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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**POLAR PLUNGE:** Shelburne's 2018 Polar Plunge was a huge success, with over 30 plungers taking a nice, icy cold dive to raise funds for the Special Olympics. Ultimately, the goal of raising \$10,000 was nearly doubled to \$19,000.

## Shelburne's Polar Plunge proves a huge success

Written By **JASEN OBERMEYER**

Shelburne's Polar Plunge event last month saw many residents come out to take a dive to raise funds for the Special Olympics Torch Run, and it surpassed all expectations, nearly doubling the intended goal.

Hosted Family Day (Feb. 19) by the Shelburne Police Service, as part of Shelburne Fest 2018, it was organized by Constable Jeff Mclean. The goal to raise \$10,000 ended up collecting \$19,000, and saw 33 plungers participate, including members of the Shelburne Police Service, Town Council, Dufferin Paramedics, and representatives from the local high school and elementary schools.

"It feels amazing to reach almost double

our goal," Constable Mclean said. "We far surpassed what we initially set out to accomplish, and that says a lot for the dedication and heart of the community."

The two top individual fundraisers were Dan Sample and Ken Bennington. The top fundraising team was Super Troopers/Shelburne Police Service.

He said he was very pleased with the number of participants.

"With an event like the polar plunge, there are a lot of people who may not participate, due to the premise behind the event."

Constable Maclean said the torch run/polar plunge events in Fiddle Park are one of the few events that fund the Special Olym-

pics.

"Through events like the Polar Plunge, it ensures that the Special Olympics can continue to run for years to come. It was amazing to have such a large crowd."

He added they are going to discuss with the plungers and supporters how to make the event bigger and better, to raise even more money for the Special Olympics. He also thanked everyone who supported and participate in the plunge for helping to reach the fundraising goal.

"Without the strong support of the community, events like this could not have been possible," he commented "It makes me proud to call Shelburne home."

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# Throne speech impressed Liberals, but that's about it

Written By **BILL REA**

The Wynne government set out a list of priorities Monday when Lt.-Gov. Elizabeth Dowdeswell delivered the speech from the Throne, but others are wondering what was the point of it all.

"I think you'd be hard pressed to call it more than a political ploy," Dufferin-Caledon MPP Sylvia Jones remarked.

The government said it is investing more in the care and services that people across the province rely on, according to a release issued from Queen's Park shortly after the speech.

It added the upcoming Budget will focus on doing more in health care, home care, mental health care and child care services, as well as expanding a number other programs. It also maintained the economy is strong, with unemployment at its lowest level in almost two decades.

"I hear from people every day who put caring first — whether it's at home, caring for

their families, or at work, caring for patients, students or society's most vulnerable people," Premier Kathleen Wynne said. "The people of Ontario are our greatest strength, and our government doesn't accept that anyone should be left to fend for themselves, particularly in this turbulent, changing economy."

"We're taking bold steps to ensure the best care for our children, our seniors and our friends and family members," she added. "Our plan will relieve pressure on families by making it easier for people to care for themselves and for each other."

But Ms. Jones wasn't impressed with such an event taking place this close to the upcoming June election, as she wondered why they staged this.

"They didn't have a lot of their legislative agenda," Ms. Jones pointed out. "They didn't lose a great deal."

"It gives them a bit of a media bump," she added.

The contents of the speech didn't come as much of a surprise to Ms. Jones, who noted

the government has been making announcements and promises for years, then repeating them a year or so later.

"I guess we all feel a little jaded," she remarked.

Ms. Jones said there have been rumours that the government wants to pass its Budget, scheduled to be brought down March 28, before the election, while other suggest they want to take it before the voters. She said Finance Minister Charles Sousa has said he wants it passed before the election.

"Who knows?" she said.

"With the strong economy and the lowest unemployment rate in a decade, now is the time to invest in the quality of family life — in care and not in cuts," Dufferin-Caledon Liberal candidate Bob Gordanier stated Tuesday. "Yesterday's throne speech promised more support to families — hospital funding, home care, dental care, pharmacare, improved mental health and addiction services and help with child care costs. I am proud to be associated with better supports for families.

It a fast-changing world and families need help to thrive."

"It's definitely a case of how much can we throw at the people of Ontario," Trillium Party candidate Andrew Nowell observed.

He said it offers nice things, like free tuition, but there are no details on how it's to be paid for. He said he expects it will be through higher taxes.

"Its like free tickets on the Titanic," he remarked.

"This isn't something for the people of Ontario," he said. "Just buying votes."

"It's very expensive," Dufferin-Caledon Green party candidate Laura Campbell commented. "It's using taxpayers' money to unveil a little bit of their election platform."

She pointed out, for example, the government already has a pharmacare plan, wondering why they didn't do it right the first time.

"It seems like kind of a desperate gamble to steal some of the limelight from the very progressive NDP platform," she added.

## Experience a shift in Perspective at Alton Mill

Headwaters Arts presents Perspectives, works by regional artists in a new group show at the Alton Mill Arts Centre.

The four-week exhibit, on display until April 22, showcases both two and three-dimensional artwork by artists including John Ashbourne, Val Ashbourne, Henny Dagenais, Lawrence Kristian, Joanne Lomas, Marlene Madole, Patty Maher, Ruth Maude, Martina Skuce, Suzanne Walsh and Helen Wehrstein. The Opening Reception for Perspectives is this Saturday (March 24) from 1 to 4 p.m. All are welcome to attend.

The scheduled exhibit comes on the heels of another vibrant group collection in the 2018 gallery season, showing a nuanced depth of talent within the membership. Headwaters Arts president Bridget Wilson remarked that the shows are curated by a committee of member jurors, and works are selected with colour and cohesion in mind. Wilson framed the theme of this show in a global context, noting that Perspectives can equally refer to the changing of the seasons, or more tumultuous events happening at home and around the world.

Headwaters Arts encourages its artists to take risks, and step outside of their comfort zone to develop new and vivid artistic works.

Perspectives offers artwork from artists familiar to the Headwaters Arts Gallery and visitors can expect to see more imaginative Walsh paintings and Kristian's wood creations, while also welcoming fresh talent into the space. Maher, a fine art photographer from Caledon, is a first-time exhibitor with Headwaters Arts. Maher's evocative photographs exist in a liminal space between the real and otherworldly and aim to "disrupt the boundaries," while inviting viewers to bring their own experiences to the interpretation of her work.

Wilson commented that the influx of new members to Headwaters Arts over the past few years is essential to continued success and creative growth, and members such as Maher bring original qualities and a "new look" to the gallery.

The Headwaters Arts Gallery at the Alton Mill Arts Centre is open from Wednesday to Sunday, between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. Admission to the gallery is free.

For more information, visit Headwaters Arts online, or follow the arts group on Facebook.



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## March is Fraud Prevention Month

Ottawa Journal  
(March 19 – March 23, 2018)

March is Fraud Prevention Month, which means it's the perfect time for all of us to remind ourselves to be aware of all types of fraud out there, how to guard against it and report it when we come across it.

It's especially important to maintain our awareness of the problem, as there always seems to be a new scam on the horizon.

Fraud comes in many shapes and forms and recognizing this fact is an important first step in protecting ourselves. There are various types of fraud, which include internet, email, mail and telephone scams. Each type can be emotionally and financially devastating for those who fall victim to it.

There are countless internet, email, mail and phone scams, which are associated with identity theft and fraud. Identity theft takes place when a perpetrator obtains someone else's personal information for the purpose of criminal activity. This

activity can include mail theft, tax scams, phishing, bank investigator scams, etc. Computer spyware and viruses are also used to collect personal information.

You can help protect yourself from identity theft by watching out for unsolicited emails, text messages, telephone calls or mail trying to solicit personal information from you. You can also periodically check your credit reports, bank and credit card statements, and quickly report anything unusual to your bank or financial institution. Never take your eyes off your cards during transactions; cover your hand when entering your personal identification number (PIN) when using an ATM or PIN pad; memorize all PINs; take note of when your monthly bank and credit card statements are mailed; shred personal and financial documents before throwing them in the garbage; and ensure you notify the post office and all relevant financial institutions when you change your address.

Identity fraud is when a perpetrator actually uses the personal identity information

of another person to commit fraud, including impersonating another person and deceptively using debit and credit card data. Criminals can use stolen or reproduced personal or financial information to access your computer/email; access your bank accounts; open a new bank account; transfer bank balances; apply for loans, credit cards and other goods and services; make purchases; hide their criminal activities; and obtain passports or receive government benefits.

You can protect yourself against identify fraud by limiting the opportunities for criminals to access your personal information. Some warning signs to look out for include being contacted by a creditor informing you that they received a credit application in your name, however, you know you never applied for such credit; you receive telephone calls or letters suggesting you've either been approved or denied by a creditor when you never applied; you receive credit card statements or other bills for accounts you don't have;

you're missing your regular credit and/or bank statements; or you're contacted by a collection agency seeking to collect on a defaulted account which you never set up.

For more information, please visit the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre at [www.antifraudcentre-centreantifraude.ca](http://www.antifraudcentre-centreantifraude.ca)

If you find yourself a victim, collect all of the information you can about the fraud and report the incident to local law enforcement, such as the Dufferin OPP at 519-925-3838 or the Caledon OPP at 905-584-2241. You can also call the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre at 1-888-495-8501.

Fraud Prevention Month helps to refresh our memory on the many types of fraud and what we can do to protect ourselves against this horrible crime. In doing so, we can significantly reduce our risk of becoming a victim.

DAVID TILSON  
M.P.



## Proroguing and Throne Speech shows a Liberal Government out of Ideas

The Liberal government prorogued the Legislative Assembly of Ontario March 15 and announced that there would be a throne speech March 19.

Essentially, the government has decided to use a legislative trick so they can get free publicity from the Lieutenant Governor and dominate debate for the next week. By proroguing the legislature, the government removes all of the legislation currently being considered from the order paper, meaning bills like my private member's bill, The Organic Products Act, will need to start the legislative process, despite passing unanimously during second reading.

It appears that the government is hoping that by resetting the legislative agenda, they can reset their government. However, after 15 years of Liberal waste and mismanagement, it will take more than a legislative trick to reset their government.

I plan on reintroducing many of my proposed private member's bills that were removed by the Liberals. They include the Sewage Bypass Reporting Act, which would ensure that Ontarians know when partially treated or untreated sewage is bypassed into their local waterways. The Organic Products Act, which would create a standard for organic products in Ontario. The End the Public Funding of Partisan

Government Advertising Act, which would stop the government's ability to spend taxpayer dollars on partisan ads. Finally, I plan on reintroducing the Recycled Aggregate Promotion Act, which will ensure that all infrastructure projects in Ontario must consider using recycled aggregate in their projects.

The Liberals' throne speech is a disappointment. The Liberals announced that they would break last years' commitment to balance the budget and run a \$8 billion deficit. Ontario is already the most indebted region in the world. Increasing the debt will only limit the ability of our government to make the needed investments

in things like health care and education, now and in the future, because more and more of your money is being spent paying the interest on the Liberal government's debt.

In the end, no legislative reset will get back the billions of dollars the Liberals have wasted including, \$8 billion on eHealth according to the Auditor General, \$1.1 billion cancelling the gas plants, \$400 million on PRESTO card cost overruns, and \$4.5 million salary for the CEO of Hydro One.

SYLVIA JONES, MPP  
M.P.P.



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## Dufferin OPP responding to multiple break-ins in Mulmur

Over this past week, Dufferin OPP has responded to numerous residential break and enters in Mulmur Township.

The suspects are entering through unlocked doors, basement windows, and once inside, stealing cash and jewelry.

Police offer the following tips:

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- Record serial numbers of anything of value left behind.
- Consider installing motion sensor lights on exterior.
- Consider installing security cameras and a burglar alarm.
- Ensure doors entering residence are secured with dead bolt locks including the inside of garage doors.

Neighbors can band together and form a

Neighborhood or Community Watch to keep an eye on each other's residences and immediately report suspicious activity to police.

Be advised that Provincial Constable Paul Nancekivell is a trained Safeguard officer and can attend by appointment to speak to individual homeowners or small groups to offer low cost suggestions on how to better secure you home.

Members of the Dufferin County Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police are committed to public safety, delivering proactive and innovative policing in partner-

ship with our communities. Officers value your contribution to building safe communities. If you have information about suspected unlawful activity, please contact the OPP at 1-888-310-1122 or visit Crime Stoppers at: [www.crimestoppersdm.com](http://www.crimestoppersdm.com) or call 1-800-222-TIPS (8477).

## Romance scam is the most emotionally devastating fraud

Many hearts are broken in the quest for love, leaving some people financially wounded.

Romance scams cause victims severe financial loss and, due to the emotional impact and personal embarrassment, these crimes are not reported to police.

Members of the OPP Anti-Rackets Branch say criminals use the romance scam to find potential victims online, generally single or recently unattached people of all ages. Usually this form of mass marketing fraud occurs through singles and dating-related "meet" websites, social media platforms, or email blasts. In some cases, prolonged interaction with individuals has cost some victims tens of thousands of dollars before the "relationship" suddenly ends, usually without ever meeting in person. Among the

most vulnerable are seniors.

In 2017, the romance scam generated 352 complaints and caused 250 victims to lose \$6.2 million in Ontario alone. The dollar value is the second highest fraud in the province and police admit that this may represent just five per cent of the total number of victims.

As part of the annual Fraud Prevention Month campaign, OPP and its partners at the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre have some tips to help people avoid becoming a victim of the romance scam.

First, ask "Would someone I have never met, really declare their love for me after only a few letters or emails?" If the answer is no, report it to police.

Don't give out any personal information in an email or when chatting online. Educate

yourself. Check the person's name, the company name, and the addresses used.

Never send money, or give personal credit card or online account details to anyone you do not know and trust. A request to send money to a foreign country or to someone you have never personally met should be a red flag.

Check website addresses carefully. Scammers often set up fake websites with addresses that are very similar to legitimate dating websites.

If you or someone you know suspect they've been a victim of the romance scam, contact police. You can also file a complaint through the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre, Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS), or online at <https://www.tipsubmit.com/start.htm>

### We need volunteers; we can't do it without you

The Orangeville & District Animal Centre depends on the kindness, generosity and skills of our volunteers. Dedicated volunteers assist us with tasks such as basic animal care, fundraising events, general administrative duties and staff for both Paws & Claws Thrift Store locations. Consider becoming a member of our team. Call Judi, Volunteer Coordinator, at 519-942-3140.

[orangeville.ontariospca.ca](http://orangeville.ontariospca.ca)



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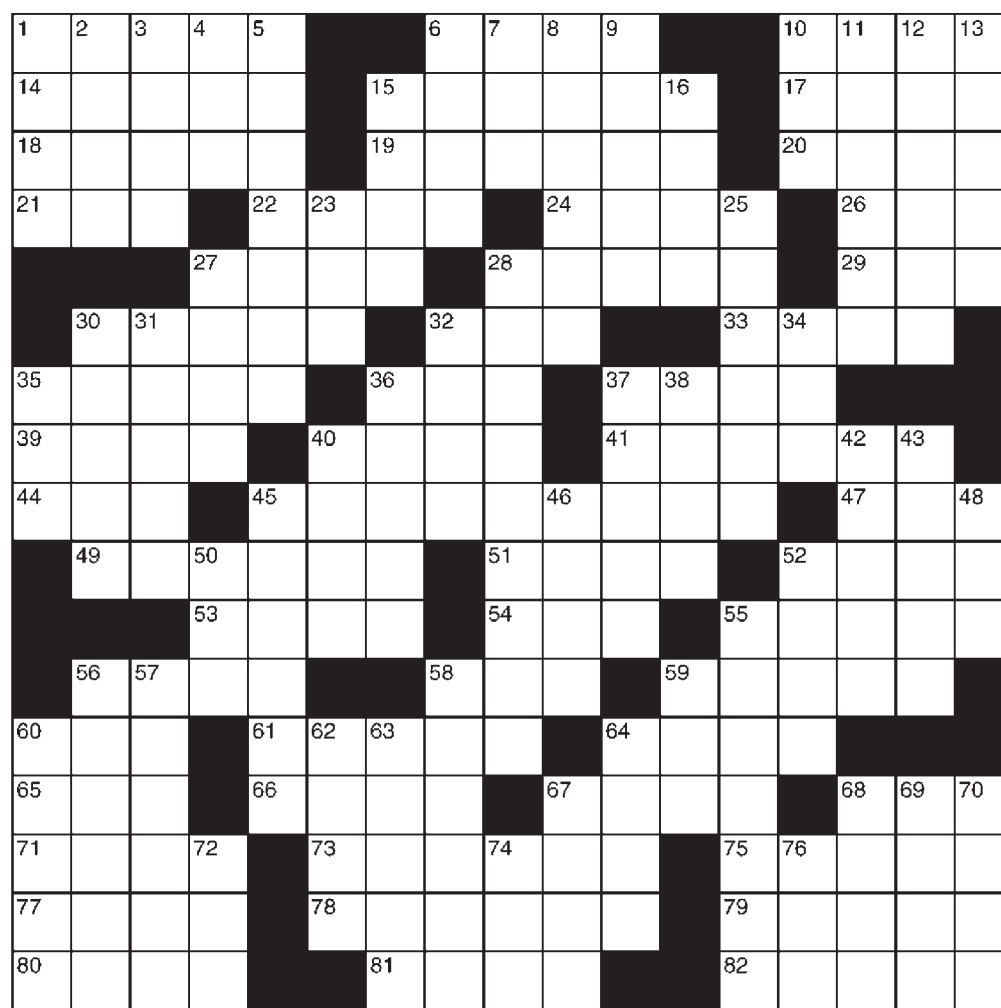
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PUZZLE NO. 415



- Disinterest
- Cafe order
- Diet letters: abbr.
- Biker's headgear
- Store, as fodder
- Lagoon's boundary
- Merganser's kin
- Bridle strap
- Group of whales
- Seat for two
- List of activities
- Passing
- Ad copy
- Woody vine
- Card game
- Bumpkin
- Winter ailment
- Shelflike bed
- Gaucha's tool
- Humpback's kin
- Shoe fillers
- Employ wrongfully
- Peculiar jargon
- With hands on hips
- Left, nautically
- Busy one
- Snow slat
- Recording
- Place
- Sea parrot
- Describe
- Jauntily
- Shanty
- Nibble
- On \_\_\_\_ (tense)
- Spring of water
- Temptation
- Cantina meal
- Wail
- Befuddled
- Bouncy
- Kind of bread
- Roofer's caulking material
- Legendary bird

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### ACROSS

- Skinny one
- Junk e-mail
- Ratite bird
- South American raccoon
- Daze
- Fender flaw
- Promo producers
- Danger
- And
- Corded fabric
- Spout
- "\_\_\_\_ Is Your Life"
- Unit of length
- Cat's call
- Feudal lord
- "Home Again" addition
- Mix thoroughly
- Young fish
- Shopper's bag
- Hurl

- Barnyard sound
- Roster
- Maui feast
- Maidenhair
- Angry
- Coffee container
- Shuttle's domain
- Bro, to Sis
- Creel
- Little bit
- Harmony
- Acquaintances
- Big Band, e.g.
- "Beetle Bailey" superior
- Prudish
- Pismire
- African animal, shortly
- Take legal action
- Suit
- Old stringed instrument
- Gridiron org.

- Skunk's defense
- Ballerina's short skirt
- Jabber
- Off yonder
- Stringed instrument
- Loomed up
- New York \_\_\_\_
- Intertwine
- Fortress
- Patella location
- Beginner
- Elaborate display

### DOWN

- Blemish
- Secret language
- Sloped surface
- Enjoyed brunch
- Oriental root
- Brood
- Play on words

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# SHELBURNE SPORTS

## Honeywood Juveniles battling through OMHA championship

Written By **BRIAN LOCKHART**

The Honeywood Juvenile Norduff team is trailing the Wainfleet Wild after the start of their Ontario Minor Hockey Association (OMHA) championship series, but there is still a lot of hockey to be played.

The series got underway at Honeywood arena Saturday, with a huge number of supporters in the stands.

The Wild got the opening goal in Saturday's game – the only goal of the first period.

It was a tie game when Honeywood's Stephen Falls scored with 8:16 on the clock in the second period.

Fourteen seconds later the Wild scored to take a 2-1 lead.

It took just 14 more seconds for the Honeywood team to get back in the game when Kyle Johnson hit the back of the Wainfleet net to make it 2-2.

Back on the ice for the third period, both teams stepped it up a notch to see who could come out on top.

The Wild scored a minute into the third, but Honeywood again tied it up on a goal

from Austen Hamilton.

Hamilton got his second of the game with 3:27 left on the clock, but again it was a short lived lead when the Wild scored the tying goal with just 10 seconds remaining.

A regulation overtime period saw neither team able to score and the they had to settle for a 4-4 tie and each team getting a single point to start the series.

"It was a good game. We kept it simple, dumped it in," said Honeywood coach Ethan England. "We had the high guy cover their high guy. They really tried to a stretch pass on us and we covered that well. We kept it simple, lots of shots and went for the rebound. We were missing a line. We have three guys off."

Game two of the series took place in Wainfleet the following day (Sunday) and ended with a 2-1 loss for the Honeywood team.

The series will resume this weekend with game three taking place at the North Dufferin Community Centre Saturday at 5 p.m.

Game four will be in Wainfleet the following day with a 2 p.m. start.



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PHOTO: BRIAN LOCKHART

THE HONEYWOOD JUVENILE Norduff team host the Wainfleet Wild at Honeywood arena on Saturday, March 17, during the first game of their OMHA championship series. This game ended in a 4-4 tie. Game two of the series resulted in a 2-1 loss for Honeywood in Wainfleet on Sunday, March 18. The series will return to Honeywood for game three this Saturday, March 24.



PHOTO: BRIAN LOCKHART

ALLISTON HORNETS GOALIE, Brendan Macham, deflects a shot during the first period of game five of the Provincial Junior Hockey League Carruthers Division Championship final series against the Stayner Siskins in Stayner on Thursday, March 15. The Siskins were leading the series 3-1 going into Thursday's game and left with a 6-3 win to take the 2018 championship. The Siskins will now go on to compete for the Provincial Schmaltz Cup.

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### ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

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Position: DEFENCE

"I like that it's a fast paced competitive game," said Shelburne Wolves Peeewee rep defenceman Cal Sintson of why he likes playing hockey.

Cal helped bring his team to a successful run in the OMHA playoffs and has been playing hockey since the Mite level.

During the summer he trades in his stick for a glove and plays baseball with the Creemore Braves.

He plans to continue playing hockey as long as he can.

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# Faith is both subjective and objective

Written By **REV. STEPHANIE PELLOW**

One of my favourite sports to watch is figure skating.

In their gold-medal performance at the Olympics just a couple of weeks back, Tessa Virtue and Scott Moir opened with a very risky maneuver. Skating backwards towards Scott, Tessa leapt into the air, legs bent to the sides as he caught her from behind. Although I have now seen them execute this a number of times, I am still amazed by the level of trust each must have in the other to pull this off. Yes, it takes much practice, but trust is a big factor too.

How do we develop the ability to trust?

We enter the world as helpless infants. When loving persons feed us and keep us warm and safe, we learn to have faith that our needs will continue to be met. But, as we go through life, we are bound to be bruised and bear the scars of those times when others betray our trust.

A school-age child hears a playmate say, "I don't want to be friends with you any more." A teenager learns others are texting nasty things behind her back. So many of our painful experiences in life rise out of relationships in which we have trusted.

We have the ability to relate to one another in love and respect. We are also capable of hurting others both involuntarily and with intent. We depend upon one another, but we cannot always trust one another nor are we always trustworthy ourselves. This is the tension that we live in.

How much we can trust others depends on our early life experiences and the strength of our self-esteem. How rich a life we lead may depend on our ability to trust. The depth of our faith may also be related to our ability to trust.

In third chapter of the Gospel of John, there is a conversation between Jesus and a Pharisee, Nicodemus. Nicodemus came to Jesus under cover of darkness. He believed that Jesus was a spiritual teacher, but he was afraid of the reaction of his fellow Pharisees if they knew he had gone to speak to him. At one point, Jesus states what we might consider a self-evident truth. He says, "We know and testify to what we have seen."

All of us can speak about what we know and understand in this life, but Jesus tells Nicodemus that He speaks of truth about heavenly or spiritual things because He has experience of those things. The Pharisees were very unlikely to believe that. They trusted in the Law of Moses as it had been handed down to them and that got in the way of their ability to trust Jesus and to receive His message.

St. Paul expresses the nature of God's love in this way, "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing: it is the gift of God – not the result of works, so that no one may boast." To Paul, not only is the love of God a gift but "faith" to receive the love, the ability to trust is also a gift.

The gift of faith is both subjective and objective. Our individual faith is a combination of the two. Subjectively, we have been gifted with life, but our capacity for faith may be shaped by our life experiences and how we have learned to trust others.

Objectively, faith could be seen as the case (like a legal case) for trust in God. This case is presented and argued in the Bible through the story of the people of Israel and their relationship with God. We are shown a God who is continually spoken of as the God of steadfast love. No matter when the people get it wrong,

God loves them and calls them back into their covenant relationship. Jesus also shows us that it is safe to trust God. God loves us even as sinners. We have no need to withhold anything of ourselves to be safe the way we often do in human relationships, for fear of being hurt. The Bible shows us that through this gradual revelation of God's self, humanity has been given the gift of faith. We are reassured and helped to trust so that we are able receive the

gift of God's love, fully.

Perhaps you could spend time thinking about how the ability to trust has been nurtured in your life and also what experiences have led you to be less trusting? Second, how could the story of God's love in scripture help to heal the places in your life where you are afraid to trust?

*Rev. Stephanie Pellow is rector of St. Paul's Anglican Church, Shelburne.*

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# Local minister learns much about global hunger during Nepal trip

Written By **JASEN OBERMEYER**

Rev. Janet Jones, minister of High Country United Church in Camilla, was in Nepal recently with Canadian Foodgrains, learning about the country's hunger and development issues.

Ms. Jones was part of the International Food Security Learning Tour for Educators, organized by Canadian Foodgrains Bank, a partnership of 15 church and church agencies working together to end global hunger. Since 1983, the organization has provided more than \$600 million of food assistance to people in need.

After applying, she was with a group of 12 others who spent two weeks in the country from Jan. 27 to Feb. 10, where they visited projects supported by Canadian Foodgrains Bank and others funded by Global Affairs Canada. They saw how changes, such as farming techniques, health and nutrition, and child wellness, have impacted the people.

"The group's interaction with the Nepalese farmers was a vital part of the trip," Roberta Gramlich, youth engagement coordinator at the Foodgrains Bank, said. "There were some very rich discussions that happened between the Canadians and the Nepalese community members."

In an interview, Ms. Jones described the overall experience as surreal. "We weren't doing anything, we were just experiencing, and that was incredible."

She said she really enjoyed learning about the perseverance and strength of the people.

"Even how resistant they were to change, they enveloped it," she said. "They just took it on and said 'well let's see what happens.'"

She talked about how some of the challenges she noticed the people struggle with on a daily basis are access, getting from one town to another for emergency reasons or supplies, and how the vehicles used are in poor quality, and the roads are unsafe at times.

"We have so much here, we are really gifted, and to be able to know that, we can help another community."

Ms. Jones said she's become very interested in farming, after seeing the Nepalese people farm for, and rely on themselves for food. The most important thing she took away from the trip was how Canada as a country relies on food being imported, and how we can have any type of food anytime throughout the year.

"Our farmers are so under-appreciated," she said.

Ms. Jones encourages everyone to understand what the Canadian budget means for the world, and how it impacts everyone. "Really look at it with critical eyes and an open heart, because I think we're spending money in areas just to keep ourselves busy, and not to do meaningful work."

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**AUTO ORNAMENTS & PLATES:** 1948 Ford grill; Ford car ornaments; Packard hood ornaments; licence plates;

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PHOTO: MARNI WALSH

"THE ART OF SONG" concert presented by Music Director Nancy Sicsic at Westminster United Church in Orangeville last Sunday, March 18, featured a wide variety of vocal styles and performances. The talented area vocalists brought the audience to their feet for standing ovations more than once. Left to right in the back row: acclaimed international concert singer Daniel Lichti; Nancy Sicsic; saxophone player Ryan Grist; folk singer Heather Katz; opera and musical theatre singer Darcey Baker; pianist Bruce Ley; (front row left to right) mezzo soprano Cara Cameron; jazz singer Noni Thomas; and musical theatre singer Duncan Lang.

# Shelburne teen gold medal winner at national karate championship

Written By MARNI WALSH

*"Keep trying, never give up and never back down."* – Para Athlete Champion Daniel Mustapha

Shelburne area teen Daniel Mustapha has brought home a gold medal from the National Karate Championships Para Athlete Division in Halifax.

Daniel, 17, traveled with his family to the competition, which ran from March 9 to 11, where he defeated the two-time National Champion from British Columbia.

At the same time, his twin brother Nicholas, who competed with the top 18 karate athletes in Canada, in the 16-17 year old boys' division, placed fifth in the National Competition. Approximately 400 competitors, ranking among the top in karate, participated in the competition held at the Canada Games Centre in Halifax.

The brothers train at the Orangeville Dojo, which opened in 2005. Their coach or Sensei is Angelo Panoussis, the founder of a Shelburne Dojo, as well as the location in Orangeville. A third student of Mr. Panoussis, Mika MacMullin of Orangeville, also competed in Halifax and participated in Kumite. This is an incredible showing of talent from the area Dojo.

"Being a part of Team Ontario and making connections and new friends was the best part," Nicholas said.

He said it is very satisfying to know "when I put all my effort into what I love, it rewards me with great experiences."

Nicholas expressed gratitude to his parents, who "always supported me and my brother wholeheartedly." He said that without the support of their Sensei and the Orangeville Dojo community, "we never would have been able to qualify or even compete."

Nicholas' next goal is to place in the top three nationally and start training with the national team.

For Daniel, the intricate and intensive sport of karate requires a grace and focus that presents additional challenges for someone who lives with cerebral palsy. A home-schooled student, Daniel started karate when he was five, taking a break from the sport around the age of 12, and re-entering competitions in 2016 with the Ontario Karate Federation in the Para Athlete Division. He defeated the World Karate Champion late last year in a Markham competition.

Halifax "was my first time at a Canadian National tournament," Daniel said, "so I was very nervous because I had never seen any of my competitors and everybody else from my division already knew each other. In all honesty, I think it was probably the best kata (routine) I ever done. I was probably smiling for about an hour afterward."

Daniel said he gained the knowledge and

confidence that he can compete anywhere in the world - "not just in Canada."

Daniel thanked his extended family and everyone else for their support and funding.

"I would like to thank my instructors Sensei Angelo and everyone at the Orangeville Dojo for supporting us, teaching us and cheering us on," he commented. "I would also like to give a shout out to the Ontario Karate Federation and their staff for giving us the opportunity to compete at Nationals. Last but not least, I would also like to thank my brothers, my father and my mother for supporting me, even if sometimes I didn't want it. Thanks guys. The experience was pretty awesome."

"Daniel works as hard, if not harder, than anyone else," Nicholas observed. "He has inspired so many kids, not only at the Dojo, but also at local schools and self-defence courses that he has assisted in teaching. To see him go from despising competition to being the National Champion was very emotional for my whole family. He has always been a fighter, and he showed us all, that he will never give up."

Parents Graciela and Max Mustapha say they are very proud of the boys and will continue to support them in their goals.

"We would like to thank our families, Sensei Angelo Panoussis and the Orangeville Dojo community, the home schooling community, friends, and supporters for raising the funds to help us attend the Nationals in Halifax," the couple said.

Daniel's next goal is to win at the World Championships, and eventually, the Paralympics in 2020 or 2024. Interested sponsors can help Daniel reach those goals with financial support at 519-925-2742 or email: graciela-mustapha@yahoo.com.



Karate Canada 2018 National Championships - Halifax NS



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

AREA YOUTH, twin brothers Daniel and Nicholas Mustapha competed at the National Karate Championships in Halifax in early March. Daniel won the Gold Medal in the Para Athlete Division and Nicholas secured 5th place in the 16-17 year old Boys' National Division. Daniel is shown on the podium as he receives his Gold Medal and becomes part of Canada's National Karate team.

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