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MAYOR'S PRAYER BREAKFAST: Local elected officials and community leaders joined together at the Compass Community Church on April 22 for the annual Mayor's Prayer Breakfast. With live music and catered food, guests had the opportunity to enjoy a warm meal, socialize and pray together. A band performed music to an appreciative crowd. See more photos on Page A8.

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Orangeville winter farmers' market
 Orangeville farmers' market

Green ribbons adorn Broadway for Be A Donor Month

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

Each April, downtown Orangeville is lined with green ribbons for the Green Ribbons for Mike campaign.

Every April, Orangeville residents might notice a collection of green ribbons downtown. Not everyone might know what they mean. They are put up by the Green Ribbons for Mike initiative, a grassroots organ and tissue donation advocacy group.

Led by local resident Michelle White, the initiative was started by her late father Mike Steele, after whom the initiative was named, when he received a life-saving heart transplant.

"It first started pretty much from my dad," she said. "In 2009, he had a heart attack in January... By the time [it was] August of that year, he was on the transplant list, and in November of that year, he got his transplant."

"He wanted to really appreciate the second chance at life. The number one thing he wanted to do was to raise awareness, because of the fact that if somebody hadn't registered as an organ donor, he wouldn't have been there to appreciate it," White added.

In 2017, Mike began hanging large green ribbons in downtown Orangeville, hand-lettered with "Be a donor" during April's donor awareness month. In 2018, with the town's permission, the project expanded to cover



BE A DONOR: Mike Steele, father of Michelle White, is seen here in 2017 setting up one of the first green ribbons in downtown Orangeville. A recipient of a transplant himself, Steele sought to raise public awareness of the importance of organ and tissue donation. He died in 2018, but his daughter continues to carry on the campaign in his honour, pushing for more donors and more public awareness.

more of Broadway. That June, Mike died due to kidney failure linked to medication and cancer that had spread. White continued his awareness work and, in 2019, launched the Green Ribbons for

Mike Facebook page to better connect people and share information and stories about organ and tissue donation.

Continued on Page A6

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Province demands plan from Fieldstone subdivision developer on sewage odour

Written By JAMES MATTHEWS

The developer behind Mono's Fieldstone subdivision has until Saturday, April 25, to come up with a plan on how to mitigate odours from its sewage treatment plant that have plagued residents for years.

Councillor Ralph Manktelow said the sewage treatment plant issue has been a significant problem for the subdivision's residents and Mono council for quite some time.

Fieldstone subdivision residents have been lobbying the town to rectify foul smells from the wastewater treatment facility. They say the sewage odour from the French Drive wastewater plant has worsened.

Residents say the odour engulfs the neighbourhood, regardless of the wind's direction or the time of the year. As a result, residents can't open their windows or enjoy their outdoor spaces, especially in the evenings and first thing in the morning.

They last brought their concerns to council in November 2025. A petition was also forwarded to the municipality with as many as 243 signatures from the 337-home subdivision.

The treatment plant was provided as part of a subdivision agreement, but failed to meet the specifications that developers said it would. A pair of rotating bacterial chambers at the facility failed. The water that exits those chambers goes into an eight-acre septic bed. Further equipment failures followed, and problems with sourcing parts exacerbated the situation.

Manktelow said the missive discussed when council met on April 14 from consultants R.J. Burnside and Associates has certain terms that aren't clear to many people. He asked Matt Doner, the town's public works manager, to make the letter clearer. Specifically, Manktelow cited an optimization plan report written by WT Infrastructure, a firm hired by Brookfield Homes, that was referenced by Burnside in the letter to Doner.

This is the passage Manktelow broached: "The purpose of the report was to reset the design parameters for the system and determine the changes/upgrades needed to meet treatment objectives. In general, the report lacked the detail needed to assess the alternatives, however it allowed us to review potential alternatives, provide preliminary feedback to guide an updated submission, and upon review we were able to request WT Infrastructure focus their review on specific alternatives."

"What does that mean?" Manktelow said. Doner said Burnside and the municipality asked Brookfield Homes, the subdivision's developer, and their engineers to provide a plan that would show how the subdivision's sewage plant could be brought up to snuff to adhere to the certificate of approval issued by the provincial Ministry of Environment.

Alternatives were suggested by Brookfield and their consultant, which were reviewed by them and the town and municipal engineering consultants. Those were whittled down to acceptable avenues for action, Doner said.

A sewage treatment plan was a condition of the February 2014 Fieldstone subdivision agreement. In the time since the system became operational, it has been plagued with problems. Residents have asked repeatedly for the town to do something to remedy their living conditions caused by the treatment plant. The town's position is that it will not assume responsibility for the plan until its issues have been addressed. And the town's consultants, Burnside, said Mono should wait for a system that functions as intended before preliminary acceptance and eventual assumption of the sewage facility.

"Until then, the developer, Brookfield Homes, is responsible for the operation and maintenance and addressing the deficiencies of the system," according to Burnside's letter to Doner. Manktelow asked why the back-and-forth over the treatment plant has been ongoing for so many years.

"It's been a very frustrating thing for residents there and a frustrating thing for council," Manktelow said. Doner said, "There's been a lot of moving parts." Communication has been ongoing with the developer and engineers for both the developer and the municipality. The Ministry of Environment has also been at the site, he said.

"We have been working with them," Doner said. "It's very complex." Provincial ministry approval time can vary significantly, and that can have a role in the overall schedule.

"It's not too often that you have a plant that doesn't get assumed this far down the road," Doner said. "But they (Brookfield) are at the table. They're working with us. They're working with their consultant. They're taking guidance from the town engineer. It's really all we can ask for at this point."

Brookfield's Engineer will complete additional sampling at the Sewage Treatment Plant to support remaining design assumptions, which will be used to confirm upgrades required to meet treatment objectives. A 30 per cent detailed design submission will be provided to town staff and peer reviewed by R.J. Burnside and Blue Sky Engineering and Consulting Inc.

Not until Burnside engineers are comfortable with the design submission will they report back to council, according to the letter.

"A detailed description of the problems that have been experienced with the existing plant and how the proposed solution solves the problems will be required," the letter states. It seems operational needs will be considered alongside possible residential wastewater rates resulting from plant changes.

"We would like to have assurance that the proposed solution does not have material impact on the sewer rates," according to the letter. "Meaning the general operation and maintenance of the additional components have similar needs to the original system. However, it must be recognized that the original system did not meet design objectives and additional infrastructure is needed."

Mayor John Creelman said many of the issues concerning the facility are between Brookfield and the ministry. "They're not between the ministry and Mono," he said. The ministry visited the site in February in response to Fieldstone residents' complaints related to the smell. After an inspection, Environment officials requested that Brookfield develop and implement a community communication plan that includes timely updates and direct responses to complaints.

Brookfield was also asked to submit an odour and mitigation work plan that identifies all known odour sources at the facility, proposed measures, and timelines for their implementation. The developer was given a deadline of April 25.

Creelman was pleased by both of those requests. "It's important that the residents know we're trying to do the best we can, but, really, Brookfield is in the driver's seat," Manktelow said.

Grand Valley Circle K robbed, Dufferin OPP seek public assistance in identifying suspects

Written By SAM ODROWSKI

Dufferin Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) officers are investigating a robbery at a convenience store and are seeking the public's assistance in identifying the suspects involved.

On April 9, at approximately 11:55 p.m., officers responded to a report of a robbery that had just occurred at a Circle K Variety store on Main Street in Grand Valley.

Two male suspects entered the store and took a case of beer. During the incident, one of the suspects threatened the clerk.

Police are seeking public assistance to identify the individuals involved. Surveillance images of the suspects have been attached to this media release.

Suspect descriptions:

- Suspect #1: White male with blonde hair, approximately 5'10"-5'11", wearing a black hoodie with a Hellstar logo.

- Suspect #2: White male with a black buzz cut, approximately 5'6"-5'7", wearing a black zip-up hoodie and a blue t-shirt with a Nike logo.

The investigation is ongoing. If you or anyone you know can identify the suspects or has information related to this incident, please contact the Dufferin OPP at 1-888-310-1122, referencing occurrence number E260473674



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

WANTED BY POLICE: Dufferin Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) is looking to identify the two men in the above surveillance images. Anyone with information about the suspects or their whereabouts is asked to contact the Dufferin OPP at 1-888-310-1122.



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Mono approves noise permit, waives fee for RAM rodeo this summer

Written By JAMES MATTHEWS

Organizers of Headwaters RAM Rodeo at the Orangeville Fairgrounds have tailored the schedule to abide by Mono's new municipal noise bylaw.

And the event was scheduled before the new bylaw came into effect. As such, a request was made during town council's April 14 meeting that the event be exempt from the bylaw's restrictions and that the \$500 application fee be waived.

The 19th annual RAM Rodeo in Mono will take place June 6 to 7 at the Orangeville Agriculture Society Events Centre. Showtimes with music will be 2 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Saturday and 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. the following day.

Ross Millar, one of the event's organizers and a Mono resident, said much has been done over the years to accommodate the municipality's wishes.

Millar said in a letter to council that the name was changed from the Orangeville RAM Rodeo to Headwaters RAM Rodeo to better reflect the community as a whole. An evening dance has been ruled out, and the bar is closed following the last afternoon performance.

Organizers don't encourage spectators to stay the night. And other activities outside the rodeo, such as a dance and a cabaret,

have also been eliminated, Millar said.

"Eliminating our extra activities for the fans at your request has eliminated potential income for us [and makes] it very tight financially to stay in a positive cash flow," Millar said.

"As you are aware in today's economy, our costs have increased in every area and the current fuel situation and additional costs for tourists to come to our town have increased and will make this year very challenging."

He said the rodeo is one of the few events that made it through the COVID-19 pandemic social distancing shutdown. In fact, Millar estimated that as many as 7,000 people attended last year's event.

"As times have changed, we have changed," he said. "I do go to bed at night feeling that we're bringing something special, we're bringing something different."

The rodeo has become a reason for many former residents to return for a weekend to Mono.

Councillor Melinda Davie said the case made by Millar provided council with insight into the event.

"We need to hear from people who are bringing events to our town," she said. "That's not to say we're not going to give an exemption, but this having you come is very helpful to the community."



FILE PHOTO

RODEO TO RETURN: Headwaters Ram Rodeo will return to the Orangeville Fairgrounds on June 6 and 7. Organizers applied for a noise exemption permit, which was granted at a recent Mono council.

"This is not an event to make noise," those who are part of the rodeo." Council unanimously agreed to approve the rodeo's noise permit and to waive the application fee.

NVCA informs Mono council of efforts to maintain Mono Creek fish habitat

Written By JAMES MATTHEWS

It's time to take measures to make the Nottawasaga River and its tributaries more resistant to climate change.

Laura Wensink, a river restoration technician at the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority, introduced Mono council to some of the issues affecting the waterway when it met on April 14.

Measures to cool Mono Centre Creek have been proposed by the conservation authority along with the Bruce Trail Conservancy, Headwaters Stream Committee, and Freshwater Conservation Canada.

Mono Creek is a tributary of the Nottawasaga River. It's a cold-water creek that runs between Second Line and Fourth Line in Mono. A section of the creek was studied from 2022 to 2025 to get a handle on temperature and fish and amphibian populations.

They found that brook trout and sculpin rely on the cold water to thrive.

"In some of the neighbouring watersheds, brook trout populations are beginning to decline and even disappear from some creeks," Wensink said.



Pressures on the habitat come from development, land use, and climate change. A man-made berm slows water at one of the ponds on Mono Centre Creek. As the water slows and pools, it warms. And water leaving the pond is at the threshold of the temperature range where brook trout can survive.

The berm also causes sediment to accumulate at important fish-spawning grounds.

But all that can be remedied through a pond and wetland restoration project, Wensink said.

More water could be permitted into the pond during seasonal flooding. And the river's north and south channels could be rerouted around the pond to keep the water cool and

clean, she said.

That could reduce the water temperature by about 3.5°C. The pooling of slow water currently warms by about 4.5°C every 120 metres of waterway, she said. The water could be further cooled by planting native trees and shrubs along the banks.

"And this is how we make Mono Creek more resilient to climate change," Wensink said.

Don Little, the conservation authority's stewardship and restoration manager, said flood water will be able to safely flow in and out of the wetland through bypass channels.

The project budget has been pegged at about \$205,000. Depending on how their ap-

plication fares, about half of that may be covered with money from the Ontario Community Environment Fund.

"Projects such as this one, a large part of their success comes from building really strong partnerships," Little said.

He asked the municipality to support the cause with a \$3,000 contribution.

Councillor Ralph Manktelow asked how the bypass channels would be created.

Wensink said the conservation authority works with a heavy equipment contractor. The channels will be created with an excavator and a skid steer. Authority officials will be on-site to maintain environmental integrity and to carry out any required fish rescues during the work.

Deputy Mayor Fred Nix said grants might cover up to \$92,000 of the required funding. He asked where the rest of the coin would come from.

"Depending on how fund-raising goes for the project, we may have to just go ahead with it in a phased approach," Little said. "Based on what we can do with our available funding."

Wensink said more of the money has been raised through other grant sources.



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Maple Madness pancake breakfast celebrates Mulmur's 175th anniversary

Written By JOSHUA DRAKES
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Maple Madness pancake breakfast celebrates Mulmur's 175th anniversary
By Joshua Drakes

A community pancake breakfast celebrating 175 years of the Township of Mulmur drew a strong turnout as part of the municipality's ongoing anniversary events – combining local food, agricultural education and family activities under the “Maple Madness” banner.

On April 11, at 4M – Mikoliew Mach Mulmur Maple Company, guests were treated to a locally supported pancake breakfast event, as part of the ongoing 175 celebrations.

Held at the local farm, the event featured a maple-themed breakfast made with locally produced syrup, along with tours of a working sugar bush and sugar shack.

Caroline Mach, an organizer behind Maple Madness, said that the day was a truly collaborative experience between farmers and the township.

“We produced maple syrup at our farm,” she said. “They brought cooks and supplies and made pancakes, and we supplied maple syrup. We had somebody making maple taffy, and we were giving tours of both the sugar shack and the operation in the bush with the syrup lines.”

She said attendees could see firsthand how maple syrup is collected and processed, highlighting the agricultural roots that continue to define much of the area.

The favourable weather played a role in a very strong turnout. It was estimated that approximately hundreds of people attended throughout the day, a number that exceeded expectations and required additional supplies to be brought in as demand grew.

“We were extremely lucky, because it was probably the only sunny day we’ve had in the last two weeks,” Mach said. “It was raining cats and dogs on Friday before that, and it was raining cats and dogs on Sunday after that. So that definitely played a significant part in the success of the event.”

“We ended up having probably around 250 people come out. The township actually had to get more plates and more pancake mix because they ran out. So that was incredible, really a wonderful problem to have.”

In addition to the meal and tours, the event included a number of family-friendly elements. Members of the Ontario Provincial Police were present in a commu-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

SWEET TIME: Around 250 people gathered at 4M Maple in Mulmur on April 11 to celebrate the township's 175th anniversary. Attendees enjoyed tour of the farm's sugar bush and sugar shack before enjoying a maple-themed breakfast.

nity engagement capacity, interacting with attendees and providing a vehicle display for children.

A township booth offered merchandise tied to the anniversary, including clothing and memorabilia, while face painting added to the event's appeal for younger visitors.

Municipal representatives were also in attendance, including Mulmur Mayor Janet Horner and council members who assisted with food preparation for the breakfast.

The breakfast drew not only local residents but also visitors from outside the township, reflecting broader regional interest in local, community-focused experiences.

With a combination of strong attendance, community involvement and favourable conditions, organizers are viewing the Maple Madness breakfast as a successful contribution to the township's anniversary celebrations.

The breakfast is one of several initiatives planned throughout the year to mark Mulmur's 175th anniversary, following earlier programming such as a Family Day event.

Additional events, including a planned market later in the spring, are expected to build on that momentum as Mulmur continues marking its 175-year anniversary.



MAPLE MANIA: Ken Mikoliew and Caroline Mach, owners of 4M Maple, organized the Maple Madness Event on April 11 at their farm in celebration of Mulmur's 175th Anniversary.

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ALWAYS READY: Seeing a local need for off-hours service for farming and construction equipment, Jack Batten set out to fill that gap with HLR Hydraulics, his own, locally run business specializing in hydraulic repairs. With a mobile component, Batten said he can reach anyone who needs his services, providing prompt, on-site service. HLR had its grand opening on April 13.

HLR Hydraulics opens in Orangeville, offering much-needed off-hours service for repairs

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

HLR Hydraulics is the newest addition to Orangeville's small business community, built to keep local farms and heavy equipment moving when it matters most.

Owned and operated by long-time diesel mechanic Jack Batten, the business was born directly from years spent on call in the field, watching farmers and contractors lose precious time waiting for parts that simply weren't available after hours.

HLR celebrated a grand opening on April 13, with supporters, staff, Orangeville Mayor Lisa Post and Councillor Joe Andrews in attendance.

"I've been a diesel mechanic for over a decade, and one of the biggest problems for the past 10 years is that getting parts is always a headache," he said. "There'll be farmers out there that need to work. They have to find some way to do it. But hydraulic lines, that's what we make here, was one of the big things that you couldn't get after hours."

Over those years, he repeatedly ran into that problem: vital components, including hydraulic lines, couldn't be sourced when machinery broke down at night, on weekends, or during storms.

With a lot of plowing and fieldwork often happening after dark or during tight seasonal windows, every hour of downtime can cost farmers significantly. Batten set out to build a service designed around availability and speed to service those strict timelines.

HLR Hydraulics operates with a dual model: a mobile service van capable of crimping and replacing hydraulic lines on site, and a fully equipped in shop facility that handles larger jobs, including big four inch lines and special-

ized components.

The team of seven technicians and support staff services farm machinery, heavy equipment, and even complex German foundation drills, backed by a network of strong supplier relationships that Batten made during his career, which allows them to secure specialty parts, often within an hour.

"A lot of connections have come through the years of my work," he said. "I've been building relationships with these suppliers for a long time. That's one thing we locked in, our amazing suppliers. We can even get specialty items within an hour."

He said that ability is essential for a service business like HLR Hydraulics. He even has business connections to foreign companies that are notoriously difficult to contact quickly.

"We can work with literally anything that has an engine, whether it's electric or diesel, for example, we do a lot of work on German foundational drills," Batten said. "So even those parts we can get quick. For example, the Liebherr Company, they're very hard to get parts for. We have a good connection to get them within not even a day."

What makes HLR Hydraulics stand out is its commitment to after hours service, responsive communication, and deeply local roots.

"If it's Sunday at three in the morning or Monday night at 11 p.m., I'll be there," Batten said. "That's anytime you need, we work."

The company is structured to be available whenever customers need help - whether that's late at night or early on a weekend.

Coupled with fast access to hard to find parts and a team that personally cares about the success of local farmers and businesses, HLR Hydraulics offers a level of reliability and dedication that helps it stand out in the region.

Commercial motor vehicle charged by Dufferin OPP for speeding 40km/h over the limit in Mono

Dufferin Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) officers continue to conduct enforcement initiatives targeting commercial motor vehicle compliance at all hours of the day.

Officers conducted a traffic stop on Airport Road in Mono after observing a commercial motor vehicle travelling at 121 km/h in a posted 80 km/h zone. During the stop, officers conducted a commercial motor vehicle inspection.

As a result of the investigation, a total of 11 Provincial Offence Notices were issued.

Charges included:

- Speeding 1-49 km/h over the posted limit
- Exceeding 13 hours of driving time in a day
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Six year old boy pronounced dead after collision in Mulmur

Provincial police say a boy is dead and a toddler is fighting for their life in hospital after a collision in southern Ontario.

Officers were called to the intersection of County Road 17 and County Road 19 in the Township of Mulmur, northwest of Toronto, earlier Sunday.

They say in a news release that a vehi-

cle carrying six people got into a crash with a pickup truck.

A six-year-old boy was taken to a local hospital where he was pronounced dead, while a 30-year-old man and a two-year-old child were airlifted to a Toronto area trauma centre with life-threatening injuries.

Wightman

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Green ribbon campaign boosts organ donor awareness in Orangeville

Continued from FRONT

This year, the campaign includes green ribbons on 64 lamp posts from Wellington Street to Centre Street, along Broadway, as well as in the windows of 22 businesses and services.

Participants include the OPP, Dufferin County Paramedic Service, Headwaters Health Care Centre, and the constituency office of Sylvia Jones. Since 2021, the town has also held an annual flag raising and issued a proclamation recognizing April as Be A Donor Month.

"The town has always been so supportive of us," White said.

"Every year, they're happy to hear from us again and are ready to set up a date to do this. Local businesses have been incredibly supportive too, just the number of businesses every year that pop up and ask for a ribbon. We have a couple that keep them up all the time."

The campaign now operates alongside provincial efforts by Trillium Gift of Life Network, emphasizing the need for residents to formally register as organ and tissue donors and to inform their families. White cites Ontario statistics: as of this April, 1,697 people in the province are waiting for a transplant, including 32 children aged 0 to 17.

"This is important, we really need people to register because it's literally life and



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CAMPAIGN LAUNCH: From left: Orangeville Councillor Joe Andrews, Mayor Lisa Post, organizer Michelle White, heart transplant recipient Rita Spiteri and Headwaters Director of Medicine Kyle Shermet. On April 1, members of the community, Headwaters leadership and town leadership commemorated the Green Ribbons for Mike campaign with a flag raising and proclamation, encouraging public awareness.

death," White said. "With tissue donation up to 75 individuals that one person can too... you're talking about bones, tendons, impact. One person can enhance that many ligaments, eyes, heart valves, skin. That's lives through tissue donation."

Locally, Orangeville is 116th out of 170 communities in registration rates. The campaign highlights that prior practices, such as signing a driver's licence, are no longer sufficient; residents must register through official channels so hospitals can quickly confirm donor status for those who need transplants.

White also cuts through misinformation, identifying it as a factor for hesitancy.

"The biggest thing I hear from people is they say, 'you know, well, I'm too old, I'm too sick,' but I say to let the doctors decide that," she said. "The doctors will not treat you less because you're a donor, either. That's not gonna happen. They're not gonna let you die so they can have your organs. That's not gonna happen. I hear that a lot, too."

White said that she continues to share statistics, personal stories, and resources via the Facebook page and hopes to collect more local accounts from donors, recipients, and families to support ongoing public education and increase registration rates in Orangeville.

Organ and tissue donations are lifesaving commitments, and the more people who are registered, the faster needed donations reach patients waiting.

For more information about the green ribbon campaign, go to facebook.com/greenribbons4mike.

Local 12-year-old headlines fundraising concert at Spencer Avenue Public School

Written By SAM ODROWSKI

Community spirit came alive at Spencer Avenue Public School in Orangeville last Friday, with a student-led concert.

Student musician Patrick Hughson, 12, performed three cover songs and three original compositions, with multiple instruments in front of intermediate students on April 17.

The energy during the concert was remarkable, with fellow students chanting "Patrick, Patrick, Patrick," in support of the young music prodigy's eclectic performance.

"Patrick raised 310 pounds of food and more than \$181 for the Orangeville Food Bank, a remarkable achievement that reflects both his talent and his generosity," said Carrie-Anne DeCaprio, donor engagement and outreach manager at the local food bank.

"It's easy to say this kid rocks."

The concert was brought to life by Patrick's teacher, Mrs. Kennedy, who spearheaded the initiative.

Patrick plays piano and guitar, with a lifelong passion for music.

As a one-man show, he writes and produces all of his music. Patrick is an active member of his school community, engaging in a variety of musical extracurriculars.

During his concert, he pre-recorded his own backing tracks, making his performance even more impressive.

The Orangeville Food Bank is grateful to Spencer Avenue Public School, Patrick, and Mrs. Kennedy for their efforts to combat food insecurity in their community.

The Orangeville Food Bank is located at 3 Commerce Road, Orangeville.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

COMMUNITY SUPPORT: Patrick Hughson (right) tours the Orangeville Food Bank following his fundraising concert at Spencer Avenue Public School in Orangeville on April 17. Carrie-Anne DeCaprio (left) from the food bank walked Patrick through its shopping model, community kitchen, and warehouse. The pair talked openly about stories of need in the Orangeville community.



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The heart of Bethell Hospice: Volunteers making every moment matter

Written By RILEY MURPHY
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

As Bethell Hospice volunteers, staff, and board members prepare for their annual fundraiser, Hike for Bethell Hospice, there are many dedicated volunteers behind the scenes keeping everything running smoothly.

Bethell Hospice is a residential hospice in Caledon that provides specialized end-of-life care for individuals and support for their families, both at no cost.

It's thanks to fundraising, their board, staff, and volunteers, that they have been able to continue their work for over a decade now.

During National Volunteer Week, and every week, volunteers at Bethell could be seen working hard in the kitchen or with residents around the hospice.

For many, they've been here over a decade, volunteering their time and energy.

Dale Cimolai has been a volunteer at Bethell Hospice for almost 14 years and says it's a labour of love for her.

Thirteen-and-a-half years ago, she was driving down the road in Inglewood and saw the sign directing to the Hospice. She wondered what it might be, and that very night, they were holding a volunteer information session.

"This is meant to be," says Cimolai.

Cimolai currently works in resident support, but she also spends time in the kitchen and at reception, and provides complimentary therapies in the house and in the community, helping out in whatever way she can.

Volunteer David Roth, who has been volunteering for almost 15 years since the beginning, mostly spends his time in the kitchen, but, like Cimolai, he often finds himself helping out in various ways around the hospice, such as with residence support and reception.

He also provides in-community support and therapeutic touch.

Thinking about the nearly 15 years he's spent there, he says he feels "very lucky" to have been at Bethell for that long a period of time.

Mary Ann Bowman has been at the hospice as a volunteer for about five years and was inspired to get involved after losing both her parents within a very short period of time.

"As a family, we experienced some of the frustrations of trying to advocate for my parents as well as we could, whether it be through the medical system or getting services," says Bowman.



RILEY MURPHY PHOTO

BETHELL'S HEARTBEAT: Bethell volunteers Mary Ann Bowman, David Roth, and Dale Cimolai gather together in the hospice.

Continued on Page A13

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JOSHUA DRAKES PHOTOS

JOINING TOGETHER IN PRAYER: Community leaders, municipal officials, and members of the public gathered at the 36th Annual Mayor's Prayer Breakfast at Compass Community Church in Orangeville on April 22. With live music and catered food, guests had the opportunity to enjoy a warm meal, socialize and pray together.



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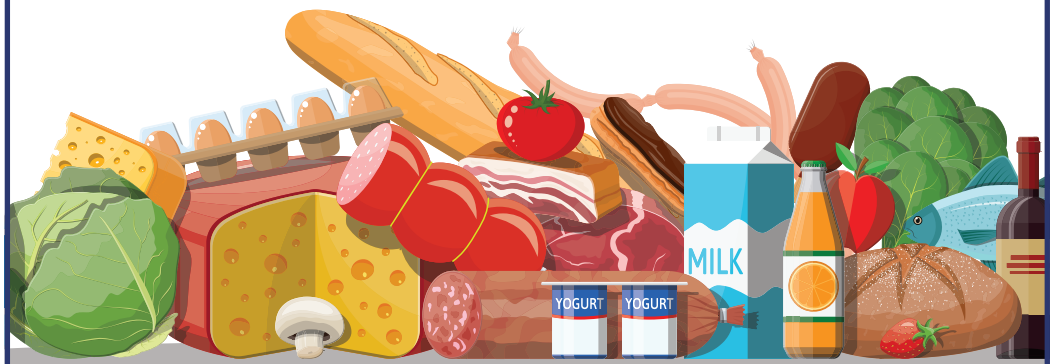
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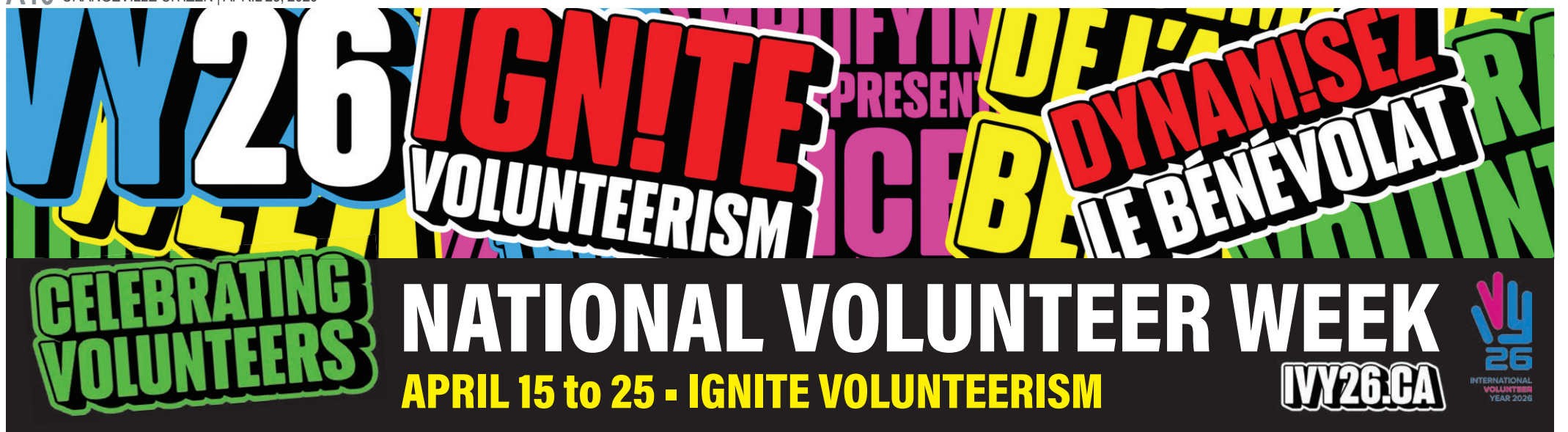
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Charities and non-profits across Dufferin County celebrate National Volunteer Week 2026

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

National Volunteer Week 2026 runs from April 19 to 25, and groups across Dufferin County are recognizing the monumental role that volunteers play in local initiatives.

Celebrated annually in April, the week highlights the individuals who give their time, skills, and energy to support local organizations, events, and services.

Several volunteer organizations from across Dufferin County are taking the time to highlight the important roles their volunteers play in their operations.

Dufferin Community Foundation Executive Director Michele Fischer said that despite economic conditions tightening, the volunteer scene in Dufferin County remains strong.

"We are a community of caring people and charities celebrate their volunteers wherever possible," she said. "However, people are time-strapped and busy, and it can be much more challenging to find volunteers, especially those who are willing to take on leadership positions in non-profits."

"We are so fortunate to have a team of exceptional volunteers. They are smart, talented and committed to making an impact on our community. As with most charities, we work with very limited resources. It's fair to say that we would not be where we are without them!"

From community groups and non-profits to schools, healthcare organizations, and service clubs, volunteers are often the backbone of programs that residents rely on every day. Their efforts help deliver essential services, strengthen social connections, and enhance overall quality of life.

Lori Robertshaw, volunteer care coordinator at the Orangeville Food Bank, said that without their dedicated volunteer team, the

essential services they offer simply wouldn't exist.

"The Orangeville Food Bank's ability to support our community at such a meaningful scale simply wouldn't exist without our incredible volunteer team," she said. "Preparing and organizing food in the kitchen, coordinating deliveries and pickups across town, participating as a board member, and supporting special events like food drives — every role plays a vital part."

"The impact of the 250 volunteers at Orangeville Food Bank—Dufferin Food Share truly cannot be overstated."

Organization leaders said that Volunteer Week is more than a time to thank volunteers for their hard work, it's also a time to remind everyone how much work they really do, and what would be impossible without their continued support.

Ardith Dunlop, organizer with the Shelburne Food Bank, said that volunteer staff take a heavy load off small, charity-driven organizations, allowing them to focus on helping those in need rather than worrying about whether they even have money to operate.

"Volunteers are critical for the Shelburne Food Bank; if we didn't have the 75-plus volunteers we have, we wouldn't be able to open our doors," she said. "Volunteers build hampers, sort food, stock shelves, do food rescue at local stores, bag bread, make deliveries, interview clients, bag options, deliver hampers to clients' cars, attend meetings, write grants, sit on the board of directors, fundraise and the million of other things that are necessary for a food bank to run."

"Volunteers are absolutely essential in society today. They fill gaps that governments and businesses can't always cover. Without volunteers, many services would either shrink dramatically or become too expensive to sustain."



She continued by saying how grateful FTP feels to have the volunteer team that they have. Their skills, dedication and leadership are deeply appreciated not just by staff, but those in need as well.

"To our volunteers — thank you," she said. "What you give goes far beyond your hours. You bring skills, compassion, and commitment that strengthen our organization and, more importantly, bring comfort and dignity to the women and children we serve. We hope you know how deeply valued you are, not just by our staff, but by every client whose life has been touched by your presence. We are grateful every day."

Volunteers work in almost every support sector in Dufferin County. Social support, food security, even firefighting relies on dedicated volunteers when duty calls. Organizations across Dufferin are making sure to take time to recognize those volunteers.

National Volunteer Week serves as a reminder that every act of service, small or large, frontline or behind the scenes, can make a meaningful difference.

Volunteers play an essential role in health and safety. Organizations like Family Transition Place (FTP), which provides shelter and support to those affected by gender-based violence, focusing primarily on women and children, also rely on a dedicated volunteer staff to operate.

Kelly Lee, manager of fund development and communication strategies at FTP, said that their volunteers play an important administrative role, beyond frontline support.

"Volunteers are the heart of Family Transition Place — from our Board of Directors and Finance Committee to those who help at fundraising events, staff our reception, assist clients with tax preparation, and provide wellbeing support to women and children fleeing abuse," she said.

"Each role is important, and together they help make our work possible and the lives of our clients more comfortable. They meaningfully extend our capacity and bring a richness to our programs that we couldn't easily replicate otherwise."

Annual Ontario Volunteer Service Awards recognize those who consistently make a difference in their community

Written By **SAM ODROWSKI**

Roughly 4.2 million people in Ontario volunteer, contributing to the fabric of the communities they live in.

To honour those who generously give up their time to help others, the Ontario government is recognizing nearly 5,000 people through its 2026 Ontario Volunteer Service Awards.

The annual awards celebrate the contributions and service of adult and youth volunteers, as well as not-for-profit organizations, schools, community centres, hos-

pitals, museums, libraries and community associations.

"The Ontario Volunteer Service Awards honour Ontarians who continue to show up for others through selfless, sustained service," said Graham McGregor, Ontario's minister of citizenship and multiculturalism.

"We thank them for their commitment to helping others, fostering a sense of belonging and strengthening community resilience across Ontario."

Nominated volunteers will be recognized at one of 30 award ceremonies tak-

ing place across the province.

The awards honour adult volunteers for continuous service in five-year increments and youth volunteers for their continuous service of two or more years.

Personalized certificates and distinctive lapel pins will be provided to award recipients, recognizing their service.

"The 2026 award recipients have demonstrated outstanding leadership through civic action, supporting a wide range of organizations and causes, including local after-school, community and food security programs," reads a press release

from the Ontario government. "These volunteers also serve as board members, engage in fundraising efforts and contribute to the enhancement of the arts, culture, heritage and recreation sectors."

Since the awards were started in 1986, more than 260,800 people have been recognized.

To learn more about the 2026 Ontario Volunteer Service Awards or to submit a nomination for next year, visit the Ontario Volunteer Service Awards webpage: ontario.ca/page/honours-and-awards-volunteering#section-1

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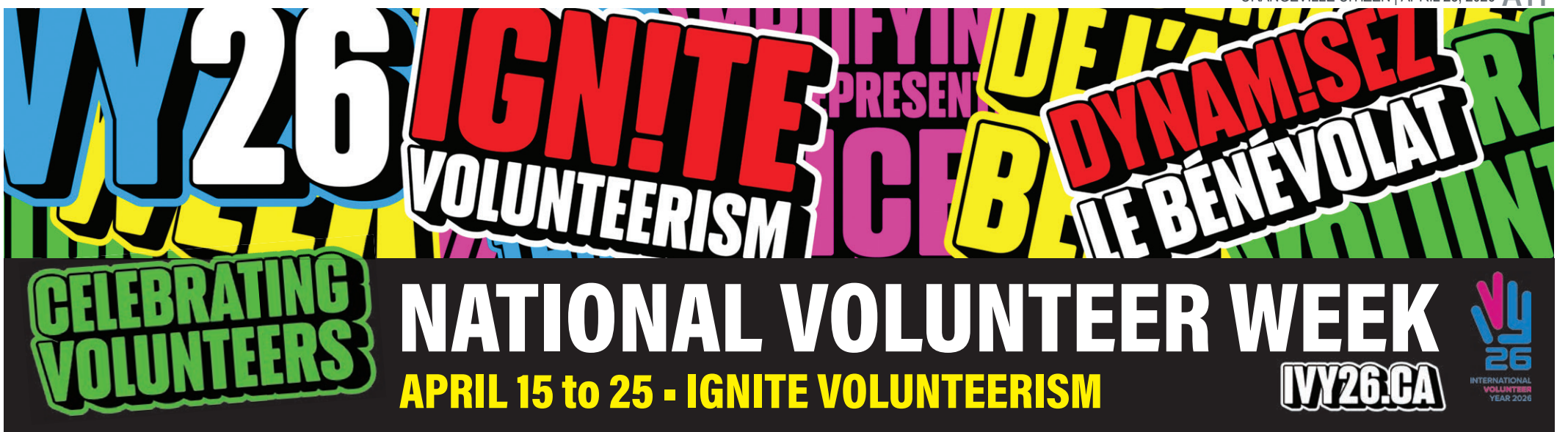
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Volunteer Dufferin is a project of Headwaters Communities In Action hcia.ca



Orangeville and District SPCA celebrates Volunteer Week, honouring the critical support provided by volunteers

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

The Ontario SPCA and Humane Society Orangeville and District Animal Centre is marking National Volunteer Week by recognizing the contributions of community members who play a key role in caring for animals and supporting adoptions.

Among them is volunteer Jen Lipinski, who has spent the past three years working with cats at the local shelter.

After retiring early, Lipinski said she gravitated toward animal care, something that has long been part of her life. With a household already full of pets and past experience volunteering, joining the SPCA felt like a natural fit.

"I've always had cats and dogs in my house," she said. "I really wanted to spend some time doing things for myself, as opposed to things you have to do to make money. Before the SPCA, I volunteered at a farm rescue. When that kind of tied up, I came here."

At the shelter, Lipinski primarily works with cats in the adoption area, helping with daily care routines that include cleaning enclosures, feeding, and spending time socializing the animals. She said the role offers a sense of fulfillment that goes beyond traditional work, describing it as something she looks forward to each week.

"I work primarily in the adoption room,"

she said. "These are the cats that are ready for adoption, not in quarantine or anything anymore. I come in, and I check their feeding schedules and everything. Then I go and get my cart with all the stuff that I need, and I do a full cleaning of all their cages, and then give them their breakfast."

Her efforts, like those of other volunteers, also help prepare animals for adoption by improving their comfort levels and behaviour around people.

Lipinski said that volunteering allows her to help more animals than she could by adopting alone, emphasizing the impact of giving time rather than taking animals home. She added that there are many ways for people to get involved, from hands-on care at the shelter to fostering animals.

"A lot of people have said, 'I don't think I could do it, because I would end up taking them all home,'" Lipinski said. "I always say that when I come in here, I can help multiple cats, whereas if I keep taking them home, I have to be at home taking care of them, and then no one is here. I can help a lot more by donating my time."

Shelter staff from the SPCA say volunteers like Lipinski are essential to their operations.

Julie Woods, manager of the Orangeville and District Animal Centre, said the organization relies on volunteers for a wide range of roles.



JOSHUA DRAKES PHOTO

GIVING BACK: Jen Lipinski, an early retiree, always had a close relationship with animals. Looking for something more rewarding to do that gives back, she became an SPCA volunteer and now cares for the cats currently up for adoption. She feeds them, helps socialize them and takes care of their regular needs, a critical role vital for day-to-day operations.

"We just wouldn't be so successful with our adoptions without the volunteers," she said. "We have volunteers that help provide animal enrichment and care, like Jen, and we also have others, such as drivers to help us with transportation, and photographers too that help promote all the dogs and cats and other animals."

These efforts, she said, directly help animals find homes more quickly by improving their socialization and overall well-being.

With a steady flow of animals coming through the shelter, staff say community involvement remains critical.

As Volunteer Week is observed, the Orangeville SPCA is highlighting the ongoing need for volunteers and foster families to support its work and ensure animals continue to receive the care and attention they need.

For those looking to volunteer their time, go to <https://ontariospca.ca/volunteer/>.



Arts & Entertainment

LOCAL COMMUNITY EVENTS



Theatre Orangeville presents new play 'The Wedding Party,' a hilariously dysfunctional comedy running until May 3: review

Written By JOSHUA DRAKES
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Weddings, family gatherings – they hold the potential to reunite distant relatives, old friends, share memories, and make new ones.

They also have the ability to remind you as to why you don't speak to or see certain relatives anymore, for better or for worse.

The Wedding Party, Theatre Orangeville's most recent production, sought to put that on full display and bring some laughs to some potentially unpleasant memories, and it works in all the right ways.

The plot follows a marriage and joining of families from two very different social classes. On one side, you have the affluent family of the groom, who live and breathe money and privilege, and spend hundreds

of thousands of dollars on this wedding to make it exactly how they wanted it. On the other hand, the bride's family is not wealthy; they are average, working-class people who have never seen this much money on display. On the surface, it's friendly banter and smiles all around - initially, anyway.

Things quickly devolve as both families clash over how the wedding's finer details will be executed. They start to assert their own views on how the wedding should be carried out, according to their own visions of marriage and love.

The snide remarks, indirect sarcasm and insults start off extremely subtle, sometimes even flying beneath notice, and feel all too painfully relatable for those of us who have lived through similar situations.

Things continue to escalate as the play progresses, and the families begin acting against each other outright for influence and take cheap shots to satisfy their egos.

No one character is morally right, which makes it all the more immersive to see relatable, flawed human beings clash over a wedding that is not theirs because they feel inadequate or believe their way is right.

Despite the venom that you can feel coming off the stage, it's all done with great taste, as humour is close behind or layered in to make sure serious moments don't take away from the absurdity of the wedding. The story is funny, heartfelt and sometimes tough to watch, but it feels real, potentially a little too real.

What really sells the production is the extremely talented cast, who brought these characters to life in a way that sometimes you forget they are characters.

In particular, David Leyshon had



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

RECEPTION RUMPUS: Watching two families go head-to-head over a wedding is traditionally an unpleasant experience, but Theatre Orangeville has made it a comedic spectacle. With plenty of laughs, heartfelt moments and chaos, *The Wedding Party* will strike close to home for some, and is a must-watch for the spring season.



a difficult role to play in portraying twins Jack Sr., the father of the groom, and Tony, the uncle. Both characters are radically different from each other: one is the rich, snobby brother, and the other is more rational and down-to-earth.

Leyshon did a phenomenal job giving these characters unique personalities, from Jack Sr's more uptight, arrogant demeanour to Tony's more grounded, casual attitude. Even when wearing the same clothing, Leyshon adjusted his posture, facial queues and voice where it was possible to almost immediately identify who was who at most points of the production.

These are characters you probably know in your own family, and despite it all, you can sympathize with both and understand their positions, flawed or not.

Another particular shoutout goes to Glynis Ranney and her portrayal of the mother of the bride, Maddy.

Maddy is a very flawed character, and egotistical in her own way, to challenge Jack Sr. But the one thing that prevails over everything is that she is a mother who believes she hasn't done enough for her daughter, and you can see it in everything she does.

Continued on Page A13

David Gauthier
Service Consultant

David brings a calm, customer-first mindset to every service appointment. As a MacMaster Certified Service Consultant, he works hard to ensure every visit is smooth and stress-free. Whether you're dropping in for maintenance or need help navigating a repair, David is ready with clear communication, helpful insight, and a friendly attitude.

Maurice McDonald
Service Consultant

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

Jazz Matharu
Service Consultant

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

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CLUES ACROSS

1. Egyptian bull-god
5. Romanian monetary unit
8. Will Ferrell holiday film
11. "It Ain't Half Hot Mum" actor
13. Error-related negativity
14. Volcanic crater
15. Boston Herald columnist Margery
16. True market value
17. Italian term for exchange rate
18. Informal loan clubs
20. Men's fashion accessory
21. Children's craft supply
22. Extra benefits
25. In an early way
30. A judge has one
31. Soviet Socialist Republic
32. Tractor unit
33. Defunct supercomputer developer
38. Promotional materials
41. A forgetful state
43. One who beheads
45. Photographers
48. Small, rich sponge cake
49. Clergy's vestment
50. Expressed pleasure
55. Abba __, Israeli politician
56. Zero
57. Ancient Greek word for "earless"
59. Nigerian governmental area
60. Mild expression of surprise
61. Places to hang things
62. Keyboard key
63. Make a mistake
64. One-time president of Republic of Korea

CLUES DOWN

1. Bridge building degree
2. Expression of sorrow or pity
3. Large, stocky lizard
4. Romanian river
5. Communication
6. Stoats
7. Showcases
8. Bird of prey
9. King of Thebes
10. Cleaving tool
12. Large African antelope
14. Three are particularly notable
19. Meet one's needs
23. C. European river
24. Dictator
25. Indicates how much out of 100 (abbr.)
26. The 17th letter of the Greek alphabet
27. Consume food
28. Woman (French)
29. Scrape a surface
34. Green vegetable
35. Pacific Standard Time
36. Capital of Brazilian city
37. Paddle
39. Cause to become insane
40. Drier and flakier
41. Mimic
42. ESPN personality Kimes
44. One who moves slowly
45. Secret political clique
46. Behind the stern of a ship
47. Supernatural force
48. Sanctuary
51. Swiss river
52. Grayish white
53. Engrave by coating
54. North Carolina university
58. Midway between south and southeast

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

How they say that in...

English: Brain
Spanish: Cerebro
Italian: Cervello
French: Cerveau
German: Gehirn

Major health and scientific organisations worldwide have concluded that vaccines do not cause this.

Answer: Autism

April is recognized as National Autism Acceptance Month.

STIMMING

repetitive actions or movements that help regulate emotions

Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

Answer: Puzzle pieces

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Theatre Orangeville launches its latest play, 'The Wedding Party'

Continued from Page A12

While she fights over and over to have a role in the wedding, we notice it becomes increasingly about what she thinks is right for her daughter, not what her daughter wants or needs. As she becomes more intoxicated, Jack Sr's original decision to exclude her becomes more understandable by her antics, continually drinking and making foul remarks at the reception. Maddy is not the protagonist fighting for the right to speak as she first appeared at the start of the movie. Jack Sr, by consequence, isn't entirely unsympathetic, as his choices are based on logic, though flawed.

Ranney delivers a very nuanced mother desperate to make the night go right, but her desperation only sours things further as she spirals and escalates.

Of course, the rest of the cast deserves equal praise for bringing these larger-than-life characters together, but with over a dozen characters coming across the stage, my word count couldn't sustain it. The cast, Emma Grabinsky, David Leyshon, Glynis Ranney, Tyrone Savage,

Evelyn Wiebe and Kristi Woods delivered a completely immersive experience that brought with it plenty of laughs and some very believable faces.

I would be remiss if I didn't also complement the outstanding work of the set design for the production.

The production was visually stunning and looked like a perfectly recreated wedding reception. The detail was impressive, with each table furnished and set, and the room looked bigger than it was, thanks to perspective. The actors made fantastic use of the space; the room grew messier as drama unfolded and events progressed throughout the night.

Overall, *The Wedding Party* was a stunning wedding production that elegantly ran off the rails, reminding potentially more than a few of us about family events we'd rather forget, but at the same time, reminding us that family is precious, and that we would benefit from listening to them a little bit more.

It's funny, stressful, endearing and frustrating, and absolutely worth a viewing.

The Wedding Party is showing from April 16 to May 3 at Theatre Orangeville



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

LOTS OF LAUGHS: Theatre Orangeville held opening night of its latest play, *The Wedding Party*, on April 16. The play runs until May 3.

Volunteers continue to make every moment matter at Bethell Hospice

Continued from Page A7

Afterwards I thought there's got to be a better way, and then that's where I became aware of hospices."

An amazing experience it has been, she says, adding that the longer you volunteer, the more things you try.

Bowman began in the kitchen, then moved to resident support, and, similar to her co-volunteers, now works in complementary therapies and also art therapy.

But for these volunteers, they're not chalking up their hours or counting down the days of volunteering; they say that volunteering at Bethell Hospice is a "gift."

"I can't put into words how fulfilling it is to help them make that journey easier for the resident and the family members. I'm supposed to be giving them a gift, but it's very reciprocal," says Cimolai.

Thinking back on special moments he's been able to experience, Roth says he's received more than he's given.

"For me, it's me being selfish, I get a lot," he says. "I get so much more out than I think

I give. The families we meet, the residents here, it's just absolutely amazing."

"That's the magic of volunteering, period," says Bowman. "You're supposed to be giving, but you're actually getting a whole bunch back."

Because, how fun is it to be able to give someone ice cream with sprinkles for breakfast, Bowman recalls.

Roth says he is always amazed, in meeting their residents and their families, how positive they can be going through this experience. He feels honoured to be able to help even in the smallest of ways.

"It's so rewarding. Sometimes when the families arrive, they've been managing a lot," says Bowman. "They're tired, and it's just so nice to say to them, we're taking over now. We'll look after everything. You can go back to being a family member and you can just see them relax."

She recalls her own experience of once being the person trying to manage everything, not being able to get the services you may have needed beforehand.

"They're tired and they've been working

hard to be everything for that person in their life," adds Cimolai.

"The love and compassion within this house is unbelievable," says Roth.

The three share that this is not a job for them, and they're always happy to do whatever residents and their families need.

Although their day-to-day may look completely different from one day to the next, they say it's the camaraderie among volunteers, staff, and even families and residents.

Often, these volunteers find themselves just sitting by their residents' bedsides.

Whether it's reading or just sitting in silence, they say it makes all the difference just being there.

"I love to just sit in the room, read all the cards that are there, talk aloud as if I'm talking to them about the pictures I see, and sing to them," says Cimolai.

"There's other days you may have three or four incredibly powerful discussions and really intimate conversations and you go, 'okay, that's why we're here.'" says Bowman. "They're spontaneous and they're organic and they just happen. But we're so

glad we're there for them when that happens."

Roth says volunteering is a type of calling, where they have so much to offer families and residents.

"People are here because of a passion," says Bowman, adding that oftentimes, people get stuck in their own lives and in their own routines.

"It adds another dimension to my life that helps me have a better balance and a better perspective on life," says Bowman.

"Volunteering here puts so much of the rest of my life in perspective. 'Gosh, am I lucky,' Roth adds in agreement. "Everything that I have around me, everyone and everything, because you take a look at what people are going through here in the house and if we have a problem, it's so minute by comparison."

This year's National Volunteer Week theme is "Ignite Volunteerism," a focus on passion, action, and the impact of community service, which is exactly what these volunteers embody in their day-to-day lives in Bethell Hospice.

16th Annual Hike for Bethell Hospice

Sunday, May 3, 2026

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Province asked to reconsider ‘Strong Chair’ powers under Bill 100

Written By RILEY MURPHY
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

A motion introduced by Councillor Dave Sheen at the April 21 Planning and Development meeting called for Caledon Council to call on the Government of Ontario to amend Bill 100, otherwise known as the Better Regional Governance Act, 2026.

The Better Regional Governance Act, 2026 was introduced by the Ontario Government, which would allow the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing the power to appoint upper-tier Council Chairs in Regions such as Peel, and give these upper-tier Council members “Strong Chair” powers, which mirror “Strong Mayor” powers.

In Sheen’s motion, he states that Caledon “already operates under a Strong Mayor

framework that is expressly tied to advancing prescribed provincial priorities, and Bill 100 would extend a similar provincially aligned model to the regional level above Caledon.”

The motion also states that with planning and roads responsibilities downloaded to the Town, “key structural levers that influence Caledon’s long-term growth, including a provincially appointed regional chair, provincially regulated water and wastewater servicing, and a provincially approved Official Plan, remain outside the direct control of future Caledon Councils.”

At the meeting, Sheen said instead of concentrating powers in the hands of those functionally aligned with the Province, “we should be working harder to align provincial and local priorities through normal

democratic processes.”

He added that “Strong Mayor” and “Strong Chair” powers are small steps that normalize concentrating power into fewer hands, and move decisions further away from the people they affect.

Councillor Mario Russo added that as Regional Councillor, he’s seen the “absolutely great work” that Regional Staff does at that level, and that he’s happy to support the motion as it shows staff at the Region they are supportive of them, both at the Town and Regional table.

With the passing of the motion, Council will state its opposition to Bill 100 in its current form and call upon the Government of Ontario to amend Bill 100 to “protect municipal and regional autonomy, maintain the authority of locally elected councils over

their own governance structures, and safeguard a non-partisan municipal public service.”

Also, the motion urges the Government of Ontario to reconsider the model of provincially appointed “Strong Regional Chairs” with “Strong Mayor-style powers”, and “instead ensure that regional leadership remains selected by and accountable to their councils.”

The motion also urges the Government of Ontario to “undertake meaningful consultation” with municipalities and residents, including through the Association of Municipalities of Ontario and with affected municipalities such as the Town of Caledon and the Region of Peel, before “implementing changes to municipal governance and related servicing structures.”

CVC named one of Canada’s Greenest Employers for the seventh consecutive year

Credit Valley Conservation (CVC) has been recognized as one of Canada’s Greenest Employers for 2026, marking the seventh consecutive year it has received this national distinction.

Canada’s Greenest Employers recognizes organizations that demonstrate leadership in environmental sustainability through workplace culture, employee involvement, and innovative programs that reduce environmental impact.

CVC earned recognition for its continued commitment to sustainable operations and staff-driven initiatives, including its pledge to transition its vehicle fleet to be fully electric by 2035, implementing an employee uniform recycling program.

CVC is also focused on reducing its organizational carbon footprint and investing in low-impact development approaches for sustainable stormwater management on its properties. CVC’s corporate office is a LEED gold-certified building and is also home to Canada’s first CSA compliant smart blue roof, which captures and stores rainwater for reuse. Collected rainwater is treated to non-potable standards and used to supply water for toilet flushing, reducing reliance on municipally treated drinking water, while excess water is slowly released back into the municipal stormwater system to help mitigate flood risk.

Project highlights included:

- Commissioned Canada’s first ICC compliant smart blue roof at CVC’s corporate office, capturing and reusing rainwater to reduce flood risk and reliance on drinking water.
- Continued development of CVC’s Corporate Climate Change Mitigation Plan,

advancing efforts to reduce organizational emissions by 50 per cent.

- Completed a multi flood hazard assessment that considers socially vulnerable populations to support equitable watershed planning.
- Maintained and enhanced flood forecasting models and a real time monitoring network of 56 gauges to strengthen climate preparedness.
- Launched CVC’s third Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plan (SNAP) in Cooksville, engaging more than 2,300 residents in local climate and sustainability actions.
- Marked the five year anniversary of the Fletchers Creek SNAP, highlighting long term neighbourhood sustainability outcomes and community collaboration.
- Increased the urban tree canopy in priority Peel neighbourhoods by planting 324 trees.
- Built the 11th school rain garden at George Kennedy Public School to manage stormwater and support hands on environmental learning.
- Continued progress and construction of wetland and forest habitat creation at the site of the future Jim Tovey Lakeview Conservation Area.
- Continued progress on the Watershed Plan, using updated science, data and community input to guide long term priorities.
- Re-introduced our Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) program with an updated suite of programs to high schools across our watershed including plant identification, wilderness skills and safety, compass/map/GPS, animal identification, and an introduction to the forestry sector.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

TOP EMPLOYER: Credit Valley Conservation (CVC) staff share some smiles while educating the public about the Acton SNAP during the Mayors Fishing Derby in Acton. CVC has been named one of Canada’s Greenest Employers for 2026.

- Supported staff and community led stewardship, including tree planting, habitat restoration, invasive species removal and environmental education initiatives.

“Being named one of Canada’s Greenest Employers for the seventh consecutive year reflects the strong culture our staff have built,” said Terri LeRoux, CAO at Credit Valley Conservation. “Environmental leadership guides how we work, how we make decisions and how we support our communities. This recognition reflects our employees’ commitment to practical, low impact

development solutions that help build a more resilient and sustainable Credit River Watershed.”

Employee participation plays a central role in CVC’s environmental leadership, with staff actively contributing to operational improvements, sustainable workplace practices and watershed stewardship initiatives that support long term environmental health.

Learn more about CVC’s Greenest Employers recognition and sustainability initiatives at content.eluta.ca/top-employer-credit-valley-conservation.

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Caledon Town Hall Players present their season finale, 'Grounded'

Written By **CONSTANCE SCRAFIELD**

Caledon Town Hall Players (CTHP) Director Chris Bailey is very pleased with how well the cast is ready for their upcoming production of *Grounded*, a comedy by John Spurway, opening May 2.

"We are in our tech rehearsals now," he said in an interview with the Citizen this week, adding, "We have two weeks of double rehearsals just to put everything in place."

Such fastidiousness is worth the effort, for the Spurway play is demanding, thought-provoking and a fine comedy.

The plot, in brief, is five passengers stuck in an airport terminal, while their plane is grounded by bad weather. Strangers to begin, their confinement-inspired conversations reveal startling truths that make this play so intriguing.

Given the challenges the cast members have overcome so successfully, Bailey wanted to credit each of them first. He prefaced his remarks by noting that this play is very dialogue-driven, with quick back-and-forth exchanges, and that it takes time to perfect the timing and blocking.

Kevin Wrycraft, as Nathan, has performed before on the CTHP stage and is a ready volunteer backstage. He is a dedicated member and encourages newcomers.

Taking on the transition to a big role from her previously minor parts in other plays, Meri Chilelli as Elizabeth had Bailey commenting, "It has been wonderful working with Meri's [decision] to go forward to such a challenge."

Playing the part of Marion, Kim Blacklock is a favourite with CTHP audiences. She brings comic relief – the fun in this show – into the moments of the sad, tender side of Marion. Brilliant.

Then, there is the eloping couple, Kate and Tony, played by Michelle Barnes as Kate and Stuart Davidson as Tony. Barnes is brand new to acting. Caledon-based but never having been on stage, she auditioned and was cast in the role. Barnes was "off book" early.

Coming in as a new person can be hard, but Barnes has jumped in, Bailey reported, and even her husband has come to run the lights. The director loves seeing new people join the company, and the welcome makes them feel comfortable.

Grounded is a "cool" play, as he defined it: a comedy for the audience but a drama for the actors.

"There is quite a lot of seriousness," Bailey commented. "The laughs come from the unravelling in the story."

People will enjoy this play for its different

types of comedy, and CTHP is well known for presenting comedy on its stage. Audiences have to feel full with the pleasure of the show.

"Word of mouth is the best publicity," as Bailey remarked. Now in its 62nd year, a community theatre with four plays a year is proof of audience enthusiasm for the productions CTHP offers.

As the director, he is delighted to see a group of people who all really embrace this show as a good time for the audience in a character-driven play.

To bring out the best in each character, he did the blocking differently to share that work with the audience, he explained. "When people come to this see this play, they will have a great feeling about this experience."

Once all is ready, the audience is seated, and the play begins, the director's job is done, even this time for Chris Bailey, who usually has something to do backstage, but once *Grounded* opens, he can stand back and simply watch it.

From the point of view of the director, Bailey made the point that this particular play can be interpreted by the director in different ways. He told the story of how his wife, Stephanie Bailey, who is producing *Grounded*, discussed with him how differently she would have directed it. Yet both approaches are valid.

Bailey's comment was that what is great about the theatre is the difference in how the play has been produced. Every playwright must be interested to see how your version of the play is presented. This story is about bad weather in New York, keeping these pas-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

SEASON FINALE SHOWCASE: Caledon Town Hall Players is preparing for its season finale, performing *Grounded*, a comedy written by John Spurway. The season finale opens May 2, with performances until May 9. The cast, from left, is Meri Chilelli, Kevin Wrycraft, Stuart Davidson, Michelle Barnes, and Kim Blacklock.

sengers in Toronto from flying out and leaving them stuck with nowhere to go.

With time on their hands and only each other as diversion, the conversation can stray as it will. Certain discoveries might come to light simply because they are there.

"The audience will be on the edge of their seats," Bailey promised. "New audience

members are often surprised at the quality of the performances.

Grounded performance dates: May 2, 8 and 9 at 8:15 p.m. and May 2, 3 and 9 at 2:15 p.m.

Tickets are available online at caledontownhallplayers.com or by calling 519-927-5460.

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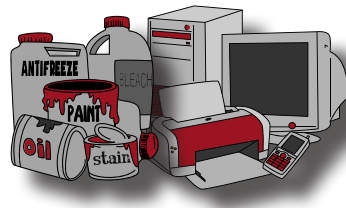
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- Electronic waste** includes audio equipment, cameras, computers, home entertainment equipment, phones, and household electronic items, including lamps, alarm clocks, microwaves, toasters, and small appliances.
- Limitations** No waste from industrial, commercial, or institutional sources. No white goods/large appliances (including any appliances with freon). No garbage, or recycling. No unidentified/unknown materials. No drums of materials.

Visit dufferincounty.ca/waste for updates and a full listing of acceptable materials & limitations.
 Future events: May 30, June 27, July 22, August 19, September 19, October 31
 See website for details on hours & locations for each scheduled event.
 Dufferin County residents, including Amaranth, East Garafraxa, Grand Valley, Melancthon, Mono, Mulmur, Orangeville and Shelburne can attend any of these events.

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Shelburne recognizes Rotary Club with flag raising and proclamation

Written By JOSHUA DRAKES
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Town of Shelburne honoured the local Rotary Club with a flag-raising ceremony and a formal proclamation recognizing the organization's long history of community service.

The event marked the club's founding date of April 22, 1938, and acknowledged nearly nine decades of contributions that have shaped local programs and supported residents in need. The Rotary's motto, "Service Above Self," framed the day's observance and underscored the group's focus on giving back.

Shelburne Councillor Len Guchardi presented a proclamation declaring April 22 as Shelburne Rotary Day in recognition of the club's sustained efforts and broad impact. He said the club's contributions are extensive and far-reaching.

"We are very lucky to have this rotary club here in Shelburne," said Coun. Guchardi. "They truly do so much for the town. They're very humble, selfless people. They are a great organization, and we're happy to have them."

He highlighted the club's leadership role in a wide range of initiatives, including support for the community kitchen, the local food bank, the acquisition of a cargo van, and the development of the splash pad.

Ongoing events and fundraisers – such as golf tournaments, pumpkin fest, and food drives – were cited as examples of the club's hands-on involvement and fundraising success.

Organizers and town representatives emphasized that the Rotary's strength stems from consistent community support. Sponsorships, volunteers, and regular donors enable the club to operate week to week, sell raffle tickets, and host events that generate funds and services for the community.

Rotary Club organizer Bill Waite said that



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

COMMUNITY SUPPORTER: The Shelburne Rotary Club was recognized by the Town of Shelburne for its persistent and dedicated community support and initiatives, with a flag-raising and a proclamation read by Councillor Len Guchardi on behalf of Mayor Wade Mills. Town officials joined Rotary club members, led by President Karen Webster, to officially raise the flag.

the club is immensely grateful to be recognized and supported by the local community.

"We greatly appreciate the recognition we have received from the community and, of course, the town as well," he said. "We are grateful as well to get a lot of recognition where people step up to sponsor and support us and all our different events, whether we're selling raffle tickets to the golf tournament or smile cookies. But this one day is important to us, as 88 years ago, Shelburne Rotary was established."

Despite a decline in membership seen in some community groups, the Rotary has maintained and even increased its output, attributing gains to technology adoption and a younger membership base.

The club's average age is now under 55, contributing to renewed energy and capacity to deliver programs.

"We continue to do a lot of work in the community, raise a lot of funds, give back to the community, probably more than we ever have," Waite said. "So we're very proud, af-

ter 88 years, we're still here, and we're very strong."

The proclamation and flag-raising served both as recognition of past achievements and encouragement for the club's future work.

Town officials and residents were urged to continue supporting the Rotary through participation, sponsorship, and volunteerism to ensure the organization's legacy and continued benefit to Shelburne in the present and future.

Free Ice Cream Day at Mel Lloyd Centre aims to bring joy and dignity to Shelburne families

Written By JOSHUA DRAKES
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

On Wednesday, May 6, a mobile café will roll up to the Mel Lloyd Centre in Shelburne with a simple mission: give away as much free ice cream as possible.

The event is being organized by Make It Sweet Mobile Cafe, a growing local business that operates multiple ice cream trucks and mobile cafés in the community, owned by Jenny Jelen.

For this initiative, Make It Sweet is partnering with the Shelburne Food Bank, which operates from the Mel Lloyd Centre. Family Transition Place (FTP) also has a satellite office at the centre. Make It Sweet's ice cream truck will park right outside the building and offer free ice cream to everyone – food bank clients, FTP clients, staff, and the general public. The goal is to create a welcoming atmosphere where anyone can enjoy a cone without feeling singled out or judged.

Louise Marcoux Phillips, with the Shelburne Food Bank, said that anyone and everyone is welcome.

"This is open to as many people who want to come as possible, not just food bank clients," she said. "If anybody feels like an ice cream cone, they can come and get one for free."

While every cone will be free, donations will be accepted. The event is designed to support the food bank and FTP by raising both funds and awareness, giving them a chance to reach more people who may

need their services.

"Jenny is accepting donations, but of course, there is absolutely no expectation or pressure, just if you are able," Phillips said. "Part of the proceeds are going right to the food bank and Family Transition Place."

For the Shelburne Food Bank, the timing and format are especially meaningful. The first Wednesday of the month is typically its busiest day, with dozens of clients coming through the doors. With demand continuing to increase due to a growing population and economic uncertainty, community support is needed now more than ever.

For those visiting a food bank, it can be an emotionally difficult experience, and maintaining dignity and privacy is crucial. By opening the event to the entire community and positioning it as a fun, public celebration, organizers aim to ensure that food bank users can enjoy the day without standing out.

"We want to make sure they feel comfortable and appreciated," Phillips said. "We have to do everything we can to protect their sense of pride and respect for themselves. No one will know where they're coming from, and that's really important."

The hope is that a simple ice cream cone can offer not just a sweet treat but also a moment of joy, normalcy, and connection.

It's meant to remind everyone that they are part of a caring and supportive community.

For more info on the Shelburne Food Bank, call (519) 925-2600 or go to shel-



burnefoodbank.ca.

For more info on Family Transition Place's satellite office in Shelburne, which

focuses on counselling, outreach and support services, go to familytransitionplace.ca or call (519) 942-4122.

2026 Candidate information sessions

Considering running for council?

Get the information you need to make informed decisions about running for municipal office.

Virtual

Hosted by Dufferin County's lower-tier municipalities and facilitated by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

Wednesday, April 29, 2026 at 6:30 p.m.
Registration: orangeville.ca/CandidateSession

In person

Hosted by Dufferin County's lower-tier municipalities and facilitated by Clerks on Call. Attend either date. Stay after the session to connect with the trainers and ask questions.

Wednesday, May 6, 2026 at 7 p.m.
Monora Park Pavilion,
500 Monora Park Pavilion Road, Mono, ON L9W 0E1

Thursday, May 7, 2026 at 10 a.m.
Centre Dufferin Recreation Complex,
200 Fiddle Park Lane, Shelburne, ON L0N 1S0

Notice of Nomination Period for Interested Candidates

Are you thinking of running for office in the next municipal election?

The nomination period for candidates begins on **May 1, 2026** and ends on **Nomination Day, August 21, 2026**. Nomination forms may be filed in person by the candidate or by their agent during normal office hours. On Nomination Day, nomination forms may only be filed between 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

The 2026 Municipal and School Board Election will take place on **October 26, 2026**. The deadline to file the required Nomination Forms for the offices of Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Councillor and School Board Trustee is **2:00 p.m.** on Nomination Day, August 21, 2026.

For more information, please contact your local municipality:

Township of Amaranth: amaranth.ca
Township of East Garafraxa: eastgarafraxa.ca
Town of Grand Valley: townofgrandvalley.ca
Township of Melancthon: melancthontownship.ca
Town of Mono: townofmono.com
Township of Mulmur: mulmur.ca
Town of Orangeville: Orangeville.ca/Election
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There will be a fundamental shift to the Statutory Accident Benefits schedule, and in the event of a motor vehicle collision, there will be changes that reshape how accident victims are able to access support.

For these benefits to be part of your policy, they must be specifically selected and purchased. This means that the new insurance system requires you to opt-in, rather than opt out.

Pedestrians, cyclists, and passengers without their own insurance policies are already at risk on the roads. With the new amendments, they will face an even greater risk as they may not have access to support through the Statutory Accident Benefits Schedule.

The Government of Ontario is enacting changes to some currently mandatory coverage in order to allow insurance companies to offer cheaper coverage to consumers.

Currently, all automobile insurance policies in Ontario include a standard package of accident benefits covering everything from income replacement and caregiving to funeral expenses.

If you choose to opt out of certain benefits in order to save money, you may be placing yourself in a bad situation if an accident does occur.

Before the changes to insurance take place on July 1, you should review your current automobile insurance policy to know what is covered, and what is not covered.

As a driver, you should be aware of the changes in mandatory coverage and what it could mean for you if you opt for a policy with fewer benefits.

The new rules will allow consumers to opt out of some coverage. The list of mandatory benefits that will change includes medical, rehabilitation and attendant care, caregiver benefits, non-earner and income replacement benefits, housekeeping and home maintenance expenses, and death and funeral benefits.

If you are ever involved in a motor vehicle collision and are seriously injured, you may be unable to work, take care of yourself, and maintain the upkeep of your property. Optional benefits such as income replacement or housekeeping will no longer be included in your policy unless they are expressly selected.

Speak to your insurance broker or insurer to learn about the addition of optional benefits to match your needs and the needs of your family.

A cheaper rate of insurance may sound like a good way to save a few dollars, however, if you do have an accident, your reduced coverage may leave you with significant costs related to post-accident recovery.

Beginning in 2026, only medical, rehabilitation, and attendant care benefits will remain mandatory. Everything else will become optional.

It should be noted that the 'catastrophic' designation in policies will no longer be required. This means the person injured will more easily be able to access benefits – as long as the optional coverage was purchased.

By being an informed consumer, you can find the right insurance coverage and make sure you won't pay a higher price later after trying to save a few dollars on your insurance coverage.

WRITTEN BY Brian Lockhart

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AUTOMAINTENANCE



Warning signs that brakes are faltering

Automotive problems are often best left to professionals. Though seasoned car enthusiasts may be capable of diagnosing and fixing car troubles without the assistance of a trusted mechanic, most drivers are better off letting the pros address issues under the hood.

But drivers can still play a vital role in vehicle maintenance. Learning to recognize warning signs of various problems that can affect cars can prevent breakdowns and potentially costly repairs. And in certain instances, such as when the brake system is not working properly, knowing how to spot problems before they escalate into something larger can make drivers and their passengers safer and potentially prevent accidents.

- **NOISES:** Much like a knocking sound typically indicates a problem with a vehicle's air-fuel ration mixture, certain noises also suggest there are problems with the brakes. The most noticeable such sign is a high-pitched squeal that occurs when drivers apply the brakes. But grinding sounds and noises like scratching and scraping also warrant a visit to a brake specialist.

- **INCREASE IN STOPPING DISTANCE:** An increase in the distance a vehicle travels before it stops after the brakes are applied indicates that there's an issue with the brakes. This issue may or may not require a brake replacement. In fact, it's sometimes indicative that brake fluid levels are low, which can be remedied quickly and easily. However, an increase in stopping distance is significant enough that it should be brought to the attention of a brake specialist immediately.

- **PULLING UPON STOPPING:** Another warning sign of brake problems is when the vehicle noticeably pulls to one side as it comes to a stop. This indicates that one side of the brakes is malfunctioning while the other is working properly. Like other issues with brakes, this one requires immediate attention from an automotive professional.

Brake systems should be inspected during routine maintenance visits. But issues with brakes can arise even after such inspections, which underscores how important it is that drivers learn to recognize the warning signs of brake problems.



4 signs it's time to replace your tires

Inflation has been a hot topic for several years, as the cost of everything from groceries to gas to housing has increased considerably since 2019.

Cars are no exception to that phenomenon, and anyone who has purchased a new car over the last half decade likely experienced some sticker shock when they started their search for a new vehicle. Data from Kelley Blue Book indicates the average cost of a new car was \$37,590 in 2019. By 2023, the average cost had risen to \$47,899. That marks an increase of more than 27 percent in a four-year period.

Cars are indeed a significant investment, which underscores the importance of vehicle maintenance. Maintenance is more than just tending to what's under the hood. Tires also require drivers' attention,

as aging, damaged tires pose a safety risk that also compromise vehicle performance. Tires are easily overlooked, but the following are four signs tires need to be replaced.

1. WORN TREAD

The automotive experts at AutoZone® note that tread depth is the most prevalent indicator that a tire needs to be replaced. AutoZone® notes that tread depth should always be at least 2/32 of an inch throughout the tire. Depth should be measured across the tread and around the circumference. If the tread is at or below 2/32 of an inch, the tire should be replaced.

2. BULGES, GOUGES OR CRACKS

Geico® notes that a deflated tire bulges at the sides, and that can compromise the safety of everyone in the vehicle. AutoZone® says bulges occur when air gets between the inner liner and outer rubber layers, which can happen after hitting a curb or driving over a sizable pothole. A gouge or cut that is deeper than the outer layer of the tire also necessitates replacement.

3. POOR GRIP

Drivers may be able to feel certain tire problems,

including poor grip, while driving. In such instances, tires may feel as though they are slipping. The tire experts at Firestone note that low tread can reduce tire traction and cause wheels to slip, which may be more noticeable when accelerating from a stop or driving on wet roads. Drivers who feel their tires are slipping can test the tread and replace tires that are low.

4. VIBRATION

Vibration is another issue drivers may feel rather than see. And identifying the cause requires noting where the vibrations are felt. Geico® notes that a feeling of vibration or thumping that feels like it's coming from under the seats may indicate the tires are not balanced. A suspension issue could be to blame if the steering wheel feels like it's vibrating. Either feeling should be brought to the attention of a mechanic immediately.

Tire issues affect vehicle performance and compromise the safety of drivers, their passengers and fellow motorists. When vehicles are not performing at peak capacity, drivers should not overlook various tire issues as a potential cause of such troubles.



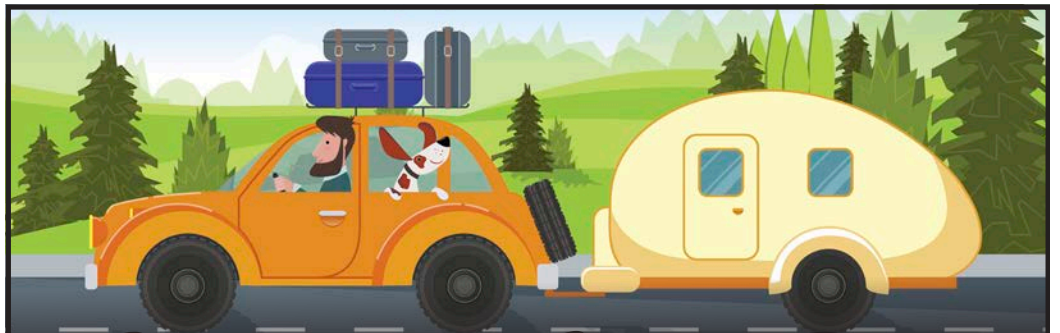
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Orangeville Junior C Northmen start pre-season games

Written By BRIAN LOCKHART

The Orangeville Junior C Northmen have started the pre-season and are working to finalize the 2026 player roster.

This will be the squad's fifth season in the Ontario Junior C Lacrosse League. They won the Meredith Cup championship during their first year of competition in 2022.

Defending league champions, the Peterborough Lakers, won the cup in 2024 and 2025.

The League is divided into three divisions, with the Northmen playing in the West Division of the OJCLL.

Two new teams were announced in the Junior C Lacrosse League lineup for the season. New teams include the Gloucester Griffins and the West Grey Rampage.

Northmen management has been working hard to get the team ready for this season.

Some of the Junior C players from last season have joined the Junior B Northmen team for this year. Junior C management will be filling those positions on the roster prior to the start of the regular season.

The Orangeville Junior B squad lost several players to the Junior A team this season.

The Northmen hosted a pre-season Junior C tournament in Orangeville on Saturday, April 18, and invited other Junior C teams to town to gain some experience before the regular season gets underway. This was the 5th year the Northmen hosted a pre-season event.

Along with the Northmen, the Burlington Warriors, Fergus Thistles, Six Nations Stealth, and the West-Grey Rampage had teams entered in the tournament.

They had four games for the day. Pre-season



BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

GEARING UP: The Orangeville Junior C Northmen take on the Burlington Warriors in their third game of the day during the Northmen's Junior C Lacrosse tournament held at Tony Rose Arena in Orangeville on Saturday, April 18. Five teams were entered in the tournament, playing four games each for the day.

games give teams a good opportunity to test out the competition prior to getting down to business when the schedule starts.

Teams will have a 16-game schedule this

season, followed by playoffs for the Meredith Cup.

The Junior C Northmen regular season will get underway with a home game on Fri-

day, April 24, against the West Grey Rampage.

They will follow up with their first road game the following day in Huntsville.

Orangeville Otters swim team wins several medals at Barrie Trojan Pentathlon

Written By BRIAN LOCKHART

The Orangeville Otters swim team delivered an impressive showing at the Barrie Trojan Pentathlon held from March 6 to 8 in Barrie.

The swim meet we held over three demanding days, with swimmers being challenged to compete in up to 15 events. The team tested their ability to trust their training, manage their energy, and perform across a range of race formats.

Divided into sprint, mid-distance, and

Ironman categories, the meet required both speed and endurance, pushing athletes to their limits.

Leading the way for the Otters was Dia Manota, who demonstrated exceptional consistency across all three categories. Dia captured gold in the 13-14 girls' Ironman competition, added a silver in the 14-year-old sprint distance event, and secured a bronze in the mid-distance events.

The Otters also saw strong results from their senior boys, with Curran Brindley and Henry Mountjoy delivering standout perfor-

mances.

Brindley earned a first-place finish in the 15-and-over mid-distance category along with a second-place result in the sprint.

Mountjoy claimed second in both the 15-16 boys Ironman and the 15 and over mid-distance events.

In the younger age groups, Rowan Young had a good meet, winning both the 10-and-under sprint and mid-distance categories.

Lawson Noronha earned second in the mid-distance. Liam Morris showed consistency with a second-place finish in both the 11-year-old sprint and mid-distance events.

Additional podium finishes came from Samuel Edmonds, who placed third in the 13-14 boys' Ironman, and Avery Morris, who secured third in the 15 and over girls' sprint.

Ella Finan added a third-place finish in the 11-year-old girls' sprint.

Olivia Breunig-McLennon captured gold in the 12-year-old girls' mid-distance category.

Darby Kavanagh-Kapparis had a third-place finish in the 12-year-old boys' mid-distance competition.

Over the weekend, the Otters demonstrated depth, resilience, and a strong team presence at the event.

Competing in a high-volume, multi-event format required physical endurance and mental toughness.

The Barrie Trojan Pentathlon proved to be a valuable opportunity for growth as the Orangeville Otters continue to build momentum heading into the remainder of the season.

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BRINGING HOME THE HARDWARE: The Orangeville Otters competed in the Barrie Trojan Pentathlon from March 6 to 8. The Otters put on a strong performance and brought home several medals. Swimmers competed in several events, testing their strength and endurance and providing valuable experience that they will take to upcoming swim meets.

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OPINION

Rumours

There was a time when the year 2000 was considered a futuristic date. For some reason, that number represented a time when science and technology would be so advanced that life would be very much different.

After all, the Space Family Robinson blasted off in the Jupiter II in 1997, and at the time, that date was considered well into the future.

Pretty much none of what was expected to happen ever happened. We don't have flying cars like the Jetsons, and no cities are encased in a giant glass dome.

Televisions have become much larger, thinner, and have better resolution, so that's a bonus.

Except for digital technology, life as we know it is just about the same as it was.

However, as the year 2000 approached, media reports started telling the public that there was a looming threat that computer scientists and engineers had missed when designing and building all this new digital technology.

Someone theorized that since computers were designed to recognize two numbers as a year, computers were going to have an issue when the calendar moved into the new millennium.

The theory was that computers would recognize '98' as '1998', however, they would not understand or recognize 00 as a year, and possibly interpret those digits as 1900.

The looming situation became known as Y2K, and there was general concern worldwide that anything with a computer chip or digital clock would simply shut down when the clock clicked over to 00.

Hey, doesn't your car have computer chips? What about your TV, your digital alarm clock, and some of your kitchen appliances?

Will you wake up on January 1, 2000, to find your computer has had a catastrophic failure and has lost all of your valuable data? Maybe our car won't start because the computer chips failed?

Companies with a reliance on computer technology, especially banks, began scrambling for a fix.

A lot of people were very worried. Then – nothing. Somehow, the computers all knew that the number that comes after 1999 is 2000.

Crisis averted. Everyone's car started in the morning, and automatic coffee makers started brewing java at 7 a.m.

When the COVID pandemic became well-known in 2020, no one really knew what to expect at first.

The government, rather quickly, announced that many businesses must close. Many others were severely restricted in how they could operate.

It was quickly becoming a crisis situation

– especially for people like restaurant owners or business owners whose functions included human contact.

Thankfully, thanks to the wisdom and apparent reliance on alcohol by those at Queen's Park, liquor stores remained open, and shelves were fully stocked.

For some reason, the pandemic resulted in a rumour that there was going to be a massive toilet paper shortage.

For those with common sense, they thought, why would a pandemic cause a toilet paper shortage?

It didn't matter. Some people believed the rumour and started buying as much as they could.

I recall standing in the checkout line at the grocery store, next to a woman who had two full shopping carts of toilet paper.

She looked angry and refused to make eye contact with anyone, because she knew her selfishness meant someone else could not buy the product, as she had cleaned out the shelves.

There never was a toilet paper shortage. Everyone got what they needed.

During the 1970s, several credible media sources said scientists were predicting that the earth was heading for a new ice age, and had the date to prove it.

That was a little worrying for people who pre-

fer beach weather.

The ice age didn't happen.

A couple of decades later, it was predicted, again using scientific data, that due to global warming, coastal cities like New York would be going underwater by 2005.

Some people actually moved further inland to avoid the coming catastrophic floods.

Yet people have recently been posting duplicate photos of cities and ocean-side landmarks taken over 100 years apart, showing that sea levels in 1900 were exactly the same as they are now.

One religious denomination, over the years, has predicted several times the end of the world as we know it.

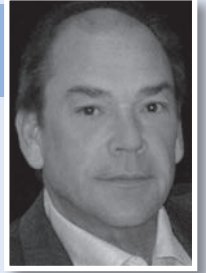
These predictions resulted in cult member selling their possession, failing to obtain insurance policies, and not pursuing post-secondary education. After all, why would you need a degree if you're going to be in heaven by midnight next Tuesday?

The predictions, of course, all failed.

There will always be rumours, and rumours of rumours.

Sometimes you just have to let the chips fall where they may, and get on with life without worrying about what may or may not happen.

BRIAN LOCKHART
FROM THE SECOND ROW



Death rattle of a superpower?

"We're offering a very fair and reasonable DEAL, and I hope they take it because, if they don't, the United States is going to knock out every single Power Plant, and every single Bridge, in Iran." Familiarly genocidal threats from Donald Trump, with the trademark mobster-style "NO MORE MR NICE GUY" at the end. Amazing how fast you get used to it.

There may be another ceasefire by the time you read this, or 92 million Iranians may be learning to live with no electricity, little food and no water. (In other rants he threatens Iran's desalination plants and its bridges, crucial for getting food to the cities.) In either case, the regime's leaders, all survivors of his assassination attempts, remain unyielding.

Trump regularly has "good conversations" with the civilian and Islamic Revolutionary Guard leaders, many of them entirely imaginary. But just beneath the surface he's as frantic as a trapped rat, unable to understand why the Iranians won't give in although "they have no cards". (Wrong: they have weapons, patience, faith and, above all, favourable geography.)

He can't admit even to himself that Israel's Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu tricked him into this doomed enterprise, because that

would be to admit he has been fooled. John Kennedy took the blame for the Bay of Pigs disaster and walked away. Trump cannot do either of those things, so he keeps reinforcing failure.

If this were just a personal and political disaster for Donald Trump and his associates, few people outside the United States would see it as a tragedy, and neither would about half of the American population. However, if it also involves a permanent decline in US power in the world, most Americans and many people elsewhere would see it as an unwelcome change.

The key word here is 'permanent'. In fact, that collapse has already occurred, as witness the almost unanimous refusal of America's erstwhile allies to get involved in Trump and Netanyahu's 'war of choice' against Iran, but it is so recent that a recovery still seems possible. Maybe it is, and maybe not.

Economic strength was always the key factor in any system of states, with military power mainly determined by a country's industrial production. By that traditional measure the United States has long been in relative decline (it produced more than half the manufactured goods in the world in 1945, but only 16% now.)

However, the United States has remained the foremost power because it spends a lot on a very high-tech military (eight times China's spending) and it continues to lead in science, in finance and in intellectual property. Those more or less intangible assets are more easily lost, however, and they are what is currently at risk because of Trump's presidency.

In the past five centuries there have been three transfers of dominance in the European state system, which expanded over that period to include the whole world: from Spain to France in about 1620 (the Thirty Years' War); from France to Britain in about 1800 (the Napoleonic Wars), and from Britain to the United States around 1940 (peacefully).

On the current assumption that China is the next obvious candidate, a hopefully gradual and non-violent transfer should occur in the next half-century, which would give both China and the rest of the world time to get used to the idea. But what if the United States falls out early?

Trump has already seriously damaged America's reputation as a potential ally or partner, and he's not finished yet. Several American experts are already talking about the possibility of a civil war, and Trump himself

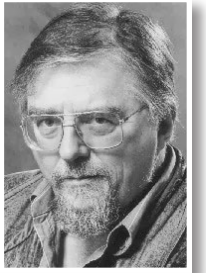
came close to endorsing a coup attempt in January 2021. Countries that are fighting civil wars automatically lose the crown.

At the same time, China's claim to be the inevitable successor to the role of First Among Equals is rapidly being undermined by the demographic collapse that is already getting under way in the country. It will halve the population by the end of the century, and the economic damage will probably be as grave as the demographic effects.

The dark horse in the race is India, whose population will still be around 1.5 billion in 2070 when China's has already fallen below one billion, heading down towards 730 million by 2100. But that would only give India the prize if it manages to duplicate China's feat of 30 years of high-speed economic growth (10 per cent-plus annually), which is far from assured.

Let's face it. We cannot see even dimly that far into the future, and besides we should hope and work for a time when that kind of pecking order among the great powers is no longer major consideration in international affairs.

GWYNNE DYER
OUR WORLD TODAY



The birthday disaster

Birthdays are an exciting time for little kids. A child's anticipation for their birthday party ranks right up there with Christmas and Halloween – especially when all their little friends are invited to help celebrate their big day!

The universal, tried and true staples of children's birthday parties are always a big hit with the kids: outdoor games like treasure hunt, running back and forth trying to fill a small glass with water while carrying it in a spoon, and indoor games like Pin the Tail on the Donkey, musical chairs, and even Bingo. And of course, there's the birthday cake and the presents.

And it's not just their own birthdays that get kids excited. When their friends have a birthday party, they get to share in the fun, which brings almost as much joy to the guests as if it were their own special day.

But aside from their own birthday, the most exciting birthday for a child is their mom's. Dad's birthday is special too, but it usually comes in a distant second to mom's, because of all the loving little things a good mom does for her family every day. No one holds a more exalted place in the family hierarchy than mom.

My aunt had a birthday coming up very soon. Her two little kids – a boy and a girl – were both very excited and had big plans to show their mom how much they loved her. Since my mother's homemade chocolate

cakes were legendary in our family, the kids called my mom to ask if she could bake a cake for their mom's birthday. Because my mom and their mom were sisters, she was happy to oblige.

The Saturday before the big day, my mom popped into her sister's place to deliver the freshly baked and decorated birthday cake to the kids. With their mom banished to a distant part of the house so she couldn't see what they were doing, the kids hid the cake in their bedroom closet, placing it on the floor and closing the closet door. They were supremely confident, in that innocent childlike way, that their mom would never find it there. When they finished wrapping their presents, they tried their best to contain their excitement for the rest of the evening.

The next morning, the kids were still asleep when their mom went into their bedroom closet to get something. Not wanting to spoil their surprise, she tried to be as quiet as possible. As she approached the closet, she noticed the door was ajar. When she opened it the rest of the way, she made a heart-wrenching discovery:

The family dog had eaten the birthday cake.

The kids hadn't secured the closet door tightly, and that gave their dog the opportunity to poke his head inside the closet and gorge himself on the cake as he roamed the house

overnight. Nothing remained of their mother's birthday cake but a few chocolate morsels. She closed the door again, unsure of what to do. She didn't want the kids to know she had discovered their secret, but she also knew they were about to get an even bigger shock when they opened the closet door and found their cake was gone.

She didn't have long to wait. Unable to contain their excitement any longer, the kids rushed straight to the closet as soon as they woke up. When they opened the door, they were crushed to see their cake was gone. It didn't take long for them to put two and two together. All their planning, all their excitement, all felt wasted. Heartbroken and in tears, the kids sought out the dog and began scolding him—the little girl crying and giving him those tiny "bad dog" swats that little children use when disciplining a canine mischief maker.

After everything calmed down, the family decided to continue the birthday celebrations as planned. What else could they do? Another cake was baked to replace the one the dog had eaten, but as far as the kids were concerned, their dog was persona non grata for the rest of the day.

But you can't stay mad at a happy dog for very long, and soon the house returned to normal. When the kids returned to school on Monday, the little girl's teacher asked the class

to write about what they did over the weekend. You can guess what the little girl wrote about. I'm sure it made for a good chuckle in the teacher's lounge at the end of the day.

I recently read a Facebook post that said, "You can trust a dog to guard your house, but not your sandwich." And in this case, it was very true, but the dog ultimately paid a price for his gluttony. Chocolate is not good for dogs, and because of that, the dog suffered from a bad case of 'the trots' for a few days afterwards.

While moments like these may feel like the end of the world when they happen, they become the stories families laugh about for years. When this one is told in our family today, it's always shared with a smile and a chuckle.

In the end, the ruined cake didn't spoil the birthday at all. What everyone remembered—long after the crumbs were swept away—was the love behind the children's efforts. Their excitement, their planning, their desire to make their mom feel special... that was the real gift. And sometimes, it's the unexpected disasters, the ones that turn into family legends, that remind us how deeply we care for one another.

Even a mischievous dog can become part of a memory that warms the heart for a lifetime.

KEITH SCHELL
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR: Serving the school board

Editor,

When Ontario's Minister of Education placed the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board under supervision in June 2025, my role as an elected trustee was significantly impacted. Along with my fellow trustees, I was removed from governance responsibilities and excluded from the board's day-to-day operations. Since that time, I have had no access to board communication systems, no official updates, and no opportunity to participate in school events in my capacity as a trustee within the communities I was elected to serve.

Yet stepping away was never an option for me.

I was elected to serve the families of this community. Even though I have been sidelined administratively, I have not left. I am still here.

To my knowledge, I am currently the only elected trustee at a school board under supervision who continues to regularly attend and remain actively present in

the schools within my ward. While trustees on boards currently under supervision have all been affected by the loss of our formal roles, I have made a conscious decision to stay connected and visible in the communities that entrusted me with their vote.

I have continued to serve students and families in a different but deeply meaningful way: through prayer and presence.

Through my role as regional director of the Rosary Apostolate, I have helped revive a cherished Catholic tradition in our local schools. The Rosary Apostolate, founded in 1997 by Sister Marilina Cinelli, began as a response to teachers and principals who wanted volunteers to pray the Rosary with their students. What started in Catholic classrooms in Toronto grew into a vibrant ministry across the GTA.

I had reached out to Sister Marilina in 2024 to volunteer and was told the Caledon region had closed down during the pandemic. She then asked if I would take on the role of Regional Director to help revive the initiative locally. Despite feeling

overwhelmed, I put my trust in God and persevered with faith.

Today, the Rosary Apostolate has been fully revived in my region and is actively serving all 11 Catholic elementary schools within my jurisdiction, as well as one Catholic secondary school. Through this work, I have helped grow the ministry across the entirety of my region, with only one additional Catholic secondary school still to be fully integrated into the program. The Rosary Apostolate volunteers visit schools once per month from October through May to pray with the students and staff.

One of the most moving experiences is the peace that fills the room when students and teachers pray together. You can feel it. Everyone is always so welcoming and grateful for our visits which is profoundly satisfying.

Under this initiative, parish-based regions have been re-established or newly formed, including Holy Family Parish in Bolton, St. Timothy's Parish in Orangeville, St. John the Evangelist Parish in

Caledon East, and a developing region at St. Patrick Parish in Wildfield.

In May 2025, over 10,000 blessed Miraculous Medals and Rosaries were distributed to Catholic students and staff across Caledon and Dufferin — a tangible sign of faith and encouragement for students navigating increasingly complex challenges.

Despite being excluded from official board functions, I remain closely connected to parents, students, and school communities. I continue to advocate, to listen, and to be physically present in schools through this ministry work.

For me, being a Catholic school trustee is a calling rooted in faith and service.

I was elected to serve, and I will continue to serve — with faith, with love, and with an unwavering commitment and dedication to my community and the Catholic students and families I was elected to serve.

Paula Dametto-Giovanozzi
Trustee DPCDSB

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The system is broken

First, let me say that I often disagree with Premier Ford's policies. However, I applaud much of the current progress being made in elementary and secondary schools. I taught high school for over 20 years in the Peel Board and served briefly as a supply teacher in Upper Grand. I can speak for many colleagues when I say the system is broken. It is simply not delivering quality education to our young people and the wider society that pays for it.

There are many reasons for this. I will touch on the few which this government has rightly identified as areas where change is desperately needed. First is the role of trustees. Theoretically, they should be an important voice for local democracy. However, they rarely perform this function. Many trustees are not educators, so they lack a clear understanding of the challenges teachers and students face. Instead, trustees become the servants of the board's senior administrators, doing their bidding.

This is where the real problem lies. While most administrators work hard and mean well, they are not qualified to run such large organizations. Superintendents and principals are essentially classroom

teachers, so their skill set is quite narrow. Providing leadership to help schools confront the challenges facing society as a whole is not something they are equipped to do. Prioritizing and allocating resources as efficiently as possible is obviously something they fail to address. Put simply, they are not professional managers. The education minister's decision to place experienced CEOs on boards is a good step toward correcting this.

The second problem is student truancy. It is at epidemic proportions. When a student attends only 40-50 per cent of their classes, it makes it impossible for teachers to assess their demonstrated understanding of the material. Sure, kids get sick, and this should not be held against them. But when a child misses half the classes and is typically seen wandering the school halls, this becomes a much bigger issue. You can't learn if you are habitually late and absent from class.

According to a recent Toronto Star article, the biggest violators of skipping class are grade 12 students. The truth is that many students skip class when they have a test. They want to write it the next day after discovering what is on the test from

their classmates. School administrators force teachers to give the test to truant students, regardless of the reason for the absence. It becomes unmanageable for teachers and unfair to the students who show up on test day.

Over the past several years, administrators have told teachers that exams are an outdated method of student evaluation. Unfortunately, the universities, colleges and trade professionals did not get the memo. Aspiring doctors, electricians, mechanics and a host of others need to write professional accreditation exams.

Again, we are failing students when we remove exams from secondary schools. When I taught in British Columbia, grade 12 students had to write a province-wide exam in all their courses. The mark they earned on this exam accounted for 40 per cent of their final evaluation, which was sent to universities and colleges. This would be a good step for Ontario to take.

The last point is that schools can be violent places. When I taught in Brampton and Mississauga, fights and assaults were commonplace. While it may not be quite that bad in Dufferin yet, schools are often unhealthy places for young people.

Violence in schools is an area where the government must do more. Additional funds for violence prevention programs would be useful. Having police in schools is necessary, especially in high-risk schools. Smaller class sizes, especially for kids with special needs, can allow vulnerable children to feel more secure.

In short, having students attend class on time and focus on their work will go a long way to making the learning environment a far more positive one. Young people who attend school and consistently disrupt the learning environment for others should be offered an alternative learning space outside the school. That is, until they change their ways. Some might think this is a harsh approach. You wouldn't say that if it were your child facing constant bullying or threats of violence.

The issues facing education are real. The greatest one is the growing penetration of AI into our world. AI threatens to be the biggest challenge to our workplaces since the Industrial Revolution. At the very least, we can prepare our young people for it.

Mark Hauck
Orangeville

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OPP investigate two fires as arson, seeks public help in identifying suspects

Caledon Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) officers are investigating two suspicious fires within Caledon that occurred within one day of each other.

On April 14, at approximately 1:40 a.m., Caledon OPP responded to a report of two vehicles on fire at a private business in the area of Highway 50 and George Bolton Parkway, in Caledon. Police responded alongside

members of Caledon Fire and Emergency Services. The fire was extinguished and no injuries were reported.

On April 15, at approximately 2:45 a.m., Caledon OPP responded to a report of a vehicle fire at a private residence in the area of Old Church Road and Henry Wilson Drive, in Caledon. Police responded alongside members of Caledon Fire and Emergency

Services. The fire was extinguished and no injuries were reported.

During the April 15 incident, two masked suspects were observed setting fire to a vehicle and leaving the area in a white Honda sports utility vehicle.

At this time, the fires have been deemed suspicious and are being investigated as instances of arson.

These investigations are ongoing. Anyone who may have information regarding these incidents is asked to contact Caledon OPP at 1-888-310-1122. You can also provide information anonymously by contacting Peel Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or online at www.peelcrimestoppers.ca. When you contact Crime Stoppers you stay anonymous, and you never have to testify.

OBITUARIES

ROBERT "VIC" YOUNTZ OCTOBER 15, 1944 - APRIL 17, 2026



Robert "Vic" Yountz, born in New Glasgow, Nova Scotia, passed away on April 17, 2026, at the age of 81. Born on October 15, 1944, Vic was a devoted husband and friend who will be deeply missed by all who knew him.



Vic passed away suddenly after a brief but difficult battle with pneumonia, following a longer and courageous 8 year fight with ALS. Despite the challenges the illness brought, Vic faced each day with strength. Even as his condition progressed, he showed resilience with his quiet courage. In his final days, he was surrounded by support with his beloved wife by his side. Vic went to the lord at 4:45 am on April 17th while holding his wife Pam's hand. He is now finally at peace and in a better place.

Vic is survived by his wife of 55 years Pam. Loving brother and brother in law to Bernie and Doris Yountz and Margaret Goodwin. Uncle to Michael Yountz and Christine Winchester (Jeremy).

Vic was predeceased by his parents Gerry and Vic Yountz, as well as many aunts, uncles and cousins.

Vic will always be lovingly remembered by his family and friends.

The family will receive their friends at the Egan Funeral Home, 203 Queen St. S., Bolton (905-857-2213) on Thursday, April 23rd from one o'clock until time of funeral service in the chapel at 2 o'clock.

If desired, memorial donations to the ALS Society would be appreciated.

Condolences for the family may be offered at www.EganFuneralHome.com

Erich Klein

On Friday, March 20, 2026, at Joseph Brant Hospital, Erich passed away unexpectedly in his 91st year. Beloved husband of Helene for 70 years, he was a devoted father to Michael and to Susan (Brent), and an extremely proud Opa to Dylan and Jessica. He will be fondly remembered by his extended family in Germany.

Erich will also be deeply missed by his many neighbours and friends. A longtime resident of Waterdown, he was a familiar and friendly presence in the community for his warm nature and love of conversation—always ready to share a friendly chat. From the grocer to the bank and the neighbourhood variety store, he will be deeply missed by all who had the pleasure of knowing him.

Private cremation has taken place.

Please feel free to sign the Tribute Wall at kitchingsteepeandludwig.com.

MICHAEL KLEIN

Suddenly and unexpectedly on Tuesday, March 24, 2026, Michael passed away in his 61st year. Beloved son of Helene and Erich (predeceased March 20, 2026), and a dear brother to Susan (Brent). He will be lovingly remembered as a proud uncle to Dylan and Jessica.

Michael was a familiar and friendly presence in the community, and he truly enjoyed his conversations with neighbours and those he met along the way. He will be fondly remembered for his warmth and the ease with which he connected with others.

Private cremation has taken place. Please sign the Tribute Wall at kitchingsteepeandludwig.com.

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In Loving Memory of GLENDA QUIGLEY



Passed away at Headwaters Health Care Centre on Saturday, April 18, 2026, at the age of 52. Predeceased by her loving parents, Jean and Gilbert, and her brother Albert Colin Robert. Glenda was deeply involved in her church community and a dedicated employee of Air Canada for 29 years. Glenda will be deeply missed by the McLean family (who considered her part of their family), her church family, her extended family and friends, and as well as her many friends and colleagues at Air Canada.

A Funeral Service will follow at Jehovah Jireh Christian Ministries, 20554 Hurontario Street, Caledon, on Saturday, April 25, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. Visitation to begin at 10:00 a.m. Interment will take place at later date.

Memorial donations to Jehovah Jireh Christian Ministries would be appreciated by the family.

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

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

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PATRICIA ANNE STAMP

With saddened hearts we share our loss. Peacefully, surrounded by family, our mother, Patricia Anne Stamp, was reunited with her husband and soul mate, Rick.

Pat leaves behind her beloved children Wayne (Sharon), Pam (Terry) and Lisa (Wayne) and cherished grandchildren Jacob, Mikyla (Kyle), Rebecca, Landen, Taylor & Cody.

Mom will be deeply missed by her nieces, nephews, her extended family and friends, especially by her "Qtip" besties Judy and Sheila.

Mom will be forever missed and held deeply in our hearts.

In lieu of flowers, donations to the Matthews House Hospice or the Ontario SPCA Humane Society Orangeville and District Animal Centre would be greatly appreciated.

A celebration of Pat's life will be held on Friday, April 24th, 2026 from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm at the Dods & McNair Funeral Home, Chapel & Reception Centre, 21 First St., Orangeville.

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

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- Highway Cargo Tanker Repair
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- Licensed Mechanic 310T
- Bodyman
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- Welder – Fabricator
- Hydraulic Technician
- Assistant Shop Foreman
- Shipping & Receiving
- Plumbing Assembler
- Welder – Pipefitter










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<p>2020 HONDA CIVIC SI</p>  <p>Manual trans, front-wheel drive, 1.5L engine. Heated front seats, sunroof, back-up camera. Lane departure, wireless charging station, Bluetooth & more Ext: White, Int: Black. 150,000 KM \$17,995 HST & licensing</p>	<p>2016 FORD ESCAPE SE AWD</p>  <p>Brand new brakes all around, 2.0L 4 cylinder engine, with auto trans. & AWD drivetrain. Heated front seats, back-up cam, Bluetooth, factory roof rack. Ext: Red, Int: Black. 174,000 KM \$9,995 HST & licensing</p>	<p>2018 NISSAN ALTIMA</p>  <p>Low mileage sedan! Automatic trans, front wheel drive and 2.5L engine. Heated front seats, steering wheel audio controls and bluetooth. Ext: White, Int: Black. 103,000 KM \$12,995 HST & licensing</p>	<p>FINANCING AVAILABLE!</p> <p>All fees included, only HST and licensing extra.</p>  <p>FULL AUTO DETAILING SERVICES AVAILABLE!</p> <p>CALL TODAY TO BOOK YOUR APPOINTMENT</p> <p>633201 Hwy 10, Orangeville 519-940-3766</p>
<p>2018 RAM 1500 SXT 4x4</p>  <p>5.7L Hemi, auto transmission & 4x4 drivetrain. Aftermarket radio with bluetooth! Tow package with brake controller, fold up rear seats. Ext: White, Int: Grey. 239,900 KM \$13,995 HST & licensing</p>	<p>2018 FORD F-150 LARIAT 4x4</p>  <p>5.0L V8 engine! Auto. trans., 4x4 drivetrain. Leather seats, Bluetooth, nav & center console. Aftermarket rims, antenna and loud exhaust- on purpose. Ext: Black, Int: Black. 207,500 KM \$23,995 HST & licensing</p>	<p>2013 FORD EXPLORER LIMITED AWD</p>  <p>All-wheel drive, auto 6-speed trans. 3.5L 6 cylinder engine. Seats 7. Heated leather seats, back-up sensors. Adjustable foot pedals, factory roof racks, power lift-gate. Ext: White, Int: Brown. 288,000 KM \$ 5,995 HST & licensing</p>	

HELP WANTED



NOW HIRING

Ice River is currently looking for ten (10) Process Control & Machine Operator(s), Beverage Processing (NOC 94140) to join our team. You will be working at our Shelburne facility, located at 108 Prentice Drive, Shelburne, ON, L9V 3N5.

Position Summary
 The Process Control & Machine Operator plays a critical role in our manufacturing process, responsible for ensuring the efficient and safe operation of bottling processing equipment. This role involves operating and maintaining specialized multi-function process control bottling machinery, monitoring production processes, and adhering to quality standards to ensure the consistent bottling of beverages. This position requires a strong focus on safety, attention to detail, ability to interpret technical instructions to operate sophisticated equipment and the ability to work effectively in a fast-paced environment.

- This is a full-time position, based on 88 hours of work per 2-week cycle, with occasional overtime. At this time, we are only looking for individuals who can work a 12-hour rotating continental shift, including nights and weekends.
- Salary \$23.00 per hour, with possibility of bonus; 10 days vacation plus extended medical, dental, and long-term disability insurance & participation in our retirement savings plan.
- Inbound transportation costs for out of province applicants
- Completion of high school required.
- Some post-secondary education required as the position requires the ability to read and understand technical instructions and sophisticated Husky equipment user manuals.
- Two years plastics injection or bottling line experience required.
- Previous heavy equipment experience preferred.
- Youth applicants are welcome to apply.

To view a comprehensive overview of the position, please go to <https://jobs.dayforcehcm.com/en-US/irss/CANDIDATEPORTAL/jobs/4103>
 Interested candidates please send a copy of your resume and cover letter referencing Req#317 to recruiting@ceriversprings.com or write to:
 Company
 Ice River Springs Water Co. Inc.
 485387 30th Sideroad
 Shelburne, ON
 L9V 3N5

DZ Hitch Hiker Driver
 Seeking a responsible DZ driver to safely operate various vehicles and equipment for local and regional deliveries to jobsites.

- Strong communication and problem-solving skills required
- Customer service oriented
- Commitment to road and jobsite safety
- A valid DZ license is required

G Class Driver and Yard Worker
 Looking for a reliable and hardworking yard worker/driver to maintain/organize the yard.

- Strong communication skills
- Able to work effectively in a group or individually
- Valid G class license required
- Forklift experience an asset

Customer Service
 Looking for a customer service representative with knowledge of lumber and building supplies.

- Reliable and hardworking
- Customer service oriented
- Strong verbal/written communication skills
- Computer proficient
- 1 year customer service experience preferred

Customer Service – Summer Student
 Looking for a summer student interested in learning about lumber, building supplies, and customer service.


- Dependable and hardworking
- Eager to learn
- Good communication skills
- Computer proficient
- Opportunity for employment growth

If you are interested in joining our team please submit your resume to ross.fines@homehardware.ca.

725 Steeles Street, SHELburne 519-925-3991
homehardware.ca/en/store/10071

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HELP WANTED



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Accounts Receivable Administrator
FULL-TIME (\$20.00-\$25.00 per hour)

JOB DESCRIPTION:

The Accounts Receivable Administrator performs clerical and/or bookkeeping functions in the store. Responsibilities include maintaining records of receivables, preparing monthly statements, sending collections letters, tabulating sales records, etc. They may also work on special projects and additional duties as assigned by management. Administrative persons must perform all functions assigned to them with sufficient speed and accuracy to support store efficiency and a high level of customer service.

DUTIES / RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Balance cash on hand, floats and all daily records and prepare daily deposits.
- Process invoices and credits to charge customers and maintain accounts receivable records.
- Post and apply customer payments accurately
- Provide customers with accurate account information and balances in a timely manner.
- Prepare monthly statements and email/mail them to charge customers
- Monitor the aging of accounts and submit weekly status reports to the Dealer-Owner/Management
- Send collection letters by email and/or follow-up on delinquent accounts by telephone.
- Report accounts that should be denied credit to management, customer service associates and cashiers in accordance with company policy.
- Notify customers promptly when credit privileges are to be suspended/terminated.
- Follow legal, effective collection techniques, keeping delinquent accounts to a minimum.
- Answer incoming accounting related telephone calls.
- Maintain professional confidentiality of all store and customer records.
- Order office/store supplies in a timely manner.
- Work on additional duties and assignments as assigned by management.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Minimum 3 years Accounting/Bookkeeping experience
- College diploma in business administration/accounting an asset.
- Ability to work co-operatively in a team environment.
- Ability to communicate effectively with management, co-workers, and the public at large in person, over the public address system, and by telephone.
- Proficient with Microsoft Office (Word, Excel and Outlook)

BENEFITS:

- Competitive Wage
- Offer Extended Health Care Benefits (incl Health/Dental/Vision, Life, LTD)
- RSP/DPSP Plan
- Excellent Employee Discount Program & Company Events
- Annual Reviews
- Health and Safety Training

Interested applicants, please submit your resume to:
julie.gate@homehardware.ca

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ROOM FOR RENT

LARGE FURNISHED ROOM in house to share with 3 senior pensioners. Very quiet. \$750/month or small room for \$550/month. All inclusive. Seniors Only. Call John 519-942-4103.

CONDO FOR SALE

2 BEDROOM CONDO for SALE at the BROMOUNT. Top floor with south facing view. Please call 519-216-2830.

VEHICLES WANTED

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

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.

ESTATE SALE

ESTATE SALE - SATURDAY, MAY 2nd. 8am-3pm. 152130 12th Line East Garafraxa. Furniture, toys, tools, farm equipment, household items. Something for everyone!

RESIDENTIAL SERVICES & REPAIRS

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.

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

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

ADVERTISING WORKS LOCALLY!

SERVICES

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

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.aanorthaltonerin.org.

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

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.

SERVICES

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: 1(855) 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.

REMEMBER TO **SHOP LOCAL!**

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AUCTIONS



LIVE AUCTION SALE
Spring Equipment Consignment
Saturday May 23rd, 9:30am

554447 Mono-Amaranth TLine, Mono, ON Go west through Orangeville on Hwy 9 to County Rd 16 (Veterans Way at Greenwood Cemetery), turn north 5 miles to farm on East side. OR From Shelburne go east on Hwy 89 for 2 miles to Mono-Amaranth Townline, turn south & go 5 miles to farm on East side.

Note: Please contact auctioneer if you are wanting to consign any equipment/items
****Watch the website as items will be added regularly****

Auctioneers: Kevin McArthur (519) 942-0264 Scott Bessey (519) 843-5083
Email: mcarthurbessey@gmail.com
www.theauctionadvertiser.com/KMcArthur - full listing & photos

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When you buy from a **small business** you're not helping a C.E.O buy a 3rd holiday home, you are helping a little girl get **dance lessons**, a little boy get his **team jersey**, a mom or dad put **food on the table**, a family **pay a mortgage** or a student **pay for college**.

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