

Shelburne Free Press

SHELBURNE'S NEWSPAPER SINCE 1875

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PHOTO BY SGT KEV PARLE © 2013

OPERATION 'HO HO HO' – Elves 'Suzie Snowflake' (Corporal Shannon Huntley), 'Corby' Private Corbin Arvisias, 'Noel' (Corporal David Noel), 'Christmas Carol' (Corporal Carol MacDougall), 'Rossie' (Cpl Kelly Cardwell), and 'Pickles' (Corporal Adam Pyke) leap for joy prior to their departure for Sick Kids Hospital in Toronto as part of OP Ho Ho Ho. This year is the 10th Anniversary of the 400 (City of Toronto) Squadron's OP HoHoHo where they fly elves (volunteers from the squadron) to Sick Kids Hospital in Toronto to distribute gifts and interact with patients who will be in hospital over the Christmas period. 400 Squadron is stationed at Canadian Forces Base Borden, Ontario.

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Merry Christmas from all our staff!
- Sincerely Roy Hinbest

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County residential tax goes up by 1.74%

BY WES KELLER

It wasn't exactly an early Christmas present, but Dufferin County taxpayers did get a break of sorts from the Municipal Property Assessment Corp. (MPAC) last week, just in time for the adoption of the county's 2014 budget Dec. 12.

The budget requires a rise in tax levy to \$31,353,700 from \$30,319,210, including a \$500,000 donation to Headwaters Health Care Centre. That would have required tax levy hike of 3.41 per cent, but MPAC last week notified the county that real growth in 2013 had been 1.67 per cent, County Treasurer Alan Selby said, so the actual rise for existing property owners is reduced to 1.74 per cent by deducting the 1.67 per cent to be paid by new property owners.

As a result, even with the added \$500,000 for the hospital, the average homeowner will pay about \$25 a year more in 2014 than in 2013.

Mr. Selby said the average home in Dufferin in 2013 was assessed at \$369,268. The same property's assessed value for 2014 is \$378,500. County tax on that property was \$1,472.57 in 2013, and will rise to \$1,498.15 in 2014.

How did MPAC help in holding the rise to \$25.58?

In earlier budget drafts, the assumed growth for 2013 had been estimated at 1.21 per cent. That growth, had it been accurate, would have meant a tax rise of 2.20 per cent rather than 1.74. The average tax for 2014 would have been \$1,505, or a rise of \$32.

So the MPAC figure saved homeowners, on average, about \$6.40; not much, "but every little bit helps?"

Mr. Selby warns that the "average" tax levy can be misleading. Although the average value is correct, not every residence is "average." Depending on whether your home is above or below the average assessed value, you will pay more or less than the average levy.

Christmas refreshments

Sanjay Lekhi, pharmacist/owner of Shelburne Town Pharmacy is hosting a community Christmas refreshment drop-in on December 27 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. which includes free tea and coffee. All welcome.

The Christmas Poinsettia – Mexican?



PHOTO BY WENDY GABREK

A mixed colour – pink, white and red – Christmas poinsettia

BY ALEX SHER

Christmas traditions are generally just followed and over time it's easy to forget where the traditions originated from. The Poinsettia for example is recognizably the most widely used plant for decorating during the holiday season, but why is that exactly?

Would it surprise you to know that during the 14th century, the Aztecs used this plant to control fevers and make red dye with the red foliage? Established as a plant originating from Mexico, it's curious as to how this particular plant made its way to the United States and Canada, becoming the plant associated with Christmas across the world and here's how it all happened.

Steeped in history, the Poinsettia only received its name

in the 1800's as then U.S President, John Quincy Adams appointed Joel Roberts Poinsett as the very first United States Ambassador to Mexico. Amazing how Joel Poinsett managed to quench his thirst for botany during war, but in 1828 he discovered the plant, fell in love, clipped a piece, and actually took it home with him to the United States where he grew the plant in his South Carolina greenhouse. Obviously named for Joel Poinsett, this plant grew in popularity and is now available in over 100 varieties and colors. In Mexico this plant can grow reaching the spectacular height of up to 15ft tall!

Commercially, according to Wikipedia, it was German immigrant Albert Ecke who grew the Poinsettia on his Orchard

and sold the flower on stands. After many generations of Ecke's promoting the flower during Thanksgiving and Christmas, the family is noted for the plant's ever growing popularity during those specific times.

Going back further however to explain the Christmas association we look to both legend and folklore revealing the story of a little girl during the time of the birth of Jesus who was too poor to bring a present and inspired by an Angel gathered weeds and brought them to the front of the church alter to celebrate Jesus' birthday. As the tale goes, the weeds then sprouted the most beautiful Crimson colored blossoms, becoming the Poinsettia we know and love today. Franciscan Friars of the 17th

century reportedly included the Poinsettia in all Christmas celebrations as the star shaped leaf pattern was believed to symbolize the 'Star of Bethlehem', and the Crimson color believed to represent the blood sacrifice during the crucifixion of Jesus.

From Aztecs to Ambassadors, from Friars to German immigrant florists, this plant has been capturing attention throughout history. Although not poisonous, it's a good idea to keep Poinsettias away from pets as it will undoubtedly cause nausea and vomiting.

In recognition to Joel Poinsett, this wonderful, widely celebrated plant from Mexico has its own day of celebration and for those of you who do not know, Poinsettia Day is December 12!

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

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PHOTO BY ALEX SHER

ONE ENERGY CENTER'S GRAND OPENING HUGE SUCCESS! – One Energy Center officially opened its doors at 155 Main Street West Shelburne on Sunday, December 15th. The new business (and new location) is owned by Jodi Jones and Thom Grace. Together, they offer a warm, comforting, home-like and inviting environment for all. Come in to explore the many forms of healing services offered – designed to help and guide everyone in the community in complete health and wellness. Pictured: Mayor Ed Crewson, and the owners of One Energy Center, Jodie Jones and Tom Grace with fellow healers (from left) Katrina Pattison RMT, Suzanne Lyons, Registered Holistic Nutritionist, Louise Phillips, Yoga/Tai chi Instructor, Reiki Master, R.Ac Amanda Phillip, Zumba Instructor, Angelo Corriero, Psychotherapist, Medical Intuitive. For more information, call 519-925-1999, visit www.oneenergycenter.com or treat yourself to an actual visit and let the healing begin!

Stemming the tide of bullying

Incidents of bullying continue to make headlines. Canada has the 9th highest rate of bullying among 13-year-olds out of 35 countries and suicide of teenage girls has reached epidemic proportions. There are many calls to stem the tide and foster schools and communities that are safe, equitable and inclusive. The question is, how do we do it?

Bullying is about power – power over others, loss of personal power, power imbalances, and the abuse of power. Providing information, skills, and adult support are key ways to redress power imbalances at the heart of bullying and all forms of aggression. When young people feel knowledgeable, equipped, confident, and supported, they don't feel the need to impose their will on others. They feel

courageous enough to stand up for themselves, and for others. The simple act of helping them identify and strengthen their own and others' abilities fosters healthy and equal relationships.

Recently, COPA launched new, innovative multimedia resources for students, teachers and parents with the Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario. The resources take a unique approach to preventing bullying and discrimination based on a human rights perspective.

In one of COPA's documentaries on bullying, a student recounts how she told a tormented classmate, how lovely she really is. The classmate replied that this was the most wonderful thing she had ever heard. Another student tells how he stumbled on two others

mocking a student with learning disabilities and said, "Hey that's not cool." They stopped and walked away. These are simple yet effective ways for young people to change the dial on bullying – those who bully others, are bullied, and those who witness it. (Consider too that many children who bully others are themselves bullied and at higher risk for suicide.)

Both parents and educators have a key role to play. Modeling appropriate behaviour, and ensuring that our daily interactions with youth foster acceptance and respect for themselves and others is an important part of that work.

Healthy schools are places where students can express their concerns, and feel safe and supported by their peers and the adults around them.

These are places to learn vocabulary and have discussions about racism, or why phrases such as "That's so gay" are hurtful, or how females are devalued when they are subjected to sexist language and sexual harassment.

Fortunately, Ontario has institutions, laws and educational policies working to foster a culture of human rights. Under our Human Rights Code, everyone has the right to be free from discrimination and harassment on the basis of race, colour, ethnic origin, sex, disability, sexual orientation, gender expression and gender identity, and other grounds. Laws including the Safe Schools Act and the Accepting Schools Act promote standards of respect and dignity in schools. The government's Equity and Inclusive Education Strategy sets out what is taught in schools to ensure students, teachers and staff learn and work in an environment that is respectful, supportive and welcoming to all.

Speaking at the launch of COPA's latest resources, Barbara Hall, Chief Commissioner of the Ontario Human Rights Commission, said that we have a shared responsibility to help young people realize that they can change the world through their actions.

For all of us, a good place to start is to realize that we all belong – and that we all play a key role in changing the world.

Lisa Weintraub is Executive Director of COPA, a non-profit bilingual organization working to create schools that are safe, strong, and free. Sam Hammond is President of the Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario. For more information, see www.infocopa.com

New housing in Shelburne

BY WES KELLER

The proposal for a 40-unit condominium development on a strip of land between Shelburne's Gordon Street and the county-owned CP Rail corridor has been modified somewhat since it first was presented to town council two years ago, but it will need a few more changes before winning approval from a lukewarm council.

Gordon Street runs north from Main Street generally to the vicinity of CDDHS and Hyland Heights elementary school. It is likely the narrowest paved roadway in Shelburne, and lies at the west end of First and Second avenues.

The two perceived problems arising from the proposal have been that the two or three-storey height of the proposed condo units would intrude on the privacy of residents of the two avenues, and that the 42 (now reduced to 40) residential units would create traffic problems on Gordon Street.

Initially, proponent Stoneridge Holdings had proposed a 2-way condo road parallel to Gordon, with access via First or Second avenue. Town council objected on the basis, in part, that emergency vehicles entering at the centre of the development wouldn't know which way to turn.

Now, in a revised proposal presented to the council Monday, the condo road would be one way with access from the south end of Gordon as well as from First and Second. Exit would be via First or Second.

On Monday, the occupant of a home at the northwest end of Second Avenue asked that the most northerly condo unit be removed as it would overlook not only her living room but also her pool.

Gaston Bottero, a principal of Stoneridge, agreed that the unit could be moved further away from Gordon, to provide a greater separation from the lady's property, and also that there might be some adjustments possible with windows.

The present proposal calls for three 4-plex units at the south end of Gordon. This will need to change as the council is averse to such units adjacent to Main Street.

Deputy Mayor Ken Bennington said he doesn't favour 4-plexes, and these would be right at the corner on the town's most highly travelled through route. He said he would prefer to see townhouses there.

Mr. Bottero said the 4-plexes would simply look like "semis split in half," but then agreed that he would be open to either townhouses or semis. It is expected that a revised draft would offer the choice.

Councillor Tom Egan raised the issue of a remote possibility that a rail line could eventually be restored. Mr. Bottero said there would be warnings in the sales agreements.

The more likely impediment, also broached at the meeting, was the likelihood of a 230 kv power line in close proximity. The power line easement is currently being either negotiated or expropriated by Dufferin Wind Power, which had previously had "leave to construct" from the Ontario Energy Board. The DWP wind farm approvals are under appeal at the Environmental Review Tribunal.

The possibility of a power line would also be included in any sales agreements.

In a phone interview, Planner Steve Wever wasn't concerned about the possibility of a rail line being restored. He said the town opposes both restoration of the rail and construction of a power line.

Admitting that the development would lack the setbacks required by federal rules on rail lines, he said it would be the responsibility of the rail proponent to satisfy the federal regulations.

Mr. Wever's position as a planner is simply that use of the corridor for rail is not "good planning."

Although the corridor is owned by the county, Mr. Wever said it is shown as part of the trail system in Shelburne's Official Plan.

'The Drowsy Chaperone' debuts in Orangeville

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Director/Music Director – Gregory Dickison

Choreographer – Nadine Daniel

The Drowsy Chaperone runs from January 11th to 25th, 2014

Performances are: Jan 11, 18, 25 at 8 p.m. and;

• Jan 12, 19 at 2 p.m.

It all takes place at the Town Hall Opera House, 87 Broadway, Orangeville.

For tickets call 519-942-3423 or visit www.orangevillemusichtheatre.com

Tickets: \$20; children 12 & under \$15 (plus box office fee).

just a reminder for next week...

Holiday interruption for waste collection:

Collections for the day of the holiday and the rest of the week will be shifted to one day later.

Merry Christmas!

Due to the holiday on Wednesday, December 25th, garbage, Blue Boxes and Green Bins will be collected a day later for the rest of that week.

If your waste is normally collected on Wednesday, it will be collected on Thursday and Thursday's will be collected on Friday. If your collection day is before the holiday, it will remain the same.

The schedule will also change for the New Years holiday. Regular collection days will resume the week of January 6th, 2013.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Dec. 16-20	A	B	C	D	
Dec. 23-27	A	B	Christmas	C	D
Dec. 30-Jan. 3	A	B	New Years	C	D
Jan. 6-10	A	B	C	D	



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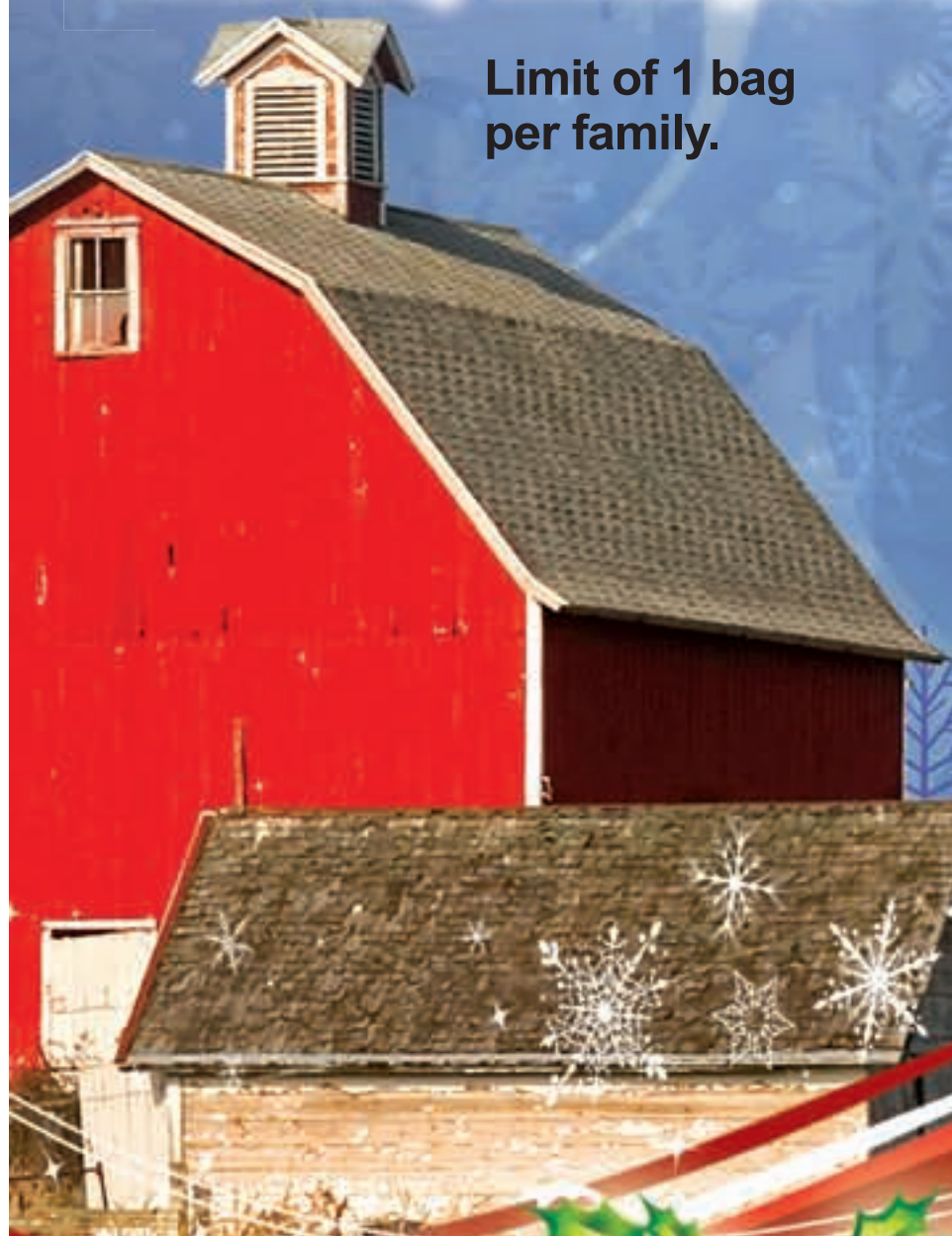
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Dec 22nd 8am to 7pm	Dec 28th 8am to 7pm
Dec 23rd 8am to 7pm	Dec 29th 9am to 6pm
Dec 24th 7am to 6pm	Dec 30th 8am to 9pm
Dec 25th Closed	Dec 31st 8am to 6pm
	Jan 1st Closed



Happy Holidays



Potatoes courtesy of Downey Farms

Shelburne Free Press

Shelburne's Newspaper Since 1975

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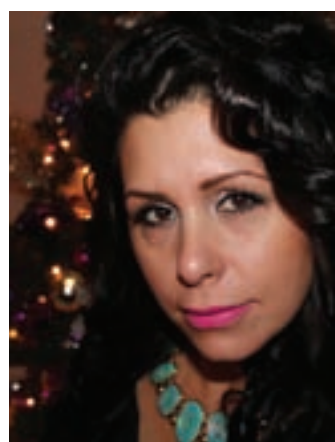


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Looking back on 2013, and towards the year that lies ahead



wendy@simcoeyorkprinting.com

BY WENDY GABREK

This is the last edition of The Free Press for 2013. As the year draws to a close, I am left to reflect on the events of the past 12 months and then shift my thoughts to what lays ahead.

2013 has been a momentous year. We've seen the birth of a Royal Baby, the decline of the Toronto Mayor, celebrities left this earth too fast and too furious, Apple released it's long awaited iPhone 5S just

in time to not lose customers, an anti-apartheid revolutionary is finally in a place free of ego, we've learned how to "twerk", take "selfies" and not get caught on tape - especially using the "N" word whilst cooking. The wins for same-sex marriage kept on coming, babies have inspired things "Out of the Blue" and have also headed 'North'. Lines were blurred between music old and new, and Instagram gave us another way to view

the world in an instant. We "saw through" the deal behind Lululemon's signature yoga pants, and the Harlem Shake left us all mystified.

Pope Benedict took his retirement package, replaced by a more liberal Pope Francis and North Korea tested it's own new frontiers - which blew up in their face, and not ours. Boston Marathon runners weren't so lucky, and two bombs ruined a perfectly good race day.

The mystery surrounding Princess Diana was finally revealed and British forces were not involved in her death, although those involved in creating life, finally cloned a human at Oregon Health & Science University.

I'm not sure what we can expect to happen next, but what I do know is that we'll keep tuning in - getting our news streams faster and faster - as society itself gradually tuns out.

It has been a pleasure being part of your news experience for 2013. This holiday season, I'd like to take a moment to personally thank our customers for their continued patronage, and commend you on your good taste in reading materials. We look forward to serving your news-needs 52 more times in 2014.

All the best to you and your family this holiday season. Stay safe, stay warm, stay well read with The Free Press.

Mandela's good work

Dear editor:

Nelson Mandela must have been heart broken to witness his efforts, his works, his accomplishments thrown right back at him as he witnessed South Africa's rapid decline into chaos. He must have known it was not by accident that his people were, in some ways, taken back to where they once were, with strife makers at work setting people against people. He must have wondered if colonialism ever dies a permanent death.

Margaret Thatcher had made it clear that British interests in South Africa come first. Apartheid was a price she was prepared to live with to meet her goals. Today it is clear that nations around the world are looking after their interests in South Africa. Propping up despicable "leaders" in foreign

lands has only one explanation.

Today citizens around the globe have faster visuals of how humans are divided into worthy and the not worthy; the latter living with no rights, in squalor and destitution to facilitate the affluence and luxury of the former. The myth of Africa, Asia, South and Central America and Eastern Europe are well propagated.

World "leaders" are flocking to South Africa to sing the same song of praise for Mandela's morals, statesmanship, humanity, greatness, etc. Some will find it baffling that these "leaders" never let these kinds of qualities rub off on them although they like to see themselves as great people pronouncing great titles on themselves and each other, conducting themselves as far

above and beyond mortal men and women who keep them living in great style to match the way they see themselves - so unlike Mandela, the man of the moment.

Mandela may have loved it if our PM had stuffed a few "ordinary" Canadians, maybe some school children of humble backgrounds, or the homeless, in his princely private craft that will be flying him to and from with all those others who see themselves and each other as worthy to be on that costly excursion. Mandela though, did not see anybody as being beneath him.

Sadly, it looks like barbaric injustice and grave inequality are here to stay, Mandela or no Mandela; one set of people is silenced by oppression, one set silenced by everyday affluence and generally good

living; credit to them for dropping a donation in a bucket a few times a year, although not too mindful where it ends up.

How many Mandelas, or Gandhis, or Martin Luther King's, or Mother Teresa's, or Princess Diana's, or Lennon's, or JFK's and Bobby K.'s would the world need to end the misery so willfully inflicted upon too many of the world's most helpless people for the benefit of those who have their fists tightly folded around the wealth and power?

Maybe for now we should just be thankful that Nelson Mandela was not mowed down in the prime of his life in the same way as some of those mentioned above, albeit he was in that very inhuman way.

Gloria Ramnath,
Shelburne

Ask a psychotherapist: Christmas issues

Question: Here comes "the holiday" season again but it's no holiday for me! Every year, I'm the one who puts on the whole show and has everyone over here. Even though I have a brother and a sister, both

married and with kids, it's always assumed that I'll do everything including hosting all the events and buying all the food! My sister and her family usually arrives from out of town the week before Xmas

and does their Xmas shopping and wrapping here while expecting me to run a hotel and serve them! My brother just shows up on the day, empty-handed. Mom and Dad say they're more comfortable at our place so I end up doing all the work and feeling exhausted. Any suggestions?

Answer: People tend to be assigned roles in families and to maintain them for years. It sounds as if everyone in your extended family is benefitting from your role as caregiver over the holidays. You don't say whether you've ever protested the unequal distribution of responsibility. If not, others may be blissfully unaware that you're feeling so burdened and unhappy. The caregiver often adopts a grin-and-bear-it attitude during the holidays, just waiting for it to be over for another year.

In order for things to change, the overburdened,

taken-for-granted person needs to be willing to speak up at the risk of upsetting familiar family dynamics. Ideally, this should be done well in advance of the holidays so that family members have time to adjust their plans and expectations. While there may be pushback from some, stand your ground.

For starters, you could inform your siblings that if you cook all the meals, they can pay for the ingredients. Alternatively, everyone could contribute to meals by bringing prepared dishes. Finally, out-of-towners should be invited for a length of time that suits you and told that they will expected to duff in with chores as family not pampered as guests.

Alison Kerr, Ph.D.,
Psychotherapist can be reached at 905 936-2400 or at alikerr@xplornet

Free Press WEBPOLL
www.invisiFoscope.com

Results from last week's poll:
Should all politicians be forced to take drug tests?

a/ Yes 50%

b/ No 50%

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

Do you agree with the Canada Post decision to phase out door-to-door mail delivery?
a. Yes
b. No

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JT – The 'Poster Boy' of Canadian politics

Dear editor:

It was amusing to watch Justin Trudeau (now known as JT) chortling about the Liberal by-election win in Manitoba. He even quoted Jack Layton's last message, but he isn't a very original guy and part of the quote is actually attributed to Laurier.

The Liberals pulled in a lot of voters which is very handy when you think that the Liberals have been stubble on the prairie landscape for decades. Some of the Liberal faithful got off their rears and went out into the cold to vote.

Sounds like a phenomenal happening, but when you analyze the picture, you'll find only a 30 to 37% turnout for all of the four by-elections. Hardly enough for the federal Liberals to start looking at paint-chips and Sussex Drive.

At the above rate of turnout: if every NDPer (like me) and every Conservative stayed home on the next federal election day, JT would be the new PM.

Just imagine that! The poster boy of Canadian politics would be answering questions on Marilyn, Ellen, and Chis and Steve. Of course, participating in the Battle of the Blades and Dancing With The Stars would be a must for the new Adonis on Parliament Hill.

Also, being David of the statuary on the Hill, the satirists wouldn't have much to work with in their political cartoons - too damn handsome. His dad was a cartoonist's dream: check out Donato.

JT hasn't much substance - not like his dad. I wonder why the Liberals at a convention would vote him into the top job? Give me another Pierre Trudeau and I'd consider voting for the Liberals.

Vaughan G. Harris, Tottenham

We asked: "What is your fondest childhood Christmas



"Maybe my grandmother's Christmas puddings and cakes. She would make them special."
- Jan Kay

"Probably going to my grandparent's house for dinner and sitting at the kids table!"
- Danielle Lien



"My favourite memories are the ones we created with our kids. Like coming to the Christmas tree farm, decorating the tree and making the gingerbread house that we use as a centerpiece."
- Marilyn Buttarazzi

"I love coming to the Christmas tree farm. We do it every year, it's been a family tradition ever since we were little."
- Amanda Buttarazzi

Christmas Refreshments in our pharmacy community area on **December 27, 2013** from 11am to 1pm.

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Tax Rate

BY WES KELLER

Averages don't mean much. Across the county, the average assessment grew by 2.5 per cent but some municipalities had a lower average increase and some had higher. And then, there were individual difference within the municipalities.

To obtain the individual tax impact for county purposes on each residence, the tax rate must be applied to the assessed value. For 2014, the rate is 0.395404%, down from 2013 when it was 0.398780. The decrease in the rate for county demands is attributable to the 2.5% assessment growth.

When applied to assessment, the tax rate works out to \$395.40 per \$100,000 assessment.



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HOLIDAY HOURS

Closed December 22 to

January 5 inclusive

We re-open on Monday,

January 6, 2014

Merry Christmas,

Happy Holidays and a Happy and Healthy New Year to you and your loved ones from
All the Staff and Volunteers

Be sure to come in before December 22 to stock up on books for reading during the holiday. I have my pile all selected and know that I am going to be spending many cozy days and evenings reading! I'm especially looking forward to Catherine Bush's new book, *Accusation*. I also have a huge number of catalogues to start placing orders for the new and upcoming spring titles.

Pizza & Pages, Our Teens Book Club: The Teens will be meeting on December 19th at 6 p.m. for a lively discussion about the two books they are reading – *The Whipping Boy* and *The Wolves of Willoughby Chase*. Do come out and join in and enjoy a slice of pizza with the others.

Children's Programs: Our Story Time will be up and running on Friday, January 10th at 10:30 a.m. and Toddler Time will be starting on Tuesday, January 14th at 10:30 a.m. This will be an exciting start to the New Year for our children with songs, stories and crafts they will enjoy.

Lego Club... finally!!: The news all our youngsters have been waiting for. The first meeting of our LEGO club is on Wednesday, January 22nd from 3:30 to 5 p.m. The club is geared to children, boys and girls ages 6 to 12. We will have lots of fun so be sure and register at the library.

Focus On Seniors: Both of our Focus on Seniors Volunteers, Cathy and Anne have been very busy making sure all our Senior patrons in our Home Outreach program and at Dufferin Oaks and Shelburne Residence have lots of reading material over the holidays. If you know of anyone who would still like to participate in the Home delivery program, please call and we will set that up for you. Now that the weather is a little more wintry and driving and walking are quite difficult, this is one way of having new books or magazines come to your home. Call 519-925-2168.

New Books added this week: This is not a comprehensive list of all the new books as we try to make it manageable for the column. So please check the New Books List of our on-line catalogue as we had another large number added this week.

Fiction:

The Minor Adjustment Beauty Salon by Alexander McCall Smith

Thomas Kinkade's Cape Light: Songs of Christmas by Katherine Spencer

Accusation by Catherine Bush

Purgatory by Ken Bruen

Through the evil days by Julia Spencer-Fleming

Mirage by Clive Cussler

The All-Girl Filling Station's last reunion by Fannie Flagg

Vanished by Irene Hannon

Trouble in store by Carol Cox

Non fiction:

One day in August by David O'Keefe

The Aviators by Winston Groom

The Book of legendary lands by Umberto Eco

Hostile seas by J.L. Savidge

Mobilize! by Larry D. Rose

Dot complicated by Randi Zuckerberg

Everlasting life by David D. Swanson

Behind the scenes at Downton Abbey by Emma Rowley

The Patricias by David J. Bercuson



PHOTO BY ALEX SHER

THE CUT ABOVE WELCOMES NEW ESTHETICIAN – The Cut Above owner, Brenda Wilson is proud to announce the arrival of new Esthetician Nicole Prince. Recently re-located from Barrie, Prince will offer many new services such as eyelash extensions, full body wraps, airbrush tanning, facials, manicures, pedicures, eyelash tinting, waxing and relaxation massage. Though some services will only be available come the New Year, Prince is very pleased to be a part of this new venture commenting, "I think I'll bring a little spice to Shelburne!" For more information call 519-925-9500 or visit them at 111 Owen Sound St. Pictured, from left: Owner of The Cut above Hair Salon, Brenda Wilson, proudly announces the arrival of newest addition to her salon, Esthetician Nicole Prince.

County road conditions could force a future tax hike for residents

BY WES KELLER

If Dufferin County were to begin afresh, duplicating all its present infrastructure including roads, buildings, machinery and all other tangible assets, it would need to have \$367-million available to pay the tab.

Three hundred and sixty seven million dollars is the estimated replacement cost of the county's asset inventory as presented by Treasurer Alan Selby in an outline of the Asset Management Plan (AMP) – the document that would not only influence future capital budgets by requiring long-term capital plans, but one that is mandatory for future grant applications.

Were it not for the provincial requirement for the AMP and an amortization provision, the total asset value wouldn't mean much. Hypothetically, however, if it could be assumed that all current infrastructure would need to be replaced in, say, precisely 20 years, the county would be required to have \$367-million available for replacement of everything 20 years hence, based on a 20-year lifespan.

The AMP study had to be completed prior to Dec. 31, 2013. It was required to be publicly aired by May 2014, but county Clerk Pam Hillock says it will be posted for public view immediately, now that it has been accepted by county

council.

Fortunately, as Mr. Selby points out, not everything deteriorates at the same rate, and the expected lifespan of most infrastructure can be extended through proper maintenance.

The county's 322 km road network is the most prominent asset in that regard, with a replacement value of about \$110-million. About \$75-million of that is for surfaces, and \$35-million for bases.

Although the county spent about \$5-million on resurfacing in 2013, only about half the network is in "good to excellent" condition. Mr. Selby says the county needs to budget more like \$11-million annually, or about \$6-million more than it does now. That could translate into a six per cent tax hike.

Specifically, an AMP chart shows about 48 km as being in "poor to very poor" condition, about 124 km as "fair," 109 km as "good," and 47 km as "excellent."

"Currently about 88% of the road network surfaces are in a fair-or-better state of repair.

This is a reasonably good-looking chart today, but several km need to be resurfaced every year to keep it this way. You cannot tell from this chart how many of the Fair km are getting close to falling back to Poor status," the AMP reads.

A second chart illustrates the

years in which various lengths of roadways were resurfaced. It shows a downward trend since the 2006-2010 period.

"If the recent trend continues, the results will become evident on future-year versions of these two charts. The Very Poor and Poor bars will grow, the Good and Excellent bars will shrink. This is not only a Capital Budget problem. There will be negative impacts to the Roads Operating budget, because maintenance costs for patching and crack sealing will have to be increased. This has already been factored into the 2014 Budget," the report reads.

In addition to road resurfacing, the county owns 38 bridges, of which 14 have been rated as "poor" by a mandatory 2-year inspection. Two of the poor bridges are being replaced by Simcoe County on a shared-cost basis, leaving 12 for Dufferin to replace "in one to five years."

Generally speaking, road

maintenance has always been worrisome for the council when trying to avoid major tax hikes. At a recent meeting, Grand Valley Mayor John Oosterhof warned of the dangers of falling behind on a road-resurfacing schedule.

But the AMP also warns that not all roads will deteriorate at the same rate. Although he doesn't specify which roads, Mr. Selby points out that there are differences in road-wear amongst cars, trucks and tractor-trailers.

Apart from roads, Mr. Selby's conclusion is that the county has a good track record for maintenance. He cites budgets of \$908,000 in vehicle operations, \$4.2-million for building maintenance, \$417,000 for staffing the Dufferin Oaks, and \$1-million for "other maintenance staff."

He also includes \$4.8-million for road maintenance in his "track record," even though it does fall short of a true requirement.

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'Tis the season to be wary – the risks of being a party host

BY LIANE SHEPLEY AND AZIN SAMANI, OATLEY, VIGMOND

The holiday season is a special time of year. Families and friends gather, gifts are exchanged, greetings are given. We all worry about our waistlines as we flitter from party to party eating decadent food and drinking holiday cocktails. You may even be planning a holiday party or social gathering of your own.

Having family and friends in your home is a wonderful way to celebrate the holidays, but if you are planning on doing so, you should be aware of the legal risks.

What happens if one of your guests gets impaired and drives away? What if that guest is involved in a car crash and an innocent person is hurt? The answer is you could get sued.

In 2006, the Supreme Court of Canada decided a case called Childs vs. Desormeaux. In that case, a couple hosted a party in their home on New Year's Eve. The party was "Bring Your Own Booze" or "BYOB". One of their guests

drank 12 beers, got in his car and drove home drunk. On the way, he smashed into another car, killing one passenger and seriously injuring three others, including a teenage girl who was rendered a paraplegic.

In this case, the party hosts were not found liable by the Supreme Court of Canada. The party hosts had not seen their guest drink those 12 beers and did not know that he was intoxicated. They made the party BYOB and, therefore, only served one glass of champagne. The outcome could have been very different, however, if the party hosts had taken a more active role in getting the guest intoxicated or if the party hosts knew that the guest was intoxicated when he left the party.

Where innocent people are harmed, the courts will always look to hold at-fault persons liable. Impaired driving is a reckless act. Those who decide to drive drunk should be held responsible and liable for their own actions. However, the focus could shift to a party host if his/her conduct creates or contributes to the risk of

impaired driving. If you are planning a holiday party this season, you must be mindful of these risks.

Some tips to ensure your conduct does not attract liability include not serving alcohol to your guests, collecting all guests' keys at the outset of the party, having a designated driver, purchasing taxi cab vouchers or planning for overnight guests.

So, as you enjoy a drink with your friends and family this holiday season, please remember to protect your guests and the public at large from the risks of impaired driving. Exposure to lawsuits as a party host is largely within your control!

Liane Shepley and Azin Samani are lawyers with Oatley, Vigmond – one of Ontario's leading personal injury law firms. They can be reached at 1.888.662.2481 or on the web at www.oatleyvigmond.com



This week in police news...

Results of Extensive Police Investigation into Concerns about Pet Poisonings: No Evidence of any Poisoning: Shelburne Police launched an extensive and exhaustive investigation five weeks ago in response to a cat owner and a dog owner reporting unexplained deaths of their pets.

The public became increasingly concerned when a citizen posted posters around town claiming seven confirmed pet poisonings. This information was further distributed through various social media sites.

The Shelburne Police is re-iterating that there have been no confirmed pet poisonings brought to the attention of the police.

The five week long investigation involved numerous statements and interviews

from pet owners, evidence collection, scene investigation as well as collaborating with local veterinary offices and the University of Guelph Veterinary Services.

Over the course of the investigation local veterinary services stated that they have not had any confirmed pet poisonings, nor have they had any legitimate concerns brought to their attention.

Further Shelburne Police officers exhumed a deceased cat that belonged to one of the pet owners that wondered if their cat had been poisoned. This cat was driven by officers to the University of Guelph Veterinary Services and Shelburne Police paid for extensive tests including autopsy and broad base toxicology tests. The results of the expert examination and tests were all negative for

any toxins or poisons.

There are no reasonable grounds to believe that any pet poisonings have taken place in the Town of Shelburne. This is based on the combination of the information obtained from local veterinarians, the University of Guelph autopsy and toxicology results and the police investigation as a whole.

Thank you Shelburne for the Great Response to This Year's Stuff-a-Cruiser!: The members of the Shelburne Police Service want to thank everyone who donated food, toys and cash at our annual stuff-a-cruiser event. The response from the community was overwhelming making this year's event another success. All the items donated benefit the efforts of Dufferin Child and Family Services as well as the Salvation Army.

Traffic safety tip: safe winter driving practices

Ontario's winter weather can be very challenging at times, often exposing drivers to a wide range of weather and road conditions that can change drastically in a matter of hours. And as a driver, it's best to be prepared for whatever Mother Nature throws your way!

Get your vehicle winter-ready with a maintenance inspection to make sure your vehicle is in safe operating condition. One of the best investments you can make to prepare your vehicle for winter driving is to install four winter tires. While all-season tires may be adequate in some areas of the province, they are not made for driving in snow-belt regions and throughout the north. Winter tires will improve driving safety by

providing better traction and handling through snow, slush and ice. They will also provide greater stability and control of your vehicle and will help to reduce stopping distances in slippery driving conditions.


Before you hit the road, check weather and travel conditions and don't take chances if the weather is bad. Call 5-1-1 for information about current road conditions or go online at ontario.ca/trip. This service is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and road conditions are normally updated five times daily and more often as highway closures occur or as conditions change.

Look far ahead when you drive so you can recognize hazards in advance and have plenty of time to respond.

Adjust your driving to current weather and road conditions and reduce your speed when the roads are slippery or slushy. Remember that bridges and overpasses freeze more quickly and stay frozen longer and black ice on the road can cause your vehicle to suddenly lose control.

It's best to carry a winter survival kit with you when you travel. Extra clothing, winter boots, blankets and granola or chocolate bars are also recommended, and a candle and waterproof matches can help heat the interior of your vehicle if it stalls or you become stranded.

If winter driving conditions make you nervous, uncomfortable or fearful when you're behind the wheel, stay off the road unless your trip is absolutely necessary.



**THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF SHELBURNE
NOTICE OF COMPLETE APPLICATIONS AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING
UNDER SECTION 53 OF THE PLANNING ACT**

TAKE NOTICE that the Committee of Adjustment of the Corporation of the Town of Shelburne will hold a public meeting on:

MONDAY, JANUARY 6, 2014

The public meeting is scheduled to start at 7:00 p.m., or as shortly thereafter as possible, and will be held in the Council Chambers at the Municipal Office, 203 Main Street East, Shelburne. The purpose of the meeting is to consider the following planning application:

Application for Consent for Easements B13/01- Vandyk Development Group has submitted an application for consent for the property located at the north-east corner of Main Street East (Highway 10/89) and County Road 124 in the Town of Shelburne. The subject property is known municipally as 802 Main Street East and is described legally as Part of Lot 1, Concession 1 Plan 7R-3829, in the Town of Shelburne. The purpose and effect of the applications is to permit two (2) access easements over the subject property for mutual access to the adjacent property located at 800 Main Street East. Easement 'A' is a modification to an existing easement that provides mutual access to Main Street East (Highway 10/89) for both properties. Easement 'B' provides mutual access to County Road 124 for both properties. The accompanying map illustrates the location of the subject property and the easement plan prepared by the applicant illustrates the proposed easements.

Take notice that the above applications have been deemed complete so that they can be circulated and reviewed.

At the meeting you will be given an opportunity to ask questions and indicate whether you support or oppose the applications for consent. Written submissions will be accepted by the Secretary-Treasurer up to the time of the Public Meetings and will be given consideration by the Committee of Adjustment prior to a decision being made.


If a person or public body that files an appeal of a decision of the Committee of Adjustment of The Corporation of the Town of Shelburne in respect of the proposed consent does not make written submissions to the Secretary-Treasurer of the Committee of Adjustment of the Town of Shelburne before it gives or refuses to give a provisional consent, the Ontario Municipal Board may dismiss the appeal. If you wish to be notified of the decision of the Committee of Adjustment in respect of the proposed Consent, you must make a written request to Secretary-Treasurer.

Additional information relating to the proposed consent is available for inspection at the Town of Shelburne Municipal Office at 203 Main Street East, during normal office hours, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and on the Town's website at www.townofshelburne.on.ca.

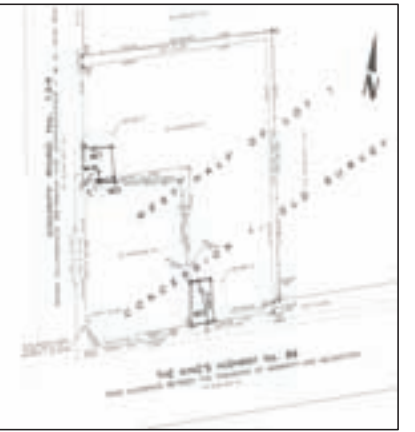
Dated at the Town of Shelburne this 19th day of December, 2013.

John Telfer, AMCT
Committee of Adjustment Secretary Treasurer
CAO/Clerk
Town of Shelburne
203 Main Street East
Shelburne, Ontario, L9V 3K7
Phone: 519-925-2600
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LOCATION MAP




EASEMENT PLAN




EASEMENT 'A'



EASEMENT 'B'





*From the Mayor, Members of Council and Staff
of the Town of Shelburne*

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Merry Christmas to all our fans. Thank you for supporting us in 2013 and we hope to see you at the games in 2014!

SHELBURNE SPORTS



PHOTOS BY BRIAN LOCKHART
ROYALS LOSE BY A HAIR – The Centre Dufferin District High School Royals boys junior basketball teams takes on the squad from Westside Secondary School in Orangeville at the CDDHS gym on Monday, December 16th. The Royals closed the gap in the fourth quarter but came up short and were squeezed out in a narrow 46–43 loss to Westside.



PHOTOS BY BRIAN LOCKHART
 The Shelburne Wolves Peeewe LL1 team battle it out with the squad from Dundalk during weekend hockey action at the Centre Dufferin Recreation Complex in Shelburne. The Peeewees are past the halfway mark in the season.



Muskies in the basement after 14 games

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

The Shelburne Muskies are still languishing at the bottom of the North Division of the Western Ontario Athletic Association Senior AA Hockey League standings.

With 6 points, the only team farther down the rung are the Goderich Pirates who play in the South division and have managed to only win one game all season.

The squad's latest loss came on Saturday night when they travelled to Shallow Lake and

were squeezed out by a single goal losing 5–4 to the Crushers.

The loss came one night after the Muskies were in Saugeen Shores and left with a 5–2 loss to the Winterhawks.

The last time the Shelburne squad came out on top was December 7, when they travelled to Elora and left with a 6–5 win over the first place Elora Rocks.

The Muskies have three games left on the schedule for December – all road games.

On the record sheet, Blake Lovell and Tristan Fairbairn are tied for the top in the point standings.

Fairbairn is leading the scoring with six goals and seven assists to his credit - good for 13 points.

Lovell also has 13 points with five goals and eight assists for his total.

Chris Gree has 11 points with six goals and five assists.

Moving into the new year, the squad will host their first home game of the new year on

Saturday, January 14, against the Mapleton Minto 81's.

That game is scheduled to get underway at 8:30 p.m. at the Centre Dufferin Recreation Complex.

The Muskies still have ten games on the regular season schedule to finish the season before the playoffs start.

Elora is currently leading the WOAA north division with 25 points and a 11–5 record.

They are followed by Saugeen Shores and Mapleton Minto with 24 points each.

Peeewe LL2 team working to get on the plus side – .500 season so far

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

The Shelburne Wolves Peeewe LL2 team are having a

good season, but they just can't get on the plus side when it comes to winning games.

"Right now we're around .500," said coach Rob Fetterly. "We win one, we lose one, and we're tying some."

Saturday's game against Flesherton – the number one team in the league – ended with a 3–1 loss for the Wolves.

"We may have lost, but we out-shot that team 16–10, so

we played very well," Fetterly said.

Over the course of the season, the coach said he can see the improvement in the way the team works together as well as an improvement in the skill-set of the players.

"They got a couple of deflection goals that went into the net. For playing the top team in the league, the kids showed a lot character and a

lot of strong work ethic. In our last couple of games we've come a long way on the fore-check and our positional play has really improved."

At the Peeewe level, many players are still trying to determine what position they are best suited for so the coaches will change the lines and positions from time to time.

"Usually they play either forward or defence, but sometimes they're moving around in the various positions and they don't always play with the same kids," Fetterly explained. "They're learning what to do. When you get penalties you have to mix and match players so they need to know the basics and they need to know the positions."

With 12 games behind them and seven more on the schedule, the Peeewe's still have a lot of time to tip their record to the plus side.

"We have a 20 game schedule then we break up into three different divisions for the playoffs. There's 24 teams in the league, so the divisions will play off. I think they're really starting to step up their game so I think they will really do well."

The Peeewe #2 team will be back on home ice on Saturday, December 28, to host Penetang at the CDRC with a 1:15 p.m. start.

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Saturday, Dec. 21st
 Peeewe LL1 vs Collingwood LL2..... 10:30am - 11:35am

Sunday, Dec. 22nd
 Tyke LL3 vs Georgian Shores2:00pm - 3:05pm
 Atom Rep vs Collingwood3:15pm - 4:20pm
 Peeewe rep vs Elmvale4:30pm - 5:35pm
 Bantam Rep vs Georgian Shores5:45pm - 7:05pm
 Midget Rep vs Owen Sound7:15pm - 8:55pm

Monday, Dec. 23rd
 Tyke LL2 vs Dundalk7:00pm - 7:50pm
 Midget LL2 vs Collingwood8:00pm - 9:50pm

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

A heartfelt Christmas

A FICTIONAL STORY
BY ALEX SHER

Every town has one, a dishevelled, shapeless, possibly homeless person who walks through the streets of the city mumbling to themselves. Harmless and practically invisible except to those who actually see with more than their eyes, and when their hearts open, even if only to not be judgemental, that once invisible person becomes claimed, noticed, cared about, and that is exactly what happened to Annie.

Shelburne, Ontario is a small close knit community where everyone usually knows someone who knows someone. It's fair to say everyone knew of Annie, but no one knew her story. She had become a bit of a novelty over the years, a harmless soul who carried two grocery bags containing her worldly possessions. She wore oversized skidoo boots, a fur hat and matching fur coat which smelled so terrible, 'eau de Annie' often arrived before she did. She dressed this way all year round. Social workers had tried to find her a place off the streets but she wouldn't go. She preferred to wander around and since she wasn't a danger to anyone or herself, the community participated in a collective consciousness of never complaining, always al-

lowing her to sleep where she wanted, gave her food whenever they could and together, kept a watchful eye over her.

Annie was in her late fifties and had a faraway look about her as though she were trying to remember something and though she never made conversation, she would always nod in a thank you for kindness, always paying attention to young Constable Darryl Rutledge who seemed to keep an eye on her more than most. Occasionally, Constable Rutledge while on patrol would notice Annie and bring her a hot chocolate and a bagel. Having grown up in Shelburne, he was that caring sort of policeman and that kind of gentleman.

On one particular cold winter's night, Annie was nowhere to be found.

Concerned for her safety in the bitter cold, young Rutledge searched all her favorite sleeping spots, behind the local laundry mat, off to the side of Sawyers Feed Mill, in the door well of the Shelburne Free Press, the back entrance of Woollys Yarns, until finally, he noticed a large cardboard box draped over a clothing drop off box at the local Legion. Only Annie's two grocery bags and some burned out papers from firecrackers could be seen. It was at that moment, the young Consta-

ble had a sinking feeling in the pit of his stomach. He then noticed Annie's familiar dragging footprints left behind in the snow as Annie had walked towards the local fire department. Constable Rutledge checked in with Captain Morrell who had not seen her. The footprints continued on passed Shelburne Fresh Variety, and on to the graveyard. Heart pounding, he couldn't imagine what would have made her walk all that distance deciding something must have happened.

Footprints in the snow lead the young Constable all over the graveyard and by the time he found Annie, he found her lying, freezing, staring at the headstone of Andrea McCree,

mother of Annie and wife to Adam. Young Rutledge, reading the head stone noticed all three had died years ago. The Constable quickly knelt down and realized that Annie was trying to tell him something and while he waited for back up, she told a story he could not begin to fathom. She died in his arms before help could arrive, and her very last words whispered were, "I remember."

Annie's death left more questions than answers for the small community and all of Shelburne mourned the death of this stranger they had watched over, claimed over the years and felt responsible for.

For Constable Rutledge however, the odd set of circumstances surrounding this virtual stranger and her pass-

ing, left an inexplicable sadness, a need to know more, and he set out to discover what Annie's story was. When all the pieces were put together, city officials decided to gather at Town Hall, invite the city and tell Annie's story.


Young and old alike gathered during a bright, mild winter's day to hear what had happened to Annie, just five days before Christmas.

The city's mayor first addressed the eager crowd. "People of Shelburne, I think we can say we are all saddened by the death of a stranger whom we came to refer to as Annie. Typically, we never see this sort of thing happen in our fine city and it is due to the kindness of many of you that Annie was able to survive for as long as she did. The kindness extended to Annie by the

fine ladies at Woollys Yarns allowed Annie to give gifts to many of us, myself included. Suffice to say," Mayor Crewson paused wiping a tear from his eye as he quickly looked into the palm of his hand, "Annie will have touched all our hearts this Christmas in the true spirit of Christmas when all is revealed. Now, Constable Rutledge will explain."

The young Constable was visibly upset when he approached the microphone. He looked out over the crowd and began, "When this sort of tragedy occurs, it leaves many questions. I would like to ask you all to look around at each other for just a moment before I begin. Most of you know each other or know of each other.

Continued on
PAGE 10



TOWN OF SHELBURNE

NOTICE TO RESIDENTS

Notice of Christmas Office Hours

Please be advised that The Town of Shelburne Administration Office will be closed from noon December 24, 2013 and will re-open at 8:30am on January 2, 2014.

John Telfer, AMCT
CAO/Clerk

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2014 MUNICIPAL ELECTION DUFFERIN COUNTY MUNICIPALITIES CANDIDATE REGISTRATION/NOMINATION

This notice is for anyone proposing to be a candidate in the municipal election on October 27, 2014 within the County of Dufferin.

Candidates may file a registration/nomination form during regular business hours after January 1, 2014 with the last day for filing being September 12, 2014, between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. A prescribed fee, which may be refundable, in the amount of \$200 for head of council and \$100 for all other candidates, payable by cash, certified cheque or money order (or as otherwise determined by provincial legislation), must accompany the registration/nomination form. Candidates must not spend or raise funds for their election campaign until their registration/nomination form has been filed.

The registration/nomination form will be available from the office of your local Municipal Clerk. Additional information may be obtained by contacting the Clerk's Office of your local municipality.

Town of Grand Valley	(519) 928-5652
Town of Mono	(519) 941-3599
Town of Orangeville	(519) 941-0440
Town of Shelburne	(519) 925-2600
Township of Amaranth	(519) 941-1007
Township of East Garafraxa	(519) 928-5298
Township of Melancthon	(519) 925-5525
Township of Mulmur	(705) 466-3341

ÉLECTIONS MUNICIPALES 2014 COMTÉ DE DUFFERIN DECLARATION DE CANDIDATURE

Cet avis est pour toutes personnes qui souhaitent se faire élire à un poste au sein du conseil municipal de leur municipalité à l'élection municipale du 27 octobre 2014 dans le Comté de Dufferin.

Les personnes qui visent à se faire élire à un poste du Conseil municipal doit soumettre une déclaration de candidature dûment remplie au greffier de sa municipalité durant les heures normales d'ouverture des bureaux de 9:00 à 14:00, à compter du 1er janvier 2014 et au plus tard le 12 septembre 2014 à 14:00.

Un montant requis de \$200 pour le poste de président du Conseil et de \$100 pour tous les autres postes doit être payé en argent comptant, chèque certifié ou mandat doit accompagner la déclaration de candidature. Ce montant peut être remboursable dans certaines circonstances. Les candidats ne doivent pas utiliser ou amasser des fonds pour leur campagne électorale avant que leur déclaration de candidature soit déposée.

Le formulaire de déclaration de candidature est disponible auprès de votre greffier municipal. Pour tous autres renseignements, s.v.p. veuillez communiquer avec le bureau du greffier de votre municipalité locale.

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Christmas Magic

Continued from PAGE 9
 We take our lives for granted in Shelburne, walking down the street, saying 'hi' to people, living in a community where if we went missing, we would be searched for. Annie could have been anyone one of us and when you hear her story, think about the person standing next to you right now and remember, life can change in a heartbeat.
 Seven years ago, when the new development was being built, there was a tragedy on Christmas Eve that left that portion of our town devastated. There were only a few families established in the development by this time and a gas leak resulted in the deaths of a young family, the McCree's who were new to Shelburne. Some of you may remember it was a very sad time of year as both parents and their young daughter passed away.
 Rumbling conversation echoed amongst the crowd as those who remembered discussed with their neighbors.
 Constable Rutledge continued. "When I found Annie's grocery bags over by the Leg-ion and noticed the firecracker pieces on the snow, I thought kids must have set them off and didn't realize Annie was huddled in the cardboard between the clothing drop off box and the wall. Following her footprints to the graveyard, I found her just in time to hear her story before she died. I'll

Shelburne **Free Press**
Season's Greetings and Happy New Year from all the staff at the Shelburne Free Press


do my best to tell you in her own words." Constable Rutledge read from his notes.
 "Oh, it's you. I remember now, I do. Christmas Eve, our new house. Adam had a nap before late mass. He surprised me, new fur coat, hat. We couldn't afford it. I slipped on his boots to go out and start the truck and called to Annie to wake up her father and switch the fireplace off. When I got to the truck, I looked back, Annie was in the front window watching for me. She was smiling, explosion from behind her, I see through the front window, coming for her, there's no time, so loud, flames, so big, so fast, the house gone, Annie, gone, knocked me over, I hit my head, soot, and the smell... I remember now, I started walking, so cold, wet, dirty, I remember now, my head hurt. I remember Annie's smile...." Annie's breathe was laboured as she continued, "I remember, I lived. See, God spared me. God knew I couldn't live knowing. God knew I wouldn't want to live without them. Don't be mad at the kids. They are good boys. They didn't know I was there. The noise, I banged my head on the cement and I remembered, I lived. I remember, I can go home now to my family, I found them, see?", Annie pointed to the gravestones. "I can go now, I remember.."
 People in the crowd had tears in their eyes. They cried

for never knowing Annie mumbled her own daughter's name, it was not her own. They cried for the sad situation that resulted from that tragedy so long ago. They cried for Annie to be re-united with her beloved family which is why she walked to graveyard, to see their names for herself, to understand her memories were real.
 Young Constable Rutledge wiped his eye, took a deep breath and continued,
 "It's upsetting to be sure. You are probably asking how this could happen? There were very few families living there at the time and keep in mind they were new to Shelburne. It was assumed the entire family died in the gas explosion and that fire, it was bad folks. With no one presumed unaccounted for, there was no need to search for anyone. Family and friends never knew Mr. McCree had surprised his wife with a fur coat and hat and Mrs. McCree had become unrecognizable in a very short time. In a state of shock and amnesia, dirtied she wandered around our city, never making eye contact and mumbling the name Annie, still wearing her husband's boots and the Christmas outfit from the night of the accident. No one looks closely at a homeless person to see if they recognise them, it just doesn't happen.
 Continued on PAGE 11

Now, Mrs. McCree had a little business she had started earlier in the year before the tragedy and she made felted handbags, bracelets and felted soap covers. For those of you who don't know, felting is a really old process of shrinking knitting. The ladies at Woollys Yarns often gave Mrs. McCree balls of yarn as an act of kindness. No one ever knew she did anything with the yarn. These are the two bags Mrs. McCree carried around with her. They are filled with little felted hearts. These were her only possessions and she gave them to us.

This woman who some of you called, Crazy Annie, was a woman who had lost her family before her very eyes, lost everything she knew and loved. She had the clothes on her back, the name Annie in her heart's memory and a skill. She had nothing and was still able to thank people in her own way. She often gave me these tiny little hearts she had made out of yarn and since investigating her story, I discovered many of you were the recipients of these keepsakes also."

A heavy silence fell across the crowd as many reached into their jacket pockets, some kids wore their felted hearts attached to their zippers, some ladies kept their felted heart in their wallets.

"No one ever noticed who

had left the little keepsake on door handles, in mail boxes, on car antennas. She truly had nothing folks, was the saddest person inside herself and still she gave. That is what she did and that is who she was, and she was one of us Shelburne, she was."

"I see many of you have the little hearts from Mrs. McCree," the Constable looked out into the community he protected, "I know we feel bad about the situation but I want to remind you that many of us went above and beyond to keep Annie-Mrs. McCree safe over the years, so that's a good thing. She told me herself God spared her by not making her face what happened to her family and that's a good thing in its own way. But this year, we have Annie- Mrs. McCree to thank.

This time of year especially, we need to remember the true spirit of Christmas. You might think and feel like you have nothing, some of you feel so overwhelmed by your lives, and I'm here to tell you, you have it all wrong. Following Annie's example, we have our lives to live, we decide every day how it's going to be, and the decision to be a good person, is free. Even as devastated as her life was, as sad as she was, as exhausted and alone as she was, she still managed to do good deeds.

That's the story of our An-

nie, Shelburne. I'm proud to have known Annie and I'm proud to be a member of this fine community and I want to take this opportunity to wish all of you, in Annie's, Mrs. McCree's honor, a 'Heart Felt Christmas.'

Normac Chapter

BY JUNE TYLER

Normac Chapter #311, Shelburne was pleased to have Sister Bea Andrews D.D.G.M. #9 visit on her official visit. The officers portrayed their duties on a very stormy night.

Visitors were present from Barrie, Alliston and Stayner. Twenty-five year pins were presented from Normac to Marie Jorden and Eileen Clarke. Nina and Arnold Townsend (Mum and Dad) presented Marie with her pin. Jean Oldfield, who was Worthy Matron during the year both ladies joined, presented Eileen with her pin. Congratulations, ladies.

A letter was received from the Grand Benevolent, explaining that in 2012-2013 year the benevolence to recipients was a total of \$22,000. It is proof that the Grand Chapter is working hard. June Tyler was the lucky winner of the Cranberry Vase for the Worthy Matron's Project.

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THOUGHT OF THE WEEK

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To keep the heart unwrinkled, to be hopeful, kindly, cheerful, reverent - that is to triumph over old age.
- Thomas Bailey Aldrich

A glad heart makes a cheerful face.
Psalm 39:1
A cheerful heart is a good medicine.
Proverbs 17:22

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Cross Roads Community Church

Come Join Us

Sunday, Dec. 22nd at 6:30pm
for an evening of caroling and candlelight service.

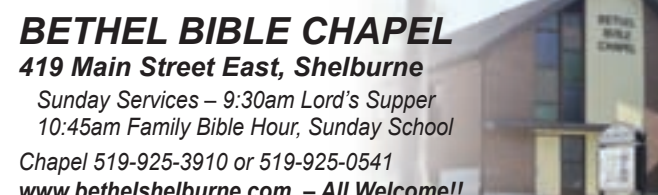
201 Owen Sound Street, Shelburne.
In the Shelburne Library.

Come and celebrate Jesus' birth.



ABIDING PLACE FELLOWSHIP
A Church with a difference, making a difference
Auditorium, Dufferin Oaks, Shelburne
"C" Door off Centre Street

Sunday Service - 10 a.m. & Children's Church
Bible Study & Prayer - Wed., 7p.m. @ Pastor's Home
Pastor Gord Horsley (519) 925-3651
COME AND BE BLESSED. ALL ARE WELCOME!



BETHEL BIBLE CHAPEL
419 Main Street East, Shelburne

Sunday Services - 9:30am Lord's Supper
10:45am Family Bible Hour, Sunday School
Chapel 519-925-3910 or 519-925-0541
www.bethelshelburne.com - All Welcome!!



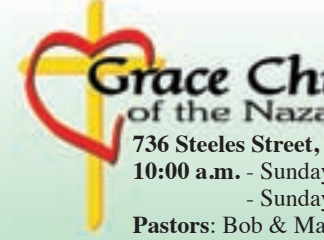
Cross Roads Community Church
"The Light Shines In The Darkness"

Meetings: Sunday Mornings at 10:00 a.m.
The Shelburne Library
(Corner of Owen Sound St. and First Ave.)
Children's Church
Pastor: DON HUME
519-939-1453
www.shelburnecrossroadschurch.ca
"The Light Shines In The Darkness"
(John 1:5)

ROMAN CATHOLIC

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH
923-2042

MASSES:
Saturday, Dundalk, 5 p.m.
Sunday, Melancthon, 9:30 a.m.
(North on Hwy. #10 to 280 Sideroad, Melancthon)
Proton 11:15 Sunday



Grace Church of the Nazarene
736 Steeles Street, Unit 3, Shelburne

10:00 a.m. - Sunday Morning Worship
- Sunday Training for Children

Pastors: Bob & Maxine McLellan
Ph: 519-925-0560 • www.ShelburneGrace.com

Come Learn Biblical Universal Principles & Truths "They" do not want you to know about.



TRINITY UNITED CHURCH
11 am Service, Nursery, Sunday School & Teen Group Music, Social events & Outreach
200 Owen Sound St., Shelburne 925-2233
Rev. David Howes
trinityunitedchurch@bellnet.ca

ST PAUL'S ANGLICAN CHURCH
312 Owen Sound St., Shelburne - 925-2251
office@stpauls-shelburne.ca
Sunday Service and Children's Ministry - 9:30 a.m.
Priest: The Rev. Stephanie Pellow



Abiding Place Ministries

Abiding Place Fellowship 9th Annual Prophetic Sunday
With
Rev. Andy Koornstra & Donna Parachin
Candice Parachin leading worship

Start the year off, with a Blessing from the Lord, Come and be blessed!

Service starts at 10.00 am Sunday, January 5th, 2014
At Abiding Place Fellowship, in Auditorium, Mel Lloyd Centre, Shelburne, entrance C

www.abidingplace.ca

Good morning Beloved, everyday near God is a good one. So I ask, "How do we come near to God?" Let's see what the Bible says; "So humble yourself before God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw close to God, and God will come close to you. James 4:7,8

From this scripture it seems pretty clear that we need to

humble ourselves, resist the devil, come close in repentance and He lifts us up, seems simple enough. However sometimes in life things get in the way, we believe lies such as, "You are too far gone, you can't come to God," or "Look what you've done, there's no way God will forgive you." So we submit to the lies of the devil instead of God's word.

NEWS FROM THE CHURCHES

The greatest gift of all

'For a Child will be born to us, a Son will be given to us; and the government will rest on His shoulders; and His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace' (Isaiah 9:6).

This was prophesied by Isaiah about 700 years before Jesus Christ was born. God sent His son into the world as His Gift to us, He [Jesus] did not come to condemn the world, but through Him he would save it (John 3:17). Isaiah 53:3-12, prophesied Jesus would be despised and reject-

ed by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. He has borne our grief, carried our sorrows, He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities, and by His stripes we are healed. Jesus poured out His soul unto death; He bore the sins of many, and made intercession for the transgressors. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way, and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

There is no Greater Gift than the King of the universe, lay-

ing down His life for you and me. Isaiah 61:1-11, tells us what Jesus' mission was on earth: to preach good tidings to the poor, heal the broken hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, and the day of vengeance of our God.

He came to comfort all who mourn, to give beauty for ashes, joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness, instead of our shame.

He has given double honor to all those who believe that

Jesus is God's son, and that He paid the Greatest Gift ever, Salvation for you and me. I praise God that I have received this Gift, have you?

As I minister to people, the greatest need we have as human beings, created in God's own image, is love and acceptance. All we have to do is receive the Gift of Jesus and accept His love, John 3:16-17, a gift that keeps on giving for ever and ever.

Blessings to you and yours this Christmas, from all of us at Abiding Place Fellowship

Rev. Gord Horsley
Abiding Place Ministries,
Shelburne

Crossroads Community Church

The Timmons Family lit the Advent Candle of Love and the children in Sunday school wanted to bless our overseas Canadian soldiers and made them cards, and our heart is to show a little Hope, Faith, Joy and Love away this Christmas....

The warm anticipation of Christmas met with us this morning, as we continue to prepare for the birth of Jesus Christ in our hearts year after year. The Timmons family humbly lit the candle of Love reminding us to love our neighbors as ourselves. Pastor Don shared announcements and prayed over those in our midst who are struggling with breathing issues, we ask God to be their every breath and return fullness of life to their daily activities. We praised God for the good report of cancer remission for Nathan, and in this brisk season we pray for the elderly asking the Lord to provide them transportation and safety. Worship was joyfully festive and Bob read James 5:16, Psalms 25:5,

Matthew 2:20 and our weekly scripture is 1 Corinthians 13:13.

Pastor Don approached the altar with a smile and said, "God's laws are not complicated, they can be summed up into 2, Love God, Love others as yourself, (Mark 12:30-31). The family of God should feel warm, be inviting and loving. At Crossroads our desire is to Leave Others Valued Every day, and we feel that this is what Christmas is all about, it means loving others as God loves us, helping those in need, listening to them and giving of our time.

Love is unselfish service unto others, a tribute to who God is, (1John 4:7-8). That kind of love is from God which he showed us by sending His Son, it is manifested by action. Jesus once said, "the world will know you are mine by your love," so let us explore this wonderful love. "Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not

self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres," 1Corinthians 13:1-7.

This scripture is widely recognized and has been used for many weddings, and it states 8 attributes that love is in contrast to 8 attributes it is not. There are 3 Basic concepts of love; how you deal with others, life and yourself. The beneficial attributes are Patience, Kindness, Humility, Truthfulness, Selflessness, Protectiveness, Trusting, Hope and Perseverance. The more we come close to Jesus the more we grow loving and forgiving towards others. The Bible tells us how kind and tolerant God is and we seem amazed at the patience God has with others and we sometimes may become impatient with God when we rather should be humbled with the patience He showed us. The apostle Paul tells us to do what is best for

others so that many may be saved. (Romans 2:4, 1Corinthians 10:33).

Beloved this season and throughout the year let our goal be to love like Jesus, let us not keep a naughty grudge list, it is a deterrent to love, kindness and patience towards each other. After all God did so love the world that He gave His One and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

That is what we celebrate at Christmas, we love others and forgive others as God did for us. And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love!" We Hope in what God has done and will do, faith in Jesus as Savior and love which inspires all the good we do. Have a blessed week as you seek the good of others, Asherey Shalom

To learn more visit www.shelburnecrossroadschurch.ca

Pastor marvels at Shelburne generosity

BY WES KELLER

Although most people might be wondering how they're going to pay for the added costs of Christmas and the entire "festive season," the Rev. David Howes, pastor of Trinity United Church in Shelburne, says it is truly the most generous season of the year.

The generosity of residents and merchants in Shelburne and area, along with the dedication of the all-volunteer staff, has meant that the shelves of Shepherd's Cupboard Food Bank are well stocked for the time being.

"It seems to be a season when people open their hearts. There have been some wonderful donations. It speaks to the generosity of the community." He said he is "real-

ly thankful to the food stores and to Giant Tiger. It's not just all about selling food, but of (meeting community needs)."

Mr. Howes was speaking in the absence of Ardith Dunlop who, he said, is really the person in charge of Shepherd's Cupboard although he plays an active role as a person who has been active in such things since entering the ministry about 30 years ago in Montreal.

So the food shelves are okay for now - but there remains a need for restocking non-perishable items such as pastas and peanut butter as the critical needs will begin all over again come February.

His lesson about stocking food banks is biblical, "the seven fat years and seven

lean."

The lean months for Shepherd's Cupboard will typically be February and on through the summer.

And, apart from food, he said there is a vital need now and always for personal items for women. "There's never enough of that on our shelves." He said the items are not luxuries but necessities - and they are expensive.

The other imminent need is for younger volunteers. The current volunteers are all dedicated and reliable, but most are advancing in years. There is a lot of running around to pick up donated items, and tending to the shelves takes a certain energy level, so it would be nice to know that a younger generation would be

coming on board as the years go by.

As a longtime food bank organizer and volunteer who began in an urban setting, it had been a rude awakening for the pastor to learn that there are food banks in just about every rural community in Ontario.

"It's an appalling statement on the state of the economy. What is the next level?" He spoke of the plight of young people seeking employment. No matter their level of academic achievement, "they talk about finding a gig, and not so much about regular employment."

Rev. Howes wonders whether we could reach a level at which an entire new generation relies on food banks to survive.

Christian Perspectives: Christmas is a time for drawing near to God...

It says to resist the devil who is the accuser as Revelation 12:10 states. Instead we are to humble ourselves and submit to God. The word says this "But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness," 1 John 1:9. It takes humility to admit we have done wrong, but God's love receives us unconditionally and does not condemn when we confess them to Him; Jesus did not come to condemn the world, He came to redeem it.

Another set of lies we believe is that "We need more of this or that to be happy" or "You've made it on your own, you don't need anyone!" Yet these are other deceptions keeping us away from God. Materialism and self-reliance are subtle traps luring us away from the creator and giver of all things. What we fail to real-

ize is that our Father in Heaven desires to bless us with good things, for our good not our harm but above all things he wants a relationship with us, notice the scripture says, "Draw near to God and He will come near to you." When we are near Him we have all we need, as David wrote, "But as for me, how good it is to be near God! I have made the Sovereign Lord my shelter, and I will tell everyone about the wonderful things you do," Psalms 73:28 and "The Lord is my shepherd; I have all that I need," Psalms 23:1

Beloved the Bible inspires us and guides us to surrender every aspect of our lives unto God. Our spiritual, physical, financial, and social lives are meant to do good unto others bringing glory to God our Father. So to come near to God the first step is to acknowledge

Jesus as the Son of God, as scripture says: "If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God," 1John 4:15. Then let's reject the devil's lies and humble ourselves before God confessing our sins then out of His great love God forgives us; next join His family. When we fellowship with one another we will find comfort, encouragement and strengthen our relationship with God and each other. Our lives when surrendered to God will be lifted up and used for good and in turn we reap the sweet benefits. This Christmas season is the perfect time to come close to God. When we acknowledge the birth of His Son we are closer to His heart. Although Christmas is a time for gifts and giving, the best gift to receive and the best one to give is the Love of Jesus, so it is with great pleasure

that Crossroads Community Church desires to wish you all a Very Merry Christmas and a Love filled New Year! Asherey Shalom!

