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**2019 Polar Plunge**  
PHOTO: BRIAN LOCKHART

**THAT'S COLD:** They came in costumes, pyjamas, cowboy boots, and police uniforms for the Shelburne Fest Polar Plunge at Fiddle Park in Shelburne during the Family Day holiday on Monday, February 18. The event raised funds for Special Olympics Ontario. While a wildly enthusiastic crowd cheered them on, participants jumped into the icy water - and most got right back out just as fast. In total, the second-annual event raised more than \$30,000. Pictured above, organizer Jeff McLean plunges into the ice cold water. For more, see Page 7.

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## Shelburne Council approves 1.58 percent tax increase, additional \$35.12 on 2019 bill

**Written By PETER RICHARDSON**

Shelburne Council signed off on its 2019 budget on Monday evening, with local residents facing a tax increase of 1.58 percent - at \$35.12 increase from last year.

The public meeting to review the 2019 Draft Budget was convened in the Council Chambers Tuesday night (Feb. 19), with approximately a dozen residents in attendance. A somewhat subdued participation considering Council was explaining how, where and why, they are going to spend some \$7 million of taxpayers money in 2019.

The meeting opened with Treasurer Carey Holmes outlining the draft budget and explaining the various facets of it. During her presentation, she took pains to explain the cost of the Town's long term debt and the costs of further borrowing to fund capital projects, such as a new police station, or the mandated upgrades to Well Number 3. Just these two projects alone, would increase the Town's debt repayment levels by \$565,468.34

annually, for the next 15 to 20 years and would place the Town in violation of the legislated borrowing rules for a municipality.

As it stands right now, the long term debt repayment amounts to \$1,681.00 per household in Shelburne.

As the budget stands now, a home valued at \$313,774.00, will see a tax increase from the Town, of 1.58 percent, or \$35.12 per month for 2019. This is based upon a draft budget tax levy increase of 2.91 percent. Considering that inflation sits at 2.2 percent, this is a very moderate increase.

Ms. Holmes also explained that new assessments, which would increase Town revenues, are not expected until late in 2019 and would come from the two new developments currently under construction at each end of town. It was also noted that the \$1.2 million in potential revenues would be accrued over several years, as the homes were bought and occupied.

Following the Treasurer's report, Mayor Wade Mills threw the floor open for ques-

tions and first up was Mr. John Gale, who expressed his growing concerns over the Town's long term debt costs.

He stated the obvious, that at some point, these loans have to be repaid and that he was concerned about his grandchildren being burdened with this inevitability. He felt that present levels were far too high at \$1,681 per home and asked what Council was planning to do about the situation.

Mayor Mills responded, noting that Council shared his concerns and that the \$20 million dollars in new capital projects that the Treasurer had mentioned, were not a wish list, but rather major infrastructure projects that had to be completed. He went on to say that Council had recently constructed a strategic plan, that would be unveiled shortly, and were also compiling a comprehensive financial plan, which would be announced and functional before the next Budget deliberations in the fall.

Continued on Page 6

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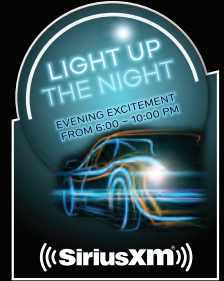


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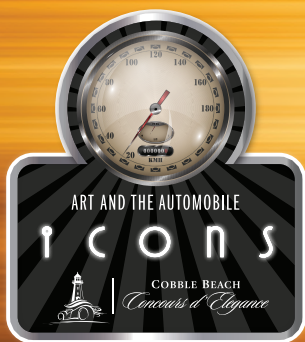
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# Team Spirit delivers success for Shelburne curler at provincial qualifier

Written By MARNI WALSH

Early this month Shelburne's Kayla Cruikshank, a student at Centre Dufferin District High School, and a member of Team Zemmeling curling from London, delivered success at the U18 Women's Provincial Qualifier Challenge Round. The event took place at the Orangeville Curling Club where twelve teams competed from across the province over three days. Team Zemmeling, coached by Jennifer Cuddie went on to win the B Final in a game against Team Dobson, from the London Curling Club.

This means Team Zemmeling qualifies to attend the OCA Provincials in Paris, March 9-13th. Team Zemmeling includes Skip Tori Zemmeling of Palmerston, Vice Kyra Woodend of Woodstock, Second Caitlyn Evely of Aylmer, Lead Kayla Cruikshank of Shelburne, and Alternate Avery Sinisac of London. The team will join the six teams who won provincial qualifiers in Wingham, Richmond Hill and Brockville, including Team Kropf of KW Curling Club, which won the A final in a close game with Team Zemmeling.

Kayla Cruikshank and some of her teammates took time this week to share what makes their team a winning combination. "My team is fantastic," says Kayla, "We work well together on the ice." She says the girl's communication is key. "We are constantly, relaying information on ice conditions and other factors influencing the shot." Kayla also gives a lot of credit to their coach Jennifer Cuddie. "Our coach is very knowledgeable and has lots to share with us, not only about strategy, but also about the importance of 'playing as a team' on and off the ice," says

the young athlete.

Coach Cuddie says, "The success of this team has been in their hearts. It takes a team of young women with strong values around work ethic, commitment to team, support of one another, flexibility, and that intangible belief in the dream to win..."

Another secret to their success is the bond the teammates have formed while working towards that dream. "We enjoy spending time together and have created life long friendships," says Kayla. Of course, backing those goals are engaged parents, like Joe and Linda Cruikshank. "We are so lucky to be supported by all of our parents who spend countless hours driving us around southern Ontario and cheering from behind the glass," says Kayla.

"Rarely have I worked with a group of families that have been so accommodating to all the things that I must do to prepare a team for this level of competition," says Coach Cuddie. "This set of families are wonderful at supporting their athletes, and all the others in our program at London Curling Club, to make it a positive learning atmosphere full of healthy competition for all."

Skip Tori Zemmeling told the Free Press, "There needs to be good team dynamics on the ice. With our team it's practically a rule after every shot that we give each other a high-five. This keeps us upbeat and a little more cheerful on ice. We don't focus on our misses and we learn from our mistakes. We have three goals; to do the best we can, have fun and communicate no matter what."

Curling successfully, like any sport, means hard work and dedication. Second Caitlyn Evely says, "Each member of the team has



PHOTO SUBMITTED

**A WINNING COMBINATION:** Pictured (left to right) Kyra Woodend, Tori Zemmeling, Caitlyn Evely, Kayla Cruikshank of Shelburne, and Coach Jennifer Cuddie. The successful curling team will compete at the Provincials during March Break.

juggled curling with school, work and family since the middle of September, and continues to do so now. We take the losses with the wins, and any challenge that comes up we tackle together, as a team. Ultimately, curling has provided me with the opportunity to both improve myself as an individual and make lifelong friends along the way; all while having fun."

Ultimately, Coach Jennifer Cuddie says these young women have learned, "That hard work does achieve results, and that being the person that you want to be along the way - a kind, respectful, honest, driven ath-

lete - is more important than any medal or championship, but does not stop you from winning one."

Kayla Cruikshank says, "All the skills we have learned through our time as a team have helped us be focused and driven towards trying our best in all situations. My home club in Shelburne has also been extremely supportive of my interest in the sport and I thoroughly enjoy curling in league play during the week. Curling is one of the few sports you can play throughout your life and I hope to keep curling for a long time."

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# You can't fix stupid

First there was crane girl – now there's chair girl.

Yes, another weird story out of Toronto that the media has focused on.

A young woman was video taped while standing on the balcony of a Toronto condo, somewhere around 40 floors up over the streets of the city.

For some reason she picked up a patio chair and tossed it off of the balcony while a camera followed it down to the street. It landed harmlessly near the entrance of the building.

Yes, it was a stupid thing to do. Someone could have easily been seriously injured or killed by that falling chair. Apparently there were other items tossed as well in an effort to prove that gravity does indeed exist.

People in the good city were outraged by this incident – especially the people who live in that building and aren't too happy that many units are being rented out in B & B type arrangements meaning that quite often they have no idea who is actually living there on day to day basis.

What boggles the mind is that the video was posted on-line for everyone to see.

It didn't take long for people to notify the police of who the girl was. She realized the jig was up and turned herself in.

She is facing several charges, the most serious of which is 'mischief endangering life,' which actually has a maximum penalty of life in prison.

The young woman made a court appearance and didn't exactly help her case as she smiled for reporters and seemed to relish the attention. Any judge seeing that might take the notion that her apology to the court really isn't that sincere.

Her lawyer, made the comment that there was 'peer pressure' involved. Seriously? Peer pressure for a 19 year old to do something that stupid?

While no one is expecting her to get the maximum sentence if convicted, many people have said they think she deserves some jail time. I don't know if putting someone behind bars for a first time non-violent but stupid offence is prudent, but she certainly needs to learn a lesson about putting others in danger.

During a discussion on the matter on talk radio in Toronto, the house lawyer who is

actually a very good regular guest, made the comment that the judge just might give her a stiff penalty to 'send a message' that this type of behaviour will not be tolerated.

Well, news flash, the message has already been sent – in fact it was sent several thousand years ago when just about every society on the planet made it clear that certain behaviours, like murder, stealing, and causing trouble just wouldn't be tolerated.

Many years ago I had a job in St. Catharines working on the Welland Canal. It was a tough, but interesting job which allowed me to get on most of the Canadian Laker ship fleet.

We had a new guy who joined the crew and one day during shop conversation he said something that made me take notice. I asked him to clarify.

He said, "The battery on my car died so I have to go out tonight and steal a new one."

"Why don't you just go to Canadian Tire and buy one like everyone else?" I asked him.

His reply was "Why should I pay for a battery when I can steal one?"

It's pretty hard to argue with that kind of

logic from that kind of person because in his mindset, stealing is the correct thing to do when the situation called for it.

Despite thousands of years of 'sending a message' and 'setting precedents' for punishment, there is always someone who will ignore the fact that certain things are simply wrong.

Most people, at least I assume, are taught by their parents at an early age that stealing is wrong. In fact I don't think most people even have to be taught that taking something that isn't yours isn't the right thing to do.

I don't know what ever happened to the battery stealer, but I would guess in the years following he has been in and out of jail for various stupid offences. He's just one of those kind of guys.

No matter what message is sent to the public, what precedent is set to determine a punishment for people who break the law with intent, there's always someone who will come along and toss something off a balcony just to see what will happen.

You just can't fix stupid.

**BRIAN LOCKHART**  
FROM THE SECOND ROW



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### CHECKING IN AT THE CANADA WINTER GAMES



## Cold as ice

The expression 'cold as ice' has recently taken on a whole new meaning to me.

For those of you blissfully unaware, I participated in my very first polar plunge over the Family Day long weekend. I've since been asked to describe my experience by various co-workers and community members. So far, all I've really been able to say was that it was... an experience.

Growing up in the north of England, I was never truly exposed to the level of coldness Canadians deal with on a daily basis during the winter. Well, at least not until I moved here. More than a decade on and I still haven't truly gotten to grips with it.

Imagine my reaction then when it was first suggested I jump in a pool of freezing water in the middle of February. Although I knew it was for a fantastic cause, there was slight apprehension. I wasn't sure I could do something like that to myself. After talking to a couple of recent participants, who assured me the plunge really wasn't all that bad, and reading into all the awesome things Special Olympics supports, I signed up for Shelburne's Polar Plunge.

That was back in December. With Christmas and the New Year still to come, Feb. 18 seemed a lifetime away. I put the plunge to the back of my mind. As the big day drew closer, I found myself getting more and more nervous. Then it arrived. The morning of the jump, I went out for breakfast with my wife and in-laws, who drove two hours to watch me complete the feat. Now, I'm a big guy who loves his food. On Monday morning I sat and stared at this wonderful menu promoting all kinds of incredible breakfast options. Nothing stood out. I wasn't hungry. Strange. Very strange.

As we all drove up Highway 10, I felt anxious. Again, very strange for me. I hadn't really prepared myself for the jump. When we arrived, I made a beeline for the registration table. I wanted to get this over and done with. After dropping off my forms and cash, I made my way over to the pool. I

caught up with organizer Cst. Jeff McLean, who informed me the it was filled on Friday. On plunge day, volunteers had to chip away almost two-inches of surface ice. Long story short, it was cold. Very, very cold.

Embracing the spirit of the day, I dressed up like Fred Flintstone. If I was going to do something crazy, I might as well try and have a little fun doing it. As time ticked down, the plunge drew closer. Awaiting my fate, I found myself talking to an inspirational young man called Ryan. A long-time supporter of Special Olympics, this was Ryan's 12th polar plunge. He had a big smile on his face and couldn't wait to jump into the frigid water. After talking to him, something clicked in my mind and, suddenly,

I wasn't worried anymore. I was even looking forward to it.

I remember making my way up the steps, reaching the plunge platform and staring at the water. The unmistakable build-up of ice circled the calm water. Smiling, I went for it, launching myself from the pad. The shock was tangible. The water definitely was cold. Still, I savoured the moment, fully submerging myself and swimming to the other side.

I climbed out of the pool, high-fiving spectators along the way. My mother-in-law greeted me with a warm blanket and off I went to change and warm up. On reflection, the experience really wasn't that bad. Actually, let me correct that. It was fun. And it was worthwhile. 60 people came together to raise more than \$30,000 for Special Olympics.

It got me to thinking about all the amazing fundraisers we have in this community. This weekend the Orangeville Food Bank is hosting its Coldest Night of the Year event. Although I won't be participating, I will be supporting the fundraiser. After my experience with the Polar Plunge, witnessing first hand everything it had to offer, I can see myself participating in more fundraisers in the future. Yes, even if it involves jumping into freezing cold water.



**MIKE BAKER**  
THE MIC CHECK

# Emergency services provide life-saving CPR training to public

Written By **BRIAN LOCKHART**

It is a skill you learn that you hope you may never have to use, however if the need arises, knowing how to perform CPR may save the life of someone you know.

The County of Dufferin offered the first of its Free Family CPR sessions at the Mel Lloyd Centre in Shelburne on Tuesday, February 19.

There was a very positive response from the community with around 35 families signing up to take the course.

Training was provided by Dufferin County Emergency Management, Dufferin County Paramedic Service, the Shelburne Fire Department, and St. John Ambulance.

"Tonight is community education for our public access defibrillator and CPR training," explained Dufferin County Paramedic Service chief, Tom Reid. "Those (defibrillator) are the units that are in all the public buildings, in schools, government buildings, and there's a lot of private business that have them as well. They're very intuitive – they tell you what to do. Some of them speak to you, some have flashing light on what to do next. And they can't hurt anybody. It's fully automatic – people shouldn't be afraid to use one."

Since these units have been in Dufferin county, Mr. Reid said they know of nine times the defibrillator units have saved a life. He cited a recent case of a man who had cardiac arrest in Orangeville and was saved after a person retrieved the unit from the

library and the man was stabilized and transported to hospital and made a full recovery.

"Tonight is a family-based demonstration. It's education for CPR and choking prevention and also how to use a public access defibrillator. We're having all ages, there's no limit on ages. We're teaching everyone who comes, whether they're younger or older, they can all learn CPR," Mr. Reid said.

Training dummies represented both adults and infants and visitors learned how to properly do CPR on both a grown person and a small baby.

As part of the training, he said they teach people to not be afraid of using the technique when needed.

"Some people are really afraid to do anything,"

Mr. Reid said of a typical reaction by some people in an emergency situation, but added "If they're not breathing, they're unconscious, and vital signs absent – they're not going to get any worse – if you're in doubt, start CPR. We're trying to bridge that moment between the time something happens and when emergency services can get there."

Performing CPR in the few minutes before emergency service personnel arrive could save the life of a person.

Visitors arriving at the training were very enthusiastic with many younger people attending to learn the techniques that could help them save a family members life in the future.



PHOTO: BRIAN LOCKHART

**CPR TRAINING:** The County of Dufferin offered the first of its free family CPR sessions at the Mel Lloyd Centre in Shelburne on Tuesday, February 19. Resident, Debbie Fawcett, gets a lesson in CPR from Paramedic Chief Tom Reid, and Daniel Levinter and Brandon Snel, from St. John Ambulance.

## Dufferin County budget includes 1.9 percent tax hike for 2019

Written By **MIKE BAKER**

Dufferin County's council tried their best to show residents the love on Valentine's Day.

County council whittled a proposed 6.9 per cent tax levy increase down to a 3.8 per cent tax jump Feb. 14 during debate about the 2019 operational and capital budget. When the increase after growth this year is factored in, the impact on taxpayers will be a 1.9 per cent increase.

Politicians gave the go-ahead for a \$38.5-million purse for the year. That's \$1.4-million more than the 2018 spending plan for a 3.8 per cent rise over last year.

"The increase for the next coming year will be 1.9 per cent after you factor in growth," said Dufferin County Warden Darren White, the mayor of Melancthon.

He said taxpayers will be tapped for an extra \$7.07 for every \$100,000 assessed value of their property. That basically means

\$1,584 on the county's end of the tax bill to owners of properties assessed at \$400,000, which is the county's average. That's an increase just under \$30 over 2018.

The county's Treasury squeezed \$235,000 in savings from employee benefits and legal costs. They typically come under budget each year.

The county took an unavoidable \$800,000 hit by way of reconstruction work required for the courthouse chimney.

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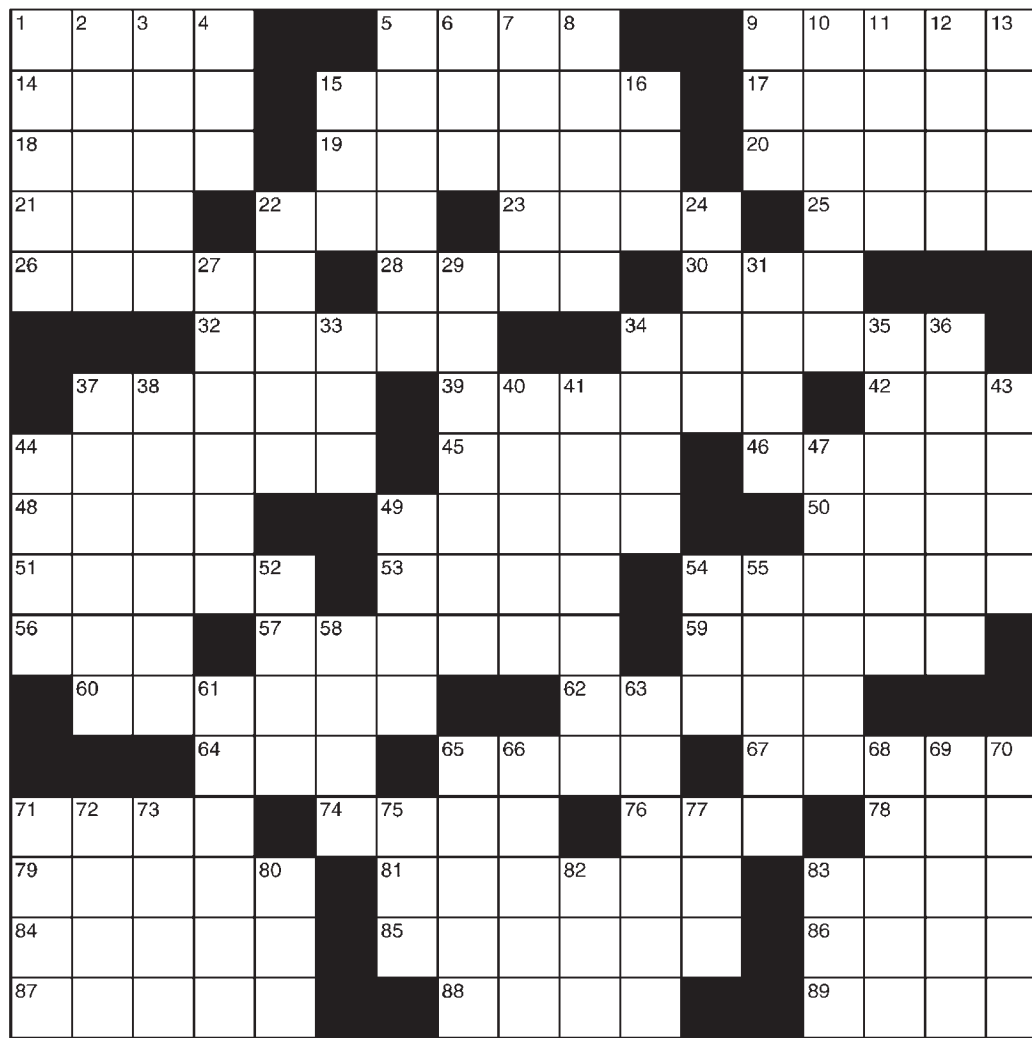
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25. Simple
26. Transparent
28. Assist in crime
30. Muslim leader
32. Ma's instrument
34. Uproar
37. Tropical eel
39. Worker at an inn

42. Sable or mink

44. Cancel
45. Green fruit
46. "\_\_\_ of the Ball"
48. March date
49. Dogma
50. Short message
51. Winner's position
53. Before
54. Higher
56. Small boy
57. \_\_\_ out (allotted)
59. Birthday or surprise
60. Knob
62. Tropical creeper
64. Superhero's chest letter
65. Narrow valley
67. Period of indulgence
71. Prepare a salad
74. Stewpot
76. Go by plane

78. Morsel for a pony

79. Take advantage of
81. Dwarfed plant
83. Ballerina's short skirt
84. Sudden forward thrust
85. Merry
86. Venerable
87. Improve by editing
88. Race assemblage
89. Had being

**DOWN**

1. "\_\_\_ Instinct"
2. Praise
3. Unattended
4. New Zealand parrot
5. Worldwide
6. \_\_\_ off steam
7. Egglike
8. Small
9. Pretend

10. Runway
11. Cypress, e.g.
12. Seaweed gel
13. Learning method
15. Geologic division
16. Born as
22. Oddity of nature
24. Isolated
27. Transversely
29. Shelf item
31. Attire
33. Drain-opener ingredient
34. Dart about
35. At sea
36. Sweltering
37. Situated in the middle
38. Carry to excess
40. From that moment
41. Make high-pitched sounds
43. Hollow stalk
44. Break in friendship
47. Envelop
49. Mood
52. In this way
54. "\_\_\_ Lazy River"
55. Flower
58. "The Sun \_\_\_ Rises"
61. Plan
63. Baby
65. Darkness
66. Harpoon
68. Cosmetic
69. "Peter, Peter, pumpkin \_\_\_ . . ."
70. Chopin work
71. Fable, e.g.
72. Egg cell
73. Reasonable
75. JFK follower
77. Jar's cover
80. Conducted
82. Litigate
83. Game marble

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# Pirates welcome at upcoming mystery dinner for autism

Written By MARNI WALSH

Shelburne's 'Autism Grandma,' Deanna Avison invites guests of the 4th annual Hearts Wide Open for Autism mystery dinner and auction to come dressed for the "high seas." The dinner theatre mystery will be Murder on the High Seas presented by theatrical performers from Murder for Hire.

"You aren't going to want to miss this hilarious murder mystery," says Ms. Avison. Described as a sunny voyage that turns dark when the cruise ship "The Grande Illusion" collides with a pirate ship named "The Passing Wind," the evening at the Shelburne Golf and Country Club is sure to be fun for all involved. Organizers suggest semi-formal wear, but encourage costumes including cruise wear, beach clothes, or traditional pirate garb if you want to blend in with Captain Pugwart and his crew.

Hearts Wide Open has raised over \$24,000 in the past three years with all profits donated to the Upper Grand Learning Foundation for the Special Education Program in Shelburne's local schools. Some of the

items purchased with funds have included calming pillows, adjustable desks which allow children to either sit or stand, bean bag chairs, Hokki stools, noise-cancelling head phones, fidget tools, timers, sequencing activities and calming tools. Deanna Avison says, "These items help children of all ages with special needs learn and manage their day at school."

Ms. Avison was inspired to begin the fundraiser by her twin grandchildren with autism. "What started out as a dream to make a difference for children with autism and other special needs," she says, became a reality with Hearts Wide Open. "Together we are making a big impact on these beautiful children by helping them learn easier, and overcome their fears and struggles at school with the devices that we supply with the funds raised."

Deanna Avison says, "Our wish is to bring respect, acceptance, understanding and support to those children with special needs. Statistics show to date that 1 in 48 children are diagnosed with autism. There is a significant number of autistic children and other

special needs children living in Dufferin County who attend our local schools. The funds we raise are donated to the Upper Grand Learning Foundation and then distributed

to Shelburne's local schools. Although limited funds are provided by the Ministry of Education and School Board, there is always a need for specialized devices and aids for these children."

This is the 4th year "Murder for Hire," a mystery theatre company out of Kitchener, has brought one of their entertaining mysteries to the event. "It's a night of a lot of fun and laughs," say the organizers, "with the audience solving the case" and "the Golf and Country club setting the scene while serving a delicious chicken dinner with all the trimmings."

"We are very blessed to have generous sponsors again this year," says Ms. Avison, including to name a few: Westjet; GP Carpentry; Shelburne Transporter; iPro Realty; Rawlco Services; Royal LePage - the Mullin Group; Blackie's Storage; Lennox Farms; and Main Street Family Dental. The many

wonderful silent auction items include exciting bids such as two nights at the Shamrock Lodge in Port Carling, and Westjet tickets for a chance to win one round trip ticket for two to any regularly scheduled destination. Westjet tickets are available for \$10 each through Deanna Avison by text: 519 806 6065 or at Vivid Hair Studio: 519 925 9500.

The Hearts Wide Open dinner, mystery and silent auction, in support of over 200 children in local schools with special needs, will take place on Saturday, April 6th at the Shelburne Golf and Country Club on 516423 County Rd. 124, just north of Shelburne. Cocktails and silent auction will start at 6 pm, with dinner and mystery at 7pm, followed by music by DJ Master Mix. Tickets at \$100 each, or a table of eight for \$700 are available on Facebook @HeartsWideOpenforAutism and at www.shelburnegolf.com. Ticket buyers may also contact Megan at Shelburne Golf and Country Club at 519 925 5581. Anyone interested in donating to the silent auction please contact - Deanna Avison by March 10th.

Continued from FRONT

## Shelburne Council approves 1.58 percent tax increase, additional \$35.12 on 2019 bill

He noted that Shelburne had never had either of these in the past. Mayor Mills went on to emphasize that it was his opinion that the current 'credit card' buying model could not continue and Shelburne would have to reign in and control it's spending to remain

a viable municipality, placing more money into reserves and borrowing less.

Nevertheless, he noted that money did have to be raised and that, currently, that could only come from residential taxes.

The Treasurer added that the Town was

hoping to relieve the ratepayers through additional commercial and industrial assessments and that it was her belief that these would come as the Town surpassed the "magic" 10,000 population figure. At that point it becomes viable to expect larger re-

tailors to take an interest in Shelburne. At this point, Coun. Walter Benotto pointed out that this was already beginning, in the east end of Town, where Fieldgate were planning to open construction on their rather large commercial development, prior to starting on the accompanying homes.

Mayor Mills added that the 2.91 percent levy increase this year, was very modest, compared with the inflation rate of 2.2 percent, but that it was his belief that this was the way of the future, consistent small increases to keep pace with inflation and have a little bit left over, rather than a huge tax increase down the road, preceded by zero percent increases for several years.

Another resident queried whether there was not another way to raise funds for Well 3 and whether Council had reached out to other small municipalities facing similar problems. The Mayor and the CAO, Denyse Morrissey, explained that the only options open to the Town, were either long-term debt financing, or the use of certain grants. Jim Moss, added that Shelburne had been chosen as the poster town, so to speak, for a pilot project around the Well 3 problem, which made it the go-to community in that area. Shelburne has applied for an OCIF Grant of \$1.5 million for Well 3, but the provincial government has not yet allocated those funds.

County Treasurer Allan Shelby was in attendance as a resident, but took the opportunity to commend Council on their budget, saying that the 2.91 percent increase was lower than he expected it to be and that he had been prepared to endorse a larger number. He also mentioned that the County Budget increases were below 2 percent, which would not affect Shelburne's tax rates dramatically.

Former councillor Dan Sample spoke, to request that Council restore the the money for the local soccer club's nets and storage container, as it had been an agreement in principal, with the previous Council that this money was to be a joint venture between the Town and the club. He also commended Council on their budget package. Mr. Sample then asked if Council had placed the Legion's request to pave the boulevard at the corner of First and Williams Streets, in the budget draft somewhere. The request had been made of the previous Council, and it had been decided to leave it for the new and present one, to deal with. Mayor Mills said he did recall the request and that they would have to look into it. Coun. Benotto mentioned that such a request would come out of the public works department's sidewalk financing and would not have to be a line item in the budget.

Following a little more discussion on various areas of the draft, a motion was presented by Coun. Benotto to have the budget accepted and Council so moved it, unanimously. Staff will now prepare a bylaw, to that effect, for the next Council Meeting on February 25th and the 2019 Budget will be adopted as presented.



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# Second annual Polar Plunge raises \$30,000 for Special Olympics

Written By MIKE BAKER

More than 60 local residents embraced the 'freezin' for a reason' mentality this past weekend, helping to raise more than \$30,000 for Special Olympics Ontario in the process.

The second-annual Shelburne Polar Plunge took place on Family Day (Feb. 18) and attracted hundreds of residents to Fiddle Park. As a part of the larger Shelbrrr Fest, the Plunge is quickly becoming a tradition in the community, with more than double the participants and a noticeable increase in the crowd at this year's event.

Speaking to the Free Press, Cst. Jeff McLean, the primary organizer of the Plunge, said he was delighted with the way the community bought into the event once again.

"We had a lot of fun with the inaugural Polar Plunge last year, a great response from the community, so we really just wanted to ride the wave," Cst. McLean said. "The reaction of the community this time around has been incredible. We had more than 60 plungers and, once we're all said and done, we will have raised more than \$30,000, doubling the event goal. It's awesome."

Amongst the crowd of jumpers was Shelburne Mayor Wade Mills, Coun. Kyle Fegan (dressed as the Incredible Hulk), Shelburne Police Chief Kent Moore and even yours truly, Free Press Editor Mike Baker (dressed up as Fred Flintstone). Other costumes in attendance included plays on the cast from Disney's Frozen, a team of Vikings and even Batman himself. The best team costume went to the cast of Frozen, dawned by the Glenbrook Grizzlies. Best Individual costume went to The Incredible Fegan, who braved the cold to paint himself green.

Another of the plungers, Dean Schroeder, was there representing the Shelburne Legion. Donned out in red and white in honour of Canada, Mr. Schroeder raised \$695 and had a great time taking part.

"This was awesome," Mr. Schroeder told

the Free Press. "I decided early that I wanted to be a part of this year's Plunge. Being out here today, seeing the crowd, seeing the people taking part, there's a real sense of community. We know Special Olympics is a fantastic organization - it's amazing to hear how much money the event raised this year."

Cst. McLean was the highest individual fundraiser, with \$2,765 raised, while Brad Brown, a member of the Special Olympics Dufferin team, wasn't too far behind after collecting \$2,490. His team beat out the Super Troopers, made up of local police officers, as the top fundraising team, raking in \$5,255. Super Troopers managed to raise \$4,240.

As a special Family Day offering, Domino's Pizza in Shelburne dedicated 50 percent of that night's sales to fundraiser. Cst. McLean noted the pizzeria wrote a cheque for \$2,200.

During the event, there was also a Too Chicken to Plunge raffle, where spectators were able to purchase a rubber chicken, for the opportunity to win donated prizes. The winners for the items are as follows:

Grand Prize - Two Lift Passes to Hockley Valley Resort: Kim Gauley - Ticket #7

Prize 1 - Law Enforcement Torch Run Watch - Jen Moore - Ticket #15

Prize 2 - Cadbury Gift Basket - Doug Walterhouse - Ticket #48

Prize 3 - Pete's Deli \$25.00 Gift Card - Rod West - Ticket #22

Prize 4 - Shelburne Police Service Prize Pack - Liz Jones - Ticket #19

All prize winners will be contacted in the coming days.

"Phenomenal support, that's the only way to put it," Cst. McLean stated when asked to reflect on the event. "For our second year, to be able to say we raised \$30,000 is amazing. That money will do a lot of good within the Special Olympics system. I think our entire community should be proud, this is a real accomplishment."



PHOTOS: BRIAN LOCKHART

**COLD BLAST:** The second-annual Shelburne Polar Plunge was an incredible success, with 60 plungers combining to raise more than \$30,000 for Special Olympics. The event drew a crowd of more than 300 people on Family Day (Feb. 18).

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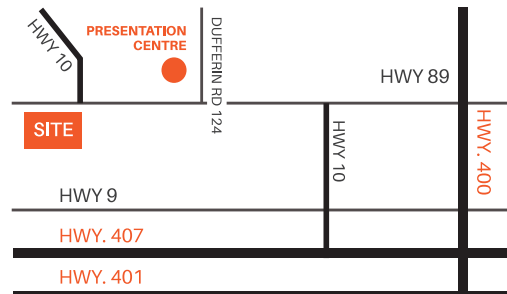


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# SHELBURNE SPORTS

## CDDHS Royals senior basketball team going to District final

Written By BRIAN LOCKHART

The Centre Dufferin District High School Royals senior basketball team are going to the District 4 championship after winning their semi-final game over Erin District High School in the gym at CDDHS on Friday, February 15.

The Royals jumped out to an early lead in the game and by the time the third quarter was over they were ahead 80-12.

With a full crowd of students and fans cheering them on the Royals kept hitting the hoops with a lot of accuracy to finish the game with a 102 points on the scoreboard. The final was 102 - 17.

"It's kind of hard to give a full effort when you're dominating a game like that, but of course our team has always give a one hundred per cent effort every time," said Royals player, Matthew Surujbali, after the win. "We push each other and we push ourselves. That's just the way we are."

The squad dominated the game from the

start having little trouble making it to the inside to take the shot.

"Our focus in practice was on the transition, moving the ball well, and making sure we had good ball movement, and we executed," Matthew said. "That was our main focus going into this game - not to play down to anyone's level but to play the best basketball we know how to play. We always have to bring our 'A' game. Our main focus going into the championship will be to move the ball, have good transitions, and stay focused."

The Royals will be up against Wellington Heights Secondary School from Mount Forest in the final game.

The Mount Forest team had a decent season finishing third in the District standings with a 4 - 4 record.

The championship game was slated for Tuesday, February 19, at Centre Dufferin with results not available at press time.

The District 4 champions will go on to compete at the regional level at CWOSSA.



PHOTO: BRIAN LOCKHART

**GOING TO THE FINAL:** The Centre Dufferin District High School Royals senior basketball team host Erin District High School in the gym at CDDHS on Friday, February 15, during their District 4 semi-final playoff game. The Royals won the game 102 - 17 and will now go on to face Wellington Heights Secondary School in the District championship.

## Shelburne Muskies trailing 2-1 in series with Elora Rocks

Written By BRIAN LOCKHART

It was not the kind of game fans were hoping for when the Shelburne Senior Muskies hosted the Elora Rocks at the Centre Dufferin Recreation Complex on Saturday (Feb. 16) night.

After an opening game 4-3 win in Elora during their best of five A championship WAAA series, the Muskies went on to lose 5-2 in Elora on February 15.

In the Saturday home game in front of a large hometown crowd, the Muskies played a lack luster game and it showed as they were out-hit, out-shot, and out played for the

night.

Muskies GM, Barry Trood said "discipline on the ice was lacking as well."

Give the Rocks credit as they came in with a game plan and stuck to it while the Muskies just didn't adjust on this night.

The Muskies are a lot better team then they showed this past weekend and will have to get back to playing as a team first and not as 20 individuals.

The Rocks scored three on a power play, which was seemingly on for most of the game due to a lack of discipline by a frustrated Muskie team.

The Muskies lone goal came late in the

third by Trevor VanAlstine with the Muskies trailing 5-0.

"The Muskies need to get back to basics with a team first approach if they want to even up this series," Trood said.

The Muskies will be looking to do that this coming weekend as they travel to Elora on Friday, February 22, looking to even up the series at 2-2.

The series will return to Shelburne on Saturday, February 22, with an 8:30 p.m. start.

Game six, if necessary, will be in Elora on Sunday night.

In other Senior A series, Tilsonburg and Milverton are tied 2-2 in their match-up.



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## CDDHS Royals Junior team set for District title game with Erin

Written By BRIAN LOCKHART

After a stellar regular season the saw them go undefeated in ten games, the Centre Dufferin District High School Royals junior boys basketball team will be heading to the District 4 championship.

The Royals finished first in the District standings with a 10 - 0 record and 20 points.

Over the season the Royals score 513 points while allowing only 231 against.

For the semi-final match-up the Royals hosted Wellington Heights Secondary School from Mount Forest on Friday, February 15, in the gym at CDDHS.

The Wellington Heights team came to the semi-final as a fourth place team with a 3 - 7 record.

The game was a runaway with the Royals leaving the court with a 92 - 20 win to earn their spot in the final.

The Royals will go up against Erin District High School in the championship game.

Erin pulled off a big win on February 15, when they upset the second seed Westside Secondary School Thunder in Orangeville during their semi-final game.

Orangeville was the favourite in that game having beat Erin twice in the regular season - once by 26 points and in the second game by 21 points.



PHOTO: BRIAN LOCKHART

**JUNIORS WITH SHOT AT TITLE:** The Centre Dufferin District High School Royals junior basketball team host Wellington Heights Secondary School in the gym at CDDHS on Friday, February 15, during their District 4 semi-final playoff game. The Royals left the court with a 91-20 win and will face Erin District High School in the championship game on February 19.

However, Erin stepped up when it mattered to earn their spot in the championship.

The District 4 championship was scheduled to take place on Tuesday, February 19, with results not available at press time.

The District 4 champion team will continue on to compete at the regional level at CWOSSA.



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## ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



**TRENT WALLACE**  
TEAM: SHELBURNE WOLVES  
BANTAM LL  
POSITION: CENTRE

Playing hockey since he was three years-old, Shelburne Wolves Bantam LL centre, Trent Wallace, brings a lot of experience to his team.

"It's good fun and a good game altogether," Trent said of why he likes the sport adding "We learn to keep our heads up, learn to pass and give each other space on the ice in practice."

When he's not on the ice, Trent plays ball hockey with the Shelburne Shooters and baseball with the Mansfield Cubs.

He said he plans to continue playing hockey.

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# March break programs coming up at Shelburne Library

Written By ROSE DOTTE

## March Break Programs are coming up!! Tickets are now available

We will be selling tickets for our March Break Events at the CDRC on Saturday, February 23rd. Make sure to stop by and pick up your tickets, as each year these events sell out very quickly.

A reminder that our next Sleepy Story Time will be held on Thursday, February 28th, from 6:15 pm - 7:00 pm. Come in your pajamas, snuggle up, and listen to stories in the Children's Library before bed.

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

Archivist on the Road is here again the third Tuesday of the month and we invite you to meet with Laura Camilleri from the MOD and learn how she can help you research your ancestry or the provenance of objects you own. Her next scheduled presentation will be Tuesday, March 19th at 2 pm where we will learn about the Dufferin Boys and their adventures in the Klondike.

### TEEN SCENE:

Calling all Teens in grades 9-12! We are just a few days away from launching the most exciting book club of the year—the White

Pine Reading Club! This club is exclusively for Teens in high school, and challenges them to read 5/10 Canadian books from a variety of genres. Don't like fantasy? No problem, YOU get to choose which of the five titles you read! Once you've read 5/10 books, you'll be invited to the invite-only vote party in April!

Our TAB is in the midst of planning a murder mystery tea party over the March Break, so stay tuned for those details. Registration will be required, so act fast once the date is announced!

### Upcoming events:

Tuesday, February 26th, 4:00-5:00pm- White Pine launch party (grades 9+). Tuesday, March 5th, 4:00-5:00pm- TAB Meeting. March Break- Murder Mystery Tea Party-Details TBD

### CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS:

Books & Babies: Tuesday mornings, 10:00 am - 11:00 am - Bundle up your little one and visit this drop-in group for parents and children 2 years old and under. A group full of great conversation, and a safe place for children to socialize with others their own age.

PAWS to Read: Tuesday afternoons, 3:30 pm - 4:30 pm - Mac-the-therapy-dog is available for 15 minute appointments with children who would like to practice their reading. Please book an appointment by calling the library at 519-925-2168.

LEGO Club: Wednesday afternoons, 3:30 pm - 4:30 pm - This drop-in program for children ages 6-12 has a brand new build challenge every single week. As your child's skills grow they can also attempt the weekly "Expert Build Challenge". Several Snap Circuit kits are also available to explore while visiting LEGO Club. We have started incorporating other STEM activities and experiments each week along with building our LEGO creations.

Story Time: Friday mornings, 10:30 am - 11:30 am -This is a drop-in group full of singing, dancing, and stories. Each week we

have a themed craft that connects to what we learned from our story. With the start of this new year, we've found a load of fresh new books for our Story Times this January!

Our Tween the Pages book club is enjoying listening to our pick, The City of Ember. If your child would like to be part of this group have them drop in on Fridays after school on a bi-weekly basis. We will spend each week listening to our novel read aloud and then work on activities that expand what we have been reading. Our next group meets on Friday, March 1st from 3:30 pm - 4:30 pm.

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## Christian Perspectives: But I was only joking!

Generally, "But I was only joking!" is declared after someone else has been offended, or hurt by something you said or did. Our words and our actions carry impact. My mother taught me to say what you mean, and mean what you say.

February 14 was Valentine's Day and many cards, gifts, chocolates, flowers and words of love and endearment were shared. It is probably safe to say there were no follow-ups with, "But I was only joking!"

February 18 was designated in Ontario as Family Day as an opportunity to celebrate family connections. I am blessed with a dear mother-in-law, husband, daughter, and son and his beloved wife and three children. They all bring me much JOY.

Have you celebrated your biological connections? Family also goes beyond those connections. For instance, I have a dear friend whom I call my "chosen sister." As a pastor, those in my congregation are loved family members. A few special friends from a worldwide club to which I belong are on my family telephone list. Within all of these connections we share our challenges, triumphs and joys. Would you ever want to say or do anything to any of those special individuals for which you would have to apologize and say, "But I was only joking!"?

Proverbs 18:21 says, "The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit." Will the fruit of the words you eat and which you serve up to others be words which will bring satisfaction and JOY?

Out of love we need to uplift and encourage one another. I like the song, "You lift me up, so I can stand on mountains." The concept of the wind under the wings of a bird, lifting it up to soar to greater heights also illustrates part of our purpose in life. You can't lift up while using negative words or actions which you must later explain away with, "But, I was only joking!"

Unfortunately, far too many people tear others apart with never a thought to what they are doing. Perhaps it is just the long, bitterly cold, snowy, icy winter which is causing brain freeze but, all under the guise of humour, there has been a proliferation of posts in social media with parents lamenting having children, and especially on "no school, snow days" and holidays. Oh, if you ask them, they would say they love their children, but their printed words and pictures say otherwise. They publicly gripe, complain, bitch and bellyache about the actions of their children. Shared pictures and comments indicate their children have driv-

en them to drink, to want to run away or to trade children or not even have children.

They complain about their children fighting, sulking, pouting, and being lazy, mouthy, sloppy, detached and distant. Interestingly, much of the same negativity is spewed out about spouses!

You get what you think about, and what you say. Words are powerful. In light of "Say what you mean, and mean what you say," what is being said? What if the child or spouse reads these public laments? Will they be raised up to new heights when you later say, "But I was only joking?"

Think of how your child or spouse will feel when they hear or come across words you said about them that speak of their lovely smile, their effort, dedication and enthusiasm, their accomplishments, their loving gestures, how helpful they are, their creativity and how proud you are to be their parent (or spouse), and that you are glad they are in your life. You just may get more of the same.

"Repetitive complaining will attract things for you to complain about. Repeated gratitude will attract things for you to be thankful for" (Enlightened Consciousness). I encourage you to be careful of your words and actions that they be holy, which is to be in perfect alignment in your life (and words) with the pure, selfless love of God. Be mindful of whether your words and actions lift up and encourage. Be known as a person who is the wind beneath the wings of others. Be known as a person who speaks of others with JOY!

By Rev. Maxine R McLellan,

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- 1 John 4:9  
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  - Self-motivated and has a strong work ethic
  - A team player

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- Job Type: Full-time
- Suitable for someone who is friendly and customer service oriented
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  - Able to effectively communicate
  - Self-motivated and has a strong work ethic

**GARDEN CENTRE ASSOCIATE**

- Job Type: Full-time
- Looking for someone knowledgeable in plants, seasonal machinery, and gardening products
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  - Able to effectively communicate
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  - Self-motivated and has a strong work ethic
  - Garden Centre experience is an asset

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OBITUARIES

**Taggart, Ruby Isabell (nee Porter)**



Early in the morning of February 17th, Ruby Isabell Taggart lost her battle with Parkinsons Disease. Mom fought long and hard, we take comfort in the thought that she is no longer in pain. Ruby was the beloved wife of the late Jim Taggart (deceased in 1994) and was the loving Mom of Joan (Tom), Dan (Judy), Phyllis, Margaret and David - deceased in 1995 (Laura). Mom was the proud and supportive "Grandma Taggart" of Téa, Alexis, Sarah, Shannon, Jason, Wesley (Rebekah), Jesse and Kaitlin. Ruby was the daughter of Alfred and Maggie (Roszell) Porter, and was born on February 28, 1931 in Corbetton, Ontario. She was the third of the four "Porter" girls and will be dearly missed by her sisters Alice, Ethel and Edie and families. Friends and family will be received at the Jack Thompson Funeral Home in Shelburne on Friday from 2-4 and 7-9 p.m. The funeral service will be held on Saturday, February 23, 2019 at 1:00 p.m. in the funeral home chapel. Spring interment will be at Shelburne Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to The Hospital for Sick Children, Shelburne Residence Council, Ronald McDonald House, Parkinson Canada or the charity of your choice.

Online condolences may be placed at [www.jackandthompsonfuneralhome.com](http://www.jackandthompsonfuneralhome.com)

We want to thank the staff members of Shelburne Residence for their compassionate care of Mom for the past three years and especially during the last couple of months. In addition, we want to acknowledge the super care provided by Dr Mark Guttman and Dr Amy Catania. Mom was someone that you counted on to "get things done," whether it be baking (pies, banana bread, tea biscuits, apple crisp), wall-papering (usually on her own), or gardening (her raspberry jam was amazing). Grandma attended countless sporting events, birthday parties, figure skating carnivals, dance recitals & school concerts. Mom was a life-long Montreal Canadiens fan, loved to drive and enjoyed Coca-Cola (never Pepsi). Mom will be remembered as an incredible wife, mother, mother-in-law, grandmother, sister, aunt, cousin and friend. We will miss Mom but will follow her example and "carry on."

MEMORIAM

**Mary Jean (Hill) Holm-Laursen**



Passed away  
February 22, 2018

*Life is not the same without you.  
 The sun still rises in the east  
 and darkness falls at night.  
 But nothing now seems quite the  
 same, each day is not as bright.  
 The birds still sing, the flowers grow,  
 the breeze still whispers, too.  
 But it will never, ever be  
 the same world without you.  
 It's so sad that you had to go,  
 your leaving caused such pain,  
 but you were so very special and  
 earth's loss is heaven's gain.*

Missing you dearly. Husband Rob,  
 daughter Kayla, son Justin, sisters  
 Sharon, Mavis, Bonnie & Marilyn,  
 family & friends.

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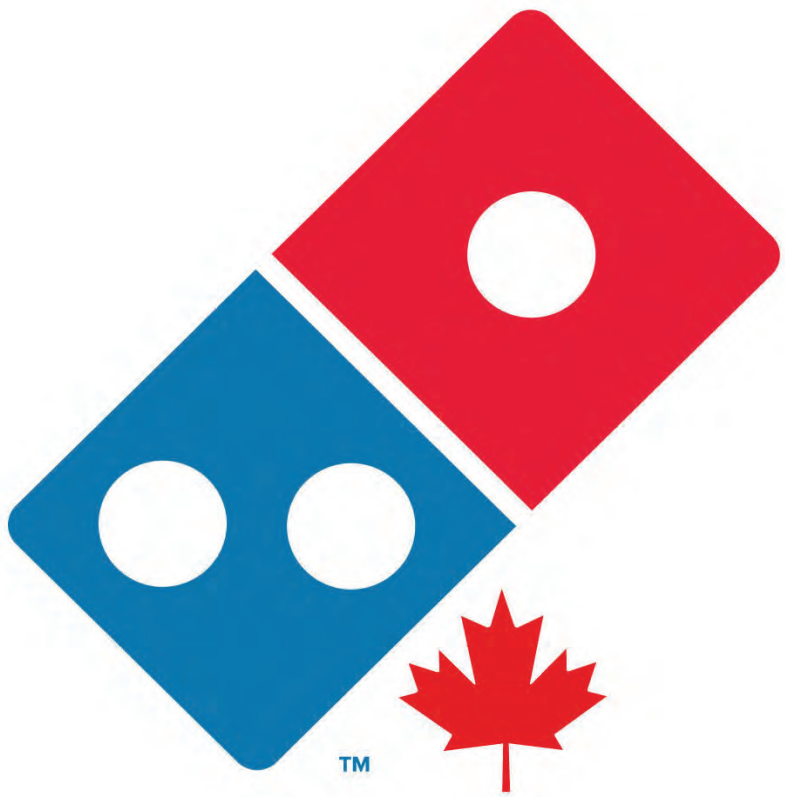
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