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# Shelburne Free Press

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Thursday, June 25, 2020

Volume 145, No. 26

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PHOTO: BRIAN LOCKHART

**CANADA DAY FLAG:** There was a chance to leave your mark on the town's history on Saturday, June 20, when a giant Canadian flag made from lumber and barn board was on display at Jack Downing Park in Shelburne. Residents dipped their hands in latex paint and added their handprints to create the huge symbol of Canada. Clark, Dexter, and Payton, added their prints to the giant flag. When completed, the flag will be hung in the pavilion at Fiddle Park. For the full story, see Page 5.

## Shelburne long-term care homes still recovering following COVID-19 outbreaks

Written By PAULA BROWN

It has been over two months since the outbreaks of COVID-19 struck both long-term care homes in Shelburne, and as of today (June 25), it will have been a month since the outbreak was deemed over by Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health.

Now, the long-term care homes are cautiously moving to reopen, allowing for visitation with the Province's gradual lifting of restrictions on long-term care homes and retirement homes as the number of active COVID-19 cases across Ontario continue to drop.

"We've had some changes occur over the past week as the province continues to move forward with its reopening plans, most notably is allowing families to visits their loved ones in-person at long-term care homes," said Stacey Rooyackers, Executive Director at Shelburne Retirement Residence and Nursing Home.

To help streamline a new visitation process, the province released visitor guide-

lines earlier this month, which include the requirement of passing active screening each visit, confirming a negative test for COVID-19 in the previous two weeks and following a variety of other protocols. Long-term care and retirement homes must meet the conditions that include: not being in an outbreak, communicating protocols and safety procedure to visitors and maintain prevention and control of the virus.

Dufferin Oaks and Shelburne Retirement Residence are both currently allowing outdoor visitation of family and friends.

"Our outdoor visits and virtual visits have been very well received, with about 70 outdoor visits and 130 virtual occurring weekly," said Brenda Wagner, Administrator at Dufferin Oaks.

In the peak of the COVID-19 outbreaks Shelburne Retirement Residents saw 55 residents and 23 staff members test positive for the virus, with 15 deaths reported in the home. Dufferin Oaks saw four residents and six staff members contract COVID-19, with two deaths. Neither long-term care home

has had a positive case since the outbreak was deemed over on May 25.

While the province has allowed gradual visitation at long-term care homes, both Shelburne care homes are continuing to have restricted protocols on screening and testing for employees and low social numbers to maintain social distancing for residents.

"Currently the only restrictions that have changed is that families are now able to have scheduled outdoor visits with their loved ones under guidelines established by the province and we are now able to admit new residents from hospital," said Wagner. "The rest of the restriction are still in place."

Despite the mark that COVID-19 has left on the local care homes, both are slowly trying to make their way back to a sense of normal through activities within the homes and BBQ events, which have been organized to "combat the effects of isolation" said Rooyackers.

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With great pride, the staff and students at Centennial Hylands offer our congratulations to the graduating class. This is a big milestone for you and your family. Your graduation year has certainly been memorable and unique. We hope that you remember your time at C.N.E.S fondly, and can build upon your knowledge skills and experience as you continue on through high school. Best wishes to each of you.



Even though your graduation is going to look different this year, the achievement is still the same! You should be very proud of yourselves and all you've accomplished. Someday you'll look back and think, "Wow, I graduated at the strangest time ever". Congratulations Grizzlies and best wishes for your next adventure!"



**Congratulations to all our grade 8 graduates!**

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Dear Primrose Grads, WAKANDA!!! Despite the difficulties you have faced, we are so incredibly proud of the resilience and grace you have shown. Each and everyday we were with you, you inspired us to be better, stronger, and kinder. We feel so lucky that we had the privilege of being with you on your journey. Remember #outsidethebetter #nometonthe floor. Mrs. Williamson, Ms. Kelk, and the Primrose Family



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**Congratulations to 2020 Grads.**  
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# OPP delivers costing proposal, first year costs to hit \$3.2 million

Written By PETER RICHARDSON

Council convened Monday evening to hear the new OPP Costing for providing policing services to the Town of Shelburne.

However, prior to hearing the costing Mayor Wade Mills addressed a few words towards the tiny but vocal minority of residents who have taken to social media to generally malign and spread misinformation about the process and the reasons for it. Although he believes that many residents are simply looking to broaden their understanding of the process and the potential results, he stated that some are simply choosing to ignore the facts and although everyone is entitled to their own opinion, they are not entitled to their own set of facts. To that end, the mayor took a moment to outline the facts, that brought Council to its decision to request a second costing process.

This Council, was elected in the middle of the first OPP costing, and, given the facts that they were given at that time, they considered their options and formulated their decision. At that time the primary consideration for receiving a costing was the need to provide new housing for the Shelburne Police Service. The Council decided that it could augment the accommodations by renovations and that although neither a perfect nor long-term solution, it would allow the Town to retain the SPS.

It would, however push the Town to its financial limits and minimize its ability to borrow money, as well as go against the recommendations of Town staff, in regards being able to meet future fiscal issues.

Then, in December of 2019, Orangeville Council voted to disband the Orangeville Police Service and move into a contract with the OPP for policing services. At this time, several new pieces of information were presented to Shelburne Council. The loss of the OPS presented three issues for Shelburne. First, was a doubling of the cost for dispatch services, which had previously been handled by Orangeville. Second was the need for significant supervisory staff requirements, and thirdly it eliminated any ability to share policing services in the future. Due to this new information and a dramatic increase in annual policing costs, it was incumbent on Council to re-evaluate its previous decision. Council was not being underhanded, nor wishy washy, it was rather, being fiscally and morally responsive and responsible to the taxpayers of Shelburne.

Sergeant Ken Kees led the OPP delegation and began by outlining that the format would be the same as the previous costing. There would be no comparison with the Shelburne Police Service, with whom the OPP have a good working relationship. He outlined that the report would cover several areas - provincial support, regional support, services provided by the Dufferin detachment, OPP accountability and reporting, the transition contract and the costs of policing. The OPP currently police 326 of Ontario's 444 municipalities, on a cost recovery basis. They have been policing Ontario communities since the 1940's and employ over 8,900 personnel.

Sergeant Kees went on to emphasize that although the OPP is large, those members who police Shelburne will continue to provide services that cater to the needs and the people of the community. He outlined a large number of provincially and regionally man-

aged services available to Shelburne and highlighted some of the specialist services that come with the OPP policing services. These included, canine units, emergency response teams, tactical units, incident commanders and forensic identification services.

In addition, the OPP are a turn key service, they provide all the requirements of policing thus leaving staff more time to handle projects and priorities for the people within the town. The OPP are also, accepting of all liabilities associated with policing the community. This in itself, potentially saves the Town thousands of dollars and all the headaches of dealing with a police generated incident. Also dispatch, media services, community policing and criminal investigation are all handled by the Regional Headquarters in Orillia.

Staff Sergeant Nicol Randall, commander of the Dufferin OPP, next addressed Council about her detachment and its services. Located at Primrose, this is where the Shelburne OPP would be headquartered. Randall is a 25 year veteran of the OPP. In conjunction with the Shelburne Police Services Board, she will direct the policing in Shelburne.

There will be 24/7 coverage for the five zones within Dufferin detachment, with Shelburne classified as its own zone. As a result, there will be three constables and a sergeant assigned to Shelburne.

Community policing plays a big part in the OPP approach to policing. Consequently, the local Police Services Board is an integral part of how the OPP will police Shelburne. The priorities, objectives and policies of the PSB will guide the OPP approach to the Town. The OPP have a number of programs to help interact with the community and to provide instructional assistance to schools and organizations. Community presentations can be made on such subjects as elder abuse prevention, drugs, internet safety and bullying, as well as displays at community events.

The OPP reports that 97.7 percent of respondents to a poll felt safe or very safe with the OPP Dufferin Detachment and 92.2 percent felt very satisfied or satisfied with the OPP's ability to work with communities to solve local problems.

Sergeant Kee explained why there is a transition contract for the first 3-plus years of the partnership. Firstly, it is provincially mandated, secondly it allows the OPP to collect relevant data for the policing requirements of a new municipality and finally it is required by the Ontario Civilian Police Commission, in order to establish that adequate policing is provided for the town and that police services personnel are treated in an equitable manner.

The Transition Contract is based upon FTE, or full-time equivalent calculations, with one FTE equalling 1,417 annual hours, either uniform or civilian personnel. These are the boots on the ground hours involved in active policing duties. Following this the Town will move to the OPP Billing Model, comprising Base Service, Calls for Service and other costs.

The costs presented for the transition, which included start up costs, a one time only expense, amounted to, an estimated \$3.2 million. This number was derived from the total salaries and benefits of \$2,65 million plus the other direct operating

expenses of \$229,630 and the initial start up costs of \$417,913, less a one year adjustment of \$29,610 for uniforms and equipment.

Following the presentation, Council had a few questions. Coun. Walter Benotto asked if accommodation could be made for senior citizens who do not drive and would have a hard time traveling to Primrose. Sergeant Kee stated that a satellite office could be opened in town, at the town's expense, for this purpose. Walter then asked about the one required civilian employee and whether or not they would come from Shelburne. The answer to this was yes, they would be a local employee.

Mayor Mills asked if regular beat patrols and officers in the schools would be accommodated through the regular base service, and was assured by Staff Sergeant Randall that this was indeed the case and was

considered to be normal policing activities. Coun. Lynda Buffett asked about officers at events, such as parades and whether or not the town would be billed for their service. It was explained that given enough notice and provided there was availability the Town would not, necessarily, be billed extra. CAO Denyse Morrissey interjected that currently, when Shelburne officers are required at such events, they are generally paid duty officers and the event organizers are billed for their services. Staff Sergeant Randall mentioned that these types of duties could also be handled by the OPP Auxiliary Force, now available in Primrose.

The CAO also asked about the transition timeline and was told that February of 2021 was the probable date if Shelburne accepts the OPP Costing. Council now has six months,

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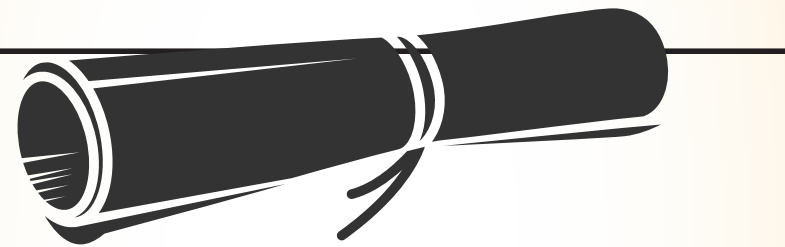
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# The two Michaels

It was announced this past week that two Canadian men being held in China have now been charged with spying.

Michael Kovrig and Michael Spavor, have been officially charged after being 'detained' in China for the past 18 months.

Both men were 'detained' shortly after the December 2018 arrest in Canada of Meng Wanzhou, a top executive in the Chinese tech company, Huawei.

She was arrested on fraud charges at the request of the U.S. government. Ms. Meng was wanted on the charges because of her dealings with Iran.

Both Kovrig and Spavor have been in solitary confinement and suffering from ill treatment by their 'handlers.'

Neither man has been seen by Canadian consular officials since January.

Every country in NATO should be issuing a major protest against the Chinese government. The Chinese detained these two men for bogus political reasons and have now charged them with a serious crime based on bogus evidence.

If it could happen to two Canadians, it could happen to any citizen of every other NATO country.

Holding innocent people as political pawns should not be tolerated by any civilized western country.

Of course the Chinese deny any connection between the two men's detain-

ment and the arrest of Wanzhou. The Chinese deny a lot of things. If it doesn't fit their narrative, they deny.

The Huawei company has long been seen as a front for spying by China's military and its security services.

The Chinese don't like confrontation. They especially don't like people who disagree with the communist regime.

Just ask the guy who bravely stood in front of a column of battle tanks, holding his bags of groceries, and momentarily stopped the military, during the Tiananmen Square pro-democracy protests of 1989.

While that man became famous around the world for what was considered his brave but peaceful protest, the Chinese government tried to censor all images and reports about what was going on there.

The result was the declaration of martial law, and Chinese military firing on their own people, killing hundreds, possibly thousands of people, and wounding thousands more.

The protester has never been identified and his whereabouts are unknown – of course.

Most likely he was escorted from the square by officials and provided the opportunity to never speak to anyone again.

While modern western countries practise a rule of law developed over centu-

ries, the Chinese practise a 'rule' that means the judicial system will follow the wishes of the communist regime – not that of any written laws. And don't expect to find out the results of a trial.

The number of people executed by the government is classified as a state secret.

In China, being arrested is pretty much the same as being convicted. If you are charged with a crime, good luck mounting any kind of defence.

Police can arrest you just on suspicion – they don't need proof.

Even internet access is controlled. If you manage to find a way past the firewall and dare criticize the government, you'll soon find yourself in very serious trouble.

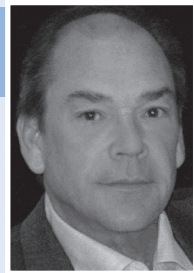
When you have a court system that is not separate, but takes its lead from directives from a central government that dictates what is going to happen, you don't have a real court system.

The conviction rate in China for the charges Mr. Kovrig and Mr. Spavor are facing is 99.9 per cent. The possible sentence ranges to up to life in prison.

In other words, these guys are in serious trouble unless the West intervenes and demands their return.

Every once in a while, you read about some westerner being arrested in Asia for smuggling drugs or some other, usually ridiculous crime.

**BRIAN LOCKHART**  
FROM THE SECOND ROW



In that case the attitude is 'don't commit crimes in foreign countries.'

We are all subject to the laws of a country we visit. If you're going to do something stupid like smuggling a bag of cocaine in your suitcase or spray graffiti on a national monument, you're going to find yourself in trouble.

That's no different than a foreign tourist coming here and committing a crime.

When people are charged with a crime for political reasons, that's a whole different story.

So far, the Canadian government is doing little to help two men who are facing serious, bogus charges, in a foreign country.

In a recent press conference, PM Trudeau actually referred to these two political prisoners as "the two Michaels," reducing them from being two political prisoners, to some kind of schoolyard pals.

Every NATO nation should be demanding the immediate release of these two men, or next time it could be an American, British, French, German, Belgian, Italian, or Norwegian citizen who is arrested and jailed for reason of political blackmail.

## Editorial

# Mandatory masks

THERE MUST BE A TOUCH OF IRONY in the fact that all persons wishing to enter a store or business place in Dufferin County must wear a mask or face covering, but there is no such requirement in Toronto or almost anywhere in the United States, where the COVID-19 virus is spreading virtually uncontrolled.

In our view, it's equally ironic that masking is currently mandatory in supermarkets and drug stores that remained open in March and April without the requirement when the pandemic's scourge was peaking in Dufferin.

As matters stand, while the wearing of masks is mandatory in Dufferin, having been ordered by the Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health unit, no similar order is currently in force in neighbouring Peel Region and both Grey and Simcoe counties. There, as well as in Toronto, the wearing of masks is simply recommended for anyone who might be in close proximity to a stranger. One of the few instances where masks are mandatory there is in barber shops and hair salons and on Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) buses, streetcars and subway trains, where the two-metre social distancing is often impossible.

As we see it, the WDG health unit's decision to impose mandatory masking came about as a result of the provincial government's decision to abandon province-wide restrictions as part of its declaration of a COVID-19 emergency, in favour of allowing some parts of the province to re-open ahead of others, based on successful "flattening of the curve."

The result locally was publication on the WDG Public Health website of a "class order" that took effect on June 12.

The order directs "all persons who own or operate a Commercial Establishment in the Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Health Unit" area to prohibit persons "from entering the premises of the Commercial Establishment or remaining in the premises if the said Person is not wearing a Face Covering. The Face Covering must be worn inside the Establishment at all times, unless

it is reasonably required to temporarily remove the Face Covering for services provided by the Establishment."

It includes an exemption for children under two years old or under 5 if the child is "either chronologically or developmentally and he or she refuses to wear a face covering and cannot be persuaded to do so by their caregiver" or for those who wearing the mask would inhibit his or her ability to breathe, as well as if "for any other medical reason, the Person cannot safely wear a Face Covering such as, but not limited to, respiratory disease, cognitive difficulties or difficulties in hearing or processing information."

The order also requires stores and businesses to "ensure the availability of alcohol-based hand rub at all entrances and exits for the use of all Persons entering or exiting the Establishment."

Clearly, the order's exemptions are pretty limited, leading to the possibility of prosecutions and fines for the owners of gasoline stations who allow a maskless driver in to pay for the fill-up, or a bank that fails to enforce the order against those who try to use an indoor automatic teller machine.

As matters stand, it seems fairly clear that the current order was drafted by someone in the health unit and that it is a "class order made pursuant to Section 22 of the Health Protection and Promotion Act, R.S.O. 1990, c.H.7."

Not so clear is how anyone should go about seeking to have such orders modified.

As it now stands, the WDG order is not time-limited and presumably could continue in the absence of any evidence that the coronavirus is continuing to spread in this part of the province.

Adding to the irony is the fact that the Province seems to be clinging to province-wide requirements when it comes to the matter of schools opening in September.

Will school boards not be permitted to depart locally from an apparent requirement that classes be limited to 15 students, even in parts of the province that have had no recent COVID-19 infections?



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# Handprints create giant Canadian flag as 'morale booster' for town

Written By BRIAN LOCKHART

There won't be any real Canada Day celebrations this year, but the spirit is still alive in Shelburne.

Three local men volunteered their time and effort as well as some creative thinking to come up with a way for the public to show their patriotism by creating a giant hand painted Canadian flag.

The key word here is 'hand.'

Local residents were asked to dip their hands in some latex paint and leave their mark on the 20 by 10 foot flag that was made from lumber and barn boards.

Kyle Fegan, Andrew James, and Brian McBride, built the flag behind Brian's business at Shelburne Memorials.

It took six men, and they could have used more as it is pretty heavy, to lift the flag from a trailer and put it in place at Jack Downing Park.

Once the outline of the maple leaf was in place, the rest was up to anyone who wanted to take part and help create the flag.

The idea came up after the men realized there won't be holiday celebrations this

coming July 1.

The initiative was dubbed 'One Community, One Hope.'

"The whole idea is to bring the community together," explained Mr. Fegan. "It originally started out as an idea for Canada Day. Obviously with us getting COVID and Canada Day being cancelled, it became just an era of depression and negativity with this pandemic that is going on. I felt the town needed some kind of morale boost. I talked to Andrew and Brian to resurrect this idea and we revamped it to become a commemoration of how our community comes together and we can look back and remember this. It has a personal touch because your personal hand is going to be on this flag forever."

The event was held on Saturday, June 20, in the park.

Some people had planned to come by and leave their handprints. Others just happened to be walking by and wanted to take part when they saw what was happening.

Once completed, the giant flag will hang in the pavilion at Fiddle Park and will provide an outstanding backdrop for events that will be held there.



PHOTO: BRIAN LOCKHART

CREATING CANADIAN FLAG: There was a chance to leave your mark on the town's history on Saturday, June 20, when a giant Canadian flag made from lumber and barn board was on display at Jack Downing Park in Shelburne.

## CDDHS students recognized by staff in Royal Recognition awards

Written By PAULA BROWN

Centre Dufferin District High School (CDDHS) held its Royal Recognition 2020 awards on Monday (June 22), celebrating recipients of the Stronger Together Award and Tom Egan Community Service Award.

"We just felt it was really important to still recognize them and let them know that even though we can't see them, we know they're there and we do recognize what they do," said Jane Godbold, a teacher at the school. "It's a really important way to finish the school year."

The small ceremony was held outside of the local high school and recognized recipients Ashana Smith for the Stronger Together Award, and Laura Wagstaff for the Tom Egan Community Service Award. Both awards were presented by Deputy Mayor Steve Anderson.

The first award that was presented in the small ceremony was the Stronger Together Award, donated by Deputy Mayor Anderson, which is given to a student that works to build and establish connections between student groups, individuals and the community as well as promoting collaborative events, diversity, and education.

Ashana Smith, a grade 11 student, was recognized for her work as a member of One Voice One Team at CDDHS, as well as being a part of the Dufferin County's recognition of Black History Month, the raising of the Pan African Flag and the high school's Black History Assembly.

"It feels very honouring and I'm very grateful that I've been chosen because it's definitely something that I'm very passionate about," said Smith after receiving the award.

Deputy Mayor Anderson, who has worked with Smith on several of the aforementioned projects, said Smith had done tremendous work and he was not surprised to be handing her the award.

Laura Wagstaff, a grade 12 student, was the recipient of the Tom Egan Community Service Award, donated by the Egan Family. The award honours late Shelburne Coun. Tom Egan, who passed away in 2017 at the age of 64. Wagstaff was recognized for her involvement as co-president of the CDDHS Athletic Council, band and as a student leader at the school, as well as her community service at the food bank, tutoring, and volunteering as an active member of her church.

"I've been blessed with a lot of skills and talents and I just always want to give those back wherever I can and help out whatever ways I can," said Wagstaff.

Anderson also spoke about Wagstaff's community involvement, commending the "fantastic job" she has done and continues to do in the community through volunteering.

The Royal Recognition awards also recognizes students that make a difference in the school community, inside and outside of the classroom. Students are considered from criteria that includes inspiring and encouraging others, promotes a respectful atmosphere and contributing positively to the community.

Each year three student from each grade are nominated and recognized for their contribution. Recipients of the 2020 Royals Recognition included Skylar Semple, Soha Soliman, and Evan Tomlinson (grade 9); Matthew Cameron, Hailey Hewitt, Asonya Wellesley (grade 10); Tiara McKenzie, Janine Beckford and Annie Cameron (grade 11); and Dashon Baptiste, Emily MacDonald and Samantha Mallette (grade 12).

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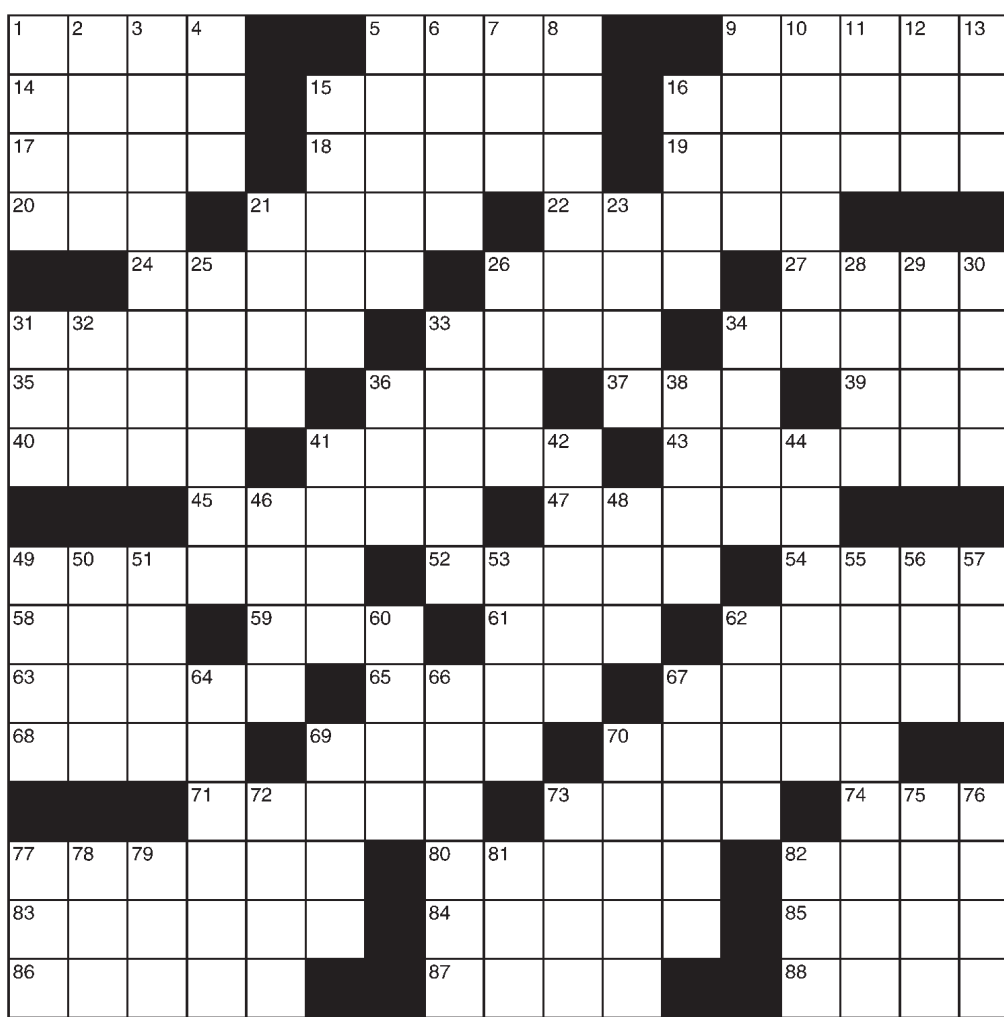
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**X**

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PUZZLE NO. 473



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**ACROSS**

1. Thus
5. Better late \_\_\_\_ never
9. Underwater worker
14. Frog's cousin
15. Witchy old woman
16. Soil with mud
17. Heal
18. Lariat
19. Do again
20. "Take \_\_\_\_, She's Mine"
21. Partridge's tree?
22. Brownish gray
24. Bit of land
26. Waist accessory
27. Plate
31. Revolver
33. Storm
34. Therefore
35. Bypass
36. Young grizzly

37. Unclose, poetically
39. Salt
40. Harmony
41. Violin's kin
43. Nut variety
45. Prepare to pray
47. Soul
49. Gulch
52. Chemical compound
54. Liquid measure
58. Small banknote
59. Utmost
61. Cut with an axe
62. Summary of beliefs
63. Market
65. Remote
67. Capital of Angola
68. Antler prong
69. Stratagem
70. Search party

71. Advertising leaflet
73. Goopy stuff
74. Belly
77. \_\_\_\_ photograph
80. Foreigner
82. Mama's spouse
83. Heir to the throne
84. Actor Hayes
85. Pedestal occupier
86. Indian's abode
87. Fencer's blade
88. Heredity unit

**DOWN**

1. Write with acid
2. Dissolute fellow
3. Military post
4. Sonnet's kin
5. Trick or \_\_\_\_!
6. Frost
7. Tiny crawler
8. Put in order

9. Vertically long
10. Hinder
11. Scramble (for)
12. Time division
13. Steep hemp
15. Fish basket
16. Wine type
21. Trudge
23. Singing part
25. Goopy
26. Newborn
28. \_\_\_\_ thin air
29. Scrutinize
30. Grazing group
31. Ballet step
32. Wall clinger
33. Spend it in Moscow
34. Ship's wheel
36. Bee's follower
38. Twosome
41. Landlord's income
42. Provide food for
44. Plaid cloth
46. Naught
48. Not used
49. Asking price
50. Not pro
51. Modern gaslight
53. Light carriage
55. Traitor
56. Remark further
57. Extinct bird
60. Hearty's partner
62. Tooth point
64. Purify
66. Graze
67. Daft
69. Mound
70. First-year cadet
72. Decorative fabric
73. Mock
75. Once \_\_\_\_ a time . . .
76. "A Bronx \_\_\_\_"
77. Ordinarily disposed
78. Before, to Browning
79. Shred
81. Pool circuit
82. Porky, for example

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# SHELBURNE SPORTS

## The links are open, with multiple safety precautions in place

Written By BRIAN LOCKHART

If you're a golfer, this is a good time to enjoy your sport.

With only two sports so far getting the okay to play, the other being tennis, there has been an upsurge in the amount of interest in getting out on the links for 18 holes.

The fact that golf is played outdoors with a natural distance between players means it was one of the first sports to get the green light from the provincial government to allow play.

The Shelburne Golf and Country Club has been open for a month and there has been a steady stream of golfers waiting for their chance to get out on the course.

With the COVID-19 pandemic still a factor, the Club has taken a lot of precautions to ensure social distancing is in place.

They have also started some new measures on the golf course to ensure players are safe.

You no longer have to drop your ball in the cup. To avoid creating a germ trap on the green, the holes are now equipped with a raised cup around the hole.

If you putt and your ball hits the cup, it is considered a ball in the hole.

The Club is also requesting people book a tee time and has been spacing player's times for their chance to get on the course.

This means a good distance from the group ahead of you while you're on the course.

"We've been open since the 16th of May," said Club general manager, Megan Young. "Golf was allowed to open before anything else. When people arrive, we're asking them to stay in their car until 20 minutes before their tee time. At which point they can come into the club house. We're only allowing four in at a time. We're encouraging people to book their tee times on-line. The idea is to have one group on the tee and only one group waiting so we're really eliminating the number of people hanging around at the starting area. We've increased our tee time intervals by 25 per cent so we are noticing there's a big gap between groups out there."

Around the club house there are two separate areas for after golf socializing. One area is called the COVID-19 patio with seating spaced at a distance. There is also a household and social bubble area for people who either live together or are in the same social bubble.

That area allows a maximum of ten people at one time.

"We have raised cups so that the ball doesn't get into the hole," Megan explained. "That prevents people from having their hand in the hole and contaminating and spreading. All the ball has to do is hit the raised cup, and it's in. When it comes to the



PHOTO: BRIAN LOCKHART

ALL IN THE SWING: With golf being one of the very few sports allowed to take place, the sport is seeing an increase in popularity from both veteran players and new players who want to get outdoors and give it a try. The Shelburne Golf and Country Club is open and busy as golfers want to get outside and play. Greg and Keith get warmed up on the driving range on Saturday, June 20.

driving range, we are open, but we are allowing only six people on the driving range at one time and eight people on the practice putting green."

The club sanitizes the balls and the golf

carts after every use. They even hand you the key to your cart with a pair of tongs so no one touches the key.

The rules of play may have change slightly but it's still the same great game.

## Ontario soccer announces new return-to-play guidelines

Written By BRIAN LOCKHART

"If you are not comfortable with returning to play, DON'T."

That's the message being delivered by Ontario Soccer when it comes to getting players back on the soccer pitches this summer.

As some sports are slowly moving ahead, some people are still a little nervous about getting too close to others during this COVID-19 pandemic.

Ontario Soccer is quite blunt about the message when it comes to getting players on the field.

Soccer does require close proximity between players and physical contact will occur. That's an inherent part of the game.

Ontario Soccer has issued a Return to Play guide, which details protocols and recommendations when teams start getting back together.

They have put together a three stage plan to get players back in the sport.

Phase 1 of the plan includes a return to training, however there will be no contact,

no league play, no exhibition games, and no festivals or tournaments.

Phase 2 of the plan includes enhanced training and modified games. League play, exhibition games, and tournaments will not be allowed.

Phase 3, which may or may not happen this year, is a return to normal soccer including league play, games, and regular training.


This phase of the plan will get underway only when social distancing restrictions have been lifted.

The Return to Play Guide and Plan has been approved by Canada Soccer the Ontario Soccer Board of Directors, and can now be implemented by Ontario Soccer affiliated clubs and academies where it is regionally permitted to do so.

Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health has approved plans to move into the next phase of re-opening some sporting activities, however, there still restrictions in place regarding numbers of people and other conditions that should be followed to keep physical distancing protocols in place.

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Working for TD 21 years, she helps her customers make sound financial decisions.

When she's not at work, Nellie enjoys playing softball and has a passion for travel.

She recently visited India, Croatia, and Montenegro.

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position

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PHOTO: PAULA BROWN

**OPEN ONCE AGAIN:** Glenda Keeping, owner of Change Hair Studio in Shelburne, opened doors to the salon on June 15 with province's moving to Stage 2 of reopening economy.

## Local businesses excited to open their doors as we move to Phase 2

Written By PAULA BROWN

Local businesses are beginning to open their doors after months of being closed as the province continues its move to Stage 2 in the reopening of the economy after the COVID-19 pandemic.

"I was devastated when I was told I had to close," said Glenda Keeping, owner and senior stylist at Changes Hair Studio in Shelburne. "I was panicking because I had to tell my employees that they were laid-off."

Changes Hair Studio is one of the local businesses that is able to reopen with the move to Stage 2, falling under personal care services. The hair salon opened its doors for appointments on June 15, three days after the province moved into its regional-based Stage 2 framework post-COVID, and after 3-months of being closed.

"I was more nervous about reopening than I was closing," said Keeping. "I was sad closing, but I was anxious and nervous about reopening and the protocols I had to follow."

To reopen her salon, Keeping has had to limit the number of customers to keep in line with Stage 2 protocols. For Changes Hair that means four customers, four stylists and a front desk worker are allowed in the salon at a time. Keeping has also had to invest in PPE and plexiglass to separate sinks, all of which she says has cost her around \$3,000 and was "quite a financial hit".

Shelburne's Stage 2 status has also meant that restaurants with patio space are able to open for dining.

Shannon Chahal, owner of Shannon's Tap & Grill is one of those restaurants gearing up for patio dining, planning to have theirs, with the new protocols, up and running in the next couple of weeks. During the peak of COVID-19, the restaurant was able to remain open by offering take-out and delivery

services to the community.

"It was definitely scary because we didn't know, futuristically, what the impact was going to be to the business," said Chahal. "We were sad to have to lay off all of our staff, and we didn't know what the next steps were going to be. It was a day-to-day process."

Chahal noted that a challenge with the restaurant remaining open has been the new daily requirements put out by the provincial government, becoming accustomed to them over the three months, and now having to make the switch into Stage 2.

"We were managing a business not having to wear masks all the time, through where the numbers were the highest, now this week having to wear masks all the time, and having to readjust our internal set up with hand sanitizers and stopping customers at the door if they don't have proper face covering," said Chahal touching on the ways the restaurant has had to adjust in Stage 2.

For small businesses COVID-19 has brought a significant financial hit, with many store owners having to consider the possibility of permanently closing. In a report on the impact of COVID-19 on small business done by Stats Canada back in March, it showed that small businesses were more likely to report higher declines in revenue, number of layoffs, and the need to ask for credit or assistance compared to companies with 500 or more employees.

"I knew financially I was going to take a huge hit but I strongly believed that my clientele and my staff were going to stick with me and I was going to be ok," said Keeping, adding that the 'what if' of closing had crossed her mind. Keeping also says that the financial impact of COVID-19 will take at least six months to recover from.

For more information on what is reopening during Stage 2 go to Ontario.ca.

## Board hopes to hire new fire chief by July 31

Written By PAULA BROWN

Shelburne could have a new Fire Chief in place by the end of July as the Shelburne District Fire Board is down to shortlist of candidates.

"We're just down to the shortlist now, and we haven't had an opportunity yet to get back together again to go over the shortlist, and that won't happen until July 3," said Coun. Walter Benotto, who serves as chair of the local Fire Board.

From the shortlist of candidates, the committee plans to look at the top three candidates to interview for the position. Assisted by Deputy Fire Chief Jeff Clayton, the Fire Board makes the final decision in the hiring process, which is comprised of two mem-

bers of each municipality serviced by the department - Shelburne, Amaranth, Melancthon, Mono and Mulmur.

Former Shelburne Fire Chief Brad Lemaich announced back in May that he had been hired as the new Fire Chief in the Town of Tillsonburg, marking his last day on June 5. The Shelburne Fire Department is currently being over seen by Deputy Fire Chief Jeff Clayton.

In the posting for the position it notes that the Fire Chief will oversee the current roster of 29 volunteer firefighters. Benotto says that the responsibilities for position are expected to be the same as when Lemaich held the role.

Benotto says the Board hopes to hire a new fire chief by July 31.

## 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
June 21	June 22	June 23	June 24	June 25	June 26	June 27
June 28	June 29	June 30	CANADA DAY	July 2	July 3	July 4
July 5	July 6	July 7	July 8	July 9	July 10	July 11

Monday ZONE

Tuesday ZONE

Wednesday ZONE

Thursday ZONE

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### Happy Canada Day!

Due to the holiday on Wednesday July 1<sup>st</sup>, garbage, Blue Boxes and Green Bins will be collected a day later for Wednesday and Thursday routes only that week.



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OBITUARIES

**Hunt, George Copeland**

Died in his beloved home of 64 years on Saturday, June 20, 2020 just two days after celebrating his 95th birthday. Devoted husband of the late Kathleen Armour (1999). Proud father of Janice Squirrell (Bill), Martin Hunt and Lloyd Hunt. Grandfather of Laura Goode (Chris) and Colin Squirrell (Jen) and great-grandfather of Ben, Cate and Winter-Lee. He will be remembered as a master builder of buildings and apple pies.

If desired, donations to Headwaters Health Care Centre or the charity of your choice would be appreciated. At George's request there will be no service. Cremation has occurred and a private burial will take place at Honeywood Cemetery.

Online condolences may be placed at  
 www.jackandthompsonfuneralhome.com

OBITUARIES

**Trafananko, Irene Helen**

Peacefully at Bickle Centre Complex June 18, 2020 at the age of 86. Irene passed away as the result of a heart attack after surviving a C4 spinal injury and spending 5 years at the Rehabilitation Centre. Beloved wife of Peter for over 60 years. Loving mother of Mark (Sarah) and Timothy (Ronaly). Devoted grandmother of Ace and Erica. Dear sister of Joan (Frank) Copping.

A funeral service will be held on Wednesday, June 24, 2020 at 1:00 p.m. Interment will follow at Mansfield Cemetery. Online condolences may be placed at  
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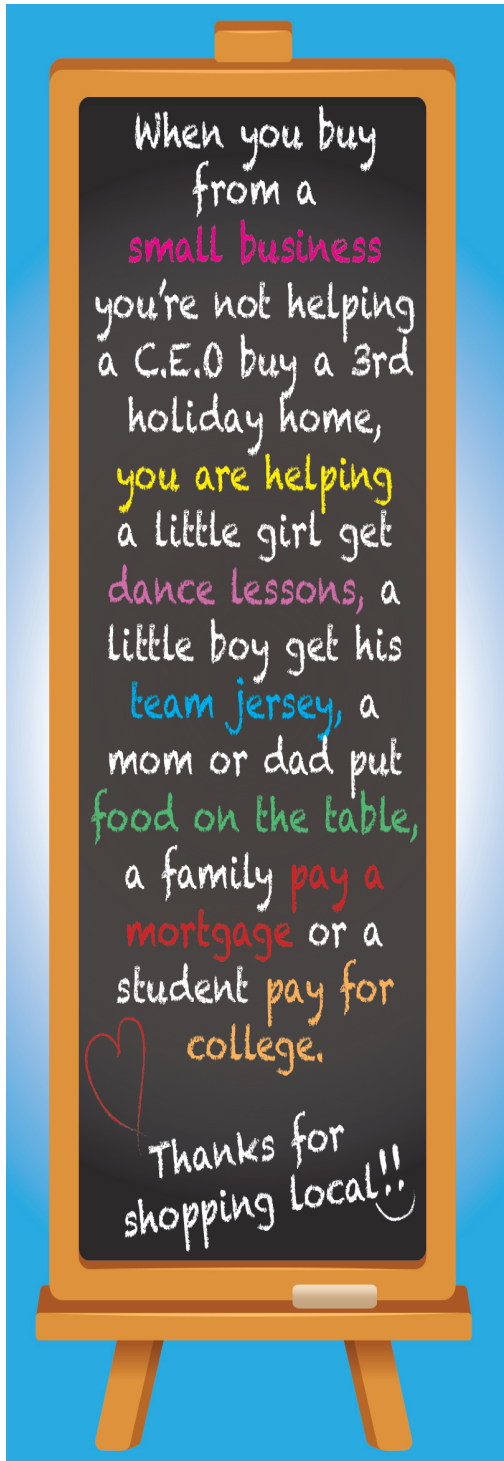
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# Shelburne's Walk to End ALS honours late Cathi Snider

Written By PAULA BROWN

Shelburne local Evelyn Sime and her family took part in the Walk to End ALS last Sunday (June 21) in honour of her daughter Cathi Snider.

"We did this to honour Cathi, to help support families, to fund research and to hopefully see a cure one day," said Debra Bettio, one of Cathi's sisters in an email to the Free Press.

The Walk To End ALS is a Canada-wide volunteer led fundraiser, the largest for ALS Societies in the country. The walk took place on June 21, virtually through FaceBook, with 31 different communities throughout the province participating. Those walking in honour of Cathi (Team Cathi) walked in Shelburne, Amaranth, Alliston, Oro-Medonte, and British Columbia. Those partaking in the tribute event dressed in purple, her favourite colour, while also donning purple facemasks.

"The COVID-19 isolation has allowed us all to reflect on what our new normal will be without her," said Bettio. "This is an opportunity for us to remotely show our support and respect for all that Cathi endured."

Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), or just as commonly known as Lou Gehrig's disease, is a terminal progressive nervous system disease that affects the nerves in the brain and spinal cord causing loss of muscle

control. After having a couple falls, undergoing physiotherapy, and taking several tests, Cathi was diagnosed with ALS in August of 2019. She passed away from the disease in February, after battling it for six months.

"They tell you two to five years is the average (lifespan for) ALS patients, so Cathi was a lot more rapid than that," said Sheri Sime, another of Cathi's sisters who walked with Evelyn in Shelburne.

"We didn't really understand the disease and how fast it works. It was less than a year and it was devastating," said Doug Snider, Cathi's husband.

Cathi is described by her family as having been a very strong and independent person. She loved the sun, playing cards, and was an avid baker, going far enough to teach her caretakers to make her Christmas cookies to hand out.

"She was very strong willed, independent, whatever she wanted to do got done," said Snider, giving a small chuckle, while Evelyn confirmed her daughter's personality with a resounding "that's her".

Team Cathi raised \$3,480 out of a total of \$10,436 raised in Dufferin County, which sees 40 percent going towards the research of ALS and 60 percent going towards community-based support. Brain Canada is matching the research portion of the donations up to \$1 million.



PHOTO: PAULA BROWN

WALKING TO REMEMBER: Evelyn Sime and daughter Sheri Sime took part in the Walk To End ALS in Shelburne on June 21 in honour of family member Cathi Snider who died in Feb. from the disease.

## UGDSB offering summer program for students

Written By PAULA BROWN

The Upper Grand District School Board announced it will be offering summer support programs for students and families with mental health needs and special education needs.

"This is a unique opportunity for us, the ministry has given us some money to support students in our boards with mental health concerns, as well as supporting our students with ASD [autism spectrum disorder], as well as providing some money to go toward supporting students to transition back into school for the last two weeks of August," said Wendy Donaldson, UGDSB spokesperson.

In a press release sent out by UGDSB last Friday (June 19), the local school board says that the summer support programs and courses that are available for students include mental health support, courses for students with Autism and transitional support for students with complex special education needs or mental health needs.

The availability for the programs comes after the Education Ministry provided every board in Ontario with specific funding to be used over the summer months. It is the first time that UGDSB is offering these programs in the summer.

"My understanding is that these funds have become available to us to support students over the summer because of the challenges we've faced because of COVID and school closures," said Donaldson.

For the mental health program, students under caseload or families that feel they might need help are able to access the program. Students with ASD and their families are able to sign up for the Support for Students with Autism program. Families and students are able to access the High Risk Transition Support that takes place at the end of August through talking with board staff and school staff.

The deadline to apply for these courses is July 3. To register visit [www.ugdsb.ca](http://www.ugdsb.ca)

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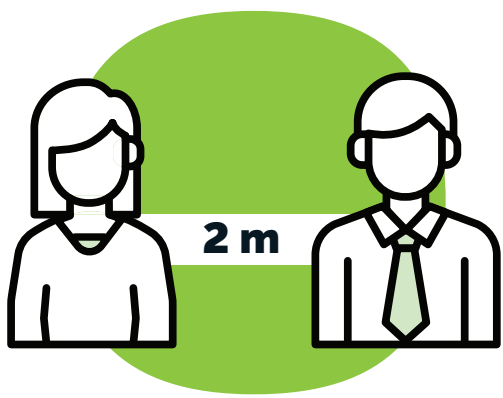
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As businesses begin to reopen, we all need to continue our efforts to protect each other.



## **Practice physical distancing.**

Stay two metres away from others



**Wear a face covering** when physical distancing is a challenge



**Wash hands** thoroughly and often

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