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Kyle Seeback

M.P. Dufferin-Caledon

180 Broadway, 3rd Floor, Unit B
Orangeville, ON L9W 1K3

Phone: 519-941-1832


Toll Free: 1-866-941-1832

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kyle.seeback@parl.gc.ca




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Winners will be announced on July 3, 2026, on Kyle's Facebook page. Good luck—and have fun!

Kyle Seeback
M.P. Dufferin-Caledon
 180 Broadway, 3rd Floor, Unit B
 Orangeville, ON L9W 1K3
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JOSHUA DRAKES PHOTO

DANCE SHOWCASE: Citrus Fusion performed Time of Our Lives during Celebrate Your Awesome's annual festival at Alexandra Park on Saturday, June 20. Citrus Fusion is an adult dance company for everyone from amateurs to professionals. A few young competitive dancers were invited to participate and they took centre stage. One of the dancers is a member of the Toronto Rock Dance Team. See more photos on Page A11.

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Orangeville residents have their say on housing project

Written By JAMES MATTHEWS

Inadequate parking and a feared erosion of privacy are among shared concerns about a housing development proposed for Orangeville.

The proposed development will be on 1.23 acres of land at the southeast corner of Hansen Boulevard and the eastern entrance of Parkinson Crescent.

The project includes two mixed-use buildings with 10 ground-floor commercial units, three ground-floor residential units, and 20 upper-level residential units along the Hansen Boulevard and Parkinson Crescent street frontages. The proposal includes a six-unit townhouse block towards the rear of the site.

Porter Drive residents Yash and Manali Patel live near the proposed development site. They oppose the requested zoning amendment.

"I am concerned that the proposed mixed-use development will negatively affect the surrounding residential neighborhood," Yash said in the letter to council.

Patel is worried about increased traffic and congestion on Porter Drive, Hansen Boulevard, and nearby streets. Other concerns centre on parking overflow and the

safety of residents, construction noise and disruption, and an increased density that does not fit the neighbourhood's character.

"I purchased my home in this area expecting it to remain primarily residential in nature, and I do not support changing the zoning to allow additional commercial and higher-density uses at this location," Patel said.

Danny Santilli owns a townhouse property on Parkinson Crescent, and he opposes the development, though he supports a zoning amendment from Commercial (C2) to a residential townhouse development.

"Mixed-use developments are intended for roadways with high exposure and moderate traffic," Santilli said. "They are for communities that do not have access to retail outlets or nearby services. This is not the case in our community."

Porter Drive resident Bruno Machado's property borders the northern edge of this proposed development.

"The current layout presents severe negative impacts on the privacy, utility, and enjoyment of my property, as well as those of my surrounding neighbors," he said in opposition to the project.

Machado suggested council demand a 1.5 metre to three metre landscape buffer planting strip of evergreen privacy trees along

the northern and eastern property lines. An acoustic or heavy-duty privacy fence should be installed along the shared boundary line, fully funded by the developer.

Kathleen De Castro, another Porter Drive homeowner, shares concerns for disruption of daily life and the erosion of privacy.

"Because there is no mature tall trees or fences directly behind us to block the line of sight, the upper-level residential windows and balconies from all three blocks will look directly down into our yard and right into our rear windows," she said in a letter to council.

Because of how her home is positioned, vehicles navigating a part of the proposed development at night will shine headlights into her property.

"Trying to put a newborn to sleep with constant headlight glare slicing through our windows is an impossible situation," she said.

Fitzgerald Street resident Mike Simon said the parcel is relatively small and that there seems to be an attempt to strike an acceptable balance between residential and commercial spaces.

Pete Ford said parking on Porter Drive is currently an issue, and he fears it will be worsened by the development.

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Builder aims for residential and commercial units in Orangeville

Written By JAMES MATTHEWS

A proposed residential development in Orangeville aims to create a balanced community. That's according to Jim Hughes of Hughes Management, who provided a rundown of a proposal for a housing development in the town during a statutory public council meeting on June 22.

Hughes said such an open forum is a necessary means to best receive feedback from everybody who has thoughts about the proposed project.

"The development aims to enhance the existing urban fabric by introducing a high-quality, pedestrian-oriented streetscape with commercial vitality at ground level while providing much-needed residential density in a well-integrated manner," according to a project presentation.

The land is about 1.23 acres and located at the southeast corner of Hansen Boulevard and the eastern entrance to Parkinson Crescent. Despite the small area, Hughes said almost 25 per cent will be affordable housing.

The applicant is proposing two mixed-use buildings with 10 ground-floor commercial units, three ground-floor residential units, and 20 upper-level residential units along the Hansen Boulevard and Parkinson Crescent street

frontages. The proposal includes a six-unit townhouse block towards the rear of the site.

Public concerns include increased traffic, parking and safety. Privacy concerns related to the internal private street and parking areas, reduced setbacks and the height of blocks adjacent to existing residential properties were also raised. The proposal's density, impacts on property values, and the viability of a mixed-use development with commercial units were also mentioned.

The property is currently zoned Neighbourhood Commercial (C2), with a Holding (H) Zone symbol. The Neighbourhood Commercial Zone permits a range of commercial uses, including retail stores, offices, and personal service shops, as well as upper-level residential units.

While that commercial designation allows a variety of uses, Hughes said there are a few uses the proponents are not recommending for the site.

"And we would likely request that the zoning amendment reflect the prohibition of several uses," he said.

Any restaurants, cafes, or convenience stores on the parcel would not serve the community well, Hughes said.

Orangeville resident Robbie Marin said he supports the development and asked that the

proponents reconsider their refusal of a café at the site. He said it would add to the "walkability" of the area.

The Zoning Bylaw amendment application seeks site-specific special provisions to allow the development as proposed. The applicant has also submitted concurrent Site Plan Approval and Holding Symbol (H) removal applications.

The Holding symbol can be removed when plans to fully service and develop the lands have been approved by the town.

Hughes said the objective is to create a balanced community. Serious consideration has been given to residential proximity to nearby schools and parks, he said.

According to the project presentation, the proponents "believe that the success of the commercial component of this project is a function of the approval of on-street layby parking."

Municipal staff consider layby parking spaces along Parkinson Crescent to be acceptable, but have concerns with layby spaces proposed for Hansen Boulevard because of possible interference with bike lanes.

However, the developers believe that the proposed layby spaces can be accommodated along Hansen Boulevard without adverse impacts to the function of the roadway.

Those spaces will accommodate short-term parking or stopping by motorists dropping off or picking up from the commercial sites.

And, to protect cyclists and vehicles from potential accidents due to conflicts, a 1.5-metre buffer is recommended between the bicycle lane and the vehicle parking lane to reduce the risk of dooring.

Staff also suggested pursuing lay-by spaces and a speed reduction for the north side of Hansen.

"Parking is always difficult, especially with commercial and mixed use products," Hughes said.

Councillor Joe Andrews said one of his council roles was as part of an affordable housing task force concerned about attainable housing. He was pleased to hear that the proponent plans to include affordable housing at the site.

Hughes said the latest definition of affordability is that the unit's cost would be 30 per cent of a family's income. The 2021 Census identified Orangeville's average gross family income as in the area of \$120,000.

"Thirty per cent of that gives you a rent of about \$3,000 a month," Hughes said. "Or if you have enough of a downpayment, you would be able to spend about half a million dollars on a unit and be able to carry it for \$3,000 a month."

Orangeville's Wayne White receives provincial Senior of the Year Award

Written By JAMES MATTHEWS

Orangeville council has selected Wayne White as the 2026 Senior of the Year.

Each municipality across Ontario has the opportunity to honour one resident with the title each year.

Orangeville Councillor Joe Andrews made the announcement when council met June 22.

White said the award is very special to him and he's appreciative of the recognition.

Andrews said White exemplifies the very best qualities of leadership, compassion, and volunteer dedication to the community, and is an inspiring role model for people of all ages.

"A list of his volunteer activities over the years would fill numerous typed pages," he said. "Given his background as a former elementary school teacher, it's no surprise that the list features numerous youth and community initiatives that continue to benefit the Town of Orangeville and beyond."

White has been a Lions Club member for more than 40 years. He was also the service group's district governor.

He is a prominent member and former Friends of Island Lake chairperson, during which he was instrumental in the construction of the Vicki Barron Lakeside Trail and the Bob Scott bridge.

"For those specific initiatives, Wayne has worked on everything from preparing lumber for installation to collecting scrap metal for fundraising," Andrews said.

White has given volunteer hours to the Rotary Club's annual Ribfest and the Make Orangeville Shine initiative.

A fixture at various community activities, White serves as one of Orangeville's volunteer photographers. He and his missus, Wanda, have gotten decked out in red and white each Christmas as Santa and Mrs. Claus during Headwaters Health Care Centre's Candy Cane Fair.

Andrews said White's positive attitude and genuine concern for others make him one of the pillars of the Orangeville community.

"Beyond his community service, Wayne White embodies kindness, generosity, and resilience," he said.

"He is known for his unwavering willingness to lend a helping hand, offer guidance, and provide encouragement to those around him."

Deputy Premier Sylvia Jones, the MPP for Dufferin-Caledon, said her earliest interactions with White were on Island Lake's trails, where he was picking up trash.

"The giving back that you have done through your entire career really just speaks to how special you are to our community," Jones said.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

RECOGNIZING LOCAL EFFORTS: Wayne White, centre, receives Orangeville's 2026 Senior of the Year Award from Mayor Lisa Post during a June 22 council meeting. White is pictured at Orangeville Town Hall with family members, council and Dufferin-Caledon MPP Sylvia Jones. White was honoured for decades of volunteer service in Orangeville and the surrounding area.

NOTICE OF EVENT AND INCREASED TRAFFIC July 4 - 5, 2026

Dear Neighbour,

On July 4th and 5th, 2026, there will be a large event at the place of worship located at 471360 County Rd 11 in the morning.

During this time, there will be increased traffic in the area, and you may experience delays in your travel time.

Thank you for your understanding.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact:

Martine or Nikki at (437) 424-4633 or email us at: sostscinfo@gmail.com



Seeking Members for the Joint Compliance Audit Committee

Dufferin County is seeking members for a recently established Joint Compliance Audit Committee as per the Municipal Elections Act, Section 88.37. The Committee is responsible for reviewing compliance audit applications submitted by an elector who believes on reasonable grounds that a candidate or third-party advertiser has contravened the provisions of the Municipal Elections Act relating to campaign or advertising finances. The Committee will be responsible for reviewing applications for all eight Dufferin municipalities.

Committee membership will be drawn from the following groups:

- Accounting and audit - accountants or auditors, preferably with experience in preparing or auditing the financial statements of municipal candidates;
- Academic - college or university professors with expertise in political science or local government administration;
- Legal; and
- Other individuals with knowledge of the campaign financing provisions of the Act.

To view the complete Terms of Reference and the application, please visit our website at: www.dufferincounty.ca/council/advisory-committees/#jcac

Applications are available online at the link above until July 16, 2026. Questions can be sent to info@dufferincounty.ca.



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Nashville Takeover to continue as planned after three venues withdraw: organizer

Written By **SAM ODROWSKI**

A downtown Orangeville music event is set to proceed next week, with organizers and participating businesses confirming adjustments to the venue lineup ahead of the July 10 to 12 Nashville Takeover Orangeville.

The Hatter, Bluebird Cafe & Grill and Greystones will no longer take part in the Nashville Takeover Orangeville event scheduled for July 10 to 12.

In a public statement, The Hatter said it made “the difficult decision to withdraw” after issues emerged during the planning process.

“Over the past several weeks, a number of operational and logistical concerns arose that led our management team to conclude that participation would not be in the best interests of our staff, our guests, or our business,” the statement said. “Unfortunately, despite repeated efforts, we were unable to obtain the level of communication and operational clarity required for us to participate successfully.”

The Hatter added that it chose to step back rather than proceed with an arrangement it

could not confidently execute. The restaurant said it will remain open during the event weekend.

Bluebird Cafe & Grill and The Nest Guest Suites also confirmed that they are withdrawing as participating venues for the Nashville Takeover.

“While we will no longer be involved in the event, our doors will remain open [during] regular hours throughout the weekend, and reservations will continue as usual,” wrote the Bluebird in a social media statement.

“We look forward to welcoming our regular guests, visitors to Orangeville, and anyone looking to enjoy a meal, a drink, or a weekend stay with us.”

While Greystones did not publicly announce their withdrawal, at the time of print, Nashville Takeover founder and organizer Scotty Grieve confirmed they will no longer be participating.

Grieve said venue participation can shift during the planning process for various operational reasons.

He said the event is “moving forward as



planned” and continues to feature a lineup of participating venues, including Lightcaster, Best Western, Taphouse, Orangeville Opera House, Barley Vine Co., Kelsey’s and the Athlete Institute.

“As a large-scale, multi-venue event operating in communities across Canada, occasional

venue changes are a normal part of the planning process,” Grieve said. “These changes do not impact our ability to deliver a full weekend of programming, live music, and experiences for our guests.”

He added that no other venue withdrawals have materially affected the event.

Orangeville Canadian Tire hosts silent auction and fundraiser for Jumpstart charity initiative

Written By **JAMES MATTHEWS**

Orangeville Canadian Tire is running a June fundraising campaign and locally sourced silent auction in support of its Jumpstart charity, which helps disadvantaged local athletes.

Campaign organizer Leslie Breen said the program helps make sports more accessible for children facing financial barriers.

“Jumpstart is a charity that Canadian Tire is involved with exclusively; it’s a Canadian Tire charity,” she said. “We raise money for children, underprivileged children, those that can’t afford to play sports. Our goal is to help elevate them and get them into sports.”

Breen added, “They can apply to Jumpstart for funds for equipment in whatever sport they decide to play, be it hockey, lacrosse, and so on, and then Canadian Tire gives them the equipment they need.”

The fundraiser, which began in 2005, is supported this year by a silent auction at the Orangeville store, as 2025’s fundraiser fell short of its goal when it relied solely on donations at checkout.

“The only way we collected donations was through the checkout, where it would prompt the customer to see if they would like to donate, and I didn’t meet my goal,” Breen said. “So this year I decided on my own to run this silent auction. In my experience, when people donate, they want something back from that, so now there are locally made items

available to bid on.”

Breen said that many items are made by people directly involved with Canadian Tire and include custom paintings, candles, woodworking items, and more. Gift certificates for businesses, such as golf courses, were also available.

To help support the fundraiser and silent auction, local 2025 IFMA Youth World Champion Oshiya Newby-Morgan visited the Canadian Tire to promote the fundraising campaign and Muay Thai.

Newby-Morgan recently travelled to Dubai to compete in the Muay Thai championship as part of Team Canada, where she won gold.

She said she hopes to raise more local awareness and support for youth athletes. She said her story isn’t something she really expected, but the experience was life-changing.

“Here with Jumpstart, I hope to support and bring awareness to young boys and girls who already aren’t so familiar with Muay Thai,” she said. “It felt surreal to be in Abu Dhabi, to compete and to win. I would have never thought that I was gonna be able to go across the world, so coming back as a champion and being able to be a part of the jumpstart, I never thought it would happen, but here we are.”

Newby-Morgan offered some advice for young athletes to carry with them.

“It’s gonna get bumpy at times,” she said.



JOSHUA DRAKES PHOTO

SILENT AUCTION SPOTLIGHT: Organizer Leslie Breen and her team, with champion athlete Oshiya Newby-Morgan. Newby-Morgan was present on Saturday, June 20, to support the fundraiser and silent auction. Items on the auction include locally made art, candles, woodworking items and gift certificates donated by local businesses.

“But just keep training and be persistent, and honestly, just stay humble, and don’t rush the process. The process will come to you, and you’ll be able to ride the wave.”

With a dedicated team and a local success story to support them, Breen said that the Orangeville Canadian Tire remains committed

to fundraising and investing in local youth athletes.

They also remain thankful for the continued support of Orangeville Canadian Tire Associate Dealer Bill Lisowsky.

To learn more, go to <https://jumpstart.canadiantire.ca/>.

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Community support shines at 'An Evening Under the Stars' gala

Written By JOSHUA DRAKES and SAM ODROWSKI

More than 220 guests gathered in Mono on June 18 for the Dufferin Community Foundation's (DCF) annual "An Evening Under the Stars" gala, which raised more than \$60,000 to support the organization's charitable work.

The sold-out fundraiser, hosted at the home of Joan and Paul Waechter, drew 224 attendees for an evening of entertainment, auctions, raffles and fundraising activities. The event marked the fourth time Joan Waechter, a founding member of the foundation and longtime Dufferin County philanthropist, has hosted the gala.

Foundation board chair Debbi Goss said the evening reflected strong community support and helped sustain the organization's operations and long-term endowed funds.

"It truly was a magical evening," she said, adding that the atmosphere in the tent was "really quite electric" with donors and supporters from across Dufferin County.

"The money we raised for this event, most of the donations go into endowed funds that will continue to make money. It really helps take the pressure off a little bit in terms of allowing us to function," Goss said. "Events

like this really help us operate for the year." Goss said the funds raised at the gala will help cover operating costs and support another donor event planned for the fall.

Guests had several opportunities to contribute throughout the evening.

The gala featured a game of Heads or Tails, a raffle, and a live auction, all aimed at raising additional funds for the foundation.

Among the live auction items was a Porsche Drive Experience for Two at the Porsche Experience Centre in Pickering, donated by the Policaro Group. The package raised \$5,500 for the foundation.

In addition to the fundraising activities, guests enjoyed live entertainment throughout the evening.

Old School, a live music duo based in Orangeville, donated its time to provide entertainment at the gala.

The Centre Stage Youth Group from Streams Community Hub performed three songs from Finding Nemo Jr., following a five-show run of the production in Shelburne. Streams is among the organizations supported by the DCF through the Streams Creative Futures Fund, an endowment established last year to support youth arts programming.

Looking ahead, Goss said the foundation is also seeking additional community in-

volvement. "We're always looking for public members for any of our four committees. Anybody who is interested, have a look at our web-

sites, if that's something that fits you, get in touch," she said.

The DCF website can be found at dufferin-communityfoundation.ca.



DEB SANDERSON PHOTOS

STARY SUCCESS: More than 220 guests attended the Dufferin Community Foundation's annual "An Evening Under the Stars" gala on June 18 in Mono. The sold-out fundraiser, hosted at the home of Joan and Paul Waechter, raised more than \$60,000 in support of the foundation's charitable work through auctions, raffles and donations.

Community gathers to celebrate 10-year anniversary of Mono Pollinator Garden

Written By JOSHUA DRAKES LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The patch of land that is now the home of the Mono Pollinator Garden started as a barren field originally used for farming – fast forward 10 years, and it's now a thriving garden for pollinator species from across the region.

The Town of Mono held an afternoon celebration on June 21 to recognize the garden's 10-year anniversary, with Mono Mayor John Creelman in attendance to congratulate the volunteers on their work.

"I can't emphasize enough our appreciation we have as a town and as a town council for the work of the volunteers here today," he said. "The foresight of 10 years ago to start work on the results that you all can see here today is a labour of love."

"It's just spectacular, and it's perhaps one of the biggest volunteer efforts in our town on an ongoing basis. For that, we thank you," Mayor Creelman added.

The festivities included guided tours throughout the pollinator garden to learn about its ongoing mission, locally sourced food and drinks, with some sourced from the garden itself, informational booths, homemade crafts and a performance cour-

tesy of the Ukuladies & Ukuladdies.

The garden has come a very long way in the last decade, according to volunteer and Mono Councillor Ralph Manktelow.

"This area is one acre, and it originally started as an abandoned hay field that was owned by the Town of Mono," he said. "A couple of councillors approached the town about 11 years ago, and asked if we could have the property to use it to create a pollinator garden. The reason for this was that pollinators, which are primarily bees, sometimes flies and butterflies and other birds, are in decline."

Manktelow added, "There's been a tremendous amount of growth here. All the trees here, the plants, were just very small. It was quite amazing seeing that change over time."

After acquiring the land, the entirely volunteer team got to work in 2016, retilling the land, planting local pollinator-friendly species, and introducing pollinators to the area.

Now the pollinator garden serves two important community roles, the first is providing a healthy space for pollinator species to survive, including bees, butterflies, birds and more.

The second role, Manktelow said, is education.

"The value of pollinators is probably not well enough understood," he said. "I didn't understand it when I was a young person, so our goal is to educate all of our residents around here about the importance of pollinators, valuable plants that they can plant to support them, and the danger that pesticides present."

The garden hosts educational programs with local schools, bringing in young students to explore the garden, learn more about the life that lives here, and how they can help protect natural ecosystems.

Supporting these conservation initiatives, maintaining the garden, and handling general operations is a purely volunteer team of local residents.

They are responsible for all garden upkeep, including weed control, maintenance, and plant care. The garden is always looking for new volunteers.

With a decade of dedicated care behind them, the team behind the Mono Pollinator Garden remains committed to seeing the next decade be just as successful.



JOSHUA DRAKES PHOTO

BUZZ WORTHY MILESTONE: Staffed entirely by volunteers, the Mono Pollinator Garden is an important local conservation and education project, offering both a sanctuary for declining pollinator species like bees, butterflies and birds, and a center for education, teaching visitors about the importance of biodiversity, pollination and the dangers of pesticides. The garden celebrated its 10-year anniversary on June 21, with guided tours, food and music.

Town of Orangeville

Upcoming meetings

July 2026

Committee of Adjustment

Wednesday, July 8 at 6 p.m.
Council chambers, 87 Broadway

Council (regular)

Monday, July 13 at 7 p.m.
Council chambers, 87 Broadway
Live stream: orangeville.ca/WatchLive

Sustainable Orangeville

Thursday, July 16 at 6 p.m.
Virtual participation only

Orangeville Public Library Board

Wednesday, July 22 at 5 p.m.
Mill Street Library, 1 Mill St.
Call in: 1-289-801-5774 ID: 992 873 08#

Council (regular)

Monday, July 27 at 7 p.m. (tentative – if required)
Council chambers, 87 Broadway
Live stream: orangeville.ca/WatchLive

Unable to attend a meeting in person? Connect virtually by following the instructions on the council agenda, or request to join committee meetings virtually (subject to availability) by contacting committees@orangeville.ca or 519-941-0440 ext. 7321 during regular business hours and at least one hour before the meeting.

Meeting dates/times are subject to change.

For agendas and participation details, visit orangeville.ca/meetings.



HOLIDAY INTERRUPTION FOR WASTE COLLECTION

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
June 21	June 22	June 23	June 24	June 25	June 26	June 27
June 28	June 29	June 30	CANADA DAY	July 2	July 3	July 4
July 5	July 6	July 7	July 8	July 9	July 10	July 11

Monday ZONE Tuesday ZONE Wednesday ZONE Thursday ZONE Interruption no collections

Happy Canada Day!

There will be **no waste collection** on Canada Day. Please place all Garbage, Blue Carts & Green Bins out for collection **one day later** the week of July 1st. Monday & Tuesday collection days will remain the same.

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Headwaters announces inaugural Tony Pringle Memorial Award recipients

Written By SAM ODROWSKI

A new scholarship program created at the local hospital honours the legacy of a dedicated community leader and champion of health care excellence.

The Headwaters Health Care Foundation (HHCF) announced the inaugural Tony Pringle Awards on June 24, established in memory of Tony Pringle, who served the community relentlessly.

Pringle served on the HHCF's Board of Directors from 2021 until his passing in 2025.

As vice-chair and a member of the finance and audit committee, he helped guide the foundation's work and played an important role in the Smart Headwaters campaign, the largest fundraising campaign in the HHCF's history.

Pringle was known for his generosity, wit, and unwavering commitment to Headwaters Health Care Centre (HHCC). He was a strong advocate for high-quality patient care and support for health care professionals.

"Tony had an incredible ability to see the potential in people and the impact they could have on patient care. The Tony Pringle Memorial Awards are a meaningful way to honour that belief by giving staff the opportunity to grow, learn, and bring even greater skills back to our hospital for the benefit of our community," said K.C. Carruthers, CEO of HHCF.

Established in his memory, the Tony Pringle Memorial Awards were created to complement existing nursing awards by supporting the professional development of non-nursing

staff. The awards provide funding for education, certifications and conferences that help employees build skills and advance their careers.

Tony's family said the awards reflect values that were important to him throughout his life.

"Tony cared deeply about this community and the people who dedicate their lives to caring for others. On behalf of our entire family, we are incredibly proud to see his legacy continue in such a meaningful way. Supporting education and professional development was something he truly valued, and we hope these awards will help staff continue to grow their skills and deliver exceptional care to patients for years to come," said Sandy Dayes, on behalf of Pringle's family.

The first-ever recipients of the Tony Pringle Memorial Award are Juliann McArthur (Master of Leadership), Kristy Erin Caulfield (Paramedicine), Sherry Armstrong (Dialysis Technical Assistant Certification), and Tiffany Larsen (Hand Therapist Certification).

Each recipient will use the funding for educational opportunities aimed at strengthening their skills and supporting patient care at HHCC.

"The Tony Pringle Memorial Awards reflect a shared commitment to investing in people, the dedicated professionals who deliver compassionate, high-quality care every day. By supporting ongoing learning and development, the awards ensure that Tony's legacy lives on through the continued growth of staff and the advancement of patient care at Headwaters," reads a press release from HHCF.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

HONOURING HIS LEGACY: The inaugural Tony Pringle Awards were presented at the Headwaters Health Care Centre Annual Awards Ceremony on June 23. On hand were Tony's wife, Sandy Dayes, and his three children, Anne, Bill and Drew (above). Pictured below are the ever recipients of the Tony Pringle Memorial Award, alongside the family.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

OUTDOOR EXPERIENCES: The YFC youth summer camp is designed to get kids out and involved, while offering support in navigating life and building practical skills. Despite being shut down for years during COVID, the camp is back, offering free summer activities through July and August.

YFC Highlands revives free summer day camps

Written By JOSHUA DRAKES
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Youth Unlimited YFC Highlands is preparing to welcome kids back to its free summer day camp program this July, offering six weeks of activities designed to keep young people active, engaged and connected throughout the summer months.

The camps will alternate between Orangeville and Grand Valley, running three days a week from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Beginning July 7 in Orangeville, the program will continue through Aug. 13, with camps rotating weekly between the two communities.

Community Director Kerry Duffield said that the overall goal of YFC is to offer a supportive hand to youth who need it and offer guidance, regardless of their personal faith or beliefs.

"Our main purpose is to come alongside young people anywhere and offer our support to them," he said. "We are a Christian organization, but we're not like a church; we don't focus on indoctrination. We're building relationships and offering help to those in need, and we're privileged and happy to do it."

Open to children aged nine to 12, the summer camps will feature a variety of activities, including sports, games, arts and crafts, scavenger hunts, community walks, and team-based challenges.

Duffield said they are focusing on creating a fun and interactive environment where participants can build friendships, develop confidence, and enjoy positive experiences during the summer break, at no cost to kids.

"Our main goal, of course, is to get kids out and involved," he said. "Free is very important to us. There are a lot of the kids that

we work with that don't have a lot of money in the household, some come from marginalized groups, some of them could be single parent families, but they're struggling. We want to do what we can to help them, and we're glad to do it."

YFC Highlands, which has served communities across the region for more than 46 years, is a Christian youth organization dedicated to supporting young people through relationship-building and mentorship.

While its regular programming primarily serves teenagers aged 13 to 18, the summer camp offers opportunities to connect with younger children and families in the community.

The organization's broader mission is to help youth find healthy support systems, navigate challenges and develop a sense of purpose and belonging. Through a variety of programs and activities, staff and volunteers work to create safe spaces where young people can learn, grow and build positive relationships with peers and mentors.

The camps are also returning after a lengthy hiatus. The program had previously been offered before the COVID-19 pandemic began in early 2020, but interruptions caused by public health restrictions and funding challenges put it on hold for several years.

Families may register for a single week or multiple weeks, depending on their schedules and interests. Participation is limited each week, and organizers encourage families to register early to secure a spot.

Camp locations are at 9 Centre St. in Orangeville and 23 Mill St. W. in Grand Valley. Registration information is available on YFC Highlands' website: <https://yfc.ca/highlands/event/2026-summer-day-camps/>.

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<p>10MM THICK LUXURY VINYL</p> <p>PAD ATTACHED</p> <p>9X MORE SCRATCH RESISTANT</p> <p>FROM \$399 /SQFT</p> <p>BUY IT TODAY... TAKE IT TODAY</p>	<p>LOOSE LAY VINYL PLANKS</p> <p>GREAT VALUE</p> <p>FROM \$299 /SQFT</p> <p>BUY IT TODAY... TAKE IT TODAY</p>	<p>GLUE DOWN VINYL TILES</p> <p>GREAT VALUE</p> <p>FROM \$299 /SQFT</p> <p>BUY IT TODAY... TAKE IT TODAY</p>
<p>DOOR CRASHER 7MM LAMINATE</p> <p>PAD ATTACHED</p> <p>FROM \$199 /SQFT</p> <p>BUY IT TODAY... TAKE IT TODAY</p>	<p>VINYL STAIR TREADS</p> <p>TREAD & RISER INCLUDED</p> <p>FROM \$49.99 EA</p> <p>BUY IT TODAY... TAKE IT TODAY</p>	<p>VINYL ACCESSORIES</p> <p>T-CAP REDUCERS NOSING</p> <p>1000'S IN STOCK</p> <p>BUY IT TODAY... TAKE IT TODAY</p>
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Orangeville takes further steps toward modernized sign bylaw

Written By JAMES MATTHEWS

Change that happens over time demands tweaks and, well, changes in legislation to accommodate that growth.

It's the same for some municipal bylaws. Orangeville's sign bylaw was adopted in 2013 and has been amended seven times since. James Bramley, the town's licensing and bylaw enforcement supervisor, walked council through what could be the eighth iteration of the legislation during a June 22 public meeting.

"While the existing bylaw has generally functioned well, the accumulation of amendments has resulted in a document that can be difficult to navigate and administer," he said.

The proposed bylaw consolidates these amendments into a single, modernized document to improve clarity, consistency, and ease of use for residents, businesses, applicants, and staff, he said.

The proposed regulation maintains the town's ability to regulate signage in a manner

that protects public safety, supports community appearance, and preserves the character of the Heritage Sign Special Policy District.

Key amendments include reorganizing the bylaw by sign type, introducing legal non-conforming sign provisions, modernizing administrative and enforcement processes, updating definitions, supporting community events through new exemptions, and clarifying permitted and prohibited signs.

Bramley said feedback was implemented from municipal staff, council committees, and local interest groups. Also taken into account were current legislation, case law, Charter requirements, and municipal best practices.

The statutory public meeting was held to extend reach for feedback and mine the comments of council, stakeholders, and the public, he said.

What's interesting is that signage is protected by federal legislation, the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, as a form of expression.

"This means municipalities cannot prohibit signs simply because they disagree with the particular opinion, message, or viewpoint," Bramley said.

But the style and size, placement and location, and acceptable diction of signage can be regulated by a municipality.

"Sign bylaws are generally designed to regulate objective factors," Bramley said.

He told council the goal of the bylaw's update was not to regulate legal self-expression.

The proposed changes incorporate simplification through a reorganization of type, location, and permitted signs by zone.

"Signs that were lawfully erected prior to the implementation of the new bylaw may continue to remain even if they do not fully comply to the updated regulations," Bramley said. "However, those signs must continue to be maintained in a safe condition, cannot be expanded, relocated, structurally altered, or replaced with another non-compliant sign."

Enforcement-wise, the changes set out clear parameters regarding inspection au-

thority and provide clarity of the town's ability to inspect properties for compliance, he said.

Councillor Debbie Sherwood said blade signs should be included in the amended bylaw, particularly in heritage districts. And she broached the question as to whether or not an artistic mural is a sign.

"They are starting to become a bit of a problem," Sherwood said. "They might look lovely, but if they start putting them on a heritage building and affecting ... the characteristic of the historical building, we have a problem."

Bramley said the focus of a sign bylaw is signage.

"We define what signs are in relation to advertising for businesses, information, and such," he said.

Murals don't fit the definition of a sign.

"We don't want to start permitting different categorized items under this bylaw when they're already represented under something else (bylaw)," Bramley said

MacMaster Buick GMC chicken fundraiser sells over 600 dinners for local hospital

Written By SAM ODROWSKI

MacMaster Buick GMC of Brackett Auto Group held its 19th annual chicken dinner fundraiser on June 17 in support of the Headwaters Health Care Foundation, selling over 600 dinners and raising funds that the dealership will match dollar for dollar.

"When we started, we were anticipating maybe 100 chicken dinners — and here we are, 19 years later, selling 625," said Chad Soper from MacMaster, who helped coordinate this year's event.

The final dollar total was still being tallied at press time, but Soper confirmed the dealership's longstanding pledge to match whatever amount is raised — a commitment the group has honoured since the event's first year.

Last year's event generated over \$5,000.

The fundraiser traces its roots to a challenge issued by Headwaters Health Care Centre to local businesses nearly two decades ago. Parts manager Jeff Marshall was instrumental in getting it off the ground, bringing in Jim's BBQ Chicken to barbecue the birds on-site. Dinners are sold with two sides and a bun, with the dealership's full front sales staff turning out to direct traffic, load cars, and sell tickets.

This year, local businesses came out in strong numbers to purchase dinners in bulk — a growing part of the event's success, Soper said. Surplus dinners that buyers didn't need were redirected to local emergency shelters, with more than 50 meals donated to people in need.

The funds go toward Headwaters Health

Care Foundation, which is currently fundraising for a new emergency department — a project that carries particular urgency. The existing emergency department was designed to serve 23,000 patients a year but now sees nearly double that.

"Most of our staff live in this community, and at one point we're all going to rely on that hospital," Soper said. "If we don't support them, there's going to be no emergency room there to assist us. The government doesn't fund all the necessities to run the place — they need our local community support."

MacMaster is one of several dealerships under the Brackett Auto Group banner, and Soper said the commitment to community giving flows directly from the top.

"That culture starts with Danny Brackett," he said. "He believes if you live in the community, you give back to the community."

Beyond the chicken dinner, the group sponsors hole-in-one prizes at area golf tournaments — including the recent Headwaters Golf Classic — and supports the Rotary Ribfest, cruise nights, the Blues and Jazz Festival, local fall fairs, and minor sports teams.

Next year's dinner will mark the 20th anniversary of the event, and organizers are already thinking bigger.

"We're going to try to get to 1,000 chicken dinners next year," Soper said. "It will be a good workout — but that's the goal."

Businesses interested in participating in next year's event can contact MacMaster Buick GMC at (519) 941-1360 to express interest as the event approaches.



JOSHUA DRAKES PHOTO

DINNER DRIVE: MacMaster Buick GMC staff packed dinner for an annual charity drive on June 17. The dealership offered \$20 dinners from Jim's BBQ Chicken to fundraise for the Headwaters Health Care Foundation. The dinners included BBQ chicken, potato salad, and coleslaw for community members looking to buy dinner and support a charitable cause.

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Limitations No waste from industrial, commercial, or institutional sources. No white goods/large appliances (including any appliances with freon). No garbage, or recycling. No unidentified/unknown materials. No drums of materials.

Visit dufferincounty.ca/waste for updates and a full listing of acceptable materials & limitations.
Future events: July 22, August 19, September 19, October 31
See website for details on hours & locations for each scheduled event.
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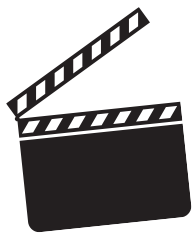
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Arts & Entertainment



LOCAL COMMUNITY EVENTS

Fabienne Good explores wanderlust through art at Alton Mill Arts Centre

Written By CONSTANCE SCRAFIELD

The Wanderlust show at Headwaters Arts Gallery in the Alton Mill Arts Centre ends this coming weekend on June 28. But the last weekend in June still offers the chance to enjoy the grounds and the ambiance of the Gallery, the artists' studios and the experience of visiting the Alton Mill.

Of the 32 artists participating, Fabienne Good, of Grand Valley, was happy to speak with the Citizen about her work on display.

About the theme Wanderlust, she said, "It's kind of just that quiet sense of wanderlust for what lies beyond the familiar, that urge to explore, where far from home or just a little nook in your backyard that you previously hadn't paid much attention to."

Her submission to the show is a new weave tower, titled "Echoes of Change." Her artist's statement discusses her line of "Echoes of Change." It explores the connections between the natural and the constructed. Good builds the pieces from intricately woven paper, seeing that the sculpture evokes geological formations as layered, timeworn, and shaped through gradual change.

Allowing herself to be guided by a repetitive, intuitive process, she realizes that the work follows its own path of making. That realization brings her to reflect on the blurred boundary between human influence and what is perceived as natural, where erosion becomes generative and change itself becomes a method of formation, shaped by a quiet sense of wanderlust for what lies beyond the familiar.

This one in the Wanderlust show is smaller than her others, but it too conveys the same sense of how the familiar can be seen again as something more.

"In fact, this is part of an ongoing series," Good remarked. "Echoes of Change" was made at the same time as "Echoes of a Changing Landscape" [and] is currently still on display in the 45th annual Insights exhibition at the Wellington County Museum and Archives."

For Good, in her life of earning several degrees at an assortment of universities and consequently teaching the subjects she studied, one of her main concerns is to enthusiastically promote creativity. Thinking of children still at home and then in schools, but for all ages, people can benefit and enjoy creativity on so many levels.

For example, Good commented that she is running a workshop at the Alton Mill on June 28 about Cyanotype sun-printing, a way of making pictures without a camera, using only the sun.

When she was working with the Erin Arts Festival, she and her business partner, Darlene Hostrawser, were there with their Dufferin Foraged Inks, a line of handcrafted inks made from locally collected plants, nuts and berries. The inks are designed not only as creative tools but also to encourage people to discover the beauty and inspiration all around us, often in overlooked places.

By producing ink from seasonal shifts and everyday plants, participants will gain new perspectives and ideas for pursuing this type of mindfulness activity in their own spare time.

This company aims to remind people that creativity can go hand in hand with nature. Good and Hostrawser also sell their inks, whimsical wooden ornaments, hand-painted cards, and their popular postcard kits.

For Good, wanderlust speaks very much to her life. Although born and raised in Dufferin County, Good has spent plenty of time abroad to expand her knowledge of many matters with an emphasis on art and design.

She lived in Switzerland for 10 years to earn her Master's in art and design. She stayed on to teach in both German and English. To appreciate possible humour in that linguistic knot, she told the story of teaching words of emotion from German to English during an English class she was teaching.

"There are few words expressing emotion in German," was her comment, "but so many in English."



DARLENE HOSTRAWSER PHOTO

FINDING INSPIRATION Mono artist Fabienne Good loves the summer months for the time they give her for gardening the three huge plots at her parents' home. She says this is where she can be found when not in her studio at the Alton Mills Arts Centre.

Good returned briefly to Ontario, only to continue on to B.C. and, from there, to Singapore just as the COVID-19 pandemic spread worldwide. There she was for the full two and a half years, learning and teaching a very wide range of designing – everything, it seemed. Still, the Singapore government was maintaining strict protocols for COVID measures.

Now home again and busy with workshops, shows, and marketplaces with her foraged ink, Good nevertheless thinks about

legacy and what the world will be for the children that are following us. She observed a seeming reduction in the teaching of critical thinking and in the kind of effort to learn that youngsters need to stretch and develop their minds.

Her philosophy is to promote creativity. "At the Erin Arts Festival, when we put a leaf on the sheet to make a cyanotype sun-print picture, they were so surprised to see the sun make a picture of a leaf. "It was wonderful," Good said.

David Gauthier
Service Consultant

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

Maurice McDonald
Service Consultant

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

Jazz Matharu
Service Consultant

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

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The Citizen CROSSWORD

Puzzle No. 266410 • Solution on page: CLASSIFIEDS SECTION

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CLUES ACROSS

1. Nocturnal S. American rodent
5. Requesting
11. Give temporarily
12. Excitedness
16. Armed Forces branch
17. Actor Harris
18. Middle Eastern capital
19. Air hostesses
24. Partner to "Pa"
25. Percussion instrument
26. Popular computers
27. Reduce light
28. Asian mountain range
29. Every one of two or more
30. Absence of difficulty
31. A public announcement of a proposed marriage
33. Whitties
34. Impact
38. Serviceman
39. A French river
40. Prehistoric people
43. Messenger ribonucleic acid
44. ___ Clapton, musician
45. Ancient Greek sophist
49. Largest English dictionary (abbr.)
50. Singer Hansard
51. A way to disentangle
53. Atomic #93
54. Manifesting approval
56. Indigo bush
58. Former AL MVP Vaughn
59. Off-Broadway theater award
60. Fencers
63. Small Eurasian deer (pl.)
64. Relating to passerine birds
65. Arrange systematically

CLUES DOWN

1. Colorless fluid
2. Of a main artery
3. Photographer's tool
4. Blues Traveler hit
5. "But ___"
5. Grew older
6. Not the leader
7. ___ Lang (country singer)
8. A driver's license is one
9. Nests of pheasants
10. Wildebeests
13. Equal to one quintillion bytes
14. Japanese three-stringed lute
15. Type of cat
20. It cools your home
21. The ancient Egyptian sun god
22. Pouches
23. German trigraph
27. Form of Persian
29. Measurement unit
30. Body part
31. Bridge building degree
32. Indicates position
33. Political action committee
34. Snack food
35. Front part of a quadruped
36. Locate
37. Pitching statistic
38. __, myself and I
40. City in Utah
41. They play in the trenches
42. "Can't Touch This" rapper ___ Hammer
44. Type of tree
45. Performers
46. Slang for mistake
47. More open
48. Most slick
50. Needles
51. University of Dayton
52. Atomic #11
54. Large fish of the mackerel family
55. Not any
57. ___ and behold
61. Popular sports highlight show (abbr.)
62. "The Great Lakes State"

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

How they say that in...

English: Pop
Spanish: Pum
Italian: Scoppio
French: Bruit
German: Knall

What's the Difference?
Find the four differences between the two pictures.

Holiday FACT: On July 1, Canadians celebrate this holiday, and celebrations often include fireworks.

NEW WORD

IGNITE
to catch fire or to cause to catch fire

Did You Know?
Modern fireworks use metallic salts for color and can reach temperatures 15 times hotter than boiling water.

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Celebrate Your Awesome takes over Orangeville's Alexandra Park



JOSHUA DRAKES PHOTOS

PRIDE CELEBRATION: The 2026 Celebrate Your Awesome Festival in Orangeville drew hundreds of attendees from the local community and the surrounding area. Featuring drag shows throughout the afternoon, as well as dance performances, comedy and more, the event reinforced Pride Month's message of inclusivity, confidence and mutual support. Local organizations, businesses and non-profits also set up booths with swag, information packages and more to support the event.

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Grand Valley

Off-road vehicle riders must obey the law, says Dufferin OPP

Dufferin Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) officers are reminding off-road vehicle (ORV) riders to operate responsibly and only in areas where they are legally permitted to ride.

Dufferin OPP continues to receive complaints involving dirt bikes and other off-road vehicles being operated on private property without permission. Recent incidents have resulted in damage to golf courses, residential lawns, community parks, agricultural land, and trails throughout the county.

These concerns are not limited to traditional gas-powered dirt bikes. The growing use of electric dirt bikes and other electric off-road vehicles is also contributing to increased complaints. Regardless of how a vehicle is powered, all ORVs are subject to the same laws and must only be operated in permitted areas.

“Public roadways are not trails and should not be used for recreational riding or ‘exploring’ with dirt bikes or ORVs unless specifically authorized by the local municipality. Riders must also ensure they hold the proper driver’s licence and, where applicable, have valid registration and insurance,” reads a press release from Dufferin OPP.

“Operating an off-road vehicle on private property without the owner’s consent is illegal and can result in charges, fines, and lia-

bility for damages.”

The Dufferin OPP is also reminding the public that stickers or manufacturer labels indicating a suggested minimum age for operation do not replace legal requirements. Riders and parents are strongly encouraged to do their own research to ensure they understand the laws in their area before operating or allowing the use of these vehicles.

The Dufferin OPP is reminding parents and guardians of the important role they play in ensuring young riders understand and follow the rules and responsibilities associated with these vehicles. Before purchasing a dirt bike or off-road vehicle, residents are encouraged to familiarize themselves with where and when they can be legally operated. Allowing youth to operate these vehicles without proper supervision or understanding of the law can lead to serious consequences, including property damage, injury, and legal liability.

Dufferin OPP will continue to investigate complaints and conduct enforcement initiatives where necessary. Residents are encouraged to report illegal off-road vehicle activity and provide as much information as possible, including descriptions of the riders, vehicles, and locations involved.

Anyone wishing to report illegal off-road vehicle activity is encouraged to contact the Dufferin OPP at 1-888-310-1122.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

OFF-ROAD SAFETY REMINDER: Dufferin OPP is reminding off-road vehicle riders to operate responsibly and only in areas where they are legally permitted to ride. Police say they continue to receive complaints involving dirt bikes and other ORVs being used on private property without permission, resulting in damage to golf courses, residential lawns, parks, agricultural land and trails throughout the county.

OPP urges boaters to follow safe life jacket procedures out on the water

The Ontario Provincial Police is urging everyone heading out on the water this summer to make one life-saving choice – wear your life jacket every time you are out on a boat.

Despite calm conditions and proximity to shore, many boating-related drownings occur when people least expect danger.

Most of these tragedies happen in small vessels like canoes and kayaks and are preventable.

In 2025, nearly 80 per cent of all boating fatalities investigated by the OPP involved individuals who were not wearing a personal flotation device. Adult males accounted for almost 90 per cent of all boating fatalities on OPP patrolled waters.

According to the Drowning Prevention Research Centre of Canada, 35 per cent of water-related fatalities in Ontario are linked to swimming, while another 13 per cent are attributed to walking, running, or playing near water.

Young children, weak swimmers, and non-swimmers should always wear a life jacket when near water, even in shallow areas. Supervision and proactive lifesaving decisions, like wearing a life jacket, are key to avoiding tragedy.

What you can do:

- Always wear a properly fitted, Transport Canada-approved life jacket. Modern life jackets are lightweight, comfortable, and de-

signed to save lives. Don’t just bring it – wear it.

- Ensure there is a properly sized life jacket for every person on board.
- Keep all required safety equipment easily accessible and ready to use.
- Set the example – especially for children and new boaters.
- Check weather and water conditions before heading out.

Every year, the OPP continues to share this important safety message across the province, reminding the public that wearing a TC-approved PFD is one of the simplest and most effective ways to prevent water-related tragedies.



STOCK PHOTO

SAFETY FIRST: The Ontario Provincial Police are encouraging boaters to wear life jackets when out on the water to reduce fatalities ahead of the boating season.

Annual Bolton Truck and Tractor Pull set to draw thousands this weekend

Written By RILEY MURPHY
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Gear up for a night of high-horsepower hoopla, the Annual Bolton Truck and Tractor Pull is returning on June 26.

The event, run by the Albion & Bolton Agricultural Society, was established in 1978 and

is entering its 48th year.

The Albion & Bolton Agricultural Society says the event has grown from a small local tractor pull to a full-blown community festival with something for all, attracting almost 9,000 attendees just last year.

The event truly does have something for everyone, with live music, Bavarian gardens,

food trucks, a halftime show, and Kidsland, complete with balloon animals, face painting, and various exhibits.

There will also be the Grain Farmers of Ontario discovery zone, a jumpy castle, and giveaways throughout the night.

Part of the giveaways will be a children’s draw, where children can enter to win a toy tractor donated by Equipment Ontario and Premier Equipment.

Brand new this year, Heather French, 1st Vice President, says there will be a live band featuring Hillbilly Martini.

Pulling will kick off at 6 p.m. on June 26 with Hot Stock 4x4 Trucks, 5,600 lbs.

French says this year’s event will feature 16 different classes of trucks and tractors pulling.

This year, there will also be a raffle titled “A Grand in Your Hand.”

Tickets are \$5 each for two chances to win \$1,000, and French says they will donate a portion of the proceeds to Caledon Community Services.

Over the years, the Albion & Bolton Agricultural Society has donated \$50,000 back to the community through its events.

This is an Ontario Truck and Tractor Pulling Association-sanctioned event, and tickets can be purchased online at Boltontractorpull.ca.



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\$290[†] bi-weekly for 36 months.
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^{††}Limited-time lease offer provided to eligible clients through Mazda Financial Services, on approved credit. Representative lease offer based on a new and previously unregistered 2026 CX-70 GS-SC Plug-In Hybrid (YXCP86) with a cash purchase price of \$55,915, leased at 2.69% for 36 months. Bi-weekly payment is \$348, which includes \$2,195 freight and PDI; \$100 A/C charge; retailer administration fee (up to \$795); lien registration fees (up to \$53, including lien registering agent fee); \$400 paint charge (Rhodium White); as well as all other applicable fees, levies and duties (all of which may vary by region and retailer). 78 bi-weekly payments required. Licence, insurance, registration, the specific duty on new tires and applicable taxes are extra and due at signing. \$0 down payment or equivalent trade-in and \$0 security deposit due at signing. Retailer may sell for less. Retailer order/trade may be necessary (but may not be available in all cases). Conditions apply. Offer ends June 30, 2026, and is subject to change or cancellation without notice. Visit mazda.ca or your Mazda Retailer for more information. [▲]\$500/\$1,500/\$2,000/\$2,000/\$3,000/\$1,000 Event Bonus ("Bonus") is available on new and previously unregistered 2026 Mazda3, Mazda3 Sport, CX-30/2026 CX-70 MHEV, CX-90 MHEV/2026 CX-70 PHEV GS-L, GT, Signature/CX-90 PHEV GS-L, GT, Signature/2026 MX-5/2026 CX-70 PHEV GS-SC, CX-90 PHEV GS models that are purchased or financed/leased (on approved credit) and delivered between June 2 and June 30, 2026, from an authorized Mazda Retailer in Canada. Bonus will be applied to the negotiated selling price of the eligible vehicle before taxes; and (i) has no cash surrender or other value; (ii) does not apply to fleet sales; and (iii) cannot be applied to past transactions. Conditions apply. See mazda.ca or your local Mazda Retailer for details. [†]NOTE: Weekly lease offers shown above are for informational purposes only. Lease payments cannot actually be made on a weekly basis and are made on a bi-weekly basis. Offer available on retail leases of new 2026 CX-30 GX AWD (ZXXL86AA00)/2026 CX-5 GX (NXXL86AA00)/2026 CX-90 MHEV GS (WXSf86AA00) with a lease APR of 3.99%/3.99%/2.99% and 78 bi-weekly payments of \$186/\$225/\$290 for 48/48/36 months; the total lease obligation is \$20,201/\$25,370/\$24,255, including down payment (or equivalent trade-in) of \$850/\$1,425/\$1,400. First monthly payment is due at lease inception. 20,000 km per year mileage allowance applies; if exceeded, additional 10¢/15¢ per km applies for CX-30, CX-5/CX-90. Offered leasing available to retail customers only. Licence, insurance, taxes and down payment (where applicable) are extra and may be required at the time of purchase. Retailer order/trade may be necessary on certain vehicles. Offers valid June 2 – June 30, 2026, while supplies last. Lease and finance on approved credit for qualified customers only. Offers subject to change without notice. Visit mazda.ca or see your Mazda Retailer for complete details.



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HAPPY Canada Day

BMX Krusher Stunt Team to bring high-flying action for Canada Day

Celebrate Canada Day with a full day of family-friendly fun, including an inflatable zone, free swimming, soccer activities, a photo booth, face painting, air-brush tattoos and more.

The Town of Orangeville's Canada Day event will be held on July 1 from 12 to 5 p.m. at the Alder Recreation Centre. Then, at 10 p.m., head to Murray's Mountain for the drone show to cap off the day.

Don't miss this year's main stage entertainment featuring the BMX Krusher Stunt Team in action. Head to the red rink to watch the athletes soar through the air as they perform thrilling tricks and gravity-defying aerial maneuvers.

This year, in place of the traditional

fireworks show at Island Lake, residents are invited to gather at Murray's Mountain at 10 p.m. for a spectacular drone light show presented by Illumin. Using the night sky as a canvas, 250 drones will light it up in a cinematic, choreographed performance, serving as the perfect finale to a great community celebration.

"We've heard from residents that they wanted us to explore new, safer and more inclusive ways to cap off the day celebrations," said Mayor Lisa Post. "A drone show was a natural fit, lighting up the sky in a way that is both visually stunning, while also being considerate of those with sensory sensitivities, pets and wildlife."

"While the Town has moved away from fireworks displays, residents are reminded to follow safe practices when setting off fireworks at home," said Orangeville Fire Chief John Snider. "This year's drone show offers a safer way to celebrate while still giving residents a memorable evening to enjoy."

"We were excited to hear that the Town is exploring a drone light show this year," said Yasmine Slater, superintendent at Credit Valley Conservation. "We value our ongoing partnership with the Town of Orangeville and encourage everyone to come out to Island Lake Conservation Area to enjoy hiking, picnicking, fishing and paddling this Canada Day."



HAPPY CANADA DAY

Wishing you and your family a safe and happy Canada Day

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Canada Day Events

Where to celebrate in Orangeville and Dufferin County

Orangeville Canada Day Celebrations

- **Opening ceremony at 12 p.m.**
- Greetings from mayor and council, Kyle Seeback, MP and the Honourable Sylvia Jones, MPP.
- Singing of O Canada and cake cutting
- **Krusher BMX Stunt Team's "Big Air Bag Show X Large"** (red rink) at 12:30 p.m., 2 p.m. and 3:30 p.m.
- Five BMX athletes propelled from a massive 16' quarter pipe trailer, performing a variety of aerial maneuvers at incredible heights. Three 20-minute shows, followed by a 20-minute meet and greet with athletes.
- **Free swim events from 1:30 p.m. and 3 p.m.**
- Two free, one-hour swims, 275 spots available per swim. 50 per cent pre-registration is available 75 hours in advance and 50 per cent drop-in spots available on Canada Day.
- All swimmers must follow the aquatic admission standards available at orangeville.ca/swimming.
- **Free family fun zone** (inflatables) – green rink – 12 to 5 p.m. Includes 26' rock wall, 27' Mount Rushmore slide, 65' mega obstacle course and bouncy castles.
- **Neighbourhood Block Box**
- Kick off the new Block Box season with crafts and games.
- **Soccer activities**
- Interactive soccer games, including the hardest shot competition and the shooter tutor.
- **Orangeville Public Library table**
- Alder Branch will be closed but library staff to host a table with activities and information on the summer reading program.
- **Other activities include** face painting, airbrush tattoos, professional photo booth
- **Illumin Drone Show** – Murray's Mountain – 10 p.m.
- 250 drones will provide a cinematic, choreographed performance designed to create a memorable and high-impact visual moment for the community.
- Parking is available at Tony Rose Memorial Sports Centre,

Princess Elizabeth Public School, Orangeville District Secondary School, Grant Evans Education Centre and County of Dufferin Court House.



Shelburne Canada Day Celebrations

- **CDRC Canada Day Swim from 1 to 3 p.m. at 200 Fiddle Park Ln, Shelburne.**
- **Canada Day Celebrations at Greenwood Park from 6 to 10 p.m.** at 781 Greenwood Street, Shelburne.
- Including Opening Ceremonies at 6 p.m.; Bubble Show at 6:15 p.m.; Live Music: Gordon Lightfoot Tribute from 7:15 to 8 p.m. and again at 8:55 p.m.; Magic Show (Lofty the Magician) from 8:05 to 8:50 p.m. and a fireworks display at dusk.
- Ongoing activities from 6 to 9 p.m. include face painting, inflatables, balloon twisting, glitter tattoos, community booths and "Kick It at the Park" Soccer Zone.
- There will also be plenty of food trucks with delicious treats: Make it Sweet, Wood Smoke Shack, Blitzful Treats, Sunshine Sips Lemonade and Funnel Cake Dream.

Grand Valley BIA Canada Day Car Show

- **July 1 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., downtown Grand Valley.**
- Join the Grand Valley BIA for a Canada Day Classic Car Show. Spend the day exploring a fantastic lineup of classic cars, vintage favourites and unique rides on display throughout downtown. Whether you're a car enthusiast or just looking for a fun way to celebrate Canada Day, this community favourite is one you won't want to miss.
- \$20 cash entry fee - Payable on day of show. Cash prizes for best cars. (\$500 - 1st; \$250 - 2nd; \$100 - 3rd)

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Headlining the event is the BMX Krusher Stunt Team!

- July 1, 2025, 12 to 5 p.m.
- Alder Recreation Centre
- Drone show at Murray's Mountain – 10 p.m.

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Canada Day remains a celebration of unity, history and national pride for veteran John Flannery

Written By JOSHUA DRAKES
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

For Dufferin County resident and veteran John Flannery, Canada Day represents the most significant national celebration on the calendar.

More than a holiday, he views it as a reminder of how Canada became a nation and an opportunity for Canadians to recognize and celebrate their shared identity.

He believes the day serves as an important connection to the country's history and stresses the importance of ensuring younger generations understand the significance of Confederation and the values that helped build the nation.

"Canada Day is the biggest day for the country, bigger than May 24, which is Queen Victoria's birthday," he said. "I think, for the country, we have to make sure that young folk are taught in school why we celebrate Canada Day, and really understand the history behind it."

Flannery sees Canada Day as an opportunity for Canadians to stand together and take pride in what the country has accomplished.

He believes celebrating Canada is important because the nation has grown through the efforts of generations of people from many backgrounds who helped shape it into the country it is today. Rather than taking that legacy for granted, he feels Canadians should actively recognize it and demonstrate their pride through community celebrations, displays of the national flag and participation in local events.

"We came from great parents, if you want to put it that way," Flannery said. "The British Empire – we were a colony at one time, and then we've made our own way here. We've accepted immigrants from all over the world and built the country the way it is right now. We are very special that way, and it should be seen."



THE WELLINGTON ADVERTISER PHOTO

PROUDLY CANADIAN: Veteran John Flannery believes that Canada Day should be celebrated as a moment of national pride and unity, and a celebration of the rich diversity that makes up Canada's population. After serving overseas for many years with the military, Flannery remains convinced that Canada is the greatest country on earth, and one worth fighting for in the face of an aggressive U.S. President and an uncertain world. He wants to see more education in schools to teach about the history and sacrifices made by generations past that built the country we live in today.

What makes Canada special, in Flannery's view, is its diversity and ability to bring together people from different cultures, traditions, and backgrounds under a shared national identity. He points to Canada's history of welcoming newcomers from around the world and its ability to maintain unity despite regional differences.

"Canada Day is really the result of all of us working together from various backgrounds," he said. "Evolving from a colony in the British Empire to our own independence... The provinces we now have from sea to sea is just something unique in the world. We are a unique country, and we shouldn't take that for granted."

Flannery's perspective was shaped by decades of military service that took him across Canada and around the world. He served four tours in Germany, participated in United Nations and NATO operations, spent time in Egypt's Sinai Desert and Cyprus, and completed multiple assignments in northern Canada.

Experiencing other countries firsthand reinforced his appreciation for Canada. While he encountered many interesting cultures and places throughout his career, he came away convinced that Canada offered an exceptional quality of life and remained, in his opinion, the best country in the world.

His military experiences also highlight-

ed the importance of protecting Canadian values and maintaining a strong sense of national identity.

Flannery believes Canada Day celebrations have evolved considerably over the years. While national pride has always existed, he feels celebrations today are larger, more visible and more colourful than they were during his early years of service.

"I believe there are bigger days than we used to have in the military, although we did honor our national days, it wasn't to the same scale, per se, to what I see now," he said. "It's noticeable for someone like myself who saw it before, as opposed to now. National holidays, Canada Day, now are more flamboyant, the word would be."

Closer to home, Flannery is happy with how Dufferin County recognizes Canada Day and other national commemorations. He points to the strong presence of the Shelburne Legion, the involvement of veterans and cadets, and ongoing efforts to keep Canadian history visible within the community.

"They're doing pretty good, as far as I'm concerned," Flannery said. "The branch is well known there, it's in a good location. I would suggest perhaps to make it better known, we could do something more in regard to our holidays, whether it's a Canada Day or Remembrance Day, in the big new plaza, but they're doing good work right now."

While he sees opportunities for additional outreach and expanded celebrations in some of the town's newer public spaces, he believes Shelburne continues to demonstrate a strong commitment to honouring Canada's history and celebrating the country it has become.

Flannery is anticipating the upcoming Canada Day celebrations and remains a fierce patriot as he works to rally more Canadians into treating Canada Day as a powerful moment of unity.



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Some history

The events leading up to Canada Day

Canada Day is a celebration of our nation and what we have become.

However, it is important to remember the history of how we got here and the sacrifices, determination, and hard work that created this country.

After a series of unsuccessful attacks on French forces in Quebec, British General James Wolfe and his troops scaled the cliffs near Quebec City on the St. Lawrence River.

They made their way to a plateau later named the Plains of Abraham, after a local landowner.

On the morning of September 13, 1759, French Commander General Marquis de Montcalm awoke to find a British firing line of 3,000 soldiers facing his camp. The firing line stretched for around one kilometre.

Montcalm's ranks had been depleted and replenished by less professional militia.

As Montcalm's troops advanced, the British fired a devastating, close-range volley that sliced through the French column. A second volley shattered the French ranks and sent them into retreat.

The battle lasted for only one hour.

The result was a French defeat, and both Wolfe and Montcalm were killed in action.

The battle proved to be a defining event in the conflict between France and Britain and the fate of New France.

It influenced the later creation of Canada as a nation.

During the early 1800s, Ontario, then known as Upper Canada, was not a democracy. Rather, it was controlled by a group known as the 'Family Compact' composed of influential men who made decisions for the province.

After years of resentment, two rebellions began to form - one in Upper Can-

ada and another in Lower Canada, which stretched into Quebec.

A group formed in Lloydtown, a small town near Schomberg.

By December of 1837, the group had decided they had enough and wanted change - even if that meant armed conflict.

The group began a march to Toronto. As they moved toward their target, they were joined by others along the way until they numbered close to 1,000.

While some of the rebels had hunting rifles, others carried pitchforks or staves.

When they finally arrived in Toronto at a place known as Montgomery Tavern, they were met with a well-trained loyalist militia.

The militia opened fire on the rebels. However, it seems they wanted to make noise rather than kill their own countrymen.

The front line of the rebels all dropped to the ground when the volley was fired to avoid being hit.

The men in the rear, being regular people, not soldiers, thought the front line had all been killed, and did what any untrained group of rebels would do - they turned and ran.

During the event, two rebels and one loyalist militiaman were killed.

Later, several of the rebel leaders found themselves hanging at the end of a rope after being convicted of insurrection.

While the rebellion was a failure, it created enough controversy that it paved the way for democracy in Ontario.

We often think of our nation being created in an entirely peaceful way.

The truth is, there was bloodshed that shaped the years before Confederation took place.

It is a part of our history that factors into the creation of this nation.

Ten unique facts about Canada

Celebrating our national holiday day on July 1, gives us a time to remember some things that are very unique about this country.



1. We are the second-largest country in the world with a total area of over 9.9 million square miles.

2. Canada has the most lakes in the entire world, numbering around 879,800. This accounts for around 60 per cent of the total lakes in the world larger than .1 square kilometres. These lakes were largely formed by glacial activity during the last Ice Age. Because of this, Canada ranks in the top three countries in the world with the most fresh water.



3. Canada has the largest coastline in the world. Bordered by the Atlantic Ocean to the east, the Pacific Ocean to the west, and the Arctic Ocean to the north, the entire coastline stretches 202,000 kilometres.

4. While the second largest country in the world, Canada is the twelfth least densely populated nation. With a population of around 41 million, this can be compared to the Japanese city Tokyo, which has an estimated population of around 37 million.

5. There are around 16,000 polar bears in Canada. The polar bear population is divided into 19 sub-populations with 13 of those in Canada.

6. Canada is world's leading producer of maple syrup. Maple syrup is

produced only in Canada and the U.S. Quebec produces around 72 per cent of the world's maple syrup.

7. The Caesar cocktail is entirely Canadian and almost unknown outside of the country. Invented in Calgary in 1969, the cocktail is widely enjoyed in Canada, but not really known anywhere else. Annually, Canadians drink more than 400 million Caesars.

8. The butter tart is uniquely Canadian. The recipe dates from a 1900 version of the Women's Auxiliary of the Royal Victoria Hospital Cookbook, entered by Mary Ethel MacLeod.

9. Another all-Canadian treat is Nanaimo Bars. There are several theories of who invented Nanaimo Bars, but they all originate in British Columbia. The bars are named after the city.

10. Canada has a population density of 4.2 people per square kilometre. The Quebec City to Windsor corridor is home to nearly 50 per cent of the entire country's population.



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INGREDIENTS

- 4 1/2 ounces ginger cookies, crushed
- 2 tablespoons unsalted butter, melted
- 3 tablespoons caster sugar, divided
- 11 ounces Greek vanilla yogurt
- 3 1/2 ounces cream cheese, softened
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 8 ounces strawberries, hulled and diced
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- 1 handful small mint leaves, to garnish



DIRECTIONS

1. Stir together crushed cookies, melted butter, and 1 tablespoon sugar in a mixing bowl until cookie crumbs are moist. Divide between 6 serving glasses and chill until needed.
2. Combine Greek yogurt, cream cheese and vanilla extract with remaining caster sugar in a mixing bowl, beating until sugar has dissolved, about 2 minutes.
3. Divide mixture between glasses, spooning on top of biscuit base. Cover and chill for 1 hour.
4. When ready to serve, purée half the strawberries with lemon juice in a food processor.
5. Spoon on top of cheesecakes and garnish with remaining strawberries and mint leaves.



As we celebrate Canada Day, we wish our readers a safe and joyful holiday filled with family, friends and community spirit. Let's take pride in all that unites us and appreciate the people, places and traditions that make Canada home.

From all of us at the Orangeville Citizen,

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Junior B Northmen tied in first round series with Hamilton

Written By BRIAN LOCKHART

The Junior B Northmen are tied at one with the Hamilton Bengals in their first-round Ontario Junior B Lacrosse League playoff series.

Orangeville finished in second place in the West division of the OJBLL with a 15-4 record and 30 points.

Hamilton was the number seven seed, finishing with a 9-10 record in the 12-team division before heading into the playoffs.

In Game 1 of their playoff series, the Northmen left the floor with an 8-7 win on their home floor in Orangeville on Wednesday, June 17.

First period Orangeville goals came from Kieran Witte and Cole Hunt. Tyson Rhan got the only Northmen goal of the second period.

Third-period Northmen goals came from Cam McClintock, Lincoln Gear for two, Tyson Rahn, and Riely Bissett.

The series went to Hamilton for Game 2 on Saturday, June 20.

The Northmen were leading 4-3 in the first period on goals from Kieran Witte, Owen Critchley, and Nolan Sanderson for two.

The second period cost the Northmen when the Bengals outscored them 4-1 to take a 7-5 lead heading into the third period.

Connor Lesky got the only Orangeville goal in the second frame.

Hamilton scored early in the third period for an 8-5 lead.

The Northmen fought back, scoring two third-period goals, but they could not get the tying goal and had to settle for an 8-7 loss in Game 2.

Tyler Gronroos and Cole Hunt got the second-period Northmen goals.

The series will return to Orangeville for Game 3 on Wednesday, July 24, with an 8 p.m. start.

Results were not available at press time.

In the other West Division series, the Owen Sound Stars are up against the Six Nations Rebels.

The Point Edward Pacers are up against the Guelph Regals.

The St. Catharines Athletics are playing the Cambridge Highlanders in their first-round series.



BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

CATCHING AIR: The warm weather means skateboarders, BMX riders, and scooter riders are back out at the Orangeville bike and skateboard facility at Rotary Park. Scooter rider Cole Copeland gets some big air off a jump and does a 360 with his scooter before making a perfect landing.

Junior C Northmen to face Durham in first round of playoffs

Written By BRIAN LOCKHART

The Orangeville Junior C Northmen are getting ready for playoff mode and will be up against the West Grey Rampage in the first round of the Orangeville Junior C Lacrosse League playoffs.

This will be a very competitive series.

The Northmen finished the regular season in fifth place in the Western Division.

They ended the season with a 5-11 record and 10 points.

West Grey finished fourth in the division with a 6-10 record, including one overtime loss.

The Northmen struggled this year after

many players moved up in the local organization, and the team had to find new players to fill the roster.

Even so, they had a good season, with many well-played games.

The Orangeville / West Grey series will get underway on Wednesday, June 24, at Tony Rose Arena in Orangeville with an 8 p.m. start.

Game 2 of the series will take place at the Durham Community Centre on Friday, June 26, with an 8 p.m. start.

Game 3 is scheduled for Sunday, June 28, in Durham. Game time is 2 p.m.

This is a best-of-three series, so teams will have to bring their best game and be

willing to put out a huge effort to win and advance.

In the other Western Division series, the Halton Hills Bulldogs will meet the Fergus Thistles, with Game 1 scheduled to take place on June 23.

The first round of competition will be a qualifying round, with the winning teams advancing to the next round of playoffs.

Six Nations, Burlington, and Fergus have already qualified for the next round of playoffs based on their rankings.

The Six Nations Stealth won the division this year with a 14-2 record.

They were followed by the Burlington Warriors and the Fergus Thistles.

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BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

FUNDRAISING TOURNAMENT: It was tournament day in Orangeville on Saturday, June 20, as the Slo-Pitch for Autism tournament raised funds for a good cause. Tournaments were held in towns across the country in support of Autism. A player makes the catch for the out at second base and makes the throw to first during a game between the Bee Town Ballers and Mama Mia.

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OPINION

I am Canadian

As Canada Day approaches, it is a good time to reflect on what it means to live in this great country.

Over the past few hundred years, Canada has been transformed from a wild, vast, untamed area into a modern, vibrant, and thriving nation with its own identity, culture, and way of doing things.

This nation was built on the backs of the strong and determined who overcame great adversity and huge challenges.

It was built on the shoulders of those people who picked up an axe to do the back-breaking work of clearing land to create a farm and use the logs from those trees to build their first home in a new place.

As part of my constant research, I am always exploring those cemeteries that are referred to as 'pioneer cemeteries.'

They are the places where the names of those early settlers are carved in stone, telling the story of people who brought civilization, built the mills, created towns, and built the churches where many of these cemeteries were first established.

Many of the names on those cemetery headstones are still alive in their descen-

dants who still live and farm in the same areas their great-great-grandfathers cleared and thrived.

We should celebrate our glorious past and look forward to a future based on the values and basic work ethic that created this nation.

Over the past decade, there have been 'apologists' who, for some reason, think we need to apologize for even being here. They say this while living in their condo in downtown Toronto and taking advantage of everything they've been gifted by others' time and hard work.

They want to erase names like Dundas, Ryerson, and MacDonald for supposed 'bad decisions,' when they should be celebrating our forefathers for having the vision to create a working government and to plan the course of a nation through a very difficult time in our history.

Don't apologize for being successful. Don't apologize for working hard. Don't apologize for showing leadership and creating something from nothing.

Rather, celebrate the accomplishments of this nation.

Celebrate the fact that you can actually drive across this nation from sea to

sea. Celebrate the freedoms you enjoy, and probably take for granted.

In many countries, standing in a group on a street corner or criticizing a bad government decision can get you arrested, jailed, and, in some cases, eliminated.

Celebrate the fact that it is not in our nature to be warlike; however, when the call arises, we answer.

Our defining moments as a nation came at Confederation, at Vimy Ridge, and on the beaches at the D-Day invasion of Europe.

It was forged on the Plains of Abraham in a battle that determined the destiny of an entire continent.

The world knows us as a place with a cold climate and a lot of snow. But we have beautiful summers, more lakes than any other country on earth, and the largest shoreline of any nation.

We have the Rocky Mountains, the Great Plains, the Great Lakes, the massive forests of Ontario and Quebec, and East Coast charm. We have more wasteland than most countries have land.

We have unique things that define our identity, like a Mountie on horseback, maple syrup, butter tarts, Nanaimo Bars,

canoes, toboggans, and a toque to keep your head warm. We have the Caesar cocktail, which apparently you won't find anywhere else.

We have large modern cities with skyscrapers and professional sports teams, and small towns where the fast lane doesn't exist, but a quality of life does.

We are home to a vast array of wildlife, including deer, bears, moose, muskox, snakes, and every small critter you can think of, and we have laws to protect them.

We are a leader in natural resources and supply the world with much-needed materials.

This Canada Day, don't just wave a flag and join the party; celebrate the fact that you are here and enjoy everything that is available.

While small groups in this country like to protest, wave foreign flags, and call for violence, the rest of us know the real truth.

It is our country, and it is up to all of us to revel in its past and keep it for future generations.

BRIAN LOCKHART
FROM THE SECOND ROW



The slave traders

At a 'high-level United Nations consultative conference' in Ghana earlier this month, African and Caribbean countries called on the countries that benefitted from the transatlantic slave trade to make a formal apology and pay reparations to the descendants of the enslaved millions (or at least to the countries that the victims had come from).

This meeting followed up on the UN General Assembly's March resolution declaring transatlantic slavery "the gravest crime against humanity" and urging member states to contribute to a reparations fund. 143 countries voted for it, and only three voted against it: the United States, Israel and Argentina.

However, there was one puzzling aspect to the vote: 52 countries abstained, including the 27 European Union countries and the United Kingdom. The UK's abstention was particularly striking, because while British merchants were enthusiastic partners in the transatlantic slave trade in the 1700s, it was the British government that ended it in the 1800s.

So why would Britain, of all countries, fail to support a resolution offering compensation to the descendants of enslaved Africans? Or, more realistically, to the governments that now rule the countries where those long-dead ancestors were born?

The answer came in a single, rather cryptic sentence from the Chargé d'Affaires at the UK Mission to the United Nations, James Kariuki (himself of African descent). "No single set of atrocities should be regarded as more or less significant than another," he said, and that said it all.

He didn't go into the details, because the truth upsets people who want to believe that the European slave traders actually went ashore to capture and enslave Africans. The truth is that every African in chains on those westbound ships was sold to the European slavers by some local African prince or merchant or soldier.

It was a business that long predated the arrival of European sailors on the West African coast in the 1500s. Up to one-third of the population of what is now Senegal,

the earliest hub of the transatlantic trade, were already domestic slaves, and there was already a thriving business in selling some of them north across the Sahara to Muslim countries around the Mediterranean.

There was an even bigger and older slave trade on the east coast of Africa, where up to 17 million black Africans were sold north to Arab traders over the course of almost a thousand years. (The transatlantic slave trade involved 10-12 million slaves over about 350 years.)

The past is a different country, and they do things differently there. Trying to recompense the victims of long-past injustices is a fool's errand, partly because both the villains and the victims are beyond help or harm, but also because "No single set of atrocities should be regarded as more or less significant than another."

The specific set of atrocities and injustices that are being privileged by the UN are seen as somehow worse because Western countries were involved, and because the descendants of the Africans who sold

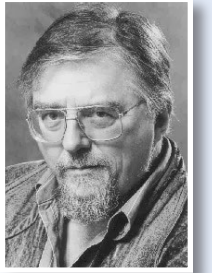
the slaves were subsequently colonised and oppressed by the same Western countries. This is a specious argument.

And how did slavery get mixed up with racism? Most slave-owning societies – the Roman empire, Ming China, the Ottoman empire – were equal-opportunity tyrannies where people of any colour or ethnicity could end up as slaves. Too much debt, a lost battle, just being in the wrong place at the wrong time, and bingo! You're a slave.

Whereas slavery died out in Europe during the Dark Ages. If everybody is a subsistence farmer, there is no need or use for slaves. So when 16th century Europeans realised that slaves could make them profits in the newly discovered lands, they were happy to buy them – but they had to justify this behaviour by pretending that the slaves were genuinely inferior.

We're still dealing with that lie five centuries later, but 'compensation' is not the answer.

GWYNNE DYER
OUR WORLD TODAY



Remembering E. Pauline Johnson, Mohawk poet

To commemorate the month of June, National Indigenous History Month and June 21, which is the National Indigenous Peoples Day, let us celebrate poet Pauline Johnson, who was also Canada's first performance artist. A tribute to her for those of you who have never heard of her and perhaps, to acquaint her with others of you who remember her, maybe by reading some of her poetry in high school or by browsing in a library.

You may have been impressed with the power of her stories, which were often about the lives and conflicts of Indigenous life and sometimes about conflicts with white people.

The style of her writing, how the a, a, b, aa, b rhyming of her storytelling drew you in, unable to draw back, no matter how hard the tale, how at the end, you might have gasped at the undeniable truth of it. Then, the images in her words followed you for ages.

Even when one was a fiction, you didn't know for sure because many of them told the tale exactly as it was, and the fictions were truly reflective.

In other poems, she cradles you with a passage on a river, listening to nature all around, restoring you with soothing, clear pictures.

Born in 1861 at Chiefswood, Pauline's father was George Johnson, a hereditary Mohawk Chief. Chiefswood was the home her father built. He had built the house with two identical doors, one for Indigenous people to enter and the other for white visitors, to indicate they were equal.

Pauline's mother was Emily Howells, who immigrated to the U.S. from England with her family when she was young. Emily met George while visiting her sister on a mission to Mohawk territory. At the time, George was an interpreter for the Anglican Mission. They married in 1853, shortly after which George became chief of the Six Nations. He was also appointed as a Crown interpreter for the Six Nations.

Her mother educated Pauline at home because, as a child, she suffered from ill health. Poetry came naturally to the little girl, and she was already composing by the time she was eight years old. Imbued with the fine poetry of others, English and Canadian, she aspired as she developed to gain a place amongst them.

When she was young, Pauline spent time with her Mohawk grandfather, Chief John Smke Johnson, from whom she took her Indigenous name, Tekahionwake. He led her to understand more of

her Mohawk heritage, which she came to revere, and it influenced her poetry and the persona she presented once she began her career as a performer.

When her father died in 1884, she, her mother and her sister moved to Brantford, where they struggled financially. From then, Pauline, now in her early 20s, began to pursue a career of spoken word performance, breaking protocol of a single Indigenous woman on stage to very good success.

The notes left by her sister on how Pauline created the Indian dress she wore to perform, a determined mix of artifacts with beads, scalps of decades ago, a wild and surprising collection attached to and a part of the garment to portray her Indigenous heritage. She wore that Indian garment in the first half of her shows while she recited the poetry of savage battles, injustices and bravery. For the second half, she dashed back onto the stage in a grey silk gown to offer poetry of nature and love.

In all her life, Pauline did not shrink from criticizing the stereotypes of Indigenous people that white people imposed. She took on social mores that were the causes of cruel circumstances that Indigenous people faced at that time.

When Pauline Johnson died in 1913, she left a goodly number of relics and treasured memorabilia to the Vancouver City Museum (now the Museum of Vancouver). Yet whatever Pauline left in material terms could never matter more than the firm footprint she stamped on Canada's literary and social history.

E. Pauline Johnson is listed as a Person of National Historic Significance, and her childhood home is a National Historic Site and museum in recognition of her passionate and exceptional poetry, but also for her demonstrated bravery in the face of the views and prejudices that the white population of Canada held about the First Nations living on this land.

June is National Indigenous History Month. The enthusiasm for this acknowledgement is supported by several local events all month at the schools from the local boards, as well as within the community. The Town of Orangeville and the Upper Grand District School Board also formally marked that this is a time to celebrate the vibrant histories, cultures, and contributions of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples.

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COMMUNITY VOICES

Family Transition Place offers education and works towards prevention

Education is one of the most powerful tools we have to prevent gender-based violence — and at FTP, it's a commitment that runs deep. From elementary classrooms to high school gymnasiums, from parent workshops to sports fields, FTP's education programs meet young people where they are, building the knowledge, skills, and self-awareness needed to foster healthy, respectful relationships.

Underpinning all of it is collaboration — with schools, school boards, coaches, mentors, and community partners — because lasting culture change doesn't happen in a single conversation or a single organization. It happens when an entire community commits to the work together.

Youth education

Youth education continues to be an important part of gender-based violence prevention at FTP. Running for more than 20 years, the program consists of three parts: an eight-week course for students in grades 5 to 8, one-off presentations in high schools, and evening workshops for parents. These programs have reached an estimated 50,000 students across Dufferin and Caledon, all delivered by two full-time staff educators. Combined, they provide interactive, age-specific programming designed to build the foundation for healthy, respectful relationships.

Each year of the grades 5 through 8 program builds on the last, guiding students through understanding stereotypes and empathy, communication and emotional regulation, and personal resilience and decision-making. These elements help students learn to identify the differences between healthy and unhealthy relationships, create positive social connections, and improve self-esteem and empathy. High school presentations cover domestic violence, sexual assault, flirting, consent, and harassment in a focused, 90-minute session while parent workshops explore topics such as bullying, social media, and children's mental health and wellness.

The strength of this program is driven as much by its relationships as its content. Schools in Dufferin and Caledon book up to a year or more in advance, with an ongoing waitlist throughout the year. The program has also been adopted by other communities, who are now incorporating it into education programs. As it's reached more than two decades in our schools, some former students are now teachers, and still carrying their youth program keepsake cards into classrooms of their own.



While statistics tell the story of a positive, lasting impact from participation in programs like this, it's the participants' responses that bring the data to life. It's students who wouldn't normally get involved in class that are paying attention and joining in, students who share how the program helped grow their self-esteem, the stories of students who recognize unhealthy behaviours with their peers or families and begin to make changes in their own lives. Perhaps most tellingly, the families who call FTP's crisis intake after a child brought their learning home and asked whether what was happening in their house was healthy.

The program is funded almost entirely through FTP's general community fundraising, with a modest cost-recovery contribution from participating schools. The program's reach continues to grow due to collaboration with the local schools and school boards—that reach is only limited by funding and resources.

FTP's youth educators describe the program as a living, breathing organism, reviewed and refreshed each summer to reflect new trends and emerging challenges our students face in their lives. Topics like cyberbullying and human trafficking, for example, have been added over the years as the community's needs have evolved.

Anti-human sex trafficking training in schools

The Anti-Human Sex Trafficking Training program is dedicated to challenging one of the most pervasive misconceptions surrounding human trafficking: the belief that it only happens somewhere else, to someone else. The reality is that trafficking can occur in any community, affecting young people who may be vulnerable to manipulation and exploitation.

Launched in 2023, the program brings critical education and awareness to students in Grades 7 and 10, age groups identified as being particularly vulnerable to trafficking. Since its inception, the program has reached more than 5,000 students throughout Dufferin County, empowering young people with the knowledge and tools to recognize risks and protect themselves.

Through engaging one-off presentations, students learn how traffickers identify and exploit unmet needs, build trust, and manipulate vulnerabilities. By fostering awareness, critical thinking, and open dialogue, the program equips youth to recognize warning signs, seek support, and help prevent exploitation before it occurs. In doing so, it helps create safer communities and ensures young people understand that human trafficking is not a distant issue; it is one that requires awareness, prevention, and action close to home.

The curriculum is delivered by one educator, funded by the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services, who is accompanied by a mobile crisis counsellor to support students who may be triggered by the content. The discussions are impactful and meaningful, and in some cases, students have recognized they may be in a situation where trafficking could be occurring or recognize warning signs in their own relationships.

Teaching in a single-presentation format can be challenging, especially with heavy topics like human trafficking, because it does not offer the same level of relationship-building as longer programs. The 2025/2026 school year brought meaningful validation to the program, as students who were in the first cohort of grade 7s attending the sessions were now in grade 10, attending again. Notably, these students have demonstrated an understanding of the issues, confirming that a single, intensive session can

create real, lasting retention, opening the door for more in-depth conversations and questions.

Coaching Leadership Equality and Respect (CLEAR)

Shifting the behaviours and beliefs that lead to gender-based violence begins with prevention education—and that's exactly what CLEAR provides. Grant funding was made available to Interval House of Hamilton through the National Action Plan, and programming was delivered to selected organizations like FTP. The 12-week, evidence-based program trains coaches, teachers, and mentors to lead weekly conversations on respect, consent, bystander intervention, peer leadership, and more.

FTP became a certified delivery agency for the program approximately two years ago and has since been working to bring CLEAR to local school boards and sports organizations. Commitments have been established with the Shelburne Vets Lacrosse Association and the Hill Academy, with delivery planned for the future.

The goal of CLEAR is not a single conversation, but a sustained culture shift. Coaches, mentors, and teachers are uniquely positioned to make a lasting impact—they already hold the trust and attention of the young people they work with.

To learn more, including how you can support these vital programs, please contact Brennan Solecky at brennan@familytransitionplace.ca or at 519-942-4122 ext. 240.



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Of fathers and sons

My son once found a colourful marble in the loose sand of an Iqaluit school playground. Pretty sure it was one of those Cat's Eye marbles prized during games in the dirt when I was a child. I remember there were luminous yellow and warm orange ribbons inside the marble. It became his treasure.

I still see him in his Thor cap and Spiderman windbreaker, big blue eyes wonder-widened. Showing me the treasure he'd found. His arm outstretched toward me, and he looked at the treasure in his palm. The child's cheeks. Light fine hair from under his cap.

Thor was his favourite Avenger then, and I still hear how he'd mispronounced the name as Thorn. He used to choose a toy before bedtime, and he'd sleep with that car, action figure, or pieced-together bit of Lego. I'd often nod off next to him while reading a book or telling made-up stories about a giraffe we'd named Jerry. Or bits of fabricated family history, like how his uncle

Chris was found as a baby floating down the Humber River in an old boat.

The boy is 20 years old now and in university. Says he wants to be a writer, and I heard my own father's voice from my mouth when I cautioned the lad about the folly in choosing to hitch his wagon to writing in an age when nobody reads. Other than social media offerings, anyway. But it seems nobody reads books anymore.

That look of wonder and pride stayed with me, an image that visits me in the moment before sleep when I'm typically touched by such memories. A moment is a minute, or it's an hour. And years seem to be eye-blinks when you're watching children become adults. Moments arranged become a life. A generation arrives as another generation passes.

A measure of a person is the people they leave behind. It goes more toward identity than professional and social metrics, the attained levels of education, and even the

numbers on ATM bank slips.

The calibre of people you've influenced, how you've helped them become the people they are, speaks about you when you're gone. It's one of the ways a person is more than the soup of chromosomes and blood and bone.

My son was so pleased with a treasure uncovered from the tundra dirt. My memory of that softens a contrary disposition that's been stoked by the world's ways over the many moments between then and now. Poets and writers flail around in the murk of metaphor and simile to describe a treasure like a simple marble in playground sand.

I have my father's name and more than a few of his mannerisms. I can't say if I've ever gone to him with a Cat's Eye marble with luminous yellow and warm orange ribbons inside. He'd remember if I did. But he died in July.

How many fathers get to save their son's life, I wonder. He did. Just by being there,

as he had been many times in my life. Specifically and actually, he saved me from a hypothermic death in the cold Arctic October water of the Sylvia Grinnell River in Iqaluit.

He wasn't even supposed to be there. About a decade ago, that was, and he showed up unexpectedly. A friend of mine, the guy I named my son after, the son who found the Cat's Eye marble, offered my father a few weeks' work. My dad retired from teaching high school. So he bounced between Ontario and Nunavut, where his sons and grandchildren were.

I can't yet talk about the details and circumstances of the river. Other than to say my father saved me that October before the ice had completely set at Sylvia Grinnell's mouth to Frobisher Bay.

The cold was brutal then. And there has been something of it during the months since Dad died.



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Credit Valley Conservation, Trees for Life partner to plant 24,000 trees across watershed

Credit Valley Conservation (CVC) has partnered with Trees for Life to plant and maintain approximately 24,000 native trees and shrubs across the Credit River Watershed, supported through the Government of Canada's 2 Billion Trees Program.

The initiative is expected to plant about 8,000 trees annually over three years, totalling 24,000. It focuses on selecting appropriate native species and planting in suitable locations, primarily in suburban and Greenbelt areas of the watershed. The work will include monitoring and maintenance to support tree establishment and survival.

"This partnership supports CVC's commitment to protecting, restoring, and enhancing the natural environment while helping communities adapt to climate change," said Aaron Day, program manager of forestry at CVC.

"By working with Trees for Life, we're making long-term investments in a healthy watershed that provides cleaner air, carbon sequestration, habitat, and stronger, more resilient landscapes."

Trees for Life executive director Marina Dimitriadis echoed that sentiment.

"Partnerships like this are vital to building greener, healthier and more resilient communities," said Dimitriadis. "By working together, we're able to amplify our impact and plant exponentially more trees, creating healthier ecosystems and delivering lasting benefits to the communities we



Credit Valley Conservation

serve."

Trees for Life is distributing funding through the federal 2 Billion Trees Program, administered by Natural Resources Canada, to support tree planting in southern Ontario. CVC will lead planning and project delivery, including site selection, native species selection, planting, and on-going monitoring and maintenance.

The three-year project represents a total investment of more than \$1.3 million, including federal funding, partner contributions and in-kind support. Follow-up assessments and maintenance will be conducted annually to support establishment and long-term survival.

The partnership is expected to support increased forest cover in suburban and Greenbelt areas, native biodiversity, soil stability, water quality, and climate change mitigation and adaptation.

CVC will continue working with partners, municipalities and landowners to identify suitable planting sites and deliver projects intended to provide environmental benefits.

More information is available at cvc.ca/rural-landowners/.



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<p>SCRAP CAR DISPOSAL – CASH PAID for Cars, Trucks, Vans – Big or Small. Call Joe at 647-294-2796.</p>	<p>PERSONAL BUDGET TRACKER designed by local bookkeeper. Currently HALF OFF. www.scbookkeeping.net.</p>	<p>TREE PRUNING and REMOVAL as well as minor landscaping. Free estimates. 20+ years experience. Call Russ at 416-802-9180.</p>	<p>FOR INFORMATION regarding HEART and STROKE, call Dori Ebel (519)941-1865 or 1-800-360-1557.</p>
<p>WE PAY CASH for Scrap Vehicles - any size. We also buy construction and equipment. Open 7 days a week. Call 905-859-0817 (Peter).</p>	<p>RESIDENTIAL SERVICES & REPAIRS</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>HELP WANTED</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>ALZHEIMER SUPPORT GROUPS meet monthly for spousal & family support. Call (519) 941-1221.</p>
<p>ARTICLES WANTED</p>	<p>SERVICES</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>BUYING VINYL RECORDS - STEREO - 45's. Cash for antiques and collectibles-stamp-coins. Call James at 416-569-9976.</p>	<p>HOME RENOVATIONS - kitchen/bathrooms: tiles/wood/vinyl floors: plumbing/painting/stain/drywall: outdoor repairs - fences, decks. Call Alex at 519-938-7727.</p>	<p>ARE YOU A WOMAN living with abuse? For safety, emergency shelter, and counselling call Family Transition Place, (519)941-HELP or 1-800-265-9178.</p>	<p>PLEASE RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER!</p>
<p>YARD SALE</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>ADVERTISING LOCALLY WORKS!</p>	



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