



Wishing you a blessed Easter filled with happiness, peace, and hope for the spring season ahead.



For those who observe this holiest of Christian holidays which celebrates the resurrection of Jesus Christ, I wish you renewed faith at Easter and always.

## Free Income Tax Clinics On Now in Dufferin-Caledon

### Are you eligible?

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

In general, a modest income means the total family income is less than or equal to the amount shown in the chart below, based on the size of the family.

Family size includes an individual, or a couple, and their dependants.

#### SUGGESTED INCOME THRESHOLDS

FAMILY SIZE	TOTAL FAMILY INCOME
1 PERSON	\$40,000
2 PERSONS	\$55,000
3 PERSONS	\$60,000
4 PERSONS	\$65,000
5 PERSONS	\$70,000
MORE THAN 5 PERSONS	\$70,000, PLUS \$5,000 FOR EACH ADDITIONAL PERSON

#### 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, Old Age Security, disability insurance, employment insurance, and social assistance
- registered retirement savings plans (RRSPs)
- scholarships, fellowships, bursaries or grants
- interest (under \$1,200)

#### 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  
180 Broadway, 3rd Floor, Unit B  
Orangeville, ON L9W 1K3  
Phone: 519-941-1832  
Toll Free: 1-866-941-1832  
Website: [www.kyleseeback.ca](http://www.kyleseeback.ca)  
E-mail: [kyle.seeback@parl.gc.ca](mailto:kyle.seeback@parl.gc.ca)

**Community Volunteer  
Income Tax Program  
Free Income Tax Clinics**  
for Low and Modest Income Individuals  
(see eligibility criteria)

**Orangeville Tax Clinics**

**When:** Starting – **Monday, March 2, 2026**  
Last day – **Monday, April 27, 2026**

**In-person Interviews:**

Orangeville Public Library, 1 Mill St.  
**Tuesdays & Thursdays** from 10:30 a.m. - 12:30p.m.  
**Wednesdays** from 1:00 p.m. - 3:00p.m.  
Orangeville & District Seniors Centre, 26 Bythia St.  
**Mondays** from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00p.m.

**Drop Off Service**

at the Orangeville Public Library, 1 Mill St.  
During regular open hours  
A volunteer will follow-up with a telephone interview

**Caledon Clinic**

**April 11th, 2026** from 9:40 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.  
Caledon Seniors' Centre  
7 Rotarian Way, Bolton, ON  
By appointment only  
Call 905-951-6114 to book your space

**What you need:**

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



## Easter Events in Dufferin Caledon

There are several Easter events taking place in our community for all of us to enjoy with our loved ones this weekend. Here are a few listed below.

**Easter Mom Market**

April 4, 2026, from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM  
Monora Park Pavilion  
500 Monora Park Dr, Mono

Features an Easter egg hunt for kids and local vendors

**Teen Ranch Easter Roundup 2026**

Saturday, April 4, 2026  
Starting at 1:00 PM  
Teen Ranch, 20682 Hurontario St., Caledon

Please call (519) 941-4501

for fee details and more information.

Entry includes: Egg Hunts, Petting Farm, Climbing Wall, Hay Rides, Face Painting, Games, Crafts, Balloons, Ice Skating, Treats & much more!

**Terra Cotta Easter Egg Hunt**

**& Meet the Easter Bunny**

April 4, 2026 from 11AM to 12 PM  
Fonge Park, 215 King St, Terra Cotta

Egg Hunt, Meet the Easter Bunny  
& Kids Colouring Contest



Kyle Seeback, M.P.  
Dufferin-Caledon  
Constituency Office  
180 Broadway, 3rd Floor, Unit B  
Orangeville, ON L9W 1K3  
Phone: 519-941-1832  
Toll Free: 1-866-941-1832  
Website: [www.kyleseeback.ca](http://www.kyleseeback.ca)  
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JOSHUA DRAKES PHOTO

**HOME & GARDEN SHOW:** Don's Heating and Cooling had an extensive display at the Orangeville Lions Home and Garden Show, held at the Orangeville Fairgrounds from March 27 to 29. Their display was filled with BBQs, fireplaces and slow cookers, in addition to their A/C and heat pump products. See more photos on Page A9.

**Mortgage advice you can trust.**



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**'I Am Enough': Orangeville production shines spotlight on Mental Health, rural communities**

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

A powerful new musical theatre production is coming to Theatre Orangeville (87 Broadway) early next month, bringing with it a deeply personal story of mental illness, resilience, and community care.

"I Am Enough" is the creation of performer and mental health advocate Sherry Garner, whose own journey through a psychiatric emergency room and a diagnosis of bipolar disorder led her to rethink how stories about mental health are told.

"In 2019 I had a mental health crisis," Garner said. "I found myself in a psychiatric emergency room, just completely at the end of my rope. I was diagnosed with bipolar disorder. I never saw myself as the stereotype of somebody who would be suicidal and have mental illness."

"Once I was in remission and doing better, I decided I wanted to tell my story to others," she added.

Out of that experience, she crafted a show that blends concert-style musical performance with frank, accessible discussion about accessing help - especially in rural regions where stigma and isolation can be most severe.

"I decided that I was going to do a charity show," Garner said. "I'm going to put on a show, and I'm going to tell my story. I'm going to do it as a concert and get myself back on my feet. I just rented out a theater, and I wrote it."

The evening, getting underway at 7:30 p.m. on May 9, is structured in two parts. The first half is a curated musical theatre performance in which Garner shares her life story through song and storytelling, touching on themes of rural life, first responder families, and parenting a child with Down syndrome.

"I grew up on a farm," Garner said. "I come from a big rural background. So ingrained in me is that rural 'suck it up.' We

don't talk about things. I'm also a former police officer's wife, so I know what it's like for first responders to deal with their mental health and how difficult it is for families to support that person. I am also a mother to a child with Down syndrome, so I know the pressure of trying to raise a child in a world that's not built for them, that doesn't accept them. I want to break the stigmas surrounding all of those realities."

These intersecting experiences are meant to help the production resonate with a wide cross-section of the community: farm families, first responders and their loved ones, caregivers, and anyone who has struggled with mental health or supported someone who has.

The second half shifts into a community-focused "coffee talk" format. Local mental health providers are invited onstage for a guided conversation and audience Q&A.

Continued on Page A8

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# Police investigate shooting in Orangeville, no injuries reported

Written By **SAM ODROWSKI**

A shooting in Orangeville on March 25 is currently under investigation by Dufferin Ontario Provincial Police (OPP).

At approximately 4:20 a.m., officers responded to a report of a possible shooting at a commercial plaza on Riddell Road near Caledon-East Garafraxa Townline in Orangeville.

No injuries were reported as a result of the incident.

The initial investigation has revealed that the incident involved a white sedan, possibly a Honda.

"The OPP is urging the public to remain vigilant and promptly report any suspicious activity to police. Those who live locally or were in the area around the time of the incident are asked to check their surveillance,

doorbell and dashcam footage for anything that could assist the investigation," reads a press release from Dufferin OPP.

"Investigators believe this is a targeted incident related to the ongoing extortion investigations."

The Dufferin OPP's Crime Unit is conducting the investigation into the shooting under the direction of the OPP Criminal Investigation Branch.

Assistance is being provided by OPP Forensic Identification Services.

Anyone with information or video footage regarding this incident is asked to contact the Caledon OPP at 1-888-310-1122. Should you wish to remain anonymous, contact Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS) or ontariocrimestoppers.ca.

Dufferin OPP said more information will be released when available.

# Four people charged with drug trafficking after search of Sherbourne Street residence

Dufferin Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) recently arrested four individuals following the execution of a search warrant at a residence on Sherbourne Street in Orangeville.

In January 2026, the Dufferin OPP initiated an investigation into suspected drug trafficking within the community.

On March 18, members of Dufferin OPP "C" Platoon arrested two individuals in connection with the investigation and seized a quantity of cocaine. Information obtained as a result of these arrests assisted in obtaining a search warrant for the Sherbourne Street residence.

On March 26, members of the Dufferin OPP Community Street Crime Unit (CSCU), with the assistance of the Huronia West CSCU and

Collingwood CSCU, executed a search warrant at the residence. Police seized 39 LSD tablets, 53.6 grams Cocaine, one gram of Fentanyl, drug trafficking paraphernalia, two Prohibited knives, and \$690 cash.

As a result of the search and seizure, Krystal Dunn, 39, with no fixed address, has been charged with:

- Possession for the purpose of trafficking - Cocaine (two counts)
- Possession for the purpose of trafficking - Fentanyl
- Possession for the purpose of trafficking - LSD
- Possession for the purpose of trafficking - Oxycodone

Possession of a prohibited weapon (switchblade)

Courtney Vickers, 39, from Orangeville, has been charged with:

- Trafficking (Cocaine)
- Possession for the purpose of trafficking - Cocaine
- Possession for the purpose of trafficking - Fentanyl
- Possession for the purpose of trafficking - LSD
- Possession for the purpose of trafficking - Oxycodone
- Possession of a prohibited weapon (switchblade)

Ryan Masters, 43, from Caledon, has been charged with:

- Possession for the purpose of trafficking - Cocaine
- Possession for the purpose of trafficking - Fentanyl
- Possession for the purpose of trafficking - LSD

Possession for the purpose of trafficking - Oxycodone

Possession of a prohibited weapon (switchblade)

Steven Engram, 39, from Mono, has been charged with:

- Possession for the purpose of trafficking - Cocaine (two counts)
- Possession for the purpose of trafficking - Fentanyl
- Possession for the purpose of trafficking - LSD
- Possession for the purpose of trafficking - Oxycodone
- Possession of a prohibited weapon (switchblade)

None of the listed charges have been proven in court.

The investigation is ongoing. Anyone with information is urged to contact the Dufferin OPP.

The OPP can be contacted at 1-888-310-1122 or anonymous tips can be made to Crime

**Just 15 minutes from Orangeville!**

## Easter is blooming at Glen Echo Nurseries!

Wonderful selection of Easter lillies, hydrangeas, pansies, Spring bulbs, fresh bouquets, Spring décor and ladies fashions. Drop by for new spring arrivals daily. Open 7 days a week.

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**COMMUNITY SOCK DRIVE:** Meridian Credit Union in Orangeville is supporting Branching Out Support Services' (BOSS) Community Sock Drive, running until April 11. The donation drive got underway on March 21, and the team at Meridian made their donation on March 26. Collected socks will go to Family Transition Place, Choices Shelter and the Orangeville Food Bank & Dufferin Food Share. Drop-off locations in Orangeville include BOSS (5 First St.), Orangeville Public Library Mill Street Branch (1 Mill St.), Westminster United Church (247 Broadway), Inclusive Perspectives (190 Broadway), and Meridian Credit Union (150 First Street, Unit R113).

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**BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS DUFFERIN & DISTRICT BOWL FOR KIDS SAKE**  
Friday, April 10, 2026  
Come out to Bowl for Kids Sake. Enjoy prizes, games, music and of course Wii Bowling! Know that your support ensures more local children will be matched with a caring mentor. This year's theme is "Wild West"! For more info & to register visit: <https://tinyurl.com/34697dcw>

**BLOOD DONOR CLINIC**  
Monday, April 13  
Orangeville Best Western - 7 Buena Vista Drive  
[www.blood.ca](http://www.blood.ca)

This ad space is provided by Tim Hortons Orangeville and is intended for use by non-profit organizations. For information on how to include your community event in this calendar, please call 519-941-2230

April 28 - May 4, 2026  
All proceeds go to Headwaters Healthcare

**smile cookie**  
Support local charities.

**ORANGEVILLE AND DISTRICT HORTICULTURAL MONTHLY MEETING**  
Tuesday, April 14 from 6:30 - 8:30  
Topic: Identification and Control of Invasive Plants on your Property. Speaker: Lee Merrill Orangeville Senior Centre, 26 Bythia St

**16<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL HIKE FOR BETHELL HOSPICE**  
Sunday, May 3rd from 9am - 12pm  
To register as an individual, hike captain or team member, please visit [hikeforbethellhospice.ca](http://hikeforbethellhospice.ca)

**DUFFERIN COUNTY FOOD DISTRIBUTION PROGRAMS - CENTRALIZED LOCATION**  
Orangeville Food Bank, 3 Commerce Blvd.  
Tuesday 10:00 am - 1:00 pm & 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm  
Wednesday 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm  
Thursday 10:00 am - 1:00 pm  
Friday 10:00 am - 1:00 pm  
Saturday CLOSED

Starting in April, recycling in Dufferin County will be even more convenient with a new recycling cart.

Carts will be delivered in March and can be used as of April 1.

Learn more: [circularmaterials.ca/dufferincounty](http://circularmaterials.ca/dufferincounty)

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# Ontario Provincial Police seek public assistance to solve 2024 murder

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



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**SUSPECT VEHICLE:** Ontario Provincial Police officers are appealing to the public for information that may help them solve a homicide investigation from 2024. On April 1, 2024, officers responded to the report of a deceased person in the area of Chinguacousy Road and King Street. Police determined the deceased person was David Robson of Melancthon and began a homicide investigation at that time. Investigators are looking for anyone who has information about his missing vehicle, a 2017 black Kia Sportage with Ontario license plate DAMZ 252. Anyone with information is encouraged to contact the Dufferin OPP at 1-888-310-1122 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS) or [ontariocrimestoppers.ca](http://ontariocrimestoppers.ca).

ing evidence that may help clarify the circumstances surrounding his death or identify individuals involved," Allison said. "That is why police are emphasizing the importance of any information related to the vehicle's location."

Police say the renewed appeal is part of a broader strategy to generate new leads and re-engage the public.

With the passage of time, investigators believe individuals who may have seen or heard something significant could now be in a position to come forward, or may recall details that previously seemed unimportant.

As the investigation continues, police have erected a billboard along County Road 9 facing southwest at County Road 11, displaying Robson's image along with details of his missing vehicle — a 2017 black Kia Sportage

Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) have renewed their appeal for public assistance in the homicide investigation of 65-year-old David Robson, marking two years since his death with the installation of a new billboard near Orangeville to help draw public attention.

Robson was reported missing from Melancthon Township on March 21, 2024.

On April 1, 2024, officers from the OPP's Caledon detachment responded to a report of a deceased person in the area of Chinguacousy Road and King Street. A post-mortem examination confirmed the death was a homicide.

Detective Inspector Mark Allison said that the police believe there may still be witnesses who have not yet come forward, despite the time that has passed.

"Two years have passed since David Robson's death, and investigators believe there may be individuals who saw or heard something at the time but did not realize its significance," he said. "The passage of time can also change circumstances, perspectives, or willingness to come forward."

Allison added, "Investigators encourage anyone who believes they may have information to contact police, even if they are unsure or think the detail may be insignificant. People are not expected to draw conclusions or determine relevance, as that is the role of investigators. Information that may seem uncertain or minor could be critical when combined with other evidence."

Investigators also believe that locating Robson's vehicle could provide key evidence and are urging anyone with information about its whereabouts to come forward, emphasizing its importance to the case.

"Locating the vehicle could provide important information for investigators, includ-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**NEW BILLBOARD:** A large billboard that reads "Who murdered David Robson" has been erected by the OPP outside of Orangeville, by County Road 9 and County Road 11, in an effort to receive tips from the public that may help them find Robson's killer.

bearing Ontario licence plate DAMZ 252.

Detective Inspector Allison said that similar public awareness efforts, including billboards and media campaigns, have proven effective in advancing long-term investigations.

"Public awareness initiatives such as billboards, renewed media appeals, and visual reminders have proven effective in generating new information in cold or long term investigations," he said. "In some cases, they have helped trigger recollections, locate missing vehicles, or encourage individuals who were hesitant to come forward previously to finally share what they know."

Since the investigation began, officers have received tips from the public, all of which have been reviewed. However, the case remains active, and investigators con-

tinue to seek additional information that could help determine the circumstances surrounding Robson's death and identify those responsible.

Investigators emphasize that even the smallest detail could be important. Anyone who believes they may have information — regardless of how minor or uncertain it may seem — is encouraged to contact the Dufferin OPP at 1-888-310-1122 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS) or [ontariocrimestoppers.ca](http://ontariocrimestoppers.ca).

"We hope the billboard prompts anyone passing through the area to recall some information about David Robson or the location of his vehicle," Allison said. "We want to understand what happened to David and provide the answers his loved ones have been waiting for over the past two years."

## Erin woman charged with impaired driving, mischief, assault, after disturbance at restaurant

Written By **SAM ODROWSKI**

Dufferin Ontario Provincial Police officers recently charged an Erin resident with impaired operation-related offences following a traffic complaint.

On March 29, at approximately 8:20 p.m., officers responded to a report of a possible impaired driver in the area of County Road 16 in Amaranth.

While patrolling for the suspect vehicle, officers received a second call regarding a disturbance at a dining establishment on Broadway in Orangeville.

Officers attended the scene and determined the individual involved in the disturbance was the same person connected to

the earlier traffic complaint. After speaking with the person, officers initiated an impaired driving investigation.

As a result of the investigation, Veronica Loucks, 32, of Erin, has been charged with:

- Operation while impaired - blood alcohol concentration (80 plus)
- Operation while impaired - alcohol and drugs
- Mischief - obstructs, interrupts or interferes with the lawful use, enjoyment or operation of property
- Assault
- Driving motor vehicle with open container of liquor

None of the charges have been proven in court.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

## Public notice

### Official plan and zoning bylaw amendment

A complete application has been submitted to amend the official plan and zoning bylaw for these properties. The proposed land use change would allow for the redevelopment of these lands for a restaurant and parking.

#### What's being proposed

- Convert the existing residential dwelling at 6 Third Street into a restaurant (pizzeria).
- Demolish the existing adjacent residential dwelling at 4 Third Street to create a parking area.
- Designed to complement the existing restaurant and coffee shop south of the properties.

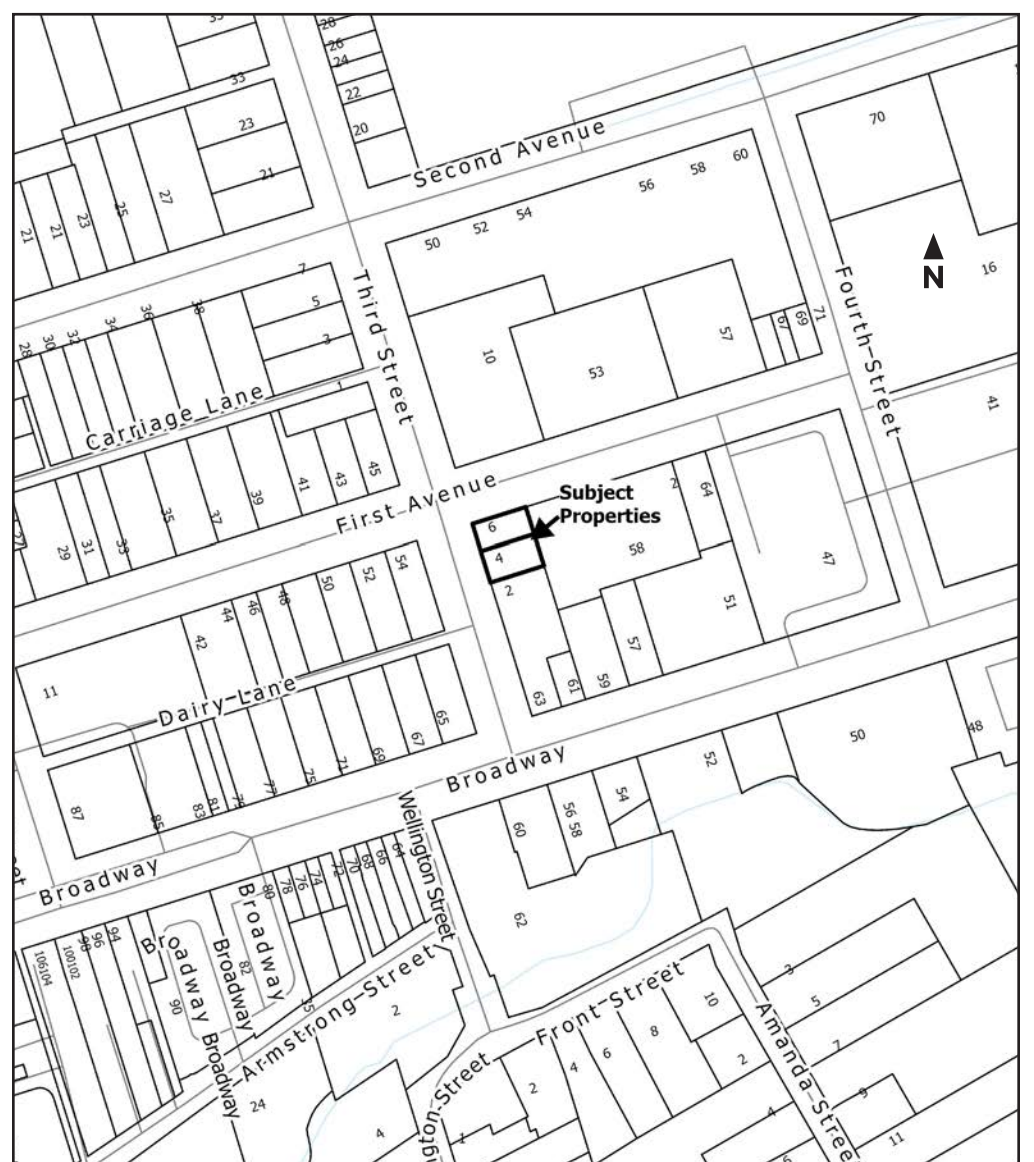
#### Application details

**File number:** OPZ 2026-01

**Location of subject lands:** 4 and 6 Third Street

**Official plan amendment request:** redesignate the property from residential to central business district

**Zoning bylaw amendment request:** rezone the property from multiple residential medium density (RM1) to central business district (CBD)



Location map of the subject lands

## Learn more and share feedback

#### Public meeting

**Date:** April 27, 2026

**Time:** 7 p.m.

**Location:** Council Chambers, Town Hall, 87 Broadway

**Watch online:** [orangeville.ca/WatchLive](http://orangeville.ca/WatchLive)

Meeting agenda to be posted by April 22, 2026.

#### How to participate

- learn how to speak at a council meeting at [orangeville.ca/SpeakUp](http://orangeville.ca/SpeakUp)
- to attend via Zoom visit the meeting agenda at [orangeville.ca/Meetings](http://orangeville.ca/Meetings)

#### Submit written comments

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

#### For more information

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

**Susan Pottle**  
Planner, Development and Community Improvement  
✉ [spottle@orangeville.ca](mailto:spottle@orangeville.ca)



# Orangeville seniors struggle with province-wide move to larger recycling bins

Written By JAMES MATTHEWS

Changes to recycling have been a boon to some residents and a bane to others.

Recycling in Dufferin County has been expanded to accept more materials. And households throughout the county can now haul those recyclables to the curb in new, larger, covered Blue Bins. A full transition to the larger bins is expected in April.

Some residents have expressed trepidation about the 360-litre blue recycling carts. They're large and may be a challenge for residents with limited space. There are limitations on the volume of materials that can be put out for recycling. Materials that prevent the cart's lid from closing will have to be held until the following week's collection day. There are also specifications about how the cart is to be parked at the curb.

Residents can access a smaller 240-litre cart, but concerns remain. Among the anxious are the county's senior citizens who maintain their own homes.

Orangeville resident Maria, 88, asked that her last name and neighbourhood not be published to avoid identifying where she lives alone.

Maria has arthritis, which complicates her efforts to maneuver the blue bin from her one-car garage to the curb.

"They're so big and they are cumbersome," she said. "My thing is it's my mobilities. I'm going to have to pay somebody to do that for me."

She said GFL Environmental offered to put somebody on hand to do the chore for her. But she'd need a note from her doctor testifying that she's not capable of moving

the bin to the curb.

With many seniors along her street, she is doubtful a couple extra hands on the green truck will have the time during their route to provide that service to all who need it, she said.

Her neighbour across the street is 96 years old, and she is also at a loss about how to manage the bin. She pays a neighbourhood boy to handle the task.

"She shouldn't have to do that," Maria said.

Mayor Lisa Post said she isn't surprised by the issues with the new recycling program. The crowd at Queen's Park rolled it out haphazardly and without much thought, she said.

Post said GFL has been making accommodations for people in Dufferin County as far back as pickups have taken place. And, she said, they're continuing that practice.

"There's always been situations where people just don't have the capacity to get their garbage or Blue Bins to the road," she said.

Post expected more people would need such a special accommodation with the larger bins.

"It has been frustrating to deal with," she said, and added that's because she feels the provincial program was poorly introduced.

"There was a lot that they could've done to strengthen communications and make it an easier transition."

Ontario is a big province geographically, with a large population. Those are factors in the provincial government's difficulties administering the new program.

"I feel fortunate that we were able to at



JAMES MATTHEWS PHOTO

**RECYCLING ROLL-OUT:** Starting yesterday (April 1), Dufferin County residents are required to use new recycling carts that were delivered throughout March. The new 360-litre wheeled, lidded recycling carts will now have to be put to the curb instead of the previously used recycling boxes.

least get a second bin size option," Post said. "That wasn't going to be an option until we did some advocacy on our end to get that done."

Initially, the program was going to start in

January, when heavy winter snow would've caused havoc.

"Change is never easy," she said. "But as we're navigating the change at least we're doing it without a whole pile of snow, too."

# Mono council petitioned to waive noise bylaw fee for upcoming dog show at fairgrounds

Written By JAMES MATTHEWS

Organizers of an international dog show booked for last year in Mono petitioned to be exempted from a new municipal application fee.

The Saugeen Schutzhund Club of Ontario and Oneida Working Dog Club will co-host the 2026 Canadian German Shepherd Dog Championships and Sieger Show from July 28 to Aug. 2.

It was booked last summer for the Orangeville Agricultural Society Event Centre in Mono. That was before the town's new, stricter noise bylaw, which includes a \$500 application fee for council to weigh an exemption.

The show is the highest-level event held annually by the German Shepherd Schutzhund Club of Canada. The non-profit clubs are dedicated to promoting the Internationale

Gebrauchshundprüfung (IGP).

That's a sport that tests a dog's tracking, obedience, and protection skills and evaluates a dog's character, temperament, and ability to follow complex commands.

Julia Stemp, the event co-chairperson, said in a letter to Mono council that events won't begin before 8 a.m. and will end by 5 p.m.

"The competitors by province are allotted time to practice on the trial field," she said. "There may be some barking for portions of the practice time but limited to one turn for each dog entered."

She said camping will be allowed on the property at serviced sites on the west side of the grounds. Some of the dogs will be there with their owners.

"I am not aware if campfires are permitted on the fairgrounds, but we will have all campers sign a contract that no fires, no outdoor music is allowed, and groups of no

more than six people on a site after 11 p.m.," she said.

A portion of the event centre will be open until midnight on some evenings, with music playing inside. Security will be hired to ensure overnight adherence to the municipal noise bylaw.

"We do not want to hold an event where we will be fined or shut down," she said. "This event was booked last summer before the bylaw was enacted. For this reason, I believe the application fee of \$500 should be waived as it was booked prior to the bylaw change."

Deputy Mayor Fred Nix asked during council's March 24 meeting how noisy the dogs can be.

"Are they going to bark all night?" he said. Stemp said no dogs will be left unattended, and she said security will be on site.

"They will be kicked out if there is an issue," she said.

"So you mean if one of the campers that had a dog that simply wouldn't behave, that camper would be kicked out?" Nix said.

She said there may be barking for the few minutes it takes a participant to walk their dog to their campsite.

Nix wanted to ensure no campers would be rocking out with music and revelry at the camp sites after 11 p.m.

Councillor Elaine Capes said she was intrigued by the competition and looked into it. One of the obedience events involves gunshots.

Stemp said there will be two gunshots per dog, and as many as 40 dogs are expected to take part.

The shots are from starter pistols, she said. "That's not listed in your request for the exemption," Capes said.

Council agreed to issue a noise bylaw exemption and to waive the \$500 application fee.

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# Dufferin County considers removing services from courthouse complex

Written By JAMES MATTHEWS

It seems working with the provincial government on some projects is much like trying to herd mice.

At least, that's the case in Dufferin County's efforts to renovate and update the courthouse building with accurate allowances of space for certain provincial ministries.

Councillor Todd Taylor, who is also Orangeville's deputy mayor, said during county council's March 26 meeting that a report about the status of courthouse renovations leaves many questions.

"There is so much ambiguity in there," Taylor said.

The report recommends that Infrastructure Ontario and the Ministry of the Attorney General be asked to review their internal space needs and suitability for the 1973 and 2011 additions to the County Courthouse complex.

It is to determine the feasibility of expanded court services tenancy, including confirmation of space requirements, suitability of the identified spaces for Provincial Offences Administration and criminal court operations, and any ministry tenancy or cost-sharing intentions.

Taylor said the main issues are space and access to the complex, which is causing consternation and annoyance.

A planned renovation of the courthouse complex was initiated to address accessibility, functional reconfiguration, and modernization needs across the 2011 and 1973 additions, which are currently occupied by County Administration and Caledon Provincial Offences Administration (POA) court services.

Council previously approved delivery of the project using a progressive design-build model, and the contract has been awarded to Mettko to lead design development and construction.

While the awarded contract also includes work related to the redesign and repurposing of the Edelbrock Centre Health and Human Services Hub, the report prepared by Taylor is for the courthouse component, valued at \$182,440.93, including tax, for Phase 1 of the contract.

Considering the security realignment, space pressures, and stakeholder feedback, three potential modifications to the project scope have been identified for consideration.

Option One is to vacate all county services from the courthouse complex, allowing judicial stakeholders to operate the facility solely as a courthouse and enabling a unified security and operational model. This modification is preferred and supports long-term objectives and growth opportunities.

Option Two is to relocate POA outside

the 2011 addition, allowing the perimeter access to shift and removing the 2011 space from court security requirements. This modification supports short- to medium-term objectives and growth.

Option Three is to maintain the current renovation scope with design adjustments to include court-visitor screening and processing specific to Courtroom 103. It includes modifications to the perimeter access to separate the 2011 addition from the courthouse, allowing visitor access via both the north and south entrances at 55 Zina Street. This modification supports short-term objectives and growth.

According to the report, each option carries implications for lease negotiations, capital planning, operational continuity, and long-term space strategy.

Taylor said the notion of relocating county services makes perfect sense.

"This is becoming a terrible building for us all to be located in," he said.

He said he has considered all available county buildings and isn't certain which would be suitable for the relocation.

The ambiguity in the report stems from the provincial ministries not providing a reliable contact for Dufferin County, he said.

"Who would we even speak to?" he said. "If you don't have someone that you can speak to that's going to be a lead negotiator, it's pretty hard to make a decision."

And, he said, the ambiguity extends to the three options present in the report to county council.

If services are removed and the building is abandoned, Dufferin County taxpayers are still on the hook for the building, he said. The complex wouldn't be shed from the county's facility inventory.

"As we come out of this, we need to provide direction on where we want to go," Taylor said. "And I don't know what I would say at this point."

Sonya Pritchard, the county's CAO and one of the authors of the report to council, said there's much uncertainty. Dealing with the crowd at the Attorney General's office isn't limited to a single contact, and it doesn't require dealing only with that single ministry.

Further, staff at the many ministries don't often have contacts at the various arms of other departments that have to be involved.

"It is an extremely challenging environment to push forward a big initiative," Pritchard said.

The only clear thing to come from the work update is the need to work with Infrastructure Ontario and the Attorney General to assess space needs so the decision-makers at those ministries can be informed of the accurate need for space.

"That will then spur on additional decision-making on their side," she said.

# Orangeville Lions Club to host Neil Young Tribute Concert at Westminster United Church

Written By JOSHUA DRAKES  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Orangeville Lions are turning up the volume on their longstanding mission of community service with an upcoming Neil Young tribute concert designed as much to give back as to entertain.

Taking place on April 17 at 7:30 p.m. at Westminster United Church on Broadway, Orangeville Lion Dan Roach said that, so far, public interest has been strong, and the Lions are excited to host the concert.

"We're looking forward to it," he said. "We're hoping to get 300 people, and so far ticket sales are strong. We're lucky to be able to count on this community to support us. The community is always strong."

Every dollar raised from the event will be funnelled back into the community through the Orangeville Lions Charitable Trust, which supports a range of local organizations, including the Orangeville Food Bank, Big Brothers Big Sisters, and Family Transition Place.

For this concert, sponsors are helping to cover the major expenses, including the performer and venue. That support enables the Lions to ensure ticket revenue has the maximum impact.

The event also extends the Lions' philosophy of community partnership: local businesses are contributing refreshments and support, and a 50/50 draw will send additional funds to Lions causes and a local charity, to be finalized once licensing is complete.

"We pride ourselves on every cent we raise going back to the community," Roach said. "Our sponsors are pretty well paying for the act and for the venue, so we don't have much we need to spend, so it's going right back into supporting our community as always."

In keeping with the club's emphasis on accessibility and gratitude, the refreshments — cookies, sweets, coffee, and water — will be offered free of charge to ticket holders.

At the heart of the evening is a full-scale Neil Young tribute performance by Andrew Sansone, an Orangeville-based musician fronting a four-piece band. Known for capturing the spirit and sound of Neil Young, Sansone's act blends acoustic and electric sets with a video backdrop and professional lighting to create a complete concert experience.

He has taken this show across Ontario,



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**READY TO ROCK:** Fans of Canadian and American singer-songwriter Neil Young will enjoy a performance by a tribute band on April 17 at Westminster United Church in Orangeville, in support of the Orangeville Lions Club. Organizers are expecting to sell 300 tickets, and all the proceeds raised will go to charitable causes.

the East Coast, and into the United States, and the Lions are aiming to welcome 300 attendees for this local stop.

"We were lucky to have Andrew come to our last meeting in full Neil Young regalia and do two acoustic songs. And I can tell you, if you closed your eyes, you would have thought it was Neil. He is that good," said Roach.

The concert will take place at Westminster United Church (247 Broadway, Orangeville). The venue was chosen for its excellent acoustics, welcoming atmosphere, and in-house audio-visual capabilities, which help elevate the production while keeping costs manageable.

The Lions plan to have about 10 members on hand the night of the show to help things run smoothly, from greeting guests to supporting the 50/50 draw.

The Neil Young tribute concert is scheduled for April 17 at 7:30 p.m., with doors opening at 6:45 p.m. Tickets are \$45 plus HST and can be purchased online through the Lions' established ticket link or in person at BookLore, 121 First Street, a long-time supporter of Lions initiatives.

For online tickets, go to [business.dufferinbot.ca/events/details/orangeville-lions-club-presents-a-neil-young-tribute-2647](https://business.dufferinbot.ca/events/details/orangeville-lions-club-presents-a-neil-young-tribute-2647)

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# Renewed space for safety and healing: Headwaters unveils renovated Sunrise Centre

Headwaters is proud to unveil its newly renovated Sunrise Centre. The updated centre will support the hospital's commitment to providing accessible, high-quality support and resources for those affected by sexual assault and domestic violence (SADV).

The Sunrise Centre is one of 37 SADV treatment centres across Ontario. It provides OHIP-funded access to medical forensic supports and resources for community members affected by SADV.

Before the renovations, the Sunrise Centre housed furniture from the 1990s with outdated design features. Siobhan Bell, SADV program leader for Headwaters, said the Centre "didn't provide a space that conveyed care and holistic compassion."

Headwaters added that creating a compassionate environment is essential in helping people navigate some of the most traumatic experiences of their lives.

Working with partners from Caledon Dufferin Victim Services, the Ontario Provincial Police, and the Punjabi Community Health Services, Headwaters received a grant to renovate the Sunrise Centre to improve capacity and support for patients and their supporters.

The renovation has created a more welcoming and comforting space, with inviting colours and touches of purple, the colour associated with awareness of violence against women.

"The overall vibe of the space now reflects the promise to our patients to holistically support them in accessing resources and medical forensic care," said Siobhan.

In 2024, intimate partner violence (IPV) was declared an epidemic in Dufferin County.

"This should tell you something about

the rates of domestic violence and IPV seen across the county," said Siobhan.

In 2024-25, Caledon Dufferin Victim Services assisted 1,549 new victims of crime. Of those assisted, 613 were specifically for sexual violence, criminal harassment and intimate partner violence.

The Sunrise Centre will help address this growing need in the community.

"Our community is full of courageous people who have been victims of sexual and intimate partner violence and who do not know that they have options, support, and resources," said Siobhan.

The Sunrise Centre aims to work closely with community partners across the province to ensure patients are connected with the supports they need to stay safe. This includes local partnerships with Family Transition Place (FTP) and Dufferin Child and Family Services (DCAFS), which provide extensive counselling support.

Services offered by the centre include the collection and storage of forensic evidence, written and photographic documentation of SADV experiences, and nurse-led assessments of physical, psychological, and social health. In addition, the Centre offers treatment for the prevention of pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections, as well as many other options for support, such as counselling.

"The Sunrise Centre follow-up clinic ensures that patients have someone to provide acute and immediate health and holistic support for physical and mental health needs, while also ensuring they have another place for safety planning and other supports," explained Siobhan.

The Sunrise Centre also provides comprehensive assessments of traumatic brain in-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**RENEWED SPACE:** SADV Program Lead Siobhan (left) and Rachael, a registered nurse within the Ambulatory Care and SADV treatment centre, unveil the newly renovated Sunrise Centre.

juries and non-fatal strangulation, which are two "very important" and "under-supported consequences" of IPV, according to Siobhan.

"The Sunrise Centre represents Headwaters' unwavering commitment to providing compassionate care for those affected by sexual and domestic violence. This renovated space reflects the dignity, safety, and support every person in our community deserves," said Kim Delahunt, president and CEO of Headwaters Health Care Centre.

The Sunrise Centre is available 24/7, 365 days a year.

Those affected by SADV or IPV can con-

tact the Sunrise Centre at 519 941 2702, ext. 2519, to speak with a forensic nurse. Anyone who is impacted is also encouraged to visit Headwaters' Emergency Department and request to see the physician and forensic nurse examiner.

For non urgent needs, email [sadvreferrals@headwatershealth.ca](mailto:sadvreferrals@headwatershealth.ca).

"As the program lead, I am so proud of the work our team is doing and so proud that our hospital is now providing a space where our patients can truly feel the care and professionalism that we bring to this work," said Siobhan.

## Upper Grand District School Board launches annual H2Awesome campaign for Earth Day

Written By JOSHUA DRAKES  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Upper Grand District School Board (UGDSB) is using water to open students' eyes to the future.

Heather Walker and Adam Bernard, organizers of the UGDSB's H2Awesome campaign, said that through its ongoing H2Awesome speaker series, the board is turning a long-running in person event into a multi-week virtual program designed to deepen students' understanding of water, climate change, and sustainability – and to show them where they fit into that picture.

"It's also a tool to empower young people," Walker said. "To help them understand how they can have a role in not only how they interact with water, but perhaps have a

role within their lifetime of how to support the mitigation of some of these issues."

Originally created for Grade 7 and 8 students, the event has evolved since the pandemic. It now runs from Water Day on March 22 to Earth Day on April 22.

"This event has been going on for quite a number of years," Walker said. "It used to be an in-person event that focused on grade seven and eight students... and then when covid hit... this particular event transitioned to a remote format."

"By making this event a remote, virtual event, schools within our entire geographic footprint gain access to the presenters, and so that learning really changed our approach to this event," Walker added.

Continued on Page A9



## Public notice

### Zoning bylaw amendment

The purpose of the Town-initiated housekeeping amendment is to update, clarify and correct various provisions of Zoning Bylaw 22-90.

#### Application details

**File number:** RZ 2026-01

**Location of subject lands:** Town-wide

#### What's being proposed

The amendment affects multiple sections of the bylaw, including but not limited to:

- **Residential areas:** introduce new and updated standards for landscaped areas, driveways, residential parking spaces and abutting walkways.
- **Additional residential units (ARUs):** permit a standard maximum building height of 6.1 metres for all detached ARUs. Currently, a detached ARU may only be 6.1 metres high if it is above a garage. This change will allow a two-storey detached ARU regardless of whether a garage is included.
- **Zoning consistency:** for consistency with the Official Plan, rezone all R2 areas to R3, except where the R2 zone includes a special provision. This will permit single and semi-detached dwellings as-of-right in most low-density residential areas.

- **Residential definitions:** introduce new definitions for back-to-back and stacked townhomes, and revise terminology for other residential dwelling types.
- **Subdivision development:** increase the number of permitted model homes from four to 10 units.
- **Commercial parking:** introduce a new blended parking rate for mixed-use commercial buildings. Currently, parking is calculated based on each specific use.
- **Home daycare:** increase the number of children allowed to match provincial licensing regulations.
- **C3 zone:** remove "vehicle storage facility" from the range of permitted uses.
- **Site requirements:** introduce new and updated provisions for garbage enclosures, dumpsters and temporary construction fencing.
- **Source water protection:** introduce new definitions and regulations to implement related policies from Official Plan Amendment No. 135 and the Clean Water Act, 2006.

## Learn more and share feedback

#### Public meeting

**Date:** April 27, 2026

**Time:** 7 p.m.

**Location:** Council Chambers, Town Hall, 87 Broadway

**Watch online:** [orangeville.ca/WatchLive](http://orangeville.ca/WatchLive)

Meeting agenda to be posted by April 22, 2026.

#### How to participate

- learn how to speak at a council meeting at [orangeville.ca/SpeakUp](http://orangeville.ca/SpeakUp)
- to attend via Zoom visit the meeting agenda at [orangeville.ca/Meetings](http://orangeville.ca/Meetings)

#### Submit written comments

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

#### For more information

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

#### Brandon Ward

Manager of Planning  
✉ [ward@orangeville.ca](mailto:ward@orangeville.ca) or [planning@orangeville.ca](mailto:planning@orangeville.ca)

# Demonstration held in downtown Orangeville opposing provincial decisions

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

Demonstrators gathered on Saturday, March 28, to protest a long list of grievances with the provincial government.

Protestors critical of decisions made by Premier Doug Ford began assembling outside local MPP Sylvia Jones' office, near the Broadway and First Street intersection, just before noon. United by a common desire for accountability and transparency from the province, protestors held up signs and chanted against the Ford government.

Protestors said they were present to address several issues, such as recent cuts to OSAP and education, shortcomings in health care, and what they view as undemocratic behaviour by Ford and his cabinet.

The one unifying element among all these groups present was a collective frustration with Ford and a sense that their concerns were being ignored in Queen's Park. The collective of protestors decided to pool their efforts into one, larger movement to hopefully increase their visibility.

Among the protestors was Shannon Lee, a local resident who said she was there because Doug Ford gave them the agency to organize.

"I was watching a podcast about the very first Earth Day, and the thing about the very first Earth Day is that before, there were little pocket movements," she said. "There were people fighting for the whales, and there were people fighting against nuclear

war, and there were people fighting against power plants. They all came together for the first Earth Day, and it became one mass movement."

"That's one thing Doug has done too, is bring us together, because we're fighting for health care, we're fighting for the environment, we're fighting for social services for people with autism. We're fighting the privatization of our water systems, which is terrifying, and we're fighting corruption," Lee added.

The protest encompassed a diverse array of causes, such as opposition to Highway 413 and seniors opposing Ford's proposed changes to Freedom of Information requests that would make cabinet ministers' records secret.

The protest also highlighted some causes that hit close to home for Dufferin-Caledon residents.

The Caledon Community Road Safety Advocacy Group joined the demonstration to spotlight the local crisis of illegal truck yards and unsafe trucking practices in Caledon, and the government's inaction in addressing it. Director Carmela Palkowski represented the organization at the protest.

"Illegal truck yards are probably one of the biggest problems in Caledon," she said. "They take over farms, they're in residential areas like right across the street, so they're coming into oncoming one lane traffic, causing environmental damage, leaking diesel fuel into the grass, and so much more."



JOSHUA DRAKES PHOTO

**DEMONSTRATION AGAINST DOUG:** United in opposition to Premier Doug Ford's recent policy choices, protestors gathered on Broadway and across the province to demand accountability and transparency from the Ontario government on a broad range of issues, including OSAP cuts, healthcare cuts and environmental damage.

"The government, they promised a legislation piece. We're waiting. There's no information. There's no indication that it's coming," Palowski added.

The group said that they seek to hold provincial and municipal leaders accountable for years of inaction, push for real enforcement and legislation, and humanize the issue. Joining forces with other groups and individuals in the amalgamated protest was one way to amplify their voice.

With dozens of causes, demonstrators

have brought together a chorus of causes into a unified voice, pointed squarely at Doug Ford and his cabinet.

The protest was just one of many held across the province over the weekend, with dozens being organized in Ontario cities and towns.

Attendees said they plan to continue building momentum and pressure every month until they are acknowledged by the provincial government and their concerns are addressed.

# Mono council debates municipal election signage regulations ahead of October election

Written By **JAMES MATTHEWS**

Municipal election campaigns are best done by pressing the flesh rather than the hoopla associated with signage.

If that's the case in a smaller centre like Mono, then perhaps there's no need for regulations around election signs.

Councillor Ralph Manktelow said when council met March 24 that there's long been an unspoken resolve not to use election campaign signs in Mono. It's been an "understanding" in the town, he said.

"The reason for that, I don't think is anywhere articulated clearly, but it's my understanding that people dislike the mess that could be made by having election signs," he said.

Municipal elections are far different than larger provincial campaigns. At the municipal level, candidates deal with fewer potential voters than at the provincial or federal levels.

"In our type of election, it's not appropriate to think that these signs are going to make a

difference," Manktelow said. "What makes a difference is you meeting people."

Shaking hands and discussing residents' concerns in person goes further.

Clots of strategically placed signs tend to mess up the landscape, he said. And he doubts campaign signage has a heavy hand in stoking name recognition or encouraging voter participation.

"The value of them has been overstated and the problem of them has been understated," Manktelow said.

The final day for candidates to ink their names on the Oct. 26 municipal election ballot is Aug. 21, the final day for nominations. And that's the day when candidates are permitted to erect campaign signs.

Campaign signage can have a measurable, positive effect on voter mobilization and overall turnout. Beyond mere name recognition, signage serves as a vehicle for voter expression and participation.

In the last two municipal elections, Mono has seen an increase in candidates who wish

to use election signs in their campaigns. However, this growth has highlighted a gap in municipal governance.

A campaign sign bylaw, which was broached during Mono council's March 10 meeting, will give the town the ability to set some rules and regulations for election signs.

There are several standards to ensure consistency and maintain community aesthetics that candidates must adhere to for campaign materials.

Signs cannot be displayed before nomination day, and they must be removed within three days after the voting period.

To decrease traffic hazards to motorists and pedestrians, signs must not obstruct traffic signals, sight triangles, or pedestrian pathways. All signage must adhere to established standards regarding size, height, and illumination.

A sign deposit is collected by the municipality from election candidates. Any signs that remain after three days after voting day may be removed by town staff, and the cost will be deducted from the candidate's deposit.

Deputy Mayor Fred Nix said he had two "quibbles" with the sign bylaw. The draft indicated that the town has to regulate signage and campaign advertisements.

"And that's where I stop reading," Nix said. The municipality can dictate where and

when election signs are erected. But Nix said regulating election campaign advertising is a step too far.

"That really is almost an infringement on free speech," he said.

Simpson said municipal election legislation references third-party campaign advertising. And that's in line with the town's proposed bylaw. If third parties are posting signs, they will also have to abide by the bylaw, he said.

"That's absolutely essential," Creelman said.

Simpson said an advertisement published in The Orangeville Citizen isn't a sign.

Nix maintained that, despite a so-called understanding to refrain from signage, there still needs to be some regulation on the books for future elections.

Simpson agreed. "I would recommend that council at least put some guardrails on their use," he said of campaign sign use.

Simpson said there's a provision in an existing sign bylaw that requires signs to be removed two days following the election. The proposed election sign bylaw asks for three days.

Nix said he supported a new bylaw, but the move lacked a seconder in support for a vote on the issue.

"It will be up to a future council to revisit the issue if they wish," Creelman said.

# Mono looks to unfinished business as council's term nears end

Written By **JAMES MATTHEWS**

With the end of town council's term months away, at least one Mono councillor would like to see the short-term rental issue addressed.

A short-term rental (STR) accommodations bylaw has been among council's unfinished business since November 2023, listed as a high priority, and residents will choose a new town council in October. Its status is described as requiring a report on the process.

Councillor Elaine Capes said during the March 24 meeting that the issue must be dealt with urgently.

The issue has been discussed in many Ontario jurisdictions over the last few years. Township councils in the Muskoka region and Haliburton County, some of the places typically thought of as cottage country, have been debating ways to regulate and capitalize on Airbnb-type cottage rentals for some time.

Mayor John Creelman has said in past council meetings that STR properties should be assessed differently from residential properties. STR operations are commercial income-generating properties.

The STR accommodations bylaw hasn't been assigned a target date for completion, said Mike Dunmore, the town's CAO.

"It will require a council budget to work with that," he said.

"One thing I've lamented for some time is the way in which the short-term rental properties are assessed," Creelman said. "Instead of being assessed as commercial type businesses, which they frankly are in many instances, they're still being taxed at the rate of a residential residence."

Once those residences generate revenue as short-term accommodations, they become businesses.

Creelman said council needs to have those properties appropriately assessed by the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation, and those businesses should be regulated.

"And I think it's two separate issues," he said.

MPAC is still using property assessments from 2016 because the province suspended the 2020 reassessment due to the COVID-19 pandemic social shutdown.

Continued on Page A9

# adopt a cat



Magic is 7 years old and head of the greeting committee. He loves to get his pets and runs to meet the volunteers. Magic is very playful and will spend hours with a wand toy. This handsome stud has a best buddy Rufus, who although isn't as outgoing, also loves his pets (yes you can adopt both!).

Magic is neutered, microchipped, dewormed, flea treated and vaccinated.

Adoption price: \$275

Check our facebook page to see the other kitties looking for their forever home. Donations always needed to help care for the cats as we are not funded at all, and rely on donations and fundraisers. If you would like to volunteer as well we are always appreciative.



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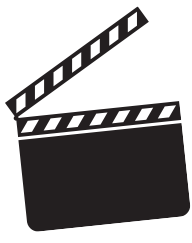
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# Arts & Entertainment



LOCAL COMMUNITY EVENTS

## Orangeville production shines spotlight on Mental Health

Continued from FRONT

There is no expectation of participation, Garner said, meaning that those who are uncomfortable can just observe and learn. "There's anonymity, you don't have to be the one asking questions," Garner said. "Or you can go and get a bit more information, or you just walk away with a bit more understanding of what the path is, knowing that you're not alone."

The goal is not only to raise awareness, but to close the gap between recognizing a problem and finding practical support. Audience members will leave with concrete information about local resources and can interact with program and provider booths in Theatre Orangeville's lobby following the event.

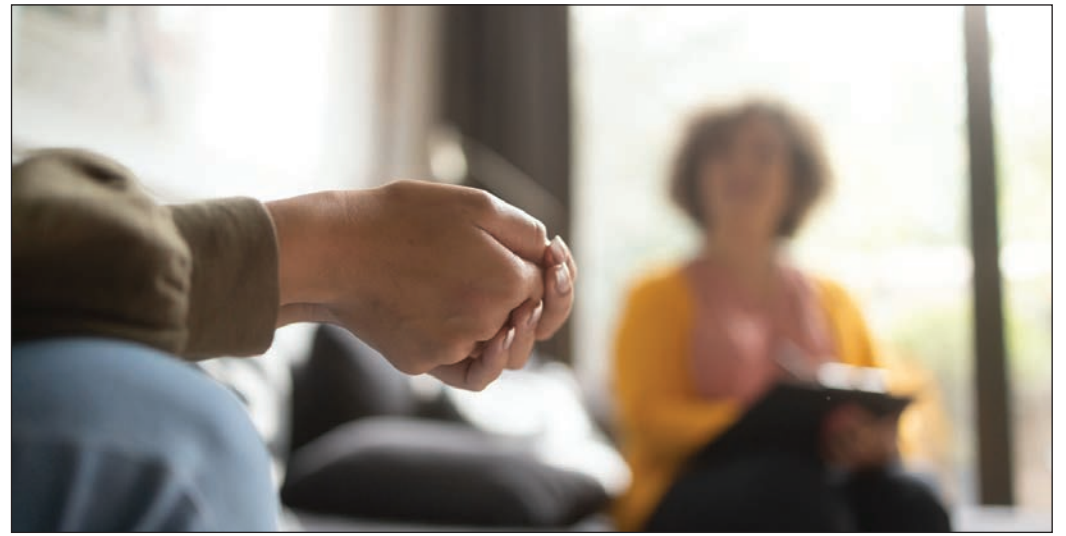
In Orangeville, the production is being presented in partnership with Headwaters

Health Care Centre, with proceeds supporting the hospital's planned renovation of its emergency department, including a dedicated, more dignified space for people in mental health crisis.

Garner has been particularly moved by Headwaters' vision for a welcoming, private environment that reflects the seriousness of mental health needs without making individuals feel criminalized or exposed in a small community.

"When headwaters came to me and they told me what their plans are for their new renovation. I was so inspired," Garner said. "The show's proceeds will go towards supporting the new emergency room, emphasizing the importance of having welcoming facilities for mental health patients... finding it when somebody is in crisis, they shouldn't have to feel like a criminal."

The production brings together Theatre



Orangeville, Headwaters and Garner's vision under a shared mission: using art, storytelling, and local expertise to foster last-

ing change in community mental health. For more information and tickets, visit [app.arts-people.com/?show=317585](http://app.arts-people.com/?show=317585)

## Wonderful opportunity arises for Orangeville actor James Gerus

Written By CONSTANCE SCRAFIELD

In addition to Sandra Laronde's tender, award-winning novel *She Holds Up the Stars*, she is creating and directing a groundbreaking production.

Red Sky Performance, a leading company of contemporary Indigenous performance, is returning to the TSO and Roy Thompson Hall with this World Premier production.

It tells of a young Indigenous girl, Misko, returning reluctantly to her home, to her reservation. She comes to her grandmother in the hope of solving a mystery about her mother's disappearance.

On the farm property next to the reservation lives a young boy, Thomas, 12, the son of an abusive father, who has a horse that he plans to put down because he says it is too wild.

This world premiere is the story of two

young people dealing with their pasts and looking for answers in befriending a horse, a life-changing experience.

Orangeville actor James Gerus plays the role of twelve-year-old Thomas. After struggling with his own methods, Thomas becomes anxious to save the horse and begins assisting Misko in her efforts to calm the animal.

This is a multimedia production featuring life-sized puppets, 50 musicians, and a tale that wholly involves Indigenous storytelling.

Impressed with the production's puppet horse, Gerus said it needs three puppeteers inside to manipulate it, along with a dog and others. Reminiscent of *War Horse*, the craft of building and handling the puppets brings them to life in a startling way.

Gerus was speaking to the Citizen from the small Toronto apartment he rented for the duration of the rehearsals and the show

itself to talk about his auditions, subsequent hire and the thrilling career break this show is giving him.

"My first audition was in November, 2024. The role is a twelve-year-old boy," he said. He taped an audition and sent it along.

"I just wanted to see what it was all about. And I actually forgot about it," he claimed, until February, 2025, when he was invited to do a second audition on Zoom. "Actually, I forgot about that one, too."

A month later, he was asked to come to the studio in Toronto for a third audition, and pretty soon after, his acting agent told him that he had been offered the part of Thomas.

The music TSO plays accompanies the storytelling throughout. Gerus's role is that of a son suffering the blows of an abusive father, but at risk of learning from him too.

Gerus was emphatic in acknowledging

and appreciating the influence of his days with Theatre Orangeville. His first leading role was as the Giant in a TOV production of the *Giant's Garden*.

"I would not be here at the Roy Thompson Hall if it weren't for TOV and David Nairn," he said.

Offering a few comments about *She Holds Up the Stars*, he remarked, "We were next to the rez on the farm owned by my abusive dad. There are issues for Thomas. We all have our own demons."

He sees this moment as a turning point in his life and speculates that the show may go on after it finishes in Toronto.

*She Holds Up the Stars* runs at Roy Thomson Hall from April 13 to 19, but is open to the general public only on April 19. Tickets are available at <https://www.tso.ca/concerts-and-events/events/she-holds-up-the-stars>

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**Maurice McDonald**  
Service Consultant

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

**Jazz Matharu**  
Service Consultant

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

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Puzzle No. 264110 • Solution on page: CLASSIFIEDS SECTION

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16														
19														
25														
28														
34	35	36	37											
39														
43														
49														
53														
56														
60														

**CLUES ACROSS**

1. Absence of difficulty
5. Preserve a dead body
11. Gratitude
14. The act of coming together again
15. More cushy
18. Visionaries
19. Large fish-eating bird
21. Indicates near
23. Former CIA and CIA critic
24. Icelandic poems
28. Pop
29. Hammer is one
30. Selfs
32. Thyroid-stimulating hormone
33. Nowhere to be found
35. Electronic data processing
36. Drivers' licenses and passports are two
39. Snake-like fishes
41. Air Force
42. Popular personal computers
44. Stages in ecological succession
46. Wings
47. In the center
49. Pleasantly smooth
52. Jeweled headdress
56. In slow tempo
58. \_\_\_ Falls
60. Reiterations
62. Eras
63. Hyphen

**CLUES DOWN**

1. Body part
2. Mimics
3. Expel or eject (variant sp.)
4. Sea eagle
5. Taxonomic category
6. Chinese languages
7. Mr. T's "A-Team" character
8. Consumed
9. Chinese dynasty
10. NFL legend Randy
12. Ireland
13. Palm trees with creeping roots
16. Fungal disease
17. Tall, slender-leaved plants
20. Affirmative! (slang)
22. It says who you are
25. Atlantic coast state
26. Grow older
27. Associations
29. Woman (French)
31. Sunscreen rating
34. Brew
36. Leader
37. Indigo bush genus
38. Burn with a hot liquid
40. Junior's father
43. Mackerel genus
45. Morning
48. Straight line from side to side (abbr.)
50. Type of molding
51. Small, thin or twisted bunch
53. Worn by exposure to the weather
54. Mars crater
55. Humanities
57. Relating to the ears
58. "To the \_\_\_ degree"
59. Residue when something is burned
61. It cools a home

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

**How they say that in...**

**English:** Sacred  
**Spanish:** Sagrado  
**Italian:** Sacro  
**French:** Sacré  
**German:** Heilig

### Math Blocks

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

9			
3	18		33
	10		27
			16
17	27	32	

Easter celebrates the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, which is a foundation of Christianity.

**BLESS**  
to confer divine favor upon

**Get Scrambled**  
Unscramble the words to determine the phrase.

**ESTARE GEG NHTU**

Answer: Easter egg hunt

01	1	5
81	9	3
4	20	6

Solution

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# Orangeville Winter Farmers' Market extended for additional week at Town Hall

Written By **SAM ODROWSKI**

The Orangeville Winter Farmers' Market is being extended for an additional week, until April 25, due to popular demand. Running from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. every Saturday, the winter market takes place inside Orangeville Town Hall at 87 Broadway, with a variety of vendors. The final indoor market provides a great opportunity to stock up on local goods before the outdoor season begins. Just two weeks after the final indoor market, the outdoor Orangeville Farmers'

Market returns to Second Street, near its intersection with Broadway, in front of Town Hall, for its 35th season. The first outdoor market kicks off at 8 a.m. on Saturday, May 9. "More than ever, Canadians are embracing a shop local, shop Canadian lifestyle— recognizing the economic, health, and environmental benefits of supporting local producers. And if those reasons aren't convincing enough, the taste certainly is. Simply put, local food tastes better," said Alison Scheel, executive director of the Orangeville Business Improvement Area (OBIA), who hosts

the Orangeville Farmers' Market each week. "The Orangeville Farmers' Market has proudly spent 35 years connecting the community with fresh, locally grown and raised vegetables, fruit, meats, and treats. The only way to get food fresher and closer to home is to grow it yourself." The market runs every Saturday until Oct. 17, providing a weekly opportunity to experience some of the very best of local food and community. The Orangeville BIA says opening day on May 9 promises more than just great shopping – visitors can enjoy a vibrant market

atmosphere featuring live music, a magic show, free bucket truck rides with Orangeville Hydro, a petting zoo and free face painting. These activities are made possible by the businesses and merchants of OBIA and the market's generous sponsor, Seablox. "Market Saturdays capture small-town living at its very best. Visitors are encouraged to explore the market, discover the unique shops and restaurants that surround it, and take time to enjoy everything the community has to offer," said Scheel. "We can't wait to welcome you downtown."

# UGDSB runs annual H2Awesome campaign from Water Day to Earth Day, replacing fear with hope

Continued from Page A6

By running the program between World Water Day and Earth Day and delivering presentations virtually, organizers aim to reach more classrooms, extend learning over time, and connect students with experts they would not normally encounter. Water is the anchor theme, but the program ranges widely. This year's focus links topics such as space exploration, artificial intelligence, marine biology, Indigenous knowledge, creative writing, municipal water infrastructure, and agricultur-

al engineering, all presented to students by a diverse range of expert speakers. Each speaker is asked to share both their expertise and their personal career pathway, helping students see concrete examples of water-related work in the real world. A key goal is to replace fear with informed hope. Rather than dwelling on crisis and catastrophe, the program emphasizes factual, data-based learning, media literacy, and practical actions students can take in their own communities. "We always kind of express this to our speakers, that rather than coming from a crisis, anx-

ious kind of viewpoint, we try to frame them in more of a hopeful perspective, so that kids feel like there are things that they can do, that it's not just gloom and doom," Bernard said. "We want things that they could actually accomplish, whether it be a small thing in their area, whether it be something within their city." This will be supported by physical work to complement virtual lessons and speakers. Classroom activities before, during, and after the presentations – from designing water systems for a model city to hands-on testing of local water quality – are built to be experien-

tial, cross-curricular, and problem-based. The goal is to challenge students to think critically about information, about how they take it in, and what they do with it while working on practical projects that also connect them with the community. Organizers want students to come away with several takeaways: that water is a finite, deeply interconnected resource; that every student has a personal relationship with water, wherever they live; and that young people can play a meaningful role, through future careers and everyday choices, in protecting that resource and addressing climate-related challenges.

# Mono council works through unfinished business items as October municipal election approaches

Continued from Page A7

Capes asked Creelman whether having those rental properties assessed as commercial would constitute a new tax class and whether the municipality is permitted to do so. "It would be MPAC that would have to do it," Nix said.

That's one unfinished task listed among four items slated to be resolved in the first three months of this year. "I wonder are we close to having those (resolved) soon?" Capes said. Fred Simpson, the town's clerk, said the committee of adjustment procedure bylaw listed among the items will likely slip through

until some time later. There hasn't been a committee meeting, and as such, no files in need of that group's attention. "It is ready," he said. "It has been for several months to go to the committee." The election sign bylaw, a listed unfinished task, was included on that meeting's agenda. Another issue to be addressed at the top

of 2026 was the Hockley historic community hall and church. Discussions are ongoing between representatives of Adjala-Tosorontio, Creelman, and Dunmore. Dunmore said consultations are underway to determine how to best proceed with the outdoor rural lighting issue, which is also among council's unfinished business.



JOSHUA DRAKES PHOTO

**HOME IMPROVEMENT:** The Orangeville Lions Home and Garden Show was held at the Orangeville Fairgrounds from March 27 to 29 with nearly 150 exhibitors participating. The three-day event was a great success, with thousands of people attending. The event supports the Orangeville Lions' efforts to fund charitable projects and organizations in the region.

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<p><b>12.99</b> each</p> <p><b>Cream Cheese and Cheddar Stuffed Jalapeños</b> 10-13 PIECES 360 g</p>	<p><b>12.99</b> each</p> <p><b>Cream Cheese Stuffed Jalapeños</b> 10-13 PIECES 360 g</p>	<p><b>9.99</b></p> <p><b>Breaded Calamari Rings</b> 340 g</p>
<p><b>SALE</b> <b>11.99</b></p> <p><b>Artichoke Mac &amp; Cheese Bites</b> 14 PIECES 280 g</p>	<p><b>SALE</b> <b>11.99</b></p> <p><b>Hot Honey Cheese Bites</b> 14 PIECES 280 g</p>	<p><b>11.99</b></p> <p><b>Sausage Rolls</b> 26-28 PIECES 500 g</p>

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<p><b>SAVE \$2</b> <b>12.99</b></p> <p><b>Apple Butter Pork Tenderloin</b> 400 g</p>	<p><b>SAVE \$2</b> <b>27.99</b></p> <p><b>Breaded Haddock</b> 7-10 PIECES 907 g</p> <p>Also available: Battered Haddock 6-9 PIECES 680 g \$24.99 <b>SAVE \$2</b></p>
<p><b>SAVE \$2</b> <b>14.99</b></p> <p><b>Supreme Scalloped Potatoes</b> 907 g</p>	<p><b>SAVE \$2</b> <b>10.99</b> each</p> <p><b>Salmon Wellington</b> 150 g</p>
<p><b>SAVE \$4</b> <b>13.99</b></p> <p><b>Homestyle Shepherd's Pie</b> 907 g</p>	<p><b>SAVE \$2</b> <b>19.99</b></p> <p><b>Boneless, Skinless Chicken Breasts</b> 4-6 BREASTS 680 g</p>
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<p><b>SAVE \$3</b> <b>14.99</b></p> <p><b>Blueberry Bliss Cheezecake</b> 600 g</p>	<p><b>SAVE \$3</b> <b>6.99</b></p> <p><b>Mini Filled Donuts</b> 8 PIECES 184 g</p>	<p><b>SAVE \$2</b> <b>12.99</b></p> <p><b>Strawberry Cheesecake</b> 600 g</p>



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## Local hockey player inducted into Old Timers Hockey Hall of Fame

Written By BRIAN LOCKHART

Local hockey player Mark Bates is proof that if you never slow down, you can keep physically active and enjoy playing your sport for many years.

Bates, a local hockey player who never gave up playing the game, has been inducted into the Old Timers Hockey Hall of Fame at the Waterloo Memorial Recreation Complex in Kitchener/Waterloo.

The induction ceremony took place at the Kitchener Concordia Club on Saturday, March 28.

This year, 30 new members from Ontario were inducted into the 80+ Hockey Hall of Fame. Bates was nominated by the town and by some players from the Old Timers Shimmy League.

Bates was instrumental in bringing senior shinny to Orangeville.

"I convinced the Town that there was a need for senior shinny hockey," Bates explained. "I started the 55+ group with four players and one goalie. Later on, I started the 65+ group. Both groups now play three days a week in the season."

As more players heard about senior hockey in town, more signed up to play.

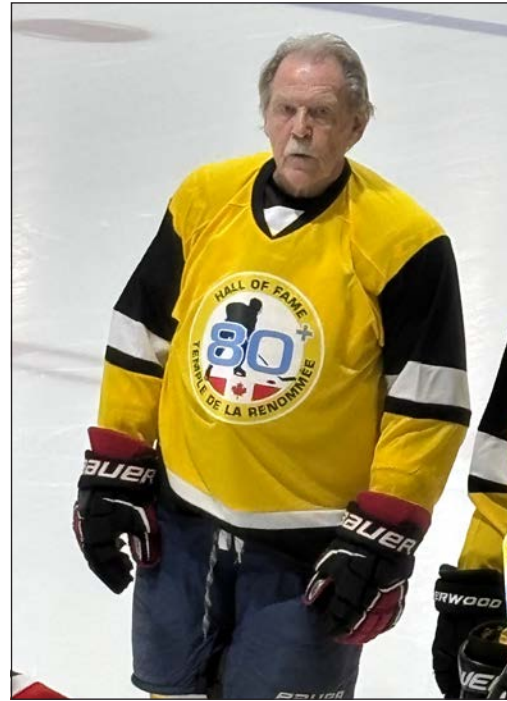
The induction ceremony into the Hall of Fame recognized players and organizers across the province who participate in and promote hockey at the senior level.

"The 80+ Hockey Hall of Fame organizers did a fantastic job of making all of us old guys feel like we had just won the Stanley Cup," Bates said. "It is a non-profit organization based in Ottawa that nationally recognizes active recreational hockey players 80 years and older who have contributed to the organization and advancement of senior recreational hockey, either as a player and/or a builder."

Bates said it was a great experience to be among others his age who still enjoy playing hockey.

"This was by far a very humbling experience with over 400 people at the Induction Ceremony presentations, and such a great honour to be part of a group of 80+ folds that still love to put on the skates and play the game they love."

Bates has no plans to slow down and is looking forward to the next hockey season.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

**INDUCTION CEREMONY:** Local senior hockey player Mark Bates was inducted into the Old Timers Hockey Hall of Fame. The ceremony took place at the Kitchener Concordia Club in Kitchener/Waterloo on Saturday, March 28.

## ODSS senior girls volleyball team win CWOSSA compete at OFSAA

Written By BRIAN LOCKHART

The Orangeville District Secondary School Scarlett Bears senior girls volleyball team has completed a stellar season that saw them win the District 4 championship, place at the regional CWOSSA tournament, and compete at the provincial OFSAA championships.

During the regular season, the Bears finished 2nd in District 4 with 11 wins in 14 matches.

In the District playoffs, the Bears eliminated St. James in the quarter-finals and knocked out Centre Wellington in the semi-final round on Feb. 20, to earn the right to go to the District Championship.

The Bears claimed the District 4 championship with a 3-2 match win over Bishop Macdonell Catholic High School from Guelph on Feb. 23.

The win at the District level gave the team an opportunity to compete at the regional level in the AAA Central Western Ontario Secondary Schools Association (CWOSSA) competition, held at RIM Park in Waterloo on Feb. 27.

The Bears played well in their pool and advanced to the semi-final round. They won the semi-final 25-21, 14-25, 15-10, to advance to the championship match.

The final match was a best-of-five series against Waterloo Collegiate Institute.

The ODSS girls won the first two sets 27-25, 28-26. Waterloo fought back and won two sets, 23-25, 13-25. This set the entire match to a 15-point final.

The Bears came out on top with a 15-13 win to claim the 2026 CWOSSA title. This was the first time an ODSS girls' volleyball team had won CWOSSA in 33 years, and the first time as an AAA school.

"In the league standings, we finished second behind Bishop Macdonell, but then we beat them in the finals to win the District," explained Erin Downey, who, along with Megan Rook, coached the ODSS team to victory this year.

"Once you take it up to that next level, you're up against the best teams in Central West Ontario. It was really awesome to make it to that level. Our goal at CWOSSA was to make it out of pool play and be one of the four top teams. We had to win at least one game in pool play and be able to play in a semi-final game. We finished second in our pool, and we had to cross over and play the first-place team in the other pool. A lot of people said the other team was the best team in the tournament. We won the semi-final, then we had to play the team that beat us in pool play. They beat us earlier that day, and we had to beat them in the final. We won the first two sets, then lost the second two."

The team had a setback when one of their best players was injured and had to leave the game.

"It was quite emotional," Downey said. "We said, 'we've got to re-group.' The fifth set went to 15. It was 6:00 p.m., and we had been at the gym since seven o'clock in the morning. At the end of the day, the play was so tight – it was the team that played the smartest and had the most heart that came out on top at the end. The girls were emotionally drained and physically drained, but so excited at the same time."

At the Ontario Federation of School Athletic Associations (OFSAA) event, the ODSS team faced a whole new level of competition. The top 16 senior girls' teams in Ontario arrived in Windsor from March 9 to 11 to determine this year's provincial champions.

"A lot of the teams that go to OFSAA have an entire roster of club players," Downey



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**CHAMPIONSHIP TEAM:** The Orangeville District Secondary School Bears senior girls' volleyball team had a stellar season. The team won the District 4 championship, then went on to win at the regional level at CWOSSA in Waterloo. This earned the team the right to compete at the provincial level at OFSAA on Mar. 8 to 11, in Windsor. Team members, Lilian Beattie, Daniella Chernov, Chanel Grignano, Chloe Kirkham, Emma Langford, Sarah MacCoubrey, Katie Raue, Bray Wallace, Emily Wheeler, and coaches Erin Downey and Megan Rook, celebrate their victory at CWOSSA on Feb. 27, 2026.

explained. "Three of our players play outside of school and the rest of our team are girls who play volleyball at school. Some had very little experience, and others played junior and elementary volleyball. The really neat thing about our team is that we had a few girls who had experience, and

they took the rest of the team under their wing to help guide and teach them."

The Bears' senior team played well at OFSAA but did not qualify for the medal round.

The ODSS senior girls' volleyball team had an outstanding season, and they should be proud of all they accomplished this year.

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BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

**FIERCE COMPETITION:** Two Orangeville District Secondary School Competitors play a set during a match with Our Lady of Lourdes from Guelph in the gym at ODSS on Thursday, March 26. Over 60 athletes were involved in the day's competition. The District 10 junior championships will take place on Wednesday, April 8, followed by the senior championships on Thursday, April 9.

# OPINION

## It just keeps getting better

The 1961 movie, *Breakfast at Tiffany's*, opens with a famous long shot in Manhattan.

It is just after dawn, and the street, a big city boulevard lined by tall buildings, is deserted. There are no cars and no people at all.

A lone taxi is seen approaching in the early morning light. It slows, then stops in front of the famous Tiffany's jewellery store.

Audrey Hepburn, AKA Holley Golightly, emerges from the taxi and spends a few moments eating a pastry and drinking a coffee, while gazing at the expensive jewellery in the store's window.

She is dressed in evening wear, and it is obvious she has been out all night. The movie never really explains what Holly does for a living; however, she seems to make her money by dating various men, so the rest is left up to the imagination.

The story revolves around Holley and a writer named Paul, played by George Peppard, who develops a romantic relationship. The movie was a big hit. It was based on Truman Capote's novel.

As a trained filmmaker, I always appreciate the work that goes into an opening shot in a movie.

Yet, when I see that film opening, I

always think — that taxi has the worst shock absorbers I've ever seen!

As it comes down the boulevard, the taxi looks like a boat riding over waves. When it comes to a stop, it bounces up and down a couple of times before settling down.

That got me thinking about advances in automotive technology over the years.

It was once common to replace car shock absorbers. There were even auto shops that specialized in shocks.

I've never replaced shock absorbers in any car, and don't know anyone who has either. They just seem to make them better, and they last the life of the car.

When I was a kid, it was very common to see cars with the wheel wells rusted out. If you had a car that was over five years old, it was pretty likely your wheel wells were showing a lot of wear and tear.

Some wheel-well rust cases were pretty severe.

You just don't see that anymore. They still rust, but not nearly as badly as they used to.

Advances in preparing the metal during the production phase have really taken the rust out of the auto world.

Back when most, if not all, cars were Rear Wheel Drive, it was a common sight

to see someone stuck in the snow. Other motorists would get out of their vehicles to push the car out.

Usually, after rocking it a few times, the car would move, the driver would wave, and everyone continued on their way.

I knew guys who would throw sandbags into the trunk of their car just to get some added traction in the rear when winter arrived. We had an Oldsmobile Cutlass, and they were notorious for having a light rear end.

When cars went to Front Wheel Drive, the added weight of the engine made a huge difference when driving in snow. People still get stuck, but not nearly as often as they used to.

The invention of all-season radial tires also made a huge difference in winter driving. The old bias-ply tires were inexpensive but absolutely horrible and dangerous in wet driving conditions.

Mufflers used to be a common problem with cars. In their position under the car, the muffler system took a lot of abuse.

It was common to get a new muffler every couple of years. In my last few cars, I've only had to replace one part of the system in one vehicle.

I drove my last vehicle for 360,000 km before the muffler started getting loud.

**BRIAN LOCKHART**  
FROM THE SECOND ROW



As part of my job, I frequently get to drive the newest vehicles offered by automakers.

I'm always quite impressed by the new technology that is available.

My own vehicle is getting old, but it still tells me when to change the oil, when the washer fluid needs replacement, and if the tire pressure is low.

I took a brand new 2026 model out for a test drive a few weeks ago. It was a lot of fun testing the limits of this car as it automatically corrected itself if you drove out of your lane, and yelled a warning if it thought you were getting too close to the car in front of you.

The new technology in vehicles is amazing, and I'm looking forward to seeing what comes with the next vehicle I purchase.

Oh, and spoiler alert – in the original novel *Breakfast at Tiffany's*, Paul was an unnamed gay man who told the story of meeting Holly to a friend, and just described her as 'A girl I used to know.'

I guess that original version wouldn't have had the same successful Hollywood ending.

## Iran: Options

The Iranians know they have won, but President Trump doesn't get it yet. He's still at the stage of counting up the US and Israeli air-strikes and assuming that those numbers mean a US victory is possible. But five gets you ten that the Iranians are already thinking about nuclear weapons. Not their own, which don't exist. America's.

The current spate of American troop movements will last a little longer, as the 11th and 31st Marine Expeditionary Units and some 82nd Airborne troops (total 11-12,000 people) arrive in the region and the planners wait for Trump to decide which way to jump. He may even wait for the other 10,000 soldiers his people are now talking about to arrive.

The US Navy is not crazy enough to send its big ships into the Persian Gulf, so the troops will have to be redistributed into other, smaller forms of sea and air transport. Then they can try to land on Kharg Island or somewhere around the Strait of Hormuz if the order is given.

All this, therefore, could take us down to the end of April. In the United States, with the help of cowed media, Trump can probably persuade a large minority of American voters that some kind of secret

peace negotiations with Iran are underway for that long. But not for much longer: the key US political deadline is the mid-term elections in November.

The only deal the Iranians will discuss is their five-point peace proposal: a complete end to the US/Israeli air strikes and the long-distance assassinations; payment of war damages and reparations; recognition of Iran's right to control the Strait of Hormuz; an international guarantee that the US and Israel won't attack them again; and Donald Trump's head on a platter.

OK, I made that last bit up. The president can keep his head. But Iran's other demands are deadly serious, even though there is no chance that Trump would accept them. (The Iranians don't even mention of Iran's nuclear enrichment program in their proposal, nor do they worry about what Israel will do. It will have to go along with whatever Trump chooses to do.)

What this tells us is that Iran's new leaders just don't care what the Americans do. They believe their control of the Strait of Hormuz beats every card in American hands – and they are probably right.

In fact, one gets the impression that the Iran Revolutionary Guard Corp's list of

demands (if that's who wrote it) is meant to mock Trump, not to lead to any kind of negotiation. That's sub-optimal behaviour on their part, of course, but the IGRC has had to absorb many insults and many bombs. They want time to relish their victory.

So, by late April/early May Trump will probably have only three options, all of them horrible from his point of view.

The first choice is a deal with the Iranian regime. They might be ready to talk by then, but the deal would have to be on Iran's terms: control of the Strait and an international guarantee that the US and Israel won't attack Iran again, at the least. This would be deeply humiliating for Trump, because he couldn't put any lipstick on that pig.

Alternatively, he could declare 'victory' and just walk away, but that wouldn't unblock the Strait of Hormuz. America's former allies in the Gulf would have to negotiate that deal themselves from a position of great weakness, and everybody except the less attentive half of MAGA would still know that he had been humiliated.

Or Trump could finally put American boots on the ground, hoping that seizing Kharg Island or a few bits of coast-

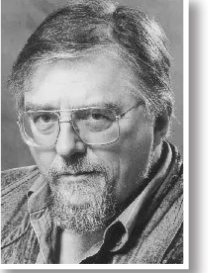
line around Hormuz would make the Iranians come to the table. However, that probably won't work, because US troops couldn't get very far inland (mountains) nor could they reopen the Strait (too few troops).

Nevertheless, this option will appeal to Trump because what he likes best is a single decisive action that makes the problem go away quickly. 'Boots' are exactly that sort of option, in theory, but what if they don't do the job in practice? What's left? Nukes, of course.

Only one teeny-weeny low-yield nuclear weapon, of course, exploded in one of Iran's unpopulated deserts: that should be enough to make the stubborn Iranians come to the table and negotiate their surrender. Trump's people could even claim that Iran was one week away from getting a nuclear weapon again; that has worked lots of times in the past.

My wife warned me not to discuss this possibility in public until some diplomat mentioned it first, because I would be called an alarmist. Well, some senior diplomat finally mentioned it (anonymously) – and yes, I am alarmed.

**GWYNNE DYER**  
OUR WORLD TODAY



## True to ourselves

Our screens are covered in gossip and nonsense, untrustworthy stories, and so much about the private and public lives of people who are called celebrities because they are filling the space on our screens.

Do we really and truly care how close to topless a female celebrity was, wearing "suspenders," as one might call them, only covering her delicate bits, when she came to the latest gala?

The fascination with the wealthy, the stars of the arts, sports and politics is eternal. Be they rude, strange or notorious, we seemingly need them in our lives. We live vicariously through their stories, many times cheering them on; sometimes offering, at a distance, our concern for their own sad news or even, truly grieving at their deaths.

Sitting at a desk with the rain and thunder moaning threats outside the window, one might almost do little else but dally online, reading the pettiness in some of the world and the crazy, crazy dangers in other parts far from here and not so far. There and over there, the truly insane chuck weapons of big-enough destruction as though they were no big deal to the heads of the folk bearing the initial brunt of fire and fear and also those not far enough away either, to

be safe.

Like a global competition, a universal reality board game – blowing people up – what do the insane masters of the weapons do next? Go for dinner or drinks with friends?

What is the true cost of oil? Then, there are the longings to get off the planet – fly us to the moon! And the push for that has been increased with new plans and dates. Indeed, Canada is jumping into the space race, too.

So, talking about new "hoods" on the moon should be easily compared to plans for Mars. However, a brand-new crater on the moon, 225 meters wide and 723 deep – won't happen again for 134 years, so they say, but this recently discovered crater nevertheless gives pause to the firm idea of safe housing solutions on the orb.

Scientists reckoned the object that created the new crater did so later in 2024, but it took them until now to see it.

The whole space race is a puzzle for me. Humanity is not good at meeting anything it doesn't recognize. Our first reactions are to overwhelm it, colonize it, or, if appropriate, consume it to extinction. We dared to cross the oceans 400 years ago, and look what

happened when we got here! Until there is sanity and less self, this species cannot go anywhere, with the ideas and philosophy we carry now.

I realize that the notion of caring for this very rare, perfect planet, that hokey idea of taking care of the beings living on it, including ourselves, if we are too dull to rule by simple kindness and logic, and we must be ruled by others who immediately become crazed with power over others... it has all been said before and dismissed.

Yet and yet, the money spent on space travel pretense and endless wars of all shapes and sizes – what are we doing, letting untold millions of people die of starvation and causing the rebellion of the planet against the abuse it is suffering?

This species, we human beings, will never build, colonize, live or even successfully land on Mars. We do not have the required intelligence, philosophy, and self-understanding to achieve such a mission. All the men spending this money should stop right now, turn it all back to the earth, and begin healing, such as can happen.

All the men chucking those weapons should be jailed, and the money given to the few who will use it to heal people and begin

a new regime without individual power. Without unbridled wealth.

Putting aside the ambition to travel, the science of exploring the universe from Earth via Hubble and the James Webb Telescope may well contribute to our knowledge of what else is out there to a very limited extent. Science has tried to contribute, but we, monsters that we are, allow science to always be corrupted as a weapon.

Luckily, the universe, it is now agreed, is endless.

The latest email newsletter from the David Suzuki Foundation (March 27) reads with such passion, such emphasis about how extremely our dependence, our fervour for expansion on oil, is proving itself as more wrong thinking as the brooding exchange of bombs and missiles dominate the news.

The subsequent bouncing price of oil is playing havoc with our economies and proving every minute that the time to grow up and move on to sustainable sources of energy, which are all invented and ready to use.

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# COMMUNITY VOICES

## Monthly Message: Incredible things can happen when we work together

If there's one thing we know for certain at the Orangeville Food Bank and Dufferin Food Share Grand Valley, it's this: when a community comes together with kindness and intention, incredible things happen.

April is one of my most favourite months to talk about something that doesn't always get the spotlight it deserves-monthly giving.

It might not feel as exciting as a big event or a packed food drive, but behind the scenes, monthly donors are the quiet, steady heartbeat of everything we do. They are the reason we can plan ahead, respond quickly, and ensure our shelves are stocked not just today, but tomorrow, next month, and into the future.

Food insecurity doesn't come and go-it's something many families are navigating every single day. And that's why long-term, sustainable funding matters so much. Monthly giving allows us to purchase fresh, nutritious food, invest in programs that support dignity and choice, and adapt as the needs in our community continue to grow.

It gives us stability in a space that is often anything but predictable. If you are able to, please donate here: <https://www.orangevillefoodbank.org/donate>

This year, we've also made an important shift behind the scenes by moving to a new donor platform. It's one of those changes that may not be visible at first glance, but it has a meaningful impact. This new system allows us to keep more of every dollar donated, ensuring that your generosity stretches even further for the families we serve.

If you are currently a monthly supported and haven't yet made the switch, I would love to help you with that. You can reach me, Carrie-Anne DeCaprio, at 226-558-2109.

It's a quick and easy process-and it makes a real difference.

Of course, April is always so full of ways for our community to come together, have a little fun, and give back at the same time.

From April 1-30, our friends at the Orangeville Citizen are hosting a month-long food drive at their First Street office. It's a simple but powerful way to support your neighbours-and we are so grateful for their continued partnership and belief in the work we do. More information here: <https://citizen.on.ca/>

On April 10 and 11, Yoga-riffic will be hosting a clothing drive with heart. Half of the proceeds from the sale will go directly to support the food bank, turning gently loved items into meaningful impact for local families. More information here: [yoga-riffic.com](http://yoga-riffic.com)

We're also excited to celebrate a big milestone with Boston Pizza here in Orangeville as they mark their 20th anniversary. On their celebration day, April 18th, 10% of all food sales will be donated to the food bank. It's the perfect excuse to enjoy a meal out while giving back-and we're so thankful to be part of such a special occasion.

And for those with a sweet tooth, the "For the Love of Butter Tarts" Festival on April 25 is not to be missed. Bring along a non-perishable food donation and receive \$1 off your admission. It's a small gesture that adds up in a big way-and a fun reminder that giving can be woven into even the most delicious of days. More information here: [facebook.com/Welovebuttertarts/](https://facebook.com/Welovebuttertarts/)



As we move through the month, we'll also be wrapping up the Loblaw's "Feed More Families" campaign on

April 5. Campaigns like this are such a beautiful example of how businesses and communities can work together to create real, lasting impact.

And while we're talking about what's ahead, I want to plant a little seed for June, because something very fun (and slightly competitive!) is coming back to our local schools.

Cereal Dominoes.

If you've never seen it before, picture rows and rows of cereal boxes lined up in school hallways, all working together to create one incredible domino chain reaction. It's a powerful visual of how small contributions come together to create something

much bigger, and every box is then donated to support families in our community.

If your school would like to be part of this year's Cereal Dominoes initiative, I would absolutely love to connect with you. You can reach me at [carrie-anne.decaprio@orangevillefoodbank.org](mailto:carrie-anne.decaprio@orangevillefoodbank.org) or by phone at 226-558-2109.

At the end of the day, everything we do comes back to people.

To the families who walk through our doors.

To the volunteers who give their time so generously.

To the donors, whether one-time or monthly, who choose to stand beside us.

Monthly giving may not always be the loudest part of our work, but it is one of the most powerful. It's what allows us to keep showing up, day after day, with consistency, compassion, and care and helps us to create a well nourished community.

And for that, we are endlessly grateful.



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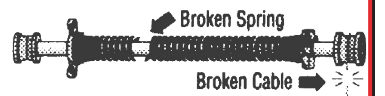
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# Shelburne clinic hosts community talk to cut through menopause misinformation

Written By JOSHUA DRAKES  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Shelburne Family Chiropractic and Wellness is hosting a community education event to help women navigate perimenopause and menopause while engaging their partners in the conversation.

Alexandra Magder, clinic co-owner, said

the talk, led by naturopathic doctor Dr. Nicole Roberts, is meant to address the growing number of patients arriving at the clinic overwhelmed by conflicting health advice online.

“Dr. Nicole has had a lot of patients come to her recently, so women who are starting to enter perimenopause, or in the thick of menopause, where they’re very confused,”

she said. “They see so much information online that they don’t know where to start or who to go to.”

The Perimenopause & Menopause Talk will take place at the Shelburne Golf & Country Club from 6 to 7:30 p.m. on April 10.

The event is designed as a safe, welcoming in person space where women and their partners can learn about common symptoms, evidence based ways to manage them, and options tailored to individual needs and budgets.

Organizers emphasize that menopause is often minimized or dismissed, leaving women to cope silently while still maintaining work and family responsibilities. The talk aims to challenge the belief that symptoms must simply be endured and to highlight practical strategies for improving quality of life.

“Sometimes women can be labeled as being overly dramatic,” Magder said. “One of those big beliefs is that you have to deal with it, and there’s nothing that you can do to get rid of symptoms. We really want to push that message out there that you don’t have to just live with it. And there are things you can do to live a healthier and happier life.”

A key focus will be on the naturopathic approach, which centers on identifying root causes of health issues rather than only addressing symptoms.

“The best way to explain what a naturopathic doctor can do for a patient is they try to figure out what is the root cause that is causing the health issues that may be occurring within a patient,” Magder said. “Canadian naturopathic doctors have shifted towards working with medical doctors in

a collaborative way, and not in a way that their two are kind of competing with the patient in terms of care.”

This collaborative action aims to make identifying and treating symptoms more efficient.

Naturopathic doctors will look for signs, including hormonal shifts, environmental changes, dietary changes, and gut health, while collaborating with medical doctors. The clinic hopes to dispel persistent misconceptions about naturopathic medicine and underline its role in long term, sustainable care.

The event will feature Dr. Richard Magder, clinic co owner, as a comedic MC offering the partner perspective, and Hannah Sine, owner of Town Fitness in Shelburne, who will share her experience nearing the end of her menopause journey.

Together, the speakers aim to show that effective support, accurate information, and open dialogue can help women see menopause as a stage that can be managed rather than a burden that must be silently carried.

“We are really inspired to do something that’s more in the community, and putting that conversation out there,” Magder said. “We want women and even their partners to come to a safe space, learn the right information, learn how they can manage their symptoms, but also be in the space as well, too, where they feel free that they can ask questions and get correct answers for their questions.”

To learn more about the menopause talk and register, visit [eventbrite.ca/e/womens-health-perimenopause-menopause-talk-tickets-1984878969429](http://eventbrite.ca/e/womens-health-perimenopause-menopause-talk-tickets-1984878969429).

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**LORRAINE EDITH ALLISON**



Peacefully at Bethell Hospice, Inglewood, on Tuesday, March 24, 2026, Lorraine Edith Allison, at the age of 85. Beloved wife of the late James Craig Allison. Loving mother of Matthew and Benita Allison, Deborah Allison, Sharon and Randy McKinnon. Cherished grandmother of Lindsay and Kurt Dierking, Damien Allison, and Grace Danforth. Devoted great-grandmother Caspian Dierking. Dear sister of Janet Chevalier (deceased), Cathy and Guy Powley.

The family received their friends at the Egan Funeral Home, 203 Queen Street S. (Hwy. 50), Bolton (905-857-2213) on Tuesday evening, March 31 from 5 - 8 o'clock.

Private family funeral service was held in the chapel on Wednesday, April 1. Interment Laurel Hill Cemetery, Bolton.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Bethell Hospice, 15835 McLaughlin Road, Inglewood L7C 1L1 <https://foundation.bethellhospice.org>.

Condolences for the family may be offered at [www.EganFuneralHome.com](http://www.EganFuneralHome.com)


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# Youth encouraged to apply for eight-week position with Dufferin OPP

Written By SAM ODROWSKI

Applications for the 2026 Youth in Policing Initiative (YIPI) are being accepted at the Ontario Provincial Police's Dufferin Detachment.

The initiative runs for eight weeks through the summer and provides youth with meaningful work experience while strengthening community safety and engagement.

"Running from July to August, the YIPI program places students in OPP detachments across the province, where they work alongside officers and civilian members supporting both administrative and community focused initiatives. Originally created to strengthen relationships between police and youth, YIPI has grown into a valuable community building and recruitment program," reads a press release from Dufferin OPP.

"During their placement, YIPI students assist with a wide range of duties, including administrative tasks such as records management, reception support, document processing, presentations, and information cataloguing. Students also support community events and outreach initiatives by participating in public safety programs, crime prevention education, youth and senior engagement, mentoring initiatives, and local partnerships."

Contributing to special projects, developing media and engagement materials, assisting Auxiliary and Fleet Management units, attending court, and observing select

police functions (where appropriate) are a few of the opportunities YIPI participants will have.

"The program also offers professional development through leadership training, certifications, goal setting, and exposure to specialized OPP units such as Investigation, Marine, K9, and Forensic Identification," said Dufferin OPP. "Priority consideration is given to youth who may face barriers to employment or who reflect the diversity of the communities the OPP serves."

Countless former YIPI students have pursued careers with the OPP as police officers, special constables, and civilian members, often citing the program as the catalyst for their career path.

Anyone who is ages 15 to 18, eligible to work in Canada, currently enrolled in secondary school, successfully completes background clearance and is a resident of Dufferin County, can apply for the YIPI program.

To apply, submit a resume, short essay or cover letter describing why you would benefit from the program, and what skills, strengths or perspectives you would bring to the role.

Applications can be emailed to Amy Lynn Pitton of the Dufferin OPP at amy-lynn.pitton@opp.ca.

For more information, contact the Dufferin OPP Detachment at 519-942-1711 or stop by to speak in person at 390 C Line, Orangeville.

More information is also available at OPP.ca.

# PJHL teams move into championship round

Written By BRIAN LOCKHART

After the weekend, four of the eight divisions in the Provincial Junior Hockey League have crowned 2026 champions.

It has been a long, tough season with 42 regular-season games followed by quarter-final, semi-final and championship series.

Division champions will go on to compete for the provincial Junior C Schmalz Cup.

The four division that complete the championship series all had their final games on Sunday, March 29.

In the Pollock Division, the Fergus Whalers are the champions after winning their series 4-1 over the Hanover Barons.

The Whalers finished the regular season in first place, just one point ahead of the Barons.

The Orr Division championship wrapped up on Sunday, with the Uxbridge Bruins coming out on top over the Clarington Eagles. The Bruins finished first this season. The Eagles were the number three team in the division.

The Frankford Huskies are this year's Tod Division champions after winning their series 4-1 over the Lakefield Chiefs.

Frankford finished the regular season in second place – just one point behind the Chiefs.

In Niagara, the Dundas Blues are the Bloomfield Division champions after eliminating the Niagara Riverhawks in a series that went five games.

The Riverhawks had a good season, reaching the final series after finishing third. Dundas finished as the top team in the division.

There are four series still being played, with all series slated to wrap up this week.

In the North Carruthers Division, the Stayner Siskins are leading the Alliston Hor-



BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

**FINAL GAMES:** The Provincial Junior Hockey League is wrapping up this year's division championships, with four divisions already having a winner. Four other divisions are still playing their final series. The Alliston Hornets and Stayner Siskins battle it out in Game 4 of their best-of-seven North Carruthers Division Championship series at the New Tecumseth Recreation Centre in Alliston on Friday, March 27. The Siskins won this game 7-2. The Siskins lead the series 3-2.

Alliston staved off elimination in Game 5 of that series with an overtime win.

The Tavistock Braves are leading the Woodstock Navy Vets in the Doherty Division final. Woodstock finished in first place in the division, with Tavistock ending the season in second place.

The Yeck Division is currently tied 3-3 with the North Middlesex Stars and Mt. Brydges Bulldogs, with one final game to determine the season.

In the south end of the province, the Essex 73s have a 3-2 lead over the Lakeshore Canadiens.

Essex finished first in the division this year, with Lakeshore close behind in second place.

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amy-lynn.pitton@opp.ca

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

- Call the Dufferin OPP Detachment 519-942-1711
- Come speak with us in person at 390 C Line, Orangeville ON or visit OPP.ca

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**HANDYMAN SERVICES** - Providing an extra pair of helping hands in the Orangeville area. No job too big or too small. One man and a truck services along with residential seasonal lawn maintenance also available. All jobs welcome. \$25/hr. Call 519-447-7550.

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**TREE PRUNING and REMOVAL** as well as minor landscaping. Free estimates. 20+ years experience. Call Russ at 416-802-9180.

**YARD MAINTENANCE - PROPERTY CLEAN UP & REPAIR.** Anything from lawn care to pruning, small construction. Reliable equipment and extensive experience.. Call Cliff 519-546-8833.

**The LORD DUFFERIN CHAPTER IODE** 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.aanorthhaltonerion.org.

**APARTMENT FOR RENT**

**1 BEDROOM CONDO** at the Bromount Place, 8 Fead St, Orangeville. Available May 1st. Call 519-941-0375.

**LARGE BACHELOR APARTMENT** in Palgrave for rent. Walkout on stone patio overlooking pond. Parking, full kitchen and 3 piece bath. Clean and bright. Available immediately. \$1300/month. First and last upfront. If interested text 416-708-7758 and I can send pics.

**VEHICLES WANTED**

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

**ARTICLES WANTED**

**BUYING VINYL RECORDS - STEREO - 45's.** Cash for antiques and collectibles-stamp-coins. Call James at 416-569-9976.

**HELP WANTED**

**LANDSCAPER NEEDED** - Must have G license for all riding push mower . Weed-eaters... Call 519-217-1281.

**RESIDENTIAL SERVICES & REPAIRS**

**HOME RENOVATIONS** - Kitchen/bathrooms: tiles/wood/vinyl floors: plumbing / painting / stain / drywall: outdoor repairs - fences, decks. Call Alex at 519-938-7727.

**VEHICLES WANTED**

**SCRAP CAR DISPOSAL** - CASH PAID for Cars, Trucks, Vans - Big or Small. Call Joe at 647-294-2796.

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**SERVICES**

**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.

**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.

**ORANGEVILLE OVER 65** - Singles Social Club. A place to meet and make new friends. We meet every Thursday at 5:30 pm. Many activities. For information call Betty 519-942-3090 or text Janet at 519-216-3249.

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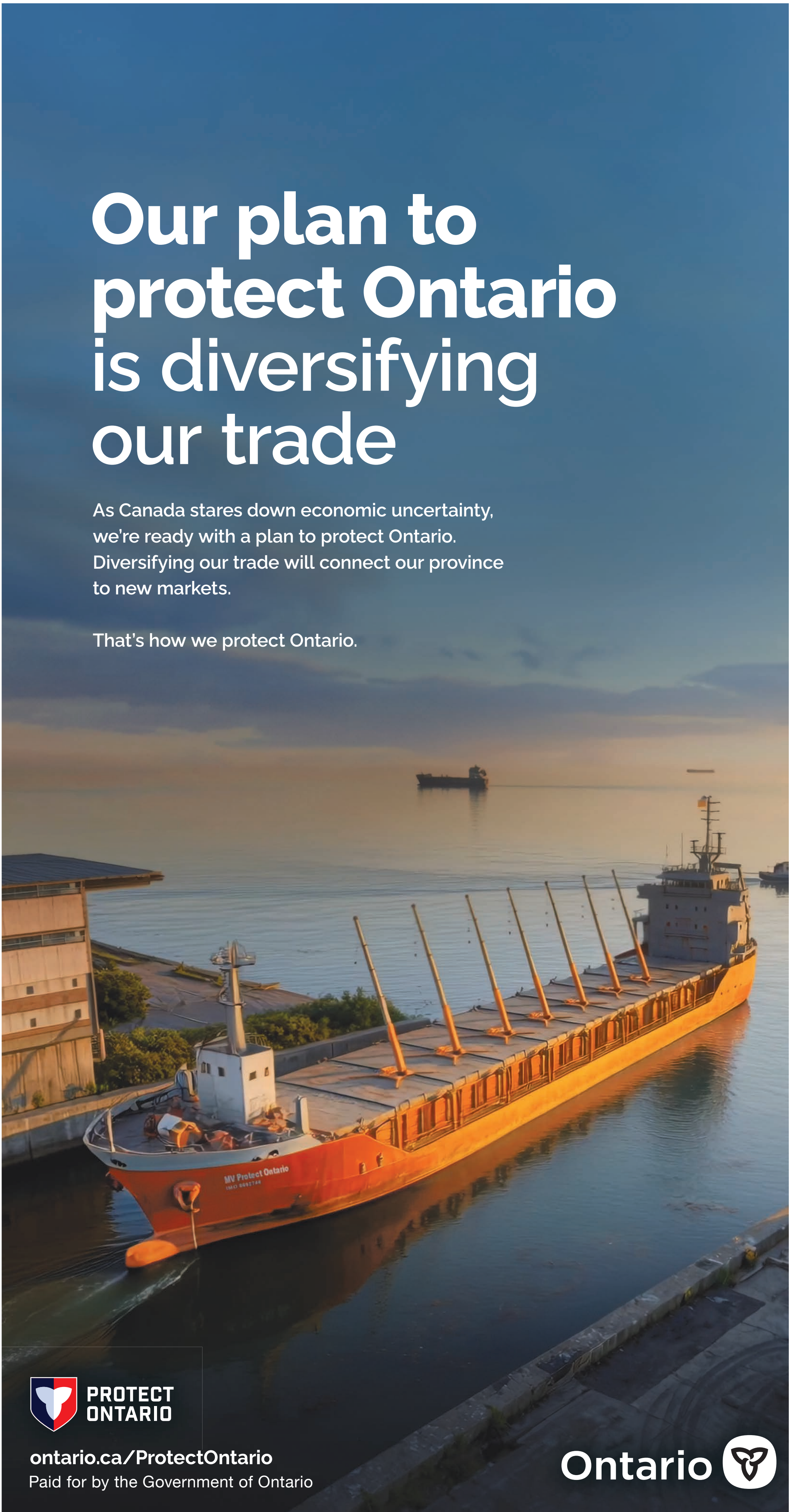
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