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Shelburne mayor responds to COVID-19, municipality announces multiple closures

Written By MIKE BAKER

Shelburne Mayor Wade Mills has announced the Town is closing all municipal facilities until further notice in response to the COVID-19 global pandemic.

Shelburne Town Hall, the Shelburne Police Station, Shelburne Fire Hall, local library and Centre Dufferin Recreation Centre will be closed for at least the next two weeks as the municipality attempts to slow the spread of the novel coronavirus in our community.

Mayor Mills met with Shelburne Police Chief Kent Moore and Shelburne Fire Chief Brad Lemaich on Monday afternoon (March 16) to discuss various measures municipal leaders could, potentially, implement to maintain the safety of local residents and ensure the continuity of essential municipal operations.

During that meeting, Mayor Mills recalls, Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health announced the Dufferin-Caledon region has its first confirmed case of COVID-19.

"While not entirely unexpected, the news is still unsettling and certainly reinforces the need to take strong and sensible action," Mayor Mills said. "In some respects, we are lucky that we can learn from the experienc-

es of other countries who have already been impacted by COVID-19 on a large scale. One of the lessons we can take away is that the spread of this virus can be greatly slowed if governments at all levels act early, aggressively and intelligently."

Effective as of 4:30 p.m. on Monday (March 16), Shelburne Town Hall is completely closed to the public. If someone has a critical need to personally attend the facility, staff will be permitting pre-scheduled appointments on a case-by-case basis following a pre-screening protocol.

In his release to media, Mayor Mills notes that all municipal services are available online at www.shelburne.ca, and staff will be available by phone at 519-925-2608.

The local police station will be closed to the public for all non-essential and non-emergency visits. Those with a genuine emergency are asked to call 911, while non-emergency calls and inquiries are to be directed to 519-925-2600.

All Shelburne council and committee meetings, public consultations and presentations will be cancelled until at least April 20, with the Shelburne Public Library closed until April 6. No materials will be due back during this period, although the facility's

drop box will remain available for returns. No fines will be imposed during this period of closure.

Mayor Mills noted the CDRC will be closed until further notice, with all programs and pre-booked events and/or rentals cancelled.

Importantly during this time of need, Shepherd's Cupboard Food Bank will remain open this week. Clients are being asked to take a number and wait outside for a hamper to be delivered to them. Volunteers are taking appropriate precautions and will not be allowed to help if they are ill or have recently travelled outside of the country.

In addition to these public actions, Mayor Mills is "strongly urging" local residents to adopt several personal measures in an attempt to prevent the spread of the ultra-contagious virus.

Chief amongst those, he says, is limiting all non-essential social interaction.

"When you do have to interact (for) employment, medical appointments, food shopping etc. please try to maintain reasonable distances and avoid any unnecessary physical contact, such as handshakes and hugs," Mayor Mills said.

Continued on Page 2

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Shelburne officers nominated for provincial Police Hero Awards



FILE PHOTO

RECOGNIZING COMMUNITY EXCELLENCE: Shelburne Police Service Cst. Jeff McLean (centre) has been nominated for the 2020 Police Hero Awards, through the Police Association of Ontario. Last year, Cst. McLean received the 'Rising Flame Award' last year for his contributions to the Ontario Law Enforcement Torch Run.

Written By MARNI WALSH

Shelburne Police Service (SPS) Cst. Jeffery McLean has been nominated for the 2020 Police Hero Awards through the Police Association of Ontario.

His nominator told the Police Association that Cst. McLean "embodies everything that it means to be a Police Officer within a small community." Along with Constable Carey Widbur, and Constable Jennifer Roach, Constable McLean, has also been nominated for the 2020 Police Hero group award.

The nomination for Cst. McLean stated that "he set himself apart early on in his policing career, taking on the initiative of a crumbling D.A.R.E program and turning it into an incredible success that children within the community look forward to. Not only has his passion and dedication to duty and his service to the community changed the way the D.A.R.E program is seen, but it has also changed how the Shelburne Police Service is viewed."

"Jeffery could have stopped there," stated the nominator, "but he continued his service to both the community and the world of law enforcement by spearheading the law enforcement Torch Run movement in our area, as well as the Polar Plunge for Special Olympics Ontario. Jeffery continues to go above and beyond for his community, his service, and all the citizens of Shelburne."

Cst. McLean told the Free Press this week, "It is a true honour to be recognized by the community in this fashion. The nominations are submitted by members of the public, where they see fit. As someone who was raised in, works and currently lives in Shelburne, this honour is not lost on me. By being recognized by the community I serve, it makes me proud to continue to serve the

public, and make the community a better place to live, work and play in."

The constable says, "With every community event that I partake in, BRAVO, the SPS version of D.A.R.E that I created; Law Enforcement Torch Run; and Polar Plunge for Special Olympics to name a few - I strive to make the community a better place, and this nomination shows that my efforts do not fall on deaf ears."

Shelburne's Police Chief, Kent Moore says, "Cst. McLean started with the Shelburne Police Service in 2015 and had an immediate impact on our community and the citizens that he serves. No matter what Cst. McLean is assigned, be it a criminal investigation, traffic enforcement or teaching students the D.A.R.E course he is enthusiastic, energetic and displays a positive attitude."

"During events such as the Shelburne Police Service Polar Plunge or Special Olympics Torch Run Constable McLean dedicates a significant amount of his own time, on a volunteer basis to ensure the events have a successful outcome," says Chief Moore. "I am proud to see how his efforts have helped to bring our community together and the positive public relations that were created as a result."

While he is incredibly proud to have been nominated, it will be business as usual for Cst. McLean moving forward.

"In serving the community, I feel as though if I can make a difference for at least one individual, it makes my efforts more than worthwhile," says Constable McLean. "Our police service is unique in the way that most of our officers either live in the municipality (and raise their family in the community) or were raised themselves in the community, and as such we have a vested interest in making the community a better place."

Continued from FRONT

Mayor Mills responds to COVID-19 crisis

As has been recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO), any individual who has travelled outside of Canada is asked to self-isolate and monitor their condition for 14 days.

The best way to avoid contracting COVID-19 is to keep up with general hygiene practices. Regularly washing hands with soap and hot water, avoiding touch your face, covering your mouth when you cough or sneeze and cleaning and disinfecting regularly handled objects, such as phones and door knobs, is recommended.

Reacting to some of the hoarding we have seen in our community over the past week, Mayor Mills said he hopes to see the community rise above such selfish behaviour moving forward.

"Ensure that your family has an adequate supply of food and toiletries, but please do not engage in panic buying, or hoarding," Mayor Mills said. "We are assured that supply chains of all essential items remain intact, but retailers are experiencing difficulties in maintaining stock due to many people buying more than they need or can use. Please be considerate."

Mayor Mills spoke of "flattening the curve" of COVID-19, noting the measures the municipality has taken will hopefully lower the risk of the virus spreading across Dufferin County and prevent our healthcare system from becoming overwhelmed.

"Myself, your Council and staff understand that the actions we are taking and recommending may create significant chal-



FILE PHOTO

KEEP IT COOL: Shelburne Mayor Wade Mills is calling for the community to remain calm in the wake of the global COVID-19 crisis

lenges and inconveniences, but now is the time to pull together as a community and make collective efforts to reduce the risks for everyone," Mayor Mills said. "We will almost certainly face some difficult and trying times in the days and weeks ahead, but we will get through this by working together and looking out for each other."

He concluded, "Our community is strong and I am confident that we will emerge from this challenge even stronger."

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Mayor Mills responds to various questions relating to COVID-19

Questions provided by PETER RICHARDSON

We sent out a list of 11 questions to Shelburne Mayor Wade Mills, covering a wide variety of topics, in the wake of the global COVID-19 pandemic. This is how he responded.

What is the current state of the pandemic in Shelburne?

As of Monday, March 20th we were advised by Wellington Dufferin Guelph Public Health that they had confirmed the first case of COVID-19 in Dufferin County. This did not entirely come as a surprise and it is more likely than not that there are other cases that have yet to be confirmed. The official confirmation of a local case should serve as a wake-up call to all of us. Our community is certainly not immune to this virus and we should certainly expect to see the number of confirmed cases increase in the coming days and weeks.

What options do townspeople and the Town have for further protections, and how will they be implemented, outside of other levels of government?

At this point the best advice that we are receiving in terms of protection is for people to practice social distancing to the extent possible, as well as general infection prevention. This means that people should be limiting their social interaction as much as possible, avoiding physical contact while they are out, regularly washing their hands with soap and hot water, and regularly cleaning and disinfecting frequently handled objects.

Are all Town essentials functional and protected? For example, water supply, wastewater removal garbage etc. What are our contingency plans for continued safety and supply, both for the workers and the public?

All of our critical services remain fully operational. Our facilities are closed to the public but we remain staffed and our police, fire, water, waste water, waste collection, and public works services are operating without interruption at this point in time. We have implemented a number of internal protocols to protect the health and well-being of our employees but these protocols have not yet been escalated to a point where services would be affected in any material way.

Are you working with upper tier governments and if so, how?

This is truly an "all hands on deck" effort and we have seen a tremendous degree of cooperation among all levels of government when it comes to the sharing of information and the coordination of efforts.

I had a call from our local MPP Sylvia Jones just this morning, who was checking in to make sure that we had the information and resources that we needed from the provincial government.

There has also been a lot of dialogue between local leaders within Dufferin County, which has been both helpful and encouraging. This virus does not recognize geographic or political boundaries so it is imperative that we view our strategies through both local and macro lenses.

How is the Council now functioning with meetings cancelled?

Our next regular Council meeting was scheduled for March 23 but we have suspended all Council and committee meetings until April 20.

I have been providing Council with regular updates and have scheduled an information briefing via teleconference to make sure that we can continue to maintain an open dialogue and that everyone is kept fully abreast of the efforts we are undertaking. Should further meetings need to be cancelled, we

will review the options available to us and look to the Province for direction as to best to proceed.

How are day-to-day operations being managed currently?

While Council provides the policy direction in the municipality, day-to-day operations are generally managed by our staff team anyways. This week we have begun holding daily briefings which include myself and a number of senior staff members and this has allowed us to ensure that decisions are being made strategically and that each department is fully engaged.

Does the Town have an Emergency Measures type by-law and what does it cover and authorize.

We do have a Municipal Emergency Plan as well as an Emergency Control Group which consists of myself, members of senior staff as well as our chiefs of police and fire. This group met Monday morning for a full briefing and planning session and we will continue to meet on a regular basis going forward.

I have not made a declaration of emergency at the local level but that option remains available should it become necessary. This would provide for the delegation of certain decision-making authorities to myself and the COA as well as mechanisms to make other resources more readily available.

Are there now or will there be any assessment and or testing facilities set up in Shelburne?

We do not currently have any assessment or testing facilities within the Town of Shelburne proper, but Headwaters Healthcare Centre has just mobilized such a facility at their location.

Does the Town have any medical officer they can turn to, or do we rely on the province?

Locally, we are under the jurisdiction of Wellington Dufferin Guelph Public Health but we are also relying on information and advice from health authorities at the provincial and federal levels. As I said before, this is a borderless virus and as such the information sharing and strategies being employed must also be borderless.

What message do you have for a number of residents who believe this is still all a media/social media created panic?

I understand that many people are still confused about the threat that we are facing as a result of the spread of COVID-19. There is so much information flowing from a number of sources and unfortunately, much of that information is dubious at best, and flat out wrong at worst.

As a municipality, we are being guided by science in this effort and I would encourage residents to do the same.

We can take lessons from other countries who have been hit hard by this virus much earlier than us. Many people in Italy for example did not initially see this as being a major threat or something that required any serious response but time has proven otherwise.

We have seen that this virus spreads very quickly and exponentially once it takes hold. While it's true that many healthy people who contract the virus may not experience any severe symptoms, they may easily transmit the virus to someone who is highly vulnerable (parents, grandparents, neighbours).

Let me be clear, this is very likely the most serious public health crisis of our time. We need to take this seriously and we have to try our best to limit and slow the spread of the virus so that our healthcare system has a fighting chance to keep up and treat those who will require treatment. This is not a time to play the odds.

As we progress through this pandemic and assuming that our social distancing succeeds in slowing the spread, what do you say to the townsfolk?

This virus is demonstrating perhaps more than ever before just how interdependent we are. Our own health, and that of our families, depends almost as much upon the actions and decisions of others within our community as it does upon our own.

Individually, we can do everything right but if one member of our community chooses to act irresponsibly or decides to disregard the overwhelming science, they could trigger an undoing of all of the positive efforts being made to contain and slow the spread of COVID-19. Accordingly, I am asking all residents to step up and take the proper precautions, make the responsible choices, and do their part to aid in this effort – if not for themselves, then for the rest of the community.

Challenges like this can often bring out the best and worst in people. I am calling on the better angels of our nature to show up and shine now when needed most. We are blessed in this town to be full of caring and compassionate people and we are without doubt a strong and resilient community.

Sure, we will face some enormous tests in the coming weeks, and perhaps even months, but I know that we can weather this storm if we are willing to come together and lay self-interest aside for a short while. Times like this require us to think bigger than ourselves and to act more selflessly and courageously than usual.

We will eventually see a return to normalcy, but the actions we are willing to take collectively now will determine how quickly and fully that return is realized. I am confident that Shelburne will meet this test of our time and ultimately emerge even stronger and more unified than before.

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Toilet paper and beer

The first thing I noticed when I went to my local grocery store the other day was there were probably fives times the normal amount of cars in the parking lot.

I thought maybe the store was doing one of their fun promotional events that brings in the crowds, which they do two or three times each year.

Nope, nothing like that going on. But there were a lot more people than normal in the store.

I went to the deli section and ordered some Italian salami.

I asked the girl why the store was so crowded.

"They're all here to buy toilet paper," she replied. "It's been crazy all day. We sold out in no time."

Standing in the check-out line, I noticed the feller behind me had an armful of beer.

"Not buying a month's worth of toilet paper?" I asked him.

"Nope, I got my priorities in order," he said.

The next day I was back in the store. Sure enough, the entire toilet paper department was empty.

There was a skid in the aisle stacked eight feet tall with new boxes and a stocker getting ready to re-load the

shelves. Several people were milling about, getting ready to pounce.

The following day I went to the local department store in Orangeville to buy something not related to any kind of a virus.

The woman next to me had a package of 36 rolls of toilet paper. I noticed that was only the top package. She probably had another 50 rolls in her cart.

I did some research to find out why there is this mad rush on toilet paper based on a virus you may, or may not, get.

This isn't a cholera epidemic – it's a virus that has no apparent devastating effect on your gastrointestinal system.

Apparently there is no common sense reason why people should think they need a six months supply the product.

If you were expecting some kind of shortage of supplies, wouldn't food be first on your list?

Little Jimmy can take a bath if he needs to, but you can't feed the family a roll of toilet paper and expect them to be satisfied.

The weird thing is, no one can seem to pinpoint where the sudden need for toilet paper started.

Several years ago, the Coca-Cola

company announced it had changed the formula in its wildly popular soft drink. Called the 'new Coke,' the flavour wasn't all that different. However, there was a massive outcry from dedicated Coke drinkers who demanded the old Coke back or they simply would stop buying the product all together.

The executives bowed to public demand and returned Coke to the original recipe – than sat back and watched the profits roll in.

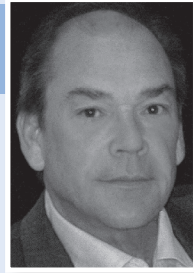
It has been suggested, that the switch to a new Coke was nothing more than a savvy marketing ploy. If you take away something people want, they will want it even more.

Even though the Coca-Cola company has never admitted to this, the situation has often been used to cite an example of how to increase your sales.

Maybe the toilet paper industry has come up with a clever way to increase sales of their product.

CEO Acme Paper Products Company: "Our sales are consistent but flat-lined. It seems our customers simply use the same amount of our glorious product each month. We need more sales to satisfy our investors. You, yes, you with your hand up. What do you have to say?"

BRIAN LOCKHART
FROM THE SECOND ROW



"Yeah, it's me, Jenkins from the marketing department. It seems to me there is a new virus going around, and chances are it could spread globally. Maybe we could start a rumour that this virus will cause a toilet paper shortage. Think of the possibilities if the consumers are suddenly faced with the fear that our product, toilet paper, will be in short supply."

"Well, Jenkins, there isn't a shortage, we have a warehouse full of toilet paper ready to be distributed."

"Yes, sir, but THEY don't know that. If we can convince the public there will be a shortage, people will want our product even more than they need it."

"Jenkins! You're a genius! Lets get the rumour mill going on Facebook!"

I'm just taking a guess at what's going on here, because there is no reason to suspect a virus outbreak should cause a shortage in this particular product – it's never happened before.

I'm going to side with the guy in the store with the armful of beer.

Now that might just be a real national emergency.

Editorial

How quickly things have changed

WHAT A DIFFERENCE a week makes.

While it's true that this time seven days ago, the World Health Organization had officially labelled the global COVID-19 outbreak a pandemic, the far-reaching impacts of the contagious virus had yet to truly take form in Canada.

In the space of the week, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has twice announced travel restrictions for people looking to come into Canada, essentially closing the border to all but Canadian citizens and permanent residents, called on all Canadians who are overseas to return home, and unveiled an \$82 billion stimulus package designed to help families and small business owners through the tough times that are undoubtedly ahead of us.

That latest move was, perhaps, in part a response to Ontario Premier Doug Ford declaring a province-wide state of emergency on Tuesday. The announcement came hand-in-hand with a mandated closure of all dine-in facilities at restaurants across the province, movie theatres, bars, child care centres and recreation centres until at least the end of March. This followed another statement, last Thursday, when Ford directed all publicly funded schools to close until April 6.

If it wasn't already clear to you before, this COVID-19 outbreak is a big deal. More than 200,000 people have been infected worldwide, with over 8,200 recorded deaths as of press time. Originating in China at the end of 2019, the novel coronavirus has spread at an alarming rate. It has decimated large parts of Europe, which is now considered the global epicentre for COVID-19.

Just about everywhere, attempts to contain the virus have failed. And in a big way, too. Many European nations, notably Italy, reacted too late to early cases, allowing the virus to spread like wildfire throughout their populations. There is a fear that same failure will soon be identified on these shores.

While Canada's borders are now

closed, and a shutdown of most non-essential services has been ordered in Ontario, they both come at a time when there are more than 500 confirmed cases of COVID-19 nationwide.

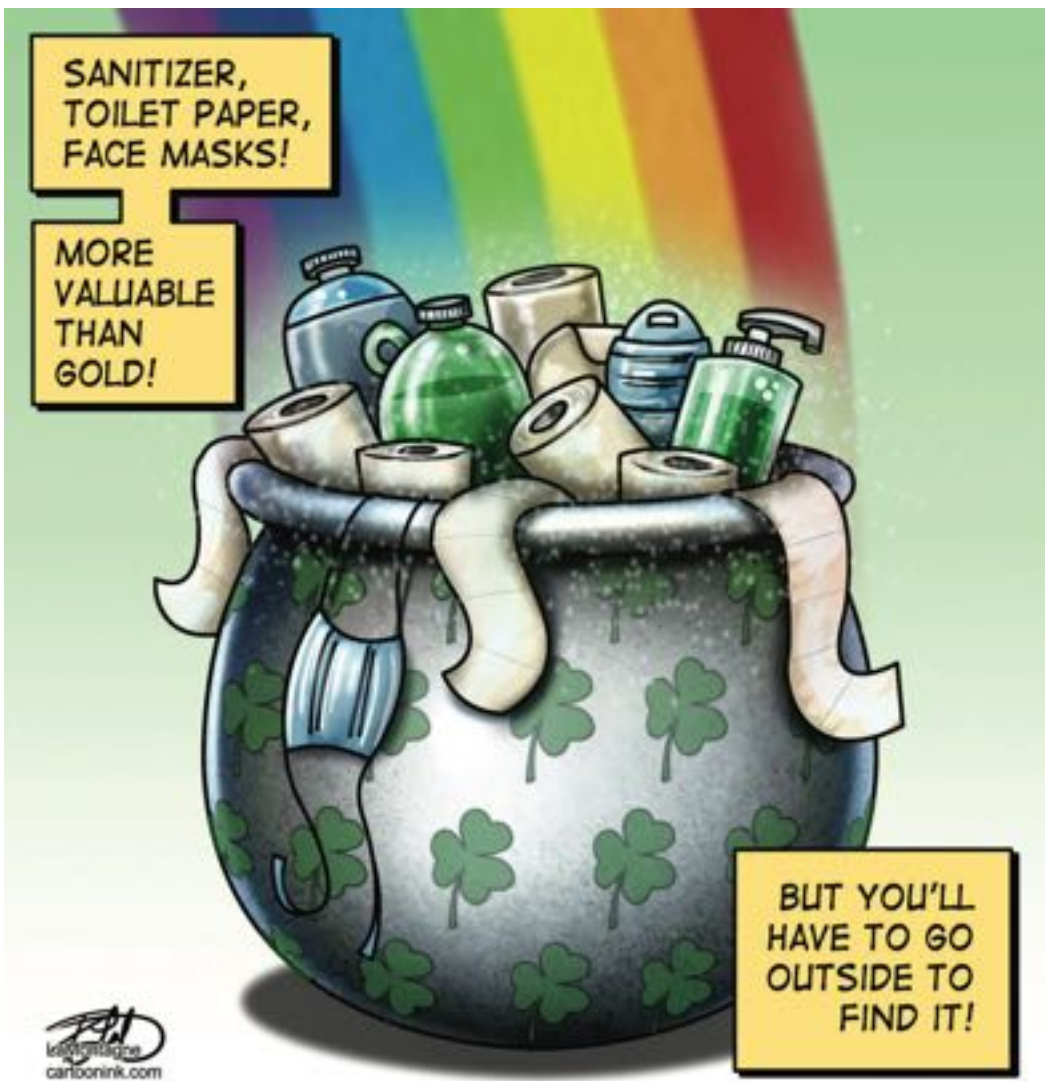
Here in Dufferin-Caledon, there's just one confirmed case thus far. Municipalities have reacted swiftly in recent days to close off public facilities, while all major events and gatherings have been postponed, or cancelled. The response may be a little late, but it's better than nothing.

The concern now for many people will be finding money to put food on the table, and keep a roof over their head. The federal government yesterday announced aid will be available to Canadians, but just how far that will go to support people who have lost their livelihoods in the past 72 hours remains to be seen.

These are stressful times. Many food stores have been pillaged to the point that even the most basic items, such as toilet paper, bread and milk, are, seemingly, on the verge of extinction. An exaggeration, to be sure, but you understand the point. Stock markets are tanking, people are losing their jobs. For all the worrying about health and safety, the state of the economy over the ensuing weeks and months may be even greater cause for concern.

But truth be told, there's not really much we can do on that front right now. What we can do, as a community, is keep our composure and remember what it is to, well, be a community. That means we stop the hoarding. We stop the senseless panic buying. It's important that we help our neighbours during this time. Simply applying a 'me over everyone' mentality will only serve to fracture the feeling of togetherness the people of Shelburne have worked to build up over several decades.

So, let us lend a helping hand, where we can, to the people who need it most. Let's remember what got us to where we are today. Let's remember what it means to be Canadian.



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Traffic complaint leads to impaired driving charge for Shelburne man

On March 13, 2020 at approximately 7:20 p.m. the Shelburne Police Service received a traffic complaint regarding a white Acura swerving in traffic.

Quick action on the part of the Shelburne police officer resulted in the vehicle being located and stopped. After making contact with the male driver, the officer became suspicious that the driver had consumed alcohol and conducted a roadside test for alcohol. The male driver failed the roadside test and was consequently placed under arrest and transported to the Shelburne Police Station for further testing, which he also failed.

As a result, 28 year old Thusan Thadchanamoorthy of Shelburne was charged with the following:

- Operation while impaired- alcohol
- Operation while impaired- blood alcohol concentration 80 and over

Mr. Thadchanamoorthy's driver's licence has been suspended for 90 days and his vehicle was impounded for 7 days. Mr. Thadchanamoorthy will appear in Ontario Court in Orangeville in late March to answer to the allegations made against him.

The Shelburne Police Service would like to thank the November citizens who made the traffic complaint. Their concern and subsequent action directly resulted in an impaired driver being removed from our roads.

COVID 19 scams

The Shelburne Police Service is warning residents that scams related to COVID-19 are starting to circulate across Ontario.

While the Shelburne Police Service has not yet received a report or complaint of this

activity, it is aware of this and wants to be pro-active in alerting residents.

COVID-19 scams currently circulating include the following:

- Private companies offering fast COVID-19 testing.
- People pretending to be a nurse and offering your COVID-19 results if you give your credit card information.
- Consumers purchasing large amounts of products to resell at higher prices.
- Fraudsters urging people to invest in new stocks related to COVID-19

Shelburne Police Service Media Officer PC Jennifer Roach urges residents to "Stop, pause and think before providing any personal or banking information or agreeing to these services. It is disgusting that there are people who are using this virus for personal

gain, however, as always we have to be vigilant with our personal and banking information".

The Shelburne Police Service are also urging people to beware of any miracle cures, herbal remedies and other questionable offers, such as COVID-19 vaccinations and faster testing. As well, Shelburne Police are advising to only visit reputable sites for health information, such as Health Canada and Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health.

If you receive a phone call or someone attends your home attempting to sell you any of the above, PC Roach suggests that you Report the scam to your local police AND

The Canadian Centre for Anti-Fraud 1 888 495-8501 or info@antifraudcentre.ca

Confusion and controversy over management and upkeep of Horning's Mills Hall

Written By MARNI WALSH

Confusion over where the responsibility lies for the financial upkeep and management of Horning's Mills' Community Hall has led to controversy in Melancthon.

Frustrated and over-tasked board members and volunteers at the Hall are looking to Melancthon Council to step-up financial support for the Township's only functioning hall to ease their work-load and maintain the 1938 building, which they say is "the heart" of "community unity" in the rural township.

According to the voluntary Horning's Mills' Hall Board, the building was originally constructed by funds from the Horning's Mills Women's Institute. They say the Township purchased the Hall for \$1 from the Women's Institute in 1987 with the stipulation on the deed that it was to be used for public purposes, or ownership would revert back to the Women's Institute. The Hall Board says this was done with the intention of protecting the building from being sold, and that "Melancthon Township is the sole deed holder."

The current Horning's Mills' Hall Board members include: James Webster, Chair; Debbie Fawcett, Vice Chair; Lynn Hodgson, Secretary; Sarah Harrison, former long-standing Treasurer; Jennifer Weaver, member; Jocelyn Burke, member; and Jim Hill, member.

In recent years, the hardworking board "has raised \$30,000 from functions, with the goal of having a small nest egg for bigger future upgrades or emergency repairs - a modest contingency on a large historic public building" says Chairman Webster. He states the operation cost for "bare minimum utility funds" is approx \$5,000 per year.

He says, "The Hall Board pushed to get all operating costs (\$5,000 or \$1.66 per Melancthon resident) to be covered by the Township ongoing, so the board could focus on fundraising for socially enriching community events and not be constantly fundraising just to keep the lights and heat on" - in what the board believes to be "a Township owned building."

Board member, Jennifer Weaver, who has enjoyed volunteering for the Hall, says many upgrades and improvements have been made in the past five years or so.

"The Hall Board has worked extremely hard, with a couple of members going above and beyond to make this happen," she says. "I would like Council to work with the Hall Board to keep the Hall doors open, starting with financial support to cover operating costs in order to take pressure off of the over-extended group of dedicated volunteers."

Sarah Harrison, a member of the Hall Board for nearly 20 years, who has acted in a number of capacities, including Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer says it was with much regret she resigned as Treasurer last November. She told the Free Press, she was "disillusioned with the confrontational manner with which successive Councils have approached the Board's requests, going back years, for a basic level of financial support for the Hall." She says, "It is as though the Township does not truly appreciate the level of love for and

dedication to the Hall that the Board's volunteers, many of whom are also over-extended small business owners, have evidenced over the years."

According to James Webster, the Hall received no funding from the Township in 2019, and in November of last year, Council requested a proposal for 2020 outlining: how the Board sees the Hall best functioning; Council's potential role; and an operating budget with a projection of needed future investments. This proposal was submitted in January 2020. Melancthon Mayor Darren White says Council reviewed the proposal "and decided as a result to hold a public meeting to seek input from residents directly as to what they want the direction of the Hall to be in the future."

Mr. Webster has expressed concern that the minutes from a subsequent Feb. 6 Council meeting stated that "the Township doesn't

own the Hall." He calls this "confusing" and claims it contradicts earlier discussions.

Mayor White told the Free Press, "Council has always in one form or another supported the Horning's Mills' Hall financially. The Township has never suggested we change that." He says some "felt that Council was attacking the Board and trying to get rid of the Hall." But, he states, "This is not the case." He says, "Once Council gets feedback, it feels it would be in a position to create a plan with funding etc for the future based on a needs assessment and resident 'wants.'"

The Mayor says, "Suggestions that the Township is "reluctant" to offer funding are incorrect, as, we, at our last meeting passed a motion to provide funding in the budget." Melancthon Coun. Margaret Mercer, who put the motion forward to give the Hall Board \$5000 a year, says, "We need to support the Hall and appreciate the amazing volunteers

who are and have been dedicated to its operations."

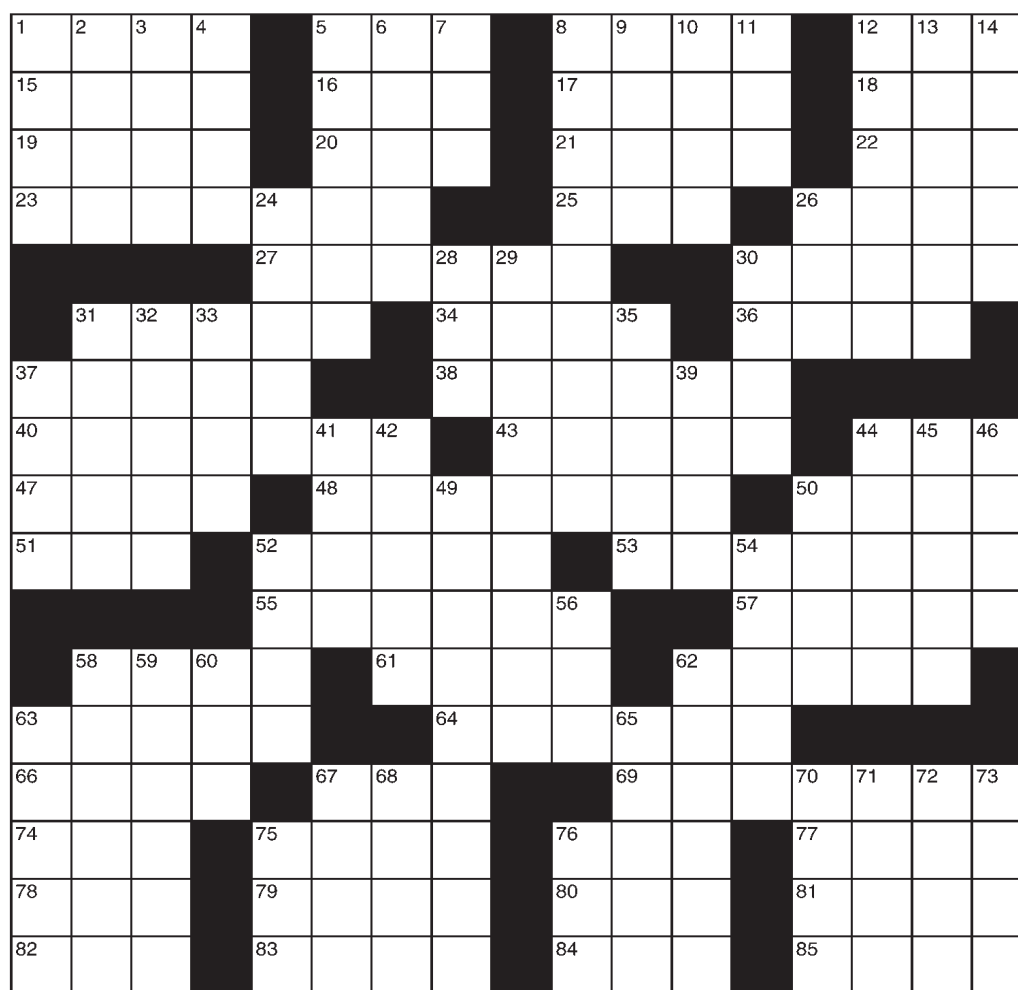
"Until we have the public meeting," says Mayor White, "I can't offer suggestions on solutions, but I'd like to see how we could better support all our local boards in Horning's Mills, as well as the boards that cover the rest of the communities in Melancthon. I hope the public meeting will assist with that."

James Webster says, "The Hall Board volunteers hope the public comes out or writes in to Council for the upcoming public meeting on April 6, and expresses to Council what the Hall means to them, how lucky we are to have such a beautiful building to bring together our rural communities, and how essential it is to have a place to come together for both personal and community events."

A public meeting on the future of Horning's Mills' Community Hall is scheduled for April 6 at 7 p.m. the Melancthon Township Office.

X CROSSWORD

PUZZLE NO. 458



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ACROSS

1. Pawn
5. Hog's pad
8. Hindu attire
12. Chop roughly
15. Look at amorously
16. Pedal digit
17. Ball of yarn
18. Squeeze
19. Slender
20. River inlet
21. Exchange allowance
22. Desert garment
23. Ousting
25. Beat it
26. State firmly
27. Drill
30. Monkey business?
31. Commencement
34. Curved support
36. Firecracker sound

37. Rapidly
38. Down in the dumps
40. Obscure place
43. Long for
44. Fort Worth sch.
47. Attitude
48. Authorize
50. Switch
51. Some
52. Request urgently
53. Spotted feline
55. Place for shadow
57. Outback dog
58. Meager
61. Abnormal breathing
62. Gambling game
63. Underground chamber
64. Nastase's game
66. Mislay
67. Undies item
69. Be magnetic

74. Choose
75. Cattle stall
76. Deal a blow
77. Nothing but
78. Bishop's office
79. Recover
80. Night before Christmas
81. Snatched
82. Be mistaken
83. Lazy
84. Feminine pronoun
85. Pot bet

DOWN

1. Retain
2. Certain molding
3. Applaud
4. Casino game
5. Connecting channel
6. Sheer linen
7. Vote in favor

8. Bird frightener
9. Pond organism
10. Horse check
11. "Sands of ____ Jima"
12. Angelic abode
13. Actress Anita ____
14. Fatigued
24. Period of indulgence
26. Timber tree
28. Run into
29. Alligator's kin
30. Assist Billy the Kid, e.g.
31. Utensil
32. Golden brown
33. Soreness
35. Shack
37. Rectangular pilaster
39. Moistureless
41. Depend
42. Muslim ruler
44. Pluck
45. Ship's load
46. Coiffure
49. Delicious
50. Turn
52. Impudent
54. Lyrical poet
56. Burrow
58. Appropriate
59. Mother of pearl?
60. Ajar, in poems
62. Acrid
63. Nearby
65. Innocent
67. Produced offspring
68. Teheran money
70. Roster
71. In a minute
72. Thicken
73. Toddler
75. Fraternity letter
76. Chuckling sound

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SHELBURNE SPORTS

North Dufferin Baseball League honours players at awards banquet

Written By BRIAN LOCKHART

The North Dufferin Baseball League held its annual awards and lunch on Sunday, March 8.

The event was held at the Lisle Legion and included individual and team awards from the 2019 season.

Team awards went to the Bolton Brewers for first place in the east division while the Ivy Leafs finished first in the west division. Both teams ended the regular season with a 20-5 win-loss record for 40 points.

In the junior division, the Ivy Blues finished first with 27 points with a 13-2-1 record.

Tristan Cabral of the Clearview Orioles took home his first best batter title with a .484 average during the year.

Bolton Brewers' Mike Wallace won the best on base percentage with a .659 average and also took home the most runs award with 38. Teammate Carter Burnside was named the league's best catcher.

Midland Mariners' Jeff Shilling hit eight home runs for the season taking top spot.

The Tom Anderson Memorial Award for the most sportsmanlike player was presented for the first time since the name of the award was changed to recognize Anderson who died in 2018. Ron DiPalma of

the Bolton Dodgers won the title.

Brandon Norrie of the New Lowell Knights was named the most valuable player.

Peter Kinghan of New Lowell and Mike Wallace of the Bolton Brewers tied for coach of the year.

The top pitcher award went to Brad Grieveson of the Ivy Leafs. Grieveson has been named top pitcher 12 times, with his first in 2006.

In the junior division, Brendan Lovell of Ivy Blues won the best batter title with a .477 average, while teammate Charlie Jeans had the top on base percentage at .652. Another Ivy player, Domenico Morea had the most home runs at two and Mitch Tucker, also of Ivy, picked up his second straight win with the most runs scored at 19.

Matthew Haire of the Orangeville Rockies won his first top pitcher award.

The most sportsmanlike player award went to Ian Leggault of the Orillia Royals. Leggault and Ivy's Ryan Barr shared the most valuable player award.

The league also hosted the first meeting of the year after the awards presentation.

The senior division has dropped to 12 teams from 14 with the loss of Orangeville from a suspension last year and a leave of



SUBMITTED PHOTO

NDBL AWARDS: The North Dufferin Baseball League presented 2019 season awards during a lunch and awards event on Sunday, March 8. Award recipients include, in back from left, Jesse McIntyre, service recognition plaque, Brandon Norrie, senior MVP, Peter Kinghan, coach of the year, Mike Wallace, coach of the year, senior best on base, senior most runs, Jeff Shilling, senior most home runs. Front, from left, Ron DiPalma, senior MSP, Zaccary Helmer, All-Star Game MVP, Brendan Lovell, junior best batter, Tristan Cabral, senior best batter, and Ian Leggault, junior MVP and MSP.

absence from the Alliston Athletics.

The junior division will feature five teams, with a new addition from Cree-

more.

Teams will meet in April to finalize the schedule.

Hockey Canada makes unprecedented move to cancel 2019/20 season

Written By BRIAN LOCKHART

Hockey Canada announced that as of Thursday, March 12, it was cancelling all sanctioned games as a response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

"Without question, this is an unprecedented period of difficulty for the sports world. The health and safety of all participants in sport, including players, coaches, staff, officials, fans, family, volunteers and the general public, is of the utmost importance to Hockey Canada," said Tom Renney, chief executive officer, and Scott Smith, president and chief operating office, in a

joint statement. "After much consultation with the Hockey Canada membership, our chief medical officer and public health officials, the Hockey Canada Board of Directors has made the decision to cancel all Hockey Canada-sanctioned activities, including our national championships, until further notice, effective Friday, March 13, 2020. We recognize the tremendous effort that has been put forth all year by individuals across the country as they participate in Canada's game. Although it is difficult to process the hockey season ending abruptly, we feel this is the best course of action in order to do our part in keeping our country safe."

Several professional sports leagues had already postponed games. Some teams even stopped practices to avoid having people in close quarters.

In minor hockey, teams that are still playing house league and OMHA playoffs will have to sit out. Many minor teams have already complete their seasons although some playoffs were still underway and some teams were entered in tournaments.

In minor hockey, teams that are still playing house league and OMHA playoffs will have to sit out. Many minor teams have already complete their seasons although some playoffs were still underway and some teams were entered in tournaments.

"The Ontario Minor Hockey Association's foremost priority is the health and safety of our participants, volunteers and hockey families," The OMHA said in a released statement. "We have been proactively working

alongside Health Canada, Hockey Canada, and local public health officials in regards to the Coronavirus (COVID-19). In light of recent events, the OMHA officers have made the decision to immediately suspend all hockey activities. We will be proactive in informing our constituents on all upcoming protocols and required actions as they become available.

In Junior Hockey at the local level, the Stayner Siskins and Alliston Hornets played game one of their best-of-seven North Caruthers Division championship series when word came down that the series had been halted. Alliston won the game 7 - 4.

When asked if the series was just delayed and could resume at a later date, Hornets management said "We've played our last game," indicated they do not expect the season to resume.

Hockey team donates defibrillator to fire department

Written By BRIAN LOCKHART

A group of local hockey players who take to the ice every Sunday morning to play the national sport have donated a defibrillator to the Shelburne and District Fire Department.

The Sunday Morning Exports are a group that play pick-up style hockey on the ice at the Centre Dufferin Recreation Complex. The group has been active for 40 years as new players join every year to keep the group going.

"The team has been around for over 40 years," explained group member Dave Johnston, of Shelburne Tire. "We always play on Sunday at 10:00 a.m. We're around 20 - 25 guys who get together and play for an hour. There are no referees. Every year we try to donate money to a charity or something similar. We've donated before - every year we do something. Every year we ask around the room to find out if anyone knows of any group or anyone who needs some money."

Everyone who shows up to play on the Sunday morning pays their dues to get on the ice. The group rents the ice by the hour,

so if there is some money left over after paying the ice fees, the extra money goes into a fund.

The group then donates the extra money at the end of the season.

This year they managed to come up with \$1800.

There are a couple of volunteer fire fighters in the group who suggested the Fire Department could benefit from a receiving a defibrillator to go on their rescue truck.

"That was our biggest donation to date," Mr. Johnston explained. "We did have a really good year last year and a lot of guys played so we had a lot extra money. There's no reason to keep the money in the bank so we donate it. We keep enough to cover the cost of ice time and the rest is donated."

The group plays every Sunday from September to the end of March.

The defibrillator is an important life-saving device the rescue squad can use during an emergency.

The Shelburne Fire Department has already used the defibrillator while on emergency calls.

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ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

AYDEN WHITE-CHANTREE

After playing his first year as a forward, Shelburne Wolves Atom AE goalie, Ayden White-Chantree took up the challenge and suited up to play in net.

"In Tyke, our whole team would have a chance to go in net, and I liked it," Ayden said of switching to the goalie position. "I like stopping shots. I don't like skating fast and I don't like getting hit, that's I like being in net. And I like being under pressure sometimes."

Ayden said he plans on playing hockey for a long time.

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POSITION: GOALIE

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Taylor, Darlene

Passed away peacefully at home on Wednesday, March 11, 2020 at the age of 65. Devoted mother of Brandon (Penny), Jamie and Spanky.



Cherished grama of Brianne and Jayden. Loving sister of Denise (Dean) Conner, Debbie (Fred) Mason and Diane (Jim) Crago. Beloved aunt and great-aunt to many nieces and nephews. She will be missed by her best friend Linda Wright. Predeceased by her husband Carl. A Celebration of Darlene's Life will be announced at a later date. Please check the funeral home website at www.jackandthompsonfuneralhome.com for dates once they become available. If desired, donations to the Feral Cat Rescue would be appreciated.

MEMORIAM



PATERSON Dorothy, PATERSON Derek

In loving memory of a dear mother who passed away March 17th 1999 and a dear father Derek Paterson who passed away June 8th 1999

*If roses grow in heaven
Lord please pick a bunch for me
Place them in my parent's arms,
and tell them they're from me
Tell them that I love them miss them
and when they turn to smile.
Place a kiss upon their cheeks
and hold them for a while.
Because remembering them
is easy I do it everyday
But there is an ache within my heart
that will never go away.*

Sadly missed and loved by
**Duncan, Teresa and our Angel
Natasha**

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THOUGHT OF THE WEEK

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The world clamors, "Do more! Be all that you can be!" BUT our Father whispers, "Be still and know that I am God." (Psalm 46:10) - Joanna Weaver

BUT the LORD is in His holy temple, let all the earth keep silence before Him. - Habakkuk 2:20

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Sun - 11:15am Proton (Southgate Rd 4)

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