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JIM WADDINGTON OF J.A.W PHOTOGRAPHY

SLEDGE SKATE: A Family Day Skate was held at the Alder Street Recreation Centre in Orangeville on Monday, Feb. 16. Attendees had the option to use a sledge instead of skates to enjoy the afternoon. A member of Orangeville's Accessibility Committee advocated for sledge hockey locally last year, and the Town of Orangeville purchased equipment to make it happen. At the Family Day Skate, a group of people using sledges share some smiles. See more photos on Page A7.

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County approves \$52.7 million budget with 3.88 per cent increase

Written By JAMES MATTHEWS

Dufferin County officials believe this year's budget will stay the course toward its objectives even as it puts fiscal responsibility at the fore. The county inked its 2026 operating and capital budget during a special meeting on Feb. 11. The spending plan has residents of the county's eight municipalities pay an additional \$16.20 for every \$100,000 of assessed property value. That levy is in addition to individual municipal and education taxes.

The initial draft budget, which would have kept services and programs on par with the previous year, had an almost seven per cent increase after accounting for 1.17 per cent growth.

The total tax levy to support service delivery in the approved budget is \$52,705,255. It results in a net taxpayer impact of 3.88 per cent after growth on the county's portion of the tax bill.

Aimee Raves, the county's finance manager and treasurer, said Dufferin County aims to advance its Corporate Strategic Plan, but not all goals are achievable within current financial constraints.

"As a result, some initiatives have been



deferred or scaled back, and sustaining existing programs and services remains challenging," she said.

The levy includes a \$7,910,244 capital investment toward the purchase or replacement of assets, strengthening the county's financial position, and preparing for future contingencies, as well as operating, capital, and special initiatives.

"The 2026 budget maintains essential county services and programs, supports priority initiatives under the county's strategic plan, and introduces some items that will allow the county to invest in the community's future," according to a press release.

"The county will continue to work to achieve important plan objectives while

keeping fiscal responsibility top of mind and mitigating the financial impact on Dufferin taxpayers."

Money has been earmarked to support the Health and Human Services Hub and to design and construct a new operations centre. The county will work toward implementing its housing strategy and the Road Safety Master Plan.

Lisa Post, the county's warden and Orangeville's mayor, said Dufferin County finds itself in the same financial straits as other communities in Ontario and throughout Canada. That is, all levels of government are challenged to balance strategic objectives with fiscal responsibility.

The 2026 budget will help the upper tier address housing and homelessness, health, and community safety while keeping financial sustainability top of mind.

Sonya Pritchard, the county's CAO, said the spending plan outlines some of the challenges faced at the upper tier.

"With a strong focus on mitigating the financial impact for our taxpayers, we will continue to invest in Dufferin's future and provide the services and programs that our community members rely on," Pritchard said.

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Community raises \$60,000 in one week to support grieving family

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

A fundraising campaign launched through GoFundMe is drawing strong community support for the children of a local mother whose family is now facing life without her.

The online fundraiser, titled Supporting Amber's Children, was created to help cover immediate and long-term expenses for her three children and their father, Corey Russell, after the passing of their mother and wife, Amber Russell.

The funds are intended to assist with new childcare arrangements, including before- and after-school care and daycare, as well as the everyday costs associated with raising a young family.

Melanie Elliott, the organizer behind the GoFundMe, said that the money will be carefully invested in the future of the kids by their father.

"Russell's intention is to use the funds thoughtfully, to help with immediate needs and to set aside savings for the children as they grow older," she said. "That includes supporting their future education and post-secondary opportunities. Corey and Amber have raised incredibly bright, capable children, and this fund will help ensure their potential continues to be nurtured in the years ahead."

Organizers say the goal is to provide stability for the family while they adjust to significant changes in their daily lives.

"More than anything, these kids need love, consistency, and a community that continues to show up for them," Elliott said.

Amber and her family have been part

"Amber was the kind of person who quietly made a big impact. She was warm, thoughtful, and deeply caring. She volunteered in the community as a Girl Guide leader and was on the Parent Council for her girl's school ... She was always willing to lend a hand where it was needed."

Melanie Elliott

of the Orangeville community since 2013, where they built strong local ties through volunteer work, childcare and community involvement. Known for her caring and compassionate nature, Amber volunteered as a Girl Guide leader and served on a school parent council.

Elliott said that Amber, a stay-at-home mother, also provided childcare for other families, offering a welcoming, supportive environment for the children in her care.

"Amber was the kind of person who quietly made a big impact. She was warm, thoughtful, and deeply caring," Elliot said. "She volunteered in the community as a Girl Guide leader and was on the Parent Council for her girl's school. She was always willing to lend a hand where it was needed."

She added, "For many families, her home was a safe, loving place their kids went ev-

ery day. She didn't just 'watch' children, she nurtured them, protected them, and treated them like her own, and that's speaking from personal experience.

Amber and Corey Russell had been together since 2011 and raised three children – Hailey-Jade, Olivia and Crew.

Amber played a constant role in her children's upbringing, managing daily routines and caring for their needs, including serving as the full-time caregiver for their youngest child. The fundraiser aims to help maintain the stability and opportunities she worked to provide for them.

After just over a week of fundraising, beginning on Feb. 10, community support has pushed the fundraising campaign past \$60,000, placing it just shy of its \$70,000 overall goal within a very short window.

Family members said the outpouring of support from the community has been deeply meaningful. Donations, messages of encouragement, meals and other gestures of kindness have demonstrated the impact Amber had on those around her and reflected the strong sense of compassion within the community.

Russell said that the support he's seen for their family is a perfect reflection of who Amber was as a person.

"The donations are a testament to who Amber was, and that's exactly what it feels like. The generosity we've seen reflects the impact she had on so many families and lives," he said.

"The Orangeville community should be incredibly proud. The way people have shown up through donations, messages, meals, and quiet acts of kindness. It speaks



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

GONE TOO SOON: Amber is remembered as a kind of person who quietly made a big impact. A community volunteer and Girl Guide leader, she was best known for always offering a helping hand to anyone who needed one. She is survived by her husband, Corey Russell and their three children, Hailey-Jade, Olivia, and Crew.

volumes about the kind of community this is. In the midst of heartbreak, there has been such a powerful display of compassion."

Russell added, "It's a reminder that Amber's love and influence extended far beyond her own home, and that her children are surrounded by a community that truly cares. Orangeville, thank you."

To view the GoFundMe and further information, go to: gofundme.com/f/supporting-ambers-children

Ontario Provincial Police staff changes impacts Mono's police service agreement

Mono's OPP service agreement will be altered starting in March, and the change won't mean extra costs.

Mono pays for policing above the standard OPP agreement. The current additional policing agreement runs until December 2029 and includes 1.25 full-time equivalent (FTE) officers to cover enhanced traffic enforcement. That's going to change on March 1.

The provincial police force said last fall that a number of part-time officers had retired and that it wouldn't be able to meet the extra 1.25 FTE, which equates to two part-time officers.

One of those officers left the detachment, and the second officer retired.

The OPP informed Mono late last year

that the municipality's policing contract needed to be amended. Specifically, the service wanted to change the agreement to one FTE.

"I was pretty adamant that we should have no decrease in service," Mono Mayor John Creelman said.

Instead of hiring a pair of part-time officers, the police force informed the municipality that it would hire a single full-time officer. And that's the reason for the FTE decrease.

A report to council indicates that a change to one FTE doesn't mean a loss in policing in Mono.

Mayor John Creelman said paid duty officers can supplement the new agreement if extra policing is required and the funds

are available.

Paid duty rates range from \$88.53 to \$113.33 per hour. Vehicle and admin costs are additional. A typical four-hour traffic patrol would cost about \$130 per hour.

"One advantage of paid duty is that it gives the town significant control over when and where additional police services are deployed," according to the staff report.

The 2026 cost summary for policing is estimated at \$219,737 for one FTE. That means a \$62.43 cost per Mono household. That's almost an extra three per cent more than the 2025 cost estimate.

Councillor Melinda Davie asked how council will know when more policing is required.

Creelman said the extra paid duty comes into effect when the town triggers it.

"We could do so, for instance, on long weekends," he said. "We could also do it in specified spots."

"When it comes to paid duty, I think that council might just give general direction to staff on either a dollar amount or the type of times and locations that they're interested in," said Fred Simpson, the town's clerk. "Whichever way council wants to go."

"We could do both, actually," Creelman said.

Les Halucha, the town's treasurer, said the change doesn't require more money from town coffers.

"In fact, if we never trigger a paid duty, we actually save money," Creelman said.

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- Availability to fill-in on short-notice if necessary.
- Successful completion of a Food Handling Safety certificate or willingness to successfully complete an on-line course.
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- Ability to work independently with minimum supervision.
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Businesses cash in on Orangeville façade program grants

Written By JAMES MATTHEWS

A report to Orangeville council shows that community improvement grants need an increase in dollars to keep up with higher construction costs.

A 2025 Community Improvement Plan (CIP) summary report included suggestions for promotional efforts to attract new businesses, expanding priority zones, increasing collaboration between municipal committees with similar mandates, and considering future amendments to the funding amounts stated in the CIP.

“Feedback received from applicants and CIP committee members suggests some of the maximum eligible grant amounts are too low compared to current construction costs,” according to a report to council.

Limiting grant amounts per project helps maintain fair, equitable availability to as many eligible projects as possible without negatively impacting the CIP reserve fund.

The plan, adopted in July 2022, includes eight incentive programs that support private-sector investments in revitalization projects to advance municipal economic development objectives.

The CIP is monitored annually to assess program uptake and the scale of private sec-

tor investment leveraged by grant awards. It also helps evaluate program effectiveness.

Last year was the CIP’s second year and yielded seven grant applications that were approved. The majority of applications were for façade improvement projects in downtown.

Grants last year totalled \$83,187 toward eligible costs for approved projects.

Nine grants were awarded in 2024, totaling \$87,822 in committed funding for eligible improvement projects.

CIP recommends an interim review of the plan in Year 3 to determine whether each program has met the goals and objectives and to assess the effectiveness of the committee and staff in administering and marketing the program.

A more detailed review of the plan is to occur in Year 5.

The report to council indicates that staff feel there has been effective uptake of the key CIP incentive programs through the first two full years of implementation.

Interest in the program this year will determine if additional promotion or program changes are needed, according to the report.

“This has benefitted a number of businesses from an economic development perspective,” Councillor Joe Andrews said.



JOSHUA DRAKES PHOTO

FRESH FAÇADES: Seven Orangeville businesses utilized the municipality’s grant program for downtown façade improvements last year. Town staff told council the grant program had successful uptake and interest in the program this year will determine its future.

Orangeville council tightens pedestrian safety near downtown high school

Written By JAMES MATTHEWS

Orangeville council recently adopted measures to improve intersection safety.

And Councillor Joe Andrews said a three-way stop, included among those measures in the Orangeville District Secondary School and Tony Rose Memorial Sports Centre, is long overdue.

“It will end up providing opportunities not only for safety mitigation, but also traffic mitigation in the proper way,” he said.

The new traffic control measure was included among amendments to Orangeville’s Traffic Management and Parking Bylaw adopted during council’s Feb. 9 meeting.

Among other recommended changes was replacing the current yield sign at Sunset and Sunset/Faulkner (south) with a new stop sign requiring westbound vehicles to stop.

The town will replace the current yield sign at Sunset and Sunset/Northgate (north) with a Stop sign requiring eastbound vehicles to stop.

A yield sign at Forest Park and Northgate will be replaced with a stop sign requiring eastbound vehicles to stop on Forest Park.

And a new stop sign will be added on

Bythia Street at Victoria Street to make the intersection an all-way stop, providing a controlled crossing for pedestrians and school-age children.

A new stop sign will be added on Thompson Road to make the intersection an all-way stop, providing a controlled crossing for pedestrians and school-age children.

And new stop signs will be installed on Northmen Way at the entrance to the high school parking lot to make this location an all-way stop.

Deputy Mayor Todd Taylor said the traffic measures have been in the works for a while, since residents in the area advocated for the changes.

“With anything in any area, it’s just so rewarding when people actually reach out and want to engage and try to make change,” Taylor said. “And look at what’s going to happen.”

Mayor Lisa Post agreed.

She said several pedestrian crossing concerns about the high school and arena area were broached during meetings of the mayor’s youth advisory committee.

“This is the first step of a few to enhance the safety in the area,” Post said.



JOSHUA DRAKES PHOTO

ROAD SAFETY: Orangeville council is enhancing safety at local intersections with plans to change some yield signs to stop signs and add new stop signs at existing intersections.

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DONATION FOR DOG GUIDES: (Left) The Orangeville Lions made a \$25,000 donation to the new national Lions Dog Guides facility in Oakville on Feb. 12. The local club has pledged a total of \$50,000 over five years. Pictured, from left, are Orangeville Lion Don Sinclair, Richard Banyard from the Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides, Orangeville Lion Stephen Knapp, and Orangeville Lion Dr. Wally Pugh. The dog, PJ, is being trained for Autism support.

NEW FACILITY: (Above) The new national Lions Dog Guides facility in Oakville is under construction. Once it opens, the facility will have the capacity to train 250 dog guides each year. The current facility has the capacity to train around 150 dogs annually. Depending on the dogs' temperament, they are trained to provide support to people with seizures, autism, vision issues, or hearing problems. The dogs are also used in facility support to assist professionals who treat vulnerable people who have experienced trauma.

Upper Grand District School Board updates expectations of students on no-bus days

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

No-bus days, typically caused by inclement weather, will no longer be considered days off, and students are expected to make their way to class if possible.

The Upper Grand District School Board (UGDSB) has made significant changes to its guidelines regarding buses and winter conditions in Dufferin. Previously, many treated bus cancellations as a day off for most students. The curriculum was slowed, or previous lessons were revisited, because most kids were absent.

That will no longer be the case.

A new campaign by the UGDSB wants parents and students to know that, going forward, the curriculum may continue regardless of whether buses run.

Heather Loney, communications and public relations manager for the UGDSB, framed the situation as an awareness campaign rather than a change in practice.

"The Every Day Counts campaign, specifically around schools on no-bus days, isn't

a change in guidelines or policy," she said. "Rather, the aim of the Every Day Counts campaign is to ensure families and students know that schools are open and learning still can happen on no bus days. And that students are welcome to attend when it is safe to do so."

Loney said that it's not a binary change, and inclement weather and other factors will continue to be considered. If many students are absent for any reason, the curriculum can still be reduced or paused if necessary.

"As always, educators use their professional judgment when determining what to plan and teach during a lesson," she said. "There are often times when many students in a class are away or absent for a variety of reasons, including inclement weather. In these cases, it would not be unusual to reduce the amount of new material being taught or to focus more on consolidating previously learned concepts."

Peggy Bond, chair of the Parent Involvement Committee at Orangeville District Secondary School, noted that a factor in this change was a concern from the schools

about students losing valuable learning time on no-bus days.

"We had a lot of no bus days in January," she said. "I think it was up to nine or 10 in January, and then I think we had two in December. So, in our board here, we lost 11 learning days."

She also said this raised concerns about what it might mean for higher-grade students looking to pursue post-secondary education.

"There was a definite learning loss to these students," she said. "Which, in the higher grades, means that they might be going to university a little less prepared than people in other geographic areas that don't lose these days."

The goal of this change is to ensure the larger student body doesn't fall too far behind due to inclement weather.

Students who reside within the school's walking zone will be expected to attend on bus cancellation days, while students who rely on buses will not.

Students who walk to school and do not get to school will be marked with unexcused



absences, while bus students will automatically have excused absences.

Ultimately, the Upper Grand District School Board's goal with the campaign is meant to strike a balance between maintaining consistent learning and recognizing the realities of winter travel in Dufferin County.

While families are encouraged to prioritize safety when deciding whether students can attend, officials hope the renewed emphasis on attendance will help minimize disruptions, preserve valuable classroom time, and ensure students remain on track academically.



Town of Orangeville Community Recognition Awards

The Community Recognition Awards celebrate the people who make Orangeville a better place to live. They recognize volunteers, local achievers and community champions whose efforts help our community grow stronger and more connected.

- **Volunteer Service Awards:** for long-term volunteer contributions in community and social services, sports and recreation, and arts and culture
- **Citizen Achievement Awards:** for individuals or teams who have achieved success at the provincial, national or international level in sports or arts and culture
- **Community Champion Award:** for someone who has made a lasting impact on community life over 10 or more years
- **Mayor's Special Achievement Award:** recognizing an extraordinary contribution that brings distinction to Orangeville (public nominations not accepted for this award)

Nominations are open until February 27 at 4 p.m.

orangeville.ca/RecognitionAwards



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Town of Orangeville 2026 interim property taxes

Taxpayers in the Town of Orangeville are reminded that the first instalment of the 2026 interim tax bill is due on **Tuesday, February 24, 2026.**

Please note: failure to receive a tax bill does not relieve the taxpayer of the responsibility for payment and/or late penalty charges. Penalties are charged at a rate of 1.25% on the first day of each month following the due date.

To obtain a copy of your tax bill, contact Finance by:

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Email: propertytaxes@orangeville.ca
In person: Town Hall, 87 Broadway



Trenton man arrested for attempted murder following pair of stabbings

A 31-year-old man from Trenton, Ont. has been arrested for attempted murder, among other violent charges, following an incident in Orangeville late last week.

Dufferin Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) officers responded to a call for a disturbance at residence in Orangeville, where they found two people suffering from serious injuries on Feb. 13 around 11 p.m.

The OPP's preliminary investigation determined that both victims sustained injuries consistent with a stabbing. One victim was transported to a Toronto-area trauma centre with life threatening injuries, while the other victim's injuries were deemed minor in nature.

An officer with the Dufferin Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police sustained minor injuries while arresting the accused individual.

As a result of the OPP's investigation, Na-

than Arsenault, 31, from Trenton, has been charged with:

- Attempt to commit murder
- Assault with a weapon
- Assault a peace officer

The accused was transported to Dufferin Detachment and will be held pending a bail hearing. None of the charges have been proven in court.

The police say there is no threat to public safety.

The Dufferin OPP's investigation ongoing, with support from the Nottawasaga OPP Crime Unit.

Anyone with information in relation to this incident is asked to contact the OPP at 1-888-310-1122. Callers who wish to remain anonymous, can do so by calling Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS). Successful tips may be eligible to receive a cash reward of up to \$2,000.

Heritage Orangeville expands Historic Awareness Plaque Program, encourages homeowners to participate

Heritage Orangeville has expanded the Historic Awareness Plaque Program, re-launching with the inclusion of buildings constructed prior to 1950.

The program offers property owners the chance to become part of the Orangeville story by showcasing their building or home's connection to Orangeville's history. Throughout the community, awareness plaques highlight the approximate date of construction, name of the original owner and their profession.

"These plaques are a meaningful way to connect our community today with the community of yesterday," said Councillor Debbie Sherwood, chair of Heritage Orangeville. "By expanding eligibility to buildings constructed before 1950, we're opening the door for more property owners to share the unique stories that make Orangeville special."

Historic awareness plaques help highlight the important architectural, historic and cultural features within the community, promoting appreciation of Orangeville's heritage. Unlike official heritage designations registered under the Ontario Heritage Act, awareness plaques do not carry conservation restrictions.

"Every plaque is a piece of the puzzle sharing about our early settlers, families and architectural character that continues to define our town," Sherwood added.

Property owners interested in applying must make sure their building retains its architectural and historical integrity. Applications can be completed online, with alternate formats available upon request.

There is no cost to participate in the program.

For more information visit orangeville.ca/HistoricPlaques.

OPP snowmobile patrol units check nearly 140 riders over Family Day weekend

Enhanced joint snowmobile patrols were conducted by Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) officers across several trails over the Family Day long weekend (Feb. 13-16). The Central Region OPP's Snow Vehicle, All Terrain Vehicle, Vessel Enforcement/Education (SAVE) Unit focused on trail safety, impaired operation, and compliance with the Motorized Snow Vehicles Act (MSVA).

On Friday, Feb. 13, OPP SAVE members, alongside Dufferin Detachment officers, completed joint patrols in and around Dufferin County. Approximately 33 snowmobiles were checked, resulting in two alcohol-related charges and two warnings under the MSVA being issued.

On Saturday, Feb. 14, SAVE members, alongside Collingwood Detachment officers, conducted joint patrols in the Collingwood area. Approximately 60 snowmobiles were checked, resulting in 10 charges and five MSVA warnings being issued. One driver received a seven day licence suspension after registering a warn range blood alcohol level (0.05 to 0.079).

The SAVE Unit continued joint patrols in the Collingwood area on Sunday, Feb. 15, checking approximately 45 snowmobiles. As a result of the patrol, eight charges were issued, primarily related to chin strap violations, improper mufflers, and one speeding offence. One operator was charged under the Liquor Licence and Control Act for open alcohol.

The OPP is reminding all snowmobile operators to make safety their priority while out on the trails. "Riders are urged to wear proper safety equipment, including securely fastened helmets, operate at safe speeds, and stay on marked, open trails," reads a press release from Central Region OPP.

"Alcohol and drugs have no place in snowmobiling. Impaired riding puts everyone at risk. Snow and ice conditions can change rapidly, and operators are encouraged to check trail status, ride according to conditions, and let someone know their planned route and expected return time.

"Safe, responsible riding helps ensure everyone enjoys the winter season."



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

SOLD-OUT SHOWS: Chantal Kreviazuk performed to appreciative crowds at Revival 1863 in Orangeville, during three shows held on Thursday, Feb. 12 and Sunday, Feb. 15. On Jan. 28, when the first show was announced for Feb. 15, tickets sold out in three hours. In response, Revival 1863 added a matinee show on the same day, which also sold out within hours of being posted. A third show was added on Feb. 12, to accommodate the local demand. Kreviazuk is a three-time JUNO Award-winning and Grammy-winning singer/songwriter. Fans of her work experienced an intimate performance at the venue. Revival 1863 is located in the basement of Barley Vine Rail at 35 Armstrong St., Orangeville.

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Orangeville Public Library invites public to Exploratorium launch

The Orangeville Public Library's much anticipated makerspace, the Exploratorium, is ready to open its doors, celebrating its grand opening with the community on Feb. 23.

Located at the Alder library branch, the Exploratorium offers library cardholders hands-on access to creative technologies, collaborative programming and opportunities to learn new skills in an inclusive, welcoming environment.

"Public libraries have always been places of learning and discovery," said Laura Warner, chief executive officer. "The Exploratorium expands that role by giving people access to tools, technologies and programming that foster creativity, collaboration and new forms of literacy. It's about introducing the community to technologies they may not otherwise have access to and creating space for people to learn together."

The Exploratorium's Grand Opening is on Feb. 26 at 11 a.m. and will be open for that day. Lab hours will be posted following the event.

Makerspaces support creativity, experimentation and lifelong learning in a hands-on environment, also serving as a workspace for local makers and artisans to share skills and collaborate with their communities.

A mix of library-led programming and open lab hours will be offered at the Exploratorium, available to Orangeville Public Library cardholders. Open lab hours and programs will be posted on the library's

website.

"This new space reflects the library's values of curiosity, inclusivity and lifelong learning," said Peter LeBlanc, chair of the library's board. "The combination of innovative technology and creativity with a spirit of collaboration really captures the heart of what a modern library can be."

The tools and technology offered in the space will support everything from creative hobbies and skill development to small-scale product creation, digital storytelling and personal archiving.

At its launch, available tools will include:

- 3D printing and 3D scanning for prototyping, design and creative projects
- textile arts equipment, including sewing, serging and embroidery machines
- CO₂ laser engraver for cutting and engraving
- smart cutting tools for vinyl, fabric and specialty materials
- robotics and microcomputing kits to introduce coding and electronics
- mixed reality tools, including a VR headset and 360° camera
- digitization and memory lab to convert photos, film, VHS tapes and audio recordings into digital formats

"Our staff are opening doors so that our community can add innovation to their list of life-long skills, said LeBlanc. "This space will support users of all ages and is an invitation to our patrons to dream big, build boldly and see themselves as creators, inventors and innovators. Our Board is excit-



FILE PHOTO

MAKERSPACE OPENING AT ALDER: The public is invited to attend the Orangeville Public Library's Alder branch for the grand opening of its Exploratorium on Feb. 23 at 11 a.m.

ed to have supported this worthwhile endeavour. I can't wait to see people using it." Full details about lab hours, programs and how to get started can be found at orangevillelibrary.ca/Exploratorium.

Mulmur Community Fund generates enough funds to begin offering grants in 2027

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

The Mulmur Community Fund is ready to bring lasting benefits to residents by supporting local recreation and cultural initiatives without drawing on the township's regular budget.

Created under the umbrella of the Dufferin Community Foundation, the fund will provide grants for projects that enhance the quality of life in Mulmur.

Gord Gallagher, founding chair of the Dufferin Community Foundation (DCF), said that, unlike traditional municipal funding, the Mulmur Community Fund is not intended to cover core government services.

"It's designed in general terms to enhance quality of life in Mulmur or for the residents of Mulmur Township, but it's not meant to subsidize any township-related or regular government-related things," he said. "So it's not strictly recreation, but extra things that

fall a little bit outside of the normal government-funded things."

The fund targets extras that enhance amenities in small communities but are difficult to finance with tax dollars alone. Decisions on how the money is distributed will be made by a citizens' committee appointed jointly by Mulmur council and the DCF, ensuring local voices guide where support is directed.

"There are a lot of recreation related items that would qualify for funding from this – everything from trail development to perhaps tennis courts or pickleball courts that haven't been here before," Gallagher said. "The township is in the midst of a major fundraising effort to greatly renovate our arena in Honeywood, and I would imagine that there would be some of the things there that could be funded from this fund as well."

The fund was first initiated in 2021, but growth was slow until a recent focused campaign gave it a major boost.

Through direct email outreach to local

residents and word-of-mouth promotion, organizers raised enough money to push the fund past its crucial \$25,000 threshold — the minimum balance required before grants can begin to flow.

"It didn't come together quite naturally at first, and there wasn't any specific promotion for it... so it was very slow until it got this boost," Gallagher said. "If a fund is created but it lingers there, attracting not much in the way of attention or money, donations, for a period of time, it's going to be folded into something else, because it's unsustainable."

"That makes it all the more gratifying that we're now over that hurdle," he added.

Donations have come from both long-time supporters and new contributors who learned about the initiative through recent publicity and local newspaper coverage.

Now that the fund has reached that required goal, the next phase is about impact and visibility. Beginning in 2027, the invest-

ed capital will generate annual grant dollars that can be distributed over an extended period, providing long-term support for grassroots projects in Mulmur.

"The foundation model is that the money we raise is invested, and so we have an amount of money then to grant every year forever," Gallagher said. "So the amount of money we've raised is not going to be gobbled up in a year or two. It's invested, and we have small amounts there over years. So there can be some very long term effects as well."

As grants are awarded and publicly announced by the Dufferin Community Foundation, organizers expect community awareness – and further donations – to grow, helping the fund expand and increase what it can return to the township year after year.

For more information on the Mulmur Community Fund, go to: dufferincommunity-foundation.ca/mulmur-community-fund-donation/



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JIM WADDINGTON
OF J.A.W PHOTOGRAPHY

COMMUNITY COMES TOGETHER: The Alder Recreation Centre was a hot-spot for family-fun on Monday, Feb. 16. To celebrate Family Day, the Town of Orangeville held a free community skate and swim, as well as activities at the Alder branch of Orangeville Public Library. Displays from Heritage Orangeville were also set up to educate residents about the town's history.



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Orangeville author speaks out about PTSD and police culture in new book

Written By JOSHUA DRAKES
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Orangeville author Lana Boland is sharing her personal journey through trauma and recovery in her book, *Aftershot - From Silence in Policing to Unstoppable Beyond PTSD*. The memoir explores the hidden mental health struggles faced by those in law enforcement.

Built around personal reflections and lived experience, the book explores the emotional weight of frontline work and the challenges officers often face when seeking support. It presents a series of personal stories and observations that highlight both the personal and institutional realities of policing, while also offering a broader perspective on the profession's culture.

The 120-page book offers a candid look at the psychological toll of policing, focusing on issues such as post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), workplace culture and the stigma surrounding mental health within the profession.

The project began unexpectedly in 2024 after Boland experienced a work-related injury that resulted in a PTSD diagnosis. For Boland, she never initially intended to write a book, but after some encouragement, she changed her mind.

"The book is sort of like a weird story, because I didn't mean to write it," she said. "I ended up with PTSD in May of 2024, for a work-related injury, and my psychologist insisted I journal. About a year in, she said, Lana, you have a way with words. You're writing a book. I said, What? What are you talking about? I'm absolutely not writing a book. I hardly know how to work a computer, nor do I own one."

Boland continued, "So she forced me to buy a laptop and to justify the purchase, I just went outside for a couple of hours every day, and I just started writing things down as they came to mind, and lo and behold, within a month, I had a book."

At its core, Boland says the book was written to help others feel less alone. She was motivated in part by learning about police suicides and what she sees as ongoing gaps

in mental health support within the profession.

"The goal and the reason why I sort of started showing people my work was at first frustration," Boland said. "That turned into officers saying, this is the first time I've ever felt seen just (by) you writing your words. That's exactly how I feel... if just me writing a book would make one person... feel less alone, then it did its job."

"My goal wasn't even to speak out originally; it was telling my story so officers would feel less alone, or humans would feel less alone," she added. "You are not alone, and there's nothing wrong with you."

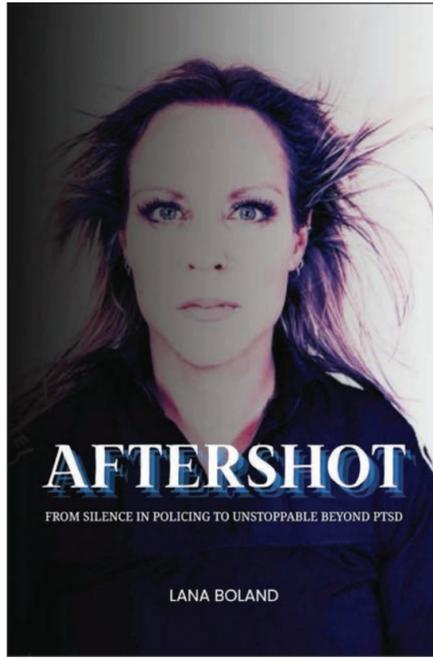
Boland said that her frustration, anger and disappointment in police leadership led her to speak up and share her story in her book.

"Once you're internally injured, the service ices you out," she said. "They don't even try to support you... you're sort of sequestered, separated from the job you knew, the people you knew, nobody wants anything to do with you. It's like you're suddenly taboo just to be friends with, and they don't really offer help... and you're alone."

"Officers have been screaming into a void for years, and were abandoned when they needed help the most... Imagine going through PTSD... alone and in shame and silenced by design," Boland added.

She deliberately avoided naming specific police services or individuals in the book. Instead, she keeps details general, allowing readers — particularly those working in similar fields — to see their own experiences reflected in the themes. The approach also encourages wider public understanding of the human impact of police work.

Boland's own path to policing was shaped by personal experiences earlier in life. Traumatic events in her youth influenced her desire to help others facing difficult situations. After graduating during the 2008 to 2009



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

PAGE TURNER: Lana Boland hopes to shine a light on an overlooked aspect of policing - mental health. Inspired by her own PTSD diagnosis and inspired by those around her, Boland wrote *Aftershot* to give a voice to officers suffering in silence. The book is also meant to remind anyone who feels beaten down that they are not alone, they are seen, and they are worthy of where they are.

economic recession and struggling to find work, she began working in a police service's records department. She later transitioned into frontline roles, experiences that would eventually form the foundation of her book.

Her journey — from early idealism to the realities of the profession — is a central thread throughout *Aftershot*, providing context for her reflections on workplace culture, psychological injury and recovery.

With a decade of experience as a sworn officer and six years in civilian law enforcement, Boland hopes to spark open conversations about mental health in policing, encourage cultural change, and promote stronger support systems for officers through

Aftershot.

Boland wants to see more officers inspired to speak up rather than being too afraid to defend themselves. She wants to see her daughter grow up in a world where she can be confident, authentic and outspoken without fear of retribution or pushback.

"I spent my life shrinking to make other people comfortable, and I want to live in a world where we don't have to shrink ourselves to be heard, to be seen," she said.

"You are worthy."

By sharing her story, Boland aims to break the silence surrounding PTSD in law enforcement and highlight the importance of compassion, accountability and care for those who serve their communities.

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Prizes : Best Costume (Team, Individual, Special Olympian), Highest Fundraiser (Individual)

2026

POLAR PLUNGE FOR SPECIAL OLYMPICS ONTARIO



JIM WADDINGTON OF J.A.W PHOTOGRAPHY
ANGLER ACTION: The 16th Annual Ice Fishing Derby at the Island Lake Conservation Area saw a great turnout of anglers, enjoying nature and celebrating Family Day on Monday, Feb. 16. Some anglers set up pop-up tents for wind protection, while others braved the cold, fishing on the open lake. In the adult category, cash prizes were awarded to anglers who caught the longest Northern Pike, Black Crappie, and Yellow Perch. In first place for Northern Pike was Gary Barnes (825 mm), second place went to Tanner Knuckle (695 mm), and third place went to Christopher Luciani (655 mm). For Yellow Perch, Francois Doyle received first place (250 mm), and in the Black Crappie category, Les Pippy took first place (312 mm). In the youth derby, competitors tried to catch the longest fish of any species. First place went to Kaden M. (catfish, 305 mm), second place went to Jacob A. (yellow perch, 180 mm), and third place went to Livie B. (yellow perch, 150 mm).



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Arts & Entertainment

LOCAL COMMUNITY EVENTS



Meet Roslyn Levin: Sumi-e artist and Orangeville tai chi instructor

Written By CONSTANCE SCRAFIELD

Perhaps it makes sense that a multi-award-winning, Orangeville-based Sumi-e artist also teaches tai chi. Although meeting Roslyn Levin in her mini studio at the back of Dragonfly Arts on Broadway, surrounded by her beautiful and ethereal paintings and sketches, might give one pause to wonder which of them one simply must take home.

This interview with the Citizen was to focus on the subject of tai chi and her teaching it. She began with a history which goes back about 2,000 years, though brief research involves many dates and stories.

“First there was qigong, then Kung fu and then tai chi, which some say is like slow Kung fu,” she said and remarked that her favourite of the many myths of its beginnings is “about a Buddhist monk who observed a fight between a crane and a snake.

“When one came forward to attack, the other moved back in an almost mirrored action.”

Levin continued, “From that, he devised tai chi as a defensive art.”

She teaches both a beginner’s class and what she calls an ongoing class, where everyone is familiar with the 108-move set. In the ongoing class, she and her students also do other tai chi sets she has learned from various masters over the years.

A 24-move set and a seven-move set, as well as the Eight Brocades, are part of ongoing classes, as well as a few of the Animal Frolics - namely, bear and crane. While explicit definitions cannot be offered here, they can be learned eventually, along with the basics.

“All tai chi is a set of qigong moves always done in the same order,” she explained. “Qigong, or qigong, means the Way of Energy and can be single movements or movements that are held or sets of movements that can be repeated.

“I also do many other qigongs such as a short relaxing set of moves which was taught to me by a martial arts student.

He called it Pi Gao which I believe, loose-

ly means it is a set of moves to do when you feel fatigued.”

A special class on The Swimming Dragon is another set to learn. This is a beautiful set of moves that works the entire body and should be done periodically throughout the day, with each complete movement taking 30 to 60 seconds.

For condo dwellers, the Swimming Dragon and the Seven-Move Tai Chi Set can be done in one place, making them ideal for small spaces, as Levin described them.

She added, “Even the 108-move set can be done in a one square meter areas with small changes.”

The benefits of tai chi are extensive: lowering blood pressure, improving concentration, and enhancing balance.

“It is, in fact,” Levin said, “a gentle form of exercise that can help maintain strength, flexibility, balance, and is considered a perfect activity to do for the remainder of your life.”

She followed with the bold statement: “When done correctly, it is impossible to injure yourself while doing tai chi. It is a mind-body practice that is also a moving meditation.”

There are ads for “tai chi walking” popping up on our computers, which is just one of the many forms of tai chi.

The truth is, we learn to do them slowly. In fact, one of Levin’s masters said that ideally, for the most health benefits, the 108-move set should be performed in 40 minutes. Beginners find it difficult to move that slowly, so they begin by doing the set in 20 to 30 minutes.

“I have brought my students down to 40 minutes, but it takes getting used to,” she commented.

The good news is that one can be in any physical condition to begin tai chi. The only requirements are clothing that is not tight and shoes with heels no higher than a half inch in height, as well as a willing spirit.

Levin promises she makes it a fun activity by breaking down each move into easily



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

MEDITATIVE MOVEMENT: Award-winning Sumi-e artist Roslyn Levin demonstrates a tai chi move, which she teaches in Orangeville to both beginners and people with some experience

followed bits.

Tai chi for the disabled was the next and final question, and Roslyn Levin was ready to answer, saying, “Tai chi is good for everyone. It can be learned even sitting down.

“A man in one of my classes was in a wheel chair and he only had one arm and a prosthetic which he left down by his chair. But I told him to put it back so that he would lift and exercise those muscles.”

Likewise, tai chi is as good for seniors as it is for everyone.

“I also have a video of myself doing each individual move and the entire set with an accompanying ‘booklet’ of the moves written out in detail,” Levin offered.

She said, “I have students who have been with me for over 20 years.

Levin can be reached at roslyn@artbyroslyn.on.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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The Citizen CROSSWORD

Puzzle No. 262310 • Solution on page: CLASSIFIEDS SECTION

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
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CLUES ACROSS

- Cut quickly
- A way to state clearly
- River in NE Scotland
- Expansive
- Lacking social polish
- Amount of time
- Frame
- Automobile
- Toadstools
- High school dances
- Utilize
- Experimented with
- One-sided
- Acquisitive
- Potted plants
- Everyone has one
- Kalahari Desert lake
- Unidentified flying object
- People 65 and over
- Small amount

- Daughter of Acrisius
- Ornamental box
- Government agents
- Uncertain
- A cotton fabric with a satiny finish
- Treeless plains
- One's sense of self-importance
- Consumer advocate
- Type of lounge
- Body part
- Can be persuaded
- Woman (French)
- Ready and willing to be taught
- Arab ruler title
- Unhappy
- Gradually went away
- Able to think clearly

CLUES DOWN

- Brushed
- Small water spirit (Germ.)
- Heroes
- Monetary units
- Some don't want to share theirs
- Free-swimming invertebrate
- Litigates
- Outer
- Parallelograms
- Uneasy feelings
- Cross
- A way to remove
- Pages can be dog-___
- Ukrainian city
- A citizen of Denmark
- Month
- Hindu queens
- Group of chemicals
- Rider of Rohan
- Wet dirt
- Southwestern Russia city
- Observed
- Angry
- Drivers' licenses
- Musical composition
- Auction
- They ___
- Women
- Be filled with love for
- Thick-soled sock
- Appears
- Old World lizard
- The leading performer
- Musical composition
- "Gunga Din" script writer
- Art __, around 1920
- Blyton, children's author
- Abnormal breathing
- A place to rest

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How they say that in...

English: Windy
Spanish: Ventoso
Italian: Ventoso
French: Venteux
German: Windig

ACROSS

- Connects kite to person
- Defrost
- Southern U.S. state
- Hand spinning tool

DOWN

- Flying devices
- Base of a kite
- Gain height
- Twist together
- Slap hands together

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Hearts Wide Open for Autism fundraiser coming to Shelburne Legion

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

Hearts Wide Open for Autism is preparing to host a community Euchre tournament, offering residents an affordable and engaging way to support local children and youth with special needs.

The event, held at the Shelburne Legion on March 28, is designed to be accessible in the current economic climate, with a modest \$30 entry fee instead of a higher-priced dinner fundraiser format. Participants will enjoy card play, light food such as sandwiches, and the chance to compete for prizes for first, second, and third-place euchre players.

Doors open at 5:30 p.m. and games start at 6 p.m.

Deanna Avison, founder of Hearts Wide Open for Autism, said that this year's euchre tournament is the first they have run, and is designed to remain accessible to everyone.

"For 10 years we did a big mystery dinner theatre at the Shelburne Golf and Country Club, and that's how we raised quite a bit of money," she said. "But with the economy

"I started it because I had, at the time, way back, two grandchildren, twins, actually, that were diagnosed with autism ... I kind of went on a mission many years ago. I went to the town and had the flag raised for the awareness of autism..."

Deanna Avison

changing, I thought it was time to take a different avenue, so we're doing a Euchre tournament instead. People can more easily afford \$30 than a big meal, and with things the way they are, it just felt like time for a change."

The Euchre night is the latest evolution of Hearts Wide Open for Autism, which began as a small, grassroots initiative more than a decade ago.

Since its founding, the organization has

raised approximately \$123,500 for local causes, directing funds to the Upper Grand Learning Foundation's special education programs in Shelburne schools, Special Olympics, and, most recently, the Orangeville Wolves special needs hockey team.

A core principle of the group is ensuring that funds go directly to programs for children rather than to administrative overhead.

Behind the initiative is Avison, known in the community as the "autism grandma."

Her work began after her twin grandchildren were diagnosed on the autism spectrum.

"I started it because I had, at the time, way back, two grandchildren, twins, actually, that were diagnosed with autism," she said. "I kind of went on a mission many years ago. I went to the town and had the flag raised for the awareness of autism, which comes on April the second. I asked if they would carry on my legacy, and every year, raise the flag in for autism awareness, and that was granted."

"I wasn't satisfied with just that. I wanted people to be aware, to participate, so I founded Hearts Wide Open for Autism," Avison added.

Motivated by love and daily involvement in their lives, she has championed awareness through annual autism flag raisings and now ongoing fundraising events.

Working closely with her daughter, Sherri-Lyn Ferguson, who manages much of the behind the scenes organization and online promotion, Deanna continues to build a small town network with an outsized impact for local families.

The euchre tournament will also feature a silent auction and raffles, with support from long standing community sponsors including GP Carpentry, M&M Food Market in Orangeville, Laura Lee and Grant Laverty, Main Street Family Dental in Shelburne, the Mullin Group, Shelburne Family Chiropractic, Brown & Self, All Pro Roofing and Fifth Avenue Dental.

Pre registration for the tournament is required so organizers can account for food and logistics in advance. Registration is handled through an online link available on the Hearts Wide Open for Autism Facebook page.

To register, go to: facebook.com/HeartsWideOpenforAutism

From Millwright to Alton Mill Artist: Stuart Curtis to Display work at Headwaters Arts

Written By **CONSTANCE SCRAFIELD**

Shelburne-based artist Stuart Curtis has seen a lot of change in his life over the last couple of years.

Recently retired from 35 years in the construction business as a Millwright, Curtis and his wife, Tina, moved to Shelburne from Orangeville, because the house that they "wanted was in Shelburne."

He is also becoming more involved in his life as an artist and has a couple of his paintings in the current Headwaters Arts (HA) show titled Echoes of the Heart. This is not Curtis's first show with HA.

"I recently joined Headwaters. Retirement is hard work. So, I've been reviving old skills," he commented.

Years ago, his closest connection to art was in high school, while never giving much thought about it.

Over time, he did some oil paintings and gave them as Christmas presents.

It becomes a passion: he started to buy more canvases and then realized he needed to learn more.

In his hunt for the right place to study, he discovered the Academy of Realist Art in Toronto, which uniquely teaches all "classical drawing and painting skills based on 19th century European atelier techniques."

Curtis was very enthusiastic about his time with the Academy, stating that any-

one truly interested in learning more about painting should have this experience.

"Somebody told me about it and right away everything felt right. Before this, I hit a brick wall and realized I needed to get some schooling."

He is happy about the HA show coming to the Alton Mill Arts Centre. Like many local people, he has known about the Alton Mill for years.

In fact, he and Tina recently got married there.

He has had the chance to talk to some of the artists in residence at the Mill. What impresses him is when a person buys one of his paintings.

He said quite simply, "When I sold my painting, having people buy it – it is a thrill. For that, most of my paintings sold are in oil. I do use lines when I do cityscapes – we go to Toronto – those are fun."

He thinks about his paintings being on a patron's wall. "some of my paintings are there and I think, it's a form of immortality."

The thought led to his telling us that he has two grown children and "three beautiful granddaughters. They tell me, grandpa this and grandpa that – it's wonderful."

Recently, Curtis was invited to try teaching for the first time. He went to a "person's place to teach kids to paint."

Plein air is another way to paint, immersed in the living subject surrounding him with

ever-changing features to capture.

Curtis would like to find a small group to share the adventure with.

His children are proud of their father's success and his enthusiasm for his art.

When his daughter showed interest but denied she could follow, he proposed a first step and gave her a paint-by-number set as a gift this past Christmas.

"You have to start somewhere," came the well-trod wisdom. "Do a little bit at a time."

With an inclination to paint as reality presents itself, Curtis noted that people seem to like the Impressionists, and he thinks he will study them too.

As for landscapes, he feels he just has to "get out there and do it."

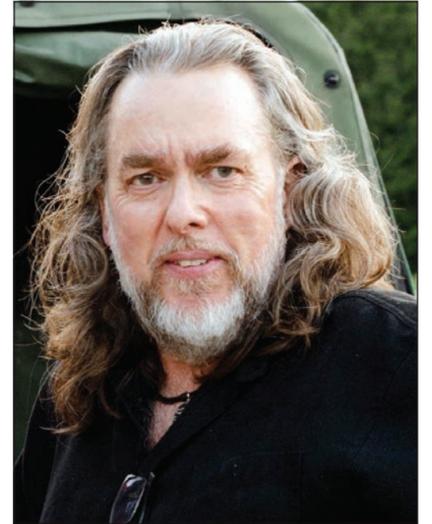
"Millwrights should have their own art show," is his opinion. "Math is essential in construction. Sometimes, they work on something broken, build things. Build a motorbike."

An old army truck, his old, slow vehicle, which is a Humvee, is his transportation locally.

Like an old pal, Curtis is fond of it and was invited to bring it to the classic car night of Orangeville's Jazz and Blues Festival last year.

When asked for Curtis' advice to youngsters, he kept it simple: "What's important is to be honest and straightforward."

"Honesty is best," said Stuart Curtis.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

ARTISTIC ENDEAVOURS: Curtis Stuart, with his old "Humvee," enjoys driving it around the countryside, seen here on River Road in Horning's Mills. Curtis is looking forward to showing his art at the Headwaters Arts show, Echoes of the Heart, on now and through March.

Find him on Instagram and Facebook and at the Echoes of the Heart in the Headwaters Arts Gallery at the Alton Mill.

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Shelburne Curling Club to celebrate 100th anniversary with open house

Written By BRIAN LOCKHART

If you have ever driven by the Shelburne Curling Club and were curious about curling, you will have a chance to try it yourself when the club hosts an open house to celebrate its 100th anniversary in March.

Curling has been played in Shelburne for a long time. Local records show the sport was played on local ponds as early as the 1880s.

Playing on a frozen pond provided all sorts of challenges for early curlers. From bumpy ice to freezing weather conditions, curlers put up with a lot to enjoy their sport.

The Shelburne Club was established in 1926 with an indoor ice sheet at the site where the Shelburne Legion now stands. For several years, the Legion and the Curling Club shared the building.

The Curling Club built its own facility at the current O'Flynn Street location in 1962.

It has four curling sheets and a club area with big windows so people can watch the action on the ice.

Curling is a sport that you can enjoy for a lifetime.

Children like learning the sport, and many

recreational curlers play well into their later years.

The Shelburne Curling Club will open its doors to the public during the anniversary celebration and give everyone a chance to try the sport.

"We are going to have open ice for those who have always thought, 'maybe I could try curling,'" explained Shelburne Curling Club Vice President Lindsey Metz. "This is the day to bring people out and see if they want to try curling. It's open for anyone who wants to come in. We have all the equipment. They only need to have really clean shoes. Kids need helmets. We will get some games started. We want it to be a really nice, relaxed day that everyone can enjoy."

If you attend, it is important to bring a pair of clean shoes that you haven't worn outdoors or at the Club. The Club needs to protect the integrity of the ice, and that includes keeping foreign objects off the ice sheets.

The Shelburne Curling Club is a thriving local organization with around 170 members, and they are always looking for new members.



FILE PHOTO

MILESTONE: The Shelburne Curling Club will be celebrating its 100th anniversary by inviting the public to the club to give curling a try. The open house will take place on Saturday, March 7.

"We'll have members that will be out on the ice for people who want a tutorial," Metz explained. "We'll have someone who can show the basics, and you can go from there."

The Shelburne Curling Club's 100th anniversary open house will take place on Saturday, March 7, beginning with open ice at 3 p.m.

At 5 p.m., there will be a 'closest to the prize' contest.

The party continues in the evening with food and music from The Curling Stones.

Special Olympics Polar Plunge moving indoors at CDRC for this year's chilly event

Written By BRIAN LOCKHART

If you ever wanted to use the phrase 'shiver me timbers' in a sentence at an appropriate time, you'll get your chance during the annual Dufferin-Shelburne Polar Plunge, where participants will jump into a freezing pool in support of a good cause.

The Polar Plunge raises funds and awareness in support of Special Olympics Ontario and helps athletes achieve their goals of competing. This includes year-round training and events for athletes with intellectual disabilities.

Plungers seek sponsorship for their chilly efforts and enter as individuals, organizations, businesses, or groups of friends who like to take part while wearing costumes.

This year, the plunge will move indoors to the Centre Dufferin Recreation Complex in Shelburne.

"This year's Polar Plunge will be the first and only plunge to be held indoors," explained organizer Jeff McLean, Provincial Constable with the Dufferin OPP. "We are hosting it at the Shelburne Arena at centre ice. This allows for the participants to be able to plunge in the cold atmosphere, while ensuring the event is not cancelled due to inclement weather."

Unpredictable weather caused the event to be cancelled twice last year when conditions made travel to the outdoor venue unsafe.

"This year, we have set the theme as 'Canadian,'" Constable McLean explained. "This will also allow the participants to interpret this however they wish, but we do request that it remain family-friendly, and participants are encouraged to interpret it in a positive way. Once again, there are prizes for best costumes for individual, team, and best dressed Olympian. We are again awarding the Frozen Belt. Last year, Cole Carlson, a Special Olympic Athlete from Dufferin, won the belt as the top fundraiser for Dufferin County."

The wait for your turn to plunge will be a little more comfortable this year at the indoor venue, thanks to change rooms and no cold wind blowing across the event.

The Dufferin Polar Plunge will take place at the Centre Dufferin Recreation Complex in Shelburne on Sunday, March 29.

Registration starts at 2 p.m., with the Plunge getting underway at 4 p.m.

You can register online at polarplunge.ca/dufferin.

This is a chance to have a lot of fun, try something new, and help raise funds for a good cause that will benefit the community



FILE PHOTO

CHILLY DIP: The annual Dufferin Polar Plunge in support of Special Olympics Ontario will once again give local residents the chance to take a dip in freezing cold water for a good cause. This year's event will be held indoors at the Centre Dufferin Recreation Complex on March 29.

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Westside boys' basketball teams get ready for playoffs

Written By BRIAN LOCKHART

With one game left in the regular season schedule, the Westside Secondary School Thunder boys' basketball team is getting ready for the playoffs.

Junior

The Thunder juniors played their most recent game against Erin District High School on Thursday, Feb. 12.

Westside played a solid game but trailed in the scoring and couldn't close the gap.

At halftime, Erin was leading 34-17.

At the end of the third quarter, it was 52-31.

The final score was 60-38 in favour of the Thunder.

"I think we had decent defence for most of the game," said Westside power forward Nolan Massicotte after the game. "We had good offence and some great passes. I think we've had a good performance this year. We haven't won most games but most of our games have been pretty close. To get ready for playoffs, we just practice all the time. We do a lot of team bonding after school."

The Thunder are currently in third place in the District 4 standings.

Centre Dufferin District High School from Shelburne is currently in first place, followed by Erin.

The Thunder played their final regular season game against Emmanuel Christian High School on Feb. 18, with results not available at press time.

The playoffs are scheduled to get underway on Feb. 20 with semi-final games.

Senior

The Westside senior boys' team is having a good year, sitting in third place with a 4-3 record.

In their most recent game, they came up short, taking a 65-46 loss to Erin District High School in the gym at Westside on Thursday, Feb. 12.

The Thunder have averaged 52 points per game this year.

Erin District High School is in first place in the District 4 standings.

They are followed by Centre Dufferin District High School from Shelburne.

The Thunder have already secured a berth in the playoffs.

The District 4 senior playoffs are scheduled to get underway with semi-final games on Friday, Feb. 20.



BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

SOLID EFFORT: The Westside Secondary School Thunder junior boys' basketball team takes on Erin District High School in the gym at Westside on Thursday, Feb. 12. The Thunder had to settle for a 60-38 loss. Westside's Santino Moscarelli takes the ball into the Erin zone during the second quarter of the game.

Provincial Junior Hockey League finishes regular season schedule, playoffs now underway

Written By BRIAN LOCKHART

The Provincial Junior Hockey League has finished its regular season schedule and will now move into the playoffs, with the first Junior C postseason games getting underway this week.

The Essex 73s of the West Stobbs Division finished as the top team in the league with a 37-5 record and 75 points. The 73s have been a powerhouse team in the league for two decades.

Other division champions include the Uxbridge Bruins from the East Orr Division, the Lakefield Chiefs from the East Tod Division, the Stayner Siskins from the North Carruthers Division, the Fergus Whalers from the North Pollock Division, the Dundas Blues from the South Bloomfield Division, the Woodstock Navy Vets from the South Doherty Division, and the Exeter Hawks from the West Yeck Division.

In the North Carruthers Division, the Stayner Siskins finished first in the league after spending most of the season in second place.

The Alliston Hornets held the top spot for most of the year, but a mid-season slump in December, when they lost five of eight games, cost them points, while Stayner continued to deliver a steady effort.

Over the last few games of the season, the Siskins kept winning and edged out the Hornets to win the division with 65 points, one point ahead of the Hornets.

Last year's division champions, the Orillia Terriers, finished in third place with 58 points.

The Terriers had a huge win last season,



BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

PLAYOFF TIME: The Provincial Junior Hockey League is now moving into the playoffs as Junior C teams around the province battle it out for division titles. The Essex 73s finished as the league's top team this year. The Alliston Hornets played against the Midland Flyers at the New Tecumseth Recreation Centre in Alliston during the final weekend of play in the North Carruthers Division.

with a surprise finish that saw them knock out the first-place Hornets in the championship series.

The Terriers went on to compete in the Schmalz Cup playoffs finals but didn't make it past the first round.

The Penetang Kings, Midland Flyers and Muskoka Bears landed in the middle of the division this season, separated by 11 points.

The Huntsville Otters and Innisfil Spar-

tans finished in seventh and eighth place and won't be serious contenders once the playoffs get underway.

Division playoff games started on Feb. 18. The playoff schedule for the North Carruthers Division has not yet been announced.

Blitz achieves success in first round of playoffs

The Orangeville Blitz hold a commanding 2-0 lead in their best-of-seven first-round playoff series against the Woodstock Lakers. After securing the top seed in the Northern Premier Hockey League (NPHL) Metro Division, the Blitz opened the postseason with two dominant victories.

Series recap

Game 1 (Feb 13): Orangeville dismantled Woodstock with a 12-1 blowout victory at the Alder Street Recreation Centre. The Blitz had 12 different goal scorers and a solid performance in net by Owen Benstead in the series opener.

Game 2 (Feb 14): The Blitz maintained their momentum on the road at the Reeves Community Complex, defeating the Lakers 9-4 to extend their series lead to 2-0.

Upcoming playoff schedule

The series returns to Orangeville for Game 3, where the Blitz have home-ice advantage.

- Game 3: Friday, Feb 20 at 8 p.m., at Alder Recreation Centre in Orangeville
- Game 4: Saturday, Feb 21 at 7:45 p.m., at Plattsville Arena in Woodstock
- Game 5 (if necessary), Friday, Feb. 27 at 8 p.m., at Alder Recreation Centre in Orangeville
- Game 6 (if necessary) Saturday, Feb 28 at 7:45 p.m., at Plattsville Arena, Woodstock

Tickets for home games are typically \$12 for adults, \$10 for seniors and \$5 for youth 6-17.

Fans can follow further updates on the official Orangeville Blitz website, Instagram, Facebook and NPHL pages.

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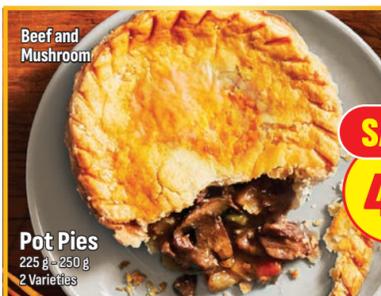
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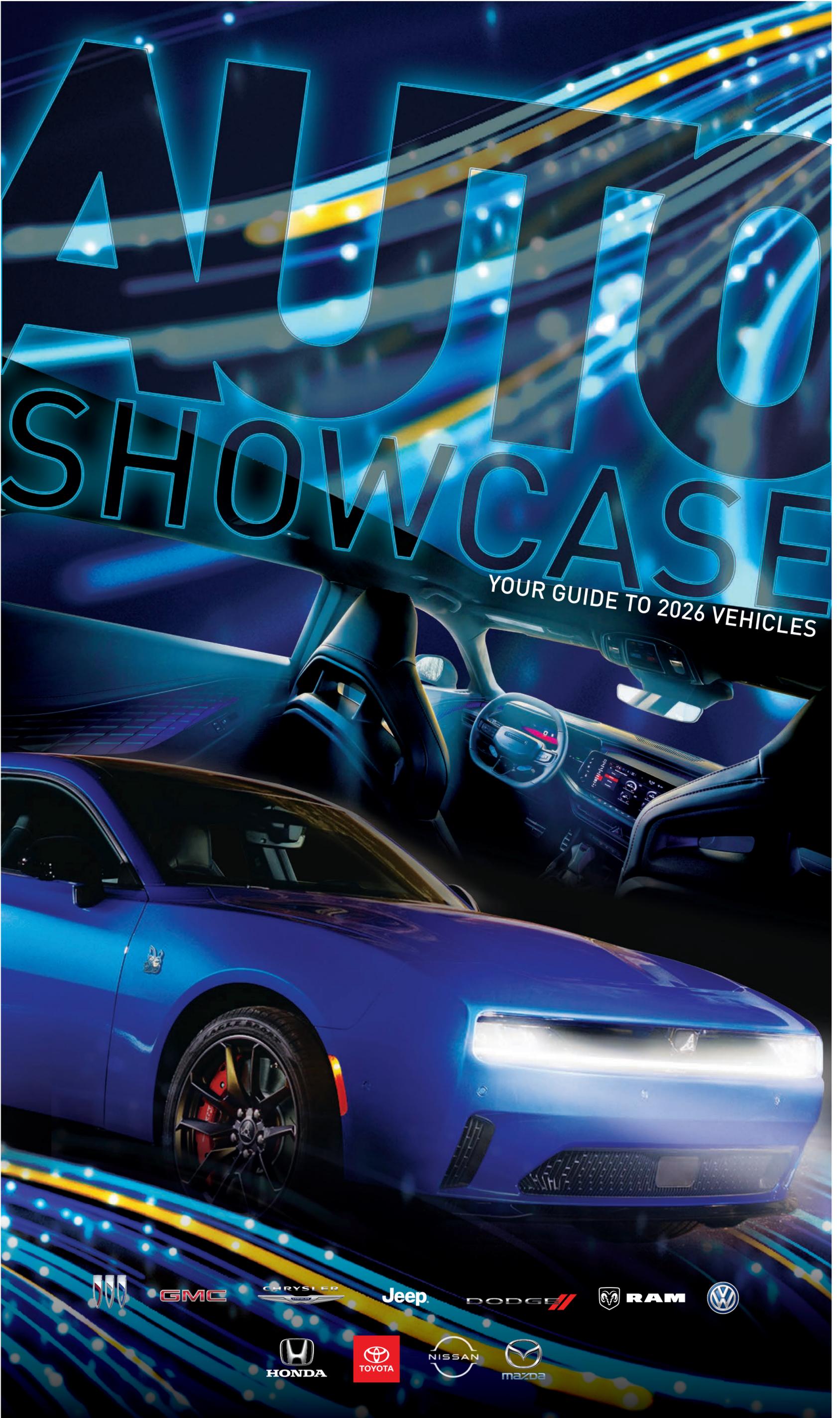
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The 3.0L Hurricane Twin-Turbo I-6 engine delivers an impressive 420 horsepower.

With that kind of power, you can tow up to 10,000 with 486 lb-ft of torque so you can take your boat trailer with you on your trip.

The 2026 Jeep Grand Wagoneer is the full-size SUV that delivers rugged capability with superior interior comfort and style.



2026 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE

It's new, and it delivers a thrilling ride with all new features.

THE NEW 2026 Jeep Grand Cherokee has a refreshed look, new technology, and a new engine with a model to suit every lifestyle.

The Grand Cherokee remains the Most Awarded SUV ever, and it still delivers more than you hope for in a vehicle.

On the outside, the Grand Cherokee is beautifully designed with smooth contours and bold features that introduce a new era of design.

The easily recognized front grille is redesigned and is enhanced with a new front fascia that reshapes the sleek lines and strong profile of the vehicle. The rear fascia has also received a new look.

Redesigned LED headlights are not only stunning, they are practical and provide an exception look at what's ahead on the road during night driving.

There are three new body colour options: Copper Shino, Fathom Blue, and Steel Blue.

There is a range of wheel options that help showcase the look of the Grand Cherokee.

Even though the Grand Cherokee is built to handle

driving on any terrain, that doesn't mean you sacrifice comfort and style.

With three-row seating that accommodates seven, there is plenty of room for passengers who will remain comfortable with the Quad-Zone Automatic Temperature Control.

The driver's cockpit is comfortable and roomy with a lot of attention paid to even the smallest details.

The Grand Cherokee offers the most standard and available technology features in its class, offering advanced technology, a premium sound system, and many intuitive features.

The available 12.3-inch Uconnect 5 NAV touchscreen is the heart of the vehicle's advanced technology. It has available navigation and features that bring convenience and entertainment on the road with you.

The available 10-inch full-colour Head-Up Display projects key driver information onto the windshield so you can check things like your speed at just a glance.

The standard 10.25-inch Driver Information Digital Cluster Display provides essential information like speed, temperature, and real-time vehicle health and safety alerts.

An available wireless charging pad allows you to stay powered up no matter where the road takes you.

You can say goodbye to rear blind spots with the available Digital Rearview Mirror. This features a rear camera and an LCD monitor built into the rearview mirror that delivers a high-definition view of what's behind you.

If the rear window is obstructed, simply switch to real-time video mode.

When you are behind the wheel, you are surrounded by technology that acts as a second pair of eyes.

The Available Hands-Free Active Driving Assist features use advanced sensors and speed management that allows for hands-free driving.

The available Night Vision Camera detects pedestrians and animals up to 100 metres ahead of you.

With the available 360 degree Surround View Camera, you can have a birds-eye view of your surroundings to help you navigate around objects.

The Grand Cherokee even keeps its eyes open when you're having trouble doing the same. The Drowsy Driver Detection system monitors driver input and vehicle movement for signs of fatigue.

If detected, it alerts the driver with visual and audio cues to help keep them awake.

With the available Parallel and Perpendicular Park Assist System, you can let the vehicle guide you into a parking spot while you handle the shifting, braking, and acceleration.

Under the hood, the new available 2.0L, I4 Turbo engine offers impressive power, torque, and towing capability and is mated with a next generation Gen IV transmission that delivers a smooth and responsive performance whether you are on the trail or the open road.

With best-in-class towing power, you can tow up to 6,200 lbs. with confidence so you can take your boat or trailer with you on your journey.

Standard on four trim levels, the Selec-Terrain Traction Management System lets you switch between five specialized 4x4 drives modes – Auto, Sport, Rock, Snow, and Mud/Sand – with a simple up-or-down toggle for ultimate traction on the road surface you are on.

This allows the Grand Cherokee to go above and beyond what typical all-wheel drive systems can do.

The effortless Four-Wheel Drive Control system provides full-time four-wheel drive without requiring any driver engagement. It automatically balances power between the front and rear wheels to maintain steady traction and control.

The new 2026 Jeep Grand Cherokee is the award winning SUV that delivers style and comfort while providing confidence on the road whether you are cruising the highway or going where the pavement ends and the fun begins.



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2026 BUICK ENVISION ST



This is the compact crossover that combines capability with style and refinement.

THE 2026 Buick Envision Sport Touring model is beautifully designed with smooth contours and a low black mesh front grille and unique headlights that turn heads.

It is available in six colours that have been chosen to enhance and highlight the Envision's curves and style.

Inside, you will experience the luxury and style that Buick is known for.

A well-appointed interior with attention to every detail provides a luxury ride and the QuietTuning with active noise cancellation means a quiet, calming, driving experience.

Ambient interior lighting allows you to select colour options to set the mood.

The Ultrawide 30-inch diagonal screen on the main console allows for easy access and provides information while allowing you to complete other functions with a light touch.

When you are behind the wheel, you are helped along the way with driver assist features.

These include Blind Zone Steering Assist, Front Pedestrian and Bicyclist Braking, Rear Cross-Traffic

Braking, Intersection Automatic Emergency Braking, and Side Bicyclist Alert.

With Google built-in compatibility, you can get hands-free help with Google Assistant, seamlessly access Google Maps, and unlock Google Play for even more apps.

The Bose premium 9-speaker audio system with speakers positioned throughout the cabin produces excellent quality sound.

Under the hood, there is plenty of power with a 2.0 L, Turbo engine that produces 228 horsepower and 258 lb-ft of torque. The drivetrain is completed with a 9-speed electronically controlled automatic transmission with overdrive.

The 2026 Buick Envision ST is the crossover that is beautifully designed to be stylish while achieving superior engineering and capability.



2026 BUICK ENCORE GX ST

IT IS THE COMPACT CROSSOVER that is fun to drive while maintaining all the qualities you expect in a Buick.

The 2026 Buick Encore GX Sport Touring model is stylish and sporty with a black mesh front grille with Sport Touring accents.

It is available in seven outstanding colours and comes with black lower body trim to highlight the body shape.

With seating for five passengers, the interior is roomy and comfortable.

The driver's cockpit is designed for people who really enjoy driving and appreciate the Encore's nimble and quick capabilities.

The 11-inch diagonal ultrawide infotainment display offers easy access to the driver with just a light touch.

You can stay connected to the world with OnStar Basics that includes built-in voice assistance, real-time traffic and navigation, and Automatic Crash Response to help if you are in need.

Available wireless charging means you can charge your devices while you're on the go.

When you are on the road, you will be accompanied by driver assist functions to help you safely navigate through city streets.

Driver assist functions include Front Pedestrian

Braking, Forward Collision Alert, Automatic Emergency Braking, Lane Keep Assist with Lane Departure Warning, Following Distance Indicator, and Intelli-beam Auto High Beams.

Under the hood there is a 1.3 L, Turbo engine that is mated to a 9-speed automatic transmission that provides a peppy response and nimble acceleration.

With All-Wheel Drive with Drive Mode Selector, you will feel confident driving on any type of road conditions while being able to select the drive mode suited for your current path.

The 2026 Buick Encore GX ST is the compact crossover that provides style, comfort, and superior driving in an urban setting.



The 2026 GMC Acadia Denali Ultimate is the latest vehicle in the GMC lineup to receive the ultra-premium Denali Ultimate trim designation.

THE DENALI TRIM represents the premium level of the GMC brand with a mix of stunning craftsmanship and real-world capability.

The 2026 GMC Acadia Denali Ultimate has a bold exterior design with an aggressive stance and well-defined contours. From the distinctive front grille and fascia to the 20-inch Pearl Nickel machined aluminum wheels, the Acadia Denali Ultimate is a stand-out on any street or highway.

When you take your place behind the wheel, you are surrounded by the luxury feel only a Denali trim level can provide.

With perforated leather-appointed seat trim, 8-way power-driven driver's seat, 4-way power lumbar driver seat, and heated seat comfort, you will enjoy the ultimate driving experience.

The Tri-Zone automatic climate control maintains the selected temperature for the driver, front passenger, and rear seat passengers.

On the road, you are surrounded by driver assist



2026 GMC ACADIA DENALI ULTIMATE

technology to help you through your journey.

Driver assist features include Enhanced Automatic Emergency Braking, Rear Cross Traffic Braking, Reverse Automatic Braking, Intersection Automatic Emergency Braking, Rear Park Assist, Blind Zone Steering Assist, Lane Keep Assist with Lane Departure Warning, Forward Collision Alert, and Rear Pedestrian Alert.

Under the hood, there is plenty of power to handle any kind of driving experience.

The standard 2.5 L, Turbo engine provides 328 horsepower with 236 lb-ft of torque. The drivetrain is completed with an 8-speed automatic transmission.

The 2026 GMC Acadia Denali Ultimate provides the ultimate luxury driving experience in a vehicle that is bold, refined, and capable.



2026 GMC TERRAIN AT4



It is the Crossover with professional grade power and off-road performance.

THE 2026 GMC Terrain AT4 offers a bold design and rugged capability combined with interior comfort and refinement.

On the outside, the Terrain AT4 is aggressively designed with clean lines and distinctive contours.

A unique darkened front grille, animated headlights and taillights, black mirror caps and roof side rails create a stunning profile on any street or highway.

The exterior is capped off with 17-inch dark machine aluminum wheels and all-terrain tires.

Just because the Terrain AT4 is designed for rugged capability doesn't mean you won't be comfortable when you go off-road.

Inside, the Terrain AT4 is designed for driver and passenger comfort with well-designed seats. There is a heated steering wheel, heated front seats and an 8-way power driver's seat.

A dual-zone automatic climate control system keeps you cool in summer and warm in the winter.

When you are behind the wheel, you are surrounded by technology.

An 11-inch diagonal driver information centre provides information about the vehicle's performance

and allows you to monitor everything at just a glance.

There are up to 8 available camera views that allow you to navigate tight parking lots and congested areas with confidence.

You can stay connected to the world with the Google built-in compatibility that allows you to reply to messages, get directions, and control select vehicle functions using Google Assistant and Google Maps on the 15-inch diagonal touchscreen.

Under the hood, the Terrain AT4 has an efficient turbocharged 1.5L, 4-cylinder engine that is paired with an 8-speed automatic transmission with AWD.

The 2026 GMC Terrain AT4 offers a bold style, interior comfort, and rugged capability for cruising the highway or going off-road.



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2026 VOLKSWAGEN ATLAS

It is big and bold, and it's up for anything.



ATLAS IS THE full-size SUV designed to take you anywhere you want to go.

With a roomy third row, and seating for 7, there is plenty of room for passengers as well as a lot of cargo space so you can take your gear with you with ease.

On the outside, the Atlas is beautifully designed with smooth contours and a sloping roof that provide an aggressive stance that stands out on any street or highway.

Stacked adaptive LED headlights and end-to-end light bars not only look great, they adjust their direction based on the vehicle's speed, steering angle, and road conditions for maximum visibility.

The Atlas is as powerful as it is bold.

Under the hood there is a Turbocharged 2.0 L TSI engine that puts out 269 horsepower with 272 lb-ft of torque. The drivetrain is completed with an 8-speed automatic transmission with 4MOTION.

All this power means you can tow up to 5,000 lbs.

Inside, the Atlas has a refined interior with available diamond-stitched quilted leather seats. The centre console offers ample storage and the perfect blend of metallic and gloss details.

The driver's cockpit is well designed for a comfortable ride and easy access to controls.



When you are behind the wheel, you are surrounded by technology.

Standard driver assist features include Automatic Emergency Braking with Pedestrian and Cyclist Monitoring, Active Blind Spot Monitor with Rear Traffic

Alert and Exit Warning System, and Adaptive Cruise Control, Lane Assist, and Emergency Assist.

The 2026 Volkswagen Atlas is the big and bold full-size SUV designed to tackle any driving situation, whether in the city or on the highway.

2026 VOLKSWAGEN GOLF GTI



IT IS THE VEHICLE that is smaller in size, but packs a punch on the road with adrenaline-pumping performance.

The 2026 Volkswagen Golf GTI has been awarded the 2026 MotorTrend Car of the Year award for its design, power, and superior handling.

You will have a lot of fun behind the wheel with a turbocharged engine that produces 241 horsepower and 272 lb-ft of torque. The drivetrain is completed with a 7-speed transmission for a quick response and smooth cruising on city streets or the open highway.

The Golf GTI combines sports car features with a spacious hatchback and comfortable seating.

On the outside, the Golf GTI has smooth contours and a contoured hood. From its LED lights with Adaptive Front-Lighting System to available 19-inch Queenstown wheels to its dynamic spoiler, the Golf GTI makes a statement on any street or highway.

There is a range of exciting colours like Urano Grey, Oyster Silver Metallic, Ice Blue Metallic, and Slate Blue Metallic.

Inside, the Golf GTI is designed for someone who really likes to drive. The driver's cockpit has the perfect blend of sport and sophistication.

All controls are within easy reach, and the main console screen is angled toward the driver so informa-

tion is available at just a glance.

LED ambient lighting creates a sleek interior that adds to the driving experience.

When you are on the road, you are surrounded by technology.

Standard features include Dynamic Road Sign Display, Park Distance Control – Front and Rear Sensors, and Rear Traffic Alert.

Available features include Park Distance Control, and Light Assist – Automatic High-Beam Control.

The Volkswagen Golf GTI provides style with performance for an outstanding driving experience.



ALL-NEW 2026 VOLKSWAGEN TIGUAN HIGHLINE TURBO R-LINE

It is Volkswagen's most refined SUV that provides craftsmanship and comfort along with a lot of power.

THE ALL-NEW 2026 Volkswagen Tiguan Highline Turbo R-Line has an added boost this year with the introduction of a new turbo engine.

The new Turbo produces 268 horsepower and 258 lb-ft of torque to take you through any journey whether on city streets, open highway, or those paths were the pavement ends.

The drivetrain is completed with an 8-speed automatic transmission. The new Tiguan is 77 kg lighter than previous versions and offers better acceleration.

This combination provides an exhilarating experience behind the wheel with fast response time and superior handling.

This version of the Tiguan also has larger rear brake disks that are vented to help keep them cool.

Even though the Tiguan Highline Turbo R-Line has the extra power, the fuel penalty is minimal and you will experience a high degree of fuel efficiency.

Volkswagen 4-Motion All-wheel-drive is standard on all models.

With 4-Motion All-wheel-drive, you're getting a system that can help you avoid any wheel slip so you can feel confident on and off the road as the system uses sensors and software to monitor your wheel speed multiple times per second.

With a capacity for five passengers, the Tiguan is roomy in both the front and rear seats with still plenty of room in the cargo area.

This vehicle is designed for drivers who want premium comfort without sacrificing practicality.

On the outside, the Tiguan has a head-turning exterior design with a striking front fascia, sleek headlights, and an LED light bar across the front and rear of the vehicle.

The sloping roof and beautiful contours provide a modern and sophisticated appeal on any street or highway. The exterior package is completed with 20-inch York alloy wheels and All-Season tires that enhance the over all appearance of this outstanding vehicle.

There are five exciting colour options available, each chosen to highlight the Tiguan's curves and exterior design.

Inside, no details were spared to create the ultimate driving experience for someone who really enjoys being behind the wheel.

Attention was given to even the smallest details, including open-pore genuine walnut wood trim and available leather seats. The Highline trim's heated, ventilated, and massage-capable seats keep you warm in winter and cool in the summer.

The Highline trim's 3-zone Climatronic system, each passenger can adjust the temperature in their seating area.

When you are behind the wheel, you are surrounded by technology.

IQ.Drive provides an intelligent suite of active safety features designed to help keep you and your passengers protected.

An available 15-inch touchscreen provides the driver with the necessary information and connectivity.

On the main console, a rotary dial allows you to seamlessly customize your driving experience with Drive Mode Select for more precision on the road.

Standard IQ.Drive features include Automatic Emergency Braking with Pedestrian and Cyclist Monitoring, Active Blind Spot Monitor with Rear Traffic Alert and Exit Warning System, and Adaptive Cruise Control, Lane Assist, and Emergency Assist.

Designed to simplify every drive, the Tiguan's Driver Assist features provide added confidence on the road.

Standard Driver Assist features include Park Distance Control – Front and Rear sensors, Rear Traffic Alert, and Light Assist – Automatic high-beam control.

Available Driver Assist features include Park Distance Control – Front and Rear Sensors with Park Assist, and an Area View 360 degree camera system that allows the drive to view the entire area around the vehicle.

Your iPhone is fully connectable to the Tiguan and with the available apps, provides several functions to keep you in tune with your vehicle.

Available features include Remote Start and Unlock, DriveView, a Vehicle Health Report, Stolen Vehicle Recovery Assistance, and an app to remind you of service scheduling.

With Vehicle Alerts, you can set boundaries, speed alerts, and valet monitoring so you know your Volkswagen is being treated right – even when you're not behind the wheel.

An available hands-free easy open/easy close feature allows you to open the tailgate with a just a foot motion.

Every new Volkswagen vehicle includes a 4-year, 80,000 km new-vehicle limited warranty and a 5-year 100,000 powertrain limited warranty.

The 2026 Volkswagen Tiguan Highline Turbo R-Line is the all-new Tiguan that provides refinement, comfort, practicality, and an added boost of power with a new engine.





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2026 Toyota bZ Woodland

Toyota to feature Ontario debuts for all-new, all-electric, 2026 Toyota C-HR and 2026 Toyota bZ Woodland at the Canadian International AutoShow

February 2, 2026

Two all-new battery-electric Toyota models make their Ontario debut this February

TORONTO, ONTARIO — Visitors to this year's Canadian International AutoShow will have their first opportunity to explore two all-new, all-electric vehicles from Toyota that will arrive in Canada this Spring – the 2026 Toyota C-HR and 2026 Toyota bZ Woodland.

“The Canadian International AutoShow is an ideal venue to showcase the breadth of Toyota’s product lineup, and we’re proud to present the Ontario debuts of the all-new 2026 Toyota C-HR and 2026 Toyota bZ Woodland,” said Robert Tsang, Vice President, Toyota Canada Inc. “These latest vehicles complement Toyota’s multipathway approach to electrification and reinforce our belief that customer choice matters. With three battery-electric vehicles now available across Canada, Toyota continues to offer innovative, capable, and exciting products and powertrains designed to meet the diverse needs and lifestyles of Canadians.”

Built on Toyota’s dedicated e-TNGA battery electric vehicle platform, the 2026 C-HR BEV brings cutting-edge style and high-tech features across the board and

will be offered in two sporty grades in Canada, SE and XSE AWD.

Equipped with standard All-Wheel Drive with X-MODE™, the bZ Woodland is a new, rugged addition to Toyota’s Battery-Electric Vehicle (BEV) lineup and brings midsize SUV utility, with 215 mm of ground

clearance, 3,500-pound towing capacity, and available All-Terrain tires.

“We’re thrilled that AutoShow visitors will get to see two exciting debuts of Toyota’s latest and greatest electric vehicle technology this year,” said Jason Campbell, General Manager, Canadian International AutoShow.



2026 Toyota CH-R

“The show’s theme is ‘Driven by Choice’ and Toyota’s lineup reflects some of the great options Canadians have when shopping for new vehicles.”

The Toyota display is located in the South Building of the Metro Toronto Convention Centre and will showcase the brand’s full range of vehicles – including the all-new made in Canada Toyota RAV4, new bZ, the newest 4Runner, Camry, and Crown Signia, plus a full range of fun-to-drive, fun-to-own sedans, coupes, and hatchback, stylish and versatile crossovers and minivans, and ready-for-anything SUVs and pick-up trucks. Visitors will also have the opportunity to explore innovative Toyota technologies including the advanced safety technologies in Toyota Safety Sense, the world’s most popular and proven electrified powertrains, and the powerful yet intuitive communications features of Toyota Multimedia.

The 2026 Canadian International AutoShow returns to the Metro Toronto Convention Centre from February 13 to 22, 2026. Tickets are now available for purchase online through the AutoShow’s official website and for more show information visit www.autoshow.ca.



2026 JEEP CHEROKEE

A bold, boxy, hybrid comeback for Canada

After years away from Canadian showrooms, the Jeep Cherokee is back — and it’s returning with purpose.

THE ALL-NEW 2026 Jeep Cherokee brings a squared-off, XJ-inspired look, a thoroughly modern interior, and a hybrid-only powertrain that signals Jeep’s shift into a new era of efficiency and capability. What was once a long-running favourite is now a ground-up reboot, designed for a market where hybrid SUVs and four-season versatility dominate.

Jeep’s designers leaned into the crisp, upright attitude that made the original XJ a Canadian icon, blending its familiar boxiness with modern touches influenced by the Grand Cherokee and the upcoming Recon. A longer wheelbase and more upright body expand interior room dramatically, while the STLA Large platform gives the new Cherokee a planted stance and the flexibility for future electrified variants.

Under the hood, Jeep makes its biggest move yet: the Cherokee launches exclusively as a hybrid. The new system pairs a turbocharged 1.6-litre four-cylinder with a two-motor planetary-split hybrid drive and a 1.1-kWh lithium-ion battery mounted low under the rear seats for balanced weight distribution. The setup delivers 177 hp from the engine and 221

lb-ft of torque, with total system output rising to 210 hp and 230 lb-ft.

Given the Hybrid nature of the powertrain efficiency takes a major leap forward, with estimates of 5.6 L/100 km in the city, 7.1 on the highway, and 6.4 combined, plus an expected 816-km range from its 51.9-litre tank. Even towing capability impresses, with the hybrid system enabling up to 1,590 kg — more than enough for small trailers, campers, or weekend toys.

Standard Active Drive 1 all-wheel drive ensures real Canadian usability, using a smart rear-axle disconnect for fuel savings and quick re-engagement when traction drops. Multiple drive modes — Auto, Snow, Sand, and Mud — tailor the system for whatever conditions the country throws at it, giving you the driving confidence on or off road that Jeep is known for!

Inside, the 2026 Cherokee elevates comfort and tech with a modern, Grand-Cherokee-inspired cabin featuring wide digital displays, richer materials, and improved outward visibility thanks to the upright window line. Space also grows significantly in both rows in comparison to the previous generation Cherokee, and upper trims gain premium finishes and new interior themes.

Canadian pricing reflects its feature set and pent-up demand after the model’s hiatus: the entry Cherokee starts at \$42,390, followed by the Laredo at \$47,390, Limited at \$52,390, and the well-appointed Overland at \$56,390. The top trims will arrive first

with broader availability early in 2026.

With its heritage-driven styling, hybrid-first strategy, standard AWD, and renewed focus on practicality, the 2026 Jeep Cherokee is more than just a comeback — it’s a statement. Jeep has rebuilt one of its most recognizable nameplates for a market that

demands efficiency without sacrificing capability, and the result is a return that feels both familiar and unmistakably forward-looking.

Come in and visit Orangeville Chrysler today to book your test drive and order the all new 2026 Jeep Cherokee!





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2026 4D HONDA CIVIC HYBRID

It is Canada's best selling car for a reason.

THE HONDA CIVIC has it all. It is stylish, beautifully engineered, and reliable.

That's just about everything you want in an automobile.

The new 2026 Honda Civic four-door sedan is now available in a hybrid model that allows you to take advantage of electric power and reduce your gasoline costs while enjoying the efficiency of electricity.

The new 2026 Honda Civic hybrid comes in two trim levels – the Sport Hybrid and the Sport Touring Hybrid. Each trim has unique capabilities and features.

The Civic hybrid model comes with two powerful engine systems.

There is a 2.0 L, direct injection, 4-cylinder gas engine. The gas engine works alongside the two electric motors to produce a combined 200 horsepower.

This pairing produces 232 lb.-ft. of torque thanks to the instant response of electric power that creates an exhilarating ride.

The hybrid version has an electro Continuously Variable Transmission that improves fuel efficiency and improves acceleration.

When you are behind the wheel, you have the choice of four available drive modes. By simply toggling up or down you can choose Normal for cruising, ECON for added fuel efficiency, Sport for dynamic handling, and Individual for a personalized drive.

An independent Multi-Link rear suspension is engineered to improve stability and help you corner more nimbly. This produces a smoother and more composed ride.

On the outside, the Honda Civic is designed to be a beautiful automobile with clean lines and smooth contours. The sporty front end and stylish corner airvents give the Civic Hybrid a streamlined appearance.



The front grille is a snazzy honeycomb fashion. The exterior is finished with 18-inch aluminum-alloy wheels.

Inside, the driver's cockpit has been designed for someone who really enjoys driving.

The interior is comfortable and roomy for both the driver and passengers.

The unique sharp-cornered windshield was designed to give you a wider view and help minimize blind spots.

You will have an extra sense of confidence when you are on the road, thanks to Honda Sensing Technologies. These driver assist features act like a second pair of eyes that can see where your eyes can't.

Honda Sensing Technologies include Lane Keeping Assist with Traffic Jam Assist, Collision Mitiga-



tion Braking System and Forward Collision Warning, Blind Spot Information System, Road Departure Mitigation System and Lane Departure Warning, and Traffic Sign Recognition.

Also included is Adaptive Cruise Control with Low-Speed Follow, Cross Traffic Monitor, and Auto High Beam Headlights.

The Blind Spot Information System and Cross Traffic Monitor are designed to detect and alert you of any vehicles in your blind spot when signalling a lane change, and any vehicles crossing behind you when you are in reverse.

Each of these systems is designed to keep you and your passengers safe.

There is a standard 7-inch and available 9-inch colour touchscreen that works as a portal to the centralized system that controls settings and many features.

This includes Apple CarPlay, Android Auto, and the available 12-speaker BOSE Premium Sound System. Apple CarPlay and Android Auto are standard.

Additional safety features include Vehicle Stability Assist with Traction Control, Hill Start Assist, Advance Compatibility Engineering Body Structure, and an Advance Airbag design that includes protection for rear, side, and knee impact, as well as an airbag design that is engineered to help keep the driver and passenger safe.

In front of the driver, the standard 7-inch display with Driver Information Interface conveniently con-

veys essential information like speedometer, tachometer, odometer, and fuel consumption. It even connects you to your music and navigation system with the touch of a button.

There are standard heated front seats and an available heated leather-wrapped steering wheel.

You and your passengers will remain comfortable with the dual-zone automatic climate control.

There is an available wireless charging port that allows you to charge your smartphone without the hassle of cords.

Your key fob offers more than just a place to hold your key. The fob allows you to start your car before you even get inside, with remote engine start.

With the key in your pocket, the proximity key entry system unlocks your door automatically as you get close to the car. All you have to do is get in and begin to drive.

The 60/40 split fold-down rear seatback provides extra room when you need to take extra gear with you on the road.

There are five exciting colours to choose from, each chosen to highlight the Civic's body style and contours.

The Honda Civic Hybrid is proudly Canadian made at the Honda plant in Alliston, Ontario.

The 2026 Honda Civic Hybrid is a marvel of engineering as well as being stylish with a modern design. No wonder it's Canada's top selling car.



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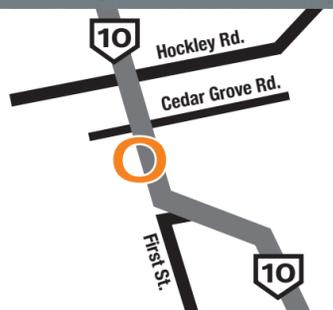
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AUTO SHOWCASE

YOUR GUIDE TO 2026 VEHICLES

It is the compact crossover that boasts a striking design, a lot of available technology, and the exceptional versatility of AWD.

THE ALL-NEW 2026 Nissan Kicks is stylish with a youthful and energetic vibe that sets it apart from other compacts.



This new version of the Kicks retains the signature V-Motion front grill and floating roofline that makes this vehicle a visual stunner.

The Kicks' compact size makes it popular for urban dwellers who navigate tight city streets, but also want a vehicle that is peppy and has a good response time.

Inside, there is a surprisingly spacious passenger cabin with ample headroom and a lot of legroom for both front and rear seat passengers.

It has been designed for driver and passenger comfort with an interior that has many nice touches and attention given to the small details.

When you are behind the wheel, you are surrounded by technology including driver assist features that help keep you and your passengers safe.

The Kicks is designed to provide plenty of power whether you're in the city or on the open highway.

There is a 2-litre DOHC 16 valve, 4-cylinder engine that produces 141 horsepower and 140 lb.-ft. of torque so you can be confident no matter where you are driving.

There are plenty of extras available like 19-inch alloy wheels that allow you to add your own special touch.

The 2026 Nissan Kicks is the all-new compact crossover with stylish looks, good performance, and passenger comfort for cruising the highways or navigating city streets.



2026 NISSAN SENTRA



IT IS THE STYLISH and elegant compact 4-door sedan with refined comfort and efficient performance.

The all-new 2026 Nissan Sentra provides an elevated driving experience with more premium features and a comfortable driving experience.

From its long, sloping front hood to the sharp rear-end design, the 2026 Sentra provides a beautiful silhouette on any street or highway with nice curves and sleek lines.

Once you are behind the wheel, you will see what it's like to really want to drive this car.

The passenger cabin is well designed and roomy with a driver's cockpit designed for someone who really likes to drive.

The available Pro-Pilot Assist provides technology to help you along your journey. It combines Intelligent Cruise Control and Steering Assist to ease the workload of stop-and-go-driving.

Available driver assist features include Intelligent Emergency Braking with Pedestrian Detection, Rear Automatic Braking, Blind Spot Warning, Rear Cross Traffic Alert, Lane Departure Warning, and High Beam Assist.

Sentra's available monolith display features integrated 12.3-inch displays and places digital gauges and infotainment controls within easy reach. You can

tap into features like Wireless Apple Carplay or Android Auto.

There are two drive modes – Sport and Eco – which allow you to select a mode based on the current road situation.

Under the hood, there is a 2.0 L, direct-injection, 4-cylinder engine that produces 149 horsepower and 147 lbs.-ft. of torque, so you will have plenty of power for cruising around the city or heading out on the open highway.

The all-new 2026 Nissan Sentra provides a stylish and refined design with driver and passenger comfort while offering technology that assists the driver and keeps everyone safe.



AJAC announces 12 Best Vehicles in Canada for 2026

MONTREAL, Jan. 15, 2026 /CNW/ -

The 12 Best Vehicles in Canada for 2026 have been revealed today at the Montreal Auto Show, where they are on display to visitors in the Canadian Car of the Year Awards (CCOTY) booth for the duration of the show. The popular event at the Palais des Congrès runs until January 25.

The 12 Best Vehicles in Canada for 2026 are as follows:

Canadian Car of the Year

- Honda Civic
- Hyundai Elantra
- Porsche 911 Carrera

Canadian Utility Vehicle of the Year

- Ford Maverick
- Hyundai Palisade
- Toyota RAV4

Canadian Electric Car of the Year

- Lucid Air
- Porsche Taycan
- Toyota Prius Plug-In Hybrid

Canadian Electric Utility Vehicle of the Year

- Hyundai Ioniq 9
- Kia EV9
- Lucid Gravity

Lucid Gravity CANADIAN ELECTRIC UTILITY VEHICLE OF THE YEAR



SELECTED BY AN EXPERT jury from the Automobile Journalists Association of Canada (AJAC), these 12 excellent vehicles also go forward as the finalists in four categories for the 2026 Canadian Car of the Year Awards.

"We are very pleased, at the Montreal Auto Show, to present the 12 Best Vehicles in Canada as selected by AJAC Canadian Car of the Year jurors," said Luis Pereira, Executive Director, Montreal AutoShow. "These are the vehicles Canadians prefer, designed and tested for the realities of our roads, and that our passionate visitors can experience up close. This recognition highlights excellence and innovation within the automotive industry."

The 12 Best Vehicles in Canada for 2026 comprise a competitive mix of brand-new contenders, updated vehicles, and evergreen favourites among Canadian car-buyers.

Canada's best-selling car, the Honda Civic, is also the reigning Canadian Car of the Year. Aiming to retain its title in 2026, it is joined as a 12 Best finalist by its familiar compact-class competitor, the Hyundai Elantra, and the latest incarnation of the legendary Porsche 911 Carrera.

Meanwhile, the Utility Vehicle of the Year award will be contested by machines from three different segments. The Ford Maverick, a compact pickup truck, doubled its Canadian sales in 2025, while the three-row Hyundai Palisade and ever-popular, two-row Toyota RAV4 crossover SUVs have both been renewed for the 2026 model year.

In the Electric Car of the Year category, the Lucid Air was a 12 Best finalist last year and returns for another shot at the award. Joining it on this year's 12 Best

list are the updated Porsche Taycan and Toyota's Prius Plug-In Hybrid.

Finally, the battle for Electric Utility Vehicle of the Year sees the Kia EV9 – also a 12 Best finalist last year – face off against two brand-new electric SUVs: Hyundai's third contender across four categories, the Ioniq 9; and Lucid's Gravity.

"Today, AJAC is proud to present the 12 Best Vehicles in Canada for 2026. This isn't just an important step on the road to the Canadian Car of the Year Awards, it is also a key list for Canadian new-car buyers," said Evan Williams, AJAC president. "This year's 12 Best include one of the widest ranges of automakers that we've ever seen. There are familiar models on the list, like the Honda Civic and Hyundai Elantra, but also first-timers like the Lucid Gravity and Ford Maverick. Fifty-three (53) of Canada's most experienced professional automotive journalists have driven and voted on these vehicles and found them to be the best in the country in their respective categories. I'm proud of our jurors, who each year work hard to determine which vehicles are the best in Canada, giving you choices you can rely on when it comes to your own next new-vehicle purchase."

The list of 12 Best Vehicles in Canada is created from detailed ballots completed by AJAC's expert journalists. Over the course of two rounds of voting, more than 1,400 ballots have been submitted by 53 jurors based right across Canada, from Vancouver to Halifax. CCOTY is Canada's ONLY vehicle awards scheme in which the jurors drive every vehicle they vote on. Vehicles are tested on the same roads and in the same conditions faced by Canadian drivers from coast to coast every day. AJAC members will be avail-

able to share their expertise with visitors during the Montreal Auto Show.

Every 2026 model year vehicle – there are almost 400 in all – is eligible for the CCOTY Awards, including those newly designed, recently refreshed, and carried over from the previous model year.

The category winners for Canadian Car of the Year will be announced on Thursday February 12, 2026, at the Canadian International AutoShow (CIAS) in Toronto. Results from AJAC journalist member ballots are audited by international accounting firm KPMG and remain under wraps until the moment the envelopes are opened.

About the Automobile Journalists Association of Canada (AJAC)
The Automobile Journalists Association of Canada (AJAC) is an association of professional journalists, writers, photographers, videographers and corporate members whose focus is the automobile and the Canadian automotive industry. Collectively, our primary objectives are to promote, encourage, support, and facilitate professionalism in Canadian automotive journalism and to ensure factual and ethical reporting about the automobile and automotive issues to Canadian consumers. This is achieved through the work of our members and AJAC's annual vehicle testing and evaluation events: the Canadian Car of the Year Awards (CCOTY), AJAC Innovation Awards and EcoRun.

About KPMG
KPMG LLP, an Audit, Tax and Advisory firm (kpmg.ca) is a limited liability partnership, established under the laws of Ontario, and the Canadian member firm of KPMG International Cooperative ("KPMG International"). KPMG has more than 7,000 professionals/employees in over 40 locations across Canada serving private- and public-sector clients. KPMG is consistently recognized as an employer of choice and one of the best places to work in the country. The independent member firms of the KPMG network are affiliated with KPMG International, a Swiss entity. Each KPMG firm is a legally distinct and separate entity and describes itself as such.

SOURCE Automobile Journalists Association of Canada





AUTO SHOWCASE

YOUR GUIDE TO 2026 VEHICLES

YOUR LOCAL AUTO SOURCE

It is the zero-emission vehicle that is convenient, simple to charge, and delivers an exhilarating driving experience.

The 2026 Toyota bZ is the fun all electric SUV that is available in Front-Wheel Drive and All-Wheel Drive models.

Available in nine exciting colours including three two-tone versions, the bZ is designed to be a show-stopper on any street or highway with a unique front fascia and sleek body lines.

The bZ comes in three trims and offers up to 458 km of electric driving range so you will never have to worry about running out of power.

The electric motors can generate up to 338 horsepower providing an instant response and rapid acceleration.

Featuring Battery Precondition for improved cold-weather charging, the bZ is capable at colder temperatures.

When you get behind the wheel, you realize this is a vehicle designed for someone who really likes to drive.



2026 TOYOTA bZ

Beginning with the intuitive grouping of steering wheel controls and the 10-inch colour multi-format display, everything you need is at your fingertips.

We are pleased to announce the following incentive on 2026 model year bZ, bZ Woodland and C-HR. FREE Home Flex NACS EV Charger by ChargePoint NEMA 6-50 OR 14-50 with purchase or lease of a 26MY bZ, bZ Woodland or C-HR through leads

from the: 2026 Montréal, Toronto, Vancouver, Calgary, Edmonton and Québec City Auto Shows; OR o "You Are Already Electric" Experiential Activations in Toronto, Montréal, Québec City and Vancouver.

The Toyota BZ is the fun and convenient zero-emission SUV that delivers an outstanding driving experience combined with beautiful style and interior comfort on any street or highway.



2026 TOYOTA TACOMA 4X4



It is the powerful mid-size truck that will take you over any kind of terrain and wherever adventure takes you.

The 2026 Toyota Tacoma is a 4x4 pickup truck with plenty of power, and it comes with off-road capability.

Driven by a 2.5 L, 4-cylinder Turbo engine that produces 278 horsepower, the Tacoma has plenty of power to take you wherever you want to go. All this power means you can tow up to 2,903 kilograms (6,400 lbs.) so you can take your boat or trailer with you on your journey.

On the outside, the Tacoma is beautifully styled with bold lines and well shaped contours.

It is available in 11 exciting colours included three two-tone options, each designed to enhance the Tacoma's body style.

You can choose to make it even bolder with available 18-inch alloy wheels, TRD Sport and Off-Road packages, and available bed scene lighting.

Just because you want to go where others fear to tread doesn't mean you can't do it in comfort and style. The Tacoma's interior is refined and comfortable with available features like 8-way power adjustable driver's seat, a heated steering wheel, and dual zone automatic climate control.

You can stay connected to the world with Wireless Apple CarPlay that allows you to use your iPhone while driving.

Wireless Android Auto makes it easy to access your favourite music, media, and messaging apps.

A large 8-inch touchscreen and an available 14-inch touchscreen provides easy control of infotainment when you're on the road.

The 2026 Toyota Tacoma is the mid-size pickup that provides power, good looks, and superior engineering along with interior comfort to make every drive an adventure.



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TOYOTA

2026 CROWN SIGNIA

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*Customer Incentive offers valid on retail delivery of select new unregistered Toyota vehicles, when purchased or leased (as applicable - see chart eligibility details; if no details then purchase and lease are both eligible) from a Canadian Toyota dealership. Vehicle must be purchased/leased, registered and delivered between February 1, 2026 and February 28, 2026. Customer Incentive offers are from February 1, 2026 and February 28, 2026. Cash incentives include taxes and are applied after taxes have been charged on the full amount of the negotiated price.





YOUR LOCAL AUTO SOURCE

AUTO SHOWCASE

YOUR GUIDE TO 2026 VEHICLES

2026 MAZDA CX-70 MHEV/PHEV

This is the beautifully designed and engineered mid-size SUV with seating for five passengers and a comfortable interior. The 2026 Mazda CX-70 has two trims with electric power with unique advantages.

THE CX-70 PHEV is a plug-in hybrid electric vehicle that is agile, versatile, and comes with i-Active All Wheel Drive.

With a standard portable Level 1 charging cable, the CX-70 can plug into any common 120-volt outlet. The 2.5 e-SkyActiv 2.5 L combustion engine is

paired with an electric motor. You can drive on gas or electric, or both for maximum efficiency.

With a range of 42 km on electric power alone, the CX-70 PHEV is perfect for running around town or for short trips.

The Mazda CX-70 MHEV is a hybrid vehicle with plenty of power and an excellent response time.

Under the hood, there is a 3.3 L, e-Skyactiv-G Inline 6 cylinder Turbo engine. This is paired with an

electric motor that never needs charging.

This combination provides 280 horsepower and plenty of torque. This allows the CX-70 MHEV to tow up to 5,000 lbs. easily.

With i-ACTIVE All Wheel Drive, The CX-70 adapts to changing road conditions as you drive and delivers the required power to each wheel as needed.

The CX-70 has been designed with a 'driver first' design, and when you get behind the wheel, you'll see why.

Everything is designed to make this vehicle a pleasure to drive. From the seats to the design of the driver's cockpit and available driver assist features, the Mazda CX-70 is designed for people who really like to drive.

The 2026 Mazda CX-70 PHEV/ MHEV is the mid-size SUV that combines style, capability, and superior design with the efficiency of electric power.



2026 MAZDA CX-90 MHEV/PHEV

It is the 8-seat SUV designed with families in mind while maintaining capability and style.

THE 2026 MAZDA CX90 now comes in two versions that are enhanced with electric power.

The Mazda CX-90 PHEV has a plug-in hybrid electric powertrain designed to run all-electric for shorter trips, or combustion engine and electric power for longer journeys. This provides for a total range of 42 km on full electric mode.

The gas engine is a 2.5 L, 4-cylinder engine that works in tandem with electric power.

Together, the systems produce 323 horsepower and 369 lb-ft of torque, producing an exhilarating driving experience with an 8-speed automatic trans-

mission and standard all-wheel drive.

The Mazda CX-90 MHEV is powered by a e-Skyactiv G 3.3 L 6-cylinder turbocharged engine that produces 280 horsepower and 332 lb-ft of torque.

The responsive engine is paired with Mazda's M-Hybrid Boost 48-volt mild-hybrid system, designed to enhance efficiency and low-speed throttle response, with an 8-speed automatic transmission and all-wheel drive.

The CX-90 MHEV never has to be plugged in to power up.

On the outside, the Mazda CX-90 is beautifully designed with smooth lines and curves and its distinctive Mazda front grille and fascia.

Inside, it is roomy with plenty of space for both driver and passengers.

You are surrounded by technology including the Mazda Connect infotainment system featuring

Apple CarPlay and Android Auto.

Standard i-Activsense safety features include Mazda Radar Cruise Control with Stop & Go, Smart Brake Support Front with pedestrian detection, Emergency Lane Keeping and Lane-Keep assist.

The 2026 Mazda CX-90 offers two exciting versions with electric power that provide a fast response and reduce your fuel consumption and emissions.



2026 MAZDA CX-5



It is the wildly popular mid-size crossover that provides beautiful style on the outside, a well designed interior built for passenger comfort, and it is loaded with technology for a fun and exhilarating driving experience.

THE ALL-NEW 2026 Mazda CX-5 is the third generation of this vehicle with a more spacious cabin that features innovative, intuitive technology, while enhancing vehicle safety.

On the outside, the CX-5 is beautifully crafted with smooth lines and flowing contours. It maintains a sporty style while having a refined appeal.

The all-new CX-5 has a more chiselled front end with the Mazda signature wing front grille positioned between more angular lighting elements. The curving hood and sloping roof provide a stunning silhouette on any street.

At the rear end, more angular lighting creates an even greater visual impact.

The overall length and wheel base is slightly larger than previous models.

The exterior is completed with standard 17-inch grey metallic finish alloy wheels.

There are four outstanding exterior colours to choose from. Each colour was chosen to highlight the CX-5 exterior shape and contours.

New this year is a Navy Blue Mica colour which is achieved through an intricate process that uses metallic

flakes to accentuate the vehicle's commanding presence on the road.

On the inside, the all-new CX-5 provides a calm, yet functional interior that is uncluttered and spacious. The driver can focus on the road while passengers can stretch out and relax.

The cabin has increased rear leg, knee, and headroom.

Interior materials and finishes are carefully crafted to offer both lasting quality and deliver a refined atmosphere throughout the passenger cabin.

The door opens and larger, making for easier access – especially for parents loading children in car seats.

There is plenty of cargo room behind the rear seat so you can easily store all your gear when heading out on a road trip or just going across town. The new CX-5 has a cargo area that is almost two inches long and over an inch higher making it easier to load large items.

When you are behind the wheel you will appreciate the design concept of placing the driver in a cockpit that is comfortable and practical at the same time.

Available ambient lighting with a choice of seven colours creates an elegant and calming atmosphere.

There is a new available 15.6-inch integrated touchscreen display – the largest ever offered on a Mazda vehicle. The system is the hub for infotainment and connectivity offer seamless integration and intuitive operation thanks to smartphone-like usability and a customizable screen with quick access to features.

This system comes with Google built-in, which offers a more connected experience with the ability to integrate key Google features.

When you are on the road, you are surrounded by technology that helps you navigate around any city street or when you're on the open highway.

A selection of standard and available i-Activsense safety features are designed to help you travel in confidence.

This includes Smart City Brake Support Front, Mazda Radar Cruise Control with Speed Limit Assist, and Blind Spot Monitoring.

Available functions include Forward Obstruction Warning, High Beam Control System, Lane Departure Warning System, Adaptive Front-Lighting System, and Rear Cross Traffic Alert.

Under the hood there is plenty of power convenient for running around town or cruising down the highway.

The Skyactiv-G 2.5 L, engine delivers 187 horsepower and 186 lb-ft of torque. This delivers quick a quick response and acceleration with a comfortable ride and an agile performance.

The powertrain is completed with a 6-speed automatic transmission and standard i-Active All Wheel Drive.

The Mazda CX-5 is available in four trim levels, each with its own unique features.

The CX-5 has been a wildly popular vehicle with over 300,000 models sold in Canada alone, and 4.5 million sold globally.

The all-new CX-5 builds upon its proven foundation to provide a vehicle that offers superior design and innovation.

Mazda stands behind all their quality vehicles with confidence, knowing that superior engineering means drivers have the assurance of many years of happy motoring.

Standard on all new vehicles, there is a three-year unlimited mileage warranty, a five-year powertrain unlimited mileage warranty, and three-year unlimited mileage roadside assistance.

The all-new 2026 Mazda CX-5 is the mid-size crossover that is beautifully designed to be sporty and stylish while providing interior comfort and an exceptional ride delivered by superior engineering.





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PURCHASE FINANCING
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2025 CX-5 GX AWD

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\$216[†] bi-weekly for 48 months.
\$600 down. Taxes extra.



2025 CX-30 GX AWD

LEASE EQUIVALENT TO
\$93[†]/WEEK AT **2.79%** APR

\$185[†] bi-weekly for 48 months.
\$950 down. Taxes extra.



3-Row Mild Hybrid Inline 6 Turbo 2025 CX-90 GS AWD

LEASE EQUIVALENT TO
\$150[†]/WEEK AT **0.99%** APR

\$299[†] bi-weekly for 36 months.
\$150 down. Taxes extra.

[■]Limited time finance offer provided through Mazda Financial Services on approved credit. Representative finance offer based on a new and previously unregistered 2025 CX-90 MHEV Signature model (WXKG85 AA00). Vehicle Price is \$66,847.35. 1.95% finance APR for 36 months. Monthly payment is \$1,913.22, which includes: \$2,195 freight and PDE; \$100 A/C charge; regulatory fees (up to \$12.50); Retailer administration fee (up to \$795); lien registration fees (up to \$58.85, including lien registering agent fee); as well as all other applicable fees, levies and duties (all of which may vary by region and Retailer). 36 monthly payments required. Licence; insurance; registration; and applicable taxes are extra. \$0 down payment or equivalent trade-in required. Cost of borrowing is \$2,028.63 for a total obligation of \$68,875.98. Retailer may sell for less. Retailer order/trade may be necessary (but may not be available in all cases). Conditions apply. Offer ends March 2, 2026, and is subject to change or cancellation without notice. Visit mazda.ca or your Mazda Retailer for more information. [▲]\$4,000/\$4,000/\$1,000/\$1,000/\$1,000/\$750 Event Bonus ("Bonus") is available on new and previously unregistered 2025 CX-90 PHEV/2025 CX-70 PHEV/2025 CX-70 MHEV/2025 CX-90 MHEV/2025 CX-30/2025 CX-5 models that are purchased or financed/leased (on approved credit) and delivered between February 3 and March 2, 2026, from an authorized Mazda Retailer in Canada. Bonus will be applied to the negotiated selling price of the eligible vehicle before taxes and: (i) has no cash surrender or other value; and (ii) cannot be applied to past transactions. Conditions apply. See mazda.ca or your local Mazda Retailer for details. ^{▲▲}Get a bonus off the purchase of a Mazda Added Protection Plan with the purchase of a new and previously unregistered model between February 3 and March 2, 2026, as follows: (i) \$500 Bonus: 2025 CX-5, 2025 CX-30, 2025 Mazda3; or (ii) \$1,000 Bonus: 2025 CX-70, or 2025 CX-90. The applicable discount will be applied to the selling price of the Mazda Added Protection Plan before taxes and: (i) has no cash surrender or other value; (ii) does not apply to fleet sales; and (iii) cannot be applied to past transactions. Conditions apply. See mazda.ca or your local Mazda Retailer for details. [†]Offer available on retail leases of new 2025 CX-5 GX (NXXN85AA00)/2025 CX-30 GX (ZXXL85 AA00)/2025 CX-90 Inline 6 Turbo GS (WXSf85AA00) with a lease APR of 3.15%/2.79%/0.99% and 104/78/78 bi-weekly payments of \$216/\$185/\$299 for 48/48/36 months, the total lease obligation is \$23,028/\$20,202/\$25,251, including down payment (or equivalent trade-in) of \$600/\$950/\$150. First monthly payment is due at lease inception. 20,000 km per year mileage allowance applies; if exceeded, additional 10¢ per km applies for CX-5, 15¢ per km for CX-70, CX-90 models. Offered leasing available to retail customers only. Offers include max. new tire charge (all models) and \$10 AMVIC charge where applicable, freight and P.D.E. of \$2,195/\$2,195/\$2,195, \$100 Air Conditioning charge (all models), PPSA and \$795 administrative fee. The administration fee is intended to cover various costs, including documentation, processing, administrative, and other expenses related to the purchase, sale, or lease of the vehicle. Offers exclude PST/GST. Offered pricing available to retail customers only. Licence, insurance, taxes and down payment (where applicable) are extra and may be required at the time of purchase. Retailer order/trade may be necessary on certain vehicles. Offers valid February 3 - March 2, 2026, while supplies last. Lease and finance on approved credit for qualified customers only. Offers subject to change without notice. Visit mazda.ca or see your retailer for complete details.

OPINION

Superstar

She had a beautiful three-octave contralto voice that was easily recognizable and well-suited to the style of music she performed.

Karen Carpenter was the female half of the '70s pop duo, The Carpenters, who, along with her brother Richard, charted several top hits of that era.

Richard was the genius behind the music. He wrote and arranged the tunes they recorded and performed.

Karen thought of herself as a drummer first, unusual for a woman at the time, but she was talented with the sticks and played drums on all of their albums.

When she tried singing, it was apparent to everyone who heard her that she had a natural ability to sing and had a beautiful voice. She was encouraged to take a step out from behind the drums to be the main focus of the band.

The Carpenters became Karen and the 'other guy.'

The Carpenters had a squeaky-clean image, and their manager and those around them promoted this image of the all-American, fresh-faced, pop duo.

Their music was hard to define. In an era of metal bands, glam bands, and Alice Cooper, The Carpenters performed ballads with sappy themes and an instru-

mental background.

I had a friend who came from a rather strict religious family. No pop music, especially rock music, was allowed in the home.

However, my friend's parents allowed her to have The Carpenters' albums and their easy listening sound.

That's how goody two-shoes their image was.

The thing about The Carpenters during that era was that no one would admit they liked The Carpenters. No one would admit they owned a Carpenters album.

The pop duo sold millions of records to a fan base that would not admit they were fans.

There was a rumour that a McDonald's restaurant was going to be built near where I live. At first, a lot of people seemed happy about that.

However, when a person posted a query on the town's Facebook page asking when the restaurant was supposed to arrive, there were nothing but negative comments.

Everything from "I would never eat there," to "we don't need that kind of restaurant here," was posted in reply.

Did you ever notice that no one admits they like going to McDonald's?

Yet it's probably the largest restaurant chain in the world and still expanding, so someone is buying Big Macs and Quarter Pounders.

Prior to having a Walmart nearby, I was at a dinner with a local business group when the topic of Walmart coming to town was brought up.

One woman in particular expressed her dismay at having a Walmart in town.

"I would never go to a Walmart," she said, opining that she just couldn't visit that type of store.

A few months after the store opened, I visited and passed an aisle, where, sure enough, I saw that same woman perusing the shelves.

I thought of going up to her to say 'hello', but decided not to embarrass her when she was shopping incognito in a store she doesn't like.

No one ever admitted they bought their clothes at K-Mart. Even though that retailer is long gone, it was at one time a huge business.

But no one would ever admit to shopping there.

You never heard anyone say, "Hey Bob, nice shirt," with the reply, "Thanks, I got it at K-Mart!"

I was at a private dinner one holiday,

and as we sat down to eat, the host's mother mentioned the place settings. She then mentioned loudly that her daughter had bought all the dishes at Dollarama.

The host was mortified that her guests knew they were using plates that cost \$1. Although they looked nice, there was nothing wrong with them.

No one ever admits they bought anything at a Dollarama, or any other dollar store, yet every time I'm there, the store is busy.

I'm not sure why many people are reluctant to admit they like a certain food or shop at a particular store. Are they trying to impress others by implying they bought that new sofa at a high-end furniture store when they actually purchased it on layaway at a 'Furniture is Us' discount store?

I freely admit I like both a Quarter Pounder and a Big Mac.

I just bought a big screen TV from Walmart, and I'm a regular shopper at Dollarama.

And yes, I do have one old Carpenters album.

You can't beat Karen singing Superstar.

BRIAN LOCKHART
FROM THE SECOND ROW



NATO 1.0 is dead: Long live NATO 2.0

Every year at this time the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO), the world's most powerful alliance for the past 77 years, holds a conference in Munich to examine its state of health.

The one just past was really a wake, but it played out more like the immortal Dead Parrot sketch from Monty Python, in which a customer (John Cleese) enters a pet shop with a cage containing a dead parrot (a Norwegian Blue) and says:

"This parrot is definitely deceased, and when I purchased it not half an hour ago you assured me that it's total lack of movement was due to it being tired and shagged out following a long squawk."

Shopkeeper: "Well he's...he's, ah...probably pining for the fjords."

Cleese: "He's not pining. He's passed on... He's a stiff. This parrot is no more. If you hadn't nailed him to the perch, he'd be pushing up the daisies. THIS IS AN EX-PARROT!!!" And so too with NATO, though it is still nailed to its perch.

The psychodrama raging beneath the surface at the Munich conference was an argument among the European members of NATO about whether the United States could still be trusted. Some insisted that the old alliance

could survive. More thought that it will have to be NATO 2.0 or no alliance at all.

Observers from the US Democratic Party promised the conference that Trump will be gone in three years and the old American security guarantees will be revived. "I think the Europeans sighed with relief because it was saying that Europe is important, that Europe and America are very intertwined and good allies," said Kaja Kallas, the European Union's chief diplomat.

But most EU leaders have lost the faith. The German Chancellor, Friedrich Merz, said bluntly that "The United States's claim to leadership has been challenged and possibly lost." Echoing Canada's Prime Minister Mark Carney, he said that the "rules-based world order no longer exists," and that "a deep divide has opened between Europe and the United States."

France's President Emmanuel Macron agreed: "Europe is rearming, but we must now go beyond" to become a unified major power. It can only achieve that if it can act like a single country, of course, but Trump is giving it a strong incentive to learn how.

Starting with US Vice-President J.D. Vance's anti-European tirade at last year's Munich conference, we have had US air

strikes on Iran and five other countries, the subjugation of Venezuela, American complicity in the genocide in Gaza, and above all Trump's threats to invade Greenland, which is part of the Kingdom of Denmark, a NATO member.

Curiously, Greenland was what tore it, and most NATO leaders now understand that Trump's America is at best an unreliable ally and sometimes openly hostile. Nor are they confident that the United States will remain a country where governments change hands democratically, so they have to plan for the worst.

It's not really a huge crisis. The existing NATO is an ideal template for a successor alliance that includes most or all of the existing members except the United States. If Canada dared to stay in, they wouldn't even have to change the name. The new alliance would still have ample numbers, wealth and weapons to deter any Russian attack.

Filling the gaps that remain when American troops all leave Europe would take some years, but the risk is really quite small. Russian military resources are too heavily committed to conquering Ukraine at the moment to embark on a war with all of western and central Europe as well.

As hegemony goes the United States was a relatively benevolent one (there has never been a truly benevolent one), and we will doubtless come to regret Donald Trump's decision to dismantle it prematurely. But NATO 2.0 is probably the least bad alternative for the 'West'.

The one real uncertainty is nuclear deterrence. Britain and France both have their own nuclear weapons, but Germany, the richest and most populous EU country, has none. There would also be huge pressure in Poland to get its own nukes if the US nuclear guarantee is void: Poles don't trust Russia, for good historical reasons, and they are very exposed.

That's why it was good news, in the context, when Chancellor Merz revealed at the conference that he is in "confidential talks" with the French president on creating a joint European nuclear deterrent. In terms of nuclear proliferation, that would be the least harmful outcome.

As for NATO 1.0, it is dead, although it may persist as a polite fiction for some time. It has "kicked the bucket, shuffled off the mortal coil, rung down the curtain and joined the choir invisible." But its soul goes marching on.

GWYNNE DYER
OUR WORLD TODAY



Anyone can apply

My daughter Patricia says, "I will die on the hill to say that anyone can play music – one way or another – so long as it's in their heart."

Patricia is a multi-instrumental musician and vocalist. She has been a music teacher, in particular, for piano and vocal for over 20 years. In all the conversations with so many artists this esteemed paper has published, the one thing on which they all seem to agree is that anyone can do art. Indeed, when asked at the end of the interview what they would say to a young person who aspires to "be an artist," each and every one says, "Just start. Whatever you love to do, do it. If you need some help on how to go on, there are plenty of YouTube videos with tips and instruction."

Taking it with sincerity comes with the additional advice to enrol in an arts school or attend workshops or classes frequently offered by professional artists.

They all deny AI – let it be your pen, your brush – your own voice.

A reflection occurred to me on how our human history has been dominated by an unending list of wars. Most of them carry a name in order to distinguish one war from the next. Right, all the way back. This can mean that what is good about our species,

which is our passion for creating, is given less attention in how we live and rule our world. We care less about our cultures and artistic achievements than the idea of killing and cruelty.

In other words, how we see ourselves globally centres on our inclination to violence and aggression, not on our art and cultures, which actually define who we are. Surely war does not have to be the sole weight and measure of our overall human history, where the art of the times will always reflect more truly the damage and crime that is war, how unjustified it ever is; that the foul aggressiveness of perpetrators should have never been allowed by their nations' courts and Generals.

In our present day, the arts could be taught as the mainstay of society, understanding the important influence art has on everything and for these times, offered as a better outlet for our energies than the current arms race we are witnessing now.

In this world, in this point of history, there may be more call for the voices and wonders of artists than ever, and the best news is that we are all artists in our hearts and instincts.

It has been a lesson to meet people in those interviews, who were interested in

learning how to pick up a brush and let the colour flow, how to put an image on a sheet, whether the face of a stranger or the leaves on an imagined tree. They are following this after a lifetime of doing other things or going back to a passion of their youth, once their children need less from them.

Not only is the presence of art a need in our lives, but creating is good for the soul, and there are many avenues for the journey. So many artists have told me, as well, about how the family home encouraged their childhood fingers to play tunes on the piano, build things with blocks, paint, sculpt – just do it until what they were creating became part of who they are. So may it be said of our own homes and the opportunities we provide for our children to expand their minds and sensitivities by dabbling all the way to a real connection to what truly stirs them.

The grassroots of society have always been the source of environmental rescue, and, without actual intent necessarily, artists have often been in the forefront of that rescue. Never more than now is the need for intelligent vigilance, as we witness our leaders abandoning the notion of democracy by passing laws that empower them and those close to them too far.

This abuse has been questioned and

checked in this province and more locally in Caledon, for the dangers those executive changes of rule are threatening a once-wonderful environment. Free of the need to account to the acknowledged Environmental Authorities, they make plans for unfettered and destructive development.

However, the watchdogs of this community stage protests even in the cold, with warm mittens and coffee afterward, to let it be known there is a will to stop the damage. Letters to the politicians and the paper continue to bring pressure to the willful harm proposed.

Here in Orangeville, that danger is reduced at the local level, where the town's mayor and council have declared the Strong Mayors law as going against democracy and have dealt with it to the extent possible.

Political balance, streets glowing with murals on brick walls and colourful utility boxes, carved statues everywhere, a theatre to match the big cities and fine community theatres. So much more – the Chocolate Shop ...

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COMMUNITY VOICES

Monthly Message: DBOT recognizes Nonprofit Appreciation Week

Every day across Ontario, non-profit organizations are quietly doing work that keeps communities strong by supporting families, feeding neighbours, creating spaces for connection, and stepping in where help is needed most. The third week of February is a chance to pause and say thank you.

Non-Profit Appreciation Week – this year, falling between Feb. 15 and 21, is officially recognized through Ontario’s Non-Profit Sector Appreciation Week Act (Bill 9, 2021), and helps to celebrate the nearly 850,000 people who work in Ontario’s non-profit sector.

These are the individuals who show up every day with compassion, creativity, and commitment, often behind the scenes, making a real difference in the lives of others.

This week exists for a simple but powerful reason: to recognize just how much non-profits contribute to our communities, our economy, and our overall quality of life.



From health care and housing to arts, culture, and social services, non-profits touch nearly every corner of the province. Their impact is felt not just in times of crisis, but in the everyday moments that help communities thrive.

The creation of Non-Profit Appreciation Week was championed by MPP Daisy Wai, with strong support from organizations like

the Bhayana Family Foundation and the Ontario Nonprofit Network (ONN) — a collective effort to ensure the sector’s contributions are formally and permanently recognized.

Non-Profit Appreciation Week is an invitation for all of us to acknowledge the people doing this vital work. Whether it’s a quick note of thanks, a public shout-out, or simply taking a moment to reflect, it’s a reminder that stronger communities are built by people who care, and Ontario’s non-profit sector is full of them.

Winter zipper rant

“I mean, what else is it supposed to be?”

This is how a local merchant responded to me after I complained about the weather. I can’t remember how cold it was; I just remember it being cold. Really cold. Is that not something worth complaining about?

Now, before you start in on me with: “Oh, these younger generations...”

“What country do you think we’re living in?”

“Listen to snowflake talking smack about a few snowflakes.”

“I mean, what else is it supposed to be?”

I did go for a run when it hit 23 below; I didn’t go for a run when it hit 25 below. Usually, I don’t let the weather stop me from going for a run. You just layer up, make sure there’s no gaps for the cold to sneak in.

Like anything else you practice, you start to develop a few hacks. Your route is determined by the streets where the wind is at your back. When there’s snow on the ground, run inside the deepest tire track, maybe the one with a little bit of snow for some traction. Run on the surface that’s been recently salted.

When it’s crazy cold, I also run with a pair of socks over my gloves. Sometimes, I’ll even wear two pairs of pants. It’s a good idea to run slowly around corners. I’m not breaking any records, but I’m still running. It makes for some sloppy runs, but nobody comes back from a run and says they wish they hadn’t run.

Winter has to be the one season where walking is harder than running. I only ever feel like a popsicle when I’m not running. I mean, I love walking my dog, but walking a dog that likes to stop and sniff every few minutes in this weather? Lord help me. And those between places – from your house to the car; from your car to your workplace. I don’t even own an automatic car-starter. Don’t get me started on pumping gas.

“I mean, what else is it supposed to be?”

Not this:

My kids have missed 14 days of school over the past few months. They’re on course to trump last year’s tally of 21. Even when they’re at school, they’re not allowed to go out for recess.

We’re all spending more time inside. In my home, I feel like I’m in a tent more than a brick home. No matter how much I turn up the heat, there are still cold spots. The draft from the fireplace makes the floor feel like a skating rink. Sometimes our garage door doesn’t close. I’ve closed some vents, opened others. I leave some doors open. Close others. I’m like an HVAC conductor trying to coax the heat into flowing in certain directions. The only thing that works at night is the dog at the end of the bed, curved into the bend of my legs.

Truthfully, we’re all getting a bit squirrely. In some ways, it feels a bit like COVID all over again.

Did I mention the squirrels in the attic? The mice in the walls?

“I mean, what else is it supposed to be?”

The kids have gone a little batty. No matter how cold it is, they still beg for ice cream. They treat popsicles like fruit supplements. They wear shorts around the house; my son walks outside with his jacket undone (don’t get me started on hats and mitts). My daughter prefers sleeping with her face to the cold wall. My son loves cold sheets. Maybe I am getting soft, like the ice cream the kids forage from their Nonna’s freezer. Did I mention the three weeks of missed classes?

I mean, it’s not like this is new. Which makes all of this so confounding. Why haven’t we sorted out busing for our children? Whose calling the shots? The fear of lawsuits rules the day. So, we keep them at home, keep them indoors. No more forts. No more snowballs.

Recently, my father told my daughter to never build a fort. They might collapse. Danger. Doom. Everywhere. I can’t even back out of my driveway without thinking about being hit by a meatball in a truck, or

a turkey in a Civic.

“I mean, what else is it supposed to be?”

Maybe the store owner was speaking to something more than the cold, something more than forecasts and windchills. Maybe he was alluding to a different type of cold. Maybe he was alluding to a cold world, a world of cold shoulders and colder hearts. Cold glares, cold looks frozen onto our cold screens, flashing cold images of men with the word ICE emblazoned across their chests in the U.S.

The men who wear masks and gloves, not because they’re cold, but to hide their faces, for a better grip on their guns. The men who shoot protestors and deport citizens of their own country. The freeze-

ing cold allows them to hunt their targets in conditions that keep all but those who have no choice hunkered down indoors. I haven’t seen a proper snowman in years. I miss the corn-pops pipes and button noses.

I know it won’t last forever, but it feels like this cold winter will never end. And when it does? What’s waiting for us on the other side? When the cold and snow are gone, will it reveal anything new about us? Personally, I’m not waiting for that happen. I’m going to lace up my shoes and run straight on into it.

“I mean, what else is it supposed to be?”



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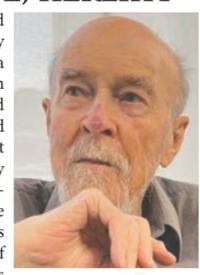
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OBITUARIES

PETER (PETE) HERLIHY



A lover of nature and the arts, his photography showed the viewer a glimpse into the depth and perception that lived within him. Possessed of a calm intellect that never boasted, he willingly shared his incredibly in-depth knowledge of the natural world, the origins of language, and science of life with anyone who was curious.

He instilled a respect for nature in thousands of people over his decades of teaching as an outdoor educator at the Boyne River Natural Science School. This boundless enthusiasm for learning, coupled with his uncanny ability to remember seemingly everything he'd ever been taught in detail over his life earned him the well-deserved title of "Granddad Google" from his youngest grandchild!

Despite all the knowledge he stored about the world in his head, what shone through for all that met him was what he held in his heart and how he lived it. "My religion is kindness" he would say, and he lived his life true to those words, holding patience and gentleness towards others at all times, believing in the inherent good of people.

He is incredibly missed by his family, friends, and so many other people he has touched over his life. If you are one of them reading this today, please do something kind for someone in his honour, and remember the wonderful person he is and was.

Peacefully on Wednesday, February 11th, 2026 at the age of 90. Beloved former husband of Bronwen Herlihy (nee Roberts) (2024). Loving father of Nia Herlihy (Chris Pipka) and Rhian (2023) (Joe Oliveira). Cherished grandfather of Cody, Ryan, and Justine. Remembered by his sister Nola Wylie (nee Herlihy) of England. Pete will be greatly missed by many other relatives and friends.

Memorial visitation will be held at the Dods & McNair Funeral Home, Chapel & Reception Centre, 21 First St., Orangeville on Saturday, February 21st, 2026 from 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm. Words of remembrance will begin at 1:30 pm.

A tree will be planted in memory of Pete in the Dods & McNair Memorial Forest at the Island Lake Conservation Area, Orangeville.

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

PETER EDWARD HYDE-WHIP



Passed away peacefully on February 7, 2026, at the age of 85, in the comfort of his home, surrounded by the love of his wife of 65 years, Donna.

Peter will be lovingly remembered as a cherished father to his children, Darryl (Heidi) and Norman (Adele); an adored grandfather to Taylor (Steven), Justin (Isobel), Tori, Amanda (Colton, Lily, Hailey, Grayson, Dani), Jacob (Cyan), and Matthew; and a dear brother to Elenore, late Ronald (Doreen), and Susan (late Bill). He took great pride in his family and treasured every moment spent with them.

Peter loved all people and had a rare gift for conversation, leaving a lasting impression on everyone he met. Through his kindness, playful spirit, and love of sweets, he brought smiles and laughter wherever he went.

A beloved member of his community and a devoted member of Centre Fellowship Church, Peter was a friend to many. He lived his life guided by immense faith, leaving behind a legacy of love, values, and laughter that will continue through generations. He will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved him.

Visitation will be held at the Dods & McNair Funeral Home, Chapel & Reception Centre, 21 First St., Orangeville on Saturday, February 28th, 2026 from 1:30 pm to 2:30 pm. Funeral Service will be held in the chapel on Saturday, February 28th, 2026 at 2:30 pm.

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NOTICE is hereby given that the annual meeting of the Shareholders of The Orangeville Area Forest Lawn Cemetery Company (Formerly Forest Lawn Cemetery Company) will be held in the office of The Orangeville Area Forest Lawn Cemetery Company at 14 Cemetery Road Mono ON, at 7:00 p.m. on Monday February 23, 2026.
Neil White - President
Andrea Stoddart - Secretary-Treasurer

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