

Happy Easter



Wishing Dufferin-Caledon a blessed and joyful Easter surrounded by loved ones.



Free Income Tax Clinics in Dufferin-Caledon On Now

Community Volunteer Income Tax Program – Free Tax Clinic

Are you eligible?

You may be eligible if you have a modest income
and a simple tax situation.

SUGGESTED INCOME LEVEL

FAMILY SIZE	TOTAL FAMILY INCOME IS UNDER...
1 PERSON	\$35,000
2 PERSONS	\$45,000
3 PERSONS	\$47,500
4 PERSONS	\$50,000

Simple tax situation

Your tax situation is simple if you have no income
or if your income comes from any of these sources:

- employment
- pension
- benefits such as the Canada Pension Plan, disability insurance, Employment Insurance, and social assistance
- registered retirement savings plans (RRSPs)
- support payments
- scholarships, fellowships, bursaries or grants
- interest (under \$1,000)

Your tax situation is not simple (not eligible) if you:

- are self-employed or have employment expenses
- have business or rental income and expenses
- have capital gains or losses
- filed for bankruptcy in the tax year (or the year before, if that return has not yet been filed)
- are completing a tax return for a deceased person

Kyle Seeback, M.P.
Dufferin-Caledon
Constituency Office
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Orangeville, ON L9W 1K4
Phone: 519-941-1832
Toll Free: 1-866-941-1832
Website: www.kyleseeback.ca
E-mail: kyle.seeback@parl.gc.ca

Community Volunteer Income Tax Program

The Orangeville Public Library is Hosting Free
Income Tax Clinic for Modest Income Individuals
(see eligibility criteria)

Location: Orangeville Public Library (tel. 519-941-0610)
1 Mill Street, Orangeville, ON

When: Starting – **Monday, March 4, 2024**
Last day – **Thursday, April 25, 2024**

Drop Off Service – During regular open hours
Mon - Fri, 10:00 a.m. - 6:00p.m. & weekends
A volunteer will follow-up with a telephone interview

In-person Interviews: **Tuesdays & Thursdays**
from 10:30 a.m. - 1:00p.m.

What you need:

- Bring personal identification
- Bring all tax slips, rent or property tax receipts, charitable donations, summary for prescriptions & other related documents
- Your documents will be returned to you by mail



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SOURCE:
PARLIAMENTARY BUDGET OFFICER

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QUEBEC NEWS | MARCH 16, 2024

Metro Vancouver gas prices
“ **EXPECTED TO CLIMB** ”
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CTV NEWS | MARCH 12, 2024

“ RISING OIL PRICES, HIGHER TAXES ”
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CALGARY HERALD | MARCH 18, 2024

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Shelburne Free Press



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.75(Tax) Mailing Registration No. 40005412 Thursday, March 28, 2024 Volume 150, No. 11

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BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

MEXCELLENT: Shelburne's newest restaurant, Mexcellent Burritos is now open at its Owen Sound St. location. Owners, Ankit and Jasmita Thakkar cut the ribbon to officially open for business. Turn to Page 2 for a full story.

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Frustration and disappointment surround closure of local yarn and wool shop

Wool & Silk Co. to close after 20 years in Shelburne

Written By Joushua Drakes

After two decades under multiple owners, the Wool & Silk Co. will be closing its doors due to financial strain and a failed deal with the location's landlord. Saturday, Mar. 30 will be the last day to shop in the store.

"A lot of people asked me, 'Are you sad because you're closing?' Somewhat, but I felt more angry," said Diane Griffith, the owner of Wool & Silk Co.

Griffith said she was experiencing a mixture of sadness and anger at the closure. She said that the store is more than a shop; it's a community meeting spot where people can feel welcome. Monthly dinners, knitting groups, and casual chats have made it a beloved spot for many area residents.

"We have knitting groups in the afternoon on Wednesday, and we have dinner once a

month," she said.

"A lot of people just drop in to chat. You know, they feel comfortable here."

Karen Ferguson and Alison Fowles are two shoppers of Wool & Silk Co. who travel there from Cabbagetown in Toronto. They travelled far from home for a unique experience they said only brick-and-mortar shops can provide.

"We want to see and feel these materials," Ferguson said. "You can't find these specialty items online."

"We turned our browsing into a day trip and came here."

The pair were disappointed to hear the store was closing.

"It's a real shame," Fowles said. "We're going to miss them."

New customers were still finding the store despite the looming closing date, highlighting its persistent community presence.

"It's really a shame because it has been a bit of an institution for 20 years and still in the last few weeks people come in and say 'oh, I just found you,'" said Griffith.

Although the brick-and-mortar location will close, Griffith already has an online

store to which she has since transitioned.

"I actually created an online presence five years ago, which was fortunate for me, because I already had that in place when COVID happened," she said.

However, Griffith said that it can't replace a physical store.

"It's a very tactile type of hobby and craft," she said. "People want to physically see the colour, and they want to touch it. It's very hard to replicate that online."

Griffith also said that she will now have to face competition from already established online businesses.

"I'm selling a lot online right now, but I'm doing a price reduction," she said. "There's Amazon, and even in the yarn industry, there are large online presences like this one called Nitpicks, and they've been there for a while, too, so they hurt you a little bit."

Griffith, who took over the business nine years ago from the previous owner, said that since the COVID pandemic, it's become too expensive for some small businesses to survive.

Continued on Page 3

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Shelburne's newest restaurant features Mexican-Indian fusion

Written By **Brian Lockhart**

There's a new restaurant in Shelburne featuring a delightful mix of Mexican and Indian cuisine.

Mexcellent Burritos on Owen Sound Street just opened with a bright and welcoming location and a large kitchen where they make all sorts of tasty fare.

From burritos to coco bread, they put a spin on their offerings by combining spices to create some savoury dishes.

Restaurant owners, Ankit and Jasmita Thakkar had previous experience with a restaurant in Brampton, and Jasmita has years of experience in the industry.

They spent several months getting the new location ready for the opening with a new interior and re-designed space.

"The core of our business is Mexican food, but we have diversified to cater to more people because our town has many communities," Ankit said. "For example, we have butter chicken that is added into the burrito. Our

tagline is 'Mexcellent Burritos where burrito loves butter chicken.' We have a variety of fries. We try to be pocket book friendly so people can have a meal for under \$10."

Jasmita had her own restaurant previously, however, the pandemic created a situation that just wasn't favourable for the business.

After moving to Shelburne, they realized the time was right, and Shelburne was a great location for this type of restaurant. With previous experience with Mexican and Indian food, Ankit and Jasmita found that combin-

ing the flavours of both cultures worked very well.

"Mexican food and Indian food both use a lot of spices, and similar spices," Ankit explained. "We did some experiments and created some new recipes."

The result is some very unique and flavour-filled dishes.

The menu is varied and delicious.

Mexcellent Burritos is located at 120 Owen Sound Street in Shelburne and is open seven days a week from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Royal Canadian Legion to hold student public speaking competition

Written By **Joshua Drakes**

Branch 220 Shelburne will host student contestants from C, D and E districts for a chance to move on to the provincial level.

The Royal Canadian Legion's annual public speaking competition is coming to Shelburne on April 20, with students of all ages and walks of life taking a bold step into the spotlight.

Chris Skazoloub, Sgt. at Arms for the Shelburne Legion Branch 220, said that this event is particularly important for those who may struggle with public speaking.

"Not all people can get involved in public speaking, because they may have challenges doing so," Skazoloub said. "But this helps those people,"

"It's really all about them, getting on that stage, having a great time, getting the people involved. They can express themselves how they want and it helps them break boundaries," he added.

Judges will be looking to see how the contestants get comfortable on stage, making it their own and captivating the audience.

"We have a score sheet that we look at to see how they portray themselves," Skazoloub said. "When you're giving a speech, a person is either going to look at you or look away. But if you can get that person to look at you, if you stare at them when talking, you've

engaged them."

He said that presence is what the judges want to see.

"This is something that the judges are looking for. Walking around the whole stage, instead of being fixed in one spot. The use of their hands, body language. Everything comes into play," Skazoloub said.

Student speakers are organized into groups based on grades.

"The groups run from grade one to grade three, grade four to grade six, grade seven to nine, and grade nine to 12," he said. "Each one has a competition, so one winner will advance, and they have two runners up each."

There are also some important rules in place for guests coming to watch the speeches. Everything is curated to ensure that the speakers have the total command of the room.

"There's rules and regulations everybody has to follow," Skazoloub said. "There is no recording or cameras allowed. You must be quiet when they are talking, you can't get up to go to the washroom. It's all about them."

Skazoloub said that everyone who might be interested in public speaking should come out and support the student contestants during the event.

"It's just unbelievable what they can discuss," he said. "All topics are open. They can build the confidence to stand on a stage and



FILE PHOTO

BUILDING CONFIDENCE: Royal Canadian Legion Branch 220 in Shelburne is hosting its annual public speaking competition on April 20, providing youth with a chance to work on their public speaking skills.

express something that they enjoy or something that has gone on in their life. It's a fantastic thing.

"These kids are smarter than I'll ever be."

The public speaking event is to be held on Apr. 20 at Legion Branch 220 (203 William Street, Shelburne). Registration takes place at 11 a.m. and speaking begins at noon.

Dufferin County launches Customer Service Survey and Basement Apartment Guide

Written By **Sam Odrowski**

Dufferin County's Building Services Division is trying to improve its customer service for residents and people undergoing construction within its limits through a Customer Service Survey and Basement Apartment Guide.

This is in alignment with Dufferin County's Strategic Plan goal of improving gover-

nance and service delivery.

If residents have been in touch with the County Building Services team, they're encouraged to complete Dufferin County's Customer Service Survey to let the County know how it is doing and what it could do to enhance your experience when accessing building services in Dufferin.

"The County is committed to excellence in customer service," said the County of Duf-

ferin in a press release. "Opinions on what could be improved in the permitting process and what's working well will help the County as it continues to ensure its processes work as smoothly as possible."

The survey is available online at www.surveymonkey.com/r/32TBBMM.

Meanwhile, Dufferin County residents who are considering building a basement apartment can check out the Building Ser-



Division's convenient checklist. Visit www.dufferincounty.ca to learn about required documents and more.



NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

A Public Meeting will be held pursuant to section 12 of the Development Charges Act, 1997, and section 34 of the Planning Act, 1990, to obtain public input on a Development Charges By-law and Township's Zoning By-law.

The Public Meeting will be held in person and electronically at Mulmur Township Offices, 758070 2nd Line East (Terra Nova) on **May 1, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.** Visit www.mulmur.ca to obtain the meeting link.

Purpose of the Development Charges By-law: Development Charges are collected to ensure growth pays for capital costs associated with development. The Development Charges Act requires the By-law be reviewed every five years. The By-law affects all lands within the Township of Mulmur.

Purpose of the Zoning By-law Amendment:

- To update definitions and regulations and be consistent with other legislation or by-laws regulating site plan control and property standards.
- To amend sections related to floor areas, home industries, setbacks, permitted encroachments and regulations for lot dimensions and areas.
- To correct typographical errors and improve readability and clarity.
- To amend provisions related to transportation depots, parking and storage.

The amendment affects all lands within the Township of Mulmur outside of the jurisdiction of the Niagara Escarpment Commission.

Copies of the draft by-laws and reports are available for review at Township Office during regular office hours and on the Township's website. Persons unable to attend the public meeting may provide written comments up until the time of the public meeting. If you wish to be notified of the decision, you must make an oral or written request to the Township. If a person or public body does not make oral submissions at the public meeting or make written submissions before the by-law is passed, the person or public body is not entitled to appeal the decision to the Appeal Tribunal. The person or public body may not be added as a party to the hearing of an appeal unless, in the opinion of the Tribunal, there are reasonable grounds to do so.

For more information contact planning@mulmur.ca | 705-466-3341 x223

Shelburne Public Library shares what's new

Upcoming Events

Reminder: the Shelburne Public Library is closed Friday, March 29 to Monday, April 1. We will re-open Tuesday, April 2 at 10 a.m. Stop in until 7 p.m. today (Thursday, March 28) to stock up for the weekend!

Archivist on the Road: Mini-Museum Presentation, Thursday, April 11, 6p.m.: Museums have many secrets and one of those is how they can tell you a story, through a single object. How does the object tell us about its past, how it came to be, the places it's been? Join Museum of Dufferin Archivist, Laura Camilleri, as she shows you how archives and museum staff learn an objects story, so we can share it with you.

Staff Pick of the Week: Perfect Shot by Steve Urszenyi

Special Agent Alexandra Martel had earned a reputation as one of the most renowned and decorated Army snipers in the service before stepping away. Now an FBI agent on loan to Interpol she learns

that an old friend has been killed. When she starts to investigate she is drawn into a terrifying conspiracy. Her special skills as a sniper are called into play when a nuclear warhead goes missing. She and a CIA officer travel from the Netherlands, where this story begins, to London, then to Turkey and the catacombs of Paris in pursuit of the truth.

Why Trudy recommends it: It's hard to find books written about strong female protagonists. This book is fast paced and is a character driven espionage thriller. Alex is courageous and brave, with strong convictions. It has a dramatic and violent tone. It is not for the faint of heart and contains graphic violence. The storyline is action packed. The was like a roller coaster ride, just when it slows down to let you catch your breath, it starts careening out of control again. I found our current world crisis with the Russia/Ukraine war especially timely with the events portrayed in the book.

NO HOLIDAY INTERRUPTION FOR WASTE COLLECTION

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
March 24	March 25	March 26	March 27	March 28	March 29	March 30
March 31	EASTER MONDAY	April 2	April 3	April 4	April 5	April 6
April 7	April 8	April 9	April 10	April 11	April 12	April 13



Happy Easter!

There will be **no interruptions** to waste collections over Easter.

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New strategic plan implemented by local health team

Written By Zachary Roman

A collaborative of local patients, physicians, and health, social or municipal agencies has charted its course for the next three years of service to the community.

The Hills of Headwaters Collaborative Ontario Health Team (HOHC OHT) announced on March 19 that its 2024 to 2027 strategic plan had been implemented.

HOHC OHT staff said the new plan will serve as a roadmap to creating a healthy and supportive community for all in Dufferin and Caledon. The plan outlines a new set of strategic priorities for the health team and includes updated mission, vision and values statements for it.

The HOHC OHT's new strategic plan was created with the help of more than 17 community partners.

There are five strategic goals in the HOHC OHT's new strategic plan, and they are as follows: equitable health and well-being, health and social care integration, shared resources, partnership, and accountability.

Through these strategic goals, the health team looks to achieve the following outcomes in Dufferin-Caledon's health care system: increased early detection of chronic diseases; improved chronic disease outcomes; reduced acute care utilization; increased access to primary care services; improved system navigation support to help people find and access care; and increased access to integrated, team-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

based models of care for patients.

Tracy Coffin is the HOHC OHT's executive director. She said the health team is proud of the work it's done since its inception in 2019 and is looking forward to achieving its new goals.

"Through a data-informed and collaborative decision-making approach, our strategic plan outlines our commitment to enhancing delivery of care and improving population health outcomes," said Coffin.

She explained that in two to three years, the HOHC OHT will become its own not-for-profit corporation, and the new strategic plan will guide the health team until that point.

Coffin noted many of the health team's partner organizations are making their strategic

plans right now, so the health team was able to work with them in the creation of theirs to meet shared goals.

"It was great having them come to the table... having a fulsome discussion of what the needs of our community are and how we can best meet them," said Coffin. "Our role as an Ontario Health Team is to really bring together all the different providers of health and social services... to talk about how to deliver services better."

Improving access to primary care, such as a family doctor or nurse practitioner, is a big focus for the OHT. Coffin said in Dufferin and Caledon, there are around 15,000 people who do not have a primary care provider. These "unattached patients" can often have worse outcomes as they are unable to regularly see a health care professional.

Equitable care is also a focus for the HOHC OHT. Health team staff said they're placing emphasis on equitable care in the new strategic plan, using Ontario Health's equity, inclusion, diversity, and anti-racism framework.

"HOHC OHT aims to shift systemic attitudes to ensure a reduction of disparity and inequity in how services are delivered and simplify overall access to health and social care," said HOHC OHT staff.

Coffin explained there are people in the community who aren't getting access to care as regularly as they should.

"Our unattached patients, they may have instability with housing or food insecurity...

we want to make sure those most vulnerable people... get the equity they need," said Coffin. "For example, if you don't have a lot of money, you may not have Wifi... you may not have a smartphone... we have a document that's called 'where to go when you're not feeling well'. We feel it's very important that piece of paper can get into somebody's hand because often people who don't know where to go are the same people who are facing other barriers."

This document is available at many locations around Dufferin and Caledon, and Coffin said it's had the added benefit of reducing unnecessary emergency room visits.

Lesley Nagoda is the CEO of Services and Housing in the Province and the co-chair of the HOHC OHT's collaboration council.

Nagoda said a connected health and social care system can have a huge positive impact on community and population health and well-being.

"HOHC OHT is honoured to serve the people of Dufferin and Caledon in creating a connected care system," said Nagoda. "We look forward to continuing this work in our community."

Coffin said the HOHC OHT is all about bringing everyone together to help the community.

"We're very excited that we're working in a connected way, that we're working with our partners... we're going to be accountable to this and ensure we're delivering what's best for the people who live here," said Coffin.

Continued from FRONT

Frustration and disappointment surround closure of local yarn and wool shop

"There was a moratorium on rent increases during COVID for two years," she said. "And when that came off, literally the next day, I had a new lease in my inbox and my rate went up by 30 per cent."

Griffith said that things were different when she first came to rent the building.

"When I first went there, there was an older guy owning the building, and it was a very reasonable rent," she said.

With a new landlord from out of town charging higher rates, the financial burden became too great. Despite Griffith attempting to negotiate a better deal, the landlord held firm.

She said that her rent is now double what it was when she began.

Griffith said that she would like to see more help from the township to protect smaller businesses, which make up the

heart and soul of communities, before more are forced to close their doors.

"I spoke with the town, and there wasn't a whole lot they could do," Griffith said. "Although I think that if they put in a bylaw, something that says if your building sits vacant for six months, and you don't have a contract that's going to happen within the next two or three months, they get a fee added onto their taxes, something as an incentive,"

"Small businesses are the businesses that support the hockey teams and do stuff for the local fair and all those things. Everybody wants that stuff," she added.

The final day for in-store shopping will be Mar. 30, at which point the business will switch to a purely online model.

Check out their online offering at www.woolandsilkcoshop.com.



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"T.F.E. Claridge, Publisher 1903-1964 Fred M. Claridge, Publisher 1964-1974 Thomas M. Claridge 1974-2012 The Free Press and Economist was formed from the amalgamation of The Shelburne Free Press (est. 1875) and The Shelburne Economist (est. 1883) in 1928."

Freedom of Expression?

I used to have a friend from college who routinely offended people around her.

It's like she had absolutely no filter at all. If she didn't like something, she said so. Where a normal person would keep a thought to themselves, she would blurt out her opinion regardless of who might be offended or hurt.

She pretty much alienated every other female she knew because of her way of letting someone know she didn't like their hairstyle, clothing, or telling them they had gained too much weight.

I once called her out on her behaviour. Her response was, "I speak my mind."

When I bought my new house, she wanted to come over to see it.

I was pretty happy with my purchase. I had saved for years for a down payment and finally had a place of my own.

She walked through the house, criticized everything she didn't like, and left.

Over the next several years, she mentioned several times that I had not invited her back. She had apparently no clue, why I had never asked her back to my home.

It was a decision on my part, to not listen to her ridiculous and offensive opinions anymore. I simply ignored her.

She has the right to say whatever she

wants – and I have the right to not listen to it.

We supposedly have freedom of expression in this country. You can form any opinion you want. If others don't like it, they don't have to listen.

However, when people are sanctioned or disciplined for having an opinion, that's a problem.

Libraries have been going through a lot of controversy over the past few years. Books have been banned or removed from shelves because of perceived 'offensive' content. This includes many books that were previously considered classics.

But who gets to decide what is offensive? Just because one person finds a book's content to be offensive, someone else may not.

We don't need anyone telling us what to read.

If you don't like it, don't read it. Pretty simple.

In Niagara-on-the-Lake, the chief librarian was fired from her job for an opinion piece she wrote in a local newspaper column.

She exercised her right to free expression in a column titled, "Freedom to read is more than fighting book bans."

The library board said the chief librarian had written in support of a 'right wing' Amer-

ican group.

In the column, the librarian wrote, "view-points that don't conform to progressive agendas are rarely represented in library collections and anyone who challenges this is labelled a bigot."

The library board certainly proved her point themselves when they fired her for having an opinion.

Basically, it came down to a "philosophical disagreement," said the library board chair.

This is a public library, not a religious or political institution.

Since when are librarians forced to follow an institutional thought program?

What's next? Are they going to fire an employee because they found out someone voted for a political party they don't like?

The board asked the librarian to 'take a few days' to reflect on the article and decide what to do next to resolve the article's impact on the community. Did the Niagara-on-the-Lake library board get this right out of Kim John Un's official manifesto?

They actually want someone to correct their opinion to fall in line with their own way of thinking.

Would this library board have made the same decision if she wrote in support of a far-left organization? Probably not.

BRIAN LOCKHART
FROM THE SECOND ROW



When the far left and the far right go too far, they eventually meet at the extremes and end up doing the same thing.

Does the library board send out spies to hang around the water cooler to listen to conversations and see if an employee makes a comment they don't like, then take action against them having the 'wrong' opinion?

I'm not even sure you can call the library board's thought process, "political correctness." It's more like social incorrectness.

Here's the thing – not everyone in life is going to agree with you.

Not everyone will follow your way of thinking – you aren't right all the time, whether or not you think you are.

If this library board fires a person for not having the 'right opinion', what else have they done?

When you have people in a public institution disciplining someone for having the wrong opinion – maybe the someone should write a book about that to go into the library.

On second thought, it's already been done.

Halt all hiring: an immediate fix for reining in unchecked government bureaucracy

Most Canadians would not be surprised to learn there are way too many civil servants in Ottawa.

But they would probably be shocked to learn just how top-heavy the Canadian bureaucracy really is. That's one of the eye-opening bits of information revealed at a House of Commons committee meeting last week featuring Parliamentary Budget Officer Yves Giroux.

According to Giroux, federal bureaucrats can report to as many as seven different levels of management within various government departments. When questioned whether seven layers of management was excessive or necessary, Giroux responded that "there is room to reduce."

Even the federal government, which is not known for fiscal discipline, said it could lop \$3 billion per year in government administration over the next five years. But that only represents a paltry one per cent reduction in total annual spending. Surely there's a lot more fat, duplication and waste that can be cut out of the budget without laying off any civil servants.

For the past several years, I've consistently advocated for government spending cuts of 5 per cent per year over a

period of ten years, which would end up reducing government overhead by half within a decade. I've also suggested the creation of a task force comprised of retired business leaders who could assist in determining areas where the government could cut spending.

The Fraser Institute published a report last month showing how the federal government could balance the budget within a year simply by reducing government spending by 4.3 per cent – an amount very close to what I've proposed.

The proposed spending cut formula I put forward is one of seven common-sense principles I've advocated for the past year as part of a new Economic Charter of Rights to revive our economy and restore Canadian prosperity.

But it's not just the cost of excessive bureaucracy that Canadians object to. It's also the red tape and regulations that come with it, which end up making everything slower and more complicated than necessary.

The federal civil service now chews up over \$67 billion per year in salaries, benefits and pensions – a record high amount. The escalating growth in payroll was termed "worrisome" by the Parliamentary

Budget Officer.

Not only are there more civil servants than ever, but there's also more bureaucrats than ever taking home six-figure salaries. According to the Canadian Taxpayers Federation, over 110,000 federal public servants made in excess of \$100,000 in 2023. In short, not only is our bureaucracy growing by the day – it's also becoming more expensive.

Despite the swelling size of our civil service, it's important to note that bureaucrats should never be made the scapegoat for the financial mismanagement created by governments. It's not their fault spending has gotten out of control.

Regardless, the problem posed by our ever-expanding bureaucracy needs to be dealt with immediately. It's been put on the back burner for far too long.

In addition to reducing government

spending on overhead by five per cent per year for ten years, we should implement an immediate and permanent hiring freeze when it comes to the civil service until the public sector payroll shrinks to a more sustainable level.

If the government official who's been put in charge of keeping an eye on our budget says there's room to reduce the size of our bureaucracy, then we should start reducing.

Not only will we save billions of dollars, but Canadians might also finally get a break from overzealous bureaucrats meddling in every aspect of our lives.

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Dufferin County hit with two fires in two days

Officers from the Dufferin Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) are investigating a recent structure fire in Melancthon.

Dufferin OPP, along with Shelburne Fire Department and Dufferin County EMS, responded to a structure fire at a residential dwelling on 8th Line SW, Melancthon, on Monday, March 25, just before 11:00 p.m.

The Dufferin Major Crime Unit is continuing their investigation with assistance from the Office of the Fire Marshal.

If you had witnessed the fire and wish to speak to victim services, Caledon/Dufferin Victim Services can be reached at 905-951-3838.

The following day, Tuesday, March 26, at approximately 11:30 a.m., there was another fire in Dufferin County.

Members of the Dufferin Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) are currently investigating the fire, which took place



at a residence in the Town of Orangeville.

Dufferin OPP, along with Orangeville Fire Department and Dufferin County EMS, responded to a dwelling on Birch Street in Orangeville.

The Dufferin Major Crime Unit is continuing their investigation with assistance from the Office of the Fire Marshal.

Officers will continue to hold the scene for the ongoing investigation. More information will be released as it becomes available.

If you had witnessed the fire and wish to speak to victim services, Caledon/Dufferin Victim Services can be reached at 905-951-3838.

Two vehicle collision in Mono claims life of 20-year-old

Members of the Dufferin Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) along with Dufferin County EMS, and Fire Services attended a serious two vehicle collision in Mono last week.

Officers arrived at Airport Road near County Road 7 and 5 Sideroad in Mono for the report of a serious collision involving two vehicles on Friday, March 22, just before 4:00 p.m.,

Sadly, as a result of the collision, a 20-year-old male from Scarborough was pronounced deceased at the scene.

A 21-year-old male was also transported to a Toronto area trauma centre.

Two other males and a single female were transported to a local area hospital with minor injuries.

Airport Road will remain closed for several hours while the Traffic Collision Investigation (TCI) team of the OPP investigates.



The investigation is continuing and anyone who may have witnessed the collision is asked to contact the Dufferin OPP 1-888-310-1122.

If you had witnessed the collision and wish to speak to victim services, Caledon/Dufferin Victim Services can be reached at 905-951-3838.

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Man who attempted to flee from officers by foot now facing drug, theft charges

Written By Sam Odrowski

Officers from the Dufferin Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) recently laid drug trafficking charges against a 28-year-old Thornhill man after seizing cocaine and heroin.

Members of the Dufferin Community Street Crime Unit (CSCU), along with Dufferin uniform members and Offender Management and Apprehension Program (OMAP) arrested the Thornhill man who was wanted on a warrant on March 25.

"The male attempted to flee from officers engaging in a short foot pursuit," said Dufferin OPP in a press release. "The officers arrested the male without incident, and he is now facing multiple charges."

In addition, the officers seized a quantity of drugs.

Tevin FRANCIS, a 28-year-old from Thornhill, has been charged with:

- Possession of a Schedule I substance for the purpose of Trafficking - Cocaine
- Possession of a Schedule I substance for the purpose of Trafficking - Heroin



- Possession of proceeds of property obtained by crime - under \$5000
- Driving while under suspension
- Class G1 licence holder - unaccompanied by qualified driver

The following property was seized:

- Cocaine - 5.5 Grams
- Heroin - 2.5 Grams
- Cash - \$1970 Canadian
- Cellular phone - evidence of the offence

None of the listed charges have been proven in court.

Anyone with information regarding this investigation of any other criminal activity is asked to contact Dufferin OPP at 1-888-310-1122 or Crime Stoppers to remain anonymous at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477). You can also submit your information online at <https://ontariocrimестoppers.ca/>.

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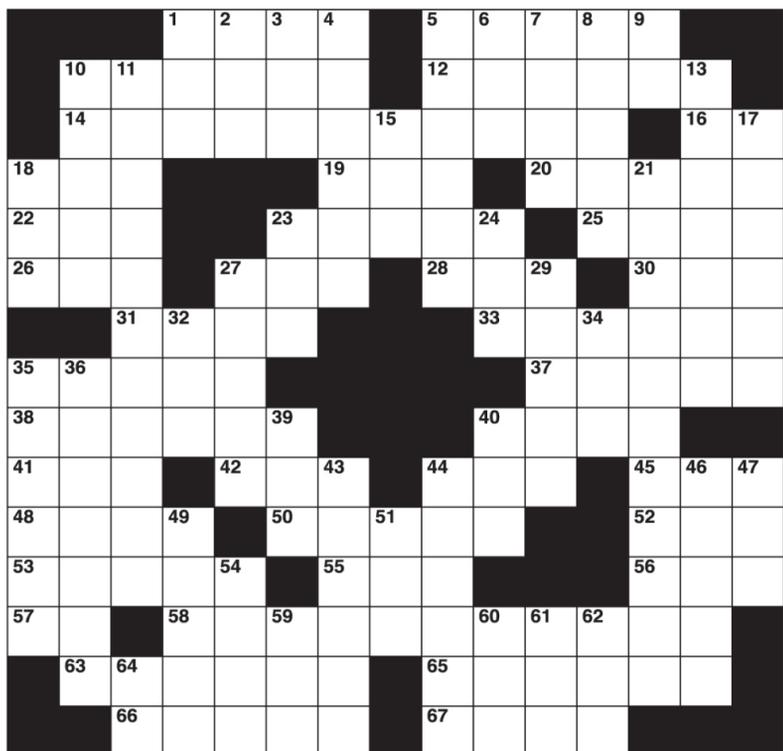
Kate is spayed, vaccinated, dewormed, microchipped, and flea treated.

Adoption fee: \$275

Check our facebook page to see the other kitties looking for their forever home. Donations always needed to help care for the cats as we are not funded at all, and rely on donations and fundraisers. If you would like to volunteer as well we are always appreciative.

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CLUES ACROSS

- Gene type
- Persian male given name
- Type of protection
- Cloud
- One who returns to life
- Gym class
- General's assistant (abbr.)
- Baby's dining accessory
- Enchantress
- Prefix denoting "in a"
- Spiritual leader
- Cavities
- Relative biological effectiveness (abbr.)
- Foot (Latin)
- Sweet potato
- Pharaoh of Lower Egypt
- Land
- More inquisitive
- Dog breed: ___ Apso
- Stood up

- Direct and uninhibited
- Authorless
- Blocking type of drug (abbr.)
- Retrospective analysis (abbr.)
- Root mean square (abbr.)
- Macaws
- Access Remini
- Polynesian wrapped skirt
- City of Angels hoops team (abbr.)
- Fitzgerald and Baker are two
- Bowling alley
- Must-have
- A way to cool down
- Ethnic group in Asia
- A way to alter
- Set of five
- Removes from the record
- Dummies
- Set period in office

- DC Comics superhero
- Brew
- Play
- Single-celled animals
- Rough to the touch (British)
- Often noted alongside cons
- Preparation of rootstock
- Atomic #44
- Egyptian unit of capacity
- About secretary
- Particular groups
- Poke fun at
- Make certain that something occurs
- Financial term
- Justify
- Arbiter
- 007's creato
- Czech name for Prague
- Groans
- American time

- No seats available
- ___ Stahl, journalist
- Cleft lip
- Talk incessantly
- Expresses atomic and molecular weights (abbr.)
- A part of a river where the current is very fast
- Curdled milk
- Running competitions
- A team's best pitcher
- Carthaginian explorer
- World-renowned city
- Most common Japanese surname
- The bill in a restaurant
- They ___
- City of Angels football team (abbr.)
- Distinctive practice
- One quintillion bytes

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

SHELBURNE SPORTS

Stayner to face off in the North Carruthers Division final

Written By Brian Lockhart

It's going to be one wild championship final series when the Stayner Siskins meet the Alliston Hornets in a battle for the North Carruthers Division title.

The Provincial Junior Hockey League is heading into the championship final series across the province as the Division semi-finals wrap up.

Stayner and Alliston have had a good rivalry over the past few years with both teams having good support from their communities with plenty of fans filling the seats during the playoffs.

The Hornets finished the regular season in first place with a 36-6 record and 72 points.

They eliminated the Innisfil Spartans in four games in the quarter-finals, then went on to knock out the fourth-place Schomberg Cougars in the semi-finals with a series that went five games and ended on Friday, March 22, with a 6-2 win on Alliston home ice.

The Siskins finished in second place with a 33-9 record and 66 points.

Stayner dispatched the Caledon Golden Hawks in a four-game sweep in the quarter-final series, then did the same with the

Orillia Terriers in the semi-final round.

That series wrapped up on Thursday, March 21, on Stayner home ice.

The Alliston versus Stayner championship series is scheduled to start on Friday, March 29, in Alliston.

In other championship series across the province, the Mount Forest Patriots will face the Hanover Barons in the Pollock Division.

The Georgina Ice will face off against the Clarington Eagles in the Orr Division.

The Tod Division will have the Napanee Raiders meeting the Port Hope Panthers.

In Niagara, the Grimsby Peach Kings will meet the Dundas Blues in the Bloomfield Division championship.

In the Doherty Division, the New Hamburg Firebirds will meet the Woodstock Navy Vets.

The Thamesford Trojans will be up against the Mt. Brydges Bulldogs in the Yeck Division.

The Stobbs Division will see the Lakeshore Canadiens battle the Essex 73s.

Division champions will go on to play for the Conference titles with the remaining teams going to the provincial Schmalz Cup.



BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

MOVING FORWARD: The Provincial Junior Hockey League is now moving into Division championships across the province. The Stayner Siskins will be up against the Alliston Hornets in the North Carruthers Division final series. The Hornets eliminated the Schomberg Cougars in game five of their semi-final series on Alliston home ice on Friday, March 22.

Shelburne Legion hosts District preliminaries tournament for darts

Written By Brian Lockhart

The Royal Canadian Legion in Shelburne hosted the Annual Zone Mixed and Doubles Team Dart Tournament on Saturday, March 23.

It is a yearly event that is both eagerly anticipated and very competitive.

This is a preliminary tournament with winners moving on to the district and eventually the provincial competition.

Around 90 competitors turned out for the event from Legions around the region.

The competition included teams from Barrie, Angus, Tottenham, Beeton, Alton, Orangeville, Everett and Alliston

The top four teams from the March 23

event are now moving on to the next level of the tournament, explained organizer, Lesa Netzke.

"We have 12 branches in our zone. Four from the District level will go on to the provincial level," said Netzke.

At the Legion, darts are taken very seriously.

In the Shelburne branch, there are dartboards on three walls of the hall to accommodate several players at one time.

As play went on, some teams were eliminated while other winning teams advanced to the next round.

By the end of the day, four teams came out on top and earned the right to advance in competition.



BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

ON POINT: The Royal Canadian Legion in Shelburne hosted its annual dart tournament on Saturday, March 23. It is a preliminary event where the winners will move on to compete at the District level, with winners at that level moving on to provincial competition.

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ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

BRYN RUTLEDGE

Playing hockey pretty much her entire life, CDDHS Royals centre, Bryn Rutledge, brings a lot of experience to her team.

"I like the competitive nature of the sport, and all the friends I've made through the sport," Bryn said of why she likes playing hockey. "My team is very close. We spend so much time together that our chemistry is unmatched. Everyone works hard for the same goals."

Bryn helped the Royals win the District 4 girls hockey championship this year. When she's not playing with the Royals, Bryn plays hockey with the Barrie Junior Sharks.

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International affairs columnist Gwynne Dyer hosted at Grace Tipling Hall

Written By Constance Scrafield

The somewhat unique opportunity to hear from a popular international affairs columnist, frequently published in the Shelburne Free Press and Orangeville Citizen, was recently enjoyed by over 75 area residents.

A speaking engagement with Gwynne Dyer came to Grace Tipling Hall in Shelburne last Tuesday (March 21). The famous journalist and author spoke without notes for a little more than an hour on the scope of geopolitics, the art of war, in the 20th Century.

"We are a warlike species," he admitted, but pointed out it was automation in 1916 during WWI that took us forward with the machine gun.

From then, invention went on to create more powerful weapons of new artillery and more dangerous bombs.

Mr. Dyer warned, "We should not be using our weapons as a form of diplomacy."

Yet, throughout his talk, he brought his audience back to a moment of consolation and indeed, optimism.

The good news, he told them, is that "we are celebrating 75 years of not using nuclear" (nuclear has been known for 77 years) and he has every reason to believe that we won't use them in the future.

"The deterrent quality of capability keeps a safer world," he postulated.

A silver lining of sorts.

The bad news is that we don't seem capable of exercising communication to not use war as a solution.

Gwynne Dyer gave his listeners a clear assessment of the war in Gaza: that there would be no victory for either Palestine or Israel. Hamas set out not to win but to disable, he told them, and there is no prospect of a two state settlement as long as the same powers remain in Israel.

"Nor peaceful solutions," he added, calling it a stalemate.

Likewise in Ukraine, with more than two



BRADEN WRIGHT PHOTO

BOOK SIGNING: Gwynne Dyer signs his book, "A Short History of War" for an attendee of his speaking event at Grace Tipling Hall in Shelburne on March 21.

years on, it is now a stalemate.

"War is an abomination" was his assertion.

It seemed important to Mr. Dyer to be optimistic: so far in the last 70 years, we are better at recycling and health care.

Intervention Earth is his new book, for which he interviewed the world's top 100 climate scientists to serve the hard geopolitical truths that the global climate emergency we are facing is indisputable and must be faced with global cooperation.

For the precariousness is not such much about war as about the climate emergency. He proceeded to very much advocate for community-based and grassroots endeavours to bring all the parties to the table. However, he countered this by being in haste to make us understand this has to be a science-based education. There is plenty of



NEIL ORFORD PHOTO

INTERNATIONAL TALK: Gwynne Dyer at Grace Tipling Hall in Shelburne, where he spoke to an audience about geopolitics and his new book Intervention Earth.

evidence to confirm the extent of the dangers but we must educate ourselves on how to make the differences.

This is the 10th time Gwynne Dyer has given talks here in Shelburne but this is his first time speaking to the community. He is one of the few such celebrities to speak at schools to give them an optimistic message they may not get on social media. In fact, his previous appearances in this area over many years have been at Orangeville District Secondary School (ODSS) at the behest of the History Department, of which Neil Orford, who organized Dyer's talk on March 21, was a teacher. Later, when Mr. Orford took over as Head of the History Department at Centre Dufferin District High School (CDDHS), he re-issued the invitation to Gwynne Dyer to

come there. That continued every two years until Covid hit and this is Mr. Dyer's first return since then.

Neil Orford is also the founder of CanHist which supports "a six-part Speakers Series welcoming some of Canada's most provocative & innovative thinkers to Shelburne." John Lorinc the first of these, will come to speak on April 25.

Toward the end of his discourse, Gwynne Dyer told his audience, "We have it in our hands to make the difference without waiting for leaders to do this for us."

Always quick to be optimistic, Mr. Dyer said that we too can make an enormous difference in the climate crisis.

Intervention Earth is available at BookLore and online.

Elementary Skills Competition to feature schools from across Dufferin County

Written By Sam Odrowski

The Upper Grand District School Board will soon be participating in the Elementary Skills Competition, featuring schools from across the region, including Dufferin County.

The event is set to take place on Tuesday, April 2 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the W.F. Mitchell Athletic Centre, located at the University of Guelph.

"Designed to showcase the talents and abilities of elementary school students, participants will engage in a variety of skill-testing activities; the competition promises a day filled with excitement and friendly rivalry," said UGDSB in a press release.

The event is open to all, and welcomes families, educators, and supporters to join in the fun. At the skills competition they will witness the incredible achievements of our young learners.

"The competition is proudly presented in collaboration with the Ontario Specialist High Skills Major program, highlighting the importance of skill development and innovation in education," said UGDSB's press release.

"Join us for a day of inspiration, collaboration, and celebration at the Elementary Skills Competition."

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14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

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Orangeville Blues and Jazz Festival organizers plan for 'bigger and better' with 20th anniversary

Written By Sam Odrowski

The Orangeville Blues and Jazz Festival is pulling out all the stops for its 20th edition this year, bringing a stacked lineup of local and international talent to the downtown core over three days.

Countless JUNO Award-winning acts make up the more than 75 artists who will take over downtown Orangeville from May 31 to June 2 with their eclectic live performances.

The festival will feature Canadian artists from coast to coast – Vancouver Island to Halifax – and everywhere in between.

Everything that Orangeville Blues and Jazz Festival fans have come to love over the years will be returning for its 20th edition – only bigger and better.

"This is one of the most popular events in the area and you're going to have a great time. You will find tons of stuff to do all day, every day," said Larry Kurtz, festival founder and artistic director. "There's lots of variety and if you're into music, you're going to see great performances."

Something that sets the 20th edition of the Orangeville Blues and Jazz Festival apart from past year's is the calibre of artists that make up the lineup.

"Budget wise, we went for a lot of headliners," said Kurtz, who books all the performers each year. "A lot of bands that in other years would be the sole headliner, we've got around seven or eight of them."

Kurtz said he's designed the music schedule so that no matter what time of day it is, there's always something different going on between the Broadway Stage, Opera House, and main stage in Alexandra Park.

"There's lots of variety within the genres, so there's something for everybody," he said.

In addition to live music, the Orangeville Blues and Jazz Festival will see the return of its much-loved events. The Classic Cars Blues Cruise will return to Broadway on Friday (May 31), the Broadway Ramble and New Orleans Style March will both return on Saturday (June 1), and the Blues & Bikes Show and Shine Event will be back on Sunday (June 2).

Several restaurants throughout Orangeville will serve as satellite locations for live music and there will be pop-up bands performing on the street throughout the weekend as well.

Changes & Improvements to the Festival

The festival had over 500 responses to a survey soliciting feedback after the 2023 event and has taken that input to make a few changes this year.

The Broadway Stage, which is usually located on Broadway, near its intersection with Second St., is moving further east toward Wellington St. to create more space and reduce any potential congestion.

For the very first time, a Visitor Information Centre will be set up where the Broadway stage was previously, at the Second St. and Broadway intersection. The information cen-

tre will be great for first-time visitors to the festival or anyone who has a question about how it works.

There will be an eating area to accompany the many food trucks set up along Second St. this year.

More porta-potties are also coming to the downtown area of the festival and there will be more activities for children, centred around arts, crafts and music.

Broadway businesses have been invited to engage in sidewalk sales, setting up tents in front of their stores to become more interactive with the thousands of people who march up and down the main thoroughfare over the three-day event.

Notable Acts This Year

The lineup for Friday (May 31) features returning fan favourites Jack de Keyzer and the Legendary Downchild Blues Band on the main stage.

Jack de Keyzer was the headliner for the very first Orangeville Blues and Jazz Festival in 2003 and will return to where it all began, in Alexandra Park, for the event's 20th anniversary.

Over at the Opera House (87 Broadway), Laila Biali is sure to leave attendees entertained with a world-class jazz performance. Like many of this year's artists, she is a JUNO award winner. Biali also hosts CBC Radio's "Saturday Night Jazz with Laila Biali."

"She's one of Canada's most popular jazz artists," Kurtz noted.

Some of the highlights for Saturday (June 1) nights' programming include Memphis, Tennessee's Ghost Town Blues Band and Nick Moss Band, featuring Dennis Gruenling, a world-renowned harmonica player.

The Ghost Town Blues Band will be leading the New Orleans Style Jazz March through Broadway on Saturday ahead of their very first performance at the festival.

"They've played other festivals in Ontario, so they have a good following. They're pretty popular here," said Kurtz.

Entertainment on Sunday (June 2) features Dawn Tyler Watson, a multi-award-winning artist out of Montreal. The JUNO award winner is one of few Canadians to have won the Memphis Blues Challenge, an annual battle between roughly 200 bands. She'll be performing with the Ben Racine Band., featuring horns, and sounds that will get the audience moving.

Also on Sunday, a special harmonica show, Harps of Gold, will feature Juno Award winners Steve Marriner and Paul Reddick, alongside Larry Kurtz and Jerome Godboo.

"That'll be a highlight for sure," said Kurtz. Spencer MacKenzie, 24, brings a more youthful energy to the Blues and Jazz Festival. He's a blues artist out of Southern Ontario, who's been nominated for a JUNO Award and the Independent Blues Awards. MacKenzie is part of the younger generation of blues musicians keeping the genre going strong.

"He's a very high-level guitar player, and tours all over North America. So he's coming



FILE PHOTO

TWO DECADES OF DOWNTOWN FESTIVITIES: Orangeville Blues and Jazz Festival is returning to downtown Orangeville from May 31 to June, with lots of big acts for its 20th anniversary.

to play as well on Sunday"

Another artist, still relatively young at 37, Devin Cuddy, will bring his Blue Rodeo-influenced music to the Opera House. His father, Jim Cuddy is the lead of Blue Rodeo and has had an impact on his style, although he takes a different approach, more focused on the roots and Americana genres.

A more unique style of performance for the Orangeville Blues and Jazz Festival will come from the Caribbean jazz band, CaneFire. Its members play with steel drums and steel-pans, creating a special vibe for those who see them live.

Kurtz said while the festival has featured Latin jazz bands in the past, CaneFire's performance will be a first of its kind for Caribbean jazz in Orangeville.

Continued Support Ensures Festival's Longevity

Orangeville Blues and Jazz Festival organizers are thrilled with the success the festival saw in 2023, with record attendance, amounting to more than 40,000 attendees over three days.

Not all festivals and annual music events in other communities have been as fortunate. Since COVID-19, many have had to cut back on their programming or close altogether due to a lack of support.

Kurtz said the Orangeville Blues and Jazz Festival is very fortunate to have the community's support to ensure its success each year, as it keeps the event running strong.

"A lot of people who come to the festival, they don't know the acts, but they know they're going to be good," Kurtz explained.

In fact, over 90 per cent of the people who go to Orangeville Blues and Jazz are repeat attendees.

"That's a testament to the quality and what

this organization has been able to accomplish," said Peter Ross, the festival's director of development and marketing.

With less money available through provincial and federal grants this year, the festival's organizers are hoping to drive more people to the main stages at Alexandra Park and the Opera House.

"If we can increase the numbers who are coming into the park, that'd be great," Kurtz said. "It's a shame that the acts are all there and people just don't go see it."

He noted that at \$20 per night, a ticket to the main stage at Alexandra Park will enable attendees to see several world-class acts for a fraction of what they would pay to see them individually.

"Ticket sales, are an important part of what we're doing and help us pay for the talent we put on," said Ross. "We want to encourage people to take full advantage of the fact that the opera house and the main stage are there. Yes, they're ticketed events, but if you want to support the festival, that's the number one way to do it – buy a ticket."

Kurtz said each year, costs go up, making ticket sales increasingly important. Last year's event saw record revenue but it was coupled with record expenses.

"Cost inevitably go up, but we try to manage our costs as much as possible," he noted.

Kurtz said he'd encourage the public to come out and support the Orangeville Blues and Jazz Festival from May 31 to June 2, and celebrate the 20th edition.

"The goal of the festival is to bring this talent to Orangeville and expose people to music they may not have heard on the radio too much. But its great talent coming from this country, all over North America, and around the world in that [blues and jazz] genre," said Kurtz



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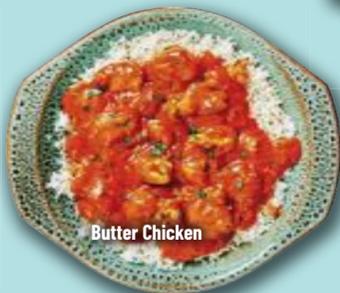
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