

Shelburne Free Press

SHELBURNE'S NEWSPAPER SINCE 1875

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PHOTO BY ALEX SHER

SHELBURNE'S EVERYDAY CHARMS – Shelburne is treasured for its wonderful historic architecture, quaint shops, and friendly rapport. Everyday sights to some are taken for granted as Anson Marton takes his family to the dentist with his horse drawn transportation, enhancing Shelburne's unique expression of tradition and appreciation for diversity in culture harmoniously existing in wonderful Shelburne, Ontario!

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BY WES KELLER

New Year's is a time for reflection and for the making of resolutions that are soon to be broken. I don't think there has been a Dec. 31 in recent years when I have not been reminded of something purportedly written by a New York Life Insurance sales manager and spoken to his, probably inebriated, salesmen – and especially to those who had boasted of the great things they were capable of doing.

“Another year we've just passed through; what new ideas came to you? How many big things did you do? Time left twelve fresh months in your care. How many of them did you share with opportunity and dare again where you so often missed? We do not find you on the list of maker's good; explain the fact!

“Ah no 'twas not the chance you lacked! As usual, you failed to act!”

Shelburne Legion

Happy New Year everyone. It's business as usual at the branch. Every Monday we have euchre in the Museum room and Bingo in the Warriors Hall in the evening. Our next general meeting will be on Tuesday January 28th. We will be having our monthly breakfast on the 5th.

Euchre will be on the 5th and 19th.

There will be another wing night in the back hall with DJ Gerry Daniels on the 10th.

Dart tournament will be on the 11th.

Ed Roman and Rob Krause will be hosting another JAM NIGHT on the 18th, if you are not a musician come and join us for some great local talent. Mike Hale will be selling his wraps that night as well.

Ladies Auxiliary are always looking for new members, please contact Mary Warman if you are interested in joining a great group of hard working ladies. 519 925-3800.

THE SHELBURNE FREE PRESS IS ON FACEBOOK – Check us out online at www.shelburnefreepress.ca and 'Like' us on Facebook. Find additional stories that didn't make our pages and photo highlights from area events, as well as press releases and advisories from the Shelburne Police, Health Unit, local politicians and more!



Find us online at www.shelburnefreepress.ca

New warden sets ambitious course for 2014

BY WES KELLER

Dufferin County's new warden, Mayor Bill Hill of Melancthon, is determined to tie up loose ends at both the county and at his home township, and he is unfazed by the fact that 2014 is an election year as well.

“It makes no difference,” he said in a phone interview. “There's a job to be done. We have to get on with it.”

But election year does make a difference. Generally speaking, county council and the eight local councils in the municipalities the county comprises all become “lame ducks” as of nomination day, Sept. 12.

This would leave only about nine months in which to make major decisions although the provincial lame duck rules are somewhat complex on the issue.

As well, the September meeting of county council is on the 11th, on the eve of the final day for filing nomination papers.

What are the major tasks to be undertaken at the county level between now and Lame Duck Day?

Warden Hill views the county Official Plan as vital, and notes that it is required to be completed by provincial edict.

The proposals for the OP, which don't appear to take any powers away from the lower tier, are most likely satisfactory to the eight local municipalities. But county council has to find ways to get around the weighted vote for future decisions on the plan.

For the remainder of this term, Orangeville representatives exercise 12 of 29 votes at the county, which mean they would need support from only three additional ones to control the outcome. Both Mono and Shelburne have three or more votes.

However, that ratio could also change, depending on the number of eligible voters in each municipality. Orangeville lost one vote at the beginning of the current term.

Warden Hill said he would like to see the problem of DEEP (Dufferin Eco Energy Park) resolved within this term. For the time being at least, the Alter NRG gasification proposal is dead through lack of interested users and investors, and the York Region composter proposal appears problematic at least while the Region is completing its

garbage processing facilities.

County council and Melancthon are facing an overlapping problem: the 230 kv transmission line from the Dufferin Wind Power site to the Orangeville substation.

Now the Environmental Review Tribunal has upheld approvals for the wind farm, including the power line – and DWP has its “leave to construct” from the Ontario Energy Board.

It is too early to tell if the ERT decision will be appealed, but Warden Hill said in a phone interview that Premier Kathleen Wynne had said there would be no extensions to construction deadlines, and the DWP deadline has already passed.

With respect to the power line, the warden and the council will have to decide how to proceed with negotiations. DWP is already seeking to expropriate an easement for the line.

Wind turbines, it appears, are here to stay. The warden said he wants to involve the wind companies in a new scholarship program in which the county would fund five scholarships of \$5,000 each and to have the wind companies match the funding.

Warden Hill said he wants to take a more active role in the Western Wardens Caucus and its proposal for super high-speed broadband connectivity which it says is vital to the prosperity of the region. The caucus has engaged Campbell Patterson Communications to complete a study.



PHOTO BY CRAIG GABREK

ADDING COLOUR TO CHRISTMAS – The winners of the Shelburne Free Press 1st Annual Christmas Colouring Contest were presented with their cash prizes at our office on Main Street on Christmas Eve. Our 1st Place winner, Alexis, age 8 – won \$15 (pictured right), and in 2nd Place was Harrison, age 7 – who took home a cool \$10. Congratulations!

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FEATURED ITEMS

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saveoneverything store

Paranormal activity reported at the Museum on the Boyne



PHOTO BY EMILY WOOD

PLAYING TRICKS – Wendy Gabrek, Editor of the Shelburne Free Press, the New Tecumseth Times and the Innisfil Scope watched as the light on her brand new flashlight faded from bright to dark repeatedly. It was while she sensed a child spirit clinging to her leg.

BY EMILY WOOD

The paranormal world is widely disputed. There are some who strongly believe in the presence of unseen spirits around us every day, some who adamantly disbelieve, and then some who are on the fence.

The popularity of the subject, however, cannot be disputed. Countless movies including the Paranormal Activity series (which releases the fifth installment in January) and Insidious continue to entertain thrill seeking movie-goers, terrified of the unknown. A tidal wave of reality television shows about ghost hunting has also flooded cable channels.

Clearly curiosity exists.

For Shelburne woman Tara MacDougall, getting people to give in to their curiosity is one of the biggest parts of her job. MacDougall is the owner and operator of the South Western Ontario Paranormal Society, created in 2010.

She partnered with other investigators to conduct an investigation at the local Museum on the Boyne in Alliston. MacDougall was joined by her sister Krista Johnston, Mark and Trevor Bishop-Larocque of the Ontario Gay Paranormal Society and Wanda Hewer, an

independent certified paranormal investigator, Psychic-Medium, Paranormal Consultant and founder of Ghost Hunters of Guelph. My editor Wendy Gabrek and I were able to along for the experience.

The museum was built in 1914, and originally used as an Agricultural Fair building. The barn on the property was built in 1858, and the log cabin built in 1851. The cabin was one of the first artifact donations to the museum, a building that was moved there from Essa as an attraction. The museum features a permanent collection of approximately 5000 items, plus additional items from travelling collections that are featured twice a year.

The museum has been the subject of a number of investigations over the years for paranormal activity because of several sightings claimed by different people. Based on its high level of paranormal activity, the Museum on the Boyne is rated 8.5 out of 10.

Museum curator Katie Huddleston confirms that strange happenings do occur, having experienced some herself. A Medium investigating the museum at one time told her that spirits are typically very respectful, and you can ask them

not to show themselves if you are afraid of them. Huddleston says she has had seen shadows move on the upper level balcony inside.

"I've never seen anything, but it's movement enough to draw your eye upwards."

Other strange things have been known to happen as well, like old clocks chiming suddenly, even though they haven't been working for years, and the old piano making noise as if someone played a key. Sounds of a babies cries have also been reported coming from the old cabin.

"Everyone likes to investigate at nighttime because it's quieter on the street and everything, but we have activity at all hours of the day," says Huddleston.

She considers herself to have a respectful coexistence with the spirits in the museum, but says she hears a lot especially when she is there alone after hours.

"I still hate going to the cabin by myself," Huddleston admits.

The investigation with South Western Ontario Paranormal Society revealed the spirit of an angry man and child in the cabin, and the investigators were able to communicate with at least one child inside

the museum. It wasn't determined if it was the same child in both places.

"Children are one of the most common spirits," says MacDougall. "Or the odd time you'll get a demonic spirit that will act like a child."

Activity was detected by video cameras that were monitored by one of the investigators, as well as different instruments that use light as indicators. The colour of lights on those tools changed depending on temperature, so outside on that frigid winter night the light would turn blue, normal temperature showed green lights and higher than normal showed red lights.

Some of the investigators were able to communicate with the child spirit by asking "yes" or "no" questions. For example, they asked the spirit if it was a boy and the light changed from green to red, indicating a yes. No change in the lights meant that the answer was no, or that the spirit was no longer communicating.

There was no activity detected in the barn, but when we explored the cabin the investigators described a hostile male spirit, a drunk, to be occupying the space.

Certain images believed to contain spirits were taken from different digital cameras at the time.

While conducting an EVP session (Electronic Voice Phenomenon) in the cabin, MacDougall asked several questions to the child spirit as well as the older male. Investigators say the digital voice recorders sometimes pick up additional voices than the living people in the room, voices that make sounds and respond to their questions in single words or sometimes a full sentence.

Huddleston says many EVP sessions have been conducted in the museum before, and in one a strange, unidentified sound similar to a neighing horse could be heard. At one time there was a horse racing track next to the museum, when it was still used as an Agricultural Farm building.

Before the EVP session, Wendy Gabrek, Editor of the Shelburne Free Press, The Innisfil Scope and the Times of New Tecumseth, connected with a spirit in the cabin. She described what was happening at the time as she had the distinct feeling that a child was clinging to her leg on the upper level of the building, while at the same time her brand new flashlight faded off and on repeatedly.

peatedly.

I was in the room with her at the time, as well as investigator Mark Bishop-Larocque. He asked me if I could feel anything, but I was unaware of any presence apart from the people I could see. What I felt was a strong sense of calm.

Later, however, when we conducted the EVP session, I sometimes had the distinct feeling that something was looming directly behind me, the feeling you get when a tall man stands behind you.

Before the investigation began, Wanda Hewer of Ghost Hunters of Guelph led us in an exercise of meditation, meant to open our minds to the experience. My mind was open, and I am a believer, but unfortunately I don't think I experienced the presence of spirits in the same way as the others, as much as I wanted to.

But there were still a few things that happened that made me believe I had witnessed paranormal activity that night. First, at the beginning of the evening I was seated next to Wendy when the DSLR camera in her lap snapped a picture on its own. It happened while someone was asking a child spirit questions, and the lighted instruments on the floor with us were responding rapidly. There were other strange things happening to the technology, something Huddleston says is not uncommon in that building for investigators.

The video feeds in the back room of the museum showed different areas of the museum, where the cameras picked up the sight of dust orbs in the unlit rooms. But those dust orbs are said to be different from spirit orbs, which are perfect circles and move differently. Watching those screens, I could see when a spirit orb moved through the room.

Mark and Trevor Bishop-Larocque of the Ontario Gay Paranormal Society streamed the entire investigation live on their website, with a chat room for people to ask questions to either the investigators or the spirits.

MacDougall's sister Krista Johnston said she had a vision of a young boy with dark hair and wearing a hat, a description that curator Huddleston said employees at the museum had heard on more than one occasion. She gave two examples of children participating in museum activities who asked about a boy who wasn't joining in. The boy met the description Johnston gave, and

could only be seen by those children.

"If you go into an investigation with a loving attitude then you're going to get the kids and the loving spirits," says MacDougall. "It's all about the trust between the living and the dead."

The South Western Ontario Paranormal Society is not registered as an official business. MacDougall says it doesn't have to be, because there are fewer than 12 people working for her.

"I've had more skeptics than believers in the past two years," says MacDougall, who does most of her investigations in private homes. She usually will approach the owners after experiencing strange or eerie feelings when passing by, and asks to investigate further.

"It's just a matter of sitting them down and saying you know, they exist," she says. "This isn't a bunch of crap, this is true."

According to her, her suspicions of paranormal activity are right about 80 per cent of the time.

As for her family, MacDougall says they were surprised when she decided to pursue this line of work.

"They all thought I was nuts," she says.

But they didn't fight her at the beginning as much as they do now. MacDougall's grandmother strongly disapproves, believing it to be dangerous witchcraft that shouldn't be dabbled in.

While MacDougall can enjoy the company of friendly spirits, including a childhood friend of hers who passed away 25 years ago, she recognizes the difference between mean spirits and nice ones.

"When it comes to those un-rested spirits, I prefer not to mess around with that simply because if they become violent it can be dangerous."

There are still many different places that MacDougall would love to investigate for paranormal activity, but one place in particular sits at the top of her list.

"As it stands right now, probably Casa Loma, just because I've heard rumours and I've seen a lot of things as a kid."

It wasn't the first time the Museum on the Boyne has been investigated, and it won't be the last. As for the South Western Ontario Paranormal Society and her partners, they have plenty of investigations ahead of them.





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SCAN FOR UPDATES!

Ottawa Journal: putting victims and safety first

BY DAVID TILSON,
MP DUFFERIN-CALEDON

Our Government is committed to helping keep our streets and communities safe. We've acted on our strong mandate from Canadians by passing important legislation to deliver on our commitments. At the same time, we recognize that the job isn't done. We have a plan to take further action on several issues, including how the justice system reacts to serious violent crimes committed by individuals who are found Not Criminally Responsible (NCR) for an offence.

Under current law, offenders found NCR can be released in a few years, free to live in any community, even where their victims or families of victims reside. There is no warning or protection under current law to keep victims and other law-abiding Canadians safe. This is a gap in the justice system that must be addressed.

This is why our Government reintroduced the Not Criminally Responsible Reform Act. The proposed legislation is part of our plan for safe streets and communities. It contains several common sense measures to better protect Canadians in situations where offenders are found Not Criminally Responsible.

Our bill will put public safety first, as the paramount consideration in the decision-making process relating to the offender found NCR. This is a vital change for the protection of society and follows the spirit of putting the rights of victims and law-abiding Canadians first.

We would create a new designation, enabling a court to designate someone found NCR as high-risk. Under current legislation, a review board can release such an offender. This new designation would protect the public by preventing the release of high-risk individuals without review by a court. This includes the previous practice of unescorted day passes, which would also be prohibited for high-risk offenders.

In addition, through our proposed legislation, we would protect victims in several ways. We would require that victims be notified when a NCR offender is released; allow non-communication orders to be imposed, to prevent an offender from contacting his or her victims; and provide them with information regarding the intended place of residence of the accused.

Nothing in this bill, of course, would in any way deny access to treatment. Individuals who are detained will be held in secure mental health facilities, rather than prisons. The system will provide proper medical treatment, just as it has been doing.

We are working to build on past measures, such as those targeting organized crime, sexual offences against youth, and serious white collar crime. With stronger, more meaningful sentences, we are helping keep offenders out of our communities to better protect law-abiding Canadians. We passed those measures, despite some obstruction by the Opposition. It's time they start putting victims first, beginning with this much-needed legislation.

We are taking important action on our three main public safety priorities. We will work to hold offenders accountable for their actions, we will put victims first, and we will reform the justice system to work fairly and efficiently. Better addressing situations where offenders are found NCR is an important part of this process. Canadians deserve to know that the justice system is there to protect them. Our Government is committed to ensuring that this is a reality.

Fiddle Championship Aug. 6 – 10th, 2014

The 64th Canadian Open Old Time Fiddle Championship will take place August 6-10, 2014 in Shelburne. Sponsored by the Rotary Club of Shelburne, the event features Canada's top fiddlers in competition for more than \$15,000 in prizes! Community events in conjunction with the Canadian Open Old Time Fiddle Championship include camping, a giant Fiddle Parade, an open air market, non-denominational church service and 24 hour meals at the Legion – we are working on adding more experiences to make the 64th a spectacular not-to-be-missed, non-stop five days of fun and entertainment. Watch for an announcement of our Thursday night entertainers soon!

The Canadian Open Old Time Fiddle Championship starts with the playdowns on Friday, August 8 at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. at the Centre Dufferin Recreation Complex (Shelburne Arena). Classes that will compete in the afternoon include the young (9 and under, 12 and under) and the young at heart (56 and over). The evening features the remaining classes. The contest finals happen on Saturday, August 9 at 6 p.m. and will feature the competition, entertainment, and the judges' showcase.

Tickets: By phone at 519-925-8620 or by e-mail at fiddleshelburne@yahoo.ca
'Like' us on Facebook! For more information visit www.ShelburneFiddleContest.com

New entrepreneurs in Shelburne – your neighbours!



PHOTO BY ALEX SHER

Owners of My Crafty Neighbour, Laura Meakings and Tara McCreadie are actually neighbours, friends, business partners and they are taking orders for their new unique handmade crafted items hoping to supply all of Shelburne with whatever they need!

BY ALEX SHER

As Shelburne continues to grow, new business possibilities present themselves as neighbors, now friends and business partners, Laura Meakings and Tara McCreadie are well received entrepreneurs in the Shelburne community.

Together the two young mothers decided to try and stay at home with their young children and came up with an idea to generate income while doing so, creating 'My Crafty Neighbour'.

A home based business at present where the two business women create a unique variety of handmade crafts, their product line is open for discussion as special requests are more than

welcome.

Very large wreaths in the exact color requested house matching co-ordinations are exactly what can be purchased, making home decor a beautiful and unique experience for both indoor and outdoor accents. Of course season request are available as well.

My Crafty Neighbour also makes wedding gardeners, center pieces, wooden stenciled art, and just about anything requested by their new and very pleased customers.

Because the business is new and modern, the business can be found on Facebook and e-transfers and Paypal help to make purchases easily performed by anyone, anywhere.

"We met as neighbors and discovered this was something we both enjoy. We wanted to keep it local and stay at home with our kids who are under school age," commented McCreadie adding, "One day we'd like to open a little store front, but for now everything goes back into the business."

Both McCreadie and Meakings request that when you visit their Facebook page you 'Like' and 'Share' their information, as this will help promote them.

For more information, contact My Crafty Neighbour at mycraftyneighbour@gmail.com, find them on Facebook, or call Tara at 416-902-9173, or Laura at 519-939-1130.

Headwaters receives Valued Partner Award from Headwaters Communities in Action



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Headwaters receives Valued Partner Award from Headwaters Communities in Action. Pictured, from left: Liz Ruegg, President & CEO, Headwaters Health Care Centre and Sylvia Cheuy, Volunteer, Headwaters Communities in Action Leadership Council.

Headwaters Health Care Centre (HHCC) recently received the Valued Partner Award from Headwaters Communities in Action (HCIA). The award recognizes key community partners that have helped HICA with projects which enhance the well-being of the region.

Established in 2004, HCIA is a grassroots citizen group operating in Dufferin County and the Town of Caledon. HCIA offers leadership and works collaboratively on initiatives that respond to shared community opportunities and/or concerns.

"We are truly honoured to receive the Valued Partner Award from HCIA," said Liz Ruegg, President and CEO at Headwaters Health Care Centre. "Working alongside community groups like HCIA provides us with opportunities to contribute to the health and well-being of the communities we serve, and help to shape the

future of this region."

In support of HICA initiatives, HHCC donated classroom space for HCIA's CANBIKE Instructor Certification Program and is participating in the Rural Transportation Working Group which HCIA has convened to generate shared

solutions to meet transportation needs in rural regions.

"Strong community partnerships are critical to the success of HCIA's initiatives and the support of Headwaters Health Care Centre continues to play a big role in our operations," said Sylvia Cheuy, a volunteer with the HCIA Leadership Council. "With the support of partners like Headwaters Health Care Centre, HCIA is able to sustain and advance our mandate so that our communities can benefit from opportunities that are possible only by working together."

HCIA has been actively involved in local food and farming initiatives, championing the development of a trails network, the creation of a report measuring social, economic and environmental wellbeing of Dufferin County and the Town of Caledon, and expanding the region's not-for-profit sector.

Headwaters Health Care Centre is an 87-bed acute and complex continuing care facility, offering both inpatient and outpatient services, as well as an Emergency Department with 24/7 coverage. Headwaters is accredited with Exemplary Standing by Accreditation Canada. By offering care closer to home and putting patients first, Headwaters aims to provide an exceptional experience every time.

Please visit www.headwatershealth.ca for more information and a full list of services.

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Shedding some light on the situation

Dear editor:
 I have recently found that there is legislation to ban the incandescent light bulb. I understand that the main issue is the mercury content in the bulbs and I cannot argue with eliminating that.
 We have tried some of the more environmentally friendly light bulbs and we find that on several occasions they do not fit our fixtures. So now we are not only going to be paying more for the new light bulbs but we will have to replace the fixtures as well.
 If the government is serious about moving forward with this prohibition then they must mandate the manufacturers to produce light bulbs which are compatible with the fixtures that are currently in use. I understand the some of the fixtures in our house are old or outdated but I am sure we are not the only constituents in the same situation.
 The notification of this legislation seems to have been poorly advertised. I happened to see an article on the internet and then queried our local hardware store which confirmed what I had read. Other than that I have not seen any publication from the government to announce this restriction.
 This legislation is suppose to take place January 1, 2014.
 Is there something we can do before this ban is in place in order to lessen the cost to householder for not only the extra cost for the newer environmentally friendly light bulbs but also for those householders who will have to purchase new light fixtures?
 Sandy Pielsticker, Tottenham

Looking out for Ontario's small and rural communities

Dear editor:
 The Ontario Liberal government believes we are One Ontario where all communities both rural and urban can succeed.
 Over the past year we have moved forward on a number of policies that support our economic plan to invest in people, build modern infrastructure and create a dynamic and innovative business climate.
 Strengthening rural communities is a central part of our plan. As Minister of Rural Affairs, I have travelled across the province listening to residents, municipal representatives, and community groups.
 I want to thank each and every person who took the time to write, attend a consultation or contribute in some way. I have brought your insights and ideas back to Queen's Park and these have directly informed our government's decision making.
 You told me about the importance of investing in rural infrastructure. That is why our 2013 Budget provided \$100 million to small, rural and northern communities to help

build roads, bridges and other critical infrastructure. As a former municipal representative, I know how important stable funding for infrastructure is to communities. Our government is developing a permanent rural infrastructure fund to be included in the 2014 Budget to meet this need.
 You told me about the need to create jobs and grow rural economies. In August I announced the re-launched Rural Economic Development (RED) program. RED helps rural municipalities and businesses create jobs and attract investment by promoting innovative partnerships. Our government also launched the new Youth Jobs Strategy, which is helping create 30,000 job opportunities for young people across the province.
 You also told me about the importance of protecting services like health care. That is why we have created 37 Community Health Links across Ontario to provide better care for residents with unique and challenging needs in rural communities.
 As we begin a new year, I

look forward to continuing to work on behalf of Ontario's small and rural communities.
 I wish you and your family a safe, healthy and happy holiday season.
 Jeff Leal,
 Minister of Rural Affairs

Word on the Street

We asked:
 "What was the biggest news story of 2013?"

Catulpa looking for new board members

We are seeking community, minded individuals to join a progressive volunteer Board of Directors.
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"I would have to say the big rail disaster in Lac Megantic. It was such a tragedy and a large scale disaster."

- Steve Sills



"Nelson Mandela's death. That was pretty newsworthy. He's the father of killing apartheid - he was a pretty amazing guy."

- Shawn Cavey



"The world Juniors - Canada has lost one game. I think they're going to win."

- Porter Cavey



"Probably the Rob Ford thing. I learned a lot about that in civics class. We talked about how there are a lot of rumours - some of it's true, some of it's not. Politics is crazy."

- Keith Gardanier

Learn more about Indspire

Dear editor:
 Sometimes in November I receive a request for a donation from an organization called, INDSPIRE, formerly known as The National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation. The title translates into two words - indigenous and inspire. Four cards with beautiful native drawings were included.
 I wanted to know more. At the time I was talking to my nephew, John, who lives in Toronto. I told him the little I knew and he was

also curious to the point that he visited their Toronto office. He was given considerable printed information which he sent to me.
 This is how they describe themselves, "Indspire is by indigenous people for indigenous people. We serve indigenous students across Canada, from major centres to remote communities, and all people: First Nation, Inuit and Metis". Furthermore, Indspire is a national charity that is dedicated to raising funds that deliver programs and provide the necessary tools for indigenous people, especially young people to achieve their potential."
 Not having heard of them before, I was surprised to learn that they have a 28 year old history. And they have a stellar track record of success. They have awarded over \$54-million in bursaries and scholarships, to 16,000 students to pursue their education. They offer programs that impact more than 10,000 students annually, encouraging them to stay in school and providing them with valuable career advice and indigenous role models to inspire them to reach their full potential.

The government does fund some post secondary education for some indigenous students, but there are simply not enough funds to support the real financial needs of their students. Corporate sponsors play a major role in making many awards possible. And by the way, their concern and support is for students from K-Grade 12 through post secondary education and careers in the public and private sectors.
 Building Brighter Futures is the apt phrase that's used with Bursaries and Scholarships awards. Twenty students who have received awards are shown in the current syllabus. There is a wide range of courses, from Fine Arts to Law, from Social Studies to Mathematics.
 I want to quote one of the students, Adamina Partridge from Quebec. Her course is in Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada. She wrote, "My wish is to dedicate the skills and knowledge I acquire to further develop the condition of indigenous communities in Canada and around the world."

Betty Anderson,
 Tottenham




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WEBPOLL
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Results from last week's poll:

Do you agree with the Canada Post decision to phase out door-to-door mail delivery?

a) Yes		43%
b) No		57%

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

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION
 Are you ready for the upcoming 2014 municipal election?
 a. Yes
 b. No

Who would you most like to see run/not run again? Tell us: wendy@simcoeyorkprinting.com

So go to our website at www.shelburnefreepress.ca and cast your vote!

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GOODBYE 2013

Another year has passed.
 My wife Collette and myself would like to thank everyone for another Great Year and look forward to seeing everyone next year! We hope that everyone had a Great Christmas and a Happy New Year's!

WELCOME 2014

A New Year message

FROM THE HON. DAVID C. ONLEY,
O.ONT.,
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
OF ONTARIO

As The Queen's representative in Ontario, I am most pleased to send my best wishes for a happy and healthy New Year.

As I near the end of my term in office, it is natural to reflect over the past six years. Serving you as Lieutenant Governor of Ontario has been transformative, for me and for my wife Ruth Ann.

The most common question I'm asked is "what will you remember most about Ontario and its people?" The answer is easy -- the extraordinary role of volunteers. They are the unsung heroes of our society, the foundation for our quality of life as a province.

Every year, millions of Ontarians, young and old, donate their energy, experience and passion to their communities. Voluntarism and the spirit it generates are values we hold dear.

I have been welcomed by Ontarians in their communities, on occasions both joyful and somber. Together we have commemorated anniversaries, honoured local heroes, launched exhibitions and commemorations, awarded organizational and individual excellence, celebrated our diversity, and participated in a host of community and civic events.

Ruth Ann has enjoyed tremendously her visits on my behalf to the Lieutenant Governor's Aboriginal Summer Reading Camps in Northern Ontario, places inaccessible to my scooter. She has been proud to honour the Crown's connections with Canada's First Nations and to bear witness to the people, their history and their cultures.

As the first Lieutenant Governor of Ontario with a physical disability, I made accessibility the overarching theme of my term in office -- focusing on what people can do, rather than what they cannot do.

Throughout my six years in office, I've spoken to employer groups, service clubs and community organizations around the province about the strong economic case for employing people with disabilities. I'm pleased to say that I've witnessed some great progress, but there is still more work to do. I have faith that this work will continue, long after I leave office.

Serving the people of Ontario has been the most extraordinary and humbling experience of my life. I thank you so very much for welcoming Ruth Ann and me into your communities. We shall never forget your hospitality, your warmth, and your many kindnesses.

If you are in the Toronto area Wednesday, the first of January, please join us at the Lieutenant Governor's Suite for the 2014 New Year's Levee from noon to two o'clock at Queen's Park. All are welcome!

As The Queen's representative in Ontario, I wish each and every one of you a healthy, prosperous and happy New Year.



PHOTO BY ALEX SHER

ICE RIVER SPRINGS COMMITTED TO SHELBURNE – For the first time, locally situated company Ice River Springs enjoyed an endeavour involving their entire staff. Collecting as many new toys as possible, the company proudly donated their wonderful collection to the Shelburne and District Fire Fighter's Association Annual Toy and Food Drive. Human Resources Senior Manager, Patsy McMahon commented, "Were committed to the community to which our facility is located." In keeping with a donation of well over 70 new toys and food items, Human Resources Specialist CDN Operations, Christina Stewart mentioned, "We were so excited to do something fun with the staff, working together to make this donation." With next year right around the corner, it's anyone's guess what this generous bunch will come up with for next year, but we know it'll be good! Pictured, from left: Firefighter Mike Glassford, Firefighter Jason Duck, and Captain Mike Morrell were on hand to accept the very kind donation from Ice River Springs Human Resources Specialist CDN Operations, Christina Stewart and Customer Service Supervisor, Sarah Clayton as the community of Shelburne shines once again working together to take care of their own over the holidays.

Tribunal rules in favour of Dufferin Wind

BY WES KELLER

The Environmental Review Tribunal has upheld ministerial approvals of the 100-MW Dufferin Wind Power (DWP) wind farm in Melancthon.

The approvals include not only the turbines but also the 230 kv transmission line along the rail corridor. DWP also has Ontario Energy Board "leave to construct" the power line but lacks agreement with Dufferin County and other property owners for necessary easements, and is seeking permission to expropriate.

In upholding environmental approvals, the tribunal essentially rejected claims of adverse effects on human and animal health and of irreparable damage to the environment.

"The Tribunal finds that the Appellants have not established that engaging in the Project as approved will cause serious and irre-

versible harm to plant life, animal life or the natural environment.

"The Tribunal finds that the Appellants have not established that engaging in the Project as approved will cause serious harm to human health.

"The Tribunal finds that the Appellants have not established, on the facts of this case, that the renewable energy approval process violated the Appellants' right to security of the person under section 7 of the Charter," reads the decision.

The case is listed as Bovaird v. Director, Number 13-070 to 13-075. It will be posted on the ERT website although it hadn't been this week.

The Director is Vic Schroter of the Ministry of Environment. He had issued DWP's Renewable Energy Approval on June 10, 2013. Roselyn Bovaird, CORE (Conserve Our Rural Environment), VanDerZagg (farms), John Magu-

ire and Kathleen Kurtin appealed on the basis of irreversible harm to the environment and animal health on June 25, as did Dennis Sanford on the basis of serious harm to human health.

Then, on July 14, Mr. Sanford was joined by the other parties in raising the Section 7 challenge.

The ERT issued its 127-page decision on the morning of Monday, Dec. 23 following 26 days of evidence.

The decision cites three main issues, but the hearing actually dealt with five "sub-issues" at great lengths: effects on soil and productive farm land generally, especially Honeywood loam; water resources; the Niagara Escarpment Plan; and bats and other animals.

The decision may be subject to appeal but Dennis Sanford said in a phone interview Tuesday that, because of the holidays, it might be difficult to meet the 15-day

deadline for an appeal.

Mr. Sanford, represented by anti-wind lawyer Eric Gillespie, heads Wind Resistance Melancthon. He had not spoken with his committee or lawyer at the time of the interview.

Noting that there has been only one instance of the ERT over-ruling a wind turbine approval, he said adverse health effects are difficult to prove. The one instance of over-ruling involved the habitat of a Blanding's (Emydoidea blandingii) turtle at the site of a proposed Gilead Power wind farm in Prince Edward County.

In fairness to the tribunal with respect to timing, Chair Heather Gibbs had stated at the outset that it had to meet a deadline.

The individual sub-issues are covered in separate stories that can be found in its complete form online at: www.shelburnefreepress.ca

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This week in police news...

• **Fail to Remain Collision** – Appeal to Public to Assist Identifying Suspect Vehicle and Driver.

The Shelburne Police Service is appealing to the public to assist in a fail to remain motor vehicle collision. The collision which occurred at the intersection of Jelly Street and Centre Street on Monday December 16th sent a female to hospital by ambulance. She was released the following day with minor injuries.

The driver of the second vehicle had a brief conversation with the victim. He then fled the scene in his damaged car when a bystander called 9-1-1.

Police are looking for a newer model 4 door sedan, light grey in colour with damage to the driver side front wheel area. The driver was described as a white male, mid 20's to early 30's, short black curly hair, medium build and had very badly chapped lips.

If anyone has any information in regards to this investigation, please call the Shelburne Police at 519-925-3312. Or leave a tip through crime stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477).

• **Shelburne Woman Arrested and Charged for Abusing Power of Attorney and Pocket-**

ing over \$11,000.00 from Elderly Man: Shelburne Police launched an investigation after being alerted that a 79 year resident of Shelburne Residence Nursing Home was having financial troubles.

The investigation revealed that there was over \$11,000 taken out of the victim's bank account and used by his power of attorney for personal gain. The money was gradually withdrawn over the past 2 1/2 years.

As a result a 44 year old Shelburne resident was arrested on Monday December 16th and charged with Theft over \$5000, Possession of Property Obtained by Crime and Criminal Breach of Trust. She was released on a promise to appear with a court date in January 2014.

• **Shelburne Man Charged with Assault and Criminal Harassment** – Threatening Conduct in Historical Domestic Abuse Case

On Monday December 16th Shelburne Police arrested and charged a 45 year old Shelburne man in response to allegations of an assault and threatening behaviour that occurred in 2012. The male was held for a bail hearing. The name of the accused is withheld for the benefit of the victim.

Plan ahead for New Year's Eve and beyond – arrive alive

The Ontario Provincial Police is hoping that if you intend to consume alcoholic beverages this New Year's eve that you plan for a safe ride home.

Impaired driving remains the leading cause of criminal death in Canada.

Any amount of alcohol can impair one's ability to drive. Drivers who register a Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) in the "warn range" of .05 to .08 could face an immediate driver's licence suspension. If you are found to be over the legal limit you will face a 90 day driver's licence suspension, a court appearance and your vehicle is impounded for 7 days. All of these penalties are inconvenient and costly.

Grey County OPP officers will continue with the Festive Reduce Impaired Driving Everywhere (RIDE) campaign until January 2, 2014. The Festive RIDE campaign began on November 23, 2013 and up until December 28, 2013, 8 people have been arrested and charged with Impaired Driving, Being Over the Legal Limit or Refusing to Provide a Breath Sample in West Region. Another 5 people have received 3 day, 7 day or 30 day driver's licence suspensions for registering "warn" on the roadside screening device.

Drivers are encouraged to take responsibility for their own actions. If you drink, do not drive. Arrange for a designated driver, stay overnight or use a taxi or another means of public transit.

If you suspect that someone is driving or is about to drive while impaired, call 9-1-1 and report it. If you see that someone is impaired and intends to drive, do not let them drive.

The OPP will continue to conduct RIDE checkpoints into the new year as part of the OPP's Provincial Traffic Safety Program (PTSP).

Everyone is encouraged to plan ahead and to always make safety a priority.

Crime of the week: theft of point of sale terminal

Crime Stoppers of Simcoe-Dufferin-Muskoka along with the Collingwood Detachment of the OPP are requesting the assistance of the public in solving this crime.

On Wednesday December 11, 2013 at 7:30 p.m. a lone male suspect entered the Subway Restaurant on First Street in Collingwood and stole the stores point of sale terminal from the front counter.

The suspect fled on foot towards the Kelsey's parking lot and made good his escape in a waiting vehicle.

The suspect is described as being in his late teens to early 20's, 5'5" to 5'7" tall, darker skin and was wearing a light grey hooded sweatshirt and dark jeans.

Police are continuing their investigation and are requesting anyone with information about this crime to call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS) or go to www.tipsubmit.com to send an anonymous web tip.

Crime Stoppers does not subscribe to call display and you will remain anonymous. Being anonymous, you will not testify in court and your information may lead to a cash reward of up to \$2,000.

Fatal collision claims man's life

The weather is considered a contributing factor in a fatal collision on Saturday evening. Just after 5 p.m. on Saturday, December 21, 2013, South Simcoe Police, along with paramedics and King Fire & Emergency Services, responded to a two vehicle collision on Highway 27, about 3 kilometers north of Schomberg. A farm tractor pulling two fully loaded hay wagons lost control on the icy road and jack-knifed across the highway.

A southbound Volkswagen Jetta station-wagon swerved to the right, but was unable to avoid the wagons, crashing into the rear of the first. A 77 year old grandfather from Bolton was killed instantly. His two year old granddaughter, who was in a child safety seat, was uninjured. Roads at the time of the crash were icy, and the continuing storm hampered investigators, who kept the road closed until the wee hours of Sunday morning.

Witnesses to the collision are asked to call the South Simcoe Police at 905-775-3311 or 705-436-2141.

Be ready for a winter emergency

As cold weather settles over Ontario and snow blankets many areas of the province, the Office of the Fire Marshal and Emergency Management is offering tips to make sure Ontarians are ready for winter emergencies.

A few simple steps will help families prepare their homes and cars for emergencies or winter power outages:

Every Ontario family should have an emergency survival kit that includes, food, water, a flashlight and medication needed to be safe and for at least three days after a disaster.

Inspect your existing kit to replace any out-of-date food or beverages.

Install or inspect smoke and carbon monoxide alarms -- they can be electrically powered, battery powered, or a combination of both.

Have a winter driving survival kit in your car that includes a shovel, blanket, extra clothing and footwear.

In a power outage, use flashlights or battery-operated lanterns instead of candles or hur-

ricane lamps. If you must use a candle, place it in a secure holder, cover it with a glass chimney, and keep it away from children and pets.

Ensure you use portable generators, space heaters and barbecues safely.

If you must be outside during cold weather or a snowstorm, avoid overexertion, wear several layers of clothing, wear waterproof and insulated boots and regularly check for frostbite.

If you lose heating in your home, keep water running, even at a trickle, to help prevent pipes from freezing and bursting.

"The holiday season is the ideal time to learn how we can prepare for winter storms, cold weather and difficult driving conditions. I encourage all Ontarians to do their part to ensure their families stay safe and are ready to face winter emergencies," said Madeleine Meilleur, Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services.

For more information, visit www.ontario.ca/safety

Have you seen Stanley the duck?



Lost Duck

Stanley – Grey and white with a touch of brown. Yellow beak and orange feet. Friendly. Banting Crescent and 5th Line of Angus.

Found Dogs

Border Collie/Akita cross. Black and white. Intact male. Red collar and choke collar. New Tecumseth.

Lost Dogs

Bert – Like Flat coated retriever. N/M. Leather collar. County Road 17 and Prince of Wales Road. Mulmur.

Lost Cats

Miss Priss – Black and white. DLH. S/F. Fifteen years old. Saskatchewan Road, Base Borden.

Carling – Orangish. DMH. N/M. Cecil and Julia Street, Angus.

Buster – Beige with white around neck and paws. White strip down nose. N/M. Microchipped. Tottenham Road and Patterson, Beeton.

Found Cats

Brown tabby. DSH. James and McCaQue Streets, Alliston.

Brown tabby. DLH. Female. Grey Avenue and Church Street, Alliston.

Grey. DSH. Female. 2nd Line and Tottenham Road, New Tecumseth.

Grey head and back with white on face, belly and paws. Intact male. Green eyes. Forest Hill Drive, Pine River Estates, Northwest of Ewert.

Calico. DLH. Female. Lions Building, Alliston.

Brown tabby. DSH Female. Church and Boyne Streets, Alliston.

Orange and brown tabby. DSH. Eyes gold. Sheppard Avenue, Alliston.

Black and white. DSH. Dark eyes. N/M. Hockley Valley.

Two cats found. Rusty orange. DSH. Intact male. And a light orange. DLH. Intact male. Tecumseth Street, Beeton Park, Beeton.

Orange tabby. Female. DSH. Mulmur/Tosoronto Townline South of Mansfield.

Black, grey and white. Male. DSH. 3rd Concession and 17th Sideroad by Silver Brooke Golf Course, Tosoronto.

Black with white on chest. Young. Centre and Patterson Streets, Beeton.

Large orange tabby. Intact male. DSH. Hockley Road.

Black back with white belly. DSH. Mansfield.



PHOTO BY ALEX SHER

GIVING BACK – For the second year Sawyers Feed Mill generously donated to the Shelburne and District Fire Fighters Association's Annual Christmas Toy and Food Drive. Captain Mike Morrell, organizer of the drive gratefully points out to the community, "We work hard. We keep it Shelburne. We feel we have to help home first." The generous \$500 dollar donation will hopefully go a long way towards the collective sentiment of helping as many as possible this year. Pictured, from left: Teresa Steele of Sawyers Feed Mill generously and proudly donated \$500 to Captain Mike Morrell and Fire Fighter Jamie Thornington of the Shelburne District Fire Fighters Association towards their Annual Toy And Food Drive and they are determined to help as many people as possible.

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**EVERYTHING HAS TO GO BY
January 15th, 2014**

Kindness after Christmas at Shelburne Town Pharmacy



PHOTO BY ALEX SHER

Shelburnites Rebecca Homewood, Debbie Skiffington and twin daughters Jessica and Jaymie, Bhavi Lekhi, Zumba With Rena, Zumba Instructor, Rena Rodrigues and daughter Sofia, Spiritual Intuitive, Linda Hart, and owner Shelburne Town Pharmacy, Sanjay Lekhi enjoy treats, laughter and mingling with the neighbours on December 27th during a Christmas out-door Drop In for the community to attend.

BY ALEX SHER

Shelburne Town Pharmacy has become an integral part of the community since opening for business earlier this year.

After hosting many customer and community appreciation teas and dinners, Shelburne Town Pharmacy's owner, Sanjay Lekhi and his wife Shalini hosted an outdoor treat for the community of Shelburne on December 27th from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

"I just wanted to extend that holiday spirit after Christmas. We thought we would show the community we appreciate them and of-

fer snacks to everyone especially following Christmas," commented Lekhi.

Concerned about the community and what happens when supplies run out, it was the Lekhi's idea to offer sustenance to everyone.

"Christmas really brings everyone together, and this is a great way to have people meet each other, share refreshments and get to know your neighbours," added Lekhi.

Going one step further, the event offered a draw to win prizes and other businesses were eager to contribute to their community as

well by donating prizes to be won.

Foodland, Debra Jones Natural Healing, Hands On Catering & Specialties, Giant Tiger, Mac's Convenience Store, Zumba with Rena and Your Inner Wisdom Services contributed donated prizes making this a community event 'for the community from the community' proving great things can happen when people work together.

Shelburne's Christmas programs were greatly appreciated and an important note to think about is the upcoming year ahead.

With kindness, thoughtfulness

and an effort the likes of this event at Shelburne Town Pharmacy, Shelburne once again proves community spirit is alive and well.

To quote Dorothy from The Wizard of Oz, "There is no place like home".

Shelburne Town Pharmacy and all the businesses who contributed to this community gathering wish to extend wishes of good tidings for the upcoming year.

For more information about Shelburne Town Pharmacy, upcoming classes and events call 519-306-0550 or visit www.shelburnetownpharmacy.ca

Your aging parents – what to look for during the holidays

When you are visiting with your aging parents this holiday season, keep an eye out for the following:

- How is their appetite? Any weight changes? Can they feed themselves properly? Can they prepare something to eat if they are hungry?
- How is their appearance and grooming? Do they look and smell "clean"?
- How is their mobility? Do they have difficulty walking, getting in and out of chairs, navigating stairs? How is their balance?
- Do they have irregular sleeping habits?
- How is their driving ability?
- Do they seem forgetful or confused? Mood swings?
- Have they ceased social activity? Have they lost interest in their hobbies? Do they seem lonely or isolated?
- Can they hear the telephone or the doorbell? How is their vision?

Three good places to start are 211 (dial 211 or go to www.211ontario.ca), Doorways to Care (1-866-626-0222), and www.central-healthline.ca. These services all link you to community health services. For more information go to www.chats.on.ca

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SHELBURNE SPORTS

Mc Atom Team Number 1 hit a holiday winning streak



PHOTOS BY BRIAN LOCKHART
EXHIBITION GAME FUN AND FAST PACED
 – The Shelburne Wolves Bantam LL1 and LL2 teams battle it out on the ice at the Centre Dufferin Recreation Complex in Shelburne. The two hometown teams played an exciting 60 minutes with the LL1 team leaving the ice with a 4–1 win.



Shelburne Minor Hockey Mc Atom Team Number 1 sponsored by Auto Center Dufferin played a week of jaw dropping, heart stopping up on your feet hockey.

The week began on December 7th with a puck drop at the Dundalk Arena where Atom 1 defeated the home team 8–2.

Taking to the road on December 12th to Collingwood will a hard earned 3–1 win, only to return to home ice on December 14th defeating Collingwood once again 7–3.

Then the teams winning streak continued on December 15th in Collingwood 3–2. Contrib-

uting to these wins were the “Mighty” Riley Mullins with 9 goals, the “Gentle but Get Out of My Way” Griffin St. Pierre with 8 goals, the “Cunning” Tucker Cunnington with one goal and 3 assists, with the “sleek” Mathew Simple and the “Charming” Tommy Drevininkas earning a goal each. Assists from the “Spunky” Mikaela Playford, “Sweet” Siara Alonso, “Care-free” Colter Adam-Lane, “Dynamic” Marisa Fernandes, “Digger” Mikey Drevininkas and the “Stronghold” Warren Swidersky.

Never to be forgotten for their amazing efforts offensively and defensively are the “Speedy”

Nicolas Carson Perdi, “Chatty” Carter Crouse and the “Lovely” Lauren Davidson and the “Fearless” Aidan Fernandes between the pipes.

As a result of the four game winning streak as promised the team buzzed their coached locks off after their third straight win. The great coaching staff consists of Tony Fernandes, Rudy Perdi, Ken Drevinikas and Nolan Newhook.

Merry Christmas from our Hockey Family to Yours
 Shelburne Wolves
 Mc Atoms 1

Wolves Bantam LL2 gear up for playoffs

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

The Shelburne Wolves Bantam LL2 team are banking on a strong 10–5 record going into the late season and preparing for a good playoff run.

The squad met the Bantam LL1 team on Saturday (Dec. 28) for some local action, but came up short with a 4–1 loss including a final empty netter when the squad put six attackers on the ice in a bid to get back in the game with only a couple of minutes left on the clock.

The squad played a solid game – especially in the first period – before taking a couple of goals in the second that gave them deficit.

With a good record on the plus side, coach Rob Newton has confidence that his team will do well in the coming weeks.

Newton said the teams “tenacity and willingness to forecheck” count among the team’s strengths.

“They’re a really cohesive group of kids,” he said. “I think we got tired as the game progress today. But it was a close game.”

As a team, they are well up in the standings

with a fourth place in the league.

“I think if we can win the next four out of five we’re in pretty good shape for the playoffs. We’ll come out with some new strategies. We did some changing up. We tried to get our forwards, the wingers, covering the points today, because the other Shelburne team was very good at shots from the point. I think we were

fairly effective on that. We’ll figure out something depending on our opponent in the playoffs.”

The Bantam LL2 team will be back on home ice at the Centre Dufferin Recreation Complex on January 11, to host the squad from Essex.

The first puck will drop at 3:35 p.m.

Muskies return this month – 4 home games left

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

The Shelburne Muskies Senior AA team will have to take it up a notch if they want to move up in the standings during the final stretch in the season.

With seven games left on the schedule, the Muskies are in the number seven spot in the North Division standings with eight points and a 4–12 record. Only the Lucknow Lancers have had a worse season – they are in the basement with seven points after 17 games.

The Muskies lost four of their six games in December, but they did have success with a 7–6 win over Elora Rocks on December 7, and a recent 6–3 win over the Lucknow Lancers on Friday, December 27.

In the points department, Tristan Fairbairn is leading the Shelburne squad followed by Blake

Lovell and Nick Hodgson.

In the North division of the WAAA, the Mapleton-Minto 81’s are in first place with 30 points and a 15–2 record for the season. Right behind with 28 points are the Saugeen Shores Winterhawks who have won 14 of 17 games and have 28 points. They are followed by the Elora Rocks in third place with 27 points and a 12–6 record including three overtime losses.

In the South division, the Tillsonburg Thunder are in the lead with 32 points, followed by the Tavistock Royals with 26 points and the Komoka Classics with 24 points.

The Muskies will be back on home ice at the Centre Dufferin Recreation Complex this Saturday, January 4, when they will host the Mapleton-Minto 81’s.

The puck drop is scheduled for 8 p.m.

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AUTOPRO



ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



Name: RILEY MULLISS
Team: SHELBURNE WOLVES ATOM LL1
Sport: HOCKEY
Position: FORWARD

For Shelburne Wolves Atom player Riley Mulliss, stepping out onto the ice with his team is a combination of a lot of fun and learning how to play the game with more skill.

“I’ve been playing hockey ever since I was three,” Riley said of his start in the game. “The coach thinks playing centre is my best spot.”

Riley said practice is also an important part of learning the game.

“We practice cross-overs, stick handling, and how to learn to get the puck out of our end.”

The best part of the game, he said, is “playing the game and scoring goals.”

The Grand Valley District Public School student hopes to continue his hockey career and move up through the ranks.

“I like the sport,” he said, “I’d like to play in the Canadian Hockey League.”

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The Shelburne Red Wings Junior “A” Hockey Club is looking for new billet houses to accommodate the teenage players from other countries, who are in Canada at the World Hockey Centre for a maximum of 6 months.

As a billet family you will receive \$550 per month. You will also gain free access to all the home games.

If you are interested please call Leslie Way
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COME CHEER ON THE TEAM!




Home Games Shelburne Arena

January 4th

Pewee LL1 vs Stayner #2.....10:30am - 11:35am
 Pewee Rep vs Elmvalle.....11:45am - 12:50pm
 Novice Rep vs Stayner.....1:00pm - 2:00pm
 Bantam LL1 vs Stayner.....2:10pm - 3:25pm
 Atom LL1 vs Collingwood #2.....3:35pm - 4:50pm

January 5th

Tyke LL3 vs Flesherton.....2:00pm - 3:05pm
 Atom Rep vs Georgian Shores.....3:15pm - 4:20pm
 Pewee Rep vs Stayner.....4:30pm - 5:35pm
 Bantam Rep vs Stayner.....5:45pm - 7:05pm
 Midget Rep vs Elmvalle.....7:15pm - 8:55pm

January 6th

Tyke LL2 vs Osprey.....7:00pm - 7:50pm
 Midget LL2 vs Essa.....8:00pm - 9:50pm

For complete schedule please visit
www.shelburneminorhockey.com
 (Schedule and game times are subject to change.)

Soil compaction “not irreversible”

BY WES KELLER

Soil compacted by turbine construction will return to normal within five or ten years, and the Honeywood silt loam soil at the disputed wind farm in Dufferin is not vital to potato production in Ontario, the Environmental Review Tribunal hearing on appeals of Dufferin Wind Power's Renewal Energy Approval has ruled in effect.

The tribunal also appeared to agree with expert proponent opinion that potatoes are “a common field crop” as opposed to a specialty crop. There was no evidence led on the existence of other vegetable crops in the area.

The decision on potential loss of farmland during construction and the life of the project appears to have been based on the existence of 45,000 acres of the Honeywood soil within Dufferin plus identical or similar soils elsewhere in the province.

The tribunal might have discounted evidence from David Vander Zaag to the effect that it's not only the soil but also the flat layout of the land and the absence of obstructions that combine to make potato production commercially profitable.

The Vander Zaag evidence was supported by Dufferin Federation of Agriculture president Leo Blydorp, and by expert witnesses Sam Squire and Michael Hoffman, the president of AgPlan Ltd.

It was countered by DWP's expert witness and agrologist Dr. Gregory Wall and by Alex Campbell who was qualified to give opinion evidence as a soil scientist with expertise in soil management. He appeared on behalf of the MOE Director and testified that any disruption to a soil surface as a result of construction will have some negative impact on the soil and crops grown, but that within five years or less crop yield rebounds and production levels are no longer affected.

Mr. Vander Zaag owns and operates D & C Vander Zaag Farms Ltd., an 800-acre enterprise in Melancthon. He did not appear as a witness qualified as “an expert,” but only as a person involved in the production of potatoes, among other things.

His opinion included testimony that DWP would be “located on a 15,000 acre contiguous block of Honeywood silt loam called the Honeywood Plateau, which he stated provides some of the most valuable potato production in Ontario. Mr. Vander Zaag believes the Honeywood Plateau is special and rare, and says that ‘the very unique natural attributes which make this land and landscape so special will be forever altered’ if the Project proceeds as planned,” the Dec. 23 ERT decision notes.

It also notes Mr. Vander Zaag's statement that efficient vegetable production requires “long straight flat fields for the operation of large and wide mechanical equipment. “He said that obstructions, including laneways and ‘fenced 125 square metre blocks’, seriously affect normal farming practices.”

Mr. Vander Zaag agreed that he has removed buildings and remediated the soil, mainly because the building was in the way of a central pivot. “However, he testified that the remediated soil is not the same as the surrounding soil, as the topsoil has been spread out thinly over top and now dries out faster.”

Sam Squire, admitted as an expert for the appellants, testified that the soil conditions required for potato cultivation are sandy loam/loam, well drained, stone-free, flat, and loose soil. He stated that all growers agree that potato land is in short supply. A field planted with potatoes should be in a three year rotation, so it is not used to grow potatoes for two out of three years.

Mr. Hoffman testified that there would be “serious and irreversible damage” to the lands affected by construction and thereafter by the compaction, the mixing of soils and aggregates from road construction and the presence of tower bases after decommissioning, among other things.

The area affected would be 427 hectares during construction and 19 ha for the life of the project, he said, but Dr. Wall calculated 110 ha during construction.

According to Mr. Hoffman's calculations, Dufferin's potato production amounts to 16% of the provincial total. On the basis of acreage under cultivation, the Dufferin average exceeds that of Simcoe County.

He was challenged by DWP as he had been involved in a study of rehabilitation of gravel pits for the MOE in 1985, and the study had concluded that pits could be restored to tender fruit production.

He responded to the challenge by saying that the study did not conclude that the restored land would provide the same outputs with the same inputs.

Data on loss of 18% of Class 1 farmland in Ontario was not in dispute. However, experts for DWP disputed the appellants' motivation, saying that they were arguing for protection of commercial potato operations.

Shelburne gets failing grades on capital funding

BY WES KELLER

From a political point of view, Shelburne's provincially mandated Asset Management Plan (AMP) probably couldn't have come at a worse time than at the start of an election year, but Treasurer Carol Sweeney says the plan is “not as bad as it really looks.”

Based on the town's position as it existed in 2012, the plan makes it appear that Shelburne needs to set aside or spend \$801,000 annually on paved roads, bridges, culverts and storm sewers – or \$574,000 a year more than the \$227,000 it does now.

From a different perspective, Shelburne's current annual tax revenue is about \$4.3-million. “Without consideration of any additional source of revenue, full funding would require an increase of 13.2 per cent over time,” the re-

port says.

There were similar results for all classifications based on 2012. Expressed as percentages of long-term requirements, the town was investing only 28 per cent of its requirement for roads and storm sewers and 41 per cent for sanitary sewers in 2012.

The AMP found that the town in 2012 was falling short of its \$1,098,000 requirement for sanitary and water services by \$646,000. But for 2013 it is covering all but \$38,000 of the requirement.

The plan is expected to be updated prior to the town's 2015 budget, and annually thereafter.

A continuation of under-spending in all categories would have meant funding future capital renewal projects by borrowing plus provincial/federal infrastructure

grants, whereas the provincial aim of the required AMP is at forcing Ontario municipalities to avoid future debt financing, for infrastructure.

For the immediate future, it is apparent that municipalities cannot hope to succeed in grant applications if they do not have their AMPs in place.

Ms. Sweeney said, however, that Shelburne did foresee what the AMP – prepared by consultant Public Sector Digest Inc. – would reveal and did begin preparing for it by doing much of what is recommended in the plan even before the consultant drafted it.

Now the capital funding future doesn't appear as gloomy as the AMP depicts it.

In 2011, Shelburne embarked on renewal of sewer and water mains on Jane and Marie streets,

a \$1.6-million undertaking. The town's share of costs was paid via a 5-year loan at \$263,000 a year.

Ms. Sweeney said the loan would be paid off “in a couple of years,” and the money would be used instead to reduce the tax-funded infrastructure deficit.

The consultant recommends “increasing rate revenues by 3.7% for sanitary sewers and 3.1% for water services each year for the next 10 years solely for the purpose of phasing in full funding.” Thereafter, any increases would be tied to the inflate index.

If the plan is followed, Ms. Sweeney says, full funding would be achieved in 10 years.

The full 71-page plan is available on the town's website, along with a letter-grade assigned to each category for the state of infrastructure funding in 2012.



PHOTO BY ALEX SHER

DUFFERIN WIND POWER AND MORTENSON CONSTRUCTION GO THE EXTRA MILE IN SUPPORT OF SHELburne COMMUNITY! – As donations to the Christmas Hamper Program came to a close, generous contributors from Dufferin Wind Power and construction partner, Mortenson Construction arrived at the Mel Lloyd Centre in a brightly decorated truck wrapped up like a Christmas present where they met with the Christmas Hamper Program Volunteer Co-ordinator, Lynn Topping. Pictured, from left: Dufferin Wind Power Project Manager Michelle Sage, Administrative Assistant at Mortenson Construction's Canadian Office, Lisa Alveras, and Mortenson Construction's Brittany Singer happily and proudly make donation to the Christmas Hamper Volunteer Co-ordinator, Lynn Topping.



PHOTO BY ALEX SHER

GENEROSITY WARMS HEARTS EVEN IN COLD WEATHER AS DUFFERIN WIND AND MORTENSON CONSTRUCTION MAKE LARGE DONATION TO THE CHRISTMAS HAMPER PROGRAM ON DECEMBER 18TH – From left, back row: Dufferin Wind Power Project Manager, Michelle Sage, Civil Superintendent for Mortenson's Construction, Eddie Gazzola, Volunteer Co-ordinator of the Christmas Hamper Program, Lynn Topping, Administrative Assistant for Mortenson's Canadian Office Lisa Alveras, Mortenson Constructions, Brittany Singer. From left, front row: Shelburne Lions Club Volunteers, Lawrie Rutledge, Shirley Brown, and Bob Grime were on hand to begin the arduous task of sorting and organizing all donations.

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We will be looking at the moon
and seeing you forever in our hearts
XXX

Love from Alex, John, Rob Karen.



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Turbines not a serious threat to bats: ERT

BY WES KELLER

After hearing from six biologists, other experts and several lay presenters, the Environmental Review Tribunal has ruled that, although some bats have been killed in collisions with wind turbine blades, the permitted mortality numbers are not great enough to pose irreversible damage to the eight bat species found locally.

The tribunal evidently relied on a permitted mortality rate of 10 per turbine per season, and that mitigating measures would be undertaken if that

were exceeded. In the hearing, biologist Dr. Robert Barclay disputed "10" as being arbitrary rather than scientific, but Dr. Scott Reynolds testified that the 10 limit is a "reasonable threshold."

But the tribunal notes that Dr. Barclay stated that 10 per turbine amounts to 490 bats allowed to be killed per year at this Project without mitigation "The number represents several entire maternity colonies for the Little Brown Myotis."

Dr. Barclay's argument was that even if the DWP project

equated to the Melancthon Wind Farm in bat mortality, 78 would die. "He testified that, with the population having been devastated by WNS (white-nose syndrome), 78 bats deaths/year at one project could have a significant impact on the entire population."

In other evidence, it transpired that most bat deaths are not of resident species but of migratory. Migratory routes, however, remained in dispute. Evidently the science has not caught up with the bats.

The tribunal released its

decision on the appeals of Dufferin Wind Power's Renewable Energy Approval last Monday, Dec. 23. The decision with respect to bats was based on whether the project would negatively impact habitat, the extent to which there would be collision mortality and how that would affect future populations, and how the turbines would impact endangered species.

The importance of bats to the ecosystem as insectivores was not in dispute. "Each bat eats approximately half its body weight in insects, each night," the tribunal said.

The biologists were also agreed on how the bats live. There are three migratory species that roost in trees while here, and five resident that roost in colonies in the summer and hibernate "in caves, mines and some in old buildings" over winter.

There was no dispute that bat populations have been dwindling in recent years. But there was evidence that the fungus known as White-nose Syndrome (WNS) has been most responsible. Of one devastated species, the tribunal found, "estimates are that 80 to 90% of the Little Brown Myotis species has been killed from WNS in the past few years."

Of bats killed by turbine collisions, the tribunal found that "migratory bats make up the highest percentage of bat deaths due to wind turbines across Canada, and 80% of such deaths across North America. Most are killed in Canada during the fall migration from late July to September. Little is known about migratory bat species, and in particular their migratory routes."

According to expert evi-

dence, it appeared that the wind project would not affect habitat, nor would collision deaths exceed guidelines, and also that mitigating measures could be effective. The major risk was to the migratory species.

"The Tribunal received relatively little in the way of submissions and evidence with respect to migratory bats. There is no requirement in the REA application process to assess bat migratory pathways and stopover areas.

"The Director says that this is because it is currently not possible to monitor them. The evidence established that migratory bats are the most at risk from wind turbines, and are also more abundant than hibernating bats.

The Tribunal notes that they are not listed under the ESA. The responding parties' evidence was that the Project area would not be a significant migratory pathway, and that monitoring of other projects in the area indicates that mortality to migratory bats will be low.

"Based on the evidence before it, the Tribunal finds that the Appellants have not shown that the Project will cause serious and irreversible harm to migratory bats," the tribunal said in its decision.

With respect to other animals, the tribunal relied on evidence from wildlife ecologist Dr. Dale Strickland, who appeared on behalf of DWP, and ruled that no substantive evidence had been submitted to counter his expert opinion.

Roselyn Bovaird had testified that she had observed harm to animal life on her property and in the region, "in addition to bats. These include snapping turtles and painted turtles," the tribunal noted.

As well, there had allegedly been a sighting of a Blanding's turtle but the report had not been confirmed, although there had allegedly been photos taken of the endangered turtle.

But "Dr. Strickland testified that the Project data suggests there are very few turtles present. In his view there is very little potential turtle habitat in the Project area.

"The Records Review Report identified that snapping turtles may exist within the Project area, and one was seen during the site investigation. Dr. Strickland testified, however, that there is no significant snapping turtle habitat based on MNR criteria," the tribunal says.

The decision does note that snapping turtles are "a special concern species under the ESA" (Endangered Species Act), they may also be harvested in Ontario with a valid fishing license.

There were painted turtles observed in the project area, but "they are considered a common and secure species and have a healthy population in Ontario.

"Dr. Strickland testified there is no significant painted turtle habitat in the Project area according to MNR criteria," and both the Dillon Consulting studies and Dr. Strickland's expert opinion are to the effect that there is "no significant turtle habitat" and it's highly unlikely that there is or will be a presence of Blanding's now or in the future.

"In conclusion, the Tribunal finds that the Appellants have not established that engaging in the Project as approved will cause serious and irreversible harm to plant life, animal life or the natural environment," the decision states.



PHOTO BY ALEX SHER

WHEN YOU'RE IN LOVE, IT LOOKS LIKE THIS – Don Parsons and his wife Joyce work at Shelburne's Trillium Ford Lincoln Ltd. as drivers. Married 13 years, the couple are still smitten! Clearly they wish everyone could be as they are. Photographed recently at a Company Christmas gathering, the sheer joy expressed in the Parsons' faces, will surely bring them many more happily married years to come.

Dipping into the past...

150 YEARS AGO
 • From The Sun, Orangeville:

Thursday, December 24, 1863

In consequence of the absence of our editor there is a paucity of editorial matter in our issue of this week. We shall endeavor to make up for this deficiency at a future time.

The By-Law incorporating the village of Orangeville and annexing it to the County of Wellington received the assent of the Council of the County of Wellington on Tuesday last. The election of Councillors for the village will therefore take place on Monday the 4th prox.

MONO AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY – We are requested to state that a meeting of the members of the above Society will be held at Mr. Kelly's Hotel in this place at 2 o'clock on Thursday January 7 for the purpose of electing officers for the current year, and transacting other business of importance. A full attendance is solicited.

DEATH OF LORD ELGIN – The rumored demise of Lord Elgin, which appeared in our last issue, has since been confirmed. Sir John Lawrence has been appointed his successor as Governor-General of India. Lord Elgin died of dropsy in the heart, in the fifty-second

year of his age. He is the third on the list of remarkable men who, after having governed India with transcendent brilliancy, and success, have been removed without having an interval granted them to repose in the greatness they had achieved. Lords Dalhousie, Canning and Elgin were about the same age; they were all at college together, and entered public life about the same time.

SERIOUS ACCIDENT – On Friday last, a young man by the name of Wm. Regan, while attending a thrashing machine at Mr. Canning's, in the township of Mono, got his arm fearfully lacerated by being caught in the cylinder of the machine, and his thigh broken by becoming entangled with the shaft. It is almost a miracle that he was not killed on the spot, as we are informed that he was violently thrown four times around the tumbling shaft. Dr. Hewat of Orangeville who was immediately sent for, amputated his arm, and under his care, we are glad to hear that the young man is doing well. This should be a warning to those engaged about machinery to be more careful for the future.

THE WAR NEWS – The war news is very meager. The latest news from Virginia does

not indicate any change of importance in the state of affairs there. Mosby's guerillas have recently made a raid in the vicinity of Fairfax Court House, doing much damage. The report that Gen. Meade will shortly be superseded in the command of the army of the Potomac is contradicted. He will be continued in his command through the winter.

An affray took place in Durham on Friday night in which Mr. S.L.M. Luke, editor and proprietor of the Durham Standard, shot a Mr. S. Barnes of the same place. Luke has since been committed to take his trial for murder.

THE CANADA FARMER – We have received from the publisher the prospectus of a new agricultural paper to be published under the above title on the 1st and 15th of each month. The services of an efficient editor and staff of writers and reporters have been secured. The paper will also be illustrated with first-class engravings, and we cannot doubt will be found worthy of the support of all who feel an interest in the advancement of the agricultural interests of Canada. It will be published by Mr. Geo. Brown of Toronto at the low price of one dollar per annum, in advance.

Thursday, December 31,

1863
THE NEW YEAR – The merry Christmas holidays are now passing away, and another year, with all its new hopes and high aspirations, is at hand. The country has seldom been in a position to bid the old year adieu, or enter upon the new with more favorable auguries of material and social prosperity than at present. A bountiful harvest, safely gathered, fills the land with plenty; and while neighboring nations are suffering from civil wars or foreign oppression, Canada enjoys the blessings of profound peace and tranquility. We have much cause for congratulation, but in the fullness of our prosperity may be the measure of our gratitude and thankfulness for the blessings we enjoy, never grow less, and may each succeeding new year be a happy one to our friends, and patrons, and to all.

THE MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS – The first election of councillors for this village will take place on Monday, the candidates being Messrs. F.C. Stewart, W.E. Thompson, T. Jull, F. Irwin, J. May, W. Armstrong, W.S. Hewat, and S.H. McKittrick. Of these, Messrs. Stewart, Jull, Armstrong and May have at different times served as councillors in Mono and Garafraxa, and have their past services to recommend them to public favor. The other candidates are, however,

well qualified for the office, and if they have not public services to recommend them, they have undisputed merit and success in their respective businesses. Between the candidates, there is very little to choose, and any five of them will make as good a Council as any municipality need desire.

The candidates for Mono are Messrs. Geo. McManus, John Avison, Thos. Elder, Samuel Hall, Geo. Little and Wm. Campbell. The first four served in the Council this year, and appear to have given general satisfaction. We have no doubt they will be re-elected. There will, however, be a close contest between Messrs. Little and Campbell, but the former, we believe, will be returned.

SCHOOL EXAMINATION – The quarterly examination of the pupils attending Bythia Street school took place in the school room on Thursday last, in the presence of a large number of the parents and guardians of the children. The examination, which was principally conducted by the teacher, Mr. Geo. Brunt, was very satisfactory. The several classes acquitted themselves in a manner creditable alike to their own industry and the efforts of their worthy instructor. In reading, arithmetic, grammar, geography and history, the pupils evinced a marked improvement since the last examination, and answered the

questions asked them with surprising readiness. After several classes had been heard, the judges awarded prizes to those meriting them, and the examination closed with their distribution among the scholars.

PROPOSED GRAVEL ROAD AND TRAMWAY – It appears to us that a more important subject cannot be brought before the public in this section than the construction of a gravel road and tramway from the village to some point on the Grand Trunk Railway. Many suggestions might unquestionably be made to forward and achieve an object so desirable, but that which seems to us the most reasonable and sensible, is the organization of a joint stock company with a subscribed capital of about \$60,000. This sum, according to the calculations of a gentleman experienced in such matters, would be sufficient to complete the excavating, grading and gravelling of the road, and laying of a substantial tramway side by side with it.... The traffic on the tramway would be immense and increasing every year, and the great loads which a span of horses would be able to draw on it would, it is apprehended, render it a cheap medium for the transportation of produce, merchandise and other commodities....

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NEWS FROM THE CHURCHES

Crossroads Community Church

The evening was brimming with excitement and anticipation to celebrate the "Reason for the Season". The smiles on everyone's faces and the many hugs exchanged ushered us into God's presence.

The evening began with the Open Arms Sunday School presentation of Joseph and Mary singing "Away in a Manger" then the shepherds joined in with "Oh Come All Ye Faithful". The festive mood was set and the worship was exuberant with many favorite carols. Pastor Don, Bob and Barb gave us a light hearted drama skit on meeting with an Angel declaring the Birth of Jesus. Pastor Don then proceeded to light the Advent candles of Hope, Faith, Love, Joy and the culminating candle of Jesus Christ, the Light of the World. Our hearts were warm and jubilant ready to receive God's message....

Pastor Don humbly came forth and prayed; "Lord open our hearts and minds to the true meaning of Christmas, your Son Jesus and let Him shine through us for the world to see, Amen."

Then he began, "Have you ever

missed the Bus?" My wife every Christmas Eve picks up her brother from Orangeville, but he takes the bus from Brampton. Last year however he missed the bus, Barb had to go down to Brampton to get him. I think when it comes to Christmas, many of us miss the bus so to speak, amidst all the preparations, shopping and cooking it is quite easy to miss the miracle of Christmas, the Baby in the manger.

Even in the Christmas story, there are some who missed the miracle that is Baby Jesus; the inn keeper who said there was no room because Bethlehem was overcrowded due to the census taking procedure.

Do you think if the inn keeper had known it was God that was about to be born that he would have made room for Mary and Joseph? Other Characters who missed who baby Jesus was are the wise men and King Herod; the wise men who studied signs and prophecies had followed a star that lead them to King Herod and inquired about a New King to be Born, but did they know this Baby was the Son

of God? And Herod hearing of this did he even know that this new king was God himself?

King Herod was more concerned about losing his throne to a competitor and giving up the life he had. Another group of people who missed who Baby Jesus was are the religious teachers; although they had great knowledge of scripture and upheld the laws of Moses, they missed that Jesus was Immanuel; God with them, the long awaited Messiah. They had read of how the messiah would be born in Bethlehem, they knew he would be special and that he would save them, but their idea of salvation was not through a helpless babe in a manger. They were more concerned about their pious reputations and accomplishments than recognizing baby Jesus as the Son of God, they lacked the humility to see they needed a savior like everyone else.

So let us stop and ponder, Are we like the inn keeper, too busy with worldly things to see Jesus, are we like the wise men who trust in their intellect more than God's wisdom or are we like King Herod afraid

of what we have to give up or lose by acknowledging Baby Jesus as the Son of God? Are we like the religious leaders indifferent to our need to be forgiven and ignorant of God's salvation?

Beloved this Christmas let us not miss the bus, let us not shut our ears and eyes to the miracle that is Baby Jesus, He was born to save us all from our own sins, He came to be our light, to guide and lead us. Let us open our hearts so He can make himself at home with us so he can shine His love to a world in desperate need of Him, and receive Jesus as our Lord and Savior, "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life," John 3:16.

As we quietly sing Silent Night, let us light our candles symbolizing Jesus, "For He is light and in Him there is no darkness".

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, Asherey Shalom!

Thankfulness metre check

Did you finish your list? No - not that one which you might have made for the guy who, according to a well known song is supposedly "checking it twice!" I am referring to the "gift to yourself list." It's also your "list to God." It's the list where you write down all of those many blessings for which you are thankful but may not often take much time to think about because they are taken for granted! And then there are the "special blessings" that warm your heart when you think of them. Truly, regardless of your circumstances, there is always much for which you can and should feel overwhelmingly blessed. It all depends on your focus and your thankfulness metre.

Now, there are probably some among the readers of this article who are not quite in sync with the spirit and tune of "Deck the halls with boughs of holly, fa la la la la, la la la la. 'Tis the season to be jolly fa la la la la, la la la la!" Their holly has wilted, their jolly's gotten lost, and their fa la's have been somewhat off key and decidedly flat.

Some who are in sync might feel badly and might be hiding their jolly thoughts for fear of making others feel even worse about their unfortunate situations - job losses, poor health, deaths in the past year, financial stress and struggles, rebellious children, plans that didn't go as expected - you know, the seemingly "usual" fare these days if you listen to the news and read the newspapers. I personally don't listen often to the news because it can surely suck you into a black hole and I really am not fond of groping around in the dark!

If you focus on the darkness, it seems darkness is all you can see. It is better to focus on the Light of the world - the Lord Jesus Christ. As we focus on Him the darkness will become less. As we carry His light with us, He will illuminate the way for us and others as well, with enough light for one step at a time. How do we follow that light? One way is to focus on what you do have, and not on what you don't have; on what you can do and not what you can't; on the blessings of

the moment and hour and not the trials of yesterday; on what God has done for you and not on what you think He should have done for you. As you so focus, you will be able to be at peace, even in the storms of life. You will be able to take the next step, in faith that God is with you, lighting each step of the way.

As Christmas is upon us and 2013 will quickly draw to a close, I encourage you to give yourself a big Christmas/New Year present. Yes, you got that right. Give yourself a present!

Get a large sheet of paper and a pen you like to write with that is comfortable to hold because you will need to use it for a while. Turn on some pleasant music, and put your mind and heart into "thankfulness mode". Then, start writing down everything for which you are thankful in general, for special blessings during this past year, and for special blessings and people in your life. Use point form or sentences. Don't forget to be thankful for the measure of strength and health granted to you to be able to do what you do! You might make a rough draft over many days. Even write down blessed memories you will cherish forever of one who has gone on to eternity. When you honestly can't think of one more entry, write your "gift list" on good paper and put it in a spot where you will find it regularly throughout the new year and for years to come as a precious gift to yourself, ready to be opened and savoured over and over again.

As a gift to others, make it a project to let each person appearing on your list know within 2014

how thankful you are for them and why! As the old hymn says, "Count your many blessings, name them one by one, and it will surprise you what the Lord has done Count your many blessings; see what God hath done!" As you write, be sure to watch your thankfulness metre rise.

There is a wonderful story about an artist who painted "peace." The author, Beit Kjos, wrote about the painting, "A tumultuous waterfall cascaded down a rocky precipice; the crowd could almost feel its cold, penetrating spray. Stormy-gray clouds threatened to explode with lightning, wind and rain. In the midst of the thundering noises and bitter chill, a spindly tree clung to the rocks at the edge of the falls. One of its branches reached out in front of the torrential waters as if foolishly seeking to experience its full power. A little bird had built a nest in the elbow of that branch. Content and undisturbed in her stormy surroundings, she rested on her eggs. With her eyes closed and her wings ready to cover her little ones, she manifested peace that transcends all earthly turmoil".

No matter what comes your way in 2014, may you find that Jesus lights your path, one step at a time, and if ever you cannot see the light because of the storms, may you rest in the peace of God that transcends all earthly turmoil.

By the way, get into the habit of frequently checking the state of your thankfulness metre!

Pastor Maxine McLellan
Co-Pastor at Grace Church of the Nazarene in Shelburne

CHRISTADELPHIANS
THOUGHT OF THE WEEK

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

The past cannot be regained, although we can learn from it; the future is not yet ours even though we must plan for it.
- Charles Hummel

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ.
- Titus 2:11-13

Please visit us at: www.shelburnechristadelphians.ca

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With
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Candice Parachin leading worship

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Service starts at 10.00 am Sunday, January 5th, 2014
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PHOTO BY ALEX SHER
AHH! SHOPPING COMPLETED! - These three young ladies enjoy a twenty year old friendship and met just before Christmas at Jelly Craft Bakery & Cafe to kick their feet up in celebration upon finishing up all their Christmas Shopping. Although the three were laughing, chatting, and enjoying each other's company, they were quick to point out, although they were definitely enjoying themselves, 'they were absolutely not gossiping!'. Only two days before Christmas, long time friends, Margaret Tupling, Irene Irwin, and Liz Dubroy (pictured above from left) enjoyed well deserved refreshments and cakes in celebration of their Christmas Shopping being done.