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BATTLING BULLIES – Shelburne's Justin Besley, right, is pictured with motivational speaker Anthony McLean at a presentation made to elementary school students at Centennial Hylands, Glenbrook, and Hyland Heights on Tuesday. Justin used a \$150 grant from RBC to bring Mr. McLean and his anti-bullying message to the community as part of the bank's #make150happen program, held to celebrate Canada's 150th anniversary this year. For more, see Page 2. **PHOTO BY MICHELLE JANZEN**

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Candlelight vigil planned following Quebec attack

BY MARNI WALSH

On Sunday, February 5, Trinity United Church in Shelburne will host three short contemplative services at the top of each hour at 6 p.m., 7 p.m., and 8 p.m., in response to the recent violence in Quebec City.

On Sunday, January 29, Canada experienced a shocking loss.

Just before 8 p.m., six people were murdered and many injured during evening prayers at Centre Culture Islamique de Québec in Quebec City.

A 27-year-old, male student from the Faculty of Social Sciences at Université Laval allegedly opened fire on worshippers. The man has been

charged with six counts of first-degree murder and five counts of attempted murder.

According to the Montreal Gazette, posts on the accused's Facebook page show he "liked" Donald Trump; French Front National leader Marine Le Pen; and Mathieu Bock-Côté, a Quebec City columnist known for his pro-nationalist and anti-multicultural views.

"We grieve the loss of life for the innocent Muslims at worship. But sorrow must also be the response we hold for the student who found himself separated from his own tenderness, drawn into an act of irrevocable cruelty," says Reverend Candice Bist, who will lead the vigil as the Minister for the Shelburne and Primrose Pastoral

Charge.

"The landscape across Europe is littered with refugee camps, terror living not only within those fleeing their homeland, but those who, even in welcome, are increasingly alarmed at the sheer numbers of people needing places to settle. South of our border, the politics is increasingly polemic. Racial issues turning violent are fodder for the daily news.

"It is so easy to point the finger elsewhere, wring our hands, shake our heads, and feel perplexed. But, when we do, we only remain part of the problem without offering solutions.

Continued on Page 3

Digital History Project an "exemplary model for learning"

BY MARNI WALSH

The Ontario Ministry of Education has officially selected Dufferin's Digital Historian Project (DHP) as an "exemplary model" for Experiential Learning in the province. Through the province's 21st Century Learning Secretariat, the Ministry looks for models of innovative learning programs for students that embrace 21st century competencies. "The Ministry selected the DHP because of its unique integration of Canadian History and Math,

taught in an entirely 'real-world' environment - the Dufferin County Museum and Archives (DCMA)," says Centre Dufferin District High School (CDDHS) teacher and DHP creator Neil Orford. "There are no other programs like the DHP in Canada."

The province was so impressed by the Project, that they requested permission to design a video on the EDUGAINS website to promote the DHP to schools, boards and community leaders across Canada.

Continued on Page 6

Women's March coverage sparks discussion

BY BROCK WEIR

The Shelburne Free Press's decision last week to run a front page photo of two graduates of Centre Dufferin District High School participating in the Women's March on Washington D.C. on Saturday, January 21 sparked a mixed reaction from the Shelburne community.

This week, on Page 12, the Free Press presents a dialogue on some of the topics brought up by the signs carried by Shelburne natives Brandy Davis and Alessandra Schlums.

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FEATURED ITEMS



Justin Besley is making 150 Count

Anthony McLean, Justin Besley, RBC Branch Manager Josie Green, Assistant Branch Manager Sarah Thornington, with some of the students who participated in Tuesday's assembly.

PHOTO BY MICHELLE JANZEN



BY MICHELLE JANZEN

This past Tuesday, January 31, local student Justin Besley had the honour of bringing an anti-bullying assembly to about 1,000 elementary schools students, from Grades 1 to 8, from Glenbrook, Hyland Heights and Centennial Hylands Elementary Schools.

Launched to celebrate Canada's 150th anniversary, the RBC's #make150count program gives selected youth \$150, no strings attached, and asks them to do something great with it, encouraging young Canadians to do something that will make a positive impact in their communities.

After being chosen as the recipient of the Royal Bank of Canada, Shelburne, and receiving monies in the amount of \$150, Besley tells the Free Press "It took some time to figure out what exactly I wanted to do, but thanks to my mother (Heather Braiden), my aunts, my nana and poppa as well as Josie, Valerie and Sarah from the Royal Bank, we decided to have Anthony McLean come to the school and talk about bullying."

"I think this is a good topic because I have seen bullying a lot in my life, from family members and friends, to some of my hockey teammates being bullied," he explains.

In order to accomplish anything, Besley needed to raise the extra funds it was going to cost to bring Anthony McLean to Shelburne's youth. Subsequently he fundraised by selling Noah Martin's pepperttes to make the mark. He would like to thank Sean McCallum, the Jr. Schooners and the Muskies for their additional support to get him to his goal.

Anthony McLean is a motivational speaker with a passion to prevent bullying, racism and discrimination.

For the past 10 years, McLean, has been touring schools and speaking to students about diversity, bullying and well issues surrounding health and wellness, using comedy, pop culture and

freestyle raps to keep students engaged to spread his uplifting message.

The former actor on CBC children's show The X found his calling while touring schools with fellow cast members.

A guidance counsellor at one of the schools noticed McLean possessed a keen ability to connect with kids.

She said their biggest problem was bullying and suggested he put a presentation together. Anthony has since appeared as a guest speaker on CITYTV's Breakfast Television, Global Toronto's Morning Show, 680 News, CTV News and CBC's Here and Now.

His presentation started off with a dab – for those of you who don't know what a dab is, it's a current dance move most kids know – and this had them eating out of the palm of his hand from the get go.

With his fun, interactive style and interaction with the crowd, it was easy to see that his message was getting through to the children. Relaying messages such as talk it out, walk away, ignore it or seek help, explaining that seeking help is not tattletaleing if someone is getting hurt.

Making all attending stand up and take his oath by repeating after him: "I promise I will do my best not to laugh at others, not to call others names, not to point out others differences, not to put others down. If I don't have anything nice to say, I shouldn't say anything at all. My words are a gift to lift up, not put down."

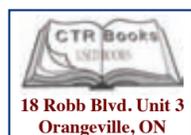
Besley says, "With the remaining money that I raised, I am going to give each of the schools that attended \$100 for their Breakfast programs, and the remainder I am going to donate to Hair Off for Headwaters this year."

For Heather, I am sure this is "one happy mom moment."

Job well done Justin!

For more information on Anthony McLean, go to www.iengage.ca

Glenbrook's "Alice in Wonderland" boasted cast of 24



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On Thursday, January 19, students from Glenbrook Elementary School treated family and friends to a production of Alice in Wonderland. The play was the culmination of efforts by many staff and students over the past four months. Over 24 students were in the cast of Lewis Carroll characters and delighted a gym full of spectators. Pictured here are "Storyteller Orange" Lauren, "Alice" Ella and "The Queen of Hearts" Sarah.

PHOTO BY LINDA CRUIKSHANK

Happy Valentine's Day!

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Greeting will be printed in the Thursday, February 9th, 2017 edition of the Shelburne Free Press.

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Notice of Public Consultation

The County of Dufferin is looking for public feedback on the DRAFT Dufferin County Forest Recreational Use Policy as well as a proposal for an off-road motorcycle event at the forest property known as the Randwick Tract.

The public is invited to attend open house events that are scheduled to provide the opportunity to view and discuss the draft recreational use policy and the proposal for a trial recreational off-road motorcycle event.

OPEN HOUSE - February 8th, 2017 3:00-8:00 pm. In "the atrium" at 55 Zina St. Orangeville, ON

OPEN HOUSE – February 11th, 2017 10:00 am – 4:00 pm. Dufferin County Museum and Archives, Hwy 89 and Airport Rd. Mulmur, ON

Copies of the Draft County Forest Recreational Use Policy and the proposal for a trial recreational off-road motorcycle event can be obtained from the County of Dufferin Administration Department, the Dufferin County Museum and Archives or the following websites:

www.dufferincounty.ca

www.dufferinmuseum.com/forest

Comments can be submitted through the feedback feature of the county website or by emailing forestmanager@dufferinmuseum.com until March 31st, 2017.

Notice to Contractors and Builders

The County of Dufferin is hosting a complimentary lunch and learn to kick-off the new Hurricane Clip Rebate Program. This rebate program applies to any construction/renovation in Amaranth, East Garafraxa, Grand Valley, Melancthon, Mono, Mulmur and Shelburne.

With guest speakers from the Institute for Catastrophic Loss Reduction, the University of Western Ontario and a Nobel Prize winning Climate Change expert this will be an informative event and a great opportunity to network with your peers.

February 28th, 2017 8:30 am – 1:00 pm.

Best Western Inn and Suites 7 Buena Vista Dr. Orangeville, ON

Register for this event by calling the Dufferin County Building Inspection Department at 519-941-2362

LP Stage Productions returns to Family Day's Shelburr Fest

BY MARNI WALSH

Councillor Dan Sample Chair of the Shelburr Festival Committee welcomes LP Stage Productions back to perform at the annual Shelburr Festival again this year.

Pictured here at last year's Family Day activities at Fiddle Park.

It is easy to see how contagious their youthful enthusiasm can be on a chilly winter's day in February.

"I am excited to see this young group of performers come out and perform at our festival again this year," says Councillor Sample. "They perform with glowing hearts, even in the cold."

LP youth performer Emma Ward says, "I like going to Shelburr Fest and performing because I enjoy inspiring others to join LP. It is also fun singing songs from previous plays; it brings back great memories!"

Another young LP member says, "I have performed with my LP stage family at Shelburr Fest twice. It was really cold, but the community spirit really warmed our souls."

Bryce Hull another long-time youth member of LP Stage Productions says, "It is really fun to perform songs from our upcoming shows to everyone who attends Shelburr Fest, and also reminiscing about our past performances by singing some of our favourites. This year we will probably sing songs from Oliver!, Lion King and other upbeat show tunes."

According to LP Stage Production co-founder Alison Port, there is excitement in the air over Lion King.

"We are very excited for the Lion King" which will play at Grace Tipling Hall this spring with a cast of 52 area children," says Ms. Port.

LP's stage manager for the Lion King, Danielle Gamache told the Free Press, "I was fortunate to see all kinds of talent at the auditions and I am looking forward to helping out with this production. It is going to be a huge production, possibly one of the largest youth casts LP has seen."

Ms. Port agrees, adding: "We are really stretching our creative minds this time. There will definitely be lots of props and costumes to



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

make. Being invited to Shelburr Fest again is great for us. As a company, it gives us a chance to perform and get the kids' feet wet, singing to the public, especially the new kids, and we also get to promote the show to the community who continue to support us throughout the year.

"Without them, we couldn't keep this program running. We enjoy giving back, and also love performing, so we all win."

On behalf of the Committee, Councillor Sample invites the whole community to come out to Shelburr Festival on February 20 from 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. at Fiddle Park in Shelburne, and "see LP Production perform at 1 p.m. - they do such a great job to entertain the crowd!"

If you have any questions about the 2017 Shelburr Festival please phone or email Dan Sample at 705 333-2482: dan.sample.ds@gmail.com.

Three observances offered Sunday in response to terrorist attack

Continued from FRONT

The way forward to a new understanding of humanity as intimately entwined, both with one another and with the natural world, is complex. It requires a rewiring of long held assumptions. It will not be easy. But we must make our way forward never the less."

Reverend Bist says, "Here in Dufferin County, right here in our home territory, we begin. And we begin with a simple act of solidarity. We stand with our Muslim neighbours to let them know they are valued, loved, and an important thread in the grand tapestry of life."

Join in the vigil at Trinity United Church, 200 Owen Sound Street in Shelburne and show solidarity with all Canadians. The three short vigils will take place this Sunday, February 5th, at 6 p.m., 7 p.m. and 8 p.m.

For further information contact Trinity Church at 519 925 2233.

"Like many Canadians and communities across the country, the County of Dufferin is shocked and saddened by the tragic attack at the Centre culturel islamique de Québec located in the Ste-Foy neighbourhood of Québec City," added Dufferin County Warden Darren White. "We stand together with fellow Canadians to offer our deepest condolences to the victims in Quebec City and to honour our values of peace, diversity and inclusion."

"As we start this year, the 150th year of Canada, the County of Dufferin continues to be a generous and welcoming community. We remain committed to working to enhance the lives of residents by investing not only in public infrastructure but also in poverty reduction initiatives, refugee and newcomer support, social programs and community events. We support open communication, collaboration and working together for a stronger community and stronger Canada."



Three fire detachments responded to a house fire early Wednesday morning on Highway 89. The house burned to the ground, destroying several vehicles. A 52-year-old male tenant escaped with a friend who was staying at the house. They were both in pyjamas with no shoes. The tenant lost everything in the fire. If anyone has any unwanted clothes - size 33/34 waist, medium tops, or size 11 shoes - please drop them off at the Shelburne Free Press Office (143 Main Street West) between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. Monday through Friday. A GoFundMe page will be set up in the future.

PHOTO BY DEBBIE FREEMAN

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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."

Queen's Park marks 100th anniversary of women's right to vote

BY SYLVIA JONES, MPP
 DUFFERIN-CALEDON

With a lot of fanfare being given to the significant anniversaries of the national and provincial sesquicentennial, I wanted to highlight a program that is helping to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the women's right to vote in Ontario.

The right to vote was a cause that took many years to achieve and in its movement created a groundswell of issues of women's suffrage that included the right to vote in political elections, the right to run for public office, as well as numerous improvements in education, health care and social issues affecting women and children.

The Province of Ontario granted women the right to vote on April 12, 1917, following the provinces of Manitoba (January 28, 1916), Saskatchewan (May 14, 1916), Alberta (April 19, 1916) and British Columbia (April 5, 1917).

It took another 25 years for Ontario to elect its first woman into the Legislature; Agnes Campbell McPhail was sworn in as a provincial MPP in 1943.

This was a second milestone for MPP McPhail, who also served as an elected official in the House of Commons in 1921. Even with these milestones, voting rights for all Canadians, in all provinces, as envisioned by the earlier suffrage movement wasn't achieved until 1960.

By then, women had made significant inroads in the political arena municipally, provincially and federally and many firsts were being achieved.

Ontario's first female Lieutenant Governor was Pauline McGibbon who served from 1974 to 1980. Our first female Deputy Premier was Bette Stephenson in 1985.

In 1992, Lyn McLeod served as the first Leader of the Official Opposition and, of course, in 2013, Ontario elected Kathleen Wynne as the first female Premier.

For the past century, our province has been shaped by the suffrage movement that began the drive toward equality and inclusion for all and the legacy of inspiring women voters for many generations.

The UN reports that in the last twenty years, women in parliament has nearly doubled, which translates into 22 percent of women in parliament around the world. Suffrages of yesteryear would say that there is more to be done.

The Legislative Assembly of Ontario, in celebration of its anniversary of 100 years of women's right to vote, is inviting 107 young Ontario women aged 18 to 23 (one from each riding) to experience a one-day inspirational program to gain a behind-the-scenes perspective of parliament and meet with current parliamentarians.

I invite Dufferin-Caledon women aged 18 to 23 to apply for this unique experience that will take place on the anniversary, April 12, 2017.

Applications can be completed on line and the deadline is February 28. You can find the link on my website: www.sylvia-jonesmpp.ca.

If you have any questions about this program, please contact me at my constituency office at 1-800-265-1603 or email me at sylvia.jonesco@pc.ola.org.

Shelburne Legion News

BY LESA PEAT

We are happy to announce that we are on the final stage of installing the new furnaces for the Museum Room, Lounge and Club Room. Thank you for your patience during this renovation upgrade.

Our usual activities are going on throughout the week.

This Friday, February 3, Julie Hart will have a Spaghetti Western in the Museum Room. She will be serving spaghetti, Caesar salad and garlic bread for \$15 a serving. "Beauty and The Beast" (Gary Heaslip & Kristen Scott) will be the entertainment.

This is a fundraiser, and all proceeds help a CDDHS student to go to Vimy Ridge for the 100th anniversary.

Our next wing night will be on February 10 with Wasted Measures as the entertainment.

February 12 will be our monthly breakfast from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. Bring your sweetheart for an early Valentine's treat.

Thursday, February 16, will be the next Ladies Auxiliary Luncheon from 11.30 a.m. - 1.30 p.m. and they will have meatloaf on the menu.

Micah's kitchen is open every Wednesday evening until 9pm in the Warriors Hall.

Ottawa Journal: Cash for Access smokescreen

BY DAVID TILSON, MP
 DUFFERIN-CALEDON

Media reports suggest that the Trudeau government will bring in legislation to make their cash-for-access fundraisers more transparent.

It is expected that this new legislation will require that all fundraisers be conducted in publicly accessible spaces, rather than in private homes; they must be publicly advertised in advance; and a public report must be issued on each event after the fact detailing the number of attendees and the amount raised.

I have a few thoughts on this mess. Firstly, a new law will not make Justin Trudeau's cash-for-access fundraisers ethical. It is still selling access to the most powerful politician in the land for money.

Changing the rules so the Prime Minister can continue to charge \$1,500 for wealthy individuals to meet him to discuss government business is still wrong.

The rules are clear. Indeed, when this government took office, there was a clear statement put out by the Prime Minister's office regarding Ministerial conduct on this very subject. Not only were they to not give preferential access to those contributing to the Liberal Party of Canada, they were to avoid even the appearance of doing so.

Well, I guess the Prime Minister has decided

that his party's coffers are more important than integrity and ethical behaviour. Both he and his Ministers seem incapable of resisting the siren call of \$1,500-a-head private soirées where government business is front and centre.

If the Prime Minister wants to end cash-for-access, all he has to do is just stop doing them. It does not require legislation.

All it requires is adherence to his own rules. It is incredible to me that he cannot see this. Hanging out with Chinese business people in private homes, for example, when those same people have an application in to the Federal government to open a bank in Canada should be a clear-enough breach that even the bright minds in the PMO should have known would not pass the smell test.

Some of us still remember the asdcam scandal of the 1990s, when the Chretien government funneled public money into Liberal coffers. It was part of their culture of entitlement. It appears things don't change all that much.

Cash-for-access fundraisers are another example of the Liberals selling influence to the highest bidder. They seem incapable of understanding what the word 'ethical' means.

It's all very simple.

If the Prime Minister wants to clean up his image, he does not need to pass a law to do so. All he has to do is stop the influence peddling behaviour that seems endemic to him and the Liberal Party.

Prime Minister, just say no.

Fight animal cruelty with cupcakes during National Cupcake Day

Preheat those ovens! National Cupcake Day is coming up on February 27 and you're invited to help "bake" a difference for animals in need at the Ontario SPCA Orangeville & District Animal Centre.

Now in its fifth year, National Cupcake Day is presented in partnership by the Ontario SPCA and BC SPCA and is a collaborative event to support local SPCAs and Humane Societies across the country. In 2016, animal lovers across Canada raised over \$615,000 in support of their local animal welfare societies.

The campaign has raised \$1.85 million to date.

To participate, register to host a National Cupcake Day party and invite co-workers, friends and family. Guests donate to the participating animal welfare charity of the host's choice in exchange for a cupcake, raising critically-needed funds for animals that are abused, abandoned, neglected or no longer wanted. Cupcake Day parties can be held anywhere, and on any date in January or February.

To register, visit nationalcupcakeday.ca.



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Shelburne Free Press WEB POLL

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Results from last week's poll:
Will electronic voting increase voter turnout?

a) Yes 33%
 b) No 67%

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION

Do you agree with the sentiments expressed by participants in the January 21 Women's March?

a. Yes
 b. No
 So go to our website at shelburnefreepress.ca and cast your vote!

The results of this poll are in no way considered to be valid or infallible.

Police nab stunt driver near school

On Wednesday, January 25, at 1:05 p.m., Dufferin OPP were conducting speed enforcement on eastbound Hockley Road near 5th Side road in the Town of Mono.

This area is in close proximity to Mono-Amaranth Public School.

Police observed a vehicle travelling eastbound at a high rate of speed. The vehicle was clocked at 107 km per hour in a posted 50 km per hour zone. Police initiated a traffic stop.

As result of police investigation, the OPP have charged a 43-year-old male driver from Oakville with racing at an excessive speed. His driver's license was suspended for seven days and his vehicle was impounded for seven days.

He will appear in Ontario Court of Justice at a later date to answer to the charge.

ROAD DEATHS ARE ON THE RISE: OPP

A first glance at last year's OPP traffic data signals a troubling increase in the number of on-road, off-road, marine and pedestrian deaths compared with the previous year.

While all of the numbers are preliminary, the OPP is reporting 276 fatal motor vehicle collisions (MVCs) on OPP-patrolled roads in 2016, where 309 people were killed.

By comparison, there were 262 fatal MVCs in 2015, killing 301 people.

Early data suggests that driver inattention, speed, alcohol and/or drugs, and lack of occupant restraints—known as the "Big Four"—were again causal factors in a high percentage of the overall road deaths last year. Close to 75 per cent of the 309 MVC deaths in 2016 were attributed to these road user behaviours. In comparison, the Big Four were factors in 77 per cent of the 2015 overall collision fatalities.

Off-road :

Off-road vehicle (ORV) deaths spiked significantly, with 23 deaths investigated by the OPP last year, compared to 14 in 2015.

A total of 16 people died in snowmobile incidents in 2016, up from 13 in this off-road category in 2015.

Pedestrians:

Pedestrian fatalities in OPP jurisdiction increased significantly in 2016, with 38 deaths last year, compared to 25 in 2015.

Marine:

Marine-related fatalities were up in 2016 as 21 people were killed in motorized and non-motorized boating incidents, compared to 18 deaths the previous year.

While the OPP's 2016 traffic data is subject to further compilation and analysis, the organization can already draw an important conclusion from what it has seen.

"The OPP is truly saddened that Ontarians appear to have steered fatality numbers in the entirely wrong direction in virtually all traffic-related categories last year", says OPP Deputy Commissioner Brad Blair, Provincial Commander, Traffic Safety and Operational

Support. "This is a wake-up call to drivers, passengers and pedestrians to adopt much safer behaviours in 2017 – a critical factor in reducing the number of preventable deaths on and off our roads."

Did you know?

The OPP's use of sophisticated data analytics enables the organization to use an evidence-based, measurable approach to deploying its traffic safety resources.

OPP traffic data assists the organization with taking a "strategic patrol" approach to traffic safety, which places police officers in locations where the needs for enforcement and other traffic-related services are greatest.



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- 9. Locale
- 10. Trailing vine
- 11. Festival
- 12. Admired one
- 13. Let use
- 15. Spanish ranch
- 16. Antelope
- 22. Precinct
- 24. Transfer
- 27. Promo producers
- 29. Twilled fabric
- 31. Hammer end
- 32. Timber tree
- 33. Terse
- 35. Sake
- 36. Brazen
- 37. Empty inside
- 38. At hand
- 41. Spelling mistake
- 42. Bound
- 44. Filament
- 49. Lunar body
- 50. Guitarist, e.g.
- 51. Japanese verse form
- 54. Drill
- 57. "Blue Hawaii" handout
- 58. 18-wheeler
- 59. Baby food
- 61. Read a bar code
- 66. Adjust
- 68. Coveted chalice
- 69. Throng
- 70. Blazer material
- 71. Office furniture item
- 72. Exact
- 73. Tiresome one
- 75. Mall happening
- 76. Purl's companion
- 77. Rim
- 80. Korean auto maker
- 82. Group of whales
- 83. Dads

ACROSS

- 1. Mention
- 5. Low voice
- 9. Period of watching
- 14. Awestruck
- 15. Bridle
- 17. Sidestep
- 18. Printing method
- 19. Connect
- 20. Chute material
- 21. Kind of silkworm
- 22. Tom Cruise, for one
- 23. Old French coin
- 25. Var.
- 26. Photographic opportunity
- 28. Norm's drink
- 30. Intense
- 32. Footless creature
- 34. Ease off
- 37. Kind
- 39. Diving position

- 40. Frisky
- 42. Mislay
- 43. Trim of nonlean parts
- 45. Hit the _____
- 46. Dash
- 47. Tropical bird
- 48. Thoughtful sound
- 51. Door clasp
- 52. Linen vestment
- 53. Louisiana swamp
- 55. Additionally
- 56. Sample of voters
- 58. Say forcefully
- 60. Harden like bone
- 62. Miniature
- 63. Aristocrat
- 64. Chip
- 65. Poetic part
- 67. Snagged
- 71. Rookie socialite
- 74. Wire measurement

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- 75. Coil of yarn
- 78. Fray
- 79. Elicit
- 81. African nation
- 83. Peel, as fruit
- 84. Finch
- 85. Slander
- 86. Staff member
- 87. Work with dough
- 88. Dole out
- 89. Santa's vehicle

DOWN

- 1. Nose parts
- 2. Greek marketplace
- 3. Design
- 4. Freud's topic
- 5. Sheet of cotton
- 6. Voice part
- 7. Sheriff's badge
- 8. Not sweet, as wine

Mudmen bring Old Plaid Shirt Tour to Shelburne

BY MICHELLE JANZEN

Mark your calendars and wear a plaid shirt!
 The Mudmen are asking all of those attending their concert on Friday, February 24, at Grace Tipling Hall to wear a plaid shirt in celebration of their latest album "Old Plaid Shirt."
 With a list of accomplishments longer than both my arms put together, the Mudmen are a blast of Celtic energy that have been rocking since 1993. Brothers Sandy and Robby Campbell, who play the bagpipes, founded the band that was originally named "The Campbell Brothers," until they signed with EMI records and changed the band's name to Mudmen in 1998.
 In their early years, the band was likely to be found as the opening act from punk rockers DOA to The Irish Rovers. Over time, the Mudmen refined their sound, adding banjo and vocals to the mix, however you will still find bagpipes are the heart of their music.
 "We like performing at smaller venues around Ontario, with our concerts often feeling more like a reunion," explained Robby in a telephone interview with the Shelburne Free Press. "This way

you see live entertainment locally without it costing you the shirt off your back. There are so many places in Ontario that people tend to drive by and not even think about, and when they find out it's a theater, they're surprised, and Shelburne's Grace Tipling Hall is one of those."
 Campbell admits he will never give up his dream of playing in a massive sold-out arena concert, but says there are definite advantages to the Mudmen lining up gigs in smaller, small-town theatres like Grace Tipling Hall.
 The Mudmen have a well established reputation for entertaining audiences at typically Canadian sport related events that have included the reunions of the 1984 Oilers Stanley Cup Gala reunion with Wayne Gretzky, Sarah McLaughlin, Red Ryder, and full team present.
 In 2008, the Campbell Brothers were asked to perform on the new "Hockey Night in Canada" theme song produced by Canadian Icon Bob Rock, where Ron McLean quoted, "Mudmen we love em."
 This led to many opportunities including a three month tour, PBS special/DVD, and a performance at the Canadian Country Music awards with John-



SUPPLIED PHOTO

ny Reid.
 In 2015, the Mudmen performed at the Canadian Football League's 2015 Grey Cup game in Winnipeg, with their music being featured on Xbox and PlayStation games, NBC's television show "Black Donnellys," WWE Wrestling, Don Cherry's 9, 19, 20, 21, 24, 27 hockey videos, The Mackenzie Brothers TWO-FOUR Special on CBC, HBO'S Shameless, HNIC Coach's Corner (Dale Hunter tribute), and six music videos on Much Music. They've also reached top 20 on the Edge radio.
 The Mudmen have appeared twice on Parliament Hill for Canada Day where they performed

and shook hands with the Queen, performed at the Edmonton Oilers & Calgary Flames home opening game ceremonies on CBC, and guested on The MacKenzie Brothers 24 Anniversary, CBC.
 With over 2,500 shows to date, The Mudmen have nine studio recordings and will be celebrating their 20th anniversary in March of 2018.
 The February 24 show begins at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$15 for kids. Tickets can be purchased at Grace Tipling Hall, online at www.ticketscene.ca or at the door.
 For more information on the Mudmen visit their website at www.mudmen.ca.

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Dufferin Digital Historian Project students doing research work at the DCMA in 2016. The Ontario Ministry of Education has officially selected DHP as an "exemplary model" for Experiential Learning in the province. Congratulations to the DHP Team at CDDHS, ODSS, and WSS high schools.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Program fosters "engaged young citizens"

Continued from FRONT
 Mr. Orford reports that the Ministry of Education spent several days learning about the program and visiting the DCMA to watch students in 2015 and 2016 and then a full day of filming last June featuring the students and their work.
 Mr. Orford created the program in conjunction with staff at Dufferin County Museum and Archives and says, "Most communities across Ontario (urban or rural) are not as fortunate as Dufferin to have museums/archives like the DCMA - innovative, adventurous and forward-looking. As well, the willingness of the Upper Grand District School Board to invest in experimental programming in History has been vital to our success."
 And that "success" has been considerable.
 In 2015, the Federal Government awarded the DHP the Government of Canada History Award and, over the last two years, CDDHS has received grants from the Province of Ontario for their ground-breaking work.
 "The DCMA is very proud to be a partner in the Digital Historian Project (DHP)," says Julie McNevin, Education Programmer for Dufferin County Museum & Archives. "Having the students connect with the museum through online learning and time spent onsite has provided them with skills and opportunities that just can't be replicated in a regular classroom environment," says Julie McNevin, Education Programmer for Dufferin County Museum & Archives.
 Ms. McNevin says the staff at the DCMA "really enjoys working on museum-based projects with the students that introduce them to the different roles in the museum, enhance their research skills, and deepen their understanding of local history."
 "The growth we see in students between February and June is amazing," she says. "They come in uncertain, quiet and often reserved and leave as engaged young citizens. What started out as an experimental two years ago has quickly become a great experiential program for students to invest in their future."
 Mr. Orford, who will retire from teaching in June this year, says it has been his "pleasure to see the enormous success the DHP students have experienced and I encourage everyone to have a look at our Program at: www.digitalhistorianproject.com."

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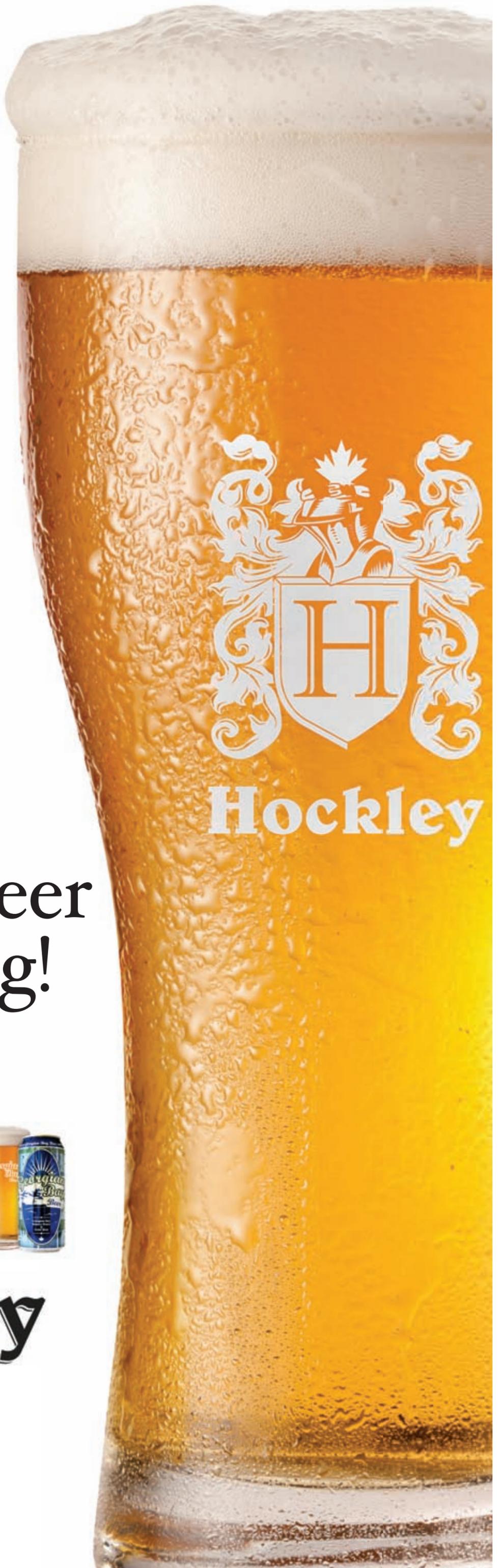
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SHELBURNE SPORTS

Wolves host Honeywood in Midget battle

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

With only a couple of games left on the regular season schedule, the Shelburne Wolves and Honeywood Hurricanes Midget LL1 teams battled it out at the Centre Dufferin Recreation Complex on Monday, January 30.

The Wolves opened the scoring in the first period on a goal from Jacob Berardi.

The Hurricanes tied it up one minute later on a goal from Honeywood forward Brandon Anthony.

It was his first of four goals for the game.

Anthony took a pass across the net and picked of the corner to give the Hurricanes a 2-1 lead.

Keeping the pressure on the Wolves, the Hurricanes took the play to the Shelburne end



The Shelburne Wolves Midget LL1 team hosted the Honeywood Hurricanes at the Centre Dufferin Recreation Complex on Monday, January 30. The Hurricanes managed to take an early lead in the first period and held on for an 8-3 win over the Wolves. The Midgets have one game left on the regular season schedule before heading into the playoffs. PHOTO BY BRIAN LOCKHART

and Anthony picked up his third and fourth goals of the game to give the Hurricanes a 4-1 lead in the second period.

The Wolves scored right off the face-off late in the second period when Jacob Berardi got his second of the game taking the shot from the point to score.

The Hurricanes killed a penalty to start third period then put the pressure in the Wolves end to score when Alex Peyton charged down the right side of the net and took the shot.

Peyton got the hat trick with two more goals

in the final frame.

Shelburne's Liam McLeod got the final Wolves goal with 6:31 left on the clock.

The Hurricanes wrapped it up with a final goal from Cole Timmins when a wild scramble in front of the net caught the Wolves goalie out of position and Timmins took the shot to the open side.

The final was an 8-3 win for the Hurricanes.

The Midgets LL have one more game on the regular season schedule before heading into the playoffs.

Stayner claims Junior C championship

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

The Stayner Siskins have clinched the North Division championship of the Provincial Junior C Hockey League.

The Siskins ended the regular season with a win over the Huntsville Otters on Sunday, January 29, to end the season with 78 points – three points ahead of the second place Alliston Hornets.

Although they were in second place for most of the year the Siskins were steady, taking only three losses and closed the gap on Alliston who was in the lead.

They finally caught up and, with the Hornets taking a couple of losses, the Siskins moved into first and kept winning.

The Siskins are also leading the League overall in points and, at this point, it looks like they will also claim the PJHL title as all the Conferences are down to the last couple of

games.

The Alliston Hornets finished in second place with a 36-5-1 record and 71 points.

Going into the Conference playoffs, the Siskins will meet up with the Caledon Golden Hawks in the first round.

The Golden Hawks may have finished in last place but they can't be counted out to cause some trouble as they are a gritty team that doesn't let up.

The Alliston Hornets will meet the Schomberg Cougars in the first round.

The Cougars had a seventh place finish this season.

In third place, the Penetang Kings will meet up with the Orillia Terriers.

Middle of the pack squads, Midland Flyers and Huntsville Otters will be matched up in their quarter-final series.

The playoff schedule has not yet been announced, but it won't take long as the League generally wastes no time it getting things set up and ready to go.



The Shelburne Wolves Novice Rep team travelled to Schomberg on Wednesday, January 25, to take on the Schomberg Red Wings. The Wolves took an early lead and held on to win the game 2-10. PHOTO BY BRIAN LOCKHART

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ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Name: AIDAN OLIVER
Team: CENTRE DUFFERIN DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL ROYALS BASKETBALL
Position: CENTRE

"I like how everyone is involved, but at the same time you have your own style of play," said Centre Dufferin District High School Royals junior basketball player Aidan Oliver of why he likes the sport.

A second year player on the Royals junior squad, Aidan also plays basketball with the Orangeville Hawks basketball club.

When basketball season is over, he plays football with the Orangeville Outlaws Football Club.

Aidan said he plans to continue with basketball "As long as I can."

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Christian Perspectives: Does the sun stop shining?

BY REVEREND BARBARA MOULTON

As I sit at my desk at home today, I look out my window and see blue sky and sunshine.

Even though it is cold, my spirits are lighter and my mind is clearer because it is a wonderful change.

For more than a week, our area was shadowed in gray fog and overcast skies.

It was a topic of conversation for many people I met.

I was reminded of the quotation that they say was found scratched in a wall at Auschwitz.

"I believe in the sun even when it's not shining. I believe in love even when I don't feel it. I believe in God even when He is silent."

I understand completely what the anonymous writer was trying to say. We know that even when things are darkest, it doesn't mean that the sun has ceased to exist.

Even when God is silent, He still is I AM.

And yet, as I think about last week, I am conscious that the sun never stopped shining. If it had, then there would have been no separation of day and night across the whole globe. If it had, then life would have quickly ceased to exist. The sun was shining even when we could not point to the ball of

light in the sky. If I could have hopped in an airplane and ascended above the clouds, I would have seen that the sun was just as bright as ever.

I believe the sun exists, even when sunshine is obscured by fog and clouds. Daylight is still there as evidence of the sunshine. We could not see the sunshine but we could see the light.

Similarly, God is never silent. Yes, there are times in our spiritual journeys that the clouds roll back and we seem to hear the voice of God with clarity.

We are confident that we are hearing from Him and we move forward in confidence.

Other times we are not so sure. We pray, but we feel like our prayers bounce off those clouds. We long to hear from Him but there is only silence.

Or is there?
Just as daylight tells us that the sun is shining, so the presence of God all around us reminds us that God is still speaking. The fact that we are still living and trusting is evidence that God is not silent.

Almost seventeen years ago, my husband and I had a crushing disappointment in our lives. For a time, it seemed to me, that God was silent. There were no answers to my prayers.

Yet, as I continued to move forward and trust that God was with us, He spoke His plan for us in quiet ways. And in the right

season, the answer that came for our family was far beyond anything we could have hoped from.

God was not really silent. He was speaking. I had only to intentionally seek His presence.

Psalm 95:6-7

Come, let us bow down in worship,
let us kneel before the Lord our Maker;
for he is our God
and we are the people of his pasture,

the flock under his care.
Today, if only you would hear his voice...

I believe the sun is always shining. I believe God is always speaking. On cloudy days, intentionally become aware of the light. When God seems silent, intentionally seek His presence.

COMMENTS? WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU.
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PHOTO COURTESY OF MAD RIVER PHOTOGRAPHY

Celebrate Valentine's Day with some fine dining and old fashioned Vaudeville fun!

BY MARNI WALSH

Fine Dining and Vaudeville for Valentines makes for a perfect romantic evening right here in Shelburne on February 12 in the lovely dining room at the Curling Club on Owen Sound Street.

Produced by Troupe-Adore, and set during the height of Vaudeville, company leader Sohayla Smith says the dinner show features a romantic candlelit dinner with a five course meal and excellent musical entertainment.

The show will feature Vaudeville themed performers including tap dance, the Charleston, a belly dancer, crooners, opera singers, comedy, and romance.

Featured performers include local performers Monty Greig, Jason Riedel, Desmond Baxter, Danielle Marie Gamache, Darcey Baker, Claire Bouzane, Sohayla Smith and Jacob Wagstaff. Performances will include re-enactments of actual Vaudevillian performers such as Al Jolson singing Toot Toot Tootsie Goodbye; one of the first famous crooners Gene Austin; international opera singer Florence Easton singing the comedic O'Mio Babbino Caro; everyone's favourite child star Shirley Temple; as well as Charlie Chaplin, Fred Astaire, and the infamous Roxy Hart!

Fine Dining by Chef Sohayla Smith includes: fresh bread & whipped blackberry honey butter; an endive "love boat" with prosciutto-wrapped arugula, fig, dried cranberry, feta, and chives, with balsamic reduction; potato bacon leek soup topped with applewood smoked cheddar, cherry tomato, and parsley garnish; spinach salad with feta, strawberry, fig, dried cranberry, red onion, radish, and balsamic dressing; prime rib with garlic mashed potato, green beans, mushrooms, red pepper, and onion, sauteed in white wine and garlic, served with horseradish, and warm Victorian skillet cornbread; strawberry white chocolate sour cherry shortcake.

Audience members are invited to come in period costumes - only, if they so wish. There will be a prize for best costume. And bring your dancing shoes so you can dance

the night away after dessert. Tickets are \$40 each, which includes the show and meal, and are available online at: www.myvaudevillevalentine.eventbrite.com.



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it will make ripples throughout the entire pond...
- Jessy and Bryan Matteo

And whoever gives one of these little ones
even a cup of cold water because he is a disciple,
truly, I say to you, he will by no means lose his reward.
- Matthew 10:42

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The CDRC Board of Management is seeking positive, team-oriented individuals to fill the above mentioned positions. Under the direction of the Facility Administration Manager, the successful candidates will be involved in a diverse range of job activities to provide successful summer outdoor swimming pool and day camp programs. The jobs may require some physical requirements. The successful candidates must be available to work scheduled week day, week night and weekend shifts. The job requires strong interpersonal and communication skills in order to work well with other staff, children, volunteers, parents and the general public. A background in recreation would be an asset.

Full details for all these positions including hours of work and wage ranges, are available on the Town of Shelburne website at www.shelburne.ca

Resumes for the above noted positions will be received until 1:00pm on Monday, February 6, 2017 by email or in person, addressed to:

Kim Fraser, Facility Administration Manager
 Centre Dufferin Recreation Complex, 200 Fiddle Park Lane, Shelburne, ON L9V 3C9
 Email: kfraser@shelburne.ca

Please note position applying for on cover page.

We thank all applicants for their interest and advise that only those selected for an interview will be contacted



The Corporation of the Township of Melancthon is now accepting applications for the position of:

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 (Full-time permanent position)**

The successful applicant will report directly to the CAO/Clerk and Treasurer to assist in the day to day administrative and financial operations of the Municipality. Duties will include (but not limited to): weekly payroll and monthly deduction reporting, Council Agenda Package preparation, website maintenance, assist with planning applications, processing tax payments and general reception/clerical duties.

Applicants should possess a community college diploma with a background in business administration/accounting, and a minimum of three years experience. This position requires an applicant who is highly organized, detail oriented, has the ability to work with minimal supervision and who has excellent customer service and communication skills. Computer proficiency using WordPerfect, Word, Excel, Keystone Property Taxation/Accounting System and Easypay Payroll System would be an asset.

The Township of Melancthon will offer the successful candidate a comprehensive benefit package, as well as enrollment into the OMERS Pension Plan. Salary to be determined.

Applicants are invited to submit their cover letter and resume in confidence no later than 4:00 p.m. on February 10, 2017 to:

Corporation of the Township of Melancthon
 157101 Highway 10
 Melancthon, Ontario L9V 2E6
 Attention: Denise B. Holmes, CAO/Clerk

The Township of Melancthon is an equal opportunity employer. We thank all applicants for their interest, however, only those selected for an interview will be contacted. In accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, personal information is collected and will only be used for the purposes of candidate selection. If you require an accessible format, please email dholmes@melancthontownship.ca. Accessibility accommodations are available for all parts of the recruitment process. Applicants need to make their needs known in advance.

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BIRTHS

**Terri-Lynn and
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 first Son and future Fisherman

**Braylin Sydney
 O'Gorman**

Born
**January 16,
 2017**
**7 pounds
 12 ounces
 21.5 inches**



DEATHS

BELL, Mary Rose
 passed away in Orangeville
 Hospital on Monday, January
 30th 2017. Mary Bell in her
 81st year, loving mother of Stan
 (Julie) Bell of Mississauga,
 Norman Bell of Flesherton,
 Debbie (Dean) Tait of Grand
 Valley, Allan Bell of Shelburne
 and Brenda (Kieran) Woll of
 Hawaii. She is survived by 9 grandchildren,
 Jessica Gosse, Donna Luxton, Donnie Luxton,
 Brad Hillis, Stephanie Jamieson, Steve Luxton,
 David Woll, Kevin Woll, Willard Tait and 8 great
 grandchildren, Abigail, Emilia, Gabriel, Serena,
 Brooke, Ben, Blake and Brody. Survived by
 brother John & Harriet Hodgins, Sister Clara
 Whittaker, brother Joe & Virginia Hodgins, sister
 Bertha Ferguson and brother Gordon Hodgins.
 Mary was a kind and adventurous, compassionate,
 remarkable woman with a generous soul. Just
 one of her many accomplishments was hiking
 the Bruce Trail end to end four times. She also
 worked at Dufferin Oaks in Shelburne as a dietary
 aide until she retired.



Loved by all and will always be missed.
 Memories of you will forever be cherished.
 Resting at McMillan & Jack Funeral Home,
 Dundalk. Visitation will be held on Friday
 February 3rd 2017 from noon until 2:00pm.
 Funeral Service will follow at 2:00pm.

**MICHAEL
 (MIKE) BRUNNER SR.**
 1923-2017

It is with extreme grief and sorrow that the family announces the sudden passing of Mike. This amazing man is remembered in so many ways - he gave unconditional love to his family and was so loved in return. He was held as Patriarch by both his family and his siblings, making all those who knew him feel special and that he truly cared about them. Dad was a role model extraordinaire, very wise and pragmatic, and always kept things real. He was a kind and generous man, who carried himself with utmost integrity and elegance. A driving force in our family, he was always our biggest supporter. Son, Brother, Brave Soldier, Soccer Player, Husband, Father, Father-in-Law, Grandfather, Step Grandfather, Great Grandfather, Uncle, Friend. As a World War II Veteran who heroically served his Country, he was a proud member of the Black Watch of Canada, Montreal Regiment. Loving husband of Merelda (2009), our beloved father, our loving grandfather, doting great grandfather, you will be missed more than can be expressed. Peacefully at the Headwaters Health Centre on Wednesday, January 25, 2017 in his 94th year. Cherished father of Maureen (Richard), Elaine (Walter), Michael (Nancy), Joanne (Ken), beloved grandfather of Jennifer, Veronica, Nicholas, Allison, Shannon, Lindsay, Caitlin, Shane, Devon and Celton, step-grandfather of Meagan and Kelly, great-grandfather of Addison and Kira, loving brother of Theresa, Elizabeth and Joseph, also sadly missed by his nieces and nephews and other relatives and many friends. Pre-deceased by his brother Frank. Visitation will be held at the Dods & McNair Funeral Home, Chapel & Reception Centre, 21 First Street, Orangeville on Sunday, January 29, 2017 from 2:00 - 4:00 & 7:00-9:00 p.m. Funeral Service will be held in the Chapel on Monday, January 30, 2017 at 11:00 a.m. with visitation starting at 10:00 a.m. Reception to follow. Memorial donations to the Heart & Stroke Foundation would be appreciated by the family. Condolences may be offered to the family at www.dodsandmcnair.com



**LLOYD, Constance May
 (Connie)**

It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of Connie Lloyd. She passed away peacefully with her loving husband of 50 years Newton, sons Mark & Bill (Meghan) and grandson Kyle by her side. She will be remembered fondly by her children Melody, John (predeceased), Mark and Susan (Tom), her brothers Ken (Rosemary), Wally (Mary), Jack & Art (predeceased), her sisters-in-law and brothers-in-law Jim (Beatrice), Stella (Fred), Gord (Pat), Nora (predeceased) and Elva (predeceased). She was predeceased by her parents Harry and Susan Dickenson. Connie was a member of Terra Nova UCW and will be remembered by all of her friends on River Road. Friends and family will be received at the Jack & Thompson Funeral Home, Shelburne on Thursday from 7-9 p.m. and on Friday from 12-1 p.m. The funeral service will be held in the funeral home chapel on Friday, February 3, 2017 at 1:00 p.m. A reception will follow at the Shelburne Legion. Spring interment at Horning's Mills Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations to the Canadian Cancer Society would be appreciated. Online condolences may be placed at www.jackandthompsonfuneralhome.com.



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CARD OF THANKS

THE FAMILY OF GORDON HENRY would like to thank EMS, Dufferin County, Dr Scotton ER staff for their care to Gordon and comfort to family in his passing.. Jan 8th 2017. We would also like to thank our family and friends who came from far and near, neighbors and extended family for all the love and support we have received. Thanks to those of you who brought food, sent cards, online condolences, flowers and donations. Much appreciation to Shawna and Christine of Jack & Thompson Funeral Home for helping and guiding us through this difficult time. A special thanks to Penny Squirell for her warm and meaningful service in the remembrance of Gordon. Thanks to the Shelburne legion ladies for a wonderful lunch. Pat Henry and family, Paul & Sonja Oakes and family

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MEMORIAM

**In Loving Memory
Muriel Armstrong**

February 5th 2014

*Every day in some small way
Memories of you come our way.
Though absent, you are always near
Still missed, loved and always dear.*

Love Allan and family

**Clayton,
Gloria Jean**

Passed away at Trillium Hospital, Mississauga on Tuesday, January 31, 2017 at the age of 75.

Devoted mom of Brad and his wife Sarah. Loving Nan of Elysia (Justin) Anstee, Travis (Dani), Meredith, Sean, Emilee and Ella and great-great-grandchildren Jax, Jace, Eliena, Dallas, Finn and Andie. Dear sister of Hazel Gath and Mildred (Bob) Armstrong. She will be sadly missed by her extended family and friends.

Arrangements entrusted to Jack & Thompson Funeral Home.

Online condolences may be placed at www.jackandthompsonfuneralhome.com

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Front page photo “insulted” Shelburne’s rep

Dear Mr. Weir

Please allow me to express my utter disgust, shock, and disappointment at your astounding-poor choice of this week’s front page. I’m ashamed for you. As a fellow journalist, and Shelburnite I cannot even contemplate what went through your mind when deciding to publish such degrading, demoralizing and absolutely offensive material on the front page.

You are directly responsible for parents having to explain the entire conversation of the sign. Why you didn’t have the inclination to smudge the words out is beyond me.

You have insulted the good reputation of the Town of Shelburne, CDDHS, and placed families in a precarious situation via explanation.

These are issues where journalists, media and especially reporters who are invested in their community and actually care about the quality of their work should absolutely never find themselves in a situation such as this, EVER!

Please issue a retraction, and a huge apology to the Town of Shelburne, CDDHS, to the women and girls of Shelburne, the men and young boys who never would treat a woman in this manner or even jest as Donald Trump did in his own highly publicized comments.

If it was shock value you were looking for then I’d like to report to you that your effort was achieved.

It is my sincerest hope that I do not find myself so impassioned as to have to criticize a fellow media person in this manner in the future and remind you at this time that I love this town and even if you don’t, please take your job seriously and exhibit better, compassionate decisions in future.

Extremely Sincerely,

**ALEX SHER
THE SHELBURNE FREELANCER**

Our Response

Dear Ms. Sher:

Thank you very much for your passionate feedback on our editorial decision last week. It is always nice to hear from you.

Of course, as a journalist I have to disagree with multiple points in your letter, although I sincerely appreciate the time you took to express your views.

And, in the end, that is really the entire point of what we do.

As a student of both journalism and history in the mid-2000s, my worlds often collided in having to write stories that required historical context. To that end, before so many of our valued newspapers were digitized I would have to look through stacks of musty, yellowed newsprint – or even microfiche – to see how our journalistic forebears covered the issues of the day.

Their coverage was honest and truthful, and what they left behind provided a valuable insight on larger world issues viewed through the prism of a smaller community.

Whether we like it or not – and there are plenty of people around the world on both sides who are either elated or devastated by the inauguration of President Trump – his inauguration was the biggest story in the world last week and it is incumbent upon those of us in this profession, should the

opportunity arise, to highlight how such historic events are responded to and interpreted in our community.

Now, to the rest of your concerns.

In talking to numerous women who participated in Women’s Marches in Toronto and Washington D.C. – and even Indianapolis, Indiana – on Saturday, January 21, I have the sense they see the photo as anything but “Degrading, demoralizing and absolutely offensive.” On the contrary, the women who carried such signs with very similar messages told me they found the experiences highly empowering, particularly having the opportunity to send a message back to President Trump who used the word towards women in a way that people on both sides of the aisle agreed were most certainly “degrading, demoralizing and absolutely offensive.”

As for being “directly responsible for parents having to explain the entire conversation of the sign,” if that is indeed the case I will certainly take responsibility for it, hopeful that it created meaningful dialogue between generations, particularly parents who were able to teach their daughters that there are women from the Shelburne community not that far removed in age from them, who are prepared to stand up for their rights on the international stage.

If it encourages young girls of Shelburne to be brave enough to follow Alessandra and Brandy’s example and fight for what they believe in, for their brothers to join them, and their parents to support them every step of the way, I would only be too proud to share in just a fraction of the responsibility – although the true heavy lifting was done by the women – young and old – marching with Alessandra and Brandy last weekend.

In my view, the Town of Shelburne and CDDHS can be very proud to call these women their own and I do not believe a retraction is warranted.

Shock value is not what we were looking for; what we were looking for is to highlight the bravery of these local women taking the time out of their studies to make the trip to Washington in order to stand up and fight for the rights of their American sisters, and to spur important dialogue in the community.

Your letter affirms that such conversations are now taking place, and I thank you once again for sharing your views.

As Canadians, we might feel a few degrees removed from the eye of the storm, but we are not immune to the same sentiments taking root north of the border.

**BROCK WEIR
EDITOR, SHELBURNE FREE PRESS**

Brandy & Alessandra respond

We thank you for taking the time in reading last week’s article regarding our Women’s March experience, as well as sending an email expressing your entitled opinion.

We are happy that Brock has given us the opportunity to share our experience with the community in a very well-written article, and to further discuss its development.

We are disappointed to hear that last week’s material has offended you. Our intention was to bring awareness to these existing (worldwide) issues and to open up conversations about what can be done to resolve them. The controversy of the story just goes to show how important it is to have these discussions.

The content of the sign is a response to the degrading comments of Donald Trump. Instead of avoiding this topic with the children in this community, we urge you to

explain them, and to really teach them the meaning behind these words, as that is what should be focused on: how far we have come with achieving gender equality, and how far we still need to go.

By not acknowledging the crude statements of the US president, it shows that his behaviour is acceptable for a leader; which it is definitely not.

Additionally, the media is obliged to report events just as they are.

“Alternative facts” and untruths are unacceptable. For this reason, we praise Brock for publishing our experience just as it was. We believe that he has raised, not lowered, the reputation of Shelburne by way of investing an interest into these real-world issues.

We would like to clarify that by sharing our story to the Shelburne paper, we were

not in this way suggesting that the people in the community would speak or act in the same degrading manners towards women the way Trump has been known to do.

Human rights inequality is an issue all across the globe, no matter where you happen to live. Shelburne is a wonderful community; however, it does not dismiss us from needing to remain aware of the existing racism, sexism, etc., that so many people experience.

Awareness will incite prevention.

We hope that conversations will develop into actions, and that we will all eventually be able to live in a world of true equality for all.

**SINCERELY,
BRANDY AND ALESSANDRA**

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