p.m.

"Police and firefighters will once again play for a purpose, with all proceeds supporting the Orangeville Food Bank and Dufferin Child and Family Services; two vital organizations that continue to provide exceptional support to our community and to those we serve every day," reads a press release from the Dufferin OPP.

"This event is all about community engagement, teamwork, and coming together for a cause far greater than the game itself."

The public is encouraged to bring their family and invite their friends, as the charitable event will feature more than just hockey.

The Hatter will be on-site providing food and beverages, ensuring no one goes hungry while taking in the excitement.

Participants can also try their luck in the "Chuck a Puck" contest for a chance to win special prizes, including tickets to see the Toronto Maple Leafs.

"The fun continues with Shoot for the Loot, where three contestants will step up and showcase their skills in a high energy challenge. With plenty more activities and surprises planned, this event promises to deliver something memorable for all ages," reads a press release from Dufferin OPP.

Tickets can be purchased at the door on the night of the event, or ahead of time during business hours at Orangeville Fire Department (10 Dawson Road) or Orangeville OPP Detachment (390 C Line, Orangeville).



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

geville).

The Dufferin OPP encourages any person or organization interested in supporting the game to contact the hockey game's organizers, by contacting the Orangeville OPP Detachment at (519) 942-1711 or the Orangeville Fire Department at (519) 941-3083.

"We look forward to seeing you there and sharing an evening of fun, community spirit, and friendly competition, all in support of two incredible local organizations," reads a press release from Dufferin OPP.

Dufferin County accepting applications from residents for BetterHomes Program

Written By SAM ODROWSKI

Applications are now being accepted for Dufferin County's BetterHomes Program.

The \$11.25 million program provides up to \$40,000 in financing for qualifying households to complete energy-efficient upgrades, such as insulation, new windows, and heat pumps.

"Energy efficiency retrofits are critical to keeping Canadian's bills low while reaching our climate goals. We are proud to support BetterHomes Dufferin taking action to build a clean, affordable future — one home at a time," said Tim Hodgson, Canada's Minister of Energy and Natural Resources.

The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), through its Green Municipal Fund's Community Efficiency Financing (CEF) initiative, provides BetterHomes Dufferin with \$5 million in loans and a \$2.5 million grant. Natural Resources Canada also

provides funding.

"By addressing the financial barriers to energy efficiency upgrades, CEF empowers municipalities and homeowners to take meaningful action on climate change while improving housing affordability and community resilience," reads a press release from the County of Dufferin.

The \$40,000 loan is provided to households at a fixed interest rate of 2.5 per cent. The loan is tied to the property rather than the homeowner and is repaid through property taxes over 20 years.

Qualifying low-income households are eligible to receive the loan with zero interest.

While the County of Dufferin is calling on all homeowners to consider the program, households that heat with fuel oil or propane are especially encouraged to apply. They are expected to see the highest energy and cost savings.

"BetterHomes Dufferin will allow our res-

idents to take practical, affordable steps to make their homes more comfortable and energy-efficient for the long term," said Janet Horner, former warden of Dufferin County. "This program reflects Council's commitment to helping people save money on energy costs, reduce emissions, and replace aging heat sources with new energy efficient technologies."

A free Energy Coach is available to all participants of the BetterHomes program. They will help homeowners through every step of the process — from the initial energy audit to identifying the most cost-effective upgrades, reviewing contractor quotes and applying for additional rebates.

"What sets BetterHomes Dufferin apart from other programs is that it's designed to address the biggest barrier to home energy upgrades — upfront costs," said Sara MacRae, Manager of Climate and Energy for Dufferin County. "The program will cov-

er initial project expenses, so people don't have to pay out of pocket before the savings begin."

BetterHomes Dufferin aligns with the municipal priorities the county committed to in its climate action plans. The program helps residents lower energy costs, prepares homes for extreme weather, and stimulates local green-job growth. Eligible projects may also include upgrades for safety, accessibility and electrical systems.

"BetterHomes gives Dufferin homeowners a safe and reliable way to make upgrades that they might otherwise put off," said Horner.

"Because the loan is tied to the property and paid back slowly through their property taxes, it is an easy, low-risk option where homeowners can see savings immediately while improving their home."

To apply for BetterHomes, visit betterhomesdufferin.ca/get-started.

Several sexual assault related charges after search warrant executed in Orangeville

As a result of an ongoing police investigation, officers from the Major Crime Unit of the Dufferin Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) have charged two people with sexual related offences as a result of a multi-jurisdictional criminal investigation.

On Wednesday, Jan. 21, members of the Dufferin and Huronia West Major Crime Unit and the Dufferin Community Street Crime Unit (CSCU), executed two search warrants at addresses in Orangeville and in Wasaga Beach.

A 30-year-old male from Wasaga Beach has been charged with:

- Sexual Assault on a Person Under 16 years of age
- Sexual Assault
- Sexual Interference- two counts
- Sexual Exploitation
- Invitation to Sexual Touching under 16 years of age
- Assault
- Assault Cause Bodily Harm- choke, suffocate or strangle
- Uttering Threats- cause death or bodily harm
- Assault with A Weapon
- Makes, Prints, Publishes or Possesses

for the Purpose of Publication of any child sexual abuse and exploitation material

- Sexual Assault with a Weapon
- Unauthorized Possession of a Firearm- three counts
- Failure to comply with undertaking
- The above accused was held for bail.
- Additionally, 29-year-old female from Wasaga Beach has been charged with:
- Sexual Assault
- Sexual Interference
- Sexual Exploitation
- Invitation to Sexual Touching under 16 years of age

- Assault Cause Bodily Harm- choke, suffocate or strangle

- Uttering Threats- cause death or bodily harm
- Assault

The above accused is scheduled to appear before the Ontario Court of Justice in Orangeville on Tuesday Feb. 10, to answer to the charges. None of the charges have been proven in court.

Three firearms, ammunition, electronic devices, and other items were seized as part of the investigation.

No further information will be released at this time.

Local police team up with local municipalities to address concerns on snow removal operations

Dufferin County residents have been raising concerns with local authorities regarding plow operations, and steps are being taken to address ongoing issues associated with winter road maintenance and public safety.

Dufferin Ontario Provincial Police officers met with municipal plow operators on Jan. 22 to better understand the challenges they face during snow removal and road maintenance operations.

From these conversations, officers learned of plow operators frustrations related to unsafe and aggressive behaviour from the public, while out on the job.

Some of the concerns highlighted were vehicles swerving toward snow plows, residents shouting or making threatening ges-

tures, throwing objects at plow. A key issue is homeowners pushing snow directly across roads or creating large roadside piles, known as "snow mountains".

"While it may seem harmless, depositing snow back onto the roadway and engaging in aggressive behaviour can create hazardous conditions for motorists, slow plow operations, and make it more difficult for operators to keep roads clear and safe," reads a press release from the Dufferin OPP.

"Snow plow operators work long hours, often in the worst conditions, to ensure our roads stay safe and passable."

Across several communities within Dufferin, operators have reported unsafe and aggressive behaviour from some drivers and

residents during snow removal operations. These actions put operators and all road users at risk.

There's a few things residents can do to support the safe removal of snow from roadways.

• Respect road closures: Driving past a road-closed sign is illegal and dangerous. Check your local 511 or municipal updates for real-time conditions.

• Give plows plenty of space: Snow plows are large, heavy vehicles with limited maneuverability. Do not pass a plow, crowd it, or drive aggressively near it.

• Do not throw objects at plows or operators: This behaviour is dangerous and may result in criminal charges.

• Keep snow off the roadway: Pushing snow across or onto the road - or creating large roadside piles - is unsafe and, in many areas, an offence under the Highway Traffic Act. These piles reduce visibility and obstruct plowing.

• Direct concerns to your municipality: Operators do not control their routes or schedules.

• Avoid parking on the road during snow events: Parked vehicles slow down plowing efforts and create hazards for everyone.

"Thank you to the snow plow operators working day and night to keep our communities safe. Your patience, cooperation, and safe winter driving habits help ensure everyone gets home safely," said Dufferin OPP.

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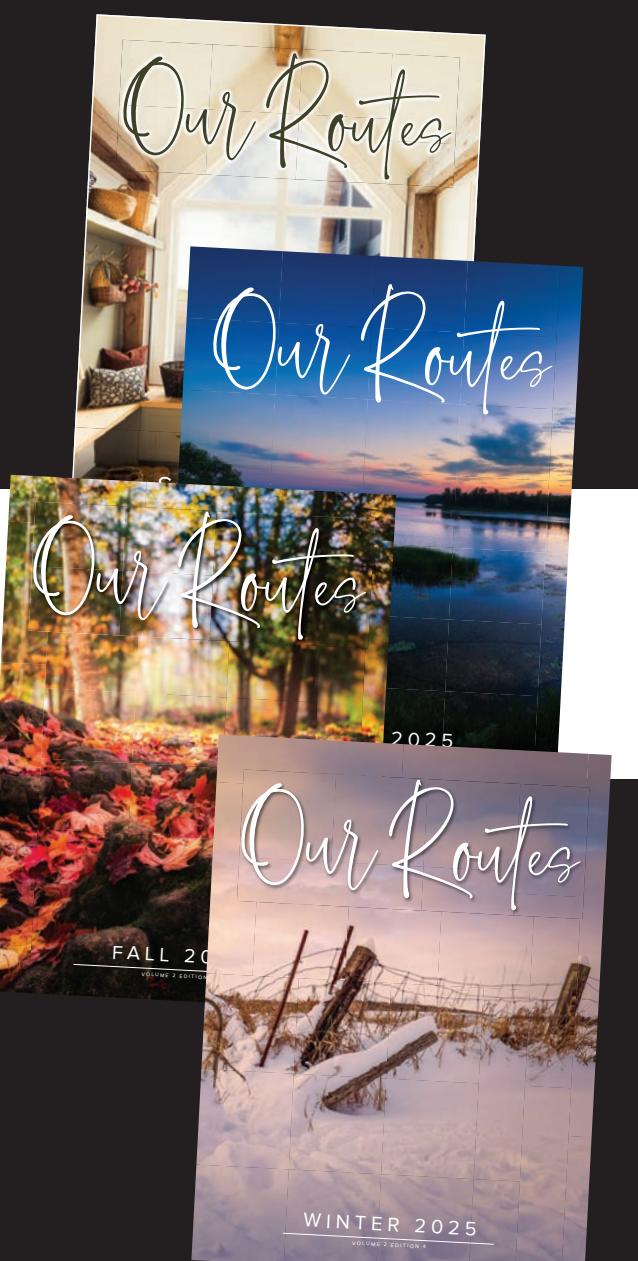
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Mono Nordic Ski Club hosts annual cross-country race

Written By BRIAN LOCKHART

The Mono Nordic Ski Club hosted its annual cross-country race along the trails at Monora Park in Mono on Saturday, Jan. 24.

This popular event brings competitors from across the province who earn points for Nordic and cross-country skiing competitions in the Southern Ontario Paraffin Race Series. This includes racers from various clubs, universities, and high schools.

The snowy weather this year provided excellent conditions with plenty of snow and well-groomed trails along the challenging course.

Founded in 1985, the Mono Nordic Ski Club is celebrating 40 years as an organization and has hosted ski races every year since it began.

Nordic and cross-country skiing are popular sports across the province, and the Mono Nordic Ski Club has an enthusiastic membership that enjoys getting out on the trails during the winter months.

"We have 20 different teams here from Nordic clubs, high schools including ODSS and Mayfield, and university teams from Guelph, McMaster, and Waterloo, as well as lots of ski clubs from all over southern Ontario who come and race," explained event co-organizer René Beukeboom. "Our youngest competitors are U8, and we go up to the Masters division."

Competitors compete in age groups, with the distance increasing as age increases.

The youngest competitors race a 1.5 km course. At the U18, U20, and masters divisions, racers compete on a 6 km course.

"We have over 170 racers today," Beukeboom explained. "There is an interval start, so as a division, each racer starts 15 seconds apart. This year we did the order backwards and started with the older kids first, with the



BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

SHREDDING THE SLOPES: The Mono Nordic Ski Club hosted its annual cross-country race on the trails at Monora Park in Mono on Saturday, Jan. 24. Over 170 competitors from clubs and schools across southern Ontario turned out for the event. Two competitors give a final push toward the finish line. Orangeville District Secondary School team member Keira Phillip approaches the finish line in U18 girls' division. Keira finished fifth in her division.

hope that the day warms up in the afternoon for the younger kids."

With the interval start, racers must rely on their own instincts to judge their pace on the course.

The temperature for the day was -15°C, as the race happened to take place in the cur-

rent cold snap.

The course becomes quite challenging at the longer distances, as the trails have many hills and push racers to their limits to keep a good pace.

A lot of spectators turned out for the day to cheer on the racers and provided a lot of

encouragement as the competitors sprinted down the final 100 yards to the finish.

Organizers would like to thank the local businesses that donated door prizes: Barley Vine Rail Co., BMP Group, Booklore, Dave's Butcher Shop, Global Pet Foods, Moguls in Mocean, and Orangeville Nissan.

Orangeville Tigers Sweetheart Tournament brings 135 teams to town

Written By BRIAN LOCKHART

It was a big hockey week in Orangeville as the 46th annual Orangeville Tigers Sweetheart Tournament took over local arenas and ice surfaces in neighbouring towns to accommodate all the games.

In total, 22 ice surfaces were used across 15 rinks in the region. This included rinks in Orangeville, Shelburne, Dundalk, Honeywood, Schomberg, Grand Valley, Bolton, Brampton, Caledon East, and Hillsburgh.

Girls' hockey teams arrived from across Ontario, Quebec, and Michigan for this prestigious tournament – one of the largest tournaments in the country.

A total of 135 teams competed in 18 divisions, ranging from U9 to Senior Women's.

The tournament featured a special skills competition where players could demonstrate their ability on the ice and go one-on-one to see who could come out on top.

"This is the biggest tournament year that I've ever experienced," said Tournament Director Anna-Michelle Smith. "We have 135 teams from Ontario, Quebec and the United States. The American team is from Michigan. We're using ice surfaces from all over, from Brampton up to Honeywood, as well

as Dundalk, and Grand Valley – pretty much everywhere that's within around a half-hour from Orangeville."

The tournament is for Rep-level teams, so there is strong competition on the ice.

Putting the tournament together is a big undertaking for organizers. This year, the tournament coincided with high school exams, so they had to schedule all high school-age Friday games later in the day so students could complete their exams before getting out on the ice.

"Our senior division is only playing at Honeywood, Dundalk, and Shelburne," Anna-Michelle explained.

"For the women, they all tend to book a B&B to stay at so we put them all on the ice in that area. We also have our skills competition on Saturday afternoon. We have a shoot-out and a relay."

With several thousand people arriving for the tournament, the event is a real boost for the local economy. Local hotels and restaurants benefit from the influx of visitors to the town.

"A lot of our local restaurants help us out with things like Player of the Game Awards and things like that," Anna-Michelle said.

Girls' hockey is continuously growing



BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

PUCK BATTLE: The Orangeville Tigers U13 B team take on the Timmins Falcons on the ice at the Alder Street Recreation Centre during the Orangeville Tigers Sweetheart Tournament on Saturday, Jan. 24. A total of 135 competed in this year's tournament. This game ended in a 1-1 tie when the Tigers scored with under two minutes left on the clock for the game.

across the province as more girls take up the sport at a young age.

Next up for the Tigers is the Winter Clas-

sic house league tournament, featuring an

expected 60 teams on the ice from Friday,

Jan. 30 to Sunday, Feb. 1.

Over \$2,500 in prizes await at Ice Fishing Derby

Winter anglers, get ready to drop a line at the Annual Island Lake Ice Fishing Derby, running Feb. 7 to 16, at Island Lake Conservation Area in Orangeville.

Hosted in partnership with Credit Valley Conservation (CVC), Credit Valley Conservation Foundation (CVCF) and the Friends of Island Lake (FOIL), this winter tradition is open to participants of all ages.

The fishing derby provides an opportunity to experience the best of Ontario's winter outdoor activities, without travelling too far from home.

The Ice Fishing Derby offers anglers a chance to win cash prizes totalling more than \$2,500 across several big catch categories. Adults can compete for prizes awarded to the top three Northern pike and the largest yellow perch and black crappie.

Island Lake Conservation Area hosts two popular fishing derbies each year, one in winter and one in summer. These events help connect people with nature while raising funds to support ongoing conservation efforts that protect, restore and enhance the natural environment.

Young anglers can compete in the youth

category, where awards go to contestants with the three longest fish of any species. This event brings families together, encouraging parents and children to fish side by side while enjoying time outdoors.

Anglers can sign up online or by phone until Feb. 15, or in person at the park's Rental Shop until noon on Feb. 16. Registration fees are \$35 for adults (13 years old and up) and \$10 for youth (12 years old and under). Daily park admission applies.

Participants who register before noon on Feb. 6 will be entered into a draw for a chance to win a Credit Valley Parks Annual Family Pass, valued at \$158.

A valid Ontario Fishing Licence is required except during Ontario Family Fishing Weekend, running Feb. 14 to 16, when anyone can fish licence free. Island Lake's Rental Shop offers ice rod rentals, ice hut rentals and minnows, making it easy for new anglers to join the fun.

For full event details or to register, visit IslandLakeDerby.ca.

If you can't participate but still want to support FOIL and local conservation efforts, visit cvcfoundation.ca/donate/island-lake.

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OPINION

Getting cold in here!

Several years ago, a storm blanketed the region and much of the province with a coat of ice.

The lights went out as the weight of the ice brought down power lines and caused havoc just about everywhere.

I went out the following day to survey the damage. I was shocked to see how many trees had been damaged by the weight of the ice.

Some forested areas near where I lived were completely devastated, and it was strange to see areas with as many as half the trees reduced to shattered stumps after breaking at the trunk and dropping all their branches.

I was looking out the window of my home office during the night of the storm when I saw a neighbour's backyard tree collapse into the yard under the stress of the ice.

The whole situation made for a difficult few days following the storm.

People started complaining on social media about not having power and about the amount of ice still covering just about everything – as if someone could force it to melt.

There were plenty of negative comments about Hydro's inability to restore power. There had been reports of people yelling abuse at workers.

During my travels, I went down a lonely concession to take photos of the damage. I had to navigate around a few trees that were scattered across the road.

It was a mess.

A large hydro truck had backed into a small cut-off and was starting to pull out as I approached.

I had to slow down again to go around another tree, and as I came up beside the truck, which was going the other way, I stopped and rolled down my window.

The guy behind the wheel of the hydro truck realized I had something to say, and he rolled down his window.

This guy had probably been up all night, working in freezing, dangerous conditions and moving from damaged line to damaged line to make repairs.

He looked weary, and from the look on his face, I think he was expecting me to yell out some comment complaining about the lack of power in my house.

"You must have done a lot of fixes over the night," I said.

"Yeah," he replied, "And there's a lot more to do."

"I know it's tough out there," I said to this tired, hard-working man. "You guys are doing a great job getting this all back together. I appreciated your efforts."

He seemed a little surprised at hearing a compliment. But he smiled, gave me a wave, and said, "Thanks, I appreciate that."

He left to go to the next fallen line.

Often, we don't give enough credit to the first responders who attend emergencies and work long hours keeping our society safe.

Have you ever heard of someone calling the fire department and not showing up for the emergency?

Firefighters respond every time they are called. It doesn't matter the time of day or the weather conditions; when you call, you will hear the siren of a responding vehicle a few minutes later.

Several years ago, I witnessed and narrowly missed being involved in a serious auto accident.

A few other people and I went to assist the injured parties.

Paramedics arrived a few minutes later, and we cleared out to let them do their job.

They are trained to help and know what to do when someone is injured or experiencing a medical emergency.

If you have ever received a speeding ticket, you understand what it's like to suddenly realize those flashing lights in the rearview mirror are meant for you.

Yeah, it's disappointing, and it's most

BRIAN LOCKHART
FROM THE SECOND ROW



likely going to cost you a few dollars.

For some reason, a lot of people blame the cop for pulling them over. However, if they were speeding, they brought this on themselves.

You can almost bet the next time you are travelling down that road, you are keeping an eye on the speedometer – traffic enforcement works.

When I think of these types of jobs, I always remember my Grade 7 homeroom teacher.

She hated kids. She screamed at us all the time.

She screamed that if we didn't go to university and get a degree, like her, we were all failures in life.

Yes, she actually said that to her Grade 7 students. And yet, that degree in English literature doesn't mean all that much when the power is out, and you're in danger of freezing to death.

I wonder what Mrs. Hay would have said when the power was out, and her house was getting cold, and she called the power company, only to hear, "Sorry, Mrs. Hay, no one here has a degree in English literature, so we can't restore your power."

Inflection point?

It's too early to be sure, but it seems likely that we have just seen 'Peak Trump'.

Last week Donald Trump arrived at the Davos conference radiating power and menace. Fresh from his attack on Venezuela, he was going to invade and annex Greenland. If his European allies in the NATO alliance tried to protect it, he would crush them with tariffs. And he would launch a new rival to the United Nations that would make him World-President-for-Life.

By the time Trump and his retinue landed in a fleet of four military helicopters, however, the wind had changed. Canada's Prime Minister Mark Carney had already crystallized the new mood with a remarkable speech that bade a regretful but decisive farewell to the old 'rules-based' international order.

What is happening now is 'rupture' with the past, Carney said, and the risk is that we end up with a world solely run by and for the great powers. He proposed instead a shifting coalition of the 'middle powers' that would work to contain the more outrageous wishes and whims of the three autocratic great powers: Russia's Putin, Trump's America, and Xi's China.

For all his frankness, Carney did not

name the villains, partly because they vary in their villainy. Vladimir Putin is a tyrant and serial warmonger, but has limited territorial ambitions. Donald Trump is an instinctive autocrat who demands supremacy in the Western Hemisphere but might not permanently erase US democracy. And Xi Jinping hasn't made his mind up yet.

There's Xi's promise to 'reunify' China by conquering Taiwan, if necessary, but apart from that China's territorial claims are limited to some seabed boundaries. Many in the Chinese elite still regret the decline of the 'rules-based order' and wish for its return. And while neither Trump nor Putin want it back, they are both mortal men.

Carney didn't get into all this – I'm just channeling his inner realist – but it was implicit in the parts he did say out loud. Don't let the bullies win; fear is the mind-killer; stick together and you might even win. At the very least, you'll lose less.

And he got a standing ovation, at a venue where even a brief round of polite claps is normally a triumph. He was telling the political and economic elites of the world what most of them were already thinking in a less coherent or at least less public way, and overnight the mood changed. Trump

already seemed much smaller by the time he flew in the next day.

Right away he retracted his threat to seize Greenland by force (although the bond markets can take most of the credit for that). Soon he was also cancelling his threat to impose tariffs on NATO members that support Greenland, with only the face-saving pretense of a "framework of a future deal" (content unspecified) as a consolation prize.

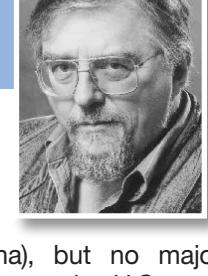
But the big humiliation was the launch of his 'Board for Peace,' a bold bid for symbolic status as King of the World. It was created to provide UN backing for the Trump-brokered ceasefire in the Gaza Strip, but it wound up as a Trump-controlled vehicle to run the UN off the road entirely.

Membership is pay-to-play and permanent membership costs one billion dollars (even more than Mar-a-Lago). Trump is chairman for life, wrote the rules, has veto power, and can terminate any member at will. Gaza is not even mentioned in the 'charter'. It is a pure vanity project: 62 invitations were sent out – but only 21 countries have signed up.

It is a useful list of those countries that

still fear Trump's wrath, and they are almost

GWYNNE DYER
OUR WORLD TODAY



all in the Middle East or Central Asia. A few are ideological allies of Trump (e.g. Belarus, Hungary and Argentina), but no major power is a member except the U.S., and only four members are genuine democracies.

Six months ago, Trump might have pulled off this brazen attempt to hijack the UN, at least for a while. With more time, however, those who once feared him have learned what 'TACO' means (Trump Always Chickens Out), and they can see how fast his own power base, the United States, is drifting towards chaos and irrelevance under his rule.

Just this month we have seen his non-overthrow of the Venezuelan regime, his empty promise to stop the massacres in Iran, and his hollow threats to invade Greenland. He remains extremely dangerous to the domestic peace of the United States, but the rest of the world is realizing that it can just work around the US.

Except Canada, perhaps. Trump has taken to calling Prime Minister Carney 'Governor' Carney again, and Canadians know what that may imply.

Your government has a gambling problem

The odds of winning Lotto Max are about 1 in 33 million. You're statistically more likely to be struck by lightning than to win it. But your government is betting that statistics won't hold you back; they're counting on it.

Across Canada, provincial governments not only regulate gambling, they also maintain a monopoly on lottery and gaming by owning and operating the entire legal market. That means every scratch card is government-issued, gambling odds are government-set, casino ads are government-funded and lottery billboards are government-paid.

And these are not incidental government activities. They generate significant revenues that governments have powerful incentives to expand, not constrain.

It would be one thing for our governments to encourage us to engage in healthy activities. We can quibble about whether the government should be trying to convince us to be more active or eat more vegetables. But there is no justification for the government promoting activities that put people at risk.

While many enjoy gambling, it can be highly addictive, so much so that organizations have dedicated their entire existence to helping those who get hooked. Gambling addictions, like most, can lead to depression, family breakdown, bankruptcy and even sui-

cide. Yet despite these risks, governments continue to promote gambling.

That's not to say that the government should discourage us from gambling. Canadians should be free to choose risky activities like smoking, drinking or gambling. But that freedom doesn't require provincial governments running gambling enterprises themselves, let alone promoting these potentially harmful activities.

There is a clear conflict when governments profit from lotteries and gaming while also claiming to regulate in the public interest. They have a financial incentive to maximize gambling participation rather than minimize harm.

Provincial lottery corporations spend hundreds of millions of dollars each year to encourage gambling, considerably more than they spend trying to prevent or mitigate gambling-related harms. The Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation, for example, spent \$184 million on marketing and promotion in 2023-24, compared to just \$29 million on responsible gambling programming.

Nevertheless, some defend government-run gambling operations, arguing they generate revenue that helps support local communities. But that misses the point. It's not about value for money, because no

amount of revenue justifies the harm.

The source of these gambling revenues should concern us. Lower-income households spend a disproportionately higher percentage of their income on gambling, nearly three times the rate of the wealthiest households. A country that prides itself on being progressive should recognize that gambling revenue represents one of the most regressive funding sources available to provincial governments. This is, in effect, taxation by exploitation.

If provinces require additional revenues to pay for essential public services, those revenues should be generated transparently through our tax system, not covertly by exploiting vulnerable populations.

Provincially owned and operated lottery and gaming corporations continue to exist not because they serve Canadians well, but because they serve governments well. It's far easier to collect gambling profits year after year than confront voters with the necessity of increasing taxes or cutting services.

Ask Canadians about the role of government and you'll likely hear answers that include health care, education, infrastructure and defence. It's hard to imagine operating a lottery and gaming corporation appearing on anyone's list. And yet they exist across

Canada with remarkably little public displeasure.

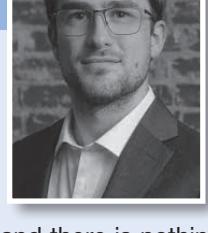
Many Canadians find entertainment and enjoyment in gambling, and there is nothing wrong with that. Let private operators run gaming. Let government regulate fairly, without conflict. And if Canadians want to gamble, that choice should remain theirs without their government enticing them to do so.

There has been some movement in the right direction. Ontario has relinquished part of its monopoly, allowing for private operators. Alberta plans to do the same. But allowing a few private operators is only a half measure. If government still directly profits from its ongoing lottery and gaming operations, and if government still engages in advertising that promotes a potentially harmful activity, then it remains both financially and morally compromised.

Canadians need governments that serve citizens' interests, not their own. Provinces across Canada should get out of the gambling business altogether and return to their core responsibilities that Canadians depend on.

Conrad Eder is a policy analyst at the Frontier Centre for Public Policy.

CONRAD EDER
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COMMUNITY VOICES

Monthly Message: Together we can make a difference – ways to give

At Family Transition Place (FTP), our work begins and ends with community. Every day, individuals and families in our region turn to us for safety, support, and hope during some of the most difficult moments of their lives. We continue to meet them with compassion and care because individuals and businesses in our community choose to stand beside us. They choose to believe in the important work that we are doing and support us in ways that are meaningful to them.

One of the most common questions we are asked is, "How can I help?"

There are many ways to give to FTP and the individuals we support, and each one, no matter the size or method, helps to change lives. Below are a few of the ways to support FTP, so we can support those in our community who need our help most.

1. Financial donations: Flexible and immediate support

Financial contributions are the foundation of our ability to respond quickly and effectively to the needs of the women and children we serve. Your donation is tax-deductible (\$10 or more) and can be made in several ways: online through our secure form, by e-transfer to donations@familytransitionplace.ca, or by mailing or dropping off a cheque directly to our office: 20 Bredin Parkway, Orangeville (payable to Family Transition Place).

We offer options that allow you to give in a way that's meaningful to you:

- One-time donations provide vital support for our day-to-day services, including our Youth Education Program.

• Monthly donations help us build a reliable and stable financial base, ensuring we can sustain long-term programs that so many depend on.

• Celebration gifts allow you to commemorate birthdays, anniversaries, or other special occasions with a gift that supports others.

• Memorial gifts honour the memory of a loved one while contributing to a cause that saves lives.

2. Planned giving: A legacy of hope

Some supporters choose to make a long-term impact through planned giving, which allows you to include FTP in your financial or estate plans. These legacy gifts help ensure our work continues for years to come and can also provide tax benefits. Planned giving can include:

- Bequests in a will
- Gifts of life insurance

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- Donations of securities (stocks, bonds, etc.)

These thoughtful gifts leave a legacy of compassion and demonstrate a lasting commitment to our community's safety and well-being.

3. Matching gifts: Double your impact

Many companies and employers offer matching gift programs that match the donations their employees, board members, and their partners make to charities like ours. This means your gift could be doubled (or tripled!) at no extra cost to you. We encourage you to check with your employer about matching opportunities.

Participating in a matching gift program is one of the easiest ways to increase the impact of your generosity.

4. Donate a vehicle: Support that goes the extra kilometre

Through our partnership with Donate a Car Canada, you can support FTP by donating a vehicle—a car, truck, boat, motorcycle, or RV. This process is simple: free towing is provided, and the organization handles all the logistics. When your vehicle is sold or recycled, FTP receives the entire proceeds, and you receive a tax receipt for the same value.

This form of giving turns something you no longer need into meaningful support for women and children seeking safety.

5. Product and service donations: Meeting real needs

In addition to monetary gifts, we gratefully accept product and service donations that help support clients' everyday needs. While we ask that you contact us in advance to coordinate in-kind gifts, certain items are always in high demand, including:

- Personal care products (e.g., body wash, shampoo, conditioner, deodorant)
- Tampons
- New towels and bedding
- Gift cards for local retailers (tax receipts can be provided with original sales receipts)

Your thoughtful donations help meet clients' immediate needs, offering dignity and support during challenging transitions.

6. Clothing donations — Supporting families through partnerships

families through partnerships

While we are not able to accept used clothing directly at our shelter, we have developed a partnership with local second-hand store, As We Grow, that accepts gently used adult and children's clothing on our behalf. Simply request that the proceeds from the sale be designated to FTP account #3763.

When items are sold, the proceeds benefit FTP, and clients receive vouchers redeemable for needed clothing. Please call ahead with any large donations.

As We Grow | 3-20 Dawson Rd. | Orangeville, ON | 519-941-8733

Not only do these donations ensure families receive the clothing support they need, but they also reduce textile waste.

7. Food donations: Nourishing bodies and spirits

We gladly accept both perishable and non-perishable food donations (with health and safety considerations) to support individuals and families in shelters. We ask that donors contact us before dropping off food so we can coordinate it safely.

Food donations reflect the caring spirit of a community that looks out for its most vulnerable members.

8. Support through shopping, events, and fundraising

There are even more ways to give beyond direct donations:

- Purchase a gift from our online shop, where proceeds go directly to our programs and services.

- Support fundraising events by donating prizes or attending with friends.

- Organize your own fundraiser and direct the proceeds to FTP.

These creative avenues allow people of all ages and circumstances to contribute in ways that match their interests and capacities.

9. Sponsorship opportunities: Show your support publicly

Businesses and community organizations can partner with us through sponsorships. Sponsoring events or programs not only supports our services but also tells your network that you stand for safety, dignity, and community wellbeing.

It's not too late to sponsor our annual International Women's Day Breakfast taking place at Hockley Valley Resort on Thursday, March 5, 2026.

We work with sponsors to build recognition packages that align with their values and goals. By sponsoring this event, you will strengthen your company's image, build brand awareness, generate positive PR and most of all, support a very important cause in our community.

To learn more about any of the ways you can support our work and the families we serve, please contact Brennan Solecky at brennan@familytransitionplace.ca or at 519-942-4122 ext. 240.

If you or someone you know needs support, compassionate staff are available to help 24/7. Call 1-800-265-9178. If you are in immediate danger, call 911.



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR: 'Accomplishments' ring hollow

I find it interesting that our Dufferin-Caledon MPP Sylvia Jones has patted herself and her government on the back for their accomplishments in 2025 - twice (Jan. 15 and 22, 2025).

Trying to say that dropping the Ontario Fuel Tax by 6 cents/litre is a cost saving to commuters is minuscule in the scheme of things.

To quote, "Dufferin Caledon has a very high

percentage of commuters who travel southwest/northeast, so anything we can do to make that a little more manageable..." How about addressing the "very high percentage of commuters," which includes many, many trucks & gravel trucks?

With two proposed mega blasting, water-polluting quarries being proposed in two Headwaters areas (Melancthon and Caledon/Forks of the Credit), there would be even

more dangerous, overloaded gravel trucks on our highways and backcountry roads.

Sylvia, you are not addressing mass transit in Ontario. Lots of people and seniors have to go into Toronto and other towns for health and various reasons, and always must drive. There are no alternatives.

Instead of building more useless, expensive highways (i.e. 413) and destroying more precious Ontario farmland, why doesn't

your government look to Europe for train and commuting ideas? We need good, reliable public transit to Toronto and to towns in between, i.e. Orangeville to Newmarket; Brampton, Guelph, Shelburne, etc. Not everyone drives!

And, please stop with all the photo ops!

Marion Herron,
Mono, Ontario

Highway 413 raises concerns

It is impossible for an elected official to always represent the voices of all their constituency, that would be solved only by replacing representative democracy with a fully participative one. Still, it is expected that most of the constituents find their position most of the time reflected by their elected representative.

The Letter to the Editor sent by our MPP Sylvia Jones and published in the Jan. 22 issue is enumerating some of the 2025 accomplishments by the Ontario Government. Amongst them is the work started for Highway 413.

After seeing so much opposition to it, as well as a very constructive alternative proposal in the form of "untolling" highway 407,

I'm wondering if Miss Jones and her colleagues really promote the view of most of their constituents.

Considering its irreversibility, perhaps this project should slow down a bit and be subject to a referendum for the electoral districts covered by the planned 413 and the immediately adjacent ones, as well as the electoral

districts covered by 407 and the immediately adjacent ones. We need to arrive at the best decision, both for us, now, and for the generations that will follow.

Sincerely,
Sorin Schwimmer
Orangeville



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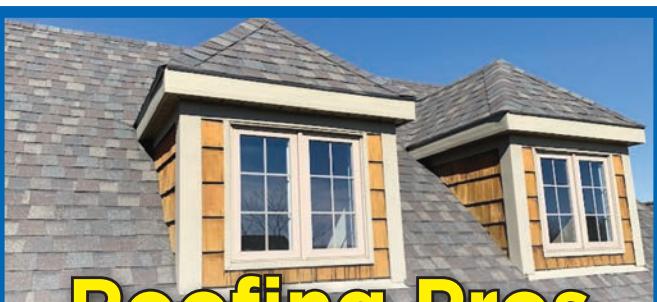
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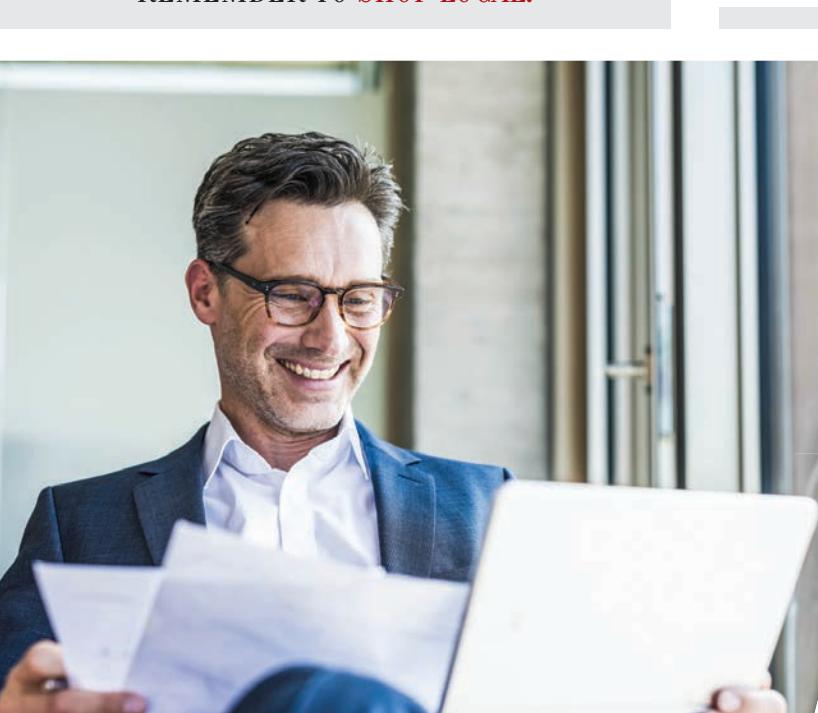
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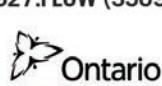
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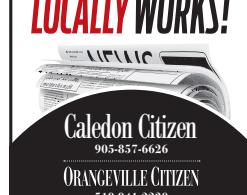
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**Shelburne Public Library**

SUMMER STUDENT JOB POSTING

Are you a student enrolled in college or university looking for summer employment? Do you believe in the magic of stories? Do you have experience planning and facilitating engaging and educational programs for children?

The Opportunity:

Shelburne Public Library is seeking a Children's Library Assistant to join our small but mighty team from June to August 2026. Under the direction of the Children's Librarian, the Children's Library Assistant will foster a love of literacy and life-long learning by assisting with our award-winning TD Summer Reading Program.

Duties include:

- assisting with the planning, development, implementation and the evaluation of programs that are accessible to all children and promote equity, diversity and inclusion.
- program and event set-up and take down.
- responding to patron inquiries and concerns and referring to senior staff when necessary.
- other duties as assigned.

Normal hours of work for this position will be up to thirty (30) hours per week. There may be a requirement to work various shifts, including some evenings and weekends.

Qualifications

- Full-time enrollment in a post-secondary education program, preferably in a library, creative, educational, or child-related field.
- Previous experience in program planning, event planning, working with children, and leadership would be an asset.
- Proficiency with Microsoft Office and familiarity with video/digital technology, editing software, and social media platforms.

Hourly Rate: **\$18.00**

Please note:

- The successful candidate will be required to complete a Criminal Record Check, including a Vulnerable Sector Screening. Criminal record checks must be dated within three (3) months of the employment offer to be considered valid.
- Virtual interview formats are available upon request.
- This position is subject to budget and grant approval and thus may be subject to change.

Qualified candidates are invited to apply no later than **12 p.m. on February 20, 2026**. Please email your resume and cover letter to Shannon McGrady, CEO, at smcgrady@shelburnelibrary.ca. Please note that only those who are selected for an interview will be contacted.

The Shelburne Public Library is an equal opportunity employer. Accommodations are available for all parts of the recruitment process, and applicants are asked to make their needs known in advance.

By submitting your personal information to the Shelburne Public Library, you consent to the collection, use and disclosure of that information in connection with our recruitment, hiring and/or employment processes. Personal information is collected under the authority of the Municipal Act, 2001, S.O. 2001, c.25, as amended, and will be used to determine the qualifications for employment.

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OBITUARIES - FOREVER IN OUR *Hearts*
**CAROL DIANNE AGAR
(ATKINSON)**
OCTOBER 12, 1947 - JANUARY 21, 2026

Carol Dianne Agar (Atkinson) passed away peacefully on January 21, 2026, at the age of 78 at Headwaters Healthcare Centre in Orangeville, surrounded by her loved ones.

Carol was born on October 12, 1947, to Harold and Lois Atkinson and is survived by her brother Robert and sister Helen (Dave). She will be greatly missed by her beloved husband of 54 years, Paul, her children Deborah (Steve) and Michael (Dana). Beloved grandmother to Cassidy, Quinton, and Alexis. Much-loved sister-in-law to Linda, Carl (Ruth), Darlene (Jim), and Dianne (Hugh). She will be greatly missed by her many extended family members, neighbours, and friends.

Carol was a lifelong resident of Grand Valley, working in the Royal Bank for over 35 years, volunteering with the firefighters' ladies' auxiliary, horticulture club, figure skating club, and countless other community organizations. An active member of Knox Presbyterian Church and friend to all she met, Carol was at her happiest while contributing to the community and helping others.

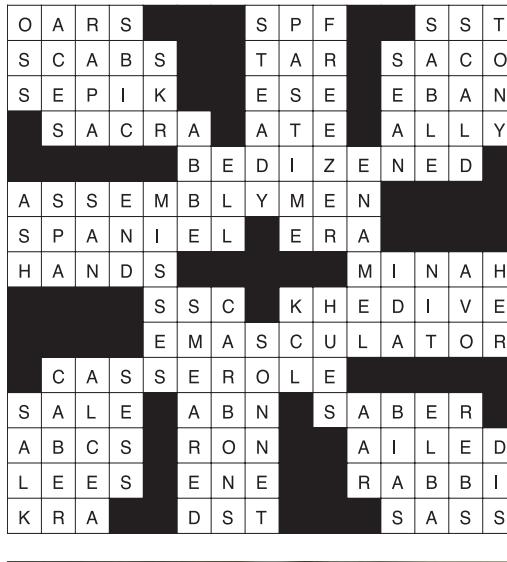
The family would like to extend our sincere gratitude to all the compassionate care that was given to Carol during her illness from Groves Memorial Community Hospital's oncology department, Grand River Hospital Cancer Centre, Guelph General Hospital, and Headwaters Healthcare Centre, not to mention the many friends and family that helped her and our family along the way.

A Celebration of Carol's Life will take place at In Memoriam Funeral Services Inc. (28 Main Street North, Grand Valley ON), on Saturday January 31st, 2026, from 11:00 am - 2:00 pm.

Words of Remembrance will take place at 12:00 pm.

Online condolences can be made at www.imfunerals.com

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


ILEEN DOREEN BRAY (NÉE EDWARDS)

Ileen Doreen Bray (née Edwards) passed away peacefully at Dufferin Oaks Long Term Care in Shelburne, Ontario, on Monday, January 19, 2026. A woman of remarkable strength, dedication, and spirit, Ileen lived a full life spanning over a century.

Born on October 15, 1924, Ileen was the cherished daughter of the late Albert and Myrtle (Simpson) Edwards. She was also predeceased by her loving husband Harold Bray (1927-1994), her brother James Edwards and her infant sister Margaret Edwards.

Ileen had an exemplary career in education serving as an elementary school teacher, predominantly with the Peel District School Board, for 41 years. Her career began in the era of one-room and multi-room schoolhouses, where her unwavering dedication, love and concern for the children left a lasting impact on generations of students—some of whom maintained contact with her throughout her long life.

Beyond the classroom, Ileen possessed an extraordinary work ethic. For many years, she balanced her professional life with milking cows both before and after each school day. In her retirement years, Ileen was an independent businesswoman who owned investment rental properties.

In Ileen's personal life, her distinguishing characteristic was her love of stylish, timeless dress and immaculate appearance.

She had a lifelong love for dancing and enjoyed dressing up for a night on the dance floor. At home she found comforting companionship in her beloved cat, Missy.

Ileen will be deeply missed by her treasured cousins: Donna Edwards, Carolyn (Dave) Priest, Connie (Charlie) Grant, Gaylia (Bruce) Roffey, Jackie (Bruce) Hart, Don (Fran) Graham, and their families; as well as her dear friend and former colleague Noreen Lightheart.

In keeping with Ileen's wishes, cremation has taken place. A private graveside service will take place in the spring in Chatham, Ontario.

Ileen's family and her friend Noreen wish to express their deepest gratitude to the medical team, staff and caregivers at Dufferin Oaks Long Term Care. Their extraordinary compassion, dedicated care, and dignity they afforded Ileen during her time with them provided great comfort to her and her loved ones. In lieu of flowers, donations made in Ileen's memory to Dufferin Oaks Long Term Care in Shelburne, Ontario, or to a charity of your choice, would be appreciated.

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


TREVOR STRIKE

It is with great sadness that our brother, Trevor Strike of Orangeville, passed away suddenly on January 9th at 62 years old.

He was a skilled Locksmith who took pride in his work and was known for his reliability, patience and willingness to help others. He approached his trade with care and integrity, always doing his best to make people feel safe and supported.



Outside of work, Trevor enjoyed golfing, finding enjoyment on the course with his friends. He was also an animal lover at heart, known for his compassion and kindness toward animals, especially his many dogs he had over the years.

In his younger years, he attended North Grenville District high school and was an avid hockey player, enjoyed his cars and motorbikes.

He is survived by his brother Richard Strike (Pam), sister Karen Froome, Nieces Christine, Angie, Katie, Kayla and Chelsea. He was preceded by his parents, Ken and Gwyn Strike and brother-in-law Greg Froome.

He will be remembered by his generosity and the quiet ways he showed love. He will be deeply missed by his family, friends, and all who had the privilege of knowing him.

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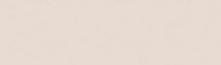
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SAVE \$4 each
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Cod Nuggets 17-27 PIECES 567 g

15⁹⁹
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SALE
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Bacon Wrapped Scallop Medallions 9-13 PIECES 300 g

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