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# Shelburne Free Press



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PHOTO: PAULA BROWN

**REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE:** The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 220 in Shelburne held its annual Remembrance Day ceremony on Wednesday morning (Nov. 11). This year's event was drastically scaled back due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, with only 25 invitees welcomed to stand within the designated area in front of Town Hall. Many local residents gathered along Main St., however, to watch the service. Pictured above Shelburne Legion's colour party stand in front of cenotaph during ceremony. For more, see Pg 2.

## Local MP Kyle Seeback says there's 'nothing new' in Feds' \$1.75 billion rural internet fund

Written By PAULA BROWN  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

While Canadians spend more time at home and online with work, classes and shopping due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Canadian government has announced their goal of connecting 98 percent of Canadians to high speed internet by 2026.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau held a conference in Ottawa on Monday (Nov.9) to launch the \$1.75 billion universal broadband fund to connect Canadians to high speed internet. The fund was originally announced as a \$1 billion program in the federal government's 2019 budget, but has now had an additional \$750,000 added.

"Good reliable internet isn't a luxury, it's a basic service and it's a service that every single Canadian deserves," said Trudeau in the press conference.

The government's goal is to provide 98 percent of Canadians with the ability to access a high-speed internet service by 2026 – up from the previous goal of 95 percent – and the rest by 2030. Trudeau said that the fund-

ing will be used almost entirely in rural and remote communities.

"These are ambitious targets and we're ready to meet them," said Trudeau.

As part of the funding, \$150 million is included for Rapid Response Stream, an accelerated application process, for "shovel-ready projects" and communities aiming to be connected by next year.

"We'll be looking at those projects that serve the most people and connect quickly," King-Vaughan MP Deb Schulte told the Citizen. "It's really a matter of what are the best projects and for the rapid stream, how fast can they be done."

Much of the funding in the universal broadband will be used in rural areas, such as Dufferin County and Caledon, where high-speed internet has been a long standing issue.

"The people in Dufferin and Caledon have the same challenges as those in King, in that they're more dispersed and we've got topography that makes it difficult sometimes with cellular," said Schulte. "They really need this as a solution to be able to help. The internet providers are saying 'there's only five or six

of you down that road, it's really not worth bring in the line' and this is where the government can partner with municipalities, and with provinces."

While Liberal MP Schulte speaks to the benefits of the funding, Conservative Dufferin-Caledon MP Kyle Seeback said he is skeptical about the deliverability of the promise.

"This is effectively the same announcement that they made with budget 2019, which is a year and a half ago, and it's virtually the same announcement they made in June of 2020," said Seeback.

Seeback also said he has concerned about the affordability of high-speed internet for rural areas.

"People in Dufferin-Caledon, I've seen the bills, \$400, \$500, \$600, \$700, a month and none of this addresses that," said Seeback. "The deliverability on this is a huge issue and there's nothing that talks about affordability."

The government also has a \$600 million agreement with Telesat for satellite capacity to improve connectivity and expand high-speed internet in remote and rural areas.

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**FEATURED ITEMS**



# Shelburne Legion hosts scaled back Remembrance Day service

Written By PAULA BROWN  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

They didn't march from the local Legion, the colour party was limited to three, and no cadets stood guard around the cenotaph, but the Shelburne Legion continued with their Remembrance Day ceremony honouring veterans who fought and died in the line of duty, with a scaled back approach amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We are being honoured the way we should have been," said Lesa Peat, President of the local Legion about Wednesday's service.

The small group of 25 invited veterans, Legion members, and a few of the Town's officials gathered outside of Shelburne's Town Hall on Nov. 11 to take part in the scaled-down Remembrance Day ceremony.

"It's critically important that we still come out here and hold the ceremony in remembrance for our fallen heroes," Mayor Wade Mills told the Free Press. "It certainly is a different year due to COVID-19, but in some

ways I do think that it presents an opportunity for people to take a little bit of extra time to reflect on things a little more personally than they might if they come out to a (bigger) service."

During the ceremony a reading of the poem In Flanders Fields by John McCrae was done, as well as reading of names for local veterans from the the First and Second World Wars who have passed away since 2000. While many of the wreaths were already laid around the cenotaph prior to the ceremony, six were laid during the ceremony.

"The uncomfortable things that we're going through right now, in this effort against COVID-19, they're difficult and a lot of people are having a hard time dealing with it, but let's keep some perspective," said Mills to the crowd. "Let's keep in mind that what we're going through now is certainly in no way or in no measure even close to what these folks had to endure when they were fighting for our freedoms."

While the official Remembrance Day cere-

mony was limited to those invited, a crowd of community members gathered across the road to watch the memorial ceremony and take their moment of silence – many who said they were there remembering family.

Beatrice Chaney, a Shelburne resident who attended the Remembrance Day memorial, told the Free Press that she had four uncles that died in the war.

"I feel even though with the restrictions, that is very important to pay respect to the people from the war," said Chaney.

Local business Crewson Insurance said that they had closed their business so that staff members could attend the service, as they do every year.

"We've always come here and we wanted to carry on the same tradition of coming to the service, even though we couldn't go to the Legion this year," said Wendy Crewson.

Despite the scaled-down ceremony due to the COVID-19 pandemic and its restrictions, local veteran Willis Potter, who served in the military from 1953 to 1956 called yesterday's ceremony "beautiful".



PHOTOS: PAULA BROWN

**A DAY FOR REFLECTION:** A local Shelburne veteran, one of 25 invited to the memorial service, watches the scaled-down Remembrance Day ceremony, as the town honoured those who fought and died in the line of duty.

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Volunteers will be at the Shelburne Legion Branch 220 on **SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14** from **12pm - 2.30pm** for any members to renew their 2021 Legion Membership. (Early bird membership is \$50)

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PHOTO: PAULA BROWN

**ALL ABOUT REMEMBRANCE:** Local veterans, legion members, and local officials gather outside of the Shelburne Town Hall on Wednesday (Nov. 11) to take part in the town's Remembrance Day ceremony, honouring those who fought and died in the line of duty.



PHOTO: PAULA BROWN

**LAYING WREATHS:** Shelburne Legion President Lesa Peat reads the names of local veterans that have died since 2000.



PHOTO: PAULA BROWN

**DIGNITARIES IN ATTENDANCE:** Shelburne Police Chief Kent Moore and Fire Chief Ralph Snyder were among those invited to the Shelburne Remembrance Day ceremony with both paying wreaths in front of the cenotaph. Also pictured in the distance, Mayor Wade Mills.



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## 2021 draft budget calls for 1.6 percent tax increase for local homeowners

Written By PAULA BROWN  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Shelburne Town Council are continuing with their discussions on a potential budget for 2021, with the presentation of the public portion of the 2021 draft budget during their most recent meeting on Monday (Nov. 9).

Carey Holmes, the Town's treasurer, presented the different break downs of the 2021 draft budget to both members of Council and the wider community during the meeting.

Holmes noted that the estimated amount to be raised by taxation this coming year is a shade over \$7.8 million, which is calculated by taking the total general operating expenses for 2021 of \$10.3 million and subtracting expected revenues of around \$2.5 million.

The total estimate for general operating expenses of \$10,316,800 is split up amongst eight expenditures, which include; police (\$3,364,630); public works (\$2,020,994); general government and town hall (\$992,801); planning and development (\$1,145,267); fire protection (\$455,155); council and committees (\$179,040), and other protective services (\$274,300).

Shelburne has a tax stabilization reserve that is set up to help offset financially challenging years and "can be utilized to reduce the taxpayer burden". Due to the COVID-19 pandemic this reserve have been recommended to be used to bring down the increase in the tax rate.

"We have used approximately 1.5 per-

cent, or \$118,500, from the tax stabilization reserve to lower the 2021 tax rate," said Holmes.

The homeowner tax impact for the drafted 2021 budget, which is based on an average single family home assessment of \$335,366, will result in a tax levy increase of around 4.7 percent. Holmes said that would mean a tax rate increase of 1.6 percent, which amounts to \$39.66 per year, or \$3.30 per month, for the average household on the town portion of their tax bill.

The drafted budget for 2021 also addressed the coming year's capital projects, totalling \$2,027,976.

Holmes said that this amount will be used for improvements at Town Hall (\$153,382), various paving projects (\$808,233), a trackless machine (\$168,000) and projects such as the splash pad (\$700,000), tennis court (\$200,000) and upgrades to the Jack Downing Park.

The presentation to the public broke down where \$1 of taxpayer's money goes: \$0.37 Police Services, \$0.24 Public Works, \$0.12 Recreation and Culture, \$0.10 Planning and Development, \$0.06 General Government and Town Hall, \$0.06 Fire Services, \$0.03 Other Protective Services, \$0.02 Council and Committees

The Water and Sewer capital for the drafted 2021 budget is set at \$6,008,932, with multiple scheduled upgrades coming up next year.

Shelburne Council is scheduled to officially approve the 2021 draft budget on Nov. 23 and have a by-law adapted Dec. 14.

## Police warn locals about door-to-door scam

Written By PAULA BROWN  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Shelburne Police Service (SPS) are warning residents to be "very careful" about door-to-door sales following a report of a woman selling unmarked chocolate bars.

On Oct. 29, Shelburne Police received a report of a woman who had visited a home in Shelburne selling unmarked chocolate bars for charity. Police say that when the home owner declined, the women then asked for spare change.

"This is highly irregular behaviour for someone who is legitimately raising money for a charity," said SPS Const. Jennifer Roach, in a press release to the public.

Since the incident, Shelburne Police are now cautioning residents to be "very careful when someone is attending their door sell-

ing products".

"Legitimate companies will show you their identification and won't ask for your spare change," said Roach.

Shelburne Police were also made aware of information circulating on social media regarding "violent activities by a group selling chocolate to raise money" and say they have spoken with other police services about the alleged violent acts which have not been reported to any police service.

The Town of Shelburne has a hawkers and peddlers bylaw, which prohibits door-to-door sales unless a permit from the town has been obtained. The Town of Shelburne according to the SPS press release have not issued a permit in almost three years.

Shelburne Police are encouraging residents to call the non-emergency line at 519-925-3312 to report this type of activity.

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# Breaking with tradition

**BRIAN LOCKHART**  
FROM THE SECOND ROW

Imagine your spouse gets a new job. A good one, working at the helm of a big company. You of course are happy about their achievement.

Several days later you get a call from one of the directors on the board asking what you are planning to do to entertain during the upcoming holiday and company party.

You wonder why it is up to you to entertain a bunch of people you don't know.

After the party, the board of directors send you an airplane ticket to some city, because they think you should go there on behalf of the company and give a sales pitch on the widgets they sell.

You're not a sales person, you tell them.

It doesn't matter, you're told. Your spouse runs the company, therefore you are automatically included in company duties. Those duties including hosting parties, giving speeches about the company and acting as leader of the company's charitable organization that teaches toe dancing to children in under privileged neighbourhoods.

Oh, and by the way, this is Bob and Stan. They are company employees and will follow you around, where ever you go.

Sounds like a bit of a nightmare doesn't it?

Jill Biden, wife of U.S. president elect, Joe Biden, recently announced she will continue working at her regular teaching job, even after her husband is sworn in as president.

When I read that story, the first thing I thought was, "Good for you."

I don't know much about Jill Biden, but from what is reported, she is highly educated, and a smart person. She enjoys her job teaching at Northern Virginia Community College and says she is passionate about her work.

I'm sure she has worked hard to attain the degrees she holds and is equally ambitious in her job as a professor. Why should she give up her successful career because her husband got a new job?

There is this long standing thing in American politics where presidents must be married to one woman, and have children. Ronald Reagan broke tradition by becoming the first president who had been divorced.

The public forgave him for that error because he had been divorced 32 years earlier, and had since remarried a nice woman and they had two children together.

The U.S. would never have elected a single person because they wouldn't fit the image.

When Canadian P.M. Pierre Trudeau, at first a bachelor head of state, and his wife Margaret divorced while he was in office, it barely made the news here.

A divorce in the White House would result in absolute scandal.

I have never understood this 'first lady' status in Washington or the obsession about what outfit they are wearing.

The so called first lady wasn't elected to anything and therefore really has no obligation to be a public figure.

Then there is the 'causes,' which the first lady must announce they are going to support.

Nancy Reagan had her 'war on drugs.' Barbara Bush became an advocate for 'family literacy.' Hillary Clinton worked toward a health care plan. Laura Bush focused on education. Michelle Obama advocated for poverty awareness. Melania Trump is noted for, well, for being herself I guess, and raising her son. Although it should be recognized that she is well liked by White House staff.

It should be noted that pretty much every First Lady that did have a career, gave it up when her husband took office.

Even earlier if they had been elected to other high office.

When Michelle Obama lived at the White House she had a personal staff of over 30 individuals. What were they all doing? Did she have a personal shoe butler?

I think it's a pretty brave move for Jill Biden to say she wants to keep her job.

She will obviously still be a public figure, and will make appearances at state dinners and the likes, but if she really is going to keep working, she will not be able devote the time to appearing on TV shows and showing how she is re-arranging the White House red room, or planning on planting fig trees on the front lawn.

This will also be a logistics nightmare for the Secret Service who are obligated to provide 24/7 protection for her.

It might be a challenge to stop in at the college cafeteria for a bagel and coffee if it hasn't been officially 'cleared' by the sunglass and suit wearing protection detail.

Whether she can realistically hang on to her job remains to be seen, but I applaud her for breaking precedent and wanting to be her own person.



# New war in Ethiopia

Americans should congratulate themselves. Their election system is definitely better than Ethiopia's. In fact, it works so well that there's unlikely to be another American civil war.

The United States, a federal country with a complex and decrepit voting system, has nevertheless just held a national election despite about a quarter-million Covid-19 deaths. President Donald Trump is finding it hard to process his defeat, but the system itself worked fine despite the pandemic.

Ethiopia, another federal country with one-third of America's population but less than one-hundredth of the US Covid death rate, should have held its scheduled election this autumn too, but Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed postponed it "because of Covid". That was a very serious mistake.

The government of the Tigray region of Ethiopia accused Abiy of needless delay, and when he refused to change his mind they went ahead and held the election in Tigray anyway.

Abiy said the newly elected government of Tigray (same as the old government) was illegal because he had postponed the elections, Tigray said the federal government was illegal because it had unilaterally extended its mandate instead of holding the elections, and they went to war. In only a week they've worked their way up from local clashes to air strikes.

This is so stupid and reckless that it makes American politics look positively demure by comparison. To be fair, though, Ethiopia has only recently emerged from 45 years of revolution, white and red terror, renewed tyranny, more revolution, and practically non-stop civil and international war. Ethiopia is a really hard place to govern.

When Abiy Ahmed was appointed prime minister two years ago by the ruling coalition, the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF), he was the first Oromo ever to govern the country, even though the Oromo are the largest of Ethiopia's many ethnic groups (a third of the population). They have been unhappy for a long time, so that was a plus.

So was the fact that he was the son of a Christian-Muslim marriage, useful in a country that is two-thirds Christian, one-third Muslim. And Abiy's intentions were good: he immediately set about to dismantle the stranglehold on power of the various ethnic militias that had fought and won the long war against the Derg, the previous Communist dictatorship.

The most powerful of those militias is the Tigray People's Liberation Front.

Tigray, the country's northernmost province, has only 6 million people, a mere 5% of Ethiopia's population, but Tigrayan soldiers and politicians have dominated the EPRDF coalition and government for most of the last thirty years because of their historic role in the war against the Derg.

The Tigrayan political elite's privilege was widely resented, and it was time for it to end. Last year Abiy tried to do that by merging all the ethnic militia-based parties into a single Prosperity Party, but the TPLF leadership wouldn't play. They had always lived in the castle, and nobody was going to make them go and live with the commoners.

It is, alas, as simple as that, and perhaps a more accomplished civilian politician could have finessed it: cabinet posts, ambassadorships and/or fat lifetime pensions for the more flexible Tigrayan leaders, discreet but massive bribes for the greedier ones, and a couple of fatal 'accidents' for the hardest nuts.

Abiy Ahmed, despite a background in intelligence work that should have given him good political skills, is inflexible and confrontational. The cascade of threats, counter-threats and ultimatum between him and the TPLF leadership is now culminating in what amounts to a Tigrayan war of secession.

It could be a long war, because Tigrayans are over-represented in the armed forces and much of the army's heavy weapons and equipment, which were based in Tigray because of the border war with Eritrea, has fallen into the TPLF's hands. The TPLF has no air force, but it can match the federal army in everything up to and including mechanised divisions.

Ethiopia is Africa's second-biggest country, very poor but with a fast-growing economy. The very last thing it needs is yet another civil war, which in current circumstances could also lead to other regions trying to secede. Even if the TPLF was trying to provoke a war (which looks quite likely), Abiy Ahmed's first duty was to avoid it at all costs.

They gave Abiy the Nobel Peace Prize last year for bringing Ethiopia's 22-year border war with Eritrea to a formal end, but that award has been going downhill ever since Henry Kissinger got one. They even gave one to Myanmar leader Aung San Suu Kyi, who now goes around condoning genocide.

Maybe we also need a Nobel Booby Prize.



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# Police, Legion 'disgusted' by thief who stole poppy box

Written By PAULA BROWN  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Shelburne Police Service (SPS) are turning to the public and asking for their assistance in identifying the woman who stole a Legion poppy donation box this week.

Late on Tuesday afternoon (Nov. 10) police say that a woman stole the Legion poppy box with an unknown amount of cash inside, from the Circle K convenience store on Main Street in Shelburne.

"Every theft is unacceptable, but stealing money from a fundraising event like this is particularly disturbing," said SPS Sgt. Paul Neumann.

Sgt. Neumann said that the woman concealed the box of poppies while the clerk was turned looking for something behind the counter.

Speaking with the Free Press, Shelburne Legion President Lesa Peat, said this was not the first time the Legion has had a poppy box stolen.

"We're disappointed and disgusted," said Peat.

The Legion learned about the theft, shortly after they returned from the Town's Remembrance Day ceremony, held outside of Town Hall on Wednesday.

"What this person just did was... whatever money that was in that pocket box, that was supposed to go to a veteran, is now not going to make it to a veteran," said Peat.

The Poppy Fund is an annual campaign that the Legion holds to raise funds that go directly to help the needs of veterans within the community.

"It's sad," said Peat. "Especially on a day like today."

Police ask that if anyone has information in relation to the incident to contact the Shelburne Police Service at 519-925-3312 or anonymously by calling 1-800-222-8477, or submitting online at [crimestoppersdm.com](http://crimestoppersdm.com).

"We're hoping the public can help us identify this person that we've captured on video," said Neumann.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

RECOGNIZE THIS PERSON?: Shelburne Police are asking for the public's assistance in helping to identify the above individual, who stole a Legion poppy box from the Circle K located on Main Street on Tuesday afternoon.

# Shelburne Council endorses new county-wide towing bylaw

Written By PAULA BROWN  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Town of Shelburne has voted unanimously in support of a bylaw regulating towing services within the region.

During their council meeting on Monday (Nov. 9), Shelburne Town Council received a report from OPP Staff Sgt. Nicol Randall regarding options and recommendations for a tow truck licensing bylaw. Following the report councillors voted with a unanimous "yes" in the development of the bylaw.

"As far as our local operators go this seems to be something supported within the industry," said Mayor Wade Mills.

Dufferin County originally enacted a bylaw that regulated the towing industry within the region in 2009, essentially establishing the Dufferin Area Towing Association (DATA). DATA was used by the OPP rotationally for collisions helping to eliminate tow trucks racing to collisions, inconsistent rate charges and upselling services.

In the report Staff Sgt. Randall noted that due to the inability to enforce the bylaw, it was rescinded in 2018.

In recent years, violence related to the towing industry has increased in the GTA which include multiple trucks being burned, shootings, assaults, and at least one murder. The report given to council said that Dufferin County have experienced an increase in aggressive selling techniques that have been observed by police.

"There have been complaints of 'chasing', harassment between tow operators and allegations of officers conducting unfair practices (using their cell phones to call a

tow truck). Some officers describe it as the 'wild west'," writes Randall.

The Dufferin OPP is recommending that a co-ordinated, regulatory bylaw be administered by a single municipality. The regulatory bylaw requires inspections, criminal record checks, equipment standards, standardized business practices, and rates, which the report says will "dramatically" reduce the number of incidents related to towing within the county.

Dave Johnston, co-owner of Shelburne Tire & Towing Inc, spoke with the Free Press about voting to support a bylaw regulating tow trucks in the area.

Johnston said that the bylaw is "long overdue" but that it has to be enforced.

"There's lots of 'fly by night' towing companies that don't have many guidelines or restrictions, or even pay schedules, that's all got to be in place, and it's got to be enforced."

Adding he said, "I think the towing industry is probably one of the only industries that you can basically get a truck, put somebody in there with no experience whatsoever,

and away you go, you're towing. That's ridiculous, you've got to have training, and you've got to have experience, experience dealing with people and experience with

vehicles." Other municipalities in Dufferin County have voted to support the bylaw, including Melancthon, Mono, and Amaranth.



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## PUZZLE 417

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13	
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86							87					88			

- 12. Queasy
- 13. Maiden-named
- 15. Asian
- 16. Larry, Curly, and Moe
- 21. Deeply absorbed
- 23. Blacken
- 26. Antiquated
- 27. State strongly
- 28. Scourge
- 29. Caribbean or Coral
- 30. Biology class, for short
- 31. Outbreak
- 32. Enlarge
- 33. Hollywood newcomer
- 34. Springboard figure
- 37. Tropical bird
- 39. Amethyst, for one
- 41. Seared bread
- 45. Abyss
- 47. Bronzed
- 48. \_\_\_\_-and-go-seek
- 50. Coily roguish
- 51. Lacquered tin
- 52. Dan Rather, e.g.
- 54. Musical performance
- 56. Boot liner
- 57. Aperture
- 59. True
- 61. Halt, to a horse
- 65. Student-doctor course
- 67. Affirm
- 69. Spud
- 71. \_\_\_\_ it coming
- 72. Wrenched
- 73. Laborer
- 74. Asian nursemaid
- 75. Kind
- 76. Three, in cards
- 77. Her, subjectively
- 78. Five-and-\_\_\_\_
- 79. Dock rodent
- 81. Nicklaus's gp.

### ACROSS

- 1. Oater friend
- 5. Source of poi
- 9. Discolor
- 14. Health herb
- 15. Keen
- 16. Paper fastener
- 17. Sow's opposite
- 18. Reform
- 19. Pond resident
- 20. Guilt
- 22. Translate
- 24. Rested
- 25. Tar's hello
- 26. Bill at "Cheers"
- 29. Baby's pajamas
- 33. Steel mill residue
- 34. Prima donna
- 35. Auricle
- 36. Halloween word
- 38. Strict diet

- 40. Touch on
- 42. Grandmother
- 43. Harsh
- 44. Father
- 46. Happiness
- 49. Common gull
- 50. Reach
- 53. Nonclerical
- 55. Thick cord
- 58. Revel noisily
- 60. Finance
- 62. Skate
- 63. Curdle
- 64. Shed tears
- 66. Increase
- 68. Female bird
- 69. Romanov title
- 70. Lettuce type
- 71. Small village
- 73. Rustic
- 77. Layers

- 80. He's got the blues
- 82. Head sheik
- 83. "\_\_\_\_ Can Wait"
- 84. Rye fungus
- 85. Make a mad dash
- 86. Key in, as data
- 87. College administrator
- 88. "\_\_\_\_ Were Expendable"

### DOWN

- 1. Young salmon
- 2. Direction for Sinbad
- 3. Perambulate
- 4. Testify
- 5. Submissive
- 6. Stone or Bronze
- 7. Tear to pieces
- 8. Tribulation
- 9. Pore over
- 10. Bible weed
- 11. Bright

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# SHELBURNE SPORTS

## CDDHS Special Olympics team ready for competition

Written By BRIAN LOCKHART

They are ready to compete, but the Special Olympics athletic team at Centre Dufferin District high school will have to take a new approach this year.

Due to restrictions concerning COVID-19, the team will be part of a virtual challenge this year.

For some sports like track, competitors will be video taped and the video and their times sent in to the governing body. Track athletes will be given the opportunity to race along with another student at the school who has a comparative time to give them a sense of competition and how they are doing on the track, rather than try to complete a race solo.

"Our students are learning about health and fitness and the long-term benefits of fitness," explained CDDHS Life Skills teacher Ruth Ann Chisholm-Davin. "Special Olympics is amazing because it gives us a purpose for some of our activities. The schools get together and we've done basketball, bocce

ball, and ringette. We have gone to the provincials with our school team. This year, with Covid, they are doing virtual games."

Students will still get to compete in their sports, they just won't be able to travel to a competition destination.

"We (will) film, start to finish, with the times, so they can qualify for the provincials," Ms. Chisholm-Davin said. "We don't know how all that is going to work yet. Our kids love this because they can get out and enjoy it. There are a lot of restrictions right now."

The students have an enthusiastic approach to taking part in the competition and practice hard.

The team is gearing up for bocce ball competition which is coming up soon.

The Special Olympics operates several programs for different age groups including youth and students right up to adult competitors.

The CDDHS students still have a few weeks to practice and get ready to compete in their sports.



PHOTO: BRIAN LOCKHART

**READY TO GO:** The Centre Dufferin District High School Special Olympics team is getting ready for upcoming bocce ball competition. The Special Olympics allows students to compete in several different sports. This year, competitors will compete in a virtual situation as travel and gatherings are being restricted. Student athletes are Robby Stone, Chelsea Davis, Cody Harlow, Jadon James, Jaylen Samuel-Stievenart, Hannah Shaw, Kerri Sutton, and their teacher Ruth Anne Chisholm-Davin.

## Honeywood Minor Hockey sticking to playing on home ice for now

Written By BRIAN LOCKHART

There are teams on the ice in Honeywood, but so far all of their games have been house league games against other teams in their

minor hockey association.

Like every other Minor Hockey Association in the province, Honeywood is restricted in what they can do and that includes playing against teams from other towns.

For the most part, the time on ice has been practicing, but some teams are playing four-on-four hockey against other local squads.

Honeywood hockey has players from the U7 age right up to U18 Midgets.

"We just have practices right now," explained U11 Atom coach, Tim Williamson. "We practice two times a week. As for games, that might happen but we haven't heard anything. Usually at the start of the season we just practice. We'll be playing some inter-team games (between Honeywood teams.) It's a start. We'll start with the basics and see what we can do. For now we'll just practice and get the kids out and skating."

The plan for the region is to eventually have teams from Honeywood, Shelburne and Grand Valley to have some games against each other.

Teams are only allowed to play other teams that are in the same Health Unit area. Even then they must not play for 14 days before they meet a team from another town.

The local house leagues are playing four-on-four hockey and are playing by a new set of rules that encourage social distancing on



PHOTO: BRIAN LOCKHART

**NICE DEKE:** A player makes a deke and scores during U12 house league game at the Honeywood arena on Saturday, November 7. Honeywood Minor Hockey is operating but only on home ice for the current time.

the ice.

That includes the elimination of face-offs after a goal is scored or if an offside is called.

It makes for some fast paced games.

The kids still enjoy their time on the ice even if things are different this year.

## Melancthon councillor David Thwaites resigns

Written By PAULA BROWN  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Township of Melancthon will be down one councillor, after Coun. David Thwaites resigned from his position last week.

Melancthon CAO and Clerk Denise Holmes received a written notification last Friday (Nov. 6) stating that Coun. Thwaites would be resigning from council effective immediately after another councillor accused him of "hate".

"I did not sign on to serve where my character and integrity would be attacked when all I have done is to serve with character, hard work and often sacrificing to fulfill my duties and responsibilities," wrote Thwaites, in his resignation letter.

Thwaites' resignation comes after fellow council member Coun. Wayne Hannon said a

letter that Thwaites sent out on behalf of the Police Service Board asking the province not to impose diversity mandates on Ontario Police Service boards, was 'hate'.

During Melancthon's council meeting on Nov. 5, Hannon was asked to apologize and retract his comment – declining to, Thwaites' referred to it as his "breaking point".

Under the Municipal Act, Melancthon has two options to fill the vacancy created with Thwaites' resignation. They could issue a call for nomination and appoint a person who has consented to accept the office or they can hold a by-election to fill the vacancy.

In the 2018 election the three council positions were acclaimed, meaning they were named winners because no one chose to run against them, which means a runner-up from the election cannot be appointed.

Thwaites' seat will be declared vacant at the next council meeting.

# adopt me!

## CAT OF THE WEEK



Meet 2 year old Blindline, who is currently at Global Pet Foods in Shelburne. Blindline was found shivering and frozen in fear in puddles on the side of the road. Luckily someone stopped and brought him to us. Now, this guy is active, chatty and quite the star. He loves attention and being pet. He is neutered, microchipped, vaccinated, dewormed and flea treated. Adoption fee: \$150.00.

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## ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



MAX DEMPSTER

SPORT: HOCKEY  
POSITION: DEFENSE

As a hockey player, Max Dempster has played almost his entire career as a defenceman.

He plays midget division hockey with the Shelburne Wolves.

"I've been playing defence for ten years, I haven't really played any other positions," Max said of being on the ice. "I tried playing forward but I don't find it as fun - I like chasing the puck. I'd rather be a passer than a scorer."

Max has played several different sports including baseball and lacrosse but plans to stick with hockey as he really enjoys it.



# Shelburne Council calls on CDRC board to reconsider OJSL decision

Written By PAULA BROWN  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Shelburne Town Council voted and passed a motion during their council meeting on Monday (Nov. 9) to request that the Centre Dufferin Recreation Complex (CDRC) Board of Management reconsider their decision to host the Ontario Junior Super League (OJSL).

OJSL, a tier II Junior A league, recently announced that Shelburne's local arena would act as the hub for the league's 2020-21 season. The league is scheduled to have their puck drop this weekend, starting Friday Nov. 13.

Since the announcement, concerns with the COVID-19 pandemic and the hosting of the games have risen within the community, as many of the teams would be travelling from areas in the "Red", "Yellow" and "Orange" zones.

As a committee member on the CDRC Board of Management, Deputy Mayor Steve Anderson said that the board, in making the decision, weighed both health concerns and the revenue of the CDRC.

"We don't take this lightly, this isn't something that we just decided because we can,

we are very diligent in our follow ups, in our questions, in our concerns and making sure that the community would indeed be safe," said Coun. Lindsay Wegener, who is also on the board.

During the meeting Shelburne Mayor Wade Mills noted some concerns he had with allowing the league to use the town's arena as a hub, including efforts so far to keep the community safe and going against provincial and health unit restrictions.

"My concern is that, essentially what we would be doing in hosting this sort of league is providing a loophole that allows this league to circumvent provincial and local health unit regulations within these other areas and essentially allowing them to jurisdiction shop; leap frogging their way north until they find a home or host that is willing to have them," said Mayor Mills.

Continuing, he added that his biggest concern is ensuring the safety and wellbeing of the Shelburne community.

Councillors voted for the CDRC Board of Management to reconsider their decision, with Coun. Wegener and Deputy Mayor Anderson, who both sit on the CDRC board, abstaining from the vote.



FILE PHOTO

**SAY NO TO OJSL:** Shelburne Council is calling on the Centre Dufferin Recreation Complex Board of Management to reverse its decision to host Ontario Junior Super League games here in town.

If the board does decide to proceed with hosting the league's season, Council has made a number of requests. Shelburne Council's requests include providing additional information such as the number of teams and their locations, further consultation with Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health and consider any additional protocols that will need to be implemented to not create a risk for the community.

# Shelburne Police continuing with its investigation into local power tool theft

Written By PAULA BROWN  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Shelburne Police Service (SPS) are turning to the community for help after several DeWalt power tools were stolen from the vehicle of a participant in the Little's Haunt in the Town parade, on Oct. 31.

"It is a shame that someone would target a person who was trying to create some happiness in the midst of a pandemic. This thief capitalized on an opportunity and took items that someone uses to make a living," wrote SPS Media Relations PC Jennifer Roach.

While participants in the Halloween parade dressed up in costumes to walk through the town, gathering donations for the local food bank, police say the power tools were taken from the back of the owner's vehicle, which was parked at Fiddle Park.

"While we were out doing the Haunt in the Park, someone was nice enough to go through our vehicles that were left at Fiddle Park and stole \$500 worth of tools," stated a post on the Little Family's Facebook page.

"It would be appreciated if anyone who has recently come into possession of a tool

belt full of tools, drills and cases be kind enough to return them. Otherwise it sure puts a sour taste into our mouths after all we've done this night," the post continued.

The Little Family has been hosting the annual event for over two decades as it evolved into the now-known Haunt in the Park. With the COVID-19 pandemic the family adapted the event to be a parade throughout the town, collecting donations for Shepherd's Cupboard Food Bank. This year the event gathered 5,240 lbs of food and \$1,485.

"This shatters our previous record of 1,091 lbs and \$1,005 that we collected last year," wrote the Little Family.

PC Roach is asking the community to report anything that they may know about this crime.

"This person was volunteering for our community, we owe it to them to identify the thief and get these tools back," said PC Roach.

Anyone with information in relation to the incident is encouraged to contact the Shelburne Police Service at 519-925-3312 or anonymously through Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or online at [www.crimestoppersdm.com](http://www.crimestoppersdm.com).

# Stats Canada indicates Shelburne's 2019 crime rate is down, despite violent crime increase

Written By PAULA BROWN  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

New data released from Statistics Canada indicates that the Town of Shelburne's overall crime rate for 2019 is down, despite an increase in the community's violent crimes severity index.

The Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics (CCJCSS), a division of Statistics Canada, released their annual Crime Severity Index (CSI) data on Oct. 29. The Crime Severity Index (CSI) data, which was introduced in 2009 looks at an areas overall crime, violent crime, and non-violent crime.

According to Statistics Canada CSI is a, "measure of police-reported crime that reflects the relative seriousness of individual offences and tracks changes in crime severity."

The report noted that Shelburne's overall crime rate decreased more in 2019 than the national average, with the town's crime severity index dropping 4 percent compared to the 5 percent national average. Shelburne's crime severity index for 2019 was the lowest for all municipal police services in the province with the population between 5000 and 15,000.

While Shelburne's overall crime rate decreased in 2019 the report also shows that the violent crime severity index increased by 22.7 percent despite a decrease of 14 percent of reported crimes of violence. Shelburne police say that in 2019 one robbery was committed compared to none in 2018 and 11 sexual assaults were reported compared to five in 2018. Shelburne is reported the fourth lowest municipal police service in Ontario for violent CSI.

The report from Statistics Canada also showed that the CSI for non-violent crimes saw a decrease from an average of 28.3 in 2018 to 23 in 2019.

Speaking with the Shelburne Free Press, SPS Const. Paul Neumann addressed what the number could indicate for crime within the town.

"Looking at a one year change, is very difficult to say if it's indicating anything," said Const. Neumann. "Being in a small service, you can have three extra sexual assaults reported in one year and that's all of a sudden a huge percentage increase. What you have to look up, is the year over year, over year

“ Looking at a one year change, is very difficult to say if it's indicating anything. Being in a small service, you can have three extra sexual assaults reported in one year and that's all of a sudden a huge percentage increase. What you have to look up is the year over year, over year trend

Sgt. Paul Neumann  
Shelburne Police Service

trend rather than kind of one year at a time." SPS Chief Kent Moore in the press release credited the reported data for 2019 to the "dedicated police officers, who conduct thorough investigations, know the community and maintain high visibility."

Please join the Shelburne & District firefighters as we collect new unwrapped toys and non-perishable food items this holiday season. This years even runs from **November 12 - December 12.**

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  - 20 Red cows/Black cows
  - All cows exposed to (1) Simmental Bull and (1) Red Angus Bull due to calve Feb to May
  - 9 Black Cows with calves at foot
  - 10 Crossbred Cows exposed to Charolais bull
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OBITUARIES

## ROBERT ELDON ANDERSON



With sadness, the family of Robert (Bob) Eldon Anderson share his passing. In his 94th year, living at Amica Retirement Home in Georgetown, Bob passed away Sunday November 1, 2020 from complications of Covid-19. Born on September 25, 1927, the eldest son of Gordon Anderson and Christina Hudd, Bob was born and raised on the 8th Line of Melancthon. Living for over 60 years on that same road, he would go on to farm and raise his own family there. Working off the farm, he spent over 30 years with the Ministry of Transportation clearing the Shelburne snow belt, and once retiring, continued to work for local businesses into his 80's.



Bob is survived by his wife of 73 years Beryl (Gamble) and his 4 children, Betty Andrews (Gordon, deceased), Ian (Gregory McMahan), Dale (Lynn Bolton), and Lynn (Kris Morris). He was the proud grandpa of Peter Andrews (Michelle), Nancy Larocque (Mike), Kimberly Anderson, Alisa Rake (Scott), Jennifer Anderson, Klayton Morris and Greydon Morris; and, great grandpa to Devin, Tori, Dylan and Josie.

Left to mourn are Bob's sisters, Marjorie Perkins of Farmington Michigan, Norma Godbold of Shelburne and sister-in-law Janet Anderson of Shelburne. Bob is predeceased by beloved siblings and in-laws Velma & Harvey Funston, Vernon & Ruth, Donald Perkins, Peter Godbold and Fred. Bob will be sadly missed by his extended family of fifteen nieces, nephews and their families. A private family interment at Shelburne Cemetery will take place at a later date. Donations in Bob's memory may be made online to the Royal Canadian Legion Dominion Poppy Trust Fund or Headwaters Health Care Centre. Online condolences may be placed at www.jackandthompsonfuneralhome.com

## ARMSTRONG, JEAN CHRISTINA



Jean Christina Armstrong passed away quietly in her 79th year in her Shelburne, Ontario home on Friday, November 6th, 2020. She would have been 80 on November 10th, 2020.

were a party, and one would find Jean singing Christmas carols and playing the piano with close neighbours and friends, the Snows, and the Wilsons.

Jean was always ready to be Santa and the Easter Bunny for her nieces and nephews, and would be sleeping on the living room couch to stay up late into the night to wrap presents and hide easter eggs.

Jean was the daughter of the late Mary (nee Scott) and Arthur Armstrong of Woodbridge Dairy and Armstrongs Antiques. She is survived by her youngest sister, Heather Mary Armstrong, and her eldest sibling, Murray Armstrong. She is predeceased by her sister Carol Ann Sutcliffe. She will be greatly missed by her nieces and nephews, Leslie Armstrong, Sandy Armstrong, Bob Sutcliffe, Peter Sutcliffe and Christina Sutcliffe.

She was a constant fixture on the Highway 10 farm, taking great care of the yard and property, building a great garden in the field where we would all enjoy fresh vegetables each summer. She was a lover of all animals but the birds, squirrels and rabbits were well fed wherever Jean lived. Her favourite puppies, Jessie and Buddy, were well taken care of and loved.

Her most constant characteristic was that she took care of others. She always wanted to be sure others were ok and felt connected.

She was our extended family rock and will be desperately missed. On line condolences may be placed at http://www.jackandthompsonfuneralhome.com

Jean was a dynamic, adventurous fun-loving person, always ready for a game, a good conversation and a catch up. Over the years Jean, her parents and her siblings would host an annual Christmas open house at the Armstrong Farm on Highway 10 where she helped run the Armstrong Antique business. These open houses

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**GRAIN EQUIP.** RJ Equip grain wagon approx 600 bu w/horst 360 dble reach gear 445/65R 22.5 tires light pkg. (excellent condition); Bruns approx 400 bu 11 ton w/Hoist 205 running gear & light pkg; Big Jim 21' x 6" w/c grain auger; Westfield 70 – 51' grain auger;  
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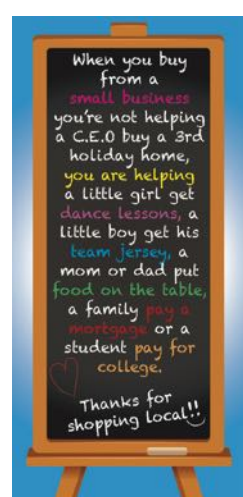
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# Dufferin County continues with food waste reduction campaign

Written By PAULA BROWN  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Dufferin Waste is revisiting their Plan to Save: Reduce Food Waste, to help residents to learn about food habits and waste, with the launch of their 8-week challenge starting in November.

“As we continue to experience a new normal, it’s likely that household are stocking up on groceries to make less trips to the

grocery store. Families might even be eating more home-cooked meals than usual,” said Scott Burns, director of public works for the County. “We wanted to launch this campaign to remind the community that resources are available to help them reduce food waste at home as it can become a problem and cost money.”

The Plan to Save: Reduce Food Waste campaign was first introduced in 2019, as a joint effort between Dufferin Waste and

Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health. The eight-week challenge looks to educate residents on their food waste habits, how to waste less food, and how to save more money while eating healthier.

“This fall, our goal is to remind the community of how they can reduce food waste in their households by using our Plan to Save resources and following the weekly challenges on their own time,” said Burns.

During the campaign last year, Dufferin Waste saw 95 participants sign up for the challenge, and distributed 90 Plan to Save kits, that included educational resources. Online the effort saw 800 hits on their campaign page, over 30,000 people engaging via social media, and over 450 views on their professional videos.

According to a press release from Dufferin Waste, an estimated \$1500 worth of food per year is thrown away by the average household.

“Reducing food waste is an ongoing pro-

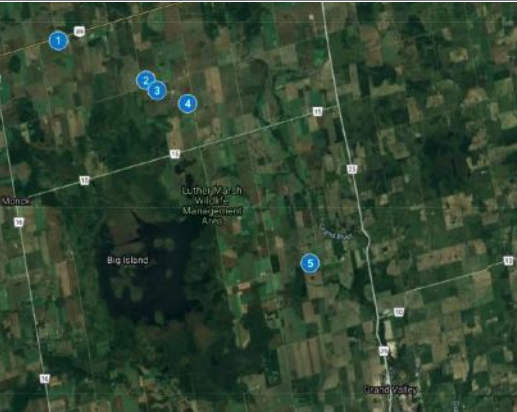
cess and success is based on how consistent each household is with building habits to reduce food waste, some will catch on much quicker than others,” said Burns.

Dufferin Waste will be using Facebook, Twitter and Instagram to share tips and more information on food waste, while also giving resources such as a meal planner on the Dufferin County website.

“Residents will learn about the difference between edible and inedible food waste and the cost of food waste. They will also learn how to plan ahead by creating meal plans and using a shopping list before their next trip to the grocery store,” said Burns. “Residents will also learn how to preserve what they buy with our Produce Storage Guide, and the Refrigerate Infographic provides knowledge on how to properly stock the fridge to maintain freshness.”

The campaign started the first week of November and will run into December.

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