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# Shelburne Free Press

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Volume 145, No. 20

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PHOTO: BRIAN LOCKHART

**STILL RIDING:** While many people are waiting for summer sports and activities to start, the Ferris family in Mulmur have kept up with their passion for dirt bike riding. Chris and Carly Ferris, daughters, Emma, 13, Sophie, 9, and son Blake, 6, are able to keep active while enjoying their favourite pastime. For the full story, see Page 6.

## Public Health supports Shelburne's long-term health care facilities battle COVID-19

Written By MARNI WALSH

Chuck Ferguson, Manager of Communications for Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health told the Free Press this week that his organization has been working closely with both of Shelburne's long term care residences "on a daily basis in terms of infection control and case management."

He reports, "Headwaters Health Care Centre has had 25 staff, including 18 nurses and other health care workers, as well as administration support, working full-time inside the residence for the past few weeks. They will remain in the home until this coming Sunday and are ensuring staff of the Shelburne Residence are trained and equipped to support the residents there."

An update released by the regional health unit on Wednesday (May 13) included the

following statistics for Shelburne's long-term care facilities: Dufferin Oaks has had four residents and 6 staff members test positive for COVID-19, with two individuals passing away. Shelburne Residence Retirement & Nursing Home has been hit particularly hard, with 55 residents and 29 staff testing positive. The facility has recorded three deaths in the past week, bringing the total up to 18.

It is important to note that the retirement home section of the Shelburne Residence has had no cases of COVID-19.

Mr. Ferguson says, "WDG Public Health and Headwaters Health Care Centre, as well as local health and social services agencies will continue to support residents and staff in the long-term care portion of the facility."

Pam Hillock, Dufferin County's Emergency Communications Officer during the Pan-

demie says, "The staff at Dufferin Oaks have been tremendously supportive but have definitely been working under very challenging circumstances."

It is also a challenge for residents "not see their loved ones," Ms. Hillock says. "Virtual visits have been tremendously helpful but is not the same as a personal visit." On behalf of the County, the Pam Hillock says, "We greatly appreciate all the support that has been shown from our community." Chuck Ferguson advises the best way citizens can support the long-term facilities is to "follow social distancing and hand hygiene and keep well so health care workers can focus on vulnerable populations."

For more information visit [www.wdgpblhealth.ca](http://www.wdgpblhealth.ca) and [www.headwatershealth.ca](http://www.headwatershealth.ca) for the most up to date information.

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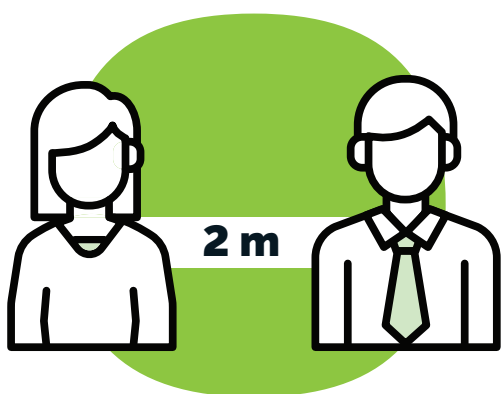
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**FEATURED ITEMS**

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Stay two metres away from others



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**Wash hands** thoroughly and often

**Inside or out, stay safe. Save lives.**

# Council unanimously passes new development charge bylaws

Written By PETER RICHARDSON

May 11 saw Town Council again meeting in a virtual format to discuss the affairs of the Town. Present were all but Coun. Lindsay Wegener.

The first major point in the agenda, was a report from Hemson Consulting, regarding the final bylaws outlined to Council at the previous public meeting. Craig Binning, partner at Hemson, presented the revised presentation, noting that no substantial changes had been made to the overall Town development charges bylaw, however there had been amendments made to the East Specific DC's, lowering them by 27 percent after reviewing a presentation by Fieldgate, the developers.

Due to the fact that the two main intersecting roads, Hwy. 89 and CR 124 were not owned by the Town, certain costs for the changes required to these roads and their intersection, should not be borne by the developer exclusively. Both upper tier governments would be involved and would bear some of the costs.

In addition, Town Planner Steve Wever noted that in an instance where a developer has had to build road intersections, the Town has never become involved and so the will deal with these costs are via area specific charges, rather than general development charges.

Both Mr. Wever and Mr. Binning noted that due to the dramatic changes to the Fieldgate development, from commercial and industrial to commercial and substantial residential, that the increased development charges were not unusually punitive, but rather in-line with the norm. Neither thought that any further changes would be justified and recommended immediate approval of the new bylaws as written. Mayor Wade Mills agreed with this assessment.

Deputy Mayor Steve Anderson however, asked if Fieldgate was made aware of these pronouncements and wondered if they agreed to them, or could the Town possibly be facing an appeal process from Fieldgate. Mr. Wever said that they had been notified and that he felt the matter had been adequately dealt with, but that there would be room for further follow up if required. CAO Denyse Morrissey noted that there will always be conflicts and discussions, but that staff supports the recommendations for the benefit of the Town.

Mayor Mills expressed a willingness to help Fieldgate, but stated that if further discussions existed that he would recommend to wait to deal with it at that time, but to proceed with enacting the bylaws now.

The three bylaws - the town-wide development charges and both the school road area and east end area development charges bylaws were all passed unanimously by Council.

## Highland Village development

Following this, planner Steve Wever presented a report concerning the Highland Village development in the west end.

It was concerning a part lot Ccontrol exemption, to allow for several multi unit dwellings being built in the development. Under the Planning Act, part lots are not allowed without this exemption. When town-

houses or semi-detached homes are constructed, they are built as if on a single lot, however, at some point in order to become freehold dwellings, they are separated off into individual lots. In order for this to occur, an exemption must be granted by the Town.

Mr. Wever outlined how this worked and showed which lots were involved at this time. He noted that no public meetings or notices were necessary, under the Act, as this did not represent any changes to the site plan approval. On the plan, there were more lots that would be separated at a later date in time also.

Coun. Walter Benotto asked what would be the issue with fences, as each home was granted access to a small portion of the adjoining neighbour's property for purposes of maintenance. His concern was that future owners would have their access to the lots denied. Mr. Wever explained that this was not a Town easement and that the matter would be a civil one and sorted out by the two neighbours in a civil court proceeding.

The motion to grant the exemption was passed unanimously.

## Quarterly financial update

Treasurer Carey Holmes then presented her quarterly financial update. She said that due to the COVID-19 virus, the situation was fluid and a cutoff date was enacted for the report.

Consequently, it was not as all encompassing as was usual and some shortfalls, such as recreation incomes were not recorded. Carey did note however that the Town had received the Connection Link grant it had applied for in the amount of \$491,609 for the Main Street upgrades. This represented 90 percent of the cost with the remaining 10 percent, or \$54,624, being taken from reserves.

Phase Two of the Town's COVID-19 Relief Plan will be carried out in-house and will see tax due dates extended to September and November from the current August and October deadlines. May's water and sewer payment has been moved to June, without penalty. There are also deferred payment plans available. Dog tag licenses are also extended until June 30, with a possible ability to pay online being considered.

CAO Denyse Morrissey said that after talking with the Town's various sports groups, most have expressed a desire to continue in some format and she suggested that as a gesture of goodwill the Town might consider waiving facility rentals for 2020.

The Town has currently lost approximately \$5,800 in rentals, out of an annual total of \$16,000. Deputy Mayor Anderson immediately countered that he would be willing to forgive some amount, but not the entire \$10,200 remaining. Coun. Benotto mentioned that not only Shelburne children participate in these sports. Mayor Mills opined that even the \$10,200 was not a certainty, as if the seasons are cancelled, there would still be no money coming in. He suggested that 50 percent might be seen as an encouragement to continue on. CAO Morrissey said that some of the local businesses are involved in these sports as well.

Coun. Kyle Fegan felt that \$5,000 was not a lot of money and that waiving the entire

amount would be seen as an incentive to use the fields. Deputy Mayor Anderson replied that \$5,000 was a lot of money to the tax payers and 50 percent would still be helpful. At this point Coun. Benotto expressed the concern that taxes would have to be raised next year to offset these incentives and would upset the taxpayers.

The CAO mentioned that most are waiting on word from the Province regarding gatherings and Mayor Mills suggested that there is still time and perhaps this should wait until the May 25 meeting.

## A question

In other business, the Deputy Mayor asked why we were successful in getting the connecting grant this year as opposed to previous failures. He wondered if there was anything that was done differently that we could repeat for next year.

Jim Moss said no that it was a standard

procedure that is followed each year. The CAO noted that we were one of 24 municipalities that were awarded grants this year and we did expect to receive another next year to finish the Owen Sound portion of the upgrades.

Coun. Benotto asked if any of the money could be used on internal streets but was told no, but other sources would provide some funds for that work.

## OPP costing

The CAO also said that the OPP costing is on schedule and that they are considering virtual report, if possible. And finally, the Deputy Mayor, Steve Anderson took a moment to thank Councillor Shane Hall for his efforts to have KTH supply PPE's to the Town's frontline workers and to applaud the Mayor for his outstanding and dedicated leadership during the COVID 19 Pandemic.

## HOLIDAY INTERRUPTION FOR WASTE COLLECTION

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
May 10	May 11	May 12	May 13	May 14	May 15	May 16
May 24	May 25	May 26	May 27	May 28	May 29	May 30

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VICTORIA DAY

- Monday ZONE
- Tuesday ZONE
- Wednesday ZONE
- Thursday ZONE
- Interruption no collections

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We acknowledge the financial support of the Government of Canada through the Canada Periodical Fund of the Department of Canadian Heritage.

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# Road trip!

Every summer, a lot of Canadian families and plenty of single people pile into their cars and head out on a classic road trip.

A lot of you have probably done the classic Ontario tour of heading east to see the Maritimes.

Cruising the Cabot Trail alongside the ocean in Nova Scotia is an unforgettable drive.

You can take a ride to P.E.I. on the Confederation Bridge across miles of water.

The real adventurous types keep heading east and take the ferry to visit the The Rock and have some fun with Newfoundland culture and scenery.

My big road trip wish has always been to drive west to the Pacific ocean. Many people tell me that heading through Manitoba and Saskatchewan can be pretty tedious with miles and miles and miles and flat, straight highway along the Trans Canada. I don't care. I'd like to see prairie big sky country in all its glory.

The planned trip includes a couple of side trips in Saskatchewan to see the farm where my paternal grandparents settled in the 1870's and visit some long-lost family places.

A couple of years ago I started planning this epic adventure.

I calculated fuel costs alone, to be slightly over \$3000 and as much as \$3500 when gas prices hit a high, if I drove to Vancouver and returned via the North U.S. to see those States as well since I would be travelling.

The same trip now, would be around \$2,100 give or take a few hundred dollars depending how you drive.

That's a huge difference. Most of you have probably been enjoying the low gas prices that have been at the pumps recently. Notably I paid 74 cents per litre one week.

One of the longer tips I take on occasion usually costs me around \$50 round trip. The last time I went I paid only \$30.00 gas, there and back.

This drop in fuel prices happened rather quickly and there's a whole lot behind the story of why crude oil is selling at an historic low.

The bottom line is, of course, supply and demand.

The COVID-19 pandemic has played a part in this. With millions and millions of people world-wide suddenly staying home

and not driving, no one was buying anywhere near the amount of gas they would normally use to get back and forth to work. Both the U.S. and China, the number one, and number two consumers of oil in the world, started to go under a lock-down.

However, the drop actually started before the pandemic when they started producing more oil than the world needed.

When the big oil-producing countries got together to figure out what to do about falling oil prices, notably Saudi Arabia and Russia, they couldn't come to any kind of agreement. That resulted in the biggest drop in oil prices since 1991.

It seems both countries need the income from oil experts too much to start slowing down production.

According to experts in the oil industry, even if they managed to agree on a cut-back in oil production, that will cause the gas prices to level out – not go up.

For every 42-gallon (US) barrel of crude oil, around 19 gallons are refined into gasoline. The rest is divided into asphalt base production, heating oil, diesel fuel, and jet fuel.

This should translate into lower air costs once airlines start again flying international

**BRIAN LOCKHART**  
FROM THE SECOND ROW



ally. While low gas prices may be good for the average person on a day-to-day level, over all this could have some negative impact on the larger economy.

Fuel companies and fuel taxes are responsible for a fairly large portion of the job market, including transportation. And all those taxes raised from gas sales do go to support government programs.

At least for now, the low fuel prices are giving us a needed break among rising costs in other markets such as the beef industry which is going to see a spike in prices since several producers have had to shut down after being contaminated with the virus.

If OPEC and related industry countries keep up their feud, the Saudi princes may have to start driving Chevys and Russian oil barons may be back to scooting around town in Soviet-built Ladas.

With an historic low in fuel prices, this might be the year the road trip is back on – even if you have to resort to baloney sandwiches for lunch during picnic stops.



## Editorial

# Let's test communities

AMONG THE PHRASES we hear almost daily these days are "flatten the curve," "social distancing" and "community spread." The "curves" in question are the charts showing the number of cases involving, and deaths from, COVID-19. "Social distancing" includes everyone staying far enough apart (two metres) to avoid transmission of the virus, and "community spread" identifies the extent to which individuals are getting the virus from someone else in their own community rather than as a result of traveling outside the community, or encountering someone who has picked up the virus while traveling.

Now that the pandemic has been with us since at least early February, COVID-19 has claimed about 296,000 lives worldwide, with about one-third of the deaths (84,000+) in the United States, more than 5,300 in Canada, 1,700 of them in Ontario, and 30 of those in the area monitored by Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health. As of Wednesday morning, WDG Public Health reported the detection of 329 COVID-19 cases, but only one new case in the previous 24 hours. While in most of the current cases the individuals were self-isolating at home, eight were hospitalized, four of them in ICU.

What do such statistics mean in terms of "community spread" at a time when governments at all levels are considering how to deal with the disastrous economic consequences of the worst pandemic since 1918? In the U.S., governors of nearly all the 50 states are abiding by President Donald Trump's advice to re-open just about everything, rather than the experts' warning that lockdowns should remain in any state until there had been a two-week decline in new cases and deaths.

As a consequence, the gap between the number of cases and deaths per million population in Canada and the U.S. is widening – 137 in Canada compared with 252 in the U.S.

Further complicating the matter is the fact that none of the statistics currently being offered to the public both here and abroad really deal with the extent to which both the number of cases and deaths are the result of "community spread" rather than in institutional outbreaks, be they in long-term care facilities or meat packing plants. All we're being told is that nationally about 80 per cent of the deaths are seniors in long-term care.

In the circumstances, all the experts seem to agree that lockdowns and social-distancing should remain until widespread testing for the virus shows that it is safe to relax the rules. That seems to be the position taken by most of Canada's political leaders and a few U.S. governors.

As we see it, there is little likelihood of Canada's economy being restored until we reach the point where everyone feels it is safe to return to work, or to shop and enjoy such personal services as a haircut, massage or pedicure. Since that obviously won't happen in any part of the country where there is continuing fear of community spread, the crucial need is to establish the absence of the virus through massive testing. (This week, we found that the only place in the U.S. where employees are being tested daily is the White House.)

Currently, only a tiny fraction of North Americans are being tested, with Ontario struggling to get more than 15,000 of our 14 million residents tested on any given day.

But, since regular testing of an entire population is seemingly impossible, what about the idea of massively testing some communities?

Why not pick a few mixed urban and rural municipalities in which all residents would be asked to get tests over a one-week period? Take the Town of Mono and its 9,000 residents as an example of what we have in mind. If drive-through and/or ordinary testing centres were set up, the town's entire population could easily be tested over seven days and the results made available within another week, with individuals being notified only if they tested positive.

If nothing else, we would finally have credible information as to the presence of the virus in a local population and the resultant need or lack of it to continue lockdowns.

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## Shelburne Police Association supports Shepherd's Cupboard food bank

The COVID-19 situation has been a challenging time for everyone, but for some residents in our community it has been beyond challenging - it has been a struggle.

The Shelburne Police Association recognized the need in our community and decided that the best way to help was to support the Shepherd's Cupboard, which is Shelburne's Food Bank. The Shepherd's Cupboard is a repository of food set aside to help people in our community who require emergency or ongoing support to provide their families with food.

The Shelburne Police Association has been representing the civilians, Sergeants and Constables of the Shelburne Police Service for over 20 years. The Shelburne Police Association proudly supports various community programs throughout the year and believes in supporting the overall the needs of our community. It is an active member of the Police Association of Ontario (PAO), which is the official provincial representative body for 18,000 sworn and civilian po-

lice personnel from 47 police associations across Ontario. A unifying voice for advocacy in policing, the PAO provides its members with representation, resources and support.

Shelburne's uniform and civilian members are committed to making a difference in the town and protecting the health and safety of our community during this unprecedented crisis and always. When the opportunity arose to have the PAO match the Shelburne Police Association's donation to the Shepherd's Cupboard, the choice was obvious.

A local and provincial partnership allows the Shelburne Police Association to express a greater amount of support for those who may be experiencing a need for the Food Bank's services during these trying times.

This is certainly a challenging situation that is affecting everyone in different ways. However, when we all come together to help our neighbours where it's most needed, Shelburne will come through this health crisis as an even stronger community.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

**GIVING BACK:** Jennifer Roach (President, Shelburne Police Association), Deb Wagstaff (Director, Shepherd's Cupboard Food Bank), Carey Widbur (Secretary, Shelburne Police Association) pictured as the local Police Association makes a donation to the Shelburne food bank.

## Horning's Mills Hall to receive operational funding in Melancthon's 2020 budget

Written By MARNI WALSH

Melancthon Council did an 'about face' last week when operational funding for Horning's Mills Community Hall, which was removed from the 2020 Budget at the April 16th Council meeting, was redirected from a different fund.

Coun. Margaret. Mercer, who did not support the April 16 removal of funding for the Hall, made the motion to redirect the funds, which was seconded by Mayor Darren White and supported by Council.

The new motion states that "the actual operational costs be transferred from the Municipal Modernization Fund," to the Horning's Mills Community Hall account" rather than stipulating a specific funding amount.

The Municipal Modernization Fund was established in March of 2019 when the Township received a one time payment from the Provincial government of more than \$300,000. Melancthon was one of many municipalities to receive the funding from the Ford government which was touted for the purpose of finding efficiencies and reducing costs.

Melancthon CAO Denise Holmes says the Township will not know the exact cost to operate the Community Hall until the end of the year. Although, 2019 expenses were calculated to be approximately \$5,000, Ms. Holmes says due to "COVID-19 and the Hall being closed with no one using it, it might not be as much this year or, who knows, it could be more, and that is why Council did not specify an amount in the motion."

Mayor White told the Free Press, "The \$5,000, as well as a number of other things, was removed a few weeks ago during discussion on the budget as some members on Council felt that reducing the budget as much as possible, to allow residents some additional flexibility during a period of economic uncertainty due to COVID-19," was important. "I believe that many of our residents will suffer some financial loss over the next while and the proper thing to do was to reduce the budget as much as possible this year."

"As a result of those budget reductions, Melancthon's budget for this year is a negative 1.7 percent," says Mayor White,

Coun. David Thwaites, who voted against transferring operational funding for the Hall from the Moderization Fund on May 8, expressed his concern for the cost of pending infrastructure projects and the "financial uncertainty for all Canadians, including each of us who reside in Melancthon."

Coun. Thwaites says Roads and Bridges

Reports presented to Council in January of this year detailed "significant investment in infrastructure spending that had not been previously factored or allowed for in previous years." He says, "The investment requirement over the next few years amounts to multiple millions with the result that Melancthon residents were and will, no doubt, be facing a sizeable tax rate increase."

"Council, in the midst of our Budget considerations, had to make some choices," says Councillor Thwaites. Due to the expected financial strain COVID-19 will put on Melancthon rate payers, Mr. Thwaites says Council

"chose as a matter of direction to try minimize any possible tax increase by cutting or postponing as many financial expenses as possible." He says, this meant considering many items, "including the Hall which had been closed and remains closed as a result of the pandemic."

"On April 16, Council decided to remove the \$5,000, identified for the Hall in 2020, from the budget that would have impacted municipal taxation," says Coun. Thwaites. "The result is that as of that date any operational expenses of the Hall would be funded through the use of the funds in the Hall bank

account (approximately \$32,000.)" His May 8th "no" vote to Councillor Mercer's Motion maintained his support for that idea.

Coun. Mercer says she made the Motion to restore funding because, "Horning's Mills Hall is not just Melancthon's only dedicated venue of this type, but it has a history and significance in the community. We've all been to functions there. People have been married there. It's important and it's needed. We own it. How can we not support the operational costs of our own building?"

Continued on Page 7



# CROSSWORD

PUZZLE NO. 467

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11		12	13	14
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**ACROSS**

- 1. Sensible
- 5. Metamorphic stage
- 9. Greek letter
- 12. Turkish title
- 15. Chinese gelatin
- 16. Related by blood
- 17. General Arnold's nickname
- 18. Bend downward
- 19. Protective lotion
- 21. Tool
- 23. Uncultivated region
- 24. Like Dora
- 26. Wheels
- 27. \_\_\_ tide
- 30. Fish story expert
- 32. Raised, as vegetables
- 33. \_\_\_ on (urge)
- 36. Blunt
- 38. Bedroom piece

- 40. Teamster's measure
- 43. "Takin' Care of Business" gp.
- 44. Barbecue item
- 45. Having two feet
- 47. Elaborate display
- 51. Great destruction
- 53. Eye makeup
- 55. Shish \_\_\_
- 57. Pertaining to birth
- 59. Kitchen gadget
- 61. Polynesian plant
- 62. Diving bird
- 64. Proclamation of goals
- 66. Lettering device
- 70. Prewinter season
- 71. Chicken
- 72. Look for bargains
- 73. Leg joint
- 75. Prairie
- 76. Husband's spouse

- 77. Foreman's weapon
- 79. Cindy Crawford, e.g.
- 84. "The Towering \_\_\_"
- 87. Dishes, e.g.
- 90. Social register word
- 91. Heating fuel
- 92. Potpourri
- 93. Brim
- 94. Shelley's before
- 95. Moose's cousin
- 96. Turn the soil
- 97. Knob or mat

**DOWN**

- 1. Scarf
- 2. Influenza
- 3. Grandmother
- 4. Formerly
- 5. Golf standard
- 6. Luau instrument
- 7. Hamelin piper

- 8. Cancel
- 9. Pie vegetable
- 10. Noodle topper
- 11. Unlatch, in poems
- 12. Guarantee
- 13. Shoe covering
- 14. Radiant
- 20. Cash alternative
- 22. Bugs
- 25. In-between
- 28. Onion, e.g.
- 29. Grill
- 31. Neural network
- 33. Carve
- 34. Creak
- 35. Tropical jelly
- 37. Hoglike mammal
- 39. Argyle, e.g.
- 41. Congeal
- 42. Jacket fabric
- 46. Kind of coffee
- 48. Not prompt
- 49. Make embarrassed
- 50. Rich cake
- 52. Actor James \_\_\_
- 54. Of the kidneys
- 56. Favor
- 58. Good fortune
- 60. Bug
- 63. Jethro's relatives
- 65. Sweetheart
- 66. Black eye
- 67. Brittle candy
- 68. Pentathlon sword
- 69. Hawaiian keepsake
- 72. Pig
- 74. Legally bar
- 78. Statuesque
- 80. Due
- 81. Pedestal part
- 82. Consequently
- 83. Suggestive smile
- 85. Surgeon's output
- 86. Nada
- 88. Life story, for short
- 89. "High and \_\_\_"

## NOTICE

### Hunting in the Dufferin County Forest

All users of the Dufferin County Forest are hereby advised that April 25-May 31 is the shotgun/archery season for wild turkey in 2020. Wild turkey hunting may occur only from 1/2 hour before sunrise to 7:00 p.m. During this time there will be a number of hunters using the Dufferin County Forest properties. Please use caution in the forest and wear bright-coloured clothing. There is no hunting allowed at any time in the following tracts: north portion of Amaranth, Hockley, Leening, Levitt, Little, Mono, Thomson, and River Road. Suspected violations of the Fish & Wildlife Conservation Act should be reported to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry at 877-847-7667 (877-TIPS-MNR). Other inquiries should be directed to the County Forest Manager at 877-941-7787.



# SHELBURNE SPORTS

## Mulmur family keeping active while keeping up with social distancing

Written By BRIAN LOCKHART

There may be a current lull in outdoor adventure due to the cancellation or delay of many sports leagues and other summer time activities, however, for a lucky few their pastime is still ongoing and very close by.

Off-road dirt biking is a very popular pastime in the region and the Ferris family in Mulmur is taking full advantage of their sport - and they don't even have to leave home to enjoy a ride.

With a large rural property, an on-site dirt track, and a lot of enthusiasm, the family of five all enjoy getting outdoors and enjoying the ride, without having to worry about social distancing or current league shut-downs.

Dad, Chris, began riding dirt bikes around

25 years ago when he started working at a local auto shop and all the guys he worked with were avid riders.

His family has been in the area for a long time and owns several nearby farms so riding space was never an issue.

"When I started working at Shelburne Auto in high school that was one of the rules - you had to ride a dirt bike to work there," he mused of starting to ride off road.

After meeting so many off-road riders they eventually formed their own association of dirt bike enthusiasts.

"It was just a group of guys that ride. On a Wednesday night bike night we could have 30 guys out there."

On a part of the property not suitable for farming, Chris started building a dirt course on that parcel of land.

"I built the track about 20 years ago,"

Chris explained. "I went out with the tractor. The lay of the land is natural but then you build jumps and things like that. My cousin brought in a bulldozer over the past ten years and spruced it up."

The rest of the family, Mom, Carly, thirteen year-old Emma, nine year-old Sophie, and six year-old Blake, all embraced the sport and enjoy riding around the property.

"I grew up in the country, so it was a right of passage," Carly said of learning to ride. "I grew up with a lot of boys and they all had bikes and I knew how to ride one."

Growing up around motorcycles, riding one became a natural transition for Emma who took on the challenge as soon as she was old enough to change gears and handle the throttle.

"I started riding when I was about three years old, and when I was about eight, I got

this bike (Yamaha 125). You get to jump and go fast," she said of what she likes about the sport.

Sophie has been riding for four years and is now an experienced dirt biker and spends time with family and friends riding around the property.

"I like getting outside and going fast," she said of why she likes to ride the trails.

They have a trail that winds almost four kilometres around the property.

Six year-old Blake is the newest member of the Ferris team. He has an age appropriate dirt bike and is already accomplished on two wheels.

While many people have been sidelined during the current situation, the Ferris family has been lucky enough to keep physical active while enjoying a sport they love.

## Junior C players keeping fit during league shutdown

Written By BRIAN LOCKHART

With hockey at a standstill across the province and across the country, Junior level hockey players have turned to dry land training to stay fit while they wait for the on-ice world to return to arenas.

Many municipalities have made the decision to keep arena closed until September meaning there is no ice anywhere for tryouts or pre-season training.

The North Division of the Provincial Junior Hockey League had just started the championship series between the Stayner Siskins and the Alliston Hornets in Stayner when the season was cancelled mid-way through first game.

Players have been left mostly on their own when it comes to keeping in shape over the

summer months.

"Obviously the players knew what was going on with the world at that time," said Alliston Hornets forward, Adam Hoppe, of the last time they were on the ice. "We went into the series thinking this would be the last kick at the can - thinking that we would be at least able to finish our season. The next thing you know we were told, between the second and third period, that this would be our last and final game. At the moment our coach has got us doing off-ice workouts - a lot of runs and a lot of off ice training. I don't think any of us have gone this length of time without ice. We do dry-land training and keep in shape and focus on workouts that develop good hockey habits."

Teammate, Adam Scott, who has played two seasons for the Hornets as goalie said

they can't get lazy while on hiatus from on-ice activity.

"Next season they want us to show up and be in shape," Adam said of keeping up with physical training. "We need to be ready for another great year. The coaches have given us a work out we are going to do, and hopefully things will open up soon and we can get out there."

Hockey players across the nation are experiencing the same situation.

With no ice available the only thing they can do to keep their skills sharp is stay active and work with physical activity that can enhance their skills and wait until arenas and hockey clubs are back up and running.

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*Thanks for shopping local! ♥*

# CALLING ALL KIDS

We are currently seeking newspaper carriers to deliver once a week for the Orangeville Citizen & Shelburne Free Press on

<b>ANDREW STREET</b>	<b>VICTORIA STREET</b>
<b>DUFFERIN STREET</b>	<b>COOK CRESCENT</b>
<b>OWEN SOUND STREET</b>	<b>CEDAR ST</b>
<b>MURIEL STREET</b>	<b>GRACIE ST</b>
<b>FLEMING WAY</b>	<b>SUSAN ST</b>
	<b>BIRCH GROVE</b>

**Call Debbie at 519-925-2832 for more info.**

## Toronto Raptors back practicing, will other teams soon follow suit?

Written By BRIAN LOCKHART

It's going to be lonely on the court during practice, but at least they are getting out there.

The Toronto Raptors will be starting to practice after the province announced it was easing restrictions on Ontario's professional sports teams subject to municipal guidelines.

Franchise officials said they will make practice facilities available to players starting on May 11.

It won't be much of a team practice though. There is only one player allowed on the court at a time - and one coach.

The NBA is allowing four-man groups on the court.

"We are pleased to see professional sports teams take a leading role in producing new rigorous protocols to keep their athletes safe, while allowing them to train in a voluntary and individualized manner," said Lisa MacLeod, provincial minister of heritage, sport, tourism and culture industries.

While practice is now being allowed, the Raptors won't see a big return to the court. Around half the players on the roster are scattered around the U.S.

If those players who are abroad return, they will have to undergo a 14 day quarantine as mandated by the federal government for those crossing the border.

Currently there has been no suggestion from either the League or the Raptors organization indicating those players must



return.

Since most sports take their cue from the professional leagues and rules and regulations trickle down the minors, it could be that local leagues may soon get the go ahead to start practices in at least a limited form.

That will rely heavily on the decision of municipalities to start opening some sporting venues.

Whiles most indoor locations like arenas will most likely be off limits for several months, there is now a chance that some outdoor venues like baseball diamonds and soccer pitches will get the green light to open.

Most likely there will be social distancing rules that must be adhered to when in the parks.

If the Raptors have started their practice, hopefully local sports clubs will get the thumbs up in the coming weeks to get some kids back in the parks and active.

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I appreciate those of you who are working hard to make things easier for everyone!

**front line HERO**

**DAN BULLOCK**  
Working hard to make sure our vehicles stay on the road during the current COVID-19 pandemic, apprentice auto technician, Dan Bullock, appreciates the various different aspects of his job.

Dan started working at Shelburne Auto & Cycle as a co-op student at Centre Duffering District High School.

"I like working on new stuff every day. It's always something different," Dan said of why he likes his job.

When he's not on the job he enjoys fishing off-road dirt bike riding.

location  
**SHELBURNE AUTO & CYCLE**

position  
**APPRENTICE AUTO TECHNICIAN**

# adopt me!

## Cat of the Week

**ROXY**

Roxy is a beautiful, soft and spunky girl. She is approximately 2 years old and holds a WHOLE LOT of cat in one body. Roxy is constantly making us all laugh with her antics. Roxy loves to spin on the cat wheel and greet every human who walks in the door. She really enjoys people now, but would do better in homes with not too many cats as she does like to be the star of the attention.

Roxy is vaccinated, microchipped, spayed, dewormed, and flea treated.

Adoption fee: \$150.00

Check our facebook page to see the other kitties looking for their forever home. Donations always needed to help care for the cats as we are not funded at all, and rely on donations and fundraisers. If you would like to volunteer as well we are always appreciative.

**FERAL CAT RESCUE INC.**  
519-278-0707

# Shelburne Library News

GREAT NEWS: Shelburne Public Library is the 2019 TD Summer Reading Club first place Award winner again! We are thrilled with the announcement by the National Library and Archives, that YOUR library has been awarded first place for the 2019 TD Summer Reading Club program. This is a prestigious award in Canada judged amongst all libraries large and small who participate in the summer reading program and is accompanied by a monetary award of \$8000.

What makes this even more remarkable is that we have been awarded this recognition for the second time (2016); have achieved second place and honourable mention previously. This is a proud moment for everyone: our Board, our great team and you, our participants and all our patrons and community who support us. This year, it will be a challenge as we run the program online. Watch for the registration announcement in early June

We hope you are all still keeping well! Despite the ongoing health situation, we are keeping busy so that when we re-open we will be ready!

If you are not able to log in to e-resources, because there may be a fine on your account because you have not been able to return materials, please let us know immediately at info@shelburnelibrary.ca. Those fines etc., are all computer generated but will be removed once we are aware of them. As we have stated, do NOT worry about renewals or fines during these times but be aware the computer might still be working behind the scenes totally unaware of the COVID virus!!

Shortly we expect to re-open our dropbox but please wait for that announcement on our Social Media. We will need to ensure all safety protocols are in place.

### Great Divide Trail Challenge

Some of our steppers are so dedicated, not only are they making sure to take their

dogs for extra-long walks, but they've also pulled out the treadmill from retirement! You can send your step counts in to jwyse@shelburnelibrary.ca on Saturday mornings to make sure they are counted before we update our leaderboard!

### Teen Scene

This week we're challenging Teens to write a short story using either of a library after dark, a favourite movie theatre, or a forest as the setting, and then creating characters to go in it! We can't wait to read and share your short stories. Submissions can be shared to our social media pages, or sent to jwyse@shelburnelibrary.ca if you'd prefer to remain anonymous!

### Children's Programs

Sleepy Story Time LIVE is on our social media pages. We will be streaming every Monday and Friday evening at 7:00 pm.

Each Tuesday from 3:30 pm - 4:30 pm we will be streaming Tween the Page Book Club Live from Facebook and Instagram. Holes by Louis Sachar, will be finished this week and we will ask our Tweens to choose a new book with their vote. Watch for the choices. If you miss the stream - no worries! We are posting our readings on our YouTube page. Visit our Facebook page to grab the link.

Wednesdays we post a brand new LEGO Build Challenge online!

Interested in keeping up to date with the Children's Library? Email children@shelburnelibrary.ca and we will sign you up to our email list.

### New Books

Ordering is still ongoing and we have completed the adult and YA selections and now well into our children's books. Yeah. Lots of fun selecting and looking forward to those big boxes coming in.



FILE PHOTO

COVERING LOSSES: Melancthon Council has agreed to dedicate funds from its 2020 budget towards Horning's Mills Hall.

Continued from FRONT

## Horning's Mills Hall to receive operational funding in Melancthon's 2020 budget

Mayor White believes "The responsibility for the Hall falls with the Township and we are obligated to ensure it's continuation and a funding program."

"I think that currently there is some discussion surrounding role/function of the Board vs. role/function of the Township," says the Mayor. "This is why I suggested a public meeting, to gather input from the community as to what they feel is the future direction of the Hall, so that a more fulsome plan could be put together that determines roles and responsibilities, funding options and capital planning."

Due to COVID-19, the public meeting has yet to be rescheduled, but whether in person or via a virtual meeting, Mayor White hopes it will be a forum to develop "a sustainable funding plan that would continue to cover

the actual operating costs of the facility, while potentially, also making some kind of ongoing contribution to a capital works component."

Mayor White says, "Public input as to the future direction would be a key component of that plan."

"We believe, among other things," says Mayor White, "Horning's Mills Hall is a gathering place for the residents and a place where locally based programs can have positive effects on the quality of life in rural Ontario. In short, when you remove the emotion, I don't believe there is a fundamental issue within Council of the future direction, the ownership, or the funding of the hall, there simply are differing opinions on what form those things take, and what a final plan will look like."



## TOWN OF SHELBURNE

### NOTICE TO BUILDING OWNERS/OPERATORS

When a building is not in use and the building water system is not actively maintained, the water becomes stagnant within the pipes, equipment, and any storage tanks. The disinfectant residual decays and disappears, hot water systems can become cooler and coldwater systems can become warm. This can lead to the Microbial growth and/or Lead and Copper.

While municipal utilities are responsible to get clean, safe drinking water to each property, it is the responsibility of each property owner to ensure it maintains the safety of that water within their building.

We are here to help provide information and important links to assist with the maintenance. Visit the Town of Shelburne website for the Fact Sheet on how to safely re-open your building.

www.shelburne.ca

Due to the large amounts of water used in the flushing process it may impact your Water/Wastewater billing. Contact the undersign to discuss the potential adjustments to help lower the financial impact.

Joanne Marceau  
Public Works & Utility Coordinator  
jmarceau@shelburne.ca  
519-925-2600 x 231

**Wake up YOUR LAWN**  
with our Spring Fertilizer

**25%N-5%P- 10%K+2.5%Mg**  
**50% Slow Release Nitrogen**

Various certified Grass Seed Mixes also available!

Dr. Dirt's Healthy Lawn Checklist for Central Ontario

SPRING	SUMMER	AUTUMN
Dr. Dirt's Fertilizer Recommendation:	Dr. Dirt's Fertilizer Recommendation:	Dr. Dirt's Fertilizer Recommendation:
25-5-10+2.5 Mg 50% SRN 20 kg covers 10,000 sq ft	24-0-6+2Mg 50%SRN 20 kg covers 10,000 sq ft	8-4-20+2Mg 20 kg covers 10,000 sq ft
<b>\$25.00 incl. HST</b>	<b>\$23.00 incl. HST</b>	<b>\$20.50 incl. HST</b>

**HOLMES AGRO**

Orangeville Office 437088 County Road 11 Amaranth Monday- Friday 8-5PM Saturdays 8-12PM (May & June)	Redickville Office 517641 County Road 124 Melancthon 519-925-3138
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www.holmesagro.com

## Johnson's Income Tax

44 Proton Street, Dundalk, Ontario

FARM, BUSINESS & PERSONAL INCOME TAX

**Refunds should be within 2 weeks if E-Filed**

Monday to Friday 8:00am – 5:00pm  
Thursday nights till 7pm by appointment only  
Saturday 10:00am – 2:00pm  
(effective February 22, 2020)

**519.923.2624**

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Shelburne Free Press

**For coverage of any local sports events, please contact me and I'll be there!**

brian.lockhart@hotmail.com

## SHELBURNE CHURCH DIRECTORY

### ST PAUL'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

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

### ABIDING PLACE FELLOWSHIP

www.abidingplace.ca • 519-925-3651  
SUNDAY SERVICE 10:00AM  
Auditorium - Dufferin Oaks, Shelburne  
"C" Door off Centre Street  
Bible Study: Wednesday 7:00pm  
Pastor: Rev Gord Horsley

### CHRISTADELPHIANS

THOUGHT OF THE WEEK

#215330  
10TH LINE AMARANTH JUST NORTH OF 25TH SIDEROAD, WEST SIDE

*Patience, persistence, and perseverance. A little more each day, a little better each day. - Jonathan Lockwood Huie*

*BUT thou o man of God, ... follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness. - 1 Timothy 6:10-11*

Please visit us at: www.shelburnechristadelphians.ca

### CATHOLIC CHURCH/RECTORY SHELBURNE

519-925-8703

MASSSES:

Sat - 5:00pm Dundalk (160 Main St E)

Sun - 9:00am Shelburne (Trinity United Church, 200 Owen Sound St)

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

### Primrose Full Gospel Church

Sunday Morning Service at 10:00 am  
Sunday School Available  
Other Services  
Bible Prayer & Share  
Youth Night  
Men's Fellowship  
Women's Fellowship

Primrose Full Gospel Church  
Pastor Gavin Sullivan  
806195 Hwy 89 Unit 3 (Primrose Plaza)  
Mulmur On  
226-200-0843

### BETHEL BIBLE CHAPEL

419 Main Street East, Shelburne  
Sunday Services - 9:30am Lord's Supper  
10:45am Family Bible Hour, Sunday School  
Chapel 519-925-3910 or 519-278-0066  
www.bethelshelburne.com - All Welcome!!

PLEASE RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER!

# CLASSIFIEDS

519.925.2832 • Fax: 519-925-5500 • email@shelburnefreepress.ca  
 Email, or call us for pricing. Classified cut-off time is 12 pm Tuesday

HELP WANTED

## Think you can sell?

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**DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:**

- Tour groups of students through houses and apartments to rent them out for the annual rental campaign.
- Plan, Prepare and Execute Advertising and Marketing Material for the annual rental campaign.
- Complete all necessary paperwork involved in lease signing and payment collection for newly rented units.
- Work with all current tenants in completing necessary paperwork for renewal units

**EXPECTATIONS:**

- Have a positive attitude
- Willing to work hard and enjoy rewards in a team environment
- Willing to take chances and learn from your peers

**DESIRED SKILLS & EXPERIENCE:**

- Sales Driven
- Work well in results based environment
- Goal Oriented
- Great Personal Skills
- Some Sales Skills Preferred but would be willing to train the right candidate
- Marketing and/or Communication education would be a great fit

**COMPENSATION:**

Base + Commission

## Let's Talk.

EMAIL RESUME FOR CONSIDERATION:  
 employment@londonprop.com



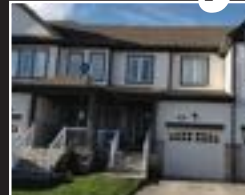
**London Property Corp.**

REAL ESTATE



## Coming Friday!

This beautiful freehold row house located in Shelburne is ready to knock your socks off! It features 3 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths with the Master bedroom having a walk in closet and ensuite bathroom. Fully fenced yard w/shed and an awesome, bright finished basement with storage space for days!



This beauty is located in Shelburne on Fourth Avenue. It's photos don't do it justice! This home features a massive backyard with oversized deck. The interior's charm will get you every time you walk in! Renovated throughout, this home has a renovated bathroom and master ensuite with walk in closet. The cozy basement is finished with a wood burning stove, dry bar and an office plus huge laundry/utility/storage room. \$475,000



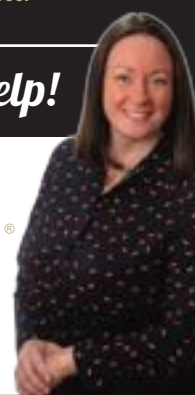
**WANTED:** A 3-4 BEDROOM HOME IN THE SHELBURNE AREA. WILLING TO SPEND UP TO \$2,500. PLEASE CALL ME IF YOU HAVE THOUGHT ABOUT RENTING-MY CLIENTS ARE AAA TENANTS.

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**CENTURY 21.**

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OBITUARIES

## Dennis Johnston Alexander Leitch

June 16, 1925 - May 7, 2020

Dennis has taken his last flight, picked his last strawberry, built his last wooden pocket snapper, enjoyed his last jamboree and danced his last dance. Dennis Johnston Alexander Leitch quietly passed away on May 7, 2020, with his wife Lois close by.

He is survived by his wife of almost 70 years, Lois (Batchelor), as well as his children, Melanie, Allen and Suzee, Heather and Greg. Five grandchildren will miss their Grandpa: Jonathan, Tyler, Jessica, Mallory and Lisa. Dennis was able to enjoy visits with his 13 great-grandchildren. He was predeceased by his son Randy and Freda, his brother Orley and his parents, Harold and Irene Leitch of Honeywood. Dennis was the great, great-grandson of Orange Lawrence, founder of Orangeville.

Dennis was born on June 16, 1925 on a farm on the Mulmur-Melancthon Townline. He attended school at Conover, Beech Valley and Honeywood. As a kid he enjoyed building model airplanes and as a teen he grew strawberries. He and his father went from farm to farm in a Model T Ford, peddling strawberries for 25 cents a box!

Dennis met Lois at a Junior Farmer event and they were married September 30, 1950. They bought their farm on the Mulmur-Melancthon Townline, just south of the home he was born and raised in. He and Lois raised their family and farmed the land for 55 years. They devoted time to ensuring that their 4 children participated in various activities such as hockey, figure skating, 4-H, church activities and extended family visits. Dennis was a general farmer, raising cattle, pigs, and chickens. He grew grains and corn and, in the early 1990s, he planted his first of many acres of strawberries. Many locals, and some not-so-locals, enjoyed the Leitch's Pick Your Own Strawberry Patch. All 5 grandchildren have fond memories of taking time away from school to assist with strawberry planting in the spring, and helping to pick berries to fill customer orders or supplying the Strawberry Supper in Honeywood, and others. Dennis was very interested to learn the story of customers who came to the farm and he got to know many of them well, as friends.

Dennis was involved in his community in a number of ways. He was a school trustee for the Conover school, and sat on the Honeywood Arena Board. He spent many hours helping to build the current arena, along with the other locals. He served on the Mulmur Township Council for 8 years, first as a councillor, then as Deputy Reeve. He also represented Mulmur on Dufferin County Council for a number of years.

For his personal recreation, Dennis thought the greatest invention was the airplane. After taking flying lessons in Collingwood, he purchased a plane. His Cessna 150 gave him years of pleasure, which he shared with friends and family at every opportunity. He and Lois enjoyed the fellowship of the Ontario Flying Farmers. All of his family have stories to tell about their airplane rides with Dad/Grandpa; it was his happy place! Dennis has always thoroughly enjoyed music too. He has attended countless jamborees over the years. His toes were always tapping and his spoons were in his back pocket ready to join in. He loved dancing, but his dancing partners had to protect their toes when he got on the dance floor!

Dennis and Lois were always on the road! They've travelled across Canada and the Southern United States. If there was a relative, a friend or a friend of a friend along the route, they were sure to visit during their travels. In 1999, Dennis travelled to Honduras with World Accord, a church group to help the locals build better drinking water solutions. In 2001, Dennis and Lois travelled to Cuba to watch their eldest grandchild get married on the beach.

Dennis and Lois moved into Shelburne shortly after he celebrated his 80th birthday with a big party in the farm barn. Dennis never thought he would enjoy town life but he quickly adjusted as he realized he was free to meet new friends while catching up with old ones. He looked forward to his daily trips to the coffee shop to catch up on local news. They lived in their custom-built home in Shelburne for 13 years before Lois, and then Dennis, moved into the Dufferin Oaks. They were able to share a room at the Oaks and Dennis continued to socialize with family, friends, residents and staff. Dennis and Lois were able to attend Sunday morning services with Abiding Place Ministries downstairs at the Oaks, meeting even more new friends.

Despite health concerns, Dennis remained fiercely independent until the end. The quarantine that started in March 2020 just gave him new ways to communicate with his family. He waved through his third floor window and the staff helped him to communicate via phone conversations and Zoom video conferences with his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He passed away in May, following a general decline in health that was not related to any viral infection. He would have turned 95 in June. The family would like to thank everyone for the support given to Dennis and Lois during the past several years. The 3rd Floor Staff at Dufferin Oaks have provided personalized care since they moved in, and they are appreciated even more during this stressful time. Christine, of Jack and Thompson Funeral Home, has been of great assistance, helping to make the arrangements that Dennis wanted. We have wrapped Dennis in his special "Come and Fly with Me" airplane quilt that was made for his 90th birthday. All of the guests signed this quilt and now he will have his friends and family with him as he takes his final journey. Dennis left us wearing his "strawberry shirt", "airplane jacket", and his "Pickin in the Park hat"! We have also placed one of his hand-made wooden snapper puzzles in his pocket to keep his hands busy! A private, family only, graveside service was held at The Community of Christ Cemetery, Proton. A celebration of life will take place at a future date.

Memorial donations can be made to The Shelburne Residence, Dufferin Oaks, North Dufferin Arena (Honeywood), Ziontario Church Camp, World Accord, or the organization of your choice. Online condolences may be placed at www.jackandthompsonfuneralhome.com



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### Wood; Kenneth Charles

Passed peacefully at Riverwood Seniors Living, Alliston formerly of Flesheron on Tuesday, May 5, 2020. Beloved husband of 67 years to Joan. Loving father of Richard(Gina) (the late Gloria) of Newfoundland, Marnie(the late Robert) of Alliston, Kenneth(Susan) of New York and Michele(Henry) Romp of Leamington. Outstanding grandfather to Rebecca(Jack), Katherine, Nathan(Kat), Alesha, Hayley(John), Joshua, Kenny, Eddie. Great-grandfather of two. Brother of Audrey (the late Bruce) Gummer, Bernice(the late Harold) Paget. Predeceased by brothers Melville, Billy(Olive), James(June),and sister Joan(Armand) Martin. Well loved by many Nephews and Nieces. Ken and Joan raised their family in Shelburne. Ken wore many career hats including, butter maker, Policeman and bread man. Ken retired from his service with the Shelburne Police force after 15 years to Flesheron to enjoy the outdoor life in the great Grey County, embracing, swimming, fishing, gardening, both downhill and cross country skiing.



Cremation has taken place. A celebration of life will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, donations to the Flesheron and District Foodbank. Online condolences and donations available at www.fawcettfuneralhome.ca - Please note that the online donations for the Flesheron and District Foodbank are processed by Gentle Shepherd Community Church.

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# Virtual seminar provides comprehensive guide on how businesses plan to reopen

Written By PETER RICHARDSON

On Tuesday May 5th, Mayor Wade Mills hosted the second Business to Business Virtual Seminar, this one centred on what local entrepreneurs can do to assure their business is prepared for re-opening in the post-emergency measure days of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The discussions were based upon the Ontario government's recently outlined three phases of re-opening the economy plan, laid out by Premier Doug Ford last week. With the Mayor hosting, the four speakers, Dr. Krupa Chothani, from Shelburne Optometry, Davis Logan, Commercial Accounts Manager at RBC, Bill Gillam, owner of the Home Hardware and Andrew Lewis from the Giant Tiger Store, outlined what they are currently doing and what they will put in place once the stores are allowed to re-open to the public.

David Logan began the evening with a discussion of the various financial support programs put in place by governments and the nation's financial institutions. These include, CEBA, BCAP, the 10 percent Temporary Wage Subsidy, CEWS, The Work Sharing Programme, CECRA and the efforts of the various financial institutions.

CEBA or the Canada Emergency Benefit Account, is the interest free, \$40,000 loans available to qualified businesses. 25 percent of this loan will be forgiven, if the loan is paid off by Dec. 31st of 2022. It is intended to assist small businesses with non-deferable operating expenses, during the pandemic. Applications can be made online at ceba-cuec.ca, or through your local financial institution. The loan is placed on your Visa or MasterCard account.

BCAP or the Business Credit Availability Program, is offered by Export Development Canada and the Business Development Bank of Canada and is to be used solely for operating expenses. There is no loan forgiveness and standard rates apply. To qualify a business must be financially viable and generating revenues. Loan fees also apply to this. Administration and application is through your financial institution.

Find more here: [www.canada.ca/en/departement-finance-sector-policy/business-credit-availability-program.html](http://www.canada.ca/en/departement-finance-sector-policy/business-credit-availability-program.html)

The 10 percent Temporary Wage Subsidy is a 3 month measure that reduces the amount of payroll deductions required to be submitted to the CRA for eligible employers. 10 percent remuneration is paid to eligible employees from March 18th to June 19th, 2020.

Find more here: [www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/campaigns/covid-19-update/frequently-asked-questions-wage-subsidy-small-businesses.html](http://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/campaigns/covid-19-update/frequently-asked-questions-wage-subsidy-small-businesses.html)

The Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy, CEWS allows eligible employers, 75 percent of eligible remuneration, such as salary, wages or commissions, paid to an

employee in a week, to a maximum of \$847 per week for 12 weeks beginning March 15 till June 6 2020. There are three four week claim periods and applications are through CRA, My Business Account.

Find more here: [www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/subsidy/emergency-wage-subsidy.html](http://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/subsidy/emergency-wage-subsidy.html)

The Work-Sharing Program is an adjustment program to help employers and employees avoid layoffs due to temporary reductions in normal business activity and provides income support to employees who are eligible for EI Benefits who are working temporarily reduced work weeks. You apply through the Government of Canada and there are eligibility criteria.

Find more here: [www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/services/work-sharing/notice-covid-19.html](http://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/services/work-sharing/notice-covid-19.html)

David went on to explain that Financial Institutions each offer their own supports, including converting loans to interest only, reducing credit card rates and payment deferrals. They may also increase operating lines temporarily, waive set up fees for cash management solutions and offer other forms of help as well.

The Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance or CECRA offers forgivable loans to commercial property owners to allow them to reduce rents by at least 75 percent to impacted tenants, for the months of April through June 2020. The details are still being finalized but the programme will be run by the CMHC an information is available at [www.canada.ca/en/finance-and-investing/covid19-cecra-small-business](http://www.canada.ca/en/finance-and-investing/covid19-cecra-small-business).

In closing his presentation Mr. Logan stressed that businesses should always do a complete cash flow analysis and understand the costs involved in all of these programs before proceeding with any of them.

Next up, Bill Gillam from the Home Hardware here in Shelburne, outlined what they will be doing once they reopen.

Currently, the store is operating on a curb-side pick up model, however once they do reopen, there will be many changes to the past norms people may be used to.

All of the tills will be protected by plexiglas screens and debit/credit terminals will be protected by plastic bags, to allow for easy disinfecting. He expects to allow a limited number of people in the store at one time and there will be social distancing markings placed on the floors as well as one way access to the various aisles, to prevent potential COVID-19 spread. Staff will be provided with masks having a removable filter, gloves and sanitizer. As well hand sanitizer will be available for the customers and there will be regular and frequent cleaning of surfaces in the store.

Bill informed business participants that to the best of his ability, he would help the local businesses obtain needed PPE's at his cost.

Dr. Krupa Chothani of Shelburne Optom-

etry presented a much different set of problems and solutions in her discussion. Since optometry requires close personal contact with the customer, her regime was noticeably different from the other presenters. She stressed having a practical roadmap for getting back to business in the "new normal", including a checklist to get your business ready to reopen.

First, was to prepare by implementing appropriate methods to protect your staff and patients. These include the installation of floor markings, warning signs and promoting PPE's, including face shields as well as masks.

She suggested walking through your business to establish areas of concern and flow rhythms for your patrons. She emphasized creating a workplace policy that must be rigidly adhered to by all staff members and a strict disinfecting protocol. Since 60 percent of people are asymptomatic, every customer/patient must be treated as potentially contagious. She stressed the use of online services wherever possible. Plans should include, personnel management, physical distancing, PPE's acquisition and use training, implementing proper infectious control protocols, good communication about the new normals and modification of how you conduct business, such as extending hours, in person and online services and the use of teleconferencing.

Dr. Chothani suggested the SBD3 approach. Screening, Barriers, Direct office Flow, Distancing and Disinfection. A simple questionnaire could screen potential carriers, while only allowing limited business access restricts interactions. Remember that PPE's are a last line of defence, so a good supply is paramount. Barriers could include plexiglas screens, face shields and the removal of toys and magazines in waiting areas. Distancing is achieved with floor markings, one way entries and exits and controlling traffic flow and the implementation of touches payment methods.

The installation of hand sanitizer stations throughout the business will promote disinfection, along with adequate signage, not only for sanitation but about COVID-19 prevention in general. Krupa also stressed communication with your staff, both before reopening and once businesses resume. Understanding all the rules and precautions will ease anxieties in the workplace. Dr. Chothani also indicated the need to have plans in place for a second or even third wave of the virus, as indications are that these will occur.

The final speaker, was Andrew Lewis from Giant Tiger. Being in a department store type environment, he presented yet another set of ideas for consideration. He will have signs throughout the store, with pertinent information that will be updated daily if necessary. There is a communication board at the store entrance for customers to read all fitting rooms and public

washrooms will be closed. He is instituting a daily staff health check and symptomatic staffers will be sent home. There will be no refunds or rain checks, except for food recalls and scratch tickets will no longer be sold. The Mr Freeze unit is shut down and there will be no fragrance testers or reusable bags in the store. Customers with reusable bags will be required to pack them themselves.

There will be plexiglas protection at all cash registers with notes to not touch the glass and the plastic bags will no longer be charged for. PPE's will be available for the staff and carts and baskets will be sanitized upon entering the store.

Hand sanitizers will be placed throughout the store and social distancing markers on the floor. They are not allowing any food or drink to enter the store and PA announcements about social distancing and customer limits in the store will be frequently broadcast. There are also protocols in place should any customer or staff member test positive for then virus.

Andrew will allow staff to shop before the store opens and communal food, such as donuts will no longer be allowed into the staff lounge. He has future plans for permanent sanitizing stations and placing plexiglas over all pi pads. Andrew also stressed good communications between the business and its customers was critical to a successful reopening. How comfortable a customer feels about your business will determine how often they will return to it.

Mayor Mills asked if anyone had seen some hesitancy at entering a business and the general response was no, however there has been some frustration with all the restrictions, notes Bill Gillam. Here again, communication with the customer is key to an understanding.

The acquisition of plexiglas screens is a matter of budget. They can be purchased from manufacturers at considerable cost, but can also be fabricated for much less. Dufferin Windows is one source and Home Hardware also stocks some. Building a wooden frame to hold it is fairly simple, says Bill Gillam and then you need to determine how you will attach it to your counters. Both Bill and Andrew have gloves available as do feed stores and automotive parts suppliers and safety stores. Both Bill and Andrew said they would supply local businesses at their cost, if they have stock.

Mayor Mills said the Town is procuring some reusable masks that will be available and noted that Shelburne has a tight knit community that is always willing to help out.

In all, the seminar was well done and provide a lot of very pertinent and useful information.

Further information can be obtained from the EDC and Carol Maitland, [cmaitland@shelburne.ca](mailto:cmaitland@shelburne.ca)

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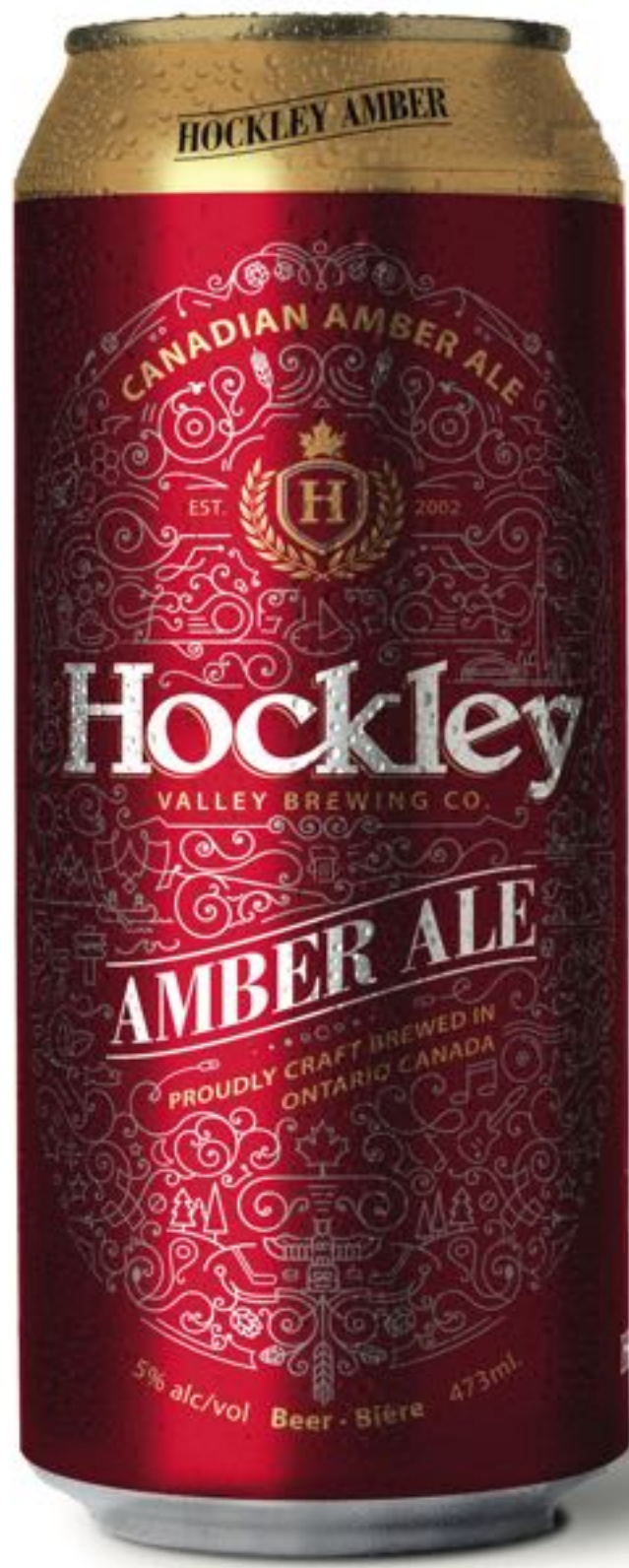
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