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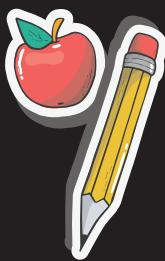


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JOSHUA DRAKES PHOTO

NEW CONNECTION: Credit Valley Conservation (CVC) staff, led by CAO Terri Hamilton, joined members of the public and key local dignitaries to celebrate the grand opening of a new bridge that will help to further connect trail infrastructure in the region. The bridge is one part of an ongoing project to finish the Credit Valley Trail, a 100-kilometre project from Dufferin County to the Mississauga shoreline. Read a full story on Page A6.

Cows, cornstalks and community: Orangeville Fall Fair returns on Labour Day weekend

Written By SAM ODROWSKI

The Orangeville Fall Fair is back for its 2026 edition, running Friday, Sept. 4 through Sunday, Sept. 6 at the Orangeville Agricultural Society fairgrounds, with organizers promising a weekend built around this year's theme: "Cows and Cornstalks."

Fair coordinator Patti Dickins said the event will feature a photo opportunity with a large cow prop, cow-print tablecloths in the Oak Room, and cornstalk decorations spread throughout the fairgrounds. The Lego Club will also make an appearance on Saturday.

One of the biggest changes this year is the return of a two-night demolition derby, presented by Mom's Motor Sports, running Saturday and Sunday at 5:30 p.m. The truck and tractor pull takes over Friday night.

New to the fair this year is Kathryn Burrell, author of Our Orangeville Colouring Book, who will be on hand to meet visitors. Entertainment includes the Mazel Band on Friday, Guitars Cadillacs on Saturday afternoon and the Edge Band on Sunday afternoon.



FILE PHOTO

FUN AWAITS: The Orangeville Fall Fair returns Labour Day weekend, from Sept. 4 to 6.

Michelle Hartley, the newly appointed coordinator of the Kid's Zone, is bringing new activities to that area of the fair. Among the returning favourites is a barrel train built by Dickins' husband, which proved a hit with young kids last year.

"The kids loved it, absolutely loved it," Dickins said of the ride.

Now in its third year, the Kids Zone sits

just steps from the admission gate and will run Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., according to Hartley. The area, geared toward children up to age 12, includes free activities such as a ball pit, bouncy animals, lassoing and hula hooping under a large arch. A corn husking competition for three age categories is set for 1:30 p.m. Saturday.

Groups confirmed to take part include the Orangeville Outlaws U16 football team, Otters Swim Club, Skate Canada, Girl Guides, Scouts, the Ontario SPCA's Orangeville branch, and the Orangeville Hallowe'en Haunt Patrol and Christmas Nite Lites Patrol. The Haunt Patrol is expected to hand out more than 300 freebies and run a craft table where kids can make a cloth ghost for a 25-cent donation, with proceeds going to the Dufferin HART Hub and the food bank vending machine at the Orangeville Library's Mill Street Branch.

Outdoor space in the Kids Zone remains free for non-profit groups, with a few spots still open, Hartley said.

Continued on Page A7

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Affordable housing definition to be determined as town looks to update Official Plan

Written By JAMES MATTHEWS

As municipalities grow and change, so too must their Official Plans evolve with them. Michael Matthys, the principal at WW+P Architects and Planners, told Orangeville council during a special meeting on Aug. 24 that Official Plans must be updated to respond to changing needs, priorities, and provincial policy directions.

As such, Orangeville is taking a hard look at its plan to ensure it will reflect the community's character and vision into the future. Many things have changed since the plan was last considered.

"There's new realities, new challenges, and opportunities that are confronting Orangeville today," Matthys said. "And the review and update of the Official Plan is an opportunity to recognize those and kind of marshal our resources as we move forward."

The plan was last updated in 2009. The current review will be done in four stages. The opening phase looked at the municipality's employment land strategy, residential strategy, commercial land use strategy, natural heritage system strategy, and policy gaps.

That phase was pretty much a checklist to set off in a direction.

The second phase, which is underway, will weigh directions and recommendations for further land use and mapping analysis. The town's priorities will be confirmed with the public and with council.

"A little bit deeper dive on some of the key issues and matters that we identified in Phase 1," Matthys said.

Orangeville resident Matthew Smith asked if it is best practice to rezone the northwest part of the town to residential land from employment land.

"Especially considering we're kind of, in my words, starved for industrial land," he said. "Should we really be removing that from the zoning and converting it to residential zoning?"

Brandon Ward, the town's planning manager, said it is a practice that is expected to happen through the current process.

"We've had a consultant team not only with the growth management study but also now with the Official Plan review," Ward said. "Both came to the same conclusion regarding those lands."

He said Orangeville does indeed need future employment land, but those rezoned areas are not realistic to meet the need.

"There is a lot of merit to redesignate them," Ward said. "In doing so, you achieve other objectives."

Another necessary objective is to establish land for housing development, he said.

Councillor Joe Andrews asked the consultant whether the updated Official Plan will include a definition of affordable housing.

Matthys said there is no concise definition yet, but there remains work to be done.

"From our perspective, it makes sense to index it to income," he said. "And how much is a percentage of your income do you want to be spending on affordable housing?"

Matthys said the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation uses 30 per cent of income as the benchmark.

"There's different ways of looking at it depending on local income level," he said. "In some areas, 30 per cent is still not realistic."

"I think it is very difficult for us to define it here at a local level yet," Andrews said. "It is the individuals, the consumer who will determine the affordability as well."

Mono council supports private citizen's effort to secure funding for new sports centre

Written By JAMES MATTHEWS

A multi-sport indoor community centre facility has been proposed for Mono and the surrounding region at the town's north end.

Councillor Elaine Capes brought the proposal to Mono council when it met on Aug. 25.

The need for a feasibility study to look into the possibility of a recreation complex was added to council's unfinished business list in November 2024.

Since then, Mono residents Richard Edwards and Christa-Gayle Clark-Edwards pushed the idea further and have

approached council with an offer to build such a facility on their land with its entrance off Highway 89.

They initially planned to build a private residence on the property. That was until they recognized the need for accessible, year-round recreational infrastructure.

"This project is not only for Mono but for surrounding communities as well," according to Clark-Edwards.

All they ask so far is that council provide a letter of support for their proposal. The letter, they say, would be valuable in discussions with potential lenders, funding partners, and grant programs.

"We can support two Mono citizens with a grand vision and heartfelt passion to make this a reality," Capes wrote in a report to council.

"We would no longer need to complete the feasibility study and will not incur the expense associated with this due to the generosity and wonderful vision of the property owners to bring this to Mono and the surrounding area."

Mono lacks a modern all-season multi-sport facility, and it has a growing population.

According to promotional material, the proposed facility would include a swimming pool, basketball courts, and an indoor track on the ground floor. Community spaces will also be located on that first level. An indoor soccer field will be housed on the building's second level.

Depending on its design and scope, the facility is expected to cost between \$15 million and \$22 million and take two to two and a half years to complete.

"There are planning things that need to be worked out," Capes said.

Deputy Mayor Fred Nix said he likes the idea.

But...

"When this complex is built, it's privately owned," he said. "It's not a public facility. They will be charging fees for entrance. Will they be a profit or non-profit organization?"

Coun. Melinda Davie said a community centre that's privately owned is "not a community centre."

Capes said it will be an "owner built and operated facility."

It will be a multi-sport recreation and community centre, she said.

"There will be all kinds of opportunities," Capes said. "We just don't have the details for that yet."

The proponents are not asking for public money, she said.

"I really think that this would be a large mistake for Mono to get in bed with another private entity," Davie said. "Whether it turns out to be non-profit or not, it is a business."

She expressed concern the owners may approach the municipality for help with amenities later.

Davie said she has reservations about "mixing municipal with private corporation."

"We are not mixing anything," Capes said. "We are giving them a letter of support that says we support this concept so that they can go and get funding. It's not that we are giving them funding."

"But we're not closing the door because

at some point in the future we may want to sign along with them for those grants again so that it can be built for the community to use."

Mayor John Creelman asked how council can reconcile its support for the private ACTS or Athlete Institute business while denying similar support to the proposed facility.

Capes said they're very different ventures because the Athlete Institute doesn't have a pool and it is located at the town's south end. She likened the proposed recreation centre to a YMCA that is a fee-for-service operation.

"If we can get the Y to come and build here, great," she said. "But we can't because they're not building infrastructure right now."

Davie said somebody who wants to open a car dealership doesn't approach town council first and ask for something in writing to help with the process.

"I'm getting the impression that you have been very passionate about this and that you might not be as objective about this as I would like a councillor to be in your position," Davie said.

The motion to council to support the proponents was amended to remove the word "community" and refer to it as a sports centre instead.

The motion passed, and Mono council will provide a letter of support for Richard Edwards and Christa-Gayle Clark-Edwards.

"Thank you very much," Capes said. "There are a lot of people out there who are going to be very happy, and I know a lot of them."



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Food bank’s vending machine program surpasses 25,000 meals since inception

Written By **SAM ODROWSKI**

The Orangeville Food Bank’s community vending machine program has grown to three locations across Dufferin County, distributing more than 25,000 meals since its 2023 launch and drawing interest from food banks outside the region.

The machines, which offer meals and snacks prepared in the food bank’s community kitchen for 25 cents each, now operate at the Mill Street branch of the Orangeville Public Library and the Grand Valley Library. Since its launch, the program has expanded from one to three vending machines and now distributes roughly 11,000 snacks and meals per year.

The first machine was up and running in June 2023 at Orangeville Town Hall before moving to its permanent home at the Mill Street Library that November, following the branch’s renovation. Since then, the network has expanded twice over.

The program’s growth has caught the attention of food banks outside Dufferin County. Representatives from North York Harvest Food Bank recently visited Orangeville to learn how the model works.

“Our shift in focus became food to the people, not people to the food,” said Heather Hayes, executive director of the Orangeville Food Bank.

She said the vending machines are built on the same principle underpinning the food bank’s other community partnerships: removing any sense of division between who needs support and who doesn’t.

The 25-cent meals are available to everyone.

“We didn’t want an us versus them mentality,” Hayes said. “We wanted a we’re all us [mentality].”

Hayes said that philosophy shapes who the food bank hopes will use the machines.

“One of the things that we’ve noticed is people make an assumption that only certain kinds of people access the vending machine, or only certain people access the food bank,” Hayes said. “We now actually put out food for our volunteers and our staff, because food insecurity is something you can’t see in somebody.”

She said making the machines available to the wider community — not just food bank clients — has been central to reducing stigma.

“There are lots of great conversations that happen when all kinds of people come together to eat food together, whether it is sitting at a table or grabbing it from a vending machine,” Hayes said.

Laura Warner, CEO of the Orangeville Public Library, said the vending machine partnership was unlike anything she had encountered elsewhere in her career.

“The food bank vending machine is not something I’ve ever seen in another library I’ve worked in,” Warner said. “I love any opportunity where there are those relationships already with the community.”

Hayes said the vending machines complement the food bank’s broader mission of meeting people where they are, rather than requiring multiple trips across town.

Three north Dufferin collisions send 10 people to the hospital over the weekend

Written By **SAM ODROWSKI**

Three serious collisions in Mulmur and Melancthon over the weekend sent 10 people to hospital, including several with serious or life-threatening injuries.

The collisions occurred between Saturday, Aug. 22 afternoon and Sunday, Aug. 23 afternoon, according to the Dufferin OPP.

The most recent occurred around 4:30 p.m. Sunday on Highway 89 near 4th Line in Melancthon, where two sedans and a minivan were involved in a three-vehicle collision.

Seven people were transported to a local hospital, with two sustaining serious injuries.

Highway 89 between 4th Line and 5th Line was closed for several hours while officers investigated.

Earlier Sunday, at approximately 4:30 a.m., Dufferin OPP responded to a serious two-vehicle collision on County Road 18 (Airport Road) near County Road 21 in Mulmur.

The collision involved a minivan and a sedan. The driver of the sedan sustained serious injuries and was taken to a local hospital before being transferred to a Toronto-area trauma centre. The driver of the minivan was also transported to hospital with unknown injuries.

The OPP’s Traffic Collision Investiga-



tion team was brought in to investigate the Mulmur collision. County Road 18 between County Road 21 and 20 Sideroad was closed for several hours.

The third collision occurred Saturday at approximately 5:40 p.m. on River Road between Mill Street and the Mulmur-Melancthon Townline in Melancthon Township.

Police said a group of motorcyclists were travelling on River Road when one motorcycle left the roadway and struck a tree.

The lone motorcycle driver sustained life-threatening injuries and was transported to a Toronto-area trauma centre.

The roadway was closed for several hours while emergency crews responded and police investigated.

All three investigations remain ongoing.

Anyone who witnessed any of the collisions or has video footage is asked to contact Dufferin OPP at 1-888-310-1122.

People who witnessed any of the collisions and wish to speak with victim services can contact Caledon/Dufferin Victim Services at 905-951-3838.

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

SUPPORTING STUDENTS: In late June, Mary Rose of the Orangeville Optimists conceived the idea for backpacks for children going to school in the fall, an initiative close to her heart after her 37 years with the school system. Rose approached the Optimists' past president, Tina Clare, who secured a club agreement, and the "Youth Backpack Project" kicked off. The club was successful in finding a supplier of backpacks with school supplies. Orangeville Optimist Hazel Mason then embarked on a quest for water bottles and lunch kits. After some searching, she connected with Zehrs assistant manager, Bill, who offered the Optimists a good deal on their back-to-school lunch items. With the help of long time Optimist Ted, the club was able to fill the backpacks nicely. Optimist President Klaus Hoeg and members Adrian Maes, Mason and Clare met with DCAF's executive director, Jennifer Moore, to present four dozen backpacks on Aug. 13, which will be distributed to families who need a little help in outfitting their children with school supplies for September.



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[illegible]

New Credit Valley Trail bridge helps connect the community

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

A new 40-metre pedestrian bridge spanning the Credit River is being celebrated as a major milestone in the development of the Credit Valley Trail, bringing the vision of a continuous 100-kilometre route through the Credit River Valley one step closer to reality.

Credit Valley Conservation (CVC) officially opened the bridge on Aug. 20 at its Tranmer property, part of the Upper Credit Conservation Area north of the Dufferin County Road 109 bridge. The crossing connects the east and west sides of the property and is a key link between Island Lake Conservation Area in Orangeville and communities farther south in Caledon.

CVC CAO Terri Hamilton welcomed guests to the bridge's grand opening.

"We're marking a really incredible milestone along the Credit Valley Trail, which is the unveiling of the new pedestrian bridge here at the Tranmer property, part of our Upper Credit Conservation area," she said. "Where we're meeting right now is the future trailhead of the Credit Valley Trail, It will connect to the nearly 27 kilometers of the former Orangeville-Brampton rail line that's currently in process of being converted by the town to a multi-use trail, and this will link the headwaters through the forks of the credit and into Brampton."

"Large shared projects like this remind us that community infrastructure is never the work of a single organization, but great things truly are accomplished together in partnership," Hamilton added.

The bridge opening ceremony included prominent dignitaries and guests, with Orangeville Mayor Lisa Post present to congratulate the team behind the project's completion.

"I am especially proud to see this project moving forward," she said. "Orangeville is the

northern gateway to the Credit Valley Trail, and Island Lake Conservation Area serves as a welcoming trailhead for residents and visitors beginning their journey through the Credit Valley River. This new bridge at the Upper Credit Conservation area strengthens that connection."

"I want to thank Credit Valley Conservation, the Government of Canada, and the Government of Ontario through the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program. Thank you to Dufferin County, the Town of Caledon, the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation and all the partners whose vision and collaboration have brought us to this day — a huge congratulations to all of you," Post added.

Scott Cafarella, manager of capital projects at CVC, was also present at the grand opening, and said that the team was incredibly pleased to see the project finally reach its conclusion.

"It's a fantastic feeling to have this bridge open and in place," he said. "After so many years of collaboration and planning and construction to be at this point and to realize one of the main missing links and connections in the Credit Valley Trail, it's just amazing to see it all come together."

Planning, design, permitting and approvals took about two years, including work with Dufferin County to secure a trail easement within the County Road 109 right-of-way. The bridge itself was fabricated off-site over roughly six months, then transported to the property in three sections on truck beds.

At the site, crews assembled the sections before a crane lifted the completed structure over the Credit River and onto its abutments.

The bridge's distinctive enclosed design serves a practical purpose. Because of its proximity to County Road 109, a cage-like structure protects pedestrians from potential debris. On the north side, however, the enclosure is absent, preserving views to-



JOSHUA DRAKES PHOTO

CONNECTED COMMUNITY: The new 40-metre pedestrian bridge spanning the Credit River at Credit Valley Conservation's Tranmer property connects the east and west sides of the Upper Credit Conservation Area. The \$745,000 bridge is a key link in the planned 100-kilometre Credit Valley Trail, connecting Island Lake Conservation Area in Orangeville with communities farther south.

ward the provincially significant wetland.

The project's origins date back nearly a decade, when CVC's Upper Credit management plan identified the need to connect the two halves of the conservation area.

"This project goes back to 2016 when we did our upper credit management plan for the conservation area," Cafarella said. "We had always envisioned a bridge across the credit river here to connect the two halves of upper credit conservation area, and then also our Credit Valley Trail strategy envisioned this connection that would link the section of the Credit Valley Trail in Orangeville at Island Lake and link it with the rest of the trail."

The \$745,000 bridge was funded as part of a larger \$3.1-million trail infrastructure project supported through the federal and provincial Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program. Dufferin County also played a key role in approvals, construction logistics and establishing the trail easement.

Once complete, the Credit Valley Trail will stretch approximately 100 kilometres from Dufferin County to the Mississauga shoreline, connecting communities with the Credit River watershed's natural, cultural and Indigenous heritage.

For now, however, the CVC now has a complete, ready-to-use bridge finally linking its two halves as one.

Three motorists charged with impaired driving offences throughout Dufferin County

Written By **SAM ODROWSKI**

Three Dufferin County motorists have been charged with impaired driving-related offences following separate incidents over the past several days.

Dufferin Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) officers responded to a traffic complaint at about 7:38 p.m. on Aug. 22 in the area of County Road 3 and 24 in East Garafraxa Township.

Officers located the vehicle and launched an impaired driving investigation.

Manh Nguyen Tran, 38, of Guelph, was

charged with operation while impaired — blood alcohol concentration (80 plus), operation while impaired — alcohol and drugs, and driving a motor vehicle with liquor readily available.

At about 2:30 a.m. on Aug. 25, officers on general patrol in the area of Burbank Crescent in Orangeville found a driver asleep behind the wheel of a vehicle.

Officers approached the vehicle and launched an impaired driving investigation.

Raj Varmal, 29, of Orangeville, was charged with operation while impaired — blood alcohol concentration (80 plus) and

novice driver — blood alcohol concentration above zero.

The third incident occurred at about 12:36 a.m. on Aug. 26 during a Reduce Impaired Driving Everywhere (RIDE) program at Mill Street and Broadway in Orangeville.

Police said a vehicle failed to stop and was located a short time later. Officers conducted a traffic stop and observed signs of impairment before launching an investigation.

Kevin Buck, 35, of Orangeville, was charged with operation while impaired — alcohol and drugs, operation while impaired — blood alcohol concentration (80 plus),

and failing to stop for police.

All three accused are scheduled to appear in Ontario Court of Justice in Orangeville at a later date.

The motorists' licences were suspended and their vehicles were impounded, police said.

None of the listed charges have been proven in court.

Dufferin OPP reminded motorists to plan ahead when consuming alcohol or drugs, including arranging for a designated driver, taxi, rideshare, public transit or overnight accommodation.

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Fall Fair returns next weekend

Continued from FRONT

Dickins, who has volunteered with the fair since 2018 and is now in her sixth year as coordinator, said the sense of community is what keeps her coming back.

“I just love seeing the community come together,” she said. “You see friends you have seen forever, and just the smile on the kids and parents’ faces – it’s just lovely. That’s my takeaway: bringing the community together.”

Dickins is hoping to see a rebound in home craft entries this year, an area she said has been declining as fewer people take part in what used to be a fair staple.

“Home craft entries have really gone downhill because the home fair is starting to be a thing of the past,” she said, encouraging residents, especially kids, to submit an entry. Winners can take home prize money along with the recognition.

The fair’s midway, supplied by a Chatham-based company, will return with a line-up of rides, though Dickins said fairs the size of Orangeville’s are increasingly squeezed out of booking larger operators. Many midway companies sold off equipment during the pandemic, she said, and long-term contracts with larger fairs have made it difficult for smaller events to book bigger attractions.

Agricultural programming remains a cornerstone of the weekend. The 4-H Dairy Club Show and the Dufferin Wellington Holstein Show both take place Friday, while the Miniature Horse Show runs Sunday morning. Dickins said those events, along with the home craft hall, offer a rare chance for city kids to connect with where their food

comes from.

“For city kids, it’s very exciting to come see a cow, see the animals,” she said, adding the home craft hall similarly shows children “how your bread is made from grains.”

Supporting local agriculture remains a priority for the fair, Dickins said, pointing to her own background as the daughter of a farmer.

“It’s so hard to be a farmer nowadays,” she said. “We want to encourage farmers and let the kids experience the farming experience.”

Roughly 40 volunteers help run the fair each year, Dickins said, adding the event could always use more hands, including students looking to complete volunteer hours. She credited volunteers, especially students, with keeping the atmosphere lively.

“They bring energy and happiness to the fair because it’s new to them,” she said. “It’s just so nice to work with the young ones.”

Fall fair attendance topped 6,000 last year, weather permitting, according to Dickins.

For those who have never attended, she pointed to the home craft exhibits, including the biggest pumpkin and zucchini competitions, as a highlight not to be missed.

Dickins also credited the fair’s community partners and sponsors for helping keep the event running year after year.

“We really appreciate all our partners out in the community,” she said.

The fair runs from 4 to 11 p.m. on Friday, 9 a.m. to 11 p.m. on Saturday, and 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Sunday.

Admission is \$15 for adults, \$10 for seniors and youths aged six to 14, and free for children five and under.

Free BBQ at Monora Park to mark World Alzheimer’s Month

Written By **SAM ODROWSKI**

For families navigating a new dementia diagnosis, knowing where to turn can make all the difference — and in Dufferin County, that place is the Alzheimer’s Society.

This September, the Alzheimer Society of Dufferin County is inviting the community to come together for a free Family BBQ on Thursday, Sept. 17, from 2 to 6 p.m. at Monora Park in Mono, part of World Alzheimer’s Month. The event comes at an important time for the local society: demand for dementia support in Dufferin County has reached an all-time high, with new referrals doubling compared to this time last year.

The society is currently supporting more than 531 individuals living with dementia and their caregivers on a day-to-day basis, and its reach extends much further through community education, outreach and training. More than 1,500 people benefit from the services and education delivered through the society across Dufferin County, including in long-term care and retirement homes.

“We are currently seeing up to 30 new referrals in a single month, which represents a significant increase in demand for our services,” said Jenna Hunter, community engagement coordinator of the Alzheimer Society of Dufferin County.

Hunter said several factors are contributing to the growth.

“There is greater awareness of dementia and of the programs and supports available through the Alzheimer Society, which is encouraging more individuals and families to reach out for help,” she said. “At the same time, Dufferin County’s population is aging, and age remains the greatest known risk factor for dementia. As our older adult population grows, we expect the need for dementia support, education and caregiver resources to continue growing as well.”

Hunter said the impact of the Alzheimer Society’s services can often be seen in the everyday experiences of the families it supports.

“We may meet a family shortly after a dementia diagnosis when they are overwhelmed and unsure of what comes next,” she said. “Our team can help them understand the diagnosis, navigate available resources and connect the person living with dementia with meaningful programming, while also providing their caregiver with education, support

and opportunities for respite.”

“Over time, that family can go from feeling as though they are navigating dementia alone to having a team they can call, programs they can rely on and a community that understands what they are experiencing,” Hunter said. “While we always protect the privacy of our clients, stories like this are representative of the difference our programs can make for families right here in Dufferin County.”

“This is why community support is so important,” she said. “As referrals continue to rise, donations and fundraising help us ensure that individuals living with dementia and their caregivers can continue to access compassionate, specialized support close to home.”

That community support is exactly what the Alzheimer Society of Dufferin County is hoping to build on with this month’s Family BBQ.

“World Alzheimer’s Month is an opportunity for our entire community to come together, learn more about dementia and show local families that they are supported,” Hunter said. “At some point, dementia will touch nearly all of our lives — whether we know someone, love someone or care for someone living with the disease. We hope families will join us for an afternoon of community, awareness and fun.”

The Family BBQ is free and everyone is welcome. Please note there is a max capacity of tickets, so anyone interested in attending is encouraged to register.

Attendees can enjoy a BBQ, a large silent auction, a 50/50 draw, family-friendly activities and the opportunity to meet the Alzheimer Society team to learn more about the programs and services available to individuals and caregivers throughout Dufferin County.

While there is no cost to attend, donations are gratefully accepted. Funds raised will remain in the community and help the society continue meeting the rapidly growing demand for dementia services.

This World Alzheimer’s Month, Dufferin County is encouraged to come together, start conversations about dementia and help ensure local families have somewhere to turn when they need support.

Anyone planning to attend is asked to notify the local Alzheimer Society by calling 519-941-1221 ext. 104 or registering online: alzheimer.ca/dufferincounty

Orangeville clerk certifies 25 candidates running in fall municipal election

Written By **SAM ODROWSKI**

Twenty-five candidates have been certified to run in Orangeville’s municipal election, including five mayoral candidates and 18 people seeking one of five council seats.

Former mayors Sandy Brown and Jeremy Williams put their names forward, along with former councillor Nick Garisto and incumbent Mayor Lisa Post. Christopher DeCastro is also seeking the mayor position this fall.

Sheila K. Hall and incumbent Todd Taylor are seeking the deputy mayor position.

Incumbent councillors Joe Andrews, Tess Prendergast, Debbie Sherwood, and Rick Stevens are looking to keep their positions on council, while Andy Macintosh won’t be seeking re-election.

Boubah Bah, Austin Cotton, Carrie-Anne DeCaprio, Michelle Hartley, Tricia Herbert,



Paul Hinsperger, James Jackson, Viktor Karklins, Lindsay Lupton, Vivian Petho, Sandra Pratt, Bryna Sabourin, Matthew Smith, and Rob Woon-Fat are each competing for one of five councillor roles.

The nomination period for potential candidates closed on Aug. 21.

Voter list revisions will be accepted until Sept. 1, and municipal election information letters will be mailed out by the end of September.

Online voting for the election opens on Oct. 9, and advanced voting days will take place on Oct. 10 and 18.

Election day is Oct. 26.



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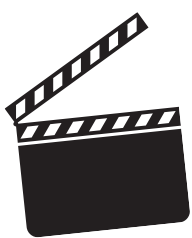
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Arts & Entertainment



LOCAL COMMUNITY EVENTS

Painting brings colour, creativity and joy to Shelburne artist’s life

Written By **CONSTANCE SCRAFIELD**

Janis Dixon is in her third year of learning to paint, and she is delighted to discover her talent much later in life than many artists.

“I must be doing well enough,” she told the Citizen earlier this week, “because Headwaters Arts accepted two of my paintings for this new show.”

She was referring to the Art of Abundance, running now until Sept. 13 at the Headwaters Arts Gallery in the Alton Mill Arts Centre.

The Shelburne-based artist began her path as a painter when she started taking lessons from Angela Burdon, who also runs the stables where Dixon has been keeping her horse.

For Dixon, who has entered life as an artist with her work hanging in a premier art gallery, art is no mere hobby.

She feels the passion for it as any creative person does and says, “Time goes by so quickly when I’m painting. I love mixing the colours and I love the colour red.”

In the main, Dixon has been painting flowers. She and her husband, Mark, have a wonderful garden full of the joy and abundance of colour such a garden can provide.

When asked if they grow vegetables among the blooms, she replied that their neighbours’ garden is abundant in vegetables, which they are pleased to share. For Dixon, the mission in her painting is to see people smile at them, to provide moments of joy in this troubled world.

Born in Southern England in a small town near Bristol, Dixon came to Canada with her mother when she was 15.

“My dad walked out one day and my mother was a nurse. She had a sister living in Canada,” she said.

At the time, there was a choice for her and her mother to go to New Zealand or Canada, and they opted for Canada.

“And I am very glad we chose Canada,” Dixon remarked.

She talked about her early years here and how she began to attend college to learn secretarial skills. She found employment easily, jobs that in the long run promoted her to be the assistant to presidents of corporations.

She and Mark met when they were both 50. Love blossomed, and they have been happy ever since. Mark is an avid golfer, playing every week during the season. They are both avid gardeners.

“I don’t worry whether my paintings are better or not than others, as long as they put a smile on people’s faces,” she noted and went on to say how some of her paintings bring back memories.

Primarily, she paints flowers because of her own garden, and it was wonderful for her and Mark to learn that they have quite a knack for the work.

For all her love of painting in bright colours, a friend of Dixon requested a quieter piece of her pastel poppies, a cooler pink rather than the ravishing reds. It was truly a challenge for her to do the calmer version, but it was very nice once it was finished.

Cooking is another passion for Dixon. Mark and her frequently host dinner parties.

We love company,” she said. “You get to a point in your life where you want to enjoy



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

INSPIRED BY NATURE: Artist Dixon poses with her painting “Poppies.” Dixon said she was inspired by the bright colours of the poppies in her garden and wanted to create a large painting of the flowers.

yourself.”

“We don’t dwell on the news,” Dixon said.

Four dogs add to their life’s pleasure and, in the role of sponsors for the SPCA of rescue dogs in a home that also loves cats, they can raise the dogs they care for to learn to live with cats in other homes when adoption comes.

Art encourages growth, and Dixon is thinking about learning more about shadowing in her paintings and how to include people without delving into portrait painting.

ing. Angela helps with this by advising her that “if you make a mistake, you can paint over it.”

Being a member of Headwaters Arts means that she takes her turn to do sessions of attending the show to greet visitors and answer questions they may have.

Dixon was surprised and very pleased recently when her photograph, titled Morning Sunrise, was accepted by the Bruce Trail Conservancy for their 2027 calendar. They even sent her four calendars as a thank you.



David Gauthier
Service Consultant

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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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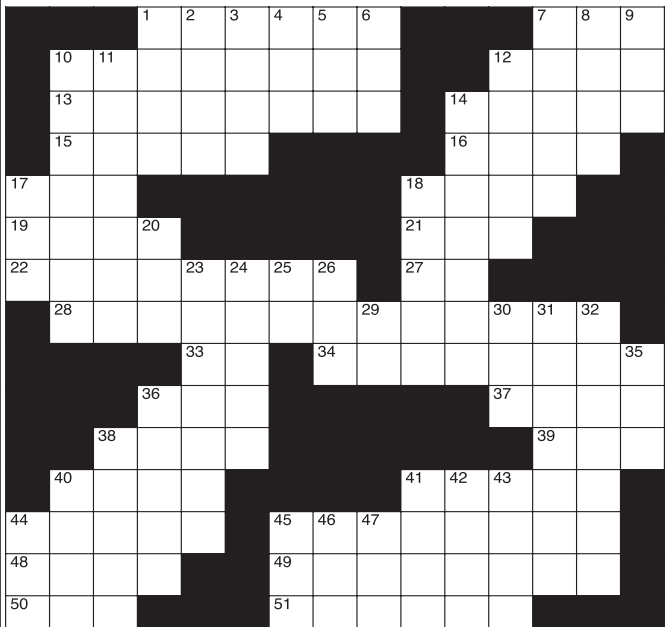
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The Citizen CROSSWORD

Puzzle No. 268410 • Solution on page: CLASSIFIEDS SECTION



CLUES ACROSS

- A vast desert in Africa
- Reciprocal of a sine
- Type of phone
- Biblical figure
- One who renounces a religious belief
- Warren and Monroe are two
- Wild ox
- Dismounted a horse
- Cave dweller
- Where infants sleep
- Popular type of shoe
- Clumsy large person
- Evil-like
- Integrated circuit
- Austin-based athlete
- Postscript
- Follows 18
- People of Gambia
- Popular actor Nicolas
- Platform for a lectern
- Taxi
- American songwriter
- Sammy
- Iranian city
- Heavy clubs
- One who is expelled
- In bed
- Lifelessness
- Former CIA
- Most slick

CLUES DOWN

- Slovenly person
- In addition
- Hovels
- Pie __ mode
- Subway rodent
- They __
- Indigenous S. American people
- Fine sand
- Central nervous system
- Nightclub
- The perfect example of something
- Supreme Islamic leader
- Pain
- Binary-coded decimal
- Projecting corner of an angle
- "Succession" actor
- Brian
- Dinner table decor
- Ancient settlement in modern Turkey
- You can call Paul
- Simon this
- Opposite of a pro
- Atomic #28
- Type of drug (abbr.)
- Arrives at
- Nullifies
- Bird's beak
- Partner to "oohed"
- Ray-finned fishes
- Taxis
- Sat on and controlled
- Sea eagles
- Remain as-is
- Chinese revolutionary
- Tooth caregiver
- Snake-like fish
- Compensate

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



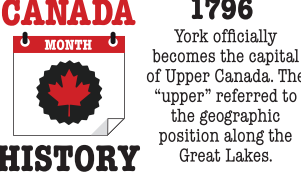
How they say that in...

English: Wag
Spanish: Menear
Italian: Scodinzolare
French: Remuer
German: Wedeln

Math Blocks

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

7		1	18
6	8		14
		5	10
15	21	6	



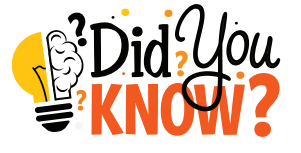
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Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

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Millions of dogs enter shelters every year. Even though many are adopted, some shelters face tight space and a lack of supplies and volunteers.



NEW WORD

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breathing with short, quick breaths

5	3	2
0	8	6
1	01	7

Solution

Orangeville Community Band celebrates 20th season with free concerts

Written By **SAM ODROWSKI**

The Orangeville Community Band has been making music in the community for 20 years, even as president Rose Haskell says many residents still don't realize the ensemble exists.

As the band begins its 20th season in September, it is marking the milestone by opening its concerts to the public at no charge throughout the anniversary year, while continuing its longstanding invitation to musicians of all ages and skill levels.

From beginners picking up an instrument for the first time to longtime players returning after decades away, the volunteer-run band has grown into an ensemble of roughly 40 to 75 musicians that performs throughout the community, including at the Blues and Jazz Festival, Remembrance and Thanksgiving events, schools and seniors' residences.

"We take all comers," said Haskell, who has been involved with the band for about 15 years and became president a year ago.

That philosophy has been central to the

band since its beginnings in 2007, when music teacher John Wervers helped establish the group with about six other musicians two decades ago.

Today, the ensemble includes teenagers, older adults and musicians with varying levels of experience. Its instruments include brass, woodwinds and percussion, with members generally bringing their own instruments.

The band also offers a Beginner Band for people who want to learn an instrument, including adults and teenagers.

"If you have never played before, we've got the beginner band. That's a wonderful way to start," Haskell said.

"If you played it in high school and you haven't played it in 30 years, we can help you," she added.

Haskell said the group's community focus extends beyond its concerts. The band performs at seniors' residences, including Montgomery Village, and has played at the Shelburne Legion. It also visits schools in February and March to introduce students

to live music at a time when Haskell worries school music programs are increasingly being reduced.

Music selections vary with each event, ranging from jazz and blues to musical numbers, movie and Disney-themed pieces and traditional seasonal music.

The spring concert this year will feature favourites from the band's first 20 years.

"We just want it to be a fun year," Haskell said.

As part of the anniversary celebrations, the band plans to make all of its concerts free this year, thanks in part to grants and community donations.

Haskell said the goal is both to celebrate the milestone and give back to the community that has supported the organization.

For Haskell, the band's appeal is about more than playing an instrument. She joined after finding a euphonium, a brass instrument similar to a small tuba, and has since made lasting friendships through the group.

"It's a way to relive our lost youth, right? From high school," she said. "It's a night out

for the two of us that we can do together, and the friends that I have made in the band, it's been awesome."

She said the enjoyment is just as evident from the audience as it is among the musicians.

"One of the things that I love the best is when we're at the Blues and Jazz Festival," Haskell said. "You look over and you see people dancing, you know, and jiving to the jazz. They're enjoying it. And we enjoy playing it."

The band hopes its anniversary year will introduce more people to what it has been offering in Orangeville for two decades.

It is also inviting former members to return and celebrate the milestone with the group.

"We're welcoming everybody," Haskell said.

For prospective musicians, her message is simple.

"If you're interested in playing an instrument, please come."

Concert dates will be announced shortly.

Cardinal Woods' fifth annual Party in the Park to feature Campfire Poets

Written By **SAM ODROWSKI**

The Cardinal Woods Circle of Friends Party in the Park returns to Mono College Park for its fifth year on Sunday, Sept. 13.

The event, hosted by the Cardinal Woods Circle of Friends, runs from noon to 5 p.m. at 8 Hawthorne Rd. The park will be closed this year, and tickets are capped at 500.

Admission is \$10 per person, with children under two admitted free.

Organizer Velvet Alcorn said reaching the fifth anniversary is a milestone worth marking, pointing to a new addition this year: a Campfire Poets performance.

"It is the fifth annual, and it's hard to believe," said Alcorn. "It's very family oriented, it's not expensive, and the money goes back into the community."

Alcorn credited Mono Township and the County of Dufferin for their continued support of the event.

"They're behind us 100 per cent because we're promoting the community," she said.

Alongside the Campfire Poets, this year's event will feature returning performers Gary Haslip, Irish dancers, a vendor market, pony rides, a petting zoo, bouncy castles, a beer tent, games for adults and children, food trucks, a raffle and a 50/50 draw. The OPP, paramedics and local fire services are also expected to attend.

Alcorn said organizers are considering letting attendees vote this year on which local charity receives a portion of the proceeds.

Caledon-Dufferin Victim Services, the primary beneficiary in past years, will continue to receive support regardless of the outcome.

"To me, they're the unsung heroes out there," she said.

Alcorn estimated the event has raised more than \$3,000 for charity over its five-year history. The party operates as a non-profit, with ticket revenue covering event costs and any surplus carried forward to the following year.

Attendance has grown steadily since the event's inaugural year during the COVID-19 pandemic, when about 500 people came out. Alcorn said turnout has hovered around 1,000 over the past two years, though last year's numbers were affected by poor weather.

To mark the fifth anniversary, Alcorn said organizers wanted to offer a more intimate experience this year, which led them to close the park and cap attendance at 500. The addition of the Campfire Poets this year will help to mark the five-year milestone.

Alcorn said the party grew out of a community committee that has organized neighbourhood gatherings in Cardinal Woods since the subdivision was developed in 1989, including street parties and a shared outdoor ice rink. She said the Party in the Park, formerly known as the End of Summer Party, was launched to help residents reconnect after pandemic isolation.

While the event has become larger, Alcorn



FILE PHOTO

FAMILY FUN: Attendees of a previous Party in the Park event enjoy the petting zoo.

said its central purpose remains the same as the community committee's earlier activities dating back to the development of Cardinal Woods in 1989: looking out for neighbours.

"You need to know who your neighbour is, and if they need something, you need to know that they're there for you, and you're

there for them," she said.

Alcorn said she hopes people leave the event with a renewed sense of connection to those around them.

"We still got each other," she said. "Nobody needs to live in each other's back pocket, but we need to be there to help each other out."

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Dufferin libraries offering cognitive kits in collaboration with Alzheimer’s Society

Written By JOSHUA DRAKES
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Three Dufferin County libraries are giving local families a new way to support cognitive engagement through a partnership with the region’s Alzheimer Society.

Libraries in Orangeville, Shelburne and Grand Valley are collectively supporting a new Cognitive Kit program offered by the Alzheimer’s Society of Dufferin County.

The organization’s executive director, Teresa Waldner, said the program provides themed kits that can be borrowed through the libraries and used by people living with dementia or cognitive challenges, as well as their caregivers and families.

“It’s a pilot project within the three libraries,” she said. “We worked with them to come up with themes that they thought would be the best suited for their community members. They’re self-contained and full of complete instructions about how best to use them to engage with people who might have a cognitive decline.”

The first three themes are animals, music and farming, with plans to update the themes as the program develops.

The kits build on a program the Alzheimer Society has already been using with clients.

Internally known as Montessori kits, they are based on Montessori principles and have traditionally been customized for individuals based on their interests, past experiences and abilities. Staff have used them in homes and hospitals to provide meaningful activities and engagement.

The library version required adapting that individualized approach for a broader audience. Recreation therapist Amy Syme, who has experience working with the kits both in hospital and at the Alzheimer Society, helped develop the new versions along with her coworker and fellow recreation therapist Nina Lirio.

“These kits that are in the libraries will be a little bit more general because they’ll be looking for more people to be able to use them,” she said. “It was definitely a little bit of trial and error; it was very important to make sure that we hit all different levels because everyone is at a different point in their journey, and same with the caregivers and what they can provide.”

The team drew on its experience with clients to create kits containing a variety of activities and difficulty levels, while keeping the instructions simple and accessible. Materials are laminated for repeated use, and written components use large, bold text.

Each kit contains roughly 12 to 15 items,

offering different ways to interact. The music kit, for example, includes a radio, miniature musical instruments, familiar songs, photographs, a matching activity, colouring and a painting project that doubles as a music box. The animal kit includes a stuffed animal to provide a tactile experience.

There is no single correct way to use the kits. Someone might listen to music, examine photographs, read, colour, hold an object or work through a matching activity. Activities can take only a few minutes, but a kit can also provide enough material for an extended visit. The goal is to spark memories, conversations and connections, rather than complete a particular task.

That flexibility can also benefit caregivers by providing a starting point for interaction and a shared activity. A familiar photograph, song or object can lead to memories and conversations that might not otherwise arise.

“The fun of a Montessori kit is that everything is meant to be flexible,” Syme said. “So if they want to just look at the photos of the matching game, then they can just look at the photos... But for someone who’s maybe a bit higher functioning, they can match the words to the pictures. There’s no right or wrong to any of the activities; there are a lot of different ways to use them.”

The program also aims to make cognitive support more approachable. The kits avoid Alzheimer Society and dementia-related branding on individual items, helping reduce stigma and making them something that can be borrowed from a library like any other community resource.

The original partnership grew from discussions about expanding Alzheimer Society services beyond Orangeville. Library staff received training on introducing and using the kits, while the libraries helped shape the program and its materials.

“From my view, living in Dufferin County for this long, the Alzheimer’s Society tended to be a bit more Orangeville-centric, and our mandate is to serve the entire community,” Waldner said. “So a lot of my focus is around how we best support the whole community, and any time that we can partner with other community organizations, it’s a win for all of us.”

“My staff is meeting with the libraries consistently to see if there’s some feedback around something we can do differently, and then to change those themes up as the program grows to meet different needs.”

The rollout comes as demand for dementia support continues to increase.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

INCREASING COGNITION: Recreation therapists Amy Syme and Nina Lirio helped adapt the Alzheimer Society of Dufferin County’s Montessori-based cognitive kits into a broader program that can be borrowed through libraries in Orangeville, Shelburne and Grand Valley. The kits feature a variety of activities designed to encourage cognitive engagement, spark memories and create opportunities for connection for people living with dementia or cognitive challenges, as well as their caregivers and families. The pilot program currently offers animal, music and farming-themed kits, with plans to introduce new themes as it develops.

The Alzheimer Society reports that referrals have doubled compared with the same period last year, adding urgency to efforts to make services more accessible across Dufferin County.

By bringing the kits into familiar community spaces, the program aims to make cognitive engagement, caregiver support and connections to dementia services easier to access throughout the county.

Town of Orangeville Upcoming meetings

September 2026

Committee of Adjustment **Wednesday, September 2 at 6 p.m.**
Council chambers, 87 Broadway

Community Improvement Plan **Tuesday, September 15 at 12 p.m.**
Council chambers, 87 Broadway

Orangeville OPP Detachment Board **Tuesday, September 15 at 4:30 p.m.**
Council chambers, 87 Broadway

Heritage Orangeville **Thursday, September 17 at 6 p.m.**
Council chambers, 87 Broadway

Orangeville Public Library Board **Wednesday, September 23 at 5 p.m.**
Mill Street Library, 1 Mill St.
Call in: 1-289-801-5774 ID: 871 851 66#

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

Meeting dates/times are subject to change.

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



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Hereward Farms invites public to decide next charity recipient

For the past six years, visitors have come to Hereward Farms for the lavender, the sunflowers, the photos, and occasionally to find out where Gordie the farm cat is hiding. But their \$10 field admission has been doing something much bigger.

Since 2020, Hereward Farms has donated nearly \$30,000 from its field admission fees back into the local community, supporting organizations serving families, individuals and animals throughout Dufferin County and Centre Wellington.

Past recipients have included organizations such as Family Transition Place, local food banks, the Alzheimer Society, Headwaters Healthcare Centre, Wellington Pregnancy Care Centre and the SPCA, among others.

Now, Hereward Farms founder Julie Thurgood-Burnett wants the community to help decide where the money should go next — and she's challenging other local businesses to join in.

Where does the money need to go in 2026?

"We live here. We work here. We raised our family here. Our customers are here. So when thousands of people come through our fields every summer, it has always made sense to us that some of that money should stay right here," says Thurgood-Burnett.

"This year, I don't want to assume that I know where it's needed most. I want people in Centre Wellington and Dufferin County

to tell us. Who is doing incredible work? Who is struggling for funding? Where could a few thousand dollars actually make a difference?"

Hereward Farms is inviting residents to nominate local charities, non-profits and community organizations working in areas including food security, family support, mental health, seniors, youth, animal welfare and other areas of community need.

But Thurgood-Burnett doesn't want the initiative to stop at Hereward Farms.

A challenge to local businesses: Help us make it bigger

Hereward Farms is also inviting businesses throughout Centre Wellington and Dufferin County to participate by matching, contributing to or adding to the funds being donated in 2026.

"We're already giving the money away," laughs Thurgood-Burnett. "So my thought was: what if somebody matched \$500? What if another business threw in \$1,000? What if 20 businesses each did something? Suddenly this isn't just our field admission anymore. It becomes something our whole business community did together."

Businesses could participate at a level that works for them — whether that means matching part of Hereward Farms' donation, committing a set amount or supporting one of the organizations ultimately selected.

There is no elaborate program, gala or fundraising dinner planned.

And, according to Thurgood-Burnett, that is intentional.

"I don't want to start a charity. Please don't make me start a charity," she jokes. "I just want to see how much good we can do when a bunch of people decide to help at the same time."

From a \$10 ticket to something much bigger

Hereward Farms began charging admission to its seasonal lavender and sunflower fields as visitor numbers grew. Rather than treating the admission solely as farm revenue, the business began directing the proceeds back into organizations serving its surrounding communities.

Six years later, those \$10 visits have added up to nearly \$30,000 in community giving.

For Thurgood-Burnett, the amount is significant — but the stories behind it matter more.

"When you hear what some of these organizations are dealing with every single day — families who need food, women who need somewhere safe to go, people caring for loved ones with Alzheimer's, animals needing care — writing that cheque becomes emotional," she says.

"We grow lavender and sunflowers. We make skincare and home products. We're not solving all of those problems. But we can take something we *do* have and turn it into something useful for somebody else. That's the part that matters."

The community gets a say

Over the coming weeks, Hereward Farms will ask the public to nominate organizations in Dufferin County and Centre Wellington and explain why they should receive support.

Local businesses interested in joining the initiative are also encouraged to contact Hereward Farms to discuss contributing or matching funds.

"We've always said, 'From our soil to your soul,'" says Thurgood-Burnett. "This feels like another version of that. People come here and enjoy something beautiful, and somehow that \$10 ticket gets to travel a little farther and help somebody else. That's pretty amazing."

"And if we can turn nearly \$30,000 into something much bigger by getting our community involved? Well, let's see what we can do."

How to get involved

Community members are invited to nominate a local organization by following Hereward Farms on social media and commenting on its 2026 community giving callout, including the organization's name and why they believe the funds would make an impact.

Businesses interested in contributing to or matching the 2026 donation can get in contact with Hereward Farms directly by emailing: hello@herewardfarm.com

Panel discussion at Goodlot Farm highlights the impact of women in agriculture

Written By **KATHRYN FRASER**
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Members of the Caledon community attended the Women in Food and Agriculture event on August 25, hosted at GoodLot Farm from 5pm to 8:30pm.

The event featured a panel discussion with five women farmers who took to the stage to share their experiences, celebrate, and talk about the importance of women in agriculture.

The United Nations has declared 2026 the International Year of the Woman Farmer, a global initiative that recognizes women's essential contributions to the agrifood systems and drawing attention to the challenges that they have and continue to face in this role.

Panelists included Jeannette French from Lennox Farm in Melancthon, Amy Ouchterlony from Fiddle Foot Farm in Mulmur, Karen Hutchinson from Albion Hills Community Farm in Caledon, Val Steinman from Heartwood Farm in Erin and Gail Winters from GoodLot Farm and GoodLot Farmstead Brewing Co. in Caledon.

While each farm is unique and has their own different crops, products, programs, and ways of running, the panellists provided a variety of insights not on what each farm has to offer but also what it means for them to be female farmers and what they hope to see in the next generation of women in agriculture.

From 500-acre vegetable farms to community gardens, regenerative farming, agricultural events and on-farm craft brewery, the panellist conversation explored many topics including the roles women farmers have as food producers, mothers, teachers, community builders, and stewards of the land.

The panel was moderated by In the Hills Magazine Publisher Tralee Pearce who asked the panelist several questions and moderated the Q&A session after the panel discussion.

Money raised for this event will go towards Headwaters Food and Farming Alliance's Farm to School Program, which has been providing food and farming education to elementary students throughout the Dufferin County and Caledon area for the last decade.

Before the panel, attendees are participants were provided light refreshments and a complimentary drink. All food and drinks were provided by Crowded Table and Carney Country Catering.

One important conversation during the panel was about the challenges that are faced as a woman farmer and panellists said they were often asked where the farmer is, or look for their husbands when they are farmers as well.

"Whenever someone has a question, they always look for the farmer and I'm standing right there and they ask, like, 'where's your husband?' and it's taken me a long time to feel confident enough to know that I am the farmer and although my husband and I work as a team and we need to work together, we all have different skill sets. Until we acknowledge all of those different skill sets and how important they are, then we won't be acknowledged as the farmer," said Jeanette French.

The panel also discussed the term "farmer's wife" and how we have come a long way from using it as a label.

"I like that we're a long way from the term 'farmer's wife'. It's never been a term I adopted and there's a woman here who told me, 'Farmer's wife – that's BS. We knew my mom

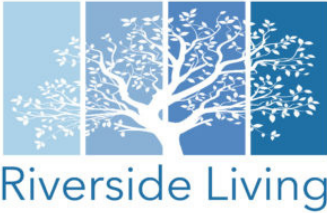
was running the show' and I love that line", said Amy Ouchterlony.

Looking to the future, all the panelists expressed their hope for the next generation, continuing the work that has been done, and bringing more women into farming.

"I'm connecting a lot with younger people and younger women, so I do feel the gravity of being in that role now of speaking to people who might be wanting to get into farming," said Steinman. "I think if I were to sum it up, I'd say, 'Good on you. Follow your heart,' and, 'It's not going to be easy, it's going to be a wild ride,' and reach out and connect with others who are carrying that same passion and concern, because it's countercultural, and it's really important."

"I would just, again, reinforce that we need to be rebuilding or rural communities to support farmers of all types, because farmer mental health is a massive national crisis, and it's all the same stuff that's needed to nurture new farmers to support farmers of all kinds in our communities. We can do this by building stronger communities and being curious together."







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Orangeville Lions Pump Track opens to the public at Alder

Written By SAM ODROWSKI

The new Alder Pump Track is officially open, giving Orangeville families a paved space to ride bikes, skateboards and scooters at the Alder Street Recreation Centre.

The facility replaces the former Orangeville Lions BMX Park, a hard-packed dirt track that had fallen into disrepair and saw declining use in recent years. It has since been renamed the Orangeville Lions Club Pump Track in recognition of the club's contribution to the project.

Yas Slater of the Orangeville Lions Club said the club was thrilled to see the track finally open to the public.

"I was extremely excited when I got the news on Friday [Aug. 21] that the town opened it, and it was already packed with kids and parents and families trying it out," Slater said.

"It's been a bit of a longer project than we expected, with some challenges, but it's just so great to see it being well accepted and received already. That's all we wanted — a space for families and the community to get out and be outside and have some fun."

The project was delayed earlier this year after the track's original asphalt failed to meet the town's quality standards. The town had it removed and repaved at the expense of the third-party contractor responsible, not local taxpayers.

Some finishing touches remain, including a bicycle repair station, bike rack, signage and shade shelters, along with a bench donated by the Lions Club. Slater said those additions are expected within the next month. A garden feature is also planned for spring 2027.

"Work will continue this fall on the remaining elements, which will be installed as weather and site conditions permit," said the Town of Orangeville's Parks and Recreation Department.

The town is asking riders to follow a few rules while using the shared space: helmets are required, adult supervision is recommended for children 10 and under, riders should look before jumping, and everyone should follow the arrows marking track entry and exit points. Motorized vehicles, including e-bikes and e-scooters, are not permitted.

The Lions Club ultimately contributed \$111,500 to the project, raised through its annual Home and Garden Show and paid to the town over two years. The town's 2025-2034 capital program allocated \$380,000 toward the project, split between the property tax levy and development charges.



SAM ODROWSKI PHOTO

TRYING OUT THE TRACK: Kids ride the new Alder Pump Track in Orangeville on Aug. 26, five days after it opened to the public.

Slater said the idea to convert the aging BMX park into a modern pump track began taking shape roughly three to three-and-a-half years ago, when she joined the Lions Club and the project was still in its early stages. She said she researched pump tracks in nearby communities, including Waterloo and Alton, and consulted with other municipalities and service clubs that had built similar facilities before bringing the concept to the town.

"It was a BMX park that the Lions originally built there, a dirt BMX track, and it just kind of fell into disrepair," Slater said. "So as a club, we spoke with the town to come up with ideas on how we could reinvigorate that space and get it being used by the community again. Through our research and discussions with the town, we came up with the idea of a paved pump track."

The town's Parks and Recreation Department echoed that reasoning, pointing to the practical advantages of the new surface.

"The new paved pump track is designed to require less maintenance than the former dirt and gravel BMX track, allowing it to be used more consistently by the community. It also opens up the pump track to users who may not have been able to take equipment on a dirt or gravel track," the department said.

The track's location beside the recreation centre, soccer fields and nearby subdivisions made it a natural fit, Slater said, offering families another activity to enjoy while other members are at the pool or on the field.

The Lions worked with Cycling Elements, a local community bike shop, for technical guidance throughout the project, Slater said.

The track features two loops — a beginner circuit and a more advanced intermediate loop — that riders can combine as their confidence grows.

"There's a lot of opportunity to have some fun and get a little adrenaline going, in your backyard almost," Slater said.

She added that service clubs like the Lions

see projects like the pump track as central to their mission.

"We're here to help the community and build ways for the community to be outside and interact," she said, pointing to other Lions-supported spaces in town, including Lions Park and Murphy's Hill.

"These are all places where families can create memories together."

That community use is already visible on the ground. Janelle Vantol stopped by the pump track with her kids, who love biking, while visiting Orangeville from Owen Sound on Aug. 26.

"It's very well engineered," said Vantol. "The kids flow very easily."

She also pointed to the range of ages the pump track accommodates.

"I have a three-year-old on it and then you can see adults enjoying it as well," Vantol said.

For her family, the trip was worthwhile: "Worth the travel, that's for sure."

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Orangeville's new rail trail will give hikers and bikers two more kilometres to explore

Written By SAM ODROWSKI

Hikers, runners and cyclists in Orangeville will soon have a fresh two-kilometre stretch of trail to explore, as phase two of the Rail Trail nears completion between Broadway and Town Line.

The new section will feature a stone dust surface built to handle regular foot and bike traffic, along with feature trailheads at both the Broadway and Town Line ends for trail users to gather or take a break, said Jaden Ingram, the town's project manager of stormwater for Capital Works.

Bench rest areas and bicycle repair stations will be placed throughout the route to give walkers and riders spots to stop and fix up along the way.

"We have a lot of active people in the community, a lot of dog walkers," said Ingram. "I think a lot of people are excited to see this project get completed."

The build-out clears away old railway infrastructure — including hydro poles and utility boxes — to make room for the trail, which picks up where phase one left off. That earlier stretch ran north from Broad-

way toward the Veterans Way area. The project also includes rehabilitating a stretch of Mill Creek between Dawson Road and Bythia Street, along with planting trees and naturalizing areas along the route.

The trail is reserved strictly for human-powered activity, with no e-bikes or other motorized vehicles permitted, keeping it geared toward walkers, runners and traditional cyclists. Ingram said the project is about giving the town's active community more room to move, and it's already generating buzz among residents who use the trail network regularly.

"It's to promote active transportation in the town — it just better connects the town, and it's for recreational use," Ingram said.

Trail users should note there's no winter maintenance currently planned for the route.

The new stretch also has bigger ambitions: it's meant to be a key link in Orangeville's broader trail network, eventually stretching from Veterans Way to the train yard near Broadway, right past the town's transit hub.

Continued on Page B3

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Yas Slater of the Orangeville Lions Club said the club was thrilled to see the track finally open to the public.

"I was extremely excited when I got the news on Friday [Aug. 21] that the town opened it, and it was already packed with kids and parents and families trying it out," Slater said.

"It's been a bit of a longer project than we expected, with some challenges, but it's just so great to see it being well accepted and received already. That's all we wanted — a space for families and the community to get out and be outside and have some fun."

The project was delayed earlier this year after the track's original asphalt failed to meet the town's quality standards. The town had it removed and repaved at the expense of the third-party contractor responsible, not local taxpayers.

Some finishing touches remain, including a bicycle repair station, bike rack, signage and shade shelters, along with a bench donated by the Lions Club. Slater said those additions are expected within the next month. A garden feature is also planned for spring 2027.

"Work will continue this fall on the remaining elements, which will be installed as weather and site conditions permit," said the Town of Orangeville's Parks and Recreation Department.

The town is asking riders to follow a few rules while using the shared space: helmets are required, adult supervision is recommended for children 10 and under, riders should look before jumping, and everyone should follow the arrows marking track entry and exit points. Motorized vehicles, including e-bikes and e-scooters, are not permitted.

The Lions Club ultimately contributed \$111,500 to the project, raised through its annual Home and Garden Show and paid to the town over two years. The town's 2025-2034 capital program allocated \$380,000 toward the project, split between the property tax levy and development charges.



SAM ODROWSKI PHOTO

TRYING OUT THE TRACK: Kids ride the new Alder Pump Track in Orangeville on Aug. 26, five days after it opened to the public.

Slater said the idea to convert the aging BMX park into a modern pump track began taking shape roughly three to three-and-a-half years ago, when she joined the Lions Club and the project was still in its early stages. She said she researched pump tracks in nearby communities, including Waterloo and Alton, and consulted with other municipalities and service clubs that had built similar facilities before bringing the concept to the town.

"It was a BMX park that the Lions originally built there, a dirt BMX track, and it just kind of fell into disrepair," Slater said. "So as a club, we spoke with the town to come up with ideas on how we could reinvigorate that space and get it being used by the community again. Through our research and discussions with the town, we came up with the idea of a paved pump track."

The town's Parks and Recreation Department echoed that reasoning, pointing to the practical advantages of the new surface.

"The new paved pump track is designed to require less maintenance than the former dirt and gravel BMX track, allowing it to be used more consistently by the community. It also opens up the pump track to users who may not have been able to take equipment on a dirt or gravel track," the department said.

The track's location beside the recreation centre, soccer fields and nearby subdivisions made it a natural fit, Slater said, offering families another activity to enjoy while other members are at the pool or on the field.

The Lions worked with Cycling Elements, a local community bike shop, for technical guidance throughout the project, Slater said.

The track features two loops — a beginner circuit and a more advanced intermediate loop — that riders can combine as their confidence grows.

"There's a lot of opportunity to have some fun and get a little adrenaline going, in your backyard almost," Slater said.

She added that service clubs like the Lions

see projects like the pump track as central to their mission.

"We're here to help the community and build ways for the community to be outside and interact," she said, pointing to other Lions-supported spaces in town, including Lions Park and Murphy's Hill.

"These are all places where families can create memories together."

That community use is already visible on the ground. Janelle Vantol stopped by the pump track with her kids, who love biking, while visiting Orangeville from Owen Sound on Aug. 26.

"It's very well engineered," said Vantol. "The kids flow very easily."

She also pointed to the range of ages the pump track accommodates.

"I have a three-year-old on it and then you can see adults enjoying it as well," Vantol said.

For her family, the trip was worthwhile: "Worth the travel, that's for sure."

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Orangeville's new rail trail will give hikers and bikers two more kilometres to explore

Written By SAM ODROWSKI

Hikers, runners and cyclists in Orangeville will soon have a fresh two-kilometre stretch of trail to explore, as phase two of the Rail Trail nears completion between Broadway and Town Line.

The new section will feature a stone dust surface built to handle regular foot and bike traffic, along with feature trailheads at both the Broadway and Town Line ends for trail users to gather or take a break, said Jaden Ingram, the town's project manager of stormwater for Capital Works.

Bench rest areas and bicycle repair stations will be placed throughout the route to give walkers and riders spots to stop and fix up along the way.

"We have a lot of active people in the community, a lot of dog walkers," said Ingram. "I think a lot of people are excited to see this project get completed."

The build-out clears away old railway infrastructure — including hydro poles and utility boxes — to make room for the trail, which picks up where phase one left off. That earlier stretch ran north from Broad-

way toward the Veterans Way area. The project also includes rehabilitating a stretch of Mill Creek between Dawson Road and Bythia Street, along with planting trees and naturalizing areas along the route.

The trail is reserved strictly for human-powered activity, with no e-bikes or other motorized vehicles permitted, keeping it geared toward walkers, runners and traditional cyclists. Ingram said the project is about giving the town's active community more room to move, and it's already generating buzz among residents who use the trail network regularly.

"It's to promote active transportation in the town — it just better connects the town, and it's for recreational use," Ingram said.

Trail users should note there's no winter maintenance currently planned for the route.

The new stretch also has bigger ambitions: it's meant to be a key link in Orangeville's broader trail network, eventually stretching from Veterans Way to the train yard near Broadway, right past the town's transit hub.

Continued on Page B3

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OPINION

Trying to see the fox through the hurly-burly

Once in a while, you find something shiny and bright through the murk.

The Bancroft Times and Bancroft This Week, sister papers to the Citizen and Free Press, told the story earlier this month about 12-year-old Avery, her grandmother Julie Parco, and their attempt to save a young fox they found sick with mange.

Julie had been gardening in early August when she happened upon a red fox that she thought was sleeping. The tiny animal had rested on a bit of moss on the property, curled in a corner made of logs integrated into the landscaping.

The fox had cuts and bald spots in its fur. The fox attempted to walk a few times but collapsed each time it stood on shaky legs.

The ailing animal was placed in one of those blue bins for items to be recycled. The fox was comfortably set on a blanket and provided water to weather a trip to an animal rescue facility.

Avery insisted on sitting in the vehicle's backseat, beside the animal, as

they drove about an hour and a half on a beautiful summer day to the Woodlands Wildlife Sanctuary in Minden. The sanctuary rehabs rescued wildlife before they're released back into their natural environment. According to its website, more than 800 animals are brought to the sanctuary each year.

Unfortunately, the fox succumbed to its injuries and the effects of the parasite that causes mange. It died only about half an hour before they made it to the animal rescue centre.

The fact that Avery chose to go to such lengths for a fox on a beautiful sunny day, one of only six days she was to spend with her grandparents, showed a depth of compassion.

"He died peacefully with someone by his side rather than being left to nature for other animals to eat him," Parco said.

Maybe we're our perfect selves when we are children. Unjaded and rich in compassion until we enter those middle years of social media trolls and the sneering

horde. When the world spins us so it is easy to step past somebody on the street and on hard times instead of dropping even just a few coins into an empty paper coffee cup. Not all of us. But many of us.

Self-help books and therapy sessions remind us to assume positive intent as we muddle through years focused on jobs that will be forgotten and possessions that in a way end up possessing us.

To live assuming positive intent is a means to tamp down our automatic negativity. To assume positive intent is to consider that other people's actions are borne of positive motives. Or at the very least, the things people do or don't do could be the fruits of neutral motives.

And then something happens in our later years after some life has been lived and lessons have been taken from experiences. The lives spent fumbling yield a perspective that's realized on aged reflection. Our quality of life has by then become a little more existential and less based on achievement.

Professions and jobs are necessary and become more important as it becomes increasingly difficult to make the ends meet. But you realize there was something missing all those years you punched a clock. A day is made successful by the smiles of loved ones, a meaningful hug. The sounds of coins dropping into a paper coffee cup held by somebody on the street.

Or thinking to help an ailing fox found in your grandmother's garden.

Running the race becomes less about finishing and more about the race itself.

We get back some of what was lost from our childhood hearts. Maybe not lost. Perhaps just tucked beneath all the other things that rose in importance. It happens once in a while for some people. The ones who look hard through the murk and come up with something shiny and bright. There may even be something there so that compassion becomes empathy.



JAMES MATTHEWS
THE BUSTLE IN THE HEDGEROW

Africa: Getting history wrong

"I think that there's a strategy to divide and conquer and to create a very contrived confusion," said Samuel Okuzeto Ablakwan, Ghana's foreign minster. "We denounce and totally reject those claims that Africans are as guilty and complicit as those who masterminded this whole atrocity." He's wrong, of course, but it's still a common delusion.

Ablakwan has been given special responsibility by the African Union to be 'champion for reparatory justice' for three centuries of the transatlantic slave trade, and claims that "Ghana was the crime scene". (An estimated 15 per cent of the African slaves sent west came from Ghana.)

Some of the 'reparations' demanded are easy to make. An apology is always welcome, even if it's only for the deeds of your ancestors. It's not really your fault, and apologies are free.

Beyond that it gets more complicated, but there's no harm in sending help to developing African countries for schools or health. If Africans want to sweeten the pot a bit by bringing up the colonial misdeeds of European countries, that's fine too. But the slavery thing is more complicated.

I met real ex-slaves for the first and only

time when I was a very young man doing research for a PhD in the 'Sublime Porte' (the Ottoman imperial archives) in Istanbul. Another student mentioned that there was a group of ex-palace slaves – former 'Black Ağas' – who gathered at a café just down the hill in Sirkeci. Buy them lunch, and they'll talk to you.

And there they were: four or five very old black men seated around a table, holding court in a Turkish I had never heard before: the old Ottoman Turkish, which freely mixed Arabic and Persian words and grammar with the Turkish core. I was reading that kind of Turkish every day in the archives, but I had never heard it spoken fluently before.

Slavery was officially abolished in the Ottoman empire in 1857, but within the privacy of the Sultan's palaces the old customs prevailed right down to 1909 (the Young Turk revolution). That included the custom of having black Africans, castrated in their childhood or early teens, as harem guards (although the harems were already empty).

When they were turned out onto the street they had nowhere to go. They couldn't go home, if they even knew where that was, so they stayed close to the Palace and between odd jobs they lived on

alms from strangers. (Turks are quite generous that way.) Sixty years later there they still were: Africans who spoke only a very old-fashioned Turkish.

I went back several times because it was good for my Turkish, but also because it was a window into the past. They felt great bitterness about what had happened to them, and although in most cases they could not say where they had been born, couldn't even remember their native language, they knew that they had been betrayed and enslaved by their own people.

I never wrote about this before because it seemed beyond the scope of this column, but now it feels relevant. What happened to those old men, now long gone, is not only a story of the cruelty and greed of foreign slave-traders. It is also a story of African cruelty and greed: every African who left the continent as a slave was enslaved in Africa, by Africans.

What, you thought the Europeans went inland and captured slaves themselves? They weren't even allowed to go inland. The fortified 'barracoons' where the slaves were held captive until European slave-trading ships showed up to buy them were owned by local kings or merchants. They saw it as a business, not a horror.

GWYNNE DYER
OUR WORLD TODAY



The slaves came from every part of Africa except the far south. Many were sold west across the Atlantic: – 10-12 million over 300 years (circa 1550-1850).

More were sold north to the Muslim countries, across the Sahara or up the Indian Ocean coast – up to 17 million over 1,200 years, beginning soon after the rise of Islam and lasting into the early 20th century.

And of course, tens of millions of Africans live and died as slaves over the centuries without ever leaving Africa.

Ablakwan is wrong both factually and morally. He ignores all the Africans who weren't sold to 'Western' countries, because only Europeans and Americans might be shamed into paying up. There are much wiser people in Ghana.

King Tackie Teiko Tsuru II, leader of Ghana's Ga people, recently said: "I think that the transatlantic slave trade was the greatest crime against humanity, and (my) ancestors also took part as players in that trade...To be able to go forward, you have to look at your past. It dawns on us to admit our fault and correct it."

That's a start.

Take the day off

One evening, quite some time ago, Patricia had a boyfriend named Rick. That year, they had recently brought a puppy into their lives, and they were keen to introduce her to me and my then-husband, Colin, who died in 2015. At the time, we had rather a large cross-breed, one way or another short-haired, brindled dog named Mickey.

Whenever anyone asked me his breed, I didn't know because the person living in the little house on the property where Patrick, my horse, lived gave one of the puppies her dog unexpectedly birthed to Patricia, without asking me first. Well, she didn't know their breeding background either, especially as she had no idea who was the father of the puppies.

Once he was pretty well grown, my answer was that Mickey was a Bengal Bangle, adding the fiction that they had been bred as guard dogs in India as far back as the mid-1800s. People would nod wisely and comment that they knew a guy who bred them. When I took Mickey one time for a checkup, the vet asked me his breed; I gave him my standard answer, and he wrote it down – made it official, and I never had to blush again as I told it to anyone else.

So, the new puppy, Chandler (yes, after the Friends character), came to visit and

two things happened straight away: she rushed in to see what was in Mickey's bowl. He would have been offended and possibly growled at her except that she had dragged the gravy-covered celery out of his bowl. He had left it after eating the meat an hour before.

Forgivingly, he watched her enthusiastic chomping on the celery with real puzzlement.

"Puppies eat everything," Colin explained.

Mickey was all in all Patricia's dog. He was living in Hockley Valley with me while she was living in Hamilton, teaching music, performing and going part-time to McMaster University.

One summer, the three of us decided that we would drive out to the Maritimes to see the ocean and enjoy the beauty of the land there. Just by Fundy Bay, friends of ours had a home in Parrsboro, where they were happy to let us stay while we were visiting the area.

Mickey went with us, of course. He enjoyed the trip, sharing the back seat with Patricia, his head on her lap for the most part and the take-away dinners we bought for him.

On our way going home, since we were invited via years of Christmas card exchanges, we stopped off in Moncton,

New Brunswick for a visit to Colin's cousin and his wife, both heads of Pediatrics in two separate hospitals in the town. Their home was splendid upstairs and down, where a fine wine cellar was the right temperature all the time, and our host was not stingy with his corkscrew.

They were a little doubtful about Mickey, who would not have done well spending the night in our van. It was decided – I insisted – that I would sleep in the main floor study with Mickey and tend to his needs, if any. They piled chairs against the room's doors to keep Mickey in.

Patricia was given one of the beautifully dressed bedrooms upstairs, white linen, as fine as could be, and she was delighted with all that. Likewise, Colin was accommodated to the same level of comfort.

However...

I could not understand why Mickey was so restless, lying down on his blanket from the van, then getting up again, to whine and scratch softly at the door, but the chairs held.

I called him to come back and be comforted by me, which he did, but only as a duty and with no real enthusiasm.

Until...

I had not heard the early rumbles from outside, but Mickey had, and he was once more pushing at the study door but with

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more purpose.

Suddenly, as it often is, a tremendous crash of thunder and solid flash of lightning lit up the windows with enough threat to convince Mickey that he and Patricia were at risk. The chairs failed their purpose as Mickey, like a tank, pushed and with no need to be told where she was, he headed up the stairs for the pristine bed in which she was sleeping.

I – naturally – was close behind, shouting uselessly, "No! Mickey! Come back!" with the very small hope that I had not awakened our hosts.

On the scoreboard, if you like: our hosts surely did wake up to a fairly reasonable panic. Colin was quickly out of bed. Ready to save or serve as necessary.

Mickey was on the white linen, pressed up to Patricia, waking her by inches to let her know they were both safe and together.

The impulse, as I recall, was to haul him off and try the chairs and the study door again, but somehow, it didn't work out that way.

Their hospitality did stretch to breakfast and an invitation to return, but Mickey's welcome was not really promised.

Yet, in the future, they did continue to send us Christmas cards.

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COMMUNITY VOICES

More than a meal: Community partnerships help FTP feed hope every day

Behind every meal served at Family Transition Place (FTP) is a story of compassion, community, and care.

For individuals and families arriving at the shelter, a warm meal often represents far more than nourishment. It provides comfort after a difficult day, creates a sense of normalcy during a time of uncertainty, and reminds clients that they are supported by a community that cares.

Over the past year, FTP prepared more than 4,000 nutritious meals for women and children accessing its emergency shelter, with menus thoughtfully designed to meet a wide range of dietary needs. From food allergies and intolerances to cultural and religious preferences, every meal is prepared with care to ensure clients feel welcomed, respected, and included.

In addition to daily meals, the organization's kitchen prepares more than 3,000 muffins, sandwiches, and healthy snacks each year, ensuring women and children have access to nourishing food throughout the day. Whether someone is heading to work, attending appointments, taking children to school, or simply needing a quick snack between counselling sessions, these homemade offerings help sustain clients as they focus on rebuilding their lives.

The kitchen also celebrates life's important milestones.

Every client staying at FTP on their birthday receives a homemade birthday cake, specially prepared just for them. For many, it is a simple but meaningful reminder that they are valued and deserving of celebration, even during one of the most challenging chapters of their lives.

Food has also become an opportunity for healing and connection through the organization's growing garden program.

Over the past two years, FTP has cultivated a thriving garden that actively engages clients in planting, tending, and harvesting fresh produce and herbs. The garden not only supplies ingredients for daily meals but also provides therapeutic opportunities to connect with nature, learn new skills, and experience the satisfaction of growing food from seed to harvest.

The garden has flourished, producing an impressive variety of fresh ingredients,



including cucumbers, tomatoes, garlic, beans, Swiss chard, potatoes, and an assortment of culinary herbs such as dill, parsley, and basil. Edible flowers, including chamomile, also make their way from the garden into the kitchen, adding both beauty and flavour to meals prepared for shelter residents.

These fresh ingredients enhance the quality of meals while reflecting the organization's commitment to providing healthy, nourishing food prepared with care.

At the heart of the kitchen is Claudia, FTP's food and nutrition service worker and a certified Red Seal chef. Drawing on her professional culinary expertise, creativity, and passion for cooking, Claudia transforms fresh, locally sourced ingredients into nutritious, comforting meals that nourish both body and spirit. She has also documented many of her culinary creations (you can scan the QR code to see some of them!), giving the community a behind-the-scenes look at the care, skill, and attention that go into every dish prepared for the women and children staying at the shelter.

While Claudia's dedication is at the heart of FTP's food program, she is the first to recognize that its success is made possible through the generosity of an incredible network of community partners, local businesses, schools, farms, organizations and private donors. The following are just a few of the many supporters whose contributions help ensure every meal, snack, and dessert served at FTP is prepared with care.

Among these valued community part-

ners is the Orangeville Food Bank — including its garden program — which continues to provide food and fresh produce that help keep the shelter's pantry well stocked throughout the year. Their long-standing partnership plays an important role in ensuring clients have access to nutritious, balanced meals. We are also grateful for the ongoing support of Share the Bounty, whose regular donations of non-perishable food items help supplement our food supplies at both our Orangeville shelter and our satellite office in Shelburne, ensuring that clients at both locations have access to essential pantry staples.

Fiddle Foot Farm's Fall and Winter Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program has also become an invaluable source of fresh, locally grown vegetables. Seasonal produce from the farm brings exceptional quality and flavour to the kitchen while strengthening the connection between local agriculture and community care.

Several local businesses have also made meaningful contributions to the program. Little Caesars Pizza Orangeville regularly donates pizzas for shelter residents, offering a comforting and familiar meal for women and children. Extravaganza Brazilian Pastries & Sweets Inc. generously provides gourmet pastries that add moments of comfort and enjoyment, while Bluebird Café & Grill regularly donates freshly made soups, helping ensure clients have access to wholesome, nourishing meals.

These organizations represent only a small sample of the many businesses,

community groups, and individuals who stand behind FTP. Alongside countless private donors whose generosity often happens quietly behind the scenes, their financial contributions, food donations, and acts of kindness enable the organization to respond to changing needs while continuing to provide high-quality, nutritious meals to women and children staying at the shelter.

Together, these partnerships demonstrate what is possible when a community comes together to support its most vulnerable members.

For women and children fleeing abuse, arriving at a shelter often means leaving behind nearly everything familiar. A warm dinner, a freshly baked muffin, a packed lunch, or a homemade birthday cake may seem like small gestures, but they offer comfort, dignity, and a sense of belonging during an incredibly difficult time.

FTP's food program serves as a powerful reminder that food is about more than filling empty plates. It builds connection, restores hope, and helps create a safe environment where healing can begin.

As demand for services continues, ongoing community support remains essential. Every donation, every partnership, every garden harvest, and every shared meal help ensure that women and children arriving at FTP are welcomed with compassion and care.

Community members interested in supporting the organization's work can learn more about donation opportunities by visiting the Give page on FTP's website: familytransitionplace.ca

New rail trail promotes active transportation

Continued from SPORTS

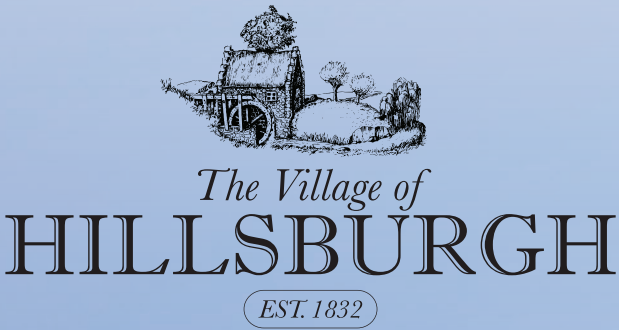
Ingram said the Town of Caledon is looking at expanding its own trail system as well, with an eye toward eventually connecting to Orangeville's trail near the train station — opening the door to longer treks between the two communities down the road.

Derek Currie, the town's manager of Capital Works, said the trail is an import-

ant part of Orangeville's connectivity and the town's active transportation plan.

Construction on phase two is expected to wrap up by the first or second week of November, with the exact opening date depending on weather conditions.

Phase one, which ran from Veterans Way to Blind Line, cost approximately \$765,000, while phase two, running from Town Line to Broadway, is expected to cost approximately \$900,000.



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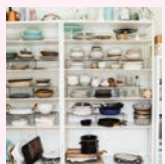
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Shelburne Vets' U13-F lacrosse team place first at provincials

Written By CHRIS PERROTTE

The Vets top tournament scorer, Cooper Reed, notched two goals to help his U13-F team win gold at the Ontario Lacrosse Association Festival Provincials held at the Iroquois Park Sports Centre in Whitby from July 31 to Aug. 2.

Jaxson Horsley and James Wright each scored twice as well, with Bentley Sawyers and Gilby Harper both chipping in with a goal apiece to secure an 8-3 win over the Quinte Bayhawks. Nolan Nisbett played strong in net to backstop them to their gold medal victory.

“[It] feels pretty good winning a gold medal, which is the end goal of any team. So [I’m] pretty excited about that,” said Head coach Tucker Cunningham. “Watching the kids find their role and perform in big time moments.”

This was Cunningham’s first year as head coach after spending the previous year as an assistant coach.

The Shelburne Vets won all five of their games in their round-robin tournament to advance to the final game on Aug. 2, ending their season a perfect 6-0.

“It feels great to see where we started at the beginning of the season. To watch the team grow as a whole,” said Cunningham.

Seventeen U13 players donned the Vets jersey this season, including 11-year-old Claudia Sodoma, who has been playing with the boys for the past three seasons and plays very strong defence for her team. The backstop to the defence is the Vets’ two goaltenders, Jack Brown and Nolan Nisbett, who have been taking turns all season tending the net.

In the U15 C Division, the Vets faced the London Blue Devils and lost a close match 7 to 5.

The U11 squad advanced to the quarter-final, losing by two in a high-scoring game 11 to 9 to the team from Clarington.

The U13 Vets brought home the ultimate prize by winning the gold medal with a 6-5 victory. The U9 team’s quest for the gold medal fell short as they lost 7 to 5 to the Kahwanake Mohawks in the D Division Finals.

Trevor Reid, who is the president and development skills coordinator, expressed that all the Vet teams had a great season and he can’t wait till next season.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

GOLDEN TEAM: The U13 Vets celebrate after winning the Ontario Lacrosse Association Festival Provincials at Iroquois Park Sports Centre from July 31 to Aug. 2.

OBITUARIES

LINDA LANGILLE

Unexpectedly on Friday, August 14th, 2026, at the age of 72. Reunited with her beloved husband Everett (2025). Dear sister of Shirley (the late Gordon). Beloved daughter of the late Cyril and the late Winona.



Linda will be lovingly missed by her dog, Coco, and her Itty Bitty Kitty. She will be fondly remembered by her aunt Orma, nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great nephews, and cousins. Linda will be dearly missed by all her friends and relatives but especially her lifelong friend Catherine, and her great support and friend Arie, and her friends at Bythia Street centre.

A Celebration of Linda’s Life will be held on Saturday, September 26, 2026 at the Dods & McNair Funeral Home, Chapel & Reception Centre, 21 First Street, Orangeville, ON L9W 2C8 from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm.

Linda will also be greatly missed by other relatives and many friends.

A tree will be planted in memory of Linda in the Dods & McNair Memorial Forest at the Island Lake Conservation Area, Orangeville. Condolences may be offered to the family at www.dodsandmcnair.com

GLORIA ELINOR HEIMBECKER

1929 – 2026

Gloria Elinor Heimbecker passed away at WRHN at Chicopee on Monday, August 17, 2026, at the age of 96.



Loving wife of Richard Harry Heimbecker (2023). Dear mother of Jennifer Baker (Einar Carlsen), Judy (Roy) Bryan, Brian (Laurie) Heimbecker, David (Elesia) Heimbecker, and Steven (Diana Lang) Heimbecker. Grandmother of 12, great-grandmother of 13.

Fondly remembered by her sister-in-law Joan Schnell. Predeceased by her parents Wilfred and Eleanor Rivers.

Gloria was our cherished mom and was an inspiration to our family. Gloria was a career mathematics teacher. She was affectionately called “Mom Heimbecker” by her homeroom classes. She embraced golf and square dancing in her retirement years both at the cottage and in Florida. Gloria, along with her beloved Richard, enjoyed exploring the world via cruising.

Gloria’s lifelong passion was music. A member of a choir no matter where she called home, she often was featured as a soloist. A crocheter, a bead artist, Red Hatter, and above all, an inspirational role model to all of us.

At Gloria’s request there will be no visitation. A memorial service will be held in the chapel of the Erb & Good Family Funeral Home, 171 King St. S, Waterloo, on Saturday, August 29, 2026 at 11 a.m., with Rev. Dr. Philip Mathai officiating. A reception to immediately follow the service in the funeral home’s Fireside Reception Room. Private family interment will take place at Parkview Cemetery, Waterloo.

A livestream and recording of the funeral service will be available on Gloria’s tribute page at www.erbgood.com.

In lieu of flowers, condolences for the family or donations to Mount Zion Lutheran Church or WRHN Foundation - Cardiac Care Unit (formerly St. Mary’s Hospital) may be arranged through the funeral home at 519-745-8445 or at www.erbgood.com.

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FUNDS FOR FASD: The Optimist Club of Orangeville presented a cheque for \$3,000 to Dufferin Child & Family Services (DCAFS) on Aug. 13 to help a family as they navigate the resources needed to support a child diagnosed with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD). This grant was made possible by the Canadian Children’s Optimist Foundation (CCOF), which supports individual Optimist Clubs by providing opportunities to enhance health and wellness for youth through their Spread Relief Grant program.

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