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BEHIND THE FILMS: Filmmakers take part in a Q&A following a screening during the Dufferin Film Festival at Orangeville's historic Opera House on Friday, Aug. 14. The festival featured 19 Canadian short films and Q&As with filmmakers throughout the Aug. 14 to 16 weekend.

Dufferin Film Festival wraps third year with strong turnout and new family programming

Written By JOSHUA DRAKES
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Dufferin Film Festival has wrapped its third annual edition after a weekend of Canadian short films, filmmaker Q&As and community events that organizers say exceeded expectations.

The Aug. 14 to 16 festival brought 19 Canadian short films to Orangeville's historic Opera House, featuring a wide range of documentary, drama, comedy, horror, animation and coming-of-age stories. The lineup included films exploring identity, grief, family, belonging, cultural heritage and personal transformation.

Among the films screened were "Mica, I see myself in you," "The Little Town That Could," "Serenity," "Conditions of Release" and many more throughout the weekend.

Festival director Kelly McDowell described the 2026 festival as a great success.

"I honestly think it went above and beyond our expectations for this year, knowing that we had a completely new team in all new positions," she said. "We all feel really, really good about it; the feedback has been phenomenal."



FILMMAKERS PERSPECTIVE: Filmmakers answer questions from the audience during a Q&A following Saturday's screenings at the Dufferin Film Festival on Aug. 15 at the Opera House.

Continued on Page A4

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Orangeville to host event for Drug Poisoning Awareness Day

Written By JOSHUA DRAKES
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Dufferin-Caledon Drug Strategy Committee (DCDSC) will host a Drug Poisoning Awareness Day event Aug. 31, bringing community members together to remember lives lost to drug poisoning, hear from people with lived experience and learn about local supports.

The event runs from 3 to 6 p.m. at the Tony Rose Centre in Orangeville.

Raman Hansra, co-chair of the DCDSC, said that it is open to anyone interested in learning more about drug poisoning and its impact on individuals, families and the wider community.

“Drug poisoning means becoming seriously ill, having a negative reaction of some kind, or dying after consuming a toxic substance,” she said. “After the event, we’d hope people better understand the impact of drug poisoning, the importance of reducing stigma, and more information about resources and support.”

The afternoon will begin with a land acknowledgement, followed by an opening ceremony and a presentation led by Dr. Matthew Tenenbaum, Wellington Dufferin Guelph Public Health’s associate medical officer of health, examining local data and

the evolving unregulated drug supply.

Guest speakers, including people with lived and living experience, will share perspectives on the realities and impacts of drug poisoning.

Jacob MacKinlay, fellow co-chair, said that those personal experiences are an important part of understanding an issue that cannot be fully captured through research and statistics alone.

“The purpose of holding these events each year is not only to increase community awareness of the unregulated drug supply, but also to create meaningful and supportive spaces for those who may need them,” MacKinlay said.

“It is important that these events include the voices of people with lived and living experience who can speak to the realities and magnitude of the current situation. While we have access to research, data, and best practices, hearing directly from people about their experiences can bring a level of understanding, connection, and impact that information alone cannot always provide.”

The event will also feature naloxone training and opportunities to connect with community partners working in addictions and mental health, child and youth services, gender-based violence prevention, women’s services, health, housing and other sectors.

Rather than traditional organization-by-organization booths, this year’s event is designed to put people and their experiences at the centre. Shared resource tables will provide information about available programs and services while allowing more space for conversation and connection.

Interactive activities will include collaborative zine-making, bracelet-making and a short multiple-choice knowledge activity focused on substance use. Participants can use writing and art to reflect on the impact of drug poisoning, respond to prompts and share their thoughts.

MacKinlay said that they are using the term “drug poisoning” rather than “overdose” as part of an effort to reduce stigma and more accurately reflect the unpredictable nature of the unregulated drug supply.

“The shift from ‘overdose’ to ‘drug poisoning’ is also intended to reduce stigma by moving away from language that can imply someone simply took ‘too much’ or made a personal mistake,” he said. “Similar to how we say alcohol poisoning, not ‘alcohol overdose’, the term ‘drug poisoning’ focuses on the harmful effects of a substance, especially in an unpredictable drug supply, rather than placing blame on the person who used it.”

The committee hopes attendees leave with a better understanding of drug poisoning, less stigma and greater awareness of how they can support people and families in their community.

Hansra said that the event is intended for the entire community, not only those directly affected by substance use. Organizers say no personal connection or expertise is required.

“You don’t have to personally feel connected to the issue to attend,” she said. “Drug poisoning affects so many individuals and families in our community, and we are all part of that broader community. This is an opportunity to learn, understand and support each other.”

The afternoon is an opportunity to learn, reflect, remember those who have died and build more open and compassionate conversations about drug poisoning, prevention, harm reduction and community support.

As the unregulated drug supply continues to change, organizers say awareness and education remain important tools for helping Dufferin-Caledon respond to the ongoing impact of drug poisoning.

For more information and updates, visit: familytransitionplace.ca/2026/08/drug-poisoning-awareness-day-event

Riding for a cause: Local volunteer tackles 10-day journey to combat food insecurity

Written By JOSHUA DRAKES
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Orangeville resident Randy Hunter is once again taking to his bicycle to raise money for the Orangeville Food Bank, combining his passion for cycling with a cause he has supported as a volunteer for several years.

Hunter will use his cycling trip around Ontario, the Ride Food Bank Ride, to promote financial support for the Orangeville Food Bank. The trip bridges two things he holds dear: cycling and supporting those in need.

“I’m combining my love of cycling and the need at the food bank for this trip,” he said. “I volunteer at the food bank, and so I see firsthand what the needs are and the shape that some people are in. You see so many people coming in there that are working full-time jobs, but they just can’t keep up with inflation, housing and food costs.”

Hunter, who has volunteered at the food bank for three to four years, witnessed these struggles and decided that simply volunteering his time wasn’t enough. He wanted to actively support the food bank in a greater capacity by generating more cash for the or-

ganization to purchase essential foods and supplies.

While food donations remain important, Hunter said financial contributions are critical.

“Typically people will bring food, and that’s fantastic, but the food bank also needs money,” he said. “They’ve got to buy fresh produce all the time. Also stuff with milk, eggs, that kind of stuff too. We’ve got to buy it all the time, so the money is very important to keep coming in alongside food donations.”

Last year, Hunter raised \$7,221 through his cycling campaign. This year, he has set his sights even higher.

Hunter is aiming for a grand total of \$10,000.

The roughly 10-day cycling journey will take Hunter through a loop of communities across central and southwestern Ontario before bringing him back to Orangeville. His route will take him from Orangeville to Guelph, Elmira, Goderich, Kincardine, Owen Sound, Wasaga Beach, Midland, Orillia and Barrie before returning home.

Hunter chose the route in part because he

has friends and family in several of the communities, allowing him to arrange overnight stays along the way. This year, he is riding the route in the opposite direction from his previous campaign.

Hunter hopes the campaign will encourage others to support the food bank and other local organizations where they can. After more than two decades in Orangeville, he said the community’s continued willingness to support local causes has remained one of its defining qualities.

“I keep on waiting for a donor burnout that people have just had enough, but it doesn’t happen, and people just keep giving,” he said. “It’s just an incredible community. If we have a food bank drive... people are always giving. It just doesn’t seem to dry up.”

The campaign comes as demand for food bank services continues to increase, making Hunter’s fundraising goal particularly timely.

With a \$10,000 goal ahead of him, Hunter hopes his ride will turn kilometres on the road into much-needed support for the Orangeville Food Bank and the people it serves.



FILE PHOTO

CYCLING FOR A CAUSE: Orangeville resident Randy Hunter is preparing to cycle through central and southwestern Ontario as part of his Ride Food Bank Ride fundraiser for the Orangeville Food Bank. Hunter is aiming to raise \$10,000 this year after collecting \$7,221 through last year’s campaign.



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Orangeville pressing province on train station lands, water capacity at AMO

Written By **SAM ODROWSKI**

Orangeville is heading into this year’s Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Conference asking the province for support on two fronts: the future of the train station lands from Broadway to Town Line, and long-term water capacity.

The town has two confirmed delegations at the conference, which runs in Ottawa from Aug. 16 to 19.

The first delegation centres on the train station lands, which have been used for rail purposes and are expected to require environmental remediation before they can be redeveloped. The town is still determining the scope of that work, Post said, but wanted to raise the issue with the province early.

“We don’t have a plan for the lands yet, but what we do know is that there will be some environmental impact,” Post said. “We don’t

know how significant yet... but we do know that if we ever want to turn that land into housing, there will definitely need to be some remediation done. So we want to early on get the province’s support in principle to help us with the cost of remediation.”

The second delegation builds on a water sustainability conversation the town has had with the province since the start of Post’s term in 2022. The town has already received \$8.1 million through the Housing Enabling Water Systems Fund, which has gone toward well upgrades. The next phase includes expanded treated water storage, water main upgrades and other supply improvements.

“We’re using it really well,” Post said of the existing funding. Now she will tell her provincial counterparts at AMO, “here’s what we need to keep growing that in the future.”

Post is also attending AMO as warden of Dufferin County, where she has a separate

delegation with the province regarding the Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care Program. She said some local child-care providers have raised funding concerns with how the program is structured in Ontario, which is limiting the creation of new childcare spaces.

“We believe that the program is a good one,” Post said. “But there are some definite opportunities to make sure that it’s as beneficial to the providers as it is to the recipients.”

Post said the value of AMO delegations isn’t about walking away with a cheque.

Instead, she said the conference is an opportunity to build relationships with ministries that pay off over time. She pointed to funding the town and county have secured in recent years, including the \$8.1 million in water funding, money toward Rotary Park, a countywide transit initiative, and the HART Hub Dufferin, a provincially funded homelessness and addictions recovery hub that

opened in Orangeville earlier this year.

“All of these things are a result of the relationships that we build at AMO,” Post said.

All members of Orangeville council are attending the conference except Coun. Andy Macintosh, Post said.

When asked about a potential shift from an elected warden position to a provincially appointed county chair, a change already underway in Simcoe County, Post said Dufferin has not received any indication that a similar change is coming to the region.

“They’re the only one in my Western Ontario region that is being transitioned at this time,” Post said. “We all are kind of anticipating that that will come, but we’re not sure when. Again, it’s a provincial decision.”

Starting next term, the warden’s position will shift from a one-year term to a two-year term, the only confirmed change to the role at this time.

Women in Food and Agriculture event to celebrate local farmers, raise funds for education

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

Local farmers will take centre stage next week as community members gather at Good-Lot Farm in Caledon for an evening celebrating the women who help put food on local tables.

Women in Food and Agriculture, offered by the Headwaters Food and Farming Alliance, takes place Tuesday, Aug. 25, from 5 to 8:30 p.m.

Organizer Marci Lipman said that the event coincides with the International Year of the Woman Farmer and aims to recognize the often-overlooked contributions of women to agriculture, food production and rural communities.

“Women are celebrated in all fields... but we seldom hear of women in agriculture,” she said. “Since this is my idea, I thought that it was important for us to recognize women farmers, to recognize the women who put food on our

plates in our region.”

The evening will feature a panel of five women farmers from across the Headwaters region: Jeannette French of Lennox Farm in Melancthon; Amy Ouchterlony of Fiddle Foot Farm in Mulmur; Karen Hutchinson of Albion Hills Community Farm in Caledon; Val Steinman of Heartwood Farm in Erin; and Gail Winters of GoodLot Farm and GoodLot Farmstead Brewing Co. in Caledon.

Tralee Pearce, publisher of In The Hills magazine, will moderate the discussion, followed by an audience question-and-answer session.

Together, Lipman said that the panellists represent decades of farming experience and a broad range of agricultural operations. Their work includes vegetable production, community gardening, agricultural education, regenerative farming and more.

The goal is not only to celebrate women farmers, but to start a broader conversation about their role in an industry where the tra-

ditional image of a farmer is still often male. Women on farms can be food producers, educators, community builders, mothers and stewards of the land — often holding several of those roles at once.

“We have five women farmers on a panel who will be discussing the questions that people have about why women farm and what it entails,” Lipman said. “Today, there are a lot of women who are the primary farmers on the farm. They are growing the food, taking it to market, educating people about how they grow the food, and they are big community builders.”

The event will also highlight the importance of knowing where food comes from and supporting local producers. Organizers point to farmers’ markets and direct farm purchases as ways residents can connect with the people growing their food, while many local farmers are also working to care for and regenerate the soil for future generations.

“These farmers are caring for our soil,” Lipman said. “They are stewards of the land, and... many of them are not using pesticides. They’re just doing regenerative agriculture, sustaining the land and making it healthy for the next generation.”

Women in Food and Agriculture will also function as a fundraiser for the Headwaters Food & Farming Alliance’s Farm to School program. The program brings farmers into schools to teach children where their food comes from and connect them with farming through hands-on learning.

Importantly, the event is open to everyone – not only women. Organizers say anyone interested in local food, farming and the people behind it is welcome to attend.

Tickets include light bites prepared by Crowded Table and Carney Country Catering, along with one complimentary drink.

For more information, go to: headwaters-foodandfarming.square.site/events



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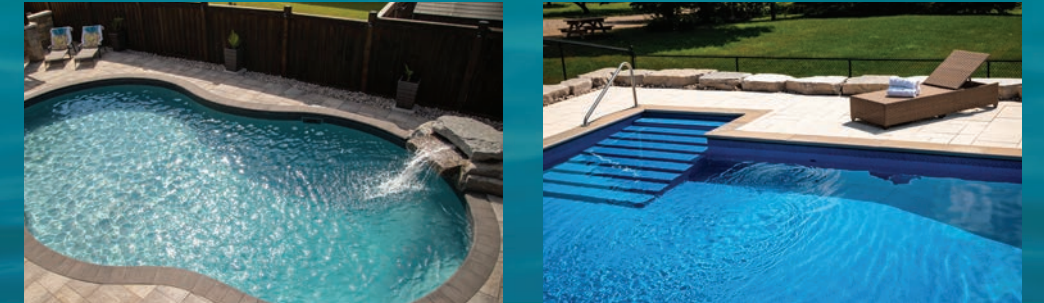
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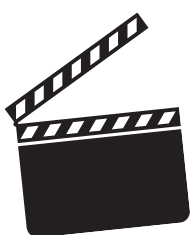
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2022 VOLKSWAGEN TIGUAN COMFORTLINE  STM 7122P • 71,525 KM • 3.0L TURBOCHARGED ENGINE, OPTIONAL ALL-WHEEL DRIVE, HEATED FRONT SEATS, POWER DRIVER'S SEAT, 8-SPD TURBOCHARGE, APPLE CARPLAY, ANDROID AUTO, BLUETOOTH, BACKUP CAMERA, ADAPTIVE CRUISE CONTROL, 10-ZONE CLIMATE CONTROL, KEYLESS ENTRY, PUSH-BUTTON START, 18-INCH ALLOY WHEELS, POWER HEATED MIRRORS, AND MORE! \$100 WEEKLY + HST & LIC \$26,995 \$0 DOWN @ 7.99% FOR 60 MONTHS C.O.B \$3,575.75		2023 VOLKSWAGEN ATLAS EXECLINE  STM 8002P • 106,622 KM • V6 ENGINE, OPTIONAL ALL-WHEEL DRIVE, PANORAMIC SUNROOF, DIGITAL COCKPIT, HEATED AND VENTILATED FRONT SEATS, HEATED REAR SEAT, HEATED STEERING WHEEL, NAVIGATION, APPLE CARPLAY, ANDROID AUTO, ADAPTIVE CRUISE CONTROL, BLIND-SPOT MONITORING, LANE ASSIST, POWER ASSIST, 360-DEGREE CAMERA, POWER LIFTGATE, 20-INCH ALLOY WHEELS, AND MORE! \$136 WEEKLY + HST & LIC \$37,445 \$0 DOWN @ 7.99% FOR 60 MONTHS C.O.B \$11,607.21		2024 VOLKSWAGEN ATLAS CROSS SPORT COMFORTLINE  STM 7830P 7830P • 18,400 KM • OPTIONAL ALL-WHEEL DRIVE, TURBOCHARGED 2.0 TSI ENGINE, 8-SPEED AUTOMATIC TRANSMISSION, HEATED FRONT SEATS, HEATED STEERING WHEEL, APP-CONNECT SMARTPHONE INTEGRATION, APPLE CARPLAY AND ANDROID AUTO, DUAL-ZONE AUTOMATIC CLIMATE CONTROL, REARVIEW CAMERA, POWER ASSIST WITH AUTONOMOUS EMERGENCY BRAKING, AND MORE! \$169 WEEKLY + HST & LIC \$47,195 \$0 DOWN @ 7.99% FOR 60 MONTHS C.O.B \$14,547.32		2023 KIA SPORTAGE X-LINE LIMITED AWD  STM 8180T • 53,224 KM • 2.5L GDI ENGINE, 8-SPEED AUTOMATIC TRANSMISSION, PANORAMIC SUNROOF, 2.3-INCH DUAL-CONTRAST DISPLAY, NAV SYSTEM, APPLE CARPLAY, ANDROID AUTO, HARMAN KARDON PREMIUM AUDIO, HEATED & VENTILATED FRONT SEATS, HEATED REAR SEAT, HEATED STEERING WHEEL, SURROUND VIEW MIRROR, BLIND-VEHICLE MONITOR, SMART POWER LIFTGATE, AND MORE! \$118 WEEKLY + HST & LIC \$32,991 \$0 DOWN @ 7.99% FOR 60 MONTHS C.O.B \$10,106.18	



Arts & Entertainment

LOCAL COMMUNITY EVENTS



From Romania to Erin: Engineer and artist displays his work at Alton Mill

Written By **CONSTANCE SCRAFIELD**

Victor Gligor and his family came to B.C. from Romania in 1992 and lived there for 31 years. When he retired, he and his wife moved to Toronto to be near their son, a lawyer who had studied at the University of Ottawa.

They now live in nearby Erin. Although Gligor has retired, he is still a P.Eng. Electrical Engineer, with over 30 years of experience in Romania, Germany and Canada. A member of Garibaldi Art Club in Maple Ridge and of the Federation of Canadian Artists, as well as Headwaters Arts, Gligor remains actively involved in his life as an artist.

Gligor said painting has been his hobby for many years and has been important to him since he was very young. Discovering early on his own talent for painting, he enrolled himself in the School of Art in his hometown, while he was living in Romania.

While living as an artist was his dream, Gligor did pursue his education as an engineer. For a year now, as a member of Headwaters Arts, he has participated in most shows at the Headwaters Arts Gallery.

In his biography online, Gligor writes that he “never lost his passion for painting and the nature of the landscapes sealed in his soul, the spiritual values that emerge into his artwork. His love for gardening, flowers, forests and wild nature, combined with his inclination for science and engineering were very beneficial in Victor’s case, bringing him rewards and satisfaction on both fields.”

While Gligor enjoyed reflecting the cityscapes of ancient places in Europe, his firmest inclination is to bring landscapes to his palettes. Coming to British Columbia as his first introduction to Canada was a marvel of forests and mountains.

Yet, once he and his wife settled here with the very fine landscapes in neighbouring Caledon, he has been happy to have this countryside as his model. The elegant birch trees, clustering as they do, the rolling farms with the solitary homes and barns, the streams rushing over rocks to

crash into a river’s tributary are included, as he sometimes seems to be following the trails of en plein air painters decades ago.

“I am most inspired by the surrounding area,” he said. “the side of water, of a lake; inspired by Ontario, travelling as much as I can but I have plenty of views in this surrounding area.”

Gligor and his wife are very busy with their family, their grandkids, as Gligor affectionately calls them.

“Art is a hobby for me. When I feel my creative energy is at the level of my canvas, I am happy to paint. We are also gardening and very involved with our grandkids, our family activities.”

As a member of the Federation of Canadian Artists, his paintings are shown in shows in cities all around Ontario.

Most of all, he is very happy to have found such a fine group of artists at Headwaters. “All the walls are covered with paintings,” he pronounced about the Alton Mill’s Art in Abundance show, which concludes Sept. 13. “I am trying to teach my grandkids about art, but they have their other interests.”

He expressed his feelings about individuals’ talent, saying, “Every person has talent. It is not just about painting – there is music as well. It is up to you to find it.

“You never know what is in your soul – you just need to get it out.”

Emphasizing, he added, “It is never too late. Talent is sitting there forever and you never knew it until you get it out and get to know the right people. You need a little encouragement to do that.”

There are great opportunities to develop, and that has to be encouraged, he maintains.

“As parents and grandparents, it is our obligation to help to encourage the next generation to trust their abilities for the whole society,” he said.

His praise for the Alton was fulsome: “Alton is a gem and great people.”

He was deeply impressed with the Caledon Music Festival Concert under the cover at the Alton Mill, saying “the concert after the show was wonderful.”



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

ART OF ABUNDANCE: Erin-based artist Victor Gligor poses beside two of his landscape paintings featured in the Art of Abundance exhibition at the Headwaters Arts Gallery, which runs until Sept. 13. Inspired by the landscape of Caledon and the work of local farmers, Gligor draws on the area’s scenery as a source of inspiration for his paintings.

Long-running local choir invites new members to join

Written By **MARK STEVENS**

Anyone who loves to sing and possess some level of music-reading skill is invited to join the Achill Choral Society, an Orangeville-based community choir with a history spanning more than four decades.

Three open rehearsals are being conducted by the choir in September, and all are invited to see if they’d like to become members.

The Achill Choral Society will soon begin practicing for their winter concert, working on a list of selections ranging from Stompin’ Tom Connors’ “The Hockey Song” to more traditional seasonal fare.

Individuals interested in learning more are welcome to attend open rehearsals on Wednesday, Sept. 9, 16 and 23, each running from 7 to 9 p.m. at Orangeville’s Westminster United Church. Following the open rehearsals, those interested in joining will be given a vocal assessment for the purposes of placement only.

“There is nothing more rewarding than singing in a choir,” says Achill Choral Society President Susan Allen, “from a social standpoint and even from a spiritual one. And it’s also fun.”

After being led for nine seasons by conductor Shawn Grenke, choir members are also really excited to begin the next stage of their musical journey.

“We’re thrilled to invite our new artistic director Emily Taub to the podium this fall,” says Allen.

Taub is founder and artistic director of “Choir à La Mode” and she performs with several ensembles, including Elmer Isler Singers. She is a sought-after composer and arranger.

“We’re really excited by the new direction under her leadership,” says Allen. “What a great time to consider joining us.”

For more information, visit achill.ca or simply show up to Westminster United Church on Wednesday, Sept. 9 for the first rehearsal of the season.



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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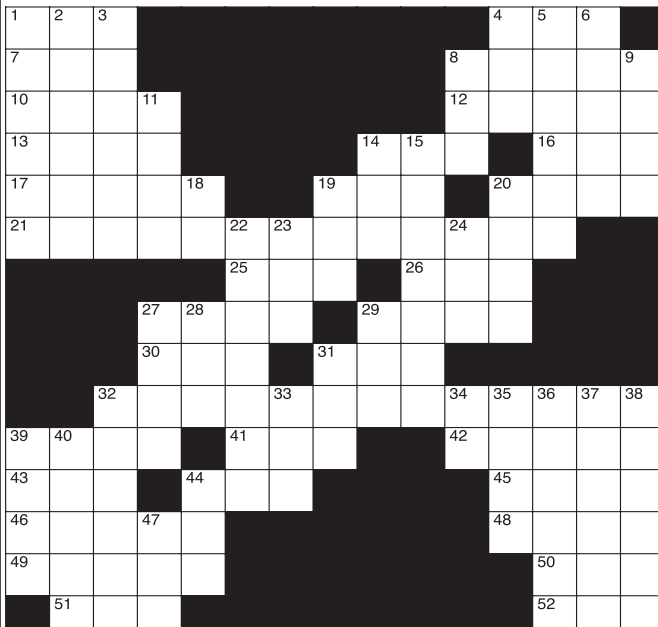
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The Citizen CROSSWORD

Puzzle No. 268310 • Solution on page: CLASSIFIEDS SECTION



CLUES ACROSS

- Microgram
- Fixed charge
- Each
- Feeling of humiliation
- Coat with sticky substance
- Powerful “Severance” family
- Japanese city
- “Pulp Fiction” actress Thurman
- Hat
- Place where rockers work
- Psyche
- Snakelike fishes
- Where people live
- Body part
- Old towel
- One’s essential being
- Japanese alcoholic beverage
- Boxing’s GOAT
- Wet muddy ground
- Christian Laetner is one
- A place to store lawn tools
- Large tub for liquid
- Old World lizard
- One-time European member group
- Healing student
- Nuclear weapon
- “Kiss of the Spider Woman” actress Sonia
- Silk garment
- About some Norse poems
- Woman religious community member
- Congressman (abbr.)
- Two-year-old sheep

CLUES DOWN

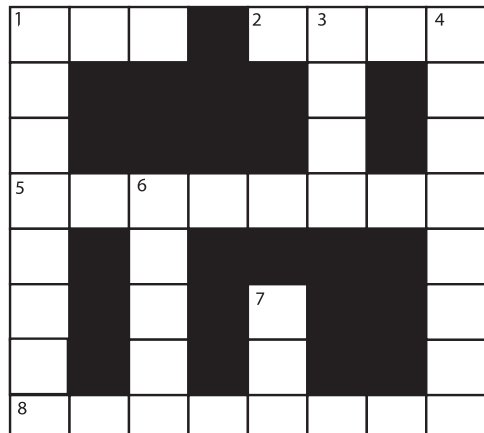
- An insane person
- “Homeland” actress Danes
- Buttock muscles
- US federal agency
- Birds of prey
- Electronic communication
- Ocean
- Terminates
- Low-pitched sound from a bell
- Exclamation: yuck!
- A place to attach a boat southeast
- Exclamation of surprise
- Make a mistake
- Border line
- Have religious faith
- Klutz
- Large tree
- House of ___ rulers
- Red deer
- Small coin (French)
- Popular sandwich
- 10-year period
- Not good
- Government lawyer
- Egypt’s intelligence agency
- Without an occupant or incumbent
- Stain with one’s hands
- Crippling
- One point east of
- Large, united groups
- ___ and cheese
- Alcoholic beverage

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



How they say that in...

English: Prize
Spanish: Premio
Italian: Premio
French: Prix
German: Preis



ACROSS

- Feline
- Neatens hair
- A citizen from a particular country
- Site or monument

DOWN

- Traveling fair
- Not closed
- Baseball stadium
- Bird’s claw
- Precious stone



Food FACT:

This food is popular at fairs and carnivals. It features a common barbecue food in the middle of a batter coating.



Get the PICTURE?

Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

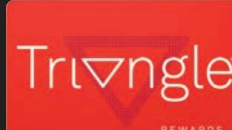
Answer: Ride ticket



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Orangeville pizzaiolo preparing for international competition in Naples

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

Kedar Bedekar's trip to Montreal started with an early morning drive from Orangeville and ended with a place at an international pizza championship in Naples, Italy.

The local pizza entrepreneur placed third in the Canadian round of a Neapolitan pizza competition in Montreal in July, earning a spot in the world championship.

For Bedekar, who had only been running his pizza business for about a year, the result marked a significant step in a journey that began in restaurant kitchens and continued through years of experimentation at home.

"I am pretty proud of myself, and it's pretty special for me," he said. "Given the fact it's been a year for me since I started my business... given my limited time and achieving this in just a year, I feel very proud."

Bedekar found out about the Montreal competition through Instagram and applied shortly before the event. He left Orangeville around 5 a.m. on July 6 and arrived in Montreal around noon. That afternoon, he went to the Associazione Verace Pizza Napoletana (AVPN) School where the competition was being held and prepared his dough for the following day's competition.

By the time the results were announced, the preparation had paid off. Bedekar finished third, one of three competitors who qualified from the Canadian event for the world championship in Naples.

The competition will bring together pizza makers from different countries, allowing Bedekar to see how other competitors approach the same craft. For him, the trip will

be as much about learning as competing.

"Going to Naples, that's where everything started, competing with the world's number one chefs from different countries will be a great opportunity," he said. "There will be people from South Korea, from Portugal, from Brazil, from Rome, from obviously Canada and many other parts of the world. It will be a great learning experience, watching everyone compete. You learn from the masters who will be there."

That approach reflects how Bedekar has developed his own skills. Pizza was not his original career path. He works in data analysis, having completed a business analysis program at Mohawk College in Hamilton.

While he was in school, however, he worked in restaurant kitchens, including as a pizza chef and prep chef. There, he became interested in the process behind making pizza, from preparing the dough to building the finished product.

The interest continued after he moved into his professional career. In his spare time, Bedekar began making pizza at home, watching videos and experimenting with dough recipes. He had been cooking since he was 14 and had always enjoyed the process, but pizza gave him something specific to work toward.

That opportunity became more realistic after his marketing data analyst contract ended in September 2024.

He registered his catering business, La Pizza Pedlar, in 2025 and received his first order a month later. From there, he began building a customer base through markets and events, including the Brampton Fall Fest as well as markets in Milton and New-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

PERFECTING PIZZA MAKING: Following a long trip and tense competition in Montreal, local pizza maker Kedar Bedekar placed third in Canada's national championship, qualifying him to travel to Naples, Italy, to compete on the global stage. Still new to pizza making, Bedekar plans to learn everything he can while abroad, bringing vital skills back home to improve his craft.

market.

Now, the next test will take him considerably farther from Orangeville.

In Naples, Bedekar will compete against pizza makers from around the globe, with the experience serving as another step toward improving on his third-place finish in Canada.

For La Pizza Pedlar, the longer-term ambition is to become a destination for Neapolitan pizza in Ontario.

"My dream is to make La Pizza Pedlar the go to pizzeria where you will get the best quality pizza and where you can actually experience Italy just by having our slice," he said. "I want La Pizza Pedlar to be the best one in Canada, in Ontario."

For now, Bedekar's attention is on the next stage of a journey that began with a restaurant job, developed through countless batches of dough and has now taken him to the world stage.

Search warrant in connection to theft from Shelburne Iron and Metal executed on Muriel Street

Dufferin Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) officers executed a search warrant at a residence on Muriel Street in Shelburne in connection with a break and enter investigation involving a business in Melancthon on March 6 and made an additional arrest on July 28.

During the search, officers located and seized footwear and clothing believed to have been used during the incident, along with property believed to have been stolen during the break and enter.

On Feb. 21, police responded to a report of a break and enter at the Shelburne Iron and Metal yard located in Melancthon, where multiple items were stolen.

On Feb. 27, Dufferin OPP officers identified a vehicle believed to be connected to the investigation. Through further investigation, officers determined the vehicle had previously failed to stop for a Reduce Im-



paired Driving Everywhere (RIDE) program in Shelburne earlier that same morning, which assisted investigators in identifying the individuals involved.

Officers later located the vehicle and continued their investigation.

On March 6, members of the Dufferin OPP Community Street Crime Unit (CSCU), Caledon CSCU, and Dufferin OPP frontline offi-

cers executed a search warrant at the Shelburne residence on Muriel Street.

As a result of the investigation, officers identified two individuals believed to be responsible for the break and enter. Warrants were subsequently issued, and both accused individuals have since been located and arrested.

Additional property believed to be connected to the break and enter was also recovered during the investigation.

On March 18, Michelle Minialoff, 58-year-old female, from Shelburne, has been charged with Possession of Property Obtained by Crime

On July 28, Jakob Hackson, 39-year-old male, from Algonquin Highlands, has been charged with Break and Enter, Flight from Police, Possession of Property Obtained by Crime (two counts) and Theft Under \$5,000.

Footwear and clothing believed to have

been used during the Break and Enter was seized by police, along with a box of stolen parts seized during the warrant, which were confirmed to be stolen during the Break and Enter. Stolen copper wire and a chainsaw were also seized.

None of the listed charges have been proven in court.

Dufferin OPP would like to remind residents to remain vigilant and report any suspicious activity.

Anyone with information, dash camera footage, or security video related to this incident is encouraged to contact the Dufferin OPP.

Anyone with information regarding this incident or other suspected unlawful activity is asked to contact the OPP at 1-888-310-1122, or Crime Stoppers anonymously at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS) or online at crimes-topperssdm.com.

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^{‡‡}Representative lease offer based on a new and previously unregistered 2026 CX-70 GT Plug-In Hybrid (YXTP86) with a cash purchase price of \$65,067, leased at 1.69% (for non-Mazda owners)/0.19% (for qualifying Mazda owners, includes a 1.5% Loyalty rate reduction) for 36 months. Bi-weekly payment is \$418.39/\$389.74, which includes \$2,195 freight and PDI; \$100 A/C charge; Retailer administration fee (up to \$795); lien registration fees (up to \$58.85, 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. 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Rebate will be deducted from the negotiated price after taxes, has no cash surrender value and can be combined with lease/finance rates or any other offer.]. Offers available only at authorized Mazda Retailers in Canada until August 31, 2026. Offers and qualifying models are subject to change. Conditions apply. Offer is subject to change or cancellation without notice. Contact your participating Mazda Retailer for details. ^{◆◆}Up to \$2,500 Electric Vehicle Affordability Program (EVAP) incentive available only to eligible Canadian residents for qualifying cash purchase, lease and finance transactions (that meet the EVAP program eligibility criteria) of a 2026 CX-70 PHEV GS-SC model and 2026 CX-90 PHEV GS model with a final transaction value not exceeding \$50,000 (calculated in accordance with the EVAP program terms) from a participating Mazda dealer in Canada between February 16 and December 31, 2026 (or until available funds are exhausted – whichever occurs first). The EVAP incentive: (i) is available on the cash purchase, lease or finance of an eligible vehicle; (ii) will be deducted from the vehicle's negotiated selling price after taxes; (iii) is provided on a first-come, first-served basis or until available funds are exhausted; and (iv) cannot be applied to past transactions. Limit of one (1) EVAP incentive per person during the lifetime of the program. Incentive amount varies depending on (amongst other things) the length of the lease period and purchase/lease dates and will be deducted from the eligible vehicle's negotiated selling price after taxes. Maximum rebate amount is only available on lease terms of 48 months or longer. Advertised amount of \$1,875 is based on a 36-month lease. To learn more about the EVAP's terms, eligibility requirements and restrictions, visit: <https://tc.canada.ca/en/road-transportation/innovative-technologies/zero-emission-vehicles/electric-vehicle-affordability-program-evap> or your local Mazda dealer. Mazda Canada makes no representations about the actual amount of or eligibility for the EVAP incentive and is not responsible for the incentive (which is administered exclusively by the Government of Canada and is subject to change/termination at any time). EVAP information is provided for informational purposes only. [▲]\$500/\$750/\$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-5 GS, GT/2026 CX-70 MHEV, CX-90 MHEV/2026 CX-70 PHEV GS-L SC, GT, Signature/CX-90 PHEV GS-L, GT, Signature/2026 MX-5/2026 CX-5 GX, CX-70 GS SC, CX-90 PHEV GS models that are purchased or financed/leased (on approved credit) and delivered between August 1 to 31, 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-70 PHEV GS-LSC (YXHP86AA00) with a lease APR of 3.49%/3.99%/1.69% and 104/104/78 bi-weekly payments of \$184/\$214/\$325 for 48/48/36 months; the total lease obligation is \$19,998/\$23,698/\$26,886, including down payment (or equivalent trade-in) of \$850/\$1,425/\$1,500. 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-70. 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 August 1 to 31, 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.

Local Orangeville educator immortalizes town in new colouring book

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

A local educator and longtime Orangeville resident is celebrating the people, places and businesses that make the community unique through her new colouring book, “Our Orangeville.”

The project, created by local resident Kathryn Burrell, features dozens of colouring pages depicting recognizable Orangeville landmarks, local businesses, sports teams, community figures and scenes from around town.

What began as a personal creative project concerning colouring books for kids and a recipe book in tribute to her late father quickly grew after businesses and residents embraced the idea.

“Making books was originally just a fun little thing for me,” Burrell said. “If all I did was a recipe book in honour of my dad, and a colouring book for my kids, so be it. But then, the idea of ‘Our Orangeville’ just popped into my head. I thought that Orangeville would love this, so I decided, yes, I’m going to do this.”

Burrell, who was born and raised in Orangeville, has always maintained a creative side alongside her professional career.

Her first published book was a mindfulness-focused colouring book designed to encourage children and adults to colour together. That project was followed by several other books, including one honouring her late father through memories and family recipes that she had begun earlier.

The experience of creating those books eventually led Burrell to consider a project focused on her hometown.

After seeing colouring books celebrating larger areas, she began wondering whether the same concept could be brought down to the community level.

She began writing down ideas for places and people she felt represented Orangeville. Bryon Mackie, a local boxer, was the first person she wanted to feature. Businesses such as the Bluebird Cafe and Deja Vu, along with parks like Kaycee Gardens and other recognizable local landmarks, soon joined the list.

Before moving forward, Burrell met with Orangeville Mayor Lisa Post and researched the requirements for using photographs and featuring local people and businesses. She ultimately obtained permission from everyone included in the book, either through signed forms or other documented approval.

The process of photographing locations, securing permissions and turning the photographs into detailed colouring pages

took approximately six months. Burrell worked on the project around her job and raising her three children, using several different creative programs to transform photographs into the finished illustrations.

The response from the community was stronger than she anticipated.

“I’ve been getting these little ‘aha’ moments where I realize that this is real and this is happening,” Burrell said. “I was in the Bluebird Cafe, discussing with the owners how many books they wanted, that sort of thing. I heard some people talking, asking, ‘is that the girl who made the colouring book?’ I think I realized then that people loved it and connected with it. Mayor Post called it being an Orangeville celeb.”

Businesses began asking about selling the book, while people featured in it were eager to see the finished pages.

Burrell has also been sharing individual pages and information about the book’s subjects through a social media series, giving residents an opportunity to learn more about the people and businesses represented.

For Burrell, the project is about more than colouring.

Her background working with children has influenced her desire to make the book inclusive, with the pages offering different people and experiences for readers to recognize themselves in.

Accessibility has also become an important part of the project. The book is available through multiple local retailers, giving residents different opportunities to find it.

Creating “Our Orangeville” has also changed the way Burrell experiences her hometown. While photographing locations for the book, she found herself slowing down and paying attention to places she normally passes by while rushing between work, family responsibilities and errands.

“This project gave me an opportunity to re-embrace Orangeville,” Burrell said. “I had one day where I was out taking photos, and my son asked me how my day was. And I said that it was amazing. I got to walk Island Lake with no other purpose than to take some really great photos, not having any other pressing reasons.”

“I’m usually rushing from one town to the other. This helped me slow down, and re-embrace the buildings, the sights and the people,” she added.

One of her favourite images is a view overlooking Orangeville from the area near Boston Pizza, a location she has long admired. She also considers the Bryon Mackie page a favourite because he was the first person she envisioned including. Another favourite is a tree at Island Lake where her



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A COMMUNITY IN COLOUR: Kathryn Burrell, creator of “Our Orangeville,” holds a copy of her new colouring book, which features local landmarks, businesses, community figures and scenes from around town.

children like to sit and have snacks.

The project is already continuing beyond the first book. Burrell has begun brainstorming a second volume after realizing there were far more people, places and ideas than could reasonably fit into her first book.

For now, she hopes “Our Orangeville” encourages residents to appreciate their community and gives people a reason to talk, remember, and connect while they colour.

The project has also reinforced a philosophy Burrell applies to her creative work: if someone has an idea they want to pursue, there is value in simply trying it. Even if it does not work, she believes the experience is preferable to leaving an idea unexplored.



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Orangeville DQ’s Miracle Treat Day raises nearly \$37,000 for SickKids in one day

Written By JOSHUA DRAKES
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Orangeville Dairy Queen demonstrated its ongoing commitment to charitable causes this past week, breaking donation records with its annual Miracle Treat Day fundraiser. The restaurant drew massive crowds as the community showed up in force.

Owner John Lockyer said it was a record-setting fundraising day, with nearly \$37,000 raised last Thursday, Aug. 13, for the SickKids Foundation, including Blizzard sales, roundup contributions, and additional donations.

“It was absolutely fantastic,” he said. The business sold its second-highest number of Blizzards ever for Miracle Treat Day with 5,800 sold, while recording its highest number of same-day sales, excluding pre-orders. It also raised more money on the day than ever before.

Combined with fundraising already collected through customers rounding up their order earlier in the year, the total has now reached almost \$70,000. The restaurant is aiming to raise another \$15,000 this year through customers rounding up to reach \$85,000 total.

The busy day saw customers line up outside the restaurant as the community turned out in strong numbers. Lockyer said his team handled the rush expertly, and commended their dedication.

“The community just turned out and helped us out just tremendously; it was just fantas-

tic,” Lockyer said. “Some of our team members worked really, really, really long hours, and they did just an amazing job. And they were just as happy and friendly and fast at the end of the night as they were when they got there before lunchtime.”

The event also brought local SickKids survivors and families into the restaurant to help. Volunteers worked the drive-through, mixed Blizzards and delivered orders to tables. Orangeville’s mayor and deputy mayor also joined the team for the day, helping serve customers.

“Almost every couple of hours, we had another young person who had been touched by SickKids, who was a survivor, to help us out,” Lockyer said. “They worked at the drive-through. They mixed blizzards. They delivered orders to tables. Most of the folks were local, and many of them reached out to us to ask if they could come help.”

Lockyer credited the wider community for the event’s success, including local businesses that purchase Blizzards for their staff, regular customers who round up their orders and residents who make donations to SickKids Foundation.

“I conduct the orchestra, but we’ve had so many businesses that we can count on every year for buying blizzards and sharing them with their staff, and then we have the same faces that come by once or twice or three times a week and round up their order,” he said.

“We have the same folks who write us a cheque to the SickKids Foundation every year



JOSHUA DRAKES PHOTO

SUPPORTING SICKKIDS: Dairy Queen Orangeville owner John Lockyer (left) worked with Daxton and Parker Nichols, whose lives have been impacted by SickKids, on Miracle Treat Day, helping break fundraising records, with the store raising \$37,000 on the annual fundraising day alone.

that goes on behalf of Miracle Treat Day. So it’s just a wonderful event, and we’re just so lucky that we live in a community where everybody can come together and work together for something that’s as important as fundraising for SickKids.”

The restaurant expressed its appreciation to everyone who bought a Blizzard, donated,

volunteered or helped make the day a success, emphasizing that the fundraising effort is a community-wide effort supporting an important cause.

With another Miracle Treat Day behind them, Orangeville demonstrated once again that it’s a community that shows up when it matters most to support a good cause.

MPP Sylvia Jones announces provincial funding totalling nearly \$20,000 for Theatre Orangeville’s programs, festival

Dufferin–Caledon MPP Sylvia Jones met with Theatre Orangeville to announce that our government is investing nearly \$20,000 through the 2026 Experience Ontario program

to support the organization on Friday, Aug. 14. The funds are supporting the theatre’s Summer Young Artist Festival and Young Company programming throughout July and August.

This funding is part of a more than \$20 million government investment to help municipalities and event organizers deliver high-quality programming and experiences.

“Our government is proud to support local events and festivals in Dufferin County that foster community connections and support our local economy,” said Jones. “The funding for Theatre Orangeville’s Summer Young Artist Festival and Young Company programs exemplifies the significant contributions arts and culture programs make to the community, and the unforgettable experiences they create.”

Experience Ontario 2026 is supporting festivals and events of all sizes across the province, strengthening tourism while celebrating the people, places and traditions that make Ontario unique.

“Programs like our summer Young Company musical and drama are about so much more than putting on a show,” said Jennifer Stewart, artistic director of Theatre Orangeville.

“They give young people a place to discover what they’re capable of, build confidence, take creative risks and experience the incredible feeling of creating something together. Support from Experience Ontario helps us create these opportunities, while at the same time, inviting audiences to experience the remarkable talent of the next generation.”

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Cardinals erase six-run deficit to capture Junior NBDL Championship

Third time was the charm for the Innisfil Cardinals as they claimed their first junior division championship in the North Dufferin Baseball League with an 8-7 victory over the Barrie Baycats on Monday, Aug. 17.

After falling short in the championship series, the previous two seasons against the Creemore Padres, the Cardinals finally broke through to capture the title. The victory capped a determined playoff run and marked a long-awaited reward for a team that had come close but was unable to finish the job in recent years.

The best-of-five series lasted four games, with Innisfil winning Game 1 by a 10-3 score, Game 3 6-4 and Game 4 on Monday. The Baycats claimed Game 2, 3-2.

The final game started with the Cardinals scoring once in the first inning, but Barrie responded with three runs in the third and four more in the fourth to build a 7-1 lead.

Innisfil's comeback began in the top of the sixth inning when they scored seven runs on five hits to erase the deficit and take an 8-7 lead.

Barrie was held in check over their final two at-bats.

Innisfil collected eight hits, with Aidan Farrow and Jackson Levely each recording a double and a single. Additional hits came from Tyrus Harper, Brennan Hedrick, Michael Dawe and Caden Firlotte.

For Barrie, Drew Wilcox had two singles, while Matt Vandavis, Damon Crozier and Ryan Cummins added singles. Tyler Hardwick and Nate Pullen each doubled.

Dawe started on the mound for the Cardinals, pitching five innings and allowing seven runs on six hits while walking five, hitting one batter and striking out three.

Justin Goldie entered in the sixth inning and tossed two scoreless innings, allowing one hit and one walk.

Barrie starter Evan Macfadden pitched five innings, surrendering two runs on three hits while walking two, hitting two batters and striking out one.

Jonathan Rossel worked the final two innings, allowing six runs on five hits while hitting two batters and striking out two.

Innisfil finished third overall during the regular season and opened the playoffs



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

JUNIOR CHAMPS: The Innisfil Cardinals 1 team won their first North Dufferin Baseball League junior division title on Aug. 17. Pictured are, back row, from left: coach Stacey Levely, Brennan Hedrick, Brady Wynne, Ethan Robertson, Michael Dawe, Sebastien Pasquali, Jackson Levely, Tyrus Harper, Aidan Farrow, coach Rob Harper. Front row, from left: Mason Carey, Justin Goldie, Patrick Jannetta, Caden Firlotte, Luca Primomo. Missing from photo: Calen Biemiller and Noah Ubogi.

with two victories over the sixth-place Caledon Nationals before defeating the second-place Orillia Royals in the semifinal round.

Barrie, who finished fifth in the standings, eliminated the fourth-place Creemore Padres and top-seeded Innisfil Cardinals 2 en route to the final.

The Anderson Trophy, awarded to the junior division champions, was presented by league secretary and division convenor Scott Anderson to Cardinals coach Rob Harper during a post-game ceremony.



BIG WIN: Innisfil Cardinals coach Rob Harper accepts the Anderson Trophy as North Dufferin Baseball League Junior Champions from league secretary and convenor Scott Anderson during a post-game presentation, Aug. 17.

Terry Fox Run keeps cancer research close to home for Dufferin County resident

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

For Shelburne resident Joan Wallace, the Terry Fox Run is more than an annual fundraiser. It is a reminder of how far cancer treatment has come, how much remains to be done and how deeply cancer continues to affect families in the local community.

Wallace has participated in the Terry Fox Run for roughly 30 years and spent a decade organizing Shelburne's event.

Her connection to Terry Fox began in 1980, when she and her husband discov-

ered Fox's Marathon of Hope on television. Wallace was undergoing cancer treatment herself at the time, making Fox's journey especially personal.

"My husband and I, Bob, we followed Terry by accident," she said. "Bob was watching Canada AM back when Terry dipped his foot in the Atlantic to start the Marathon of Hope. Nobody had ever heard of him before, but we started following him. I was not well at the time. I had finished my chemotherapy, and was very much still living it. It was just very emotional when I think about Terry because we were both suffering at the same time."

Decades later, Wallace has experienced cancer several times and continues to deal with the lasting effects of treatment. Her experiences have given her a firsthand understanding of why cancer research matters and why fundraising remains important.

For Wallace, the changes in cancer treatment over the decades demonstrate the value of research. Treatments and patient care have improved significantly since she was first diagnosed, giving patients possibilities that were not available generations ago.

"We have to do research, research has to be funded, we have to support it," she said.

"I can compare treatment 47 years ago to treatment and patient care now, and how much it has changed in that period of time. Treatment is no walk in the park, but compared to 40-some years ago, it's a huge difference."

Research can mean longer lives, better quality of life and, increasingly, the hope that a cancer diagnosis doesn't mean the end of the road.

That message is particularly important in a community like Shelburne, where personal connections are often close. Cancer is not an abstract issue for many local residents. It affects friends, parents, children, grandparents, neighbours and coworkers.

"There was a day when the doctors told you if it was cancer that you have, it was almost a death sentence," she said. "It's not now. 40 some years ago I was at stage four, and here I am now... I went from being a brand new mom to now, a grandma at 70. I would be very amazed if there's anybody that hasn't been touched by cancer, whether it be a friend or a family member or a parent or a child... it's something that touches us all. It's that much more important to have hope."

Wallace also sees value in the Terry Fox Foundation's broad approach to cancer research.

Funding supports work across different types of cancer, including diseases that

may receive less public attention than some of the more prominent cancers. For patients and families facing those diagnoses, that research can provide a sense that their illness has not been overlooked.

The local run has also become a family tradition for Wallace. After she organized the event for 10 years, her family took over the responsibility, bringing new energy and technological skills to the fundraising effort. They have continued building community support through donations and fundraising activities, including a silent auction.

The tradition is also being passed to another generation. Wallace's grandchildren have grown up learning about Terry Fox and have developed an interest in his story and the cause behind the run. It is important for Wallace that awareness and advocacy continue from generation to generation.

"Even my grandchildren... They have all grown up with this," she said. "They have a keen interest in it as well. They want to learn all about him and read about him, Terry... It's wonderful to see another generation coming along."

For a community preparing to come together again for the Terry Fox Run, the event represents more than a day of walking or running.

It is a local expression of a national legacy – one built on perseverance, community and the belief that continued investment in cancer research can create a better future for the people who will face the disease next.

"There's so many things going on that we can't let something like this be forgotten," Wallace said. "That's why I support the Terry Fox Run so much... if we didn't have research, it'd still be a death sentence when you got that diagnosis. I think there's hope."

Shelburne's Terry Fox Run is set for Sunday, Sept. 20 at Natasha Peterson Memorial Park and Pavilion, with registration starting at 7 a.m.

The run concludes at 1 p.m.

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OPINION

The people you meet in your neighbourhood

Perspective is relative. How one person sees a situation, emotionally digests circumstances, and responds might be a thousand ways different from how a thousand other people would react. And perception informs perspective, which holds sway over your interpretation that dictates your reaction. I often take long walks to get outside my head. I may stroll for an hour or three hours, depending on the time of day and what joy or misery is coming from the sky. Joy or misery: The fruits of perception.

There's a bench along the main drag in the town in which I live. It's a comfortable bench, and I like to sit there for a spell before I retrace my steps home. That last time out and about, I saw a man I call Harold. That's not his name. It's how I refer to him to myself and when I'm telling the missus about my interactions with him. He's a nice enough fella and always interesting.

A Saturday afternoon, this was. People

ple clotted the sidewalk and crosswalk, waiting to get into a nearby farmers' market.

I saw Harold, and he looked around and mumbled something I couldn't hear. He didn't look bothered until one of those loud motorcycles tore by the bench. One of those motorcycles that the louder they are, the more people seem to fancy them. He seemed distracted. And he stopped at the bench where I was.

Harold told me about Cognitive Behavioural Therapy. He said it's a practice. He said it's all about ways and exercises to influence the actions that dictate thoughts that are at the bottom of anxiety and the unhappy way he thinks about himself.

It's true: You never really know what somebody feels, how they're getting on. Harold said he visits a therapist. One of the exercises the therapist has him do in moments he's troubled is to look for five things he can see, four things he can hear, three things he can touch, two

things he can smell, and something he can taste.

"You don't go around licking stuff, do you?"

Of course not, he said.

He told me it's a means to change his mind, to push his attention away from negative thoughts about himself and the world. Seemed to be that it's as if he's diverting his train of thought. Changing tracks, even if it's only for a short time, like rolling onto a rail siding, he said.

"A siding," I said. Afterwards I Googled rail siding. A siding is a piece of track that a train can slowly move on to allow another train to pass. Or park a boxcar to be picked up later by another train.

Five things seen: that fountain over there, he said. The clock tower that's been repaired. Nice. The library. A storefront. Car. Then I found four things I can hear. That motorcycle, laughter from that pub patio. I hear a child crying and that dog barking. That's four. Among three things I can touch, he said, are the

smooth metal of the bench we're sitting on, the rough bricks of the building there, and a petal of that tulip. Two things I smell are food from that pub patio and cigarette smoke. And something that can be tasted is one of those cold pints. Would be nice, he said, in this heat. So would the cigarette, he said, but he quit smoking four years ago.

"Harold aren't you worried people will think you're talking to yourself? Maybe you see people who aren't there?"

He said his therapist went so far as to suggest that he sing the items on his list. She even suggested he sing the items with a silly voice.

"That'll project quite an impression that you're well put together," I said.

Harold laughed, abruptly stopped, and then he said, Does what you said mean you can see them too?

"Now you're messing with me," I said. "Right?"



JAMES MATTHEWS
THE BUSTLE IN THE HEDGEROW

The charade

Last month US President Donald Trump announced "a monumental step toward lasting peace and security" in Gaza. Mediators from the 'Board of Peace', his sketchy rival to the United Nations, had persuaded Hamas, the Palestinian armed resistance movement, to accept his '15-point document' for Hamas disarmament and Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip.

[You may object to my use of the phrase 'armed resistance movement' instead of 'evil crazy terrorists', but you would then be obliged to write an original 500-word essay explaining why you believe that the Stern Gang (Lehi) in the 1940s, the Viet Cong in the 1960s and the Mujahideen in Afghanistan in the 1980s were (or were not) 'evil crazy terrorists'.]

Three days after Trump's announcement the Israeli Defence Force (IDF) bombed the Gaza Strip again, killing 18 Palestinians. But don't get me wrong; this is not a piece about the perfidious and wicked Israelis. They are wicked and perfidious, of course, but so are Hamas's leaders. In this kind of war, the leaders on both sides have to lie and cheat all the time.

While neither side is averse to using violence, they use it sparingly most of the time, because both sides need the support or at least the sympathy of the United States to achieve their goals. The result is a charade in which the leaders on both sides pretend to want peace while carefully sabotaging any step that might make peace possible.

The current round of this long-running sham began with Hamas's decision to tell Trump's people that they were ready to disarm completely as long as the Israelis entirely withdraw from the Gaza Strip. This was a safe move, since they knew that Israel's Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu would never do that. They just wanted to smoke him out.

Netanyahu faces an election in two months, and his only chance of winning it is to retain the trust of the extreme right parties who want to drive all the Palestinians out of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. He doesn't actually have to do that right now but he must at least look like he wants to do it, so withdrawing from the Gaza Strip would be electoral suicide.

Hamas's move worked. After playing for time as long as possible, Netanyahu said

last Sunday (9 August) that "Israel does not accept the '15-point document'." And that's it, at least until the Israeli election and probably afterwards as well, because most other coalitions that might replace Netanyahu's would be equally adamant about not leaving Gaza.

So what has been accomplished by all this back and forth? Just point-scoring, really. Hamas comes out of this exchange looking a bit more reasonable than the Israeli government, but that is an optical illusion. It plays a bad hand very well, but in the end, it is just as extreme, just as uncompromising, just as driven by religion as the radicals around Netanyahu.

And just as marginal, now that the big boys have come out to play. The future of the Middle East will be decided by the United States and Iran, with major supporting roles for Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Turkey and Pakistan. Israel will have only a bit part, doing whatever Washington tells it to do.

However, this is where the crystal ball goes dark. 'Washington' is actually just Donald Trump, and we do not know what he will do. We can't, because he does not know from one day to the next himself, but

he is desperate and it could be very big.

Bear in mind what he has done already. He has driven all the Gulf states to revise their view of the United States as a reliable ally. Saudi Arabia has even ordered him to stop US air attacks on Iran from Saudi bases.

He has inadvertently brought a younger, more radical, more ruthless generation to power in Iran, and they take vindictive pleasure in thwarting his efforts to reopen the Strait of Hormuz. Own goal. And when they do reopen the Strait, Trump will hate the deal.

He has caused the three other big powers of western Asia, Turkey, Saudi Arabia and Pakistan, to form an alliance under the Mecca Agreement. That's almost 400 million people, all pledged to defend any member that comes under attack, and that includes defence with Pakistan's 170 nuclear weapons.

And Trump might yet convince the Iranian regime that it will never be safe without nuclear weapons of its own.

So all is still to play for, as they say.



GWYNNE DYER
OUR WORLD TODAY

Saying goodbye to an old friend

Saying goodbye to an old friend

Just recently, I experienced a very sad day in my life. I had to say goodbye to an old friend.

I had to dispose of my car of many years.

Disposing of my old car was much more emotional than I thought it was going to be. I absolutely hated having to get rid of it — selling out my beloved old car had to be done. It was old and worn out and no longer safe to drive.

When the wrecker came to get my car, I couldn't help but feel a tinge of sadness. As he hauled my old car away, the small amount of money he gave me for it was of little consolation.

I couldn't help thinking, "After all those loyal and dedicated years of selfless service, how did I reward my dearest and most reliable automotive friend? I sent it to the crusher!" I felt like a bit of a rat for doing it — selling out my beloved old car for a few measly dollars. Not exactly thirty pieces of silver, but still... I knew it had to be done.

In certain parts of Japan, workers sometimes hold a small thanksgiving ceremony to honour old machines that are being retired and dismantled after many years of loyal service. It's called a *kanshasai* — a gratitude ceremony.

The tradition is rooted in Shinto, which

teaches that everything, even machines, has a spirit. The practice reflects the deep respect and appreciation the Japanese people have for machines that have served them well and made their lives better.

Along with offerings of food or flowers, employees may bow, clap, pray, or offer words of respect or gratitude before dismantling the retired equipment that helped them be productive and earn a living. Not just restricted to heavy industrial machinery, *kanshasai* ceremonies have even been performed by families for household items as mundane as Roomba vacuums.

In a way, this was how I felt about my old car. Not just a machine to me, it was an important part of my life for many years, safely and efficiently getting me where I needed to go.

As much as I wanted to, I didn't say any goodbyes to my old car when the wrecker hooked up to it that day, because he would have thought I was nuts! But I did get sentimental as I watched my car of many years being hauled down the street, fading off into the distance and out of my life. That was a sad day for me.

I can already hear the women out there saying, "What the heck is this guy talking about? It's just a car." They will never understand. But most of the

men out there will know exactly what I'm talking about. Men and their vehicles have a long and loving relationship together.

To most men, cars and trucks are not just inanimate objects that get you from point A to point B. They are life partners, true-blue friends you can count on, and an extension of the man you are — or the man you want to be.

As the saying goes, "A man's best friend is his dog." But that saying could be amended today to "A man's best friends are his dog and his vehicle."

Women gather to admire a newborn baby. Men gather to admire a brand-new vehicle. Women can hear their baby fuss from across the house. Men can hear a strange noise in their vehicle from across the yard. And each approaches the object of their concern with the same amount of compassion as the other.

Women do what they can for their child at home before finally deciding to take them to the doctor. Men do what they can for their vehicle at home before finally deciding to take it to the mechanic. Such is the relationship between a man and his vehicle.

Every vehicle a man ever owns occupies a special place in his heart. Unless it is a complete lemon, many men remember their past cars and trucks

fondly, associating them with the major life events that happened in their vehicles along the way.

My old car was such a good and reliable friend. It will be missed.

Goodbye, my old friend. You will always have a special place in my heart. And to my new car — hello, my new friend. You are welcome and will be loved, but you will never take the place of my beloved old car, no matter how cool and fancy and shiny and new you may be. But someday, I know I'll feel the same way about you when the time comes, and I have to say goodbye again.

Funny how a pile of metal, rubber, and bolts can hold so many memories — holiday trips home to see family, grocery runs, driving vacations, quiet moments of thinking behind the wheel, and the simple comfort of knowing it would always start when I needed it to.

Life moves on, of course, but some goodbyes always stay with you. My old friend may be gone now, but the many miles we shared together are still with me. And maybe that's the real gift a good vehicle gives you — not just the ride, but the memories that stay with you long after the motor goes silent.



KEITH SCHELL
REMEMBERING WHEN

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COMMUNITY VOICES

Headwaters Rising: The power of proximity, belonging and the spaces between us

That nosy neighbour or gossiping granny might just be your friendly neighbourhood superhero. It's easy to get annoyed with people who comment on every misstep of bin placement, yard maintenance, or perceived transgression of a bylaw. Yet those vigilant residents may actually be an important stitch in the netting of community safety.

In *The Death and Life of Great American Cities*, Jane Jacobs argued that public safety is maintained primarily through an intricate, informal network of natural street surveillance — what she famously termed “eyes on the street” (Jacobs, 1961). When we define safety as going beyond catching bad behaviour to protecting people, watching out for those in need, and improving the neighbourhood, we see the building blocks of a resilient community.

Formal programs like the Community Watch program offered by the Dufferin Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) operationalize this concept by training and equipping residents to distinguish activity that warrants police attention. These initiatives strengthen neighbourhood networks, encouraging residents to work together to deter opportunistic crime through presence and communication.

Beyond crime prevention, the local grapevine reveals not only what people are doing but how people are doing. Neighbours who are always “on watch” may also be the first to notice if a vulnerable person living alone hasn't been seen in a while, or if a busy single parent needs help mowing the lawn or fixing a fence. They also know who in the neighbourhood has carpentry

skills or a teenager able to help. This informal network provides a layer of protection that acts as both a human security system and starch in the social fabric.

So much attention goes to global issues, othering, and threats consumed on the internet that it is easy to miss how vital local people and places are to our daily lives. Physical proximity matters. Community building happens in “third spaces,” places other than home and work or school — arenas, libraries, cafes, community centres, faith centres, and parks. It also happens in the quiet spaces between us. Simple chats across the garden hedge or at the grocery store nurture a sense of belonging, reminding us that we are part of a local mosaic.

It is easier to find compassion for someone you have a conversation or connection with (Joanne who needs a place to stay) than an abstract group or label (the unhoused).

While building a sense of belonging creates a supportive neighbourhood environment, in parallel, we also need to build a decision-making environment that ensures that services and programs are tailored to local needs and shaped by local voices. HCIA is deeply committed to resident engagement and active inclusion. We facilitate groups of local people from Dufferin County and Caledon, with various lived expe-

riences, to develop and amplify a collective voice that influences services and systems of care. When individuals marginalized by poverty, homelessness, trauma, health or caregiving challenges have a platform where their voice matters, it transforms their relationship with the community, building hope, motivation, and pride. Peer support creates a cushion of empathy that empowers individuals to step out of survival mode. Linking these perspectives into decision-making processes creates effective and lasting improvements.

Here, in their own words, are some of the impacts that the work of our groups has had on the people involved:

- “During <group> meetings every member had a chance to share their opinion... over time it became easier and easier for me to share and to feel like what I had to say was of value... My confidence grew. Building that confidence within the group made it easier for me to talk to people outside of the group as well.”
- “Being part of <group> has transformed my life. It's a safe space where my voice is heard and valued... <group> provides support and encouragement and has lifted me out of my feelings of isolation and despair. I have gained not only allies in my struggle but lifelong friends.”
- “Peer support has been incredibly important in my healing... I now live in housing after years on the list and it is the other people in the building who look after each other. I cannot stress enough the value in peer support.”
- “I love being on this <committee>. It is the highlight of my committee experience.

There is immense power in a connected community where people feel seen, valued, and understood rather than invisible or isolated. It is living the “nothing about us without us” credo, knowing where to go for help, and having confidence that neighbours have your back.

This shared foundation of collective attention, mutual care, and meaningful inclusion moves us beyond basic survival toward genuine thriving. True safety is felt. It is believing that the first instinct of those around you is to help, not harm, and that when someone is struggling, they deserve support rather than suspicion. Conversations lead to connection, connection leads to safety, and safety leads to belonging.

Paths to action

- Listen First: Expand your comfort zone this month. Attend a local community forum, participate in a cultural event, or drop into a council meeting to listen to the lived experiences and priorities of your neighbours.
- The Proximity Challenge: Take a small step to narrow the distance on your street. Introduce yourself to two neighbours you haven't spoken with yet, or attend a local community meal in your town.

Sit with this question this month: Where in your daily routine and in your community's shared spaces can you pull up a chair and listen to a story you haven't heard before?

Headwaters Rising is a monthly Community Voice column from Headwaters Communities In Action (HCIA). This month's column was contributed (with help) by Jennifer Payme. Learn more about HCIA at hcia.ca.

The Orangeville Public Library is here to help you get creative with its Makerspace

Libraries have always been places where ideas begin. At the Orangeville Public Library's Mak-erspace, those ideas can also become something you can hold, wear, gift, or preserve.

Located on the upper level of the Alder Street Branch, the Makerspace opened in February 2026 and has continued to grow in both equipment and capacity. Its purpose is to give community mem-bers access to new technologies, practical tools, and hands-on learning opportunities that can help them build digital literacy and creative confidence.

The space has been especially lively this summer, welcoming day camps, teen events and curious visitors during open lab hours. Some arrive with a project in mind; others come simply to see what is possible.

Our two 3D printers, a Prusa and a Bambu, are among the busiest tools in the room, pro-

ducing creations designed or selected by library users. A 3D printer builds an object layer by layer from a digital file. It can make models, prototypes, craft pieces, replacement parts, and all kinds of imagi-native objects. Watching a design slowly take physical form is fascinating, whether you are eight or 80.

Interested in creating something personalized? The Cricut Maker 3 can cut designs from materials such as vinyl and paper, making it ideal for custom stickers, iron-on decals, greeting cards, and party decorations. Pair it with our T-shirt or mug press, and you can create a thoughtful, one-of-a-kind gift. Our laser cutter and engraver can add artwork, photographs, or text to materials such as wood, or cut precise shapes from a digital design.

For those who prefer fabric and thread, the Makerspace offers a computerized sewing ma-

chine, a serger, and an embroidery machine. These can be used for clothing, home décor, decorative stitch-ing, monograms, and other textile projects. The Makerspace is also a place to preserve the past. Equipment is available to digitize printed pho-tographs, negatives and slides, VHS tapes and even audio cassettes. Those boxes of family memo-ries sitting in a closet can be converted into digital files that are easier to protect and share. Other tools include a 360-degree camera, a button maker, and coding robots that make technology ap-proachable and fun for younger learners.

Of course, a Makerspace is about more than machines. It is a place to experiment, solve problems, and learn by doing. You do not need to arrive as an expert. Library programs and open lab hours provide opportunities to become familiar with the equipment, ask questions, and

learn alongside others.

Machine use is free; members pay only for library-supplied materials they consume, such as 3D-printing filament or wood for engraving. In some cases, users may bring their own materials with staff approval; it's a good idea to ask ahead. Library membership is available at no charge to Orangeville residents and to residents of Mono, East Garafraxa and Amaranth through municipal agreements. Those who operate a business or own property in Orangeville are also eligible for a library card. People living outside these areas can still explore the Maker-space using a \$5 household day pass.

Before visiting, check the Orangeville Public Library website for current open lab hours, upcoming programs, equipment information, guidelines, and code of conduct. Makers under 14 must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian.



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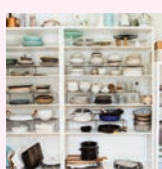
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR: Mill Creek crisis

Dear Editor:

For five months, I have taken it upon myself to clean up garbage and debris from Mill Creek. I would like to give you an update on my ongoing mission.

First, I am very happy to see the Mill Creek rehabilitation between Bythia and Dawson streets, and I look forward to seeing the completed project.

These are the top four items that I continue to find in Mill Creek:

#1) Plastics: Huge amounts of plastic in all sorts of sizes, such as containers, plastic bags, shrink wrap and styrofoam.

#2) Clothing and lining: I continue to pull massive amounts of lining and clothing out of Mill Creek. I pinpointed the main source of the lining and clothing: the unkempt used clothing box and dumping ground at the local 7-Eleven.

It's common knowledge that certain individuals are pulling bags of clothing apart

at the 7-Eleven drop box and spreading clothing around the neighbourhood and into Mill Creek. (I have witnessed this myself).

Several local residents have witnessed a person who appears to have a mental illness spend hours trying to dam the Mill Creek with the lining and clothing she removed from the clothing donation box located at the 7-Eleven. This unkempt used clothing/dumpster must be removed.

#3) Biohazards and medical supplies: I have found several used needle boxes full of needles, and others broken open with contents missing, in Mill Creek. I continue to remove hundreds of medical supplies like personal lubrication packets, alcohol, cotton swabs, drug injection and crack smoking kits. The biohazards and medical supplies are intentionally thrown into Mill Creek. Everyone I meet in the parks along Mill Creek with their children and pets, I warn them of the biohazard in

Mill Creek.

#4) Toxic substances: I have found full spray cans of paint, full spray cans of Easy-Off oven cleaner (rusty and ready to burst), full Javex containers, motor oil containers, etc.

Mill Creek flows into the Credit River to Port Credit, then into Lake Ontario. The people of Toronto and the GTHA drink the water from Lake Ontario.

We have a huge mental health addiction crisis in Ontario. I fully understand our municipalities are not properly funded by our provincial government to deal with this crisis. It is a shame that these fellow human beings in the lowest part of their life who have an illness are literally abandoned and left mostly to fend for themselves. The Mill Creek crisis is a side effect of the mental health crisis.

Terry Brooker
Orangeville

HollyFest scam alert

A scammer recently targeted the Orangeville Citizen's annual HollyFest Christmas Market by impersonating the market's official email: shows@lpcmedia.ca.

The only correspondence with vendors or the public from HollyFest will come from the email: shows@lpcmedia.ca.

Please do not respond to any emails that appear differently. The individual or individuals impersonating HollyFest market organizers are using email addresses that read as showslpcmedia.ca@gmail.com or orangevillehollyfests@gmail.com.

The scammer is requesting vendor fee payments from previous, current and potential clients. If the scam email address has contacted you or your business, please do not respond and contact your local police department's non-emergency telephone line to report it.

The Orangeville Citizen encourages anyone with concerns to contact our office at (519) 941-2230 or stop by 10 First Street, Floor 1, Orangeville.



OBITUARIES

WAYNE STEVEN BENNETT

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Wayne (Benny) Steven Bennett after a lengthy battle with cancer.

Benny was born in Smiths Falls, Ontario and raised in Northwood Park, Brampton before settling in Mississauga for most of his life.

Known in the early days of Northwood Park as one of six Bennett brothers. Benny enjoyed many years in what was then small town Brampton.

Benny's passion for sports led him in later years to religiously take time off from work for major sporting events.

His conviction for fighting against bureaucracy for what was right and always being there to help anyone in need, started at a young age and carried through the rest of his life. It was well known.

Benny's keen sense of humour had him finding laughter at the best of times.

He will be sadly missed by family and friends.

Predeceased by father, Ronald J. Bennett, mother Della M. Bennett (Hogan) Brampton, sister Pamela and brother Dale.

Survived by brothers Rick of (Brampton), Paul (Roberta) of Amaranth, Brian of (Smiths Falls) and Kerry of (Victoria, BC), niece Tanya Hofing (Bennett) Darryl, nephews Todd Bennett, Andrew (Missy) Gardner and numerous grand nieces and nephews.

Please make a donation in memory of Benny to the Canadian Cancer Society.

For additional information please contact Dods & McNair Funeral Home in Orangeville or Paul at 905-586-5757.

In memory of Wayne, a tree has been planted in the Dods & McNair Memorial Forest at Island Lake Conservation - Orangeville.

Celebration of Life - Busholme Hotel in Erin - Saturday September 5th - 2:00 - 4:00



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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.

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

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