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GAVIN WALKER PHOTOGRAPHY

TRACTORS TAKE THE TRACK: Competitors put their tractors to the test during the annual truck and tractor pull on Friday, Sept. 4, kicking off the motorsport events at the 2026 Orangeville Fall Fair. The fair ran from Sept. 4 to 6, with a variety of activities for attendees to enjoy. See more photos on Page A4.

Dufferin paramedics improve response, shorten downtime

Written By JAMES MATTHEWS

The Dufferin Paramedic Service has seen a decrease in the time paramedics spend at hospitals after transporting a patient.

The paramedic service provided to county council an activity report for the period from Jan. 1 to June 30.

According to the report tabled when council met Aug. 27, paramedics have experienced offload delays in 17.1 per cent of patient transports, continuing a five-year downward trend.

This reflects an improvement compared to 2022, when 23.4 per cent of patient transports resulted in offload delay, and 2025 when the rate was almost 19 per cent.

During the first six months this year, DCPS paramedics spent a total of 134 hours waiting in hospital to transfer patient care. By comparison, DCPS recorded 519 total hours of offload delay in 2022 and 284 total hours in 2025.

"Offload delay remains an ongoing area of focus for DCPS and its hospital partners, with continued efforts underway to identify efficiencies and implement process improvements," Chief Paramedic Gary Staples wrote in the report.

FILE PHOTO

FEWER DELAYS: Dufferin County Paramedic Service has reported improved response times and fewer ambulance availability incidents during the first six months of 2026.

The service's call volume is down one per cent compared with 2022 and 5.9 per cent compared with 2025. But overall demand for service remains relatively stable.

The patient volume has increased 2.8 per cent compared with 2022, but it's down 6.2 per cent compared with 2025. More patients are being transported than in 2022 despite relatively stable call volume.

All 2026 targets are currently being ex-

ceeded, and response performance remains strong across all target categories.

"(DCPS) has exceeded all established response time performance targets," according to the report. "Based on current performance trends and sustained achievement across all target categories, it is recommended that the existing response time targets be maintained for 2027."

Code Zero, also called Code Red, incidents have declined significantly since the Medical Priority Dispatch System (MPDS) was introduced in December 2025. This means ambulances are available more consistently when emergencies occur, Staples said. Code Zero occurs when no Dufferin County ambulances are available to respond to emergency calls.

DCPS experienced 30 Code Zero incidents, resulting in a total of eight hours with no ambulances available in Dufferin County. By comparison, over the full 2022 calendar year, DCPS experienced 204 Code Zero incidents and 79 total hours of no ambulance availability.

In 2025, DCPS experienced 182 incidents and 82 total hours.

Continued on Page A8



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Police continue search for Sonia Varaschin’s killer 16 years later

It has been 16 years since Sonia Varaschin was killed and police continue to investigate and urge the public to come forward with information.

On Monday, Aug. 30, 2010, the former Orangeville Police Service (OPS) launched an investigation after Varaschin’s white Toyota Corolla was discovered abandoned behind a business on Broadway in downtown Orangeville.

Varaschin, who was 42 years old at the time, was last seen on Sunday, Aug. 29, 2010, leaving her parents’ home in Bolton. At the

request of the OPS, the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) was called to support the investigation.

On Sunday, Sept. 5, 2010, Sonia’s remains were located in a wooded area just off Beech Grove Sideroad in Caledon. Investigators believe that she was targeted.

A \$50,000 reward, offered by the Government of Ontario, remains in place for any information that can lead to the arrest and conviction of the person(s) responsible for the murder of Varaschin.

“Someone knows the truth. It’s time to

come forward,” said Insp. Shawn Glassford of the OPP’s Criminal Investigations Bureau.

The case remains ongoing by Dufferin OPP, under the direction of the Criminal Investigation Branch (CIB), with support from the Office of the Chief Coroner and the Ontario Forensic Pathology Service.

Anyone with information in relation to this investigation is encouraged to contact Dufferin OPP at 1-888-310-1122. Should you wish to remain anonymous, contact Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS) or ontario-crimestoppers.ca.



FILE PHOTO

SEARCH CONTINUES: Police are offering a \$50,000 reward to anyone with information that leads to an arrest and conviction.

Residents raise concerns over county’s response to issues at housing complex

Written By JOSHUA DRAKES
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

A group of residents living in a Dufferin County housing complex say long periods of noise, sleepless nights and repeated complaints have left them frustrated with what they believe has been a lack of meaningful action from housing officials.

Several residents at 227 Williams Street in Shelburne recently spoke about their experiences at the complex, living with what they describe as a loud and unruly tenant, asking that their identities be withheld due to concerns about ongoing tensions within the building.

One resident, Angela Kennedy, was willing to speak on the record and described what she said was two weeks of constant noise that left her sleep-deprived.

“For about two weeks straight, I was able to get maybe a couple hours of sleep,” she said. “It was the pounding and the yelling and the screaming and the music playing over and

over and over again. They put on Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes, or Baby Shark, and it just goes on and on, it doesn’t stop.”

The music, screaming and banging from a fellow tenant are at the centre of their concerns, and continue to occur at various hours of the day and night.

Some residents say the problems have persisted for years, while others who moved into the building more recently say the situation has made it difficult to comfortably live in their apartments.

One anonymous resident said they moved in recently and can’t regularly sleep in their apartment because of the noise.

“I moved [here] in 2026,” the resident said. “I have slept, maybe, three weeks in the time being in my apartment because I cannot tolerate it. I have trauma, PTSD. The screaming, the loud music has affected my mental health.”

They said they regularly stay elsewhere to avoid the noise.

Residents said the impact has extended far beyond an inconvenience.

ing to hear from everybody because we had 15 people show up here, 15 different residents show up here, and they all were saying their piece. We had videos, we had recordings. I thought that the meeting was going to go in our favour. Finally, they’re going to do something.”

Instead, Kennedy and the residents alleged that county staff had a very different reaction.

“They just looked at us,” Kennedy said. “They said, ‘If you don’t like it, you can always move.’”

For those who attended, the response left them feeling as though their concerns had been dismissed rather than addressed.

“Like moving is the easiest thing to do, just pick up and leave,” Kennedy said. “They’re not willing to fix the problem.”

The Shelburne Free Press reached out to the County of Dufferin for comment, and the county confirmed that a meeting did take place with tenants, but declined to comment further.

“Dufferin County hosted a meeting for all tenants at 227 William Street in June to review the complaint policy/process with those who attended,” the county said. “In regard to 227 William Street, forms that must be completed to file a concern are available in the common room at this location. To protect privacy, the county cannot comment on individual tenant cases.”

Residents also expressed frustration with what they see as inconsistent enforcement of rules within the building. Several pointed to restrictions surrounding personal security cameras, saying they had been instructed to remove cameras from their own units while alleging cameras belonging to another residence have remained in place.

Residents added that they have repeatedly attempted to address the situation through complaints to housing officials and calls to police. They say recordings and documentation of the disturbances have also been provided to the County of Dufferin.

Their largest concern, however, is what they describe as a lack of progress despite those efforts.

Kennedy and the other residents recalled a meeting with county housing officials attended by approximately 15 people from the complex. They said they entered the meeting hopeful that having several residents describe similar experiences would lead to a solution.

“When we had the meeting, I came in with a good feeling. I’m thinking, finally, they’re go-

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Two families, one fight: Orangeville marks Childhood Cancer Awareness Month

Written By **SAM ODROWSKI**

Peter Tomlins was diagnosed with cancer two weeks after his granddaughter, Sarah Hamby, was diagnosed with leukemia. She was three years old. He was 62.

“I’m the guy that recovered, not her,” he said.

Sarah passed away last October, after a 13-year fight with the disease. Standing at Orangeville’s Town Hall for this year’s Childhood Cancer Awareness Month flag raising and proclamation on Sept. 3, Tomlins spoke about what that kind of loss does to a family, and how they carry it.

“You stay on deck, and you do what you can for the people that are left,” he said. “That’s what you do.”

Beside him was Mono resident Mark Campbell, whose connection to childhood cancer runs on a parallel track. His daughter fought leukemia from the time she was one year old until she was four and went into remission. A year later the cancer returned and she fought it a second time. She’s 18 now and has been cancer-free ever since.

For families like theirs, childhood cancer reshapes relationships and finances long after it ends, and it leaves behind a particular kind of grief that never fully goes away for survivors, parents and grandparents.

Unseen financial burden

Both men described the financial strain that comes with a child’s cancer diagnosis, which often shows up in ways people never expect.

“The cost of parking down at Sick Kids... sometimes you have to get a room because there’s no room at Ronald McDonald House. You’re eating all your meals out,” Tomlins said. “There’s a lot of expenses that go along with it that are not necessarily emergencies.”

Campbell didn’t mince words about who the system leaves behind.

“I would say that ideally you want to be at the poverty level or very wealthy to survive this financially,” he said. “If you’re what they call middle income, forget it, because the government won’t help you.”

Hospital parking alone can cost families thousands of dollars each year.

“One year, I spent \$2,800,” said Campbell.

For families making regular trips to Sick Kids, sometimes multiple times a week for months or years, it’s the kind of cost that isn’t covered and rarely gets mentioned until families are already living it.

The financial strain came to a head for Campbell’s family when they tried to claim his wife as a dependent on their taxes, since she’d left work to provide their daughter 24-hour care as an infant. After years of advocacy from cancer organizations, the CRA

changed its policy to allow it, but that change did little to help the Campbells when they filed under the new rule and were audited.

After sending in their claim, the family waited roughly eight weeks before hearing back from the CRA — not with an approval, but with a letter saying the agency needed more information and had destroyed the documents they already submitted, meaning everything had to be resent from scratch. Campbell said they were only able to comply because his wife had kept a copy of every document.

That cycle repeated roughly six times, each round asking for further detail, until the final package the Campbells couriered back was several inches thick — thick enough that Campbell paid about \$40 to have it sent. It wasn’t until he asked to speak with a supervisor and threatened to take the story to the media that the tax refund was finally approved.

“How many families give up?” Campbell said of the process.

In Canada, 33 to 40 per cent of cancer patients report significant financial distress following a diagnosis. Ontario’s Pediatric Oncology Group says that burden falls hardest on families who must reduce work hours or leave jobs altogether while managing out-of-pocket costs like parking, travel and accommodation.

Impact on relationships

Money isn’t the only thing families lose when a child is diagnosed with cancer.

“Your friends disappear because they’re scared, they don’t know what to say, and it’s too awkward for them, so they just disappear,” Campbell said.

The instinct to stay silent rather than risk saying the wrong thing usually backfires, he told the Citizen.

“I’d rather you ask and run the risk... that’s better than someone not asking you at all,” Campbell said.

What people don’t always see, Tomlins added, is how far the disruption spreads beyond the immediate family. Grandparents step in to raise siblings while parents are at the hospital.

Extended family members each find their own way to help, because, as he put it, “everybody has to kind of dig in and do their share as best they can.”

Community steps in

Against all that, both men were quick to point out how much support shows up, often in unexpected ways.

Tomlins described a Beeton veterinarian who volunteered to look after the family’s pets for free during his granddaughter’s treatment, and neighbours who quietly cleared his



SAM ODROWSKI PHOTO

STANDING TOGETHER: From left, Mark Campbell, Orangeville councillor Debbie Sherwood and Peter Tomlins stand outside Orangeville Town Hall on Sept. 3 after Sherwood read a proclamation marking Childhood Cancer Awareness Month. Campbell and Tomlins both spoke about their families’ experiences with childhood cancer at the flag-raising ceremony.

family’s driveway through the winter without being asked.

“It would just be done by elves in the night,” he said.

Campbell agreed, and added that the gesture goes both ways.

“I don’t think people realize that the person doing the shoveling gets as much out of that as the family does,” he said.

That instinct to help is also what Candlelighters was built around. What started as an advocacy group in Barrie nearly 30 years ago has grown into an organization that also runs an emergency fund for families in crisis, and its territory now stretches across Simcoe County, reaching into Dufferin County.

Campbell sits on the board of Candlelighters and described putting out a call for assistance after a single mother’s car broke down, leaving her without a way to get her child to treatment.

“I’ll get a text within two minutes. What do you need? Send me the bill,” he said.

It’s the kind of gap that government programs rarely cover, as single parents are left without work and two-parent households are left with a single income the moment a child is diagnosed.

“Pick your poison,” he said. “One of you has to quit working.”

The Candlelighters support families through these situations from the moment of diagnosis, connecting newly diagnosed families with resources through a liaison at Sick Kids and stepping in with its emergency fund whenever a bill threatens to become the reason a child misses treatment.

It’s a small, quiet system, but for families



SAM ODROWSKI PHOTO

HOISTING THE FLAG: Peter Tomlins raises the flag outside Orangeville Town Hall on Sept. 3, marking Childhood Cancer Awareness Month in honour of his granddaughter, Sarah Hamby.

forced to choose between a paycheck and a bedside, it can be the difference between managing and drowning.

Outside Orangeville Town Hall, as the Childhood Cancer Awareness flag went up, it wasn’t hard to read what it meant: no family facing a diagnosis is supposed to fight it alone.



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Orangeville Fall Fair returns with three days of family fun



GAVIN WALKER PHOTOGRAPHY

A COMMUNITY TRADITION: The Orangeville Fall Fair brought cows, corn stalks, midway rides, agricultural exhibits, entertainment and family activities to the Orangeville Agricultural Society fairgrounds over Labour Day weekend. The 2026 fair, themed “Cows and Corn Stalks,” featured midway rides, home craft competitions, a Kids Zone, demolition derby, truck and tractor pull and performances throughout the three-day event, drawing thousands of visitors together to celebrate agriculture and community.





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Hospital, county continues work toward new ambulance deal

Written By JAMES MATTHEWS

The contract for ambulance service between Dufferin County and Headwaters Health Care Centre has been extended again while both sides seek common ground to form a new agreement.

After about eight months of talks to that end, there is just one issue outstanding before a new contract can be inked, said Gary Staples, chief of Dufferin County Paramedic Services.

He said that issue could be resolved in the coming weeks.

Dufferin County council supported the development of a comprehensive 2025 paramedic service master plan and service delivery review carried out by Operational Research in Health (ORH) Ltd. The final report was received in early 2026.

The service delivery review included an assessment of the existing governance model for land ambulance services, stakeholder consultations, and careful consideration of how Dufferin County can best deliver ambulance services to the community.

The final recommendation was to maintain the current partnership between the county and Headwaters Health Care Centre. The review also strongly recommended that

the partnership be supported by a more robust commercial contractual agreement.

Staples said considerable work has been completed on the updated agreement. Outdated language has been revised, accountability provisions for both parties are stronger, a Contract Review Committee was established, and there is greater clarity of financial responsibilities.

A comprehensive legal and insurance review has also been completed to ensure the proposed agreement appropriately addresses risk, liability, indemnification, insurance requirements, and the respective responsibilities of both parties.

A report to council for its Aug. 27 meeting indicated that work has helped inform the proposed agreement language and identify matters requiring further discussion before the agreement can be finalized.

“As consensus has not yet been reached, the existing agreement must be extended until such time as the terms of a new agreement can be finalized,” according to a report to council.

Staples said it was suggested there should be a more “robust commercial” agreement.

The previous agreement, which was set to expire Aug. 31, was extended to ensure no disruption to ambulance service.

Orangeville Food Bank launches new vending machine at HART Hub Dufferin

Written By SAM ODROWSKI

The Orangeville Food Bank has installed a new community vending machine at HART Hub Dufferin, made possible through a donation given in memory of Bob and Elsie Bugar.

The machine offers nutritious lunches and snacks, prepared by the Orangeville Food Bank's chef and volunteers, for 25 cents per item, making food accessible to community members at any time of day.

It's the third such machine in the region, joining locations at the Orangeville Library's Mill Street branch and the Grand Valley Public Library. Last year, the program produced more than 11,700 meals for the community.

“This gift, made in memory of Bob and Elsie Bugar, reflects the generosity that strengthens the community,” said Carol Maitland of the Orangeville Food Bank. “Thanks to this donation, individuals visiting the HART Hub will have access to nutritious meals and snacks when needed. We are grateful to the donor for honouring Bob and Elsie's legacy in a way that will have a lasting impact.”

The HART Hub is located at 30 Centre St., Orangeville.

Hunger Action Month

September marks Hunger Action Month across Ontario.

The Orangeville Food Bank and Dufferin Food Share, in partnership with Feed Ontario, are encouraging residents to try Fork in the Road. It's an interactive online tool that puts users in the shoes of someone facing the difficult choices that come with food insecurity, from paying rent to buying groceries.

The tool, available at feedontario.ca, offers a firsthand look at the realities facing the one million Ontarians who turn to food banks each year.

Purolator Tackle Hunger Red Bag Campaign in Grand Valley

The Purolator Tackle Hunger Red Bag Campaign returns to Grand Valley this fall. On Saturday, Sept. 13, Purolator volunteers will deliver red bags to participating households.

Residents are invited to fill their bags with non-perishable food donations and place them outside for collection on Saturday, Sept. 20, with all donations support-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

FIGHTING FOOD INSECURITY: The Orangeville Food Bank has installed a new community vending machine at HART Hub Dufferin, offering nutritious meals and snacks for 25 cents each.

ing the Orangeville Food Bank. A list of the most-needed items is available at orangevillefoodbank.org/donate. The campaign is exclusive to Grand Valley.

The program has a strong history locally. The last Grand Valley campaign, held in September 2025, saw community members contribute 400 bags totalling 6,329 pounds of food in support of the Grand Valley Food Bank-Dufferin Food Share.

Since its founding more than 20 years ago, Purolator Tackle Hunger has delivered 27 million meals to food banks across Canada.

Orangeville Bike Nights

Orangeville Bike Nights will host its final fundraiser of the season in support of the Orangeville Food Bank on Thursday, Sept. 25, from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Canadian Tire parking lot in Orangeville. The community is invited to attend and support the cause with cash donations.

Dufferin Farm Tour: Connecting farms and feeding communities

A self-guided tour of Dufferin County's working farms takes place Saturday, Oct. 3, 2026, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The tour offers a chance to meet local farmers, explore the countryside, and learn about the farms that help feed the community.

Admission is by donation, with all funds and non-perishable food items supporting local food banks and helping address food insecurity across Dufferin County.

SOURCE FLOORING

3 DAY SALE

SAVE UP TO 75% OFF STOREWIDE

FRIDAY - SUNDAY

SEPTEMBER 11TH | 12TH | 13TH

WATERPROOF LUXURY VINYL

PAD ATTACHED MODERN COLOUR

99¢ /SQFT

GLUE DOWN VINYL PLANKS

GREAT VALUE

99¢ /SQFT

10MM THICK LUXURY VINYL

PAD ATTACHED 8X MORE SCRATCH RESISTANT

\$3.99 /SQFT

EASY CLICK LAMINATE

8MM THICK MODERN COLOUR

99¢ /SQFT

14MM THICK LAMINATE

PAD ATTACHED WATER PROOF

\$1.99 /SQFT

WATERPROOF LAMINATE

6FT LONG 14.4MM THICK PAD ATTACHED

\$2.99 /SQFT

13" X 13" PORCELAIN

MANY STYLES

99¢ /SQFT

18" X 18" PORCELAIN

POLISHED OR MATTE TILE

\$1.59 /SQFT

24" X 24" PORCELAIN

POLISHED OR MATTE TILE

\$1.99 /SQFT

BACKSPLASH TILES

MANY STYLES IN STOCK!

99¢ /SQFT

SUBWAY TILES

MANY STYLES IN STOCK!

\$1.99 /SQFT

2"X2" SQUARE TILES

MANY STYLES IN STOCK!

\$1.99 /SQFT

CLICK ENG. HARDWOOD

MANY COLOURS ODDS & ENDS

\$1.99 /SQFT

ENG. WHITE OAK HARDWOOD

3/4" THICK 6.5" WIDE WIRE BRUSHED

\$3.99 /SQFT

AREA RUGS

100'S IN STOCK!

\$99 EA

BASE BOARDS

14 FOOT LENGTHS

99¢ /LINFT

VINYL ACCESSORIES

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BUY IT TODAY... TAKE IT TODAY

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\$59.99 EACH

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JAMES MATTHEWS PHOTO

VETERANS REMEMBERED: Orangeville Mayor Lisa Post joins members of the Orangeville Legion to unveil a new street sign, marked with a poppy, at the corner of Preston Drive and Parkinson Crescent on Aug. 28. Five new street signs have been installed with a poppy symbol throughout Orangeville in an effort to honour local veterans.

2026 BUICK ENVISION ST



STK# 26763

FINANCE FROM

\$146

WEEKLY +TAXES

\$52,694^{+HST/LIC}

\$0 DOWN PAYMENT

0%

FOR 84 MONTHS

2026 SIERRA 1500 ELEVATION CREW CAB



STK# 261109

FINANCE FROM

\$232

WEEKLY +TAXES

\$83,799^{+HST/LIC}

\$0 DOWN PAYMENT

0%

FOR 84 MONTHS

2025 GMC SIERRA 1500 DENALI



STK# 25738A • 18,327 KM • 4X4, 3.0L DURAMAX DIESEL I-6, 10-SPEED AUTOMATIC, 6.8T BOX, 3.23 AXLE, 6-SPEAKER AUDIO, SURROUND, HEATED/COOLED LEATHER SEATS, 22 INCH ALLOY WHEELS, STEP BARS, FRONT/REAR PARK ASSIST, REAR CAMERA, REMOTE START, CHROME TRIM, BOSE, TOW PACKAGE, POWER TAILGATE, MULTI-PRO TAILGATE, AND MORE!

\$246

WEEKLY^{+HST & LIC}

\$0 DOWN

\$73,989

WEEKLY^{+HST & LIC}

\$0 DOWN

\$5.59

FOR 84 MONTHS^{+HST & LIC}

C.O.B \$15,456.88

2021 GMC SIERRA 1500 DENALI



STK# 25878A • 112,703 KM • CREW CAB, 4X4, 5.3L ECOTEC V8, 10-SPEED AUTOMATIC, POWER SURFIDE, HEATED AND VENTILATED FRONT SEATS, HEATED STEERING WHEEL, NAV, BOSE PREMIUM AUDIO, FRONT AND REAR PARK ASSIST, BACKUP CAMERA, REMOTE START, 20-INCH POLISHED ALLOY WHEELS, TOW PACKAGE, MULTIPRO TAILGATE, AND MORE!

\$163

WEEKLY^{+HST & LIC}

\$0 DOWN

\$48,989

WEEKLY^{+HST & LIC}

\$0 DOWN

\$5.59

FOR 84 MONTHS^{+HST & LIC}

C.O.B \$10,234.18

2019 AUDI Q7 PROGRESSIV



STK# 25882A • 151,522 KM • 3.0T PROGRESSIV QUATTRO, 6 LINE, 3.0L SUPERCHARGED V6, 333 HORSEPOWER, 8-SPEED AUTOMATIC, PANORAMIC SUNROOF, HEATED AND VENTILATED LEATHER, HEATED SECOND ROW, SEVEN-PASSENGER SEATING, REAR CAMERA, REAR PARK ASSIST, BLIND-SPOT ASSIST, HEAD-UP DISPLAY, ACCIDENT FREE, AND MORE!

\$119

WEEKLY^{+HST & LIC}

\$0 DOWN

\$24,989

WEEKLY^{+HST & LIC}

\$0 DOWN

\$8.99

FOR 60 MONTHS^{+HST & LIC}

C.O.B \$5,055.86

2024 RAM 3500 LIMITED LONGHORN



STK# 25454A • 56,750 KM • 6.7L CUMMINS HD DIESEL, 6-SPEED ASIN AUTOMATIC, 3.73 AXLE, 8.1T BOX, 4X4, NAV, SURROUND, HEATED/COOLED LEATHER SEATING, HEATED SECOND ROW, HARMAN AUDIO, LONGHORN LEVEL 1 GROUP, SURROUND VIEW CAMERA, TOW PACKAGE, REAR AIR SUSPENSION, 37H WHEEL, PEP, TOWING TECHNOLOGY GROUP AND MORE!

\$323

WEEKLY^{+HST & LIC}

\$0 DOWN

\$89,989

WEEKLY^{+HST & LIC}

\$0 DOWN

\$7.99

FOR 84 MONTHS^{+HST & LIC}

C.O.B \$27,566.47

2021 GMC SIERRA 1500 AT4 CARBONPRO



STK# 26168A • 37,863 KM • 4X4, 6.2L V8, 10-SPEED AUTOMATIC, 3.23 AXLE, 5.8-FOOT BOX, NAV, POWER SURFIDE, HEATED AND VENTILATED LEATHER BUCKET SEATS, HEATED REAR SEATS, STEP BARS, FRONT AND REAR PARK ASSIST, SURROUND VIEW CAMERA, BOSE AUDIO, HEAD-UP DISPLAY, MULTIPRO TAILGATE, TOW PACKAGE, TRAILERING MIRRORS, AND MORE!

\$166

WEEKLY^{+HST & LIC}

\$0 DOWN

\$49,989

WEEKLY^{+HST & LIC}

\$0 DOWN

\$5.59

FOR 84 MONTHS^{+HST & LIC}

C.O.B \$10,443.09

2023 CHEVROLET SUBURBAN HIGH COUNTRY



STK# 25918A • 133,643 KM • 6.2L V8, 10-SPEED AUTOMATIC, MYLINK NAVIGATION, PANORAMIC SUNROOF, TWIN ZONE A/C, 22 INCH ALLOYS, 7-PASSENGER, SUPER CRUISE, HEATED/COOLED LEATHER, FRONT/REAR PARK ASSIST, SURROUND/REAR CAMERA, REAR ENTERTAINMENT, LOADED, AIR RIDE, TECH Pkg AND MORE!

\$232

WEEKLY^{+HST & LIC}

\$0 DOWN

\$69,989

WEEKLY^{+HST & LIC}

\$0 DOWN

\$5.59

FOR 84 MONTHS^{+HST & LIC}

C.O.B \$14,621.25

2018 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE STERLING EDITION



STK# 251208A • 176,500 KM • 3.6L PENTASTAR V6, 8-SPEED AUTOMATIC, GUARANTEED 14K, SELLER-TERRAIN SYSTEM, PANORAMIC SUNROOF, NAV, WINE-SPEAKER ALPINE AUDIO WITH SURROUND, HEATED FRONT AND REAR SEATS, HEATED STEERING WHEEL, WHITE START, TRAILER TOW PACKAGE, CLASS IV HITCH, REAR LOAD-LEVELING SUSPENSION, AND MORE!

\$146

WEEKLY^{+HST & LIC}

\$0 DOWN

\$19,889

WEEKLY^{+HST & LIC}

\$0 DOWN

\$9.29

FOR 36 MONTHS^{+HST & LIC}

C.O.B \$2,819.53

2021 GMC YUKON DENALI



STK# 25145A • 158,771 KM • RET BLACK LEATHER, 6.2L V8, 10-SPEED AUTOMATIC, AUTORIDE 4X4, SEVEN-PASSENGER SEATING, POWER SURFIDE, HEATED AND VENTILATED FRONT SEATS, HEATED SECOND ROW, HEATED STEERING WHEEL, HEAD-UP DISPLAY, GOOGLE W/TELEVISION, NAVIGATION, BOSE AUDIO, TWIN ZONE CLIMATE CONTROL, POWER LIFTGATE, 22 INCH ALLOY WHEELS, AND MORE!

\$191

WEEKLY^{+HST & LIC}

\$0 DOWN

\$57,489

WEEKLY^{+HST & LIC}

\$0 DOWN

\$5.59

FOR 84 MONTHS^{+HST & LIC}

C.O.B \$12,009.90

2026 JEEP WRANGLER 85TH ANNIVERSARY



STK# TWO066

FINANCE FROM

\$189

WEEKLY +TAXES

\$61,916^{+HST/LIC}

OCL DISCOUNT: \$2,000

CONSUMER CASH: \$10,000

TOTAL SAVINGS: \$12,000

\$0 DOWN PAYMENT

5.29%

FOR 96 MONTHS

C.O.B \$14,507.75

DISPLAYED FINANCE OFFER IS BASED ON A \$63,916 SELLING PRICE.

2025 JEEP WRANGLER 4-DOOR SPORT S



STK# 25800T • REMO • FINISHED IN STRIKING WHITE WITH A ROBUST 4X4 DRIVETRAIN. THIS SUV PROMISES SMOOTH HANDLING OVER ANY TERRAIN. ITS BOLD ROAD PRESENCE AND ICONIC DESIGN MAKE A STRONG STATEMENT, WHILE THE INTERIOR DELIVERS SOPHISTICATION AND COMFORT.

\$270

WEEKLY^{+HST & LIC}

\$0 DOWN

\$58,106

WEEKLY^{+HST & LIC}

\$0 DOWN

\$7.99

FOR 84 MONTHS^{+HST & LIC}

C.O.B \$23,012.24

2025 JEEP WRANGLER 4-DOOR SPORT S



STK# 25800T • REMO • AN ADVENTURE-READY SUV WITH AN EYE-CATCHING GREEN EXTERIOR AND ROBUST 4X4 DRIVETRAIN. THIS TRUCK DELIVERS CONFIDENT HANDLING ON ANY TERRAIN AND IS DESIGNED TO CONQUER BOTH CITY STREETS AND OFF-ROAD ADVENTURES.

\$278

WEEKLY^{+HST & LIC}

\$0 DOWN

\$60,521

WEEKLY^{+HST & LIC}

\$0 DOWN

\$7.99

FOR 84 MONTHS^{+HST & LIC}

C.O.B \$23,752.03

2026 RAM 1500 REBEL



STK# TWO063

FINANCE FROM

\$225

WEEKLY +TAXES

\$82,931^{+HST/LIC}

OCL DISCOUNT: \$3,500

NO-CHARGE DIESEL: \$11,000

TOTAL SAVINGS: \$14,500

\$0 DOWN PAYMENT

5.29%

FOR 96 MONTHS

C.O.B \$19,618.24

DISPLAYED FINANCE OFFER IS BASED ON A \$86,431 SELLING PRICE.

2025 JEEP CHEROKEE LIMITED



STK# TWO021 • 4,889 KM • DEMO WITH A SLEEK BLACK EXTERIOR AND ROBUST 4X4 DRIVETRAIN. THIS SUV PROMISES SMOOTH HANDLING OVER ANY TERRAIN. IT BLENDS FUNCTIONALITY AND SOPHISTICATION WITH A SMOOTH AUTOMATIC TRANSMISSION, STYLISH ALLOY WHEELS AND A SPACIOUS BLACK INTERIOR.

\$219

WEEKLY^{+HST & LIC}

\$0 DOWN

\$57,246

WEEKLY^{+HST & LIC}

\$0 DOWN

\$7.99

FOR 84 MONTHS^{+HST & LIC}

C.O.B \$23,012.24

2025 JEEP COMPASS NORTH



STK# TWO004 • 5,511 KM • 2.0L TURBOCHARGED 4-CYLINDER, 8-SPEED AUTOMATIC, 4X4, CONVENIENCE GROUP, DRIVER ASSISTANCE GROUP, HEATED FRONT SEATS, HEATED STEERING WHEEL, 10-INCH TOUCHSCREEN, W/11 SPEAKERS, BLACK LEATHER INTERIOR, 4X4, ALLOY WHEELS, BACKUP CAMERA, ADAPTIVE CRUISE CONTROL, FRONT AND REAR PARKING SENSORS, LANE KEEP ASSIST, AND MORE!

\$176

WEEKLY^{+HST & LIC}

\$0 DOWN

\$41,506

WEEKLY^{+HST & LIC}

\$0 DOWN

\$7.99

FOR 84 MONTHS^{+HST & LIC}

C.O.B \$15,016

2019 RAM 2500 LARAMIE LONGHORN



STK# 2503201 • 179,614 KM • LONGHORN LEVEL 1 EQUIPMENT GROUP, TOWING TECHNOLOGY GROUP, SURROUND-VIEW CAMERA, HEATED AND VENTILATED FRONT SEATS, HEATED SECOND-ROW SEATS, 17-SPEAKER PREMIUM AUDIO, POWER FOLDING SEATS, REAR AUTO-LEVELING AIR SUSPENSION, CLASS IV HITCH, TRAILER BRAKE CONTROLLER, 8.1L CUMMINS TURBO-DIESEL, 4X4, AND MORE!

\$287

WEEKLY^{+HST & LIC}

\$0 DOWN

\$60,021

WEEKLY^{+HST & LIC}

\$0 DOWN

\$8.99

FOR 84 MONTHS^{+HST & LIC}

C.O.B \$14,547.94

2017 DODGE CHARGER SRT 392



STK# TWO0510 • 37,826 KM • TECHNOLOGY GROUP, 6.4L SRT HEMI V8, POWER SUNROOF, DRIVER MEMORY, HEATED AND VENTILATED FRONT SEATS, HEATED SECOND-ROW SEATS, HARMAN/AUDION 10-SPEAKER PREMIUM AUDIO, NAVIGATION, LEATHER AND ALUMINUM INTERIOR, ADAPTIVE CRUISE CONTROL, FORWARD COLLISION WARNING, LANE KEEP ASSIST, REAR PARK ASSIST, AND MORE!

\$323

WEEKLY^{+HST & LIC}

\$0 DOWN

\$56,121

WEEKLY^{+HST & LIC}

\$0 DOWN

\$9.29

FOR 48 MONTHS^{+HST & LIC}

C.O.B \$11,121.14

ROYAL

CHEVROLET CADILLAC

2027 CHEVROLET BOLT LT



STK# 23667

LEASE FROM

\$69

WEEKLY +TAXES

\$1,770

DOWN PAYMENT

PLUS SECURITY DEPOSIT

2.90%

FOR 24 MONTHS

16,000 KMS PER YEAR

2026 CHEVROLET CORVETTE Z06 COUPE 2LZ



STK# A9290

CASH PRICE

\$156,866

+TAXES

CASH SAVINGS OF

\$22,525

2019 JEEP WRANGLER UNLIMITED SAHARA



STK# 23338A • 148,753 KM • SAHARA 4X4, BLACK EXTERIOR, BLACK INTERIOR, 2.0L TURBOCHARGED 4-CYLINDER, AUTOMATIC TRANSMISSION, HEATED FRONT SEATS, HEATED STEERING WHEEL, REMOTE START, TOUCHSCREEN INFOTAINMENT, APPLE CARPLAY, ANDROID AUTO, XM RADIO, BACKUP CAMERA, ALLOY WHEELS, REMOVABLE HARDTOP, AND MORE!

\$112

WEEKLY^{+HST & LIC}

\$0 DOWN

\$23,470

WEEKLY^{+HST & LIC}

\$0 DOWN

\$8.99

FOR 84 MONTHS^{+HST & LIC}

C.O.B \$5,688.68

2024 CHEVROLET SILVERADO 1500 LTZ



STK# 25780A • 72,231 KM • ONE OWNER, ACCIDENT-FREE, HEATED AND VENTILATED SEATS, HEAD-UP DISPLAY, HEATED STEERING WHEEL, ADAPTIVE CRUISE CONTROL, SPRAY-ON RESIN, TRAILERING PACKAGE, WIRELESS APPLE CARPLAY, WIRELESS ANDROID AUTO, REMOTE START, AUTOMATIC HIGH BEAMS, 10-SPK, ONSTAR, 3.0L ZONE CLIMATE CONTROL, POWER LIFTGATE, AND MORE!

\$203

WEEKLY^{+HST & LIC}

\$0 DOWN

\$56,516

WEEKLY^{+HST & LIC}

\$0 DOWN

\$7.99

FOR 84 MONTHS^{+HST & LIC}

C.O.B \$17,312.63

2026 HONDA CIVIC SEDAN HYBRID SPORT TOURING



STK# 25488A • 1,883 KM • IN A STRIKING WHITE FINISH, THIS EFFICIENT PWD SEDAN OFFERS EXCEPTIONAL HANDLING AND A BALANCED BLEND OF STYLE, PERFORMANCE AND FUNCTIONALITY.

\$131

WEEKLY^{+HST & LIC}

\$0 DOWN

\$36,516

WEEKLY^{+HST & LIC}

\$0 DOWN

\$7.99

FOR 84 MONTHS^{+HST & LIC}

C.O.B \$11,186.00

2024 CADILLAC XT4 SPORT



STK# 25712 • 45,800 KM • CERTIFIED PRE-OWNED, ACCIDENT-FREE, MIDNIGHT SKY BLACK METALLIC, BLACK LEATHER INTERIOR, 25.34 KM, TURBOCHARGED ENGINE, ALL-WHEEL DRIVE, 8-SPEED AUTOMATIC TRANSMISSION, SPORT SUSPENSION, ULTRAVIEW SUNROOF, HEATED FRONT SEATS, HEATED STEERING WHEEL, WIRELESS APPLE CARPLAY, AND MORE!

\$162

WEEKLY^{+HST & LIC}

\$0 DOWN

\$48,216

WEEKLY^{+HST & LIC}

\$0 DOWN

\$5.99

FOR 84 MONTHS^{+HST & LIC}

C.O.B \$10,840.20

2024 CADILLAC ESCALADE ESV 4WD SPORT



STK# 25878A • 62,728 KM • BLACK LEATHER INTERIOR, 6.2L V8, 4X4, SPORT TRIM, 22-INCH ALLOY WHEELS, SURROUND-VIEW CAMERA, HEATED AND VENTILATED FRONT SEATS, HEATED STEERING WHEEL, PANORAMIC SUNROOF, NAVIGATION, PREMIUM AUDIO, ADAPTIVE CRUISE CONTROL, POWER LIFTGATE, FRONT AND REAR PARK ASSIST, AND MORE!

\$354

WEEKLY^{+HST & LIC}

\$0 DOWN

\$98,716

WEEKLY^{+HST & LIC}

\$0 DOWN

\$7.99

FOR 84 MONTHS^{+HST & LIC}

C.O.B \$30,239.82

Orangeville Volkswagen

2026 VOLKSWAGEN TIGUAN TRENDLINE



STK# TG26A2

LEASE FROM

\$97

WEEKLY +TAXES

** INCLUDES LOYALTY OFFER **

\$40,655^{+HST/LIC}

\$0 DOWN PAYMENT

PLUS SECURITY DEPOSIT

2.99%

FOR 60 MONTHS

12,000 KMS PER YEAR

2026 VOLKSWAGEN TAOS HIGHLINE



STK# TA2615

LEASE FROM

\$121

WEEKLY +TAXES

** INCLUDES \$1000 BONUS CASH **

\$35,896^{+HST/LIC}

\$0 DOWN PAYMENT

PLUS SECURITY DEPOSIT

2.99%

FOR 48 MONTHS

12,000 KMS PER YEAR

2019 JEEP WRANGLER UNLIMITED SAHARA



STK# 23338A • 148,753 KM • SAHARA 4X4, BLACK EXTERIOR, BLACK INTERIOR, 2.0L TURBOCHARGED 4-CYLINDER, AUTOMATIC TRANSMISSION, HEATED FRONT SEATS, HEATED STEERING WHEEL, REMOTE START, TOUCHSCREEN INFOTAINMENT, APPLE CARPLAY, ANDROID AUTO, XM RADIO, BACKUP CAMERA, ALLOY WHEELS, REMOVABLE HARDTOP, AND MORE!

\$112

WEEKLY^{+HST & LIC}

\$0 DOWN

\$23,470

WEEKLY^{+HST & LIC}

\$0 DOWN

\$8.99

FOR 84 MONTHS^{+HST & LIC}

C.O.B \$5,688.68

2024 CHEVROLET SILVERADO 3500HD



STK# 25780A • 1,883 KM • IN A STRIKING WHITE FINISH, THIS EFFICIENT PWD SEDAN OFFERS EXCEPTIONAL HANDLING AND A BALANCED BLEND OF STYLE, PERFORMANCE AND FUNCTIONALITY.

\$336

WEEKLY^{+HST & LIC}

\$0 DOWN

\$93,716

WEEKLY^{+HST & LIC}

\$0 DOWN

\$7.99

FOR 84 MONTHS^{+HST & LIC}

C.O.B \$28,708.16

2026 CHEVROLET SILVERADO 2500HD ZR2



STK# 25536A • 10,722 KM • DOWNER! ACCIDENT-FREE! PERFORMANCE LIFTED SUSPENSION! HEATED/COOLED SEATS! HEATED STEERING WHEEL! HEADS UP DISPLAY! ADAPTIVE CRUISE CONTROL! WIRELESS CHARGING! BOSE SOUND SYSTEM! 360 CAMERA! W/11 SPEAKERS! 10-SPK, ONSTAR, 3.0L ZONE CLIMATE CONTROL, POWER LIFTGATE, AND MORE!

\$361

WEEKLY^{+HST & LIC}

\$0 DOWN

\$100,710

WEEKLY^{+HST & LIC}

\$0 DOWN

\$7.99

FOR 84 MONTHS^{+HST & LIC}

C.O.B \$30,850.65

2019 CHEVROLET TRAVERSE



STK# 23032A • 171,772 KM • ONE OWNER, HEATED SEATS, REMOTE START, 360 SURROUND VISION, SUNROOF, W/11 SPEAKERS, XM RADIO, ONSTAR, LEATHER SEATS, AUTO CLIMATE CONTROL, 20" WHEELS, POWER LIFTGATE, BOSE SOUND SYSTEM, TRAILERING PACKAGE AND MORE!

\$110

WEEKLY^{+HST & LIC}

\$0 DOWN

\$22,995

WEEKLY^{+HST & LIC}

\$0 DOWN

\$8.99

FOR 60 MONTHS^{+HST & LIC}

C.O.B \$5,573.55

2022 VOLKSWAGEN TIGUAN COMFORTLINE



STK# 25727 • 71,325 KM • 2.0L TURBOCHARGED ENGINE, AUTOTON ALL-WHEEL DRIVE, HEATED FRONT SEATS, POWER DRIVER'S SEAT, 8-SPEAKER PREMIUM AUDIO, NAVIGATION, W/11 SPEAKERS, 10-SPK, ONSTAR, 3.0L ZONE CLIMATE CONTROL, POWER LIFTGATE, AND MORE!

\$100

WEEKLY^{+HST & LIC}

\$0 DOWN

\$26,995

WEEKLY^{+HST & LIC}

\$0 DOWN

\$7.99

FOR 84 MONTHS^{+HST & LIC}

C.O.B \$8,575.75

2023 VOLKSWAGEN ATLAS EXECLINE



STK# 25823P • 10,822 KM • V6 ENGINE, AUTOTON ALL-WHEEL DRIVE, PANORAMIC SUNROOF, DIGITAL CRUISE, HEATED AND VENTILATED FRONT SEATS, HEATED REAR SEATS, HEATED STEERING WHEEL, NAVIGATION, APPLE CARPLAY, ANDROID AUTO, BACKUP CAMERA, 360-DEGREE CAMERA, FRONT PREMIUM AUDIO, ADAPTIVE CRUISE CONTROL, BLIND-SPOT MONITORING, LANE ASSIST, POWER LIFTGATE, AND MORE!

\$133

WEEKLY^{+HST & LIC}

\$0 DOWN

\$36,495

WEEKLY^{+HST & LIC}

\$0 DOWN

\$7.99

FOR 84 MONTHS^{+HST & LIC}

C.O.B \$11,312.73

2025 VOLKSWAGEN ATLAS CROSS SPORT COMFORTLINE



STK# 25823P • 10,480 KM • AUTOTON ALL-WHEEL DRIVE, TURBOCHARGED 2.0T ENGINE, 8-SPEED AUTOMATIC TRANSMISSION, HEATED FRONT SEATS, HEATED STEERING WHEEL, 40P-CINCH SMOOTHIE INTERIOR, APPLE CARPLAY AND ANDROID AUTO, 20-INCH AUTOMATIC CLIMATE CONTROL, SURROUND-VIEW CAMERA, HARMAN AUDIO, HEAD-UP DISPLAY, AND MORE!

\$165

WEEKLY^{+HST & LIC}

\$0 DOWN

\$46,195

WEEKLY^{+HST & LIC}

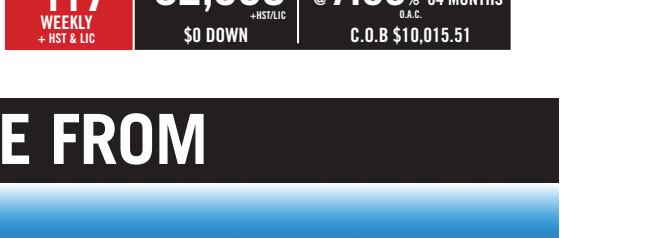
\$0 DOWN

\$7.99

FOR 84 MONTHS^{+HST & LIC}

C.O.B \$14,150.99

2023 KIA SPORTAGE X-LINE LIMITED AWD



STK# 25810T • 53,222 KM • 2.5L GDI ENGINE, 8-SPEED AUTOMATIC TRANSMISSION, PANORAMIC SUNROOF, 12-SPEAKER COVERED SHIPPER, NAV SYSTEM, APPLE CARPLAY, ANDROID AUTO, HARMAN PREMIUM AUDIO, HEATED AND VENTILATED FRONT SEATS, HEATED REAR SEATS, HEATED STEERING WHEEL, SURROUND-VIEW CAMERA, FRONT ASSIST WITH AUTOMATIC EMERGENCY BRAKING, AND MORE!

\$117

WEEKLY^{+HST & LIC}

\$0 DOWN

\$32,695

WEEKLY^{+HST & LIC}

\$0 DOWN

\$7.99

FOR 84 MONTHS^{+HST & LIC}

C.O.B \$10,015.51

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Dufferin County Paramedic Services improve response, shorten downtime

Continued from FRONT

The significant downward trend in both the number of incidents and total hours is directly related to the implementation of the MPDS, according to the county.

In addition to Code Zero incidents, high-priority responses, overtime, and missed meal breaks have declined since the implementation of the MPDS. Some lower-priority patients have waited longer during busy periods, but complaints remain low.

Overall, the new system is improving ambulance availability and day-to-day operations.

Paramedic services are required each year to report response time performance for the previous calendar year by March 31 and establish response time performance targets for the upcoming year to Oct. 31.

For the period of Jan. 1 to June 30, DCPS exceeded all established response time performance targets. Based on current performance trends and sustained achievement across all target categories, it is recommend-

ed that the existing response time targets be maintained for 2027.

County councillor Chris Gerrits, Amaranth's mayor, said he is very impressed with the response times, especially in the county's rural areas. There was discussion when council last discussed decreasing response times that there may have been a need for another satellite ambulance station in the county.

Staples said there was a recommendation in the 2025 ambulance master plan to consider a satellite paramedic station in the

county's northern end if it could be financially and operationally possible.

"If we were to do something at this point and just move an ambulance to that station for a period of time, we most likely would be actually degrading our service that we're providing to Orangeville, Shelburne, Grand Valley," Staples said. "That is where 75 to 85 per cent of our call are."

The rest of the paramedic service's call are spread over a vast area.

"We might not actually make a difference if we just move an ambulance there," he said.

Headwaters earns Using Blood Wisely designation, renews EQI accreditation

Written By **SAM ODROWSKI**

Headwaters Health Care Centre's Laboratory department has earned a national Using Blood Wisely designation, while its Diagnostic Imaging team has renewed its Echocardiography Quality Improvement (EQI) accreditation.

The Using Blood Wisely designation is awarded by Choosing Wisely Canada and Canadian Blood Services to hospitals that demonstrate appropriate blood transfusion practices. The EQI Program assesses a facility's ability to perform high-quality echocardiography testing and supports quality improvement, standardization and patient safety.

"We are incredibly proud to be recognized through both the Using Blood Wisely program and EQI Accreditation," said Kim Delahunt, Headwaters president and CEO. "These achievements reflect the dedication, expertise and compassion of our staff, physicians and volunteers, and their commitment to delivering safe, high-quality care for our patients and community."

The Using Blood Wisely program is intended to ensure blood transfusions are used when clinically necessary. Appropriate use of transfusions can improve patient outcomes while helping to preserve Canada's blood supply.

"Blood transfusions are often life-saving treatments but transfusing more blood than necessary is not beneficial and can sometimes cause harm," said Dr. Theodora Ruijs, director of Headwaters' Laboratory. "The Using Blood Wisely program helps hospitals compare their practices against national benchmarks and ensures patients receive the right care at the right time."

The designation places the hospital among nearly 200 hospitals across Canada that have demonstrated consistent, optimal and appropriate transfusion practices through the program, according to Headwaters.

"Using blood wisely is embedded in our

daily practice, from careful inventory management and monitoring usage trends to ongoing education and review to ensure every transfusion is appropriate and patient-centred," said Colleen Hillier, manager of Laboratory Services. "For our team, this designation is an important acknowledgement of our expertise and commitment to providing high-quality care, and it reinforces how our behind-the-scenes work directly impacts patient safety and outcomes."

Headwaters transfused 972 units of blood to patients requiring transfusion support in 2025.

The hospital's Diagnostic Imaging program has also renewed its accreditation through Accreditation Canada's Echocardiography Quality Improvement (EQI) Program.

The renewed accreditation confirms that Headwaters continues to meet Accreditation Canada's requirements for high-quality echocardiography services. For patients, the accreditation provides reassurance that echocardiograms are performed by qualified professionals using nationally recognized standards, supporting safe, accurate and reliable cardiac diagnostic testing.

During the 2025-26 fiscal year, Headwaters' echocardiography team performed 1,775 echocardiograms, providing diagnostic information to support patient care and clinical decision-making.

"We are proud to receive EQI Accreditation at Headwaters," said Sherry Farrow, senior diagnostic imaging technician. "This achievement reflects the dedication of our echocardiography team to excellence, continuous quality improvement and delivering the highest standard of patient care. Most importantly, it provides reassurance to patients that they are receiving safe, high-quality care from a skilled and experienced team."

Headwaters first achieved EQI accreditation in 2021. The renewed accreditation is valid until November 2029.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

USING BLOOD WISELY: Members of Headwaters Health Care Centre's Laboratory team were joined by Kim Delahunt, hospital President and CEO and Frances Duiker, the hospital's vice president of People Experience and CHRO. The group celebrated Headwater's designation as a Using Blood Wisely hospital by Choosing Wisely Canada and Canadian Blood Services.



KEEPING STANDARDS HIGH: Charlene Rogers, manager of diagnostic imaging, and Sherri Farrow, senior diagnostic imaging technician, mark the renewal of HHCC's Echocardiography Quality Improvement (EQI) Accreditation. The accreditation recognizes the expertise, dedicate

Have your say and help us guide the way we shape Orangeville's future

Open house: Official Plan Review

September 22, 2026 at 6 p.m.

Think about Orangeville's future 30 years from now. How would it look to you?

We're inviting you to share your thoughts at our open house for the Official Plan Review. The Official Plan is Orangeville's long-term vision and the legal framework for how our community grows and develops over time. We review it periodically to make sure it aligns with provincial and Dufferin County planning policies.

Official Plans act as a compass, guiding:

-  where new homes, jobs, shops and parks should go
-  the way our neighbourhoods grow and evolve
-  how transit, infrastructure (like water services) and community services need to develop
-  how to protect our environmental features, green space and public spaces

Here's some of the things we'd like to hear from you on:

-  what you think should be prioritized as we grow and change
-  what your favourite places in Orangeville are, and why
-  what we're missing in the housing market
-  what could improve your quality of life

Join us

Date: September 22, 2026
Time: 6 to 7:30 p.m.
Location: Atrium, Town Hall, 87 Broadway
Refreshments provided

✉ planning@orangeville.ca
🖱 orangeville.ca/OfficialPlan



Local author explores mystery behind Mulmur Hills Poltergeist in new book

Written By JOSHUA DRAKES
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

A nearly century-old mystery from the hills of Mulmur is being brought back into the spotlight with the release of a new book exploring one of Dufferin County’s strangest paranormal stories.

Author Christopher Dodd releases Unseen Thing: The Mulmur Hills Poltergeist on Sept. 29, which takes a deep dive into the strange events reported by the Dobson family on their Mulmur Township farm in 1930.

Dodd first discovered the story after he and his wife purchased a property in Mulmur in 2014.

“I’ve always been fascinated with unsolved mysteries,” he said. “It’s like a real-world puzzle that you can spend a lot of time playing around with in your mind, theorizing and talking to people about possible explanations.”

Dodd added, “During my first March break there at the Mulmur house, I Googled ‘Mulmur’ and the word ‘haunted,’ and just threw it out there to see what Google could find. Google came back with a book called Strange but True. There was a section in it about something that he called the Mulmur Hills Poltergeist. I was struck by the location because our place is on the Fourth Line of Mulmur, and it turns out this farm was just 12 kilometres south of us.”

Dodd visited the Museum of Dufferin archives, where he discovered additional newspaper reports about the family. From there, what started as curiosity developed into years of research.

He searched community newspapers, Toronto newspaper archives, and historical documents while tracking the people connected to the case through land and tax records, voter lists, and birth, death, and marriage certificates.

As he pieced together a timeline, Dodd began noticing similarities between the events in Mulmur and other reported Canadian poltergeist cases. Those similarities ultimately helped shape the book, which he describes as part folklore study and part paranormal investigation.

Unseen Thing is divided into three sections.

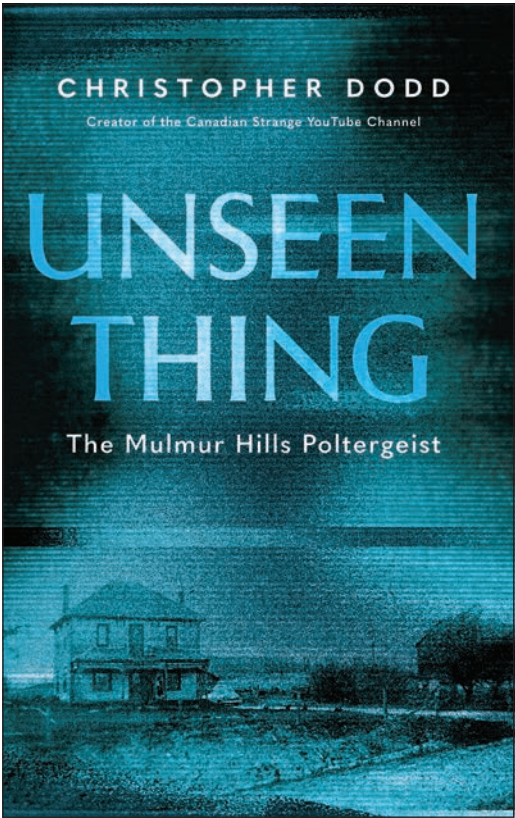
The book is divided into three sections, with Dodd first placing the events in Mulmur within the broader history of reported poltergeist activity in Canada.

The first section takes readers through six historical cases involving alleged poltergeist activity on Canadian farms, beginning with the Baldoon Poltergeist of 1829 and working forward to 1930. Rather than simply recounting the stories, Dodd looks for recurring features, themes and similarities between cases that occurred decades apart and in different parts of the country. Those patterns provide a framework for examining what later happened in Mulmur.

The second section turns entirely to the Mulmur Hills Poltergeist and the Dobson family. Dodd reconstructs who the family members were, how they came to live in Mulmur and what they reported experiencing on their farm. The section follows the story through the growing attention surrounding the property, the family’s eventual loss of the farm and what became of them afterward.

With the historical groundwork established, the third section tackles the question at the centre of the book – what actually happened? Dodd examines what he calls the “case for strange,” considering paranormal and supernatural explanations, before turning to the “case for a mundane solution.” There, he considers whether the events could have resulted from a hoax or deception, misperceptions or psychological factors affecting members of the family.

Dodd sees the book as an opportunity to re-examine how the Dobson family was treat-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

MYSTERY IN THE MULMUR HILLS: Based on years of scientific and paranormal research, Unseen Thing: The Mulmur Hills Poltergeist is a non-fiction investigation into what really happened on the Dobson farm in north Dufferin nearly 100 years ago.

ed at the time. Contemporary newspaper coverage often presented their experiences as entertainment, and the family expressed frustration with how their story was portrayed.

“The Dobson family got frustrated with what was happening in the papers at the time,” Dodd said. “When it first hit the front page of the Toronto Evening Telegram, the Daily Star, even the Orangeville Sun, it was just wrong. The one son, Ross Dobson, was very upset with how the family was being portrayed and the twisting of what they had said. He wrote letters to the editors of the newspaper saying, like, this isn’t funny. You’re messing up what happened. People think this is all a joke now.”

“I think this book is sort of a rebalancing of history. No one has ever done a deep dive into this story, and I think the family was not treated fairly. So this book, I think, is a way to maybe re-examine the case and, by comparing it to other stories, I think people might reevaluate what happened in Mulmur and maybe ask the question: maybe this wasn’t a big hoax and a joke. Maybe there is something that happens sometimes to people that can’t be explained, and we shouldn’t write it off immediately,” Dodd added.

Rather than claiming to definitively solve a mystery that has endured for nearly a century, Dodd presents the competing possibilities and allows readers to weigh the evidence and decide for themselves which explanation they find most convincing.

“There’s no clean, clear solution to this mystery,” he said. “You have to ask the questions: Well, if it’s a hoax, what was the motivation, and you explore those lines of thought. Was there someone in the family playing tricks and mind games on everybody else, let’s follow that theory. Or was there a paranormal element at play here?”

“I end the book with the theory that I tend to lean towards as being probably the best answer to what happened, but it’s by no means definitive. I don’t rule out a paranormal solution to this,” Dodd added.

More broadly, he hopes Unseen Thing leaves readers with a greater appreciation for the folklore and forgotten stories that form part of local history, and a sense of wonder about the mysteries still hidden throughout the Mulmur Hills and Dufferin County.

Unseen Thing: The Mulmur Hills Poltergeist is currently listed for release on Sept. 29.



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FENECH DESIGNS PHOTO

SETTING THE SCENE: A film crew installs artwork in Grand Valley for the filming of the TV show Reacher this week.

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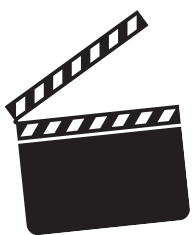
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Arts & Entertainment



LOCAL COMMUNITY EVENTS

‘How We Got to Jersey’ brings the story behind Jersey Boys to Orangeville

Written By JOSHUA DRAKES
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Two Canadian performers who spent years stepping into the shoes of Frankie Valli are bringing the stories behind their journey to Theatre Orangeville this month.

How We Got to Jersey: A Tale of Two Frankies, created and performed by Jeff Madden and Adrian Marchuk, will take the stage at Theatre Orangeville from Sept. 25 to 27.

Part concert and part personal storytelling, the production takes audiences behind the scenes of Jersey Boys while exploring how Madden and Marchuk, two performers from small-town Ontario, each found themselves playing one of early rock and roll’s most recognizable voices.

“How do two guys from small-town Ontario end up touring the world, playing one of the greatest rock and roll singers of all time?” Marchuk said. “And how do they do it, having the time of their lives, and being good buds, and then best enemies, and then back to good buds.”

“I think if anybody wants to know what it’s like to be an actor in Canada, this show will give them a great insight into that,” Madden said. “It’ll show you how taking on a job can change your life in many ways — ways that you wouldn’t necessarily anticipate — good ways, challenging ways. It’s got something for everyone. It’s got incredible music. It’s got nostalgia, and it’s got this hopefully heartwarming story that is very human that connects us to the audience and connects to their own lives.”

The show features music made famous by Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons, including Sherry, Big Girls Don’t Cry, Walk Like a Man and Can’t Take My Eyes Off of You, alongside stories from Madden and Marchuk’s careers and experiences performing in Jersey Boys.

Neither performer originally expected the role of Frankie Valli to become such a significant part of their careers. Their paths to Jersey Boys began like many acting jobs

— with an audition — but quickly became a whirlwind that included travelling to New York for fittings and Nashville to work with original Four Seasons member Bob Gaudio before rehearsals began.

The two would go on to perform as Frankie Valli during the Toronto production of Jersey Boys, with the experience continuing to follow them long after the production ended. Both continued to be asked to perform the music at concerts, corporate functions and other events, occasionally crossing paths with each other.

The idea for How We Got to Jersey emerged years later when Marchuk was asked to pitch concert ideas for a venue. Remembering that both he and Madden had played Frankie Valli, he proposed a show where the two could perform the music while sharing stories from their experiences.

“They were asking for ideas, so I said, okay, you could do this idea, and then you could do this idea, and then I was like, ‘Oh, third idea, third idea, third idea — Jeff and I were both Frankie in Jersey Boys,’” Marchuk said. “We could come up and sing songs and tell stories from that.” They’re like, ‘Great, let’s do that idea.’”

Madden joined the project, and the production came together in just three months.

Rather than simply recreating Jersey Boys, the resulting show became their own story.

Through music and personal memories, Madden and Marchuk explore what it was like to unexpectedly land a career-changing role, perform before thousands of people, meet the artists they were portraying and navigate the demanding realities of life as working actors.

Their individual experiences also give the production its central twist: audiences get to see two performers who understand the unusual experience of playing the same demanding role sharing the stage together. This production is one of its kind, unique to their journeys together, and how they were shaped by the experiences they shared.

“No two other people could do this show,”



SAM MOFFATT MAVERICK CREATIVE MEDIA

COMING TO ORANGEVILLE: How We Got to Jersey: A Tale of Two Frankies creators and stars Jeff Madden and Adrian Marchuk perform at Theatre Collingwood during a recent run of their show. The production will soon take the stage at Theatre Orangeville, and will follow the two actors as they tell their stories of how they both landed the roll of Frankie Valli in the hit Broadway production, Jersey Boys. This original production will show personal, beside the scenes details about their experience, and of course, will feature hit songs from Jersey Boys.

Madden said. “You could find two other Frankies, and they could put together their own show. But it wouldn’t be this show, it wouldn’t be this perspective. It wouldn’t be what it was like to do it in Toronto in the winter of 2008 and through 2009 and into 2010. It’s ours and only ours. That makes it special. Getting to relive these moments, these high moments of our lives, on stage, together in front of the audience - it’s thrilling. It’s absolutely thrilling.”

For Marchuk, the Orangeville performances also mark a return to familiar territory. Early in his career, he appeared in several Theatre Orangeville productions, including Anne of Green Gables, and is excited to return to the community with a production

built around a journey that has followed him and Madden for nearly two decades.

With a mix of familiar music, humour and stories from behind the curtain, Madden and Marchuk hope How We Got to Jersey gives Orangeville audiences more than a trip back through the music of Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons.

At its heart, the production is a story about two performers looking back on the unexpected opportunity that changed their careers, the challenges that came with it and the friendship that ultimately brought two Frankies together on the same stage.

To buy tickets, visit:
theatreorangeville.ca/show/how-we-got-to-jersey-a-tale-of-two-frankies.



David Gauthier
Service Consultant

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



Maurice McDonald
Service Consultant

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



Jazz Matharu
Service Consultant

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



3 Dealerships, 1 Community

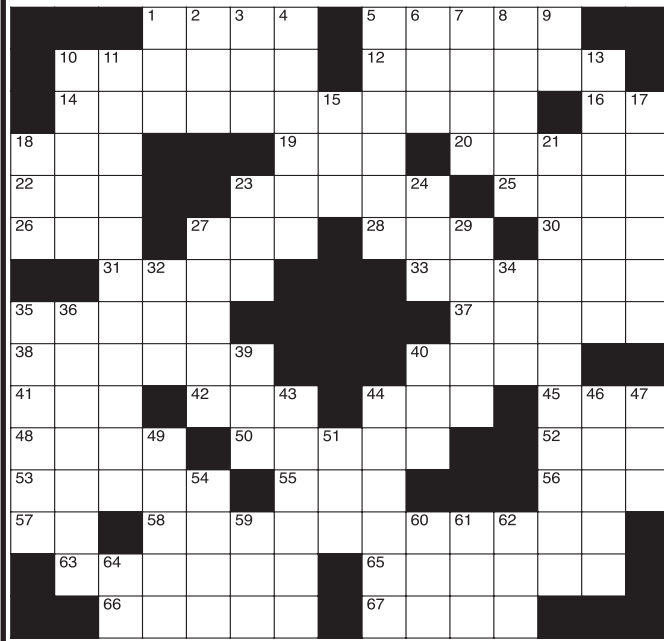


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The Citizen CROSSWORD

Puzzle No. 269210 • Solution on page: CLASSIFIEDS SECTION



CLUES ACROSS

1. Longtime Vogue editor
5. A Spanish title of respect
10. A way of looking
12. Properly
14. Rolled steel
16. Not down
18. Law degree
19. Consume food
20. Intermediate ecological stage
22. Old world, new
23. Dispense justice
25. Stiff hair-like structure
26. Ethiopia
27. Cool!
28. Father
30. An enthusiastic devotee of sports
31. Holm oak
33. Be united
35. Rattling breaths
37. Supermarket chain

38. Provided with a quality
40. Samoan monetary unit
41. Swiss river
42. Hill (Celtic)
44. Have already done
45. ATM company
48. Syngman __, Korean president
50. Very willing
52. Arctic explorers (abbr.)
53. Food listings
55. Bachelor's place to crash
56. Big Blue
57. Sports magazine
58. Relating to a place north of south of the equator
63. Female follower of Bacchus
65. A type of laugh
66. Slovenly women
67. Large jug

CLUES DOWN

1. Boxing's GOAT
2. Zero
3. Midway between north and northeast
4. Concurred
5. Added flavor
6. Amount of time
7. Eggs of parasitic insects
8. S-shaped moldings
9. Atomic #45
10. __ d'art: small artistic item
11. A godparent's "kids"
13. Nocturnal burrowing lizard
15. Hit lightly
17. Aircrafts
18. Witness
21. Alluding to something
23. Take to the limit
24. Baglike structure in a plant or animal
27. Start over
29. Administered
32. Romanian monetary unit
34. Unit of liquid capacity
35. Equips with weapons again
36. Disney town
39. Female deer
40. Title of respect
43. A place to go rafting
44. A way to conclude
46. Type of television
47. Georgia rockers
49. Leonhard __, Swiss mathematician
51. Slang for gun
54. River in Bosnia and Herzegovina
59. Bar bill
60. Small, gray-headed crow
61. Frozen water
62. Norwegian krone
64. Commercial

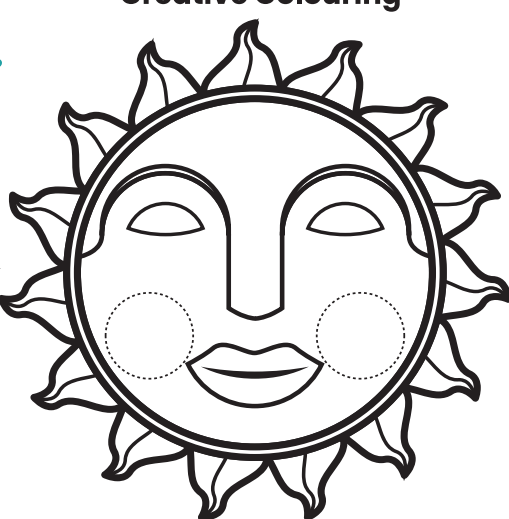
No one has more self-confidence than the person who does a crossword puzzle with a pen.



How they say that in...

English: Heritage
Spanish: Herencia
Italian: Eredità
French: Héritage
German: Erbe

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HISPANIC
people and cultures related to Spain and the Spanish language



Those who trace their roots to Spain, Mexico, Central America, South America, and the Caribbean are considered what?

Double Word Puzzle

Unscramble the individual words to reveal letters for the phrase.

SCMTUO

RTYOS

OPPLEE

IDTE

H A N

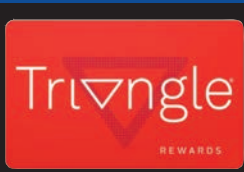
Answers: custom, story, people, diet, history and culture



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Dufferin Farm Tour returns for 27th year with five participating locations

Written By **SAM ODROWSKI**

The Dufferin Farm Tour will return Saturday, Oct. 3, giving visitors an opportunity to visit five working farms across Dufferin County.

The self-guided tour runs from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and is free, rain or shine.

Participating farms will offer visitors an opportunity to learn about modern agriculture, meet farm families and see how products including beef, chicken, grain, lavender, maple syrup and Christmas trees are pro-

duced.

The tour is marking its 27th year. It began in 1998 and has welcomed thousands of children and adults, helping connect rural and urban communities.

“Most people only experience farming from the grocery store shelf,” said Kent Campbell of the Dufferin Farm Tour committee. “This is a rare opportunity to meet the families behind the food, ask questions, and experience agriculture firsthand.”

This year’s participating farms include:

- A fifth-generation family farm that has

expanded into grain handling and storage.

- A modern Holstein dairy operation showcasing modern dairy farming.
- A Christmas tree and maple syrup farm.
- A lavender and sunflower farm that produces handcrafted natural skincare products.
- A family farm raising sustainable beef, lamb and chicken.

Visitors can meet farmers, see farm equipment, interact with livestock, watch demonstrations and purchase locally grown products at participating farms.

Dufferin County is home to more than 700 farms, which contribute to the local economy and produce food for consumers across Ontario.

Admission is free. Visitors are encouraged to make a voluntary donation of a non-perishable food item to support local food banks. Refreshments and local food and products will also be available for purchase at participating farms.

Advance registration is recommended.

For more information and registration, visit: dufferinfarmtour.com

Comedian Michael McCreary coming to the Orangeville Opera House Sept. 20

Written By **CONSTANCE SCRAFIELD**

Speaking with local comedian Michael McCreary during his Zoom interview with the Citizen last week offered plenty of laughs and insight into a career that began when he was just 13 years old.

He found his start at an event sponsored by DCAFS where a number of Neurodiverse teenagers were invited to take part in a stand-up show. As McCreary, who is autistic, described it, “I wanted to, but then I thought, ‘could I? And what if I bomb?’ but then I thought I really want to do this.”

So he did, and much to his surprise, comedy was a natural fit.

David Nairn was included in the Zoom interview and commented that McCreary’s first performance was totally original and “he blew us all away!”

Now at 27, McCreary has travelled extensively across Canada and into the United States to perform. He explained that when he does a show, people come up to him later to ask him if he would do a show for them, and his response is, “I am ready with lots of ideas if there is a specific subject they want me to talk about.”

His shows run 70 minutes at least.

The last 10 years have been very busy for the local comedian and his father, Doug McCreary, who has become involved in his son’s professional life in several roles, including as his agent. Meanwhile, he also runs his own business as a financial advisor.

McCreary’s 10-year stand-up comedy journey has brought him accolades and awards, along with his own brand of stand-up.

It is the wide variety of businesses and organizations that have been attracted to McCreary’s style and content that is impressive. He has performed in every province in the country, including the Yukon and across the States.

In 2016, he was the featured comic in

Commander Chris Hadfield’s Generator show at Massey Hall in Toronto.

In May 2024, at the Halifax Comedy Festival, he was nominated for a Canadian Screen Award for Best Writing, Variety, Comedy and Sketch.

McCreary’s interview with the Citizen began with him saying, “I write jokes for a living,” as simple as any definition of employment.

He receives great support through the Dufferin Arts Council (DAC). DAC is currently compiling a list of all its member artists, regardless of medium, as a register to find local artists, sculptors, writers, or stand-up comics as needed. DAC’s mission is to find opportunities for artists and to administer the scholarships and awards that are available through the organization.

McCreary was clear, “I’ll never forget where I come from. I live with my parents. I’m not unpleasant to live with. Mom says I’m like living with a golden retriever.”

His shows are based on a 70-minute program. His upcoming show at the Opera House, which is based on his new book, “Funny – You Don’t Look Autistic,” will mingle stand-up and his own background, as he is sure, “because stuff will happen. There is a talk back after the show and that’s my favourite part!”

This year the CBC did an interview with him at the Danforth Music Hall about being who he is and bringing all that to comedy, putting a new face to autism.

He answered the question of stage fright as a fear of his early days, which has been conquered by his success, giving him the confidence he needs.

Nairn explained as well that stand up is a force of courage. On the stage, open to the immediate reaction of the audience, acting in a play is collaborative; stand-up comedians stand alone on the stage- the bravest of all.

For his appearance at the Opera House,



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

HOMETOWN SHOW: Michael McCreary is coming to the Orangeville Opera House on Sunday, Sept 20 . Pictured here, he shares his wisdom and jokes with the audience at the Winnipeg Comedy Festival on May 6, 2022. McCreary has done shows in every province in Canada, and many other venues. In May 2024 he performed in the All Access show at the Halifax Comedy Festival for which he was nominated for a Canadian Screen Award for Best Writing, Variety, Comedy and Sketch. Of the upcoming show in the Orangeville Opera House, he said, “There will people in the audience I have known since I was a kid.”

McCreary said he has done “a ton of work. It will be mostly about my family.”

In 2025, In the Hills Magazine worked with local communities to promote and celebrate 25 people who were 25 years old and making remarkable contributions. Michael and his brother Andy were among them.

McCreary says everyone should come to this Evening of Comedy with Michael McCreary “because it rocks. And it is tailored for Orangeville. Come and bring lots of friends,” he suggested.

“Find a class at Humber College,” he advised anyone wanting to get on stage to do stand-up. “And bring lots of friends to your first gig.

“Just have a story and then tell your opinion about it.”

He made it sound so easy.

For tickets, visit: www.dufferinarts.com

Next up for Dufferin Arts Council is its After 5 Art Salon on Oct. 7 at the Museum of Dufferin’s Corbetton Church, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

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MAYBERRY HILL
Grand Valley

Dufferin OPP seize suspected stolen tools, meth, cash and Dodge Ram truck

Two Orangeville residents face several charges after Dufferin Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) officers located a large quantity of tools and copper wire that they believe to be stolen.

Thousands of dollars’ worth of copper wire and property, including power tools, was recovered as well as cash and methamphetamine from a Dodge Ram truck in Orangeville on Aug. 23.

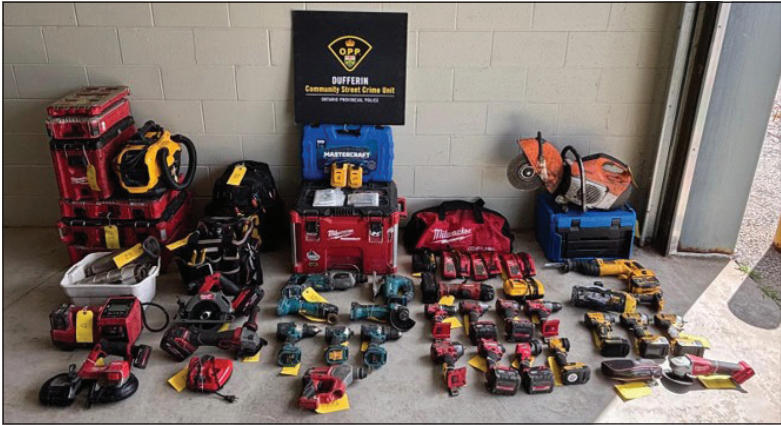
At approximately 3:15 a.m., members of the Dufferin OPP B Platoon received a suspicious vehicle complaint and subsequently conducted a traffic stop on the vehicle behind a large retail outlet in Orangeville.

During the interaction, officers say they observed a controlled substance in plain view, and the two occupants were arrested.

The investigation continued, and officers found the suspected stolen tools and copper wire throughout the vehicle. The vehicle was subsequently sealed and towed.

On Aug. 28, members of the Dufferin OPP Community Street Crime Unit (CSCU) executed a search warrant on the vehicle.

As a result of the search, officers located additional evidence linking the stolen property to a break and enter that occurred in York Region between Aug. 22 and 23, shortly before Dufferin OPP officers located the vehicle.



SEIZED ITEMS: Dufferin OPP recovered approximately \$20,000 worth of suspected stolen tools and copper wire, along with methamphetamine and cash, from a Dodge Ram truck that was also seized in Orangeville on Aug. 23. Two residents face several charges.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

cated the vehicle.

As a result of the investigation, Chance Peyton, 29, from Orangeville, has been charged with:

- Possession of Break-In Instruments
- Possession of a Schedule I Substance - Methamphetamine
- Possession of Proceeds of Property Obtained by Crime Over \$5,000 - in Canada
- Possession of Property Obtained by Crime Over \$5,000 - in Canada

Colton Arch-Michaud, 24, from Orangeville, has been charged with:

- Possession of Break-In Instruments
- Possession of a Schedule I Substance - Methamphetamine
- Possession of Proceeds of Property Obtained by Crime Over \$5,000 - in Canada
- Possession of Property Obtained by Crime Over \$5,000 - in Canada
- The following items were seized:
 - Approximately \$20,000 worth of suspected stolen tools and copper wire, including Milwaukee, DeWalt, Makita, and Hilti battery-operated tools and sets
 - Approximately three grams of meth-

- amphetamine
 - \$2,450 in Canadian currency
 - One 2014 Dodge Ram 3500 diesel truck, seized as offence-related property, with an approximate value of \$20,000
- The investigation remains ongoing, and further charges are anticipated.
- None of the listed charges have been proven in court.
- Anyone with information regarding this incident or other suspected unlawful activity is asked to contact the Dufferin OPP at 1-888-310-1122.

Town of Mono Water Supply Improvements Municipal Class Environmental Assessment Notice of Study Completion

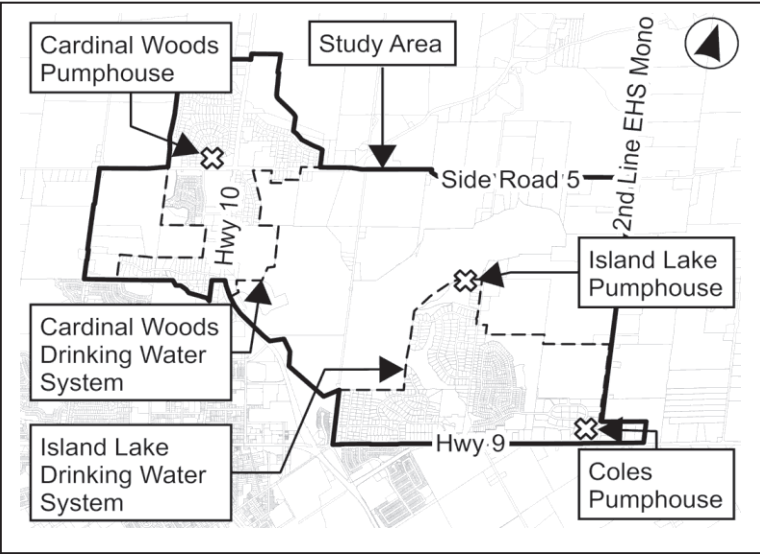
The Study

The Town of Mono initiated a Municipal Class Environmental Assessment Study (MCEA) to evaluate options for improvements to its Island Lake Drinking Water System (ILDWS) due to elevated arsenic concentrations in the water supply with consideration of planned and approved growth in the Town.

Preferred Alternative

The preferred alternative to improve the water supply included drilling new municipal wells and connecting the Cardinal Woods Drinking Water System (CWDWS) and Island Lake Drinking Water System (ILDWS) together. The Preferred Solution would be constructed in stages. The final location of the components would be determined at the detailed design stage, but would include the following:

- Stage 1 (immediate): Constructing two (2) municipal wells at the Town’s Klondyke Gravel Pit site with a pumphouse with required disinfection at this site. The system would be commissioned and connected to the CWDWS;
- Stage 2 (short-term): Connecting the CWDWS and ILDWS by a transmission main to form one (1) drinking water system;
- Stage 3 (short-term): Decommissioning Coles Production Well 1 (PW1). This well is currently above the arsenic limits and has been out of service since 2017; and
- Stage 4 (long-term): Reduce reliance on remaining ILDWS wells by decommissioning other ILDWS wells when there is an adequate supply of non-arsenic water and/or arsenic limits are further reduced in the future.



The study also identified the thresholds for new well supply and additional water storage required to support future development. The MCEA confirmed the preferred location for additional water storage.

The Process

This Study was carried out in accordance with the requirements of a Schedule B undertaking (Phase 1 and 2), as outlined in the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment process (Municipal Engineers Association, February 2024), which is an approved process under the *Ontario Environmental Assessment Act*. The MCEA planning process includes public and regulatory agencies consultation, evaluation of alternatives, assessment of the effects of the proposed upgrades and identification of measures to mitigate adverse impacts. The MCEA process included consultation with the public, agencies, and stakeholders. A Notice of Study Commencement was placed on the Town’s website on October 23, 2025, to inform residents that the Study was being initiated. This Notice was sent to Town of Mono drinking water system users and others within the study area as well as stakeholders, agencies, and Indigenous communities to provide their input.

Project File Report

In accordance with the *Ontario Environmental Assessment Act*, the project file documenting Phase 1 and 2 of the Study, has been placed on the public record and is available for review for a minimum of 30 days starting September 10, and ending October 10, 2026. An electronic copy is available on the Town’s website <https://townofmono.com/news-events/water-supply> and a hard copy of the project file will be available at Town Hall, located at 347209 Mono Centre Road, Mono. If you are unable to visit the website or require additional assistance with the materials, or to provide comments or concerns about this project, please contact both Matt Doner and Matt Paznar prior to October 10, 2026.

Matt Doner, C.E.T., CRS
Director of Public Works
Town of Mono
347209 Mono Centre Road
Mono, ON L9W 6S3
Tel: 519 941 3599 ext. 238
E-mail: matt.doner@townofmono.com

Matt Paznar, P.Eng., EP
Consultant Senior Project Manager
R.J. Burnside & Associates Limited
15 Townline
Orangeville ON L9W 3R4
Tel: 519-941-5331, Ext. 3050
E-mail: matt.paznar@rjburnside.com

If there are outstanding concerns regarding potential adverse impacts to constitutionally protected Indigenous and treaty rights, a request for an order requiring a higher level of study or conditions on those matters should be addressed in writing to the Minister of the Environment and the Director of the Environmental Assessment Branch. Requests should include the requester contact information and full name. The request should be sent by October 10, 2026 to the addresses below as well as to both Matt Doner and Matt Paznar as noted above.

Minister
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
777 Bay Street, 5th Floor
Toronto ON M7A 2J3
E-mail: Minister.mecp@ontario.ca

Director
Environmental Assessment Branch
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
135 St. Clair Avenue West, 1st Floor
Toronto ON M4V 1P5
E-mail: EABDirector@ontario.ca

More information about a request for an order (referred to as a Section 16(6) Order) can be found on the following website: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/class-environmental-assessments-section-16-order>

Comments about other project concerns should be directed to the Town for a response. If no orders are received, the Town intends to proceed with detailed design and construction of Stage 1 as outlined in the project file report subject to approvals needed for detailed design, municipal priorities, and financial arrangements.

Comments about other project concerns should be directed to the Town for a response. If no orders are received, the Town intends to proceed with detailed design and construction of Stage 1 as outlined in the project file report subject to approvals needed for detailed design, municipal priorities, and financial arrangements. Project and notice information will be made accessible upon request in accordance with the Accessibility Standard for Information and Communication under the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005. Personal information provided through public comment is collected by the Town of Mono in accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. M.56, and will be used by the Town in making decisions on this Project. With the exception of personal information, all comments will become part of the public record. Questions about this collection should be directed to the Clerk’s office at: clerksoffice@townofmono.com 347209 Mono Centre Road, Mono, ON L9W 6S3 (519) 941-3599.

This Notice was first issued on September 10, 2026.

Shelburne Mini Storage robbed, police seek public’s help finding suspect

Dufferin Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) officers are investigating a break and enter at a storage facility in Shelburne.

On Sept. 2, between approximately 7:03 a.m. and 2:50 p.m., a lone male suspect was seen at Shelburne Mini Storage on Victoria Street and gained illegal entry to the property.

Once inside, the suspect broke into nu-

merous storage units by cutting off the locks.

The suspect remained on the property for several hours and changed his clothing multiple times throughout the incident.

The suspect is described as a white male, believed to be in his 30s. He was wearing a blue rain jacket, black pants and gloves and was seen riding a black scooter.

The investigation remains ongoing.

Anyone with information, including video surveillance or dash camera footage from the area around the time of the incident, is asked to contact the Dufferin OPP at 1-888-310-1122 with incident number E261272950.

To remain anonymous, contact Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477).



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Dufferin Oaks to host tours and conversations for first Community Engagement Day

Written By SAM ODROWSKI

Dufferin Oaks in Shelburne is opening its doors to the public for an afternoon of tours, exhibits and conversation on Sept. 18 for Community Engagement Day.

Diane Whitten-Franks, administrator of Dufferin Oaks, said the day is meant to reinforce a simple message: residents don't stop being part of the community when they move into long-term care.

"They remain parents, grandparents, neighbours, volunteers, mentors, and friends," she said, adding that the relationships residents keep with family, friends and local organizations play a real role in their well-being.

The event runs from 2 to 4 p.m. at the long-term care home, and is open to the public, though attendees were asked to RSVP by Sept. 4 so staff could plan for food and space. However, Whitten-Franks said anyone who missed the RSVP window is still welcome to stop by.

The afternoon will open with remarks from Whitten-Franks, Dufferin Oaks CAO, and a representative from Family Council. Attendees can expect information tables, an

exhibit from the Museum of Dufferin, guided tours of the home, and a presentation on Dufferin Oaks' departments and services. Light refreshments will be provided by Destined to Bake, the home's on-site café operator.

Whitten-Franks said the Museum of Dufferin display, which will include photos tracing the home's history, is likely to be a highlight of the day, along with the tours.

Dufferin Oaks houses 160 people, and Whitten-Franks said community visits, whether from a daycare group, a choir or a volunteer dropping in for a chat, add variety and a sense of normalcy to daily life at the home.

"It gives residents opportunities to meet different people, have new experiences and stay connected to what is happening outside of Dufferin Oaks," she said.

Among the home's regular partners are the Shelburne Public Library, which brings in books for residents to borrow, and the Museum of Dufferin, which periodically sets up historical displays that Whitten-Franks said tend to spark conversation and old memories.

EarlyON and Highland Daycare visits give residents time with younger children, while

the United Church, Abiding Place Ministry and the Seventh-Day Adventist Choir are among the faith groups that visit regularly. The Pine River Choir and other entertainers also perform at the home, alongside monthly music therapy sessions and physiotherapy services.

Whitten-Franks pointed to residents who were once teachers as an example of how those visits can land.

"A few of our residents have been teachers, and you see that when the children come into the home, that really brings that teacher history back out in them," she said.

Halloween is one of the more anticipated visits of the year, when children from local daycares come through the home in costume.

"That's not only for the residents, but the staff here — it's one of our favourite days," Whitten-Franks said.

Therapy animal visits draw a similar response.

Whitten-Franks recalled a resident moved to tears during a recent puppy visit.

"She was just so happy to hold the puppy and have that experience," she said, adding that staff feel it too. "It's so rewarding. When

you see them crying, it brings tears to your eyes too."

As a county-run home, Dufferin Oaks depends on support from Dufferin County council and local ratepayers, Whitten-Franks said. She noted that long-term care homes across the province are managing increasingly complex resident needs alongside workforce and funding pressures. Despite that, she said the county remains committed to delivering compassionate, high-quality care.

Whitten-Franks said she hopes the event pushes back on a narrow public picture of long-term care. She said media coverage tends to focus on the rare cases where something goes wrong, often missing the day-to-day relationships built by nurses, personal support workers, dietary and housekeeping staff, recreation staff and others.

"They come to work each day determined to make a positive difference in residents' lives," Whitten-Franks said.

This is the first year Dufferin Oaks has hosted Community Engagement Day. Whitten-Franks said the turnout will help shape how the home approaches the event in future years.

Melancthon residents organize election candidates meeting at Hornings Mill’s Community Hall

Written By JOSHUA DRAKES
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Ahead of the upcoming fall 2026 municipal elections, Melancthon residents are organizing an all-candidates information night on Sept. 16 at the Hornings Mills Community Hall from 7 to 9 p.m.

This information night is designed to allow residents to meet directly with all candidates running for election in their municipality.

Karren Wallace, director of legislative services and clerk for the Township of Wellington North and an active resident of Melancthon, said the event is not something locals should miss, as municipal government directly affects everyday life.

"Municipal governments are the closest to the people and have the most direct impact on our lives," she said. "An all-candidates meeting gives the opportunity for everyone to know the candidates and their issues. In the 2026 election, Melancthon has 10 candidates wanting to fill three council seats, and we have a race for mayor. People need to get out and get informed."

The meeting is designed to be an accessible forum for residents to listen directly to candidates' campaigns, goals, and priorities, and to ask questions about local issues.

Candidates will be seated together at the front of the meeting room at a shared table and will be given a microphone to share throughout the meeting. Seating order will be in order of arrival from left to right.

The speaking order will be determined by position and alphabetical order, starting with the mayoral candidates, and finishing with councillor candidates.

To begin, each candidate will have a two-minute window for introductions, two minutes to answer a question from the public, and one minute for closing statements at the end of the meeting.

Audience members who wish to ask questions must introduce themselves by name and confirm whether they are a resident of Melancthon, though non-residents may still ask questions.

Questions must be appropriate and within the jurisdiction of the municipal govern-

ment.

All rules will be explained by a neutral moderator who will be overseeing the meeting. The moderator will also determine if questions are relevant to the meeting and will enforce etiquette rules. Personal attacks, interruptions, booing, cheering and off-topic conversations are prohibited to ensure a smooth meeting and that all candidates' time is respected.

The meeting will be an important opportunity for residents to directly engage with municipal leaders in a controlled environment ahead of the election, allowing community members to hear directly from candidates about their platforms and goals.

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SALE

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Stuffed, Breaded Chicken 142 g
Choose from: • Kiev • Parmesan • Swiss • Broccoli and Cheese



SALE

ONLY 3⁹⁹ each
Bistro Chicken® 114 g
Choose from: • Ricotta & Spinach • Swiss

AFTER-SCHOOL FAVES



12⁹⁹ Mozzarella Sticks
15-21 PIECES 454 g



11⁹⁹ Pizza Rolls
8 PIECES 460 g
2 Varieties



11⁹⁹ Cheesy Chicken Quesadillas
4 QUESADILLAS 500 g

SHORTCUT TO SUPPER



11⁹⁹ Maple Butter Pork Chops
4 PIECES 500 g



7⁹⁹ North Atlantic Salmon
142 g



SAVE \$3

14⁹⁹ Deep Dish Pie
800 g - 907 g 2 Varieties



SAVE \$2

22⁹⁹ Lightly Crusted Fish
4-5 PIECES 500 g - 540 g 2 Varieties

NEW THIS FALL!



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12⁹⁹ Homestyle Apple Crumble Pie 1 kg



11⁹⁹ Wagyu Beef Dumplings
17-22 DUMPLINGS 500 g



11⁹⁹ Chicken Dumplings
17-22 DUMPLINGS 500 g

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6 BURGERS x 142 g/5 oz



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Orangeville Fall Classic to host over 90 teams at Alder and Tony Rose

Written By CHRIS PERROTTE

The hockey season is about to begin in Orangeville. Mark your calendars for the week-end of Sept. 25 to 27, which sets off the annual Orangeville Fall Classic.

The three-day tournament will take place at the Alder Arena and Tony Rose Arena. These arenas will host over 90 teams from U10 through U18 competing in both A and AA divisions.

“What makes the Fall Classic particularly special is the combination of competitive hockey and a family-friendly atmosphere. We want it to be an experience that extends beyond the rink. There will be medal ceremonies, local vendors in the arena lobbies, giveaways leading up to the tournament and fundraising opportunities for our local Flyers teams,” said Melissa Wilson, the Orangeville Minor Hockey Association’s director of communications.

The Fall Classic provides opportunities not only for young players from the Orangeville area to participate, but for teams outside the region as well — teams from as far as Sudbury have come to take part in the Fall Classic.

Since tournament hockey involves playing multiple games in a short period, this kind of atmosphere helps young players learn to communicate with their teammates, build confidence, handle wins and losses, and adjust quickly.

It also gives teams the chance to build teamwork, chemistry, and sportsmanship that will benefit players throughout the season.

“Minor hockey is about much more than what happens on the ice. The Fall Classic



BRINGING HOME HARDWARE: The Orangeville Flyers U13 Select team shows off their medals at last year’s Orangeville Fall Classic. The tournament returns to the Alder Recreation Centre and Tony Rose Arena from Sept. 25 to 27 with over 90 teams competing.



CELEBRATING HIS TEAM: Orangeville Minor Hockey player Frankie Basile skates around the rink with the Orangeville Flyers flag in hand.

Barrie Shepley to be inducted into the Caledon Walk of Fame this weekend

Written By JIM STEWART

Long-time Caledon resident and athlete Barrie Shepley will be inducted onto the Caledon Walk of Fame on Saturday, Sept. 12.

He will be enshrined at a ceremony set for 1 to 2 p.m. at the Walk of Fame Pavillion in recognition of his long-lasting contributions to sport, wellness and community building and the impact that he has had over many residents throughout the years.

“Barrie Shepley represents so much of what the Caledon Walk of Fame is about. His accomplishments on the national and international stages are outstanding, but his ongoing commitment to our community is what makes his legacy so very special,” says Mayor Annette Groves. “Barrie has inspired generations of Caledon residents to be active, be-

lieve in themselves and support one another. He has also become a familiar face at our annual Caledon Sport Hall of Fame ceremony, where he has been an outstanding emcee. It seems only fitting that we give him a permanent stage of his own on the Walk of Fame!”

Through his work in initiatives such as Kids of Steel, the Egg Nog Jog and especially his work at C3 James Dick Quarry, Shepley has been able to bring people together and create an open environment for all.

Shepley says he was so surprised by the announcement email that when he first received it he believed he was being pranked by his business partner of 35 years as it was sent on April Fool’s Day – and Shepley had been on the receiving end of many pranks in the past.

“It happened on April 1, and my business

partner of 35 years is the King of April 1, so, I put the email in my junk box because I had been on the wrong end of about a dozen of his jokes over the years so I gave it no more thought,” says Shepley “Until about three days later when I received a follow up from the Town wondering why my underwhelming response to their kind acknowledgement was not really being given any love. So, only at that point, did I take it back out and reread it, and realize that, in fact, this was not my business partner, but the Town sending it to me”.

Shepley is grateful for the town’s recognition of his work but says that nothing could be done without all the volunteers and members of the C3 community that have given so much to help and make a difference.

“There’s absolutely zero that I could do, without the C3 army, who have donated more than \$10,000, who have put in hundreds and hundreds of hours of volunteer time, who have worn the uniform and gone on to great things. I am simply just a visual perception of this army, and so it’s a bit embarrassing being the one recognized when without any of those 100 teammates, none of this would happen significantly,” says Shepley. “The James Dick family, if we weren’t allowed to have developed the property and the fashion that we have, the thousands of people who use that space now regularly for camps and family outings, swimming, and summer, just getting away with grandma to the beach, would never have happened. So, it’s our volunteers. It’s the James Dick family. It’s Kim Nelson and Steve Benson, two massive sponsors in Town and Newville Iron, all of those people have come together, show up.”



HALL OF FAME: Barrie Shepley, right, is pictured at the 2026 Caledon Sports Hall of Fame induction ceremony earlier this year alongside Town Crier Andrew Welch.

Not only does the induction to the Walk of Fame mean a lot to Shepley but the location of the stone is what makes it even more special.

Six years ago, one of Shepley’s teammates was killed in a car accident and, in remembrance, the C3 team had a bench named and placed in her honour. Shepley’s stone is located 25 meters from the bench, and it means a lot to Shepley to have his stone so close to the tribute.

“We have our bench there and it’s a tradition every Sunday morning – we tap our bench. Some of us leave our Gatorade bot-

tlies or our jackets on the bench and say, ‘Hi, Patricia,’ and recap it on the way back at the end. To have my stone 30 yards from her bench on a trail that we use every single Sunday for 30 years, there isn’t a more sacred piece of land. [It’s] literally it’s 25 metres apart. There isn’t a more sacred place for me in all of Caledon then at that spot,” says Shepley.

Looking to the future, Shepley says he hopes that future teammates and C3 members will walk past the Caledon Walk of Fame and remember all the hard work that everyone has done to get to this moment.

“I hope that our teammates over time, when they run, walk, bike past, and hopefully they’ll stop in and say part of that rock was from all those years that we donated time or money or volunteered and remember,” says Shepley.

For more information about the induction, visit: caledon.ca/en/news/caledon-walk-of-fame-to-induct-barrie-shepley-on-september-12.aspx

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OPINION

Short-sighted against big oil and grocery kings

“Have you heard what’s the latest social havoc?”

Harold, who usually meets me at the bench. I swear he times it. Harold isn’t his name. That’s just how I refer to him in my internal dialogue.

I take walks when the walls start to close in, and the din of chatter in and out of my head becomes cacophonous. I sit at a bench along the main drag in the town where I live. More often than not, I meet up with Harold at some point.

“Something called the Door Kick Challenge,” he said.

What’s that now?

“I’d heard about it from the kids,” he said.

He said it was one of those social media trends going around like a start-of-school stomach virus. The Door Kick Challenge is when one person heaves a heavy-booted foot at a door at night while another person records it for social media. It scare-wakes the people inside, stirring fear and panic as the knuckle-heads run off.

I don’t have any social media, but I looked into it afterwards. The trend is also called Donkey Kick Doors or Donkey Door Kicks. Something. And it happens in the late evening or very early in the morning.

“Imagine,” he said. “You’re just done with the toothbrush, the dishwasher is humming downstairs, and you’re pulling the blankets up to your chin. That kick in the dark is how your day ends.”

Or how the day starts, I said. You’re tucked into the bunk, listening after the big thump to hear if somebody’s broken into the place. The wife would be livid, I said. They’d have a little Irish blonde woman looking to tear a strip off somebody.

“Neighbour across the street is installing exterior lights with sensors,” Harold said.

Bit drastic, I said. Kids arsing around, that’s all. I told him about some of the antics of me and my buddies. Raiding apple trees, people’s backyard berry patches, throwing snowballs at taxis to get them to chase us, I said.

“A different time,” Harold said. “Exterior lighting isn’t drastic at all with the marauding social media followers and the raccoons.”

Hardly marauders, I said. Let’s not lose our heads in all of it. And I asked him about the raccoons.

“Working thumbs and problem-solving brains,” Harold said. “I can’t get a compost bin with a mechanism the raccoons can’t figure out. They’re not far from conspiring.”

I’m pretty certain Harold is harmless.

Gaggles of people had been walking by us since we started talking. One of the nearby stores sells used books. A young woman who works there had been placing books for sale in some of those plastic milk crates arranged along a piece of the sidewalk. Her movement had stuttered a bit. Perhaps she caught wind of Harold’s raccoon theory and was deciding if she’d actually heard what she thought he’d said. Maybe she was less certain of Harold’s harmlessness.

Harold sat next to me on the bench. He

usually stands and smokes a cigarette or sips a coffee while we wag chins. But he said money had gotten tight and the vices were out.

“Certain concessions have to be made for present economic uncertainty,” Harold said. “The oil companies, the grifting wealthy, and the grocery kings are grinding us all down.”

Nothing we can do, I said. The way of the world and all that.

He fished his wallet from his pocket and opened it. He looked inside, and his face changed as if it brightened.

I asked him if he was okay.

“I’m going to be just fine,” he said and plucked a folded lottery ticket from his wallet. “Been hanging onto this. If I cash it now before things get too hard it’ll end up wasted, so I’ve hung onto it.”

He unfolded it and showed me its face. I said, You know they’re only good a year from the draw date, right? And then the light went from his eyes.

JAMES MATTHEWS
THE BUSTLE IN THE HEDGEROW



‘Wait for September’

Making predictions in print is rarely a good idea, and saying ‘I told you so’ is always rude, but rules are made to be broken. On 10 June, one week before the short-lived ‘Memorandum of Understanding’ (MoU) on the Middle East war was signed, I wrote a piece on that war that predicted what would happen next.

It said: “The next few months should be eventful but not alarming: ceasefires made, broken and remade on the US-Iran front, while Gaza rots... Come September, however, things will probably start to get exciting, because the elections will create deadlines. Not for Iran, of course, but for Trump and for Netanyahu.”

I’m not claiming any great insight here. To the contrary, I’m pointing out that the probable course of events was so obvious as to be almost inevitable. The Iranians had already won just by not losing, and Donald Trump had no cards left to play.

It wasn’t yet clear that his cartoonish defence secretary, Pete Hegseth, had already managed to squander most of America’s large stockpile of precision-guided bombs and missiles with no visible effect on Iranian strategy, but that doesn’t really matter anyway. American weapons are of no relevance so long as Iran can keep control of the Strait of Hor-

muz.

So Trump oscillated between fantasy diplomatic breakthroughs and pointless military threats through the whole summer, while most of us got on with our lives and relatively few people were killed. However, September was bound to follow, and with it comes the prospect of national elections in both Israel (27 October) and the United States (3 November).

As things stand now, Netanyahu’s coalition will lose its majority in the Knesset. He could even end up in jail. Trump’s presidency is not at stake in these ‘mid-term’ elections but his party could easily lose control of the House of Representatives, which would open the door to impeachment proceedings.

Either man would benefit greatly from a military victory right about now – and although Trump is still cross about the way Netanyahu suckered him into a surprise attack on Iran that backfired, the two do have a way of egging each other on into doubtful enterprises that neither man might risk alone.

So what kind of enterprises are we talking about here? The context is military, and the lead would have to come from the United States because America has 35 times the population of Israel. There are

really only two things Trump could do that might persuade Iran’s rulers to compromise on their claim to control the Strait of Hormuz.

One is a mass aerial onslaught on all the foundations of Iran’s status as a poor but ‘developed’ country: industry, transport, electrical power, oilfields, water supply, desalination plants, etc. “Bomb them back to the Stone Age,” as US Air Force General Curtis LeMay once put it (referring to Vietnam).

But Trump has already tried that once – “A whole civilisation will die tonight,” as he declared last April – only to call it off at the last minute when the Iranians didn’t waver in their defiance. He still has lots of ‘dumb bombs’ to carry out his threats, but he’d actually have to start the mass killing next time before anybody would take him seriously.

The only remaining alternative, for a leader desperate to end a war that he should never have started, is a threat to drop a single low-yield nuclear warhead in some sparsely populated part of the target country – or maybe skip the threat, because your credibility is shot. Just explode the bomb first, and then invite the enemy for talks.

This is an evergreen topic in strategic

circles. From the very beginning of the nuclear era, strategic theorists have struggled to find ways to make nuclear weapons ‘useful’. That is to say, usable for purposes beyond mere deterrence against an attack by another nuclear power.

Never mind the hypocrisy of two countries that have had nuclear weapons for several generations (60 years for Israel, 80 years for US) dropping a nuclear bomb on a country that has never had one, on the grounds that it might get one some day. Just consider what Iran would do next.

It would do nothing. Absolutely nothing, except to make clear the horror of what the Americans and/or the Israelis had done. Every American alliance would be wrecked, every deal would be null and void.

The Good Old Days when ‘international law’ meant something (not much, but something) may be gone, but neither the United States nor Israel has a real nuclear option against Iran. The tricky bit is how to ensure that people like Donald Trump and Pete Hegseth understand that they don’t have that option.

GWYNNE DYER
OUR WORLD TODAY



The old saying, ‘Eat dessert first. Life is uncertain’

There have to be days when, if you are the cook in the family, you rebel. Especially if you have too much of a routine - chicken on Tuesday, the same fish every Friday, you feel the need to push back once in a while and bend the family dinner menu.

There are families that eat in different places – the teens maybe taking their meals to their own rooms to play video games while they eat, or the family that drags their table into the living room so they can watch television while they eat...

When I was young, dinner was always treated as one of the major events of the day: sitting together as a family, although there could be a dog at one’s side. Well, that was so much the case, I can hardly remember a meal I didn’t share with the mutt with hopeful eyes, ready to accept whatever morsel I passed its way, only to thump down beside my chair contented, as if understanding that dogs do not get tidbits of dessert.

This might be exaggerating a little.

Our attitude toward food and our consumption of it largely defines our culture; then are the changes our lives have made in us from where we have lived, whom we have known and what we have loved as we have moved through our time to date. Food

explains what we have learned, and as we grow, if we were to keep a record, we might find large and little differences in how we approach our daily meals.

When did you learn to eat with chopsticks? Or enjoy your meal when you used bread as the tool of choice? Where were you, and who were you with, when you had a multi-course meal and learned the benefits of drinking wine with it? And early in your life, who were the main influences in discovering your favourite food and the way it is served?

Dinners and lunches have sponsored the great moments in history. Some of the grandest meals have been the venues to achieve an accord, with the visit of dignitaries of one country to the dignitaries of another. Lavish affairs are waited on by gentlemen wearing gloves, shades of centuries-old tradition, hoping for lost sincerity to bond a friendship.

Food is at the crux of everything. All our needs and demands are food-based, from how we cultivate it to how we dispose of our waste. Our handling and ingestion of food define and preoccupy us constantly. Politics is moved by food policies, and the cost of food dictates everyone’s level of health.

Indeed, on a very personal level, many

of our important moments may well have taken place across the table and over the carefully thought-out meals warm upon the plates.

Begin with how your own use of food has changed, not only because you may have learned to like eating with chops sticks but as well because you have experiences that have taken you in many directions additional to the early days of your childhood dinner time memories.

Yet, here is the question: how did we ever allow ourselves to tumble to the level of bad eating into which we seem to have fallen? Look at what is on the shelves of almost every grocery store. Aisle after aisle of packages of that which is not food as such but a combination of fats and salts fried up as energy horrors, leading us to all sorts of health problems that are ravaging us.

Do you read the contents on the package before it goes into the basket? Are we truly paying attention to what fast-food places are feeding our children, or to the steady flow of delicious bet-you-can’t-eat-just-one junk food that our kids and we consume all too often? Are we thoughtful about those ready-to-microwave-and-eat meals...

It is important to be wary of addiction to “junk food” and soda drinks.

So, the other day, I was fed up with my own lapse into the doldrums of menus that have been the mainstay of Patricia’s and my dinners. All good and healthy, organic for the most part, convinced as I am that the nay-sayers are wrong but conscious and my stance as an environmentalist sometimes battle with cost and a detente is often the best compromise.

The standards were good, but we began our meal last night with cherry pie and a cup of Harrods’s Earl Grey tea as an appetizer, followed by salad, the main course and a very small chocolate cake that was simply scrumptious. Rosé wine on the side.

An indulgent rebellion to monotony. Orangeville is really lucky with the brave souls who have chosen to open restaurants here. Many of them answer the questions about healthy food with truth and truly delicious. As a consequence in part, they contribute to Orangeville as a destination, bringing people from the cities to discover what else is interesting here, including the festivals, theatre and events taking place throughout the year.

But I don’t know if any of them serve cherry pie as a starter.

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COMMUNITY VOICES

A new school year, a new team: Advocating for your child from the start

September brings a fresh start: new teachers, new classrooms, new routines, and often a new team of people supporting your child.

For parents of children with disabilities, developmental differences, autism, ADHD, learning needs, or complex medical needs, September can also mean starting the advocacy process all over again. You may find yourself explaining your child's needs, reviewing accommodations, sharing strategies, and helping a new teacher understand what makes your child successful.

While it can feel overwhelming, starting these conversations early can make a meaningful difference.

Start conversations early
You don't have to wait until a problem arises to connect with your child's teacher or school team. Reach out early and share what you know about your child, not just their challenges, but their strengths, interests, and what helps them thrive.

Consider sharing what motivates your child, how they communicate best, situations that may be difficult, strategies that have worked in the past, and signs that they may be becoming overwhelmed.

You know your child in a way that no one else does. Your insight is an important part of helping their school team understand and support them.

Review their supports
The beginning of the year is also a good time to review your child's IEP, accommodations, or other supports. Make sure you understand what is in place and communicate any changes with the school team.

Don't be afraid to ask questions:



"How will this accommodation look in the classroom?"

"Who can my child go to if they become overwhelmed?"

"How will we know if these supports are working?"

Advocacy isn't about having all the answers. It's about asking questions, sharing information, and working together.

Build Relationships
School advocacy can easily become about emails, meetings, forms, and paperwork. While those things are important, relationships matter too.

Your child's teacher is getting to know your child, just as you are getting to know the teacher. Share successes, communicate what is working, and ask what they are noticing at school. Building that relationship early can make it much easier to address concerns if they arise later in the year.

And remember, you don't have to address everything at once. Ask yourself:

"What is the one thing that would make the biggest difference for my child right now?"

Start there.

Advocate for yourself, too

For many parents, advocacy becomes another full-time job. Coordinating appoint-

ments, completing paperwork, navigating waitlists, communicating with schools, and researching services can lead to advocacy burnout.

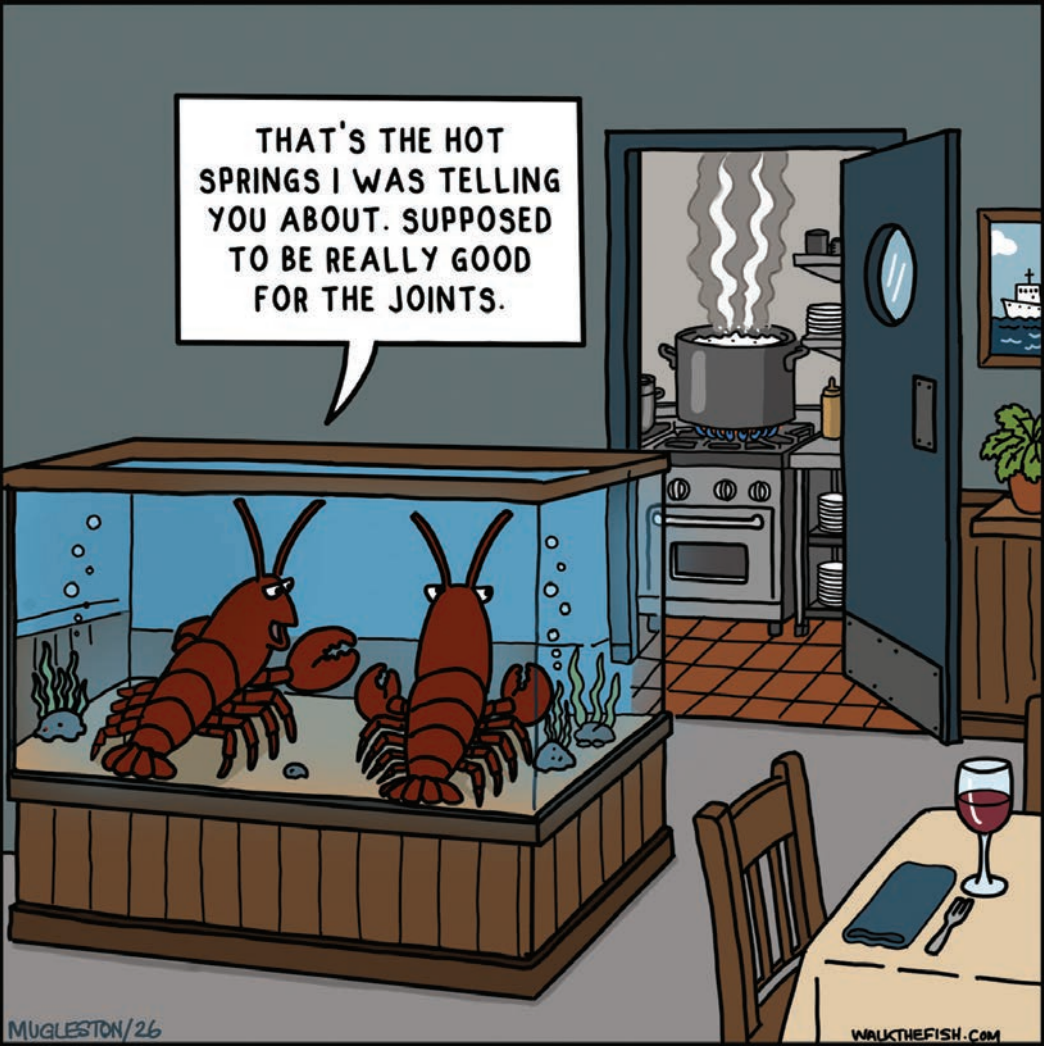
If you find yourself overwhelmed by school emails, meetings, or paperwork, remember that exhaustion does not mean you are failing your child. It means you've been carrying a lot.

You are allowed to ask for help. You are allowed to prioritize. You are allowed to take a break.

As the new school year begins, remember that advocating for your child isn't about knowing every policy or having all the answers. It's about knowing your child, communicating their needs, and building a strong partnership with the people supporting them.

A successful school year starts with a team, and you are an important part of that team. At WonderTree, we are glad to be a part of that team for many families, supporting them as they navigate school systems, accommodations, services, and the many decisions that come with supporting a child with additional needs.

At WonderTree, we are hosting a variety of groups this fall for neurodivergent youth, tackling tough topics like puberty, relationships, autistic self-identity, executive functioning, and more. To learn more about our groups, visit our website: wondertreeppractice.ca



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR: Prioritize Homelessness

Homelessness in Canada has doubled since 2018, driven by the shrinking supply of affordable rental units for the lowest-income Canadians. According to the Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness, nearly a million more Canadians are on the edge of homelessness right now. So without action, the problem in our community is likely to get even worse.

But we have a once-in-a-decade opportunity to change course, because Canada's next national housing strategy is being developed right now. A reimagined Canada Housing Benefit alone could reduce homelessness by

60 per cent and provide housing security for hundreds of thousands of families. We also need deeply affordable housing.

Now is the time for the government to prioritize homelessness. Our federal representatives need to hear us loud and clear.

I'm encouraging readers to help speak up. Go to caeh.ca/nhs-letter to learn more & take action. Please.

Thank you,
Angie Trafananko
Orangeville





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Automotive Maintenance hosts bottle drive initiative in partnership with Bethell Hospice

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

A fundraising bottle return initiative by Automotive Maintenance in partnership with Bethell Hospice is in full gear.

The initiative will collect empty bottles and return them in support of Bethell Hospice.

Those looking to donate can drop off empty liquor, wine, and beer bottles or cans to the Caledon East Bottle Return Depot located at 16040 Airport Road in Caledon East.

After dropping off the bottles, let the staff know that you would like the refund donated to Bethell Hospice Foundation and your return will be matched by Automotive Maintenance.

This is the first time that Automotive Maintenance and Bethell Hospice have

worked specifically on an initiative like this; however, Automotive Maintenance has been a long-time supporter of Bethell Hospice for many years.

The inspiration behind this initiative came from Automotive Maintenance owner John Tomasone’s personal experience when his mother spent time in Bethell Hospice.

After seeing firsthand the care and compassion that Bethell Hospice provided for his mother, it left a long-lasting impression on him and underscored how important programs and services like these were to families that were going through difficult times.

“We wanted to find a meaningful way to give back and support an organization that provides the same level of care to people in our community”, says Automotive Maintenance Bottle Supervisor Alessandra Tomasone.

All proceeds raised will go towards the

Bethell Hospice Foundation and will be dedicated to care and programs in the facility.

“The donations help Bethell Hospice continue providing the important services and care that patients and their families rely on. The funds can support patient care, supplies, community outreach, and other areas where they are needed most,” says Tomasone. “We are grateful that our contributions can help Bethell Hospice continue the incredible work they do for local families.”

Since the drive was launched, Tomasone and the rest of the Automotive Maintenance team have seen the impact it has had and the number of members in the community that have donated towards this cause.

“It means a great deal to us. It is incredibly rewarding to see people come together to support something that is bigger than themselves,” says Tomasone. “It really shows the strength of a community when everyone

contributes in whatever way they can. Even a small donation can make a meaningful difference when we all work together.”

However, it’s not just donating that people out in the Caledon Community can do to help.

“There are many ways people can help. One simple way is by donating their empty bottles and cans through the initiative,” says Tomasone. “Every donation, no matter how small, adds up and can make a difference, John also matches the donations every month. People can also reach out directly to Bethell Hospice to learn about other ways they can volunteer, donate, or support the organization.”

Those looking for more information and updates about this initiative can follow Automotive Maintenance at @caledonbottledepot and can also visit Bethell Hospice website: bethellhospice.org.

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Police reminds motorists to exercise caution as students return to school

Written By **SAM ODROWSKI**

Dufferin Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) is reminding motorists to use extra caution as students return to school.

The return of students earlier this week brings increased pedestrian, bicycle and vehicle traffic in and around school zones. Motorists are reminded to remain alert, slow down and watch for children walking or cycling to and from school.

Drivers should give themselves extra time when travelling through school zones, particularly before and after school, and watch for increased traffic around roadways, intersections and school entrances. They should also be prepared for children to cross the road unexpectedly.

Motorists are reminded to obey posted speed limits, put away unnecessary distractions and follow the directions of crossing guards.

Drivers must also stop for a school bus when its red overhead lights are flashing and the stop arm is extended. Motorists must not attempt to pass a stopped school bus while its red lights are activated.

The minimum fine for failing to stop for a school bus when required is \$490, along with six demerit points upon conviction. Drivers who fail to stop may also be served a Provin-

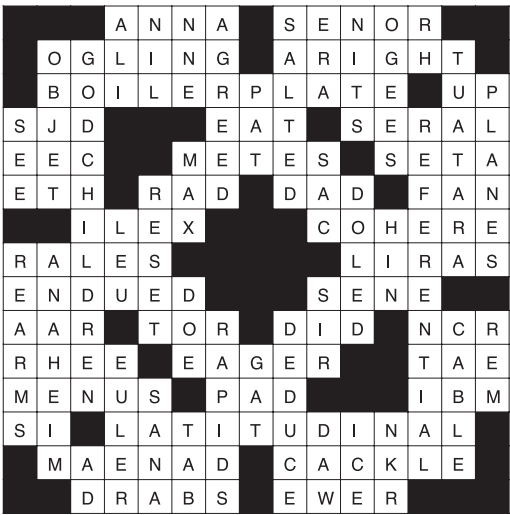


cial Offences Notice.

Dufferin OPP will increase patrols in and around school zones before and after school hours as students return to the classroom. Officers will monitor traffic and enforce the rules of the road throughout Dufferin County.

Police are reminding motorists that arriving safely is more important than arriving quickly.

“Children’s safety is everyone’s responsibility,” the OPP said in a press release. “Slow down, stay alert, respect our crossing guards, and give children the time and space they need to safely travel to and from school.”



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Young’s 44-save performance leads Caledon to 3-0 win over Niagara Falls to open 2026-27 OJHL season

Written By **JIM STEWART**

Rookie goaltender Justin Young turned aside all 44 shots he faced to impel the Caledon Admirals to a 3-0 win over the Canucks in Niagara Falls on Friday night.

Young’s spectacular play between the pipes was supported by Admiral goal-scorers Rory Paquette, Braylon Masulka, and Jonah Gareau.

After a scoreless first period during which Young made 19 saves, Paquette got the Admirals on the board at 14:01 of the middle frame. Assists were earned by Ethan Cutbrush and Noah Wlodarczyk on Paquette’s game-winning goal.

Five minutes into the third period, Masulka finished Cameron Gout’s pass to beat Canucks’ goaltender Thomas Puhalla. The rugged winger gave the visitors a 2-0 lead.

Gareau scored into an empty net with three ticks left on the clock to provide the margin of victory. Layton Strongman and Alex Pegaras picked up helpers on Gareau’s clincher.

The Canucks outshot the Admirals 44-40 in front of 320 fans at the Gale Centre.

Niagara Falls opened the OJHL’s season on Thursday with a convincing 7-1 win over the Blades in Oakville.

The Admirals’ first home game of the new

season is Sunday, Sept. 13 when they host the Canucks at the Mayfield Recreation Complex at 2:30 p.m.

Kelsey Johnston



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