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DON'T FORGET YOUR WELLIES – Several heavy snowfalls over the last couple of weeks were followed by warm weather and rain last Saturday. The rain, coupled with water from the melting snow banks caused excessive amounts of water in certain neighborhoods in Shelburne where deep puddles formed at the ends of driveways, sidewalks and on the roads. Slippery conditions from wet, slushy snow made walking on the sidewalks a treacherous journey in some areas.

PHOTO BY EMILY WOOD

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Survey distances vary on turbine setback

BY WES KELLER

Scott Funston, a Melancthon non-participating resident in proximity to Dufferin Wind Power Turbines T7 and T8, says he has surveys proving that T7 is less than 550 metres from his home.

But DWP says that “all turbines in the project are in compliance with the minimum setback of 550m,” and that it has sent Mr. Funston aerial maps showing that T7 has been measured at 562 metres, and T8 at 567m.

Mr. Funston says he has a Van Harten survey showing the centre of his house as 548.2 metres from the centre of Turbine T7, which would be 1.8 metres short of 550. He said he considers that the attached garage should be considered as part of the residence.

The 548.2 measurement included the garage as part of the residence.

Rebecca Crump, director of development for DWP, however, said on Tuesday that the Ministry of Environment requires setback distances to be measured from the centre of the living space.

As well, she said, there are two distances surveyed: ground level for setback distance; and, for sound, from a 4.5-metre elevation at centre of living space to the turbine’s nacelle.

Ms. Crump said the ground level measurement is between 551 and 552 metres, whereas the elevated one is 562 – similarly to the base and hypotenuse of a triangle.

In an earlier response, Connie Roberts of DWP emailed that, “The layout of the Dufferin Wind Farm was carefully scrutinized by the Ministry of the Environment, and based on precise measurements using Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM) Co-ordinates, the wind farm layout was approved. UTM measurements are the industry standard and a requirement of the MOE.”

“In addition, the Ministry of the Environment has responded to Mr. Funston’s concerns and has found the project to be in compliance with minimum setback requirements.”

“On November 29th, Gary Tomlinson from the Ministry of Environment visited Turbine 7 and Turbine 8, used a GPS to measure the area, took those measurements back to the MOE to match them with the UTM measurements and deemed them accurate as presented in the project plan,” Ms. Roberts said Jan. 8.

In a phone interview Friday, Mr. Funston denied that he had ever received the maps referred to by Ms. Roberts.

He acknowledged that Mr. Tomlinson had attended to confirm the surveys; however, he said, Mr. Tomlinson used only a hand-held GPS device to do so.

Not satisfied with the outcome, Mr. Funston hired Van Harten, the firm that had completed the original DWP surveys, to complete another one.

This time, with the turbine base poured and part of the tower erected, he said the Van Harten survey showed a setback of 548.2 metres between his residence and Turbine T7 whereas, he said, the original design setback had been 556.5 metres.

Does a shortage of 1.8 metres in setback make any real difference? “I don’t care if it’s only a metre or less, it’s still not (in compliance),” Mr. Funston responded.

Here, in part, is Ms. Crump’s follow-up email response to questions about survey variations:

“Dufferin Wind Power’s professional survey teams have carefully surveyed and checked the location of each turbine with high-accuracy survey equipment. The survey process is meticulous and is performed a number of times throughout the construction process to ensure accuracy. The Ministry of the Environment (MOE) has also been actively field-verifying the turbine locations on an ongoing basis to ensure compliance with provincial permitting.”

“Measurements can vary depending upon the type of equipment used, the experience of the person taking the measurement, and where these measurements are actually being taken. A key issue in the case of Mr. Funston is that he believes that his vehicle garage should be included in the measurement and provincial rules do not included non-living spaces into the calculation. “Both Dufferin

Wind Power and the MOE have reconfirmed that Mr. Funston’s property is outside of the required setback.

“From the centre of Mr. Funston’s Home to the centre of the turbine foundation, the ground level distance has been measured at between 551 and 552 metres.

“However, sound measurements are determined differently. They are taken at 4.5 metres above ground for a two-story home (from the centre of the home) in a straight line, up to the nacelle of the turbine, where sound is generated. This straight line distance is 562 metres.

“The project’s noise modeling is very conservative to ensure full compliance with provincial regulations. Dufferin Wind has confirmed that even with the MOE’s updated measurement, Mr. Funston’s property remains in full compliance with the noise regulations.

“Of the many receptors within the project area, there is a very small number that are close to the minimum setback limit and survey teams have confirmed the measurements.

“Individuals with concerns about setbacks can first contact Dufferin Wind for further information. Individuals may also contact the Ministry of the Environment (MOE) for further information and to request that their setbacks be confirmed,” Ms. Crump concluded in part.

Family Literacy Day Jan. 27th

Every year on January 27, Family Literacy Day encourages families to participate in literacy-related activities together. Started by ABC Life Literacy Canada in 1999, Family Literacy Day is celebrated each year with thousands of activities and events across the country in homes, schools, learning centres and literacy organizations.

“When learning is valued and practiced every day at home, family time can be full of teachable moments that build the bonds between parents and children,” said Gillian Mason, President of ABC Life Literacy Canada.

This year’s Family Literacy Day theme, 15 Minutes of Fun, promotes the importance of parents making time every day for learning with their children, enjoying reading and other learning activities together. By spending at least 15 minutes a day, parents can make a huge difference to the development of their child’s literacy skills, and can help improve their own skills as well.

“Parents are a child’s first and best teacher,” says Gillian Mason, President of ABC Life Literacy Canada. “When learning is valued and practiced every day at home, family time can be full of teachable moments that build the bonds between parents and children.”

The Family Literacy Day website www.familyliteracyday.ca includes storytelling tips, games, events, articles, the HSBC Learning Activity Centre and lots of other family literacy resources.

Every day should be a day for learning together as a family, because Family Literacy Day is not just for one day a year on January 27. To make a real difference to children’s learning, Family Literacy Day is every day.

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FEATURED ITEMS

Expires Jan. 23, 2014. Photos displayed may be different from actual items.

The cold of winter

Snowflakes

Snowflakes spill from heaven's hand
 Lovely and chaste like smooth white sand.
 A veil of wonder laced in light
 Falling gently on a winters night.
 Graceful beauty raining down
 Giving magic to the lifeless ground.
 Each snowflake like a falling star
 Smiling beauty that's spun afar.
 Till the earth is dressed in a robe of white
 Unspoken poem the hush of night.
 ~ Linda A. Copp ~

BY JUDITH ROGERS

Doesn't a poem like this make winter more bearable and create an appreciation for the beauty of snow?

Snowflakes form inside a cloud when droplets of water freeze around tiny particles of dust, salt, bacteria or some other substance. These icy specs bump into other crystals and freeze together eventually making the flake so heavy that it begins to fall toward the ground. Snow appears to be white because visible sunlight is white and snow crystals reflect this light.

When the ground has a thick layer of fresh fluffy snow, sound waves are absorbed at the surface of the snow. If the surface becomes smooth and hard as it ages or from strong winds then the surface will actually help reflect sound waves and sounds may be clearer and travel further.

This winter the deep snow held a secret, one that would reveal itself when the weather plummeted well into the minus temperatures of freezing. For the first time in decades, we experienced "frost quakes" or cryoseisms. These are rare, localized seismic events that occur when a sudden drop in temperature freezes the groundwater which then expands and cracks the soil and rock. The crack will release a sudden burst of explosive energy resulting in a loud noise and the shaking of the ground. They usually happen between midnight and dawn.

Around Christmas, many people heard a boom, or several of them accompanied by their house shaking. It was as though a car or plane had crashed into homes resulting in a scary feeling of the unknown. Within a couple of days, the cryoseisms subsided and left the frozen ground silent once again.

The extreme cold weather may prove to be a powerful weapon against invasive species.

Emerald ash borers first arrived in 2002 on wood pallets from China and we're all aware of the devastation they've created on millions of ash trees in North America. Studies suggest the temperature must drop to minus 30 degrees Fahrenheit to achieve mortality and with the cold we've had so far, scientists and foresters are hopeful there will be an effective die-off of the borer and other invasive insects. Perhaps not a widespread success but enough to try and balance the ecosystem.

We're Canadian, and bred to tough out whatever Old Man Winter throws our way. However, if you're not into outdoor sports like me, I like to watch the big fluffy snowflakes swirl and dance from the cozy, warm indoors while my mind drifts off to plans for the garden in spring.

Ban on incandescent light bulbs not yet in full effect



PHOTO BY EMILY WOOD

LIGHTS OUT – It's lights out for the incandescent bulb...or at least it will be. As of January 1, 2014, 100 watt and 75 watt incandescent bulbs, the cheapest option on the market, are no longer being manufactured. Energy efficient options like the above compact fluorescent lamp (CFL) (right), halogen bulbs and LED lights are the alternative, meeting newly enforced standards for energy efficiency.

BY EMILY WOOD

There are exceptions to every rule, including the recent ban on incandescent light bulbs that kicked in January 1.

Talk of the new standards for having only energy efficient lighting options available on the market has had people buzzing, but the shift is nothing new. In fact, the decision to eliminate incandescent light bulbs was made in 2008.

But by November 2011 the Government of Canada decided to extend the timeline, allowing more time for the market to prepare for any changes the new standards would bring, as well as provide some time for new innovations that could provide more options for consumers. The delay was also intended as a chance for consumers to get used to other lighting options.

The energy efficient options must use 28 per cent less electricity than traditional bulbs to meet standards.

As of January 1, 2014 100 watt and 75 watt incandescent light bulbs can no longer be manufactured. However, any manufactured prior to January 1 can be distributed and sold in Canada, so you may still see those bulbs on store shelves for some time.

Lower wattage bulbs will not be effected until the end of the year. 60 watt and 40 watt incandescent bulbs will be phased out as of December 31, 2014, at which time the new standards will apply to those lower wattages as well, and manufacturing more of the products will be prohibited. 60 watt and 40 watt bulbs are most commonly found in households.

The United States government implemented these same standards

for energy efficient lighting in 2012. By the end of this year Canada and U.S. standards will be the same.

Natural Resources Canada says the reason for these new standards are an attempt at cutting back on the amount of energy used, therefore reducing greenhouse gas emissions and smog, as well as saving Canadians money. Their website states that Canadians spent \$163 billion on energy in 2010.

But perhaps the biggest concern among consumers is the higher cost of energy efficient bulbs, as compared to the incandescent bulbs. Natural Resources Canada says lighting accounts for 10 per cent of electricity use in the home. Energy efficient bulbs last as long or longer than traditional bulbs, their website states, and uses less electricity, both factors that would save money long term.

Currently there are three kinds of energy efficient light bulbs available on the market, CFL (compact fluorescent lamps), LED (light emitting diodes) and halogen.

However, some incandescent bulbs do not have an energy efficient counter part and will not be subject to the new standards. The most common exempted include oven and appliance lights, decorative lamps, chandeliers and utility bulbs.

Utility bulbs, also known as rough service bulbs are similar to traditional bulbs but are more robust, meant to sustain vibrations. They are typically used in barns, garages and workplaces, and are still for sale as normal.

A full list of exemptions can be found on the website for Natural Resources Canada, at www.nrcan.gc.ca.

There are also health concerns with the fluorescent bulbs (CFLs) which do contain mercury.

"One type of efficient light bulb, the CFL, does have a small amount of mercury – less than would fit on the tip of a pen," states the Natural Resources Canada website.

As with batteries and thermometers, there is no risk of exposure if the bulb is not broken. But exposure to mercury can have adverse effects, and even small amounts must be treated with care.

"At higher concentrations, mercury vapour can cause damage to the mouth, respiratory tract and lungs, and can lead to death from respiratory failure," reads the Health Canada website.

"There is no risk to your health when the lamps are unbroken," states the Government of Canada website. "Even when a CFL is broken, there is very low risk to your health, unless you mishandle it or store it carelessly."

But there are careful cleanup instructions on Environment Canada's website to protect people.

Apart from health concerns in the home, concern has been raised for the potential damage to the environment if these bulbs are not disposed of properly. Because of the mercury content, CFL bulbs are considered hazardous waste, and cannot go out with household trash. Instead, they must be disposed of at a hazardous waste depot.

As for cleaning up broken bulbs, use caution and follow the careful instructions provided by Environment Canada.

When a bulb breaks, leave the room immediately and let it ventilate for at least 15 minutes before cleaning, opening windows to the

outdoors if possible. Wear disposable gloves and scoop up bigger pieces using two pieces of cardboard or stiff paper. Do not use a vacuum, it will spread the mercury vapour. Do not use a broom.

Use duct tape or masking tape to pick up powder and fine glass. Wipe the area with a damp paper towel and place all broken glass in a clean container to minimize the release of mercury vapour. Put the container outside right away and dispose of at your nearest hazardous waste location as soon as possible.

With CFLs, another concern is the ultraviolet rays from the bulbs. A fact sheet published in 2012 by Natural Resource Canada's Office of Energy Efficiency says those UV emissions are not a likely health risk for most of the population, but could be for some health disorders or skin conditions that make people sensitive to UV rays.

Low UV CFLs are available as an option, but to further reduce the risk they suggest covering bulbs with a lamp shade, keeping at least 30 cm away from uncovered bulbs and keep close exposure to a maximum of three hours at a time.

Natural Resources Canada's website states that efficient lighting lowers mercury levels that result from power production.

There are also energy efficient bulbs that do not contain mercury, so consumers can decide which bulb they feel most comfortable with in their homes.

Barrie's Household Hazardous Waste Depot is free to Barrie and Simcoe County residents and is open Saturday's from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Depot is located at the Barrie Landfill Site at 272 Ferndale Drive North, Barrie.

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Shelburne's Feral Cat Rescue program



This wild black beauty perched on a fence and the majestic silver cat retreating from beneath the comfort of a shed are successful examples of the Trap-Neuter-Return program where Feral Cat Rescue volunteers work tirelessly for their cause.



These two little cuties are examples are Feral kittens rescued by the Feral Cat Rescue Volunteers and once cared for and socialized, they will be able to be adopted and make some lucky person the most loved pet owner. There will never be anyone more important in those little eyes as the person they bond with.



PHOTOS BY ALEX SHER
Sharon Morden, Volunteer at Feral Cat Rescue, Shelburne location, proudly explains how the organization makes Feral Cat insulated winter cat houses and demonstrates how the actual rescue traps work.

BY ALEX SHER

Little is known about the wonderful volunteers who donate their time, their homes, their money, and often a great deal of their lives to the Feral Cat Rescue effort which is in ever growing need of donations and support.

Shelburne had its fair share of the feral cat problem but until recently, did not have our own local hero doing her part to save these beautiful creatures born to the wild. Local business woman, owner of Sharon's Cakes, Sharon Morden, a Master Cake Decorator is devoted to feral cat rescue.

"My father was always rescuing strays of all kinds. We grew up with Alligators in the basement. Eventually they were donated to the Toronto Zoo. At one point we had 15 turtles, a five legged frog, snakes, and being in Reptile Rescue, my father had so many different kinds of rescues, even an Iguana, but the Alligators were his pets," Morden reminisces fondly. "That's probably why I rescue. I'm following what I was always apart of and taking after my father."

As fond as Morden's memories are, her devotion and dedication to the program and it's "trap, neuter, return" slogan far surpass a need to help out and volunteer from time

to time. Morden's life is full and rewarding. The good this volunteer is doing is as commendable as the cause she serves.

Initially working out of the Owen Sound location, Morden has now set up a Shelburne movement and 'Trap-Neuter-Return' is not only a message to the public but also a procedure to follow.

As colonies of feral cats are discovered, Morden recommends it's best to report the exact location to Feral Cat Rescue for monitoring and trapping. The idea is to try and get the population under control by neutering and returning the cat to its colony to live out its life healthfully and without reproducing.

Why bother? Health issues surrounding feral cats and their effect on the environment is one very important reason. Often colonies of cats are found to be flea ridden, full of ear mites, suffering intestinal disorders from consuming garbage where rodents often dwell, and more often than not suffer ring worm and respiratory infections. Feral Cat Rescue volunteers are an essential positive reinforcement towards protecting the cats and the community in that trapped cats are not only neutered they are treated for the above mentioned serious problems before re-

turned to their environment. The effect is astounding as the returned healthy cats are less likely spread disease or impact the community environment in a negative manner as they will be monitored and fed by Feral Cat Rescue.

Morden mentions that there is a great need for more volunteers, foster homes and donations. Feral Cat Rescue will provide litter boxes, and food for anyone who wants to become a foster parent. Local financial donations can be made at the TD Bank and the money will go towards traps, food, neutering, veterinary care and any medicine required. Any pet adopted from Feral Cat Rescue can be returned and must be returned to them if the adoption does not work out for any reason, clearly placing the cat's well being up front and centre.

"We've already started a new fundraising initiative where for \$110 we will drive your cat to Barrie and back the same day for spay or neutering, and a breakdown of the cost is \$40 for the safe transport fee and \$65 paid directly to SPCA for the spay or neutering. It's really a great deal for any cat owner," explained Morden.

One myth that should be immediately dispelled regards Feral Cats attacking people. "You'll

never find a case where a Feral cat attacked people. They are too frightened of people to even make contact," Morden continued to explain, "Often rescues, once socialized can become very devoted pets. Also, some of the feral kittens, once rescued and socialized properly in a home can become the most loyal and loving pets following a bonding process. Bonding is huge for a feral cat and when that happens, its forever."

Anyone interested in meeting Morden and get more information on Feral Cat Rescue first hand can go to Pet Valu, Saturday 18th after 2 p.m. for cupcakes and if you are lucky, you will get to meet a rescued Feral kitten, but beware; these little cuties will tug at your heart strings! Even those who are not cat lovers will be unable to dismiss their charms and recognise the importance of Morden's work.

Contact Sharon Morden at Feral Cat Rescue at 519-278-0707, go to www.feralcatrescue.ca or email info@feralcatrescue.ca for more information and Like Feral Cat Rescue on Facebook go to <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Feral-Cat-Rescue/>

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Developing an attitude of appreciation, gratitude and thankfulness



wendy@simcoeyorkprinting.com

BY WENDY GABREK

Last week I was making dinner for my family – a highly anticipated dinner which involved Snow Crab as the main protein. Yum!

My youngest, Logan, is a seafood fan and he had been chomping at the bit all week waiting for the promised 'Sunday Snow Crab Dinner'.

The rest of my family – not big fans of things that roam the bottom of the ocean looking for carnage – weren't as excited.

All week I had been building them up to the big crab experience.

"It'll be good, you'll see," I had said. "Just give it a chance."

That Sunday there was definitely something 'fishy' in the air, and it wasn't my boiling salt water ready for a big fat crab injection. It was the attitude – shall we say bad attitude – of my family members, who were dreading dinner. DREADING dinner?

Unacceptable, was my only thought. Who do you people think you are? There are starving people right here in our own community, and you're worried about having to eat food that costs \$20+ a pound?

As the day wore on, so did my patience. I decided I would also cook green beans and make a salad – so at least there were choices. I became increasingly annoyed thinking about the potential food waste

and at the last minute I also cooked a frozen pizza so that those of us who didn't want the "hideous, horrible crab" had more than greens to nosh on.

Sitting at the table that night, my family braced themselves for the worst. Sour faces turned into happy smiles, however, when I pulled the grease covered pizza from the oven.

"Pick what you want," I said, settling into my husband's usual seat so I could sit next to Logan and dive into the steaming bucket of crab.

Of course everyone opted for the pizza but Logan and I, and my middle child, Braedon. He put on his big boy pants and pulled a leg from the bucket. Watching him open it was funny – he's never eaten crab before, let alone shucked it from it's shell. My amusement with his crab opening skills quickly turned into disappointment, as I could see that he didn't like the tender crab meat inside.

"You don't have to eat it," I told him. "Save it for the people who like it and grab yourself a slice of pizza."

"No, that's okay," he replied. It quite obviously wasn't "okay" and the vibe at dinner turned sour fast.

No one was speaking. No one was sharing thoughts about their day. The tension was brutal.

My husband, who always tries to be the mediator, told Braedon to just get pizza and stop pretending to eat the crab. When Braedon refused I blew a gasket.

In our household we eat dinner together EVERY night – unless we have another commitment, which is seldom at that time of day.

I always set the table using place mats, napkins, knives and forks and even stemmed glasses (for milk or water).

Salt and pepper, chili flakes and parmesan cheese occupy our sixth seat, and have become condiment staples of our foodie experience.

I do this (set the table nicely) for many reasons: first, when I was a child, dinner time seemed to be the only time people in my household ever came together, doing the same thing at the same time (later, in my teenage years, we all ate something different, and we rarely ate together. Why would we? We all had a TV set in our room). Secondly, I do this because we are a blended family and frankly, what better place to "blend" than in the kitchen. Thirdly, I do this to help the children – that I did not bare – to grow their palettes and open their minds to tastes and flavours from around the world (I am a foodie, they are Kraft Dinner people). And finally, I do this because it gives my children and my husband (and me) a sense of normalcy. Something predictable to look forward to each day. Something they can commit to. A positive obligation that usually yields smiling faces.

Now, on this occasion, my happily family was not so happy. Usually after a meal we all help clean up – the kids put away the condiments from the table, rinse their plates and Windex, while Craig and I do dishes, wrap leftovers and make lunches. Last Sunday, after the 'Great Crab Incident of 2014', I sent them all away from the table when they were done. I wanted to be alone and clean in silence. Why did they ruin my most favorite meal? Especially since I cater to their likes/dislikes most of the time.

In my quiet reflection I discovered that I was most annoyed with the fact that they were not grateful for the food that they have, or what goes into this 'normal, 'everyday',

'expected' thing called dinner..

I called a family meeting. I started by saying, "I am very disappointed in how tonight's dinner went. Not only was it unfair of you to ruin my favorite meal, but your attitude and lack of gratitude sucks."

I went on to ask them if they knew what was involved in preparing a meal. They through out random things, like grocery shopping and cooking, but they lacked understanding of the other elements required to prepare a meal "with love".

I was specific, "There's the planning; deciding what will I make for dinner. There's the shopping – which requires me to get into my car that I make a monthly payment on and also pay for insurance and gas and maintenance. Once at the shop, I must ensure I get all of the required ingredients, and then pay for the items (dinners can run upwards of \$20-\$40 a day in my house – five meat eaters). Once back at home, I must then refrigerate the food I paid for in the house that I pay the rent and electricity bills on. I then have to set the table; then cook (sometimes all day on a Sunday); then I serve you, then I clean up after you; and then I carefully wrap the leftovers for your enjoyment the next day.

"It's no easy task," I said point-blank. "Could you do that?"

The kids all looked at me like I had three heads. Logan (autistic) said, "I can!" and

the other two looked terrified. Craig, of course, remained silent.

I told them that their punishment for ruining dinner was not a timeout or grounding from electronics (that one usually hits them the hardest) I told them it was to plan; purchase; prepare; serve; clean-up; and package a meal of their choice one day the following week.

The blood drained from their faces. All they heard was "pay for".

"We don't have any money," Brodie, my eldest, said.

"Sure you do, you have your college money," I replied.

"But, but that's for college," he said.

"Today, it's for buying groceries," I said. "And, you'd better hope that while we're all eating the meal that you bought, prepared and served, that I don't put on a sour face, hide my food in my napkin (and oldie but goodie trick that's used in my household weekly, especially by Brodie) or say things like, 'Yeah, it's

okay, but I've had better' (I get that one all the time from Logan), or eat so fast I don't even chew (Braedon), just to be done with it."

Since that day, dinners in my house have run smoothly. They still haven't made me dinner, but they sure are using their manners at the table. Taking only what they know they can eat without wasting and cleaning up after dinner without being asked. I don't know it they've developed an 'attitude of gratitude', but I feel heard – and respected – and they've learned a valuable life lesson – eat what I put in front of you, or you're in big trouble (LOL, just kidding). The lesson is: view the world, especially the things that are right in front of you with open eyes. Stop looking through or past the moments that will shape your future. Live consciously in the moment (or you'll pay for it, one way or another).

Despite the advancement in their attitudes, I don't plan to serve crab again any time soon.

Roundtable in Simcoe-Grey

Simcoe-Grey MPP Jim Wilson, Simcoe-North MPP Garfield Dunlop and PC Party Agriculture Critic MPP Ernie Hardeman, will host a roundtable meeting to discuss agricultural issues with local farmers and businesses on February 13th, 2014 in Elmvalle. "Over the past decade, the Liberals have made deliberate decisions that have damaged our agriculture industry," said Wilson. "Every day we see farmers and agribusinesses struggle because of high taxes, skyrocketing energy rates and a thicket of red tape." Farmers and agribusinesses from across Simcoe-Grey along with the media are invited to attend. The meeting will take place on Thursday, February 13th at 3 p.m. at the Elmvalle Legion. Please confirm at 1 800 268-7542.

The Sochi Winter Games – perpetuating misery in Russia

Dear editor:

Why are Canadian athletes going to the Winter Olympic Games? Do any of them actually read about the chaos caused by Mr. Putin in Sochi and elsewhere in Russia?

Do our athletes know about the \$50 billion spent on them in Sochi while ordinary Russians live in substandard housing and their roads are full of holes?

The ordinary citizens of Sochi are suffering from the building boom – not the friends and relatives of Mr. Putin. New roads and sports facilities are being built to the detriment of the people in Sochi.

Every Olympics brings horror stories concerning the disruption to the citizens in the host

city and the cost to the taxpayers in the country having the games.

Mr. Putin is a modern dictator and our athletes are giving him credence by going to Sochi. Of course, our prime minister will be wallowing in the new wealth of Sochi if he goes to the opening ceremonies.

The saddest aspect of the Sochi games is the lack of regard or the lack of knowledge by our athletes. They'll go to perpetuate the misery applied liberally to the citizens of Sochi by the government and its friends in the business community known as the Russian-Mafia.

Vaughan G. Harris, Tottenham

Don't be SAD this winter

Dear editor:

I enjoyed the article "what's the deal with packaged vitamins" and I agree that there is plenty one can do to ward off illness and keep your immune system strong. Simple exercise like walking, drink plenty of water and of course the proper amount of nutrients. Sup-

plements are necessary if you believe you require them however an excess of vitamins and minerals can actually deplete enzymes which are necessary for proper digestion. I believe it is healthier to consume your nutrition through food, and more than 50 percent of your food should be eaten raw. A recent study by Bruce Lourie and Rick Smith purport that the more organic the food the better when it comes to "flushing out toxins".

The articles reference to the February blahs is amusing. In fact there is a term SAD seasonal affective disorder, this occurs in times when there is not much sun and vitamin D levels are low. I often wonder if individuals who work and live in high rise complexes have greater incidents of SAD or depression.

I know that this February we have more reason to be sad than just the lack of sun, more so because of the extreme and early winter.

Rhonda Campbell Moon Shelburne

WEBPOLL

www.innisfilscope.com

Results from last week's poll:

Are you troubled by the rise in inclement weather?

a) Yes	<div style="background-color: black; width: 50%; height: 15px; border: 1px solid black;"></div>	50%
b) No	<div style="background-color: black; width: 50%; height: 15px; border: 1px solid black;"></div>	50%

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

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION

Do you think Pope Francis is putting forth the right image for the Catholic Church, after being named Esquire's 'Best Dressed Man of 2013'?

a. Yes
b. No

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Public gets to comment on county OP

BY WES KELLER

Orangeville and Mono would likely lose their exemptions from higher level scrutiny of official plan amendments (OPA) but all of Dufferin's six municipalities would have autonomy in site plan approvals under a county Official Plan.

Consultant Chris Tyrell of the MMM Group said Owen Sound (population about 22,000) is the only lower tier municipality in Ontario that is exempt under a county OP (Grey) and that is only because it had been a separated city within the county prior to the county OP.

Mr. Tyrell told approximately 30 at the public meeting on Dufferin's OP at Shelburne Saturday that the province has not been receptive to granting Orangeville and Mono similar accommodation "but we can talk to them again."

The public meeting at Shelburne Saturday followed a Thursday evening presentation of the OP's initial graphic draft to all 53 local municipal councillors. A further meeting for public input was set for Wednesday evening, Jan. 15, at 7 p.m. in the atrium at 55 Zina St., Orangeville.

Last Thursday's councillor responses have been posted on the county's website. It's expected there'll be postings of the two current public meetings.

Further to Mr. Tyrell's presentation, County CAO Sonya Pritchard explained at an administrative workshop – one of three within the public meeting – that the county would not be given authority to grant exemptions but would be able to delegate some responsibilities. She said she is confident it would delegate authority for site plan approvals to the lower tier.

This might have evoked the most enthusiastic response of the day, in Mulmur Councillor's three words, "that is good news." But, he continued, "what if it doesn't?"

There remains an evident undertone of mis-giving among municipal politicians about the county council's weighted voting system as it might apply to issues respecting the Plan, as Orangeville representatives share 12 of 29 votes and would need only the support of either Shelburne or Mono to control the outcome of a vote.

Still, the county's Official Plan role in the arguable final analysis would simply be to replace the province as the overseer, and not to assume the role of planner although growth management would be governed to some extent by the OP.

Feelings appear to diverge somewhat amongst municipal leaders. In conversations last Saturday, Grand Valley Mayor John Oosterhof, without reference to voting, said he would rather deal with the county than the province "as the county understands where you're coming from," but Mulmur Mayor Paul Mills, without reference to an overseer preference, was adamant that voting on the OP should be "one person one vote."

Mayor Oosterhof viewed the local OP as a simple case of the province downloading a further responsibility on the county. He doubted there would be a corresponding reduction of staff at the province. "They'll be drafting more red tape," he quipped.

Apart from administration details, the county is estimated to grow to a population of 80,000 by 2031, 81,000 by 2036, and then to 85,000 by 2041.

The present population, by local count, is 59,000; an increase from 56,881 in the 2011 census. That would mean moving the equivalent of the present population of Orangeville (about 29,000) into the county in the next 21-22 years while preserving agricultural land.

The OP appears drafted to meet the county's current Growth Management Plan by which the majority of new population would follow the centres of population that have "assimilative capacity."

The three main centres and their ultimate capacity/allocated population are: Orangeville, 36,490; Shelburne, 10,000; and urban area of Grand Valley, 6,050 plus 1,600 in the rural area. Mono, a "rural town," would grow to 9,890 in 2036.

The OP envisions growth among the townships resulting in these 2036 numbers: Amaranth, 4,710; East Garafraxa, 3,180; Melancton, 3,430; and Mulmur, 4,340.

There would be an unallocated 1,310 population in 2036. Its allocation would be to the municipalities capable of providing whatever service is required.

There will be a presentation to county council in February, followed by a formal draft of the plan in March. That will be taken to the local councils in April and May, followed by public open houses in late May and then again to the council.

There will be a statutory public meeting followed by county council's adoption of the plan in August.

And then the province gets into the act.

Planning for the inevitable: 10 banking tips



PHOTO BY ALEX SHER

Branch Manager of Pace Credit Union, Rick Pollock has 10 banking tips for those pre-planning personal death arrangements. It's the responsible thing to do!

BY ALEX SHER

While no one wants to think about the inevitability of dying, planning ahead could save family members a lot of grief and money when the time comes and most importantly give you peace of mind.

Rick Pollock, Bank Manager of the Pace Credit Union in Shelburne had been in the banking business since 1978 and knows all about the problems that arise when people do not plan ahead. In his opinion there are many issues to address but has created a quick check list to help people get started in the right direction.

10 things everyone should know:

1. Make sure you have a will and is it's an updated will.
2. In addition to your will, make sure all of the executors know where the will is located and they are aware of their responsibilities as executor.
3. Speak to your financial institution about your accounts, investments, credit facilities,

and signing authority.

4. Consider consolidating all your banking to one financial institution.
5. Should you have any life insurance, check with your insurance company to make sure the beneficiaries are up to date and the addresses are current.
6. Should you have a safety deposit box at your financial institution, consider making access joint with the right of survivor so that access can be obtained.
7. With your will, keep an up to date list of all accounts including account numbers and what financial institutions they are located at. This list should also include any credit card numbers.
8. Have an up to date list of all direct deposits and pre-authorized payments. This list should also contain information such as who to contact, and bill payment account numbers.
9. Make sure all your tax filings are up to date and your executors know where your tax filing documents are located.

10. The biggest mistake is to avoid addressing these issues.

Pollock points out that while death is an uncomfortable topic to some, avoiding the conversation is worse, noting, "A lot of people only start to think about these things when people lose a spouse, and typically one spouse performed the banking duties." Being unfamiliar with your personal banking situation, paying bills, etc. can be a very difficult thing to cope with in the face of mourning the loss of a loved one.

"Don't avoid doing this, avoidance is the worst! Speak to your financial institution, make a will, let people know where the will is, always have two executors, and if you have Real Estate, I recommend you get a lawyer," advised Pollock adding Shelburne Lawyers are excellent to deal with.

Pace Credit Union also offer a service where they can recommend Executor Ease, of Concentra Trust where the company can walk you through all Estate Administration needs and take care of the whole affair if you desire. Go to executorease@concentrafinancial.ca or call Concentra Trust at 1-800-788-6311 ext. 1888 for more information.

Pollock remarks, "The best things about my position as bank manager are the members and the staff. Some staff members have 30 years experience and they will help with a compassionate understanding of their member's needs."

Pollock recommends people come in for a chat any time.

For those of us who have lived through the death process of a loved one without any of these things in place, we know how difficult life becomes when dealing with frozen bank accounts, bills that need to be paid, or the inability to find a will.

Compounding legal difficulties in the face of mourning can create an overwhelming situation. Avoid the overwhelming and call your financial institution for more information and your own personal peace of mind.

Contact Pace Credit Union at 133 Owen Sound St or call 519-925-3204 ext. 222 for more information.

Hill to retire at end of term

BY WES KELLER

Having run the gamut of just about every phase of local politics over almost three decades, Dufferin County Warden Bill Hill has announced he'll be hanging up his political hat at the end of this term, and not seeking re-election as mayor of Melancton.

He made his formal announcement at township council last Thursday, Jan. 9, the first meeting following the start of the 2014 election campaign. The early announcement opens the doors for filing by mayoral aspirants who might not have wished to campaign against the popular incumbent mayor.

In a phone interview Monday, Warden Hill confirmed that he and his wife, Alma, would retire to their new home on Lake Couchiching, near Orillia.

Mr. Hill is well known not only for his political history in Dufferin but also his and Alma's support of community activities such as Shelburne Figure Skating Club, in addition to his successful life and disability insurance career.

But his political career goes back more than 30 years, beginning with his election to the Dufferin County Board of Education, which had the reputation of being among the most fi-

nancially responsible boards in Ontario prior to its amalgamation with the Wellington board to form Upper Grand District School Board.

He served nine years with the board and was chairman in 1992. He is also a former councillor in Shelburne, prior to his residential move to Melancton, and a longtime member of the town's Economic Development Committee, including several years after his move to the township, before his election to Shelburne Town Council.

His municipal political life in Melancton began when he was appointed to the council in 1998 following the death of longtime reeve Gordon Oldfield.

He was elected to the council for the following and subsequent terms, rising to deputy mayor upon the passing of D.C. Broderick in 2008. He was elected as mayor in 2010.

At the county, Mayor Hill served on every committee before being elected as warden in December to finish out the present term.

After the long run, he said it was with "very mixed emotions that I formally announce that I will not be seeking re-election in October 2014. I thought it important to make my intentions known sooner than later."

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\$72,500 in fines for illegal activities at lodge

Eleven people have pleaded guilty to a total of 68 charges and been fined \$72,500 for offences that took place at a hunting and fishing lodge in northwest Ontario.

Steve Herbeck, former owner and operator of 1216818 Ontario Inc., carrying on business as Andy Myers Lodge, on Eagle Lake, west of Dryden, was fined a total of \$7,500 and his business was fined a total of \$27,000 for 22 offences. He is not allowed to hunt in Ontario for ten years.

Danny Herbeck and Chris Federman, both lodge employees, were fined \$7,000 each for their offences and cannot hunt for the next four and eight years respectively. At the time of the offences, all three men lived in Mineral Point, Wisconsin.

Andy Bouchard of Waldhof, Ontario, pleaded guilty to three hunting offences and was fined \$4,000. He is not allowed to hunt in Ontario for one year.

Scott Munford of Vermilion Bay, Ontario, pleaded guilty to six charges under the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act and was fined \$7,000. He is not allowed to hunt in Ontario for two years.

Calum Ritchie of Waldhof, Ontario, pleaded guilty to two charges and was fined \$2,000. He is not allowed to hunt in Ontario for one year.

Tammy Pelletier of Waldhof, Ontario, pleaded guilty to two charges and was fined \$2,500. She is not allowed to hunt in Ontario for one year.

Bouchard, Munford, Ritchie and Pelletier were all lodge employees at the time of the offences.

George Lindsay of Wedderburn Ranfurly, New Zealand pleaded guilty to three hunting offences and was fined \$3,000. He is not allowed to hunt in Ontario for one year.

Travis Runde of Mineral Point, Wisconsin, pleaded guilty and was fined \$1,000 for two firearm offences. He cannot hunt in Ontario for one year.

Don Rabideau Jr. of Morrisonville, New York, pleaded guilty to four hunting offences and was fined \$3,000. He is not allowed to hunt in Ontario for one year.

Lindsay, Runde, and Rabideau Jr. were all lodge guests.

Ron Jaeger of Eagle River, Ontario, pleaded guilty to one offence and was fined \$500.

The 11 people listed above pleaded guilty to a total of 68 charges under the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act, Ontario Fishery Regulations and Migratory Birds Convention Act. Their offences included:

- unlawfully hunting wolf
- unlawfully using a hunting licence belonging to another person
- making a false statement in a document
- making a false statement to a conservation officer
- having a loaded firearm in a vehicle
- possessing uncased firearms at night
- discharging a firearm from a roadway
- unlawfully selling game wildlife
- unlawfully selling migratory birds
- fishing with more than one fishing line
- failing to comply with the requirements for an Ontario Hunting and Fishing Licence Issuer, and
- possessing an over-limit of Canada geese.

The court heard that Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources conservation officers conducted a two-year covert investigation in cooperation with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, the departments of Natural Resources for Wisconsin, Michigan, New York and Minnesota, and the New Zealand Commission of Wildlife. Conservation officers discovered that Steve Herbeck and his staff encouraged clients to hunt wolves without a licence. Staff then used their own resident licences to validate the wolf or arranged for guests to buy licences afterward. Steve Herbeck allowed guests to fish without a licence and later sold them backdated fishing licences. As part of their package, guests were fed grouse and mallard duck and advised they were fed American elk, all of which the lodge was not allowed to sell. Steve Herbeck also took guests muskellunge fishing and used more than the allowable amount of fishing rods.

Justices of the Peace Daisy Hoppe and Edith Baas heard the cases between January 15 and December 17, 2013, in the Ontario Court of Justice, Dryden.

Disqualified

On Wednesday, January 8th, at 2:42 p.m., Grey County OPP stopped a farm tractor travelling northbound on Hwy. 10, south of Grey Rd. 9, Melancthon Township, in Dufferin County. The driver was found to be operating the tractor while being disqualified from operating a motor vehicle. Allan Lewis Dear, age 46, of Melancthon Township, is charged with the criminal offence of Driving While Disqualified. He was arrested and held in custody pending a bail hearing.

Injured

On Friday, January 10th at 12:09 p.m., Grey County OPP received a report of an injured male after the snowmobile he was operating collided with a tree. The 16 year old male youth from Orangeville, was operating a 2001 MXZ Skidoo on the Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs (OFSC) trail near the St. Vincent-Sydenham Townline in the Municipality of Meaford, when he lost control of the sled and struck a tree.

Grey County Emergency Services and Inter-Township Fire Department assisted with the retrieval and medical care of the operator who was taken to the Owen Sound Hospital with minor injuries.

Dangerous conditions at local creeks and retention ponds



Although this winter has been overall very cold, we had a brief warm spell the past few days. This warm spell can cause ice to become dangerously thin, especially in creeks and retention ponds. The reason creeks and retention ponds are of greater risk has to do with moving water. The warm spell not only causes some of the ice to become thinner on the surface, but also causes greatly increased water movement under the ice which can make it break apart and fragile.

The warm spell also created some icy surfaces on the slopes leading to these creeks and ponds.

The Shelburne Police is reminding everyone to stay away from the creeks and retention ponds. Parents, be sure to teach your children about the dangers of playing on and near these water ways. It is also recommended to keep pets away from these areas.

Move over for emergency vehicles – it's the law!

Drivers: It is the law that you slow down, move over and pass emergency vehicles on the side of the road safely.

In Ontario, Section 159(2) and (3) of the Highway Traffic Act requires drivers to slow down and proceed with caution when passing an emergency vehicle parked on the side of a highway with its lights activated. If the highway has more than one lane, the law requires the driver to move over and leave one lane between their vehicle and the parked emergency vehicle if it can be done safely. Failure to do so can result in fines starting from \$400 to \$2,000 and three demerit points.

There is no higher priority than saving lives. As a driver, your actions can directly increase safety. Please be aware of emergency vehicles and remember the "Move Over Law".

Flicks cigarette butt at cruiser

On Sunday, January 12th at 12:37 p.m., Grey County OPP received a report of an erratic driver travelling southbound on Highway 10 in the Township of Southgate.

Police located the suspect vehicle, a 1981 Buick, in the village of Dundalk. Upon stopping the vehicle, the driver threw a cigarette at the cruiser and ran towards the officer; yelling, swearing and acting irrationally. The male returned to his vehicle and drove away despite the officer's command to stop.

The suspect was followed to the Dundalk

Arena and Community Centre where he abandoned his vehicle and ran inside the arena onto the ice surface which was being used by public skaters, including several children, at the time. He continued yelling and using profanity toward police.

Joseph Robert Schubbauer, 51, of Dundalk, was arrested and charged with Flight While Pursued by Peace Officer and Causing a Disturbance under the Criminal Code.

He is scheduled to appear in court in Owen Sound on Monday, January 20th.

Driver caught impaired & switching places

On January 10th, at 6:30 p.m., members of the Barrie Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police responded to a motor vehicle collision (MVC) involving two vehicles on highway 11 northbound.

A motorist advised police the driver and passenger had switched seating prior to police arrival. An OPP investigation revealed that the original driver of this motor vehicle was operating it while under the influence of alcohol.

Charged with "Impaired Operation", "Exceed 80 mgs" and Driving while under suspension X 2 is Arlow Buehler 40 years old from Dundalk. His licence was suspended for a period of 90 days under the Administrative Drivers Licence Suspension (ADLS) program and his motor vehicle was impounded for 7 days. He is scheduled to appear at the Ontario Court of Justice located in Barrie on February 3rd.

OPP report five fatal snowmobile collisions so far this season

In the wake of five fatal motorized snow vehicle (MVC) collisions that have occurred in Ontario since the start of the season, the OPP is warning snowmobilers to exercise caution at all times while out enjoying what should be a safe winter recreational activity.

All five of these tragic fatalities occurred on roads and the OPP is reminding snowmobilers to always travel at speeds which take into consideration not only their ability as an operator, but also the weather and surface conditions in the areas in which they are travelling. This is especially important during heavy snowfall, high winds, when snow banks are present and

when visibility becomes obscured or is reduced to zero.

The Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs (OFSC) provide designated trails that are marked, mapped, maintained and patrolled for the safety and enjoyment of all snowmobilers. By avoiding closed trails and not riding on roads, lakes, unfamiliar terrain and private property, snowmobilers can greatly reduce their risk of getting into trouble.

Please make safety and common sense important aspects of your preparation and planning every time you head out on your snowmobile.

Traffic stop ends in vehicle fire

On January 12th at 12:19 p.m., a member of the Nottawasaga OPP conducted a traffic stop on County Road 21 between the 10th and 11th Line of Essa. The dark blue Volkswagen suddenly crossed over the centre line then pulled over to the shoulder.

Police conducted a traffic stop on the vehicle. Police noticed dark coloured smoke emanating from the vehicle as the driver walked back towards the Police cruiser advising that his vehicle was on fire.

The officer confirmed that there were no other occupants in the vehicle and used his fire extinguisher to attempt to extinguish the fire within the vehicle. The Essa Fire Department was immediately called to the scene and they extinguished the fire in the dash area of the vehicle. County Road 21 was closed for a short time to extinguish the fire and tow the vehicle off the roadway.

The driver of the vehicle was found to be an unlicensed driver, charged is Jeremy James Plant of Shelburne, he is charged under the Highway Traffic Act with Drive Motor Vehicle-no license.

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Former DEEP proponent springs to life

BY WES KELLER

Maybe there is still hope for a gasification plant in the DEEP (Dufferin Eco Energy Park).

Remember the plans for a Westinghouse plasma arc technology plant died when neither investors nor users could be found, and Westinghouse owner Alter NRG of Calgary backed off funding it in the absence of a municipal contribution?

Now Forbes says Alter NRG is one of two dark horse stocks to watch among the cleantech ones coming into favour by green money managers. The other is a Japanese water firm, Kurita.

"This Canadian waste-to-energy company had been a disappointment for years. Though its Westinghouse plasma gasification technology held great promise, large projects failed to materialize and the company lacked focus as it also tried to be a developer in the fragmented geothermal heating sector," Forbes quotes a money manager as saying.

"Recently, the company's luck has changed: It won a big contract for a gasification plant in England from Air Products, a new CEO was brought in and Roman Abramovich (Russian billionaire and owner of Chelsea Football Club) made a strategic investment in the company. Subsequently, the company has won a 2nd big order from Air Products and various licensing deals."

So the DEEP might become attractive to investors after all – provided that enough users could be found to make such a plant viable on a large enough scale.

Dufferin County has the advantage of owning a 200-acre site that's designated for such a purpose along with composting and related green activities. And it's on a provincial highway for easy access.



PHOTO BY WES KELLER
WAIST HIGH WEEDS – This fenced retention pond on Muriel Street serves as a nature area, apparently favoured by avian life, in the summer. But some residents are wondering why the weeds are allowed to grow beyond the height of the chain link fence. Ken Topping recently brought the concerns to town council and also asked that the gate to the pond be opened after the pond freezes so neighbours could clear the snow from the ice and create a sort of community skating area. The Public Works department is to delve into the issues involved and bring a report to the council, possibly on Monday. Meantime in this unusual winter, Grand River Conservation Authority is warning people to stay clear of streams and ponds.

What's trending in the world on antiques



PHOTO BY ALEX SHER

Owner of Postman's Antiques, Martin Guyton, holds a book that is from the 1540's on Roman Law and gives insight into what might be trending in the world of Antiques for 2014.

BY ALEX SHER

According to Postman's Antiques business owner, Martin Guyton, predicting what will be trending in the world of Antiques is anyone's guess. He recommends asking Martha Stewart and here's why.

"One year, Martha Stewart featured a ratty old chair that she mounted onto a wall and hung a plant off it. That year everyone came in requesting ratty old chairs they could use as plant hangers," commented Guyton. While Guyton was able to meet the requests, he points out that while interior design shows directly impact the antique market, the music industry plays a role as well.

Guyton explains, "Musicians set the tone for what's popular as well, color designs, mood, what they feature in videos, etc. Generally a lot of things that we sell are specific to the interest of the buyer, then there are those looking for home projects, fixer-uppers and those who want to turn a piece into something completely different."

One of the weirdest requests Guyton received from a customer came when he was asked to purchase human bones.

Now illegal to purchase and collect human bones, at one time they were highly collectible items. One of the coolest items Guyton can remember selling, proving beauty is in the eye of the beholder was

also one of the strangest things he ever sold and the quickest sell he can remember.

"It's all about timing and the right people. I came into possession of a huge working shark prop for a movie. It was so large that a person actually had to fit inside the thing to get it working. I remember bringing it outside, and literally in ten minutes, people drove buy on their way to a pool party, paid the requested price and it was gone that fast! It was really something! You never know what will sell when you have unique, even odd items. You have to guess a little," commented Guyton.

Are there any sure items an antique store owner must have on hand? Guyton has a few things to recommend:

"Nostalgic items, reminding people of their childhood, their grandparents home, old dance halls, things they can have around them at the cottage that are familiar and comforting, constant reminders of happy times."

As an antique store owner, Guyton reveals he has to have a belief in the interest value of an item and after celebrating his 25th year in business alongside his wife and fellow business partner Diane, they can boast being very good at choosing items of interest for sale at their store.

"It's not about how much an item costs, it's about how much it's

worth," Guyton stands by his catch phrase pointing out buyers want what they want and how much it costs is of little consequence to the dedicated collector.

No surprise Guyton will be paying attention to recycling shows and Martha Stewart as spring approaches and while Guyton predicts trends are impossible to

prepare for there is one absolute, one staple he will always have on hand, emphatically proclaiming with logic to back him up, "Chairs! After all, everyone must sit down!"

Call Postman's Antiques located on Owen Sound St. at 519 925-0046 for all your trending needs, special requests and most information required.

Shelburne Library news

Children's Programs: This week our Toddler time on Tuesdays and Story time on Fridays will be in full swing

Both days the programs run at 10:30 a.m. and are sure to provide lots of stories, songs and crafts for the little ones.

Lego Club: Our newest excitement for 6 to 12 year olds will be our Lego Club starting on the 22nd after school.

I know we have quite a few youngsters looking forward to this club.

We will also provide a healthy snack to tide them over to supper time.

Watch for photos of all the creative building after our first event.

Our New Books... Keep checking our online catalogue as we have quite a few new titles coming up and within the next two weeks, lots of new Talking Books.

Fiction:

Just what kind of mother are

you? by Paula Daly

Justice by Kelley Armstrong

Innocence by Dean Koontz

Supervolcano: things fall apart

by Harry Turtledove

Cockroaches by Jo Nesbo

Fifteen minutes by Karen Kingsbury

Ten lords a-leaping by C.C. Benison

Revenge by Martina Cole

The Spook lights affair by Marcia Muller and Bill Pronzini

Dempsey's Lodge by Eric Wright

Non fiction:

The great Canadian bucket list by Robin Esrock

How to do everything and be happy by Peter Jones

Burn the fat, feed the muscle by Tom Venuto

All in by Arlene Dickinson

Toxin Toxout by Bruce Lourie

Blockbuster drugs by Jie Jack Li

The Fast Metabolism Diet cookbook by Haylie Pomroy

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SHELBURNE SPORTS



PHOTOS BY BRIAN LOCKHART

HITTIN' THE SLOPES – Mansfield Ski Resort had not shortage of skiers on the hills despite the mild temperatures and rain over the weekend. Braeden MacCormic gets some air off one of the jumps.



The ski hills at Mansfield were filled over the weekend in spite of less than stellar conditions when rain made conditions a little sloppy. Carson MacCormic takes one of the jumps during an afternoon run.



PHOTO BY BRIAN LOCKHART

WIN! – The Shelburne Wolves Atom LL1 team congratulate their goalie after the team's 6-3 win over the squad from Creemore. The Atoms are winding down the season with only a few games left on the regular season schedule.

Wolves Pee wee LL2 team has successful weekend



PHOTOS BY BRIAN LOCKHART

The Shelburne Wolves Pee wee LL2 team battles it out with the squad from Creemore during minor hockey action at the Centre Dufferin Recreation Complex on Saturday. The Wolves hammered the visitors 11-0.



BY BRIAN LOCKHART

With the regular season almost over the Shelburne Wolves Pee wee LL2 team left the ice with a big win over Creemore on the weekend, shutting out the visitors and added another game to their record.

The team has had a .500 season so far but are still in tenth place out of 24 teams in their division.

The squad's performance during their Saturday game showed they have the tenacity to get the job done and they executed their plays very well – especially in their opponents end.

The Wolves opened the scoring early in the first period and kept up the pressure for the duration despite having only two lines on the bench.

The other Shelburne team, LL1, is close by with only a point separating the two squads in the standings. They have four games left on the 20 game schedule.

"Today they did really well," said coach Rob Fetterly. "They played a really strong fore-checking game and a strong defensive game. We had a lot of good chances and went to the

net well. We shot well, back-checked, fore-checked, we did the whole package today."

Moving into the final stretch, the squad is taking it up a notch to make sure they finish off the season with a well played effort.

"We want to be competitive with all the teams," Fetterly said. "We're going to play a couple of the top teams in our league over the next four games. We'll be playing the top teams, the ones at the head of the pack, twice. The kids know what to do. As long as they keep tight on their offence and keep tight on the defence, and get lots of goals move the puck well, they'll progress."

The game against Creemore, Fetterly said, showed the players are willing to take on any squad and play to their level.

"The Creemore team seemed to have some size to them and our guys seemed to go after them, which is good. That's what forechecking does - it creates opportunities for a loose puck because the other team unloads the puck."

The Pee wees will be back on home ice on Saturday, January 18, when they will host Dundalk. Game time is 1:00 p.m.

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ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Proud Team Sponsor 

After being on the ice since age four, Shelburne Wolves Pee wee LL1 player Brodie Best has the experience to know where to position himself on the ice during a game.

"I'm a natural defence man," Brodie said. "But I come up and play forward sometimes when they need me."

His offensive capabilities shine when he has the puck and during a recent game against Stayner, Brodie notched a hattrick scoring all three Wolves goals in the game.

"Teammates work it out a lot with getting goals and passing - which is what goes into getting the goals," he said.

While winning is the obvious goal, Brodie also enjoys the time spent with his teammates. "I like being out on the ice and having fun," he said of why he likes playing hockey. "I like meeting new friends."

The Glenbrook Elementary School student says he will continue playing hockey. "I'll go as long as I can. If somehow the opportunity comes up to go farther, then I'll take it.

Name: BRODIE BEST
Team: SHELBURNE WOLVES LL1
Sport: HOCKEY
Position: FORWARD/DEFENCE



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.

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519 217 7995
 jlcd@rogers.com
 www.shelburneredwings.ca
Friday, January 17th at 8:30pm
Red Wings vs Halton
COME CHEER ON THE TEAM!



SMHA Home Games Shelburne Arena

January 16th
 Pee wee Rep vs Flesherton 7:30pm - 8:35pm

January 18th
 Atom LL1 vs Honeywood..... 10:30am - 11:35am
 Atom LL 2 vs Georgian Shores..... 11:45am - 12:50pm
 Pee wee LL2 vs Dundalk 1:00pm - 2:00pm
 Bantam LL#1 vs Midland #1 2:10pm - 3:25pm

January 19th
 Pee wee LL#2 vs Georgian Shores#2 2:00pm - 3:05pm
 Tyke #2 vs Ospery..... 3:15pm - 4:05pm
 Pee wee rep vs Flesherton 4:15pm - 5:20pm
 Novice rep vs Essa 5:30pm - 6:35pm

January 20th
 Tyke #2 vs Tyke #1 7:00pm - 7:50pm
 Bantam Rep vs Georgian Shores... 8:00pm - 9:50pm

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

Curling World Championship possibilities



PHOTO BY ALEX SHER

Ice Technician for the Shelburne Curling Club, Scott Buchanan can't wait for this weekend's event, The Senior Men's Regionals which could lead one of Shelburne's teams to the World Championships!

BY ALEX SHER

Shelburne is admittedly a small community. What some may not know is that Shelburne is home to some of the best Curling athletes around and the sport is growing in popularity due to the skill level already achieved at The Shelburne Curling Club.

A brief update to this season's successes as both boys and girls moved up to Regionals to be held in Stroud, Barrie, Ontario. The Shelburne Curling Club will be hosting "Glow In The Dark Bonspiel" on January 25th. In two

weeks time, high school level competitors will prove their athleticism at the Gore Regional Playdowns held at the Shelburne Curling Club and though the boys didn't qualify this year, the girls are ready to do all they can to take a win.

Be sure to take in the Senior Men's Regional Playdowns this upcoming weekend at the Club as the over 50 year olds show youngsters how it's done. According to Scott Buchanan, Ice Technician for the Shelburne Curling Club, this weekend is a very exciting weekend for all involved.

"There's a good possibility one of our teams will make it to the World Championships," Buchanan explains.

"The competition beings in Zones, followed by Regionals, Provincials, Nationals and the World Championships. By-standers are more than welcome to come watch. There will be some very good Curling going on here this weekend. You never know where this could go."

Go to www.shelburnecurling.ca for more information on upcoming events.

164 Cadets to participate in Biathlon competition

On Saturday, January 18th the 164 Squadron Biathlon team will be travelling to the Central Ontario Area Biathlon Competition at Nordic Highlands ski resort in Duntroon.

The team of five has been training since November; strengthening their ability to run and ski, as well as practicing their marksmanship abilities throughout various range days.

This weekend is the culmination of all their hard work, as they and their coaches will be participating in yet another year of the C.O.A Biathlon competition.

The competition allows for 23 squadrons to participate, with approximately 180 athletes in total, both competing singularly and as teams.

Cadets participating are to ski a 5km trail, consisting of three loops with two integrated shooting segments.

After all races have been completed, the squadrons will reunite in a final parade in which the finalists will be announced.

If the 164 Squadron Biathlon team is triumphant, they will advance to the Regional Biathlon Competition held in Sault Ste Marie in the following weeks.

The National competition is to be hosted sometime in March.

In previous years 164 has taken the competition by storm, leaving somewhat of a legacy for the squadron. Through injuries and with the uncooperative weather, this team has persevered and has made an honest effort to strive for success. Coach Second Lieutenant Ron Shaw has worked with the team for three years now and is incredibly proud of all their hard work.

"It's always exciting to see our cadets compete in this competition... 164 and Shelburne should be proud of their team!" said Shaw after an early morning practice with his cadets.

Best wishes to the entire team from all of their friends at 164 Squadron.

Meditation class

The weekly drop-in Thursday meditation classes at the Orangeville Mill Street Public Library will start off on Jan 23 with a three week series titled, "This year, I promise to..."

Each class consists of two guided meditations and a teaching. Fee of \$10 per session or buy a \$40 pass for any five sessions. For more information, visit kadampa.ca

Wolves Peewee LL2 team has successful weekend

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

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Bantam LL1 A pool finalists at Wasaga Beach



A long day with their first game at 8 a.m. against Thornton in the Wasaga Beach Minor Hockey Tournament resulted in Shelburne's Bantam LL1 finishing as A pool finalists on Saturday January 11th.

Winning 3-2 against Thornton in overtime took them onto game 2 with Beverley.

Tension rose as the game ended 1-1 and into overtime. Still no win on either side took Shelburne into a shoot out with the opposing team.

Goaltenders on both teams held their own, but Shelburne's goalie Joe Woollett helped

save the day by blocking 3 out of the 4 shots on net with Porter Cavey and Tyler Fournier securing 2 more goals against Beverley in the shoot out. Showing signs of tiring in their 3rd and final game against Nobel King, Shelburne's Bantam LL1 took a 3-1 loss to take 2nd place in the day's tournament.

The Wolves players, coaches and trainers would like to thank Wasaga Beach for organizing a fun filled event and for Petro Canada, Shelburne for sponsoring them, fun was had by all.

CALLING ALL KIDS!



We are currently seeking newspaper carriers to deliver once a week for the

Orangeville Citizen and Shelburne Free Press on

Victoria Street & Main Street areas.

Call Debbie 519-925-2832 / 519-216-1021

SHELBURNE FRESH VARIETY

Corner of Owen Sound & Jane Street - (519) 925-3497 - Mon.to Fri. 7 a.m. - 9 p.m. Sat. & Sun. 8 a.m. - 8 p.m. - Owned and operated by Brent & Collette Gray

Prices in effect from Wednesday, January 15 to Tuesday, January 21

<p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">1% or 2% Milk</p> <p style="font-size: 3em; font-weight: bold;">\$3.99</p> <p style="font-size: small;">/ 4 L. bag</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">Locally-grown White Potatoes</p> <p style="font-size: 3em; font-weight: bold;">\$1.99</p> <p style="font-size: small;">/10 lb. bag</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">Bananas</p> <p style="font-size: 3em; font-weight: bold;">49¢</p> <p style="font-size: small;">lb.</p>
<p style="background-color: gray; color: white; padding: 2px; font-weight: bold;">SAVE A DOLLAR!</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">Sweet & Seedless CALIFORNIA Oranges</p> <p style="font-size: 3em; font-weight: bold;">\$3.99</p> <p style="font-size: small;">/ doz.</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">FRESH Head Lettuce & Romaine</p> <p style="font-size: 3em; font-weight: bold;">99¢</p> <p style="font-size: small;">each</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold; text-align: center;">Individually frozen PICKED AT THEIR PEAK!</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; text-align: center;">Sweet Wild Blueberries, Raspberries, Sliced Peaches & Apples, Rhubarb & Cherries</p>

CLASSIFIEDS

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 Email, or call us for pricing. Classified cutoff time is Wednesday at 10 am

HELP WANTED

SUMMER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES CENTRE DUFFERIN RECREATION COMPLEX

Invites applications for the positions of:

2014 Summer Season-June through August

SEASONAL HEAD LIFEGUARD Starting hourly rate is \$14.85

SEASONAL ASSISTANT HEAD LIFEGUARD Starting hourly rate is \$12.48

SEASONAL LIFEGUARD/INSTRUCTOR Starting hourly rate is \$11.29

SEASONAL SUMMER DAY CAMP CO-ORDINATOR Starting hourly rate is \$11.29

LIFEGUARD: All positions must have Red Cross Swim Instructor, National Lifeguarding Service, Standard First Aid with CPR-c, Lifesaving Instructors. Other aquatic qualifications and certifications an asset. The job requires strong interpersonal and communication skills in order to work well with children, other staff, volunteers, parents and the community as well as cleaning and maintenance. Interested, qualified individuals may submit their resume and attach qualifications quoting CDRC-POOL2014.

CAMP: Applications are being received for up to three (3) positions within our Recreation Department for Seasonal Summer Day Camp Coordinators. The successful applicants must have Standard First Aid with CPR-c. The job requires strong interpersonal and communication skills in order to work well with children, other staff, volunteers, parents and the community as well as cleaning and maintenance. A background in recreation and program development and implementation would be an asset. Interested, qualified individuals may submit their resume quoting CDRC-CAMP2014.

All standard employment requirements apply. Resumes for all positions will be received until January 30, 2014 at 2:00pm at the Centre Dufferin Recreation Complex by email, fax or in person:

Centre Dufferin Recreation Complex
 200 Fiddle Park Lane, Shelburne, ON L9V 3C9
 Phone: (519) 925-2400 Fax: (519) 925-2402
 Email: kfraser@townofshelburne.on.ca

Please note position applying for on cover page

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

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THANKS

Card of Thanks Yokom

We would like to thank our family, friends & neighbours for the cards, flowers & food since the passing of Jim. A sincere thank you to Ambulance attendants and the staff at Headwaters Health Care and the homecare nurses

A very special thank you to Mc Millan & Jack Funeral Home and Reverend David . Fries for their kind words and guidance during this difficult time. Their understanding and respect for Jim and his family is greatly appreciated.

Another very special thank you to all the kind and thoughtful neighbours, Tom and Andrea, Jimbo and April, Jeff and Chrissy, Sherri and Rita. Your support will never be forgotten

Sincerely, Mabel, Leona, Linda, Lana, Laura and families

MEAT

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DEATHS

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DEATHS

ENTERED INTO REST
 In Headwaters Hospital, Orangeville
 With his family by his side
 On Wednesday, January 8th 2014

James Lemon Yokom

Jim Yokom, beloved husband of Mabel (Lambert) Yokom. Loving father of Leona (Ron) Barton of Honeywood, Linda Black of Shelburne, Lana (Paul) Pullen of Mono and Laura Yokom (Don Andrew) of Honeywood. Will be sadly missed by grandchildren Randy (Sarah), Rodney (Lesley), Amanda (Brad), Crystal (Derek), Bobbie-Jo (Dave), Brandon (Morgan), Bradley (Ashley), Samantha, Christine and Phillip, Alex (Cheryl), Jenna and Josh. Will be sadly missed by 14 great-grand children, Caitlin, Branson, Peyton, Rylan, Cole, Gracie, Aiden, Clayton, Brody, Gavin, Owen, Hallie, Jesslyn and Amelia. Survived by brother Earl and two sisters Helen and Goldie. Pre-deceased by a son-in-law Paul Pullen, 2 great grand daughters Alexa and Avery, and 2 sisters Marjorie and Leona.

The Funeral

Rested at McMillan & Jack Funeral Home, Dundalk. Complete service was held in the chapel on Friday January 10th, 2014 at 4:00pm. Visitation was held from 1 to 4pm. A reception was held in the Hornings Mills Community Hall on Friday from 6 to 8 pm. Donations may be made to Women & Babies Program at Sunnybrook Hospital in Memory of Avery Pullen.

COMING EVENTS

DICK WHITTINGTON & HIS CAT - Come to the pantomime - it's the greatest of fun for all the family! Join in the adventures of Dick Whittington and his cat Tammy, when they journey to London to seek their fortune...

January 24th, 31st and February 1st at 7:00pm
 January 26th and February 2nd at 2:00pm
 At the Grace Tipling Hall, Shelburne. More info at www.tiplingstagecompany.com or call 519-925-2600 to reserve tickets.

MEMORIAM

Doris Edwards November 9, 1949 – December 31, 2013



Passed away at home peacefully with her family at her side on Tuesday, December 31, 2013. Doris Edwards aged 64, loving wife and best friend of Dennis. Loved mother of Cori Johnson (Norm Mc lean) and Wayde Johnson (Jennifer Lum). Proud grandma of Carter and Mackenzie Mc Lean. Doris is also survived by her sister Marion (Bob) Webb and Ila (Sherdon) Kellest. Doris will be fondly remembered by her nieces, nephews, the many children from her years of day care along with her wonderful circle of friends. A Funeral service was held in the chapel at Adams funeral Home in Barrie on Saturday January 4th

Stone Wilfred

In loving memory of my husband, dad, grandpa, great grandpa, Wilfred who passed away January 20, 2013

We miss your smile
 Your joking ways
 We miss the things
 You used to say,
 And when old times
 We do recall,
 It's when we miss you most of all.

Forever loved and missed
 Marjory, Betty Anne, Jane and families

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HELP WANTED

OUR DOORS ARE OPEN

DEDICATED AND RELIABLE INDIVIDUALS NEEDED FOR MANUFACTURING/PRODUCTION WORK

DATE: Wednesday January 22, 2014

LOCATION: Shelburne Employment Resource Centre @ The Mel Lloyd Centre, 167 Centre Street, Entrance E, Shelburne ON L9V 3R8

TIME: 9 am – 1 pm

PLEASE BRING PHOTO ID AND SIN CARD

If you are interested in this opportunity but cannot attend the job fair, please phone us at 519 942 9149.

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 Programmed Saw Operator – Kitchen cabinets – \$16.00 / hr.
 Forklift Mechanic – \$32K
 Industrial Supplies Sales position – \$45K
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 • Resumes only, no phone calls
 • Only qualified persons will be contacted

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HELP WANTED

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ONE BEDROOM apartment for rent, Shelburne, country location. 4 appliances. No pets, No smoking \$600 per month plus utilities. Call 519 925 3635

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in Shelburne (heated). Features include climate controlled heat, 24 hour security. 10' x 5' (50 Sq ft). From \$60 per month. Larger units available. Pay for 1x year and save 20%. Boxes plus moving supplies also available. Call 519 306 0191

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Walker pups. Born Nov 2, 2013 Ready to go. All puppy shots \$175.00 each Call 519 925 5686

NOTICE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ALL claims against the Estate of Melville Bertram Horner, late of the Town of Shelburne, in the County of Dufferin, Independent Contractor, who died on September 20, 2013, must be filed with the undersigned personal representative on or before February 6, 2013; thereafter the undersigned will distribute the assets of the said estate having regard only to the claims then filed.

Dated January 13, 2014

Douglas James King Executor
 Shepherd, Osyany & King
 211 Main Street East
 Shelburne, Ontario
 L9V 3K4

Keeping Ontario strong through historic federal transfers

BY DAVID TILSON, MP DUFFERIN-CALEDON

We have the best country in the world. There are many, many excellent reasons for this, but one major reason is the strong services we enjoy as Canadians, such as health care, education, and social services. We also depend on these services. The support for such services comes from our federal Government through federal transfers. Despite the global economic downturn which started in 2008, our Government actually increased transfer support to the provinces and territories. Ontario, in particular, has significantly benefited from federal transfers and can be proud of what that has meant for Ontarians - the continued delivery of essential services for families.

Our Government has made considerable efforts to restore fiscal balance which has been done through various actions taken by

our Government, such as record and growing transfer support to the provinces and territories. In fact, federal support has reached historic levels (\$65 billion) and will continue to grow. Furthermore, total federal support for health, education, and social services has increased over 55 per cent since we formed Government in 2006.

In an effort to ensure that transfers grow in line with the economy, our Government made changes, which allows the program to remain affordable and sustainable. This is in stark contrast to previous governments which actually slashed transfer payments to the provinces and territories. Our approach has ensured and will continue to ensure that provinces and territories can provide health care, educational, and other services Canadian families need and rely upon.

Here in Ontario, our province

will receive almost \$19.2 billion through major federal transfers in 2014-15. This is an increase of 76 per cent from the previous government including: almost \$2 billion through Equalization; over \$12.3 billion through the Canada Health Transfer (an increase of over \$4.6 billion or 60 per cent since 2006); and over \$4.8 billion through the Canada Social Transfer (an increase of almost \$1.7 billion or 53 per cent since the previous government).

Our Government took action to restore balance to federal transfers. Such action was announced in Budget 2007 and beginning in 2014-15, provincial and territorial health transfers will be allocated on an equal per capita cash basis. This change, which was also done in the Budget 2007 and beginning in 2014-15, provincial and territorial health transfers will be allocated on an equal per capita cash basis. This change, which was also done in the Budget 2007 and beginning in 2014-15, provincial and territorial health transfers will be allocated on an equal per capita cash basis. This change, which was also done in the Budget 2007 and beginning in 2014-15, provincial and territorial health transfers will be allocated on an equal per capita cash basis.

will remain committed to ensuring that no province or territory will receive less in health transfers than they received in 2013-14.

Equalization serves to support "have not" provinces, whose fiscal capacity is below the national average. Since Ontario first qualified for this program in 2009, our Government has provided nearly \$10 billion in Equalization payments to our province. In addition, we're also assisting Ontario to once again be a "have" province by making key investments in important sectors, such as automotive and manufacturing.

Canadians in Ontario and all across Canada can count on our Government to continue to provide continued, stable funding support for essential services through federal transfers. Our Government's record is strong and will remain that way as we start 2014.

Mandated intensification targets 'unrealistic'

BY WES KELLER

In setting targets in its provincially required Official Plan, Dufferin County will have to convince the province that its rules on intensification are unrealistic for rural areas outside the Greater Toronto Area, consultant Chris Tyrell of the MMM Group told a public meeting Saturday morning.

According to information provided by MMM, the province at present wants an overall intensive target of 40% for the whole county.

This would comprise 38% for Shelburne, 50% for Orangeville and 12% for Grand Valley. Those three municipalities would be considered "primary" growth areas as they all have waste water treatment plants, sewage disposal systems, and public

water systems, among other things. Mr. Tyrell said those targets are unrealistic.

The MMM recommendations are for a 30% intensification for the whole county, 50% for Orangeville, 24% for Shelburne, and 6% for Grand Valley. Grand Valley, the former township of East Luther Grand Valley, is mostly rural in area but the urban area is centred on the former Village of Grand Valley.

What, exactly, is meant by "intensification?" Tracey Atkinson, herself a professional planner and project manager for the OP, said in an interview Wednesday that the province mapped out what it considered "built areas" within the boundary limits of the three primary growth areas.

The intensification targets refer to the percentage of new growth that must be accommodated within the built areas. If Orangeville, for example, were to desire development of 10 new residences, 5 of those would have to be within the built area whereas Shelburne would need to build only 2 or 3 of the 10 within the built area.

Ms. Atkinson said the recommended target for Orangeville has been kept high as the town doesn't have much space for growth. Shelburne and Grand Valley differ in that respect. The recommendations don't list specific figures for Mono and the townships as they don't have provincially mapped "built-up areas" although there are several "secondary" growth areas scattered throughout.

Intensification can be achieved by infilling, such as a recent expansion of a single dwelling to four on the same lot or a townhouse development proposed in downtown Shelburne, residential units above stores and other commercial things, or by construction of high rise units.

On Saturday, though, Mr. Tyrell said people don't move to rural areas to live in a condo or rental high-rise.

Shelburne Legion

Looks like another busy weekend at the branch. Jan the 17th is Jam Nite, hosted by Wayne and Kim Petters from Midnight Special and Larry Johnston on drums. Mike Hale will be on hand to make his wraps, the fun all begins at 8 p.m.

Saturday the 18th the branch will open at 11 a.m. and the gang from Roy's Chicks will be selling food all day. There's still time to join the Legion Snow Pitch Team for that day, just call the branch and sign up.

Sunday the 19th is our open euchre, new players always welcome.

Our next wing night will be Jan 24th, the wings will be sold in the back bar from 5 - 9 p.m. Everyone is welcome, we will have music playing for the children. The entertainment will be in the upper bar from 8:30 p.m. until 12:30 a.m. (sorry no children). We will be introducing for the first time at the branch the JP Wasson band.

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- Anonymous

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NEWS FROM THE CHURCHES

Christian Perspectives – water into wine

A little while ago I read a disturbing news article. The article hi-lited several food items that we can expect to run short of in the next few years.

Bacon. Tell me it ain't so! High feed prices due to poor harvests and a killer virus that is making the rounds means the supply is way down. All this means you might not necessarily see bacon or your pork chop disappear from grocery store, but you'll be paying a lot more for your pork.

Chocolate. Yes for real, the world is facing a serious shortage of chocolate! I bet you are wishing you had saved some of those chocolate Christmas treats.... What are we going to do? What about Valentines or Easter? The African farmers who grow most of the worlds cocoa trees just don't earn enough money (80 cents a day) to tend the cocoa trees which take 5 years to start bearing fruit.

Wine. Wine consumption the world over is way up (esp. in China) while wine production last year was down 5% in North America and 10% in Europe. If the trend continues we will definitely see wine shortages.

In The gospel of John (2: 1-12) we read the story of Jesus showing up for a wedding. Unfortunately for the Bride and Groom the party is running out of wine. Mary, Jesus' mother, pulls her son aside and suggests/demands he do something. Eventually Jesus does: He turns water in the best wine that the wedding guests have ever tasted.

The wedding feast at Cana marks the beginning of Jesus' public ministry. It is remarkable that Jesus chooses this particular venue to start his ministry. Cana was a backwater, remote and

far out of the way place. If you wanted to launch a new business venture, product or even a new ministry you would probably use a major or large city where there were lots of people (especially important, influential ones) You would make sure there would be lots of fanfare making sure there would be a big splash that would get noticed; Something that would definitely make the headlines in the major newspapers or hopefully go viral on facebook or youTube. But Jesus doesn't do it that way. The miracle itself is shrouded in mystery. There is not a hint of an action just a simple word by Jesus. We should recognize the creative power of our Lord. In Genesis we see God at work at work in establishing his creation: God spoke a word and it came into being. That same God spoke a word and water turned into wine. This miracle is a declaration, a sign of Jesus' divine nature: He is the son of God, creator and almighty God.

The whole miracle itself is totally different from any other miracle Jesus performed as well. Here there is no emergency, there is no one dying, no one suffering.

It almost seems frivolous for Jesus to do what he did. I mean really, turning water into wine at some simple country wedding ...? What was Jesus thinking? In the grand scheme of world affairs weren't there bigger issues to solve? Jesus is interested in the most ordinary and trivial things of our lives. Besides weddings, he cares about your lost car keys, your cold, your car problem, your upcoming exams etc. Nothing is too unimportant for our Lord. He lived among us and understands and knows our struggles. He can fully comprehend all that we will ever face in this life.

The wedding at Cana also marks the beginning of a new relationship with His mother Mary. When Mary notices the party is running out of wine she talks to her son suggesting or demanding he do something. Jesus gently rebukes her and reminds her that now the time has come that he will act as God's son. A transition takes place: He will no longer obey Mary as her son (luke 2:51) rather she needs to obey Him as the son of God.

Sometimes we make the same mistake: we might be so familiar with Jesus that we think Jesus is at our beck or call, as if he owes us for our service to him, forgetting he is Lord and we owe him everything.

The wedding in Cana also gives us a hint of the celebration that awaits us in heaven. Throughout his ministry Jesus repeatedly compares himself as the groom and his church (that is you and me as believers) as his bride. The wedding feast is a symbol of the eternal celebration that awaits us when Jesus comes back to take us home.

Jesus came and took what was common and ordinary (water) into something great and wonderful (wine). He came to make it "Holy" that is, set apart for Him. If he can take a bunch of "rough, uncouth" plain fishermen and make them into His disciples, he can take you and me and make us into His disciples as well. Jesus came to make what was sinful and make it Holy again. We bow our head and acknowledge Him as Lord and obediently follow His lead and direction, so that through Christ we too will become "Holy".

Jan Oorebeek
Highlands Youth For Christ

Ontario Human Rights Commission: get your act together or quit

BY DR. BIKRAM LAMBA

The Ontario Human Rights Commission's (OHRC) decision to ban "Canadian Experience" as a requirement for a job was made as a result of careless and very ill-informed research. Its results will almost certainly be another assault on Canadian workers. The decision should be repealed. As of July 15, 2013, the OHRC decreed that employers who require "Canadian Experience" for jobs could be violating the Ontario Human Rights Code.

In other words, an employer under the Human Rights Code must consider all work experience – Canadian and international – when assessing if someone is suitable for a job. Employers who require such experience have to make a strong case to be exempted. Here are some reasons why the OHRC decision should be repealed:

(1) The introduction that the Ontario Human Rights Commission provides to their work indicates that, in approaching the "Canadian Experience" requirement, the OHRC operated at a sloppy, ill-informed and almost amateurish level. For example, the OHRC says at the beginning of its preamble to its "Policy on Removing the Canadian Experience Barrier" that Canada is seen as a country of opportunity, peace and democratic governance and had attracted many highly-skilled immigrants who had greatly enriched Canada's culture and economy. However, Canada had "an aging population, shrinking birthrate, and shortage of skilled labour". The latter statement implies that the OHRC believes that immigration would solve problems caused by an aging population and a low birth rate. However, the federal government's own research in 1989 had shown that immigration would not. In fact, the government's research recommended that Canada find a Made in Canada solution instead of looking to immigration as a solution. So why is the OHRC saying the opposite? It seems it was content to parrot what the immigration lobby told it. It did not do its homework.

(2) The OHRC claim that Canada has a shortage of skilled labour has been repeatedly questioned. The government's claim that such a shortage exists in a number of occupations has been shown to be, if not outright fraud, then very close to it.

Currently, Canada has close to 1.6 million jobless. Even if Canada had a shortage of skilled labour, it does not have a shortage of labourers. In other words, one obvious way to get skilled workers is to make our own labourers skilled, not to import such workers. The OHRC does not even mention this option..

(3) The OHRC is incorrect in saying that immigrants had greatly enriched Canada's economy. No doubt, some had made significant contributions. However, the OHRC concludes, "Canada relies on the contributions of immigrants for its economic well-being". Again, if the OHRC had done its homework, it would have realized that The Economic Council of Canada had studied what effects immigration had had on Canada's economy in every decade since Confederation. The conclusion they reached was that immigration had not produced any significant positive benefit to Canada's economy.

So why is the OHRC saying that immigrants have greatly enriched Canada's economy and that Canada relies on immigration for its economic well-being? Obviously, the OHRC parroted the immigration lobby instead of doing its homework.

(4) Then, unbelievable as it sounds, the OHRC says, "In the modern global economy, immigrants with foreign experience can increase Canada's international competitiveness by enhancing the country's "diversity advantage"?. Again, instead of repeating the claims made by Canada's immigration lobby, the OHRC should have tried using some common sense.

(5) The OHRC then gets into a serious problem with its reasoning. It states, "... it is a major concern when recent immigrants to Canada face high rates of both underemployment and unemployment. Statistics Canada reported that between 1991 and 2006, "the proportion of immigrants with a university degree in jobs with low educational requirements (such as clerks, truck drivers, salespersons, cashiers, and taxi drivers) increased." Even after being in Canada for fifteen years, "immigrants with a university degree are still more likely than the native-born to be in low-skilled jobs."

From this, the OHRC concludes that Ontario employers' requirement for "Canadian experi-

ence" has to be removed. Here's a fundamental that the OHRC does not understand : Canada's immigration intake should exist to serve Canada. Contrary to what the immigration lobby says, Canada's intake should not exist to serve immigrants. In other words, Canadians come first. Yes, Canada is discriminating. But Canada is doing so because if Canada does not stand up for its own people and give them preference in hiring, what country will? The OHRC should have realized that the reason many immigrants were not doing well, was probably because many should not have been brought here in the first place. Failing to get to the root of the immigrants' problem and instead making Canadian workers suffer even more demonstrates that the OHRC has not learned to think for itself.

(6) The OHRC's failure to confront Ottawa on Canada's immigration intake is outright negligence. The OHRC hypocritically holds itself up as a champion of justice by bowing to the immigration lobby and to immigrants. The point is that if the OHRC were really interested in justice, its pursuit of justice should have started with mainstream Canadians. In not admitting this, the OHRC is acknowledging that it is doing the work of the immigration lobby.

(7) When the OHRC cuts the throats of Canadians so that foreign nationals can get jobs here, it is committing a complete perversion of justice. Ironically, Human Rights organizations, in championing globalization views, are imitating the actions of the world's multinationals. Human Rights organizations are increasingly supporting a borderless world where so-called "international justice" takes precedence over national justice. In fact, marginalization of the employment needs of Canadian nationals (its mainstream population) seems to be perfectly acceptable to the OHRC.

Ontario has about 40% (13 million) of Canada's population (34 million). What it does on many fronts is often imitated in other provinces. Those actions are sometimes imitated by other countries. The example that the Ontario HRC has set on the "Canadian Experience" issue is shameful. Canada's other 9 provinces, its territories and other countries should not imitate the OHRC's amateurish, ill-informed work.

The OHRC ends their statement with a list of "Best Practices", that is, advice to others. Here's some advice (best practice) for the OHRC : Get your act together or vacate the offices you occupy.

Dr. Bikram Lamba, a political & business strategist, can be contacted at 705 302-6116 or via e-mail at lambabikram@gmail.com

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