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# Shelburne Free Press

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Volume 146, No. 14

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SUBMITTED PHOTO

**WORLD AUTISM AWARENESS DAY:** Hearts Wide Open for Autism founder Deanna Avison, Megan Young and Shelburne Mayor Wade Mills celebrated World Autism Awareness Day (April 2) last Thursday (April 1) with the raising of the autism flag at Town Hall. Nearly 135,000 people living in Ontario are diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder (ASD), and Hearts Wide Open serves more than 300 children in the community with autism.

## World Autism Awareness Day recognized locally

Written By Paula Brown  
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Town of Shelburne showed their support for families in the community with Autism last Thursday (April 1) with the raising of the Hearts Wide Open for Autism flag in recognition of World Autism Awareness Day.

Hearts Wide Open founder Deanna Avison, Megan Young and Shelburne Mayor Wade Mills gathered at Shelburne Town Hall for a small ceremony marking the annual celebration of World Autism Awareness Day (April 2).

"It's an important cause in my mind and an important cause for the community," said Mayor Mills, following the flag raising. "It's staggering when you consider the percentage of children who are being born on the spectrum. Any chance we have as

a community to raise awareness, so the community can get behind families and then support them in any way they can – it's an important step."

According to data released by the National Autism Spectrum Disorder Surveillance System (NASS) in March of 2018, 1 in 66 Canadian children and youth between the ages of 5 and 17 are diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). The Canadian Medical Association Journal says there are approximately 135,000 people living in Ontario with autism.

Deanna Avison, the founder of local organization Hearts Wide Open for Autism, started raising awareness for the disorder after her grandchildren were diagnosed on the spectrum. Avison approached the Town to proclaim the day within the community and for the last seven years the flag has been raised in support.

Hearts Wide Open for Autism supports more than 300 children in the community with their fundraising.

"It's so close to my heart. I've met wonderful families with children on the spectrum and they are such wonderful children; they're smart and they really need to be recognized for who they are," Avison told the Free Press.

Speaking about her grandchildren's diagnoses with ASD and her work with autism, Avison said, "I do it from the heart, I'm just a grandmother, but it's because of them – they give me the reason to do this for everybody else and the families."

"Thanks to Wade, the Town, and everybody that has stood behind us for all these years and supported the children. I can't thank them enough for everything they've done."

## Shelburne, along with province, enters third lockdown

Written By Paula Brown  
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Town of Shelburne alongside all other municipalities in Ontario has moved into a four-week stay-at-home order, as the province declares its third state of emergency.

The Ontario government announced the state of emergency and stay-at-home-order in a press conference Wednesday (April 7) afternoon, as the number of cases of COVID-19 and hospitalization in the prov-

ince continues to rise. The order went into effect Thursday (April 8) at 12:01 a.m., and will last at least four weeks.

"There is no doubt that this third wave has been different from anything we've faced so far. The risks are greater, and the stakes are higher," said Premier Doug Ford, in a press conference on Wednesday.

"I can't stress this enough, things are extremely, extremely serious right now and I'm extremely concerned," said Ford. "The situation is evolving rapidly, hour by hour

and as things change, as we learn more about these deadly new variants, as we see new problem arise, we need to adapt. We need to move quickly and decisively and right now above all else, our plan is to get needles into arms and protect our hospitals. That why, today on the advice of the chief medical officer of health I'm declaring a state of emergency."

Continued on Page 3

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Find out when, where and how to get vaccinated at [ontario.ca/covidvaccineplan](https://ontario.ca/covidvaccineplan) or call 1-888-999-6488 for assistance in more than 300 languages.

## WDG schools revert back to remote learning under Section 22

Written By Paula Brown  
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter



Students in the Upper Grand District School Board (UGDSB) will be making the shift to remote learning once again, as Public Health issues a Section 22 Order.

Both the Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph (WDG) Public Health and UGDSB issued press releases late Monday (April 5) evening notifying that the change would go into effect starting April 7.

"I wish this step was not required," said Dr. Nicola Mercer, medical officer of health and CEO of WDG Public Health. "I know the tremendous burden this places on families in our region. The growing number of cases across the province and the severity of the COVID-19 variants of concern places all of us at risk."

Under the Section 22 Order all five school boards in the region including the UGDSB, Wellington Catholic District School Board, Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board, Conseil scolaire Viamonde, and Conseil scolaire catholique MonAvenir, are to cease in-person learning.

According to the news release from WDG Public Health, all five boards supported the closure following a meeting between Dr. Mercer and Directors of Education discussing the "troubling rise in cases of COVID-19 among children."

At the time of print, the earliest schools will be eligible to return to in-person learn-

ing will be April 19, with the possibility of an extension if warranted.

"We continue to take aggressive steps on COVID-19 vaccinations; that is the only way out of this pandemic," said Mercer. "Until we reach significant levels of vaccination, we remain at risk. I urge people to continue to follow public health guidelines."

The UGDSB said in their press release that all students including those in specialized DD class placements will be shifted to online learning.

The order will not impact childcare located in schools.

Students in the UGDSB were asked to attend school on April 6, the final day before the shutdown, and technology for remote learning would be provided to students that required it.

As of April 6, there were 19 schools in the UGDSB reporting cases of COVID-19 with a total of 26 confirmed cases.

The UGDSB said the Spring Break, which is scheduled from April 12-16, will continue as planned.

## Pharmacies in the region begin administering COVID-19 vaccines

Written By Paula Brown  
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Select pharmacies in the Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health (WDGPH) region have begun booking vaccination appointments for residents.

Pharmacies across the province began booking appointments for vaccinations on April 1, to administer the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine. Eligibility for the vaccine has been restricted to those aged 55 or older in 2021, and requires those booking to have a valid Ontario health (OHIP) card or another valid government-issued identification.

Bookings for vaccinations can be made online through the pharmacies website.

The following pharmacies are part of the program in Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health:

### Orangeville

- Drugstore Pharmacy at 101 Second Line Orangeville

- Jeffers Pharmacy Limited at 1 Elizabeth St.
- Shoppers Drug Mart at 25 Broadway Ave.

### Guelph

- Costco Pharmacy at 19 Elmira Rd. S.
- Drugstore Pharmacy at 1045 Paisley Rd.
- Drugstore Pharmacy at 160 Kortright Rd. W.
- Rexall at 666 Woolwich St. Unit 140

### Fergus

- Shoppers Drug Mart at 710 Tower St. S.
- Trailside Pharmacy at 6420 Beatty Line N., Suite 101

### Erin

- Rexall at 123 Main St.

WDG Public Health launched the COVID-19 Hub Vaccination Clinic at Alder Recreation Centre in Orangeville, for Dufferin County residents at the beginning of March. In Shelburne the Mel Lloyd Centre is currently operating as a pop-up clinic.

## Local COVID-19 numbers this week

### April 1 (Thursday)

WDG Region: 45 (New cases), 167 (Active cases), 18 (Newly Resolved)  
Dufferin County: 7 (New cases), 40 (Active cases), 3 (Newly Resolved)  
Shelburne: 14 (Active cases)  
Orangeville: 19 (Active cases)

Dufferin County: 58 (New cases), 74 (Active cases), 24 (Newly Resolved)  
Shelburne: 13 (Active cases)  
Orangeville: 35 (Active cases)

### April 6 (Tuesday)

WDG Region: 297 (New cases), 363 (Active cases), 101 (Newly Resolved)

### April 7 (Wednesday)

WDG Region: 21 (New cases), 364 (Active cases), 20 (Newly Resolved)  
Dufferin County: 11 (New cases), 79 (Active cases), 6 (Newly Resolved)  
Shelburne: 14 (Active cases)  
Orangeville: 36 (Active cases)

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Photo Credit: Anthony Dragunyc



# Local Big Brothers Big Sisters fundraiser takes on different form

Written By **Paula Brown**  
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Dufferin & District took a different approach this year to their largest annual fundraiser, and the local group is now just shy of their fundraising goal.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Dufferin & District host the Bowl for Kids Sake event each year, with the funds raised going towards operating their programs. Originally held at the Orangeville bowling alley, the event eventually switched to a Wii bowling tournament held at the Best Western Inn and Suites in Orangeville.

With the COVID-19 pandemic, the local chapter of the non-profit has held off on hosting the event in-person, but has now revamped it to a virtual event called Move For Kids Sake.

“The way it works is that people can choose their own activity, whatever they

“ The way it works is that people can choose their own activity, whatever they would like to do, and they have a goal, and as people pledge them they agree to do more and more of that particular activity.” said Nancy Stallmach, executive director for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Dufferin & District.

– Nancy Stallmach

would like to do, and they have a goal, and as people pledge them they agree to do more and more of that particular activity,” said Nancy Stallmach, executive director for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Dufferin & District.

Stallmach said they’ve had participants do activities from sit up challenges to walking. Steve Murphy, president of the local organization, even took the Polar Plunge for the event.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Dufferin & District has been serving in the community for almost 50 years and provides their program for between 200 and 300 children from differ-

ent towns, including Orangeville, Shelburne, Grand Valley, Erin and even Dundalk.

“Our core program right now is our Big Brothers Big Sisters mentoring program, which, when possible, we have socially distanced visits between the mentor and the mentee,” said Stallmach. “We match an adult with a child who could just use a little bit of extra support, especially during COVID.”

While the Move For Kids Sake event helps fund the Big Brothers Big Sisters program, it also looks to support children’s mental health.

“Children in our program have better men-

tal health and overall well-being when they have regular visits with their mentors, that’s what we’re providing,” said Stallmach. “They have the support and friendship on a regular basis of a caring adult mentor or big brother, big sister.”

In 2019 the organization raised a little over \$60,000 for their programs and had a similar goal for 2020.

Big Brothers Big Sisters Dufferin & District are now looking to raising \$16,000 and are shy by \$2,000 as eight days remain for the fundraiser.

“We’re pretty committed to continuing with the programs that we provide and to the families and children we serve. We have every intention of continuing as we are.”

Donations for the Move For Kids Sake campaign can be made at the Big Brothers Big Sister Dufferin & District website: <https://dufferin.bigbrothersbigsisters.ca/>

The fundraiser is accepting donations until April 15.

Continued from

## Shelburne, along with province, enters third lockdown

The state of emergency and stay-at-home order will see non-essential retail stores close for in-person shopping allowing for curbside pickup and delivery only between the hours of 7 a.m. and 8 p.m. Select stores are permitted for in-person retail by appointment only at 25 per cent capacity including safety supply stores, optical stores that sell prescription eyewear, businesses that rent and lease automobiles or machinery, telecommunication providers

Big box stores have been permitted to stay open to sell essential goods.

The Ontario government previously pulled the “emergency brake” of the COVID-19 response framework, enacting a province wide lockdown on April 3.

Following the lockdown announcement, 153 intensive care unit (ICU) doctors penned a letter to the Premier calling for different and new measures to curb the spread of COVID-19 variants. Three top medical officers of health – Dr. Eileen da Villa, Dr. Lawrence Loh, and Dr. Vera Etches – signed the letter to Dr. David Williams, Ontario’s Chief Medical Officer, on Monday (April 5) urging for tougher restrictions and a stay-at-home order.

“A stay-at-home order issued by the province through an Emergency Order is necessary to prevent and mitigate large scale morbidity and mortality and irreparable strain on

the health care system,” said the letter.

The letter also urged imposing travel restrictions between regions of Ontario and moving schools to online learning.

Schools in the Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health region had closed for in-person learning following and Section 22 Order from Dr. Nicola Mercer, chief medical officer for WDGPH.

Headwater Health Care Centre (HHCC), at the time of print, has two positive cases at the hospital who presented as positive in the hospital Emergency Department and were admitted, and no COVID-19 positive patients in the intensive care unit (ICU).

In an email to the Free Press, HHCC President and CEO Kim Delahunt said the hospital’s ER volumes are continuing to increase as is the level of care required.

“There is no doubt that Wave 3 and the new variants are a real concern. Hospitals across the province are seeing younger and sicker patients with COVID-19,” said Delahunt.

As of April 7, WDG Public Health reports 364 active cases of COVID-19 in the region, with Orangeville and Shelburne recording the highest cases number in Dufferin County, with 36 and 14 cases.

## Man charged with impaired driving following single vehicle collision

The Dufferin Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) received multiple reports of a vehicle that had driven off the road and landed in a ditch on Townline at County Road 23 in the Town of Orangeville, around 2:00 p.m., on Monday, April 5, 2021. The driver attempted to flee the scene, but the vehicle was not drivable.

Dufferin OPP attended the scene and after investigation determined the driver to be impaired by alcohol. The driver was checked for injuries by paramedics. Officers located several empty and unopened beer cans in both the front and rear of the vehicle. All cans were seized for evidence.

As a result, Mariusz Berg, 28 years-old of Brampton, was arrested and charged with the following offences:

- Operation While Impaired - Alcohol and Drugs;
- Operation While Impaired - Blood Alcohol Concentration (80 plus);
- Driving Motor Vehicle with Open Container of Liquor; and
- Fail to Surrender Insurance Card.

His driver’s licence was also suspended for 90 days and his vehicle was towed from the scene and impounded.

The accused is scheduled to appear in the Ontario Court of Justice in Orangeville on May 4, 2021.

Thank you to concerned citizens who phoned 9-1-1 to report this impaired driver.

The Dufferin OPP reminds motorist to plan ahead when consuming alcohol or drugs.

Use a designated driver, cab, rideshare, public transit or stay overnight. Any amount of alcohol or drugs can impact your ability to make sound judgements.

In a split second you could ruin your future, injure or kill others, and tear a hole in the heart of everyone who loves you, don’t drink and drive.

If you suspect someone is driving or is going to drive while impaired, call 9-1-1.

If somebody you love is struggling with alcoholism, visit: <https://www.alcohol.org/helping-an-alcoholic/family-member-or-relative/> to learn about how to best help them address their problem.

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"T.F.E. Claridge, Publisher 1903-1964 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."

# Justice served?

An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth. In a way, that phrase is the basis for punishment in most places when a person commits a crime.

Although in some societies it is taken to the literal extreme – which is not a good thing.

The phrase means – the punishment should fit the crime.

For the most part, our society is doing a good job of punishing criminal behaviour.

You can argue that some crimes aren't punished enough, the justice system is woefully slow, and some judges routinely make questionable decisions, but all in all, I'd rather be in the Canadian justice system than stand accused in a lot of court systems around the world where sentences are handed out at the wave of a hand based on how the judge is feeling that morning and what bribes have come their way.

Prisons around the world vary from relatively lax systems with rehabilitation programs to chain gangs and hard labour, hard core penitentiaries, and the worst-case concentration camps and gulags where everyone is thrown together in a dog-eat-dog system and they are left to rot until death is the only escape.

The most extreme punishment meted out is of course the death penalty.

While most modern western countries have abandoned the idea of dropping someone at the end of the rope as a way to pay for their crime, there are still over 30 countries around the world that carry out executions and several more where the death penalty is still a legal option.

Our neighbours to the south have held on to the death penalty in some U.S. states.

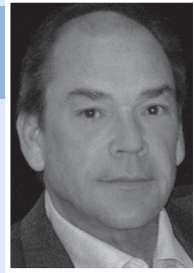
It's hard to believe that in one place you can be sentenced to a prison term for a crime, but the same crime committed 100 yards down the road across a state line could result in a trip to the death chamber.

Although most, if not all states have started using the 'more humane' method of lethal injection, the result is the same as if you are hanged, gassed, or electrocuted.

That always reminds me of the movie, The Green Mile, set in the death row section of a prison with Tom Hanks as the head guard.

After an execution goes horribly wrong, the prison Warden is furious because the prisoner didn't die in a nice manner – despite being jolted with several thousand volts of electricity.

## BRIAN LOCKHART FROM THE SECOND ROW



Warden: "What in the hell happened?"  
Head prison guard: "An execution – a successful one."

Warden: "How can you call that a success?"

Head prison guard: "Eduard Delacroix is dead."

I have been following the case of a Canadian man who is on death row in a prison in Montana.

Ronald Smith, originally from Red Deer Alberta, deserves to be in prison.

In 1983, he and an accomplice while high on LSD and alcohol, murdered two men in cold blood. They wanted to steal their car, and Smith admitted he just wanted to see what it was like to kill someone.

Smith was convicted and sentenced to death.

That in itself wasn't a big surprise. If you're going to commit a crime in a foreign country, especially a serious and brutal crime, you will be subject to paying the price by the laws set out in that land.

Smith's execution date has been set, then postponed five times.

Currently there are some political ramblings going on in Montana that will likely get the execution schedule back on track.

Whether or not Smith deserved to get the death penalty is up for debate.

Some people believe there shouldn't be a death penalty at all, while others are all for it.

However in this case, they are planning on putting a man to death – 38 years after he committed his crime.

In any other modern western country 38 years for a murder is considered a life sentence and the accused would most likely be up for parole.

Executing a man almost four decades after his crime, when has spent those years already serving a sentence behind bars definitely falls under the 'cruel' side of 'cruel or unusual punishment.'

Ronald Smith's case is not isolated. There are people routinely being executed in the U.S. decades after they were first charged with a crime.

Time changes people. By all accounts Smith has been a model prisoner.

That doesn't excuse his crime, but after 38 years of confinement, surely he has paid for his mistake.

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

sam@lpcmedia.ca



## Open Letter to Premier Doug Ford re: PSWs (1/2)

Some PSW'S work in private individual homes earning \$14.00 hourly, no pluses. Government-paid PSW's in these same homes may earn \$16.50 to 20.00 plus around \$11.00 an hour travel time and 42 cents a kilometer, plus.

Some duties: meal prep, feeding, meds reminders, toileting, preparing bath, undress persons (client?), getting them in and out of bath, wash, dress them which may require putting on waistband, leg, joint, toe, feet or other body support, skin care, hair care, mouth care, denture care, eye care, general body care and wellbeing. Bed-ridden/palliative persons are completely cared for in bed including bed linen

changes while person is in bed. Sometimes care is done for in-home deceased persons.

Some persons must be rolled, slid, or lifted otherwise a single PSW will pivot person from bed to wheelchair to washroom to recliner and back to bed. It is impressive how they can do it several times a day even when persons are large and not steady on their feet. Now there is widespread "pivoting". Hear how people "pivot" from coffee to tea, blonde hair dye to red hair dye, and the likes. Pivoting cheapened?

Sometimes a person requires two PSW's doing the same work side by side, one earning higher wages plus benefits, the other just glad for the job.

After personal care PSW becomes domestic on the job: put away groceries, dusting, change bed linens, make beds like they look in magazines, complete with many bed ornaments, clean bathrooms, sweep, vacuum, mop, sort, wash, dry, fold, put away

laundry, wash, dry, and store dishes, sort, take out garbage, recycling, compost. Work to be done to families' taste. Families sit around while PSWs do chores, expressing glee that they "don't have to do it". PSW's take persons and pets to vets, salons, shopping and other appointments, using their own vehicles, incurring extra insurance costs.

Some PSW's feel hurt and sad about things they are asked to do as if they are just disrespected knowing house cleaners charge \$20-40 or more an hour. Most families are reasonable but still like as much as they can get out of the PSW's who are usually women, immigrants, "visible minorities" or temporary foreign workers feeling pressured to deliver on the demands.

A PSW is expected to adjust to the whims of families such as large animals indoors, heavy pet odours, air fresheners, perfumes, aerosols, chemicals, second hand/third

hand smoke, other toxins or unpleasantness, judgemental families, unwanted comments and touching. Increasingly PSW's work in front of cameras, knowingly or not, for the benefit of families. "Stars"? Suspects?

Whether rain, snow or storm, a PSW shows up for work and finds a note "Gone to get hair/nails done" may not get paid for that visit. "Client's" beautification!

However, nearly all seniors living alone are pleasant. They look forward to the PSW's visits. Helping them is joyful to most PSW's who also look forward to seeing these friendly old people (old!) and don't mind giving them some extra time, attention or help especially if they arrive to find person on floor, or hurt, sad or lonely.

Gloria Ramnath  
Shelburne

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# PLEASE RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER!

## ADVERTISING LOCALLY WORKS!



# Alder Community Centre slowly adds more vaccination clinics

Written By Sam Odrowski

Vaccines are slowly making their way to Dufferin County residents.

The vaccine hub at Alder Community Centre (275 Alder St.) in Orangeville, is gradually ramping up inoculations, after running just one clinic per week for the majority of March.

For next week, Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health (WDGPH) has three clinics planned, and a minimum of two per week are scheduled for the remainder of April, averaging 500 people each.

"The other piece is that we are looking at mobile clinics in communities like Shelburne, so that we don't have to have them drive down to the Alder clinic, if they have mobility issues or transportation issues," said Rita Isley, director of community health.

A handful of residents have contacted the Citizen to complain about the available locations for their vaccine appointments under WDGPH. When booking the appointment, they would see the option to be vaccinated in Fergus or Guelph in the month of April but would have to wait until June for an appointment at Alder.

Isley told the Citizen this is an error with the website, as WDGPH only has appointments open to the public until the first week of May, as they don't have information regarding how much vaccine they will have on hand that far in advance.

"We are trying our best to not have to

cancel clinics, so we're putting clinics up as we get confirmation of vaccine availability," she explained.

In terms of the impact vaccines are having locally, Isley noted that the initial rollout for retirement and long-term care home residents as well as staff in February is providing protection.

"We had their second doses completed by the week of February 24, I believe, and what we are seeing now is that we have a few facilities that are in outbreak, but those outbreaks are occurring in the staff who either haven't gotten vaccinated or what have you," said Isley.

"We're not seeing the residents being impacted by the virus as much as we would anticipate, especially with the variants in the community and its highly communicable nature."

Going forward, Isley said Public Health anticipates that before the end of June, all of the region's residents who want a vaccine will have their first dose by that time.

"I think it's really important that if you're eligible to receive the vaccine, to please pre-register, so that we get you into a clinic as soon as possible, and to also understand that the vaccine that you receive is irrelevant which type it is, unless you have an allergy associated with it," she noted.

"Every vaccine will provide the level of protection that you need to stay out of the hospital, stay out of ICU, and hopefully to prevent the disease in its entirety."



STAFF PHOTO

**VACANT LOT:** Mass vaccination site for Orangeville, the Alder Community Centre, had a vacant parking on March 30, as the clinic only operated once that week. Now, the vaccination clinic has plans to operate for a minimum of twice a week for the remainder of April.

## Lucas' Letters helping youth during pandemic

Written By Sam Odrowski

A 14-year-old autistic boy in Dufferin County is making friends around the world and helping kids make connections through his Lucas' Letters pen pal program.

Lucas Godin of Grand Valley started the program in 2017 with the help of his Mom, after deciding to connect with another autistic boy, across Canada, with a simple letter. Both boys found it difficult to make friends at school and the letter became a vehicle for connection between them, making them feel a part of a bigger community.

Out of that connection, Lucas' Letters was born and Lucas now writes to over 200 different families around the world, sometimes as often as once a week.

"Lucas' goal is that all kids with special needs and that are being picked on don't feel alone anymore," said Jean Godin, Lucas' mother.

She told the Citizen, during the COVID-19 pandemic, Lucas' Letters has provided an opportunity for kids with special needs to feel more connected and make friends.

"I keep being asked by different people how kids with special needs are coping [during the pandemic] and I found that this is a really good outlet for him right now, to be in contact with people," Mrs. Godin explained. "It's something different for kids to do, especially right now when they're feeling so isolated."

In addition to Lucas' 200 pen pals, 500 other children have been matched up through Lucas' Letters and handwrite letters to one another on a regular basis.

Mrs. Godin said the act of pen paling has helped Lucas tremendously in developing his reading and writing skills. He was non-verbal until he was seven and had no interest in printing or handwriting until he wrote his first letter.

"It was like that connection of realizing, if I write you a letter, you have to be able to read it to write me back and once he got that, it just snowballed and now he loves it," Mrs. Godin enthused. "Who knew that's how it would click?"

She added that other families have had a similar experience with Lucas' Letters.

"We've actually seen some kids that at one point didn't print or write that have special needs, now able to actually print," Mrs. Godin noted. "It's really neat."

When asked about what his favourite part of the program is, Lucas said he most enjoys reading the kind words written to him and learning about new places.

"He now Google's where people pen pal him from," said Mrs. Godin. "It's almost like it's become a geography project."

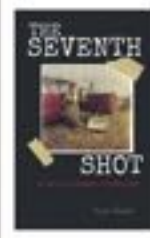

If anyone's interested in signing up for the program, they can visit: <https://lucasletters.com/> and select the "Join The Club" tab at the top right side of the page.



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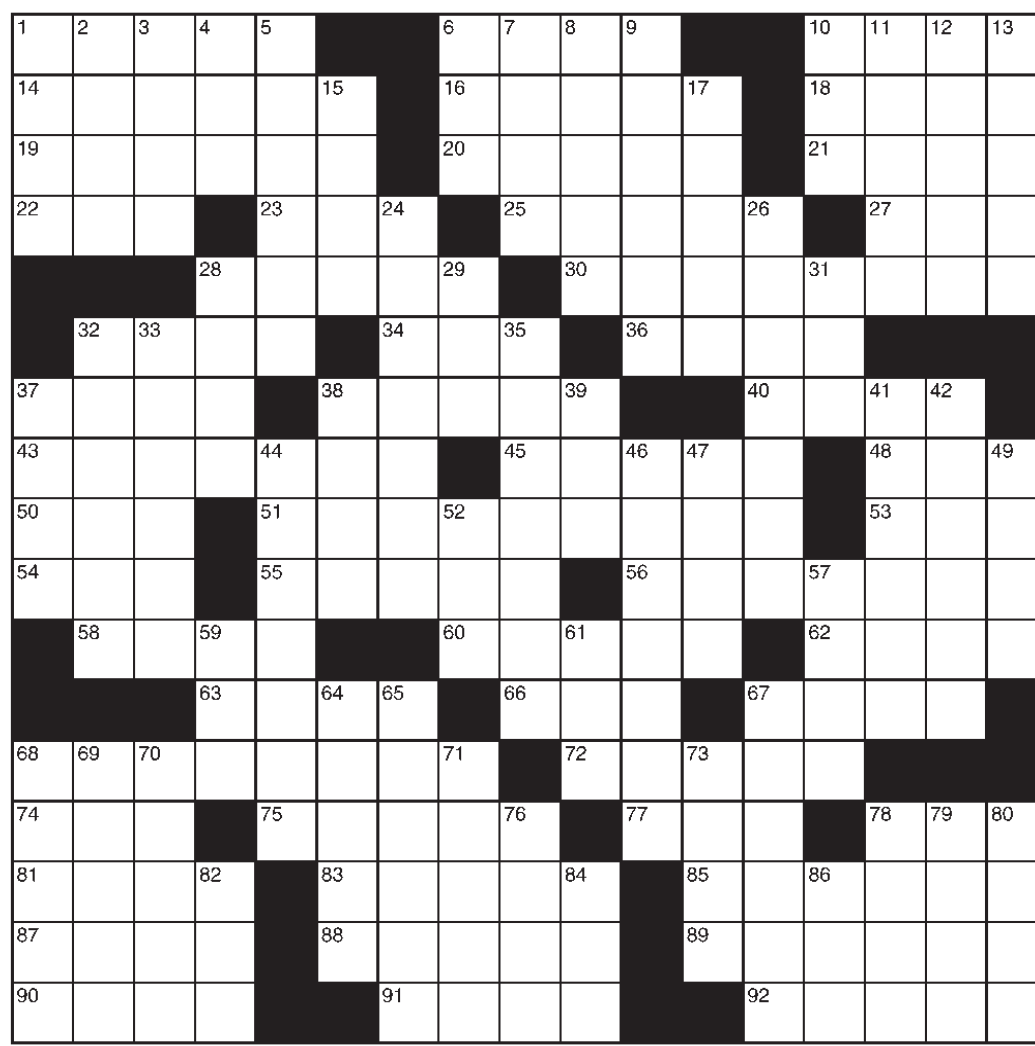
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### PUZZLE 440



#### ACROSS

1. Group of students
6. Relinquish
10. Dangle
14. Pleasure boats
16. Met offering
18. Steel component
19. Toughen
20. Copier necessity
21. Bubbly beverage
22. Maiden-named
23. Slicker
25. Tendon
27. Tarnish
28. Leave the army
30. Wool protector
32. Look through
34. Playful bite
36. Small river dam
37. Dispute
38. Summer ermine

40. Japanese rice wine
43. Bullfight assistant
45. Drink to
48. Night before
50. Mil. unit
51. Passionate
53. Piece of advice
54. "\_\_\_ Light Up My Life"
55. Jellied food
56. Buttercup's kin
58. Romanov title
60. Foot-leg joint
62. Fairy-tale start
63. Fill the hull
66. Whirligig, e.g.
67. Jerky joint
68. Juvenile
72. Author Walton
74. Hurried
75. Computer command

77. Type of silkworm
78. Pick
81. Calla lily, e.g.
83. Certain fisherman
85. Chemical compound
87. Shriveled
88. Transmit
89. Plan
90. Merganser's kin
91. Second helping
92. Wretched

#### DOWN

1. Greenish blue
2. Rural road
3. Dermal disorder
4. Pronoun
5. Pollen-bearing organ
6. Barracks item
7. Heroic verse
8. Jeans fabric

9. Before, before
10. That man's
11. Scent
12. Having a central point
13. Distort
15. Shut hard
17. Alpine ridge
24. Enemy of K.A.O.S.
26. Train sound
28. Information
29. Life story, for short
31. Undies item
32. Water cooler part
33. Spiny succulent
35. Dentist's customer
37. Peppy
38. Unspecified amount
39. In addition
41. Organic compound
42. Make clear
44. Abase
46. Examine carefully
47. Reasonable
49. Saber's kin
52. Chinese beverage
57. Friar
59. Full amount
61. Colorful carp
64. Beanery
65. Value
67. Austrian emperor
68. Vulgar
69. Muslim palace area
70. Familiarize
71. Howdy!
73. Hot and dry
76. Aft
78. Eliminate
79. Annoying thing
80. It beats a deuce
82. Common gull
84. Pumpernickel ingredient
86. Future chicks

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# Darren White shares his journey to becoming Warden

Written By Peter Richardson  
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

How does a young man from Labrador City, Newfoundland, become the Warden of Dufferin County and the Mayor of Melancthon? Just ask Darren White.

Darren left Newfoundland in 1985, after graduating high school, he decided that he did not want to stay in Labrador City and become a miner. He came to Toronto and for the first few years there, was happy to work in restaurants and restaurant management. Then he became interested in construction because he liked to work with his hands, so he became a renovator and a builder.

He built decks and renovated people's homes, constructed fences and generally worked as an all-round carpenter. Darren still works in renovations here and there, though his political endeavours do require a lot of his time.

Darren started in politics around 2010. There was a vacancy on Melancthon Council, due to retirement, and Darren threw his hat in the ring. He was chosen by the then Council to fill the vacancy.

In 2014, Darren was first elected Mayor, a position he holds to this day. His first election, against David Thwaites was his only contested election as he was unanimously appointed in 2018. Darren says that being Mayor is a challenging job, with Melancthon being primarily a rural municipality, there's no real centre as it were, but he loves doing it.

Darren has always been a man who was straight forward and perhaps blunt. He likes to get to the point and tell you the truth. As the Mayor of Melancthon, he and the Deputy Mayor, both sit on County Council, but he had his doubts about ever becoming Warden.

However, at a conference in Niagara Falls, in 2015 or 2016, he was approached, over dinner to run for the position. He still resisted, saying that he would not have the support from Council. However, he was challenged on that thought and told that he might have way more support than he expected. So in 2017, Canada's Sesquicentennial year, he ran for the position, successfully. The following year, Paul Mills from Mulmur took over as Warden, but in 2019 Darren was again Warden and has continued every year since.



PETER RICHARDSON PHOTO

This proved fortuitous for Darren as he firmly believes that the position requires at least a two year term, due to the demands of the job. He said he feels honoured that his peers and colleagues felt confident enough in his performance, that they voted to keep him as Warden. Darren is now tied with Rob Adams as the longest running Warden in County history.

On doing both the job as Mayor and the job of Warden, Darren felt that the key is to see the bigger picture. Being Mayor requires that he do what is best for Melancthon, but sometimes as Warden, or a County Councillor you have to be able to look past your community and vote for what is best for the County as a whole.

On the matter of policing, Darren is realistic. Although he liked both local forces, he felt that Shelburne's force was simply too small to survive and Orangeville's was a matter of economics. He says the OPP is an outstanding force and brings many opportunities for its officers as well as the economics of size. They can offer many specialized services to both municipalities, that small local forces simply cannot provide. Darren was and is pleased with the command structure and specifically the commanders of the local detachment. He felt both the past, Nicole Richie and the present Terry Ward commanders are and were excellent and having a single force for the entire County, is ultimately a good thing.

Darren is glad to see the vast majority of Orangeville and Shelburne officers are now with the OPP and felt this will offer them opportunities that would not have been possible with the smaller forces. Darren also sees the cost savings predicted as a plus for the tax payers.

He is adamant about trying to keep things affordable for the residents of the County. After all, Dufferin municipalities are a bedroom community for the GTA, with little industry to offset the tax base, so keeping things affordable is a primary goal.

He also set the hidden costs often not understood by the average tax payer. The infrastructure and the pipes under the ground are massively expensive yet are not always understood by the average person.

When it comes to the new Provincial government plans for one police services board for each OPP Detachment, Darren is quite direct in his comments.

"It will not work for Dufferin County," he remarked.

Darren says Orangeville's policing needs are quite different from those of Melancthon or even Grand Valley. To their credit, the Province has asked for comment from all the municipalities and Darren is hopeful that they will listen to the responses. He has called a meeting of all the Mayors in the County, with the intent of trying to hammer out a solution that works for Dufferin, be that one board from Orangeville and Shelburne and one for the rural municipalities or another approach.

Something else that residents often do not fully understand is the role of other governments in determining their taxes. In particular, the provincial agencies such as MPAC, which is responsible for individual property assessments. They have nothing to do with the municipalities but can greatly affect taxes.

He explains that, at least in Melancthon, when a resident comes to complain, the role of the municipality is to show them how to get answers from MPAC and what to do to try and rectify their problem. Who to speak to and what questions to ask. Darren is quick to emphasize that he has great staff in Melancthon, some with many years of experience. So dealing with these types of issues is perhaps easier than elsewhere.

Affordable housing is one contention

with the Warden. We should be referring to it as attainable house he believes. Darren has three children in their 20s and the dream of home ownership is almost impossible for them. A year ago, a 2x4 sold for \$3.80 today it costs \$8.57. The average home now costs \$30,000 more to build than a year ago, just in materials.

Darren feels that different types of housing need to be looked at today. Lower priced condos and apartments are needed as entryways to the market. People need to live somewhere and you can't expect them to contribute to your economy if they can't live there.

On the matter of racism Darren was concise. There is no room for it in Dufferin County or anywhere else, he said. He was recently appalled while watching the George Floyd trial, on television, at how one human being could do that to another. He looks at diversity as being a strength of a community, not a weakness and taking everyone's views and opinions into consideration when formulating policy is essential. It is high time that municipalities and people, in general, just choose a different path.

Dufferin County has undertaken a number of initiatives to promote diversity, equity and inclusion.

Equity is offering opportunities for everyone to be on the same playing field and Darren strongly supports this. Where you are from or your colour or how you talk has no bearing on your worth as a person. Though he admits that as a younger man he may not have adhered to this belief, he has evolved with life's experiences as he thinks we all have and come to realize that we are all human beings and we should all be equal in each other's eyes.

People need to try and understand what drives other people, whether it is a different race, or a different sexual orientation, we are all, in the end, just human beings. Darren went on to say that it is not for him to judge who loves who, or what country you are from, to him it is just common sense to look at things this way. Darren knows extraordinary people from many different races and persuasions and he would not trade any of them one for another. To him, we have an obligation to do that, as a human race.

## COVID-19 vaccination pre-registration is open for adults 60+

(born in 1961 or earlier) who live in Wellington County, Dufferin County or Guelph

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PAULA BROWN PHOTO

**NEW WATER TOWER INCOMING:** The Town of Shelburne is building a new water tower, which will replace the current one located on Third Ave. The new water tower is scheduled to be ready by 2022.

## Shelburne to build new water tower

Written By **Paula Brown**  
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Town of Shelburne is getting a new water tower.

According to a community newsletter from the Town, construction of the new tower is set to begin this year, with the tower planned to be built on Luxton Way, east of the public works yard.

The function of a water tower is to store and pressurize the Town's water system. This is important for not only resident's usage but also ensures there is enough water and pressure for firefighter and other emergency services.

The Town of Shelburne in 2012 completed a Schedule 'B' Municipal Class Environmental Assessment, which found the town needed additional storage.

"This assessment looked at different ways that this could be achieved, and concluded that the best solution was constructing a new tower at a new location," read the community newsletter.

The newsletter details that the new tower will look similar to the Town's current one and will have approximately the same height of water; supporting the Town's water needs for the next 20 years. Aeronautical lighting will be used on the new water tower, but there will be no flood lights.

"A shadow study was completed for the Town that concluded that nearby houses would not be significantly impacted by shade from the new tower," stated the community newsletter.

Construction of the water tower is planned to be completed for operation in 2022.

## Shelburne Public Library shares new books, activities and events

Welcome Spring! The good weather makes it a little less tempting to snuggle down with a book but we suggest you keep checking as new ones are arriving frequently. Also watch our Social Media pages for exciting Children's and Teen programming for the Spring Break.

Our objective is to provide you with the service YOU need during these times.

### Spring into Reading:

Did you know that Rose and Jade provide weekly, exciting library updates and in addition do live reviews of their latest reads. Check it out so you can get some interesting books for you to try.

### Exploring Birds:

David T. Chapman is back with another gorgeous presentation on the Birds of Ontario. Everything from the small backyard visitors that we all know and love, to some of the larger birds like the Bald Eagle and Great Blue Heron. Check out rare visitors to our area like the Painted Bunting and Northern Hawk Owl. This session is pre-recorded so you will be able to watch at your leisure on our YouTube Channel.

### Teen Scene:

We are gearing up for Spring Break and are so excited for the events we have planned. If you've heard about the game Among Us, but you haven't had the opportunity to try it out, don't fear—join our game next week to learn!

### Spring Break Activities

**April 12th-** Virtual Escape Room- Help free the Librarian by getting a message to the King by solving riddles and puzzles! The link for this activity will be posted to our social pages on April 12th!

**April 13th-** Among Us Group Game- Registered Teens can meet via Zoom to get the code to play Among Us. Crewmates can work together to complete tasks while trying to figure out the Imposter!

**April 14th-** DIY S'more Cookie Dough- We will give you the non-refrigerated ingredients, you follow along with our video to make edible cookie dough! A sweet treat for the middle of Spring Break.

**April 15th-** Galaxy Painting- Learn how to paint a galaxy of your very own by following along with our instructional video!

**April 16th-** DIY Face Masks (think Spa Day!) in partnership with NakdBasics. Limited quantities available. Relax by creating your own face mask (think spa day, not facial covering) to end your spring break on a relaxing note.

### Children's Programs:

We wanted to share that all of our children's Spring Break programming are full. We even opened up another Slime making session to accommodate as many of our children as we can. Thank you to all of the families who have continually supported

us through the past year. We are excited to spend some quality time creating slime, experimenting, and crafting our hearts out!

Be sure to take some time and participate in our LEGO Club building competition! All entries will be entered into a prize draw where you can win a great prize.

We are always happy to put together a specially selected bag of books for your child. Email the ages and interests of your child to children@shelburnelibrary.ca and we will do the rest.

### New books:

You can browse all our new books if you login to our catalogue! Go to www.shelburnelibrary.ca. Click on Our Catalogue. Look for new books or browse the entire catalogue.

Each week, Jade and Rose post a new video on our YouTube channel and review new books they have read.

### Fiction:

On the bright side: the new secret diary of Hendrik Groen by Hendrik Groen  
Half life by Krista Foss  
A deadly education by Naomi Novik  
The autumn of the ace by Louis de Bernieres

The Duke and I by Julia Quinn  
The murder pit by Mick Finlay  
Unreconciled by W. Michael Gear  
Always Olivia by Alex McLellan  
The memoirs of Mrs. Olivia Foxworthy by Alex McLellan

### Non fiction:

Peyakow: reclaiming Cree dignity by Darrel J. McLeod  
To the greatest heights by Vanessa O'Brien

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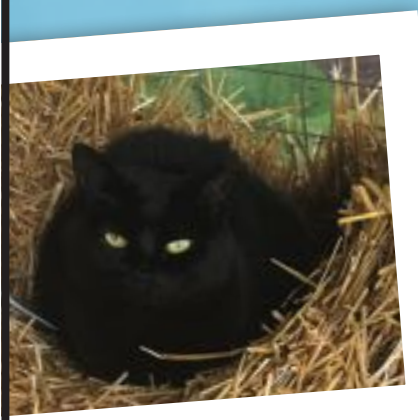
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~ Meister Eckhart  
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~ Hebrews 13:15  
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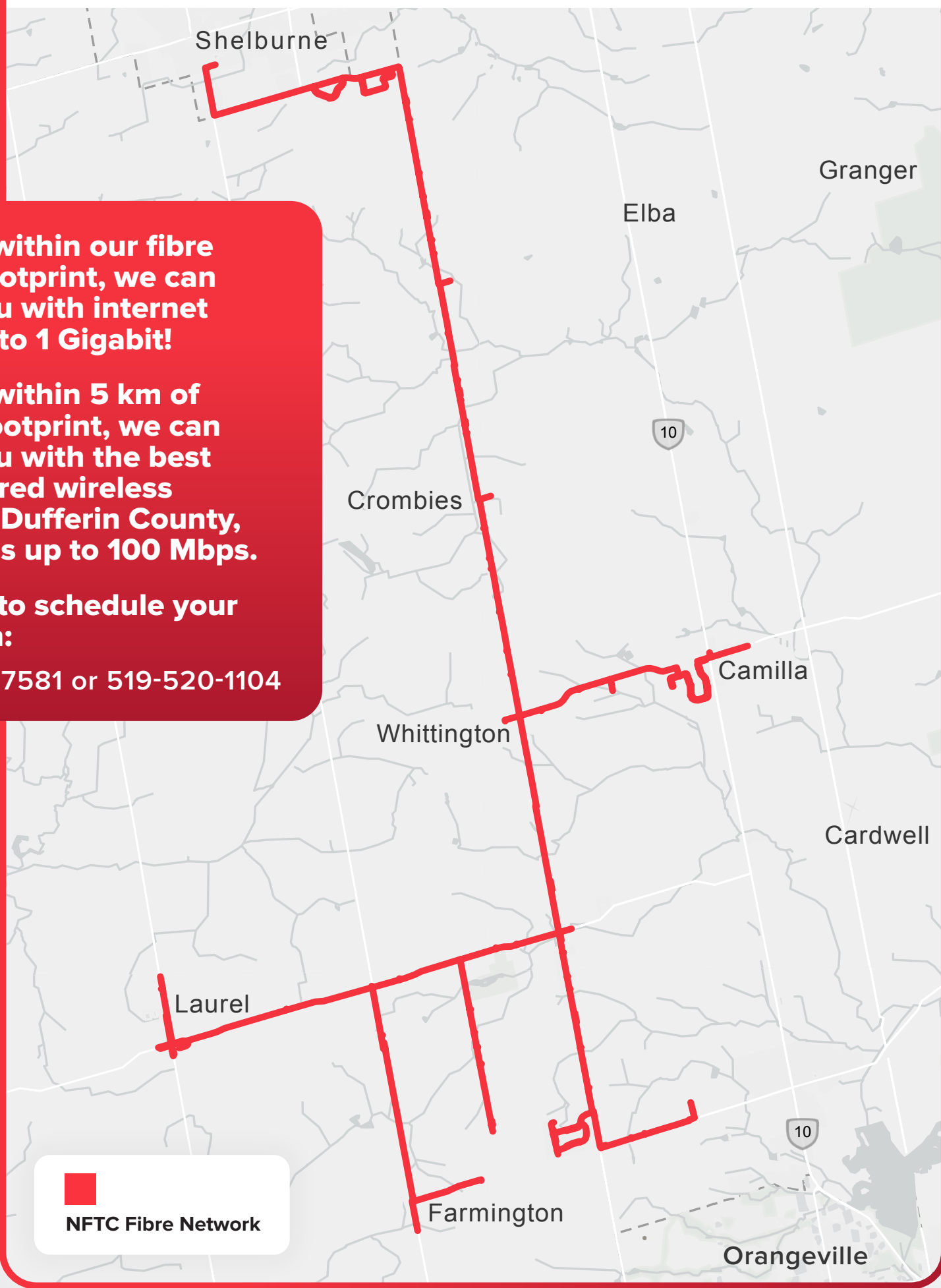




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### NFTC Fibre Network Footprint



**If you live within our fibre network footprint, we can provide you with internet speeds up to 1 Gigabit!**

**If you live within 5 km of our fibre footprint, we can provide you with the best fibre-powered wireless internet in Dufferin County, with speeds up to 100 Mbps.**

**Call today to schedule your installation:**

📞 519-851-7581 or 519-520-1104



**TO ORDER OR LEARN MORE:**  
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