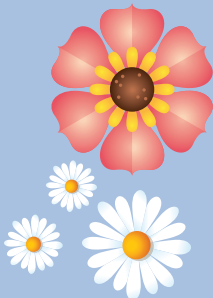




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Free Income Tax Clinics in Dufferin-Caledon On Now

Community Volunteer Income Tax
Program – Free Tax Clinic

Are you eligible?

You may be eligible if you have a modest income
and a simple tax situation.

SUGGESTED INCOME LEVEL	
FAMILY SIZE	TOTAL FAMILY INCOME IS UNDER...
1 PERSON	\$35,000
2 PERSONS	\$45,000
3 PERSONS	\$47,500
4 PERSONS	\$50,000

Simple tax situation

Your tax situation is simple if you have no income
or if your income comes from any of these sources:

- employment
- pension
- benefits such as the Canada Pension Plan, disability insurance, Employment Insurance, and social assistance
- registered retirement savings plans (RRSPs)
- support payments
- scholarships, fellowships, bursaries or grants
- interest (under \$1,000)

Your tax situation is not simple (not eligible) if you:

- are self-employed or have employment expenses
- have business or rental income and expenses
- have capital gains or losses
- filed for bankruptcy in the tax year (or the year before, if that return has not yet been filed)
- are completing a tax return for a deceased person

Kyle Seeback, M.P.
Dufferin-Caledon
Constituency Office
229 Broadway, Unit 2
Orangeville, ON L9W 1K4
Phone: 519-941-1832
Toll Free: 1-866-941-1832
Website: www.kyleseeback.ca
E-mail: kyle.seeback@parl.gc.ca

Community Volunteer Income Tax Program

The Orangeville Public Library is Hosting Free
Income Tax Clinic for Modest Income Individuals
(see eligibility criteria)

Location: Orangeville Public Library (tel. 519-941-0610)
1 Mill Street, Orangeville, ON

When: Starting – **Monday, March 4, 2024**
Last day – **Thursday, April 25, 2024**

Drop Off Service – During regular open hours
Mon - Fri, 10:00 a.m. - 6:00p.m. & weekends
A volunteer will follow-up with a telephone interview

In-person Interviews: **Tuesdays & Thursdays**
from 10:30 a.m. - 1:00p.m.

What you need:

- Bring personal identification
- Bring all tax slips, rent or property tax receipts, charitable donations, summary for prescriptions & other related documents
- Your documents will be returned to you by mail



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Orangeville Blues and Jazz Festival aims for ‘bigger and better’ with 20th anniversary

Written By **SAM ODROWSKI**

The Orangeville Blues and Jazz Festival is pulling out all the stops for its 20th edition this year, bringing a stacked lineup of local and international talent to the downtown core over three days.

Countless JUNO Award-winning acts make up the more than 75 artists who will take over downtown Orangeville from May 31 to June 2 with their eclectic live performances.

The festival will feature Canadian artists from coast to coast – Vancouver Island to Halifax – and everywhere in between.

Everything that Orangeville Blues and Jazz Festival fans have come to love over the years will be returning for its 20th edition – only bigger and better.

“This is one of the most popular events in the area and you’re going to have a great time. You will find tons of stuff to do all day, every day,” said Larry Kurtz, festival founder and artistic director “There’s lots of variety and if you’re into music, you’re going to see great performances.”

Something that sets the 20th edition of the Orangeville Blues and Jazz Festival apart from past year’s is the calibre of artists that make up the lineup.

“Budget wise, we went for a lot of headliners,” said Kurtz, who books all the performers each year. “A lot of bands that in other years would be the sole headliner, we’ve got around seven or eight of them.”

Kurtz said he’s designed the music schedule so that no matter what time of day it is, there’s always something different going on between the Broadway Stage, Opera House, and main stage in Alexandra Park.

“There’s lots of variety within the genres, so there’s something for everybody,” he said.

In addition to live music, the Orangeville Blues and Jazz Festival will see the return of its much-loved events. The Classic Cars Blues Cruise will return to Broadway on Friday (May 31), the Broadway Ramble and New Orleans Style March will both return on Saturday (June 1), and the Blues & Bikes Show and Shine Event will be back on Sunday (June 2).

Several restaurants throughout Orangeville will serve as satellite locations for live music and there will be pop-up bands performing on the street throughout the weekend as well.

Changes & Improvements to the Festival

The festival had over 500 responses to a survey soliciting feedback after the 2023 event and has taken that input to make a few changes this year.

The Broadway Stage, which is usually located on Broadway, near its intersection with Second St., is moving further east toward Wellington St. to create more space and reduce any potential congestion.

For the very first time, a Visitor Information Centre will be set up where the Broadway stage was previously, at the Second St. and Broadway intersection. The information centre will be great for first-time visitors to the festival or anyone who has a question about how it works.

Continued on Page A4

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Orangeville mayor appeals for changes to Canada Carbon Rebate

Written By **SAM ODROWSKI**

Orangeville Mayor Lisa Post isn't happy with the Federal Government's criteria for determining how much money residents in certain areas can receive from the Canada Carbon Rebate (CCR). She's making an appeal to the higher level of government, asking that the criteria be changed, to better reflect the fact that Orangeville is, in fact, a rural municipality. Mayor Post put forward a motion at the Orangeville Council's March 18 meeting, addressing the eligibility for the small/rural community supplement of the CCR. Currently, this CCR supplement sits at 10 per cent, and will rise to 20 per cent in April of this year. "The CCR supplements were intended to provide additional rebates to municipalities based on their size and location, taking into consideration what additional carbon taxes they might face based on that rurality," explained Mayor Post. "Unfortunately, the metric used to determine if residents receive this supplement does not accurately reflect the rurality of many communities."

The current ranking system uses the criteria for a Census Metropolitan Area (CMA), and whether or not a resident lives in one. Communities like the Town of Orangeville and the Town of Mono are ineligible because they fall under the Toronto CMA. This ranking system was not created to determine eligibility for government rebates, and because of that, residents who should qualify for this particular rebate enhancement do not. The quarterly basic CCR sits at \$140 per resident, with an additional amount for spouses, common-law partners, and children. The rural supplement sees an additional 10 per cent added to the basic amount. "For a family of four in our municipality, this is a difference of approximately \$224 additionally per year that they are losing out on," added Mayor Post. The reason this supplement was created is because the offerings and availability of alternative choices are not readily available in comparison to the cities. Heating fuel options, for example, are often limited to high carbon producers like gas. Viable commuter transit options play a role in the increase, as it results in creating more car-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

ADVOCATING FOR CHANGE: Orangeville Mayor Lisa Post is appealing to the Government of Canada to address how eligibility is determined for the Canada Carbon Rebate (CCR). Orangeville is not currently considered a small/rural community, resulting in residents receiving \$224 less per year in CCR payments. Mayor John Creelman of Mono, along with Mayor Post, will request the Federal Government make changes to the eligibility that would ensure small and rural municipalities are included in the program regardless of whether they fall within a CMA. "Forty-thousand residents between our two municipalities are missing out on this critical supplement, and many more across Canada are being affected by the same poorly laid out eligibility requirements," said Mayor Post. "As the cost of living continues to grow, proper allocation criteria must be set."



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Mono council's kite fighting bylaw gets first reading

Written By **JAMES MATTHEWS**
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Mono council has given its proposed kite fighting bylaw a first reading. Fred Simpson, the town's clerk, said during council's March 26 meeting that the draft bylaw to prohibit kite fighting will be open for public comments following the first reading. The proposed fines for a person contravening the bylaw are \$5,000 for a first offence and \$10,000 for any subsequent offence. These increase to \$50,000 for a first offence if committed by a corporation and \$100,000 for subsequent offences. "These fines are great," said Councillor Melinda Davie. She said about 7,000 people attended a kite fighting festival held in Mono last year, so somebody made money off the gathering. A South Asian festival that involved flying kites in July 2023 resulted in the cre-

ation of the bylaw banning kite fighting. Basant Mela is the spring festival of kites to many people in northern India and Pakistan's Punjab province. It traditionally welcomes the spring season. But was a little more than watching a few kites take flight in the sky above the Orangeville Agricultural Society's Fairgrounds. "We were sandbagged over the kite-flying, combative kite-flying," Mayor John Creelman said in July 2023. Based on the fallout from the event, council discussed the need to ban flying kites in the municipality. Property owners complained about the debris that fell from the kites that battled in the sky. Island Lake Conservation Area was also littered with material from the kites, much of them being pulled from trees and waterways. But such a wide-sweeping ban would cause problems for a child who wants to fly a kite in his backyard. So council determined a ban on kite fighting instead of kite flying would be more appropriate.



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Mono resident laments revenue lost by waived parkland fees

Written By JAMES MATTHEWS
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Mono council is moving too fast on a decision to waive parkland dedication fees.

Elaine Kehoe asked town council when it met March 26 to inform its decision on the matter by getting taxpayer feedback during a public meeting.

But the thing is, the decision has already been made to amend the Parkland Dedication Bylaw to waive the cash in lieu of land condition.

The Bruce Trail Conservancy (BTC) requested during council's Feb. 27 meeting that a waiver be granted of a cash in lieu of parkland condition related to a pair of consent applications that were approved Jan. 25 by Mono's committee of adjustment.

The purpose and effect of both applications is to sever land with existing houses, which the BTC intends to sell to recoup funds that helped secure the two nature reserves and sections of

the Bruce Trail that run through them.

The committee approved the severances with a number of conditions. One was the payment of a parkland levy in an amount equivalent to five per cent of the appraised land value for the approved lot.

And it's that five per cent fee that Kehoe said the town can't afford to dismiss in such difficult economic times. She said one councillor suggested the waiver would result in a \$1-million loss for Mono.

She started a petition against the amendment that would permit the fee waiver.

The BTC is an admirable organization, she said.

"We have all at one time or another walked or hiked the trails," she said.

The committee of adjustment has to determine that waiving the parkland dedication fee is in the best interest of the town and the public interest.

She said Mono's taxpayers have not been given enough time or information that outlines

the anticipated revenue loss for the municipality.

Kehoe said there's concern the move will establish a precedent that will open the door for other conservatory groups to get the same waiver.

"There are too many questions that we the residents must have answers to before the bylaw is amended or passed," she said. "This amendment will affect our future revenue and may affect our quiet enjoyment."

Those who signed the petition ask that council postpone its decision on the matter until a public meeting can be held and the voices of the citizens be heard.

"It [the amendment] has been debated, it was voted on, it's been passed," said Mayor John Creelman.

The amendment allows the committee of adjustment to consider fee waivers in certain circumstances in which a land severance creates park space. He said it's the committee's decision to waive all or part of the fee.

"It's discretionary only," he said. "It's not mandatory."

The purpose of the applications was to sever land with existing houses so the BTC could sell it to recoup funds that helped secure the two nature reserves and sections of the Bruce Trail that run through them.

The severances don't create new lots for development. It creates two undevelopable nature reserves of 240 acres and more than three kilometres of public trail.

As more development occurs, the demand for parkland and trails increases. And the benefit of approving the severance was that parkland is created and maintained at no expense to Mono taxpayers.

Councillor Elaine Capes said the committee will only consider the waiver request when it meets March 28. It will not be decided then.

"As I understand it, members of that committee are very uneasy about proceeding in such speed without public input, without discussion, and want to defer it," Creelman said.

County of Dufferin to pause services over Easter long weekend

Good Friday takes place on Friday, March 29 and Easter Monday on Monday, April 1 this year. Here is what you need to know about Dufferin County services those days.

Dufferin County's administrative offices will be closed on Friday, March 29 and Monday, April 1. They will reopen on Tuesday, April 2 at 8:30 am.

Waste Services: There will be no interruptions to waste collection over Easter. Please place all garbage, blue boxes and green bins out for collection on your regular collection day next week. For missed collections, please call GFL at 1.888.941.3345 ext.1. Questions? Call Dufferin Waste at 519.941.2816 ext. 2620 or email dufferinwaste@dufferincounty.ca.

Yard waste collection will begin the week of April 1 for Yard Waste Week A in Orangeville and in rural areas. Yard waste collection will begin the week of April 8 for Yard Waste Week B in the urban areas of Grand Valley and Shelburne and rural subdivisions including Mansfield, Mansfield Ski Hill Area, Horning's Mills, Bretton Estates and Marsville. A yard waste map can be found on the Dufferin County website. Collection begins on the Monday of designated collection weeks and continues until the entire collection area is completed, which may take a few days and be collected on a different day than your regularly scheduled waste collection day.

Residents are reminded that Dufferin County's residential recycling program is now managed by Circular Materials, a not-for-profit producer responsibility organization committed to building efficient and effective recycling systems in Ontario and across Canada. For all recycling inquiries, including new or replacement Blue Boxes, please call GFL at 1.888.941.3345 ext. 1.

Never miss a collection! Download the Dufferin Waste app for weekly reminders, alerts and updates on special collections and events.

Housing Services: Clients of Dufferin County Housing Services can contact 519.941.8221 for after-hours emergency maintenance issues. Within Dufferin County, there are emergency shelter options and resources

to assist anyone experiencing homelessness. Resources can be found at www.dufferin-county.ca.

Ontario Works: Anyone in immediate financial need who is looking to apply for social assistance can complete an application online at www.ontario.ca/socialassistance or by calling the Intake and Benefits Administration Unit to complete an application over the phone at 1.888.999.1142.

EarlyOn: EarlyON centres in Dufferin County will not be open or running programs over Easter. Families are welcome to leave messages on social media or the Ask EarlyON phone line 519.938.0559, which will be answered on Tuesday, April 2.

Town Page

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UPCOMING MEETINGS

Date	Time	Location	Meeting	To Listen In
Tuesday, April 2	12 p.m.	Council Chambers and by Phone	Official Plan Steering Committee	1 289-801-5774 ID: 798 224 05#
Wednesday, April 3	6 p.m.	Council Chambers and by Phone	Committee of Adjustment	1 289-801-5774 ID: 403 182 236#
Monday, April 8	7 p.m.	Council Chambers and by Phone	Council Meeting	Youtube @orangevillecouncil
Tuesday, April 9	8 a.m.	Lakeview Boardroom and Virtual	Economic Development and Culture	1 289-801-5774 ID: 599 563 774#

*Start time of Council and Committee meetings is subject to change
*For more information on how to participate and to view Council and Committee agendas, please visit calendar.orangeville.ca/meetings

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Yard Waste Season Begins!

Collection will begin in Orangeville the week of April 1



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TOWN NEWS

This time of year, it's normal to see an increase in coyote presence

If you come across a coyote in Orangeville, here are a few things to remember:

- Be calm. Do not run away or turn your back.
- Coyotes will flee when scared. Make loud noises and try to appear larger than you are.
- Back away slowly while facing the coyote or wait until it moves on.



Visit orangeville.ca/coyotesafety

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Camp Counsellor – Community Services (Contract)

Hourly Rate: \$17.05

As a Camp Counsellor, you have the opportunity to get involved with your community and help create an exciting, fun, and adventurous summer for local youths. Orangeville Recreation is hiring 20 Camp Counsellor positions for the 2024 summer break. This full-time contract runs from July 1 to August 30, 2024, and includes several mandatory training dates in June.

Application Deadline: Friday, April 5, 2024 at 12 p.m.

Camp Counsellor, Inclusion – Community Services (Contract)

Hourly Pay: \$17.05

This role provides an exciting opportunity for community involvement, leadership, and adventure over the summer. The Camp Counsellor, Inclusion supports camp participants with exceptionalities, ensuring they get to enjoy the program and participate to the fullest. This full-time contract runs from July 1 to August 30, 2024, and includes several mandatory training dates in June.

Application Deadline: Friday, April 5, 2024 at 12 p.m.

Deputy Clerk – Corporate Services

Salary Range: \$88,785.06 to \$103,865.96

The Deputy Clerk is pivotal in managing the critical services to our Council and Committees and the Town's Records Management Program. The successful candidate will also be at the frontlines of policy and by-law reviews and assist in conducting the municipal elections process.

Application Deadline: Wednesday, April 3, 2024 at 4 p.m.

For full duties, qualifications, compensation, and employment terms or to apply visit orangeville.ca/jobs

Easter Long Weekend

Town of Orangeville Offices

Town offices, including Town Hall will be closed Friday, March 29 and Monday, April 1.

Offices are closed on weekends.

Office hours will resume Tuesday, April 2 at 8:30 a.m.

Orangeville Recreation Facilities

Both recreation centres will be closed Friday, March 29 and Sunday, March 31

Orangeville Transit

Transit will not be operating Friday, March 29

Mill St. Library

Mar. 29 – **Closed**
Mar. 30 – 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Mar. 31 – **Closed**
Apr. 1 – **Closed**

Alder St. Library

Mar. 29 – **Closed**
Mar. 30 – 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Mar. 31 – **Closed**
Apr. 1 – **Closed**



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Continued from FRONT

Orangeville Blues and Jazz Festival aims for ‘bigger and better’ for 20th anniversary

There will be an eating area to accompany the many food trucks set up along Second St. this year.

More porta-potties are also coming to the downtown area of the festival and there will be more activities for children, centred around arts, crafts and music.

Broadway businesses have been invited to engage in sidewalk sales, setting up tents in front of their stores to become more interactive with the thousands of people who march up and down the main thoroughfare over the three-day event.

Notable Acts This Year

The lineup for Friday (May 31) features returning fan favourites Jack de Keyzer and the Legendary Downchild Blues Band on the main stage.

Jack de Keyzer was the headliner for the very first Orangeville Blues and Jazz Festival in 2003 and will return to where it all began, in Alexandra Park, for the event’s 20th anniversary.

Over at the Opera House (87 Broadway), Laila Biali is sure to leave attendees entertained with a world-class jazz performance. Like many of this year’s artists, she is a JUNO award winner. Biali also hosts CBC Radio’s “Saturday Night Jazz with Laila Biali.”

“She’s one of Canada’s most popular jazz artists,” Kurtz noted.

Some of the highlights for Saturday (June 1) nights’ programming include Memphis, Tennessee’s Ghost Town Blues Band and Nick Moss Band, featuring Dennis Gruenling, a world-renowned harmonica player.

The Ghost Town Blues Band will be leading the New Orleans Style Jazz March through Broadway on Saturday ahead of their very first performance at the festival.

“They’ve played other festivals in Ontario, so they have a good following. They’re pretty popular here,” said Kurtz.

Entertainment on Sunday (June 2) features Dawn Tyler Watson, a multi-award-winning artist out of Montreal. The JUNO award winner is one of few Canadians to have won the Memphis Blues Challenge, an annual battle between roughly 200 bands. She’ll be performing with the Ben Racine Band., featuring horns, and sounds that will get the audience moving.

Also on Sunday, a special harmonica



PETER RICHARDSON PHOTOS

DON’T MISS OUT!: Orangeville Blues and Jazz Festival is returning to downtown Orangeville from May 31 to June, with lots of big acts for its 20th anniversary.

show, Harps of Gold, will feature Juno Award winners Steve Marriner and Paul Reddick, alongside Larry Kurtz and Jerome Godboo.

“That’ll be a highlight for sure,” said Kurtz.

Spencer MacKenzie, 24, brings a more youthful energy to the Blues and Jazz Festival. He’s a blues artist out of Southern Ontario, who’s been nominated for a JUNO Award and the Independent Blues Awards. MacKenzie is part of the younger generation of blues musicians keeping the genre going strong.

“He’s a very high-level guitar player, and tours all over North America. So he’s coming to play as well on Sunday”

Another artist, still relatively young at 37, Devin Cuddy, will bring his Blue Rodeo-influenced music to the Opera House. His father, Jim Cuddy is the lead of Blue Rodeo and has had an impact on his style, although he takes a different approach, more focused on the roots and Americana genres.

A more unique style of performance for the Orangeville Blues and Jazz Festival will come from the Caribbean jazz band, CaneFire. Its members play with steel drums and steelpans, creating a special vibe for those who see them live.

Kurtz said while the festival has featured Latin jazz bands in the past, CaneFire’s performance will be a first of its kind for Caribbean jazz in Orangeville.

Continued Support Ensures Festival’s Longevity

Orangeville Blues and Jazz Festival organizers are thrilled with the success the festival saw in 2023, with record attendance, amounting to more than 40,000 attendees over three days.

Not all festivals and annual music events in other communities have been as fortunate. Since COVID-19, many have had to cut back on their programming or close altogether due to a lack of support.

Kurtz said the Orangeville Blues and Jazz Festival is very fortunate to have the community’s support to ensure its success each year, as it keeps the event running strong.

“A lot of people who come to the festival, they don’t know the acts, but they know they’re going to be good,” Kurtz explained.

In fact, over 90 per cent of the people who go to Orangeville Blues and Jazz are repeat attendees.

“That’s a testament to the quality and what this organization has been able to accomplish,” said Peter Ross, the festival’s director of development and marketing.

With less money available through provincial and federal grants this year, the festival’s organizers are hoping to drive more people to the main stages at Alexandra Park and the Opera House.

“If we can increase the numbers who are coming into the park, that’d be great,” Kurtz said. “It’s a shame that the acts are all

there and people just don’t go see it.”

He noted that at \$20 per night, a ticket to the main stage at Alexandra Park will enable attendees to see several world-class acts for a fraction of what they would pay to see them individually.

“Ticket sales, are an important part of what we’re doing and help us pay for the talent we put on,” said Ross. “We want to encourage people to take full advantage of the fact that the opera house and the main stage are there. Yes, they’re ticketed events, but if you want to support the festival, that’s the number one way to do it – buy a ticket.”

Kurtz said each year, costs go up, making ticket sales increasingly important. Last year’s event saw record revenue but it was coupled with record expenses.

“Cost inevitably go up, but we try to manage our costs as much as possible,” he noted.

Kurtz said he’d encourage the public to come out and support the Orangeville Blues and Jazz Festival from May 31 to June 2, and celebrate the 20th edition.

“The goal of the festival is to bring this talent to Orangeville and expose people to music they may not have heard on the radio too much. But its great talent coming from this country, all over North America, and around the world in that [blues and jazz] genre,” said Kurtz

2024

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HOLIDAY INTERRUPTION FOR WASTE COLLECTION

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
March 24	March 25	March 26	March 27	March 28	March 29	March 30
March 31	EASTER MONDAY	April 2	April 3	April 4	April 5	April 6
April 7	April 8	April 9	April 10	April 11	April 12	April 13

Monday ZONE

Tuesday ZONE

Wednesday ZONE

Thursday ZONE

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There will be **no interruptions** to waste collections over Easter.

Dufferin county

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dufferincounty.ca/waste
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YARD WASTE COLLECTION BEGINS

and continues until the end of November

Week A

Yard waste is collected in the Town of Orangeville.

Week B

Yard waste is collected in the urban areas of Grand Valley and Shelburne, as well as rural subdivisions including Mansfield, Mansfield Ski Hill Area, Horning's Mills, Bretton Estates, and Marsville.

Rural Areas

In rural areas yard waste is collected on a monthly call-in basis. To be added to the list, contact GFL at 1.888.941.3345 ext. 1 at least one week in advance.

APRIL 2024

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Shelburne
Sylvanwood Estates
Devonleigh Drive
Grand Valley
Waldemar
Grand View Road
Cardinal Woods
Kingfisher Drive
Village Green
Starrview Crescent
Campbell Road
Robinson Road
Island Lake
Purple Hill
Orangeville
Brookfield
Garafra Woods
Brookhaven Crescent
Rayburn Meadows

Collection begins on the Monday of designated weeks, and continues until the entire collection area is completed, which may take a few days. **Place yard waste at the curb by Monday at 7 a.m. of your scheduled week to ensure collection.**

Dufferin county

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Mono shirks donation ban, gives to two different causes

Written By **JAMES MATTHEWS**
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The overall benefit to Mono and its residents should determine the outcome of monetary donation requests.

As such, the town decided during its March 26 meeting to donate to a farm guide and a countywide multicultural group.

This comes after council agreed during its March 12 meeting to put the decision on whether or not to donate \$1,000 towards the 2024 Headwaters Farm Fresh Guide in the hands of the town's climate action plan committee.

The farm guide has been pitched as a means of supporting the Mono Climate Action Plan, agricultural sustainability, and food security.

It was suggested that Mono's contribution be funded from its climate change and environment budget as council had eliminated any type of donation in this year's municipal operating and capital budget.

Rather than move money from a reserve fund set up for municipal climate change and environmental initiatives, the funds will be taken from the Living Snow Fence program. There's \$3,000 set aside for that.

Michael Dunmore, the town's CAO, said landowners would rather have a snow fence instead of a living snow fence of trees.

"We're a little stalled on our living snow fence program," he said. "This would free up \$3,000 that could go back into the council donation budget line."

The reallocation could be used to provide a \$300 donation to the Dufferin County Multicultural Foundation.

"It seems a satisfactory solution to me," said Councillor Ralph Manktelow.

Councilor Melinda Davis asked at the March 12 meeting what was the “point of going through the exercise for weeks and weeks and months, actually,” of striving for the lowest tax increase as possible for residents?

Council had taken to shaving small expense items from this year's municipal budget, she said. One of those items was money set aside for donations.

Those little items that were cut added up and enabled council to balance the operating and capital budget.

At the most recent meeting, Davie wondered why money needed to be transferred from initiative to initiative if they were both worthy of donations.

"The debate that we all had about the donating thing just is moot when we massage the money around," she said. "Obviously I'm in favour of supporting it."

"I'm going to lobby very hard in preparation of next year's budget to get rid of the word donation," Mayor John Creelman said. "We've tended to lump everything under donation when, in fact, I would argue that this support is more like purchasing an ad or being a sponsor."

"That's different in my way of thinking than calling it a donation simply because we have historically done that."

Ontario Provincial Police to host auto theft and awareness event at Orangeville Canadian Tire

Written By **JOSHUA DRAKES**

The OPP will be hosting an event to educate the public about the rise of auto thefts in the area.

With the rise of auto thefts in the area, the Dufferin Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) is hosting a public event on April 2, to inform and educate the public on the ongoing rise of auto theft.

Sgt. Terri-Ann Pencarinha, the Media Relations Officer for the Dufferin OPP Detachment, is encouraging everyone to come out to the event so that they will have the opportunity to ask questions, provide feedback and otherwise engage with local police and public figures.

"This is a collaborative approach to addressing auto theft," she said. "The event will be open to the public to ask questions, view demonstrations, and receive promotional items for auto theft prevention."

Local leaders will also be attending the event.

"We are expecting local politicians from all eight municipalities in Dufferin County, local media partners, multiple Dufferin OPP officers, and community residents," Pencarinha said.

While this type of crime is not a new issue, Pencarinha said that it is happening at a much higher rate than what's been previously seen, which is why the public should be more informed and engaged.

"Auto theft is the most prevalent type of vehicle crime," she said. "Over the last few years, there has been a surge in vehicle crime. Vehicle crime includes theft, carjackings and criminality in the tow industry.

"The levels of violence, intimidation and firearms used in these incidents represents a new and evolving threat to public safety."

Pencarinha also said that cases in Ontario have continued to rise for years, and have increased by the thousands.

"Over the past few years, the total number of insurance claims related to stolen passenger vehicles has been steadily increasing," she said. "According to the Équité Associa-

tion, there was a 78 per cent increase in vehicles stolen from communities across the province between 2020 and 2023.”

Insurance claims have jumped by thousands from 2020 to 2023. The latest data shows 16,952 claims in 2020, 20,340 in 2021, 28,131 in 2022 and then 30,134 in 2023.

In response, the OPP has provided tips that residents can follow to help protect themselves and their vehicles. More will be provided at the event.

“Remain vigilant at all times, especially while driving at night,” Pencarinha said. “Some individuals use intentional rear-end collisions as a tactic to commit carjackings. Once the motorist steps around back to inspect the damage, the individual jumps inside the vehicle and flees the scene. If your vehicle is rear-ended, remain calm. Do not exit the vehicle until it is safe to do so.”

She added, "Ensure your driveway is well lit. Security cameras are also considered an asset. If you see someone coming toward your vehicle, lock the doors and set the alarm with your key fob. If you are approached by armed suspects, remain calm. Comply with their demands and call the police when it is safe to do so. Avoid confrontation with the individual."

This initiative is part of a larger strategy to combat auto thefts in the province, Project CLASP, which is designed to approach auto thefts from four angles: enforcement, training, intelligence and public awareness.

Pencarinha said that all who are interested in learning more about the issue of auto theft are invited to attend.

"Residents are encouraged to have one-on-one conversations with officers where they can ask questions, or share comments and concerns," she said.

“We all have a part to play to address auto theft, we must continue to work together to make our homes, neighbourhoods, and communities safe. Dufferin OPP remains committed to public safety and is working hard to address this important issue affecting our community members.”

The event is set for April 2, from 2:30 p.m.



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<div style="text-align: center;"> IN STOCK BARGAINS & DEALS HANDSCRAPED LAMINATE \$159 <small>FROM PER SQ. FT REG 4.99</small> </div>	<div style="text-align: center;"> IN STOCK BARGAINS & DEALS SUBWAY WALL TILES \$199 <small>FROM PER SQ. FT REG 8.99</small> </div>
<div style="text-align: center;"> IN STOCK BARGAINS & DEALS 2-TONE FRIEZE CARPET \$199 <small>FROM PER SQ. FT REG 3.99</small> </div>	<div style="text-align: center;"> IN STOCK BARGAINS & DEALS 4" WIDE X 3/4" THICK CORK BACK HARDWOOD \$399 <small>FROM PER SQ. FT REG 8.99</small> </div>
<div style="text-align: center;"> IN STOCK BARGAINS & DEALS 13" X 13" PORCELAIN TILES 69¢ <small>FROM /SQ. FT 3.99</small> </div>	<div style="text-align: center;"> IN STOCK BARGAINS & DEALS 12" X 24" PORCELAIN TILES 99¢ <small>FROM /SQ. FT 3.99</small> </div>
<div style="text-align: center;"> IN STOCK BARGAINS & DEALS 12" X 24" PORCELAIN TILES \$299 <small>FROM PER SQ. FT REG 6.99</small> </div>	<div style="text-align: center;"> IN STOCK BARGAINS & DEALS WHITE LEDGESTONE \$699 <small>FROM PER SQ. FT REG 9.99</small> </div>
<div style="text-align: center;"> VINYL & LAMINATE MOULDINGS 100'S OF COLOURS IN STOCK! </div>	<div style="text-align: center;"> IN STOCK <div style="position: relative; height: 100px;"> NO TAX! </div> 7'X10' AREA RUGS \$199 <small>STARTING FROM PATTERNS MAY DIFFER</small> </div>

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Shelburne’s newest restaurant features Mexican–Indian fusion

Written By BRIAN LOCKHART

There’s a new restaurant in Shelburne featuring a delightful mix of Mexican and Indian cuisine.

Mexcellent Burritos on Owen Sound Street just opened with a bright and welcoming location and a large kitchen where they make all sorts of tasty fare. From burritos to coco bread, they put a spin on their offerings by combining spices to create some savoury dishes.

Restaurant owners, Ankit and Jasmita Thakkar had previous experience with a restaurant in Brampton, and Jasmita has years of experience in the industry.

They spent several months getting the new location ready for the opening with a new interior and re-designed space.

“The core of our business is Mexican food, but we have diversified to cater to more people because our town has many communities,” Ankit said. “For example, we have butter chicken that is added into the burrito. Our tagline is ‘Mexcellent Burritos where burritos loves butter chicken.’ We have a variety of fries. We try to be pocket book friendly so people can have a meal for under \$10.”

Jasmita had her own restaurant previously, however, the pandemic created a situation that just wasn’t favourable for the business.

After moving to Shelburne, they realized the time was right, and Shelburne was a great location for this type of restaurant. With previous experience with Mexican and Indian food, Ankit and Jasmita found that combining the flavours of both cultures worked very well.

“Mexican food and Indian food both use a lot of spices, and similar spices,” Ankit explained. “We did some experiments and created some new recipes.”

The result is some very unique and flavour-filled dishes

The menu is varied and delicious.

Mexcellent Burritos is located at 120 Owen Sound Street in Shelburne and is open seven days a week from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

MEXCELLENT: Shelburne’s newest restaurant, Mexcellent Burritos is now open at its Owen Sound St. location. Owners, Ankit and Jasmita Thakkar cut the ribbon to officially open for business.

What to know before starting renovations in Dufferin County

Looking to tackle a home renovation project this year? Do you have something on your property to demolish? The Dufferin County Building Services Division is here to help!

The building permit application process for residents of Dufferin County is now electronic. Apply for permits, check the status of applications and request inspections – all from the comfort of home!

To help residents navigate the permit application process, the County has created video

tutorials on creating a profile and applying. All applications are required to be submitted through the online Portal system, which can be found here.

“In alignment with the County’s Strategic Plan goal of improving governance and service delivery, the Building Services Division is working to improve our customer service by simplifying the permit application process,” says Becky MacNaughtan, Chief Building Official, Dufferin County. “We encourage anyone

in our community who is thinking about potential home projects to watch the new video tutorial to learn more about permit applications in Dufferin County. Now fully electronic, the process is easy and convenient, and you can track your permit progress along the way!”

You can watch the Portal video tutorials on the County’s YouTube here. The Building Services Division also has helpful application checklists, FAQs and steps for applying for a building permit at www.dufferincounty.ca.



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Team captains meet ahead of annual Hike for Bethel Hospice

Written By **ZACHARY ROMAN**
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Caledon community is beginning to get ready for the annual Hike for Bethell Hospice.

Now in its 14th year, the annual hike is a key fundraiser for Bethell Hospice, the Inglewood-based non-profit that provides free hospice residence care and community programs.

Nicole Hand, Bethell Hospice Foundation's Executive Director, explained that in order to keep Bethell Hospice's services free, the foundation must now raise \$1.7 million per year.

"It's about the care... we want to make sure as a foundation that the hospice (staff) have all of the resources that they need to do their job," said Hand. "This is why we hike."

The fundraising goal for this year's hike is \$245,000. It's a big goal, but one the community has shown it has potential to reach — last year's hike raised over \$224,000.

Hand explained she encourages people to hike in memory or in honour of someone when they come to the hike. Each hiker gets a heart sticker they can write someone's name on, and at the end of the hike, they can

add it to a big wall full of theirs and others' heart stickers.

"We are really looking forward to another great year," said Hand of this year's hike.

Hand shared these and other remarks at a March 20 meeting of Hike for Bethell Hospice team captains. The meeting took place at local coffee shop Coywolf Coffee.

Each year, many people take on the role of team captain for the hike. Captains are responsible for leading fundraising efforts and getting team members registered for the hike. Registration for this year's Hike for Bethell Hospice is free.

Anyone interested in starting a team or joining a team for this year's hike can visit bethellhospice.org, where they can find links to the official Hike for Bethell Hospice website.

Prospective donors and sponsors can find all the information they need at that link as well.

At the team captains' meeting, people shared why they were hiking.

Many told stories of beloved family members and friends, and others spoke of their strong belief in hospice care and the good it does for the community.

Over 160 people are already signed up for



ZACHARY ROMAN PHOTO

TEAM MEETING: The 2024 Hike for Bethell Hospice team captains met at Coywolf Coffee on March 20 for a pre-hike rally.

this year's hike, and Hand said it's a promising start.

She said she has no doubt the fundraising goal for this year's hike can be met.

This year's hike is on May 5 and begins at

8 a.m. at the Lloyd Wilson Centennial Arena in Inglewood.

This date coincides with the beginning of National Hospice & Palliative Care Week.

TOWN OF MONO



STATUTORY PUBLIC MEETING: Zoning Bylaw Amendment to Allow a Licensed Day Care Centre

MEETING DATE: TUESDAY, APRIL 9TH, 2024 AT 10:00 AM

PURPOSE & EFFECT to re-zone a 0.093 hectare (0.23 acre) parcel of land, with frontage of 46.33 m (152 feet) abutting south side Hockley Road, described as Part of Lot 13, Con 8 EHS, and known municipally as: **308618 Hockley Road (Subject Property)**. The Application (**File ZBA 2023-01**) proposes to amend Section 8 of Town Zoning Bylaw (78-1) as amended, to add site specific provisions, that would permit one (1) Day Care Centre with licensed capacity of approximately 20 children, subject to Ontario Ministry of Education Day Care - Licensing Branch requirements. Proposed development, if approved, would involve a change of use conversion of the entire existing detached dwelling to facilitate the operation of a Licensed Day Care Centre. The proposal may also involve exterior site works.

Subject Property: is zoned Hamlet Residential (RH) in the Town's Zoning Bylaw 78-1, as amended. This application seeks a Zoning Bylaw Amendment to allow a licensed Day Care Centre on the Subject Property.

Pursuant to Sections 34 (12) - Ontario Planning Act, R.S.O. as amended, a Statutory Public Meeting at Council is required and scheduled as follows:

Statutory PUBLIC MEETING at Council Will Be Held On

Tuesday, April 9th, 2024 at 10:00 A.M.

Council Chambers at Town Hall / Municipal Office and Virtually with the Access Information Included in this Notice
347209 Mono Centre Road

Statutory Public Notice: This **Notice** provides interested citizens and stakeholders with an opportunity to attend this In-Person Meeting, or alternatively via On-Line Virtual Access, concerning the proposed Applications, that if approved, would permit a licensed Day Care Centre on the Subject Property.

On-Line Virtual Access: If you choose to attend by Virtual On-Line Access, you **MUST** join **prior to the start of the Public Meeting**. For security precautions, anyone who attempts to join after the Public Meeting has commenced may not be granted access. Anyone wishing to make a verbal submission during the Public Meeting may do so by navigating to: app.gotomeeting.com (Chrome browser) and entering Access Code: **225-412-605**. Password: **cmsta49**. You can also phone into the meeting by dialing 1 (647) 497-9373 and entering the access code when prompted.

Proposed Development Program: Applicant (Gisele and Nick Arseneau) submitted Zoning Bylaw Amendment Application File **ZBA 2023-01**, on May 18, 2023, to re-zone **308618 Hockley Road** (Subject Property) in Hockley Village to add a Licensed Day Care Centre as an additional permitted use to the associated Hamlet Residential (HR) Zone that applies to the Subject Property. The new use, if approved, will require conversion of the entire existing building to facilitate operation of a (Licensed) Day Care Centre. The Applicants are pursuing a license with the Provincial Day Care Licensing Branch to permit a maximum of 20 pre-school children.

Additional Information: Proposed Application and related documents are available at the following link:
townofmono.com/apa/zba2023-01

Written Comments: Written comments, in support of or in opposition to both proposed applications, must be submitted to the Town Clerk (clerksoffice@townofmono.com) ideally prior to the date of the Public Meeting, regardless of whether you are able to attend the Public Meeting, In-Person or by On-Line Virtual Access. All Written Comments received will be considered by Council, prior to rendering a Decision.

Need More Information?: Contact Town of Mono at 347209 Mono Centre Road Mono, or by Email to the Town Planning Department at: planning@townofmono.com or Tel: 519 941 3599 Ext. 224 or visit the Town's website: www.townofmono.com.

If You Wish to be Notified: If Town Council renders a Decision respecting File ZBA 2023-01 (Application) and you wish to be notified of their Decision, you must make written request from Town Clerk: (clerksoffice@townofmono.com).

Appeal to Ontario Land Tribunal (OLT): If a person or public body that would otherwise be able to appeal the Decision of Town Council to Ontario Land Tribunal (OLT) but said person or public body does not provide written comments to the Town of Mono or make an oral submission at the Public Meeting before any Bylaw(s) is passed, said person or public body may not be entitled to appeal the Decision. If a person or public body does not make written comments or oral submissions at the Public Meeting or before any Bylaw is passed, said person or public body may not be added as a party to any Hearing of Appeal before the Ontario Land Tribunal (OLT) unless, in the opinion of the Tribunal, there are reasonable grounds to do so.

Dated: **March 18th, 2024**



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Arts &
Entertainment

Wayne Hudson creates paintings with a love for light

Written By **CONSTANCE SCRAFIELD**

Relatively new to Headwaters Arts at the Alton Mill Arts Centre, Wayne Hudson had his first show at the gallery in the fall of last year. Now he is back with a couple of paintings in his latest show, titled Rejuvenation.

While Mr. Hudson grew up in Moncton, New Brunswick, he has been settled here in Caledon for many years.

"I paint what I know," he began during our interview, earlier this week. "Landscapes mainly and with the animals I see. There is an impressionist influence in my paintings."

Earning a Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) Degree at York University, with a side specializing in painting, he works mostly with acrylics.

"I graduated and have been painting since then," he said, adding that, as a landscaper, this year with so little snow has been good for his studio work.

Combining art with landscaping makes sense: the one informs the other. By and large, Mr. Hudson's business is on contracts with commercial buildings, like condos.

He designs and plants perennial gardens, saying, "My business is working in garden designs. Mostly commercial, I do a High Park area in Toronto, extensive gardens and it is an extension of a canvas. The way I put colours together in a garden is as a result of what I do in painting."

Being outdoors is the reference for his painting and impressionism works an influence.

"I'm a Christian," he said. "I appreciate God's creation and I'm hoping to reflect some of that. My three kids, one is 22, doing his last year in university. My wife is a teacher of grades three and four.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

PAINTING SCENIC BEAUTY: Caledon artist, Wayne Hudson poses in front of his two pieces, "Spring Stop for Snow Geese" and "A Peaceful Place." He is participating in the Rejuvenation show at Headwaters Arts, in the Alton Mill Arts Centre.

"Our kids are doing their own things, one is a wildlife biologist. Our daughter is in psychology. They're my best critics. My studio is on the main floor of my house. They see what I'm doing as they walk into the house.

"They all have different takes on my work."

As with many artists, a life of marriage and children did push art to the side a bit. Over the years, Mr. Hudson still had paintings in juried shows. Most recently, he was part of an art collective in Hamilton, Flagship, until about two years ago. During that association, he staged two solo shows.

In the fall show at the Alton Mill, he sold a piece.

"It's something I'll always have," he said, "Lately, I've been more into it. I've had more time. During this past winter, I've probably produced more than ever before. That's been a bonus; painting has always been important to me."

For the last couple of years, Mr. Hudson has opted to run his business with just himself and a couple of students. When artwork gets viewed as a hobby by others, he denies it and asserts that it's not that for him.

"I hope the viewer stands back and sees what I've seen in nature. I just did three snow geese on a simple field, another with animals in a scene, a forest walk."

His hope is people will stop and look at what is in front of them.

"I love to paint what I know, small moments. I'm working on a small painting now with the sun coming through the trees in the winter. It makes you pause for a minute," he observed.

During the days with Flagship in Hamilton, the comment he often got was, "We don't see the darkness in your paintings." But Mr. Hudson is not interested in painting the dark side. He paints hope and beauty into his pictures.

With a couple of his recent paintings, he pro-

motes simplicity and light with a pelican he saw in Mexico, the other of ducks on a pond; drawing people in to pause and just look.

Wayne Hudson met his wife at university, where she was attending Glendon campus, doing French and English. They graduated at the same time and “we’ve been together ever since, coming up to 33 years.”

We asked him about his ambitions. Pausing momentarily, he told us, "One thing I'm thinking about is getting involved with Headwaters and getting out there. Should I? Always that little trepidation: I don't know how people will like it. But they do."

He stated, "I just want to keep getting better."

With simple paintings of what he and many viewers know – easy to look at – we asked him what is he doing to grab the attention of the viewer.

He clarified what is special about his work: "How I handle the colour and light. I keep them fairly bright, care for how the light hits something. One painting was a bull moose – it looked almost like watercolour. The back is misty but how the light makes things appeal to convey hope in the darkness, depicting how the light and colour can make a difference."





He mentioned a beach scene bathed in sunshine, and the snow geese, depicting how white is all kinds of other colours too.

“As a Christian, that’s what fits in my life. My witness to the world, what it means to me,” Mr. Hudson said.

“Everybody has something in his life that is sad.”

Yet, light always brings hope in Wayne Hudson's paintings.

@waynehudson.artist

 <p>MacMaster </p> <p>Josh Ferriss Sales Consultant</p>	 <p>Orangeville Chrysler Jeep RAM</p> <p>Daniel Basra Sales Consultant</p>	 <p>Orangeville Volkswagen</p> <p>Carson Taylor Sales Consultant</p>
<p>Dream Car - GMC Sierra Denali Ultimate Fav Roadtrip Song - Life is a Highway - Rascal Flatts First Vehicle - 2006 Pontiac Sunfire When I'm not at work you can find me - In the kitchen cooking</p>	<p>Dream Car - '66 Continental Convertible Fav Roadtrip Song - Little Black Submarines - The Black Keys First Vehicle - 1992 Ford Mustang When I'm not at work you can find me - Riding my motorcycle or cruising in my convertible</p>	<p>Dream Car - Golf R Fav Roadtrip Song - Candian Summer - Dean Brody First Vehicle - 2006 Ford Ranger When I'm not at work you can find me - Fishing or Golfing</p>

BRACKETT
Auto Group

The Citizen

CROSSWORD

Puzzle No. 243410 • Solution on page: CLASSIFIEDS SECTION

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CLUES ACROSS

1. Database management system
5. Medical procedures
11. ___ Clapton, musician
12. Defender
16. Exert oneself
17. Indicates position
18. Quay
19. Atrocities
24. A way to address an adult man
25. Ends
26. Unable
27. Taxi
28. Gratuities
29. A famous train station
30. Japanese persimmon
31. Sours
33. Beneficiary
34. Baseball official
38. Confused situation
39. Unworldly
40. Yemen capital

CLUES DOWN

43. Type of soil
44. Beloved beverage
___ Cola
45. Lying down
49. ___ Angeles
50. Fail to amuse
51. Collapsible shelter
53. Commercial
54. Taste property
56. Lordship's jurisdictions
58. It cools your home
59. Dismounted
60. Charge in a court of law
63. One less than one
64. Spoke
65. Famed garden

CLUES DOWN

1. Show a picture of
2. Small sultanate
3. Unfortunate incident
4. A way to ski
5. Abba ___, Israeli

CLUES DOWN

politician
6. Observed
7. "Westworld" actor
Harris
8. Belonging to me
9. Shoelace tube
10. Takes to civil court
13. Early multimedia
14. Produces anew
15. Horse races
20. Of I
21. Equally
22. Changes color
23. A place to stay
27. Town in Galilee
29. Mathematical figure
30. Klingon character
31. They ___
32. Atomic #58
33. Showed up extinct
34. Loosen grip
35. Unpleasant smell
36. Innermost membranes
enveloping the brain

CLUES DOWN

37. Esteemed college
"league"
38. Partner to Pa
40. Small American rail
41. A salt or ester of acetic acid
42. Sodium
44. Military figure (abbr.)
45. Lighted
46. Paid to get out of jail
47. All of something
48. Ohio city
50. More abject
51. A radio band
52. Scientific development (abbr.)
54. Monetary unit
55. Scored perfectly
57. A punch to end a fight
61. The Golden State (abbr.)
62. The Beehive State (abbr.)

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



kids' corner

How they SAY that in...

ENGLISH: Bud
SPANISH: Capullo
ITALIAN: Bocciole
FRENCH: Bourgeon
GERMAN: Knospe



THIS SEASON IS A NOTABLE PERIOD FOR ANIMAL BIRTHS.

ANSWER: SPRING

Did You Know?

MANY EARLY SPRINGTIME FLOWERS ARE BULBS, INCLUDING CROCUSES, HYACINTHS AND SNOWDROPS.



New word

EQUINOX
a date when day and night are almost of equal length

GET THE PICTURE?



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: ASPARAGUS

Happy Easter!



CANADA HISTORY

1979

THE MISSISSAUGA TRAIN DERAILMENT CAUSED THE EVACUATION OF HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE.



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DATE: Tuesday, April 2nd
TIME: 2:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
LOCATION:
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99 First Street, Orangeville



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Dufferin County hit with two fires in two days

Officers from the Dufferin Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) are investigating a recent structure fire in Melancthon. Dufferin OPP, along with Shelburne Fire Department and Dufferin County EMS, responded to a structure fire at a residential dwelling on 8th Line SW, Melancthon, on Monday, March 25, just before 11:00 p.m. The Dufferin Major Crime Unit is continuing their investigation with assistance from the Office of the Fire Marshal. The following day, Tuesday, March 26, at approximately 11:30 a.m., there was another fire in Dufferin County. Members of the Dufferin Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) are currently investigating the fire, which took place at a residence in the Town of Orangeville. Dufferin OPP, along with Orangeville Fire Department and Dufferin County EMS, responded to a dwelling on Birch Street in Orangeville. The Dufferin Major Crime Unit is continuing their investigation with assistance from the Office of the Fire Marshal. Officers will continue to hold the scene for the ongoing investigation. More information will be released as it becomes available. If you had witnessed the fire and wish to speak to victim services, Caledon/Dufferin Victim Services can be reached at 905-951-3838.

Two vehicle collision in Mono claims life of 20-year-old

Members of the Dufferin Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) along with Dufferin County EMS, and Fire Services attended a serious two vehicle collision in Mono last week. Officers arrived at Airport Road near County Road 7 and 5 Sideroad in Mono for the report of a serious collision involving two vehicles on Friday, March 22, just before 4:00 p.m., Sadly, as a result of the collision, a 20-year-old male from Scarborough was pronounced deceased at the scene. A 21-year-old male was also transported to a Toronto area trauma centre. Two other males and a single female were transported to a local area hospital with minor injuries. Airport Road will remain closed for several hours while the Traffic Collision Investigation (TCI) team of the OPP investigates. The investigation is continuing and anyone who may have witnessed the collision is asked to contact the Dufferin OPP 1-888-310-1122. If you had witnessed the collision and wish to speak to victim services, Caledon/Dufferin Victim Services can be reached at 905-951-3838.

Man who attempted to flee from officers by foot now facing drug, theft charges

Written By **Sam Odrowski**

Officers from the Dufferin Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) recently laid drug trafficking charges against a 28-year-old Thornhill man after seizing a quantity of cocaine and heroin. Members of the Dufferin Community Street Crime Unit (CSCU), along with Dufferin uniform members and Offender Management and Apprehension Program (OMAP) arrested the Thornhill man who was wanted on a warrant on March 25. "The male attempted to flee from officers engaging in a short foot pursuit," said Dufferin OPP in a press release. "The officers arrested the male without incident, and he is now facing multiple charges." In addition, the officers seized a quantity of drugs. Tevin FRANCIS, a 28-year-old from Thornhill, has been charged with: Possession of a Schedule I substance for the purpose of Trafficking - Cocaine Possession of a Schedule I substance for the purpose of Trafficking - Heroin Possession of proceeds of property obtained by crime - under \$5000



- Driving while under suspension
 - Class G1 licence holder - unaccompanied by qualified driver
- The following property was seized:
- Cocaine - 5.5 Grams
 - Heroin - 2.5 Grams
 - Cash - \$1970 Canadian
 - Cellular phone - evidence of the offence
- None of the listed charges have been proven in court. Anyone with information regarding this investigation of any other criminal activity is asked to contact Dufferin OPP at 1-888-310-1122 or Crime Stoppers to remain anonymous at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477). You can also submit your information online at <https://ontariocrimestoppers.ca/>.

Dufferin OPP charge two suspects with Theft Over \$5,000

Written By **SAM ODROWSKI**

As a result of an ongoing police investigation, officers from the Dufferin Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) charged two individuals connected an ongoing criminal investigation. On March 21, 2024, members of Dufferin County, Nottawasaga and Central Regional



OPP executed a search warrant at an address on Centennial Road in the Town of Orangeville.

Kuldeep OTAL, a 42-year-old from Brampton has been charged with Theft Over \$5,000 Jasvir KHABRA, a 31-year-old from Orangeville has been charged with: Theft Over \$5,000 The accused individuals are scheduled to appear before the Ontario Court of Justice in Orangeville, to answer to the charges.

None of these charges have been proven in court. Anyone with information regarding this investigation of any other criminal activity is asked to contact Dufferin OPP at 1-888-310-1122 or Crime Stoppers to remain anonymous at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477). You can also submit your information online at <https://ontariocrimestoppers.ca/>.

Impaired driving charges laid against young motorists in Mono

Dufferin Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) have charged another driver with impaired operation related offences, during Impaired Driving Prevention Week. On March 20, just before 10:00 p.m., officers from Dufferin OPP were conducting a R.I.D.E. (Reduce Impaired Driving Everywhere) spot-check on First Line EHS and French Drive, in the Town of Mono. A driver entered the area and officers were quickly led into an impaired operation investigation. Connor PIERCEY, a 21-year-old, from Kirkfield has been charged with: Operation while impaired - blood alcohol concentration (80 plus) Young driver - B.A.C. above zero Adult driving while under suspension Adult driving motor vehicle with open container of liquor The accused is scheduled to appear at the Ontario Court of Justice in Orangeville to answer to the charges. Their driver's license was suspended, and the vehicle was impounded. None of the listed charges have been proven in court. "The Dufferin OPP reminds motorist to plan ahead when consuming alcohol or drugs. Use a designated driver, cab, ride-

share, public transit or stay overnight. Any amount of alcohol or drugs can impact your ability to make sound judgements," said Dufferin OPP in a press release. If you have information about suspected unlawful activity, please contact the OPP at 1-888-310-1122 or Crime Stoppers to remain anonymous at 1-800-822-8477 (TIPS) or www.crimestopperssdm.com.

Easter weekend seatbelt campaign begins

The Dufferin Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) is kicking off the annual Easter long weekend seatbelt campaign this Friday. The campaign runs from Friday, March 29, 2024, until Monday, April 1, 2024. Officers across Dufferin County will be working hard to ensure everyone's safety this long weekend. During the campaign, officers will be highly visible throughout Dufferin County as they conduct seatbelt safety checks. Although properly worn seatbelts is the focus of this campaign, enforcement will not be limited to just seatbelts. The "Big 4", which includes seatbelt compliance, distracted driving, impaired driving, and speeding are always a priority. Everyone travelling in a motor vehicle must properly wear a seatbelt and children must be properly secured in child car seat. Drivers are responsible for ensuring all passengers under the age of 16 are properly secured in either a seat belt or Child Car Seat. While the majority of drivers and passengers understand the lifesaving value of seatbelts, we still find people who choose not to buckle up. Even with all of the technology the digital age has brought us, seat belts continue to be a crucial life-saving measure behind the wheel. It only takes a few seconds to buckle up. A properly worn seat belt greatly increases your chances of surviving a motor vehicle collision. The proof is in the collisions we attend year after year, seat belts save lives.

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Ontario Vocal Jazz/Contemporary Festival features young talent

Written By ZACHARY ROMAN
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

A recent music festival held in Caledon hit the right note.

On March 21 and 22, the Ontario Vocal Jazz/Contemporary Festival was held at Mayfield Secondary School. It featured student vocal groups from more than 25 different schools, and at the festival students got to perform in a professional environment and learn in workshops with professional vocalists.

Mayfield Secondary School's auditorium has all the bells and whistles of a real concert hall, from the sound system to the lighting.

Jennifer Moon, a music teacher at Mayfield Secondary School, helped run the festival, which saw several vocal groups from Mayfield Secondary School perform. For example, Mayfield showcased a 200-voice choir, an 80-voice gospel choir, and performance from the "Magnetics", a vocal group from a music class Moon teaches.

"It's a lot of fun," said Moon of the festival. She explained it's in a growth phase right now as it had to be put on hold during the pandemic.

This year, there were approximately double the number of groups performing as there were at last year's festival.

Moon said groups from as far east as Oshawa and west as Waterloo came to Mayfield for the festival. In the past, groups from even further have come to the festival, and Moon hopes to see them return in the coming years.

"We're lucky here because we have an



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

STUDENT-CHOIR: Fanfare, Mayfield Secondary School's 200-plus voice choir, competed at the Ontario Vocal Jazz/Contemporary Festival on March 21 and 22.

amazing facility," said Moon. "We're really happy to host because many kids walk in and they're used to performing in their cafeteria. You'll hear kids say, 'Wow, this is impressive'."

Moon said hosting the festival is a way that Mayfield can give back to the greater music community. She said the workshops held at the festival are a great way for music students to learn about music and the music industry.

"You get a good, long clinic... with esteemed musicians. They work with the kids and as a

teacher, they give you ideas," said Moon. "It's a really great experience for everybody... no matter what level your ensemble is, come and do it because you get so much out of it."

One of the best parts of hosting the festival is seeing students get inspired, said Moon.

Some of the tunes performed by Moon's students included Adele's "Rolling in the Deep" and a funk-meets-swing arrangement of "My Favourite Things".

Moon said Mayfield is planning to host the

festival again next year and continue to try and grow it.

"The more the merrier, I always say," said Moon. "Next year it'll be even bigger and better."

To any students thinking of getting involved in music, Moon said it's an amazing experience.

She said students get to explore so many different genres of music in school and can become very well-rounded musicians.

Caledon Home and Lifestyle Show to feature all-season resort cottage

Written By ZACHARY ROMAN
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

An entire cottage will be on display inside Caledon's annual home show.

The 2024 Caledon Home and Lifestyle Show runs from April 12 to 14 at the Albion Bolton Community Centre this year.

Show producer Liz Shaughnessy is especially excited for this year's show as it will feature its largest display ever on the show-room floor: an all-season resort cottage.

"The significance of having a display like this on the show floor... it's huge for the Home and Lifestyle Show," she said. "This is a wonderful premier feature at a community show."

The cottage will be from Resort HQ, which owns Caledon Hills Resort near the intersection Highway 9 and Duffy's Lane.

Shaughnessy explained the company has other resorts in Canada and that they always

choose great sites where there's ample things to do.

"They choose sites that have nature, walking trails, [and are] close to swimming, close to boating and close to hiking," said Shaughnessy. "They also choose facilities that come with features like a swimming pool, a tennis court... that sort of thing."

She said the all-season resort cottages they offer are very luxurious with exceptional fit and finish, and added that they're move-in ready with high-end appliances and great furnishings.

"It's so well-executed internally," said Shaughnessy. "I visited them before accepting them as a feature at the show and I was blown away."

She said the all-season resort cottages appeal to a wide variety of people, including those looking to retire, those looking to downsize and even first-time buyers.

"I think having this as a feature at the show

is probably the biggest attraction and biggest step this show has taken since its inception," said Shaughnessy.

Shaughnessy has worked on some of Canada's biggest home shows and likened the cottage feature to when home shows feature an entire "dream home" that people can explore.

Featuring local businesses has always been a priority for Shaughnessy and she said it's awesome to be continuing that tradition this year.

"The mission is to encourage sourcing local, buying local, and give businesses in and around Caledon an opportunity to market themselves to consumers in a very economical way," she said. "This year will be exceptional beyond anything I ever anticipated because of the quality of the exhibitors... the quality of what they bring to the show floor."

Shaughnessy said the Caledon crowd that

comes out to the Home and Lifestyle Show is amazing and that it results in the exhibitors being happy too.

"People are coming to the show to educate themselves, to pick up tips and tricks from professionals, (and) to get inspired by design ideas," said Shaughnessy. "I think it will be ground-breaking for a community show to have a display feature like these all-season luxury cottages."

More information about the 2024 Caledon Home and Lifestyle Show is available online at homeandlifestyleshow.ca.

Residents can subscribe to the mailing list on the aforementioned website to receive free admission to this year's show. Otherwise, tickets are \$5 per person, cash only, at the door of the show. Admission for children ages 12 and under is free, as is parking. The show is pet friendly.



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“Beer, it’s the best damn drink in the world.”

Cheers to Jack Nicholson



Orangeville Lions 25th Home and Garden Show returning to fairgrounds with over 130 vendors

Written By **SAM ODROWSKI**

As spring comes into full swing, there's no better time to start thinking about home improvement projects.

Whether it's landscaping, painting, roofing, a major renovation or finding the perfect furniture and décor, a three-day event that's returning to the Orangeville Fairgrounds (247090 5th Sideroad) will help you find what you need.

The 25th Annual Orangeville Lions Home and Garden Show is running from Friday, April 5 to Sunday, April 7, with plenty to do and see.

"Come on down and celebrate spring with us," said Orangeville Lion Yasmine Slater, who's helping organize the event. "The home show is a centralized spot where the community can come out and see local businesses."

The home show provides attendees with the opportunity to browse over 130 vendors from various industries, primarily related to home improvement, and discuss their vision with professionals.

While the home show is free, it acts as a fundraiser for the not-for-profit Orangeville Lions, who organize it annually. Through sponsorships and the sale of booth spaces, the Lions are hoping to raise \$40,000. That money goes back into the community through charitable projects and donations to other service groups.

"Because we're a volunteer organization, all the money we collect from vendors supports projects in the local community," said Slater.

Some projects the Orangeville Lions have completed in the past include the Orangeville Lions Club Sports Park on Diana Dr., the BMX Park on the Alder Parklands and more recently, a natural playground at Island Lake Conservation Centre.

Dufferin Emergency Search and Rescue, a local not-for-profit, will be managing the home show's free parking, and accepting donations to support their operations.

Organizers of the home show anticipate anywhere from 5,000 to 7,000 attendees over the three-day event.

Slater said the event is a great opportunity to support the local business community and learn more about what they offer.

"You might have a project in mind that you want to source out a local business or if you are looking for inspiration, there



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BECOME A LION: The Orangeville Lions Club will have a booth setup at the home show to educate attendees about the important work they do and how to join the club.

will be lots of businesses showcasing the work they've done in the past," said Slater. "It's very well curated for different types of home projects."

In addition to home improvement, the three-day event is a great opportunity to learn more about not-for-profit organizations in the region, whether it's a charity or sports group. They will be set up in the cafeteria area at the event, alongside Cookies by Gia, providing attendees with food options.

While some vendors will be there for the first time, many come year after year to meet with potential clients. But they usually bring something different to the table.

"Vendors that come back year after year often have new products," said Slater. "There might be some new, up and coming technology that's being showcased this year."

This year's home show marks its 25th edition, which also happens to coincide with the 75th anniversary of the Orangeville Lions, as the group was chartered on April 12, 1949.

It started with 21 members and has grown to 51 today.

The Orangeville Lions will have a booth set up at the event for anyone interested in learning more about the organization or volunteering.

"If you're a little bit curious about joining the Lions and some of the other work we do... I think it's a great opportunity for people to meet with us and we can discuss some of the great things we're doing in the community," said Slater.

If anyone is interested in joining the club but won't be at the home show, they can email membership@orangevillelions.org.

Slater said she'd encourage everyone to stop by the Orangeville Fairgrounds from April 5 to 7 to shop local and support the local Lions Club.

The event runs from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. on April 5, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on April 6, and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on April 7.

25th

ANNIVERSARY

ORANGEVILLE
HOME
& GARDEN SHOW

Friday, April 5th
5pm to 9pm

Saturday, April 6th
9am to 5pm

Sunday, April 7th
10am to 4pm

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25th

ANNIVERSARY

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HOME

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LIONS

INTERNATIONAL

EVENT & VENDOR MAP



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VENDOR LIST



Booth Number	Company	Booth Number	Company	Booth Number	Company
A 95	10 & 10 Garden Centre	A 50	Dufferin Wildlife	E 89	Norwex
A 72, 73	A&G Concepts Inc	A 84	Dunk Disposal	A 81	One Percent Realty Ltd
A 78	A.M. Travel Inspired	A 41	Dutch Touch Landscaping and Pools	A 61, 62	Ontario Home Health
E 41, 42	AC Custom Reno Inc	A 57	Eager Beaver Services	E 1	Ontario Provincial Police - Dufferin
E 54	Affordable Mini Bin Disposal Services Ltd	E 50	EJR Electric	A 79	Orangeville Blues & Jazz Festival
A 74	Alexanian Flooring	A 90	eXp Realty-Walkinshaw Partners/McCrone	A 4	Orangeville Equipment Rentals
E 21, 22, 23	All-Mont Garage Doors	E 43, 44	Fastform Insulated Concrete Forms Limited	A 44	Orangeville Flooring
E 51	Allpro Roofing Inc.	E 35	Fellowship of Christian Farmers	E 73	Orangeville Lions Club
A 58	Anthony's Handyman Services	A 43	Ferguson Fine Homes	E 87	Outside Guy
A 97	Associated Billiards	A 66	Focus on Decorating / Benjamin Moore	A 67	Paul Downey Electric
E 4	Avalon Retirement Lodge	E 27	Frameworks Renovation Ltd	E 25	Peace Valley Ranch
A 47	Awning Master	A 60	Grand Valley Lions Club	A 29	Physiomed Fitness
A 33	BBQ Sauce Nation	A 12	Grandview Landscaping/RMP Metal Works	E 52	Pine Meadows Retirement Community
A 42	Bin There Dump That	A 89	Gravel Guys	A 85, 86, 87	Premier Equipment Ltd
E 48	BioPed Orangeville	A 94	Green's Your Colour Inc.	A 27	Proforma miComm
A 18, 19	Blackstock Lincoln	A 75	Gutter Pros Ontario Ltd	E 49	Proper Crop
E 59	Brighter Future Homes	E 76	Headwaters Construction Ltd	A 88	Renewal by Andersen of Greater Toronto
A 45, 46	Browning Windows and Doors Ltd	A 48, 49	Headwaters Windows and Doors	E 79	Royal Lepage RCR Realty
E 9, 10, 11	Bryan's Fuel	A 53, 59	Hear Well Be Well	A 99, 100	Shade Plus Inc
E 5	Budget Blinds	A 30	Hickory Dickory Decks	A 69, 70	Shelburne Golf & Country Club
E 1A , 2	Butcher Furniture	E 61, 62	Highland Roofing (Ontario) Ltd	E 12,13,14,15	Shelburne Home Hardware Building Centre
A 54	CAA Insurance Company	A 14	HLS Pools	E 55	Sherwin Williams
A 93	Canopy Farms Ltd	A 76	Hollowford Fencing	A 17	Simply Green IPM
E 6,7	Cedarport Window & Door Centre Inc	A 1, 2, 3	Hyde-Whipp Heating & A/C	E 28	Sinovi Masonry & Stonescapes
E 90, 91	Celtic Carpet Ltd	A 20	Inventa Sales & Promotions Inc	A 37	Steve of All Trades
A 56	Century 21 Millenium	E 16, 17	iPro Realty Ltd	A 68	Student Works Painting
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SUCCESSFUL SEASONS: The Orangeville Lions are closing in on \$200,000 raised through TV Bingo, since its inception in October of 2022. TV BINGO is broadcast every Tuesday on Channel 63 of Rogers TV, which can be watched online or on cable.

Orangeville Lions TV Bingo approaching \$200,000 in total funds raised since 2022

Written By **SAM ODROWSKI**

The Orangeville Lions will soon be wrapping up their second season of TV BINGO after achieving fantastic results in its first year.

From Oct. 2022 to May 2023, the group raised \$91,000 and in the more recent season – from Sept. 2023 to May 2024 – the group is anticipating they’ll tally up an even higher amount

Counting both seasons, it is likely the Lions will be close to or surpass \$200,000 in total fundraising dollars from TV BINGO since it launched in late 2022.

“It’s been so incredible to be able to raise that much money in that amount of time,” said Yasmine Slater, Orangeville Lions Club member.

Some of the organizations that received funds generated through TV BINGO are Dufferin Emergency Search and Rescue, Meals on Wheels’ Project Lifesaver, Lions Home for the Deaf, Dufferin Alzheimer’s Society and Hospice Dufferin. Other recipients include the Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides, Lion’s Camp Dorset, Bethell Hospice Foundation, Food Cupboard at St. Mark’s Church and Celiac Canada.

At \$10 per BINGO card, the game is an affordable way to support local charities while providing yourself with a chance to win.

“Everybody loves the sound of calling BINGO!” Slater enthused. “It’s just a great way to support our community, and have a chance at winning a \$500 or \$1,500 cash prize.”

BINGO cards are available in Orangeville at Metro (150 First St.), Zehrs (50 4th Ave.), Sobeys (500 Riddell Rd.), Broadway Shell (226 Broadway), Raceway Esso (87 First St.), 7-Eleven (268 Broadway), Daily Convenience (200 Elizabeth), Total Convenience & Video (1-41 Broadway), ConWINience (235 Centennial Rd., Unit C) and Circle K (400 Townline, Unit 1).

In Shelburne, BINGO cards are available at the Giant Tiger (226 First Ave. E), Food Basics (824 Ojibway Dr.), and Ultramar (517 Main St. E).

In Caledon, cards can be purchased at Bolton Milk and Variety (17 Queen St. N.), Food Basics – Bolton (301 Queen St. S.), Foodland – Caledon East (15771 Airport Rd. #4A), and Tom’s Family Restaurant (16033 Airport Rd.)

The Orangeville Lions’ TV BINGO is broadcast every Tuesday on Channel 63 of Rogers TV, which can be watched online or on cable.

To learn more about the game or reach out to the BINGO committee, email bingo@orangevillelions.org.

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Features to consider for a relaxation-themed bathroom remodel

Homeowners want to view their homes as a respite from all that goes on outside their doors. Indeed, turning a home into a residents-only retreat can ensure everyone looks forward to walking through the front the door at the end of the day.

One of the more popular ways to turn a home into one's own personal retreat is to upgrade the bathroom. A renovated bathroom can completely transform how individuals feel about their homes. The following are some features to consider when remodeling a bathroom with relaxation in mind.

- Open shower: An open shower is a visually stunning addition to any bathroom. Such showers give a bathroom a more open look, thanks in part to the fact that these modern features do not feature a door or require the use of a shower curtain. The result is a clean look that many people associate with a luxury hotel. When speaking with a contractor about an open shower install, homeowners can ask about a half-wall to safeguard against water splashing out of the shower. In addition, a heat lamp can help ensure residents stay warm until they're ready to leave the bathroom.

- Heated features: Additional features to keep everyone calm and warm can be considered when upgrading the bathroom. Radiant flooring can ensure everyone's toes remain toasty, and the installation of such a feature can eliminate the need for floor mats and bath mats

that some homeowners may not like. Commit further to the heat theme with a heated towel rack, which is another feature associated with luxury hotels that can be just as enjoyable at home.

- Soaking tub: An open shower creates an instant feeling of luxury, but few things are more suggestive of relaxation than a soaking tub. A long day at school or the office or a day when winter winds are howling outside is made much better with a good a soak. The National Kitchen & Bath Association notes that luxury bathrooms featuring soaking tubs are wildly popular, and that vaunted status is undoubtedly due to the relaxing benefits of a good soak.

- Skylight: Even if the goal of a luxury bathroom is to leave the outside world outside, allowing some natural light inside is a great way to add a little extra calm to the room. Floor-to-ceiling windows may seem appealing in brochures or advertisements, but such features do not create the sense of privacy many people prefer in their bathrooms. One or two skylights can create that sense of privacy and still allow for natural light to enter the room, making this an option that provides the best of both worlds.

These features and more can help homeowners transform their bathrooms into luxurious, relaxing respites from the outside world.



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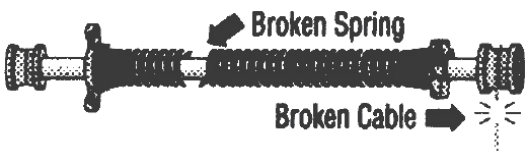
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How to recognize when it's time to replace your windows

Windows are a major component of a home. Window installation professionals will tell homeowners that the average life span of residential windows is between 15 and 30 years. Most well-maintained products can last 20 years, so homeowners who have windows approaching that age may want to schedule a window assessment and possible replacement.

Replacing windows is a job that requires advanced skill, and this is not a do-it-yourself project. There are many qualified professional window installation companies that will work with homeowners to measure, order and install windows that will fit with the style of a home and local weather, all while providing features the homeowner desires.

For those wondering when to replace windows, Pella and Renewal by Andersen, two of the premiere window manufacturers, offer these guidelines.

- Difficulty opening and closing windows. A window that does not operate as it should can aggravate homeowners. If windows are sticking shut or cannot be securely closed, it's probably time for something new.

- There's apparent window damage. Accidents happen, and if a rock is kicked up from a lawnmower and cracks a window or if spring baseball practice has gone awry with an errant throw, windows may require replacement.
- Drafts in the window are common. If heating and cooling systems are working overtime, drafty, poorly insulated windows could be to blame. Various agencies can perform energy efficiency tests in a home. Windows that are determined to be the weak spots should be replaced.
- Dated windows are present in the home. Older windows may pose safety hazards, especially those in older homes. A larger window may be needed to comply with fire safety codes allowing for window egress. Dated windows also may simply look "old" and compromise the aesthetics of a home.
- Outdoor noises are noticed quite readily. Newer windows can help reduce noise transmission. So those leaf blowers, airplanes, barking dogs, and kids playing basketball up the street won't disturb homeowners as they try to enjoy some peace and quiet indoors.
- Fading indoors is noted. Windows that do



not feature low-emissivity (Low-E) glass coatings will not block UV rays. Those rays can cause fading to wood floors and furniture or pretty much anything the sunlight touches. Replacing existing windows with Low-E coating alternatives can safeguard belongings and improve window efficiency. Window replacement may be necessary when existing windows are showing signs of aging or damage.



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Tips to revitalize a garden this spring

Gardening is a rewarding hobby that pays a host of significant dividends. Many people love gardening because it allows them to spend time outdoors, and that simple pleasure is indeed a notable benefit of working in a garden. But the National Initiative for Consumer Horticulture notes that gardening provides a host of additional benefits, including helping people get sufficient levels of exercise, reduce stress and improve mood.

With so much to gain from gardening, it's no wonder people look forward to getting their hands dirty in the garden each spring. As the weather warms up, consider these tips to help bring a garden back to life.

- Discard the dead weight. Winter can take its toll on a garden, even in regions where the weather between December and early spring is not especially harsh. Discard dead plants that have lingered into spring and prune any perennials that need it. Branches that fell during winter storms also should be removed at this point if they have not previously been discarded.
- Test the soil. Soil testing kits can be purchased at local garden centers and home improvement retailers. Such tests are inexpensive and can reveal if the soil needs to be amended to help plants thrive in the months to come.
- Mulch garden beds. Mulching benefits a garden by helping soil retain moisture and preventing the growth of weeds. Various garden experts note that mulching in spring can prevent weed seeds from germinating over the course of spring and summer. That means plants won't have to fight with weeds for water when the temperature warms up. It also means gardeners won't have to spend time pulling weeds this summer.
- Inspect your irrigation system. Homeowners with in-ground irrigation systems or above-ground systems that utilize a drip or soaker function can inspect the systems before plants begin to bloom. Damaged sprinkler heads or torn lines can deprive plants of water they will need to bloom and ultimately thrive once the weather warms up.
- Tune up your tools. Gardening tools have likely been sitting around gathering dust since fall. Serious gardeners know that tools can be expensive, so it pays to protect that investment by maintaining the tools. Sharpened pruners help make plants less vulnerable to infestation and infection. Well-maintained tools like shovels and hoes also make more demanding gardening jobs a little bit easier, so don't forget to tune up your tools before the weather warms up.

It's almost gardening season, which means gardeners can start on the necessary prep work to ensure their gardens grow in strong and beautiful this spring.



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Al fresco entertaining has taken off in recent years. It's much more common today to find homeowners who want to extend living spaces to the outdoors in meaningful ways that go beyond a few lawn chairs and a stand-alone grill. Dream backyard living rooms mirror similar spaces indoors and contain

features like cozy corners, lush furniture and televisions or movie projectors. Plus, they often abut additional outdoor luxuries like fully functional kitchens.

Homeowners have various options when designing outdoor living spaces. Above all else, spaces should be created with the goal of encouraging people to get together. Here are some ideas.

Poolside retreat

Homeowners with pools and other water features likely want this area to be the star of the entertaining space. Furniture will be more of the lounging variety, with comfortable chaises and spots to catch the sun. If a swim-up bar isn't possible, a rolling bar cart can be stocked with essentials for cocktails or mocktails for the kids. Furniture near the pool will be exposed to a lot of sun, so look for durable, sun-resistant fabrics.

Fireside nook

Gathering around an outdoor fireplace or fire pit is a treat when the weather cools down. Mirror the look of the same setup indoors by arranging outdoor sofas so they flank the fireplace. Add some ottomans or side tables for stowing mulled cider or hot chocolate. A mantel above the fireplace can hold pots of

greenery or candles that add to the ambiance. Consider a custom banquette

Unused corners on a patio or rooftop retreat can utilize a custom-made banquette that provides the functionality of a sofa sectional outdoors. Have a contractor design it to the exact specifications of the area, and add a rug to ground the space.

Vary the flooring

Depending on the entertaining space, a balance of soft grass, pavers or other hardscape will be necessary. Certain areas will need to be hard enough for chairs and other furniture, particularly for those who are including an outdoor dining table in the design.

Create some privacy

Some homeowners are lucky enough to have natural barriers that offer privacy in their entertaining spaces. When there isn't enough, tall shrubs, inexpensive bamboo fencing or trellis can provide a blind that makes an outdoor living area more cozy and private. Consider placing tall, potted plants on rolling casters to improve privacy as the need arises.

Outdoor living spaces are all the rage, and they can add value and functionality to most any home.

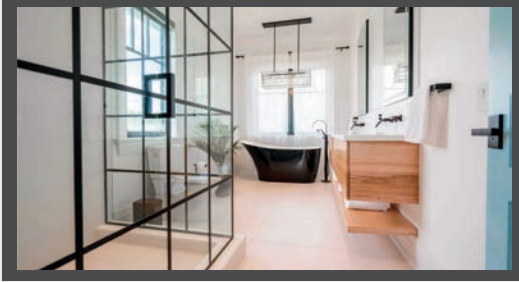


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Former Northmen hits milestone in lacrosse career

Written By BRIAN LOCKHART

Toronto Rock goalie and former Junior A Northmen player, Nick Rose, has notched an impressive milestone in his professional career after the Rock won 9-8 in overtime over the Halifax Thunderbirds at the First Ontario Centre in Hamilton on Sunday, March 24.

The game marked Rose's 106th win as a professional goalie in the National Lacrosse League and moved him into third place for all-time goalie wins in the League.

The win moved him ahead of former Rock legend, Bob Watson, who retired with 105 wins. It also places him only one win behind Pat O'Toole who has 107 wins for his career. O'Toole retired from the National Lacrosse League in 2010.


Rose could take over the second spot this season. He has won 12 games so far this year.

Rose won Sunday's game in front of a packed house of 9,500 fans.

Starting with the Orangeville Junior A Northmen, where he helped the Northmen win the 2009 Minto Cup, and was named the tournament MVP, Rose started his professional career with the Boston Blazers in 2010.

He played two seasons with the Blazers then moved to the Calgary Roughnecks.

Rose was traded to the Toronto Rock in 2012.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

ORANGEVILLE NATIVE: Nick Rose, former Junior A Northmen player, now holds third place in the National Lacrosse League for all-time goalie wins.



SHANNAGHN MCMAHON PHOTO

SUCCESSFUL SEASON: The Orangeville Tigers McGrey team captured the U11 Community League Championship on March 24 at the "Day of Champions" event in Brampton. The team beat Mississauga Black 1-0 in a shootout in the semi-final, following a scoreless game and thrilling three-on-three overtime period. The girls then defeated the Orangeville McOrange team 1-0 in the championship, scoring with just 30 seconds remaining in the game to clinch the gold medal. The McGrey Tigers finished with an overall record of 24-6-4 this season, playing in a competitive division that included teams from Brampton, Mississauga and Caledon East, as well as Orangeville. Head coach Scott McLean said the team's coaches are very proud of every player for their hard work and dedication, particularly on the final day of the season. He added the team also wants to thank and congratulate the two other U11 Community League teams from Orangeville for representing the Tigers organization with class and pride. Front: Jessica McLean. Second row, from left: Colbie Gier, Isabelle Cissek, Madeline Blowe-Urquhart and Adalyn Wilson. Third row: Caitlyn Daponte, Maisie McMahon, Rachel Glassford, Libby McKeown, Avery MacDonald, Norah DeBartolo, Charlotte Marchese and Ella Posavac. Back row: assistant coach James MacDonald, head coach Scott McLean and assistant coach Chris Daponte.

Provincial Junior Hockey League moving into division finals

Written By BRIAN LOCKHART

Sixteen Junior C hockey teams are going into the Division championship series this week after completing the quarter-final and semi-final rounds of competition.

The Provincial Junior Hockey League is the world's largest Junior hockey league with 61 teams and eight Divisions.

There were few surprises in the playoffs this season. In seven of the divisions, the two teams who placed first and second in the regular season will be meeting for the division championship.

The only exception is in the East Tod Division where the first-place Frankford Huskies lost their semi-final to the fourth-place Napanee Raiders. In that same Division, the third-place Port Hope Panthers defeated the second-place Amherstview Jets in a semi-final in a series that went six games. This means second and fourth place teams will meet for the title series.

The Division championships provide some very exciting hockey for fans and many arenas are packed for the series games. Division champions will go on to play for the Conference championship. Teams that win the Conference will go on to compete for the provincial Schmaltz Cup.

The Stobbs Division final got an early start with game one of the series between the Lakeshore Canadiens and Essex 73's getting underway on Sunday, March 24.

Essex won that opening game to lead 1-0.

In the North Carruthers Division, the Stayner Siskins will be up against the Alliston Hornets. That series is scheduled to start on Thursday, March 28, on Alliston home ice. If it goes the distance, the final game will be held on April 8.

The Pollock Division will see the Hanover Barons facing the Mount Forest Patriots.

The Clarington Eagles will meet the Georgina Ice for the Orr Division championship. That series is slated to start on March 28.

In the Tod Division, the Port Hope Panthers will be up against the Napanee Raiders.

Continued on Page B14



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Local high schools gear up for spring sports

Written By BRIAN LOCKHART

With the turn of the season, high schools start a new cycle for collegiate sports, as the warmer weather allows students to once again get on the playing field.

Normally schools will play in a District with school size taken into consideration to make sure competition is fair and bigger schools don't have the unfair advantage of drawing from a larger pool of athletes.

However, some sports do combine two districts.

Badminton gets underway this week with eight schools competing in District 4/10.

After several tournament days, the District championships will take place in early April.

Girls soccer for both District 4 and 10 will start at the end of April. The girls will play several matches on the turf at the University of Guelph. Championship finals are scheduled for May 24.

Track and field athletes are starting to train for spring competitions.

There will be two major track meets on May 7 and May 14 at the University of Guelph.

Regional competition for District champions will also take place at the University a the end of May.

Top athletes will go on to compete at the OFSAA West Regionals, with the final provincial meet at OFSAA on June 6-8.



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**YOUNG DRIVERS**

Freedom of Expression?

I used to have a friend from college who routinely offended people around her.

It's like she had absolutely no filter at all. If she didn't like something, she said so. Where a normal person would keep a thought to themselves, she would blurt out her opinion regardless of who might be offended or hurt.

She pretty much alienated every other female she knew because of her way of letting someone know she didn't like their hairstyle, clothing, or telling them they had gained too much weight.

I once called her out on her behaviour. Her response was, "I speak my mind."

When I bought my new house, she wanted to come over to see it.

I was pretty happy with my purchase. I had saved for years for a down payment and finally had a place of my own.

She walked through the house, criticized everything she didn't like, and left.

Over the next several years, she mentioned several times that I had not invited her back. She had apparently no clue, why I had never asked her back to my home.

It was a decision on my part, to not listen to her ridiculous and offensive opinions anymore. I simply ignored her.

She has the right to say whatever she

wants – and I have the right to not listen to it.

We supposedly have freedom of expression in this country. You can form any opinion you want. If others don't like it, they don't have to listen.

However, when people are sanctioned or disciplined for having an opinion, that's a problem.

Libraries have been going through a lot of controversy over the past few years. Books have been banned or removed from shelves because of perceived 'offensive' content. This includes many books that were previously considered classics.

But who gets to decide what is offensive? Just because one person finds a book's content to be offensive, someone else may not.

We don't need anyone telling us what to read.

If you don't like it, don't read it. Pretty simple.

In Niagara-on-the-Lake, the chief librarian was fired from her job for an opinion piece she wrote in a local newspaper column.

She exercised her right to free expression in a column titled, "Freedom to read is more than fighting book bans."

The library board said the chief librarian

had written in support of a 'right wing' American group.

In the column, the librarian wrote, "view-points that don't conform to progressive agendas are rarely represented in library collections and anyone who challenges this is labelled a bigot."

The library board certainly proved her point themselves when they fired her for having an opinion.

Basically, it came down to a "philosophical disagreement," said the library board chair.

This is a public library, not a religious or political institution.

Since when are librarians forced to follow an institutional thought program?

What's next? Are they going to fire an employee because they found out someone voted for a political party they don't like?

The board asked the librarian to 'take a few days' to reflect on the article and decide what to do next to resolve the article's impact on the community. Did the Niagara-on-the-Lake library board get this right out of Kim John Un's official manifesto?

They actually want someone to correct their opinion to fall in line with their own way of thinking.

Would this library board have made the same decision if she wrote in support of a

far-left organization? Probably not.

When the far left and the far right go too far, they eventually meet at the extremes and end up doing the same thing.

Does the library board send out spies to hang around the water cooler to listen to conversations and see if an employee makes a comment they don't like, then take action against them having the 'wrong' opinion?

I'm not even sure you can call the library board's thought process, "political correctness." It's more like social incorrectness.

Here's the thing – not everyone in life is going to agree with you.

Not everyone will follow your way of thinking – you aren't right all the time, whether or not you think you are.

If this library board fires a person for not having the 'right opinion', what else have they done?

When you have people in a public institution disciplining someone for having the wrong opinion – maybe the someone should write a book about that to go into the library.

On second thought, it's already been done.



BRIAN LOCKHART
FROM THE SECOND ROW

Three famines

There are three incipient famines in the world today, and politics is at the root of all of them. That's not unusual, actually: famines are almost always political events.

My family is descended from the Catholic Irish diaspora, and when I was a boy in Newfoundland, we would sometimes play the game of 'potatoes and point' at the dinner table. We'd point at the potatoes (there was always a bowl of boiled potatoes with the main meal) and say "may I have a slice of beef" or "I'll have some more carrots, please."

It was a distant echo of the Irish famine of 1845-1852 that halved the country's population (a million dead, three million fled). Potato blight killed the potatoes, but it was politics – an ideologically driven British government that refused to interfere in the working of the free market by giving the starving Irish free food – that killed the people.

In order for a mere political decision to topple a country into famine, it has to be food-stressed already. But politics provides the final push: that's what is really killing people today in Sudan, Gaza and Haiti.

The 'politics' in question is generally a war of some sort – and in most cases the starvation is a by-product of the war, not even the main event.

That is certainly the case in Sudan, the biggest of the current famines. According to the UN's World Food Program, nearly 18 million people in Sudan are facing 'acute food insecurity' as a result of the civil war between two parts of the army that broke out in April 2023.

However, the hunger is mostly in the areas where there is severe fighting (Khartoum and the south-west) It is accompanied by an attempted genocide of the 'African' (i.e. black) ethnic groups in the south-west by the 'Arabs' who make up most of the Rapid Reaction Forces (one of the rival military groups)

Haiti's situation is much the same. The capital, Port-au-Prince, has been overrun by armed gangs, and the gangs have taken control of the port and the roads to block food supplies from entering the city. Starving people provide excellent political leverage.

Most of Port-au-Prince's 1.4 million people are going without food for days at a time and there is plenty of almost random killing, but famine is probably several months away in most parts of the country.

The key question here is whether any country will be willing to intervene in the next few months to stop the worst from

happening. The answer is likely to be 'no', because countries have already sent troops and aid too many times, only to find that they end up being blamed for failing to cope with the intricacies of the perpetual Haitian power struggle.

The Gaza Strip is also clearly a man-made famine, in the sense that without the war it would not be happening. It was Hamas that started the war, and it undoubtedly intended to trigger a massively violent Israeli retaliation. It would then use the Palestinian victims created by that response to further its own political agenda.

That's standard guerilla strategy, so the Israelis knew what Hamas wanted them to do. The fact that the Israeli Defence Forces did it anyway was a deliberate decision by the Israeli government. So what did Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's coalition government hope to gain from the destruction and the food blockade?

There is a deliberate food blockade, although Jerusalem denies it. Aerial photos from late last month show 2,000 trucks waiting to cross at Rafah. Most are still there now, containing enough food to feed everyone in Gaza. Some have been waiting for as long as 90 days. This is not Israeli incompetence. It is Israeli policy.

There are already children dying of starvation every day in the northern Gaza Strip, and the consensus of the IPC (the major food aid organisations) is that "Famine is imminent in the northern governorates of the Gaza Strip and projected to occur anytime between mid-March and May 2024."

Random air drops of food and a new pier in a couple of months' time for food deliveries by Israel's 'allies' will not prevent that outcome. So is the Israeli policy merely one of taking vengeance on the innocent, or is it intended to empty the Gaza Strip of its Palestinian population?

I never thought I would write that sentence, not because I thought Israelis are more moral than other people but because I believed they were not stupid. There is nowhere else for those 2.4 million Palestinians to go, and Israel's allies, especially the United States, would never condone such an act of ethnic cleansing. It's not 1948 any more.

But then again, I didn't think that Putin's regime would be stupid enough to invade Ukraine either.



GWYNNE DYER
OUR WORLD TODAY

Just how tough are we?

"Human beings are a tough species. A few breeding pairs are bound to survive."

So said James Lovelock whilst imagining a post-global-conflagration. He was a scientist, environmentalist and very much more. He was a man who died in 2022 at the age of 103, another "elder," as one might say, who has watched and mourned for the damage we have been inflicting on the world around us for decades, damage we denied, while knowing it to be true and really too many people in power are still there.

My daughter Patricia and I watched Oppenheimer, all three hours of it, the other day. It made me gnash my teeth and wring my hands as the brutal, unbelievable truth of it was woven with such skill and pushed upon the screen for all to see. That men, humans, took the – however slight – risk that their atomic bomb could be taken up by the globe's atmosphere itself and "blow up the world" when they tested it.

As to the matter of blasting that bomb onto a city below, it was a mere matter of proving who was the first to go there, to burn people in their homes, on the streets of their city with no warning and no recourse; who for many decades to come would bear an unusual number of deformed children and suffer the after-

math of the "instructive" bombing for generations.

What goes around, they do say, comes around and "the sins of the fathers will be visited on their children." Punishment for being born into a world of greed, incomprehensibly vicious and purposefully short-sighted.

All that is to say, there are good reasons why the young people of this world should be hard to study the science of making up for those sins. James Lovelock did have more optimistic moments than his gloomy quote would indicate. He speculated that, with pressure, perseverance, and a global change in attitude among the nay-sayers turned to real collaboration, there might be a somewhat better future than his comment imagined.

What slows that down is the puzzle. Surely the old arguments from the fossil fuel mugs about "good jobs" and the global financials, the too-slow pace of alternative sources of power, have been long since revealed as lies.

The puzzle is that young people everywhere should be in a hurry, should be running for office and pushing for the changes and the funding to support the changes that need to be made now – not sometime in the 2030s or '50s – this is an emergency, like a train wreck to come: barely

stoppable but maybe the damage of which could be mitigated.

The old guys are saying it over and over, offering thin optimism about us probably not engaging in nuclear warfare; that the grassroots environmental movement around the world can make a substantial difference to the future's dangers.

Yet, they say things like, "without waiting for leaders to push things along."

Wait a minute. Why are we necessarily having to push ahead with the rescue of our own home planet, without "necessarily waiting for our leaders?"

They have children, many of whom have children too, like us. Why are our leaders in this very Canada still making tax concessions to the fossil fuel industry? Why are all of us paying a carbon tax (which is an effective tool but...); why aren't fossil fuel companies paying that tax for every drop of their poison that we each use? Why aren't those massive companies, with massive money, pouring in funds for the new innovations that must be used to convert our energy needs away from fossil fuels?

They could still make money!

Yet, they are allowed, nay, encouraged, by strange tax exemptions and special math, to carry on fracking and drilling and expanding their pipelines and Canada's

own pipeline – wasting all those mountains of money – all of which we need to stop and start again with better methods, possibly better futures than we see at the moment.

Why don't they want to do that?

Sometimes, Patricia and I talk until late into the night. Recently, I was postulating about motor vehicles. We discussed the issue of personal transportation and the folly of rushing to make the desperately inefficient battery-run electric cars when hydrogen is no longer in its infancy and is clearly, my mechanic assures me, the best and most likely way forward for fueling automobiles.

We imagined a new approach to the family car. That every residence, be it a house or apartment, would come with a vehicle. As part of the residence. The cost might be blended into the mortgage or not. As this country is town-planned around people necessarily having to drive for every need, a simple vehicle is seen as necessary as the dwelling becomes a "given" like the very roof itself.

We pretty well sorted out the details. One day we'll share the whole plan with you.



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New York State of Mind

You ever feel like you know a place without ever having visited it? Think of the great cities of the world, and you probably have some idea about it: Paris (what comes to mind?) London (?) Rome (?) Sydney (?) Beverly Hills, 90210 (urgh).

For me, the city I thought I knew best without ever having visited it was New York. Most people have some sense of New York: tall buildings; yellow cabs; traffic; the Yankees; the Empire State Building; the city that never sleeps; September 11, 2001. For me, New York was the movies: Taxi Driver, Kids, The Godfather. My wife watched Friends, Seinfeld, Sex and the City. I taught ‘Catcher in the Rye’, ‘The Great Gatsby’. But mostly, what I knew about New York came from music.

You see, I grew up listening to hip-hop. In the 90’s, NYC was the heartbeat of the rap game. My favourite rappers were Biggie Smalls, LL Cool J, Wu-Tang Clan. New York rappers. My favourite MC was, and still is, Nas. Nas told stories about life growing up in Brooklyn. He amplified an acute sense of desperation, and a desire for escape. There was also a sense pride. In one track he raps: “I lay puzzle as I backtrack to earlier times / Nothing’s equivalent to the New York state of mind.”

I can’t speak to the New York state of mind, but I can tell you what my first visit to New York did to my mind: it blew it up. I’m going to spend a very long time trying to put it back together.

We were picked up at the airport by my wife’s friend. We drove through Queens, the Bronx. The narrow streets felt claustrophobic; the closer we got to Manhattan the more I felt like we were being sucked into its orbit. The first moment that kicked me in the head was when I recognized the Manhattan property where Andy Warhol and Jean-Michel Basquiat lived and worked. And then it hit me: I was in New York City.

We spent our first day in Greenwich Village. We sauntered through the NYU campus and stopped for a cookie at Levain Bakery. The place was loud, smelled like chocolate heaven, and the cookies were our first bombastic taste of NY. We shopped at Strand Books. I bought coffee from Porto Rico Importing Co. The floor was covered with burlap bags of imported coffee beans. The tin ceilings, and old school ceiling fans, belonged to a different century. For lunch, we ate at the famous pizza joint, John’s on Bleeker. Truthfully, I was prepared to be disappointed (I make a good pizza). I wasn’t disappointed. In fact, it was one of...here, let my son tell you:

“The dough was airy, crispy. Texture was really good. Good chew. Simple sauce. Sweet. And the cheese. Don’t get me started on the cheese. Daddy, that pizza was bustin’.” My daughter got into a heated discussion with a guy from the neighbourhood about pineapple on pizza (he was not impressed).

After pizza, we walked to Washington

Square Park. The place was bustling with kids on skateboards, families, a man playing a piano, a woman covered in pigeons, a horde of men begging for change. I tried not to wax nostalgic, but this was the stomping grounds of Patti Smith, Sam Shepard, Bob Dylan, Emma Goldman, Jackson Pollock, Jimi Hendrix, Edgar Allan Poe. Ghosts everywhere. My wife visited the ‘Friends’ apartment building and bought the famous banana pudding from Magnolia Bakery. My son and I spent a small fortune at Bleeker Trading. We traded soccer cards with another dad and son from Tribeca and made plans to meet up in Toronto when they’re here in the summer. New York was more intimate, and easier to navigate, than I imagined.

The following day, we picked up the pace. We took a Hop-On Hop-Off bus tour. I cringed at doing something so like a tourist, but it was the only way we could take in all the major sites in a short period of time. We visited the Harry Potter Store; Eataly; the Empire State Building; Little Italy; Chinatown; the Statue of Liberty. Later that night we took the subway back to Greenwich for some Chinese food.

The next day we walked through Hell’s Kitchen and spent the afternoon in Central Park. The kids ate a Nathan’s hot dog; we took a ride on the carousel. Afterwards, we walked down Broadway while eating a mango, and stumbled upon The Soup Man, the spot made famous in the ‘Soup Nazi’

episode on Seinfeld. In some ways, if you let it, New York just seems to fall into your lap. At times it felt chaotic, like the whole place could just veer out of control — it didn’t. We even learned to cross a street like a New Yorker (what traffic signals?).

As much as we loved what we saw, tasted, and heard, for me, New York was about interacting with the people; like, the conversation I had with the carousel operator as the organ music assaulted us: “You ever feel like losing your mind?”

He responded: “I lose my mind for two months. Then I go back to Coney Island to find it.”

There were quieter moments, too: like the Spanish lady selling food out of plastic bags to construction workers. How people changed colour, right before your eyes, in Times Square. From the man with no teeth crying out for change; to the mom yelling at her son about his Pokémon cards. Someone always seemed to be having an argument over the phone. When my wife spotted a ballet school, she said: “Let’s watch for a few minutes.” The Times Square hustler following me for what felt like half a block. He talked about hard times, hard living.

I know we weren’t there long enough to get a real sense of the New York state of mind. But I do understand the state of my own heart: I love New York.



ANTHONY CARNOVALE
OPERATION: BLACK COFFEE

Halt all hiring: an immediate fix for reining in unchecked government bureaucracy

Most Canadians would not be surprised to learn there are way too many civil servants in Ottawa.

But they would probably be shocked to learn just how top-heavy the Canadian bureaucracy really is. That’s one of the eye-opening bits of information revealed at a House of Commons committee meeting last week featuring Parliamentary Budget Officer Yves Giroux.

According to Giroux, federal bureaucrats can report to as many as seven different levels of management within various government departments. When questioned whether seven layers of management was excessive or necessary, Giroux responded that “there is room to reduce.”

Even the federal government, which is not known for fiscal discipline, said it could lop \$3 billion per year in government administration over the next five years. But that only represents a paltry one per cent reduction in total annual spending. Surely there’s a lot more fat, duplication and waste that can be cut out of the bud-

get without laying off any civil servants.

For the past several years, I’ve consistently advocated for government spending cuts of 5 per cent per year over a period of ten years, which would end up reducing government overhead by half within a decade. I’ve also suggested the creation of a task force comprised of retired business leaders who could assist in determining areas where the government could cut spending.

The Fraser Institute published a report last month showing how the federal government could balance the budget within a year simply by reducing government spending by 4.3 per cent – an amount very close to what I’ve proposed.

The proposed spending cut formula I put forward is one of seven common-sense principles I’ve advocated for the past year as part of a new Economic Charter of Rights to revive our economy and restore Canadian prosperity.

But it’s not just the cost of excessive bureaucracy that Canadians object to. It’s also the red tape and regulations that

come with it, which end up making everything slower and more complicated than necessary.

The federal civil service now chews up over \$67 billion per year in salaries, benefits and pensions – a record high amount. The escalating growth in payroll was termed “worrisome” by the Parliamentary Budget Officer.

Not only are there more civil servants than ever, but there’s also more bureaucrats than ever taking home six-figure salaries. According to the Canadian Taxpayers Federation, over 110,000 federal public servants made in excess of \$100,000 in 2023. In short, not only is our bureaucracy growing by the day – it’s also becoming more expensive.

Despite the swelling size of our civil service, it’s important to note that bureaucrats should never be made the scapegoat for the financial mismanagement created by governments. It’s not their fault spending has gotten out of control.

Regardless, the problem posed by our ever-expanding bureaucracy needs to be

dealt with immediately. It’s been put on the back burner for far too long.

In addition to reducing government spending on overhead by five per cent per year for ten years, we should implement an immediate and permanent hiring freeze when it comes to the civil service until the public sector payroll shrinks to a more sustainable level.

If the government official who’s been put in charge of keeping an eye on our budget says there’s room to reduce the size of our bureaucracy, then we should start reducing.

Not only will we save billions of dollars, but Canadians might also finally get a break from overzealous bureaucrats meddling in every aspect of our lives.

To learn more about how we can increase Canadian living standards, email me at info@economiccharter.ca.



FRANK STRONACH
CREATING AN ECONOMIC CHARTER OF RIGHTS

Our Readers Write

Changes are needed to better support victims of domestic violence

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those involved in the selling and purchasing of tickets to my quilt raffle for Family Transition Place, our local women’s shelter. A winner was chosen on Thursday, March 20th. The funds from the raffle will go directly to supporting the victims coming into the shelter, who range in age from needing diapers to Depends, a rather shocking fact. Family Transition Place also allows pets to come with victims, for they, too, are victims of situational abuse. While I volunteered at FTP many years ago, it has been my unfortunate experience with Intimate Partner Violence (also referred to as Domestic Violence) later in life which has brought me to use my textile work in advocating for Violence Against Women.

Intimate Partner Violence, which all women’s shelters deal with, is not a subject people in general are comfortable discussing. Yet when we learn of the women and children killed by a partner, husband, or father, we are horrified. But if it doesn’t touch our lives personally, it’s not our experience and our lives go on.

My experience in dealing with the reality of Intimate Partner Violence and the judicial system and the law has been a challenge for me in many ways in understanding the process and the fact that victims of Intimate Partner Violence are not given the support or consideration they deserve. Victims are so traumatized, sometimes physically injured and financially compromised and dependent on the accuser, that just going through the process of the judicial system following the call they’ve made to the police, is traumatizing in itself. While each victim’s experience is unique onto itself, the law, the police, and the judicial system can be overwhelming. And it can be unkind.

Not all domestic abuse calls to police are responded to by a trained team of police officers, a man and a woman. My call to 911 two and a half years ago brought a young rookie of a police constable to my home accompanied by an older male officer who stayed in the background while the young constable took my statement down, not on paper as I’d expected but on his cell phone. I watched as

my words disappeared into the constable’s iPhone wondering if this was a safe way to take a complainant’s statement. At eighty-three, I was not of the digital age, paper and pen seemed safer to me. Following calling the police I was assigned a Crown Attorney in Orangeville whose name I won’t divulge. I was also assigned to a counsellor at Victim’s Witness, the purpose of which was to help me through the Crown Attorney process. I was not allowed direct or personal contact with the Crown Attorney, which I found odd as I thought, wrongly so, that this person was assigned to represent me as a lawyer would do. Now, I know that the Crown Attorney is more or less like a clearing house for criminal charges which they will decide is either worth going further into the court system or not. Domestic abuse charges often don’t make it to court.

They are considered issues between women and men and thus mediation is recommended rather than court. It doesn’t matter about the injuries suffered by the victim or the assaults. In my ignorance, I provided documentation to the Crown Attorney which accounted for nothing.

What I did not know was that the young police constable had lost my audio statement, a fact that was only disclosed to me ten months later just prior to the court appearance of the accused and not by the Primrose Detachment of the OPP but through a police connection at the C-Line detachment. I was shocked that I had not been notified of this loss immediately so that my statement could be replaced. What stood out for me also was the fact that when the Crown learned of this loss, that person did not notify me either. It was like I was an invisible pawn in this game of gender-based violence.

As a result, the Crown dismissed the assault charge of the accused, which the accused now claims never happened.

The Crown based the decision on several things, one because of “evidence lost” (when the police offered to take a replacement statement from me why did the Crown say “no”?). Another factor was that the accused was eighty-five years old (why did the Crown not feel that the victim at eighty-four

years old, a woman, who had been abused for a number of years, and had permanent injuries as a result of a last assault, was not deserving of consideration?).

Patriarchy in the legal and court system is still very present today.

Luke’s Place, a Toronto-based organization that supports women victims of violence notes that the court system is still that of a ‘he said/she said’ nature. Disappointing in this day and age where equalization of the sexes is still not on a level playing field. The Crown is tied into a system created by the government of Canada and must follow this system. Yet the Government of Canada puts out concerning and supportive information on Gender Based Violence yet it doesn’t back up its words in supporting the actual

victims of Intimate Partner Violence. What the government might consider doing is to have a less patriarchal focus in its functioning, respect women victims more and support them from the moment they call 911 to report abuse/assaults, also consider monetarily contributing to their care for a period of years as a trauma disability until victims can get re-established again as many victims are financially reliant on the abuser.

Perhaps that is too much to ask of our government who talk a good story but don’t back it up with the care victims of Domestic Violence deserve. Just my experience and observations.

Sandra Small Proudfoot
Orangeville, Ont.





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Continued from SPORTS

Provincial Junior Hockey League moving into division finals

The powerhouse Grimsby Peach Kings, who have won the Division title five times over the past seven years, will be up against the Dundas Blues.

In the Doherty Division, the New Hamburg Firebirds will meet the Woodstock Navy Vets.

The Thamesford Trojans will be up against the Mt. Brydges Bulldogs in the Yeck Division.

The winning teams can expect to be playing a long season as the Schmaltz Cup final takes place after the Conference championships meaning the final series of the Junior C season will take place well into May.



PLAYOFF WIN: The Orangeville Tigers U11 BB team hosts the Niagara Rapids during a home playoff game at the Alder Street arena on Sunday, March 24. The Tigers won this game 4-2. Tigers Hockey is now winding down with the final week of league play.



BIG WINNER: The Orangeville Flyers U8 Tier 1 minor development team plays their final game of the season against the Guelph Gryphons at Tony Rose Arena on Sunday, March 24. Both teams put out a good effort for their final time on the ice.

BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTOS

Dufferin OPP seeking public’s help in identifying missing man last seen in Melancthon

Written By SAM ODROWSKI

Members of the Dufferin Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) are asking the public and our media partners for assistance in locating a missing male from the Melancthon area.

The missing male is David, he is 65 years of age.

David is described as a white male, 5’ 6”, 180 pounds, bald on top with grey hair on sides, clean shaven, clothing unknown.

David is possibly driving a 2017 black Kia Sportage, Ontario licence plate DAMZ 252.

He last had contact with family and friends on March 21, 2024, at approximately 7:00 p.m. in Melancthon.

Investigators are asking that anyone with information regarding the whereabouts of David please contact Police at 1-888-310-1122.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Town of Orangeville shares hours over Easter weekend

The Town of Orangeville will observe modified hours over the Easter Weekend.

Town of Orangeville Offices

All Town offices, including Town Hall, will be closed on Friday, March 29 and Monday, April 1.

Offices are closed on weekends.

Town offices will re-open on Tuesday, April 2 and 8:30 a.m.

Orangeville Recreation Facilities

Both recreation facilities will be closed on Friday, March 29 and Sunday, March 31

Orangeville Transit

Orangeville Transit will not be operating on Friday, March 29. Transit will run on Monday, April 1.

Orangeville Public Library

Both the Mill Street and Alder Street Branches will be closed:



- Friday, March 29
 - Sunday, March 31
 - Monday, April 1
- Both branches will be open on Saturday, March 30:
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Police report ‘dramatic increase’ in collisions on Caledon roads

In 2023, there were 15 fatal collisions in Caledon, up from seven in 2022

Written By ZACHARY ROMAN
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Police data shows the number of fatal collisions in Caledon has more than doubled year over year.

In 2022, there were seven fatal collisions in Caledon. In 2023, there were 15. This data, and more, was shared with Caledon Council at its March 26 meeting by Caledon OPP’s detachment commander, Inspector Mary-Louise Kearns.

“There has been a dramatic increase in the number of collisions that have happened on Caledon roadways,” said Kearns. “Unfortunately, when we look closer at all of the Caledon, fatal, or even personal injury, accidents... there is not just one reason as to why these collisions are occurring.”

Kearns said the vast majority of collisions in Caledon are occurring due to people not following traffic laws, whether that means speeding, not wearing seatbelts, or driver inattention.

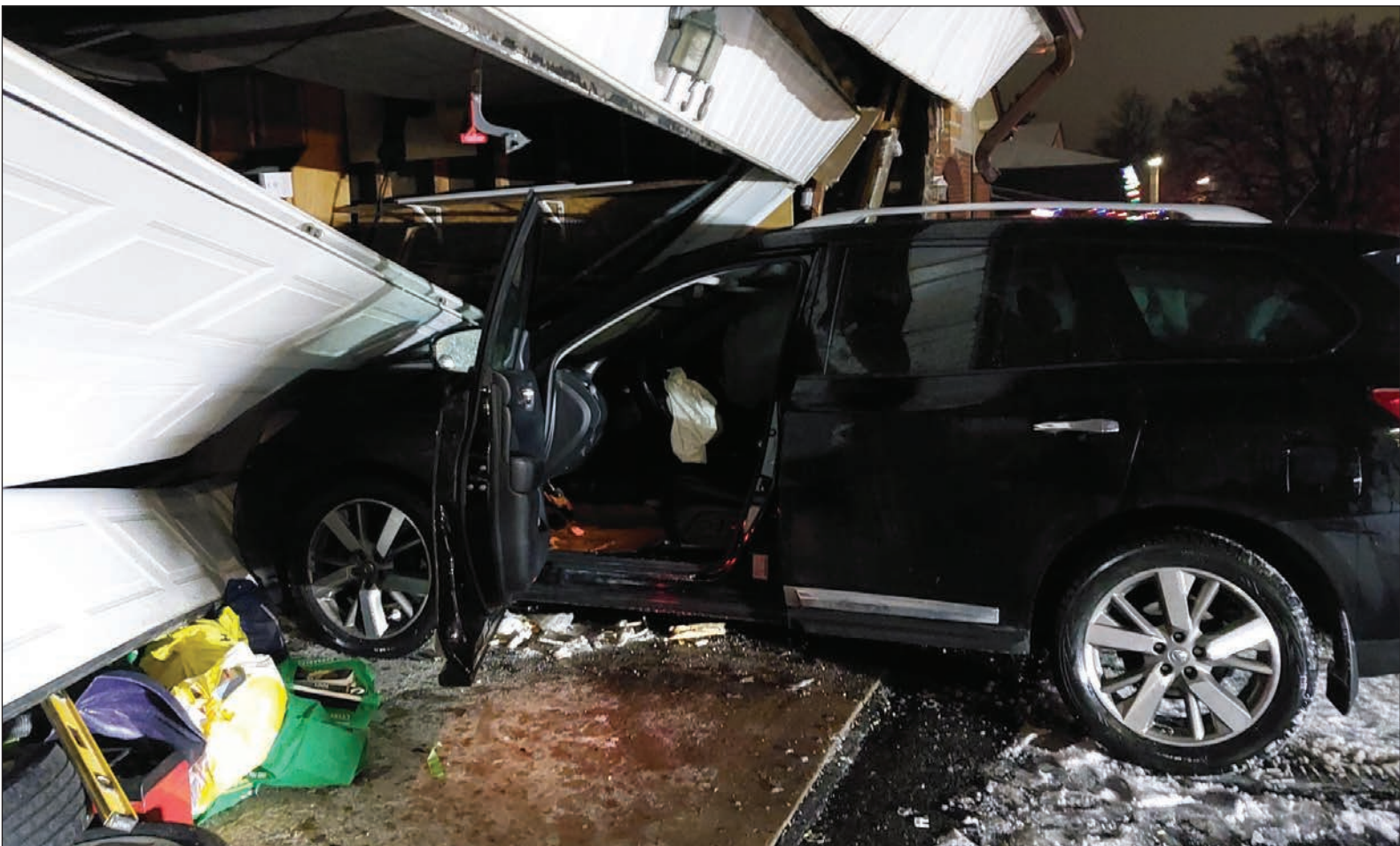
She explained each fatal collision in Caledon is reviewed by members of the Caledon OPP at a committee, where officers look for improvements that can be made to road safety.

“These meetings are informative for those involved, allowing an opportunity for partners to gain a deeper understanding of the circumstances and contributing factors associated with these fatal collisions,” said Kearns. “Countermeasures are identified through these discussions that will help lead to the prevention of recurrence.”

Something Caledon OPP have noticed is fatal collisions are happening in Caledon on roads where they’ve never occurred before. Kearns said the public should be aware these collisions are happening even on roads they may not have considered to be dangerous.

She said many of the deaths from collisions that happened in Caledon last year were preventable. Speeding is still the number one cause of collisions, said Kearns, adding police saw many instances where people were not obeying lights, stop signs, or passing rules.

“The impact and collateral damage is so long lasting for the families that have lost their loved ones on the road,” said Kearns.



COLLISIONS TRENDING IN WRONG DIRECTION: Caledon OPP are recording a significant increase in collision on Caledon’s roadways in 2023 compared to 2022, and years prior.

“These are preventable collisions... people think going 140 in a 100 is going to get them there five minutes faster... you might never get there.”

Kearns said Caledon OPP continue to be proactive in trying to stop tragic events from occurring on Caledon roadways.

In 2023, Caledon OPP laid 13,256 Highway Traffic Act charges, a 19 per cent increase from 2022. Police also laid 359 Criminal Code charges related to traffic offences, a 15 per cent increase from 2022.

There were 245 motor vehicle collisions that resulted in personal injury in 2023, and 1,711 that resulted in property damage.

Kearns shared that Caledon OPP continues to participate in Provincial traffic safety campaigns. On the Thanksgiving long weekend last year, Caledon OPP issued 45 tickets to people not wearing seatbelts, 84 tickets to speeders, impounded eight vehicles from people caught stunt driving, and caught four impaired drivers.

Caledon OPP also ran its annual Reduce Impaired Driving Everywhere (RIDE) campaign from November 16 to January 1. This campaign caught 46 impaired drivers on Caledon roads.

“I can truly say I am proud of our members’ collective efforts in improving road safety in Caledon,” said Kearns.

In 2024 so far, Kearns said officers have issued 5,484 tickets related to traffic in Caledon. By March 2023, officers had issued 3,257 tickets.

“The increase in tickets year-to-year is tremendous,” she said.

On March 20 this year, Kearns said Caledon OPP ran a “blitz” and conducted 61 truck inspections in the area of Mayfield Road and Highway 410. The blitz resulted in 25 charges being laid, eight warnings issued, and 10 trucks being taken out of service.

Kearns said traffic safety is everyone’s responsibility and that everyone needs to be part of the solution.

“All of us in the room... haven’t had perfect driving days. We all have to be part of the change we want to see,” she said.

Ward 1 Councillor Lynn Kiernan said the community has noticed an increase in police presence on the roads and that she appreciates the efforts being made to keep Caledon roads safe.

Regional Councillor Christina Early said she was happy to hear about the recent truck

blitz and said it’s the type of thing that should be happening more in Caledon.

“We need to get the word out that we mean business... that we are going to do these inspections and we are going to make sure that you’re safe on our roads,” said Early.

Kearns said Caledon OPP plans to continue the truck blitzes, at least quarterly.

Ward 2 Councillor Dave Sheen said he appreciates seeing an increase in the number of tickets issued in Caledon. He also said the community has noticed an increase in police presence on the road.

“I’m amazed at the number of drunk drivers that you’re pulling off the road,” said Sheen.

Kearns agreed and said she can’t believe the amount of people who are driving impaired. She said harsher penalties should be implemented by the courts for impaired drivers.


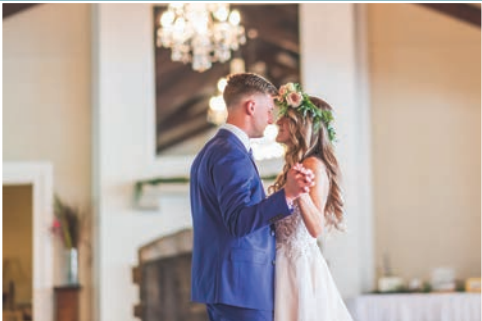
Kearns said she encourages Caledon residents to call police when they see dangerous driving in Caledon, even if they don’t catch a license plate. Often, she said a vehicle colour and travel direction will be enough for an officer out on the roads to catch someone.

“Call us right away so we can do our job,” said Kearns.

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D	B	M	S		E	N	E	M	A	S				
E	R	I	C		B	O	D	Y	G	U	A	R	D	
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Local Building & Farm Supply firm in the heart of Blue Mountain, requires person for:

INSIDE COUNTER SALES
CONTRACTOR SALES
Knowledge and experience extremely helpful for our Timbermart building supply division. Being fit, energetic and getting along with others, are a must.
Also required:

ASSISTANT YARD PERSON
in building supply firm in Glen Huron. Serving and helping customers load and helping prepare loads for delivery (some deliveries) and pick ups. House keeping, yard and warehouse important.

Please call, fax or email or drop in with resume to:
c/o Fred Hamilton
Hamilton Bros & Building Supply Div
2047 Glen Huron Road, Conc 8, Glen Huron
ph: 705 466 2244 • fax: 705 466 2122
email: hamiltonbros@ultrafastwireless.com
www.hamiltonbros.ca



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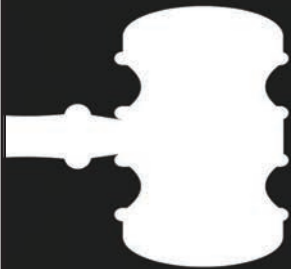
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APR 12TH..... FARM AUCTION FOR RON HODGKINSON.
APR 26TH..... SPRING TOOL & EQUIPMENT SALE.
MAY 2ND & 3RD..... ANTIQUES, COLLECTIBLES & QUALITY HOUSEHOLD ITEMS.
MAY 21ST - 25TH..... STRAIGHT SHOOTER SALE.
JUNE 14TH..... CURRENCY SALE.
JUNE 21ST..... ANTIQUES, COLLECTIBLES & QUALITY HOUSEHOLD ITEMS.
JULY 5TH..... INUIT ART AUCTION.
JULY 19TH..... WHEELS OF YESTERYEARS - VINTAGE VEHICLE AUCTION.
JULY 26TH..... ANTIQUES, COLLECTIBLES & QUALITY HOUSEHOLD ITEMS.



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Sale to Include 10 Tractors Challenger 565 D - 4 WD; M.F. 8150 - 4 WD; Versatile 276 II - 4 WD; 2 M.F. 1155; M.F. 1105; MF 175; MF 165; MF 1085; Int 986; **Tillage** Landoll 6230 disc; Brillion HFC 24' cult; Big Jim 32' packer; **Hay** 2021 bale Baron 5250T; 2021 N.H. BC 5070 sq baler; 2022 West End 900V2 conditioner, rakes, tedders; 5 hay wagons; M.F. 8560 & MF 850 combines; heads; Bach-Run 5000 & Bach-Run 275 grain wagons; Belly Dump 600 bu & Weber Lane Super Tilt 500 bu; grain wagons etc. **Terms & Conditions** at severnauctions@hibid.com for list and pictures

Bob Severn Auctioneering Shelburne 519-925-2091 519-938-0815
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CONDO for RENT in Orangeville. 1 Bedroom, 1 bathroom, ensuite laundry, stainless steel appliances, designated outdoor parking spot (option to rent indoor parking spot). New building, clean and freshly painted. Walking distance to grocery, bank and restaurants. Rent \$2300/month. Suited to senior or professional. Please inquire 416-706-6945.

VEHICLES WANTED

SCRAP CAR DISPOSAL - Cars, Trucks, Vans - Big or Small. Cash paid. Call Joe at 647-294-2796.

WE PAY CASH for Scrap Vehicles - any size. We also buy construction and farm equipment. Open 7 days a week. Call 905-859-0817 (Peter).

RIDE WANTED

TRANSPORTATION from ORANGEVILLE to Eglington Ave area in Mississauga, there and back twice a month. Please call Edmund at 647-763-7077.

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CONTRACTOR REPAIRS, restores, Jacks up, dismantles farm buildings, homes, cottages, roofing, siding, doors, windows, beams, posts, piers, foundations, concrete work, eavestroughing, deck, docks, sheds. Fencing installed, replaced or fixed. Call Brian McCurdy 519-986-1781 or 519-375-0958.

RESIDENTIAL SERVICES & REPAIRS

ROM MASONRY - Based in Nobleton. We do big or small jobs. Chimneys, window sills, walls etc. All work guaranteed. Free estimates, seniors discount. Call Spencer at 647-542-0559.

SERVICES

The Lord Dufferin Chapter IOOE holds their meetings at the Lord Dufferin Centre on the 4th Tuesday of every month. We are looking for women who would like to help in the Community. Call 519-941-1865.

IF YOU WANT to keep drinking, that's your business. **IF YOU WANT** to stop drinking, that's our business. Call Alcoholics Anonymous Hot Line, 1-866-715-0005. www.aan-orthaltonein.org.

DRUG PROBLEM? We've been there, we can help! Please refer to georgianheartlandna.org for a complete list of Narcotics Anonymous meetings. Call anytime 519-215-0761.

SERVICES

ARE YOU A WOMAN living with abuse? For safety, emergency shelter, and counseling call Family Transition Place, (519)941-HELP or 1-800-265-9178.

FOR INFORMATION regarding **HEART and STROKE**, call Dori Ebel (519)941-1865 or 1-800-360-1557.

IF YOU or a FAMILY MEMBER are struggling with gambling, Gamblers Anonymous is there to HELP. Call: (1855) 222-5542 or visit www.gatoronto.ca.

ALZHEIMER SUPPORT GROUPS meet monthly for spousal & family support. Call (519) 941-1221.

LA LECHE LEAGUE Orangeville offers breastfeeding support. For more info call Erin at 519-943-0703.

ORANGEVILLE OVER 65 - Single Social Club. A place to meet and make new friends. We meet every Thursday at 5:30pm. Many activities. For information call Ken 519-278-6341 / Betty 519-942-3090.

**SUPPORT
LOCAL!**

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Celebration of Life for CARL ANDREW HORSLEY

Join us in honouring the life and contributions of Carl Andrew Horsley as we gather to celebrate his profound impact on our family and community. Carl's memory will be cherished as we come together at the Royal Canadian Legion in Shelburne, Ontario.

Date: Saturday, April 13, 2024 **Time:** 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Location: Royal Canadian Legion Branch 220
(The Museum Room, Front Hall),
203 William Street, Shelburne, Ontario L9V 3L6



As a tribute to Carl's unwavering dedication to the Shelburne Fire Department for 25 years and the IGA for 43 years along with many other contributions to the town of Shelburne, his ashes will be escorted through town via fire truck. The procession will commence at 11:00 a.m., following the route along William St., up to Main St. and down Owen Sound St., culminating at the cemetery for the immediate family's gathering for the interment of ashes. We invite you to pay your respects along the route or join us at the Legion after 1:00 p.m. to reminisce, share stories, and honour Carl's memory. Light lunch fare will be provided and the bar will be open for those wishing to purchase adult beverages. Your presence and support during this commemoration are deeply appreciated as we come together to celebrate the life of a cherished member of our community.

Sincerely, The Horsley Family

OBITUARIES

BOWLES, DONALD M. SEPTEMBER 7TH, 1946 - MARCH 21ST, 2024

Cherished husband and best friend to Brenda; predeceased by brothers Lender (the late Alberta), Richard (Debbie), Michael (Heather), William (the late Anne); survived by John (Claire), Gerald (Ruby), Robert (Karen) and sister Donna (the late Tim); brother-in-law to Barbara (the late Steve), Brian, Beverly (Gerald), and Bonita; father to Sarah and Gillian (Benjamin); grandfather and playmate to Cedar; uncle to many beloved nieces and nephews. Constant fishing trips kept him close to all.



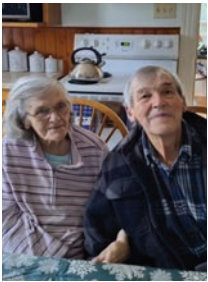
A joyful and deeply creative man, Donald passed away peacefully, surrounded by his loving family. He was a professional photographer, poet and writer, industrial line manager and avid wilderness enthusiast. He has been a baseball coach, skiing instructor, lifelong camper and tireless volunteer.

Personal and community gardens alike flourished with his care. He loved swimming, yoga, painting, woodworking, and euchre at his beloved seniors centre with John. A friend to many, he was quick to act when help was needed.

A visitation will be held at 1:00 pm on April 4th at Westminster Church in Orangeville, with a funeral and celebration of his life to follow at 2 pm.

BRIAN & TINA HULL

Suddenly on Tuesday, March 19th, 2024. Beloved parents of Brian (Josie), Judy Haynes (Scott) and Patricia Savoury (Bob). Dear grandparents of Melissa (Brian), Kyle (Maddie), Coby (Jessie), Tyler (Breanna), Kasey (Alexa). Cherished great-grandparents of Sophie. Remembered by Brian's Siblings David (Jane) and Sylvia (Simon), Eileen (deceased) (Derek-deceased), Janet (Sandy-deceased), Dorothy (deceased) and Howard (deceased) and Tina's siblings Bob (Faye) and Femmy (Keith-deceased). Brian & Tina will also be greatly missed by other relatives and many friends.



Funeral Service was held at **Dods & McNair Funeral Home, Chapel & Reception Centre** 21 First St Orangeville, Ontario on Wednesday, March 27th, 2024 at 3:30 pm. Visitation will begin at 2:30 pm. Spring interment - Greenwood. Memorial donations may be made to the Canadian Cancer Society. Condolences may be offered to the family at www.dodsandmcnair.com

ABRAMOWITZ, SUSAN

After a brave battle with cancer, Susan Rawn (Abramowitz) passed away peacefully surrounded by family in her 78th year. Predeceased by her husband, Arnie Abramowitz (2012). Loving mother of Robert (Natasha), Peter (Jill), Grandmother to Eloise and Nate. Sister to Jack (Fabian), and aunt to Sarah (Pete) and Adrienne. Her kindness was unmatched and her door was always open to the many friends, strangers and pets that graced her doorstep. Our hearts are broken, but knowing that she is reunited with Arnie brings a measure of peace.



A celebration of Susan's life will be held at the **Dods & McNair Funeral Home, Chapel & Reception Centre**, 21 First St. Orangeville on Saturday, April 6th at 11:00 am. Visitation will begin at 10:00 am. Donations to the Stronach Regional Cancer Centre would be appreciated by the family. Condolences may be offered to the family at www.dodsandmcnair.com

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