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JOSHUA DRAKES PHOTO

**RIBBON CUTTING:** Gina Laney (centre) is the newest independent entrepreneur to set up shop in Orangeville with her new business, Relax Your Mind Head Spa, on Mill Street. The business recently hosted its grand opening celebration, attended by both town and BIA representatives, to congratulate Laney on her successful launch. With strong public interest and a firm grasp on a niche market, Relax Your Mind Head Spa has all the keys for success. Read a full story on Page A8.

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## Habitat for Humanity launches tiny homes on the consumer market

Written By **SAM ODROWSKI**

Habitat for Humanity is displaying one of its tiny homes at the Orangeville ReStore to promote its new availability for purchase.

Habitat for Humanity's tiny home program is emerging as a practical response to housing pressures in Ontario, offering compact, fully self-contained units designed for both social need and private use.

Peter Oliveira, an engineer with Habitat for Humanity, said the program started as a unique project for small First Nations communities that needed practical housing options.

"It started just with a pilot where First Nation communities expressed interest in receiving tiny homes," he said. "They were trying to look at adding to their housing capacity by allowing or providing more individual housing. That's how we got started, with an original agreement to build five tiny homes with First Nations. Now, all of those homes are being occupied."

Each tiny home is built to Ontario Building Code standards as a four-season dwelling, with a full bathroom, kitchen, and a flexible living-sleeping area, totalling roughly 250 square feet.

The units are intended for single occupants and are being used or considered for multi-generational living, backyard rentals, youth housing, and small-scale business or office space.



JOSHUA DRAKES PHOTO

**HOUSING SOLUTIONS:** With space conservation and modularity a priority, the tiny homes don't compromise on comfort. Equipped with a kitchen, bathroom, and living space, with connected electricity and plumbing, the tiny homes can serve as comfortable single-person dwellings as well as office spaces or business workshops, offering clients looking to purchase one the flexibility to customize it to their needs.

These units are now available for private homeowners, and Habitat for Humanity now offers backyard installations.

"We've been doing the sales approach now since last summer, so it's still relatively new to us, because historically, all these tiny homes have gone to First Nation communities," Oliveira said.

Continued on Page A4

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# Annual water report to Orangeville council shares adverse incidents

Written By JAMES MATTHEWS

Orangeville's drinking water remained of good quality last year, according to annual testing.

But there were some reported hiccups of which Councillor Joe Andrews took note during council's May 11 meeting.

The 2025 annual water works report provides a basic description of Orangeville's water works system, a summary of any adverse water quality incidents (AWQI) between Jan. 1 and Dec. 31, and an overview of the water quality testing results for the reporting period.

The water quality testing results continue to indicate Orangeville's drinking water is of good quality and regularly meets both the microbiological and chemical health-related standards of the Ontario Drinking Water Quality Standards.

There were 11 AWQIs last year for which notification to the Ministry of Environment, Conservation, and Parks was required.

The actual number of AWQIs should have been seven, but the laboratory reported five individual sodium exceedances to the ministry when only one combined AWQI report should have been made.

Five AWQIs resulted from sodium concentrations greater than 20 mg/L in drinking wa-

ter samples. Three resulted from localized watermain depressurizations due to operational issues within the distribution system.

Two were caused by arsenic concentrations greater than 10 ug/L in drinking water samples. And one AWQI resulted from the inadvertent, short-term isolation of a UV transmittance analyzer at a water treatment plant.

According to a report to council, staff continue efforts to minimize the occurrence of these incidents through the Drinking Water Quality Management System (DWQMS) review and continual improvement processes.

There were seven non-compliance incidents during the reporting period.

One incident involved the failure to maintain and update water works mapping as required by the Drinking Water Works Permit.

One incident involved failure to provide complete records related to the review of a daily water works compliance report.

A separate incident involved failing to prepare a Form 2 document before undertaking minor modifications at a water treatment plant. Another incident involved failure to provide records confirming disinfection of all parts and equipment used in new or repaired water works. An additional incident involved a short-term failure to monitor UV transmittance at a water treatment plant as

required by the Municipal Drinking Water License.

Another incident involved ongoing concerns about staffing levels, resulting in an inability to provide regulatory information and to follow up on non-compliance items in a timely manner.

And one incident involved failure to collect and test for quarterly nitrate and nitrite concentrations at a water treatment plant as required by the regulation.

Tim Thompson, the town's public works compliance officer for water, said the water works report concerns water quality and testing. The summary report deals with non-compliances and is required to be presented to council.

"Operating our municipal water system is quite a complex operation," Thompson said. "There's a lot of moving parts. So there's almost always going to be some issues cropping up somewhere."

The five exceedances cited were for sodium in the drinking water system, he said. And that's misleading because the lab that tested reported the results as five individual incidents.

"Normally it's reported as one adverse water quality incident, even though there might be multiple samples that exceed the 20 mg/L," Thompson said.



The non-compliance issues cited in the summary report are mostly paperwork-related operational exercises.

"Sometimes the paperwork just happens to slip through the cracks or is submitted late," he said, and added that corrective actions are put in place to avoid future incidents.

# Local advocate praises Orangeville council's move toward enhanced accessibility

Written By JAMES MATTHEWS

Orangeville is making headway toward making the town more accessible to all residents and visitors, according to a prominent local accessibility advocate.

The municipality's Community Services staff have initiated an effort to implement an accessibility improvement plan.

David Smith, the town CAO, said a seasoned third-party partner with municipal accessibility experience is sought to support Orangeville on a temporary, part-time basis. The role would be on a contracted basis as opposed to a staff position.

"We're using multiple channels to identify qualified candidates," he said. "This would be a contracted arrangement, not a staff position."

Tamara Limebeer commended town council at its May 11 meeting for its efforts to hire a temporary, part-time municipal accessibility professional.

She said it is a constructive first step toward Orangeville's inclusiveness of all residents.

"Accessibility is an important part of ensuring all residents can fully participate in

municipal services, public spaces, and civic life," Limebeer said.

She said having a dedicated expert on staff at town hall will strengthen the town's approach to accessibility.

"I hope this opportunity leads to an ongoing collaboration with residents and members of the disability community so that lived experiences continue to help inform improvements going forward," she said.

Limebeer addressed town council in April about the need for improved public and private accessible parking in Orangeville. She said then that the quality of accessible parking makes the difference between people with mobility challenges taking part in the community and them being excluded.

She said the City of Brampton has a successful accessible parking program and an "accessibility bylaw specialist" who helps the municipality and businesses understand the standards and how to implement them.

The specialist has offered that training to other municipalities at no cost.

She urged Orangeville council in April to

invite the Brampton specialist to an accessibility committee meeting.

"Accessible parking may seem like a small thing," Limebeer said then. "But for someone with mobility challenges, it may determine if they can participate in the community at all."

Mayor Lisa Post said there will be much consultation in future with the local accessibility community.

"To make sure that we're addressing all the right items at the right time," she said.

The municipality's move toward an accessibility improvement plan attests to that collaboration.

A report to council indicated that complying with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act is an important first step toward making Orangeville a more accessible community.

"Continued review and workplans to make additional improvements for the future are an important next step to be considered," according to the report.

The municipal accessibility professional will be tasked to create a comprehensive plan for accessibility change, AODA requirements, and compliance work. The

contract includes developing a work plan, resourcing strategies, and focused work on AODA to achieve greater accessibility outcomes.

From the council report: "While accessibility is the responsibility of all staff, creating a more comprehensive workplan and beginning the work required to meet the needs of the organization and the community will increase."

Councillor Andy Macintosh suggested the town might be able to "piggyback" on Dufferin County to engage the accessibility professional.

Smith said the town has indeed been closely working with the county over the last four or five months.

"They're not in a position to double-up with us at this point," Smith said.

There's a reference in the report to making a more permanent move next year, he said.

"At that time, if there's an opportunity, we will do that," he said. "Through our research, we did find that there are many municipalities that share a resource and that's certainly an option we'd be happy to consider with the county."

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# Orangeville Hydro focuses on clear value, cost discipline: CEO

Written By JAMES MATTHEWS

Orangeville Hydro continues to be rated among the industry's top-tier by provincial regulators.

Gia DeJulio, Hydro's board of directors chairperson, said when town council met on May 11 that the utility company is at the top performer in operations efficiency, customer service delivery, reliable quality power, and in financial metrics. And that serves Orangeville's residents and the business community well, she said.

"And also brought much-appreciated dividends to the town's treasury," she said.

Rob Koekkoek, the president and CEO, said a business plan centred on the practical fundamentals will lead the company to a confident future.

"Orangeville Hydro is lean, reliable, efficient, and we're careful with our costs," he said. "That does show up in our day-to-day work."

Planning for the future is done with breathing room and fiscal strength, he said.

"We are focused in the areas where Orangeville Hydro can deliver clear value," Koekkoek said.

Those areas are reliable capacity, cost discipline, modern service, and system readiness for growth, electrification, and distrib-

uted energy resources, he said.

Amy Long, the company's CFO, said Orangeville Hydro aims to find a balance between keeping customer rates low and ensuring distribution revenues can cover the increased expenses related to the "changing electricity environment."

With much talk about looking ahead and future planning, Councillor Joe Andrews asked Koekkoek about succession planning among staff.

"Dynamics change, employees change, their interests change," Coun. Andrews said.

"You've identified one of the real challenges as a small organization with 20 staff," Koekkoek said. "You're not going to have duplication in every role."

But you can still try whether to cover employee vacation absences or ensure staff are aware of growth opportunities in the organization, he said.

"Ensuring others are aware of what other roles there are," Koekkoek said. "We do have movement within the company."

Deputy Mayor Todd Taylor said he phoned the crowd at Hydro and found it difficult navigating the system. And he asked what is being done to improve such customer experiences.

Koekkoek said annual safety and satisfaction surveys are carried out to get customer



feedback.

"The customer satisfaction survey, the best part about it is the open commentary at the end," he said. "That last question: Anything else you'd like to say? And that's where customers tell us what they really think."

The survey with telephone and emailed

complaints is a good conduit to the public, he said. And, to Taylor's experience, Koekkoek said the company is replacing its telephone system and starting with a new after-hours call centre service.

"We've had some unreliable phone issues," he said.

## Community Living Month in Orangeville celebrate accessibility, advocacy and inclusion

Written By JOSHUA DRAKES  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

An upcoming inclusive community walk in Orangeville will highlight the importance of belonging, accessibility, and visibility for people with developmental disabilities.

Organized by Community Living Dufferin (CLD), the event invites supported individuals, staff, families, community partners, dignitaries and any resident who wishes to participate. Branded as a "walk, roll or ride," the initiative is deliberately designed to welcome people of all abilities and mobility needs, emphasizing that participation should not be limited by how someone gets around.

CLD Executive Director Diane Kite said that the walk, which starts at 10:30 a.m. on May 21, will begin at Rotary Park.

"We're starting off at Rotary Park and making our way to Broadway, stopping at Town Hall to meet any of the available dignitaries there," she said. "After that, we're going to continue along Broadway before heading back to the starting location at Rotary Park. The phrase 'walk, roll or ride' reflects our commitment to accessibility and inclusion. Not everyone participates in the

same way, and we want the event and the language to recognize and welcome people of all abilities and mobility needs."

Organizers intend it to be more than a casual outing; it is meant as a visible demonstration of inclusion in public spaces and a reminder that people with developmental disabilities are integral members of the community.

If successful, CLD hopes to build on the event in future years as a recurring feature of May's Community Living Month.

The walk is part of a broader slate of Community Living Month activities.

This year's initiatives include the raising of the Community Living flag, blue and green lighting at the organization's building, a Neighbour Appreciation Week recognizing supportive neighbours of residential sites, a drop in tea event at the main East Garafraxa location on May 29, and the Creative Partners on Stage (CPOS) Festival in partnership with Theatre Orangeville.

That festival will feature two productions, showcasing the talents of actors supported by CLD and reinforce the role of the arts in inclusion. It takes place on May 29, 30 and 31.

"We have tremendous actors in the plays,

and it's a great way to celebrate the arts as well as inclusion and collaboration," Kite said. "We have our two plays and then an artisan market in between on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. This is a partnership between Community Living Dufferin and Theatre Orangeville, and it is going to be an exceptional event that you won't want to miss."

Behind these celebrations is an ongoing advocacy effort. Despite progress, far too often society defines people by their disabilities rather than their abilities and contributions.

"I think one of the biggest misconceptions is that people with developmental disabilities are often viewed through the lens of their disability," Kite said. "That is certainly improving and has improved over the last many years, but they need to be recognized for their strengths, talents, goals and values, not through the lens of their disability."

"Many people still do not fully see the barriers that continue to exist for the men and women we support – employment, housing, even sometimes transportation, recreation and social inclusion," she added.

Despite the challenges, CLD is committed to advocating for and supporting anyone

who needs them. Community Living Month and events such as the walk aim to challenge lingering misconceptions, promote equitable access, and highlight how a more inclusive community benefits everyone.

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# Habitat for Humanity launches tiny homes on the consumer market

Continued from FRONT

“Most of the interest we’ve gotten is for multi-generational living. Our first backyard build is actually for a 20-year-old that’s going to be moving to the backyard so that they have their own little space, and then the in-laws that need more care are going to be living inside the primary property.”

The tiny homes are highly modular, offering a universal frame but a customizable interior to fit the needs of the person who will be staying there. The building doesn’t even need to be necessarily for living, as configurations can be made for an office or workspace.

“We’ve also had a lot of conversations with homeowners that are interested in using it for business space or office space as well,” Oliveira said. “We can take the kitchen out, for example, and then they have a massive office. They can also use it for gym space.”

“We’re open to working with homeowners on those kinds of options, but overall, the layout essentially stays the same with every build. It would just be a matter of removing cabinetry, changing paint colors, and changing floor colors.”

Habitat also directly supports homeowners through zoning checks, building permits, and site assessments, identifying factors such as conservation areas, flood zones, and utility tie-ins before construction proceeds.

Once permits are approved, on-site work typically takes about a month. The completed unit arrives largely finished, with appliances, cabinetry, and interior finishes in place. The tiny home is then craned onto a prepared foundation and connected to services, minimizing disruption to the property.

Behind each home is another factor, as well – an education-focused construction process that doubles as a training platform for high

school students interested in the trades. The build runs over two school semesters.

Students get to help assemble these homes as part of an educational and experience-based program with Habitat for Humanity.

“Students work on them from sticks on the ground,” Oliveira said. “Typically, our build period is from September until June. What that allows us to do is work with students over two school semesters.”

In the first term, senior students handle structural work, including framing, subfloors, walls, and roofing, while earning key safety and workplace certifications. In the second term, a new cohort completes siding, flooring, trim, cabinetry, and painting. High-risk tasks, including electrical, plumbing, mechanical systems, roofing finishes, and exterior caulking, are completed by licensed professionals.

The extended, roughly 10-month build win-

now allows for careful inspections at each stage, with errors corrected as part of the learning process rather than rushed to meet a deadline.

“It’s also important, as a teaching tool, not to rush,” Oliveira said. “We’re not trying to push the speed of construction... Really, the home is kind of like a byproduct of the program that we really care about.”

Now on display at the Orangeville ReStore, the tiny home is a true collaboration, offering students valuable skilled trades experience and sturdy homes for those in need.

For buyers, the tiny home offers residents a chance to see firsthand how compact design, flexible use, and community-focused construction can come together to address evolving housing needs. Those interested are encouraged to see the tiny home in person while it sits on display at the Orangeville ReStore through spring and summer.

## Orangeville residents can now report pot holes, damaged roads with online portal

Written By JAMES MATTHEWS

Orangeville’s roads staff have been busily repairing potholes now that the weather has turned for the better.

Town resident Nick Garisto, a former deputy mayor and councillor, said during council’s May 11 meeting that many people have asked him if roads damaged during the winter are still being repaired.

Among the municipal roads inventory, Blind Line in particular needs attention, he said.

“Every time I come down, my car it bounces up and down,” he said.

Tim Kocialek, the town’s infrastructure services general manager, confirmed that municipal staff are face-to-face in filling potholes.

“This year, with the considerable melt we had and the winter, there’s more potholes

than normal this year. They are still catching up.”

Kocialek said the town has a seeclckfix.com portal through which residents can report a pothole they’d like addressed. Residents can also reach out by email and telephone, he said.

“That way staff are aware of it and they can go out and make sure it’s taken care of,” he said.



## WDG Public Health shares updated guidance for reducing tick risk amid increasing prevalence

Written By SAM ODROWSKI

As tick populations expand and more people encounter ticks at times and places they may not expect, Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph (WDG) Public Health is updating some of its guidelines to help residents better protect themselves from tick bites and related illnesses.

“People are often most vigilant about ticks around long grass and during summer, but that is no longer the full picture,” said Phil Wong, Director of Operations and Health Protection at WDG Public Health. “As ticks become more prevalent in the community, we want residents to rethink tick risks and make sure they take the proper precautions.”

### Tick checks are important year round

Ticks can pose a risk in any season. Black-legged ticks, which carry Lyme disease, can be active whenever temperatures are above zero degrees Celsius, making it possible to encounter them during early spring, late fall and even mild winter days. WDG Public Health encourages residents to perform full-body tick checks on themselves, their chil-

dren and their pets whenever they spend time outdoors.

### Ticks can thrive in a range of habitats

Different tick species live in different environments. Blacklegged ticks prefer shaded, humid spots like wooded areas, leaf litter and trail edges, while American dog ticks are usually found in grassy areas and meadows. Ticks can also be transported by wildlife, so it is more common to encounter them in a variety of outdoor settings as populations increase.

### Residents should report ticks online

Proper identification is an important first step in understanding tick risks. While WDG Public Health no longer accepts ticks for lab testing, an online photo submission tool is available to the community. Residents can submit a clear photo and receive timely identification and public health guidance by visiting [wdgpublichealth.ca/tickphotos](http://wdgpublichealth.ca/tickphotos).

For more information, including tips for preventing tick bites, reducing ticks around your property and how to perform a tick check, visit [wdgpublichealth.ca/ticks](http://wdgpublichealth.ca/ticks).



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**REDUCING RISK:** Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph (WDG) Public Health is providing tips and advice to reduce tick exposure.

## Public notice

### Zoning bylaw amendment

A complete application has been submitted to amend the zoning bylaw for the subject property. The proposed change would allow a mixed-use development with townhouses and commercial uses.

#### What’s being proposed

- Two mixed-use buildings with commercial space on the ground floor (755 m<sup>2</sup>) and 23 residential units above
- One townhouse building with six units

#### Application details

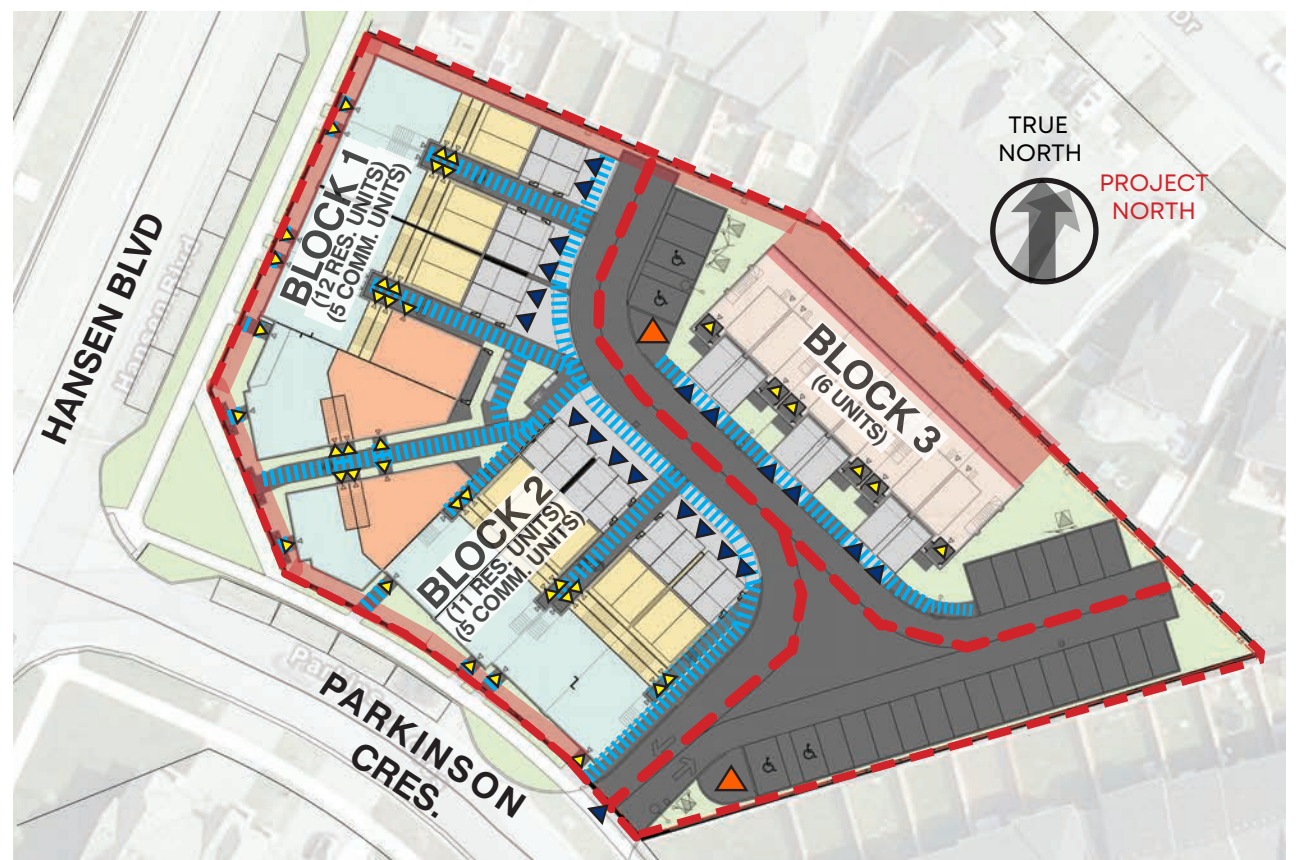
**File number:** RZ-2026-02

**Location of subject lands:** Block 93, Plan 7M-70 (SE corner of Hansen Blvd. and eastern entrance of Parkinson Cres.)

**Zoning bylaw amendment request:** to add site-specific provisions to the Neighbourhood Commercial (C2) zoning to allow the proposed development.

**Related planning applications:** the applicant has also submitted a site plan application (file number SPA-2026-03).

#### Site plan



- commercial space
- 3-storey townhouse
- ▲ garbage pickup
- affordable unit
- ▲ main pedestrian entrance
- vehicular circulation (fire route)
- stacked townhome
- ▲ vehicular entrance (parking)
- ||| pedestrian circulation

## Learn more and share feedback

#### Public meeting

**Date:** June 22, 2026

**Time:** 7 p.m.

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

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

Meeting agenda to be posted by JUNE 17, 2026.

#### How to participate

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

#### Submit written comments

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

#### For more information

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

#### Susan Pottle

Planner, Development and Community Improvement

✉ [spottle@orangeville.ca](mailto:spottle@orangeville.ca)  
☎ 519-941-0440 ext 2251

# Community-driven video sheds light on domestic and sexual violence in Dufferin-Caledon

Written By JOSHUA DRAKES  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

A new community-driven awareness video is putting a spotlight on gender-based violence in Dufferin County and Caledon, using familiar settings and lived experiences to challenge long-held assumptions about safety in rural communities.

The video, part of the "It Happens Here" campaign, was developed as an accessible educational tool designed to reach viewers where they are, both physically and emotionally. The project was conceived as something that could be shared widely online and revisited over time. The project aims to create a lasting impact rather than a one-time message.

Barbara Mason is the sexual violence community engagement facilitator with Family Transition Place and a member of Dufferin-Caledon Domestic Assault Review Team (DART). She said that by presenting real stories in recognizable local spaces, the video underscores a central idea: violence is not confined to distant places – it exists within the community itself.

"We want people to understand that this isn't something that happens somewhere else; it does happen here," Mason said. "When people watch it, you can tell that it's Orangeville... These are landmarks in our community. This is a close-to-home story. The video shares the reality of gender-based violence throughout our community through survivor voices and through their lived experience."

The video features multiple survivors sharing their personal stories of experiencing violence and how it affected them.

The project emerged through the work of the Dufferin-Caledon DART team, which meets with and consults with a survivor engagement group known as "Voices of Courage." Formed in 2010, the group includes individuals with lived experience who actively contribute to education and outreach efforts.

Members played a key role in shaping the video, offering insight, feedback and direction throughout the process. The result is a collaborative effort that reflects both professional expertise and personal experience.

"Survivors involved in this group contributed their experiences, their feedback and their insights, which helped shape the video and its message," Mason said. "They were incredibly brave to share their stories on camera, and they have done a remarkable job to help make DART and our partners more approachable and accessible for survivors."

At its core, the video is meant to resonate on multiple levels.

For viewers, it delivers a clear message that support exists and that those experiencing violence are not alone. For survivors, it offers a sense of recognition and possibility, showing that others have navigated similar experiences and found a path forward. The

storytelling approach – grounded in real voices rather than statistics – aims to create a deeper emotional connection and encourage reflection.

The campaign also highlights the unique challenges of addressing domestic and sexual violence in rural communities.

Limited anonymity, transportation barriers, and close social networks can make it more difficult for individuals to seek help.

"For example, you go to the hospital because something's happened and you need support, but you know the nurse who's working at triage," Mason said. "Or you know the officer who might get dispatched to your house might be friends with the perpetrator... There are some significant barriers around confidentiality... If you're in Toronto, you can drive a couple blocks away, and nobody has a clue who you are."

"There's the other issues of transportation. How do folks who live in rural communities access support if they don't have access to a vehicle or they don't have money for gas? If there is an emergency and it's a violent situation, how long is it going to take for someone to get there to help you?"

Concerns about confidentiality and the visibility of accessing services can discourage reporting, while geographic distance can delay access to support. These factors contribute to underreporting and complicate efforts to fully understand the scope of the issue.

Compounding these challenges are persistent misconceptions about small-town safety. The campaign directly confronts the belief that violence does not occur in close-knit or seemingly secure communities.

By placing survivor stories against a backdrop of recognizable local landmarks, the video emphasizes that appearances can be misleading and that harm often occurs behind closed doors.

It's those stories of survival that give this campaign its strength, Mason says.

"As much as 'It Happens Here' is the title, it happens everywhere," she said. "That's what gives this campaign strength. It's universal, and it's the women who chose to speak when staying silent would have been much easier for them, and their willingness to share their lived experience so openly, that's what gives this message the weight. That kind of courage doesn't just inform a campaign, it anchors it in reality, and it gives others permission to recognize their stories and feel less alone than sharing them."

Ultimately, organizers see the video as a starting point. By raising awareness and encouraging conversations, the campaign is intended to break cycles of silence and foster a more informed and responsive community.

Through shared understanding and dialogue, it aims to lay the groundwork for continued education, support, and meaningful change.

To view the video, go to [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z5\\_fSOv4\\_Rw&t=2s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z5_fSOv4_Rw&t=2s).

# Road Safety Week kicks off with OPP reminding motorists to follow the 'Big 4'

Written By RILEY MURPHY  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

This week marks the start of Road Safety in Canada, and the OPP is alerting drivers to dangers on the road today, and every day.

Observed from May 12 to 18, this year's campaign theme is "Road Safety – Every Road. Every Day. Everyone."

Provincial Constable Ian Michel says they are treating this week "as we treat all weeks in Caledon."

"We expect every driver on every road, everyday to adhere to the laws and rules of safe driving. Don't speed, Use your seatbelt, stay off your phone and drive sober. The message and expectation remains the same for drivers. The only way to ensure we have safe roads is for all drivers to buy-in and follow the rules," says Michel, adding that they call these laws the "Big 4."

Unfortunately, he says, they are still seeing many drivers show "little regard" for safe driving practices, and they continue to stop and charge motorists across Caledon with "Big-4 offences."

Serving for 25 years, Michel says it still "boggles his mind" how people haven't realized not only how dangerous these driving behaviours are, but how they affect other people's lives.

Even with distracted driving and seatbelt laws introduced decades ago, Michel says they still see people using their phones regularly and not wearing seatbelts.

"With all of the hand-free technology in cars now there is no excuse to be holding your phone for any reason while driving," he adds.

"Caledon residents are seeing it too, and they're letting us know about it. Everyday we receive numerous traffic complaints from residents and drivers all over Caledon about bad driving behaviour," says Michel. "We can't keep up."

Michel explains that they have amalgamated their Community Response Unit and Traffic Unit into a new Community Mobilization Unit and that officers are working every



day on traffic enforcement.

They have dedicated Commercial Motor Vehicle inspectors attached to the unit, providing everyday coverage for commercial motor vehicle enforcement.

He says they continue to try to educate the public about things such as passenger seatbelt use and child restraints, conduct R.I.D.E. checkpoints daily, and work with their community partners to educate the public about the dangers of impaired driving.

Michel adds that speed enforcement is done every day, and they still impound vehicles for stunt driving on a regular basis.

"It is frustrating, but the vast majority of drivers are safe and adhere to the rules. Now we just need the others to follow suit and participate," says Michel. "We need the drivers of Caledon to help us by doing their part."

"We take road safety very seriously in Caledon. We are lucky to have some very dedicated officers in our detachment that take it seriously as well, and amazing residents that participate in committees and attend our traffic safety meetings to share their thoughts and what they are seeing on the roads of Caledon to help us plan enforcement and education activities."

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<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">7'X10' AREA RUGS</p> <p style="text-align: center;">100'S TO CHOOSE FROM</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 24px; font-weight: bold;">STARTING FROM \$199</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 8px;">BUY IT TODAY... TAKE IT TODAY</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">2'X9' ACOUSTIC WALL PANELS</p> <p style="text-align: center;">4 COLOURS TO CHOOSE FROM</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 24px; font-weight: bold;">\$139 EA</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 8px;">BUY IT TODAY... TAKE IT TODAY</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">1"X6" SQUARE BASEBOARDS</p> <p style="text-align: center;">14 FOOT LENGTHS</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 24px; font-weight: bold;">FROM \$149 /LINFT</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 8px;">BUY IT TODAY... TAKE IT TODAY</p>

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# Relax Your Mind Head Spa holds grand opening in Orangeville

Written By JOSHUA DRAKES  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

A new wellness-focused business is bringing a different kind of spa experience to downtown Orangeville following the recent grand opening of Relax Your Mind Head Spa on Mill Street.

Owned and operated by Gina Laney, the business specializes in private head spa treatments centred around relaxation and scalp care. The spa held its grand opening event on the Mother's Day weekend, a timing Laney said turned out to be a perfect fit for the business.

Since opening, Laney said the response from the community has been strong, driven largely through social media, word of mouth and local coverage. She noted the spa has already welcomed clients of all ages, from young children to seniors in their 90s.

"We have had such a great reception from Orangeville, honestly," she said. "Social media has been such a wonderful medium for us, because of our location. We don't have a storefront on the main strip for people to walk or drive by, but we are getting noticed

through word of mouth and referrals."

The grand opening drew a large crowd, with over a dozen people filing into the spa to celebrate and congratulate Laney on her success.

Representatives from the Orangeville BIA joined Councillor Joe Andrews on behalf of the Town of Orangeville.

Coun. Andrews said he's excited to see this business succeed and fill a niche in demand, and hopes more small businesses continue to set up in town.

"I'm excited for anyone who decides to invest in Orangeville," he said. "It is critical that our community supports our small businesses, because that's what this town is really built on. For Relax Your Mind Head Spa, this is a niche business where individuals in our community can certainly feel appreciated and they can feel supported and our course pampered. There is no doubt this business is already flourishing, and it's only been open for a short time."

Located at 28 Mill St., the spa offers clients a quiet, low-stimulation environment designed to help them disconnect from stress and focus on relaxation.

During treatments, clients are brought into a private treatment area where the doors are locked, and fabric partitions are closed to create a calm atmosphere. The sessions include a gentle scalp and water therapy process followed by a blow-dry service.

Laney said the treatment itself is not entirely new, but the experience can vary depending on how practitioners are trained and how they customize the service.

At Relax Your Mind Spa, the focus is on creating a softer, more soothing environment for clients.

Appointments generally run about 50 to 60 minutes, though the business books 90-minute windows to allow clients extra time and avoid rushing treatments.

The business currently operates seven days a week as demand continues to grow. Laney has also begun training an additional staff member to help support appointments moving forward.

Laney previously studied interior decorating through OCAD University and said much of her creative and business background helped shape the design and atmo-

sphere of the new spa.

The inspiration for the business itself dates back even further. After high school, Laney travelled to Thailand to teach English.

While living there, she regularly visited salons for affordable relaxation treatments, experiences she remembered years later as the concept began growing in popularity across North America.

Now living in Mono Mills, Laney said opening Relax Your Mind Head Spa was also an opportunity to become more involved in the Orangeville-area community while introducing a wellness service that is still relatively uncommon locally.

Although the business only recently opened, Laney said interest has already exceeded expectations, with gift cards, group bookings and repeat appointments quickly becoming part of the spa's early success.

With a successful launch, a niche market tapped into, and a steady stream of clients, the Relax Your Mind Head Spa is off to a very strong start.

For more information, visit facebook.com/profile.php?id=61587211949860

# Grand Valley Lions Duck Race to return with 4,000 ducks and full day of events

Written By SAM ODROWSKI

Next weekend, 4,000 rubber ducks will be dropped from a crane into the Grand River for an annual fundraiser that supports local non-profits and community projects throughout Grand Valley.

The Grand Valley Lions 29th Annual Duck Race returns to Hereward Park on Saturday, May 23, beginning at 8 a.m. with family-friendly activities, before the ducks are released into the river at 2 p.m.

There are 86 prizes that duck race participants will be competing for, totalling over \$32,000, all sponsored by local businesses.

Grand Valley Lion Randy McClelland, who has been involved with the annual duck race since its inception, said it's an important fundraiser and a fun day for the community to enjoy.

"All the money that we raise during the duck race stays in our community," he said. "We donate to minor sports in town, minor hockey, minor soccer, minor softball, the public schools, and things like that. We also support the agricultural society, Groves Memorial Hospital in Fergus and the Headwaters Hospital in Orangeville."

The Grand Valley Fire Department and Grand Valley Food Bank (Dufferin Food Share) also receive funds.

There's no shortage of activities for fam-

ilies to take in during this year's duck race.

"We try to make it a fun day for everyone. The event sort of kicks off the summer for Grand Valley and neighboring people," he said. "A lot of people come out, spend the day in the sun, visiting with neighbors they hadn't seen in a while."

Around 2,000 to 3,000 attendees are expected to attend, depending on the weather, with steady crowds throughout the day.

The event begins early with breakfast and community sales. From 8 to 11 a.m., the Grand Valley Lions Community Breakfast will be served at the community centre, while the Agriculture Society hosts its Plant Sale and Garage Sale at the agriculture building, running until items sell out.

Over at Hereward Park, festivities get underway at noon with live music from the Aaron Muir Band. Food options will be available throughout the day, including a booth run by the Grand Valley Air Cadets serving hamburgers, hot dogs and refreshments. And the Creek Pub & Eatery will be offering ice cream from Chapman's.

Families can find plenty of activities for children, including face painting, roaming Paw Patrol characters, bouncy castles, a duck pond, balloon giveaways, bucket rides with Orangeville Hydro, and a visit from the Grand Valley Fire Department, which will have a fire truck on site.

Community and information booths will also be set up across the park. DUCA will be on hand with giveaways, along with displays from the County of Dufferin's Waste Services and Climate Change division and a race car showcase from DES Automotive. Milk and cookies will be provided by Dufferin Dairy Farmers and Boston Pizza, while the Grand Valley Lions will also host a scavenger hunt booth and share information about the club.

At 2 p.m., the duck drop will take place, with assistance from Dufferin-Caledon MP Kyle Seeback, Dufferin-Caledon MPP Sylvia Jones, Grand Valley Mayor Steve Soloman and Orangeville Mayor Lisa Post. Winning ducks will be announced at the finish line.

The duck race has grown over the years, attracting attendees from areas outside of Dufferin County, such as Toronto, Brampton, Kitchener, and Waterloo.

"A lot of people use it as a good excuse to come home and visit family," McClelland noted.

Between 40 and 50 volunteers are needed to run the event each year. Anyone interested in getting involved can contact the Grand Valley Lions at info@grandvalleylions.com and express their interest.

McClelland encourages anyone interested in competing in the duck race not to wait to buy tickets.

"Buy your tickets now, because when



FILE PHOTO

they're sold out, they're sold out," he said.

Tickets can be purchased online at grandvalleylions.com/duck-race for \$10 each. There may also be a limited number of tickets available for purchase on May 23, the day of the event.

Limited parking is available in downtown Grand Valley during the event, so attendees are encouraged to walk, where possible, or plan ahead to secure a space.

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RILEY MURPHY PHOTO

AND IT BEGINS: Presenting Sponsor Caledon Build cuts the ribbon marking the opening of Hike for Bethell Hospice on May 3.

## Another record-breaking year marked at Hike for Bethell Hospice

Written By RILEY MURPHY  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Bethell Hospice's 16th annual Hike for Hospice brought the community together on May 3 in record-breaking fashion, raising more than \$285,000 to support palliative care services in the community.

Each year, Bethell Hospice must raise over \$2 million to provide services and palliative programs to residents, families, and community clients, all at no cost.

They host Hike for Hospice annually not only to raise funds but also to bring the community together.

For their 16th annual event, they raised the bar yet again, setting record-breaking numbers in both attendees and donations.

To aid their donations this year, Bethell Hospice received donations from 15 local Caledon schools, each of which held its own Hike for Hospice the previous Friday.

With more than 6,000 students participating, the schools are on track to raise over \$15,000 for the hospice.

"Our goal for the hike was \$255,000, and we know from donations that have come in this morning, and matching gifts from Scotiabank that we will go over \$285,000," says Adrian Horwood, Co-Chair of the Bethell Hospice Foundation. "That's a record."

Margaret Paan, Executive Director of Bethell Hospice, took the time to recognize the 69 teams and individual fundraisers who gathered for the Hike that day.

"Please know that you make the work we do possible. We are so blessed and grateful for the support. It keeps growing," says Paan. "We are here when you need us. We want to be here for you in the future, and we are glad to be part of your story. So, thank you very much for being here."

Bethell Hospice welcomed Calistran Jesudasan, also known as Cali, the top individual fundraiser who raised more than \$14,000, to read aloud the poem "Walking Memories for the Future," written by a past volunteer specifically for the hike.

MPP for Dufferin-Caledon Sylvia Jones attended the hike and spoke about the mission Bethell Hospice accomplishes each year.

"The work that you are doing today for the Hike for Bethell really is making an impact on people's lives," said Jones.

She added that not only the work, but also the volunteering and commitment of the Board, make the lives of individuals and

their families "much better at a very critical time."

Attendees support the Hike each year for their own reasons, whether it be a friend or family member who spent time at Bethell Hospice, or those just looking to make a difference.

Ken and Nancy Yates have been attending Hike for Hospice for six years and participate in every fundraising opportunity for Bethell Hospice, including the annual tree lighting.

"My mom died in 1992 of kidney disease in Toronto General, and they put her in a private room, but there was nothing like Bethell House," explains Nancy Yates. "When I heard that Bethell House needed so much support, I thought this is a good idea to be able to have that type of thing."

Teams were also assembled in memory. Team Move for Michelle took part in the Hike in honour of their friend and family member, Michelle, who spent time at Bethell Hospice.

Team member Rick Marsh said this was their second year participating, and they had over 25 team members come together that day.

"We're here for my daughter, Michelle, and it's a great celebration," says Marsh. "We're glad to be here and have a memory, and we look forward to having a great day today."

Bethell Hospice's matching sponsor for the Hike was Scotiabank, and Mollie Cavan, with Scotiabank, attended with the team that day as part of the Scotiabank Community Team Program.

"If we get a certain number of volunteers and we raise money on the day, we can match it," explained Cavan. "We have 30 people coming today to do a match of \$15,000 to the charity."

Scotiabank has been participating in the Hike for many years now, and Cavan says they support Bethell in their various other fundraisers as well, including the annual Golf 4 Bethell Hospice Tournament, Diamond in the Hills, and more.

"For me, it's really important. I did end-of-life care for my mother with my family, and it's just important to be part of the community, 100%," says Cavan. "We have the means to do it, it's a great program that we use."

With the annual group picture taken and presenting sponsor Caledon Build officially cutting the ribbon, the hike was open, and hundreds began their walk for a greater cause.

## Nobleton man stopped on Highway 9 in Mono, charged with impaired operation

Dufferin Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) officers charged a Nobleton resident with impaired operation-related offences following a traffic violation.

On May 9, at approximately 9:58 p.m., Dufferin OPP officers were conducting traffic enforcement on Highway 9 in Mono when officers observed a vehicle travelling at a high rate of speed. A traffic stop was conducted and, while speaking with the driver, officers observed open alcohol within the vehicle. As a result, an impaired driving investigation was initiated.

As a result of the investigation, Poonam Padda, 24, from Nobleton, has been charged with:

- Possess more than one licence
- Speeding 1-49 km/h over the posted limit



- Driving motor vehicle with open container of liquor
- Operation while impaired - blood alcohol concentration (80 plus)

The accused is scheduled to appear before the Ontario Court of Justice in Orangeville at a later date to answer to the charges.

None of the listed charges have been proven in court.

## Orangeville man charged with impaired driving after OPP received traffic complaint

Dufferin Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) officers charged an Orangeville resident with impaired operation-related offences following a traffic complaint.

On May 10, at approximately 1:28 a.m., Dufferin OPP officers were dispatched to the area of Fead and Faulkner Street in Orangeville for a report of a possible impaired driver. Officers located the vehicle and conducted a traffic stop. While speaking with the driver, officers initiated an impaired

driving investigation.

As a result of the investigation, Brian Matos, 38, from Orangeville, has been charged with operation while impaired - blood alcohol concentration (80 plus).

The accused is scheduled to appear before the Ontario Court of Justice in Orangeville at a later date to answer to the charge. The charge has not been proven in court.

In addition, Mato's driver's licence was suspended and the vehicle was impounded.



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# Arts & Entertainment LOCAL COMMUNITY EVENTS

## Arvella's Spatique: Nearly 30 years of botanical bliss and OPI expertise in Hockley Valley

Written By CONSTANCE SCRAFIELD

Snug within the historical Hockley Village, less than 20 kilometres along the Hockley Road from Orangeville, stands an original home that was converted 28 years ago into the beautiful Arvella's Spatique. Operated by Arvella Giesbrecht, her Spatique offers a list of relaxing and beneficial massages and treatments, using only the best of botanical blends, plus a complete nail service.

During a recent interview with the Citizen, Giesbrecht discussed being an educator for OPI, a company specializing in nail enhancement and cosmetics. She had just returned from a conference and training session with OPI in California before speaking with the Citizen.

"I teach OPI as an educator, only one of seven in Canada," Giesbrecht said.

She has a small classroom in her salon, suitable for three or four people, to teach OPI applications. There is plenty to learn among the very extensive choices of colours and styles of nails. Giesbrecht provides all the tips for the care and longevity of newly applied nails, as well as about how not to misuse the products and much more.

Sharing the premises with her own business is Salon Shae-Lynn, an extraordinary hairdresser with 30 years in the trade.

"She does it all," Giesbrecht said. "Cuts, colour, everything. And she has a fantastic booking system."

Giesbrecht has been operating her Spatique in Hockley for nearly 30 years, with the pause and transitions everyone endured during COVID. Yet, during that time otherwise, she has been learning and teaching her clients, both women and men, about the importance of caring for their skin. She reminds them that eating guides food through the body's checks and balances to the many functions that eliminate toxins.

However, our skin has no such guards against what might be harmful in the various creams or lotions that are on the market.

"Whatever we put on our skin is absorbed, not digested and processed by our bodies," she cautioned.

For these reasons, Giesbrecht has been constantly on the hunt for the best and purest skin care products possible. Her dedication to healthy skin has taken her on quite a journey.

While the list of massage and treatment options at Arvella's Spatique is very inviting, Giesbrecht herself considers the best offer in her business to be her head, hand, and foot massage.

"This is so dreamy, relaxing," was her promise, "a person can just drift away—and feel wonderful at the end."

The treatment includes a tranquil head massage, massage of the arms and hands, and a foot scrub with warm towels.

Withal, special attention is given to the quality of the creams and ointments. In her search for the best organic, conscientiously made skin products, Giesbrecht has found what she considers the best. Hypothetically, there were boxes to check off to confirm her standards were met. For facials: all organic, wildflower, nourishing the skin. Only pure elements are accepted. Eventually, the company she has founded carries the purity in their products that she demands.

"It's absolutely lovely. I use it on my own skin and that's all the proof I need," she said.

She went on to comment, "I really think people are getting with the idea of taking better care of their skin and skin health. More mature women are interested in their skin's health."

Over the years, people have come to the Spatique to consult with Giesbrecht, a personal advisor, on how best to use the OPI products and which colours are best for them.

It is all about how a person feels about how they look, especially for women, how their skin changes, but Giesbrecht cautions women and men on the alternatives that are offered for changes in their appearance. With good products, skin can maintain that dewiness without surgery.

"Nursing skin in the most natural way is by what you eat. Skin still looks great, without the risks," was Giesbrecht's assurance, while also advising against the use of Botox.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**WELCOMING SPACE:** This gracious room is the place to facilitate pedicures, manicures, brow and lash styling. A place to embrace self-love, as owner Arvella Giesbrecht says. There are other rooms for massages and more soothing treatments at Spatique.

Part of her personal history is her years as a school teacher, which she brings to her role as an OPI educator. She worked as a teacher in schools, running before- and after-school programs for students with special needs in Simcoe County. She also drove a school bus while getting her spa in Hockley Village set

up, "doing whatever I had to, to be able to do what I wanted." is how she put it. "Now, I've come full circle as an educator with OPI."

Her ambition is to continue helping each individual with their personal aesthetics; her priorities are her spa and continuing as an OPI educator.

**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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**The Citizen CROSSWORD**

Puzzle No. 265210 • Solution on page: CLASSIFIEDS SECTION

**CLUES ACROSS**

- Notable casino destination
- Current units
- Roman military unit
- American lizard
- Fates
- The Yankees have lots of these
- Unhappy
- Mimic
- Remove from the record
- Where cargo ships dock (abbr.)
- A way to fight
- Turfs
- Contract
- Country along the Arabian peninsula
- Tree species
- Pituitary gland secretion (abbr.)
- Perfect
- "Partner" to groans
- Jewish calendar month
- Where wrestlers work
- Egotistical
- Potted plants
- Containers
- Large, flightless birds
- Part of a book
- American spies
- Pancakes made of buckwheat flour
- Swiss river
- Disfigure
- Have surgery
- Formal withdrawal
- Early English council
- Area units
- 2,000 lbs.
- Siskel and \_\_\_

**CLUES DOWN**

- Animal jaws
- Small water buffalo
- An appliance has one
- Every
- Largest English dictionary (abbr.)
- Very skilled
- No more than what is specified
- Tire measurement
- Towers
- Forward
- Jacob \_\_\_\_, American journalist
- Vale
- Former CIA
- Middle Eastern nation
- Exhausts
- South Dakota
- The complete duration of something
- Kids love him
- Singular
- Cod genus
- Mild yellow Dutch cheese
- Resistance unit
- Ancient kingdom near
- Dead Sea
- Cast out
- 60-minute periods
- Most worn
- European river
- Atomic mass unit
- Items of food
- Body parts
- Ireland
- Partner to Pa
- Sammy \_\_\_\_, songwriter
- Dutch settler
- Full-grown pike fish
- Sun or solar disk
- Minute arachnid
- From a distance
- A monthly expense
- Young women's association
- Brazilian state
- Air freight provider
- Pointed end of a pen

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

**Double Word Puzzle**

Unscramble the individual words to reveal letters for the phrase.

SMLTE    1    2

CLBYO    3    4

RHDA    5    6

VYTAREI    7    8

3 4 7 1 6 1    D    N

3 5 1 1 2 1

English: Cheese  
Spanish: Queso  
Italian: Formaggio  
French: Fromage  
German: Käse

American cheese typically is made from a blend of colby and cheddar with emulsifiers. It is not classified as a real cheese but a processed cheese food or pasteurized processed cheese.

With a creamy texture and a low melting point, this cheese is often used on top of burgers.

**NEW WORD**

**WHEY**

the watery part of milk that remains after the formation of curds

Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

Answer: Breakfast sandwich

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J.E.H. MacDonald (1873–1932), *Sunflower Study*, *Tangled Garden Sketch* (detail), c. 1915, oil on paperboard, 25.4 x 20.2 cm, Gift of the Founders, Robert and Signe McMichael; Stephen Waddell (b. 1968), *Sunflowers* (detail), 2018, printed 2021, archival pigment print, 149.7 x 233.4 cm. All works McMichael Canadian Art Collection.

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**EMERGING IN THE ARTS:** The Battle of the Brushes competition came to Centre Wellington District High School (CWDHS) on May 7, and several students from Orangeville District Secondary School (ODSS) competed. During the competition, students had 20 minutes to create a painting, without reference material, in front of a live audience who then voted for their favourite artwork. The event also included an Excellence in Visual Arts show, with hundreds of pieces of arts from students across Upper Grand District School Board high schools. Daniella Chernov from ODSS had her mixed-media artwork "Where the Layers Touch" selected for Emerging Insights Art Show at the Wellington County Museum and Archives later this month. She says the hand resting gently on layers of leaves and stars represents "a connected link to all that surrounds us and the grounding effect of touch. This piece reminds viewers how deeply nature shapes us and the importance of appreciating the calm and balance it brings to our lives." The Battle of the Brushes winner was CWDHS student Ava Noorlander.



**ASPIRING ARTIST:** ODSS student Megan Brakel had her painting "What am I, chopped liver?" selected for the Emerging Insights exhibit at the Wellington County Museum and Archives on May 28. The piece is inspired by a photo of Brakel's mom and two dogs. "We had just gotten the white dog Dolly a few weeks prior and it seemed the other dog Tilly was not too impressed with these new adjustments," Brakel stated in a description of the artwork. "I started this piece with no expectations and was really happy I got to bring the things I love most to life."



**EYE-CATCHING DISPLAY:** ODSS student Maya Lindsay's mixed media piece "Between Life and Machine" was selected for Emerging Insights. "This artwork illustrates how the world of AI is gradually making its way into creativity itself," Lindsay states. "As AI becomes more



ROBIN GEORGE PHOTOS

**YOUNG TALENT:** ODSS student Ishika Singla stands with her painting "Spring into Summer" (above). Singla says, "This piece reflects my appreciation for nature and the sense of connection it brings. Inspired by spring morning walks, the soft light and blooming landscape capture a feeling of calm and joy. Through this work, I wanted to share the peaceful beauty found in simple moments outdoors."

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 Grand Valley

# RBC Canadian Open to return to TPC Toronto at Osprey Valley in 2027

Written By **JIM STEWART**

Media Day 2026 at TPC Toronto showcased the surging popularity of the RBC Canadian Open and the beauty of Osprey Valley during our complimentary round of golf at The Hoot on a sunny Monday.

It also brought great news for the Town as Caledon Sports Hall of Famer Chris Humeniuk declared that “We’re coming back here in 2027!”

“May the 4th be with you: is often said, but it certainly rang true for all attendees on Monday at TPC Toronto. In addition to the big announcement by Humeniuk, the media were treated to ideal May conditions on a very forgiving South Course 18-hole layout. My partners and I piped out drives most of the time and were rewarded for staying in the middle of The Hoot’s spacious verdant fairways and sizeable, subtle greens. The idyllic afternoon round was a perfect punctuation mark to Media Day. The morning was equally enjoyable.

After registration and a delicious hot breakfast served in the Main Clubhouse, the press conference featured Canadian golf royalty.

Presiding over the “presser” were RBC’s Shannon Cole, Golf Canada’s Laurence Applebaum, TPC Toronto’s Chris Humeniuk, and Golf Canada’s Ryan Paul.

The scrum was attended by more than 100 broadcasters, producers, and reporters.

Cole brought greetings from the Royal Bank and noted that the Canadian Open is “the third oldest tournament on the PGA.” She cited “Canada’s famous hospitality” as a key factor reinforcing the event’s “\$100 M impact on the Canadian economy.”

Cole applauded “this generation of Canadian talent currently on the PGA tour” and pointed to the “power of sustained investment in the game” that has produced “current national stars like 2023 Canadian Open champion Nick Taylor, Corey Conners, Adam Hadwin, Taylor Pendrith, Mackenzie Hughes, and a number of rising stars committed to the tournament.”

In addition to the treasured national contingent that will appear at the 2026 RBC Canadian Open, Cole delineated an enviable septet of “top level players who have already committed to this year’s event in Caledon: Jacob Richmond, Max Homa, Brooks Koepka, Tony Finau, Collin Morikawa, Tommy Fleetwood, and Matt Fitzpatrick. The world’s best players deserve a world class course.”

Cole’s closing disclosure of the star power in this year’s tournament segued nicely into Applebaum’s humorous opening re-



JIM STEWART PHOTO

**CANADIAN OPEN RETURNING TO CALEDON:** Caledon Sports Hall of Famer Chris Humeniuk announced that the RBC Canadian Open will return TPC Toronto at Osprey Valley for 2027.

marks about the comparative caliber of golfer gracing Osprey Valley on Monday.

He described “Media Day as one of the most fun days of the year—kind of like Caddyhack when all the caddies get to play on the course for a few hours. We’re so excited to host our friends from the media. For Canadian golfers, this is their Major.”

“Tommy Fleetwood told us that it feels like home when he plays in this part of the world and it’s great to have him at our 115th Open.”

Applebaum voiced his appreciation of the government of Ontario and thanked three representatives specifically for their ongoing support.

“The Province of Ontario is one of our partners that gets it. A special thank you to Neil Lumsden, Stan Cho, and Doug Ford – who are all amazing partners and drivers of this event.”

He closed his address by lavishing praise on the Caledon resident who heads up TPC Toronto: “Chris Humeniuk has put this property on the world platform. This is the

new home of Canadian golf including our Hall of Fame and a new putting park will be unveiled during the Open.”

Humeniuk, who was inducted into the 2026 Caledon Sport Hall of Fame in January, offered a good-natured jab at Applebaum as he took the microphone.

“I’ll be moving faster through my presentation than Lawrence plays golf.”

The President of TPC Toronto discussed the process of tweaking and renovating the North Course to prepare it for the level of talent that will take on Osprey Valley in mid-June.

“The north course was re-designed to challenge the world’s best players to make bold shots. Ryan Fox’s bold shot on 18 last year won the championship. Seeing those dramatic shots, seeing the positive \$100 million impact, and the incredible engagement of our 130,000 fans on the course—over seven million Canadians are playing the game and seventy million rounds of golf were played in Canada in 2025.”

After delivering these good news items about the dramatic finish by Fox and

the growth of golf in Canada, Humeniuk thanked the Councillors from Caledon and Orangeville for their attendance and saved the best for last.

The Caledon Sport Hall of Famer extracted his buried lead in an ironic twist on Media Day and presented the most important news item of the day as a triumphant conclusion: “And we’re coming back here in 2027!”

Humeniuk’s climactic announcement about the RBC Canadian Open returning to TPC Toronto at Osprey Valley in 2027 marked the third consecutive year that the nation’s top golf tournament would be set in the Town of Caledon.

Tournament Director Ryan Paul echoed Humeniuk’s enthusiasm and described TPC Toronto as “a true legacy venue for the event.”

“We’re set up to create benefits for our communities. This is an incredible moment as the RBC Canadian Open has become a premier stop on the PGA Tour. What sets our course apart is its ability to challenge so many players. 7,500 yards including four Par 4s over 500 yards. Strategic bunkering and new tee decks. A return of ‘The Rink’ which was home to 118 birdies. This one will be the loudest yet. There have been 3,100 attempts at ‘The Rink’ but so far—no holes in one, yet.”

Sportsnet’s Adam Stanley asked Paul what the planning team learned from the 2025 Open and the Tournament Director observed, “The biggest thing we learned was how fans moved through the venue. We’re creating more pathways, building on the success of The Rink, and creating more off-site parking so shuttle buses deliver the fans to the course.”

Defending champion Ryan Fox joined the presser by telephone while travelling between venues and echoed Humeniuk’s remarks about the necessity of making bold shots to win the Canadian Open.

“The 3-wood into 18 was the best shot I’ve ever made. I’ll be able to draw on those good vibes this year. It’s always enjoyable coming back to a course where I’ve done well. It kick-starts things again.”

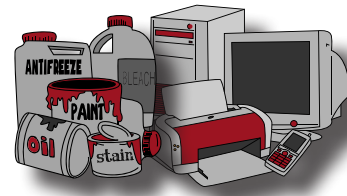
Fox also complimented TPC Toronto’s North Course, the fanbase, and the RBC Canadian Open as a tour stop.

“It’s a really good golf course, the Canadian fans are amazing, and it’s grown into a well-respected event. When I rewind ‘The Shot’ in 2025, there was no doubt in my mind when I saw they changed the pin position for the playoff. 230 into the wind. I had the shot that I wanted to hit and I had no thoughts about laying up.”

Bold shots, indeed.

## hazardous & electronic waste event **COMING SOON!**

**Date:** Saturday, May 30, 2026  
**Time:** 8am - 3pm  
**Location:** Shelburne Operations Centre  
 124 Luxton Way, Shelburne



**Hazardous waste** includes automotive containers, cleaning products, fluorescent lights, batteries, paints, pesticides, pharmaceuticals, syringes, and much more.

**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](http://dufferincounty.ca/waste) for updates and a full listing of acceptable materials & limitations.

Future events: 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.

**Dufferin** county 519.941.2816 ext. 2620 • [dufferinwaste@dufferincounty.ca](mailto:dufferinwaste@dufferincounty.ca) [dufferinwaste](https://www.facebook.com/dufferinwaste)



## Orangeville Transit updates coming this spring

Orangeville Transit will be making updates to stops on the Blue and Orange routes. These changes reflect feedback from riders, drivers and the transit accessibility audit, with a focus on safety, reliability and convenience.

Stay up to date at [orangeville.ca/RideWithUs](http://orangeville.ca/RideWithUs)

## HOLIDAY INTERRUPTION FOR WASTE COLLECTION

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
May 10	May 11	May 12	May 13	May 14	May 15	May 16
	<b>double up</b> VICTORIA DAY	May 19	May 20	May 21	May 22	May 23
May 24	May 25	May 26	May 27	May 28	May 29	May 30

- Monday ZONE
- Tuesday ZONE
- Wednesday ZONE
- Thursday ZONE
- Interruption no collections

### Happy Victoria Day!

Due to the holiday on Monday, May 18th, garbage, Blue Carts and Green Bins will be collected **one day later** that week. Double Up Days allow you to place up to TWO un-tagged bags/containers of garbage out on your collection day that week.

**dufferinwaste**  
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## Sustainable Orangeville's sapling giveaway

in partnership with Credit Valley Conservation

**Saturday, May 23, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.**  
 Fendley Park, 11 Fendley Rd.

Help grow Orangeville's urban canopy—one tree at a time. Pick up one free tree sapling per household (Orangeville residents only), available first-come, first-served, to plant at home.

Learn more at [orangeville.ca/SustainableOrangeville](http://orangeville.ca/SustainableOrangeville).

# Ebb and Flow exhibit returns to Streams, sharing artwork with the community

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

The Ebb and Flow exhibit will return to the Shelburne Town Hall Art Gallery this June as part of a growing month-long celebration of arts and community programming organized by Streams Hub.

The annual gallery takeover, now entering its fourth year, invites youth and emerging artists of all ages to submit original works.

According to Streams Hub program coordinator Megan Mare, the exhibit has steadily grown since its launch through a collaboration with Town Hall, following discussions about using the municipal gallery space to support local youth arts.

“Andrew James, our co-founder, had a meeting or a run-in with Town Hall,” she said. Given that we are an arts charity and arts education facility, somebody at Town Hall planted the seed that, ‘we have a gallery space, if you apply for the space, perhaps we

can work together and collaborate, where you guys can actually take the space for a month and utilize it to encourage youth arts and have them be showcased,’ and that’s how it started.”

Since then, the initiative has evolved into an annual event that highlights creativity across a wide range of ages and experience levels. She said that the exhibit is designed less as a competitive showcase and more as an opportunity for creatives to explore artistic expression and gain confidence sharing their work publicly.

“We accept everybody who applies, if it fits into the gallery,” Mare said. “It’s really about showcasing talent and the creative pursuit. We’ve in the past had artists as young as six years old and artists as old as in their mid 40s, so it’s open for everybody to attend and to apply. We don’t believe in such a thing as bad art. We want to find opportunities to explore.”

Submissions are open until May 15, with organizers aiming to display up to 35 pieces

throughout the exhibit. Artists whose work is sold during the month-long show will receive half of the proceeds, while the remaining 50 per cent will support Streams Hub programming and initiatives.

Mare said that everyone is encouraged to sign up.

“It’s open for everybody to attend and to apply,” she said. “Whether you’re able to apply by the deadline or even just attend as a community viewer, support your peers in the community. It’s about the process. It’s about the connection with the materials, and the connection with the art itself, and the experience you gain just through trial and error.”

The exhibit will officially open on June 5 and remain on display through June 26.

This year’s opening night will also coincide with the debut of a youth production of *Finding Nemo*, presented by Streams Hub’s theatre program. Performances will run June 5 through 7, with students having spent months preparing for the production.

The gallery also serves as the launch point for the organization’s wider “Streams Month” programming, a series of community-focused events taking place throughout June to raise awareness and support for the arts charity’s programs across Dufferin County.

Additional activities planned for the month include a Family Feud-style game night later in June, where community members can form teams and participate in a free, friendly competition hosted by Andrew James. Organizers say the event is intended to focus on fun and community connection rather than prizes.

Streams Month will conclude with a free community barbecue at Streams Hub.

Mare said the month-long initiative is intended to spotlight both the accomplishments of local youth and the importance of accessible creative opportunities within the community.

For more information, go to <https://streamshub.org/>.



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## Island painter brings collection of Georgian Bay landscapes to Shelburne Town Hall Art Gallery

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

A familiar splash of colour has returned to Shelburne Town Hall Art Gallery as painter Wendy Wilson unveiled her latest hallway exhibition, a sequel to last year’s show titled “A Glimpse of Summer.”

This is Wilson’s second time displaying at the town hall, after first exhibiting there in May 2024. The new collection, on display until May 22, was inspired by the landscapes of Georgian Bay and Muskoka. Her art lines the upper hallway outside council chambers, offering visitors a bright, seasonal preview as summer approaches.

The timing, Wilson notes, gives people a chance to find a piece that they like for the cottage or home.

“I did a display in May last year and May this year again, so that’s probably why they call it a glimpse of summer,” Wilson said. “Now that summer is coming, it’s a good opportunity for someone to check out and purchase a piece to take to their cottage or put in their homes for the season, and then switch it out for a fall or winter.”

Wilson’s work is rooted in the rugged shorelines and wind-shaped trees of Georgian Bay, where she lives, and in memories of summers spent at her grandmother’s cottage on Lake Joseph.

“I live on an island out on Georgian Bay, and I’m inspired everywhere I look,” she said. “I am in love with the white pine and the rock and the deep colored water of Georgian

Bay. But I also grew up at my grandmother’s Muskoka cottage on Lake Joseph, and I think that’s where I was first originally inspired.”

Her paintings are impressionistic, built on strong colour, expressive brushwork and a recurring signature element: the use of purple in every piece.

Pines lean, twist and reach across rock outcrops; weather-bent trunks and branches are treated almost as characters, each with its own story. Rock formations, shorelines and deep water are rendered in bold tones that emphasize mood and movement over strict realism.

Behind the display is a lifelong commitment to the arts. Wilson originally planned to pursue art education but trained as a music teacher, spending years in the classroom while keeping visual art in the background – designing backdrops and integrating creative projects into her lessons.

“Way back when, I probably would have been an art teacher, but the jobs were in French and music, so I went through to be a music teacher,” she said. “I spent 25 years of my life teaching music, but art was always included in the backdrops or sometimes in class with the kids, just depending on what I was teaching music-wise. I tried to always bring art into it.”

With a vibrant collection of artwork on display, Wilson’s constant push to improve and develop her skills has clearly paid off.

See “A Glimpse of Summer II,” now on display until May 22 at the Shelburne Town Hall Art Gallery.

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# HOME *Spring* & GARDEN

## Must-have features when outfitting an outdoor living space

Outdoor living spaces are wildly popular. A 2024 poll of more than 1,000 homeowners conducted by Thumbtack found that 29 percent of respondents intended to spend as much as \$5,000 improving their outdoor spaces in the coming months.

**THERE'S MUCH TO GAIN** from upgrading outdoor living spaces. In addition to the improved functionality and additional usage residents get to enjoy when upgrading these spaces, such projects can help to improve resale value. In fact, a 2021 survey of real estate agents conducted by HomeLight found that a new patio provided an average return on investment of 109 percent.

There's much to gain in both the short- and long-term when upgrading an outdoor living space. The following are a handful of must-have features to make such spaces an even better addition to a home's existing layout and landscape.

### Multi-functionality

The home renovation experts at This Old House note versatility in an outdoor living space can set a stage for relaxation, entertaining and family activities. Outdoor living spaces tend to be most useful when they're multifunctional, providing a space where residents can relax on weekend mornings and

evenings throughout the week while also offering the potential to entertain crowds during backyard barbecue season. Homeowners can keep this in mind and prioritize multifunctionality when designing outdoor living spaces.

### Seamless connectivity with interior designs

Though outdoor living areas were long viewed as areas wholly separate from home interiors, that traditional outlook has changed in recent years. In a 2024 survey conducted by Fixr, 78 percent of industry experts noted a coherent indoor-outdoor design was the most popular outdoor living space trend that year. This design choice suggests an outdoor living space is an extension of the home as opposed to a wholly separate area.

### Comfortable seating

The days of stackable plastic lawn chairs are largely a thing of the past. Modern outdoor living spaces offer comfortable, all-weather seating where residents and guests can gather to relax and engage in conver-

sation. Accent tables to place drinks and other items is another nice touch that can add to the comfort-first feel of an outdoor space. Modular furniture merits homeowners' consideration, as such furnishings can be customized and rearranged for each gathering and might prove easier to store for homeowners who will be taking the seating in over the winter.

### Lighting

Of course, summer gatherings in outdoor living spaces have a tendency to continue past sundown. Proper lighting can ensure spaces are safely navigated when the sun goes down. Sufficient lighting also enhances the visual appeal of the space while facilitating conversation when natural light is no longer enough to illuminate a space.

There's no shortage of ways to create an awe-inspiring outdoor living space. Homeowners can start with some must-have features and then build on the spaces as they see fit.

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# Dufferin Lawn Life brings eco-friendly lawn care to Orangeville for over five decades

BY SAM ODROWSKI



## DUFFERIN LAWN LIFE, ORANGEVILLE'S LONGEST-STANDING LAWN-CARE COMPANY,

has been keeping local green spaces healthy and weed-free for more than 50 years. The company has built a strong reputation for its personalized, eco-friendly, organic-based lawn care programs. Dufferin Lawn Life improves overall lawn health, eliminates weeds, and monitors activity. The business also offers mosquito and tick control, crack-and-crevice treatments, complete lawn reseeding, and treatments for trees, shrubs, and roots.

"We're local and we care. If someone has a concern, our experienced staff will get there within a day or two and address it," said Richard Reed, owner of Dufferin Lawn Life. "If there's anything they can't handle, they'll let me know, and I'll go see it for myself."

Dufferin Lawn Life takes a very environmentally friendly approach, using chelated iron to kill weeds and biologicals to control insects.

The company takes a local approach to lawn care has led to long-term support since opening in 1973.

"I've got clients that are grandchildren of original clients and I've still got some clients that have been with us since the very beginning," Reed noted.

Dufferin Lawn Life proudly provides lawn care to roughly 15 per cent of all Orangeville households, and serves the surrounding area.

"We have specialized equipment to serve people living on large country lots, but the bulk of our business is in town," Reed explained.

Outside of Orangeville, Dufferin Lawn Life

services Grand Valley, Amaranth, Mono, Shelburne, Alliston, Dundalk and everywhere in between.

While Dufferin Lawn Life deals with a large volume of customers, it remains community-based with a local focus. It is truly a multi-generational family business, with Reed's grandson recently completing a co-op program at Dufferin Lawn Life through his high school, and he has become more involved.

Dufferin Lawn Life only uses the highest-quality products, primarily sourced from Canada, and has even developed some products in-house, including liquid aeration.

The business also grows its own grass seed in Western Canada and Portland, Oregon, producing hardy, drought-tolerant seeds.

Dufferin Lawn Life is a leader in the industry, with the University of Guelph and Landscape Ontario inviting Reed to speak at events.

The company supports the community where it can, sponsoring local sports teams and supporting charities.

Dufferin Lawn Life also runs Dufferin Christmas Tree Farm, where patrons can come and cut their own Christmas tree for the holiday season.

The company is currently accepting new clients.

Anyone looking to improve the appearance and health of their lawn can contact Dufferin Lawn Life by phone at 519-942-9333 or email [info@dufferinlawnlife.com](mailto:info@dufferinlawnlife.com).

Learn more at the business's website: [dufferinlawnlife.com](http://dufferinlawnlife.com).

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Spring HOME & GARDEN

# The Fireplace Stop

taking care of you every step of the way.

BY RILEY MURPHY



At The Fireplace Stop, a customer's experience is truly second to none.

Run by Andy Leonard, his family, and team, he says that their people are what make the store the comforting and welcoming space it is.

They'll take care of you every step of the way, whether it's picking out a product in their up-to-date showroom, right down to the recommendation on installation.

The Fireplace Stop will have everything covered, so all you have to worry about is enjoying.

Leonard prides himself on his businesses, bringing good people, high-quality products, and fair prices to the table.

"Everything, and a little bit more," he adds.

But don't just take their word for it, 90% of the jobs they do, the customer will phone back to thank them for their exceptional service, and quality team members.

The Fireplace Stop, founded by Leonard in

1987, opened its location at Highway 9 and 27 in Schomberg in 1990, where it stands to this day.

Now, Leonard and his family are coming full circle, as they have taken over the Fireplace and Leisure Centre in Seguin, Ontario, 1km from Parry Sound, where he grew up.

At The Fireplace Stop, not only does Leonard work with his three kids, but the team is like one big family, with many of its employees having been there for decades, the business is Canadian, family-owned and operated and always has been.

They bring their team to both locations, ensuring best treatment will never be a second thought.

At The Fireplace Stop, they understand the struggles you face every day and work hard to adapt to them. They know that you work hard too!

If you can't come in during their

operating hours, they invite you to make an appointment to visit, see their products, and meet their team in person.

Leonard makes sure his people are the best, in turn giving you the best experience possible.

His team knows exactly which product you'll need after hearing your concerns, and the exact technical aspects needed for the job.

They also receive frequent recertifications, ensuring their technique remains up to date.

"You're going to be taken care of the right way," says Leonard.

Continuing to advance their business by meeting their customers where they are, The Fireplace Stop is renovating their showroom with the newest products and introducing financing for all jobs.

Leonard believes that, like all high-ticket items in your life, you should be able to do the same with your jobs through The

Fireplace Stop.

Financing is done directly online, ensuring customers can keep their personal information private and making it quick and easy for consumers.

At The Fireplace Stop, they can do a wide variety of jobs, including those on properties with snowmobile or boat access only.

They sell and service top-brand-name fireplaces at both locations, and also offer hot tubs at their northern location.

At The Fireplace Stop, both staff and customers are treated like lifelong friends.

Many actually are, as Leonard says he knows almost everyone who comes through his doors.

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"A big part of what we do is build relationships. We still have customers today who my mother knew decades ago, and they continue to come back because that sense of trust and rapport has carried through over time." Beyond paint, Focus on Decorating carries Hunter Douglas Blinds, Alta Window Fashions, Maxxmar Window Fashions, Hickory Hardware products, wallpaper ordering through supplier books, and a wide selection of decorative home-finishing solutions. Personalized service and product quality are what define Focus on Decorating, according to Eppenberger. "People who have tried our brand are generally impressed with the quality, the lasting finish, and the coverage they get compared to other products on the market," he said. "Our staff is very knowledgeable, and when people come in with an issue or a problem, we take the time to work through it with them and try to resolve it properly, not just send them away with a quick answer." Benjamin Moore products are known for their high solids content, which results in better coverage because there is a higher percentage of actual pigment-binding material in their paints rather than solvent. This means

fewer coats of paint are needed, improving durability and providing a thicker, longer-lasting finish. What sets Focus on Decorating apart from other retailers is its independent-store atmosphere and its emphasis on greeting customers and providing immediate assistance with a personal touch. Eppenberger said he has a small but highly dedicated team of seven employees who ensure customers walk out the door with everything they need. "Most of our staff have five to seven years of experience here, so customers are dealing with people who really know the products," he said. "My philosophy is that it shouldn't matter who you're talking to — you should be getting the same answers and the same advice from everyone here." Focus on Decorating is very active in the community, supporting service clubs and church groups throughout the year. The business recently donated paint to the Orangeville Curling Club for facility improvements and has donated gift cards to support its fundraising efforts through annual bonspiels. "We try to assist where we can," Eppenberger said. Monthly specials are always available, and there is pric-

ing flexibility for whole-home projects. Staff work with customers to help manage project costs where possible. Focus on Decorating is located at 88 First St., Orangeville, and is open seven days a week. Its hours of operation are from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturdays, and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sundays. The weekday hours serve contractors by opening early at 7 a.m. and the general public by keeping it open until 7 p.m. Eppenberger says he's always happy to help customers, no matter when they come through the door. "The consumer coming in is never an inconvenience to us — they are the reason we are in business. If you lose sight of that, you lose what makes a small business work in the first place," Eppenberger explained. "We try to go out of our way to provide a level of service where the customer doesn't have to figure everything out themselves. We guide them through it, we help them make decisions." To learn more about Focus on Decorating, visit [focusondecorating.ca](http://focusondecorating.ca) or call (519) 942-8171 during regular business hours.



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# Window Whiz delivers expert window and door repairs and installations homeowners trust



When homeowners experience issues with their windows or patio doors, many assume full replacement is the only solution. In reality, professional repairs can often restore performance, improve energy efficiency, and extend the lifespan of existing windows and doors at a fraction of the cost. That repair-first approach is what sets Window Whiz apart. Specializing in window and door repairs, Window Whiz has earned a strong reputation for honest advice, reliable service, and exceptional workmanship. Whether dealing with broken seals, foggy glass, damaged hardware, drafty windows, or patio doors that no longer open and close properly, their experienced team focuses on practical solutions that deliver lasting results. With over a decade of industry experience, we rarely encounter a problem we can't solve, and customers can expect skilled, friendly service. Projects are completed with care, attention to detail, and respect for the homeowner's space, making the process straightforward and stress-free from start to

finish. In addition to repairs, Window Whiz also offers professional new window and door installations for homeowners looking to upgrade their homes. New installations can improve energy efficiency, increase comfort year-round, enhance curb appeal, and add long-term value to a property. Whether replacing outdated windows, upgrading to modern energy-efficient models, or installing new patio doors to improve functionality and natural light, the team works closely with homeowners to ensure the right fit for both style and budget. From repairs that extend the life of existing windows and doors to expertly completed new installations, Window Whiz continues to provide dependable service and quality results homeowners can trust. For local homeowners, business owners, and project management teams seeking skilled craftsmanship, professional service, and honest advice, Window Whiz remains a trusted choice in the community. Send us a text or give us a call at 289-260-7504!



## Did You Know: Gardening offers more than just a day in the sun

Millions of people embrace opportunities to get back in their gardens each spring, and they might be reaping more rewards from that activity than they realize. According to the American Institute of Stress, gardening sparks a level of creativity among enthusiasts, and that can help to alleviate stress

by lowering levels of the hormone cortisol. In addition, authors of a 2022 study published in the journal Urban Forestry & Urban Greening concluded that gardening during the COVID-19 pandemic helped people cope with coronavirus-related stress through outdoor activity.

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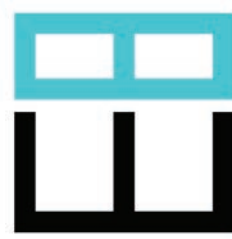
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Most pool companies will add a "shock" to your pool when it first opens. This could be in liquid or granular form. The majority of pools will need to add water to the skimmer level before the pumps can be turned on to allow for circulation of the water. New Wave recommends that the pool run for 24-48 hours, then take a water sample to your local pool company for complete testing.

At this time, we will test for PH, Total Alkalinity, Chlorine and Bromine levels, stabilizer, and the salt level, if applicable.

PH and Total Alkalinity are most important in the spring as our pools are affected by all the water on top of our winter cover. This affects the water below the cover.

Low PH and Total Alkalinity means the water is acidic or corrosive. Balancing these levels first allows all other chemicals, such as sanitizers, algaecides, and clarifiers, to work much more efficiently.

Regular water testing at home is great, but double-checking and having it tested at a pool store keeps everything in balance.

Make sure to keep stock on your chemical supplies before going for water testing so that you are not unnecessarily purchasing more of something you already have. Keep your chemicals in a dry space during the season and seal tightly for indoor storage in the winter.

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## Factors to consider before renovating a driveway

Driveways are oft-overlooked components of home exteriors. But driveways provide functionality and points of egress to a home. Industry experts estimate that a new driveway costs between \$5,000 and \$7,000, though the price will vary based on the materials homeowners choose and the square footage of the driveway.

When deciding whether or not to renovate their driveways, homeowners can review these considerations.

### Materials

Driveways can be made from a variety of materials, even grass or soil. The following are some driveway materials homeowners may choose from:

- Gravel
- Chip seal
- Concrete
- Asphalt
- Rubber
- Exposed aggregate
- Pavers
- Permeable pavers
- Heated

### Repair or replace

Nearly any size crack can be patched with concrete or cold-patch asphalt, or specialty materials, according to This Old House, an online home improvement resource. Repairing and resealing a driveway can help prolong its longevity. Plus, this is a more cost-effective option for homeowners on a budget who want to improve curb appeal and safety.

Large holes or unsightly damage may require a driveway replacement. This also will be the case if a homeowner hopes to expand the driveway. Replacing a driveway requires a time commitment. The existing driveway needs to be demolished and removed. The ground underneath typically is smoothed and

tamped down. Substrate or wire mesh also may be installed. After the new material is laid, there may be a period of time for settling and curing, during which use of the driveway is prohibited.

### DIY or professional?

While sealing and minor repairs generally can be handled by a homeowner who has researched the process, large repairs or driveway replacements should be left to professionals for the best results. Driveway slope needs to be considered for proper rain runoff, and the professional will understand the thickness and preparatory steps necessary to ensure driveway durability. Installation of a heated driveway requires a specific skill set and this is a job best left to professional driveway contractors.

### Driveway enhancements

The options do not end with the driveway material. There are other ways to boost aesthetics.

**ILLUMINATION:** Homeowners can install recessed LED lights into the driveway to define the edges and add aesthetic appeal.

**STAMPED TEXTURE:** Homeowners opting for the affordability of concrete can ask for a stamped design that mimics the look of stone or pavers.

**GATES:** One doesn't have to live in an exclusive community to have their property enhanced by gates. Gates can give a home a distinguished look.

**EDGING:** Driveways can be edged with another material to create definition between the driveway and lawn, or to provide the perfect spots to plant beds.

Driveway renovations can add curb appeal and improve the functionality of a home.

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"We have a huge selection of rich coloured flowers for your pots, deck, gardens, and waterfalls," said Deborah Powell from the Canadian Tire Garden Centre. "Beautifying with colours and types of flowers that brighten, relax and inspire you is so inviting."

The garden centre features a wide selection of plants, including 280 ferns, creating a tropical feel inside the greenhouse.

"What we're offering is beautiful, healthy, vibrant plants. We've got perennials, annuals, vegetables, and a lot of strawberry plants," said Powell. "It's only going to get better as more plants arrive."

The colourful selection of plants helps enhance any space.

"These colours, as you sit back and enjoy, can inspire your creative side," said Powell.

"Whether that's art, cooking or another hobby, it's interesting how we are influenced by the choices we make when shopping, planning and creating our gardens."

Beyond the incredible selection and quality, Powell said it's the team at Canadian Tire's Garden Centre

that sets it apart.

"The teamwork, team spirit, and overall effort here is just unbelievable — something I haven't experienced anywhere else. It's fantastic to be part of," she enthused.

"We are focused on looking after people. I love having conversations with customers about their gardens. We learn from each other — people ask questions, we share knowledge, and if we don't know something, we look it up together. I really enjoy that part of the job."

Interest in food gardening has increased, according to Powell, with more shoppers looking to grow fruits and vegetables. Pollinator gardens are also on the rise, with more customers purchasing pollinator-friendly plants.

That growing interest, Powell said, reflects the centre's broader philosophy of helping customers feel supported and confident in their gardening choices.

"This is the community's garden centre," said Powell. "We are here to make it a welcoming, comfortable, and informative experience, and to help people get exactly what they need."

Canadian Tire Orangeville is located within the Fairgrounds Shopping Centre at 99 First Street, and Powell encourages residents to stop by.

"We're here to welcome you," Powell said. "Happy gardening from all of the Canadian Tire Garden Centre team."



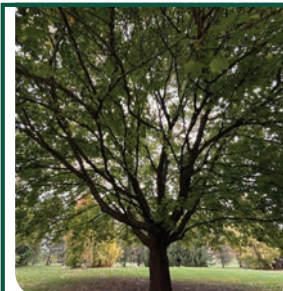
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# Fire Up Spring: Caledon Fireplace Highlights Smart Napoleon Wi-Fi BBQs and New Valor Fireplaces



**CALEDON FIREPLACE IS WELCOMING THE NEW SEASON WITH EXCITING NEWS FOR HOMEOWNERS:** they are now carrying the premium Valor fireplace brand. This addition expands their already impressive lineup of Canadian-made heating products and gives customers even more choice when upgrading their indoor living spaces.

A new fireplace remains one of the most effective ways to add charm, warmth, and value to a home. Whether you're looking for a stylish focal point or a dependable heat source, the experts at Caledon Fireplace can install gas, electric, or wood-burning units tailored to your needs. With the addition of Valor's advanced, efficient designs, homeowners now have even more options for creating a cozy, inviting atmosphere indoors.

As the weather warms, many homeowners turn their attention outdoors. Caledon Fireplace offers a wide range of outdoor fire features, including fire pits, fire tables, burners, log sets, and dramatic tempest torches. For those dreaming of a fully equipped outdoor cooking space, they also provide components for complete outdoor kitchens.

A standout favourite this spring is the Canadian-made line of Napoleon BBQs, especially models featuring built-in Wi-Fi technology. These smart grills allow you to monitor and control your barbecue directly from your smartphone—adjusting temperatures, checking cooking progress, and managing your meal without ever needing to walk over to the grill. It's a perfect blend of convenience, precision, and modern outdoor living.

Inside the home, Caledon Fireplace also carries the popular Jøtul wood stoves, known for exceptional craftsmanship and efficient heat distribution. To complement any setup, they offer a full range of accessories, from wood-burning essentials to barbecue add-ons like smokers, chips, pizza stones, rotisserie baskets, and digital temperature probes.

Friendly, knowledgeable, and passionate about their craft, the team at Caledon Fireplace makes this your one-stop destination for all indoor and outdoor fire needs.

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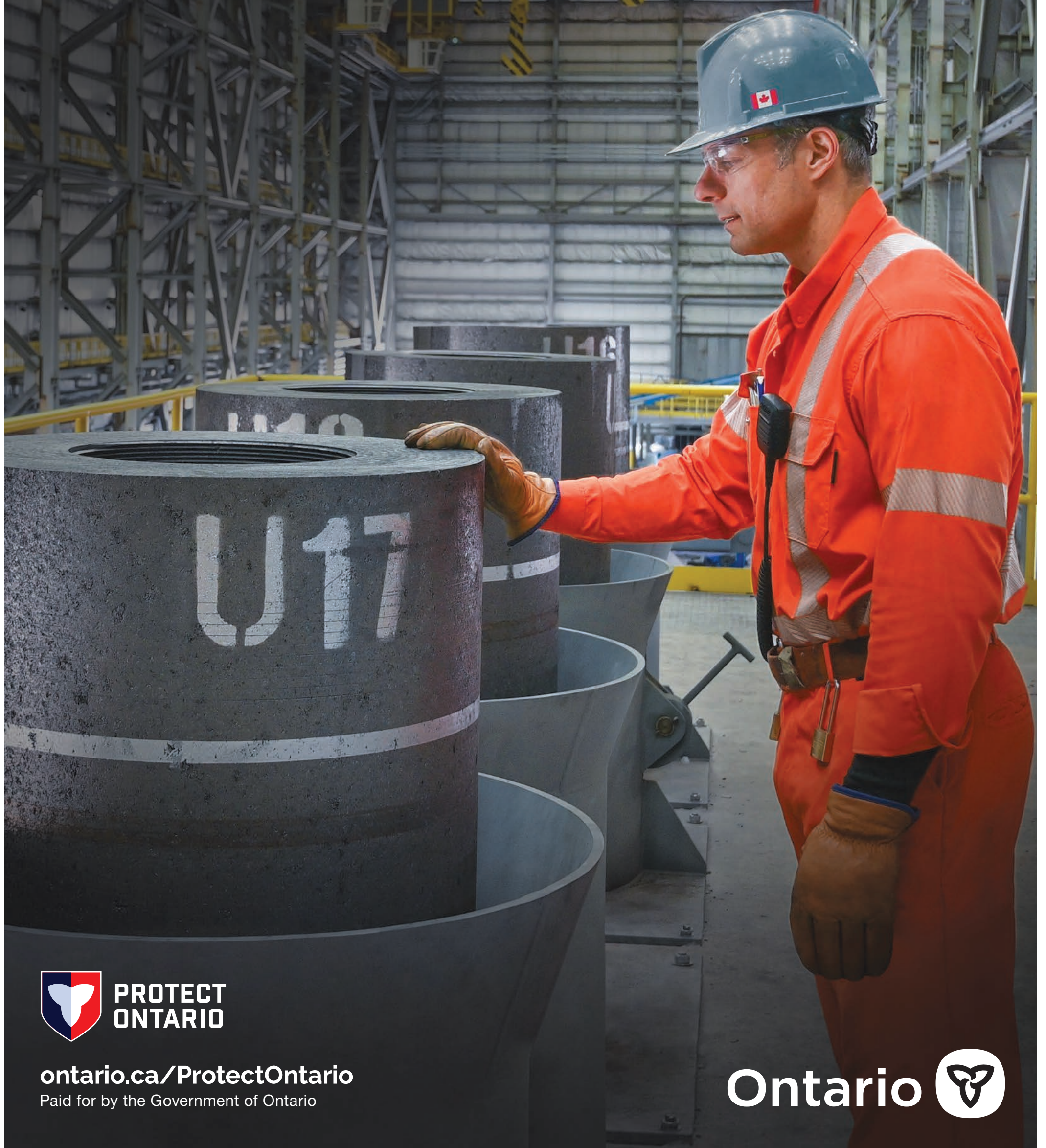


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## Orangeville District Secondary School varsity girls rugby team move into third place

Written By BRIAN LOCKHART

The Orangeville District Secondary School (ODSS) Bears girls' varsity rugby team are gaining momentum with two wins in their last two games.

The Bears won 19-5 over Centre Wellington on May 4, then followed up with another win when they hosted Centennial Collegiate Vocational Institute from Guelph on the pitch at ODSS on Wednesday, May 6.

The win moved the Bears up into third place in the District 4/10 standings.

It was a good first half for the Bears in Wednesday's game when they scored three times to take the lead.

Keeping up the pressure in the second half, the Bears scored again while putting up a strong defensive effort to keep their opponents from advancing.

"I think it was a good game and we played really well as a team," said Bears player Eden Connelly after the game. "On offence we did well passing the ball, and when we went down the ground and getting pops up. We had a good strong defence and got our tackles in. We've had a great season. I love this team, we've been having an amazing season."

Teammate Vaida Osborne said she thinks the Bears had a good performance in the game against Centennial Collegiate.

"I think we really stepped up working as a team and our passing has gotten a lot better," Vaida said after Wednesday's game. "I think the dynamic of the team has really improved and done so well this season. We did really well getting the ball out wide and working together as a team and help each other out. On defence I think we did really well getting up on the line and catching them so they couldn't get too many yards on us. We did a good job of spreading out and



BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

**CHARGING THROUGH:** The Orangeville District Secondary School Scarlett Bears take on the team from Centennial Collegiate Vocation Institute from Guelph on the pitch at ODSS on Wednesday, May 6. The Bears won this game 44-5 and moved into third place in the District 4/10 standings.

taking their yards from them."

The final from Wednesday's game was a 44-5 win for the ODSS team.

The Bears had their final regular-season

game on Wednesday, May 13, against Centre Dufferin District High School from Shelburne, with results not available at press time.

The District 4/10 playoffs will start on Tuesday, May 19, with semi-final games.

The District championship is scheduled for Thursday, May 21.



BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTOS

**SKILLS ON DISPLAY:** Athletes from local high schools competed at the District 4/10 track and field meet held at St. James Catholic High School in Guelph on Monday, May 11. It was the second day of the track and field competition, with leaders moving on to the COSA competition in May. Orangeville District Secondary School and Westside Secondary

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# OPINION

## You owe how much??

You just can't escape paying bills. By the time you open your eyes in the morning, you already owe income tax on the money you earned the previous day. Filling up the gas tank to get to work that morning means another chunk of your money is gone, along with the tax you paid on that gas. While driving to work, you have already paid for car insurance and house insurance in case a tornado touches down on your street that afternoon. From the money you make during your day's work, you'll have to put some aside for your upcoming property tax bill. Having a hamburger for lunch? There's another 13 per cent because someone threw it on the grill for you. Need a new pair of jeans? Yup, you pay more tax so you don't have to go to work in your bathing suit. Then there are the non-stop bills you have to pay just to get through life. Every three months, you are charged for water and sewer services. You pay the bills for electricity, gas, a telephone (if you still have one), a cell phone, and probably cable or satellite television and internet.

With the rising cost of food, just putting dinner on the table every night is becoming a challenge. I think there must be a lot of young parents who are very creative when it comes to buying food and keeping their kids fed. With all the bills we have to pay, I'm surprised anyone has any money left over at the end of the month to save or spend on something for themselves. In fact, household debt across the country is at record levels. On top of mortgage debt, credit card debt levels are at the highest they have ever been. It seems most people are struggling just to keep their heads above water. Now imagine what life would be like if all those bills suddenly doubled – or tripled. It makes no sense to go through life borrowing money to pay your bills just so you can have a roof over your head. However, in current times, many people are doing exactly that to stay afloat – and so is our country. I tried to find the correct number for the current Canadian debt. However, there are many conflicting figures depending on which source you use. It definitely is in the hundreds of billions of

dollars, maybe more. And we are not alone. Almost every country on the planet has a massive amount of debt. The leaders are China and the US, which now has a national debt of over \$30 trillion. All Western European countries have a huge national debt. Even smaller countries can't seem to manage their money. If individual households can't survive by living on borrowed money, what makes government leaders think a country can? Under the Ontario Municipal Act, (Section 290), "for each year, a local municipality shall, in the year or the immediately preceding year, prepare and adopt a budget including estimates of all sums required during the year for the purposes of the municipality, including (a) amounts sufficient to pay all debts of the municipality falling due within the year." Municipalities are allowed to incur debt at times for big projects; however, there is a financial limit, and it cannot continue year after year. They must pay their debt and get on with business. There's a good reason for this. Taxpayers fund the town.

Can you imagine the outcry if a municipality spent ten times what they should have, then raised residents' tax bill by the same margin to pay it off? There seems to be no responsibility anywhere at the federal level when it comes to spending, and it's getting worse every year. Someone once quoted, "sooner or later you run out of someone else's money." Depending on your age, it is likely that your grandchildren will be paying the price for all this spending. You can't keep borrowing forever. Sooner or later, someone will want their money back. Calling in a debt could spark a chain reaction – as seen during the Great Depression of 1929 – and a total economic collapse could follow. And what will the leaders who caused all this be doing? Most likely, they will be packing their suitcases with money and spending their time drinking mint juleps at their beach house while the rest of the population tries to figure out how to make a head of cabbage last for a month to feed their families.

**BRIAN LOCKHART**  
FROM THE SECOND ROW



## Israel: The widening war

There are really two wars in the Middle East, and only one of them is paused. The US-Iran war has been stuck in a ragged ceasefire for more than a month, with the participants only indulging in occasional tit-for-tat strikes that Donald Trump likes to call "love taps": fewer than five killed. Israel was part of that war too in March, dropping thousands of bombs on Iran, but Trump then told Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to observe the ceasefire with Iran and he actually did. However, he went right on bombing Hezbollah, a Lebanon-based organization that acts as Iran's proxy in the country, even attacking Israel on Iran's behalf. It's an odd alliance, based only on the fact that both Iran (92 million people) and the minority of Lebanese who support Hezbollah (fewer than 2 million) follow the same Shia strand of Islam. The real attraction for both groups, probably, is that Shiism is emotionally all about victimhood. For Iranians, it is a historical grievance; for Lebanese Shias, it is omnipresent. Lebanese Shias are not Palestinians and have no direct grievance with Israel. Their true grievance is that they are impoverished, downtrodden and often despised by the other two-thirds of Lebanese society, who are Sunni Muslims or Christians of

various kinds. A sociologist would probably say that while the Lebanese Shias truly believe they are fighting for the rights of the Palestinian underdogs, their dedicated and heavily armed support for the Palestinian cause is really a way of extorting respect and gaining power over the more privileged parts of Lebanese society. At any rate, Hezbollah are very tough fighters and a permanent thorn in the side of both the Israelis and the Lebanese state. A 15-year civil war (1975-90) proved that the Lebanese government dares not confront them openly, while Israel is obsessed with them since their home territory, the southern third of Lebanon, is the part that borders directly on Israel. But now, at last, Benjamin Netanyahu thinks he has discovered a solution to this problem. Over the past two years the Israel Defence Force (IDF) has methodically destroyed the homes and infrastructure that served two million people in the Gaza Strip. Now the survivors live in tents and most countries in the world call it 'genocide,' but nobody does anything about it. So why not do the same in southern Lebanon and destroy the home base of that other 'nest of terrorists?' That is precisely

what the IDF is doing in southern Lebanon at the moment: ordering the residents to leave and systematically destroying the villages and towns all the way up to Beirut. They are less than halfway through their work at this point, but the final product will look exactly the same. (The second genocide is always easier.) Trump's endless attempts to avoid the blame for his foolish war may well give the IDF time to finish the demolition job properly, although bits of Hezbollah will doubtless live on under the wreckage. And meanwhile what about the Gaza Strip, which has been under a kind of ceasefire since last October? There have been only 850 Palestinians killed since the ceasefire, compared to more than 73,000 deaths in the previous two years. However, Hamas is now refusing to disarm (just as everybody who crafted this ceasefire knew it would). This would give Netanyahu an opportunity to reopen the war and resume the task of driving all the Palestinians of Gaza down to a small enclave in the southwest from which they could be more easily exported to somewhere else entirely. The October ceasefire interrupted that process, leaving the IDF in sole control

of only 60 per cent of the Gaza Strip. Israel's Channel 12 News recently reported that Washington has given Israel "a green light" to "resume operations", presumably to occupy and destroy any remaining built-up areas in the Strip and cleanse it of Palestinians – but it probably won't happen. There have been too many interruptions to the grand plan (if there ever was one). Public opinion about incomplete and proposed genocides is shifting even in Israel. Netanyahu is almost certain to lose the October election. Israel has become a pariah country and can no longer demand special treatment because of its tragic past. There is a way back, of course, but none of the men who are likely to form the coalition that evicts Netanyahu from office – Naftali Bennett, Yair Lapid, and Gadi Eisenkot – seem inclined to do penance for his behaviour in office. It will be a long way back. NB: The crime of genocide is not confined to death camps and gas chambers. It includes "specific acts committed with the intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial, or religious group."

**GWYNNE DYER**  
OUR WORLD TODAY



## The thrill of being a mother

Actually, it was my horse, Patrick, who was first to let me know. He was quite the lad, you see, always ready for a little razzmatazz on the trail, who on that day had a whole new attitude to our outing. Just a gentle trot-on, and when I suggested a canter, he was all caution and watchfulness, looking over his shoulder to make sure I had a tight leg and proceeding in a canter that was positively sedate. What's wrong with this horse? Thought I and the answer was: nothing! Back at home, a test told me I was pregnant! Being pregnant was a great time for me, for I was somehow spared morning sickness, mood swings – all those aches and pains. There was perhaps some influence on my food choices, I who always preferred the cheese course to a sweet was suddenly impatient with the savoury obligations to the meal and chomping at the bit for dessert – bringing it on first, as the saying goes. A few of us were out having afternoon tea one day in a fine, old-fashioned hotel that understood how afternoon tea should look. The first round of trays carried delicate sandwiches with their crusts cut off and dear little savoury scones; I had little patience for

any of it, straining to see if our gentlemanly waiter was coming back soon with a tray or so of goodies. Here he was at last, and the menu for the tea included one choice. I pointed, suffering to decide amongst them on one; my companions each did likewise, but not one of them took that lovely cream-filled éclair to possibly share with me. "Wait," I protested. "no one wants one of those eclairs?" Spying my growing baby bulge, the waiter relented and put a small collection of the delicacies on my plate and murmured, "Compliments of the house, Madam." So it went, a sunny time for me while carrying my child and a virtually pain-free, drug-free delivery, although I certainly learned why it is called "labour." Patricia was named after my mother, not my horse, as the people at the barn where he was boarded amused themselves to say. Her father was a friend, long since divorced and the father of three, who had agreed to my choice as a single parent, himself her acknowledged father but living separately. Raising Patricia as a single mom was even more fun than her gestation; a single mom to be sure, but with the aid of a nanny for the first 18 months, a lady who

had always been a nanny for other families. She taught me, an only child with no baby experience, to play with my baby, laugh with her, and talk to her about colours, music, and fun. I had three pillars in my philosophy of how to raise my child: music, travel and horses. They formed her life and led her to be a musician with a broad view of the world and a deeply compassionate soul. It was early on, when my tiny child first called me "Mommy,," that opened like a fresh light on what an honour it is to be someone's "mommy." It was an insight that has stayed steady with me all the way into her adulthood. Those days were mostly in the UK until Patricia and I, our dog, and Patrick came back to Canada when she was six. We came back to the Hockley Valley, which I had remembered when I was a teenager visiting it, that it was beautiful and home to many artists. I reckoned we would meet like minds there and in Orangeville, which we surely have done. So, to set the stage, Patricia, fully an adult but afflicted by rheumatoid arthritis, and I have settled to live together, which suits us very well. For Mother's Day this year, she wrote

a poem for me. It is a history of our life together so far, headed separately by her age at the time of each story. She places the scene and then describes me as her eyes saw me, with such depth and love as a mother could barely hope. She tells in miniature those times when we were bold or in my garden, when I was there to see her perform or by an ocean at our leisure. She thrills to those days in Hockley riding with Patrick and her Welsh Arab pony Windsor in the best of times. She praises my care for her first broken heart. She calls me a champion when we were facing a tragedy. She tells me how she loves me. Do we do this often enough, salute those who have raised us? If a day were not set aside to praise and remind us of those important people in our lives – Mother's Day, Father's Day – would we take pause and make our gratitude, our love known? It might be good to cling to some of what seems old-fashioned. Or maybe we could start a new old-fashioned – maybe we could write a poem sometimes for those we love. It doesn't need to rhyme.

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**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR: Spring Economic Update falls short for Dufferin-Caledon families**

Dear Editor,

Canadians were hoping the Liberal government's recent Spring Economic Update 2026 would deliver some much-needed relief for their wallets. It instead delivered a huge disappointment by failing to offer new measures to lower costs on food or to make housing more affordable.

The Spring Economic Update does simplify the Disability Tax Credit. It's a welcome and positive measure that will improve access for Canadians. There's also new funding proposed for skilled trades, which is something I have been pushing for, for years.

Despite promises of fiscal discipline and restraint, Canadians are still faced with a \$65 billion deficit. There's \$37 billion in new spending without a clear plan to balance the budget. The Spring Economic Update forecasts that growth will drop and inflation will rise in 2026, but still adds more costs, more taxes, more debt, and more inflation for Canadians who are already struggling with affordability.

This hurt is felt here in Dufferin-Caledon. Families continue to grapple with expensive groceries, housing that's out of reach, and paycheques that can't be stretched any further. Consider these statistics:

- according to the Toronto Regional Real Estate Board, the average price for a home in Caledon was \$1.11 million in January 2026, while in Dufferin County, the average price was \$749,392 as of March 2026;
  - the average rent in Orangeville is \$2,042 and \$2,800 in Caledon, according to Zillow (as of April 27, 2026);
  - the Orangeville Food Bank reported that it fed 1,613 individuals in December 2025 with 241 of these clients having employment, but still needed help;
  - grocery prices in Canada were up 5.7 per cent in February from a year ago, according to Statistics Canada.
- We can and must do better for Canadi-

ans. Conservatives have a plan to restore hope and affordability. It includes affordable and abundant energy, low inflation and taxes, free market competition, and national self-reliance. We'll continue offering this plan to build a Canada that is affordable and secure.

The Spring Economic Update aims to recognize the strain of higher costs on Canadians, but falls grossly short on delivering a clear action plan to make life affordable again. It's time for less rhetoric and more results.

Kyle Seeback, M.P.  
Dufferin-Caledon

**Response to April 30 opinion section**

Sir,

Gwynne Dyer, "Our World Today" on Speaking English Badly 4/30/26:

All good stuff. I find it interesting to comprehend English spoken in various parts of Canada, let alone what we consider a for-

eign language.

Brian Lockhart, "From The Second Row" on Don't Worry - it's paid for 4/30/26:

As above, all good stuff. I need to make reference to "the theory of giving money to people" with respect to the following: <https://humanrights.ca/story/manitobas-min->

come-experiment

Was the senator wrong, or did someone not recognize how many citizens would benefit from the Canadian lifestyle?

I also appreciate GLOBAL ISSUES with Rashid Syed, and following the information, I would like to have read and understood his

recommendations for overall improvements relative to the use by individuals of variable energy sources represented.

Thank you,  
Bernie Lynch  
Orangeville

**Mono residents take their concerns to question period**

Ford's increasingly anti-democratic legislation, reduction of transparency, restricting Freedom of Information requests, and removal of environmental protection for our land, water and animals, plans to privatize municipal water, the ever-increasing provincial debt due to Ford's flagrant waste of taxpayers' dollars, and so much more, was just too much to sit idly by.

Last Thursday, four of us, Franca De Angelis and LeeAnn McKenna of Mono, Cathy Scott of Kitchener, and I went to protest at Queen's Park during Question Period. We travelled two hours to Queen's Park and sat quietly observing the proceedings. About 15 minutes before the end of the session, during a question from the opposition about the Craft Kingmen scandal, we stood up wearing T-shirts that spelled out "Stop Doug's Gravy Train." We stood for a while before being escorted out of the public gallery, to the ap-

plause and cheers of opposition members.

We were detained for 40 minutes while a no trespass order was served, and each was fined \$65. We all agree that the opportunity to take our opposition to Ford to the Ontario Legislature was worth every cent of the fine.

We aren't alone in voicing our opposition to Ford. On Tuesday of last week, there was another demonstration in the public gallery during question period, and last month the Fight Ford rallies across the province attracted 5,000 people; more are expected to turn out to this month's Fight Ford rallies.

Complaining doesn't change anything, but if enough of us take a stand to say we aren't going to allow our province to be destroyed, it just might stop Doug's gravy train.

Sincerely,  
Sharon Sommerville  
Mono



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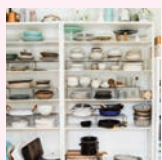
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REMEMBER TO SHOP LOCAL!

# Dufferin OPP warns residents of fraud trends in the region

Dufferin Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) officers are warning residents about ongoing fraudulent activity affecting communities across Dufferin County and throughout Ontario.

Fraudsters continue to use increasingly sophisticated tactics to target victims, often creating a sense of urgency, fear, or emotional distress to obtain money or personal information.

If you believe you have been a victim of fraud, please contact the Canadian An-

ti-Fraud Centre at 1-888-495-8501 or the OPP at 1-888-310-1122.

There are several types of fraud that are commonly used to steal money from members of the public.

### Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) scams

- The caller claims to be a CRA agent.
- Victims are told they owe outstanding taxes or have issues with their Social Insurance Number.
- The caller requests personal or finan-

cial information and may threaten arrest or legal action if immediate payment is not made.

### Bank and financial institution scams

- The suspect poses as a bank representative or investigator.
- Victims may be asked to assist with a "fraud investigation."
- The caller instructs victims to withdraw funds and provide the money to them, sometimes arranging in-person pick-ups.

### Emergency (grandparent) scams

- The caller pretends to be a loved one in distress or a representative such as a police officer or lawyer.
- Victims are told there is an urgent situation requiring immediate financial assistance.
- Requests for money are often accompanied by instructions for secrecy.

### Romance scams

- Suspects use social media or dating platforms with fake profiles.
- They build trust quickly and develop online relationships.
- Victims are eventually asked to send money for fabricated emergencies or promises that never materialize.

### Contractor scams

- Requests for large upfront deposits.
- Refusal to obtain proper permits or provide written contracts.

- Excuses for delays accompanied by demands for additional funds.
- Offers of "leftover materials" or deals that seem too good to be true.

### Cryptocurrency and Bitcoin scams

- Fraudsters demand payment through Bitcoin or other cryptocurrencies.
- Victims may be directed to use Bitcoin ATMs to send funds.
- These scams are often linked to CRA, bank, or emergency scams, where victims are told this is the only way to make payment.
- Once sent, cryptocurrency transactions are extremely difficult to trace or recover.

### Online marketplace and text message scams (emerging trends)

- Fraudulent listings or buyers on online marketplaces.
- Phishing text messages claiming to be from delivery companies, banks, or government agencies.
- Links designed to steal personal or financial information.

Residents are reminded to never share personal or financial information with unknown individuals, verify the identity of callers, and take time to confirm any urgent requests for money.

Police and government agencies will never request payment in Bitcoin or gift cards.

## OBITUARIES

### ROSEMARY LATUNS (née Deyarmond)

Passed away peacefully with family by her side, on Tuesday, May 5, 2026 at The Village of Winston Park in Kitchener, ON at the age of 85.

Beloved wife of the late Arnis Latuns (1969).

Loving mother of Jon Latuns and James Latuns (Trudy).

Dear sister of Heather Johnston (Buddy), John Deyarmond (Ruth), and Don Ernst (Marilyn).

Fondly remembered by nieces, nephews and friends.

Cherished longtime friend of Marlene Goerz.

Predeceased by parents, Karl and Elsie Deyarmond (nee Ernst) and brother, Harry Deyarmond (Dottie), and sister-in-law Jean Scott Ernst.

Rosemary lived a full life marked by a deep, enduring faith. She grew up on a farm near Orangeville, eventually leaving to pursue a nursing career and was employed by the Waterloo Regional Health Network (formerly Grand River Hospital) for over 30 years. She was also a wonderful caregiver to her many pet dogs and cats over the years and was an avid Blue Jays fan. She enjoyed visiting with friends and family and her presence will be dearly missed.

Rosemary's family will receive relatives and friends from 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM on Wednesday, May 13, 2026 at the Henry Walser Funeral Home, 507 Frederick Street, Kitchener. 519-749-8467. A Celebration of Life service will take place at 10:30 AM on Thursday, May 14, 2026 in the funeral home chapel followed by a reception. Interment at Woodland Cemetery. For those unable to attend the service in person, a livestream can be viewed on the funeral home's website.

As expressions of sympathy, donations to the Heart and Stroke Foundation, Ray of Hope, or a charity of your choice would be appreciated by the family. Donations may be made at the funeral home or online directly through the charity's website. Please call the funeral home 519-749-8467 to inform the family of your online donation.

"He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters." ~Psalm 23:2~

Visit [www.henrywalser.com](http://www.henrywalser.com) for Rosemary's memorial.



### MARVIN ELLIOTT PURDY

July 26, 1929 – April 23, 2026

It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of Marvin Elliott Purdy, born July 26, 1929, in Toronto, Ontario. Marvin was the beloved son of Frederick Merton Purdy and Edna Purdy (Elliott), and a cherished brother to Ailene, Freda, Francis, and Ann.

Marvin married the love of his life, Thelma Mary (Rooney), in 1953, beginning a devoted partnership that stood as the foundation of a strong and loving family. Together, they raised their children, Gayle (Stacy), Steven (Sandra), and Gord (Liz), with care, commitment, and unwavering support.

Marvin was a pioneer with Bell Canada, beginning his career in 1954 as a lineman. He was known for his dedication, resilience, and strong work ethic, helping to build and maintain essential communications infrastructure during a time of rapid growth and change. He retired in 1985 after a long and respected career.

In 1960, Marvin and Thelma purchased one of the very first homes in Bramalea, where they built a vibrant life filled with family, friendships, and community involvement. Marvin was deeply committed to giving back, volunteering his time with minor hockey and Scouts. He was well known for hosting lively backyard pool parties, where laughter, storytelling, and camaraderie brought people together.

Following retirement, Marvin and Thelma spent 30 wonderful years in Bobcaygeon. They travelled extensively together, exploring new places and creating lasting memories along the way. Marvin had a lifelong love of fishing and was an avid Formula 1 race enthusiast, always enjoying the excitement, skill, and precision of the sport. He treasured time spent outdoors and in the company of family and friends.

A passionate and patient craftsman, Marvin took great pride in restoring his 1938 Plymouth, a labour of love that spanned over 60 years. It stood as a testament to his dedication, skill, and appreciation for history.

Marvin will be lovingly remembered by his grandchildren Danielle, Ryan, Brendan, and Amy, and by his great-grandchildren Brynley, Maddex, and Nash.

He will be remembered as a devoted husband, a loving father, and a man who found joy in simple pleasures—family, friendship, and shared moments.

A celebration of life will be announced at a later date.



### OLGA ANNE TOMBS (NÉE USTATION)

September 12, 1924 – May 6, 2026

Stories were important to Olga Anne Tombs. In her nearly 102 years, she consumed thousands of them.

Born on September 12, 1924, Olga lived through the Great Depression, the Second World War, the moon landing, the fall of the Berlin Wall and the Covid-19 pandemic — and you can be certain she read all about them. A voracious reader throughout her life, Olga was known to pore over the Toronto Star from front to back every day and always had a book (or four) close at hand.

Born and raised in Kitchener to Polish and Ukrainian immigrant parents, Olga grew up in an era when opportunities for women were often limited. Yet she built a rich and meaningful life filled with friendship, curiosity, generosity and adventure. She spent most of her adult life in Orangeville, where she was known for her kindness, warmth, intelligence and independence.

Olga had a deep love for animals and supported many charitable causes throughout her life. She was a longtime and proud member of the Beta Sigma Phi sorority and, in many ways, a confirmed Luddite, giving up television entirely after her husband's death in 2000. In her middle years, she embraced opportunities to travel the world, meet new people and explore different cultures. She also loved music, dancing and the simple pleasure of good conversation.

Olga passed away peacefully at Caressant Care Arthur on May 6, 2026, at 101 years, 8 months old.

She was predeceased by her husband, David Tombs, her parents, Nellie and Daniel Ustation (Juszczyszyn), and her siblings Stephen Ustation, Jeannette Steinberg and John Ustation. She is lovingly remembered by her many nieces, nephews, extended family members and friends.

The family would like to extend special thanks to Carolyn for her years of care and support for Olga, as well as to the compassionate staff at Caressant Care Arthur.

A Celebration of Life will be held from 1 PM to 3 PM Wednesday May 13 at the Dods & McNair Funeral Home in Orangeville, Ontario. Interment to follow at Forest Lawn Cemetery, Orangeville. Memorial donations can be made to the Headwaters Health Care Centre.

Come and share stories. She would have loved to hear them.



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# Structure fire in Amaranth deemed suspicious, police seek witnesses

Written By SAM ODROWSKI

Dufferin Detachment Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) officers, alongside local fire departments and emergency crews, are investigating a suspicious structure fire in Amaranth. On May 9, at approximately 4:51 a.m., emergency crews responded to a reported structure fire on 6th Line in the Township of Amaranth.

The residence was vacant at the time of the fire, with damage estimated between \$1.5 and \$2 million dollars.

The cause of the fire is currently being investigated by the Dufferin OPP Major Crime Unit, with assistance from the Office of the Fire Marshal. No charges have been laid at this time.

As part of the ongoing investigation, investigators are asking residents in the area to review any available home surveillance, dash camera, or security footage for suspi-

cious persons or vehicles that may have been observed in the area around the time of the incident.

Anyone who may have witnessed suspicious activity, or who may have information related to this incident, is asked to contact the Dufferin OPP at 1-888-310-1122. Those wishing to remain anonymous can provide information through Crime Stoppers Simcoe Dufferin and Muskoka at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477).

Anyone impacted by this incident who wishes to speak with Victim Services is encouraged to contact Caledon/Dufferin Victim Services at 905-951-3838.

"Members of the Dufferin OPP remain committed to public safety, delivering proactive and innovative policing in partnership with our communities. Officers value the public's assistance in helping keep our communities safe," reads a press release from Dufferin OPP.

## Canada Road Safety Week Campaign underway

Members of the Dufferin Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) will once again participate in this year's Canada Road Safety Week campaign.

Between May 12 and 18, Dufferin Detachment OPP officers will be conducting proactive traffic enforcement and education throughout the county to help keep our roads safe for all users.

The campaign focuses on promoting safe driving habits and addressing high-risk driving behaviours such as impaired driving, distracted driving, aggressive driving, speeding, and seatbelt compliance.

Dufferin OPP is reminding motorists to:

- Obey posted speed limits
- Never drive after consuming alcohol or drugs

- Avoid distractions while driving
- Wear your seatbelt properly at all times
- Leave yourself enough time to reach your destination safely

- Share the road safely with pedestrians, cyclists, and other motorists

With the May 24 weekend almost here, Dufferin OPP knows many residents and visitors will be excited to head out to their destinations. Officers are reminding everyone to do so safely and make responsible choices behind the wheel.

While this is part of a national traffic safety campaign, Dufferin Detachment officers remain committed year-round to making Dufferin County roads as safe as possible for residents and visitors. Motorists can expect to see an increased police presence throughout the week.

## Grand Valley man charged with impaired driving following traffic complaint

Dufferin Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) officers have charged a Grand Valley resident with an impaired driving-related offence following a traffic complaint.

On May 1, at approximately 9:25 p.m., Dufferin OPP officers responded to a report of a possible impaired driver in the area of County Road 25 in Grand Valley. Officers located the vehicle of interest and conducted a traffic stop. After speaking with the driver, officers initiated an impaired driving investiga-

tion. Andrew Cabral, 45, of Grand Valley, has been charged with failure or refusal to comply with demand.

The accused is scheduled to appear before the Ontario Court of Justice in Orangeville at a later date to answer to the charge.

As a result of the investigation, the accused's driver's licence was suspended and the vehicle was impounded.

The listed charge has not been proven in court.

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**Saturday, November 21, 2026 - 9am to 4pm; and  
Sunday, November 22, 2026 - 10am to 3pm**

Indoors at the Orangeville Fairgrounds, 247090 Side Rd 5, Mono

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To apply to be a vendor at the show, scan the QR code, visit our website or email [shows@lpcmedia.ca](mailto:shows@lpcmedia.ca) for a vendor application form. Apply before June 1, 2026 and be eligible for early acceptance on June 26.

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AUCTIONS

## LIVE AUCTION SALE

### Equipment Consignment with the Estate of Ken Hall

**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.

**Tractors/Skid Steers/Backhoe:** Case Farmall 95A, 4WD loader(L575) tractor, 3 remotes, hydr bus bucket, 3rd function on loader, wheel weights, F: 10.00-16, R: 18.4-30, 230hrs; & after Kubota B2630 4WD loader/backhoe tractor, material bucket, 1176hrs; JD 7230 4WD tractor, cab, new tires, 4628hrs; Case Farmall 95C 4WD loader tractor, L630 loader, open station, 1479hrs; MF 2606 tractor, open station 2WD, shuttle shift, 395hrs; Kubota MX 5100 4x4 tractor with LA854 loader; open station; hydrostatic; 1 remote, 2977hrs; Ford TW20, cab, dual power, 135hp; (2) Ford 5000 tractors, open station 60hp, 8 spd ; International 1066 tractor, hydrostatic, dual speed PTO, 7000hrs; Kubota B2630 4WD loader/backhoe tractor, material bucket, 1176hrs; Kubota SSV65 Skid Steer, enclosed cab, heat, A/C material bucket, 1176hrs; JD 410G backhoe, 4x4, turbo, Nortrax power shift, 10,500hrs; Case 450CT Series 3 skid steer, new bucket, new tracks, 1877hrs; Cub Cadet Professional (The Tank) mower, zero-turn, 60" deck, 404hrs. **Trucks/Trailers(all sold as is):** GMC T8500 single axle dump truck, 131Kkm(?), no ownership; 2008 Hitchman 612 utility trailer-needs work, ownership; 12'x7' skidsteer float trailer, elec brakes, 2 axles, ramps; 1993 GMC Topkick, 3116 CAT diesel engine, auto transmission, Frink 2-way salter dump body, 52,710km; 20ft flatbed trailer, pintle hitch, loading ramps.

**Motorcycles(sold as is) & Club Car:** 2000 Honda Shadow Spirit 1100, running, new battery April 2026, 92,443km; 2008 Honda Shadow 750, running, lady driven, 40,666km; Bobcat Pioneer Club Car, newer Honda GX390 engine, gas, new battery 2025, manual dump. **Mach/Equip:** Westfield 110-71 PTO grain auger, 7ftx10; Super-Tilt 20ft dump wagon; Woodland Mill WC88 woodchipper, 35-100hp pto drive, takes up to 8" diam pieces; 18ft winged harrows: Walco 6ft 3pth bushog; 300L sprayer, 3pth, wand only; Turnco 14ft packer & transport; 20ft steel single reach round bale wagon; Case IH 4500 18ft cultivator, man wings; White 251 10ft disc; Overum 4 furrow semi-mount plow; Forage King hay basket; Forage King-Meteor 7ft snowblower, hyd chute, 1 auger; 3pth 6ft tiller; 3pth 2 furrow plow; Meteor 8ft snowblower 2-auger; NA 7ft snowblower; 8ft snowblower, 2-auger; Landpride LR1560 landscape rake, 3pth, 5ft; NH 918H flail mower, 3pth, 4ft; 5ft finishing mower, 3pth; pallet forks, skid steer attach, new; TMC-SLG49 skidsteer rotation log grapple; 8.5'x5' silage pusher bucket; 9ft snow blade; (2)24' feeder wagons; (2) grain buggys; 5ft scraper blade; 18ft steel truck deck; Hardi 32ft field sprayer, manual arms; International moldboard plow, 6 furrows-18in bottoms, auto-reset; Hardi TR500 field sprayer, 45ft manual booms; 8ft 3pth disc; 6ft 3pth cultivator; 6ft 3pth grader blade; JD 2-furrow plow; Balderson skid steer adapter plate; Balderson pallet forks; trough conveyor; NH 185 manure spreader for trailer or parts; old steel wheel wagon.

**Haying Equip:** JD 582 Silage Special round baler, net & twine, with "The Juice" hay preserver; JD 925 MoCo mower conditioner, 10ft cut; Vermeer 5400 Rebel round baler, 4x5's, new belts; NH Sperry 489 haybine; Heston 1120 mower/conditioner; Recon 2 hay crimper; JD 435 round baler, 4x6, double twine tie only, monitor; MF 124 sq baler & chute; Brillion 10ft grass seeder; NH 144 hay inverter; wood hay wagon; Kuhn 3pth rotary rake; (2) steel thrower wagons, wood floors; John Deere No.9, 7ft sickle mower; 3 prong bale fork; NH hay roller/conditioner. **Farm Rel/Shop/Misc.**

**\*\*Please contact auctioneer to consign items\*\***  
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- 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>  
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Offers available from May 1, 2026 to June 1, 2026. Selling price of new 2026 Rogue S AWD is \$36,384. Limited time lease offer provided through Nissan Canada Finance, on approved credit. All prices and payments include \$2,050 freight and PDE; \$100 A/C charge; regulatory fees (up to \$35); dealer administration fees (up to \$621); PPSA fees (up to \$139); as well as all other applicable fees, levies and duties (all of which may vary by region and retailer). License; insurance; registration; and applicable sales taxes are extra. Payments cannot be made on a weekly basis, for advertising purposes only. Representative monthly lease offer based on a new 2026 Rogue S at 0% (0.5% without Loyalty Rate Reduction) for 36 months equals monthly payments of \$430 (\$440) with \$0 down payment, and \$0 security deposit. Lease based on a maximum of 16,000 km/year with excess charged at \$0.10/km. Total lease obligation is \$15,495 (\$15,836). Dealer may sell for less. Dealer order/trade may be necessary (but may not be available in all cases). Conditions apply. Offer is subject to change or cancellation without notice. Ask your dealer or visit [www.nissan.ca](http://www.nissan.ca) for details. Nissan names, logos and slogans are trademarks owned by or licensed to Nissan Motor Co. Ltd. And/or its North American subsidiaries. ©2026 NISSAN CANADA INC.

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