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YOUNG TALENT: The Orangeville District Music Festival invited performers, young and old, new and experienced, to show off their skills on April 29, in front of a supportive crowd and constructive adjudicator. The festival features pianists, vocalists, drummers, and band ensembles, offering a diverse lineup of performances. The best performances from the festival will be invited to a Gala performance to end the festival. See a full story on Page A10.

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Dufferin fights dementia: Community gears up for annual Walk for Alzheimer's at Island Lake

Written By SAM ODROWSKI

At the end of the month, hundreds of people will gather at Island Lake Conservation Area in Orangeville for the Alzheimer Society of Dufferin County's annual walk fundraiser.

The IG Wealth Management Walk for Alzheimer's returns on Sunday, May 31, bringing together individuals and teams across Dufferin County in support of those living with dementia and the caregivers who support them.

"Dementia can feel isolating, and this event reminds families and caregivers that they are not alone. Seeing the community show up, walk, and support them creates a sense of connection, understanding, and hope that is truly meaningful," said Jenna Hunter, the Alzheimer Society of Dufferin County's community outreach coordinator.

The day begins at 9 a.m. with arrival and registration, followed by the walk at 10 a.m. Closing remarks and recognition of top fundraisers are scheduled for 11:30 a.m., with refreshments served at noon to celebrate the community's efforts.

"Every dollar raised stays right here in



FILE PHOTO

READY FOR RETURN: The annual Walk for Alzheimer's fundraiser is returning to Island Lake Conservation Area on Sunday, May 31.

Dufferin County. The funds directly support local programs such as caregiver support groups, one-on-one counselling, social and recreational programs for those living with dementia, and educational resources for families and the community," said Hunter. "It also helps fund Dementia Friendly Community initiatives, ensuring local businesses and organizations are better equipped to support those affected."

The Alzheimer Society of Dufferin County estimates that more than 1,500 people in the county are living with dementia. Across

Canada, about 771,000 people are currently affected, a figure expected to rise to 1 million by 2030 and 1.7 million by 2050.

"Events like the Walk for Alzheimer's are essential because dementia continues to impact more and more families each year," said Hunter. "Keeping this event going ensures that support, awareness, and funding remain strong in our community. It also creates a space where people can come together, feel less alone, and be part of something bigger than themselves."

The annual walk is the Alzheimer Society of Dufferin County's primary fundraising event, and ensures the not-for-profit organization can continue making a tangible impact on families and individuals throughout the region.

"We've seen firsthand how these funds translate into real support more families accessing services, expanded programming, and increased awareness across the community. Whether it's a caregiver finding support for the first time or a family feeling understood and connected, the impact is both immediate and lasting," said Hunter.

Continued on Page A13

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Noise exemption decisions are about sound levels, not events' merits: Mono mayor

Written By **JAMES MATTHEWS**

Mono council granted an exemption from the town's noise bylaw to four Portuguese-style rodeos with shortened hours of amplified noise.

Organizers of a Portuguese-style rodeo planned events May 30, July 18, Aug. 22, and Oct. 10 at the Orangeville Agriculture Society Events Centre in Mono. Victoria Da Costa asked council during its April 28 meeting for an exemption from the noise bylaw for the event.

Mayor John Creelman said council received the paper application for the noise exemption. Given that councillors have the details provided in the application, he suggested the time be spent on questions from council to the delegate.

Councillor Melinda Davie thought otherwise.

"When we made our new bylaw and we decided that we were going to allow exemptions, the idea was that we were going to give people the opportunity to really, truly explain to us why they should have the exemption," Davie said.

She said the online application doesn't allow for fulsome reasoning, and the particular event should be exempted from the bylaw restrictions.

"The way the application is set up doesn't really lend itself to why you're special," Davie said, referencing why an event's proponents would seek an exemption.

"I kind of would like to hear what the various people who come before us have to say," Davie said.

"I'm fine with that in this one instance," Creelman said. "But I think council has to turn its mind to the 19 other requests for noise (exemption) applications that may be coming down the line and whether we want to have a formal presentation or whether we are going to try and do it through the paper format with somebody available to answer questions."

Portuguese-style rodeo bullfighting has been done in Canada since 1983.

"We're just trying to basically offer traditions here in Canada with development of our youth as well joining us and learning about our traditions," Da Costa said.

No animals are harmed, she said. Deputy Mayor Fred Nix said he had received "several" letters and emails from people who are opposed to the event "because of the activity."

"It's not our job to tell an organizer whether or not that event is something we approve of," Nix said. "That's your business."

Mono council passed a bylaw in recent years against fighting kites because of the detritus that the activity left behind.

"Other than that, we don't regulate what people want to do as an activity," he said.

Portuguese rodeo organizers wanted to hold their event over four nights up to 9 p.m., with amplified sound and to have those hours exempted from the municipal noise bylaw.

Nix said that's where his concern lay and, because of that, he wasn't sure the exemption should be granted.

Coun. Ralph Manktelow said the same event last year ended at 5 p.m.

"It could finish earlier (than 9 p.m.)," Da Costa said.

Organizers usually aim for an end at 7 p.m. or 8 p.m. But it usually ends up being about 9 p.m. by the time their equipment is taken down, and everything is cleared away.

Da Costa said the time request on the exemption application was an estimate. In effect, an exemption would be needed for a DJ from noon until about 7 p.m.

"I wouldn't entertain that from 12 until 7," Coun. Elaine Capes said.

She asked Da Costa to describe what a Portuguese-style rodeo entails.

There are bull runs with four animals, all safely handled by experienced handlers. The events have Portuguese entertainment and musicians throughout the day during breaks.

"I had no idea what this was so, of course, I looked it up," Capes said. "What I found was that it's a tortuous, barbaric, cruel

event where people come out on horseback or whatever and they slap the bulls around."

"Oh no," Da Costa said. "That's why I was asking," Capes said. "What do you actually do because I think it's important to know that."

"We don't do any of that," Da Costa said, and added that Capes' description was of what's done in Portugal and in Spain. Those countries have bulls in an arena and a matador.

Locally, the rodeo would have a bull in an arena, secured and with the horns capped. A handful of experienced people are in with the bull to control where it goes so nobody is hurt. Umbrellas and capes are used to do that.

"They just do tricks with the bull," Da Costa said. "But we do not harm the bull."

Capes asked if the Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals sanctions the event.

Da Costa said the OSPCA are welcomed to attend the rodeo and to see where the animals are kept.

Creelman said some of the questions asked of Da Costa have no bearing on noise or the bylaw exemption.

"The only decision we make is based on noise," he said.

Nix said he had a newer understanding of the rodeo and asked if the amplified sound could end at 7 p.m.

Manktelow disagreed. He said it has been the practice of many municipalities to decide if such events should happen.

"It seems to me the essence of making this work between the people and the bull is that you irritate the bull and make the bull angry so that the bull will charge," he said. "I find that bothersome."

He suggested council has an opportunity to prevent the rodeo by disallowing the noise bylaw exemption.

Capes agreed with Manktelow's assessment of bullfighting.

"I do think it is our responsibility to say whether this is an event-type we want to support here," Capes said and referenced

other animal events and municipalities that banned Portuguese bullfighting.

But then she said, "Having not attended one of these, I can't comment exactly. And I appreciate that you gave us the description, but I still do believe that torment is a form of cruelty."

Capes described the event as an act of violence against animals. But she said she might consider an exemption for one event of the proposed four in the interest of demonstrating what the rodeo involves and that it is not violent against the animals.

Capes suggested the OSPCA attend that event and that amplified noise end at 7 p.m.

Nix said his heart and sympathies lie with Manktelow's and Capes' sentiments.

"My problem with what you're trying to suggest is that the issue before us is only noise," Nix said. "If you want make the issue about how animals are treated, then we need a bylaw that gives us the authority to do that just as we did with kite flying."

"Unless a member of council moves a (notice of motion) otherwise," Creelman said.

The mayor said organizers can continue with their event even if the noise bylaw exemption is denied.

"You're just taking the chance that you may be charged with violating the noise bylaw," Creelman said, and added that council "micro-managing" the OAS Event Centre's event is not appropriate.

"This process of dealing with the noise bylaw on a regular basis is not something that I think we should be doing," Manktelow said, and suggested there be a precedent town staff could apply to future applications.

Capes said council debate is "the only way" there is public notification and opportunity to provide feedback. Exemption applications should continue before council to ensure public notification. Application details should be communicated better, she said.

Council agreed to the bylaw exemption if amplified noise is limited to the hours 4 p.m. until 7 p.m.

Get ready to dance: Tony Rose Arena to welcome Pathways' first Spring Fling Dance this weekend

Written By **SAM ODROWSKI**

Pathways Orangeville is holding its first annual Spring Fling Dance at the Tony Rose Arena on May 9.

Running from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., the dance is for the local special needs community and will take place on the lower level of Tony Rose.

"This is an opportunity to gather, meet new friends, see folks we know and have a

great time with dancing and music," said Michelle Hartley, event organizer.

Tickets are \$7 and can be purchased at the door. The ticket includes light refreshments: juice, water, chips, and popcorn.

Glow foam wands will also be available, adding to the fun on the dancefloor.

Tony Rose has two lounge areas with couches and a TV where dance participants can play "Just Dance" and cheer each other on.

The event is open to all ages, but organizers ask that anyone under 18 be accompanied by an adult. There is no charge for support workers to attend the event.

Many St. John Ambulance certified Pathways staff will be on site, along with Antje of Zachary's Camp, available to chat about the fun summer programs the camp offers.

Pathways Orangeville, which provides daytime programming for adults with disabilities, plans to host another dance in the

fall and build on the success of the spring dance.

The Spring Fling Dance is being sponsored by Dairy Queen Orangeville, which is donating free cone coupons.

Hartley said any further donations or sponsorship are appreciated, and she can be contacted at pathwaysorangeville@gmail.com.

The event will feature spot dance prizes for participants.



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Mono permits relocation of heritage Anderson Farm cottage

Written By JAMES MATTHEWS

The 19th-century Anderson Cottage in Mono will be taken apart and moved to another part of town.

The 150-year-old structure on Airport Road and Concession Road 6 EHS will be relocated to 874456 5th Line EHS in Mono. Those locations are about 1.5 kilometres apart.

Town of Mono staff received the required Heritage Permit Application from Big Hat Farm Corporation and Four Winds Capital Ltd. for the disassembly, relocation, and reconstruction of the Anderson stone cottage.

An agreement was reached between Big Hat and the owners of the Anderson Cottage. The application included a site plan and building permit-ready architectural and structural drawings for review by Dufferin County officials.

The demolition and building permit ap-

plications have been uploaded to the County Building Permit Services portal. Municipal staff are satisfied with the site plan, architectural and structural drawings, and that the intent of the Ontario Land Tribunal Minutes of Settlement is met.

The work has to be done by somebody qualified and approved by the town. The reassembly is to be conducted in a manner that honours and preserves the cottage's original form, subject to municipal Planning Department approval. It also has to be approved by the county's Building Department.

The property includes a stone main house, a cottage, a stone milk-house, and a barn complex. It had been occupied by five generations of Andersons starting in 1850.

The pioneer homestead is a surviving example of fieldstone construction. It's said they comprise a rare historical complex of farm buildings typical of the industrious Irish pioneers who came to Mono in

the mid-1800s.

Councillor Ralph Manktelow said the heritage designation indicates that the structure should remain as is, except for changes approved by council. He asked if there were any anticipated changes to the cottage's exterior envelope.

Tamara Rebanks is one of the owners of the property to which the cottage will be moved. She referred the question to Toronto architect Brian O'Brian, who said the intention is to follow the tenets of provincial heritage legislation as closely as possible.

"We are keeping the building as it exists right now," O'Brian said. "We are effectively trying to rebuild the building that you see on the property."

Any new pieces, such as the roof, which is currently nonexistent, will be added in such a way that they would be discernible as new.

"We are not trying to mimic history," he said.

Rather, he said, they will try to "speak to" the 1850s timeframe.

The cottage has a deep crawlspace where it is currently located. Coun. Elaine Capes asked why it is necessary to add a basement when the cottage is relocated.

O'Brian said there is no determined bottom edge to the building. Its south side includes a "door to nowhere," and how it would have served is impossible to know. And there is a large opening through the cottage's crawlspace that has no bottom threshold.

"We are taking some liberty diffing out underneath and trying to retain the character of the building as it is," O'Brian said.

And then: "If the building had a life, it realizes that it's being adopted," he said. "It's not being allowed to just languish and die."

Mayor John Creelman said heritage designation applies to the exterior of the cottage and not anything of its interior.

Geranium fundraiser blooms into 30-year tradition for Lord Dufferin IODE

Written By SAM ODROWSKI

This year marks a special anniversary for the IODE Lord Dufferin Chapter's annual geranium sale.

Soon, gardens across Dufferin County will be home to thousands of geraniums through the group's 30th geranium fundraiser. What started out small, operating out of longtime IODE member Dori Ebel's garage, raising around \$2,000 in its first year, has grown significantly. The sale now raises around \$6,000 to \$7,000, run in partnership with 10 and 10 Garden Centre, which grows and stores the plants.

The geranium sale is a critical fundraiser for the women-led not-for-profit service group, Lord Dufferin IODE.

The funds are primarily donated to Headwaters Hospital, as supporting local health care has always been the group's mission. Lord Dufferin IODE was originally established in 1907 with the goal of building Orangeville's first hospital, which came to fruition in 1910, as the Lord Dufferin Hospital.

"The sale resonates with people: you're supporting a charity, but also getting a quality plant for your garden," Ebel said. "We've got about a dozen volunteers — it's a small but mighty team that generates this."

Organizers say the geraniums are chosen for their durability and overall quality, noting that they are hardy plants that offer good value for gardeners while also supporting a local fundraiser.

Geraniums are available in red, white, pink

or citronella. New this year is an offering of Perennial Black-Eye Susans.

All the varieties are available for \$7 each or \$45 for a flat of 10.

"They're a good, hardy plant — that's why people keep coming back for them," Ebel said.

"They work well in gardens and in pots, and people like that consistency."

Organizers say the sale is built on relationships, with repeat customers, community connections, and word-of-mouth support playing an essential role in its continued success.

"You have to know your customer, and they know you. People come back year after year, and those long connections are what keep it going. We'd love more members — it's women helping women and children," Ebel explained.

The way the sale is organized has evolved over the years to make it more efficient.

"We used to do everything by hand — writing out orders one by one," Ebel said. "Now we've moved to spreadsheets, and it works quite well."

At its core, the geranium sale is about more than gardening — it is about sustaining a tradition of local fundraising, supporting hospital services, and continuing a legacy built by generations of women committed to community service.

To place an order, contact Lucy at 647-206-1225 or Faye at 519-938-1564.

The plants are picked up on Friday, May 29 and Saturday, May 30, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. at 10 and 10 Garden Centre (634026 Highway 10, Mono).



FILE PHOTO

SPROUTING SUCCESS: The Lord Dufferin IODE is holding its 30th annual geranium sale fundraiser this year and is now taking orders. The plants are available for pick up from 10 and 10 Garden Centre on May 29 and May 30.



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Dufferin County Paramedic Service reduces time lost to offload delays

Written By JAMES MATTHEWS

The Dufferin County Paramedic Service (DCPS) reached milestones over the last year that bode well for the service into the future.

Gary Staples, the county's chief paramedic, said health care has experienced a number of pressures when county council met on April 23. That reality extends across all health service branches, from paramedics to acute care, long-term care, and home care.

"All of these pressures and financial constraints do have this sort of downstream effect where people are left with limited options for health care," he said. "In the end, it typically relies on 9-1-1."

Paramedics pick up people and ferry them to a hospital, even though it is recognized that it isn't often the most appropriate place for those people to receive care, he said.

But it is their only option. "These ongoing pressures kind of fuel the fire of other issues that we have such as offload delay at hospital, Code Zero," Staples said.

Offload delay refers to times when paramedics can't transfer patient care to the hospital emergency department staff. It forces patients to sometimes linger for hours on stretchers due to emergency department congestion. That congestion may be caused by the presence of patients who don't need to be there.

A Code Zero occurs when no ambulances, or only one, are available to respond to 9-1-1 calls in an area. Similarly, a Code Red refers to a shortage in which one to three ambulances are available to respond in a large jurisdiction.

"So we're bringing more patients into (the emergency department) that don't need to be there, and that's driving our call volumes up and other issues that we're experiencing in hospital," Staples said.

Councillor Chris Gerrits, Amaranth's mayor, asked if there is an acceptable number of hours lost by paramedics due to offload delay.

Staples said a paramedic service's goal is to lose no hours to offload delays. But, given the current circumstances, that goal just isn't achievable.

"We're going to have offload delay," he said. "We're going to have times where we have no ambulances. I think we just need to continue to work with our partners to try to improve processes and ensure that we do have ambulances clearing quickly."

According to a 2025 service evaluation, operational performance remained strong. DCPS met or exceeded legislated and council-approved response time standards across all Canadian Triage and Acuity Scale (CTAS) categories.

Call volume and patient transports continued to trend upward in alignment with demographic growth and an aging population, with residents aged 65 and older accounting for nearly half of total calls.

Despite ongoing healthcare system pressures, DCPS achieved measurable improvements in hospital offload delay, reducing lost paramedic hours by 16 percent com-

pared to the previous year.

Coun. Philip Rentsch, who is also the Grand Valley's deputy mayor, said the county's paramedics lost about 300 hours through offload delay. He asked what that would be as a percentage of hours over a year.

Staples said the total hours for 2025 would be 40,000 hours.

"It is a very low percentage," Staples said. "I think the better comparable is the number of transports resulting in offload delay. At about 19 per cent of the time, we are at 30 minutes or greater [when] transferring patients at the hospital."

And that's a reasonable number.

"The majority of the time we are less than one hour," he said. "It would be nice to be under 30 (minutes) all the time but we can't always prevent times where we have a large number of ambulance going to the hospital at one time."

Thirty minutes is the provincial standard, he said.

Staples said resources such as the Medical Priority Dispatch System (MPDS), which has been implemented in Dufferin County over the last year, will help prevent times of ambulance shortages.

Implemented in December, the MPDS introduces a standardized, clinically validated approach to emergency medical call-taking that improves triage accuracy, resource prioritization, and pre-arrival instructions.

It is said to enhance patient safety, support evidence-based decision-making, and the system contributes to sustainability and improved management of service pressures.

The dispatch system complements a completed Paramedic Service Masterplan and Service Delivery Review that provides a forward-looking roadmap to guide service delivery, workforce planning, infrastructure development, and response strategies in the context of population growth and increasing call complexity, particularly in expanding communities such as Orangeville, Shelburne, and Grand Valley.

The review reinforces existing strengths while identifying opportunities for targeted enhancements, data-driven decision-making, and operational innovation.

The Community Paramedic Program continued to play a vital role in supporting vulnerable residents by providing care in patients' homes and connecting them with appropriate community and healthcare resources.

The program completed more than 2,000 in-person visits in 2025 and benefitted from extended provincial funding, ensuring continuity of care for those most in need while reducing unnecessary emergency department visits.

Overall, 2025 reflects a year of stability, innovation, and readiness for the future. With strong partnerships, dedicated staff, and a clear strategic direction, the county's paramedic service remains well-positioned to meet the evolving needs of the community while maintaining the highest standards of care.

"Providing more options for individuals in our community to access appropriate health care at the right time is really the way to go," Staples said.

Orangeville proposes updates for burning bylaw

Written By JAMES MATTHEWS

Orangeville is taking steps to clarify its Open Air Burning Bylaw.

One of the most obvious ways to clarify the bylaw is to suggest changing its name to the Open Air Fires Bylaw.

Town council broached the bylaw update during a public meeting on April 28, when residents were invited to give input.

Open-air burning is generally prohibited under the Ontario Fire Code unless approved, and municipal rules outline permit requirements and conditions for certain outdoor fires.

Since the bylaw was enacted, Orangeville has identified opportunities to improve clarity for residents and strengthen public health and safety provisions, particularly around smoke impacts, complaint response, and outdoor burning conditions.

The update will provide clear, plain-language rules for residents on when open-air fires are allowed, when permits are required, and the conditions that must be followed. And terminology, definitions, and rules will be updated to reflect current practices and enforcement needs.

Expanded definitions are included to help residents understand what is regulated and to explain concepts such as adverse effects, responsible person, and out-of-control fires.

The draft update continues to require permits for certain types of open-air fires, and it lists common activities that do not require a permit. Those are small, controlled-flame devices and certain cooking-related uses, provided they comply with all safety rules and do not create problematic smoke or odour. That's one of the defined adverse effects.

The draft maintains and clarifies key safety conditions. A fire must be supervised and controlled at all times by a responsible adult, and only appropriate materials may be burned. Fires must be kept within an approved outdoor fireplace unit and be fully extinguished before the re-

sponsible person leaves the site.

It was suggested that fires be restricted to the hours between noon and 11 p.m., unless expressly permitted otherwise. But Councillor Andy Macintosh, who is a retired Orangeville fire chief, asked for clarification.

"Anybody burning at 12:30 in the afternoon is not roasting marshmallows or having a friendly dinner with friends," Macintosh said.

The draft includes clearer restrictions that would prohibit open-air fires when a local fire ban is declared, during dry conditions, when rain or fog is present, and during certain air quality advisories to help reduce smoke-related health impacts.

The draft updated bylaw continues to prohibit the burning of waste and sets out a detailed list of materials that cannot be burned.

The draft continues to support protections for locations and individuals that may be more affected by smoke. Those are the health-related sensitive receptor considerations carried over from the existing rules.

This draft continues to align with the current User Fees and Charges Bylaw, which permits the Orangeville Fire Service to recover costs related to emergency response for those burning without a permit, beyond the permit parameters, or for fires that become out of control.

"Some things have cropped up in the last three to six months where we were finding the past bylaw didn't quite fit the current needs of the town," Fire Chief John Snider said.

For example, certain exemptions from the current bylaw are problematic. Somebody is cooking hot dogs over a backyard fire, which, for whatever reason, creates the nuisance of soot on vehicles along the street. Little could be done in such a scenario because the fire was technically for outdoor cooking.

"They had the package of hot dogs there and, technically, it's hard to enforce," Snider said. "It's therefore exempt."

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Educators stage protests across Ontario to highlight education funding shortfalls

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

The protests, running in the afternoon on April 29, were meant to challenge what the allied unions described as serious funding issues throughout the education system.

Teachers and education workers across Ontario staged coordinated demonstrations as part of a province-wide Day of Action, drawing attention to what unions describe as deepening funding challenges in the education system.

The protests, held in the afternoon from approximately 3:45 to 4:30 p.m., saw participants gather outside government offices and other prominent locations in communities across the province.

In Orangeville, the demonstration took place in front of MPP Sylvia Jones's office, joining similar actions elsewhere. The coalition of unions released a joint statement saying Ontario's education system is buckling under continued cuts, especially under the most recent budget.

"Ontario's publicly funded education system is facing mounting pressures, and none of those pressures were eased in the most recent provincial budget," the joint statement read. "Chronic underfunding continues to shape daily realities in schools, where large class sizes, rising incidents of school violence, insufficient support for students with special education needs, ongoing challenges in retaining and recruiting teachers and education workers, and aging, deteriorating buildings all converge to create significant strain."

Union representatives argue that these challenges have not been addressed in the most recent provincial budget, and say

the cumulative impact is being felt daily in classrooms across Ontario.

They said that current conditions are affecting not only educators' working environments but also student learning and overall well-being.

The Day of Action also highlighted concerns in the post-secondary sector, where the statement notes that years of underfunding, combined with cuts to the Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP), are limiting access to education and potentially affecting the province's future workforce.

Participants in the demonstrations consolidated under the unified banner of Stronger Together, confirming the solidarity among education workers. The unions said that the protests were framed as a visual demonstration of unity as unions prepare for upcoming rounds of central bargaining with the provincial government.

"This collective action will demonstrate that teachers and education workers are united in calling for improved learning and working conditions in our schools and universities," the statement read. "Under the banner of 'Stronger Together,' the five unions are prepared for the next round of central bargaining and ready to demand more for students from a government that has neglected them since taking office in 2018."

Organizers say the movement aims to raise public awareness while calling for increased investment in education.

The unions said that the joint statement emphasizes a collective commitment among educators to advocate for what they say will be a more stable and adequately funded system, and invites families and community members to support those efforts.



JOSHUA DRAKES PHOTO

EDUCATION ADVOCACY: Joining multiple protests across the province, local teachers and educators from the five allied unions, AEFO, ETFO, OECTA, CUPE-OSBCU and OSSTF/FEESO protested continued education cuts from the provincial government outside of municipal and provincial offices in Orangeville and Shelburne. The alliance said it will continue to fight for as long as needed to protect the educational futures of students across the province as it prepares to enter negotiations with the province.

"Momentum is building," the statement read. "Our members are engaged, informed, and committed to defending and strengthening our publicly funded education system. That shared commitment is our greatest source of strength. Together, we will continue to advocate for the high-quality,

fully funded system that every student in Ontario deserves."

The statement added, "We invite families and other community allies to join us in calling for meaningful investment and a genuine commitment to student success and well-being."

Friends of the Orangeville Public Library to host annual plant and book sale later this month

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

The Friends of the Orangeville Public Library are inviting residents to browse, shop and support local library services at their annual spring Plant and Book Sale on May 23.

Running from 8 a.m. to noon at the Orangeville Train Station (49 Town Line), the sale is offering a mix of gently used books, plants and other items in a fundraiser that has become a seasonal tradition in the community.

Chair of The Friends of the Library, Shelley Ber, said the sale is one of their largest events of the year and plays an important role in supporting library programs and services.

"The Friends of the Orangeville Library do fundraisers to raise money for items for the library," she said. "We usually have two book sales a year, but our spring sale is usually the biggest event between the two."

Shoppers can expect a wide selection, ranging from fiction and non-fiction to children's books and more. A variety of plants will also be available, timed to coincide with the spring gardening season.

Unlike a typical retail setup, the sale operates on a "pay what you can" model. Visitors are encouraged to fill a bag and make a donation based on what they choose, with all proceeds going directly back to the library. The event is cash only and will run rain or shine.

According to organizers, the spring sale typically draws strong community support

and serves as a key fundraiser.

"Last year we raised almost \$2,000 for the library," Ber said. "People are so generous when they know that the money's going back to the libraries, so we're hoping for this year to be able to get the books and other items we need."

The sale is organized by volunteers with the Friends of the Orangeville Library, a group dedicated to supporting and enhancing library services through fundraising and community initiatives. In addition to events like the book sale, the group contributes to programs such as Battle of the Books and other seasonal activities.

Preparations for the event start with collecting donated materials from the public. Organizers are asking residents to contribute gently used books and other items in

good condition, ideally books five years old or less, to ensure they are suitable for resale.

Beyond fundraising, the event is also seen as a way to bring the community together. Organizers say it offers residents a chance to recycle books they no longer need while giving others the opportunity to discover something new.

The Friends of the Orangeville Library is also seeking new members as it continues to expand its efforts.

With a mix of affordable finds and community spirit, organizers say the May 23 sale offers a simple way for residents to support their local library while picking up something for their home or garden.

To join the Friends of the Orangeville Library, go to <https://www.orangevillelibrary.ca/en/about-us/friends-of-the-library.aspx>.

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Spring Economic Update forecasts \$66.9 billion deficit amid new spending

Dufferin–Caledon MP Kyle Seeback shares criticism surrounding new spending plan

Written By **SAM ODROWSKI**

Canada's finances came into focus last week with the release of the 2026 Spring Economic Update.

Presented on April 28, the update projects a federal deficit of \$66.9 billion for 2025-26, with \$529.6 billion in revenue and \$594.8 billion in expenses. The country's total deficit is estimated at \$1.33 trillion.

The deficit has come in \$11.4 billion below projections in the federal government's 2025 Budget.

New announcements in the Spring Economic Update include a \$25 billion Canada Strong Fund, a \$6 billion investment in skilled trades, new apprenticeship incentives, a reduction in CPP contributions, a ban on crypto ATMs and a new federal Financial Crimes Agency.

Canada continues to run large annual deficits as interest costs on the national debt remain one of the fastest-growing federal expenses, reaching nearly \$55 billion annually. While the government is positioning new spending as an investment in long-term economic growth, critics say rising debt levels and ongoing cost-of-living pressures mean Canadians are not yet seeing clear benefits in their day-to-day finances.

Conservative MP for Dufferin–Caledon, Kyle Seeback, recently spoke with the Citizen about the 2026 Spring Economic Update, outlining what he described as missed opportunities to address rising costs, rein in government spending and improve housing affordability.

"The deficit is gigantic — we're talking almost \$70 billion — which is more than double the deficit that Justin Trudeau left, and Mark Carney was supposed to be a good fiscal manager," MP Seeback said.

"There's really no plan in this update to deal with the huge increases in food inflation, and there's nothing new here for Canadians struggling with the cost of living."

MP Seeback was also critical of the growth projections outlined in the 2026 Spring Economic Update, totalling 1.1 per cent in 2026 and 1.9 per cent in 2027.

"We continue to add more debt and deficit without really knowing how Canadians' lives are getting better, because most Canadians tell me that they're being squeezed with the cost of living," he said.

The Liberal government, under Prime Minister Mark Carney and Finance Minister François-Philippe Champagne, argues that new spending aimed at building a more independent economy will benefit Canadians.

Among these efforts is the Canada Strong Fund, the country's first national sovereign wealth fund, which the government says is designed to function like a national savings and investment account that grows wealth for future generations.

The fund is receiving \$25 billion from the federal government over the next three years, and will make investments in strategic sectors, such as infrastructure, energy, critical minerals and advanced manufacturing. It is publicly owned, with returns benefiting Canadian taxpayers.

A traditional sovereign wealth fund is typically built from government surpluses and invested globally to generate long-term returns.

MP Seeback said he sees the Canada Strong Fund as less of a sovereign wealth fund and more of a rebranded version of the Canada Infrastructure Bank, which focuses on domestic investments and has faced criticism over its effectiveness.

"It's not really a wealth fund. Generally, a wealth fund is built using surplus money, and they (the federal government) don't have a surplus. They're borrowing \$25 billion to create this," he said.

"If we were creating a true sovereign wealth fund from natural resource revenues, like Norway, that would make sense. But this isn't that."

Housing affordability remains a key concern in Dufferin–Caledon and across the



**KYLE SEEBACK,
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT**

country, driven by rising costs and limited supply.

To grow the number of workers in Canada who can build houses, the federal government announced \$6 billion in new funding to recruit, train and hire 80,000 to 100,000 new Red Seal skilled trades workers by 2030.

MP Seeback expressed support for the initiative, but said the government needs to go further to address the housing crisis.

"We do need more skilled trades, so I support that in principle. The details are thin, but there's clearly a need. I've visited training centres across the country, and they need more investment," he explained.

"The bigger issue with housing is the environment for building. It's the length of time it takes to get approvals to build a house at the municipal level... and high development fees. Those are driving up costs and slowing construction, and the government hasn't addressed them," MP Seeback added.

He said the federal government's removal of HST from new homes is a step in the right direction for addressing housing affordability, though more work is needed.

"We proposed incentivizing municipalities to speed up approvals and reduce development fees," MP Seeback said. "If municipalities met housing targets, they would receive bonus funding. If they didn't, some federal funding would be reduced. While at the same time, having a program to lower the cost of the fees associated with building those houses, which would get the housing prices down. That's what our policy was in the last election, and if we implemented that a year ago, along with the GST cut we talked about, the housing market would look very different today."

When asked how to reduce the spending deficit in the 2026 Spring Economic Update, MP Seeback said the amount of money spent on consultants should be reduced to what it was a little over a decade ago.

"[The government] could cut consultant spending from \$20 billion back to \$8-9 billion, where it was in 2015. That alone would save \$11 billion," he explained.

MP Seeback said government spending needs to be reduced to bring the deficit under control and prevent debt levels from rising further.

"I think it was a big missed opportunity to try and show some fiscal restraint, reduce the cost of government and demonstrate that [it] is willing to do the hard work needed to get spending under control," he said.

However, Finance Minister Champagne sees the update as a thoughtful and measured approach to supporting Canada's economy.

"The Spring Economic Update 2026 builds on the momentum of our budget, combining strategic investments with sustained fiscal discipline to keep building Canada strong for all — delivering prosperity today and strengthening our economy for tomorrow," he said.

Dufferin OPP issues statement encouraging safe riding during Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month

Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month kicked off on May 1 across Ontario, and the Dufferin Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) is reminding all road users to prioritize safety as motorcycle season ramps up.

Throughout the month of May, Dufferin OPP officers will be actively engaging with the public through both education and enforcement initiatives aimed at increasing awareness around motorcycle safety. With warmer weather bringing more motorcyclists onto Ontario roads, the campaign focuses on reducing collisions and encouraging safe practices among both riders and drivers.

Motorcycle safety is a shared responsibility. Whether you're on a bike or behind the wheel of a vehicle, staying alert and respectful of all road users is key to preventing serious injuries and fatalities.

Safety tips for motorcyclists:

- Wear proper gear, including a DOT-approved helmet, gloves, jacket, long pants, and protective boots.
- Inspect your motorcycle before each

ride-check brakes, lights, tires, and fluid levels.

- Ride defensively and anticipate the actions of other drivers.
- Follow posted speed limits and obey all traffic signals.
- Make yourself visible by using signals, headlights, and wearing bright or reflective clothing.
- Maintain a safe following distance and avoid riding in other vehicles' blind spots.
- Ride sober and well-rested-fatigue and impairment significantly increase risk.

Safety tips for drivers:

- Check blind spots carefully before changing lanes or merging.
- Give motorcyclists plenty of space-do not tailgate.
- Watch closely for motorcycles at intersections and when turning left.
- Be extra cautious in poor weather or low-light conditions.
- Avoid distractions and stay focused on the road at all times.
- Remember that motorcycles can be harder to judge in terms of speed and distance.



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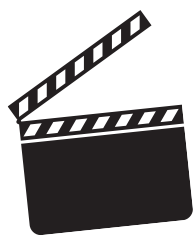
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Arts & Entertainment



LOCAL COMMUNITY EVENTS

Orangeville and District Music Festival amplifies local musical talent

Written By JOSHUA DRAKES
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Orangeville and District Music Festival (ODMF) has spent more than a quarter-century building a quiet but lasting legacy in the local arts scene, one rooted in growth.

Founded in 1998, the festival began as a grassroots effort to give young musicians in the Orangeville area a place to perform.

Nancy Dettbarn, spokesperson for the ODMF, said that today, it has evolved into a fully volunteer-run, non-profit event that welcomes performers of all ages and abilities, while staying true to its founding philosophy: music as a vehicle for confidence, connection, and lifelong learning.

"This is our little way of trying to encourage people to practice and enjoy music, and remind them that music is good for them on so many levels, and it's good for our community," she said. "The power of music is special. It's something that they can express themselves with and they can excel at. It just

depends on what they put into it. Everyone is welcome, we have youth, we have adults and all skill levels."

Each spring, participants take part in an adjudicated music festival where they perform for experienced professionals who offer detailed, constructive feedback. Unlike traditional music festivals, ODMF deliberately avoids rankings or competitive placements.

"I think the word that describes us best is non-competitive," Dettbarn said. "We're not trying to have you compete against others; you're competing against yourself, and seeing how well you can play or sing."

Instead, Dettbarn said that adjudicators focus on identifying strengths and offering practical guidance – whether in technique, interpretation, or stage presence, creating an environment that encourages improvement rather than comparison.

That approach has helped make the festival more inclusive. Performers range from preschool-aged be-

ginners to adults rediscovering music, with programming that spans classical repertoire, contemporary pieces, original compositions, and more. The emphasis on presentation introductions, memorization, and audience engagement also gives participants a foundation that extends well beyond the festival stage.

Behind the scenes, the festival is sustained by a network of volunteers, sponsors, and community donors. Their support helps cover adjudication costs and fund scholarships awarded to standout performers – recognition that can play a meaningful role for young musicians considering further study or artistic careers.

Over the years, participants have gone on to pursue music at the post-secondary level, perform in theatre and ensembles, or simply carry a lifelong appreciation for the craft – an impact that organizers say is just as important as any formal achievement.

The festival wraps up with a gala concert held at the Westminster United Church on

May 11, at 7 p.m. The program is designed to be varied and accessible, featuring a mix of soloists and ensembles in a format that keeps audiences engaged.

"If you do really well during the festival part, the adjudicator nominates certain players or singers for the gala concert later on," Dettbarn said. "We'll have 40 or so performers from a group of over 120 performers."

"There will be a lot of variety. There will be classical, singing, piano, again, drum solo, some vocal duets, and we use the projection screen so that there's not a bad seat in the house."

Affordable tickets and a welcoming atmosphere ensure the event remains accessible to the wider community.

For organizers, accessibility is central to the festival's purpose: creating a space where music is shared, supported, and celebrated – no matter a performer's age, background, or level of experience.

For more information, go to <https://www.odmf.ca>.

Local family organizes Orangeville's first community walk fundraiser for scleroderma

Written By JOSHUA DRAKES
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

A first-time community walk is set to bring new attention to a lesser-known but devastating disease in Orangeville this June. The inaugural scleroderma awareness walk is set to take place on Sunday, June 7, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Island Lake Conservation Area.

The route is being finalized with guidance from the Scleroderma Society and has been planned to ensure access to washrooms and a welcoming gathering space near the pavilion.

At the heart of the walk is a deeply personal story from event organizer Stephanie Janes.

"I've had multiple family members now affected by the disease scleroderma, but I lost my father Jan. 1 of 2025, and it was a long, hard battle of 16 years with the disease," she said. "I just thought what a great way to honour my dad and take something that was so sad and

turn it into something that's so powerful."

Her experience watching the slow, painful progression of the disease in her father, including frequent travel for treatment and experimental therapies, shaped her determination to do something constructive and hopeful in his honour.

Stephanie's son, Jack Mortimer, has played a key role in building momentum through social media, managing the online donation page, and assisting with the silent auction and promotion.

The event will feature not only a community walk, but also a silent auction with approximately 30 donated items, already generating strong support. In just one week of early efforts, the initiative has raised \$772, with an overall fundraising goal of \$5,000, all of which will go directly to the Scleroderma Society.

Representatives from the organization will be on site with information, resources, and

support for anyone affected by the disease or wanting to learn more.

Scleroderma is a rare, chronic autoimmune disease characterized by the immune system triggering excessive collagen production, resulting in the hardening, thickening, and tightening of the skin and connective tissues. It can also damage blood vessels and affect internal organs like the lungs, heart, kidneys, and digestive tract.

Scleroderma often receives less research funding and public attention. The walk aims to change that locally by highlighting both the physical and mental toll of the disease, as well as the impact on families who support loved ones through long, difficult journeys.

The event has quickly grown beyond Stephanie's original idea of a small walk with friends, family, and longtime clients from her work as a local hairstylist.

"So this started off as something small,

meant for my people, my family," Janes said. "Then I talked to the Scleroderma Society, and they said they're going to bring people, get permits, and they were going to reach out locally, and it just blew up from there."

"It's just awesome to see that people have noticed what I've posted on social media and stuff, and the community is coming forward and just giving back, it honestly just makes my heart feel so full."

With local residents, businesses, and service clubs beginning to come forward with donations and commitments to attend, a family tribute is turning into a broader community effort to raise awareness, show support for those affected, and contribute to the search for better treatments and, one day, a cure.

"Please consider coming out and supporting us," Janes said. "We're helping people who are suffering from this disease, and they deserve to feel heard, seen, and supported."

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The Citizen CROSSWORD

Puzzle No. 265110 • Solution on page: CLASSIFIEDS SECTION

CLUES ACROSS

- Large dung beetle
- Gambling game ___-lo
- Further along
- Type of tobacco
- Looked for
- Silk fabric
- Computer method to solve equations
- As fast as can be done (abbr.)
- Tear
- Brews
- "Famous" cookie baker
- Women's Army Corps
- Front parts of an animal
- It's causing quite a stir
- Beloved March holiday
- 12th letter of the Greek alphabet
- More impudent
- Indicates center
- Young woman (French)
- A cause of distress
- Santa's helper
- Hillside
- Many wombs
- Is afraid of
- Popular baked goods ingredient
- Popular computers
- Conceiving of
- Google certification (abbr.)
- Sturdy

CLUES DOWN

- Peruse quickly
- Automobiles
- Razorbill genus
- Bravo! Bravo! Bravo!
- Consumed
- A place to sleep
- Small seeds
- Legendary law man Wyatt
- Female sheep
- Indigenous peoples of eastern Siberia
- A place ships dock
- Reciprocal of sine
- Discomfort
- British Air Aces
- Exit sleep
- Solar energetic particle
- Plagues characterized by starvation
- Short musical composition
- Trauma center
- Habitual twitching
- A place where checks are exchanged (abbr.)
- Decimeter
- Hinged surface in a wing
- Shouting
- Sports official
- Volcanic craters
- Supportive device
- It's part of a rosary
- Two-toed sloth
- Body art
- Let out
- Foreign medical graduate
- Nonprofit journalism organization (abbr.)
- Couples say it
- Bird's beak

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

How they say that in...

English: Tennis
Spanish: Tenis
Italian: Tennis
French: Tennis
German: Tennis

Math Blocks

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

4	12		36
	10		24
		1	12
19	24	29	

1	2	3
8	01	9
02	12	4

 Solution

Get Scrambled

Unscramble the words to determine the phrase.

AMEG, TSE, TMCAH

Answer: Game set, match

Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

Answer: Tennis racket and ball

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Mulmur 175 Run for Honeywood raises funds, builds momentum for local arena

Written By JOSHUA DRAKES
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Mulmur 175 Run for Honeywood delivered a strong turnout and community backing, even after an uncertain start to the day.

Organized by the North of 89 Alliance, the event saw early morning snow give way to clearer skies just before the start, creating cool but favourable running conditions along the rural routes surrounding Honeywood.

Lisa Thompson, one of the organizers behind the run, said that despite the weather, the day was a strong success. She also thanked local community partners for their support on the day.

“Although we woke up to snowy skies, the weather cleared up just before the run began, making it cool but great weather for a run,” she said. “We were very pleased with the turnout and the support we received. A big thank you goes to the Mulmur-Melanchton Fire Department for their support and Mulmur Township for supplying water, granola bars, and bathrooms. Another thank you to Shelburne NoFrills for the banana donation.”

In total, 56 participants took part across the event’s distances, including 35 runners in the 5K, 13 in the 10K, and eight children

in the kids relay. The mix of experienced runners and first-time participants was a highlight for Thompson, who expressed gratitude to the diverse runners for their support.

“There were people that came up that had never run a 5K before,” she said. We also had a group of guys that always supported North of 89 events, and they came out to run and support the arena. We really appreciate them coming and all the support they offer North of 89 Alliance and the Honeywood arena.”

Fundraising efforts also showed early promise. Organizers report approximately \$2,800 raised before expenses, with final totals still to be confirmed.

Proceeds are being directed toward the Honeywood arena, a longstanding community hub in need of upgrades, reinforcing the run’s broader goal of supporting local infrastructure.

Beyond the numbers, organizers pointed to the sense of community as a defining takeaway. Returning supporters of North of 89 initiatives were joined by newcomers, helping to build momentum for future events tied to the Honeywood area.

The exposure was invaluable, bringing more attention to the preservation of local recreational facilities, like the Honeywood Arena, that serve as community hubs in



JOSHUA DRAKES PHOTO

RUNNING FOR RECREATION: The Run for Honeywood fundraising event saw great community support with 56 people in attendance. The run raised \$2,800 and counting to fund repairs and upgrades to the Honeywood Arena.

small towns across the region.

With the run now complete, the North of 89 Alliance is already turning its attention to its next major fundraiser, Cobstock 2026,

a multi-day summer event set to take place Aug. 22 and 23, featuring tournaments, local food, and community activities in support of the wider North Dufferin area.

Ontario connecting more than 7,000 people to primary care in Dufferin-Caledon

The Ontario government is taking the next step toward delivering its Primary Care Action Plan, which is on track to connect everyone in the province with a family doctor or primary care provider by 2029.

As part of this plan to connect everyone in Ontario to a publicly funded family doctor or primary care team, the Ontario government is investing more than \$2,835,900 this year to connect up to 7,022 people in Dufferin-Caledon to primary care.

“Our government is taking action to improve access to primary care for families in Dufferin-Caledon,” said Sylvia Jones, MPP for Dufferin-Caledon. “With this investment, we

are connecting more than 7,000 residents to a family doctor or primary care team, ensuring people can access the care they need closer to home.”

Dufferin Area Family Health Team (DAFHT) is a collaborative primary healthcare organization that currently supports patients of primary care providers in Dufferin County and a group in Bolton. Identified as the fund holder for this expansion funding locally, DAFHT, in partnership with the local Ontario Health Team (OHT), was funded through the latest call for proposals under the Primary Care Action Plan.

All 124 teams receiving funding expected

to connect another 500,000 patients to primary care across Ontario. Each team has established a plan to attach a high proportion of unattached people in their community, including those on the Health Care Connect waitlist.

“This funding approval is a positive step for Dufferin Caledon, providing a scaled but meaningful opportunity to strengthen team-based care across the Hills of Headwaters Collaborative Ontario Health Team (OHT). In partnership with the OHT, the allocation supports immediate expansion of DAFHT programs and services, development of a local hub, enhanced Care Days clinical offerings, and a dedicated team to support patient

attachment and collaboration with primary care providers. While an initial step, it moves us closer to ensuring all residents have access to team-based primary care. As we move forward, we will actively explore further opportunities to broaden our partnerships for even more,” said Lianne Barbour, Executive Director of the Dufferin Area Family Health Team.

“Through our Primary Care Action Plan, we are connecting more people to care and have already exceeded our 2025-26 attachment target,” said MPP Jones, who’s also Deputy Premier and Minister of Health. “By connecting more families to care in Dufferin County, our government is taking the next step toward.”

Ontario government waives fishing licence requirements for Mother’s Day weekend

This Mother’s Day weekend, Ontario is offering families a chance to cast a line and enjoy the outdoors together for free. From May 9 to 10, Canadian residents can fish in Ontario without purchasing a licence or Outdoors Card.

“Fishing is a great way for families to make unforgettable memories while enjoying the

outdoors,” said Mike Harris, Minister of Natural Resources. “Free fishing weekends are an opportunity to check out Ontario’s top-notch fishing and take part in a timeless tradition that brings people together right across the province.”

Recreational fishing is a key part of Ontario’s economy, supporting local tourism and

jobs in communities across the province. Free fishing opportunities like Mother’s Day weekend provide a chance for people to learn more about fishing on Ontario’s lakes and rivers.

If you are fishing for free during the Mother’s Day weekend, all conservation licence catch and size limits, sanctuaries and all other fishing regulations still apply.



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Friends of the Sheldon organize effort to save outdoor education centre

Written By **BRIAN LOCKHART**

Imagine looking up into the night sky, and for the first time, really seeing the stars.

For kids growing up in downtown Toronto, the night sky never really reveals itself, as the city's light obscures the true darkness above.

The Sheldon Outdoor Education Centre in Adjala-Tosorontio, just outside of Mono, offers a rural setting where city kids can see real stars and explore the outdoors in an environment totally new to them. Many of the kids are amazed by the silence of the countryside, after being used to the steady hum of traffic and sirens.

The Sheldon Outdoor Education Centre is operated by the Toronto District School Board (TDSB) and occupies around 200 acres of diverse field, stream, and forest habitat. It has a chalet-style main building, a renovated farmhouse, and a small operating farm.

However, it is in danger of being closed due to maintenance costs and budget limitations. The facility requires around \$3

million in maintenance to continue operating.

It has not taken any bookings for the 2025/26 school year.

A group of local educators and residents, known as Friends of Sheldon, has banded together and is urging the TDSB to keep the centre open.

The group held a community engagement event at the centre on Thursday, April 30, to encourage the School Board to keep the facility open.

Guest speakers included Sharon Edmonds, an active member of the community, business owner, and parent; Rosanne Fritzsche, a Friends of Sheldon co-founder and environmental activist and 40-year Adjala resident; and Andy Kennedy, a teacher for 20 years at the centre, volunteer firefighter at Rosemont Fire Department, and a 28-year Mono resident.

The group has penned a letter to Rohit Gupta, TDSB's supervisor, urging the school board to keep the Centre open for students.

The letter suggested ways to help keep the centre open, including renting it to

community, Indigenous, and public-interest groups to create a revenue stream, as well as exploring grants or partnerships to help financially sustain the centre.

Friends of Sheldon have a genuine interest in keeping the centre open to benefit city kids so they can experience nature and the outdoors. They are encouraging other local residents to actively take part in voicing their concerns and support.

Former Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne, herself a former Toronto District School Board Trustee, became involved with the group as she now lives locally, not too far from the centre.

"The Centre is used by kids who come up here from the city who don't have access to a natural environment," Wynne explained. "Many people love the centre and how the kids benefit from visiting. There are some kids who come here, who have never even seen stars. The Friends of Sheldon has former educators including those who have worked there as well as many local residents."

There has not yet been a final decision on what will happen to the centre, but



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

FIGHTING FOR OUTDOOR EDUCATION: The Friends of Sheldon held an information session at the Sheldon Outdoor Education Centre, just outside Mono, on Thursday, April 30, and asked residents to join them in encouraging the Toronto District School Board to keep it open. The centre is at risk of closure due to mounting maintenance costs. The group says the facility is an important learning centre for kids from the city to experience the natural environment.

Friends of Sheldon are hoping for a positive outcome that will keep it open for the next generation of city kids who will arrive to experience nature and the outdoors.

CanHist, McMaster program partner to bring STEAM learning to students

Written By **CONSTANCE SCRAFIELD**

Question. Discover. Create.

These are the pillars upon which McMaster Children and Youth University (MCYU) bases its approach to education. Focussing on STEAM means art is added to science, technology, engineering and math as MCYU maintains art is of equal importance for a well-rounded education. Offered for free to children from seven to 14 years are on-campus lectures by university professors, as well as community outreach workshops. These are facilitated by McMaster University students who have been trained by the "MCYU in the City Program."

Founded in 2011 by Dr. Sandeep Raha and Dr. Katrin Scheinemann, professors in McMaster's Department of Pediatrics, MCYU was launched in 2011 as the first Children's University in Canada. It features programming for interactive, family-based discovery.

The inspiration for this initiative was based on the children's university model from Europe, which is now operating throughout the world.

As founder Sandeep Raha explains in one of the website's videos, MCYU is an organization developed to give kids and their families the chance to experience master research both on and off the campus.

For the last 10 years, MCYU has also part-

nered with Dufferin County-based CanHist, working closely on some of Canada's most significant Heritage commemorations, as Neil Orford, CanHist founder, told the Citizen.

The Centennial of insulin in 2021 and the Centennial of the Spanish Flu pandemic in 2018 were two of these projects.

Their collaboration was founded on the curatorial thinking model that Orford designed for the digital historian project they ran jointly between the Upper Grand District School Board and the Museum of Dufferin from 2014 to 2018.

"The digital historian project won the Government of Canada History Award in 2015 for our innovative approach to experiential learning which was a template for the Ontario Ministry of Education," Orford said.

He added that MCYU has been using that curatorial framework in all of its programming since then. CanHist has partnered with MCYU in developing that programming.

With those tools to help in the goal of developing future leaders in our children, as well as to give them a true preview of what it is like to go to university, the lectures, master classes, hands-on lessons, and workshops taught on-site at MCYU are all presented and offered to youngsters and their families for free. Students must be registered individually.

The three pillars of question, discover and create are set as a journey for each child to understand their right to question their environment, understand the possibilities and create solutions using their own talent. This exercise develops inventiveness and self-confidence.

Engaging in this inquiry-based learning is important to gain a developing relationship between participants and knowledge that is not necessarily within their grasp. Inspiring curiosity and self-confidence is the essential path to long-term educational engagement.

Youngsters commenting on their participation in these lessons reported that they discovered things and resolved problems about them on their own. They each delivered this information with a considerable degree of satisfaction.

Enthusiasm is the word that best describes the stance of the teachers who instruct and lead their young students in learning about topics that "blows their hair back!"

In person at the university, students are brought into a place filled with colour, an abundance of new ideas, and fascinating challenges.

Once a month, from September to May, MCYU offers free lectures covering the STEAM subjects and are followed by hands-on post-lecture activities bringing the lectures to life.

Attending the lectures in person, students and their families at the McMaster campus, introduces a feel for the post-secondary scholastic environment, even to students for whom university is still several years into their future.

In fact, it is so important to MCYU that their programs are accessible to all children and youth that they are currently working to deepen their relationships with schools and organizations in neighbourhoods where high school completion rates are disproportionately low.

While Hamilton is some 100 kilometres from Orangeville, in keeping with its mission to include all children and their families with the excellent programs they produce, there is access to some of the material on the Teacher Toolbox link on the website, freely offered to all, in the hope that teachers and librarians everywhere will host activities from the MCYU for their own young students.

At the heart of the mission at MCYU is the long-term goal to encourage youth to become empowered and engaged citizens and to share in the discovery that comes through the understanding of science, technology, engineering, arts and math (STEAM).

The Teacher Toolbox and lots of information can be found at <https://mcyu.mcmaster.ca>.

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- Thursday, May 14, 3:30pm – 6:00pm, Shelburne Public Library – 201 Owen Sound Street, Shelburne
- Thursday, May 14, 6:30pm – 9:00pm, Alder Recreation Centre – 275 Alder Street, Orangeville

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Community gears up for annual Walk for Alzheimer's at Island Lake

Continued from FRONT

She said she encourages everyone in the community to participate and support the Alzheimer Society of Dufferin County's mission to improve the quality of life for individuals and caregivers affected by dementia.

"Whether you walk, donate, or simply

show up to support, you are making a difference. It's a meaningful, uplifting event, and you'll leave feeling connected and inspired knowing you helped support families in your own community," Hunter said.

Local businesses and organizations are also encouraged to get involved. Sponsorship opportunities are available, offering a way to support staff, clients and families af-

fectured by dementia.

"The walk brings together a wide range of participants families affected by dementia, caregivers, healthcare workers, local businesses, community groups, and individuals who simply want to make a difference," Hunter said. "It's incredibly powerful to see people of all ages and backgrounds walking side by side."

She added, "We also emphasize that you don't need a personal connection to dementia to make an impact just showing up and supporting your community makes a difference... Every step taken and every dollar raised helps ensure that no one facing dementia in Dufferin County has to do it alone. We're so grateful for the continued support and can't wait to see everyone on May 31."

Horning's Mills community continues to mobilize against proposed Strada mega quarry

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

The fight against a proposed gravel pit in northern Dufferin County is entering a new phase, as residents packed the Horning Mills Community Hall this week for an update meeting with Melancthon Against Quarries focused on strategy, coordination and next steps.

The proposal by Strada Aggregates to develop a quarry site close to the rural village of Horning Mills has been a growing concern, with residents already well aware of the potential environmental and economic risks.

Those concerns were reiterated at the meeting on Monday, May 4, but the tone shifted to how the community can effectively push back. Support is strong, including on the municipal level, with Melancthon Mayor Darren White in attendance.

"I think it's potentially devastating for our water resources and some of our agricultural resources in the community to have below the water aggregate extraction in an area that is super sensitive to external inputs," he said. "It's important that the community groups that are opposing the Strada application set up something so people can know what's going on."

"I think it's also important that all members of council, or as many as possible, are at these things. And so far, I think almost everybody has been at every one of the public forums," White added.

Opposition to the project has largely centred on its proximity to homes, farmland and sensitive headwaters. Residents have repeatedly raised concerns about the potential for blasting to disrupt the area's limestone formations, potentially altering groundwater flow in unpredictable ways and impacting private wells.

Speakers also pointed again to the long-term implications of quarry operations, noting that projects of this scale can last decades and bring lasting changes to air quality, traffic and overall quality of life. Even modest impacts on property values, they said, could translate into significant financial losses for homeowners over time.

Larry Taman, who moderated the communi-



COMMUNITY SPEAKS OUT: Melancthon Against Quarries' Monday night community meeting drew dozens of locals who completely filled the local community hall. Despite the long battle, the community continues to rally against proposed quarry development that threatens the local water system and agricultural sector. Meeting with the Reform Gravel Mining Coalition, experts and members of the public shared ideas and experience, looking to develop strategies to pressure local officials into stopping the quarry from being built.

ty meeting, said that a key concern raised was the developer's lack of experience. Community organizers said Strada has not previously undertaken a project of this nature, meaning it could effectively become responsible for managing local water systems without a proven track record.

"It's important to remember that Strada has never done this before, meaning they have no experience," he said. "If this goes ahead, we're turning our water supply, its management, over to someone who's never done this before. So in a situation in which outcomes are unforeseeable, losses are potentially very serious."

While those issues are not new, the meeting highlighted how the community's response is evolving.

Residents have now formally aligned themselves with a broader provincial network through the Reform Gravel Mining Coalition, a group that works with more than 20 communities across Ontario facing similar quarry and gravel pit proposals.

Representatives from the coalition, such as Mike Balkwill, attended the meeting to share lessons learned from other jurisdictions and outline realistic expectations for the road ahead.

He was blunt: the system is difficult to navigate and often favours development, but communities can still influence outcomes with the



JOSHUA DRAKES PHOTOS

right approach.

"We have to be honest, it's very hard to stop them, the system is designed to say yes," he said. "It was bad enough before this government came into power, but Doug Ford has gutted all kinds of regulations... He's just removed as many barriers as he can."

A significant portion of the presentation focused on strategy, particularly the dual-track approach needed to oppose a project like this. With the coalition's resources, they have a large portfolio of lessons learned and experience they are willing to share.

"The Reform Gravel Mining Coalition is made up of 20 communities that are in various stages of fighting gravel pits or gravel quarries, just like you are," Balkwill said. "We work with all these communities to give them the best chance of protecting their community, protecting their health and safety and stopping the pit or quarry. That's what we try to do. What I'm here to do tonight is to share with you the best lessons from what we have."

That includes participating in the formal approval process, including potential hearings before the Ontario Land Tribunal (OLT), while also building sustained political pressure.

Balkwill stressed that winning on technical arguments alone is unlikely.

Instead, success often depends on whether opposition becomes visible enough to influence decision-makers at the provincial level.

"Communities have no choice but to launch or participate in an OLT," he said. "It's the place where you have to go to fight these things into existence. Because the application process is designed to produce an approval, communities must also create political pressure."

"You also have to win in the court of public opinion, as well as in the court of law."

Delaying the project was also identified as a key tactic.

"Finding ways to stall the application as long as you can work in your favour," Balkwill said. "It gives you more time to build political pressure... it creates the possibility for surprises to happen."

Municipal tools, such as bylaws, were discussed as one option.

The importance of a strong relationship between residents and local council was also emphasized. In this case, speakers noted that the municipality has already taken steps to support the community, including hiring legal counsel with experience in opposing aggregate applications.

Beyond legal and political strategies, organizers are also focusing on expanding grassroots engagement.

A newly developed website is being introduced as a central hub for information, volunteer coordination and fundraising, with the goal of moving from a small core group to broader community participation.

The group also announced it has rebranded as the Watershed Guardians of Dufferin County, a name meant to reflect a wider focus on protecting regional water systems, farmland and environmental health.

Throughout the evening, the message remained consistent: the risks associated with the proposed quarry are already understood, but the outcome will depend on how effectively the community responds. The more noise made, and the more support seen, the better the odds of opposing the quarry.

With the process expected to unfold over several years, residents were encouraged to stay involved, contribute where possible and prepare for a sustained effort to shape what happens next.

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Sausages 8-9 PIECES 900 g 2 Varieties Also available, Frankfurters 18 PIECES 1 kg \$17.99 **SAVE \$2**

12.99

Lemon & Herb Chicken Skewers 4 PIECES 300 g Also available, Island Style Chicken Skewers 4 PIECES 300 g \$12.99

19.99

Cheddar & Bacon Stuffed Beef Burgers 4 BURGERS x 170 g/6 oz

TREAT MOM TO A HOMEMADE-ISH DINNER START MOM'S MEAL

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SAVE \$2
9.99 each

Classic French Style Mini Quiche 16 PIECES 340 g 2 Varieties

SAVE \$2
9.99 each

Sausage Rolls 26-28 PIECES 500 g

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24.99 each **SAVE \$5**

Cabbage Rolls

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8.99 **SALE**

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5.99 each **SALE**

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Chicken Strips 680 g

Also available, Cheesy Nacho Chicken Strips 680 g \$14.99 **SAVE \$5**

12.99 each **SAVE \$5**

Deep Dish Chicken Pie 907 g

Also available, Deep Dish Beef and Vegetable Pie 907 g \$12.99 **SAVE \$5**

12.99 each

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SINGLE SERVES 275 g - 340 g

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CHOOSE FROM 22 VARIETIES

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9.99 each

Gluten-Free Margherita Pizza 330 g **NEW!**

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SAVE \$7

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Spanakopita 12 PIECES 340 g

9.99

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9.99

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9.99

Vegetable Egg Rolls 10 PIECES 570 g Also available, Mini Vegetable Spring Rolls 16 PIECES 384 g \$9.99

9.99

Chicken Spring Rolls 6 PIECES 432 g

9.99

Jalapeño Wontons 12 PIECES 223 g

12.99

Popcorn Chicken 680 g

9.99

Beef Empanada Bites 12 PIECES 240 g

2.99 each

Deluxe Deep Dish Pizzas 160 g Pepperoni



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Orangeville Junior B Northmen move into first place after weekend wins

Written By BRIAN LOCKHART

The Orangeville Junior B Northmen are now 3-0 to start the season and are in first place in the West Division of the OJBLL after two wins over the weekend.

A road game against the Hamilton Bengals started the Northmen's season on April 23 and resulted in a 9-8 win, marking the squad's first victory of the 2026 schedule.

The Northmen had their home opener at the Alder Street arena on Saturday, May 2, against the Wallaceburg Red Devils.

Saturday's home opener saw the Northmen take a huge 9-0 lead, leaving the Wallaceburg team in disarray and scrambling to get back into the game.

O-ville's Riley Bissett got the hat-trick in the first period, scoring three times.

The other Northmen's first-period goals came from Tyler Grongroos, Cole Hunt, Braden Gilmore, Kieran Witte, and Zenon Lipinski for two.

Things settled down in the second period. Wallaceburg got its first goal of the game at 53 seconds into the second period.

Orangeville's Ryan Livingston matched that goal.

The Red Devils scored late in the period, and Orangeville's Levi Spindler matched that goal with just under two minutes remaining on the clock.

Spindler got his second goal of the night when he hit the back of the Wallaceburg net early in the third period.

The Red Devils got a final goal for the night late in the period.

Whitt and Hunt both got their second goals of the night for the Northmen to end the game with a 14-4 win for Orangeville.

The following day, Sunday, May 3, the Northmen hosted the London Blue Devils.

Orangeville dominated the game after the first period, when they took a 7-2 lead.

Keeping up the pressure, the Northmen outscored the Blue Devils 8-2 in the second period for a 15-4 lead going into the final period of play.

They ended the night with two more goals in the third period to win the game 17-5.

The win places the Northmen in first place



BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

SEASON STARTS: The Orangeville Junior B Northmen host the Wallaceburg Red Devils during the Northmen home opener at the Alder Street arena in Orangeville on Saturday, May 2. The Northmen won the game 14-4. The Northmen won again on Sunday and are now 3-0 for the season.

in the West Division.

The Six Nations Rebels and St. Catharines Athletics are also undefeated after three games this season.

It is way too early in the season to see any real progress on how teams will do this year.

In the East division, the Akwesasne Thunder have moved into first place after winning their first three games of the season.

The Northmen played a home game against the Guelph Regals on Wednesday, May 6, with results not available at press

time.

The Orangeville Junior B Northmen will return to their home floor at the Alder Street arena on Saturday, May 9, to host the Owen Sound North Stars.

Game time is 7:00 p.m.

Orangeville District Secondary School girls' rugby team battles through the season

Written By BRIAN LOCKHART

The Orangeville District Secondary School (ODSS) Scarlett Bears girls' rugby team continues to put out a good effort this season, despite taking a loss in their most recent game.

Starting the season with a win, the Bears played their first game on April 22, traveling to Erin to take on the Erin District High School Raiders.

Both teams scored early in that game. The Bears had a solid second half and late-game goal, and a successful kick gave the ODSS team a 29-12 win.

"I think today's game went quite well for our first game of the season," said Sarah MacCoubrey, a player for the Bears, after that game. "Everybody put their heart and soul on the field and did everything they could to

bring home that win. On defence, our tackles were phenomenal. On defence, our tackles were perfect. I think we played an overall amazing game."

The Bears started practising with indoor dry-land training back in January. They moved outdoors in the spring when the weather allowed.

In their latest game, the Bears faced John F. Ross from Guelph on April 29 at ODSS.

There was a light drizzle throughout the game, making ball handling difficult.

The Bears had to settle for a 64-5 loss in that game.

In the early going of the season, Centre Dufferin District High School has moved to the top of the District 4/10 standings, going 3-0.

John F. Ross is in second place, also with

a 3-0 record.

Bishop Macdonell from Guelph is in the number three spot with a 1-2 record.

Centennial Collegiate is in fourth place, followed by Guelph Collegiate and ODSS.

After the April 29 game, the Bears have a 1-2 record.

Erin District High School and Centre Wellington District High School are still looking for their first wins of the season.

The Bears will be back on their home field on Wednesday, May 13, to host the Centre Dufferin Royals.

Game time is 4 p.m.



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BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

TOUGH LOSS: The Orangeville District Secondary School Bears girls' varsity rugby team take on the team from John F. Ross from Guelph on the pitch at ODSS on Wednesday, April 29. The game was played in a light drizzle, making ball handling difficult. The Bears had to settle for a 64-5 loss.

Are you part of a sports team? Are you an individual athlete?
 Do you have an upcoming event or a recent accomplishment?
 Share the details with us! Email Brian
 at brian.lockhart@hotmail.com

OPINION

Always go straight to the top

As a person who travels around this great province quite a bit, I have a couple of regions that are my favourites.

The north shore of Lake Erie is beautiful. There are many small towns and villages along that 350-kilometre stretch of water.

There are also many wide-open, undeveloped spaces along the north shore, with beaches, some provincial parks, and a lot of wild areas where you can explore and see some amazing things.

I also like exploring the east shore of Lake Huron. There are some really beautiful, well-kept towns in that region, some great beaches, picturesque lighthouses, and wide-open areas along the lake.

I speak to a lot of locals on my travels, and they live there because they like their town and the area. Many families go back generations.

There's something good about going into the local coffee shop and seeing people you know, or taking part in a community event where you know your neighbours.

Imagine if it were discovered that right in the middle of town, there was a deposit of minerals, and authorities decided they were going to give the go-ahead to mine those minerals, and dig an open-pit mine the size of a football field in the downtown

core.

That idea probably would not go over well with the townsfolk.

Imagine if it were decided that one of those nice small towns had enough land in the surrounding area to accommodate intensified housing for 100,000 people?

That also would not go over well with locals who would see their tranquil town overrun with traffic and their picturesque community turned into a solid block of concrete.

Development is going to happen, and there's a lot of good in progress, but too much, too fast, is never a good thing.

The area where I live has just received a bombshell announcement from the provincial government.

The region was declared an area of growth by the province several years ago. However, the original plan called for moderate growth in some areas, and no development at all in other areas.

Most residents were content with that plan.

Now, the province has delivered a new proposal – one that includes development on a massive scale, which blindsided both the town council and local residents.

Most residents were somewhat horrified when they learned the size of the project,

and with good reason. The first thought is, traffic alone, after adding 80,000 to 100,000 people, would be a nightmare, in a town that is simply not equipped for it and was never designed to accommodate that scale of population.

Since the plan has no plan to bring industry to the town, thousands of people would have to commute to other areas to work. That would require new highways just to accommodate thousands and thousands of people leaving town every morning.

Then there is the fact that many local residents simply think the town is currently about the right size. It's big enough to have pretty much everything you need, while still maintaining a small-town friendliness.

The first place people turn to when opposed to such ideas is, of course, town hall.

However, many Ontarians don't seem to realize that municipalities in the province have no legal right to self-government.

Local mayors and town councils exist at the pleasure of the province, and the province has the power to remove any mayor and council members and replace them at any time, as it sees fit.

Therefore, local town councils have very limited options on some decisions made

by the province, and when the province tells them it is going to build an open-pit mine in the downtown core, there is nothing they can do to prevent it.

Opposition to a provincial plan by local residents must be made at the provincial level.

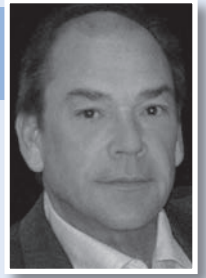
I don't want to bring any additional heat or headaches to our local MPP. He happens to be a nice guy, engages well with the public, and, I think, is doing a really good job of representing the region and helping his constituents.

However, he is still the provincial representative in the riding and must listen to the will of the people.

If organizers in opposition to this massive development plan get together and convince 25,000 or 30,000 residents to send an email of opposition to the MPP's office and cc the premier, their concerns will get noticed.

After all, if the premier decided to sell his newly acquired private jet, just a day later, due to public pressure and opposition, having the majority of residents of a town contact his office will certainly be a topic of discussion at the next cabinet meeting.

BRIAN LOCKHART
FROM THE SECOND ROW



Would Cuba resist?

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio should be careful what he wishes for. Donald Trump has speculated that Rubio could be "the next president of Cuba" after the US overthrows the Communist regime that has ruled the island for the past 67 years, and this week he suggested that this takeover might be done by the US Navy "on its way home" from the Persian Gulf.

"We will be taking over Cuba almost immediately," Trump said. "On the way back from Iran, we'll have one of our aircraft carriers – maybe the USS Abraham Lincoln, the biggest in the world – we'll have that come in, stop maybe 100 yards offshore, and they'll say 'Thank you very much, we give up.'" Then he made the hands-up gesture.

Typical Trump stuff: jokey, deniable, but also menacing – and Cuba has been on his hit list for a long time. As soon as he got control of Venezuela in January, Trump cut off the oil shipments from there that kept the Cuban economy afloat. A US takeover may really be coming – and Marco Rubio would be the ideal Gauleiter of a conquered Cuba.

His Cuban parents moved to the United States just before Fidel Castro seized

power, so Rubio is American-born, but his home has always been the Cuban émigré-refugee society of South Florida. He has never actually been to Cuba (except for one brief trip to the US Naval Station at Guantanamo in 2012), but like most exiles he thinks he knows the place.

Maybe he's right, in which case he may have a splendid career ahead of him as 'president of Cuba' and then, perhaps, as President of the United States. (Post-Trump, we are told, it's either him or JD Vance.) But his personal knowledge of Cuba is as fragmentary and distorted as Maximilian's personal knowledge of Mexico before he became Emperor of the country.

Maximilian I of Mexico began life as a humble Austrian archduke, younger brother to Emperor Franz Joseph I. Such people have no real jobs (ask Prince Harry of Britain), so he was open to offers. His best offer came from some Mexican conservatives who had just lost a civil war and were looking for a European royal as figurehead for a comeback attempt.

He was game, the American Civil War was on so the US wasn't enforcing the Monroe Doctrine, and Emperor Napoleon

III of France was willing to lend a French army for the enterprise. So off they all went, and for a while it went well.

Then the US Civil War ended, Washington secretly helped Benito Juárez drive out the French army in 1867 – and Maximilian ended up in front of a Mexican firing squad. (He had the grace to say his final words in Spanish.)

It's just a cautionary tale, not a prediction, but Mexico and Cuba are the two most fiercely nationalist places in the Spanish-speaking world.

After several generations of dogmatic and incompetent Communist rule, worsened by the effects of the crippling 60-year US trade embargo and now by an outright blockade, Cubans are desperately tired and ready for change. However, 'liberation' at the hands of the perennial yanqui enemy would still be seen as humiliation by at least half the population.

This is where Rubio's private calculations about the ease of an American takeover of Cuba (and the very public ruminations by Trump on the same topic) may run aground. The opinions of people actually living in Cuba are pretty unanimous about the failures of the regime, but they are

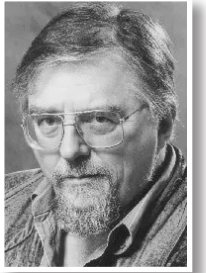
much more various in their views on the future than Trump and Rubio imagine.

One should add that the hardest-line enemies of the Communist regime have taken advantage of the easier exit rules of recent years to leave the country. Cuba's population has dropped by at least 1.5 million since 2013 (to below 10 million now), but those who left are all people who hate the regime. The ones who would fight are staying.

We cannot know how many Cubans would actually resist an American invasion by force until Trump actually tries one, but it could certainly be enough to make a real war. They would quickly lose the open warfare part, obviously, but they are pretty good at the guerilla war part.

There's no guarantee that this will happen again, but there's no guarantee it won't either. The Clausewitz of our time already has two wars on his plate in two different continents, a big one in Iran temporarily stalled by a ceasefire and a smaller one waiting to start if and when he moves against the thugs who still rule Venezuela. He really should not start another one now.

GWYNNE DYER
OUR WORLD TODAY



A mother's place in your heart

One evening on the way home after a long day at work, I stopped by the grocery store to pick up some broccoli on sale. As I was deciding which heads to buy, another gentleman joined me at the produce counter. We both stood there, contemplating our choices.

Trying to make small talk, the gentleman said, "Nice broccoli, eh?" I replied, "Yes, I'm going to pick up a couple and freeze them." He looked surprised and asked, "You can freeze fresh broccoli?" I nodded and explained how.

He then asked, "Are you sure that's how you freeze fresh broccoli?" I replied, "Well, that's what my mom said."

The gentleman, whom I had never met before, paused for a moment and then thoughtfully replied, "Well, if that's what your mom said, you know it has to be right."

Like quoting a precedent-setting case from the Supreme Court of Canada, I had unintentionally settled a debate by citing the greatest authority in every man's life: his mother.

For the average man, there is no higher or wiser court in the land than the court of Mom. Any man worth his salt instinctively knows that if the life advice comes from his mother, it generally tends to be right.

Mothers have a lifelong influence over their children. A wise mother understands the responsibility she bears and strives to be as fair as possible to all her kids. Mothers are the guiding light of the world, leading the next generation into adulthood and shaping the future of society.

When there's a fight among the kids and a ruling is needed, the verdict usually comes from the wisest court in the house: Mom. Mothers are the counsellors, diplomats, and arbiters of the family. While Dads may deliver the punishment ("Just wait 'til your father gets home!"), the decision and ruling usually come from Mom. A good mother tempers her influence with tenderness, fairness, thoughtfulness, and guiding leadership.

With every boo-boo a mom bandages, every torn pair of pants she mends, every fight she breaks up, every cookie she bakes, and every hug and kiss she gives, she passes on her love, wisdom, support, compassion, and guidance to the next generation.

While good and responsible Dads are certainly beloved by their children, 'Mom' will always come first in the hearts of her kids forever and ever. That's just the way it is and the way it will always be, even into adulthood and beyond.

And why are most mothers so beloved by their children? Because of their capacity to give. Traditionally, women are givers. A good mother gives wholeheartedly of herself to her loved ones. After first giving her children life, she then gives them support, guidance, security, and unconditional love as they begin their journey into becoming well-rounded human beings. That's simply what a good mother does, and that's why they are so loved and appreciated by their children. For a kid, all the anxieties of the day can be wiped away with a gentle tuck-in and a good night kiss from Mom.

Mother's Day is such a big event for little kids because, after being unconditionally loved and supported by their mom all year, it's the one day they can visibly reciprocate and show their mom how much they love her. Usually, they do that by creating macaroni and sparkle pictures for her or by saving up their allowance to find that ever-so-special gift that tells their mom how much they love her.

I am reminded of a line from a movie that said, "With great power comes great responsibility." That's very true in all walks of life. As the matriarch of the home, a good mother wields gentle authority and influence (although occasional discipline might be

necessary) and bears loving responsibility towards her children in relation to their emotional development and the kind of adults they eventually become.

As children grow into independent adults, they begin to take responsibility for their own lives and actions. The positive influences of their past life are crucial to the kind of adults they eventually become.

To prove the significance of a mother's influence, when you grow up and talk about your parents, you always refer to them as 'Mom and Dad'. You never hear anyone say, 'Dad and Mom'. While that may sound like a little thing, it reflects the priority and positive influence that a good mother has had over her children.

And whenever a young man appears on TV for the very first time, what's the first thing they usually say on camera to all the people watching at home?

"Hi, MOM!"
Dad might be the head of the house, but a good Mom is the foundation on which a happy home and a happy family are built. And we wouldn't have it any other way. (Love ya, Mom! My Mom's Day!)

KEITH SCHELL
REMEMBERING WHEN



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CMCA AUDITED

COMMUNITY VOICES

Monthly Message: Legacy giving supports the Orangeville Food Bank's future

If you've ever wondered how to make a lasting impact on those in our community, May is a beautiful time to start that conversation.

At the Orangeville Food Bank and Dufferin Food Share Grand Valley, we celebrate National Leave a Legacy Month in May and it's one of my favourite things to talk about.

Because this community? It shows up. We see it every single day. In the way neighbours help neighbours. In the way people quietly add an extra item to their grocery cart. In the way volunteers walk through our doors ready to give their time, their energy, and their hearts.

That spirit is what keeps us going. But here's the part we don't always talk about: while food drives and one-time donations help us get through today, legacy giving is what helps us build for tomorrow. And I think that matters more than ever right now.

Every month, we're supporting the equivalent of an entire elementary school of children and over a thousand adults. Families in our community are making tough choices, the kind that no one should have to make, and the need continues to grow.

So, when we talk about legacy giving, we're not talking about something complicated or out of reach.

We're talking about food. We're talking about people. We're talking about the kind of community you want to leave behind.

And one of the most common ways people choose to do that is through a bequest in their will.

This means including the food bank as a beneficiary in your will. It can be a specific dollar amount, a percentage of your estate, or what remains after you've taken care of your loved ones. It doesn't impact your finances during your lifetime, but it creates something meaningful for the future. It's also flexible; you can update it at any time as your circumstances change. For many people, it's one of the easiest ways to make a lasting difference.

Another option that more people are exploring is gifting through securities or life



insurance. With securities, you can donate publicly traded stocks, bonds, or mutual funds directly to the food bank. This can be a very tax-efficient way to give, as it may eliminate capital gains tax on the appreciated value while still providing a charitable receipt. It's a way to make a significant impact while also being financially thoughtful.

Life insurance is another powerful and often overlooked option. You can name the food bank as a beneficiary of an existing policy or take out a new one specifically as a legacy gift. The premiums are often quite manageable, but the future impact can be substantial. Depending on how it's set up, there may also be tax benefits either during your lifetime or for your estate.

What I love about all these options is that they meet people where they are.

There is no one "right" way to leave a legacy, only the way that feels right for you.

Because here's the truth: it's not about wealth.

It's about intention.

Legacy gifts allow us to think differently. They give us the ability to plan, invest in programs, strengthen our infrastructure, and respond to the needs of our community with confidence, not just reactively, but thoughtfully and sustainably.

They help us create stability in a space that can feel unpredictable.

And maybe my favourite part? The stories behind them.

We've had individuals come back to us years after needing support themselves, saying, "I remember what that felt like, and I want to make sure someone else has that same support when they need it." That kind of full-circle moment stays with you.

That's legacy.

So, this month, I'm inviting you to think

about this. Have the conversation. Sit around the kitchen table with your coffee and your family and talk about what matters most to you.

Consider how you might want to be remembered, and what kind of impact you want to leave in this community.

Because when you choose to leave a legacy to the food bank, you're doing something powerful.

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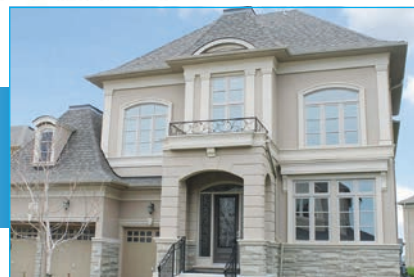
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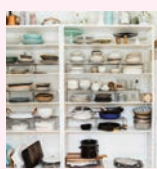
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Recharge your mind: Community Wellness Expo offers midweek escape

The Well-Comm Network invites the community to experience a heart-centred day of wellness, connection, and inspiration at the upcoming Community Wellness Expo.

The not-for-profit, community-focused event is taking place on Wednesday, May 20, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Monora Park Pavilion.

The expo is designed to create a welcoming space where individuals can step away from the busyness of daily life, reconnect with themselves, and explore a wide range of holistic wellness experiences and vendors.

Held midweek, the expo offers the perfect opportunity to step away for a few hours, whether dropping in over lunch or taking a well-deserved mental health day to reset and recharge.

The expo will feature local wellness practitioners, vendors, and interactive offerings, including crystals, energy healing, intuitive guidance, natural health products, and personal growth services.

Throughout the day, attendees can also take part in a selection of complimentary 30-minute wellness experiences, including:

- An Energy Reset
- Sho-Tai Body Analysis

- Chair Yoga
- 9D Breathwork
- Inner Fire Astrology
- The Power of Protein
- Spirit Talk
- A closing Cacao Ceremony

“This event is all about creating a space where people can slow down, reconnect with themselves, and discover the support that’s available within our local wellness community,” said Deborah Kolody, founder and community builder at The Well-Comm Network.

Admission is \$10 and includes a \$10 vendor coupon valid the day of the event, plus

workshops. The first 50 attendees to register will also receive a complimentary Gratitude Bag.

Workshops are available on a first-come basis due to limited seating.

The Well-Comm Network is a not-for-profit, heart-centred community that connects wellness seekers with trusted wellness professionals through wellness workshops, expos, their online directory, and, launching in May, just before the Expo, their Wellness eMagazine called “The Unfolding.”

For more information or to register, visit: <https://www.thewellcommnetwork.com/wellness-expo.php>

County seeks public input on waste management with spring survey, open houses

Dufferin County community members are invited to help shape the future of sustainable waste management in Dufferin as the County continues to update its Long-Term Waste Management Strategy.

The County received many comments from residents and program users through its fall survey and Table Talks. Residents can now complete the Long-Term Waste Management Strategy spring survey and attend one of two open houses to share their feedback and discuss identified project options.

Long-Term Waste Management Strategy survey

The County wants to hear resident feedback on ten potential options for the future of waste management in the community.

Participants can visit the Join In Dufferin website to complete the spring survey or contact the County’s Waste Services Division at wastestrategy@dufferincounty.ca or 519-941-2816 extension 2620 for a paper copy of the survey.

The survey is open until Sunday, May 17 at

11:59 p.m. Those who complete the survey can be entered for a chance to win one of 10 \$25 gift cards to a local retailer or restaurant.

Open houses

The County is also hosting two open houses to discuss the Long-Term Waste Management Strategy update and the potential options. These open houses will provide an opportunity for residents to discuss the options with the project team and/or provide more feedback. Open houses are being held

at the following times and locations and will include draws and giveaways for attendees:

- Shelburne: Thursday, May 14, 3:30 to 6 p.m., Shelburne Public Library – 201 Owen Sound Street, Shelburne
- Orangeville: Thursday, May 14, 6:30 to 9 p.m., Alder Recreation Centre – 275 Alder Street, Orangeville

The County thanks residents for getting involved and shaping the future of waste services in Dufferin County. Learn more about the project on Join In Dufferin.

Dufferin OPP lay impaired driving charges laid against 71-year-old Melancthon man

Written By SAM ODROWSKI

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

On May 1, at approximately 7:05 p.m.,

Dufferin OPP officers responded to a report of a possible impaired driver in the area of Main Street in the Town of Shelburne. Officers located the vehicle of interest and conducted a traffic stop. After speaking with the driver, officers initiated an impaired driving investigation.

Jim Ball, 71, of Melancthon, has been charged with:

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

The accused is scheduled to appear before the Ontario Court of Justice in Or-

angeville at a later date to answer to the charge.

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

None of the listed charges have been proven in court.



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	S	C	A	R	A	B		C	E	E					
E	S	C	A	L	A	T	E		C	H	A	W			
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ARTICLES WANTED



NORM'S ANTIQUES

We Buy and Sell Antiques, Memorabilia and Estates

SPECIALIZING IN:

- Antique Oak, Pine, & Teak Furniture (1900s)
- Advertising & Memorabilia
- English Fine Bone China & Fancy Teacups
- Old Collectible Toys
- Sterling Silver & Jewellery

IMMEDIATE CASH!

Contact Norm with your photos!

Normsantiques@gmail.com
905 703 1107



ROOM FOR RENT

LARGE FURNISHED ROOM in house to share with 3 senior pensioners. Very quiet. \$750/month or small room for \$550/month. All inclusive. Older persons preferred but not required. Call John 519-942-4103.

SPACE WANTED

FREE HALL or SPACE in Orangeville for live music. Twice a month. 519-942-7560.

CONDO FOR SALE

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

VEHICLES WANTED

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

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

HELP WANTED

APPRENTICE ELECTRICIAN required for Springdale Electric. Send resume to: fred@springdaleelectric.com.

ARTICLES WANTED

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

RESIDENTIAL SERVICES & REPAIRS

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

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

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

SERVICES

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

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

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

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

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SERVICES

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

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

IF YOU or a FAMILY MEMBER are struggling with gambling, Gamblers Anonymous is there to HELP. Call: 1(855) 222-5542 or visit www.gatoronto.ca.

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

ORANGEVILLE SENIOR SOCIAL CLUB - A place to meet and make new friends. We meet Thursdays at 5:30 pm. and twice a month at 1:30 pm. Many activities. For more information call Betty at: 519-942-3090.



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Caledon Citizen
905-857-6626
Orangeville Citizen
519-941-2230

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