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# Local senior told to vacate county housing following wife's passing

Written By JOSHUA DRAKES  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

A Shelburne resident currently living in county housing is working to find a new home thanks to an intervention by Services and Housing in the Province (SHIP).

Shelburne resident Richard Reed, 73, was still mourning the loss of his wife this past December when he received a notice from the County of Dufferin on Jan. 1 to vacate his apartment by Jan. 31.

Reed said that the news was blindsiding.

He spent the next month trying to contact the county to find anyone who could help him get an extension of time so he could settle his affairs and find a new home. For weeks, Reed said he couldn't connect with anyone, and that when he did, he was told they would get back to him, even as the deadline continued to approach.

"Everybody I tried has said the same thing, that they'd get back to me," he said. "But they don't get back to you. And if you phone them, you don't get a hold of them anymore. I don't feel like I'm being treated with any compassion."

Reed said he is being pushed out because his name was never added to the lease for his apartment with his wife. He said that he was ready to pay and sign, but needed a response from the county, which never came.

"I had the money, and I had the time," he said. "All I needed was a paper to sign on and I'll do it immediately. They're still getting their money, so why is it being made into such a problem? I don't understand."

Mere days before the deadline, Reed was contacted by SHIP, which operates the HART Hub in Orangeville and Shelburne. After speaking with them, they were able to secure an extension of his eviction, giving him an additional two weeks to find a new home.

"Everybody I tried has said the same thing, that they'd get back to me ... But they don't get back to you. And if you phone them, you don't get a hold of them anymore. I don't feel like I'm being treated with any compassion."

Richard Reed

Reed said that SHIP is actively helping him in his search, something he was not provided with before. He praised his social worker, who has been with him throughout this process since last week.

"A social worker is actually coming with me to look at houses," he said. "I'm not doing it alone. I have my son helping as well. He really, truly is my angel right now."

Richard grew up in Toronto, close to Lakeshore, but his life in Shelburne began almost by accident. In 1972, he came up to the area for what was supposed to be just two weeks, helping his uncle build a house near Amaranth.

"Coming from the city, and seeing the town and the countryside, I found I liked the country and the people, and I just didn't enjoy living in the city," he said. "I liked it so much up here. I didn't go back after two weeks, I stayed and have been here since."

Over time, Shelburne and the surrounding countryside became home, the place he chose to stay after walking away from Toronto's congestion for the quieter pace of rural Ontario.

Now that a house search is underway, he may be able to stay in town, but he will



JOSHUA DRAKES PHOTO

**LOOKING FOR A NEW HOME:** Richard holds up a picture of his late wife, Monique Russel, who passed on Dec. 19, 2025. Mere weeks afterward, he was told he had to leave his county-managed apartment, which he shared with his wife for years. Thanks to a timely intervention by Services and Housing in the Province (SHIP), he will have extra time to find a new home. However, he still questions why it took so long to receive any guidance or help.

find another location close by if necessary. It's not what Reed wanted, but he will work within the limits he's currently facing.

While he remains extremely grateful to SHIP for getting involved to help him, he is shaken and concerned about why the county was unable to do anything until mere days before his original deadline to leave, which has caused him high levels of stress.

"I still just can't understand why I have to get out when I've been here all this time, and they know it," he said. "I feel like I've been kicked while I'm already down."

When contacted, the County of Dufferin would not comment on Richard's eviction, citing privacy policies, but stressed that staff work directly with individuals in these circumstances to explore any available supports or options.

## Three Brampton residents charged in connection to local shoplifting incident

Three Brampton residents charged in connection to local shoplifting incident

Caledon Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) have laid numerous charges after a theft from a local business.

On Jan. 26, at approximately 4:15 p.m., officers from Dufferin OPP responded to a report of a shoplift on Riddell Road, near Centennial Road, in Orangeville. The investigation revealed three individuals attended the store, took thousands of dollars' worth of alcohol, and fled in a vehicle without making a payment.

At approximately 4:50 p.m., officers from Caledon OPP located the suspect vehicle, af-

ter it was involved in a two-vehicle collision on Mayfield Road, near Heart Lake Road, in Caledon. No injuries were sustained as a result of the collision. Shortly after, all three suspects were taken into custody.

As a result of the investigation, three individuals were arrested and charged.

Ankit Ankit, 26, of Brampton, was charged with:

- Theft under \$5000
- Dangerous operation
- Flight from peace officer
- Failure to stop after accident
- Possession of property obtained by crime under \$5000

Ilovedeep Singh, 29, of Brampton, was charged with:

- Theft under \$5000
- Failure to comply with probation order
- Possession of an identity document - two counts
- Possession of property obtained by crime under \$5000

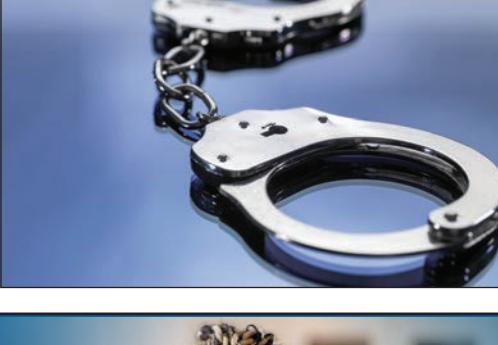
Simranjeet Singh, 27, of Brampton, was charged with:

- Theft under \$5000
- Resist peace officer
- Possession of property obtained by crime under \$5000

All three individuals were held for a bail

hearing at the Ontario Court of Justice.

None of the listed charged have been proven in court.



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**ORANGEVILLE AND DISTRICT HORTICULTURAL MONTHLY MEETING**  
Tuesday, February 10 from 6:30 - 8:30

Topic: Nature Journaling. Speaker: Billie Jo Reid  
Orangeville Senior Centre, 26 Bythia St.

**ORANGEVILLE WINTER FARMERS MARKET**  
January 10 - April 19, 9AM - 1PM  
Inside Town Hall - 87 Broadway

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# New \$16.4 million elementary school to be built in Mansfield

Written By SAM ODROWSKI

School-age children living in Mansfield will soon have access to a brand-new school.

The \$16.4 million Mansfield Elementary School, located at the intersection of 9th Sideroad and County Road 18, will have capacity for up to 328 students.

The Ontario government is funding the school as part of a larger plan to spend \$23 billion over the next decade to build, renew and improve the province's schools.

"By building and expanding schools across the province, we're making sure students can learn in modern, high-quality environments that support strong achievement," said Paul Calandra, Ontario's Minister of Education. "These investments will help students gain the skills and confidence they need to succeed and prepare for rewarding careers."

Mansfield Elementary School falls under the jurisdiction of the Upper Grand District School Board (UGDSB), which recently purchased the school site.

"Thank you to the Ministry of Education for funding this school. I would also like to recognize the work of UGDSB staff and my fellow trustees, advocating for this investment to meet the needs of our Dufferin County families. We look forward to working with our municipal partners as the project unfolds," said Ralf Mesenbrink, UGDSB chair.

In a press release issued on Jan. 30, UGDSB noted that creating more learning spaces will help to accommodate Dufferin County's growing population.

While the most recent census data from 2021 shows Dufferin County has a population of roughly 66,000 to 68,000, the county is expected to have a population of 95,000 to 100,700 by 2051.

"The funding for a new Mansfield Elementary School in Mansfield is great news for our community," said Dufferin-Caledon MPP Sylvia Jones. "Through this investment, we're creating opportunities for students to thrive today and well into the future."

At this time, a timeline for the school's completion is not available.

## Dufferin County joins AMO in advocating for more provincial homelessness funding

Written By SAM ODROWSKI

The County of Dufferin is sounding the alarm on data recently released by the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) regarding homelessness in Ontario.

The number of homeless Ontarians has risen by 50 per cent since 2021, and increased by 8 per cent from 2024 to 2025, now up to nearly 85,000, according to AMO. That number is expected to double by 2035, or reach as high as 300,000 during an economic downturn.

Homelessness is hitting rural and northern communities the hardest, increasing by 30 per cent and 37 per cent, respectively, last year.

"While dedicated investments and actions have dealt with some large urban encampments, there are small and dispersed encampments across Ontario – nearly 2,000 were reported in 2025 compared to 1,400 in 2024," reads a press release from the County of Dufferin.

Dufferin had a total of 160 individuals and families experiencing homelessness at any point during 2024. In 2025, that number increased to 272, and the number of people

experiencing chronic homelessness rose from 47 in 2024 to 60 in 2025.

"Dufferin County has made progress supporting its community but cannot solve the problem alone," reads the county's press release. "The crisis stems from decades of underinvestment in deeply affordable housing, income support and mental health and addictions treatment, combined with escalating economic pressures on communities."

The release continues, "Ontario is the only province where responsibility for social housing has been downloaded to municipalities. Municipal investment in housing and homelessness programs has grown significantly in recent years, totalling \$2 billion in 2025."

The County of Dufferin has joined AMO in urging the provincial and federal governments to better support homelessness solutions and address the root causes. The county and AMO are seeking significant, long-term action on affordable housing, mental health support, addiction services, and income supports.

"Dufferin County continues to support our most vulnerable community members and tackle the homelessness and housing

crisis through our programs, services and advocacy, but we cannot do it alone. In Dufferin County and across Ontario, homelessness continues to rise," said Dufferin County Warden Lisa Post.

"As stated by AMO, we must take a whole-of-government approach to ensure that each person in our community and our province has a safe, warm place to call home. Dufferin County Council joins AMO in calling on the federal and provincial governments for increased investment in housing and homelessness solutions. Together, municipalities can increase affordable and attainable housing options and advance community health and safety for communities across Ontario."

AMO recommends that the Government of Ontario adopt a fundamentally new approach to homelessness that focuses on long-term housing solutions rather than temporary measures.

"To address chronic homelessness, an additional \$11 billion over 10 years would focus on capital investments to develop more than 75,000 new affordable and supportive housing units, as well as increased funding on prevention efforts," reads AMO's recom-

mendations to the provincial government.

"To ensure that current encampment residents are quickly and appropriately housed, Ontario needs to invest an additional \$2 billion over eight years," AMO added.

The organization also recommends continued federal funding through the National Housing Strategy to maintain critical programs, such as the Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit.

AMO's final recommendation was for collaboration among all levels of government to ensure that homelessness and housing dollars have the greatest impact. This includes coordinating data and outcomes across programs, connecting services, and tracking every dollar from investment to impact.



## Mono fears diminished role after province forces conservation authorities to amalgamate

Continued from FRONT

Davie said people with much management experience will continue to be involved in the merged authority's governance.

"Do you think that, by us not being at the table monthly on something, that there's a risk that mismanagement is going to happen?" Davie said. "Is that a worry that we have?"

"I haven't been asked the question, but I can give a response to that, Melinda," Nix said.

"I'm asking them the question," Davie said. "The professionals. Not the people with just an opinion."

Mayor John Creelman suggested it was unfair to ask LeRoux and Kett political questions.

"I wasn't asking it politically," Davie said. "I was asking it nuts and bolts."

She said the need to maintain the watershed's integrity doesn't change because there's a new makeup at the conservation authority.

"I think the struggle in answering that forthright right now is that there are so many

gaps in our understanding," LeRoux said.

The province hasn't further defined what is meant by streamlining conservation authority services. That complicates knowing what the daily operations will be like in any geography, she said.

Nix said there's a larger point to be illuminated.

"The possibility is that we small municipalities would continue to be taxed, paying for conservation authorities over which we have no say in what they do or how they're governed, and a provincial agency that sits above them," Nix said. "It would

be taxation with no say in governance."

Creelman said nobody asked that the conservation authorities be merged. And he said it is an appalling overreach by the province, which provides so little funding to the authorities.

"The other thing that strikes me as so ironic is the people that contribute 0.02 per cent of revenue have the amount of say that they are exercising here," Creelman said.

"If they were at 50 per cent (funding level), I could understand their right to be at the table and to say this isn't working."

## Town of Orangeville Notice of public meeting

### Election Sign Bylaw

This bylaw sets rules for when, where and how election signs can be displayed during a campaign period. Its purpose is to balance freedom of political expression with public safety, accessibility and community aesthetics. The meeting will review changes proposed to the existing bylaw.

### Salvage Yard Bylaw

This proposed bylaw would regulate the location, operation and maintenance of salvage and wrecking yards to help reduce potential impacts on nearby properties and the environment. It can include permits or licensing requirements that have conditions related to zoning compliance, fencing, fire safety, drainage and more.

### Public meeting

Date: February 23 at 7 p.m.

Location: Council Chambers, Town Hall – 87 Broadway

Public participation: Residents, taxpayers, service providers or those speaking on behalf of an association or organization in Orangeville are invited to participate during the public question and comment period.

### Virtual viewing options

- view the livestream at the above date and time at [orangeville.ca/WatchLive](http://orangeville.ca/WatchLive)
- to attend via Zoom visit the meeting agenda at [orangeville.ca/Meetings](http://orangeville.ca/Meetings)



## Town of Orangeville Community Recognition Awards

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

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

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

[orangeville.ca/RecognitionAwards](http://orangeville.ca/RecognitionAwards)



## Local Special Olympics athlete promotes Tim Hortons Special Olympics donuts

Written By JOSHUA DRAKES  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Local Special Olympics athlete Ryan MacBean helped promote inclusion, community support, and athletic opportunity during a Special Olympics Donut fundraiser held at the Orangeville Mall Tim Hortons on Friday, Jan. 30.

The campaign encouraged customers to purchase Special Olympics Donuts throughout the weekend (Jan. 30 to Feb. 1), with 100 per cent of proceeds directed toward Special Olympics programs. Funds raised support year-round sport training and competition opportunities for athletes with intellectual disabilities, ranging from recreational participation to high-performance competition.

The fundraiser was supported by Dufferin Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) officers and Orangeville Fire Department firefighters, who came out to support MacBean and the campaign.

Krista Goudreault, who owns the Orangeville Mall Tim Hortons, said the campaign has been a nearly decade-long partnership.

"We've been doing this initiative since 2016," she said. "Last year in Orangeville, we raised about \$3,000, which is great for a community this size. Nationally, we raised about \$1.3 million."

"The Special Olympics provides sports competition and sports training to athletes with intellectual disabilities ... You can just go and be a recreational athlete, or you can compete. I'm so, so proud of Ryan for the work he puts in."

Kevin MacBean

This year, the Special Olympics Donut fundraiser saw a similar level of support, again raising around \$3,000.

Orangeville has consistently shown strong community backing for the annual fundraiser, contributing thousands of donut sales locally as part of a province-wide effort that generates significant annual support for athletes. Despite ongoing cost-of-living pressures, residents once again came out in force to support the Special Olympics in 2026.

Special Olympics Canada serves thousands of athletes across Ontario and across the country, emphasizing lifelong participation and encouraging athletes to remain involved at every stage of life.

Fundraisers such as the donut campaign are always needed to help sustain those programs while also raising awareness about the organization's mission and the role sports play in building confidence and inclusion.

Helping promote the event was MacBean, a Special Olympics swimmer from Orangeville who has been involved with the organization for many years. Kevin MacBean, Ryan's father, said he is extremely proud of his son and remains a strong supporter of the organization's approach to sport.

"The Special Olympics provides sports competition and sports training to athletes with intellectual disabilities," he said. "You can just go and be a recreational athlete, or you can compete. I'm so, so proud of Ryan for the work he puts in."

Orangeville Mayor Lisa Post also stopped into the Tim Hortons with Deputy Mayor Todd Taylor and Councillor Joe Andrews to express their support and that of the town.

"Please continue to support Ryan and his work with the Special Olympics," Mayor Post said. "He is a great athlete, a great person and a great community member who's always giving back to the community in any way he can."

MacBean is a born-and-raised Orangeville resident who began his Special Olympics career in other sports before focusing on swimming, where he has since found continued success through consistent training and competition. He has earned multiple medals at regional and provincial competitions, including the 2025 Spring Games in Waterloo.

He is currently the only swimmer from Orangeville advancing to the upcoming Summer Games, which will be held in Medicine Hat in August. He will be representing both his community and the impact of long-term athlete development within the Special Olympics.

Beyond competition, MacBean is a dedicated ambassador for the organization, regularly participating in fundraising and awareness events that help ensure future athletes have the same opportunities to train, compete, and thrive through sport.

His advocacy was on full display during the fundraiser, with a steady stream of customers stopping to speak with him, offering words of encouragement and exchanging high fives as he helped promote the cause.

MacBean will be bringing his best to the upcoming Summer Games and said he is ready to bring home another win for Orangeville, showcasing his optimism, confidence and dedication.

## Mono council skuttles request from resident for ballot referendum on municipal ward system

Written By JAMES MATTHEWS

At least one Mono resident has urged town council not to be so quick to dismiss a request for a referendum on the system of municipal government.

Mono resident Bob McCrea asked in a letter to council Jan. 13 if a non-binding referendum question on the 2026 municipal election ballot could be used to gauge support for adopting a ward electoral system for the 2030 election.

It would basically be a continuation of an investigation that began during the last town council term, with the establishment of a volunteer group tasked with looking into the issue.

Council at the last meeting expressed contentment with the current system in which all councillors are elected by all participating voters as opposed to ballots being separated by municipal geography.

In effect, it was agreed that each resident has greater representation through the current means of municipal government.

McCrea returned and asked his question in person during council's Jan. 27 meeting: Will council support the basic democrat-

ic principle of asking Mono residents what they want by including a non-binding question on the 2026 municipal election ballot?

Voters will be asked if they support a change to a ward electoral system for the 2030 municipal election.

"That would be real democracy in action," McCrea said.

Councillor Melinda Davie asked whether the electoral reform task force, years ago, sought residents' opinions on the issue or studied the facts. McCrea was a task force member in 2020.

"It was a long time ago," he said.

The task force gatherings were public meetings, but McCrea said he doesn't think many residents took part. He does remember a change to a ward system was approved by vote.

"By far the majority opinion, including all the rural people I've talked to, supports a ward system," McCrea said. "So it's not just something that Bob McCrea thinks is a good idea."

He acknowledged that the recalled results of an informal vote many years ago are akin to hearsay. And that's why he feels a referendum question on October's municipal ballot

is needed.

"Then we'll know," McCrea said.

Mayor John Creelman made a motion to have the issue explored more closely, especially given a recommendation was made by the past group that a ward system be established.

Creelman's motion asked that Mono electors be given an opportunity to express their views on the topic by way of a non-binding referendum question on the next election ballot.

The question will be worded generally, allowing a future council some flexibility to decide whether to implement a ward system and, if so, set appropriate boundaries.

He said the referendum is not about a councillor's personal views on a ward system. It would be about simply getting a possible direction on how the issue might be approached by the next council.

"It would not be a decision to create a ward system by this council but, rather, putting the issue into the hands of the future council," he said.

Councillor Elaine Capes said she's concerned about a low voter turnout. Specifically, the town could have a minority of residents decide something that would affect the majority.

Twenty-five per cent of Mono's eligible

voters cast ballots in the 2022 municipal contest. And that was with online and telephone voting available to make the election process easier for residents.

A little more participated in the 2018 municipal election when 33 per cent of eligible voters marked ballots. That turnout was blamed on the many candidates who were returned to council by acclamation that year.

"It's non-binding," Creelman said about the referendum and added that provincial legislation dictates the requirement for such a question to be binding.

"It's an impossible threshold," he said. "It's up in the 60 per cent range."

Fred Simpson, the town's clerk, said there's no such circumstance as a "mandatory not-binding" question. If the election turnout meets the thresholds set by legislation, it's binding, he said. At least 50 per cent of registered voters must cast ballots.

"As council is aware, we haven't had that kind of turnout in recent memory," Simpson said.

"My thought is the next council will take that into consideration," Creelman said.

"We have never in the past done a referendum question on the ballot and, I'm sorry, but I don't see why we would change that practice now," Capes said.

The motion was defeated.

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# From idea to income: 'How to Start a Small Business' workshop coming to Orangeville

Written By JOSHUA DRAKES  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

A local event geared towards small business owners or individuals looking to start a business is coming to Orangeville.

The 'How to Start a Small Business' workshop will be running on Feb. 17, from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Orangeville and Area Small Business Enterprise Centre (200 Lakeview Ct.).

Starting a small business can be a monumental challenge. It takes a long time to formulate the idea of what that business is going to be. Then owners have to worry about turning it into a real, working enterprise while keeping it profitable and up to date.

Thankfully, there's a group that's here to help – the Orangeville and Area Small Business Enterprise Centre (SBEC). Katrina Lemire, manager of economic development and culture at the Town of Orangeville, said the SBEC is a jack-of-all-trades organization for small business owners to use.

"We're a provincially funded program that really supports anyone that's looking to start, expand, or even sell a small business," she said. "Our team is able to provide a really broad range of services that really is tailored to what small business owners need."

The 'How to Start a Small Business' workshop offered by the SBEC is an introductory session designed to guide aspiring and early-stage entrepreneurs through the fundamentals of launching a business.

Led by small business officer and entrepreneur Mark Jameson, the workshop walks participants through key elements of the business planning process, including competitive analysis, choosing a legal structure such as a sole proprietorship or corporation, understanding financial basics, and considering essential requirements, such as insurance.

It is intended for anyone who is thinking about starting a business, has a new idea they want to test, or is in the early stages of setting up their venture.

## Provincial government commits \$1.3 million in support of water infrastructure in Grand Valley

Written By SAM ODROWSKI

The Town of Grand Valley is receiving a funding boost from the province.

The Government of Ontario announced up to \$1.3 million to strengthen critical water infrastructure on Feb. 1.

The funds will be used to upgrade the Melody Lane Water Treatment Pumphouse and replace Well #3. This will help to support safe drinking water and long-term community resilience.

"This investment will help ensure Grand Valley residents and businesses continue to have access to safe, reliable drinking water," said Dufferin-Caledon MPP Sylvia Jones. "By supporting core water infrastructure like Well #3 and the Melody Lane pumphouse, our government is helping our community maintain essential services that fam-

Beyond the pure information to be learned at the workshop, Lemire said that it's a great opportunity to meet like-minded people.

"It's also a great way to network with other potential entrepreneurs in the community," she said. "It can be a lonely thing being an entrepreneur, so it's great when we can help them connect with others who have, you know, similar interests and ambitions."

Following the workshop, the SBEC plans to build on it with subsequent workshops that will go deeper and deeper into operating and managing small businesses.

"This is the first one for 2026, and we tend to start off every year with this one, because it's kind of just a good introduction to entrepreneurship," Lemire said. "Then the rest of our workshops will cover a range of topics that would be helpful to other entrepreneurs going forward."

The goal is to offer continual support to small business owners every step of the way, from initial setup to a successful business, and even selling the business later.

These follow-up workshops are also designed to meet market needs and respond to societal changes. While the year-over-year workshop schedule remains similar, the contents can change dramatically.

"We tend to start with 'How to Start a Small Business', because it gives everybody that good base," Lemire said. "But then we build into different ones. It's often based on what interests and needs we're seeing from the clients of the time. So for example, in March we have once called 'How to Create an Online Store', because we're seeing a lot of clients who are looking for e-commerce websites and how to set them up properly."

Additional monthly workshops are available to view online, including 'Create an Online Store' on Wednesday, March 25 and 'Workplace Safety Essentials' on Wednesday, April 15.

For more information about the SBEC and its workshops, visit <https://www.orangeville.ca/en/economic-development/events.aspx>.

ties and local employers rely on every day."

The \$1.3 million for Grand Valley comes from Ontario's Municipal Housing Infrastructure Program – Health and Safety Water Stream (MHIP-HSWS), which helps communities protect essential services and prepare for extreme weather.

"The Town of Grand Valley is very happy to be receiving \$1.3 million to rehabilitate the Town's Well #3 through the Health and Safety Water Stream of the Municipal Housing Infrastructure Program," said Grand Valley Mayor Steve Solomon.

"We greatly appreciate the continued support of the Provincial Government in our effort to maintain a safe and healthy drinking water supply for our community. With this new funding, we will be able to continue relying on this source of drinking water for residents and businesses for many years to come."

## Mono man who collided with hydro pole among recent impaired driving charges laid by local police

Dufferin Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) have been busy responding to impaired driving incidents throughout the region.

On Jan. 28, at approximately 7:30 p.m., Dufferin OPP received a complaint regarding a motor vehicle collision in which a vehicle had struck a hydro pole. Officers arrived on scene, spoke with the driver, and initiated an impaired driving investigation.

As a result of the investigation, Jason Johnston, 49, from Mono, has been charged with:

- Operation while impaired - blood alcohol concentration (80 plus)
- Dangerous operation
- Driving while under suspension
- Fail to remain
- Possess unmarked cigarettes
- Operate a motor vehicle without insurance

On Jan. 31, at approximately 7:40 p.m., Dufferin OPP officers received a complaint from a concerned citizen regarding a vehicle in a ditch, possibly believed to be operated

by an impaired driver, around 10th Line, East Garafraxa.

Officers searched for the vehicle and were able to locate it. Following a brief interaction with the driver, an impaired driving investigation was initiated.

Michael Barrie, 57, from Georgetown, has been charged with:

- Operation while impaired - blood alcohol concentration (80 plus)
- Operation while impaired - alcohol and drugs
- Obstruct Peace Officer
- Failure or refusal to comply with demand
- Drive vehicle or boat with cannabis readily available

The accused individuals are scheduled to appear before the Ontario Court of Justice in Orangeville. Their driver's licence was suspended 90 days, and their vehicle impounded for 7 days.

None of the listed charges have been proven in court.

## Dufferin OPP encourages the public to be proactive and take steps against theft from their motor vehicles

Dufferin Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) officers continue to promote the "Lock It or Lose It" crime prevention initiative across Dufferin County.

Police continue to receive reports of thefts from motor vehicles and properties, many of which involve doors being left unlocked and valuables left in plain view. These incidents are often crimes of opportunity and are largely preventable through simple, consistent actions.

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

- Lock your doors: Always lock vehicles, homes, sheds, and garages, even when unattended for a short time.

- Keep valuables out of sight: Remove wallets, purses, electronics, tools, and other valuables or store them out of view.

• Secure your property: Ensure windows are closed and doors are properly locked before leaving your vehicle or home.

• Do not leave keys inside: Never leave keys, key fobs, or garage door openers in vehicles.

Taking these steps greatly reduces the risk of theft and helps prevent criminals from targeting easy opportunities.

Residents may notice an increased police presence as officers continue patrols throughout Dufferin County. This is part of ongoing efforts to deter crime and promote community safety. A few extra seconds spent locking doors and securing belongings can make a significant difference.

If you have information regarding suspected unlawful activity, please contact the OPP at 1-888-310-1122 or report anonymously through Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS).

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# Mono Winterfest brings the community together to brave the cold

Written By JOSHUA DRAKES  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Despite cold conditions, hundreds came out to attend Winterfest at the Mono Community Centre on Feb. 1, enjoying outdoor and indoor activities.

Winterfest has been a community staple for decades, and 2026 was no different for Mono and the rest of Dufferin County. Promising to provide new ways to have fun outside, Winterfest came ready with dozens of outdoor activities and events.

Local resident Cynthia Percival, who delivered ski supplies courtesy of the Mono Nordic Ski Club, said that Winterfest has something for everyone, regardless of age or interest.

"Winterfest is seriously amazing," she said during the event. "There's food and activities for kids, silent auctions happening inside, a skating rink, fat bikes... it's just a beautiful, beautiful day out here."

Percival and her husband are regular skiers, so they are typically found on the trails during the winter. She said Winterfest is a perfect example of what residents can do outside during the winter months.

"There's so much to do in Dufferin County," she said. "We have Winterfest, of course, but there's also Hockley Valley Resort, and of course, the Bruce Trails nearby as well."

Mono Mayor John Creelman, manning the hot cider stand in the parking lot, said that Winterfest continues to innovate and succeed.

"We have an absolutely terrific recreation committee here that puts in a lot of time and effort," he said. "We actually just added

"We have an absolutely terrific recreation committee here that puts in a lot of time and effort ...

We actually just added snowshoeing this year, alongside our skiing and all the other things that we've done for years and years, to great acclaim."

Mono Mayor John Creelman

snowshoeing this year, alongside our skiing and all the other things that we've done for years and years, to great acclaim."

For Creelman, the highlight of Winterfest is handing out cider.

"The apple cider is my favourite part," he said. "You get to meet people, see them come together, it's a great experience."

Well-known favourite events returned, such as skating, sledding and tubing, as well as some new attractions. Fat biking and snowshoeing were available this year, adding to the outdoor fun.

The skating rink let families practice their various skill levels together, while some more advanced skaters took to the ice with hockey sticks and pucks.

On the slopes, kids raced each other down the hills, while parents tried to keep them from flipping or slamming into others who were trying to climb back up to the top.



JOSHUA DRAKES PHOTOS

**FESTIVE FUN:** Residents from Dufferin County and beyond came out in force for Mono's annual Winterfest, braving the cold and wind for a day of outdoor activities. Attendees were able to enjoy an afternoon of snow sports, such as skiing, snowshoeing, sledding, and skating. Guests were also able to get warm food and drinks courtesy of volunteers and OPP auxiliary officers working the food stations. Local community groups were set up indoors, offering guests the opportunity to network and learn more about the county and the groups that call it home.

Rounding off the outdoor experiences was an open fire, offering a respite from the cold and marshmallows for kids to roast over the flame.

Inside the community center, there was just as much activity.

Numerous community groups were set up at tables across from the cafeteria. Winterfest provides the perfect opportunity for residents and organizations alike to connect, share ideas and promote community involvement.

Groups like the Bruce Trail Conservancy, Ontario Provincial Police (OPP), and Mono-Mulmur Citizens' Coalition all had desks set up for guests to come in, ask questions, and connect further with com-

munity groups that interest them.

A silent auction sat in the middle of the space, offering a plethora of options to bid on, from clothing merch to tickets to Theatre Orangeville's upcoming production, Common Ground. Food was also served on site, with volunteers staffing the kitchens and OPP auxiliary officers manning the barbecue outside.

Thanks to the hard work of the recreation team, volunteers, and, of course, the large turnout from the community, Mono's 2026 Winterfest was another success. The annual festival highlights that while winter can be cold, if braved, there's still a lot for residents to enjoy while staying active outdoors.



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# Annual Fire and Ice Festival brings fun and flames to Alton Mill Arts Centre

Written By RILEY MURPHY  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

This past weekend marked the return of the annual Fire and Ice Festival hosted by the Alton Mill Arts Centre.

This year's event featured outdoor fire performances, ice carving, fun family games, and, of course, the Big Burn.

Martin Kouprie, General Manager with the Alton Mill Arts Centre, said that this year's festival was the biggest yet, with new elements never before had.

One of those features was the ice carving competition, where both a panel of judges and the crowd got to select and vote on their favourite sculpture of the weekend.

For Kouprie, he said finally getting to enjoy the festival is the easiest part.

They spend the whole year prior "getting their ducks in a row," Kouprie explained, securing vendors, carvers, and funding to run the event, adding that they couldn't have done the event without their sponsors.

This year, as always, he said he was looking forward to the Big Burn and to seeing who would come out on top in the ice carving competition.

Artists Paul Morin and Brian Oates have been the masterminds of the art behind Fire and Ice's beloved burn sculptures for over a decade now, with their involvement going back to 2012.

Each year, as one fire becomes ashes, they begin planning for the following year.

"We learn from every fire," said Morin.

"We've always had some sort of sculptural element hidden inside that is revealed at the fire, and that's been a fun thing. Usually, we keep it a secret."

This year's burn sculpture was titled "Obelisk Burn," and standing tall in the middle was a large obelisk adorned in technological symbols.

"The original idea was that I knew I wanted an obelisk, because pre-dynastic Egyptians thought that an obelisk brought the energy of the cosmos, or the sun, to the earth," explained Morin. "By making a physical manifestation of it, they guaranteed that warmth and the heat by making these incredible obelisks. I wanted to do that."

He shared part of the reasoning behind it was to "bring some of the order of the outer cosmos into the terrestrial," because he explained that many people feel "scattered and disorganized," and "things are all in chaos right now."

"This is helping bring a true intended thought of good energy from the cosmos to sort of bathe us all in that light," he said, adding that not only would onlookers be in the light of the burn, but the light of the full moon as well.

Oftentimes, obelisks will feature hieroglyphics, but Morin took a modern approach.

"What symbols are more appropriate than technology in this day and age?" he said.

Those enjoying the burn could see the



RILEY MURPHY PHOTO

**CHAINSAW CARVING:** An artist takes a chainsaw to a block of ice to create a piece of art during the annual Fire and Ice Festival at the Alton Mill Arts Centre, which ran Jan. 31 to Feb. 1. A variety of outdoor art installations filled the grounds of the Alton Mill.

flame through the Wi-Fi symbols and pause buttons as it made its way from the inside of the obelisk to all-encompassing.

One of the features of this year's burn sculpture was the metal cap adorning the obelisk, which Morin explained turned bright red when heated by the flame.

"We've always hidden the sculptures, but I wanted this to be an exoskeleton," said Morin. "The goal is to make that [top] red hot in the night sky. So, in the middle of the winter, the coldest night, with a full moon and a red hot [top]."

There was something for everyone at this year's Fire and Ice festival. Attendees could be seen skating on Mill Pond, enjoying the super snow slide, roasting s'mores, and enjoying the activity zone.

Inside, community members could wander the halls of Alton Mills and enjoy multiple vendors, artisan markets, the hot stove lounge, caricatures, and could even get their face painted.

Volunteers Sheila and Meg Grant have seen every year of the Fire and Ice Festival, joking that they "married into the Alton Mills."

Brothers Jordan and Jeremy Grant are the two behind the restoration of Alton Mills, turning it into the beloved arts showcase in Headwaters that it is today.

Meg Grant said that after seeing 16 years of Fire and Ice Festivals, "it's hard to stay away," as she keeps coming back every year to help out.

"It's such a great event. It really brings the community out, which is nice after they've all been huddled inside for a month after Christmas to get everybody out again," she said.

Standing at the greeting booth, Sheila Grant added she loves "directing people to creative things that they wouldn't normally explore."

She noted those coming to the event are usually "community-minded, outdoor, fun people" and that they're "the best people to welcome."

Going forward, Kouprie said they look forward to making Fire and Ice "not just an Alton Mill event, but an Alton event."

With their growth each year, they hope to expand the event into the Alton community, including more businesses and residents for years to come, he added.



FENECHDESIGNS PHOTOS

**WEEKEND FUN:** The Fire and Ice Festival at the Alton Mill Arts Centre from Jan. 31 to Feb. 1 featured a variety of artists, activities and live entertainment for attendees to enjoy.

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# Arts & Entertainment

## LOCAL COMMUNITY EVENTS

### Caledon Town Hall Players excited to present 'Lunenburg'

Written By CONSTANCE SCRAFIELD

In a recent interview with the director of Lunenburg, Jennifer Bartrum, a true fan of Norm Foster's plays, said, "When I heard that the CHTP were looking for a director for *Lunenburg*, I was all over it."

*Lunenburg* is the next show at Caledon Town Hall Players (CTHP), opening Saturday, Feb. 14.

Although Bartrum's last time directing for this theatre company was a children's Christmas pageant 17 years ago, she has kept her hand at directing productions for Orangeville Music Theatre and others. Bartrum was on stage as Jenny in the CTHP production of *Jenny's House of Joy*. She also produced *Kiss the Moon*, *Kiss the Sun*. Bartrum talked a bit about her background in community theatre, saying she moved to Orangeville with her family and saw an audition call in the paper 20 years ago.

"I've been involved with every community theatre ever since then, community theatres all around the area," she said.

Norm Foster's plays are among her favourites.

"*Lunenburg* is a three-hander," Bartrum said. "Keith Assoun plays the role of Charley. It's his first time at CHTP. He has done some Second City. He lives in Guelph so, with all this snow we've had, we have been doing rehearsals over Zoom."

In fact, Bartrum saw Assoun perform elsewhere and asked him to audition for this show.

Christine Ford plays Iris. She has been on stage with CTHP before.

For the first time here, Heidi Ross is driving up from Brampton for rehearsals. Ross is a music teacher in Brampton and part of Brampton Music Theatre.

"She is very experienced," Bartrum commented.

In brief, *Lunenburg*'s story is about Iris, recently a widow, living in the US, who learns she has inherited a house in Can-

ada, in Lunenburg. She and her friend Natalie decide to make the trip to see what it is she now owns.

"This is a perfect mix of mystery, comedy and romance," Bartrum remarked.

Once they get to the house, they soon meet the neighbour, Charley, and the revelations that come out are chilling indeed, shocking stories of Iris' late husband's double life.

Bartrum added, "It has been amazing to see the show coming alive. I know the innuendos of Foster's writing and can point to them; I give the cast directions how to deliver them. Keith travels from Guelph. He is a huge fan of Foster plays, and he really wanted to be in this show. It takes two hours (return) to come to rehearsals. That's a lot of sacrifice to be part of it."

Volunteers run community theatres entirely.

For Bartrum, the attraction is performing, which she loves.

"All my life, I was a Majorette, did tap dance."

Like many other parents, she put theatre aside while she raised a family, but she missed performing.

Finally, she brought "my kids with me. My daughter, who is 17, is assistant SM (stage manager) for this production. I don't play golf, so this (is) my hobby," was Bartrum's comment, but she was quick to add. "It is a passion; I regret not getting



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION:** There is big excitement from the Caledon Town Hall Players (CTHP) about producing Norm Foster's production, *Lunenburg*. The play opens on Feb. 14 at the CTHP stage in Caledon Village. From left, Keith Assoun as Charlie, Christine Ford as Iris and Heidi Rose as Natalie.

involved in school with the theatre but would it be the same as a professional?"

Praising the fact that CTHP survived Covid, the company is still building its volunteer group and is looking for more people to come and enjoy the thrill of theatre.

There is a link on the website for volunteers.

It counts toward the 40 hours of high school volunteering required to graduate. There are lots of opportunities to get involved.

"You don't have to get on stage," she promised. "There are plenty of other jobs. What we really (need) is someone to help the company to maintain the theatre."

Back to why audiences must rush to get tickets to see *Lunenburg*: "They're going to have all the feels. Something about Norm – the way he can take you down to cry, and then all of a sudden you're laughing again. The underscore of his lines is just so clever – every time there is a reason behind it. Everything's perfect the way it is."

For tickets and all the details about the show, go to: [caledontownhallplayers.com/online-ticket-orders/](http://caledontownhallplayers.com/online-ticket-orders/) or by calling 519-927-5460. For information on CTHP's dinner theatre, call 519-927-5460.

CTHP is looking for, especially, a building ground maintenance volunteer, noting that the town "does the big stuff."



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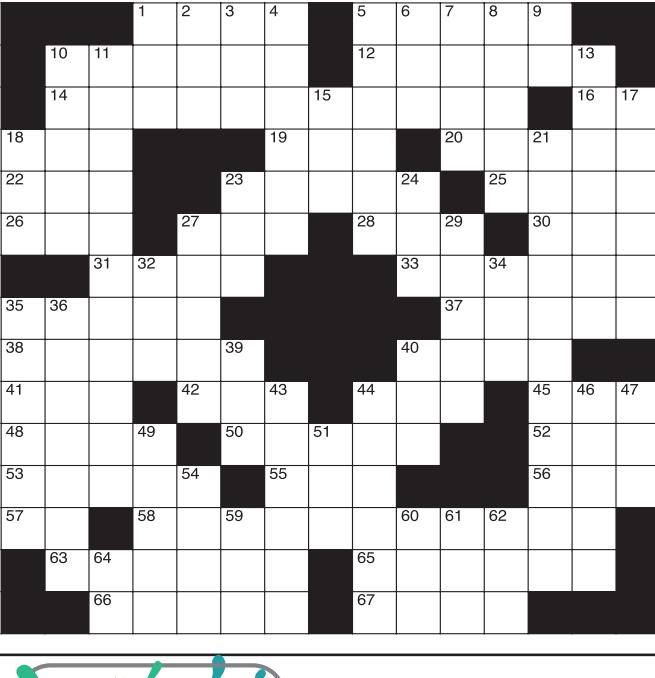


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Puzzle No. 262110 • Solution on page: CLASSIFIEDS SECTION



CLUES ACROSS

- Native American group of N. California
- Geological times (Brit. sp.)
- Tool to remove
- Rods
- One who renews
- They precede C
- Chatter incessantly
- King Cole, musician
- Insect parts
- One from Utah
- The world of the dead
- Singer Redding
- NBA legend Nelson
- Indicates wrongly
- Unhappy
- Anger
- Dark brown
- Some are in kitchens
- Made a mistake
- Damp

CLUES DOWN

- Type of fuel
- Actor Damon
- What thespians do
- One's mother
- Disallow
- Swiss river
- A banana has one
- Philippines lake and volcano are two
- Relative biological effectiveness (abbr.)
- Agave
- Journalist Tarbell
- One-time tech giant
- Indicates upon
- Intestinal bacteria
- Loose sheaths around spinal cord
- It goes with nook
- A fashion
- Very eager to hear or see
- Wet dirt
- Designed to be useful
- Hebrew unit of liquid capacity
- High schoolers' test
- Computer device
- Indian territory
- Witch

Utilize

Writing utensil

Where rockers go to work

Subsides

Consume

Greek mythological figures

California mountain town

Tin

Muse of lyric and love poetry

Journalist Tarbell

One-time tech giant

Indicates upon

Intestinal bacteria

Loose sheaths around spinal cord

It goes with nook

A fashion

Very eager to hear or see

Wet dirt

Designed to be useful

Hebrew unit of liquid capacity

High schoolers' test

Computer device

Indian territory

Witch

Diu

A place to sleep

AI tool

Pass or go by

Indicates a purchase

Digital tape

Recording of sound

More (Spanish)

Disfigured

White (Spanish)

Church building

Georgia rockers

Type of surgery

Much about nothing

Make by braiding

Local area network

Unit of work or energy

Member of indigenous people of Thailand

Liquefied natural gas

Distance to top

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

#### Math Blocks

Fill in the missing blocks with numbers between 0-20. The numbers in each row add up to the totals on the right. The numbers in each column add up to the totals on the bottom.

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	8	11	22
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# Museum of Dufferin to host Mini Olympics event for Family Day

Written By JOSHUA DRAKES  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Museum of Dufferin is bringing some Olympic spirit to Family Day with a Mini Olympics event that combines local history, interactive programming and free admission for families across the county.

The event is building off of the museum's annual Family Day tradition, with this year drawing inspiration from the Winter Olympics taking place at the same time.

Jessica Mascitelli, programs and outreach coordinator for the museum, said that they saw an opportunity to create a themed day that would appeal to visitors of all ages while also highlighting rarely seen items from the collection.

"We were looking for something fun and engaging for Family Day this year, and with the Olympics happening at the same time, it

felt like a natural fit," she said. "It gave us a theme that works for all ages."

As part of the celebration, the museum will showcase Olympic-themed artifacts not normally on display.

"We have a few fun items that we're bringing out," Mascitelli said. "Things like an Olympic torch from the Vancouver 2010 games, as well as some collections of sports equipment, as well as photos from our archives, from different athletes that have participated in the games that are from Dufferin County, and all sorts of different kind of cool objects that people can see that aren't normally out right now, as we don't have an exhibit themed around them."

"So it's kind of a special preview of extra objects in our collection that aren't normally on display."

Beyond the exhibits, the Mini Olympics will feature a full day of activities designed

to encourage participation and exploration. Families can watch live Olympic coverage together inside one of the museum's historic buildings, take part in Olympic-themed games, and follow a scavenger hunt that leads them throughout the site.

Admission to the event is free, though Mascitelli said that visitors are asked to register for timed entry slots in advance. The system is intended to manage crowd flow and ensure a consistent experience throughout the day.

Mascitelli said that museum staff hope the Mini Olympics will attract new visitors and, if successful, become a recurring Family Day tradition. The Mini Olympics is just one part of the museum's ongoing focus on finding new and engaging events to bring families out together.

"Our goal is always to make history acces-



sible and welcoming," she said. "This is just another way to get the community involved. We're really trying to increase our number of programs and events for all ages. I highly recommend just checking us out."

The Mini Olympics promises to be a fun day to attend with family or friends, to watch the games or to enjoy one of the many activities put on by the museum.

To learn more, go to [dufferinmuseum.org](http://dufferinmuseum.org).

## Dufferin County's first Poet Laureate shares update on life in Nova Scotia

Written By CONSTANCE SCRIFIELD

Dufferin County's first Poet Laureate, Harry Posner, moved from Orangeville to a village in Nova Scotia with his wife, Uta, and their two rescue horses, in 2022.

They decided to move after being encouraged by good friends who had already settled there. At the time, many folks were taking advantage of the real estate price gap between Ontario and the Maritimes, an equation of sell high here and buy low there that yielded a reasonable nest egg.

While Posner had already retired from the Orangeville LCBO, his wife continues to work remotely for Rogers as a senior manager.

He was pleased to catch up in a recent interview with the Citizen to talk about his new life.

"It took a year or 18 months to feel at home," he admitted. "It's a different feel to the air. Even animals feel friendlier, not so nervous of people. When you make a move, finding fresh roots and finding my literary connection here took time."

He has written a novel titled Red Pony, a speculative fiction, so he describes it – what would happen if "and when" AI goes on and takes over, pushes humanity out of the picture. By AI using a drug that removes all pain, we fall into Alljoy and disappear as a species. One wonders, will this author find the straggling few raised as toddlers on forbidden doses of Shakespeare to save the many? Only by waiting for the publication of the missive, now in its second reading, will we read the tale.

"We are living in a pocket of humanity," he commented. He is creating a chat book of po-

etry, a meditative string that has "a lot to do with the horses, cleaning out the horse boxes, a daily routine."

They are two off-the-track thoroughbreds.

"We don't ride them," he said, citing the abuse the horses' feet had suffered from racing on the tracks.

It has been an adventure learning to handle horses for Posner: one is 16 hands, the other is 17.2.

"My wife is the horse person and the main care person," he said.

Local farmers sell hay to Posner, who learned after last summer's drought that they had to be quick to buy it.

All part of integrating into a new community – he has found a local version of the chess groups and literary events in Orangeville. Posner's way forward is through those avenues in his new home.

"That is what I've done," he explained. "I met our doctor, and I joined (a) poetry group; we give each other prompts – juicing – talk about the essence of what it is to be where you are; to start to look for ways to challenge ourselves."

Certainly, Harry Posner agrees, "I miss my friends in Orangeville and the good people there that I had contact with when we organized the Day of the Poets festival. I felt close to the community."

Yet he and Uta talked about what they wanted for the rest of their lives – where they wanted to settle for the time being. What the economics of the move could mean.

He asserted, "Folks here are lovely people, very community-minded."

Woodville is near Acadia University and is the home of Margaret Atwood's mother.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**EAST COAST LIVING:** Poet Harry Posner and his wife, Uta, moved to Nova Scotia from Orangeville in 2022 and brought their horses with them. Pictured here is Posner and his horse Marius. Since moving to Nova Scotia, he has met many like-minded poets and community members.

There are people who can be hermits, but Posner admits he needs others to boost his morale. Uta and Posner have been in Nova Scotia for three and a half years, since the summer of 2022.

Many people have come there. It has been a destination.

A different approach to handling land: "A

lot of the natural world is here," he commented. "The pace is slower; time will tell when we'll have an evening."

Sometimes there are writing workshops. The idea is to start small.

Posner said, "It needs a base of people to build something that lasts. Being a part of a literary group can be very rewarding."

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# Healthy Eating on a Budget workshop coming to Shelburne Library

Written By JOSHUA DRAKES  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Join the Dufferin Area Family Health Team (DAFHT) on Feb. 7, for an informational workshop to show you new ways to eat healthier on a budget.

There is a common belief that it's sometimes more expensive to eat healthier than to eat unhealthy foods. When money is tight and time is limited, fast food is an easy substitute. But Mackenzie Clarke, a registered dietitian with the DAFHT who will be running the workshop, wants you to know that there are options available without breaking the bank.

"It is very difficult for some people, and I totally understand the economy right now that options might be limited," Clarke said. "Public Health did a report on the food affordability in the area, and they found that a family that wanted to produce nutritious meals for their family while still paying rent would still be in the negative."

"What we want to do is give people some tips and tricks and some resources to hopefully help people eat healthier and not have to skip meals."

Clarke's approach to healthier eating is

far from a radical reimagining of a normal diet. In fact, it relies on supplementing what you already eat, rather than altering your diet altogether.

The strategy is simple. If you're eating foods that are less than ideal, health-wise, add some affordable ingredients to balance out the meal as best you can.

"There's some things I will discuss in the presentation about adding instead of subtracting," she said. "If something is cheaper, a little bit higher in calories or higher in carbohydrates, being able to add more protein, being able to add more fibre to make it a bit more balanced is what I'm suggesting."

"A lot of the time we talk about instant ramen, so adding frozen vegetables to that, or canned vegetables... and protein of some kind, like some chicken or adding some beef, can help make it a more balanced meal without changing your habits too much," Clarke added.

She said that a lot of the food discussed is often distributed by local food banks, meaning that if you're not able to afford everything yourself, you can fall back on existing safety nets, giving you more options in a pinch. DAFHT will also provide

information at the workshop to help with meal prep with the food options they cover.

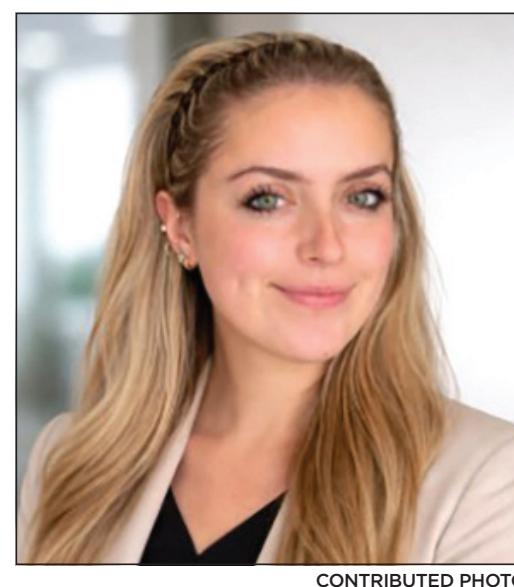
This approach underlines the workshop's approach to food education – a focus on cooperation, rather than dictation. Clarke doesn't feel it's useful to tell people what to eat or what not to, as DAFHT recognizes that it's not easy to change a diet on a whim. It's also extremely adaptable to any diet.

"I think sometimes people think dietitians are going to act like food police, but I want to say it's just going to be more informative," Clarke said. "Instead of telling you, 'Don't have that and have this,' it's just, 'how do we make a more balanced meal from what we have?'"

"Adding, not subtracting, can work for any kind of meal or snack in any culture. It doesn't have to be just eliminate this or this," she added.

The healthy eating workshop is free to attend, and will run from 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Shelburne Public Library on Feb. 7.

Registration is not required, but is preferred. Call 519-925-2168 if interested in attending.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**AFFORDABLE APPROACH:** The Dufferin Area Family Health Team is looking to help the community stay healthy by sharing ways to balance out pre-existing diets, on a budget, rather than overhauling them. This community workshop, led by dietitian Mackenzie Clarke, will take common meals like noodles or pizza and show participants which affordable ingredients they can add to create a more balanced, healthy, and filling meal without breaking the bank.

## HART Hub opens satellite location in Shelburne to better serve local residents

Written By JOSHUA DRAKES  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

A new support hub has opened in Shelburne, bringing a comprehensive range of social, health, and housing services directly to local residents.

Operating from the Mel Lloyd Centre, the Shelburne site is an extension of the HART Hub Dufferin model, which is designed to support people facing housing instability, mental health and addiction challenges, food insecurity, and difficulty navigating existing systems.

Lisa Neuman, director of supportive housing with Services and Housing In the Province (SHIP), said that at first, the hub will have limited days of operation but will expand or adapt as they learn more about the community's needs.

"It's opening effective today (Jan. 29), and we are starting with Tuesdays and Thursdays," she said. "We'll then evaluate what works best as we see people coming through and see what they're looking for."

At its core, the hub offers service navigation, helping individuals connect with the right supports without being bounced between multiple agencies.

"It's really about focusing on individuals with housing instability, mental health and addictions concerns, and just those that have really had challenges connecting effectively to services," Neuman said. "Welcoming people to come in, drop in, connect, really identify what would be most beneficial to them, be it food security, or a need of shelter?"

The hub will help people access food security resources, addiction assessment, trauma counselling, dialectical behaviour therapy, employment support, and peer support from people with lived experience.

The Dufferin HART Hub location at the Edelbrock Centre in Orangeville is up and running. It operates as a low-barrier, welcoming drop-in space where people can come in, ask questions, get to know staff, and learn about available supports without pressure.

The Orangeville hub serves as the program's anchor site, coordinating services across multiple partner organizations to create a more integrated system of care throughout the county.

Despite the Shelburne hub being considered a satellite location, Neuman said it

"It's really about focusing on individuals with housing instability, mental health and addictions concerns, and just those that have really had challenges connecting effectively to services."

Lisa Neuman, director of supportive housing with Services and Housing In the Province

won't affect the services it offers.

"We hope to have the same services at both locations, it's just going to take some initial organizing," she said. "Having mental health navigation and addictions as a starting point, but definitely want to have the whole spectrum of services available to all communities."

Looking ahead, a mobile clinic is being developed to reach rural and underserved areas across Dufferin County.

This vehicle-based service will include a clinic space with nursing capacity and

a small counselling area, enabling a small team to travel to identified hotspots of need. Using data from community feedback and partners such as the Grand Valley Food Bank, the mobile unit will focus on hidden homelessness, transportation barriers, and areas where residents have struggled to access consistent support.

At the core of this initiative, Neuman said that they encourage everyone who needs help to take the first step and ask – support is available and willing.

"We really just want to encourage people to come and meet us," she said. "Just ask a question, just come and have a look. We really welcome that so that people can get to know what is available, and not feel that pressure... if you want to come and have a snack, have a drink and just have a chat with someone that's very much welcome."

The new hub at the Mel Lloyd Centre in Shelburne is the next step in bringing together more social support services across the county, making it easier than ever to get in contact with the right help when it's needed.

The Mel Lloyd Centre is located at 167 Centre St., Shelburne.

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## Orangeville Tigers host Winter Classic Tournament, nearly 150 games played

Written By BRIAN LOCKHART

There was plenty of hockey action around town over the weekend as the Orangeville Tigers hosted their annual Winter Classic Tournament from Jan. 30 to Feb. 1.

The tournament features house league teams from across the province, and it is a very popular event.

Over the weekend, 147 games were scheduled at several venues, including the Alder Street Arena, Tony Rose Arena, and the Ice Corral at Teen Ranch.

The tournament made the local arenas very busy places as teams were leaving or arriving for games in a constant stream of activity.

Open to U9, U11, U13, U15, U18, and Senior Rec teams, this is an opportunity for house league teams to have some good competition and show their skills on the ice.

A total of 60 teams competed in the tournament, bringing around 900 players to Orangeville.

Team tournament followed the Tigers' popular Sweetheart Tournament, which was held the previous week.

"Girls hockey is definitely a growing sport," said Tournament Director Anna-Michelle Smith.

"There are so many girls that play in tournaments and in our organization. I feel that girls hockey is generally a very positive thing. The girls make a lot of friends and



BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

**TIGERS' TOURNAMENT:** The Orangeville Tigers U11 team take on the New Tecumseth Ice Cats at the Alder Street Arena during the annual Winter Classic house league tournament hosted by the Tigers from Jan. 30 to Feb. 1. The Tigers took a loss in their game against the Ice Cats.

that creates a whole new social environment for them."

The tournament also boosts the local economy, as several thousand people come

to Orangeville for the event.

Local hotels, restaurants, and other businesses benefit from the influx of visitors to the town.

Next up in terms of tournaments for the Orangeville Tigers is their March Madness Jamboree, which will take place on March 7 and 8.

## SnowPitch tournament in Orangeville delivers mid-winter baseball game in the snow

Written By BRIAN LOCKHART

It was cold and snowy, and most of the time the bases were buried somewhere underneath the snow, but that made it all that much more fun at the annual SnowPitch tournament held at diamonds around Orangeville on Saturday, Jan. 31, and Sunday, Feb. 1.

The tournament was held in support of the Orangeville Food Bank.

A total of 30 teams played in the winter weather round-robin style schedule before heading into the playoffs on Sunday.

What the players lacked in speed while trying to run the bases in six inches of snow, they made up for with enthusiasm during the games.

Organizers Don Menard and John Castellano have been running the tournament for several years.

"This is our annual Orangeville SnowPitch Tournament, and we have 30 teams out there today," John explained. "We started running the tournament four years ago, but prior to COVID, this tournament has been around for around 20 years. The tournament has typical rules, but we just want people to have fun with it. The ball may get lost and you'll have to look for it. We have at least 300 people playing in the tournament. It's not super competitive, they are just out there having fun. We have cash prizes and sweaters as prizes."

There are a lot of games played in the tournament, so things have to keep moving. Games are seven innings or 45 minutes, whichever comes first.

"We guarantee each team four games,"



BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

**COOL CATCH:** A player snags a ground ball, more like a snowball, at a game during the annual SnowPitch tournament held at ball diamonds around Orangeville on Saturday, Jan. 31, and Sunday, Feb. 1. The annual tournament is held in support of the Orangeville Food Bank. Around 300 players, across 30 teams, braved the cold for some mid-winter fun.

John said. "It's a two-day tournament. They'll get three round robin games and at least one playoff game."

The tournament headquarters was the newly opened Broadway Beat restaurant in Or-

angeville, which was also one of the event's sponsors.

Ball players enjoyed lunch at the restaurant, then stayed for the apré ball party, which featured live music and went well into the night.

## Orangeville Blitz defeats Six Nations Ironmen, secures first place in league standings

Written By TERRY SHEPPARD

In a high-stakes showdown at the Six Nations Sports and Cultural Memorial Centre, the Orangeville Blitz orchestrated a dramatic come-from-behind victory over the Six Nations Ironmen on Sunday, Feb. 1, 2026.

The win officially clinches first place for the Blitz in the Northern Premier Hockey League's Metropolitan North Division and a berth in the Inaugural Outlaw Cup, being held near Ottawa in April, as they head into the 2026 playoffs.

The matchup was a battle for divisional supremacy, with the Blitz holding a 2-point lead entering the day.

The Ironmen, who had previously won the home and home series games in December, looked poised to repeat that success early on, utilizing their home-ice advantage to take an initial lead.

However, the veteran-led Blitz roster — featuring former pro talents like Ben Thomson and Alex Gilmour — refused to buckle.

After trailing 2-0 after period one and 4-3 after the second, Orangeville ignited a relentless offensive surge in the third period and won 7-5.

Goaltender Ryan Mantle stood tall under heavy pressure, while the Blitz's depth scoring finally cracked the Ironmen's defensive shell to secure the late-game lead.

The comeback victory flipped the script on their earlier season struggles against Six Nations, marking a definitive "redemption" for the Orangeville squad.

With this win, the Blitz secured the number one seed for the upcoming postseason and will now enjoy home-ice advantage throughout the divisional rounds.

The Blitz's first home playoff game will be held on Friday, Feb. 13, 2026, at the Alder Street Arena in Orangeville, against either the Woodstock Lakers or the Halton Coyotes.

Fans can follow the latest post-game coverage and interview highlights on the team's official social media channels as they prepare for a deep playoff run.

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# OPINION

## The affordable housing myth

There is a subdivision near where I live that is filled with modest homes.

It has a 1960s feel, and that's pretty much the decade this development was built.

The homes are all bungalows, mostly with wood and aluminum siding or wood paneling. They are small, but on a fairly decent-sized lot.

This area was obviously designed to be a neighbourhood for people who didn't want to spend a lot of money on a big fancy house.

At the time, I'm sure there were many young couples who took advantage of this area, purchased their first home, and decided to raise a family there.

I'm pretty sure this neighbourhood would be considered to be a place with 'affordable housing,' in the sense that someone who bought there wouldn't end up being house poor and unable to have a meal in a restaurant once a month because their mortgage payments sucked the life out of their weekly pay cheque.

I heard yet another radio commercial this morning from the federal government, telling us how 'we', that is, the government,

are building 'affordable housing' to meet the need for more homes in this country.

Yet, you have never seen a house or subdivision built by either the federal or provincial government. You have never seen a sign welcoming you to the new 'Happy Acres Neighbourhood' that was designed and built by the federal or provincial government.

Governments do not build homes. They only facilitate the process.

The ads use the phrase 'affordable housing,' which has been a buzzword in both the government and building industry for the last few years.

Except no one has identified exactly what 'affordable housing' is supposed to mean.

Are they building homes that are affordable for a family with an income of \$250,000, or affordable for a family with an income of \$50,000?

Some people can afford a \$5 million dollar home. These days, most people struggle to afford an average-priced, entry-level home.

There are many people who are buried beneath a mortgage and barely manage

to hold on each month.

The term 'affordable housing' suggests that these houses are priced so that anyone can afford to buy one.

However, that's not the case – not by a long shot.

Housing prices are determined by what someone is willing to pay. The prices are not based on a developer's good intentions of providing homes for the less fortunate.

All you have to do is drive through any new development to see what's going on. They are building cookie-cutter homes and slapping on a price tag that is no better than when the affordable housing chant began.

You will still buy a house and assume the huge mortgage that goes along with it.

Try asking a developer or a government official where the affordable \$200,000 houses are being built, because that's all you can afford, considering you will be paying for it for at least 25 years.

The other trick is 'intensification.' In this case, they cram as many homes into the smallest area possible.

For some reason, the government

thinks that cramming 10,000 people into a one-square-mile area is a good thing, in a country that spans 9.9 million square kilometres.

Again, for some reason, the promise of affordability is toyed with, suggesting that lower-income people don't deserve a front lawn and should be happy to live in a house connected to their neighbour's home on both sides.

But again, all you have to do is look at the asking price of these new builds to see that the affordability factor is a myth.

Housing prices for 'affordable housing' does not mean that homes are being built and sold for a small profit. It means they are being built and sold for a huge profit.

Developers aren't in the building business because they are nice guys. They are in the business to make a profit.

The government has to explore other options to ensure everyone has a place to live.

Building new homes means nothing if the average person can't afford to live there.



**BRIAN LOCKHART**  
FROM THE SECOND ROW

## Iran – pretending to have nukes?

The Iranian regime is brutal, fanatical and corrupt. It has just committed the mass murder of its own citizens in the city streets and in their own homes. But the story we are told about Iran's pursuit of nuclear weapons is very misleading.

Let's begin with the two Presidents George Bushes. Just 12 years after George Senior defeated Iraq in 1991 and forced dictator Saddam Hussein to destroy all his 'weapons of mass destruction' (just poison gas, really), George W. Bush Jr. invaded Iraq again in 2003. That time round it was completely the wrong country, but he did it anyway.

The main reason Bush Junior believed that Saddam was lying and really had nuclear weapons was that the Iraqi dictator obstructed the work of the UN inspectors. He caused enough delay to rouse everybody's suspicions about Iraqi nuclear weapons. Why did he do that?

Probably because he lived in a very dangerous neighbourhood: Israel, Egypt, Syria, Iran and Saudi Arabia were all his enemies. He wanted them to fear that he really did have weapons of mass destruction in order to deter them from attacking Iraq. It might even prevent the United States from having another go.

It was a dangerous game, bound to raise suspicions about Iraqi nukes everywhere, and in the end it did kill Saddam. After the

2003 invasion American experts spent a year searching Iraq for evidence of Saddam's alleged 'weapons of mass destruction' and found nothing, but they hanged him anyway.

Why bring all this up 20 years later? Because a similar kind of logic may apply to Iran's 'nuclear weapons program.'

Iran was not part of the Arab-Israeli confrontation under the Shah's regime, and the nuclear power program he launched (with US approval) in the early 1970s did not seek to create nuclear weapons. Israel's nuclear weapons, acquired in the 1960, did not worry the Shah either.

The 1979 revolution in Iran brought to power an extreme Islamist regime that saw a nuclear-armed Israel as a potential threat. However, the new Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Khomeini, declared the development and use of weapons of mass destruction forbidden (haram) on moral and religious grounds – and he meant it.

This was not to Iran's advantage. In the 1980s Iraq invaded Iran with American backing in order to destroy the new and destabilizing regime of the ayatollahs. Saddam Hussein's troops were flooding the battlefields with poison gas, while the Iranian defenders were banned from replying in kind.

The episode shows how seriously Iran's

Islamic rulers take their own religious decrees. Abstaining from chemical 'weapons of mass destruction' probably caused the deaths of tens of thousands of Iranian soldiers. We too should take the ayatollah's decrees seriously, because that would open the way to an alternative explanation of Iranian behaviour.

There is no evidence that Iran even considered nuclear weapons until Pakistan and India tested their first nuclear weapons in 1998. There was then clearly some dalliance in Tehran with the notion of getting a 'threshold' nuclear capacity (just short of weapons-grade), but that was halted after an opposition group revealed it in 2003.

In 2015 Iran signed an agreement backed by all the great powers that restricted it to 3.67% enrichment of uranium, useful for civil reactors but far below the level needed for nuclear weapons. The sanctions that had been imposed on Iran were removed and all went well – until Donald Trump tore up the agreement in 2018, probably at the instigation of Israel.

Israelis are as obsessed by the threat from Iran, small though it is in practice, as the ayatollahs are obsessed with Israel. They don't even share a border, and Israel has hundreds of nuclear weapons versus Iran's none. They couldn't even have an interesting war, yet they can't leave each

other alone.

Trump was able to force the other signatories to reimpose sanctions on Iran (which had meticulously observed the agreed limits), and the Iranian economy crashed. After two years the Iranians began inching up the degree of enrichment, carefully announcing each increase, in an attempt to put pressure on the countries that had let the agreement die.

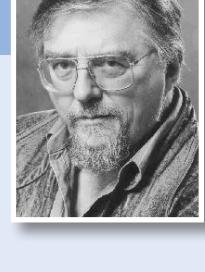
Five years later a lot of uranium has reached 60 per cent enrichment, the last step before weapons-grade enrichment, and still the same fools are in charge on both sides.

### Three Plausible Conclusions:

1: Ayatollah Khamenei has followed the same stupid strategy as Saddam Hussein, and is approaching the same ugly consequences.

2: The 'nuclear threat' from Iran's enriched uranium may have been deliberately encouraged by Iran in the past to create leverage that evades (but does not violate) a fatwa that bans the manufacture or use of weapons of mass destruction. (It's okay to pretend.)

3: Lots of people will be killed for no good reason.



**GWYNNE DYER**  
OUR WORLD TODAY

## Strokes of Stardust

By and large, most visual art is associated with nature. Among painters, especially, they are irresistibly drawn to reflecting landscapes in so many versions.

They make the viewer want to be there. They love the meadows and the woods, the barns and the family-based rural homes – family-based, I say, because traditional farming needs the whole family to flourish. Those homes are focused on sturdy shelter, safe bedrooms and kitchens ready to feed as many people as need be. When artists place those houses in their landscapes, the viewer feels reassured that somewhere, a family lives in such a steady place.

As artists paint landscapes, they seem to include hope and wishes for the safety of those visions; they include the life within the meadows and forests, a calming country stream, and the passionate rush of a waterfall. They can include the vision of the wildlife inhabiting the scene.

Some fall under the spell of powerful mountains, landscape's giants where brazen truths are exposed on the peaks, yet secrets are stored with the caves and gullies – some hording risks in dangerous footholds – others guarding treasured works by ancient artists decorating the stone walls, the first reporters to tell who nature was to them.

In an interview with the Citizen, an artist expressed the view that there were too many paintings of "trees and rocks and water," affirming that there was a crying need to break away from "trees and rocks and water" to dazzle the must-be-bored art patrons with work that is radical – maybe outrageous, challenging and demanding attention with mysteries looming between – what – are those eyeballs?

Sure enough, artists new to the business came to fill the gap, and what they produced was interesting: oddly composed figures whose construction was intended as a political or a social comment.

Art: a tiny word for the ultimate understanding of ...the soul? The best of a being, which includes not just us with all our tools and paints, songs and writing. Only recently have we admitted that all creatures on this perfect earth create art.

True story: that birds and squirrels create for the sake of beauty; that more of the other creatures with whom we share this world, than we have acknowledged, use tools of twigs or stone, that they embellish their environment with more than practicality demands.

We, as a species, for hundreds of thousands of years, have been artists; the first thing a toddler might do is pick up something

that will make a mark and make that mark, indiscriminately and without question, reflecting the urge.

We love – and don't – it all because of our very deep need for music, theatre, literature: old stories and new. In art is our compulsion to react, to critique, laugh and cry.

Literature: the written and spoken word still talks about landscapes, for it describes the scene where the story happens. Our fictional feet prefer a platform, however strange the story makes it. Once again, we are invited to join a place that may not be our own, like the farmhouse in the landscape, but the storyteller will bring different details, some for comfort and some to test us and ask – What would you do?

It is the right, indeed the obligation, for artists to reflect the world as they see it. A Caledon artist climbed her neighbouring farmer's roof to paint an endangered lake and rejoiced when the lake was saved.

An artist did a solo show at the Headwaters Arts Gallery featuring beautiful landscapes to remind us how bad it would be if those precious fields, farmland, and waterways were ploughed over by an unnecessary highway. Pressure is seeing the highway stalled and may never happen.

Art: such a tiny word for being the social

engine that it is. The truest histories are painted on ancient walls. They tell us about the creatures that lived in their time and take us right into the most intense moments of waging wars and placing crowns on royal heads, albeit still thousands of years ago.

Once there was writing (3400 BCE in Mesopotamia), did the tools used express the reality of life and thought, beaming a dim light on translating ancient words and forms, interpreting their meaning in the hope of learning more about ourselves?

It is all Stardust, by which I mean magic. That impulse, so intense that the artist's attention is fully concentrated on the work, in the zone of the work, comes from within and maybe a little – a lot? – from without. Sometimes that drive is sudden and must happen while everything else has to wait. Sometimes it arrives in fragments, mixing, pushing other thoughts to one side but not all the time, just when it's ready like an eventuality.

For better or for worse, we must create, and there is no imagining a world without creativity in its many coats.

We cannot really explain the Stardust, and that means art really matters.



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# COMMUNITY VOICES

## Monthly Message: How team spirit fuels the fight against food insecurity

Every February, something really special happens in Dufferin County. To me, it is the BEST DAY EVER. On what is often one of the coldest nights of the year, hundreds of our neighbours bundle up, lace up their boots, and head outside in matching toques – not because they have to, but because they want to make a difference for those living with food insecurity in our community. Coldest Night of the Year 2026 invites us to step out in the cold for our neighbours who are dealing with hunger as we walk 2 or 5 km routes through the beautiful streets of Downtown Orangeville at the end of February.

Just a couple of weeks earlier, from Feb. 16 to 21, we reflect on Non-Profit Appreciation Week. It's a time to say thank you to the food banks, shelters, outreach programs, and community organizations that quietly take care of people all year long. When you put those two moments together, they tell a really powerful story about who we are in Dufferin County.

One of the things I love most about Coldest Night of the Year is our Team Captains. Every year, they come up with the most fun, clever, and hilarious team names. Some make you laugh out loud. Some tug at your heart. And some tell you exactly why that group is walking. But every single one of them represents a group of people who decided to turn caring into action... team



names like Hungry Hikers, Walking for Waffles and Like a BOSS are just a few of the teams already registered to walk.

Behind every team name is a story – a family walking for someone they love, a workplace doing something good together, a group of friends who just wanted to help, or a team that has been personally touched by hunger or homelessness. Those names might look playful on a sign, but they are rooted in something very real.

So why do we walk?

We walk because too many people in Dufferin County are struggling to make ends meet.

We walk because grocery prices are high and rent is even higher.

We walk because no one should have to choose between heat and food.

And we walk because this community cares.

This year's Coldest Night of the Year

takes place right here at the Orangeville Food Bank. We'll be gathering at 3 Commerce Road on Saturday, Feb. 28. Everyone is invited to arrive at 4:30 p.m., with the walk starting at 5 p.m. sharp. After the walk, we'll come back together in the back lot of the Orangeville Food Bank for a warm, celebratory meal – because that's what we do, food is at the heart of everything!

We're already blown away by the generosity and momentum in Orangeville's Coldest Night of the Year 2026! With 231 walkers and 57 teams registered so far, funds are

being raised for the Orangeville Food Bank and the Dufferin Food Share. Leading the pack are the Optimist Club of Orangeville,

with more than \$12,000 raised to date, fol-

lowed by St. Mark's Marchers, Thursday

Trail Blazers, Tuesday Night Titans, the

Ukuladies and Ukuladdies, and there are

still several weeks to go.

All of the funds raised stay right here in

our community, supporting the Orangeville Food Bank and the Dufferin Food Share. Every dollar helps put food on tables, keep shelves stocked, and make sure that when someone in our community needs food support, it's there.

Non-Profit Appreciation Week gives us a chance to appreciate the work that happens behind the scenes every day. The volunteers who stock shelves. The staff who answer phones. The drivers who deliver food. The people who sit with someone when life feels overwhelming. Coldest Night of the Year helps make sure that work can keep going.

For me, this walk is personal. Coldest Night of the Year is what brought me to the Orangeville Food Bank in the first place, many years ago. It showed me how powerful it is when the community decides to do something for their neighbours.

If you'd like to walk, start a team, sponsor the event, or volunteer, all the details can be found at [en.cnoy.org/location/orangeville](http://en.cnoy.org/location/orangeville). I hope you'll join us. Bundle up, bring a friend, and come be part of something really special, because it's COLD out there.

That's why we walk.

This week's Community Voice submission was provided by Carrie-Anne DeCaprio, donor engagement and outreach manager for the Orangeville Food Bank.

## Police warn the public about increasing 'bank investigator' fraud incidents in the region

Written By BRIAN LOCKHART

Police are warning members of the public about a recent increase in 'bank investigator' fraud incidents occurring in the region.

Fraudsters are contacting individuals by telephone and falsely identifying themselves as fraud investigators from their financial institution. In many cases, the caller ID is spoofed, causing the bank's legitimate phone number to appear on the victim's display.

This tactic is intended to make the call appear credible.

Police investigators have learned that these callers often possess personal information about the person they are targeting,

which further enhances their appearance of legitimacy.

The fraudsters typically claim that fraudulent transactions have been detected on the victim's account and will attempt to obtain additional financial or personal information.

In several cases, the suspects have arranged for a so-called 'courier' to visit the victim's residence to pick up the victim's bank card, claiming it is needed for an investigation.

The victims later discover that their card and account have been compromised.

### Important safety reminders:

- Financial institutions do not send couriers to collect bank cards, PINS, or personal financial documents.

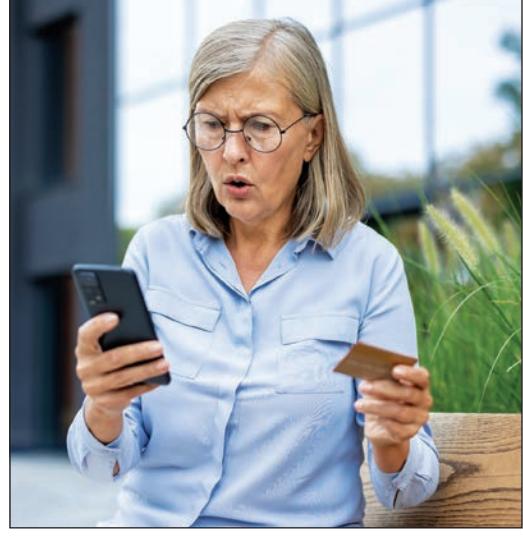
- Never provide personal or banking information over the phone, especially if you did not initiate the call.

- If you suspect a call is fraudulent or are unsure of its legitimacy, hang up immediately.

- Contact your bank using a verified phone number found on the back of your card or by visiting your branch in person.

- Do not use any phone number provided by the caller.

Anyone who believes they may be a victim of fraud, or who has provided personal information to a suspicious caller, is encouraged to contact the OPP at 1-888-310-1122 and report the incident to the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre at 1-888-495-8501, or online at [www.antifraudcentre-centreantifraude.ca](http://www.antifraudcentre-centreantifraude.ca).



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# Two Dufferin residents removed from the road, charged with impaired driving

Dufferin Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) officers have charged two local residents with impaired operation-related charges following separate calls for service in Dufferin County.

On Jan. 22, at approximately 4:18 p.m., Dufferin OPP received a complaint regarding a possible impaired driver who was in the ditch in the area of 30 Sideroad, Mono. Officers later located the individual on Station Street in the Township of Amaranth, conducted a traffic stop, and initiated an im-

paired driving investigation.

Colin Williams, 39, Mono, has been charged with:

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

On Jan. 24, just before 10 p.m., Dufferin OPP officers were conducting a R.I.D.E. spot check in the area of Centennial Road in Orangeville.

A vehicle entered the checkpoint and, fol-

lowing a brief interaction with officers, an impaired driving investigation was initiated.

Jeremy Walker, 26, male from Orangeville, has been charged with:

- Operation while impaired - blood alcohol concentration (80 plus)
- Driver - fail to properly wear seatbelt

The accused individuals are scheduled to appear before the Ontario Court of Justice in Orangeville. Their driver's license was suspended 90 days, and their vehicle im-



pounded for seven days.

None of the listed charges have been proven in court.

## Shovelling snow onto roadways is illegal: OPP

There has been a lot of debate this winter when people complain about neighbours shovelling their snow onto the road.

The people doing this seem to think they can throw their snow wherever they want; however, the OPP is reminding residents that shovelling, plowing, or blowing snow onto the road is dangerous and illegal.

The Ontario Highway Traffic Act, Section 181, states that no person shall deposit snow or ice on a roadway without written permission from the Ministry or the road authority responsible for maintaining that road.

Individuals who throw snow on the road may be charged under Section 213(1) of the

Highway Traffic Act, which provides for a fine ranging from \$60 to \$1,000.

Depositing snow onto the roadway creates hazards for motorists and pedestrians.

Snow piles can obstruct sightlines, create icy patches, interfere with snowplow operations, and increase the risk of collisions.

These hazards compromise road safety and place additional strain on winter maintenance crews who must return to re-clear affected areas.

Residents are encouraged to use designated areas on their own property and follow local municipal guidelines for proper snow removal.

## Tow truck struck by vehicle, 80-year-old Brampton man charged with careless driving

Caledon Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) officers charged a male driver after he collided with a tow operator's vehicle on Jan. 24, around 4:30 p.m.

Officers were on scene of a call for service involving a broken-down vehicle on Mayfield Road, near Robertson Davis Drive, Caledon. Police blocked the live lane of traffic while a local tow operator was working on removing the vehicle from the road. Despite the use of flashing emergency lights and high-visibility reflective gear, a passing vehicle failed to

move over and struck the arm of the tow operator, who suffered minor injuries as a result of the incident.

As a result of the investigation, an 80-year-old from Brampton was charged with:

- Careless driving
- Fail to slow down and proceed with caution for tow truck

Motorists are reminded to proceed with caution when driving past police cars, firetrucks, ambulances, and tow trucks – failure to do so can result in charges.

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**team jersey**, a mom or dad put **food on**  
**the table**, a family **pay a mortgage**  
or a student **pay for college**.

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