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JOSHUA DRAKES PHOTO

**TECHNOLOGY HUB LAUNCHES:** The opening of the makerspace, with Orangeville's council, Mayor Lisa Post and representatives of the Library Board on Feb. 23, marks the start of a new era for the Orangeville Public Library's Alder branch. Integrating new technology, the library aims to become a technology hub, attracting new members and visitors to use its state-of-the-art equipment. See a full story on Page A4.

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## Developer eyes Townline-Bythia corner for new housing

Written By JAMES MATTHEWS

A proposed housing development at Townline and Bythia Street shouldn't contribute to the current water issues in the area.

A developer has requested an amendment to the zoning bylaw for 73 Townline that will allow the construction of two semi-detached dwellings and an existing detached dwelling at a large corner lot at Townline and Bythia Street.

The development requires that a pair of new lots be created at the rear of the existing parcel. That will require a separate application, depending on how the bylaw amendment goes.

According to information provided to council on Feb. 23 by Mairefields Planning and Development, the project's proponent, the build will utilize existing land and services.

The proposed development will achieve modest infill intensification, which is still consistent with the surrounding neighbourhood. It'll increase the range of housing options in Orangeville and assist with achieving Dufferin County's intensifica-

tion targets.

The development will contribute to a complete community, according to information materials.

Much studying has gone into the proposed development.

A Servicing and Stormwater Management Memo has been submitted that details how stormwater runoff will be managed to avoid impacts on adjacent lots or the municipal stormwater system. It also illustrates how existing water and sanitary services on Bythia Street will be utilized for the development.

A Tree Inventory and Preservation Plan (TIPP) has been completed and shows how trees will be protected during construction. It identifies trees that will require removal.

A Planning Justification Report outlines how the development meets the objectives of the official plans of Dufferin County and Orangeville, as well as the Provincial Planning Statement.

Matthew Mair, the planner and owner at Mairefields Planning and Development, said the site is within walking distance to schools, public transportation, and Oran-

geville's downtown business core.

The two-storey semi-detached units will each include three bedrooms and 2.5 bathrooms.

"These are nice, family-sized homes," Mair said.

One John Street resident said the area currently has issues with the water and sewer service. She asked about any further effects the development will have on that infrastructure.

"Yesterday, the water coming out of my tap was brown," she said.

Tim Kocialek, the town's infrastructure services general manager, said discoloration may be caused by a high volume of water being used. Other residents have mentioned the issue.

"It looks like somebody may have opened a hydrant for about 10 minutes," he said. "That causes high flow in the system and it stirs up any sediment that's in the water."

He said it wouldn't be caused by the proposed development. Municipal water is high in iron and manganese, which may also contribute to periodic discoloration.

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# Questions arise about enforcement of Mono noise bylaw

Written By JAMES MATTHEWS

One of Mono's loudest voices in the lobby for the new municipal noise bylaw wants council to consider questions about enforcement.

Mayor John Creelman said that when council met on Feb. 10, the former municipal noise bylaw was antiquated and largely unenforceable. The previous bylaw hadn't been updated since 2004.

But now that Mono has passed its new Noise Bylaw, resident Bob McCrae asked during council's Feb. 24 meeting about the mechanism for enforcing the legislation.

He said he checked online to investigate how to report complaints under the new bylaw. He learned that people are required to fill out a report detailing complaints about noise or other activities governed by the town bylaws.

The problem with that regarding the noise bylaw, he said, is timing.

"If at midnight my nice neighbour around the corner from me is having an outdoor party with a live band, or if the Event Centre is having something that's going past midnight, filing an online form is near useless to stop that and prevent it," he said.

The Event Centre is operated by the Orangeville Agriculture Society and is used by many groups as a venue for public events and fundraising.

McCrae asked if there is someone at the municipality whom people can contact for an immediate response?

Fred Simpson, the town's clerk, said the town doesn't maintain an around-the-clock bylaw enforcement strategy.

"We don't have the resources to be able to do that," Simpson said.

Staff can crunch numbers and forward a

report to council with cost details for such enforcement, he said.

The OPP responded to municipal bylaw complaints in the past, he said. But the province's new community safety legislation specifically states that municipal bylaw enforcement is no longer the OPP's responsibility.

The provincial police force has stated that it will respond to bylaw complaints that pose a risk to public safety.

"So there is a possibility at their discretion that they may respond to a noise complaint outside of business hours," Simpson said.

Creelman said he would be happy to raise the question at a community police services board meeting.

Councillor Melinda Davie said there is a need to repeat and clarify how a bylaw is to be enforced.

"A complaint online and a complaint because somebody has noise at midnight is

still going to be looked into," Davie said. "And it's still possible to make a finding even though there isn't somebody there with a decibel metre."

She said offenders don't have to be caught "in the act," but there needs to be proof that the bylaw was broken.

It was also the case in bylaw enforcement for a follow-up to the complaint.

"But it doesn't mean that our bylaw isn't enforceable," she said.

Creelman said many people who report noise complaints have used their cellphones to record it.

"That is helpful in the event of a follow-up," Creelman said.

Coun. Elaine Capes said people who feel they're being disturbed can indeed call the OPP, and they will investigate.

"By default, the OPP become our after-hours bylaw enforcement," McCrae said.

# Orangeville protects the public and environment with salvage yard rules

Written By JAMES MATTHEWS

Orangeville has taken steps toward a license requirement for salvage yards.

The proposed Salvage Yard Bylaw introduces operations standards intended to ensure lawful acquisition of goods, appropriate verification practices, and proper material handling.

Council heard, when it met Feb. 23, that the provisions are preventive in nature and designed to promote transparency and reduce risks associated with the acceptance and storage of salvage materials.

The receipt, storage, dismantling, and resale or disposal of scrap materials, vehicle components, and other second-hand goods carry a higher regulatory risk profile due to the nature of materials handled and the potential impacts on surrounding properties.

James Bramley, the town's licensing and

bylaw enforcement supervisor, said staff were directed to develop a regulatory framework for this business class.

The bylaw also requires transaction records that can be inspected.

"These measures support accountability by providing enforcement tools to ensure compliance," according to a report to council. "Given the nature of salvage yards' operations, the bylaw includes environmental oversight measures requiring the submission of a professional Environmental Site Assessment."

The assessment is to protect soil and groundwater, safeguard neighbouring properties, and mitigate potential long-term environmental and financial risks to the municipality.

The possibility of the bylaw comes on the heels of a pending court case stemming from the theft of municipal materials that

had been discovered at a salvage yard, said David Smith, the town's CAO.

"With operational standards, we are focused on lawful acquisition," Bramley said.

Identification verification reduces the risk of a salvage yard accepting stolen goods. Mandatory holding periods are a buffer before materials can be sold or destroyed.

A vehicle's catalytic converter is a sought-after target by thieves because of the high-value metals inside it. They convert toxic gases from the combustion process. Rare high-value precious metals such as platinum, palladium, and rhodium are inside.

Orangeville resident Matthew Smith suggested the proposed salvage bylaw have specific verbiage related to such items. They're allowed to be received at a salvage yard if brought by a motor vehicle dealer or repair shop.

Stipulating that the yard operates only under its license ensures it won't be used as an illegal impound yard.

"These are not unusual measures," Bramley said.

Application requirements include business documentation, identification verification, criminal record screening, proof of commercial liability insurance, and payment of prescribed fees.

Bramley said in the report that those requirements are consistent with the town's broader licensing practices and reflect standards commonly found in comparable Ontario municipalities.

The bylaw will protect the interests, safety, and environmental well-being of residents and business owners.

"The purpose of this bylaw is not to restrict legitimate business activity," Bramley said.

# Impaired driving, cocaine possession charges laid following two-vehicle collision on Valentine's Day

Impaired driving, cocaine possession charges laid following two-vehicle collision on Valentine's Day

Dufferin Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) officers charged a Grimsby resident with impaired operation-related charges following a two-vehicle collision on Airport Road.

On Valentine's Day (Feb. 14) at approximately 2:58 a.m., Dufferin OPP officers were dispatched to the area of Airport Road and 5 Sideroad in Mulmur for a two-vehicle collision.

Upon arrival, officers observed two heavily

damaged vehicles. The driver of one vehicle was outside and walking around, while the second vehicle had sustained significant damage, requiring fire services to extricate all five occupants, who sustained minor injuries.

After speaking with the driver of the first vehicle, officers initiated an impaired driving investigation.

Shamar Foster, 23, from Grimsby, has been charged with:

- Operation while impaired - alcohol and drugs

- Possession of a Schedule I Substance-Cocaine
- Driving motor vehicle with open container of liquor
- Drive vehicle or boat with cannabis readily available
- Dangerous operation

The accused individual is scheduled to appear before the Ontario Court of Justice in Orangeville. His driver's license was suspended, and his vehicle was impounded.

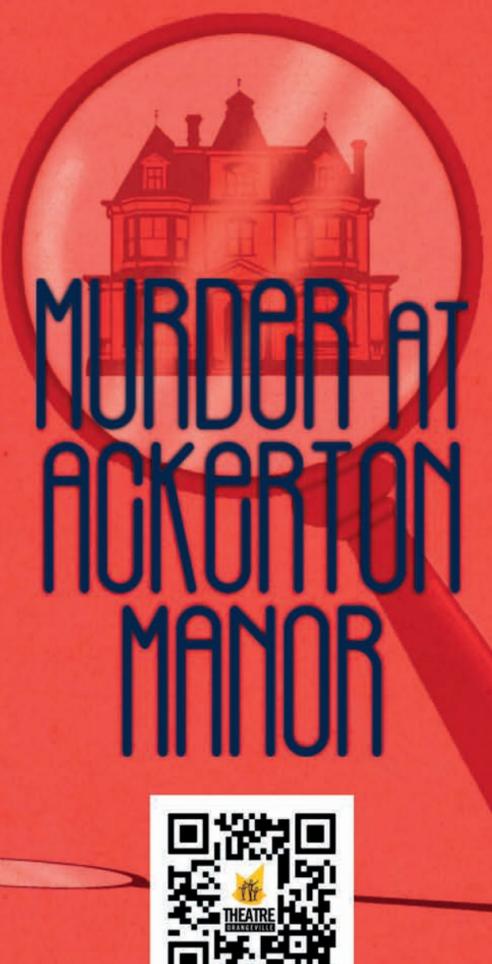
None of the listed charges have been proven in court.





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# Fur-Ever Farm-Canada pauses farm animal intake as donations dry up

Written By JOSHUA DRAKES  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Fur-Ever Farm-Canada, a Mono-based animal rescue and sanctuary, said that it has been forced to pause all new farm animal intakes due to mounting financial pressure. The farm has issued an urgent appeal for community support to sustain its operations.

In a recent social media statement, the organization explained that it can no longer afford to rescue additional animals, despite receiving frequent requests. "This is one of the hardest posts we've ever written. Fur-Ever Farm-Canada is placing a hold on all new farm animal intakes," the statement read. "We are constantly getting calls and messages about horses, pigs, goats, donkeys, chickens and geese needing urgent placement — many facing euthanasia."

"We only ever say yes to the truly urgent cases. We don't overextend. But without financial support, we cannot continue," the statement added.

The farm cited rising operational costs as a major factor in the decision. Hay alone costs about \$65 per square bale through a supplier — or up to \$115 at market rates — and the farm uses seven to 10 bales during colder weeks.

Feed ranges from \$18 to \$30 per bag,

alongside additional expenses for bedding, cleaning supplies, fencing repairs, equipment, farrier services and veterinary care.

"We've connected with local feed stores and posted their phone number so supporters could purchase feed directly with Visa, Mastercard or cash," the statement read. "Not one bag has been donated."

While the rescue regularly hosts volunteer days and public events that attract dozens or even hundreds of visitors, staff say public appreciation has not resulted in consistent financial contributions.

"We have amazing volunteers every Sunday from 11–3. We host events where 30–200 people come and experience the farm. Everyone loves it. Everyone sees the care. But love has not translated into donations."

Despite the financial strain, the rescue emphasized that animals currently under its care will continue to receive full support and treatment. However, without new funding, the organization says it cannot respond to future urgent cases.

Fur-Ever Farm-Canada's mission is to provide sanctuary, rehabilitation and long-term care for vulnerable animals, particularly those requiring specialized medical attention. The organization advocates equal compassion for farm and companion animals alike, while relying heavily on donations to cover daily care and medical costs.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**SUPPORT NEEDED:** A farm animal sanctuary in Mono is struggling to keep up with the demands of the community. Fur-Ever Farm-Canada has sounded the alarm on a shortfall in donations, resulting in the sanctuary pausing all new farm animals intakes.

Rescue officials say the intake pause is intended to protect the animals already at the farm and preserve the services they have built, while urging supporters to help ensure the sanctuary's future. For more information on Fur-Ever Farm-Canada, go to [facebook.com/fureverfarmcanada/](https://facebook.com/fureverfarmcanada/).

# Dufferin-Caledon gains 30 jobs as EcoTank expands local production with \$1.67 million investment

The Ontario government is welcoming an investment of \$1,674,016 by EcoTank Canada, a distributor of washer fluid dispensers, to increase its domestic manufacturing capabilities and create 30 new, good-paying jobs in Dufferin-Caledon.

The investment was announced today by Dufferin-Caledon MPP Sylvia Jones on Monday, Feb. 23.

"By supporting strategic investments from regional businesses, our government is protecting Ontario's workers and creating the conditions for a strong, stable, and resilient economy that can weather any storm," said Jones. "EcoTank's investment will support growth and innovation across the local manufacturing sector and create more good-paying jobs for workers and families in Orangeville."

With this investment, EcoTank will build a new facility in Dufferin County and expand its production capabilities by installing a new assembly line. The new facility and assembly line will allow EcoTank to reshore the manufacturing of its washer fluid dispensers from Europe to Ontario, keeping costs low and securing major contracts in the retail trade industry.

The project will also deliver broader supply-chain benefits to the province, as 90 per cent of the supporting materials will be sourced exclusively from Ontario suppliers.

"EcoTank is transforming the way consumers refill washer fluid in their vehicles by offering a solution that is not only more convenient, but significantly more environmentally friendly than traditional plastic jugs," said Robbie Mair, CEO and founder of EcoTank. "With the support of the Government of Ontario, we've accelerated our growth and established a new facility in Dufferin County, enabling us to manufacture our bulk washer fluid dispensers locally and export them across North America."

In support of this investment, the government is providing EcoTank with \$239,102 in funding through the Regional Development Program's Southwestern Ontario Development Fund (SWODF).

"Employing more than 800,000 workers across the province, Ontario's manufacturing sector is the economic engine of our nation," said Vic Fedeli, Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade. "Our government is proud to support local companies like EcoTank as they expand their



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**MAJOR INVESTMENT:** EcoTank welcomed Dufferin-Caledon MPP Sylvia Jones on Feb. 23 to celebrate the creation of 30 new, good-paying jobs for the region. The jobs will come from a \$1.67 million investment to increase domestic manufacturing capabilities.

operations, and we thank them for their contributions to Ontario's dynamic and growing manufacturing ecosystem."

Ontario is investing over \$230 million through its Regional Development Program to help manufacturers across the province grow while supporting distinct regional priorities. To date, Ontario has supported more than 180 projects through the program, leveraging over \$2.6 billion in new investments and helping to create more than 5,500 jobs.

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# Orangeville Public Library launches makerspace with state-of-the-art technology

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

The Orangeville Public Library officially opened its new makerspace during a community celebration at the Alder Street branch on Feb. 23.

The opening event included remarks from library leadership and board representatives, a ribbon-cutting ceremony, and demonstrations of the space's capabilities. Refreshments and guided tours allowed attendees to explore available resources.

Orangeville Library CEO Laura Warner emphasized that the space is a response to community feedback collected in 2021. She also highlighted the makerspace's modular layout, intended to evolve alongside community needs, allowing new equipment and programs to be introduced over time.

"The [makerspace] started with the Orangeville community in a 2021 survey, residents emphasized the need for a space and technology such as this," she said.

"The space is modular, and it will grow along with the community as a space where people can come together and access new possibilities."

The makerspace will operate with open lab hours listed on the library website, complemented by scheduled programs for those seeking guided instruction.

Library staff and local partners will support the space, and officials are pursuing contributions from community members and volunteers to lead skill-sharing sessions and workshops.

Support for the project came from a mix of municipal backing, philanthropic donations, and community fundraising. Major contributors included the municipal council, the Friends of the Library, and corporate sponsors, while library leadership credited current and former staff and board members with moving the project from initial vision to reality.

Orangeville Mayor Lisa Post, alongside

Deputy Mayor Todd Taylor and council attended the grand opening. Mayor Post praised the library's hard work in making the makerspace a reality.

"Today is an exciting day, as we have finally gotten to the point where the [makerspace] is ready to open," she said. "The [makerspace] represents something really important for our community, equitable access to technology. We know that not every household has the latest tools, software, equipment or space to experiment, and in today's world, access to technology is not a luxury. It's an absolute. It shapes how we learn, how we work, how we create and how we connect."

"I really want to thank the Library Board, the staff, the partners and everyone who helped bring this vision to life. It has been a long road, and I'm so glad that we're here today. Investments like this are strengthening our community in really quiet, but really powerful ways," Mayor Post added.

The new facility is designed to provide residents of all ages with equal opportunities to experiment with a range of tools and techniques, from 3D printing and embroidery to introductory sessions in artificial intelligence and button-making.

Organizers expect the makerspace to bolster lifelong learning, foster problem-solving skills, and create new opportunities for collaboration and innovation in the region.

Makerspace Specialist Raghav Patel explained that originally, the space was occupied by Humber College's temporary space, but after they moved out, the room was mostly left abandoned and unused, which is when the library began considering a new project.

"The idea was that that space was going to be absorbed into the library's footprint, expanding the floor space here at Alder, also giving them access to a new space that they wanted to turn into this makerspace," he said. "They wanted to make sure that it made good use of this space, so it's a very



JOSHUA DRAKES PHOTO

**UNVEILING THE SPACE:** The opening of the makerspace, with Orangeville's council, Mayor Lisa Post and representatives of the Library Board on Feb. 23, marks the start of a new era for the Orangeville Public Library. Integrating new technology, the library aims to become a technology hub, attracting new members and visitors to use its state-of-the-art equipment.

modular project."

Patel said that the makerspace has something for everyone to try and enjoy.

"There's something here at the (makerspace) for everyone... that's going to excite you, and it's going to make you want to make things," he said. "I know a lot of people, when they hear about the concept, they think it's for one age group or another, but in my experience, it's for all ages."

Patel continued by explaining that the first few guided lessons and workshops will be primarily introductory courses meant to bring new users up to speed on the technology.

"We're going to start with introductory

programming to a few of the technologies," he said. "Then of course we have the open lab hours, where people are able to learn, explore, and then use any of the technologies there."

"We have a mix of morning hours, afternoons, evenings, weekends, just to make sure that the space is accessible to everyone," Patel added.

Looking ahead, the library plans to maintain an up-to-date schedule of open lab hours and program offerings and to actively recruit local makers and subject-matter experts to expand the makerspace's roster of workshops and community-led activities.

## Dufferin OPP asks the public to build snow forts away from roadways and snow banks

The Dufferin Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) is reminding residents that while building snow forts and tunnels is a favourite winter pastime, it can become dangerous if proper precautions aren't taken.

With recent snowfall creating large, towering snowbanks, it's tempting to start digging and building. However, snow structures built near roadways and driveways pose serious risks. Snowplows and passing vehicles can shift or collapse snowbanks without warning, turning a fun afternoon into a potentially life-threatening situation – especially if chil-

dren are hidden from view.

Each year, emergency crews respond to incidents involving snow forts constructed too close to roads. Although roadside snowbanks may seem like the perfect building spot, they are not safe play areas. Drivers and plow operators may be unable to see a child playing in or around a snow structure near the street.

This is not just a local concern. Communities across Ontario face similar risks during the winter months. Municipalities throughout the province are encouraged to promote safe building locations and remind families

to choose appropriate areas where children can enjoy winter activities without being exposed to traffic hazards.

Residents are urged to select safer spots for snow play, such as backyards, parks, or other designated play areas. With a little planning and awareness, families can enjoy the season while preventing avoidable accidents.

Dufferin OPP asks the community to work together to keep winter full of fun – not emergencies. Stay safe and make smart choices when enjoying the snow.



## The Historic Awareness Plaque Program has expanded!

Have you always wanted to boast about your property's connection to our Orangeville's history? Heritage Orangeville is now accepting applications for homes and buildings constructed before 1950.

These plaques are a great way to help share some of the Orangeville story, connecting our community today with the community of yesterday.

Unlike an official heritage designation, the plaques are not registered through the Ontario Heritage Act.

So what are the benefits of the historic awareness plaques? They:

- tell the stories of significant architecture
- educated about the cultural features in our community
- learn about the role of early settlers and families in Orangeville

Find out more: [orangeville.ca/HistoricPlaques](http://orangeville.ca/HistoricPlaques)

### Town of Orangeville

## Upcoming meetings

March 2026

<b>Official Plan Steering Committee</b>	<b>Tuesday, March 3 at 12 p.m.</b> Council chambers, 87 Broadway
<b>Mayor's Youth Advisory Council</b>	<b>Tuesday, March 3 at 4:30 p.m.</b> Council chambers, 87 Broadway
<b>Committee of Adjustment</b>	<b>Wednesday, March 4 at 6 p.m.</b> Council chambers, 87 Broadway
<b>Sustainable Orangeville</b>	<b>Thursday, March 5 at 6 p.m.</b> Virtual only (no in-person attendance)
<b>Council (regular)</b>	<b>Monday, March 9 at 7 p.m.</b> Council chambers, 87 Broadway Live stream: <a href="http://orangeville.ca/WatchLive">orangeville.ca/WatchLive</a>
<b>Property Standards Committee</b>	<b>Wednesday, March 11 at 6 p.m.</b> Council chambers, 87 Broadway
<b>Access Orangeville</b>	<b>Thursday, March 12 at 6 p.m.</b> Main floor boardroom, 87 Broadway
<b>Community Improvement Plan</b>	<b>Tuesday, March 17 at 12 p.m.</b> Main floor boardroom, 87 Broadway
<b>Age Friendly</b>	<b>Tuesday, March 17 at 1 p.m.</b> Council chambers, 87 Broadway
<b>Heritage Orangeville</b>	<b>Thursday, March 19 at 6 p.m.</b> Council chambers, 87 Broadway
<b>Council (regular)</b>	<b>Monday, March 23 at 7 p.m.</b> Council chambers, 87 Broadway Live stream: <a href="http://orangeville.ca/WatchLive">orangeville.ca/WatchLive</a>
<b>Orangeville Public Library Board</b>	<b>Wednesday, March 25 at 5 p.m.</b> Mill Street Library, 1 Mill St. Call in: 1-289-801-5774 ID: 687 774 475#

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

Meeting dates/times are subject to change.

For agendas and participation details, visit [orangeville.ca/meetings](http://orangeville.ca/meetings).



# Orangeville Public Library to host variety of March Break activities and workshops

Written By JOSHUA DRAKES  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Families looking for affordable, engaging activities during the school holiday will find no shortage of options at the Orangeville Public Library this March Break.

The library is preparing to host a full week of family-friendly programming, offering a wide range of hands-on workshops, live entertainment and educational activities designed for children, teens and families.

The annual initiative, running from March 16 to March 20, provides local residents with accessible, engaging experiences while school is out, helping families stay active and connected close to home.

Lauren Tilly, responsible for programming at the Orangeville Public Library, described March break as the perfect opportunity to see what the library is all about.

"At the Orangeville Public Library, our catch phrase is 'books are just the beginning,' and March Break is where families really get to see some of that in action," she said. "We aim to get the people to connect, discover and soar during March Break through our programming, and it's one of the most joyful ways that we do that with our kids and their grown-ups."

This year's March Break lineup features interactive STEM and creative workshops, live entertainment, daily tours of the library's Makerspace, and expanded open lab sessions where participants can experiment with technology, including 3D printers and crafting equipment.

Registration-based programs focus on small-group participation to encourage meaningful learning, with activities including LEGO challenges, bookbinding, zine creation, and knitting workshops that help participants build practical skills they can continue developing beyond the session itself.

A major highlight of the week is a series of low-cost entertainment shows held off-site at Orangeville District Secondary School, featuring a magic-and-music performance, a trained-animal show with poodles and doves, and an interactive bubble-themed presentation.

Tilly said that tickets are priced affordably to ensure families have access to high-quality entertainment.

"March Break, you know, we recognize it can be expensive for families, so we built a week that's local, welcoming and affordable," she said. "Tickets are \$4 each. The shows have a larger capacity than our workshops. You can also pay \$10 for all three shows."

Tilly explained that all three performances will be extremely diverse, offering something for everyone to enjoy, from magic to animals and everything in between.



FILE PHOTO

"We've got the J WiZ Magic, Music & Mayhem show, which is going to be very active and participant-heavy, so the kids will get to do some magic," she said. "We also have a new one that we haven't had before, but we're really, really excited about, is the poodle and dove show, so there's trained poodles and doves. So everybody loves an animal show. And this one comes with some highly skilled animals, and we're excited to see that."

"Finally, for the first time ever, we're hosting Miss T the Bubble Queen. She creates really cool bubble experiences for kids. It's very artistic, very interactive, and we're looking forward to hosting all of these great entertainment shows in our community over March Break," Tilly added.

Programming will also include a family movie screening with themed activities, as well as a special interactive murder-mystery event created by teens for teen participants. The library has worked collaboratively with community partners and neighbouring libraries to broaden its offerings and ensure a diverse mix of experiences for multiple age groups.

"We're really, really privileged to work collaboratively to bring some of these in-house programs to our library," Tilly said. "We have partners like Scientists in School, the Museum of Dufferin, our teen advisory group, Orange Threads, our stitchery and knitting group, and many more."

The March Break initiative has been running for more than a decade and continues to reflect the library's broader mission of fostering connection, creativity and learning within the community.

With a blend of entertainment, education and hands-on discovery, the week is designed to give families meaningful ways to learn, create and connect right in their own community.

Tickets are limited, though some spaces remain for performances and activities, with waiting lists available as well. For more information and to find tickets, go to calendar. orangevillelibrary.ca/default/Month?StartDate=03/01/2026

# Orangeville council looks to tighten regulations governing election signs ahead of fall race

Written By JAMES MATTHEWS

Municipal election campaigns have come to mean that Orangeville's streets and intersections will be congested with a slew of candidate signs.

With a municipal election in the fall, town council is looking to tweak its rules governing campaign sign use.

James Bramley, the municipal licensing and bylaw enforcement supervisor, said during council's Feb. 23 meeting that the proposed bylaw enhances public safety and promotes equitable treatment of candidates. It also provides clearer expectations for campaign teams and strengthens the town's ability to regulate election signage in accordance with governing legislation.

Council feedback received through this review will inform final refinements prior to enactment and implementation for the 2026 election cycle.

The town's Election Sign Bylaw updates and modernizes the existing framework, improves clarity and enforceability, and ensures compliance with the Municipal Act and the Municipal Elections Act.

Bramley said the proposed updates are structured to remain content-neutral while regulating placement, timing, and safety considerations within the town's jurisdiction.

The updated bylaw establishes clear rules regarding when election signs may be displayed and when they must be removed. Campaign signs can be erected no earlier than Aug. 21 after the nomination period has closed, Bramley said.

Signs left up will be held for pickup for seven days.

And those signs have to be removed within three days after ballots are cast.

According to a report to council, those timing provisions provide consistency among candidate advertising to ensure signage does not remain beyond the election period.

The proposed changes also strengthen placement regulations to enhance traffic and pedestrian safety. Signs can't be placed within a metre of another campaign sign. That reduces clustering and improves aesthetics.

The current bylaw doesn't regulate spac-

ing between signage.

"A measurable one-metre rule provides an objective standard, fair treatment among campaigns, easier enforcement, and reduced conflict escalation," Bramley said.

Following such a complaint, a bylaw officer could measure and space signs by the requisite metre. There will be no more arguing about which campaign sign was first erected.

One Orangeville resident said there are eight council seats to be filled in an election. The last local contest had about double that number of candidates throw their names into the hat.

"You would severely restrict the number of election signs that are allowed on a corner with that (metre) space between," he said. "To me, a better solution would be that signs don't impede other signs."

He said the proposed means to impose order on sign placement is "anti-democratic."

"It runs counter to our system," the resident said. "I remind you that democracy is messy. And we live in a democratic system, and people who want to be candidates and meet the qualifications should be allowed to put signs up."

The suggested space restrictions will inevitably lead to an incumbent candidate advantage, he argued.

Bramley said spacing and orientation are something that could be discussed further. "The purpose of it [the bylaw] is to not impede existing signs," Bramley said.

The proposed bylaw also has a provision to prevent campaign signs from being installed within 100 metres of a voting place on election day.

"This provides a clear neutrality zone around polling locations," he said.

The current bylaw's muscle is by way of Provincial Offenders Act enforcement. The new rules propose enforcement under the Administrative Penalty Bylaw as a means to resolve matters faster and to reduce court backlogs.

"To be clear, this is not about increasing penalties," Bramley said. "It's about modernizing the enforcement process and aligning with what is already established in town for our regulatory enforcement and other licensing models."

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# Vesuvio's Ristorante offers Orangeville a new fine-dining Italian experience

Written By JOSHUA DRAKES  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

A new Italian dining option has arrived in Orangeville with the opening of Vesuvio Ristorante. The restaurant marked its debut with a grand opening dinner attended by local dignitaries, including Dufferin-Caledon MPP Sylvia Jones and members of town council on Feb. 11.

The restaurant, located at 25 Mill St., brings an Italian culinary tradition to the community, offering a menu centred on authentic cuisine, classic recipes and family-style dining.

Owner Maurizio D'Acunto said the restaurant continues its founding philosophy by providing a welcoming space where guests can enjoy quality cuisine and create lasting memories.

"When Vesuvio's first opened its doors in the heart of Downtown Brampton, the goal was simple: to bring people together through a shared love of food and wine," he said. "From the beginning, the aim was to create a dining experience that captured the magic of Italian cuisine – a perfect blend of tradition, culture, and passion, tasted in every sip and bite.

The business emphasizes fresh ingredients, traditional recipes and a warm atmosphere inspired by Italian hospitality.

The Feb. 11 grand opening offered local officials and community leaders a first look at the newly renovated space and its menu, officially introducing the restaurant to Orangeville's growing dining scene.

Vesuvio's is located at the site of the for-



JOSHUA DRAKES PHOTO

**GRAND OPENING:** Owner Maurizio D'Acunto was joined by Dufferin-Caledon MPP Sylvia Jones, Orangeville Mayor Lisa Post and members of council to celebrate the opening night of Vesuvio's Ristorante, a fine-dining Italian restaurant, now open in Orangeville. Promising fresh ingredients, Italian hospitality and delicious food, local leaders are excited to see Vesuvio's success.

mer Mill Creek Pub, which closed last year.

In attendance at the grand opening were local officials, business leaders, and prominent guests, all invited to support the restaurant's launch.

MPP Jones welcomed Vesuvio's to Orangeville, saying that entrepreneurs are the lifeblood of communities.

"Governments don't create jobs," she said. "Entrepreneurs create jobs. Thank you for taking this leap, for choosing this location here in Orangeville. You've taken a beautiful building that has been unloved for too many months and made it into some-

thing beautiful for all of us to enjoy."

Mayor Lisa Post also welcomed Vesuvio's to town, congratulating them on a successful opening and wishing them a successful future.

"On behalf of the Town of Orangeville, we really want to congratulate you on your grand opening," she said. "You've done an absolutely beautiful job with this place. We look forward to the vibrancy that you'll bring to our downtown core."

The Orangeville location features a menu spanning pizza, pasta, seafood, steak and desserts. Diners can choose from shareable

appetizers, such as cured-meat and cheese platters, alongside classic salads and Neapolitan-style pizzas.

Traditional pasta dishes include options such as asagna and spaghetti with meatballs, while main courses range from chicken parmigiana and veal marsala to seafood specialties. Italian wines and desserts are also available.

The restaurant will build on a successful reputation stemming from its long-standing Brampton location. Alison Scheel, executive director of the Orangeville BIA, said that Vesuvio's presence will be a boon to the downtown core, and the local BIA looks forward to their continued success.

"The Orangeville BIA is thrilled to welcome Vesuvio's Ristorante to Downtown Orangeville as they open their second location," she said. "Vesuvio's builds on the strong reputation they've established in Brampton and brings that same passion for hospitality and authentic Italian cuisine to our historic downtown."

"The restaurant is a stunning addition to Orangeville's restaurant landscape. Congratulations to the owners on creating a beautiful new gathering place for friends and family alike. We wish them every success and look forward to seeing Vesuvio's become a beloved part of Downtown Orangeville's incredible dining scene," Scheel added.

With its expansion into Orangeville, Vesuvio Ristorante aims to build on its long-standing reputation while offering residents a new destination for authentic Italian cuisine and community gathering.

# Accessibility and comfort secured: Orangeville Legion celebrates OTF grant

Accessibility and comfort secured: Orangeville Legion celebrates OTF grant

Dufferin-Caledon MPP Sylvia Jones met with the team at Royal Canadian Legion Branch 233 in Orangeville last Friday (Feb. 20) to see how a \$157,300 capital grant from Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) has benefitted the organization.

Legion representatives showed Jones complete accessibility upgrades and replace the aged and failing heating system to extend the life of the facility and make it a welcoming space. The project has made the Branch 233 facility accessible to all members of the community, allowing them to take advantage of the programs available there.

"This Ontario Trillium Foundation investment has helped ensure Royal Canadian Legion Branch 233 remains an accessible, welcoming and reliable community space for Dufferin-Caledon residents," said Jones.

"By supporting accessibility upgrades and critical building improvements, our government is helping extend the life of this facility so it can continue serving veterans, families and community groups for years to come."

The funds were used to replace the facility's entranceways and to remodel/upgrade washrooms on both levels, all to comply with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act. In addition, funds were used to remove and replace the facility's heating system to ensure year-round comfort and extend the useful life of the facility.

"We are so pleased that, thanks to this OTF grant, we've been able to complete our renovations and brought our facility into full compliance with the AODA and the much-needed replacement of our antiquated heating system," said Orangeville Legion President Elizabeth Russell. "We can't thank the Ontario Trillium Foundation enough for its ongoing support of the programs we de-

liver to the entire community."

The Royal Canadian Legion's mission is to serve veterans, including serving military and RCMP members and their families. The Legion's focus is also on promoting remembrance, supporting communities and serving the country.

Legion branches are the cornerstone of communities across Canada and provide one of the largest volunteer bases in the country. With more than 1,400 branches from coast to coast, Legion members provide local services and support to build a stronger Canada.

Whether helping local veterans, supporting seniors, providing youth sports programs, raising funds, volunteering to help those in need, or simply offering a safe environment to gather for fun and celebration.

The Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) is an agency of the Ontario government with a mission to build healthy and vibrant



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

communities across the province. Last year, OTF invested nearly \$105 million into 732 community projects and multi-sector partnerships.

OTF projects aim to enhance economic well-being, foster more active lifestyles, support child and youth development, provide spaces for people to come together and connect, and create a more sustainable environment.

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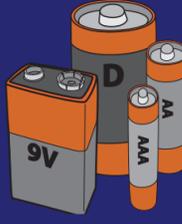




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# Saddle up for strikes at Bowl for Kids' Sake fundraiser

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Dufferin and District to host Wii Bowling fundraiser at Orangeville Best Western

Written By JOSHUA DRAKES  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Dufferin and District is getting ready to roll out its largest annual fundraiser, with a Wild West-themed Wii bowling event designed to raise money for local youth mentorship programs.

Bowl for Kids' Sake 2026 will take place on Friday, April 10, in the ballroom at the Best Western in Orangeville. Instead of traditional lanes, organizers have created a virtual bowling alley using Wii bowling. Guests are encouraged to come in costume, embracing cowboy hats, boots and creative Western-inspired outfits.

Nancy Stallmach, Executive Director of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Dufferin & District, explained that those collecting pledges and donations will be able to battle it out on the virtual lanes, all within costume if they so choose.

"The way it works is people collect pledges, they collect donations for Big Brothers Big Sisters, and then they come out on the day and they dress up for our theme... this year [it's] Wild West," she said. "They come to the ballroom at the Best Western, where we have created a virtual bowling alley with 15 lanes of Wii bowling put through a projector to create the idea of actual bowling lanes."

Music, decorations and prizes will help set the mood, with awards planned for standout costumes. Teams from workplaces, service clubs, churches and the organization's own volunteers and families are expected to participate.

The goal this year is to raise \$30,000 in support of Big Brothers Big Sisters' mentoring programs.

The fundraiser supports an organization that has been part of the community for more than five decades. Big Brothers Big

Sisters of Dufferin and District was founded in July 1972, with a mission that has remained steady even as its programs have evolved.

"At Big Brothers, Big Sisters, we match kids that are facing adversity, and that could be a variety of different things that they might be struggling with, and we match them with a caring adult mentor," Stallmach said. "This has a life-changing impact on them, both in the short term and throughout their whole lives."

The Bowl for Kids' Sake event itself has a long history, originally held at a local bowling alley before being reinvented as a Wii bowling fundraiser when the alley closed. The virtual format has proven popular, with many participants returning year after year.

Stallmach said that funding from events like this is essential to keeping programs running, especially given the limited government support they receive.

"We don't receive a lot of government funding," she said. "To allow us to match more children with Big Brothers and Big Sisters, and to provide our mentoring programs, we do really need money that we raise during Bowl for Kids' Sake. The money goes directly to those programs."

Current sponsors include Best Western, RBC and Boston Pizza, and the organization is actively seeking additional corporate partners.

"For corporate sponsors, it's a great way to be part of the community," Stallmach said. "We're anticipating having up to 200 people coming out during the day, so it's a great way to get their name out. We'll also be putting logos and sponsors' names on our website and on our social media, and it's a great way to connect with the community and with a charity that's able to make a big impact on the local community."

Looking ahead, Big Brothers Big Sisters



JIM WADDINGTON PHOTO

**BOWLING BECAUSE:** Last year's Bowl for Kids' Sake featured a St. Patrick's Day theme, bringing vast shades of green to the virtual bowling alley. With 2026 being western-themed, expect cowboy hats, spurs, and leather boots as guests compete to be the best-dressed and win a prize.

is also planning its annual golf tournament in June, with details still to come.

At the same time, the agency continues to call for both sponsors and new volunteers, noting there is a waiting list of children in Dufferin County hoping to be matched with a mentor.

"We're always looking for volunteers," Stallmach said. "We can always use more Big Brothers and Big Sisters to be matched with children. We have a waiting list of

children that could really benefit, and we'd love to hear from people if they would be interested in being part of that."

The Bowl for Kids' Sake event promises to be a fun initiative to bring people together in the name of making a difference for children across Dufferin County.

For those interested in learning more or participating, go to [dufferin.bigbrothersbig sisters.ca/event/bowl-for-kids-sake-2026/](http://dufferin.bigbrothersbig sisters.ca/event/bowl-for-kids-sake-2026/).

# Ontario SPCA marks World Spay Day with more than 200 free surgeries

Ontario SPCA marks World Spay Day with more than 200 free surgeries

The Ontario SPCA and Humane Society is marked World Spay Day on Feb. 24 by providing 227 free spay and neuter surgeries across the province, preventing more than an estimated 12,000 unplanned puppies and kittens who may have ended up in shelters.

The Ontario SPCA was able to triple its daily spay/neuter capacity by dedicating additional resources and extending clinic

hours to mark World Spay Day, across its five clinics in Ontario.

Ontario SPCA Neuter Scooters were also running in Durham, Napanee, and Orangeville, transporting animals to participating spay/neuter clinics and returning them to their families at the end of the day.

Locally in Orangeville, 15 free spay/neuter surgeries were made possible through the Ontario SPCA's Neuter Scooter.

"World Spay Day gave us the opportunity

to remove cost as a barrier and reach families who might otherwise have struggled to access spay and neuter care," said Charmaine Brett, president and CEO of the Ontario SPCA and Humane Society. "That kind of support makes a real difference for animals and communities."

World Spay Day is a global movement, with animal welfare organizations around the world joining the Ontario SPCA's efforts to reduce pet overpopulation. Organizations

in Ukraine, Nepal, India, Romania, Bahamas, Sri Lanka, Mexico and here in Canada took part, collectively performing 1,200 spay/neuter surgeries.

As a registered charity that is 100 per cent donor funded, the Ontario SPCA depends on the generosity of donors to make initiatives like World Spay Day possible. To support spay and neuter programs or help provide care for animals in need, visit [ontariospca.ca/donate](http://ontariospca.ca/donate)

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Diana

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# Arts & Entertainment

## LOCAL COMMUNITY EVENTS

### Theatre Orangeville promises comedy and intrigue in upcoming production

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

Fans of Agatha Christie and Mel Brooks should be marking their calendars for March 13, as Theatre Orangeville prepares to premiere its next production, *Murder at Ackerton Manor*.

Written by award-winning playwright Steven Gallagher, *Murder at Ackerton Manor* is a comedic homage to classic Agatha Christie-style murder mysteries. The plot is set in the depths of a Victorian-era manor, owned by the less-than-savoury Roger Ackerton, Lord of Ackerton Manor.

What begins as a dark and stormy night soon turns tragic as Roger Ackerton is found to be murdered. Promptly, a detective is called, who will have the challenging task of finding the culprit and recovering a missing diamond, all while dealing with five unique and eccentric suspects in the house.

Within all of this chaos is a cast of three talented actors, Jamie Cavanagh, Tyrone Savage and Christy Bruce, who will portray seven eccentric personalities in a fast-paced murder-mystery comedy.

*Murder at Ackerton Manor* is being billed by its cast as “Agatha Christie crossed with Mel Brooks,” a combination that perfectly captures its tone.

“It’s a very Agatha Christie, Mouse-trap-style thing, but the plot feels like a fever dream of every murder mystery you’ve seen,” Savage said. “That’s the Mel Brooks element — we take all the tropes and re-imagine them.”

But layered over that murder plot is a sharp, irreverent comedy: big characters, bold choices, rapid-fire gags, and a cast constantly flipping between wildly different roles, accents, and even genders. The actors stress that while audiences will laugh — a lot — they’ll also have a genuine mystery to follow.

“It’s a ridiculous play — really funny — but it’s also a true murder mystery,” Savage said. “You can follow along the story and try to solve it, and if you pay close enough

attention to detail, you absolutely can solve it. But you don’t need to at all to enjoy the production.”

The production process so far has been intense and fast. The company is only about five days into rehearsals, working six days a week on full-day schedules, then heading home to reread the script, learn lines, and dream up new bits.

Much of the show’s magic will unfold backstage, where split-second costume changes and character swaps are being drilled over and over.

“It’s very fast, very, very fast to the amount of stuff that we’re doing,” Bruce said. “So it’s like, you get thrown into the deep end, and you just start swimming. I find it more fun, but I’m an improviser, so I need things to distract me, to keep me on my toes.”

The script by Gallagher is described as deliberately difficult, engineered to push the performers and stage crew to their limits, but the cast describes the experience as pure play. What they promise in return: a tightly crafted, high-energy, laugh-filled night at the theatre.

“Steven Gallagher, the playwright, has also written the play to really challenge our capacity to make those switches,” Cavanagh said. “Steven has designed this play specifically to really make it hard on us. But that’s part of the fun as well.”

Despite the tight timelines for wardrobe changes and the challenging nature of the script, Savage said that writing is equally well planned as it is difficult. But everything planned can be achieved, and one of the fun elements of this production is figuring out how to pull it all off.

“Steven Gallagher’s script is so tightly written that he’s figured out all of those bits,” he said. “There’s some things when you read on the page, it seems improbable that one actor can leave, come back on as another person while having this conversation. And that’s been a joy — discovering how we make all the little magic tricks work.”

That joy is something the cast is excited to share with audiences on opening night.



JOSHUA DRAKES PHOTO

**LOTS TO LAUGH ABOUT:** From left to right: Tyrone Savage, Jamie Cavanagh, and Christy Bruce will be taking on seven distinct and eccentric characters during Theatre Orangeville’s production of *Murder at Ackerton Manor*, written by Steven Gallagher. A homage to classic murder mysteries by Agatha Christie, the tone is distinctly a comedy reminiscent of Mel Brooks. With plenty of laughs and lots of intrigue, *Murder at Ackerton Manor* has something for everyone to enjoy.

The cast praised the exceptional work of the production team, who are setting the stage for a beautiful visual of Ackerton Manor, which will help the actors transport audiences to a world where Agatha Christie and Mel Brooks are one.

“Watching this show is not going to be a struggle,” Savage said. “It’s going to be really fun and people will laugh a lot. It is a ridiculous play. It’s really funny, but it also is a true murder mystery. You can watch it and laugh, or watch it and think, everyone can enjoy it no matter what.”

“I think, post-pandemic, people got so into their screens and so isolated,” Cavanagh said. “I certainly have noticed, especially in comedies, people leave with this different kind of gratitude for what they have, for

what they got to experience with that show, because I think it’s a shared dream with others, and you can’t beat that.”

As the cast and creative team race toward opening night, *Murder at Ackerton Manor* is shaping up to be both a love letter to classic whodunits and a gleefully unhinged comedy.

With only three actors juggling seven roles, a challenging script, and a storm-soaked manor packed with secrets, Theatre Orangeville audiences can expect a night of big laughs, genuine suspense, and one-of-a-kind in-the-moment experiences.

*Murder at Ackerton Manor* runs at Theatre Orangeville from March 12 to 29. For more information and tickets, go to [theatreorangeville.ca/show/murder-at-ackerton-manor](http://theatreorangeville.ca/show/murder-at-ackerton-manor).

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**CLUES ACROSS**

1. What travelers must do
5. Calendar month
8. Hopefully quickly
12. Once more
14. Bravo! Bravo! Bravo!
15. “Cheers” actress
16. Astronomy unit
18. Savings vehicle
19. Get your ducks in this
20. Right away
21. Popular sports league
22. Containers
23. Entireties
26. One who wassails
30. Turned-up position
31. Extreme modesty
32. Writing utensil
33. Rewards (archaic)
34. Ancient capital
39. S. American wood
42. General discomfort
44. Philippine island
46. A witty saying
47. One who summarizes
49. Covered in
50. Mimic
51. Henry was a notable one
56. Daughter of Hera and Zeus
57. Retired NFLer Newton
58. Playground equipment
59. Concept
60. Satisfaction
61. Fishing net
62. Hammer end
63. A father’s male child
64. Japanese drink

**CLUES DOWN**

1. Off-Broadway figure
2. Gelatinous substance
3. Concern
4. “Lick It Up” rockers
5. Serbian river
6. Part of a hat
7. Bowl-shaped drinking vessel
8. Semitic language
9. Utter a shrill cry
10. Long times
11. Animal parts
13. Causing annoyance
17. Amorous talker
24. Attempt
25. Harmonic effects
26. Cost per mile
27. They \_\_\_
28. Bitterly regret
29. Not even
35. A way to drop
36. Title of respect
37. World leader
38. Georgia rockers
40. National capital
41. Great Plains people
42. Duck-sized dinosaur genus
43. Architectural recesses
44. Member of U.S. Navy
45. Mountainous
47. Kite bird
48. Sweetheart (archaic)
49. Popular snack made of potato
52. 70s songsters The Bee \_\_\_
53. SE China port \_\_\_men
54. Something to fill up
55. League of Legends character

No one has more self-confidence than the person who does a crossword puzzle with a pen.

**kids' corner**

How they say that in...

**English:** Clutter  
**Spanish:** Desorden  
**Italian:** Disordine  
**French:** Désordre  
**German:** Unordnung

**People FACT:**

Approximately 73 per cent of the world’s population uses this.

Answer: The internet

**NEW WORD**

**WEB** resources interconnected by the internet

**Did You Know?**

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Canadian Alexandre Bilodeau wins the first ever Olympic gold medal won by a Canadian on Canadian soil.

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Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

Answer: Laptop

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# From dinner table to art exhibitions: The story of SOVA's founding artists

Written By **CONSTANCE SCRAFIELD**

Fourteen professional artists form the group Southern Ontario Visual Artists (SOVA).

One evening in June 2014, while having dinner at the Mandarin Chinese Restaurant in Brampton, the group, first and foremost, friends for many years, decided to form and work together, and they gave it a name.

"Each of us paints from the heart," said Lynden Cowan, in an interview with the Citizen last week from the studio she shares with fellow artist Robert Chisholm in the Alton Mill Arts Centre. With her were Margaret Parady and Michelle Eissler.

All but one member lives in Southern Ontario. It is their friendship with each other, they insisted, that is the true anchor that binds them.

## Charlene Nickels

A founding member of SOVA, Charlene Nickels is living in PEI after 42 years in Orangeville. Fortunate to receive instruction from one of Canada's most prestigious water colourists, Jack Reid, Nickels found water colour to be a joy, and it has become her passion.

Cowan discussed their participation in a number of shows across a reasonably broad area. She explained that they do not attend shows as a group but in smaller numbers. SOVA has staged exhibitions featuring varying numbers of its membership, including at Headwaters Arts Gallery. They've also shown their work at the Shelburne Town Hall Art Gallery.

## Margaret Parady

Margaret Parady is an international artist and graduate of the Sheridan College Art Fundamentals Program; taken courses through the Ontario College of Art and workshops with professional artists such as Robert Bateman.

Parady begins with the best of her original photographs of nature to get to a final picture for reference or photographs. Many times, she's using multiple images for reference to create the final composition.

## Lynden Cowan

Lynden Cowan, a self-taught artist, is drawn to the Canadian landscape and is noted for her ability to make viewers feel they are part of the scene.

What works well is that they back each other up. If one cannot manage to deliver their pieces to a show, another will help out. Frequently, the shows are curated.

## Michelle Eissler

Michelle Eissler is a surrealist oil painter living in Alliston, Ont. She shares a studio at the Alton Mill. Eissler received an Art & Art History degree from the University of Toronto and is a graduate of Sheridan College's Interpretive Illustration program. She has exhibited her



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

**SHOWCASE:** SOVA is an exhibition group of Visual Artists. Our very first show as a formal group was September 2014, and we were part of the Festival at Visual Arts Mississauga. In the photo, you see from left to right, Helen Duplassie, Jeff Williams, Charlene Nickels, Robert Chisholm, and Lynden Cowan. All of us had been friends for a number of years, so it really was a natural progression to show our work to-

work at the McMichael Canadian Art Collection, Mississauga Civic Centre Art Gallery, Peel Art Gallery, Quest Gallery, and at the Toronto Outdoor Art Exhibition, among others.

## Angela Burdon

Angela Burdon's fascination with the freedom of the spirit is seen in the flowing manes of her wild horses. Moving on from being a Palliative Care Nurse, Angela combines the techniques in her painting that she learned from ateliers in Florence, Barcelona and Seattle.

## Robert Chisholm

Robert Chisholm is an award-winning artist working mainly in acrylics and oils. Born in Nova Scotia, he lives in Orangeville, but his East Coast influence emerges in his landscapes and portraits.

## Helen Duplassie

Award-winning, multi-media artist Helen Duplassie loves the soft and delicate intermingling of watercolours. She is primarily a landscape artist, yet she also enjoys painting flowers, people and still life.

## Lynne Schumacher

Born in Toronto, Lynne Schumacher studied commercial art at Central Technical School under Doris McCarthy before turning her at-

tention to landscape painting. Many hundreds of hours were spent in the Northern Ontario forests researching, sketching, photographing and painting her subjects.

## Steve Wilson

Steve Wilson is an artist, teacher, juror and owner of Steve Wilson Studios and The Gallery in Niagara Falls, Ont. He is an elected and signature member of both the Federation of Canadian Artists and the Ontario Society of Artists.

Showing across Canada, the United States, England, Tasmania, and Turkey, his work was featured in shows like the Toronto Art Expo, Red Dot Miami, Paralux, Spectrum New York, VIBE Canada in England, and TAS ART Tasmania.

## Janice Ykema

Janice Ykema grew up in a farming community in Niagara-on-the-Lake. She is a member of the Ontario Society of Artists, Colour and Form Society, and SOVA. Ykema was honoured by the Royal Winter Fair to be selected for the 2015 poster.

## Joanne Lomas

Joanne Lomas is an emerging artist. She has completed a four-year BFA degree at Georgian College and Thompson Rivers University and is beginning a new adventure making art.

## Daureen Murphy

Daureen Murphy likes to use colour, perspective and even poetry to express a story on canvas. Each of her wonderful paintings expresses a moment in time, a journey led by the brush, disclosed in the canvas.

## Joanna Turlej

In her 35-year career as an artist, Joanna Turlej explored different media until, in 2014, she came to embrace paper collage. Her very specialized and unique technique has rendered her a lot of success. Turlej is an elected member and president of the Colour and Form Society (CFS).

In 2020, Turlej's work was accepted to the Government of Ontario Art Collection.

## Connie Munson

Connie Munson is an active member of several arts organizations. Showing her work in area galleries, her pieces have been hung in the la carte Gallery of the O.L.A. at Queens Park, with honourable mentions at Joshua Creek Heritage Arts Centre and Beaux Arts Gallery. A piece winning third place hung in the Members Only show at the McMichael Gallery.

When asked how others might bring such a collaborative together, they were clear.

"Just start talking to your friends," the three SOVA members said.

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# Shelburne seeking performers for 2026 Fiddle Park Concert Series

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

The Town of Shelburne is preparing for a summer of live entertainment as planning gets underway for the 2026 Fiddle Park Concert Series.

The free, family-friendly concert series will be hosted at Fiddle Park, located at 105 Second Line.

It will feature a lineup of live music and performances designed to bring residents together while showcasing local and regional talent.

Town officials say the series reflects Shelburne's ongoing investment in community programming and public spaces, with this year's concerts marking a special milestone as one of the first major events held at the newly redeveloped park.

The enhanced venue is designed to support recreation, community gatherings and special events, providing a dedicated outdoor space for residents to connect and celebrate.

The 2026 concert dates are scheduled for July 5, July 19, Aug. 9, Aug. 23, and Sept. 13. All performances will be open to the public,

offering accessible entertainment for families and community members throughout the summer season.

As part of the planning process, the town is inviting performers of all genres and styles to apply to take part in the series. Interested artists are asked to submit their name, type of performance, and links or samples of their work to town staff for consideration. The call aims to highlight the wide range of talent in and around Shelburne while creating opportunities for local artists to perform in a public setting.

Municipal staff will also be using the call

for performers to build a roster of artists for future community events, helping ensure local talent continues to play a role in programming in the years ahead.

Residents are encouraged to share the opportunity with local performers and attend the events as the town looks to foster creativity, community connection and cultural engagement through a summer of live entertainment.

To learn more and to apply as a performer, go to [shelburne.ca/news/posts/town-of-shelburne-seeking-local-musicians-entertainers-for-2026-fiddle-park-concert-series/](https://shelburne.ca/news/posts/town-of-shelburne-seeking-local-musicians-entertainers-for-2026-fiddle-park-concert-series/).

# Applications open for Dufferin County's 2026 Community Grant Program

Written By **SAM ODROWSKI**

Each year, the County of Dufferin provides funding to local organizations through its Community Grant Program.

And this year is no different. Applications are currently being accepted for Dufferin County's 2026 Community Grant Program.

The program supports the county's strategic goals relating to climate, environment, community, cultural enhancement, access to food, youth services, senior services, economic development, and diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives.

The Community Grant Program doled out \$122,630 in 2025, across 24 organizations.

The grants are evaluated based on three funding categories.

The multi-year Groundwork Grant provides community organizations with a funding agreement to strengthen them and ensure that established programs of vital importance can continue.

"Organizations may request Groundwork funds for up to a three-year term. This is accomplished by allowing applicable overhead and administrative and/or capital expenses as needed to sustain an organization as eligible expenses," reads a press release from the County of Dufferin.

"Applications for Groundwork funds must clearly demonstrate need and how the organization benefits residents of Dufferin and show how multi-year funding will address a funding challenge for the organization."

The Bloom Grant focuses on programs or

events that receive one-time funding for initiatives aligned with the Community Grant Program goals.

The Grassroots Grant is for unincorporated grassroots groups or newly incorporated not-for-profit organizations that require support for a new initiative. This stream provides up to \$3,000 in one-time funding.

The county's core values guide the Community Grant Program. They include collaboration, accountability, innovation, compassion and courage.

Dufferin County partners with Headwaters Communities in Action (HCIA) to administer the Community Grant Program. A grant team established by HCIA reviews applications and evaluates them against established criteria to ensure they align with the strategic

priorities.

Applications must be submitted by March 23 and can be completed online by visiting [tinyurl.com/DufferinGrants](https://tinyurl.com/DufferinGrants).

Grant recommendations will be made at a Dufferin County council meeting in May, following a review by the HCIA Assessment Committee.

Anyone with questions about the program can email [action@headwaterscommunities.org](mailto:action@headwaterscommunities.org) to learn more.

Questions concerning the application form, notifications or payments can be emailed to [info@dufferincounty.ca](mailto:info@dufferincounty.ca) or call 519-941-2816 ext. 2500.

Additional information, grant writing and eligibility requirements can be found at [dufferincounty.ca](https://dufferincounty.ca).

# United Way Guelph Wellington Dufferin raises \$2.4 million during 2026 campaign

United Way Guelph Wellington Dufferin celebrated the wrap-up of the 85th annual United Way Campaign on Feb. 24, joined by the workplaces, donors, volunteers and community partners that made it all possible.

"Today, we are celebrating your local love and we are honoured to share the many ways organizations and individuals came together, acting with kindness, hope and generosity, to create a community where everyone thrives,"

said Glenna Banda, executive director of United Way Guelph Wellington Dufferin. "Whether it was your time, your donations, your voices or your talents, you have made an impact on our community that we couldn't possibly have had without you."

"Despite another difficult and uncertain year, \$2.4 million was raised in 2025. These funds will support a diverse list of community programs and services that help over

145,000 people in our local community meet their basic needs, access resources and build a brighter future," said John Kelly, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness.

The campaign wrap-up event on Feb. 24 recognized a number of workplaces and volunteers for their contributions, including:

- Cornerstone Awards - Linamar Corporation, University of Guelph, the County of Wellington and The Co-operators
- Bright Star Award - OMAFA
- Local Love Award - R U Serious
- Leading the Way Award - Magic 106.1 & Hammond Power Solutions

"Every year we are amazed by the creativity, leadership and dedication of our workplace supporters," said Kelly, who also serves as the 2025 United Way Campaign chair. "It was incredible to see the excitement and energy throughout the community - whether that was a chilli cook-off, a burger battle or a football game - it's great to see the community come together in support of better."

The total announced today is short of where United Way had hoped to be this year, to ensure the current level of support to the community could be maintained or even increased to meet the growing demand for help.

"We are so grateful to all those who were able to give to the campaign this year, and we also understand why some weren't able to," said Banda. "But the reality is that our non-profit sector is struggling to meet the demand for programs and we received many applications for funding this past fall that we, very unfortunately, will not be able to support."

Community donations fuel United Way's work - every single dollar that is invested in the community must also be fundraised in the community and that's why every donation is so important.

"After 85 years, United Way is ready for better. We are still here, working in partnership with those on the front lines of issues like poverty, homelessness, food insecurity and mental health, to ensure that the network of supports that our community has come to rely on continues to be there moving forward," said Banda.

"Thank you to everyone for another year of your support. Together we can continue to make better possible - one act of local love at a time."

Donations are welcome year-round from all community members and are accepted online at [unitedwaygwd.com](https://unitedwaygwd.com) or by calling the United Way office 519-821-0571.



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# Students from local elementary school raise funds for Choices Shelter

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

Maples Academy presented a ceremonial cheque to Choices Shelter during a morning assembly on Feb. 23.

The elementary school has made a significant contribution to the local community by donating \$1,300 to Choices, which operates a men's shelter and youth shelters for residents of Dufferin County. The donation is the result of a student-led fundraiser that brought together teachers, families, and community members in a concentrated two-day effort.

Angelika Smit, the teacher responsible for starting the fundraiser, said she was looking for a charity project unique among the other initiatives the school has supported in the past when she discovered Choices, which sparked a personal connection.

"Every teacher at the school every school year is asked to do a community project," she said. "We've done the food bank, we've done animals, and the principal asked me what I wanted to do, and it got me thinking. Unfortunately, I know somebody, a man, who could have used a shelter, and we started talking about that, and then I thought of that and considered, maybe there is a men's shelter nearby."

"I live in Collingwood, so I don't know what's going on here, but then at the office, they knew there was a men's shelter, and that's how I found Choices," Smit added.

After learning of Choices through the school office, the organizing teacher decided the class would rally behind the shelter.

Kimberly Zettle, representing Choices,



JOSHUA DRAKES PHOTO

**GIVING BACK:** Blowing right past the \$500 goal set at the start of the fundraiser, students from Maples Academy, pictured here with their teacher, Angelika Smits, hand off the \$1,300 cheque to Choices Shelter, represented by Kimberly Zettle. Choices, like many shelters, relies on the generosity of the community they serve to continue operations.

said that the class invited representatives from the shelter to visit the school and explain their work, the reality of homelessness, and the programs they offer.

"We set up a time, and we came and we had a little presentation that we had geared towards grade three and four," she said. "I think it was about an hour, and we took some time to explain what we do in the different programs that we run, and what homelessness can look like, and what people sometimes think it might look like, and

what it actually looks like."

Students took notes and then visited other classrooms to share what they had learned, helping raise awareness across the school. Zettle said Choices was surprised but deeply moved by The Maples Academy and its students' commitment.

"I think it's great, because we don't usually have younger people reaching out to us, it's usually people that we already work with or older grades, typically in college or university," Zettle said. "So I think it's great

that these kids are taking an interest now and learning about it, because it is something that we have to deal with. There's not that much support out there for males, so I think it's great to have this support."

The fundraiser centred on a bake-and-craft sale. Students and families contributed homemade cookies, muffins, cupcakes, chocolates, and other treats, as well as handmade crafts such as key chains and creative art projects.

The library was transformed into a marketplace, with scheduled visits from each class and additional hours before and after school so parents could participate.

Parent volunteers supported the event while teachers continued regular classroom instruction.

Although the original goal was \$500, the school community exceeded expectations, raising \$1,300 in just two days. The funds will help Choices cover gaps not fully supported by existing funding, supporting men who are experiencing homelessness, job loss, or personal crisis.

For the students, the project offered a lesson in empathy and the impact a small group can have when it works together toward a common cause. Most admitted that initially, they were unaware of the significance of the homeless epidemic in society, especially the lack of support available for men.

Despite that initial lack of knowledge, the students of The Maples Academy applied themselves quickly, taking in valuable information and getting to work fast, demonstrating confidence, initiative and leadership while raising money for a generous cause.

# Orangeville Lions Club donate \$7,500 to Caledon Community Services' food bank

Written By **RILEY MURPHY**  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

On February 25, thanks to their TV Bingo, the Orangeville Lions were able to donate \$7,500 to Caledon Community Services' food bank, the Exchange, on Feb. 25.

The Orangeville Lions organize a weekly Bingo TV on Rogers Communications every Wednesday, with all proceeds going back to the communities of Dufferin and Caledon.

They sell their TV Bingo tickets all over Dufferin and Caledon, and Lions member Don Sinclair says they like to give back to the communities where they sell their cards, and give back to the community that supports them.

"We try and take the money that's raised in those areas and disperse it as much as we can

to those areas that it comes in from, as well as our own areas and causes," says Lions member Bill Dainty

He explains that someone in their club had gotten in touch with the Caledon Lions club and they recommended the Exchange as a "worthy cause" to direct their donation.

Standing in the Exchange's food pantry, Sinclair said it's "marvellous" seeing what their donation will help achieve.

"To know that the money will be used, and there's a need, it's terrific," said Sinclair.

Maria Kupriianova, Chief Development Officer with CCS, says that this donation helps put more food on families' tables.

"Shared meals that more families can sit down to without worry about what's next. It's full lunchboxes, it's relief and it's dignity as

well," says Kupriianova. "This donation will go directly into the community, touch more than 1,300 lives, including the 500 children [we support]. That's goodness that's spreading across Caledon. We're very grateful to the Orangeville Lions for this wonderful gift, and to Caledon Lions overall for their generous support over many years."

Cathy Perennec McLean, CCS's Programs and Operations Director, said it's remarkable to see this in the community.

"You're going to see directly the impact that it's going to have, and we're going to see that. The next clients that come in that we're able to provide them with the food that they need," she says.

The Orangeville Lions TV Bingo will continue to run to May 27, 2026, on Rogers TV, and



RILEY MURPHY PHOTO

**FUNDING BOOST:** CCS members, Caledon Lion members, and Orangeville Lion members all gather in CCS' the Exchange food pantry for the cheque presentation on Feb. 25.

bingo cards are available for purchase in various locations across Caledon and Dufferin.

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## Westside boys basketball team ends season in semi-finals

Written By BRIAN LOCKHART

The Westside Secondary School Thunder boys basketball teams are done for the season after competing in the District 4 playoffs.

Both the junior and senior teams had a good season and were very competitive this year.

### Junior

The Westside Thunder junior boys' basketball team finished the regular season in third place in the District 4 standings with a 3-5 record.

The Royals averaged just over 38 points per game over eight games.

With five high school teams entered in competition this year, the top four moved on to the playoffs with no quarter-final round.

Centre Dufferin District High School in Shelburne finished in first place, followed by Erin District High School. Wellington Heights Secondary School finished fourth.

In the semi-final round, the Thunder were up against Erin District High School on Erin's home court.

The Thunder played a good game but had to settle for a 55-35 loss in the semi-final, ending their season.

In the other District 4 semi-final, Centre Dufferin District High School won 60-31 over Wellington Heights Secondary School.

This year's championship final game will pit Centre Dufferin against Erin.

The championship game was scheduled for Wednesday, Feb. 25, with results not available at press time.

The championship-winning team will move on to compete at the regional CWOSSA level.

### Senior

The Westside Thunder senior boys' basketball team had a solid season, finishing in third place in the District 4 standings with



BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

**SEASON FINAL:** The Westside Secondary School Thunder senior boys basketball team takes on the Centre Dufferin District High School Royals in the gym at Centre Dufferin during the District 4 senior semi-finals on Friday, Feb. 20. The Royals had to settle for a 72-49 loss to end their season.

a 5-3 record.

The Thunder averaged just over 45 points per game this season.

Erin District High School finished the regular season in first place with a 6-2 record, followed by Centre Dufferin District High School.

The top four teams in the District ad-

vanced to the playoffs, with semi-final games on Friday, Feb. 20.

Westside was up against the second-place Centre Dufferin District High School Thunder and travelled to Shelburne for the game.

The Thunder played a good, competitive game but settled for a 72-49 loss to end their season.

In the other senior semi-final game, Erin defeated Norwell District Secondary School 50-38.

The District 4 championship will pit Erin against Centre Dufferin to determine this year's champion.

The District champions will move on to compete at the regional CWOSSA level.

## Orangeville Otters break club records at Ontario Junior International swim meet

Written By BRIAN LOCKHART

The Orangeville Otters Swim Club, led by head coach Sam Kuntz, delivered a standout performance at the 2025 Ontario Junior International (OJI) held at the Toronto Pan Am Sports Centre from Dec. 11 to 14 last year.

The elite short-course meet brought together top 18-and-under swimmers from across Canada and internationally, spanning both Olympic and para-swimming events.

Wesley Halls, 16, led the Otters with an impressive OJI debut, breaking four club records in the 200m and 400m Freestyle, and the 50m

and 100m Backstroke. Wesley reached multiple finals, placing as high as 12th in the 100m Backstroke, and qualified for the Canadian Open in both backstroke events.

Katie Malec, 17, competing at OJI for the second time, advanced to the finals of the 50m Freestyle, finishing 16th overall with a season-best performance. Katie also posted personal bests in the 100m Freestyle and 100m Backstroke, and qualified for the Canadian Open in the 50m Freestyle as she prepares for her upcoming commitment to McGill University.

Also returning for her second OJI, Nethaya Mahadana-Arachchi, 17, delivered a consistent meet, reaching finals in four events and placing as high as 13th in the 100m Breaststroke, 14th in the 50m Backstroke, 18th in the 100m

Backstroke, and 20th in the 50m Butterfly.

In para-swimming, 15-year-old Alyssa Smyth delivered a historic performance, setting short-course World, Americas, and National records in the 200m Butterfly with additional Americas records in the 100m Butterfly and 100m Backstroke.

Alyssa earned two silver medals and became the youngest Canadian to break a world para record.

Austin Nelissen, 14, had a standout meet at his third OJI, winning gold in the 50m Backstroke and 200m Individual Medley, adding two silver medals, contributing to a gold medal para relay and breaking an Ontario para record that had stood since 1997.

He recorded a personal best in all six of his events.

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**SWIMMING SUCCESS:** The Orangeville Otters achieved strong results at the Ontario Junior International at the Toronto Pan Am Sports Centre from Dec. 11 to 14. Wesley Halls, Katie Malec, Nethaya Mahadana-Arachchi, Alyssa Smyth, and Austin Nelissen, seen here with Otters' head coach Sam Kuntz, broke several records and achieved personal bests at the competition.

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# OPINION

## I remember when...

A hug is a rather personal thing. Generally speaking, you only embrace someone you know rather well or are very familiar with. Although sometimes there is a hug-by-proxy type of thing where you are introduced to someone who is close to someone you know, where they give you a hug because it's a way of saying they welcome you into their life, or you are distantly related. Several years ago, I noticed a trend in younger people – generally middle school or high school age – where hugging became the norm every time they saw someone they knew. Because of my job, I spend considerable time in places like local arenas where younger people congregate. I would see a group of five or six kids run into another group of five or six kids in the arena lobby, and they would all hug each other. Every kid hugged every other kid they just ran into. I thought that was a little much considering they all probably saw each other that afternoon in school, but they were always smiling and happy, so no harm done. Then COVID happened. Kids were learning from home, and there was a general 'no contact' rule pretty much everywhere. Kids were taught to never touch anyone and remain six feet away from other people.

Now, those younger kids have moved into middle school and high school. They still seem happy to see other people they know when they meet in the arena lobby, but the hugging culture seems to have disappeared. Kids were taught that touching someone else means you could get their germs, and they seem to have taken that seriously – no more hugging. I would imagine the whole 'cooties' thing has a lot more meaning in school yards these days. I bought my last vehicle during the height of COVID. It was a bit of a challenge because vehicles were getting scarce, and you had to make an appointment just to enter the dealership to look at a car. I bought a vehicle and made an appointment to go in and pick it up. A good friend of mine worked at the dealership, and when she saw me, she came out to say hello and gave me a hug because it had been a while since we had seen each other. The salesperson looked absolutely shocked that her co-worker had actually touched a customer. I didn't mind at all. However, later, I hoped this wouldn't turn into some kind of situation where the salesperson would run to the general manager and

announce that my friend had touched a customer and possibly set off a germ chain reaction that would result in the dealership being fined and shut down. The COVID era changed so many things, and I think we are yet to realize the final impact. I know of quite a few sports groups, clubs, and organizations that were either banned from meeting during the pandemic or members simply stopped attending out of fear of being in any kind of social setting. Many of those groups simply faded away and have never recovered. I also know of several service businesses that were forced to close and never reopened. Just a few days before the pandemic was announced and some businesses were ordered to close or greatly restrict their service, I interviewed a young woman who had just realized her lifelong dream of opening her own cafe. A few days later, she was forced to close her doors and was only allowed to serve pick-up orders. It wasn't enough, and she had to close shop. Her dream disappeared because of the pandemic. The pandemic has also drastically altered the way we say goodbye to loved ones who have passed away.

**BRIAN LOCKHART**  
FROM THE SECOND ROW



Funerals during COVID were very restrictive. My own mother died at the start of the pandemic, and initially, we were told we could have only five people attend any kind of funeral, including the officiant. That number was increased to 10 prior to the service. Her funeral ended up being a family meeting at the funeral home prior to a drive to the cemetery and a short service where the funeral director insisted we all stand six feet apart. The good part of that service was that many people actually did arrive, and parked their cars in a ring around the cemetery and watched from afar so as not to break distancing rules. Since COVID, many people have been eliminating funerals altogether. After announcing the death, the obituary states, 'a celebration of life will happen at a later date.' However, with rare exceptions, those celebrations never take place. It is sad to think we are losing a tradition of a fond final farewell. The COVID pandemic took many things away. Some things may return, but others are gone forever.

## Ukraine: Four years and counting

"Breathe deeply, calm down, and don't go running to stock up on food and matches," President Volodymyr Zelensky told Ukrainians one month before the Russian tanks rolled across the border on 24 February, 2022. The American and British intelligence services knew the Russians were going to invade and told him so, but neither he nor his generals believed it. Most of the European NATO members didn't believe it either. That was partly because they still remembered the lies that the CIA and MI6 told them twenty years before to trick them into invading Iraq, but mainly because they couldn't believe the Russians were that stupid. Looking back much later, one European intelligence official explained that "We didn't believe it would happen, because we thought the idea that (the Russians) would be able to walk into Kyiv and just install a puppet government was completely insane." After a pause, he added defensively: "As it turned out, it was indeed completely insane." That was my mistake too. Right down to a few days before the invasion I went on insisting that the intelligence must be wrong because Russian President Vladimir Putin could not be that stupid. But he was. He had been surrounded and insulated by peo-

ple desperate not to displease him for so long that he had no personal contact with external reality. On the very day when his long-planned invasion of Ukraine got underway, Putin spent the entire morning with visiting Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan (now jailed), discussing the details of the bilateral relationship. He even invited Khan to stay on for a lavish lunch. When Khan cautiously mentioned the dead walrus on the table, the Russian invasion of Ukraine just a few hours before, Putin waved it aside. "Don't worry about that," Putin told him. "It'll be over in a few weeks." (Shaun Walker, Guardian, 20 February) Putin was catastrophically, preposterously wrong. Four years and between 200,000 and 400,000 dead Russian soldiers later (estimates vary), the Russian army holds about 20% of Ukraine's territory. At one point in late March of 2022 Russia controlled 27 per cent of Ukraine's land, but two major Ukrainian counteroffensives drove it down to 19% by April of that year. All the further fighting since then, despite the massive casualties, has increased Russian's holdings by only about one percent more, to 20 per cent. The stalemate was inevitable, because

the dominant new technology, drones, makes it very dangerous for soldiers to move on the surface at all – and by now the kill zone is up to 30 kilometres deep. Like the machine guns and long-range artillery of the First World War, the drones force everybody to take shelter below ground level. Both sides are affected by this phenomenon, of course, but the Russians, who are attacking, have to get out of their trenches and dugouts much more often than the Ukrainians. The Russian army, hampered by corruption and incompetence in the early days of the war, is now a lot more professional, but it still cannot get breakthroughs. The omnipresent drones, rather than any superior skill or courage on the part of Ukrainian soldiers, produces a kill ratio more than two-to-one in favour of the Ukrainians. That largely cancels out the two- or three-to-one numerical superiority enjoyed by the Russians and creates a war of almost pure attrition in which the Ukrainians have an equal chance of winning. That's not what Donald Trump says, of course, but then he's trying to browbeat Zelensky into accepting a ceasefire or a peace deal no matter how badly it affects Ukraine's future. What Trump cares about is getting his cherished Nobel Peace Prize

and closing his own trade deal with Putin (probably already drafted) which would doubtless make both men a lot richer. All Trump's trash talk about Ukrainians having 'no cards' and being 'losers' is just part of the bullying process. Zelensky knows that, but he has to be careful not sound too confident or Ukraine's foreign supporters might slack off in their support. It's a fine line to walk, but he does it well. Wars of attrition generally end when one side cannot continue because its soldiers mutiny in the field, or because its citizens at home refuse to support it any longer. Neither Ukraine nor Russia is at that point yet, and it is not even clear that they will reach that point in the next year. Some significant developments are moving in Ukraine's favour at the moment: Elon Musk's Starlink communications system is now unavailable to Russian troops and Ukraine's new Flamingo cruise missiles are going into mass production. However, Trump's threat of war on Iran is driving oil prices back up, which helps the faltering Russian economy. Suffice it to say that both sides can fight on for another year and probably will.

**GWYNNE DYER**  
OUR WORLD TODAY



## Canada's economy is outgrowing its big cities

The road to national renewal now runs through the countryside. What began as crisis has become opportunity. A Rural Renaissance is reshaping where Canadians live, how they work and how Canada rebuilds the industrial and human foundations of national resilience. Canada did not choose this moment of transformation, but it cannot afford to ignore what it has revealed. The pandemic, the housing collapse and AI disruption exposed just how fragile Canada's urban-centric, import-dependent, service-based economies have become. They forced a reckoning with where and how this country can remain productive, secure and sovereign. The Wuhan outbreak was more than a public health emergency. It was a geopolitical awakening. When the virus escaped Wuhan under a shroud of censorship, and when the Chinese government suppressed early intelligence on SARS-CoV-2 while hoarding global PPE supplies, North Americans discovered how deeply decades of offshoring had hollowed out its industrial base. Supply chains buckled. Pharmaceuticals, semiconductors and basic manufacturing inputs became chokepoints. The illusion

that globalization guaranteed stability evaporated almost overnight. For Canada, the lesson was stark. A nation that cannot produce essential goods is a nation that cannot protect its people. Economic sovereignty is national security. The pandemic also triggered something few policymakers expected. It set off one of the largest internal migration shifts in modern Canadian history. Between 2019 and 2023, Canada's major metropolitan areas (Toronto, Vancouver, Montréal, Calgary and Edmonton) lost nearly 274,000 residents to smaller cities, towns and rural regions, according to Statistics Canada migration estimates. This was not a trickle. It was a 350-fold increase over the negligible outflows of the previous decade. Lockdowns pushed millions into remote work. Housing affordability, already strained, collapsed into crisis. In Toronto and Vancouver, detached homes soared to more than seven times median household income. Young Canadians, priced out and exhausted, looked elsewhere. And "elsewhere" meant rural Canada. But this migration is not simply about life-

style. It reflects a deeper structural rebalancing of the nation, one accelerated by the rise of generative AI. For 40 years, Canada steered its youth toward white-collar careers, promising stability in offices, tech firms and professional services. Meanwhile, blue-collar trades, once the backbone of national productivity, were treated as relics of a bygone era. AI has flipped that script. The jobs that replaced trades are now among the most vulnerable to automation. Coding, legal drafting and financial analysis are tasks AI already performs at scale, faster, cheaper and with increasing sophistication. By contrast, the trades are becoming the new frontier of economic resilience. Welding, pipefitting, heavy equipment operation, power engineering, construction and electrical work all demand dexterity, spatial judgment and real-world problem solving that AI cannot replicate. These are also the skills Canada needs to rebuild domestic manufacturing, expand energy production and construct housing. The future of Canadian sovereignty will not be written in boardrooms. It will be built by tradespeople.

**JOSEPH FOURNIER**  
TROY MEDIA



That is why the Rural Renaissance matters. Rural and mid-sized communities offer what major cities increasingly cannot. They provide affordable land, attainable housing, cleaner air and the space required for energy-intensive industries. They are where new factories, refineries and critical mineral processing facilities can be built without the cost and constraints of major cities. They are also places where skilled trades can afford to raise families. The benefits extend beyond economics. Lower-density living is increasingly recognized as a mental health asset. Research shows that chronic exposure to noise, congestion and crowding is linked to elevated cortisol levels and eroded cognitive function. Rural environments, by contrast, reduce stress, improve mood and strengthen attention. Perhaps the most overlooked dividend is social capital. Rural communities cultivate interdependence.

Continued on Page B5

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# COMMUNITY VOICES

## Monthly Message: A comprehensive guide to the services and support FTP offers

Family Transition Place (FTP) is a vital community resource based in Orangeville, Ontario, serving women, children, and individuals impacted by gender-based violence, abuse, trauma, housing insecurity, and related challenges across Dufferin County and Caledon.

FTP's mission is grounded in providing safety, support, and hope to survivors so they can build violence-free lives, backed by compassionate, inclusive, and trauma-informed programming.

Since its founding in 1984, FTP has evolved into a multi-service organization, offering a range of practical supports, crisis services, counselling, outreach initiatives, education, and transitional housing supports. All the services provided at FTP are completely free of charge, thanks to generous Ministry and community funders and donors.

### 1. Emergency Shelter & Crisis Support

One of FTP's foundational programs is its emergency shelter for women and their children who are fleeing abuse or unsafe living environments. This shelter:

- Operates on a 24/7 basis with a support and information helpline available at all hours.
- Provides safe accommodation, food, and essential personal care items.
- Offers danger and lethality assessments, safety planning, and real-time advocacy during crises.
- Ensures accessibility through inclusive facilities for individuals of diverse abilities, with accessible units, a lift, and accommodations for pets.

This shelter is not just a safe physical space – it's staffed by trained professionals who help clients stabilize in a crisis and begin their journey to independence and security.

### 2. Transitional, Legal & Housing Support Services

FTP offers Transitional Support Services tailored to help individuals and families establish violence-free lives in their communities. This program includes:

- Housing support through navigating the housing system, referrals, application assistance, housing searches, and support to maintain current housing.
- Safety and transitional planning to reduce risk and foster independence.
- Connection to other community services,



including legal, parenting, education, job training, income assistance, and health and wellness supports.

- Skill-building and goal-setting support to help women envision and pursue short- and long-term life goals.

- A dedicated Family Court Support Worker who assists clients navigating the family court system, legal referrals, and court accompaniment when appropriate.

These services are flexible and responsive, designed to meet individuals where they are at, whether they're transitioning out of shelter or living independently in the community.

### 3. Counselling Services

FTP's counselling offerings are extensive and include individual, group, and specialized support for people who have experienced violence, trauma, or abuse.

Counselling Programs

- Woman Abuse Counselling: Confidential, supportive therapy to help women cope with and recover from violence. Counselling available in Orangeville, Shelburne and Bolton offices.

- Sexual Violence Counselling: Available to survivors of any gender age 16+, addressing both recent and historical sexual trauma. We also offer support for friends and family who are supporting survivors.

- Addictions Program: A non-judgmental program focused on helping women affected by substance use, including those parenting while managing addiction, with flexible, compassionate support offered throughout the region.

- Child Witness Program: Counselling and workshops for children who have been impacted by witnessing domestic violence, helping them process trauma and build resilience.

- Group Counselling Workshops: Skill-based and trauma-informed group sessions that offer community and healing.

- Support for Men: Available via FTP's 24/7 support and information helpline, connecting men who have been involved with or impact-

ed by family violence to appropriate resources and counselling referrals. Together with Dufferin Child & Family Services, we also offer the Caring Dads Program – designed to support fathers who have used violence in their relationships improve their relationship with their children and the children's mother.

Counselling can take place in person, by telephone, or virtually, and childcare support may be available for clients attending appointments.

### 4. Outreach Programs

FTP's outreach initiatives extend support beyond the shelter to individuals living in the broader community. Key outreach services include:

- Mobile and In-Office Support: Practical assistance with safety planning, housing navigation, legal referrals, goal setting, budgeting, and employment preparation.

- Rural Response Program: Targeted support for women in rural areas of north Dufferin County, reducing barriers to access and providing crisis intervention and counselling.

- Support Within Housing: For women experiencing trauma and struggling with mental health and housing issues, FTP offers ongoing support to maintain secure housing.

- Integrated Crisis Support: FTP's Mobile Crisis Counsellor collaborates with local partners – including healthcare, police, and mental health agencies – to respond to domestic violence and mental health crises throughout the community.

- FTP also works in collaboration with partners at the Hart Hub Dufferin to provide coordinated, wraparound services for individuals experiencing homelessness, mental health challenges and substance use concerns.

These outreach services ensure that individuals and families who may not access shelter directly can still receive meaningful support, safety planning, and referrals in the community.

### 5. Education & Community Engagement

FTP places a strong emphasis on prevention, healthy relationships, and community education:

- Youth Education Programs work in schools to teach young people about healthy relationships, respect, and equity, helping build safer communities from the ground up.

- FTP also participates in community workshops, events, and collaborations that

raise awareness about gender-based violence, anti-human trafficking, provide resources, and challenge stigma.

These initiatives extend FTP's impact beyond client services into community-wide healing and education. A future free of violence begins with educating the next generation.

### 6. Accessibility & Inclusivity

FTP strives to make all programs accessible and welcoming to everyone:

- Spaces that accommodate service animals, accessible parking, accessible shelter units, and a lift.

- Counselling available by phone, video, and in person, with access to an interpreter and translation services.

- Emergency transportation is available for counselling appointments and to access shelter.

- FTP staff receive ongoing training in accessibility, anti-oppression, equity, and trauma-informed care to ensure respectful and inclusive service delivery.

Family Transition Place is far more than a shelter. It's a comprehensive support network that helps people experiencing abuse find safety, develop resilience, navigate complex systems like housing and legal services, and heal from trauma. Through emergency shelter, counselling, outreach, transitional support, education, and community engagement, FTP meets people at every stage of their journey – from crisis response to long-term empowerment.

Whether someone needs immediate safety, emotional support or counselling, or long-term resources to rebuild a life free from violence, FTP's services are designed to ensure survivors are heard, supported, and connected to opportunities for healing and independence.

Sometimes it's difficult to call for help. Know that you'll be listened to with respect and without judgment. A counsellor is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week if you:

- are in a crisis
- are experiencing abuse and need to talk to someone or need to leave (Emergency transportation is available).
- are a concerned friend/family/co-worker looking for information to help someone who is being abused.
- have experienced abuse, past or present.

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REMEMBER TO SHOP LOCAL!

# Troy Media: Canada's economy is outgrowing its big cities

Continued from Page B2

Families rediscover traditional skills, including gardening, animal husbandry, carpentry and mechanics, that reconnect them to land and community. Newcomers integrate more deeply, not as anonymous transplants, but as contributors to shared local life.

Canada's future prosperity still depends on productivity. And productivity depends

on skilled, mobile, grounded people who can build, repair and operate the physical systems that keep a country functioning.

AI may transform the digital economy, but it cannot pour concrete, weld pipe or maintain a power grid. It cannot mine nickel, harvest wheat or construct a home.

Only highly skilled people can do that. Increasingly, those people are choosing to live outside the major cities.

The Rural Renaissance is not a retreat from modernity. It is a response to reality.

It positions Canada to reindustrialize, diversify supply chains and strengthen food and energy security. It aligns with the pressures of geopolitics, the realities of AI and the aspirations of families seeking stability and purpose.

The pandemic exposed vulnerabilities. The affordability crisis forced a reckoning. AI is rewriting the labour market.

Together, these forces have opened a path toward renewal, one rooted in soil, space and sovereignty.

Canada now faces a choice. It can cling to an urban-centric model that no longer serves it, or it can embrace the dispersed, resilient and productive future already taking shape across its rural heartlands.

The opportunity is immense. And the road to national renewal runs through the countryside.

## 'Lock it or Lose it': Dufferin OPP reminds community members to protect valuables

The Dufferin Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) is continuing to promote the "Lock It or Lose It" crime prevention initiative throughout the county.

"Officers are receiving ongoing reports of thefts from vehicles, homes, and outbuildings. In many cases, doors were left unlocked and valuables were visible or easily accessible. These types of incidents are typically crimes of opportunity and can often be prevented through simple, consistent preventative measures," reads a press release from Dufferin OPP.

"Residents are reminded that living in a rural area does not eliminate the risk of

crime. Criminals travel, and unsecured property can quickly become a target."

Key reminders under the "Lock It or Lose It" initiative include:

- **Lock your doors:** Secure vehicles, homes, sheds, barns, and garages at all times, even when stepping away briefly.

- **Secure outbuildings:** Ensure workshops, trailers, and storage areas are properly locked. Heavy-duty padlocks and reinforced doors can provide added protection.

- **Keep valuables out of sight:** Remove or conceal wallets, purses, electronics, tools, and other valuables. Store equipment and recreational vehicles away from public

view whenever possible.

- **Do not leave keys inside:** Never leave keys, key fobs, or garage door openers in vehicles or in easily accessible locations.

- **Improve lighting:** Install motion-activated lighting around driveways, entrances, and outbuildings to deter suspicious activity.

- **Consider surveillance:** Video cameras and alarm systems can help monitor your property and assist police if an incident occurs.

"Community vigilance also plays a critical role in crime prevention. Residents are encouraged to report suspicious behaviour.

If you notice unfamiliar people or vehicles parked along roadways or in areas where they are not typically seen, contact police," said Dufferin OPP. "Your call could help prevent a crime."

A visible police presence will continue as officers conduct proactive patrols aimed at deterring criminal activity and enhancing public safety. Taking a few extra moments to secure your property can significantly reduce the likelihood of becoming a victim.

The OPP encourage all residents to remain alert, practice preventative safety measures, and work together to keep their communities safe.

## Police charge man with impaired driving and speeding 61-kilometres over the limit

Dufferin Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) officers have charged a Singhampton resident with impaired operation-related

charges following a traffic stop.

On Feb. 21, at approximately 12:43 p.m., Dufferin OPP were conducting traffic en-

forcement in the area of County Road 124 in Melancthon.

At that time, officers observed a vehicle

travelling at 61-kilometres over the speed limit and conducted a traffic stop. Upon speaking with the driver, the officer initiated an impaired driving investigation.

Andrew Lecas, 35, from Singhampton, has been charged with:

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

- Drive Motor Vehicle - Perform stunt - Excessive speed

- Drive vehicle or boat with cannabis readily available

- Driving motor vehicle with unsealed container of liquor

- Speeding 50+ km/h over posted limit

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

His driver's licence was suspended, and his vehicle was impounded.

None of the listed charges have been proven in court.

If you suspect that someone is driving while impaired by alcohol or drugs, it is important to call 9-1-1 to report it.

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# What's all the Buzz about drones? Flight Centre in Caledon talks RPAS

Written By RILEY MURPHY  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

With the Olympics said and done, the talk of the “whirring” is seemingly not.

Taking centre-stage at this year's Olympics seems to be discussions surrounding the drones, often both in sight and in earshot of the athletes and surrounding cameras.

Although many have taken to the internet to complain about the noise, Richard Hubley, Chief Ground School Instructor, Remotely Piloted Aircraft System (RPAS), and Manager of RPAS Operations at Brampton Flight Centre in Caledon, points out the benefits of drones and their advancements over recent years.

Back in 2016, Hubley, who has a PhD in Astrophysics and is retired from the United States Air Force, began the RPAS program at The Brampton Flight Centre, and has since taught hundreds of RPAS courses.

In 2016, he explained there were little to no regulations.

But now, in Transport Canada's eyes, flying a drone is equal to operating an aircraft, bringing numerous regulations, training, and enforcement.

There are different levels of RPAS courses that drone pilots can take, including Basic Operations, Advanced Operations, Level 1 Complex Operations, Beyond Visual Line-of-Sight (BVLOS), and more.

In November of 2025, Transport Canada introduced more flexible and innovative ways for drone operators to conduct their work.

These changes aim to enhance safety and streamline operations.

The use of RPAS in these circumstances also opens new career opportunities, including in film, television, real estate, and agriculture.

Hubley explains that new regulations help RPAS be used to streamline operations, for example, during pipeline inspections.

Before the new regulations, companies had to place a Visual Observer (VO) every few feet; now, some distances no longer require VOs.

Some airports are now also using RPAS to survey and scan their planes for safety, which the Brampton Flight Centre has helped train for.

Drones are everywhere now, says Hubley, adding you most likely won't watch a movie without a shot taken by a drone.

With the industry changing, you may begin to see them more and more. As Hubley notes, in certain countries, they are now being used for package and food deliveries.

More drone capabilities also focus on safety, as paramedics and EMS use RPAS systems to deliver resuscitation devices and other essential equipment when they can't reach a site in time due to traffic or other issues.

Drones are now also being used for security scans, out in the wilderness for planting trees, and for surveilling forest fires.

They are also used in the military, police, mining operations, wildlife tracking and census, agriculture, energy, utilities, real estate and inspections.

“It's a growth industry. It's very big in the U.S. It is growing quite well in Canada. We're really pleased to see so many people are really getting into it. There are some people who get into it and then they just decide it's too much regulation,” explains Hubley.

Comparing how drones are now to when they started their RPAS programs in 2016, Hubley says they've been able to watch the industry grow immensely.

He says Transport Canada estimates that around 400,000 drones are in use in Canada, with more than 100,000 used commercially at various levels.

Hubley says, for example, that in a few



**DRONE EDUCATION:** A look into Brampton Flight Centre's RPAS programs.

RILEY MURPHY PHOTO

weeks, a company that facilitates industrial roofing will be coming in to take their RPAS courses, as they wish to use drones for roof inspections.

He adds that more and more companies are seeking BVLOS courses, as they see the benefits of these operations.

For their more advanced programs, such as BVLOS, they run tabletop exercises that include potential hazards, site surveys, flight paths, and more.

They've seen numerous businesses and film crews come to the flight centre to take their courses, and they come from coast to coast.

He notes that people come from all across Canada to take their RPAS courses here at the Brampton Flight Centre.

What sets them apart is their in-person learning style.

Hubley explains that many RPAS courses are completely online, which many users find frustrating when it comes to the technical aspects.

At Brampton Flight Centre, they teach everything in person besides their basic program.

“When you get into complex chats about manned aviation components, parasitic drag and all kinds of other things that are manned aviation related that you have to know for the exam, people will get lost,” says Hubley. “And [we] have that in-house support right there.”

He says they also support anyone who takes the course for a year after, and it all comes down to the personal touch they can offer.

The programs cover a lot of different areas, he explains, such as battery power, wind velocity, meteorology and more.

When it comes to technical aspects like meteorology and geometric calibration, Hubley says these are important considerations as you fly in airspace with other aircrafts.

This is what is so dangerous about those who take their drones out, fly them BVLOS, in any weather, or even over crowds of people, he adds.

“The more knowledge you have about land aviation, their [Transport Canada] thought is the more respect you'll have for what you're doing,” says Hubley. “Plus, it

doesn't hurt to understand meteorology if you're flying,” he adds.

Understanding meteorology not only helps you protect others when flying, but also protect yourself. Hubley always flies with a lightning detection wand.

The rules are strict about the heights at which people fly their drones, sometimes resulting in equipment being confiscated or even jail time.

But, even with new regulations and restrictions, Hubley still hears numerous misconceptions about RPAS and their uses.

There are main issues which provide drones with their “bad name”, such as those who fly drones close to houses and windows and “spy,” he says.

“The issue of privacy, there are certain regulations about privacy regarding drones. You can't hover over somebody's house, or their windows,” he says. “I think there's a lot of that conception that that's what they're [all] being used for.”

Despite the misconceptions they face, Hubley says he continues to see positive outcomes emerging from their RPAS programs, such as their recent partnership with a Peel Region High School specializing in STEM.

At their centre, they are currently finalizing a program with the school to teach high school students how to obtain their advanced drone technology license.

He says these licenses can open numerous doors for students in today's world.

When asked if he'd heard the commotion about drones in the Olympics, Hubley laughed and reassured that they truly don't make that much noise.

Drones have always been part of sports today, he explained, noting that they are often used to track cars in F1 racing and in Premier League Soccer in England.

When it comes to obtaining footage for movies or sports games, Hubley assures that using a drone has its advantages.

Not only is it more efficient to use a drone, but it also eliminates the potentially dangerous situation of people in helicopters trying to get a shot.

In their courses, Hubley will discuss past incidents in history with his students to reiterate the need for safety when it comes to RPAS.

“A lot of people will just say, it's just a drone, it's a toy. Well, it really isn't,” he says. “It is an aircraft and you should have the respect to use it properly in the airspace with other aircraft and other people.”

To see the progress of the RPAS industry, Hubley says, feels great, even as they see growth reflected in their own programs, which are constantly changing and adapting to what their users need.

“I'm happy that Brampton [Flight Centre] has given me the opportunity to grow this, that the airport has been seen as a stakeholder in aviation, why it's important to build these programs and continue to educate people to the safety side of it,” he says.

“It's exciting to see the progress and it's exciting for me to see the students actually get out there and actually work in the industry. That's what it's all about in the end,” says Hubley. “It's another revenue stream for people in a time where jobs are not easy to get.”

## IN MEMORIAM

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Sarah, Barbara, Donna and Families

# OBITUARIES - FOREVER IN OUR *Hearts*

## DAVID KELSEY DORWARD, U.E.

A dynamic and engaged man who loved life and travel, David's horizons included a range of things beyond his beloved family. He was passionate about history, which he passed on to his daughter. He also read incessantly about the military, economics and politics, as well as science fiction and graphic novels. Cars were another love.



This all started in boyhood while stationed with his parents in West Germany after WWII, and he not only regularly crossed Checkpoint Charlie, but met many figures connected to the period. This blossomed into an undergraduate degree from Trinity College at the University of Toronto, and a summer at Oxford with an English Speaking Union scholarship where he met Tolkein via his tutor. He developed a lifelong love of literature of many genres, which formed so many of his interests in the world. He parlayed this love into travel and his many connections to people. He had a gift for forming unexpected bonds across languages, cultures and different backgrounds.

Having a Masters degree in Industrial Relations, also from U of T, his professional work was a natural outgrowth in a variety of sectors, capping his career with teaching at the post-secondary level.

His many lifelong friends came from his school days and university, and other adventures and interests. They loved his humour, caring and knowledge.

He was very loyal to his daughter and wife, as well as his friends. A true Renaissance intellectual, we will never see his like again.

David is survived by his daughter, Kira Wronska Dorward, U.E., and his wife Diana Janosik-Wronski.

## CONCETTA (CONNIE) LASTORIA

Suddenly at her home, on Monday, February 16, 2026, Connie Lastoria, at the age of 69 years. Loving mother of Joseph and Shannon, Matthew, Ivana and Jason.



Cherished and proud Nonna of Matteo and Julia who were the light of her life. Dear sister of Eugene Conte, Anthony and Mena Conte. Loved by many aunts, uncles, cousins, especially her cousin Wally.

Memorial Mass will be held in Holy Family Roman Catholic Church, 60 Allan Drive, Bolton on Friday morning, March 6 at 11 o'clock. Condolences for the family may be offered at [www.EganFuneralHome.com](http://www.EganFuneralHome.com)

## EDYTHE M. BOUND

Peacefully, in her home, on Thursday, February 19, 2026, Edythe Bound, at the age of 93 years, beloved wife of the late Edwin Bound. Dear mother of Dale Bound, at home; Kim Jackson, Brampton. Loving grandmother of Devin and his fiancé Kristine. Proud great-grandmother of Kinsley and Maverick. Dear sister of Debra-Lee Hurst and predeceased by Norman Hurst, Paul Hurst, and Ellen Morrison. The family will receive their friends at the Egan Funeral Home, 203 Queen St. S. (Hwy. 50), Bolton (905-857-2213) Wednesday evening from 5 - 8 o'clock. Funeral service will be held in the chapel on Thursday, February 26 at 2 o'clock. Interment Laurel Hill Cemetery, Bolton. If desired, memorial donations may be made to the Heart & Stroke Foundation of Ontario ([www.heartandstroke.ca](http://www.heartandstroke.ca)). Condolences for the family may be offered at [www.EganFuneralHome.com](http://www.EganFuneralHome.com)



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