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GAVIN WALKER PHOTOGRAPHY

MAKING MEMORIES: Big Dufferin Play Day came to the Alder Street Recreation Centre on Sunday, Aug. 9 for a day of family fun. A young attendee of the inaugural event is seen feeding a camel. Big Dufferin Play Day featured a petting zoo, princess meet-and-greet, bouncy castles, face painting, live entertainment, food vendors, a community raffle, and a kids market, among other family-focused activities. The event sold tickets for \$10 each, and all the proceeds raised went to Dufferin Child and Family Services. See more photos on Page A2.

Councillor seeks county review of potential data centre impacts

Written By JAMES MATTHEWS

At least one Orangeville councillor believes steps should be taken early to safeguard Dufferin County’s groundwater later. A John Street woman urged town council during its Aug. 10 meeting to refrain from any possible data centre developments until a study into water sustainable availability is completed.

“I think this is the wrong time to do this when we have a water problem,” she said.

Such data centres require a lot of water for cooling systems. There have been no applications for a data centre in Orangeville.

She said any changes to the town’s Official Plan should be delayed until the completion of a water resource master plan.

“I think it’s a false hope for developers to think that there’s going to be enough water if there’s not,” she said. “I would ask council to state that the ground water that we have for development depends on a resource that we do not yet know we can sustainably provide. The responsibility of this decision is not to gamble.”

Ground water is fundamentally different from municipal infrastructure, she said.

“We can build another road, we can expand a treatment plant, we can upgrade an

electrical system, (but) we cannot build another aquifer,” she said. “Once ground water quantity has been seriously compromised, the consequences are not something council can solve with another vote or another planning application.

“And there is another reason for caution.”

David Smith, the town’s CAO, said there hasn’t been an expressed interest for a data centre in Orangeville.

“Comments are well-received, but I don’t want people going away thinking that something is bubbling or happening that isn’t today,” he said. “Could change tomorrow but isn’t today.”

Coun. Tess Prendergast, before the meeting, gave notice of motion regarding water resources and infrastructure. She said emerging forms of critical infrastructure, including data centres, may have implications for groundwater resources, electricity demand, municipal servicing, land-use planning, and regional infrastructure.

Data centres provide economic investment, employment, assessment growth, energy-sector opportunities, enhanced digital infrastructure, data sovereignty, and cybersecurity benefits.

Orangeville relies entirely on groundwater for its municipal drinking-water supply,

and planning decisions by neighbouring municipalities may have cross-boundary impacts on drinking-water resources, infrastructure and municipal services.

Dufferin County has an important role in coordinating regional planning matters that extend beyond municipal boundaries and affect more than one municipality.

As such, Coun. Prendergast’s notice of motion will be a request that the county undertake a comprehensive and balanced review of the potential advantages and disadvantages of new data centre development proposals.

The review should include possible impacts on economic development, employment, assessment growth, electricity demand and capacity, digital infrastructure, data sovereignty and cybersecurity, groundwater resources, municipal servicing, land-use planning, regional infrastructure and cross-boundary impacts, to inform future planning decisions.

Coun. Prendergast said it means a lot when residents get behind issues that may face the municipality.

“You understand the sanctity of ground water,” she said of the John Street resident’s concerns.

Continued on Page A9

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Big Dufferin Play Day brings families together for a day of fun



A DAY OF PLAY: Families gathered at the Alder Street Recreation Centre on Sunday, Aug. 9 for the inaugural Big Dufferin Play Day, a day-long celebration featuring activities for children and families. The event included a petting zoo, princess meet-and-greet, bouncy castles, face painting, live entertainment, food vendors, a community raffle and a kids market. Admission was \$10, with proceeds going to Dufferin Child and Family Services

GAVIN WALKER PHOTOGRAPHY

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Date: Wednesday, August 19, 2026
Time: 3pm - 8pm
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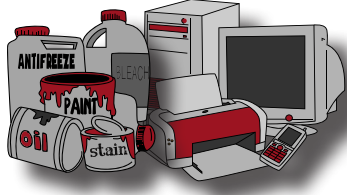
No waste from industrial, commercial, or institutional sources. No white goods/large appliances (including any appliances with freon). No garbage, or recycling. No unidentified/unknown materials. No drums of materials.

Visit dufferincounty.ca/waste for updates and a full listing of acceptable materials & limitations.

Future events: September 19, October 31.

See website for details on hours & locations for each scheduled event.

Dufferin County residents, including Amaranth, East Garafraxa, Grand Valley, Melancthon, Mono, Mulmur, Orangeville and Shelburne can attend any of these events.



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PROUD MOMENT: Caledon’s Brooklyn Belcher (left) and Shelburne’s Yazmine Wilson-Daponte (right) carry flags onto the pitch at Toronto Stadium (BMO Field) on July 2 as a flag bearer for the FIFA match between Portugal and Croatia.

Local Special Olympics athletes take centre stage at FIFA game

Written By **SAM ODROWSKI**

Two local Special Olympics athletes traded their usual playing fields for a FIFA pitch in Toronto last month, taking part in a once-in-a-lifetime experience as flag bearers before an international match.

Brooklyn Belcher of Caledon and Shelburne’s Yazmine Wilson-Daponte were among a group of Special Olympics athletes selected to participate in the FIFA match between Portugal and Croatia at Toronto Stadium on July 2.

The athletes were invited through Special Olympics Canada as part of an opportunity supported by Coca-Cola Canada, which selected Special Olympics athletes to participate at FIFA matches in Toronto, Vancouver and the United States.

For Yazmine’s mother, Karrie Daponte, the experience was made even more special by the fact that Yazmine, 22, and Brooklyn, 13, already knew each other.

“We were so excited. They only found out about two days before that they were actually both going to be flag bearers,” Daponte said.

The two athletes were together for much of the experience, meeting in Etobicoke before being transported by coach bus to the stadium, where they received their FIFA gear before taking part in the pre-game ceremony.

For Brooklyn, the experience was especially meaningful because she had been watching the tournament on television and hoping she might get the chance to attend a game.

“She was so over the moon,” said her mother, Charlett Belcher. “She was watching it on TV, all the athletes and stuff, and everyone’s like, ‘Oh, I want to go to a game. I wish I could go to a game.’ And then she was given this opportunity.”

Brooklyn and Yazmine, who already knew each other through Special Olympics, were together for much of the experience. They met in Etobicoke before being transported by coach bus to the stadium, where they received their FIFA gear before taking part in the pre-game ceremony.

For Brooklyn, walking onto the pitch and carrying a flag in front of a packed stadium was a moment of pride.

“She was so proud and excited to be able

to hold the flag,” Belcher said. “It was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.”

The experience also gave the two local athletes a chance to share the moment with someone from their own community.

“Out of all of Ontario, to think,” Belcher said. “When I found out she was going to be, I was like, ‘Oh my gosh, thank goodness,’ because she’ll know somebody.”

After the ceremony, Brooklyn and Yazmine watched the remainder of the game together from the stands.

Portugal defeated Croatia 2-1, making the experience even more memorable for the pair, who had been cheering for Portugal throughout the match.

For Belcher, seeing her daughter step onto the pitch was about more than soccer or FIFA.

“She was so confident. She just walked out there like she was trained for months on what to do,” Belcher said. “She showed up, she did her thing, and she’s there representing.”

Brooklyn has been involved with Special Olympics for more than eight years after first being introduced to sports through Challenger Baseball. She now participates in swimming, track and field, bocce, golf, curling and basketball, among other sports with Special Olympics.

Belcher said the experience has helped Brooklyn build confidence and independence while giving her opportunities she may not otherwise have had.

“It’s just watching her grow through sport has been amazing,” she said. “It opens the doors for so many opportunities, and you just watch them flourish.”

She hopes opportunities like the FIFA flag-bearing experience also help the broader community see what athletes with disabilities can accomplish when given the opportunity.

“They can do things,” Belcher said. “Although they have some sort of disability, they still want to be there. They still want to celebrate like everybody else does. Given the opportunity, they will show up and they will persevere.”

For Brooklyn and Yazmine, the FIFA experience offered something much simpler, too: a chance to experience a major sporting event together.



Orangeville municipal election draws 20 candidates ahead of nomination

Written By **SAM ODROWSKI**

Twenty candidates have now filed nomination papers to run for mayor, deputy mayor, councillor or school board trustee in Orangeville’s upcoming municipal election.

The list includes three candidates for mayor: incumbent Lisa Post, former councillor and Deputy Mayor Nick Garisto and Christopher DeCastro.

Incumbent Deputy Mayor Todd Taylor is the only candidate to have filed for deputy mayor to date.

The councillor race currently has 12 candidates, including incumbents Joe Andrews, Tess Prendergast, Debbie Sherwood and Rick Stevens.

Other candidates who have filed for council are Carrie-Anne DeCaprio, Michelle Hartley, Tricia Hebert, James Jackson, Lindsay Lupton, Vivian Petho, Sandra Pratt and Matthew Smith.

Five candidates have filed for school board trustee positions, with one candidate registered for each of the English public, English separate and French separate boards. Two candidates have filed for the position of trustee with the French public board.

Incumbent Coun. Andy Macintosh has not filed nomination papers and confirmed on Aug. 11 he will not be seeking re-election due to health challenges.

“I want to take a moment to sincerely thank everyone who has supported me over the years, especially my family,” Coun. Macintosh wrote in a social media post. “Your encouragement has meant the world to me.”

The nomination period closes Aug. 21 at 2 p.m. Candidates will be certified by the Town of Orangeville clerk following the close of nominations.

The municipal election is scheduled for Oct. 26, with the new council term beginning in November.

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From Shelburne to Paris: Special Olympics athlete represents Canada on world stage

Written By SAM ODROWSKI

Shelburne's Yazmine Wilson-Daponte returned home from Paris, France, with a fourth-place finish, a Women's Fair Play Team Award and memories of representing Canada on the international stage.

But for the 22-year-old Special Olympics athlete and her family, the trip was about much more than what happened on the soccer field.

It was Yazmine's first time travelling overseas without her family, giving her an opportunity to compete for Canada, make new friends and experience a part of the world she may otherwise never have visited.

"It truly is a trip of a lifetime," said her mother, Karrie Daponte. "To be able to go for a sport on her own, with a group of peers, was amazing."

Yazmine was one of six athletes with intellectual disabilities on Ontario's Unified women's team, which represented Canada at the 2026 Special Olympics Unified Football World Cup in Paris from July 6 to 11.

The tournament brought together 24 teams from around the world, with Unified teams featuring athletes with and without intellectual disabilities competing side by side.

Canada faced Egypt, Slovakia and Hong Kong in group-stage play before finishing fourth overall.

For Yazmine, who had never previously travelled outside North America, the experience began long before she stepped onto the field.

She and her teammates spent months preparing for the tournament, including additional goalie training after she was selected as a backup goalkeeper about a week and a half before leaving for Paris.

The selection itself had been something of a surprise.

When Yazmine first attended the tryouts, her mother told her they were simply going to play soccer and learn some new skills. Yazmine did not realize she was being evaluated for a spot on Team Canada.

Daponte believes her daughter's enthusiasm and ability to encourage her teammates helped set her apart.

And that same enthusiasm followed Yazmine to Paris.

Canada was recognized with the Women's Fair Play Team Award, honouring the team's sportsmanship and conduct throughout the tournament.

Yazmine said she was proud of the recognition, particularly seeing her teammates cheer each other on and show respect to the other teams.

"It was all about sportsmanship and teamwork," Daponte said. "They were giving high-fives to everybody. They were very polite to the other teams."

The Fair Play Award was particularly fitting

for a player whose selection had been influenced by more than athletic ability.

Special Olympics Ontario said the athletes chosen for the team were selected for their commitment to inclusion, teamwork and community leadership, as well as their athletic skills.

For Yazmine, those qualities have been developed through years of participating in sports and community programs.

She now takes part in a long list of activities, including Special Olympics baseball, bocce and track and field, as well as bowling, basketball and curling during the winter. She also participates in snowboarding through a program at Horseshoe Valley Resort in Barrie.

Her involvement in sport has helped build confidence and independence, according to her mother.

"She is just very proud," Daponte said. "She doesn't always have the words to say it, but she's very proud."

The trip to Paris was another significant step in that development.

Yazmine travelled without her family, something Daponte described as an accomplishment in itself. Although Yazmine has experience attending overnight camps, travelling by plane to another country and spending more than a week with a new team was a different challenge.

"She went on her own, so that in itself was a big accomplishment," Daponte said.

Once in Paris, there was little time to sit still.

The team had early-morning games after a heat wave forced organizers to adjust the schedule, along with practices and other activities. When she wasn't playing soccer, Yazmine and her teammates had opportunities to explore the city.

She saw the Eiffel Tower, took a boat tour, visited a museum and spent lots of time walking around Paris.

She also experienced the camaraderie that comes with being part of a team travelling halfway around the world.

"We had a lot of fun," Yazmine said.

For Daponte, watching her daughter experience those moments brought the significance of the trip into focus.

Yazmine was once nonverbal, and Daponte said she has spent years watching her daughter reach milestones that might seem small to others but carry enormous meaning for their family.

Getting to Paris was another of those milestones, made possible in part by the support of the local community.

Yazmine raised more than \$2,500 toward her trip, exceeding her individual fundraising target. The team's fundraising efforts also helped support athletes who were unable to raise enough money themselves.

In June, a celebrity server fundraiser at Or-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

COMPETING ABROAD: Yazmine Wilson-Daponte (third from right, back row) competes for Team Canada during the 2026 Special Olympics Unified Football World Cup in Paris, France. The Shelburne athlete helped Canada finish fourth overall.



ONCE IN A LIFETIME OPPORTUNITY: Yazmine Wilson-Daponte (left photo) is seen standing in front of the Eiffel Tower in Paris, France during her time competing with Team Canada in the 2026 Special Olympics Unified Football World Cup. Wilson-Daponte (right photo) holds up the Women's Fair Play Team Award, honouring the team's sportsmanship and conduct throughout the tournament.

angeville Boston Pizza raised \$762.25 toward Yazmine's travel costs, with additional support coming from local businesses, families and residents.

Yazmine said she was grateful to everyone who helped her reach Paris.

"Thank you, everyone in Shelburne. Thank you, Orangeville, Dufferin County. Thank you to everyone that donated to Team Canada," Yazmine said.

The community also followed along while she was overseas, with supporters watching livestreams of the games and cheering her on from home.

For Daponte, the trip represented something much bigger than a soccer tournament.

She recalled people questioning whether Yazmine belonged in a mainstream school and doubting what she would be capable of ac-

complishing.

Then, roughly a year later, her daughter was boarding a plane to Europe as a member of Team Canada.

"I don't like when people don't think that they can do things," Daponte said. "With the proper things in place, they can."

Now home, Yazmine has already moved on to her next challenges.

She continues to play sports throughout the year and is looking forward to more opportunities with Special Olympics.

But for Daponte, the significance of Paris goes beyond the result on the field. It is another milestone in a series of accomplishments that once seemed far less certain.

"Those little successes may not mean anything to anybody else, but to her, to us, it's a big thing," Daponte said.

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Orangeville artists bring local talent to library pop-up exhibit later this month

Written By **SAM ODROWSKI**

The Orangeville Art Group is bringing the work of 13 local artists to the Orangeville Public Library this month as part of a new summer pop-up exhibition.

The exhibition came together after OAG President Stephanie Casino Esguerra reached out to the library about partnering to showcase local artistic talent.

“After a few meetings and several months of planning, we’re excited to have brought this exhibition to life,” Casino Esguerra enthused.

The participating artists come from a variety of backgrounds and work across a wide range of mediums and styles.

Some artists work in cyanotype and multimedia, while others specialize in acrylic and oil painting, sculpture and design.

“Our members work in a range of abstract to realism; you will have to come to the show to see the wide range of talent that our exhibitors possess,” Casino Esguerra said.

The pop-up exhibition will be open Aug. 22 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Aug. 23 from noon to 3:30 p.m. Hours are subject to change.

There will not be a formal opening reception or special programming, but several participating artists will be available during the exhibition to discuss their work and the

Orangeville Art Group.

Artwork will also be available for purchase. Visitors interested in buying a piece can speak directly with the artist about pricing, payment and delivery. If an artist isn’t at the exhibition, an OAG member can provide their contact information.

The group hopes the exhibition will be the beginning of a longer-term relationship with the library and create more opportunities for residents to experience local art.

“The Orangeville Art Group is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to showcasing and supporting visual arts talent in Orangeville and the surrounding communities,” Casino Esguerra said

The group’s mission includes promoting local artwork, providing opportunities for artists to exhibit and sell their work, and offering art education experiences to the community.

“We hope this pop-up exhibition marks the beginning of a meaningful relationship with the Orangeville Public Library,” Casino Esguerra said. “Our goal is to create more opportunities for people throughout Orangeville and the surrounding areas to explore their own creativity and experience the many benefits of artistic expression.”

For more information about the Orangeville Art Group, visit: orangevilleartgroup.com.



FILE PHOTO

SHOWCASING LOCAL ART: The Orangeville Public Library will host a summer pop-up exhibition featuring the work of 13 local artists from the Orangeville Art Group on Aug. 22 and 23. The exhibition will showcase a range of mediums and styles, including painting, sculpture, cyanotype and multimedia work.

For the love of reading: Readers’ Choice brings used books to the community for over 25 years

Written By **CONSTANCE SCRAFIELD**

Veronica Cvet loves being part of Broadway’s history, as she sees it, through her used books store at 151 Broadway, which is part of a heritage-designated row of buildings in Orangeville’s downtown. The people of Orangeville are very proud of their municipality’s determination to keep the essence of Broadway as it is: beautiful, with shops and restaurants suitable to its image.

Including Cvet’s Readers’ Choice.

In an interview this week with the Citizen, she emphasized how much it means to her to be part of this neighbourhood and tend her store.

“Once you’ve been doing it for so long,” she said, “it’s just like family; you just do. Every time I come in, I think, ‘hello store.’ It has a life to it with people coming in every day. It has supported me in my life. And I love the history of Broadway, being part of it. There is something cool about being part of this local history.”

Cvet says she wants to stay at her store until she is 80.

Her own history with it began some years

ago when her friend Sharon Thomas opened in 1997 with Mad Hatter and then Blooming. Once a week, in front of Blooming, they would take a folding table with a chequered tablecloth and chairs to sit outside and have lunch. Thomas told her she was looking for a business partner, and they moved into 151 Broadway to run a bookstore.

It made sense to Cvet, as she was an avid reader.

“I just thought I could do this,” she recalled. “I never had a business before. After a while, I asked Sharon if she wanted to sell me her half of the business and she agreed – she was getting into other things.”

Cvet offered the impressive statistic that she sells up to 20,000 books per year, flying in the face of the notion that people do not want to read books anymore in favour of tech alternatives.

Her comment was that people say reading books is a dying thing, but, as she put it, “It isn’t here. Tech has not been that big an influence.”

When a mention was made that the value of the location of the shop must help, Cvet denied it. Her observations have taught her

that what is in the store is the prime incentive for shoppers.

Visitors from far and wide come to Readers’ Choice as regulars to see what is new in her vast array of books. All the books are used books, and in her routine of keeping her stock up and watching for trends, Cvet goes shopping for books once to three times a week. What she learns as she brings books back is always interesting.

Her mantra is that if the shop has what people want, they will travel to shop there. So, the content, not the location, matters most. In a nutshell, “Either you have what they want or you don’t,” Cvet said.

This includes the popularity of her line of products, including some t-shirts, puzzles, and read-aloud children’s books, to name a few.

Orangeville, with its charming shops and restaurants, is a destination.

When it comes to promoting Orangeville, however, Cvet noted that the videos made about the town might not be as useful promotion tools as humour could be. She explained this by talking about an event at a hotel that discussed the use of humour rath-

er than videos and remarked that the town’s “Love, Orangeville” campaign is, to her eyes, only a repetition of “I love New York.”

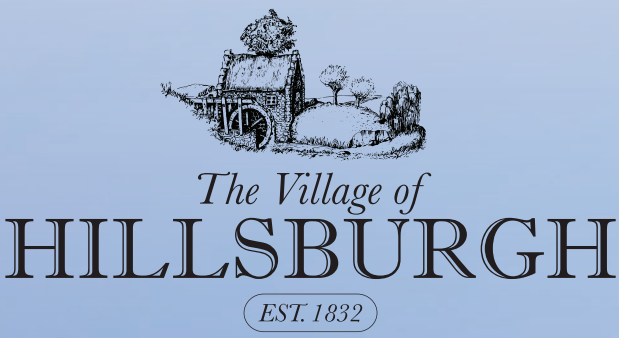
She certainly has developed her understanding of running her business over the years, saying, “You have to keep up your standard.”

Business is not a hobby for Cvet. She noted that her business is what supports her, and it is important to keep working; even when she travels, she is on the lookout to buy books.

High-priced books that are valuable for their age and condition are another issue, but one Cvet does not pursue. She said she had an Anne of Green Gables book signed by Montgomery, which, after holding on to it for eight years, finally sold for \$5,000.

Still on her best-selling list is Agatha Christie for being readable for people in their early teens. Classics are making a comeback, and Stephen King and Louise Penny are still loved. The 1940s books enjoy popularity with the likes of Robertson Davies.

“It’s a good business to be in,” said Cvet. “I hope books will always be around.”



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Hansen Boulevard connection opens after years of delays

Written By **SAM ODROWSKI**

After years of delays, development changes and frustration from residents, the long-awaited Hansen Boulevard connection is finally open in Orangeville.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony marking the road’s connection took place on Aug. 11, with representatives from Orangeville and the developer, Great Gulf.

The opening completes the final unconstructed section of Hansen Boulevard between Blind Line and Veterans Way, a major collector road that has been built in stages as surrounding residential developments have progressed. The completion has allowed the long-standing barricades at College Avenue to be removed, opening the road to through traffic.

Orangeville Mayor Lisa Post said the completed connection is a significant piece of infrastructure for the community, particularly for residents of the Veterans Way subdivision who have long had limited access to the rest of Orangeville due to the barriers at College Avenue.

“Honestly, this piece of infrastructure is such a significant connectivity piece for the community, just really making sure that the Veterans Way subdivision residents feel more connected to the rest of Orangeville,” Mayor Post said. “It has been a long road, and I know residents were frustrated by that.”

The Hansen Boulevard alignment was planned through a municipal Class Environmental Assessment in 2006-07. The western stretch of the road, between Blind Line and Veterans Way, was constructed in three incremental segments between 2008 and 2016 as surrounding subdivisions were developed, with a creek crossing over a tributary of Lower Monora Creek built by the town in 2023 as part of the planned Hansen Boulevard connection.

The last remaining stretch fell within future subdivision lands owned by the developer, meaning the town could not simply construct the road itself.

Mayor Post said the biggest factor behind the delay was the timing of development.

“No developer was going to build the road

until they were ready to build homes,” she said.

Post said the Town could have pursued other options, including annexing the land itself, but decided against it.

“It’s not the right way to do it. The right way is to have the developer do it,” she said.

The road required underground servicing for the new subdivision, meaning water, sewer and other infrastructure needed to be installed before the final road could be completed.

“Because underneath that road is the servicing that their new subdivision is going to require, so that all goes into the ground first before the road is constructed on top of it,” Mayor Post said.

“You don’t want to build the road and then rip it all up to put servicing in when it’s development time.”

The town’s project information says the developer was unable to proceed with the subdivision because home sales were needed to begin construction, while challenges in the construction economy and real estate market delayed the project.

The lands changed hands in July 2022, when NG Citrus Limited, an entity of Great Gulf, became the owner. The company subsequently moved forward with the next phase of the subdivision.

“Once Great Gulf acquired the land, they were extremely motivated to work with the town, to work with the community, and really to be good community partners,” she said.

“They knew how important this connection was for us.”

Mayor Post said Great Gulf continued moving ahead despite the difficult housing market across Ontario.

“Development across the province has basically stopped, and that could have been a very good reason for them to say, ‘We don’t want to build this road right now,’ but they did,” she said.

Mayor Post added that the developer understood the connection was also important to moving forward with its housing plans.

“They’ve got homes scheduled to be built there, and they knew that this was a key piece of those homes being built,” she said.

The Hansen connection has been the subject of repeated questions and frustration in the community for years. Construction on the next phase of the development began in fall 2025, with work including the internal road network and the remaining Hansen Boulevard connection.

The opening also marks the end of the long-standing barricades at College Avenue.

In 2022, council rejected a motion to open College Avenue to traffic before the Hansen Boulevard missing link was complete. Council was told the Hansen connection was expected to be completed by fall 2023, with a worst-case timeline extending into summer 2024.

The proposal to open College Avenue would have allowed residents west of the missing Hansen section to travel through the roadway, but council ultimately kept the road closed.

Mayor Post said the decision was intended to prevent traffic from being funnelled through College Avenue before Hansen was available to serve as the area’s primary east-west connection.

“One of the reasons that we kept College closed is because that opening really could have fed all of the traffic for Veterans Way down it, which wouldn’t have been the right thing to do,” she said.

“College is not meant to be that type of road, Hansen is. So once Hansen opened, it was always the plan that College Avenue would open as well.”

Now that the connection is open, the town plans to monitor how traffic moves through the area.

Mayor Post said she has spoken with the town’s traffic engineering team about beginning traffic counts and speed monitoring, with some data collection expected around the beginning of the school year.

“Will there be enhanced traffic? Probably a little bit. Do I think it’s going to be hugely significant? I don’t,” she said.

“But I have talked to my traffic engineer team to ensure that we start doing those traffic counts and speed monitoring as soon as possible to make sure that we’re not being reactive. We want to be proactive in how we’re handling that enhanced traffic.”

The town has also announced that transit service will be expanded to the area this fall, with buses able to use the new connection.

While the road is now open, some construction work remains. Mayor Post said another layer of asphalt will be added after more of the surrounding development is completed, while truck traffic will continue as housing construction moves forward.

She estimated the first phase of housing construction could take about 18 months.

The town identified the Hansen Boulevard connection as a major collector road intended to connect Blind Line in the east with Veterans Way to the west. Its completion is tied to the surrounding residential development, including the Edgewood Valley Phase 2B lands owned by NG Citrus Limited, an entity of Great Gulf.

For Mayor Post, the road represents more than improved traffic flow.

“Absolutely, this was a key to unlock more housing, so I’m excited for that,” she said.

She said the experience also reinforced the importance of coordinating transportation infrastructure with development.

“I think there’s an opportunity when we’re doing development to make sure that the infrastructure is there to support it early on in the process,” Mayor Post said.

She said she understands the frustration residents experienced while waiting for the connection.

“I just want to thank the community for their patience. I understand how frustrating it has been over the years,” Mayor Post said. “As a member of council, I have felt frustrated with the process as well.”

“I think that now that Hansen’s open, it’s funny — we’ll probably look back in a year and forget what it was like when it was closed, because it’s just going to be such a natural path,” she added.

Mayor Post also urged drivers to respect the posted speed limits now that traffic can travel through the area.

“Just respect your neighbours, follow the speed limits, take care of each other and watch for pedestrians,” Mayor Post said. “We can all have a nice, safe route there now.”

Coun. Tess Prendergast seeks county review of potential data centre impacts

Continued from FRONT

“It is preventative. It’s better to know what we have, what capacity we have in advance of these potentially good economic things coming. We don’t want to be biased one way of the other, but we do need to drink water.”

Deputy Mayor Todd Taylor acknowledged there has not been an application or queries about a data centre in Orangeville. But, he said, the town can’t support a large business coming to Dufferin County.

“Even if there was a will to have it, we do not have the resources to do it in this geographic area,” he said. “And that’s the end of the story.”

Coun. Prendergast said provincial priorities often trump local priorities and she cited as evidence an application by a company that is feared would interfere with water resources in nearby Melancthon.

Strada Aggregates has proposed a below-the-water-table limestone quarry that has raised residents’ concerns. The project will cut through an underground stream

that supplies water to Horning’s Mills wells.

“I don’t think it’s impossible and I think we need to safeguard Dufferin County,” Coun. Prendergast said.

In response to another question, Tim Kocialek, the town’s infrastructure services general manager, said Orangeville last year built a new water storage facility, and there are plans for an additional well to be brought online in two or three years.

“We’re also looking at other opportunities for improvements to the system to gain more capacity,” Kocialek said.

Josh McKeown, an Orangeville resident, said he supported Prendergast’s notice of motion about regional water resources infrastructure. Economic benefits should be weighed against local and regional impacts before something like a data centre application arrives, he said.



SMOKE BILLOWS: A large plume of smoke rises from a vehicle fire near the intersection of Airport Rd and County Road 7 (Hockley Road) in Mono on Aug. 5 at approximately 4:30 p.m. The fire was believed to have been caused by a mechanical issue, with no injuries reported.

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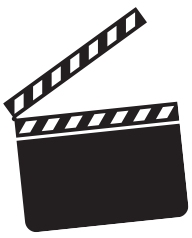
FM 92 SOUTH SIMCOE



FM 101 MILTON

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Arts & Entertainment



LOCAL COMMUNITY EVENTS

Murder, mystery and mayhem take the stage at Theatre Orangeville

Written By JOSHUA DRAKES
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Sherlock Holmes is back — and is bringing plenty of laughs with him.

Theatre Orangeville’s Dramatic Young Company is diving into Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery by Ken Ludwig. This fast-paced theatrical romp combines the familiar ingredients of a classic murder mystery with comedy, physical theatre and a healthy dose of stagecraft.

At the centre of the story are Holmes and his loyal sidekick, Dr. Watson, as they attempt to unravel a deadly mystery involving suspicious characters, unexpected deaths and clues that may not be quite what they seem.

“It’s basically going to be every classical murder mystery,” a Young Company member said. “There’s villains, clues and of course, our detective Sherlock and his sidekick Dr. Watson. They’re going to be meeting a whole bunch of characters and will try to solve the mystery of people who have been dying out of the blue.”

For audiences unfamiliar with the famous detective, the production promises to work simply as an entertaining murder mystery. Sherlock Holmes fans, meanwhile, can enjoy the familiar characters and references woven into the story.

The production is anything but conventional.

With a cast of young performers taking on more than 40 characters between them, some actors are switching roles at remarkable speed. One cast member is playing five distinct characters, ranging from a wise doctor to a creepy butler and an escaped convict.

The performers say the extreme differences between the characters help them jump from one personality to another.

“It’s actually quite easy to find distinct personalities for each of my characters,” one Young Company member said. “There are no two characters that you could possibly confuse with each other. They are all



JOSHUA DRAKES PHOTO

PLAYING MANY PARTS: The youth cast of Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery is eager to accept the challenge that comes with this production. Over 40 characters played by less than half that number of actors is a huge undertaking, but Theatre Orangeville’s Dramatic Young Company is ready to hit the ground running and promises to make each character unforgettable.

very unique.”

Another Young Company member, however, takes a different view.

“It is challenging for me,” they said. “But it also really keeps you on your toes, and it means there’s never a dull moment in this production.”

That rapid pace extends to the scenery.

Rather than stopping the action for set changes, the production is designed to transform. Rolling and sliding set pieces, actors hidden behind scenery and seamless transitions will help shift the action from one location to another without bringing the momentum to a halt.

The cast describes the effect as visually striking.

“I think the word that’s been used has been cinematic,” a Young Company member

said. “Some plays might have blackouts to move things. Here, things will be moved in front of your eyes, and I think that’s something that will be very exciting to see.”

And while there are plenty of deaths and even stage combat, the show doesn’t take itself too seriously. The cast says Ludwig’s comedy is carefully placed, allowing the humour to complement rather than overwhelm the mystery.

Audiences are also encouraged to play detective themselves, watching closely and deciding who they suspect before the answers are revealed.

For the young performers, Baskerville is more than another production. It is a chance to stretch their skills, tackle multiple characters and explore a style of theatre quite different from their previous fanta-

sy-focused shows.

“There’s a lot happening, and it’s different,” a Young Company member said. “There’s some scenes like when we’re just out in London, and everyone is involved in that, then it moves to scenes with two people, and then suddenly, someone else comes on, and you’ll think ‘I just saw this person as another character two seconds ago.’”

And for the audiences? The cast hopes it offers exactly what theatre can do best: an opportunity to step away from everyday life, enter another world and simply have fun.

With a mystery to solve, bodies to discover, characters to suspect and plenty of theatrical surprises along the way, Baskerville looks set to make Dramatic Young Company’s latest adventure one worth following closely.



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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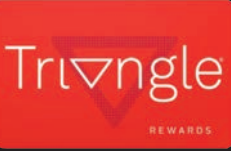
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The Citizen CROSSWORD

Puzzle No. 268210 • Solution on page: CLASSIFIEDS SECTION

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14				15					16			
17				18				19				
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	28								30			
31	32						33		34	35	36	37
38				39	40						41	
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46	47	48					49		50			
51				52	53	54			55		56	57
		58						59				
60	61						62	63			64	
65							66				67	
68							69				70	

CLUES ACROSS

1. Midway between south and southeast
4. Fathers
9. Wine grape
14. Al Bundy's wife
15. Derived from ammonia
16. Venezuelan state
17. Interest rate
18. Experts
20. Vascular tissues
22. Smooth and glossy
23. Administrative region in S. Korea
24. One from Damascus
28. Special interest group
29. It cools your home
30. Oh, God!
31. Intestinal pouches
33. Men
37. Twelfth star in a constellation
38. Former CIA
39. Arrange in grades of size
41. A baglike structure in a plant or animal

CLUES DOWN

1. Involuntary muscular contraction
2. Eastern US transit agency
3. Leaves a place
4. Cease to participate
5. Current units
6. Cease to exist
7. General's assistant (abbr.)
8. Earth vibration
9. Very strong winds
10. For each one
11. A bog
12. The creation of beautiful or significant things
13. Affirmative
19. Pie ____ mode
21. Nonclerical
24. Indonesian island
25. Educational environment
26. Namibian peoples
27. Bring out or develop
31. Moves into a place of thought
32. Out of the way

34. Loads a ship
35. Beloved Hollywood alien
36. Distinguishes
40. The ancient Egyptian sun god
41. Secondary or explanatory title
45. Relating to a wing
47. One who gives a speech
48. In the middle
52. Loop with a running knot
53. Airborne (abbr.)
54. Sweet persons
56. Put into play
57. Small cattle breed
59. Millisecond
60. Revolutions per minute
61. They ____
62. Moon crater
63. A place to stay the night

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Double Word Puzzle

Unscramble the individual words to reveal letters for the phrase.

NCEPLI

NOCAYR

ILSNE

RAT

U U

English: Hue
Spanish: Tonalidad
Italian: Tinta
French: Teinte
German: Buntton



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Can you guess what the bigger picture is?



SHADE
variation of colour

Answers: pencil, crayon, lines, art. Colour a picture

Answers: Colouring books

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24 g of protein | Per about 1/3 tenderloin (125 g)

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22⁹⁹

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SALE
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Parmesan

Cauliflower Bites
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Challengers Baseball wraps up season with final game at Springbrook Field

Written By **CHRIS PERROTTE**

The Challenger Baseball Club walked out onto the diamond for their final practice and game of the season on Friday, Aug. 7. For the children with disabilities who participate, playing the game they love made for a special season.

“It meant a lot, I loved hanging out with other people like me that have disabilities, and it was really fun,” said nine-year-old Hana Hill, who played her second year with the local club.

For 10 weeks following June 5, on Friday evenings, the Orangeville Bengal’s Challengers squad would gather together at the Springbrook Field in Orangeville to learn skills that would help them become better baseball players.

Robert Jeffrey, a volunteer with the Challengers who plays wheelchair softball, leads by example in encouraging the kids during practice.

“I come to play in my wheelchair to show them that it’s okay to use devices. You can still have fun and it should not be limited to your device or limited to whatever and however you want to participate,” he explained.

With family and friends in the bleachers watching and supporting, the kids had a game against the adults to wrap up the season. The young Challengers went to bat first and often. Let’s just say the adults never got a chance to bat and didn’t care if they did. They were too busy cheering on the kids as they hit the ball and ran the bases.

High fives and way-to-gos were often heard throughout the game from the adults. Sometimes the coach would yell “heavy hitter” as some of the stronger children came up to bat.

The final score wasn’t important, as the true goal of the game, every time they come together, is about having fun. Bruce Irwin, the grandfather of Nicholas Rehkoph-Irwin, who plays with the club, has seen how much being part of the Challengers has affected his grandson positively.

“He wants to come and he wants to play and every week he gets better,” Irwin said.

He added that the Blue Jays Foundation, which helps fund the program, has had a very positive impact.

“They gave them an experience at the [Sky] Dome that was outstanding for them. They just don’t get a chance to have that sort of thing. They got to run the field. It was a great experience for them,” Irwin said.

The Challenger Baseball Program partners with the Jays Care Foundation to help make these young athletes’ dreams come



WHAT A SWING: Iylah Vanalstine hits a single during the Challenger Baseball program’s final game on Aug. 7.



LET’S PLAY BALL: From left, Conner, Hana, Logan, and Nicholas played the Challengers final game of the season at Springbrook Field in Orangeville.

true. Like the opportunity for the Challengers to watch the Jays at the Rogers Centre earlier this year in the Jays Care Luxury Suite called the Jays Care Community Clubhouse.

The Challengers are a division of the Orangeville and Headwaters Minor Baseball Association.



READY TO PLAY BALL: Mylie Forrester practices her swing in anticipation of the Challenger Baseball program’s final game.



END OF SEASON: Josh Cabral, vice-president of the house league for the Orangeville Bengals, hands out gift packages to players at the end of Challengers final game of the season.

After the final game, everyone gathered around the pitcher’s mound as Stephanie Coombes, Challenger Baseball coordinator and coach, thanked them for their support and participation this season.

With the help of Josh Cabral, vice-president of the house league for Orangeville Bengals, she handed out medals, baseball caps and other goodies.

“The season overall was absolutely amaz-

ing with our 15 players and all the parents and volunteers that came out,” Coombes said. “I don’t think we could have had a better season. Year two was even better than year one, and I look forward to making it even better going forward.”

Any parents who are thinking about signing up their child next year to be a part of the Challengers Baseball Club, player Hana Hill said, “It is really fun and I personally feel like it’s nice to play with other kids like me.”

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Skate with the Firefighters event returns to Centre Dufferin Recreation Complex

Written By **CHRIS PERROTTE**

The second annual Skate with the Firefighters event will take place on Sept. 27 at the Centre Dufferin Recreation Complex.

Taking place from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. with the Shelburne and District Fire Department, this annual event promotes Test Your Smoke Alarm Day, which happens every Sept. 28.

This skating event helps raise awareness while encouraging local residents to test their smoke alarms and practice their home escape plans.

“We know batteries and alarms age, so we suggest that you test them monthly, to give you that piece of mind that you know they work,” said Dave Pratt, Fire Chief for the Shelburne and District Fire Department.

“If they have batteries, and a lot of

them don’t anymore, but if they do, we suggest you replace them in coordination with the changing of the clock. Spring forward, fall back with your clock is a good reminder to change your batteries.”

Pratt added, “A lot of smoke alarms now are anti-tamper proof, and they come with 10-year lithium-ion batteries so you don’t need to change the battery, but in 10 years, you need to replace the unit.”

During the event, the Shelburne Fire Department will have a table set up for people who need information on fire safety and smoke alarms.

Bring your skates as there are no skate rentals available on that day at the arena. The Skate with the Firefighters event is free to attend, and organizers hope as many people as possible will come to support it.

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OPINION

Of mala, baseballs and a messy metaphor

Baseball and meditation are closely aligned, I think.

This may be the cheesiest thing I'll write for this space. But bear with me. I'm on deadline.

There are 108 beads on the mala used by Buddhists. It's that looped string of beads you see them using when they're meditating or chanting mantras, using the beads to count them off and to keep track, like balls and strikes over innings. Or you see the Buddhists simply carrying them and worrying the beads between their thumb and finger. A calming action, I imagine, like fidgeting with something to still one's mind.

It's all meditating, I suppose.

An official baseball has 108 double stitches. It begins as a cork pit with rubber around it. That's the jewel in the lotus. And that's wrapped in wool string or yarn. I've read there's something like 400 or 500 yards of it wrapped and pulled tight around its core and rubber centre. The

leather that encloses the whole thing is held by 88 inches of thread.

I only mention all that because it shows the nature of baseball that's meticulous, like what I think meditation could be.

A pitcher on the hill, toeing the rubber shuts out the world beyond the field, focused on the task at hand, which is to hurl that ball in a specific way. There's the bit about striking the batter out, either looking or swinging. But I think the actual task is in throwing a chosen way. A certain pitch to fit the situation at hand.

I can throw neither a fastball nor a changeup. I was hit or miss throwing for accuracy most of the time when I used to lace cleats as part of a beer league baseball team. I'd like to blame that cock-eyedness on the beer, but I'm a realist. As with many things for me, the beer was an excuse.

The strike zone is only as wide as home plate. It starts at the batter's knees and extends to midway between the bat-

ter's shoulders and the top of the pants. I didn't know that. I always thought it was the shoulders. So basic baseball ignorance and the beer were both factors in how I fared on the diamond.

Okay. That's a realization. I accept that. This is a good exercise for me, like therapy or meditation.

Granted, the accuracy has to be a skill attained over many seasons of practice, but there are deeper aspects to standing all alone on that pile of dirt 10 inches high and staring down the 60 feet or so to the batter and the catcher.

It's in the choices and situational responses.

To throw at a certain speed as part of a pitch is ridiculous. Being able to consistently toss a higher-velocity fastball, whichever-seam, or a slower-velocity off-speed changeup or slider is unique to varying degrees across people. Just as how well or easily people weather many of life's differences over good days or

bad. Some of us are scarred more than others.

We leave the house and choose our pitches through the day, see where they land and what comes from them. The real work most often is in how we deal with the outcomes of our pitches, our actions.

I've heard it said that the jewel is compassion and the lotus is wisdom. I think that means learning from all the things wrapped and stitched around your life and your respective world. Some fastballs find success straight down the middle, but other times you're best off to just barely paint one of the strike zone's corners. And after so many of those, a change of pace is best, even when you can't see the signs to know which pitch is being called.

Growth comes from the grind during each outing on the mound and what we take from those experiences.



JAMES MATTHEWS
THE BUSTLE IN THE HEDGEROW

AI and bio-weapons

'Artificial intelligence' based on Large Language Models is shaping up to be the most efficient destroyer of value since the South Sea Bubble. After the crash, some specific functions of AI will eventually turn out to be genuinely revenue-generating, and a lot of jobs will duly disappear. But the biggest winner (and potentially biggest loser) is medical science.

Dr Brian Hie, a chemical engineer at Stanford University in California, has just revealed that his team has made the first viruses designed by artificial intelligence. They are 'bacteriophages,' viruses that only infect bacteria and are widely used to treat people with infections that resist other treatments.

However, natural bacteriophages sometimes fail, so Dr Hie used generative AI to design new ones that might do the job. The AI generated thousands of designs for new genomes that more or less fit the bill, and he chose around 300 of them to build in the lab. It's hard work, not magic, but he ended up with sixteen 'novel' bacteriophages that might work.

He applied them to petri dishes containing two harmful strains of E. coli, a common bacteria that lives in the human gut, and they killed the bacteria off. It's still early days, but if it is truly becoming pos-

sible to tailor-make bacteriophages that target specific bacteria, then we may be getting a major new weapon in the struggle against antibiotic resistance.

That problem is growing rapidly as the overuse of antibiotic medicines gives bacteria endless opportunities to evolve into new, more antibiotic-resistant forms. The Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation estimates that 1.34 million Americans will be dying each year from antibiotic-resistant diseases by 2050 (up from half a million now).

The ability to design genomes for unique bacteriophages that target specific diseases is indisputably a Good Thing for health care, but it is not necessarily a great thing for the world at large. "Although this is promising for life sciences application," wrote Prof. Tom Inglesby of Johns Hopkins University, "it also raises urgent biosafety and biosecurity questions."

"The ability to compose viral genomes now exists; the governance to safely steer it does not... Such genomes might encode new pathogens that cannot be contained by existing countermeasures." Probably nothing as bad as the Black Plague or even Covid, but who knows?

There are no mad scientists in this story. Not only did the scientists working on this

project follow all the existing protocols; they bent over backwards to ensure that what they were doing was safe. The training of their AI deliberately did not include the code for any viruses that can infect human beings.

They have not created 'Life' – viruses are not alive – although one day they might be able to synthesize a bacteria (which is alive) if they continue on the road they are following. However, they have already created a new field of biology that goes beyond the natural world. You could call it 'synthetic biology' – and the sky's the limit.

The downside of this triumph is the fact that everybody working in the field, and perhaps already some people with less admirable ambitions, knows that it is now possible, at least in principle, to design new viruses that will do almost anything the designer wants. The cat is out of the bag, and there is no way to stuff it back in.

Science at the sharp end is often like this, with great potential for good and considerable potential for evil. It's people who decide how new scientific breakthroughs will be used, and that's what human beings are like. They are also slow to respond to new risks until some major disaster persuades them that they should

take the danger seriously.

The biomedical and allied trades are currently having a golden age of discovery, and the 'ability to compose viral genomes' is only one of several scientific domains in which great advances are accompanied by high risk. The security in the labs is usually very good; the wider dissemination of sensitive information is not well controlled.

Synthetic biology will doubtless save a great many lives, but it will also make possible a whole new suite of 'low probability, high impact' events. A really bad global pandemic, created with malice aforethought, could be just as destructive as a medium-sized nuclear war. Moreover, it would take a lot fewer people to get a pandemic going.

Scientists are diligently applying the usual biosafety rules to this new biotechnology, but it's still not enough. Stricter rules and closer supervision are needed, even if necessary at the cost of slower progress in the new technology.

Treat it like they treated the new nuclear technology in the 1940s, because the consequences of misusing it could be just as serious.



GWYNNE DYER
OUR WORLD TODAY

Along the Scottish trail

The kids in the breakfast room were great. About twenty of them. There was every age from one to six, maybe. Boys for the most part, they were energetic and excited for the day of whatever their parents had planned. They all knew some of it and exchanged commentary in a tremendous babble, each quoting his or her own authority, with the sincere confidence of one who has done his research.

One mother said that her husband was dashing from Orangeville to where we were in Peterborough to take their children go-karting, and laughed at the coincidence of meeting the Citizen in such an out-of-the-way place.

Consistent was the talk about the hotel swimming pool, where they would surely end their day as they had the evening before, in a rampage of towels and parents attempting to bring that day to an end, while leaving the floor adorned in pools of dripping tiny feet, fleeting moments of "happiness is."

We were making a stopover at the hotel on our way to a village called Maxville, where the Glengarry Highland Games are set annually on the first of August. Sometimes the largest Highland Games in the world, in the number of pipe and drums playing in the main field, there were over

1,400 playing "Amazing Grace" this year.

The following weekend, with two days to recover from the first and be ready for the second, saw us and our trailer wheeling into the preparations on site for the Fergus Highland Games last weekend. Months of preparing for this double demand had seen to it that we were ready: our jewellery polished and many pieces already set on our display, only waiting to be placed strategically on the tables. Those had to be hauled out of the trailer, set up and adorned with the appropriately designed Celtic cloths.

We raised our sign to direct all who wished to visit Celtic Fair, selling sterling silver jewellery. Patricia's post was at the cash and her particular corner where she could talk to customers about special orders and her other jewellery services.

People did wish to come and visit us, and our co-worker, Jennifer and I made a dance of it. Celtic jewellery is more than simply that. Each piece carries a story or a bit of history about the Celts, whose strengths and history date back thousands of years. We rightly think of them as largely living in the British Isles, but there were Celts living across ancient Europe, even into Germany.

Some of their designs, dating back thousands of years, are as modern as today

and as elegant as any designer could wish for.

Jennifer and I told the stories and explained the curious patterns in the metal, passing the telling between us, in exchanges with our customers at once full of fun and wonder. A large number of people, we are happy to say, are regulars who regard their visits to our tent as a part of their pleasure in coming to the festivals. A joy that is also a responsibility to be sure, as every vendor must, to know that our quality standards must be kept.

We were far from being the only ones with stories and information at such festivals. Others bring research into family names or can reproduce images of ancient family crests. They can explore families' histories and dig into tales that might relate to their decedents.

Naturally, food sold at such affairs reflects the common theme and, somehow, the varied reaction to a meal like haggis is enthusiastically received by some who know it and not so much to others when they learn a bit about the recipe.

The food trucks serve meat pies as good as you will ever eat and fish and chips to perfection. Other nations join the food category with equally fine fare, and this brings more welcome to one and all.

Most of these Scottish festivals invite those farmers to raise their Highland cattle for a memory of the pastures far away.

The Highland Games see many hundreds of people attend and, as such, are an enormous amount of work. Like festivals of every ilk, they are run essentially by volunteers and could not exist without them.

For those of us who attend, it is likewise a huge job to be ready and a considerable expense to be there in full vigour, as one might say, throwing our trust and respect into the event.

Such cultural events are a tremendous boon to the historical security of many people living particularly in this region, to which so many British and Irish people came during the litany of hardships they suffered, and as an adventure to see what the "new world" might hold for them. Inevitably, they brought their culture with them, which echoes the depths of who they are and remain.

It is a grand thing, then, for the pipes to play and the sticks to drum to recall, in such an excellent way, the tines of their ancient roots.



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COMMUNITY VOICES

Back-to-school readiness: Setting your child up for success

As August comes to a close, families begin preparing for the return to school. Moving from relaxed summer routines to structured school days can be a big adjustment, especially for children and teens with disabilities and learning differences.

The good news is that small changes throughout August can make the transition smoother and help children feel more confident, prepared, and ready to learn.

One of the most important places to start is sleep. Late nights, inconsistent schedules, and extra screen time over the summer can make those first weeks of September especially challenging.

Experts recommend gradually shifting bedtime and wake-up times about two weeks before school begins.

A consistent sleep routine helps regulate the body's internal clock and supports attention, learning, emotional regulation, memory, and overall well-being.

Creating predictable daily routines can also reduce stress. Practicing morning routines, setting regular meal times, and reintroducing structured activities throughout the day help children adjust to the rhythm of school before the first day arrives.

Visual schedules, checklists, calendars, or timers can be especially helpful for children who benefit from knowing what to expect and having clear routines.

August is also a great time to rebuild independence. Encourage your child to practice skills they will use at school, such as packing their backpack, choosing clothes the night before, preparing simple snacks or lunches, organizing school supplies, or following a morning checklist. These small routines build confidence while helping mornings feel calmer and more manageable.

As school approaches, take time to talk about the transition. Discuss what your child is looking forward to, any worries they may

have, and strategies that have helped them in the past.

Visiting the school or playground, reviewing classroom routines, reconnecting with friends, or reading books about starting school can help make the return feel more familiar and reduce anxiety.

Reducing screen time before bed remains an important part of preparing for school.

Blue light from phones and tablets can interfere with the body's natural production of melatonin, making it harder to fall asleep. Replacing screens with reading, drawing, quiet play, gentle stretching, or calming music can help children wind down more easily and signal that bedtime is approaching.

For children who feel particularly anxious about returning to school, a little extra preparation can go a long way.

If possible, arrange a visit to the school before the first day to walk through the hallways, locate their classroom, or spend time on the playground.

Some schools may also be able to arrange a brief introduction to the teacher or support staff before classes begin. Seeing familiar faces and practising the school routine ahead of time can reduce uncertainty, build confidence, and help children feel more comfortable walking through the doors on their first day.

Finally, remember that every child adjusts differently. Some will settle into routines quickly, while others may need extra time,

flexibility, and support.

Celebrate small successes, be patient with setbacks, and remember that consistency matters more than perfection. The goal isn't a perfect start; it's creating routines that help your child feel rested, organized, confident,

and ready to learn.

If your child needs extra support with the transition back to school, WonderTree is here to help. Our team offers individualized therapy, parent coaching, executive functioning support, psychoeducational assessments, and school consultation to help children and teens build the skills and confidence they need for a successful school year.

Whether your child is navigating anxiety, developing routines, strengthening organization skills, or adjusting to a new classroom, we're here to partner with your family every step of the way.

This week's Community Voice submission was provided by the team at WonderTree Child, Adolescent, and Family Practice.





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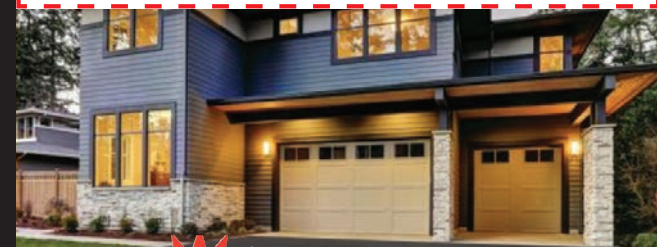
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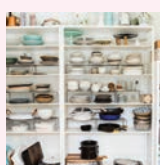
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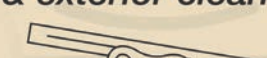
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SUMMER CONCERT SERIES: The Amy Experience, a tribute to singer Amy Winehouse, performs at Fiddle Park on Aug. 9 as part of Shelburne's Sunday Concert Series. The nine-piece band, featuring a full horn section, was the headlining act for the evening, which also featured local performers The Matlocks. The free concert series continues throughout August with live music featuring tribute acts, local artists and a variety of musical styles.



OBITUARIES

In Loving Memory of
BRUCE EDGAR HORSLEY
May 22, 1941 - August 6, 2026

Bruce Edgar Horsley passed away peacefully on August 6, 2026 with Anne, his loving wife of 61 years and his children, Keith and Kim (Dave) by his side. He was in his 86th year. Bruce will be dearly missed by his sister Alinda (Art) Bishop and will be remembered by nieces and nephews, cousins, friends and neighbours.

Bruce was a family man, a farmer and dedicated public servant. For his entire life, he farmed on the 3rd line of Amaranth Township. Bruce was a Junior Farmer and 4H leader. He was past president of the Federation of Agriculture, Dufferin County Milk Producers and Shelburne Agriculture Society. He also spent many years as a School Board Trustee, a Municipal Councillor and on Dufferin County Council. He enjoyed retirement by joining the New Horizons Club, collecting antique farm equipment, traveling and helping his children with their projects.

Bruce was predeceased by his parents, Edgar and Mona (Richardson) Horsley, his in-laws Clarence and Margaret (McElwain) Trimble, his sister Donna (Kees) van Poelgeest, brother-in-law Bill Trimble and sister-in-law Helen (Bill) Winthrop.

A celebration of Bruce's life will be held in the Warriors Hall at the Royal Canadian Legion, 203 William Street, Shelburne on August 16, 2026 from 1-4 p.m. We will have a sharing of memories at 2:00 p.m. If you have stories of remembrance of Bruce, we welcome you to share them. Should you wish to make an expression of sympathy, please consider Headwaters Health Care Centre/Orangeville Hospital, Matthews House Hospice in Alliston or a charity of your choice. Online condolences and donations may be placed at www.jackandthompsonfuneralhome.com



Dufferin, Wellington and Guelph to mark FASD Awareness Day with community walk

Written By **SAM ODROWSKI**

Dufferin, Wellington and Guelph to mark FASD Awareness Day with community walk

A community walk marking Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Awareness Day is planned for Sept. 9 at Riverside Park in Guelph.

Dufferin Wellington Guelph FASD, a program of Dufferin Child and Family Services, is hosting the event, which will include a short walk followed by pizza and activities.

Participants will gather at the Red Picnic Shelter at Riverside Park, 709 Woolwich St., between 6 and 6:15 p.m. The walk will begin at 6:30 p.m., followed by pizza and activities at 6:45 p.m. The event is scheduled to conclude at 7:45 p.m.

There is no registration required. Participants are encouraged to wear red or red shoes, which are associated with FASD awareness through the Red Shoes Rock movement.

Dufferin County council will also issue an official proclamation recognizing FASD Awareness Month.

"Thanks to our team, community partners, parent advocates, and those with lived experience, we have made meaningful progress in raising awareness of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD), reducing stigma, and fostering greater understanding of the challenges and opportunities faced by individuals affected by FASD," said Jennifer Moore, CEO of Dufferin Child and Family Services.

For more information, visit dcafs.on.ca/fasdawarenessday2026.

JANET SPEERS

Peacefully at home in her 90th year, on her 66th Wedding Anniversary, Thursday, July 30th, 2026. Beloved wife of Harold Speers. Dear mother of Rob (Deb), Bette Anne, Patti (Paul) Paterson and David. Cherished grandmother of Trent (Sarah) and Neil. Loving sister of Margaret Anderson (Gordon, 2012) and sister-in-law Katherine (Evan) Craig and Nancy (Phil) Allen. Predeceased by brothers, sister-in-laws and brother-in-laws George (Barbara) Pinkney, Robert (Irene) Pinkney, Wayne Speers and Bryan Speers. Janet will also be greatly missed by other relatives and a number of life long friends.

Visitation will be held at the Dods & McNair Funeral Home, Chapel & Reception Centre, 21 First St., Orangeville on Tuesday, August 18th, 2026 from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Funeral Service will be held at St. Mark's Anglican Church 5 First Avenue Orangeville, on Wednesday, August 19th, 2026 at 11:00 am. Memorial donations to St. Mark's Anglican Church-Parish Nurse Ministry or Alzheimer Society, Dufferin County Chapter would be appreciated by the family. A tree will be planted in memory of Janet in the Dods & McNair Memorial Forest at the Island Lake Conservation Area, Orangeville. Condolences may be offered to the family at www.dodsandmcnair.com



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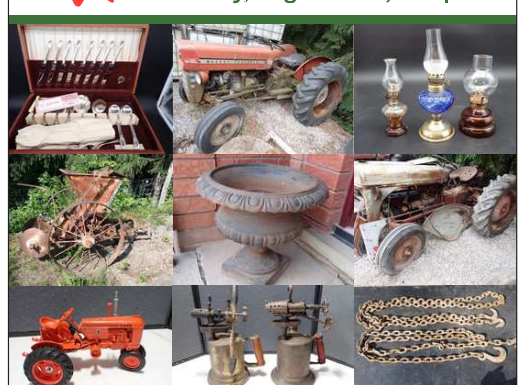
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WE PAY CASH for Scrap Vehicles – any size. We also buy construction and equipment. Open 7 days a week. Call 905-859-0817 (Peter).

ARTICLES WANTED

DUFFERIN COUNTY POSTAL HISTORY on Post Cards or Covers (Envelopes). Serious collector for required items. I would like to touch base with others who have a Dufferin County interest. If items are not for sale a good photocopy would be helpful. GeorgePower.gpower56@hotmail.com.

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

S	S	E		D	A	D	A	S		G	A	M	A	Y
P	E	G		I	M	I	D	E		A	P	U	R	E
A	P	R		S	P	E	C	I	A	L	I	S	T	S
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M	A	S	A	N		D	A	M	A	S	C	E	N	E
		S	I	G		A	C			E	G	A	D	
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O	S		G	R	A	D	A	T	E		S	A	C	
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M	E	R	L	E		S	Y	N	C	S		E	T	A

RESIDENTIAL
SERVICES & REPAIRS

SERVICES

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

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

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

PERSONAL

THANK YOU to ST. JUDE for favours received. SM

LOST

LOST TURTLE – If You Find TED Please Call 416-508-5319. 3 McClure Dr, King City

PLEASE RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER!

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

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

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

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

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

REMEMBER TO
SHOP LOCAL!

NEED TO Hire?

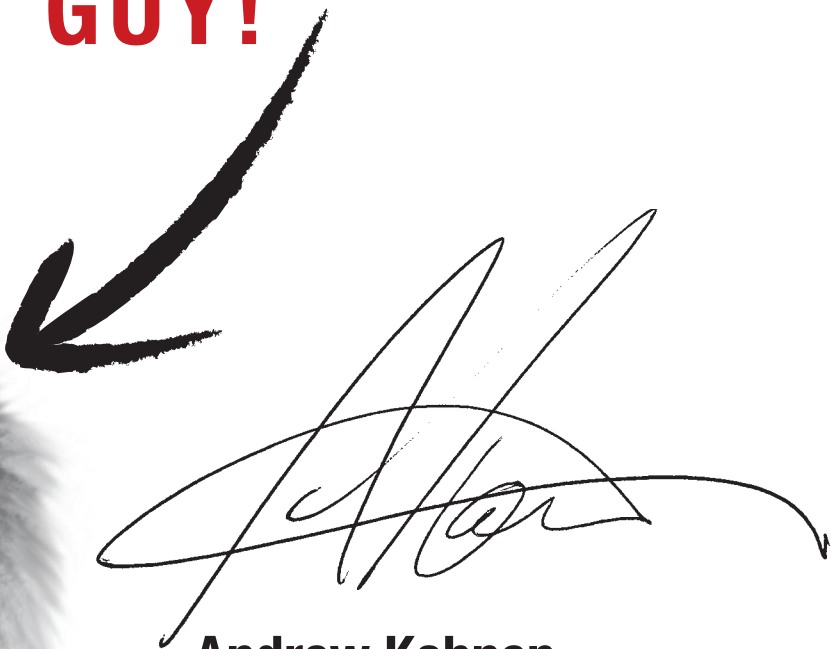
Call Caledon at **905-857-6626**
or Orangeville at **519-941-2230** to advertise.

Hockley

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CANADA

ORANGEVILLE, ONTARIO

BY THIS GUY!



Andrew Kohnen
Brewmaster

