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PHOTO COURTESY OF EMILY JEAN PHOTOGRAPHY

SHIRT CHANGE INCOMING: The Shelburne Police Service (SPS) shared some smiles for their final group picture, which was taken prior to COVID-19. The top row, from left to right features Constable Catlin Conner, Rob Button, Ryan Hubbert, Cory Courtney, Dennis Jeronimo, Andrew fines, Bob fudge, Carey Widbur, Jeff McLean, Cody Lamacchia and the bottom row, from left to right, features Renee Pike, Constable Jennifer Roach, Sergeant Mark Bennett, Chief Kent Moore, Sergeant Paul Neumann, Special Constable Dave Kerr, Karen McLean. The SPS will disband and transition to OPP on Feb. 18.

SPS address enforcement of stay-at-home order

Written By Paula Brown

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Shelburne Police Services (SPS) has revealed how they plan to enforce the Province's new emergency declaration and stayat-home order - ensuring officers won't be where they've received a complaint or reconducting random vehicle or individual sponded to a call where individuals are in vistops to check compliance.

In a press release given last Thursday (Jan. 14), media relations officer Sgt. Paul Neumann said the local force's initiatives ing forward and we thank those citizens who stay-at-home order under the Emergency for enforcing the order will be both "com- are doing their part," said Neumann. plaint-driven and proactive, with the goal of gaining compliance."

the appropriate penalty," wrote Neumann through a press release on Jan. 15 how they in the press release. "Enforcement will be plan to enforce compliancy. aimed at those individuals who overtly put others in danger in our community."

into effect on Jan. 14, requires individuals from the public and outdoor gatherings of to remain in their place of residence at all more than five people.

times unless leaving for an essential purpose such as the grocery store, pharmacy, access- ground, officers will not arbitrarily stop an ing health-care services, exercising or essenindividual or a vehicle or enter a dwelling

Shelburne Police say that over the past educated.

"We expect this to remain the same mov-

The Ontario Provincial Police (OPP), while requesting Ontarians to "voluntarily "Those that refuse to comply will receive comply" with the new order, also announced

The OPP said officers will be enforcing the order by focusing on non-compliance The new stay-at-home order, which went in businesses and restaurants, complaints

"In the absence of a complaint or other for the singular purpose of checking compliance with the order. Individuals are not few months the vast majority of cases, expected to provide proof of essential work. Officers can ask an individual to identify themselves if they have reasonable grounds olation, have willingly complied after being to believe the individual is violating an Act," noted Neumann.

SPS and OPP officers will be enforcing the Management and Civil Protection Act (EMP-CA), and the Reopening Ontario Act (ROA); dispersing tickets to individuals found non-compliant. Fines for failing to comply with the order include \$750 and/or \$1000 for preventing others (including individuals, employees or other workers) from following the order. Maximum fines for individuals are up to \$100,000 and \$10 million for corporation. Failure to follow the order can result in prosecution or jail time.





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WDGPH vaccine distribution to see delays from paused production lines

Written By Paula Brown Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health's (WDGPH) roll out of the COVID-19 vaccine will be seeing impacts with pause in production lines at Pfizer's facility.

WDGPH announced on Monday (Jan. 18) that they would be making changes to their that they have on hand, but will be making vaccine program in response to the recent announcement from Pfizer that some pro-

duction lines at their facility in Belgium are Those who will be affected by the pause working to increase their overall capacity.

Public Health, in a press release, said that short period.

WDG Public Health will be continuing to move forward with the vaccine supply changes to the vaccination clinic; with rescheduling of appointments unavoidable.

will be contacted directly.

Residents, staff, and essential caregivers the pausing in production will be felt in On- in long term care and retirement homes will tario and affect deliveries to Guelph for a continue to be prioritized for vaccinations. Individuals who have already received the vaccine will be able to get their second does, although for some it will be delayed.

Continued on Page 2



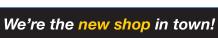














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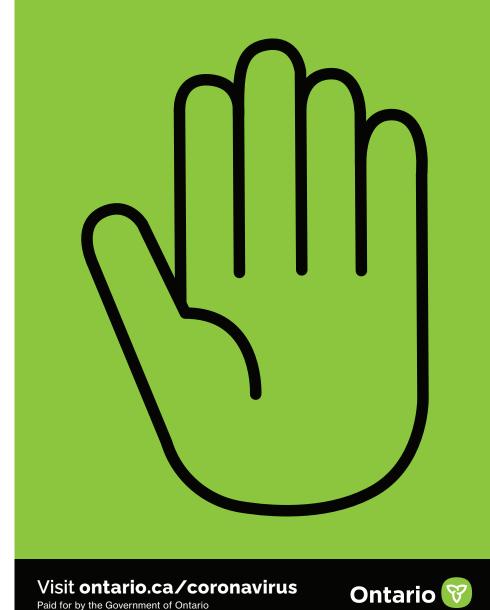








Stop the Spread COVID-19 can be deadly. Stay home. Stay strong. Save lives.



Rural students facing internet problems with virtual learning

Written By Paula Brown Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Upper Grand District School Board sheets." (UGDSB) students will soon be returning areas are facing problems due to poor inter- Dufferin County.

great" internet connection, they're consis- Loney. tently bumping each other out of work.

internet, back and forth and sometimes on asynchronous learning options. the phone for Google answers, they're just kicking each other off," said Madensky.

in her being signed out, it then becomes a more information." struggle to get back online.

sheets to allow for her two daughters in it through." high school to be on the internet.

important to have the internet, they need to til at least February 1st.

be on it more," said Madensky. "Her teacher prepares all the sheet for me and every Thursday I go and pick up all her work-

Heather Loney, Communication and Comto classroom based learning following their munity Engagement Officer for UGDSB, second round of virtual, remote classes. told the Free Press in an email that the Up-While the change to virtual learning for per Grand was aware of areas within the some students living within town hasn't board that have poor internet connectivity, been a large issue, those who live in rural some more than others, including areas in

"Even in areas with good internet cov-Shelley Madensky, a resident of Mulmur, erage, some families are struggling with has three daughters who are currently the challenge of multiple people learning working on classes virtually and says that or working at home, drawing on the same no matter what they each do with their "not resources (bandwidth, devices etc.)," said

Similar to their response last spring the "We're finding that they'll get their day UGDSB has provided students and families started and everything is fine, but as they with Chromebooks and other devices, interstart doing more throughout the day on the net support, as well as printed packages and

"Families with internet capacity issues have an option to increase their data plan or Madensky's daughter Saige, who is in use their phone as hotspots and the board Grade 11, says she's had the Wi-Fi cut out provided funding to offset the costs - famwhile she's doing school work, which results ilies can contact their school principal for

While students will be returning to in-To alleviate some of their problems, class learning by Monday (Jan. 25) Maden-Madensky has switched her youngest sky reflecting back on their experience with daughter Jaycee, who is in Grade 7, to work-remote learning by saying they're "making

Online learning for all schools in Welling-"I find for the high school kids it's more ton-Dufferin-Guelph has been extended un-

Continued from Page 1

WDGPH vaccine roll out delayed

Public Health said that the delay in the to provide increased vaccine to Wellingveloping immunity to the second dose.

Nicola Mercer, Medical Officer of Health ule." and CEO of Wellington-Dufferin- Guelph Public Health. "This delay is only temporary vaccine visit www.wdgpublichealth.ca/vacand will allow the manufacturer the ability cine.

second dose will not affect individuals de- ton-Dufferin-Guelph in the coming weeks. As an agency, our commitment remains, "Everyone wants to see vaccines arrive as vaccinating as many people as quickly as quickly as possible to the region," said Dr. possible according to the provincial sched-

For more information on the COVID-19

Correction

father's footsteps, incorrectly stated that convenience this may have caused.

In last week's edition of the Shelburne Wade Mills father ran and was elected to Free Press, an article that ran on Page 11 Shelburne Council. He was instead, elected titled "Mayor Wade Mills - following in his to Mulmur Council. We apologize for any in-



Shelburne EDC to release video project featuring local eateries

Written By PAULA BROWN LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Shelburne EDC to release video project

featuring local eateries

By: Paula Brown

The Shelburne Economic Development Committee (EDC) is continuing to encourage community members to shop locally, curbside options. with the development of a new video project.

case the businesses takeout, delivery, and of Shelburne. "The idea is to support them 30 independent food service businesses that their social media accounts.



"With the Innovation Guelph videos, what The Shelburne EDC, in collaboration with they're learning is that businesses are still Innovation Guelph, will be creating videos open and they're still functioning, albeit diffocused on three local eateries - Beyond ferently, but they're still open for business," the Gate, Shannon's Tap + Grill, and the said Carol Maitland, Economic Development

locally so at the end of this pandemic hope- average 15 to 20 staff members. fully these businesses will be able to remain open and stay strong."

business.

Valley to create videos.

According to Innovation Guelph the video project will promote local take-out dining Dufferin Public House - which will show- and Marketing Coordinator at the Town in Dufferin County that will benefit around Town of Shelburne website as well as on

Shelburne EDC has been working on similar projects to promote local businesses and Maitland added that the project has helped local shopping throughout the pandemic. provide free advertising and marketing for Recently the committee has filmed 15 other videos with a local artist Tristan Barrocks Along with the Shelburne EDC, Innova-that featuring a variety of business throughtion Guelph announced in a press release on out Shelburne and will be released over the Jan. 13 that they would be partnered with next three months. The committee also conthe Orangeville & Area SBEC, as well as the tinues to work on their #SupporttheBurne BIAS in Orangeville, Shelburne, and Grand project, which breaks down the local impacts of spending \$50 a month at independently owned businesses in the community.

The videos will be released through the

County Council requesting changes to conservation authority working group

Written By PAULA BROWN LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Province to reassess the makeup of the con- which received Royal Assent on Dec. 8 and servation authority working group, launched saw controversial changes to Schedule 6 of by the Ontario government following the the Conservation Authorities Act (CAA). passing of Bill 229.

Thursday (Jan. 14), Amaranth Deputy Mayor would limit conservation authorities and Chris Gerrits brought forward a motion streamline the development process. Some requesting that the province revaluate the revision and amendments were made such as working group to allow for equal represen- allowing conservation authorities to issues tation from municipalities and conservation stop orders while concerns such as the Minauthorities.

and I was disappointed to see that it's primarily CAOs of conservation authorities, conservation authorities. with only one representative out of 18 repre-

senting municipality," said Gerrits.

The Conservation Authority Working Group was established by the provincial gov-Dufferin County Council is asking the ernment following the passing of Bill 229,

Prior to its passing, conservation authorster of Natural Resources and Forestry hav-"I found yesterday the list of appointees ing the ability to make decision on appeals

Gerrits, speaking with the Free Press.

sentative from municipalities.

"My issue with is that it's supposed to be tive is not enough. a working group to sort of advise on proposed changes and the fact is that munici-servation authority working group, Gerrits palities are the major source of funding for did consider how the working could cause a During County Council's meeting last ities and municipalities said the legislation the Conservation Authority," said Gerrits. higher number of group members, but chose "So the recommendations that come out of to continue to the original working of the the working group have the potential to be motion. adopted by the provincial government, with the implication being that any costs associ- be sent to the Association of Municipalities ated with improvements or enhancements of Ontario (AMO), Minister of Environment, or any additional scope, which I don't think Conservation and Parks Jeff Yurek, and Haswould happen, but it is possible - have direct saan Basil, chair of the conservation authorand issuing permits without expertise from impact on those municipalities because ity working group. they're responsible for those costs."

Discussing the motion, Mulmur Mayor

explained his concerns with the majority of Janet Horner questioned a change in the appointees on the working group being con- wording, to have additional municipal represervation authorities, with only one representation rather than equal, noting that she too believes that one municipal representa-

With 18 members already part of the con-

With the passing of the motion it will also

Grant funding to help offset local roadwork

Written By Peter Richardson Local Journalism Initative Reporter

With input from the Town Engineer, Stephen Burnett and Director of Development and Operations Jim Moss, Treasurer Carey Holmes outlined the connecting link grant contract for the East portion of Main Street.

The RFP was closed in November and four hence the aforementioned three options. bids were received. The winning bid, which includes option 1, of the three options provided, was Coco Paving at \$491,609.

Stephen Burnett outlined to council the total scope of the project and all three cation was filed, the total scope of the work Jack Downing Park. was not determined.

Once this was accomplished, it was deter- Hall, at the crosswalk, would be extended Council approved the project unanimously.

with the road resurfacing. Behind the curbing, between it and the sidewalk, was an ing for traffic in the crosswalk. area of interlocking stone. The decision that this should be replaced, reused, or left alone, that is presently foreseen.

The recommendation was that option 1 was the most efficient and practical, replace over \$82,000, could be taken from the Road the interlocking stone and the curbing, along Construction Reserve, leaving it with a balwith the resurfacing of the road way.

Some of the old interlocking stone could options. He explained that when the applibe saved and reused in the renovations to for the optional work, the project should

mined that the curbing along the core area out so as to remove one lane of traffic and of Main Street did need replacement along negate the use to the current barriers to prevent motorists from trying to pass cars wait-

Both the new stone and the lane change needed to be made was as to whether or not are awaiting MTO approval but no issue with

> Treasurer Holmes indicated that the extra costs of the new stone, which was a little ance of \$293,500.

Once the MTO approvals are received commence as soon as weather permits are In addition, the curbing in front of Town available, assumably in early spring of 2021.

COVID-19 case numbers

Jan. 15 (Friday)

WDG Region: 47 (New cases), 396 (Active cases), 7 (Hospital). Dufferin County: 11 (New cases), 46 (Active cases), 0 (Hospital) Shelburne: 4 (Active cases)

Jan 18 (Monday)

WDG Region: 176 (New cases), 432 (Active cases), 9 (Hospital). Dufferin County: 25 (New cases), 48 (Active cases), 1 (Hospital) Shelburne: 2 (Active cases)

Jan 20 (Wednesday)

WDG Region: 33 (New cases), 416 (Active cases), 11 (Hospital) Dufferin County: 3 (New cases), 39 (Active cases), 2 (Hospital) Shelburne: 2 (Active cases)



"I'm asking every single person in our region to understand the deadly serious nature of our current situation and act accordingly.

Please do all you can to make sure you, your family, your friends and your community stay safe."

Dr. Nicola Mercer Medical Officer of Health and CEO





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Another payout

You take a look out over your property and realize it's time to hire a gardener.

Buying ten acres of country property with a giant lawn seemed like a good idea at the time, but after your first eight hour day of just cutting the grass, you realize you need some help.

After posting a few ads and asking around, you are referred to a local guy with a good reputation. He has his own equipment and seems to know a lot about grass and landscaping.

When you interview him he tells you he is the 'best in the business."

So you put him on the payroll. Because he's an expert, he doesn't come cheap.

You agree on a decent pay rate.

For the first couple of months everything goes great. He cuts the trees and plants some bushes.

Then one day you come home early from work and are surprised to find your gardener in the house emptying a jar of coins you have collected into his pocket – he's stealing from you.

Or maybe your neighbour comes over one day and tells you that when you leave in the morning, the gardener routinely leaves and spends time cutting the grass at other properties in the neighbourhood where he collects cash, and also bills you for the time he wasn't always on the hook. at your house.

Either way, he hasn't done the job and has

You give him an envelope with his final pay and tell him he's fired.

But wait a minute. On top of the \$150 you own him, he wants another \$1000 for his trou-

He produces a contract you signed when you hired him. Unfortunately you assumed it was a standard contract agreeing to pay him a certain amount every week while he was

employed by you. But when you read the fine print, it clearly states, that for if ANY reason you choose not to use his services, you will pay him \$1000 just to get rid of him.

You would probably be pretty angry about having to pay a guy that kind of money for doing nothing, especially after he caused his own problems on the job.

Well, it happens all the time in Ontario and we, the public, are paying for it.

For some reason government bureaucrats are incapable of drawing up a contract that makes any sense, and we the taxpayers are

BRIAN LOCKHART FROM THE SECOND ROW

Fred M. Claridge, Publisher 1964-1974 Thomas M. Claridge 1974-2012 The Free Press and Economist was formed from the amalgamation of The Shelburne Free Press (est. 1875) and The Shelburne Economist (est. 1883) in 1928.

It happened again last week.

The doctor who was fired from the Hamilton Health Care Network will receive a payment of over \$1 million – for not doing his job properly. The doctor, who warned people not to travel in his official capacity, hopped on a jet and flew to the Dominican Republic for the holidays.

There was a lot of controversy over this, and deservedly so. And that goes for all the politicians who got caught doing the very same thing.

The St. Josephs Health System says it has to pay him the \$1 million because it fired him 'without cause."

You read that right - WITHOUT cause. If they didn't have a cause, why was he fired?

To make matters worse, this is not the first time he's done something stupid. He had to resign from his position as chief of staff at Toronto's Mount Sinai Hospital in 2012, after some dirty dealings there as well.

What irks Ontario taxpayers is this only happens with public money – OUR money.

In the private sector if you are fired for incompetence or other bad behaviour, you aren't rewarded for your lacklustre performance.

This is not the first time this has happened in government related affairs and it won't be the last time.

And it doesn't just happen at the provincial level. Municipal governments offer equally ridiculous contracts as

Maybe it's time the governments stopped using lawyers to draw up employment contracts and instead relied on people with some

I'm pretty sure many local business people, retired people, truck drivers, or a local handyman would be able put together an employment contract based on the job and performance that doesn't require a huge payment of OUR tax dollars when the employee is caught with his pants down.

There is little doubt that after this guy stays quiet for a while, he will again find employment with an outrageous salary, again on our dime.

If he keeps getting government funded jobs and getting fired, he'll retire wealthy before the rest of us even come close after doing a decent job.

'American' Democracy

If I have to read one more hand-wringing article about the 'crisis of American democracy' and what it means for the world, I'm going to retch.

The last straw was an article in the 'New Yorker' this week by Adam Gopnik, an accomplished journalist whom I usually admire. It was called 'What We Get Wrong About America's Crisis of Democracy', and the strapline read: 'The interesting question is not what causes authoritarianism but what has ever suspended

No, that's the wrong question. It assumes, as Gopnik says, that "The default condition of humankind is not to thrive in broadly egalitarian and stable democratic arrangements that get unsettled only when something happens to unsettle them. The default condition of humankind, traced across thousands of years of history, is some sort of autocracy."

The obvious way to continue this article would be to point out that Joe Biden won the election, that thanks to the run-off elections in Georgia the Democrats will control both houses of Congress, and that the joint session of Congress on Wednesday decisively rejected the corrupt populist and would-be strongman Donald Trump. Take that, Adam Gopnik!

All that is true, but Gopnik is correct in saying that American democracy is still in serious trouble and that the populist tide is running strongly in the world. The problem is with his view of the rest of the world and America's

Gopnik grew up in Canada, but he seems to have drunk the American Kool-Aid. That is the familiar mythology in which the United States is not only the first mass democracy but the indispensable one, the shining example without which the others would wander hopelessly in the darkness.

That's not true. Democracy is the default mode political system, even though it is "the worst form of Government except for all those other forms that have been tried from time to time," as Winston Churchill said in the House of Commons in 1947 (quoting an unknown predecessor).

Almost every dictator in the world holds fake

GWYNNE DYER OUR WORLD TODAY

elections so he can claim legitimacy, however fraudulently. No democratic leaders falsely claim to be dictators or tyrants (although some, like Trump, Bolsonaro in Brazil, Orbán in Hungary and Duterte in the Philippines, secretly aspire to it). So default mode democracy wins

This was not true before the 18th century. There are indeed "all those thousands of years of history" when the norm was "some form of autocracy". But before that there are all those hundreds of thousands of years of pre-history when all humans lived as equals, reaching their decisions by discussion and consensus, in little hunter-gatherer bands.

We know this because some of those bands, living in out-of-the-way places, survived long enough for anthropologists to study them - and they were all egalitarian. In fact, social crime was for one adult man to give an order to another.

They didn't hold elections, because the bands were hardly ever more than a hundred strong and they could just talk things

over. But the core belief of democracy is that everybody has equal rights including a share in the decision-making process, and our distant

ancestors all believed that. They believed it for so long that it became a basic human value.

That basic human belief went underground when the first mass societies appeared around 6,000 years ago. The only way to run them was from the top down, by force, because without mass communications (and they hadn't even invented writing yet) there was no way for tens or hundreds of thousands of people to make decisions together as equals.

So the tyrants took over and had a very long run, but the belief in equality never died, as all the slave and peasant revolts attest. And they had no formal leaders, and the worst by the 18th century a kind of mass communications had finally emerged. Just the printing press plus mass literacy, but that meant everybody could get back to making decisions together as equals, and so the democratic revolutions began.







Investigation complete for fatal wreck on County Rd. 3

The investigation into the motor vehicle collision that killed 16-year-old Edward Mellett-Matthews, has been completed. The incident occurred on County Road 3, East Garafraxa just after 11:00pm on June 3rd, 2020. The 17-yearold driver of the motor vehicle, that Mellett-Matthews was a passenger in, has been charged under the Highway Traffic act with:

- Careless driving causing death
- G1 licence holder-unaccompanied by qualified driver
- A parent of the charged youth is also facing a Highway traffic act charge of:
- Permit person with improper licence to drive motor vehicle

As well as a Compulsory Automobile Insurance Act charge of:

• Permit motor vehicle to be operated

without insurance

Both parties are scheduled to appear at the Ontario Court of Justice in Orangeville at a later date.

Anyone who may have witnessed the collision from June 3rd, 2020 or has any information is asked to contact the Dufferin OPP at 1-888-310-1122.

Dufferin OPP welcomes new commander

The Dufferin Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) would like to welcome their new Commander, Insp. Terry Ward, who took over the top duties on Jan. 11, 2021.

The Dufferin OPP is responsible for all areas of Dufferin County, which now includes the Town of Orangeville, and on Feb. 18, 2021, will also include the Town of Shelburne.

Inspector Ward began his career with the Ontario Provincial Police in 1995 at the Goderich Detachment. He went on to serve in various roles and areas, including as a member of the Emergency Response Team (ERT), in the VIP Security Section, as a frontline Sergeant and as the S/Sgt Operations Manager at the Collingwood Detachment. Ward is a recipient of a Commissioner's Commendation and a Police Exemplary Service Medal.

"I'm very excited to be part of this community" Insp. Ward said. "My commitment will be to build and maintain relationships and partnerships that share a common vision for public safety in this community".





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Digital evidence program launches for police services

Written By Alyssa Pakhill Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Provincial government is implementing new technology to further assist police services in identifying, managing and sharing digital evidence.

On Jan. 19, Solicitor General Sylvia Jones was joined with Attorney General Doug Downey, Minister Peter Bethlenfalvy as well as Chief of Peel Regional Police Nishan Duraiappah and other Provincial and Municipal officials to announce the introduction prosecutions etc. of the Digital Evidence Management (DEM) program.

"Last week, we introduced the rollout of eIntake in Northwestern Ontario, the second region to adopt the digital platform. This is a major step in our government's work to modernize and streamline the justice system." said Solicitor General Jones.

The eIntake initiative allows officers to file criminal charges to the court digitally, enter decisions and sign important docu- said Jones. ments along with requesting additional information, all digitally.

As we travel further into the digital age, this new investment by the Ontario government will ensure police officers spend less time filing paperwork at a desk, crimes and being in the community.

The DEM program has been designed and will be delivered by Axon Public Safety Canada after being selected by the Province.

Axon is a leading public safety technology company creating software, devices and apps to better protect the community and equip police officers with advanced technol-

enforcement technologies, evidence man- (CSOI) unit alongside municipal and First agement and file sharing [between] Peel Nations police services. Region Police, and the Toronto Police Service," said Jones.

evidence directly to the system.

"Digital evidence management is a critical piece of a comprehensive digital justice system that will help reduce delays in Ontario's overburdened court system, eliminate costly duplication along the investigation to prosecution cycle, support the seamless and realas well as allowing Justices of the Peace to time sharing of evidence and information,"

> of the program and to enhance public safety of police work that the general public is not through the new advanced technology.

the Province's digital evidence management is really how much police work happens solution is in line with our vision to be the behind the scenes. And I can assure you, it's and more time on the road, investigating most connected and technologically inno- nothing like we see on TV shows," exclaimed vative police service in Canada," said Chief Vishal Dhir, Managing Director of Axon. of Peel Regional Police Nishan Duraiappah. lic safety environment."

Ontario Provincial Police (OPP), the Correcdelivery for the public."

"Axon is a global leader in connecting law tional Services Oversight, and Investigations

"The PAO (Police Association of Ontario) is confident in the partnership between the Police officers in Peel and in Toronto will Ministry of the Solicitor General and Axon be equipped with Axon body cameras with Public Safety Canada to execute and support digital support and streaming capabilities. this important system," said Bruce Chap-Through the DEM program, police services man, President of PAO. "The PAO has had an and justice system partners will be able to ongoing relationship with Axon for the past store, manage and share digital evidence few years, and I've always been impressed wherever in the province for investigations, with their innovative approach to supporting policing through speaking opportunities at The program will also allow police officers PAO events, Axon has expressed its comto engage with the public for assistance and mitment to continuing to educate our police allow members of the community to upload association leaders on the changing world of technology and its impact on the policing profession."

> Managing Director of Axon, Vishal Dhir, joined the meeting to share Axon's excitement on working alongside the Provincial government and further providing police services with new digital technology.

"This digital evidence management initiative is part of the Ontario Onwards action Peel Regional Police is excited to be a part plan, and it underscores an important part usually aware of since joining axon. One of "Our participation as an early adopter in the key learnings that stands out to me today

"Creating efficiencies and helping the "Peel Police recognizes the importance of members of the police services in Ontario," having our organization and it's frontline he added, "streamline evidence management members adapt to the changing digital pub- and support timely submissions to the courts is something we've witnessed worldwide The program will be available to Provin- that can have a great impact on the effectivecial enforcement agencies including the ness of the justice system and better service

CROSSWORD

79. Non-belief

86. Piece of land

92.Baseball feature

95. Dark, to Donne

96. World's fair, for one

89.Silkworm

84.Order

88.Fit

90. Yank

91.Grind

93.Jogged

DOWN

94. Had a taco

1. Owl sound

2. Egyptian cross

3. Fisherman's aid

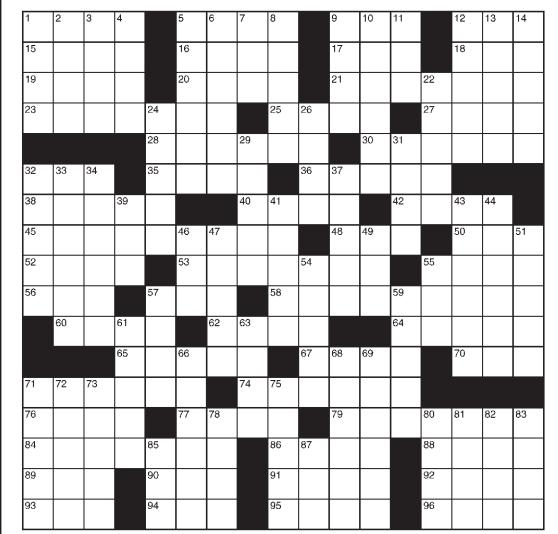
5. Worked mightily

7. High, in music

4. Romanov title

6. Ferret's kin

PUZZLE 428



ACROSS

- 1. Sentry's word
- 5. Large mop 9. Baby food
- 12.Pasture mom
- 15.Load
- 16. Apprise
- 17. Volcanic discharge
- 18.Getaway
- 19.Gumbo
- 20. Give a G to
- 21.Foolish
- 23.Lunchbox item
- 25.Light tan
- 27.Road for Cato 28. Indulge to excess
- 30.Cure
- 32. Subway segment
- 35. Where to find a hero
- 36.Sour
- 38.Eat

PACE

- 40.Float soda
- 42. Filter, as flour
- 45. Distance measure 48. Aaron's stick
- 50.Staff
- 52. Particle of matter
- 53.Matrimonial
- 55.Heart
- 56. Type of room
- 57. Center of activity
- 58.Earthmover 60.Humdrum
- 62.Cut of pork
- 64. Phantom's domain
- 65. Drying cloth
- 67.Old Gaelic 70."____ as a Stranger"
- 71. Eastern-style temple
- 74.Lasso
- 76.Lab gel 77.Petal

- 11. "Animal House" letter
- 12.Cream of society

8. Run together, as colors

9. "Tonight Show" host

13. Withered

10.Promise

- 14. Abrasive stuff
- 22.Halos
- 24. Computer link
- 26.Unwanted
- stocking-stuffer? 29. Kitchen utensil
- 31.Hitherto
- 32. Cone-bearing tree
- 33. Certain Alpine ridges
- 34. Furniture style
- 37.Scheme
- 39. Grand Coulee, e.g.
- 41.Small antelope
- 43.Ice-cold
- 44. Matador
- 46.Down-under avian
- 47. Dining-room necessity
- 49. Each and every
- 51. Make like the Pied Piper
- 54.TV knob
- 55.Officer
- 57.Parka feature
- 59.Biblical verb
- 61.Gale
- 63. Spanish pot 66. Cashew relative
- 68.Bridge in Venice
- 69.Glossy fabric
- 71. Harness-racing horse
- 72. Plato's market 73. Street urchin
- 75.Burning
- 78.Selvage
- 80.At ____!
- 81. Wild goat
- 82. Openhanded blow
- 83. Written reminder
- 85.One-time link
- 87.Cry loudly

Former OPS officer acquitted of all charges

Written By Paula Brown Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Stephen Fisher, a former constable with the Orangeville Police Service (OPS) has been found not guilty of the two charges alleged against him, relating to the disclosure of a video conversation between two her final submission by saying an internal OPS officers.

(Jan. 15) for the fifth day of his trial, Fisher ment – either in or outside the workplace, was acquitted by Justice Shannon McPher- on or off duty to a direct supervisor. Machson following final submissions by the ado noted that the policy did not account defence and crown attorneys.

"Mr. Fisher, it is not my normal practice report up the chain of command. to give judgment without reasons, but in this case I am going to find you not guilty of both counts currently, as alleged against up the chain of command, as per OPS policy. you. My reasons will follow it sometime in the future," said Justice McPherson.

cial Police (OPP) in December of 2018, after which made it uncomfortable for people an investigation was made into the release to bring complaints forward due to fear of of a video which contained a conversation reprisal. between manager officers, Const. Andy May and Staff. Sgt. Dave McLagan, reportedly discussing and harassing other employees. Police Service," said Machado. "The toxic Fisher was charged with disclosure of private communication and breach of trust by a police officer.

testimonies from OPS officers including former OPS Const. Andy May, OPP Sgt. Dave that Fisher found the video recording of communication," said Beaudoin. McLagan, Sgt. Steve Phillips, Const. James Const. May and Staff Sgt. McLagan, discuss-Giovanetti, Special Const. Rick Stevens, and ing and allegedly harassing other employees outside his purpose of assisting a harass-Fisher himself.

Defense attorney Pamela Machado started policy of the Orangeville Police mandated Appearing in court via Zoom on Friday reporting workplace violence and harass-

> Machado argued that numerous conflicts of interest, made it so Fisher could not report

Const. Giovanetti in his testimony said that there was little separation between frontline Fisher was charged by the Ontario Provin- members and upper management at OPS

> "The evidence has also demonstrated the ency from police." long contentious history of the Orangeville work environment, the history of harassment by Andy May and the failure of the executive to act, all of which created a necessity for

video and information derived from it.

Machado in her submission noted that made submissions of harassment against OPS supervisors with no outcome.

"One area that has been entirely absent for what an officer must do when they can't from the Crown's case, is whether the con-Fisher breached his oath of confidentiality tent of the video did in fact amount to harassment," said Machado.

> In her argument against the breach of trust law." by a police officer Machado said:

to anyone other than a law enforcement offi- breached his oath, as he had disclosed the cer. He did not therefore breach the standard responsibility and conduct demanded, in fact, I would submit it is the opposite, as the who happens to be a special constable," said public demands accountability and transpar- Beaudoin.

submission argued that the conversation guilty of both counts - disclosure of private between May and McLagan was a private communication and breach of trust by a communication based on four factors.

"All [factors] lead to the conclusion that

both May and McLagan had an expectation Throughout the trial it was established of privacy and were engaged in a private

Beaudoin also argued that Fisher went on a computer in the OPS monitor room. A ment complaint, by disclosing the entirety of publication ban is currently in place for the the 40 minute video and that he breached an oath of confidentiality.

"The oath of confidentiality requires police other employees of OPS had in the past officers not to disclose any information obtained in the course of their duties as a police officer, unless authorized or required by law," said Beaudoin. "I submit Const. by disclosing Orangeville Police property where it was not authorized or required by

Justice McPherson asked Beaudoin to "He testified, he did not disclose this video explain her conclusion that Fisher had property to another police officer.

"My submission is he gives it to a civilian

Justice McPherson, at the conclusion of Crown attorney Katie Beaudoin in her the Crown's submissions, ruled Fisher not police officer.

Methamphetamine, a growing concern for Canadian law enforcement

Written By Sam Odrowski

ing in the shadow of the opioid crisis, both across the country," said Bryan Mackillop, locally and across Canada.

Const. Shannon Gordanier of the Dufferin nized Crime Enforcement Bureau. OPP told the Citizen meth use is increasing in popularity locally due to its availability most seized drugs in the country, and one of and pricing, while other drugs are becoming the most tested drugs by Health Canada, it munication strategies to provide information a bit more scarce.

"It appears availability and price is affecting use more so than user preference for the increase in methamphetamine seizures drug," she noted.

phetamine use was a significant concern Drug seizures at the border that separates for police and now, throughout the coun- New York State and Canada actually saw a try, there's been a re-emergence. In fact, the 1,000 per cent increase in drug seizures last illicit drug is currently one of the most signif- year. icant commodities within organized crime; and distribution, according to OPP.

Methamphetamine use has been grow-tation, and diversion of chemical precursors police services throughout Canada.

"With methamphetamine being one of the certainly causes a grave concern."

From 2017-2018 there was a 333 per cent according to the Canadian Border Service In the late 90s and early 2000s metham- Agency (CBSA) and its not trending down.

> To combat methamphetamine use and the issue, a national public awareness cam-

"What we were finding was increased levels paign is being launched by the Canadian of seizures, clandestine laboratories, impor- Association of Chiefs of Police (CACP) and

The campaign's launch is in support of superintendent/director of the OPP's Orga- the theme "Helping All Communities Stay Safe," for Crime Stoppers Month, which runs through January.

> The campaign will utilize a variety of comon indicators of methamphetamine production so the public can help police track down more clandestine labs.

It's important to note for every one kilo- commodities, whether it's gun traffickgram of methamphetamine production, six ing, human trafficking... where there is a kilograms of toxic waste is produced, which demand, they will make sure that the supply is almost always disposed of through illegal dumping, resulting in environmental con-

To help improve the safety of communientrenched from production, to importation help the public become better educated on ties, police services across the country are ple, they care about money. And I think that's asking for the public's help in eliminating the driving factor behind this - organized methamphetimine production.

> "OPP are always looking for the community to assist in tracking down those who are illegal drugs in our community. There are into the hands of youth. many things to look out for to spot a possible meth lab," said Const. Gordanier.

suspicious or secretive behaviour, occupants they are young and impressionable. By the attend for short periods at odd hours, chem-time they are in their early 20's, they are ical odours, location has excessive security, hooked," said Const. Gordanier. or the garbage is never put out.

Production is primarily taking place anything that's suspicious. domestically in around the Toronto area and "lives are being lost," said Mackillop.

"What you do have is organized crime, taking advantage of every opportunity to vic- illegal drug production or supplying, contimize our population," he remarked. "They tact local Crime Stoppers or OPP 1-888-310don't usually just peddle in one particular 1122," Gordanier noted. commodity, they tend to focus on a variety of

"People are trying these drugs when they are young and impressionable. the time they are in their early 20's, they are hooked."

-Const. Shannon Gordanier.

meets that demand."

"They also they have a catalog of inventory tamination and health hazards to the public. to make sure that they're maximizing their profits, because they don't care about peocrime, taking advantage of our vulnerable," Mackillop added.

An unfortunate reality is that in Dufferin supplying or producing meth or any other County, all to often, illicit drugs are getting

"When talking to the community street crime unit members, they mentioned that Some of the things to watch out for include many people are trying these drugs when

covered windows, and garbage contains Both Mackillop and Gordanier encourage chemical containers, glassware, bags of soil the public to become more informed on the telltale signs of meth production and report

> "Working together with the community will generate far more success.

> If you have any information regarding





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New grant program funds initiatives combating gender-based violence

Written By Paula Brown Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Canadian Women's Foundation has launched a new program, Safer + Stronger Grants, to provide financial support for organizations addressing and combating gender-based violence during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"There's a lot of research that shows that gender-based violence does increase in times of disaster and this is something that's global and Canada of course is no exception to that rule," said Andrea Gunraj, vice president of cost and COVID-19 prevention. public engagement at Canadian Women's Foundation. "We've been seeing that that tions could say they need uniquely in their increase in gender-based violence tends to be community and the whole idea is we want to because folks might be more isolated, folks make sure that organizations get what they might have less access to services, maybe need in this emergency period, to be able to communities are struggling with the disaster meet those needs of their communities." response and therefore the response or the services available for gender-based violence Foundation said through that they will be are limited."

launched the grant program back in Decem- which can see increased risk with less availber after receiving a \$19.6 million investment able support. from the Department of Women and Gender vention, digital resources, staffing, operating those rural areas experience higher rates as



"It's very open in terms of what organiza-

With the new grant Canadian Women's particularly committed in advancing initia-The Canadian Women's Foundation tives in rural, remote and Northern areas

"Statistics Canada has found that women Equality (WAGE). The grant will provide in rural areas really do experience the highorganizations with funding for a number of est rates of violence of intimate partner activities and expenses such as crisis interabuse, and of course some groups within

well," said Gunraj.

barriers for folks who are in rural and remote women were very or extremely concerned northern areas, which could be that the shel- about the possibility of violence in the home. ter is not available for them, if they want to find emergency shelter programs they may nization that provides services for women not be available in their areas, there may and children back in July said at the peak of be issues with trying to get to the services the first wave they initially saw a decrease in because of the distance between and lack of affordable housing options, affordable saw numbers begin to rise again. transportation options," explained Gunraj. the isolation and the difficulty in leaving a en's Foundation says there is higher risk of violent situation is going to be more difficult intimate partner violence and that the emerin those areas."

During the first wave of the COVID-19 pan-nizations. demic police calls for domestic disturbance increased through March and June. Women's ger Grant are Feb. 1 and 15. For more infor-Shelter Canada reported that 52 percent of mation on the grant go to www.canadian-266 shelters surveyed reported seeing clients women.org. experiencing more severe forms of violence.

In a survey from Statistics Canada, "We also see that there might be greater released in April 2020, it showed that 1 in 10

> Family Transition Place (FTP) a local orgacalls for help, but as restrictions lifted they

With the second wave of COVID-19 and "Resources may be scarce for them, there's the subsequent lockdowns, Canadian Womgency grant will help support stretched orga-

Deadlines to apply for the Safer + Stron-

Dufferin County Canadian Black Association seeing support

Written By Sam Odrowski

The demand for racial justice and equality strengthened greatly in 2020, leading to the creation of many pro-Black and anti-racist groups advocating for positive change.

in County Canadian Black Association (DC-

At a meeting last Monday (Jan. 11), Orangeville Council voted to partner with DC- strong focus on scholarship is to be able CBA, list the organization on its website, to provide opportunities where more black and fly a pan-African flag for Black Histo- youth can participate." ry Month in February, pending its flagpole availability, which has already been done by Shelburne and Dufferin County, previously.

"We're asking that the Town of Orangeville also takes part in recognizing the significant contributions of Black individuals in the Town and just to highlight, the Town visible minorities, O'Hara-Stephenson says of Orangeville specifically has at least five its critical that the community helps to adidentified black owned or operated businesses," noted Alethia O'Hara-Stephenson, DCCBA founder.

population of 28,000 and a black population of 500 in change based on the 2016 census a number of individuals in the community, [data from Statistics Canada],"

year, following many discussions with com- tal. simply because we now have that cenmunity members and stakeholders about tral repository, where we're collecting inthe growing population of Black people in formation from various sources and making the County, and the need to provide a voice, them accessible," said O'Hara-Stephenson. advocacy, and support.

a safe space to Black individuals, offering the DCCBA as a resource on the Town of support services, community outreach, and Orangeville website, which helps the organischolarship opportunities.

O'Hara-Stephenson said the association is while promoting diversity and inclusion. committed to being a true community partner, working with other established agen- the DCCBA's Registration page to show its cies to bring value to Dufferin County.

"The mandate of the association is essentially to provide leadership for the continued development and enhancement of the association's plans are to continue with the Black community through civic engagement, education, programs and services and line or without meeting physically, due to advocating for equity and wellbeing for the COVID-19. Black community in Dufferin County," she noted.

tools and programs that are unique to the cal presence," she explained. needs of the Black Community."

one can participate.

Some of the association's successes to date include partnering with a multitude of black owned businesses with their operaorganizations, such as the Upper Grand Distions. trict School Board, Town of Shelburne, Dufferin County, Museum of Dufferin, FLATO Developments, Benjamin Law, Shelburne Public Library and Dufferin Spotlight.

On Jan. 5 a free personal branding session workshop was held by DCCBA online and roughly 30 people participated. According to O'Hara-Stephenson it was a huge success.

"The feedback has been extremely positive and so that's something we're quite proud of, to be able to achieve as our first official event."

Events scheduled for the future include an online session on financial literacy, real estate investing, coding and tutoring.

In partnership with the Museum of Dufferin, DCCBA's working on this year's Black History Month event, which includes a virtual flag raising ceremony on Feb. 1 and an

online panel discussion on Feb. 20. Through the association's partnerships, it's able to offer post secondary scholarships ranging from \$500 to \$2,500. Anyone interested in applying can do so up until May 17 at: https://dufferincountycba.org/ scholarship.



"It's important to note that, especially A local group formed following the mur- from a black youth perspective, based on der of George Floyd last May called Duffer- the 2016 Stats Canada report, many black youth, especially black males, want to pur-CBA) and it has been working to provide a sue higher education, but one of the impedcollective voice to the region's Black coming factors is cost," O'Hara-Stephenson ex-

"So one of the reasons why we put a

According to Statistics Canada, 94 per cent of Black youth aged 15 to 25 said they would like to get a bachelor degree or higher, but only 60 per cent thought they were capable. With the Black population in Dufferin County making up 32 per cent of all dress their education needs.

Another area of importance for DCCBA is providing a central hub to help people find "That is a significant achievement for a jobs and volunteering opportunities."

"We have a job portal and so far we've had Black individuals, who have been able to ac-DCCBA officially launched in June of last cess job opportunities through our job por-

Council was supportive of O'Hara-Ste-This is being accomplished by providing phenson's presentation and agreed to list zation get information out to the community

Council also registered as a partner on support and share information regarding the Town of Orangeville.

Going forward, O'Hara-Stephenson says events and activities that can be done on-

"That's why we focused on the scholarships, because that's something that we can "We're to be a central hub for resources, execute on without having to have a physi-

Longer term, DCCBA hopes to provide All of the DCCBA's programs, events, and further opportunities for developing youth activities are inclusive for all, meaning any- and helping them build entrepreneurial skills through mentorship and training.

As well, they hope to continue to support





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PSA: Don't search for the COVID-19 vaccine online

channels.

Research by cybersecurity company Nor- until late September. dVPN shows that in January, queries of the phrase "covid vaccine online" tripled (+264%). However, the search volumes of reaction is swift. Sadly, those who will try to the French keyphrase "vaccin en ligne" and all of its variants gained less traction since will fall victim to a scam," says Daniel Marku-

Most queries for "covid vaccine online" are coming from Alberta and Saskatchewan. cybercriminal gangs in Europe earned at Meanwhile Nova Scotia, Ontario, and Mani- least \$6.5M impersonating popular classitoba show much lower interest in getting the fieds, marketplaces, and delivery services. vaccine online.

The vaccines are being distributed to governments and not available for purchase ered 645 COVID-19 listings across 12 dark

While governments are phasing in COVID- from private entities. However, people are web markets in a single day. 19 vaccines based on risk and exposure eager to get their jabs as soon as possible, criteria, Canadians are looking to skip the looking for vaccines under the counter. cial information, and avoid anything that side effects. People who got the official jab queue and get the vaccine through unofficial According to the officials, the widespread vaccine distribution may not be finalized

A treasure trove for scammers

"Wherever there is demand, fraudsters' get the COVID-19 vaccine under the counter son, digital privacy expert at NordVPN.

According to Bleeping Computer, 40 "It's just a matter of time until Canada takes Quebeck has lost the interest entirely, after down a similar gang as the dark web is brimthe early search hype back in October-No- ming with fraudulent offers," says Daniel

The Australian National University discov-

may go further than just placing their offers social media. Do not fall for fake promises. additional disease. Besides, when you get a message inviting you to take a vaccine, be sure not to click on at NordVPN.

in the nearest future?

the need for urgency. Once more and more January 14, 2020-January 15, 2021.

people get vaccinated, the gears will shift to "First of all, be cautious, follow the offi- exploit the fears attached to the vaccine's resembles a black market. But scammers might get informed they have received a potentially dangerous vaccine. They might on the dark web. They will send emails and be prompted to register for a "check-up" texts as well as promote their "offers" on to make sure they are not developing some

Please note: For the methodology, Nordlookalike domains with spelling errors, like VPN researchers used Google's search term canada.com," adds the digital privacy expert analysis tools for terms "covid vaccine online" and "vaccin en ligne". The analysis What to expect from online fraudsters was based on search volumes in the last 12 months the keyphrases started gaining sig-Bad actors usually exploit fears or feed nificant traction in November. Time frame:

Local vaccine further delayed

Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health will now receive even fewer doses than was those requiring second dose as soon as posreceive the expected Pfizer vaccine deliv- retirement home residents. ery on February 1, 2021 (1,975 doses). As expected date to receive additional Pfizer program so far include: vaccines.

vaccine deliveries, Public Health is pausing the COVID-19 vaccine first-dose vaccinations for staff of long-term care and retirement homes effective January 20, 2021. These appointments will be the first dose of the vaccine than had conrescheduled once Pfizer shipments resume. tracted the virus Individuals who have already received the first dose will be provided the second dose 42-day maximum interval as in the product

Public Health's priority remains vaccihas received additional information on the nating long-term care and retirement home Pfizer vaccine production delays. Canada residents, staff and essential caregivers and anticipated when delays were announced sible. Shipments of the Moderna vaccine earlier this month. As a result, Welling- have not been affected and will continue to ton-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health will not be used to vaccinate all long-term care and

Some of the highlights of the Wellingof today, Public Health does not have an ton-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health vaccine

To date, 4,407 people in Wellington-Duffer-To accommodate this unexpected gap in in-Guelph have received their first dose of

> As of January 19, 2021, more people in Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph had received

People should be suspicious of any vaccine ads and offers they find online. Losing at a longer interval that does not exceed the one's money is the least that might happen — injecting a poisonous substance is a much greater risk.

Workplace inspections to rise

tional measures to protect workers in who break the rules." response to rising COVID-19 cases. Beginning this Saturday and Sunday, approxi- Day" campaign announced earlier this week, mately 50 ministry inspectors, as well as which will focus workplace inspections in local bylaw and police officers, will be vis- areas of high transmission, including break iting big-box stores in Toronto, Hamilton, rooms, and provide resource materials to Peel, York and Durham. The blitz will focus employers and workers to promote safe on ensuring workers and patrons are wear- behaviour before, during and after work. ing masks, maintaining physical distance, and following every health and safety mea-heightened risks that have been identified by sure. Workplace health and safety inspectors using data from local public health units and with COVID-19 safety requirements, tempo- the following sectors: rarily close a premise and disperse groups of more than five people.

Details of the new enforcement measures were provided today by Monte McNaughton, Minister of Labour, Training and Skills Development.

"We know most businesses are operating essential, such as grocery stores responsibly and taking the necessary steps I want to thank them for their efforts," said we won't hesitate to take action by immedi- Regulatory Authority. ately slapping them with a ticket and a fine.

The Ontario government is taking addi- There will be real consequences for those

These efforts build on the "Stay Safe All

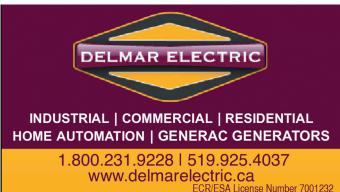
The campaign targets workplaces with will have the authority to ticket supervisors, information reported directly to the provemployees and patrons who do not comply ince. Inspectors will focus on workplaces in

- · Workplaces with reported outbreaks
- Manufacturing Warehousing
- · Distribution centres
- Food processing
- · Publicly accessible workplaces deemed

Ministry inspectors will also continue their to protect their workers and customers, and focused onsite inspections at long-term care homes and retirement homes using a new Minister McNaughton. "Where we find an data-sharing initiative with the Ministry of employer who has been acting in bad faith, Long-Term Care and the Retirement Homes





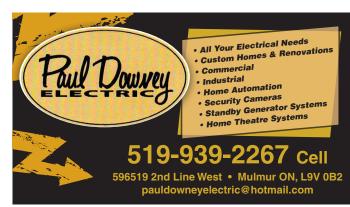


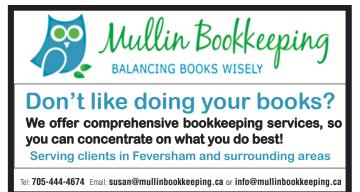


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