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INCREASING COGNITION IN THE COMMUNITY: Recreation therapists Amy Syme and Nina Lirio helped adapt the Alzheimer Society of Dufferin County's Montessori-based cognitive kits into a broader program that can be borrowed through libraries in Orangeville, Shelburne and Grand Valley. Originally developed for use with individual clients, the kits were redesigned to provide flexible activities that can be enjoyed by people at different stages of cognitive decline and with varying abilities. Each kit contains a range of activities and materials designed to encourage cognitive engagement, spark memories, support conversations and create opportunities for connection for people living with dementia or cognitive challenges, as well as their caregivers and families. The pilot program currently offers animal, music and farming-themed kits, with plans to introduce new themes and adjust the program based on feedback from library staff and community members. By bringing the kits into familiar community spaces, the Alzheimer Society hopes to make cognitive support and resources more accessible to families across Dufferin County. See full story on Page 3.



Terry Fox Run keeps cancer research close to home in Shelburne

Written By JOSHUA DRAKES
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

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

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

Her connection to Terry Fox began in 1980, when she and her husband discovered Fox's Marathon of Hope on television. Wallace was undergoing cancer treatment herself at the time, making Fox's journey especially personal.

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

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

For Wallace, the changes in cancer treat-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

DECADES OF SUPPORT: Shelburne residents Bob and Joan Wallace have supported the Terry Fox Run for decades, with Joan having participated for roughly 30 years and organized the local event for 10. The couple followed Terry Fox's Marathon of Hope in 1980 while Joan was undergoing cancer treatment.

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

"We have to do research, research has to be funded, we have to support it," she said. "I can compare treatment 47 years ago to treatment and patient care now, and how much

it has changed in that period of time. Treatment is no walk in the park, but compared to 40-some years ago, it's a huge difference."

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

Continued on Page 5



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

Written By JOSHUA DRAKES
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

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

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

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

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

who put food on our plates in our region.”

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

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

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

The goal is not only to celebrate women farmers, but to start a broader conversation

about their role in an industry where the traditional image of a farmer is still often male. Women on farms can be food producers, educators, community builders, mothers and stewards of the land — often holding several of those roles at once.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



JEANNETTE FRENCH



KAREN HUTCHINSON



VAL STEINMANN



AMY OUCHTERLONY



GAIL WINTERS

Dufferin libraries to offer cognitive kits in collaboration with Alzheimer’s Society

Written By JOSHUA DRAKES
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

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

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

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

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

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

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

Internally known as Montessori kits, they are based on Montessori principles and

have traditionally been customized for individuals based on their interests, past experiences and abilities. Staff have used them in homes and hospitals to provide meaningful activities and engagement.

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

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

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

Each kit contains roughly 12 to 15 items, offering different ways to interact. The music kit, for example, includes a radio, miniature musical instruments, familiar songs, photographs, a matching activity, colouring

and a painting project that doubles as a music box. The animal kit includes a stuffed animal to provide a tactile experience.

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

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

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

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

other community resource.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Dufferin County advocates for child care, infrastructure funding at AMO Conference

Written By SAM ODROWSKI

Dufferin County council members and senior staff are in Ottawa this week for the 2026 Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Conference, where they will press the province on child care funding, regional infrastructure priorities and support for the Town of Grand Valley.

The conference, which runs from Aug. 16 to 19, brings together representatives from Ontario’s 444 municipalities to meet with provincial ministers and take part in policy discussions.

This year, Dufferin County is meeting with provincial representatives to discuss improvements to the Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care Program (CWELCC), according to a county press release. The county is also joining the Western Ontario Wardens Caucus in advocating on infrastructure and housing, mental health and homelessness, and workforce and economic issues, and is supporting the Town of Grand Valley in delegations related to funding for a wastewater sewage pumping station project and the reporting burden municipalities face.

Warden Lisa Post, who is attending a separate delegation on CWELCC in her role as warden, said some local child-care providers have raised concerns about how the pro-

gram is funded in Ontario, which she said is limiting the creation of new childcare spaces.

“There’s some funding concerns from providers and how they’re being paid for the program, which is making it limiting for us to get additional childcare spaces,” Post said. “We believe that the program is a good one, but there are some definite opportunities to make sure that it’s as beneficial to the providers as it is to the recipients.”

Post said the conference offers a chance to demonstrate the county’s work while advocating for local priorities.

“The AMO Conference provides an excellent opportunity for Dufferin County to show how we’re supporting provincial priorities and getting results for our community,” Post said. “This year, we look forward to advocating for improvements to the CWELCC Program and on regional priorities like infrastructure and housing, mental health and homelessness, and the workforce and the economy, and supporting our partners at Grand Valley in their delegations.”

AMO is using this year’s conference to call for provincial action on long-term infrastructure funding for housing and the economy, full funding for provincially mandated health and social services, and coordinated action with municipal and federal partners

on homelessness.

Outgoing AMO president Robin Jones said municipalities are increasingly being asked to do more without matching provincial investment.

“Local governments turn policy into everyday results — building neighbourhoods, running transit, keeping parks safe, and delivering the services that help communities thrive,” Jones said. “Municipalities are stepping up... but we need the province to start paying its fair share of capital and operating expenses.”

Post said the value of attending AMO lies less in immediate funding announcements

and more in sustaining relationships with the province.

“No minister is sitting there with a chequebook and going to write you a cheque at AMO,” Post said. “It just doesn’t happen... it’s not necessarily about turning these delegations into instant gratification when it comes to money.”

She pointed to funding the county has secured in recent years through that ongoing relationship-building, including support for a countywide transit initiative and the HART Hub Dufferin, a provincially funded homelessness and addictions recovery hub that opened in Orangeville earlier this year.

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OPINION

The people you meet in your neighbourhood

JAMES MATTHEWS
THE BUSTLE IN THE HEDGEROW



Perspective is relative.
How one person sees a situation, emotionally digests circumstances, and responds might be a thousand ways different from how a thousand other people would react. And perception informs perspective, which holds sway over your interpretation that dictates your reaction.
I often take long walks to get outside my head. I may stroll for an hour or three hours, depending on the time of day and what joy or misery is coming from the sky. Joy or misery: The fruits of perception.
There's a bench along the main drag in the town in which I live. It's a comfortable bench, and I like to sit there for a spell before I retrace my steps home.
That last time out and about, I saw a man I call Harold. That's not his name. It's how I refer to him to myself and when I'm telling the missus about my interactions with him. He's a nice enough fella and always interesting.
A Saturday afternoon, this was. People

clotted the sidewalk and crosswalk, waiting to get into a nearby farmers' market.
I saw Harold, and he looked around and mumbled something I couldn't hear. He didn't look bothered until one of those loud motorcycles tore by the bench. One of those motorcycles that the louder they are, the more people seem to fancy them. He seemed distracted. And he stopped at the bench where I was.
Harold told me about Cognitive Behavioural Therapy. He said it's a practice. He said it's all about ways and exercises to influence the actions that dictate thoughts that are at the bottom of anxiety and the unhappy way he thinks about himself.
It's true: You never really know what somebody feels, how they're getting on.
Harold said he visits a therapist. One of the exercises the therapist has him do in moments he's troubled is to look for five things he can see, four things he can hear, three things he can touch, two things he can smell, and something he can taste.

"You don't go around licking stuff, do you?"
Of course not, he said.
He told me it's a means to change his mind, to push his attention away from negative thoughts about himself and the world. Seemed to be that it's as if he's diverting his train of thought. Changing tracks, even if it's only for a short time, like rolling onto a rail siding, he said.
"A siding," I said. Afterwards I Googled rail siding. A siding is a piece of track that a train can slowly move on to allow another train to pass. Or park a boxcar to be picked up later by another train.
Five things seen: that fountain over there, he said. The clock tower that's been repaired. Nice. The library. A storefront. Car. Then I found four things I can hear. That motorcycle, laughter from that pub patio. I hear a child crying and that dog barking. That's four. Among three things I can touch, he said, are the smooth metal of the bench we're sitting on, the rough bricks of the

building there, and a petal of that tulip. Two things I smell are food from that pub patio and cigarette smoke. And something that can be tasted is one of those cold pints. Would be nice, he said, in this heat. So would the cigarette, he said, but he quit smoking four years ago.
"Harold aren't you worried people will think you're talking to yourself? Maybe you see people who aren't there?"
He said his therapist went so far as to suggest that he sing the items on his list. She even suggested he sing the items with a silly voice.
"That'll project quite an impression that you're well put together," I said.
Harold laughed, abruptly stopped, and then he said, Does what you said mean you can see them too?
"Now you're messing with me," I said. "Right?"

The charade

Last month US President Donald Trump announced "a monumental step toward lasting peace and security" in Gaza. Mediators from the 'Board of Peace', his sketchy rival to the United Nations, had persuaded Hamas, the Palestinian armed resistance movement, to accept his '15-point document' for Hamas disarmament and Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip.
[You may object to my use of the phrase 'armed resistance movement' instead of 'evil crazy terrorists', but you would then be obliged to write an original 500-word essay explaining why you believe that the Stern Gang (Lehi) in the 1940s, the Viet Cong in the 1960s and the Mujahideen in Afghanistan in the 1980s were (or were not) 'evil crazy terrorists'.]
Three days after Trump's announcement the Israeli Defence Force (IDF) bombed the Gaza Strip again, killing 18 Palestinians. But don't get me wrong; this is not a piece about the perfidious and wicked Israelis. They are wicked and perfidious, of course, but so are Hamas's leaders. In this kind of war, the leaders on both sides have to lie and cheat all the time.
While neither side is averse to using vio-

lence, they use it sparingly most of the time, because both sides need the support or at least the sympathy of the United States to achieve their goals. The result is a charade in which the leaders on both sides pretend to want peace while carefully sabotaging any step that might make peace possible.
The current round of this long-running sham began with Hamas's decision to tell Trump's people that they were ready to disarm completely as long as the Israelis entirely withdraw from the Gaza Strip. This was a safe move, since they knew that Israel's Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu would never do that. They just wanted to smoke him out.
Netanyahu faces an election in two months, and his only chance of winning it is to retain the trust of the extreme right parties who want to drive all the Palestinians out of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. He doesn't actually have to do that right now but he must at least look like he wants to do it, so withdrawing from the Gaza Strip would be electoral suicide.
Hamas's move worked. After playing for time as long as possible, Netanyahu said last Sunday (9 August) that "Israel does

not accept the '15-point document'." And that's it, at least until the Israeli election and probably afterwards as well, because most other coalitions that might replace Netanyahu's would be equally adamant about not leaving Gaza.
So what has been accomplished by all this back and forth? Just point-scoring, really. Hamas comes out of this exchange looking a bit more reasonable than the Israeli government, but that is an optical illusion. It plays a bad hand very well, but in the end, it is just as extreme, just as uncompromising, just as driven by religion as the radicals around Netanyahu.
And just as marginal, now that the big boys have come out to play. The future of the Middle East will be decided by the United States and Iran, with major supporting roles for Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Turkey and Pakistan. Israel will have only a bit part, doing whatever Washington tells it to do.
However, this is where the crystal ball goes dark. 'Washington' is actually just Donald Trump, and we do not know what he will do. We can't, because he does not know from one day to the next himself, but

he is desperate and it could be very big.
Bear in mind what he has done already. He has driven all the Gulf states to revise their view of the United States as a reliable ally. Saudi Arabia has even ordered him to stop US air attacks on Iran from Saudi bases.
He has inadvertently brought a younger, more radical, more ruthless generation to power in Iran, and they take vindictive pleasure in thwarting his efforts to reopen the Strait of Hormuz. Own goal. And when they do reopen the Strait, Trump will hate the deal.
He has caused the three other big powers of western Asia, Turkey, Saudi Arabia and Pakistan, to form an alliance under the Mecca Agreement. That's almost 400 million people, all pledged to defend any member that comes under attack, and that includes defence with Pakistan's 170 nuclear weapons.
And Trump might yet convince the Iranian regime that it will never be safe without nuclear weapons of its own.
So all is still to play for, as they say.

GWYNNE DYER
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COMMUNITY VOICES

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

While building a sense of belonging creates a supportive neighbourhood environment, in parallel, we also need to build a decision-making environment that ensures that services and programs are tailored to local needs and shaped by local voices.

HCIA is deeply committed to resident engagement and active inclusion. We facilitate groups of local people from Dufferin County

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

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

· “During <group> meetings every member had a chance to share their opinion... over time it became easier and easier for me to share and to feel like what I had to say was of value... My confidence grew. Building that confidence within the group made it easier for me to talk to people outside of the group as well.”

· “Being part of <group> has transformed my life. It's a safe space where my voice is heard and valued... <group> provides support and encouragement and has lifted me out of my feelings of isolation and despair. I have gained not only allies in my struggle but lifelong friends.”

· “Peer support has been incredibly important in my healing... I now live in housing after years on the list and it is the other people in the building who look after each other. I cannot stress enough the value in peer support.”

· “I love being on this <committee>. It is the highlight of my committee experience.

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

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

Paths to Action

· Listen First: Expand your comfort zone this month. Attend a local community forum, participate in a cultural event, or drop into a council meeting to listen to the lived experiences and priorities of your neighbours.

· The Proximity Challenge: Take a small step to narrow the distance on your street. Introduce yourself to two neighbours you haven't spoken with yet, or attend a local community meal in your town.

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

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

Terry Fox Run keeps cancer research close to home, local advocate continues fundraising mission

Continued from Front

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

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

Wallace also sees value in the Terry Fox Foundation's broad approach to cancer research. Funding supports work across different types of cancer, including diseases that may receive less public attention than some of the more prominent cancers. For patients and families facing those diagnoses, that research can provide a sense that their illness has not been overlooked.

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

The tradition is also being passed to another generation. Wallace's grandchildren

have grown up learning about Terry Fox and have developed an interest in his story and the cause behind the run. It is important for Wallace that awareness and advocacy continue from generation to generation.

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

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

It is a local expression of a national lega-

cy – one built on perseverance, community and the belief that continued investment in cancer research can create a better future for the people who will face the disease next.

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

Shelburne's Terry Fox Run is set for Sunday, Sept. 20 at Natasha Peterson Memorial Park and Pavilion, with registration starting at 7 a.m. The run concludes at 1 p.m.

Be aware: Orangeville HollyFest targeted with scam

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

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

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

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

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

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13 SEPT	Fiddle Park Concert Series - Whiskey Rocks Celebrate Grandparents Day on Sunday, September 13 with a fun-filled afternoon of live music featuring Whiskey Rocks!

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Nine firearms seized following reports of unsafe firearm discharge in Melancthon

Dufferin Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) officers have seized nine firearms, hundreds of rounds of ammunition, numerous magazines and a knife following reports of the unsafe discharge of multiple firearms at a property in Melancthon.

Officers responded to an area near Highway 10 in Melancthon on Aug. 9 at about 2:52 p.m. after receiving numerous calls about the unsafe discharge of multiple firearms.

Officers arrived at a vacant property and located five people. Two of the individuals admitted to discharging the firearms.

As part of the investigation, officers spoke

with complainants who reported hearing numerous gunshots fired in their direction and described hearing bullets whistling overhead.

Police identified all involved parties at the property and seized four firearms, all associated ammunition and two Possession and Acquisition Licences (PALs).

Officers subsequently attended a residence in Brampton, where they seized an additional five firearms, hundreds of rounds of ammunition, numerous magazines and a knife.

Gurcharn Singh, 31, of Brampton, was charged with careless use of a firearm, weapon,

prohibited device or ammunition, and possession of a prohibited device or ammunition.

Sharanjit Kaur, 32, of Brampton, was charged with careless use of a firearm, weapon, prohibited device or ammunition.

Police reminded firearm owners that safety must be the top priority when using firearms. In addition to maintaining a valid and up-to-date firearms licence, shooters are responsible for knowing their target, what lies beyond it and ensuring a safe backstop is present.

Firearms must only be discharged in a law-

ful and safe manner that does not place people, property or the public at risk, police said. Unsafe firearm use may result in criminal charges, firearm seizures and the suspension or revocation of firearms licences.

Information can be provided anonymously through Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS) or online.

Dufferin OPP said its members remain committed to public safety through proactive and innovative policing in partnership with the community.

None of the listed charges have been proven in court.

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

Written By JOSHUA DRAKES
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

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

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

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

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

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

The festival also introduced several new elements this year, including a family-friendly daytime screening on Saturday. The new screening was very popular despite being a

daytime slot, drawing in families and kids.

The shorter program was designed to make the festival more accessible to younger audiences, featuring animation, puppetry and age-appropriate films. The approximately one-hour event also included a filmmaker Q&A, with children participating and asking questions.

One film that particularly resonated with younger audience members was "Hive Mindset," a local documentary about a beekeeper who is allergic to bees.

The film was also a world premiere, giving local audiences an opportunity to see the work alongside its filmmakers. Tinker Teleports and Lemming's First Christmas provided additional animation and youth-oriented programming.

Another new addition was a networking afterparty at the Orangeville Public Library called Dufferin Film Festival After Dark. The event featured music provided by Orangeville-based Dufferin DJs, a performance from Citrus Dance Inc., and live painting by Ricky Schaefer.

Rather than functioning as a traditional large-scale party, the event was designed as a relaxed space for filmmakers, audiences and members of the local arts community to connect. Organizers said the event achieved that goal, with attendees staying late to socialize,

listen to music and network.

McDowell said that the event was successful, and the library was supportive.

"It's the first time for Orangeville that something like this was done," she said. "What we wanted to happen, happened. We didn't want it to be a big rumbling party. We wanted it to be a networking opportunity, and we wanted an accessible venue. So this was absolutely the perfect place to do it."

"From the feedback that we garnered from the library at the time when we closed, they were really happy with everything. We're going to meet with them, obviously, and get some more feedback on how we can make it even better. But other than that, it really was the relaxed networking event with some dancing and music and excitement that we wanted, and the right vibe for sure," McDowell added.

Saturday night proved to be the busiest screening of the weekend, with the festival's first themed film block focusing on comedy horror drawing a particularly strong crowd. The post-screening networking continued well into the evening.

The festival also saw its all-access VIP passes sell out, while filmmakers travelled from across Canada to participate, including one filmmaker from Yellowknife, N.W.T.

Organizers received strong feedback from both filmmakers and audiences, with the qual-



BOB SMITHSON PHOTOGRAPHY

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

ity of the films and the overall festival experience receiving particularly positive reactions.

"I had comments from people that felt like every year it's just getting higher and higher calibre in terms of... the films that are being submitted and the filmmakers that are attending for our audience members," McDowell said. "The filmmakers loved attending. The film audience really enjoyed it. We hope to improve and do more next year."

With a new volunteer team successfully managing this year's expanded programming, organizers are already looking toward 2027.

Future goals include increasing ticket sales, expanding access to the festival and continuing to build DFF into a destination for Canadian filmmakers and film enthusiasts.

Shelburne Library recognizes decades of service from retiring employee, Beverley Ford-Arnold

The Shelburne Public Library team is bidding farewell to one of our cherished colleagues, Beverly Ford-Arnold. Beverly has made the bittersweet decision to retire after 36 years with the Shelburne Public Library. Thirty-six years is not only an incredible accomplishment but a testament to Beverly's love for the local library and the community as a whole.

Since first being appointed to the board in 1990, Beverly has left her mark on the library through her heartfelt dedication to its mission and ongoing efforts to foster its development as a community hub.

As one of her early career highlights,

Beverly played a pivotal role in the 2004 expansion of the library.

From supporting fundraising initiatives, such as the team's Toll Booth initiative that raised \$6,000 in one day, to sitting on the building committee, helping run a satellite library and eventually opening the new and expanded library, Beverly was involved at every step of the planning process. She helped ensure the facility maintained its historic Carnegie architecture while creating a modern space to serve the community for generations to come.

With her passionate energy, Beverly would go on to continue supporting major

fundraising activities for the library, including the much-loved Holiday Home Tour and the annual Silent Auction.

Inspired by her time on the Shelburne Library Board, Beverly, a former lawyer, pursued her Library Information Technician Diploma with the goal of one day working in the library. After 25 years on the Board, Beverly resigned in 2014 and joined the library team as secretary to the Board in 2015.

When asked to share a few words, Beverly said, "I think libraries are such an essential part of every society, and I firmly believe that without them, society as a whole

would suffer. With online misinformation so readily available, there has to be a safe place where the ability to find facts and the truth should be accessible."

The Shelburne Public Library team is immensely proud of all Beverly has accomplished and grateful for all she has taught us along the way — about the library and life in general.

Drop in to the library for a tea and to wish Beverly farewell this Saturday, Aug. 22 anytime between 11 to 2 p.m.

This weekly column is written by the team at the Shelburne Public Library.

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