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PAULA BROWN PHOTO

SHOES4SHELBURNE: Shelburne Family Chiropractic and Wellness Centre have collected a total of 1,251 pairs of shoes through their annual Shoes4Shelburne campaign that took place throughout November. The local chiropractors well exceeded his goal for 2020, which was to raise between 600 and 700 pairs of shoes.

Dufferin County moves to 'Red' zone for COVID-19

Written By PAULA BROWN
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Dufferin County has officially moved into the "Red" zone of the COVID-19 framework, following recommendations made by Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health (WDGPH), brought about by the rising number of new and active cases in Wellington and Guelph.

"Dr. Mercer made the recommendation because she had significant concerns in certain areas in our jurisdiction, that [case numbers] weren't going down and we're continuing to go in the other direction," said Rita Isley, WDGPH director of community health.

Dr. Nicola Mercer, CEO and WDGPH Medical Officer of Health (MOH), along with Chief (MOH) Dr. David Williams, recommended last Wednesday (Dec. 9) that the provincial government move the region into the "Red" zone of the COVID-19 framework. On Dec. 11 the province made the announcement of the move, which became effective on Monday.

When speaking with the Free Press, Isley said Public Health's decision to increase restrictions isn't solely based off the number

of cases in the region but rather the reproductive rate of the virus.

"That mean how quickly it is spreading when someone gets in contact with a case or comes in contact with COVID, how many people get infected after that," explained Isley. "We're also looking at the complexity of the cases, so that mean we're looking at how full our hospital are and what's happening in our outbreak in our facilities."

While Dufferin County has been moved along with Wellington and Guelph, Isley said that Public Health's concern with Dufferin County isn't as significant.

"Our numbers are much higher in those [other] areas and we have more outbreaks and more activity," said Isley.

With the move into "Red," restrictions include public and private events being limited to five people indoors and 25 people outdoors. Gyms, fitness centres, restaurants and gambling establishments have been limited to 10 patrons at a time, while movies theatres and performing arts spaces have been closed. Families should also not visit other households or allow visitors into their home.

Despite the restrictions to restaurants and retailers, Isley said that Public Health

hasn't seen a lot of cases in restaurants, stores, or grocery stores, adding that they're seeing transmission mostly in social venues, such as parties.

"Restricting people's movement and slowing people down is a really good way to slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus," said Isley.

As numbers of COVID-19 cases rise in the region, there have been a number of positive cases within schools. At the time of print, there are a total of 16 cases from 10 schools in the Upper Grand District School Board, which falls in the WDGPH borders.

"We have seen that our school are not as significant of a concern as other places and some of the reason are is that it's the same people every day, Monday to Friday, that are in the class room," said Isley. "It's not quite the same as mingling in a grocery store or going to a restaurant that's crowded."

The framework for a move to a lockdown include increase of weekly cases, increasing cases in people over 70, increasing outbreaks among vulnerable populations, and hospitals and ICU capacity at risk of being overwhelmed.

Dufferin County officially move to the "Red" zone on Monday (Dec. 14).



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Melanchthon Mayor elected as 144th Warden of Dufferin County

Written By PAULA BROWN
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Melanchthon Mayor Darren White has been elected as the 144th Warden of Dufferin County – marking his fourth term as the Head of Council.

White was elected to the position, which he will hold for the 2020/2021 term, via an anonymous virtual ballot during County Council's meeting last Thursday (Dec. 10). White has previously held the Council position in 2017, 2019, and 2020.

"This position is about generally big picture thinking, it's about change for the better, change for all, and change that is equitable for our entire County – it is about what you make it," said White to Councilors before the vote. "This position can be a token position that accomplishes nothing much, for a glorified ribbon cutter as it were, or it can be about forward momentum, getting it, keeping it, and using it to better the lives of those we represent, I certainly chose the latter."

"I'm asking you to entrust me to lead our Council as we navigate the biggest challenge most of us have seen in our life time, and I ask you to stay the course as that challenge continues in the 2021," he said of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Amaranth Deputy Mayor, Chris Gerrits and White were both nominated for the Head of Council position, with White officially being elected following a 7-5 vote.

The Warden is the head of Dufferin County Council and acts as the chief executive officer (CEO) for the County, leading Council meetings, and providing representation at functions.

"As chief executive officer, the head of Council shall uphold and promote the purposes of the municipality, promote public involvement in the municipality's activities, act as the representative of the municipality both within and outside the municipality, promote the municipality locally, nationally and internationally and participate in and foster activities that enhance economic, social, environmental well-being of the municipality and its residents," explained Dufferin CAO Sonya Pritchard.

Concluding his election as the 144th Warden of Dufferin County, White spoke about the challenges experienced throughout 2020.

"It certainly was the word of the year for last year and looks to be the word of



SUBMITTED PHOTO

the year for the year to come. Challenge to continue to support our vulnerable sectors, our frontline workers our seniors and our local economy," said White. "Our Council, our staff and our residents have taken up that challenge and as we watch rising numbers [of COVID-19], and an upcoming vaccination program, it is important to now redouble our efforts as our challenge continues."

White added that he will be standing for information and science as the community continues to deal with the pandemic into the new year.

During the Council meeting four chairs were also elected to lead the standing committees. Mono Mayor Laura Ryan will oversee the Health and Human Services Committee, formerly titled the Community Services/Dufferin Oaks/Museum Committee. John Creelman, Deputy Mayor of Mono, will lead the General Government Services Committee. Orangeville Mayor Sandy Brown was chosen as the Chair of Infrastructure and Environment Committee and Janet Horner, Mayor of Mulmur, will be the Chair of the newly formed Community Development and Tourism Committee.

Council members that will remain on Dufferin County Council until 2022 include Coun. Steve Anderson (Deputy Mayor of Shelburne); Coun. Bob Currie (Mayor of Amaranth); Coun. Guy Gardhouse (Mayor of East Garafraxa); Coun. Chris Gerrits (Deputy Mayor of Amaranth); Coun. Earl Hawkins (Deputy Mayor of Mulmure); Coun. Andy Macintosh (Deputy Mayor of Orangeville); Coun. Wade Mills (Mayor of Shelburne); Coun. Philip Rentsch (Deputy Mayor of Grand Valley); and Coun. Steve Soloman (Mayor of Grand Valley).

County looks at options for stranded drivers

Written By PAULA BROWN
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Drivers that find themselves stranded in Shelburne should not be expecting to see traditional warming centres available this winter, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In the past the Town has used facilities like the Centre Dufferin Recreation Complex (CDRC) or the Grace Tippling Hall to provide shelter for stranded drivers, but during Town Council's meeting on Monday (Dec. 14), Mayor Wade Mills said that won't be happening due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Instead the County of Dufferin is looking on implementing the use of buses to temporarily house the drivers that find themselves stranded.

"Depending on how many motorist we are dealing with, I think each bus could accommodate three to possibly four families, depending on the size of each family, and

that would give enough physical distancing within the bus," said Mills.

He also said during a local Emergency Control Group meeting, that they discussed possible locations for the buses.

"Motorist should not be counting on the traditional warm, comfy accommodations that we have been able to provide in the past," said Mills.

Deputy Mayor Steven Anderson questioned if the County, taking the lead, would be fronting the cost for the buses, while also questioning the number of buses, and liability protection the Town would need.

Mills said that emergency situations are coordinated through the County adding that in severe situations the Red Cross is deployed to provide support. The change in procedure he said was to address concern of COVID-19.

According to Shelburne Clerk Jennifer Willoughby, the costs would be covered by Dufferin County.

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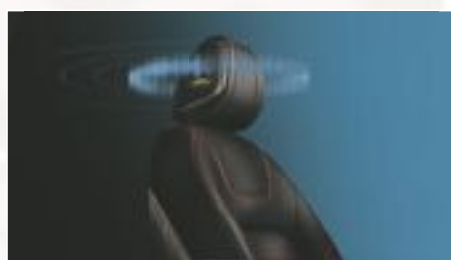


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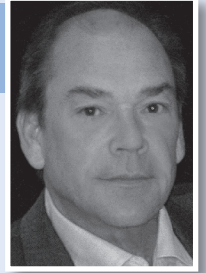
More taxes?

Tax them to death, then tax them some more. That seems to be the strategy of western governments. Of course the plan is always carried out by bureaucrats who have expense accounts and personal drivers who fill up the limo for them before driving them to work. Some Scandinavian countries have this down to a science and like to point out how idyllic their society is with 'free' health care, 'free' university, and 'free' everything else because tax dollars are put right back into building and supporting the country. But then speak to someone who lives there. Yes, the country is well run, and the people are basically happy - yet, most people never have the luxury of dining out at a restaurant because they can't afford it. After they've paid for all their 'free stuff' though heavy taxation, they have nothing left to enjoy the fun things in life. Nothing is 'free.' Unless university professors, doctors, health care workers, and janitors in the facilities are all volunteers, someone is paying for all the free stuff. I read a good article recently by a guy who was born and raised in Sweden and still lives there.

He said that it is normal not to save any money. After you paid your income tax and every other tax, and your living accommodation expenses, that's it. You have nothing left. And that is the normal way of living. Now, we are in a situation where many people have felt the crunch of life with severe restrictions. Thousands of restaurants are on the verge of closing forever. Many small businesses are in the same boat. You can't pay your employees when you have no money coming in. Yes, dire times indeed. So what does the government do when millions of people are already strapped for cash? They start adding more taxes. Bleed us a little more until there is nothing left. The Trudeau government just announced the latest plans to make sure your bank account will go into a negative balance. The plan is to increase the federal carbon tax on fuels to \$170 per ton by 2030, starting with a new increase next year. Gasoline prices will go up by over 30 per cent and so will the cost of fuel oil, natural gas and propane. With all these new taxes on fuel, look for a direct impact on any product you buy that

arrives at its destination by truck. That pretty much is everything - including food. So those of you that are so anti-environment you actually heat your home during the winter, or feed your family or yourself, expect to pay even more, and more, and more. The worst part is this announcement comes at a time when so many people are carrying a heavy burden and the economy is grinding to a halt. Yup, hit them when they're down. At least Ontario Premier Doug Ford seems to have more of an understanding of what it's like to be a regular citizen in this country. "I can't understand for the life of me why anyone would want to put a burden on the back of the hard-working people in this province," Ford said. "This carbon tax is going to be the worst thing you'll ever see." Ford predicted price hikes on "everything" as increased transportation costs get passed on to consumers. The one thing the average person won't see is a hike in their salary or hourly wage to keep up with the rising cost of living. Of course there will be the hardliners who say

BRIAN LOCKHART FROM THE SECOND ROW



we must protect the environment at all costs. Of course we should protect the environment, that's common sense. But people don't practice what they preach. Just drive along town streets and especially the rural side roads. The ditches are littered with coffee cups, plastic water bottles, beer and pop cans, and other assorted garbage people toss out the window of their cars. In extreme cases you'll find mattresses, bathroom fixtures, and the remnants of a home renovation. If you polled 1000 people and asked them if they thought protecting the environment was important, you would probably get an almost 100 per cent positive response. If you followed up with the question, "How often do you throw your garbage out the car window?" do you think you'd get one person to admit they routinely used the roads as a garbage can? Well someone's doing it, but it's always the other guy. Taking care of the natural environment is a common sense thing to do. Taxing your citizens to death at a time when they are already struggling isn't the right way to do it.

The EU: Germany is the Reason...

In Brussels this week, the English-speaking journalists are all speculating about which way British prime minister Boris Johnson will jump. However, the EU's leaders aren't really holding their breaths about this any more. A 'no deal' Brexit would cause minor damage to a couple of European economies too, but the presidents and prime ministers (who are meeting in Brussels this week) have bigger fish to fry. Top of their agenda is Poland's and Hungary's threat to veto the EU's \$1.8 trillion euro budget (\$2.2 trillion), which includes a desperately needed 750 billion euro (\$900 billion) post-Covid recovery plan to rebuild Europe's shattered economies. The two Eastern European countries, both ruled by authoritarian governments on the extreme right-wing of politics parties, are the 'awkward squad' of the EU. They face financial sanctions for their attacks on democracy in their own countries, so they are blackmailing the EU by vetoing the whole 7-year budget, including the recovery plan. That's what the EU summit in Brussels this week is really about, but the leaders are probably not going to solve the problem there. There is a plan on the table, however, put there by Portuguese prime minister Antonio Costa, who assumes the EU presidency next month. Costa's suggestion is that they split the EU in order to save it. Let all the 'awkward squads' - the aspiring dictatorships, the other Eastern European states that just hate all migrants and refugees, and the so-called 'frugal states' (the Netherlands, Austria and the Nordic countries) that hate high spending and fiscal transfers to poorer EU members - just go off on their own.

There would still be an EU, but it would be a two-speed Europe and they'd be the slow-moving part. German, France, Italy, Spain and some others would stay in the core group, forging ahead with ambitious initiatives like the recovery plan and 'ever closer union'. Costa didn't mention it, but this core group could also be the foundation for a more self-sufficient defence strategy as the United States gradually withdraws its old NATO security guarantee to Europe. (Trump might have done it eventually, Biden won't do it, but it's bound to happen eventually.) Thanks, Antonio, but no, thanks. Germany won't play. It has a deep-rooted horror of having to underwrite the debts of other EU members, all of whom it sees as spendthrift and improvident, so 'no' to the two-speed Europe. And 'no' also to French president Emmanuel Macron's ambition for a 'global Europe' with an independent European defence strategy that matches the clout of the United States and China. It would cost too much, the Germans think, and besides they'd rather go on clinging to America's skirts. In the words of Germany's defence minister Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer: "The idea of strategic autonomy for Europe goes too far if it nurtures the illusion that we could ensure Europe's security, stability and prosperity without Nato and the US. Germany and Europe cannot protect themselves without America's nuclear and conventional power. This is simply a fact." The hell it is. In the mid-1980s NATO's total population was about 675 million and the Warsaw Pact's was around 390 million, but almost

half of NATO's population was far away across the Atlantic so each side did pose a plausible threat to the other in terms of the strength they had on the ground in Europe. Now it's 2020. The Warsaw Pact was long gone and all the former Eastern European satellites had joined NATO. Even the Soviet Union's fifteen republics broke apart, leaving 145 million relatively impoverished Russians all alone to face a NATO alliance now drawing on the resources of 870 million people. The NATO-Warsaw Pact population ratio used to be about three-to-two. Now the NATO-Russia ratio in population is more like

five-to-one. In terms of wealth it's around fifteen-to-one. Local and limited clashes here or there are still conceivable, but it is not possible to write a convincing scenario for a continent-spanning conventional war in Europe today. As for a nuclear deterrent, the French one is big enough if you really feel you need one. It's still a bit bigger than the Chinese one, and that seems to work. Grow up, guys.

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Shelburne Police will be enforcing new COVID-19 restrictions

As the provincial government continues efforts to slow and control the spread of COVID-19, the Shelburne area is changing to a Red Zone due to a significant increase in local confirmed COVID cases.

“Although the timing of these additional restrictions is not favourable with the Christmas Holiday season less than two weeks away, the purpose of these measures is to protect you, your loved ones and your community”, states Sergeant Paul Neumann. “We encourage everyone to take these rules seriously and find creative and alternate ways to spread holiday cheer, and show support to their friends and family. Our health as well as the health of our families and neighbours is arguably one of the best holiday season gifts we can be thankful for.”

Shelburne Police will be investigating all

concerns brought to their attention about the Reopening Ontario Act legislation not being followed. Each circumstance will be investigated on its own merits. Depending on the results of each investigation, charges may be laid on individuals, organizers of events or gatherings, or on businesses. “The resulting penalties start at \$750.00 for individuals and can climb up to the hundreds of thousands of dollars for organizations such as corporations”, commented Sergeant Neumann. “The penalties are severe!”

For a full list of limitations, please refer to the Ontario Government COVID website at <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/zones-and-restrictions>. Here are some of the key restrictions that need to be kept in mind:

- Social gatherings limited to 5 people indoors and 25 people outdoors. The only

exception is for people living in a single household.

- Restaurants and bars: Maximum 10 Patrons dining indoors at a time, maximum 4 patrons per table

• Sports and recreational fitness facilities: Capacity limits, where physical distancing can be maintained, with maximum 10 people in indoor areas with weights and exercise machines, maximum 10 people in all indoor classes or 25 people in outdoor classes. No spectators permitted, however each person under 18 may be accompanied by one parent or guardian

- trips outside of the home should only be for essential reasons (work, school, groceries/pharmacy, health care, assisting vulnerable individuals or exercise and physical activity)

• families should not visit any other household or allow visitors in their homes – people who live alone can gather with one household

- everyone should avoid social gatherings
- work remotely, where possible

“At Shelburne Police Service we recognize that this holiday season will be a challenging one for many. We want everyone to enjoy this time of year, but ask everyone to modify their plans to make it as safe as possible for everyone. The sooner this virus is brought under control, the sooner we can all return to a less restrictive and normal lifestyle. We encourage everyone to do their part. On behalf of everyone at Shelburne Police Service, I wish everyone in this great community a safe and happy holiday season!” concludes, Sergeant Neumann.

Impaired driver gets in wreck on Hwy 9

On Wednesday, Dec. 9 at approximately 8:13 a.m. uniformed officers from the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) Caledon Detachment responded to a two-vehicle collision on Highway 9 near 6th Line EHS in the Town of Caledon.

Information was received that the driver of one of the involved vehicles appeared impaired. The officers attended the scene and investigated the collision. The driver was asked to provide a sample of their breath into an approved roadside screening device, which resulted in a “fail” reading. The driver was then placed under arrest for Operation while Impaired - Blood Alcohol

Concentration over 80 mg, and transported to the Dufferin OPP Detachment, for further breath tests to be conducted.

As a result of those tests, the driver’s Blood Alcohol Concentration was found to be 260 mg of alcohol in 100 ml of blood, over 3 times the legal limit. A 30-year-old male driver from Ajax stands charged with: Operation while impaired - BAC over 80 mg, Careless driving, and Having care or control of a motor vehicle with liquor readily available.

The accused is scheduled to appear at the Ontario Court of Justice in Orangeville on Feb. 18, 2020 to answer to the charges

Tips to avoid being ‘Porch Pirated’

With two weeks left until Christmas, the packages being delivered to people’s residences appear to be increasing, and with that, so do the thefts.

Dufferin OPP has noticed an increase of calls regarding thefts from porches. Some tips to ensure you don’t fall victim to these “porch pirates” include:

- Track deliveries online and try to be home at the time a package is delivered;
- If possible, request deliveries services to get a signature from a recipient;
- When scheduling a delivery, leave instructions on where the package can be delivered or ask for a phone call when it is delivered. Even leaving a package out of sight may make all the difference;
- Ask a trusted friend or neighbour to

receive your package at the time of delivery;

- If allowed by an employer, have the packages delivered to your work;
- Have the package delivered to a delivery depot where it can be held for pickup;
- Consider installing a motion-detection home security system that records video and sends immediate notice of activity to your cell phone. Many new smart doorbell systems allow live updates;
- Some stores provide a pickup-in-store service that allow you to pick up items from a nearer location;
- Look carefully when ordering as retailers may have a way of customizing delivery instructions.

if a porch theft has been committed, please contact the OPP 1-888-310-1122.

OPP arrest pair of ‘porch pirates’

Members of the Dufferin/Nottawasaga Community Street Crime Unit (CSCU) of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) executed a search warrant yesterday at a Broadway address in Orangeville.

CSCU conducted an intelligence led investigation and acted on information that was obtained by the public regarding the “porch pirates,” used surveillance and executed the warrant. CSCU was able to retrieve many stolen items from the residence and arrested two females. They were charged with:

- Possession of property obtained by crime
- Theft under \$5000

The investigation is continuing. The females were released with a future court date in Orangeville.

If you have any information regarding this or any other crime, please contact Dufferin OPP 1-888-310-1122.

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PUZZLE 423

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- 12. Oral history
- 13. Knight’s club
- 14. Roe fish
- 16. Fastener
- 22. Exhibition area
- 24. Young boy
- 25. Sailor’s yes
- 26. Hit head-on
- 27. Burglary
- 29. Panties
- 30. Atoll feature
- 31. Cap part
- 34. Delta build-up
- 35. Heroic poem
- 36. Cruise
- 37. Litigator
- 39. Military storehouse
- 41. Severe
- 44. Bitsy biter
- 47. Chief attraction
- 48. Hound’s quarry
- 49. Smart remark?
- 51. Top
- 53. Corpulent
- 56. Tempt
- 58. Spiny plants
- 61. Sparkle
- 63. Nutty
- 64. Nog ingredient
- 65. Anti’s answer
- 67. Diner
- 69. Brass, e.g.
- 72. Snowbird
- 74. Valuable vein
- 75. Venerable
- 76. Offspring
- 77. Dominant
- 78. Place for a mane
- 80. Hosp. employee
- 81. Type of silkworm
- 83. Jazz instrument, shortly
- 84. Greek letter
- 85. That thing’s
- 86. Lynx, e.g.

ACROSS

- 1. Calling
- 6. Atlantic codfish
- 11. Offering
- 15. Pale yellow
- 16. Manuscript copyist
- 17. Actor Wyle
- 18. Basil sauce
- 19. Boorish person
- 20. Killer whale
- 21. Formal procession
- 23. Woodwind instrument
- 24. Sharp-tasting
- 28. Default result
- 29. Fertilizer component
- 32. Indian nursemaid
- 33. Homophone of “you”
- 34. Basketball shoes
- 38. Put down
- 40. Pirate
- 42. More, in music

- 43. College group, shortly
- 45. Steep rock face
- 46. Keats poem
- 47. Golf strokes
- 50. Cook slightly in oil
- 52. Not a winner
- 54. Greek letter
- 55. Opt
- 57. Nature’s bandage
- 59. Bend
- 60. Aromatic spice
- 62. Missing links: hyph.
- 66. Run through
- 68. Resin
- 70. Lengthy narrative
- 71. On the sheltered shore
- 72. Cast aside
- 73. Fidgety
- 74. Where nice guys finish?
- 77. Cotton fabric
- 79. Carpenter’s curve

- 80. Shed style: hyph.
- 82. Congealed dish
- 87. Forest ruminant
- 88. Expensive
- 89. Marathon meal
- 90. Crosscurrent
- 91. Sheer curtain fabric
- 92. Live

DOWN

- 1. Dandy
- 2. Freezer abundance
- 3. Expressions of doubt
- 4. Authorize
- 5. Rain unit
- 6. Windshield tool
- 7. Philosophy
- 8. Service
- 9. Geisha’s sash
- 10. Iniquitous place?
- 11. Arctic jacket

Winner announced in Shelburne's Deck the Doors contest

Written By PAULA BROWN
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The results are in, and Julian Samuels has become the winner of the Town of Shelburne's Deck the Doors contest.

Samuels, co-owner of local event planning business Paradise Hills Banquet Services, placed first in the contest after receiving more than 800 community votes. As the winner of the community contest she was awarded a \$100 gift certificate for the African Caribbean Grocery Stores on Monday (Dec. 14), which was presented to her by Mayor Wade Mills and Deputy Mayor Steve Anderson.

"Thank you for coming out to support my local business Paradise Hills Banquet Services, it takes a lot to win but I came out victorious," said Samuels. "I am so grateful."

The Deck the Doors contest was launched by the Town of Shelburne on Nov. 25 as a way to bring cheer to the community over the holiday season, and closed submission on Dec. 10. The winner was selected by community vote and a panel of judges.



PAULA BROWN PHOTO

DECK THE DOOR: Mayor Wade Mills and Deputy Mayor Steve Anderson presented a \$100 gift card to Julian Samuels, winner of the Deck the Door contest, on Monday Dec.

"We decided to go with the door concept in order to make the contest inclusive to those who might not be able to decorate a whole house," said Mills.

The Deck the Doors contest had a total of 11 submissions from participants this year.

Decorating her door with garland, ornaments, and her own hand made wreaths, Samuels said she chose to take part in the event as a way to showcase her business.

"I like when people are excited, I love to decorate and to put a smile on people's faces, so for me to do something like make a beautiful wreath, it's to make somebody happy," said Samuels when explaining the inspiration behind her decorations. "That's my main focus, that's my passion."

With the conclusion of the festive contest, Mayor Mills said he hopes everyone enjoyed participating and viewing all the different doors decorated by homeowners.

"I hope everyone had a chance to appreciate some of the hard work that went into these decorations and hopefully it lifts everybody's spirits just a little bit," he told the Citizen.

Stay Home for the Holidays

The safest way to spend the holidays this year is to celebrate with the people you live with or with one other household if you live alone.

Protect your loved ones this holiday season and help slow the spread of COVID-19.



wdgpublichealth.ca

Ontario rolls out COVID-19 vaccine

Written By SAM ODROWSKI

Ontario delivered the first COVID-19 vaccine in Canada on Monday (Dec. 14), marking a historic day for the country's fight against the novel coronavirus.

Antia Quidangen, a personal support worker at a long-term care home in Toronto was first to receive the shot and over 2,500 other health care workers are getting vaccinated in the coming weeks.

Premier Doug Ford recognized Quidangen during a speech on Dec. 14, following the vaccine's distribution.

"She has worked tirelessly to care for some of our most vulnerable, both throughout this pandemic and since her first days as a PSW in 1988," said Ford. "Anita has spent years rolling up her sleeves to protect our province, and today, she didn't hesitate to find a new way to do so. She represents the best of the Ontario Spirit."

The launch of the vaccine is the first phase of a three-phase vaccine implementation plan and marks the beginning of the "long journey to return back to normal life," according to Ford.

"I encourage everyone to be patient. This

is the biggest immunization program in a century, and our vaccine supply will arrive in stages," he said. "General Hillier and the COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Task Force are working with Health Canada and other provincial and territorial partners to ensure the vaccines are distributed quickly, so people can get immunized as soon as possible."

With the good news of progress on a vaccine, it's essential that Canadians stay vigilant until it is available for mass distribution, noted Ford.

"This is a watershed moment – the beginning of the end of this terrible pandemic. The light at the end of the tunnel grows brighter every day, but we must remain on our guard," he remarked.

"As we continue to rollout these vaccines, I'm asking all Ontarians to please continue following the public health measures to keep everyone safe and healthy, especially during the holiday season. Avoid social gatherings, wear a mask when required, practice physical distancing, wash your hands frequently, and download the COVID Alert app. As we await the arrival of more vaccines, this is our best and only defence against this deadly virus."

Shelburne to continue electronic meetings well into next year

Written By PAULA BROWN
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Shelburne Town Council meetings will continue to be held electronically until June 2021, following a report from Town Clerk, Jennifer Willoughby.

Prior to the regions move to "Red-Control" phase of the COVID-19 framework, town staff were looking at different locations to hold in-person meetings including the Grace Tippling Hall and the Centre Dufferin Recreation Complex (CDRC).

Gatherings are currently restricted to 10 people in doors.

"Currently staff are recommending a very cautious approach to returning to in-person meeting and this report recommends that council continue to hold electronic participation meetings until June 2021, until we are able to accommodate in-person public participation in a safe manner," said Willoughby adding that if they are able to accommodate at an earlier date, they will.

er date, they will.

According to Willoughby the public engagement through live streaming the council meetings averages around 92 percent based on numbers from October to December and averaged the number of views.

Mayor Wade Mills questioned the average number of people who view the council meetings which Willoughby said averages between 44 and 100.

"Certainly this is an easier way it seems for people to tap into the process so down the road when we are able to reconvene in-person, I think the message is we still have to find some way to do this broadcasting so people can make the choice to attend in-person or from the comfort of their own home," said Mills.

Shelburne Town council will currently continue to hold their electronic council meetings until June 2021.

Seasons Greetings

Dufferin County Administration Offices will be closed December 24, 2020 at Noon for the Holiday week. Offices will reopen on January 4, 2021 at 8:30am.

Public Works Winter Maintenance Operations will continue to perform road maintenance throughout the Holiday season.

No matter how you celebrate, Dufferin County Council and staff wish you a safe and happy time.





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SHELBURNE SPORTS

Ski hills opening soon with new rules in place

Written By BRIAN LOCKHART

Winter on the slopes is going to be a little different this year.

If you're a skier or a snowboarder you will have to take extra precautions when you hit the slopes this season.

The Canadian Ski Council has release the new rules for participating in the sport once the trails are opened.

None of the ski resorts in the region are open, however they are getting prepared for the first cold snap that will allow them to start making snow.

Skiing is a popular sport with 236 ski areas across the country.

Once the season is open, skiers and snowboarders will have to adapt to some new rules that are being applied at ski centres across the country.

Face coverings will be required that align with public health authorities recommendations when and where physical distancing cannot be achieved. This includes both indoor and outdoor spaces except when eating or drinking. Masks must be worn on chair lifts.

Don't expect to pay cash for your lift ticket. Many centres have adopted an electronic payment method and will not accept



BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

NO SNOW, NO SKI: The Canadian Ski Council has announced restrictions for the upcoming season and what skiers and snowboarders must do when on the slopes. The Council was hoping for an early start, but a recent spell of milder weather has made snowmaking operations impossible. The slopes at the Hockley Resort have a little bit of the white stuff but they have a long way to go before they can open. The ski hills usually open in

cash.

In addition, some ski areas are requiring patrons to book a lift ticket on-line before they arrive at the hills, so check before you decide to go skiing for the day.

Physical distancing will be required when on the slopes. This includes lift queues, ticket queues, ski and snowboard lessons, employee spaces, and food and beverage outlets.

When going onto the lift, at some resorts single skier must go alone – no riding with other groups.

When more than one person is on a ski lift, they must be from the same group or cohort.

Staff will be trained to keep an eye on skiers and snowboarders and ensure people are following the rules when on the slopes.

While the new rules are designed to keep people safe, skiing and snowboarding provides inherent social distancing when you are on the slopes.

There is minimal contact between people and is outdoors so it is considered a low risk activity.

Local ski centres are hoping to open soon and usually have a mid December start to the season.

Shelburne Minor Hockey suspends all games for time being

Written By BRIAN LOCKHART

Shelburne Minor Hockey has temporarily suspended all games as a result of the region going into a Code Red imposed by local health authorities.

The Wolves organization cancelled all games over the weekend when it was announced new restrictions would be in place.

Shelburne Hockey isn't alone in making this decision. All hockey centres in regions that went Code Red have put an immediate stop to games.

This includes both Grand Valley and Honeywood hockey clubs that had games

scheduled against the Wolves.

A statement on the Wolves website says "All hockey operations are suspended until further notice."

With the change to a Code Red situation coming rather quickly, Club executives had little time to prepare and made the move to cancel games as an immediate precaution.

"We are in the process of determining what the next steps are for the Shelburne Minor Hockey Association," said Club president, Mike Scace. "A message has been set to the board to initiate a meeting this week or next. We will also have to work with the Centre Dufferin Recreation Complex to understand their 'comfort level' as well."

Scace added, "We are trying to avoid any COVID issues going into the holidays."

In Honeywood, both games and current practices were cancelled.

A statement by the organization said "Our executive has had to develop new protocols that allow us to meet the new provincial guidelines. These protocols must be presented to and approved by the Arena Board."

New restrictions mean that any hockey organization that does continue with practices will have to follow strict guidelines. This includes no fans or parents in the stands, and limited number of players on the ice at any time.

Smaller kids may be accompanied by a parent to help with lacing skates, but once they are ready, the parent must leave the facility.

Some hockey centres have already announced a tentative date to return to hockey in January.

However those plans may be changed as the situation evolves over the next few weeks.

Shelburne Minor Hockey will keep players and parents posted on the outcome of the upcoming meetings.

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
December 13	December 14	December 15	December 16	December 17	December 18	December 19	
December 20	December 21	December 22	December 23	December 24	CHRISTMAS DAY	December 26	
double up		December 28	December 29	December 30	December 31	NEW YEARS DAY	January 2
January 3	January 4	January 5	January 6	January 7	January 8	January 9	

Monday
ZONE

Tuesday
ZONE

Wednesday
ZONE

Thursday
ZONE

Interruption
no collections

Happy Holidays!

There will be **no interruptions** to waste collection over Christmas and New Years. Please place all garbage, Blue Boxes and Green Bins out on your regular collection day.

Place up to **two (2)** untagged bags/containers of garbage out on your collection day during the week of **New Years Day**.

double up days

REMEMBER!

Always search an item on the **DufferinWaste** app to see if it's acceptable in the Dufferin program **before** placing it in the Blue Box!

- #6 plastic packaging & "air pillow" packing materials
- Plastic packaging with **no recycling symbol**
- Ribbon & bows
- Foil wrapping paper
- Styrofoam

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12 Days of Holiday FIRE and CO safety

Shelburne Fire Chief gives reminder for holiday and seasonal fire safety

Written By PAULA BROWN
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

With two days left in the 12 Days of Holiday Fire and Co Safety, Shelburne Fire Chief Ralph Snyder is giving a reminder to local residents on how to stay safe during the holidays and winter season.

The 12 Days of Holiday Fire and Co Safety tips, launched locally on Dec. 7, giving tips on how to remain safe during the holidays. The list of tips notes some of the common contributors for calls during the holidays and how to avoid them.

Chief Snyder said common contributors for calls during this time of year include kitchen fires, extension cords with too much plugged in, dry Christmas trees, and candles.

"Around Christmas there are more kitchen fires, part of it is that people are cooking more, sometimes there are beverages involved which cause a problem, people need to pay attention and stay in the kitchen when they're cooking," said Snyder. "Extension cords are always an issue - no more than three sets of Christmas lights to an extension cord - make sure you keep the trunk of the tree wet all the time and when it gets dry that the needles are coming off, it's time to move it outside."

Another main contributor of emergency calls is carbon monoxide.

"This time of year heating appliances are being [used] and they need to be inspected," said Chief Snyder. "Wood stoves, make sure your chimney's are drafting properly, cleaned by certified technicians, gas fired appliance and gas fired fireplaces, they all create carbon monoxide. they all have the potential to cause carbon monoxide if they're not serviced properly."

In December 2019 Shelburne's Fire Department responded to about 25 calls in the month that equaled around 20 percent of their calls each year. Out of those 25 calls, five were carbon monoxide related.

"We usually start getting out first carbon monoxide call in October as the temperature gets colder, people start turning on fuel burning appliances, and windows are closed," said Chief Snyder.

He encourages the community to ensure they have smoke and CO alarms in their residence as well as checking the batteries.

"[Batteries] lose voltage when they get cold so as the colder weather comes, if your house gets cooler, your alarm will give you a battery alarm. If you hear a single beep every minute that means you've got a defective detector of some sort; it's either the battery's low, or it's expired."

In conclusion he said, "they save more lives than firefighter every day," in reference to the CO and smoke alarms.

What's new at the Shelburne Library?

The Shelburne Public Library is committed to helping you with suggestions in selecting reading material and we will put together a selection of books tailored to your interests. Please call (519-925-2168) or email us at info@shelburnelibrary.ca to help you through the process. Our objective is to provide you with the service you need during these times.

Teen Scene:

Have you registered for Teen #WinterReads2021 yet?!? Download the Beanstack app and register to participate in this reading challenge just for Teens, which runs December 1st, 2020- January 31st, 2021! If you complete the challenge you will be entered into a draw for a \$25 BookLore gift certificate!

Registration for the January Teen Take & Make kits is now open! Please register only for the events in which you are interested, by going here <https://forms.gle/HWqQ5S2jfh9KKYoZ7>. If you need help registering or have any questions, please email jwyse@shelburnelibrary.ca. Kits will be available for pickup by registrants the first week of January.

Our upcoming events include:

Tuesday, January 12th - Snow Paint
Tuesday, January 19th - Marbled Snowflakes

Tuesday, January 26th - Pulled string art

Children's Programs:

LEGO Club: We are posting new build challenges every Wednesday. Share a picture with us by tagging us on social media, or email it to children@shelburnelibrary.ca.

Sleepy Story Time: Thursday evenings just got a whole lot cozier! Jump into your PJs and join us for a fun addition to your bedtime routine - Streaming Live on the Shelburne Public Library's Facebook and Instagram pages, every Thursday at 7:00 pm.

Story Time: Each Friday at 10:30am a brand new Story Time video is released. These videos are great to watch on their

own, but are even more fun when you've picked up your bag full of take-home Story Time crafts! We sing songs together, listen to a story, and then follow the instructions for the crafts in our craft bags.

Need more information about any of our programs? Call us at 519-925-2168, or email children@shelburnelibrary.ca.

If you would like to sign up for monthly emails regarding all of YOUR Library's Children's events, please email children@shelburnelibrary.ca and we will add you to our online Children's Newsletter subscription.

New Books:

You can browse all our new books if you login to our catalogue! www.shelburnelibrary.ca. They are always listed on the home page of KOHA, our library's catalogue. In order to place a hold, you will need your library barcode number and your password. If you have forgotten your password, please contact us and we will set one up for you! Start browsing! And enjoy our new books!

Fiction:

Miss Benson's beetle by Rachel Joyce
Confessions on the 7:45 by Lisa Unger
The kingdom by Jo Nesbo
The archer by Paulo Coelho
On deadly tides by Elizabeth J. Duncan
A Christmas resolution by Anne Perry
Age of death by Michael J. Sullivan
Before the coffee gets cold by Toshikazu Kawaguchi

Non fiction:

Caste by Isabel Wilkerson
Grow a little fruit tree by Ann Ralph
The age of creativity by Emily Urquhart
The good ancestor by Roman Krznaric
The complete plant-based cookbook by America's Test Kitchen

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COVID-19 numbers in the WDG Region

Dec. 14 (Monday)

WDG Region: 117 (New cases), 266 (Active cases), 16 (Hospital)

Dufferin County: 23 (New cases), 39 (Active cases), 5 (Hospital)

Dec. 15 (Tuesday)

WDG Region: 9 (New cases), 232 (Active cases), 15 (Hospital)

Dufferin County: 8 (New cases), 39 (Active cases), 6 (Hospital)

Dec. 16 (Wednesday)

WDG Region: 33 (New cases), 230 (Active cases), 14 (Hospital)

Dufferin County: 6 (New cases), 37 (Active cases), 5 (Hospital)

Dec. 17 (Thursday)

WDG Region: 8 (New cases), 232 (Active cases), 14 (Hospital)

Dufferin County: 8 (New cases), 39 (Active cases), 6 (Hospital)

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Sun - 9:00am Shelburne (Trinity United Church, 200 Owen Sound St)
Sun - 11:15am Proton (Southgate Rd 4)

CHRISTADELPHIANS

THOUGHT OF THE WEEK

#215330
10TH LINE AMARANTH JUST NORTH OF 25TH SIDEROAD, WEST SIDE

Nothing is so strong as gentleness, nothin so gentle as real strength. - Francis de Sales

Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, showing tolerance for one another in love. - Ephesians 4:1-2

Please visit us at: www.shelburnechristadelphians.ca

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Sunday Morning Service at 10:00 am
Sunday School Available
Other Services
Bible Prayer & Share
Youth Night
Men's Fellowship
Women's Fellowship

[Facebook](#) Primrose Full Gospel Church
Pastor Gavin Sullivan
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New three-digit suicide prevention hotline coming to Canada

Written By ALYSSA PARKHILL
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Local MP Kyle Seeback joined in the fight to allow easier access to suicide prevention programs for Canadians who are struggling with their mental health.

The Dufferin-Caledon MP announced at the beginning of this month, his support and advocacy to delegate 9-8-8 as Canada's official National Suicide Prevention Hotline.

Seeback offered his support, along with Cariboo-Prince George MP Todd Doherty, who is the Special Advisor to the Leader of the Opposition on Mental Health and Wellness.

Doherty brought forward a motion this past Friday to the House of Commons to enforce the three-digit number as the official suicide hotline for Canadians.

"Now, more than ever, the mental health of Canadians is being tested. Increased isolation and heightened anxiety have led to higher rates of alcohol and substance abuse. Reports [state] domestic violence have gone up and we are seeing elevated levels of suicidal ideation and crises. First Nations communities across Canada continue to battle a growing suicide crisis," said MP Doherty in a statement.

The current number for operated by Crisis Services Canada, includes a 10-digit number of (833) 456-4566. A little hard to remember.

MP Seeback said he was thrilled by the



SUBMITTED PHOTO
Duferin-Caledon MP Kyle Seeback

unanimous passing of the bill brought forward by fellow Conservative MP, as he understands the struggle people go through on a daily basis.

"I myself have had serious bouts with depression over the years. I thought this was something to definitely try to get behind," he explained. "I've been very fortunate in my life. I've had good friends, family and the ability to speak to people when I needed to."

In the difficult times of living in a global pandemic, the need for easily accessible resources for mental health are vital.

"Cold weather, uncertainty, eroded social networks and restrictions on holiday gatherings are hitting at a time when people are already anxious, hopeless and fearful

that things are going to get worse," says Margaret Eaton, CMHA's National CEO, in a recent statement. "I am afraid that many people are in such despair that they can't see past it."

According to the Canadian Mental Health Association, 10 per cent of Canadians have experienced thoughts and/or feelings of suicide, an increase from the six per cent the past spring. The numbers are higher for specific groups of population, including 28 per cent for members of the LGBTQ+ community, 27 per cent of individuals who have existing mental health issues, 24 per cent of those with a disability and 20 per cent are those in the Indigenous community.

21 per cent are within the ages of 21 to 34, and 19 per cent 18 to 24.

17 per cent of Canadians have increased the amount of substances they take in order to cope with these issues.

"I was absolutely thrilled when the motion passed on Friday unanimously. We'd been pushing the government to go forward with it," said Seeback.

Members of the public expressed their support through petitions and online advocacy to help support the motion.

The implementation of the 9-8-8 National Suicide Hotline is said to be soon discussed with the Minister of Health in order to direct appropriate timing for the number.

"I think having a national hotline like this will save lives," said Seeback.

Bill to ban declawing of cats introduced

The Ontario SPCA and Humane Society supports a bill introduced by Davenport MPP Marit Stiles that would put an end to the inhumane practice of declawing cats in Ontario, a procedure that can cause a lifetime of pain for cats.

Teddy's Law, as the bill is known, would update provincial animal welfare legislation to ban the practice of declawing cats, unless a veterinarian deems it a necessary medical procedure. Declawing a cat isn't a quick fix to save furniture. The procedure is an amputation, removing the last bone on each toe of a cat's paw, which can cause pain, discomfort and significant behavioural changes in the cat.

The Ontario SPCA and Humane Society has long worked to educate the public on these issues.

"Declawing is a mutilating and painful procedure that can never be justified as a treatment in response to a cat's normal behaviour," says Magdalena Smrdelj, Chief Veterinary Officer with the Ontario SPCA and Humane Society and a Fellow of the Oxford Centre for Animal Ethics. "Declawing should be limited to situations where a veterinarian deems it medically necessary for the health of the animal."

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