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PAULA BROWN PHOTO

BIG SMILES: Dr. Benjamin VanGalen (left) and Centre Dufferin District High School student, Isabelle Edwards (right) stand outside of the Shelburne Smiles Centre, where Edwards has been doing her co-op placement as a dental assistant. To read this week's CDDHS Co-Op Corner, turn to Page 8.

First mosque opens in Shelburne

Written By Paula Brown
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

When Shelburne resident Imam Yehya Soliman founded Muslims of Dufferin, he was looking to create a place for local Muslims to gather and pray – now he is doing the same opening Shelburne's first mosque.

Located just outside the Town's border along Hwy. 89, Muslims of Shelburne Centre opened their doors to the community at the beginning of April under the leadership of Imam Soliman.

The idea of bringing a mosque to the community, Imam Soliman tells the Free Press, has been in the works since last year, but was officially organized at the end of March and completed within seven days.

"We wanted to start it before the month of Ramadan, our holy month," said Imam Soliman.

Speaking about the opening of the mosque, Imam Soliman said, "It's an honour and pleasure for us. We're looking to spread the peace between one another, to educate people about religions, about cultures, and about Islam."

For the Muslims community in Shelburne and the surrounding area, the closest

mosque is the Muslims of Dufferin, located in Orangeville.

Imam Soliman explains that for many in the Muslim community, it means they have to drive long distances to pray.

"We are obligated to pray as a Muslim community, and there is nowhere that we can gather and pray in congregation together except in a mosque, there is no other way unless they pray individually in their house, so this was one of the goals we concentrated on," said Imam Soliman. "If we're bringing it to them here, I think it's a very good service for the Muslim community."

While restrictions related to COVID-19 have seen smaller numbers for religious congregations, the Muslims of Shelburne Centre said they expect the mosque to see around 50 to 60 people at the five prayers held daily. The mosque serves not only the Muslim community in Shelburne but also includes those in Dundalk, Melancthon, Southgate, Mono and Grand Valley.

Imam Soliman adds that while they are serving the Muslim community through worship, they're also looking to help the community as a whole.

Most recently the mosque has hosted an Iftar Drive Thru in celebration of Ramadan, partnered with the Museum of Dufferin (MOD) for a Ramadan series, and donated an English translation of the Quran to the Shelburne Public Library.

"We're trying so many ways to partner with people to say we're not alone, we're all one," said Soliman.

Meanwhile, Shelburne Mayor Wade Mills spoke with the Free Press about the opening of the first mosque in Shelburne.

"I'm happy for our local Muslim community, that they'll have a place closer to home to worship. Soliman has been a tireless advocate for his community and at this point they've been gathering in Orangeville, so it's nice that our Muslim community in Shelburne will actually have a place closer to home."

The Muslims of Shelburne Centre holds five prayers per day, and is open 24/7 for daily prayers. More information about the mosque can be found on the Muslims of Shelburne Centre website.

"We are very proud, and happy to be the first mosque to open in Shelburne," said Imam Soliman.

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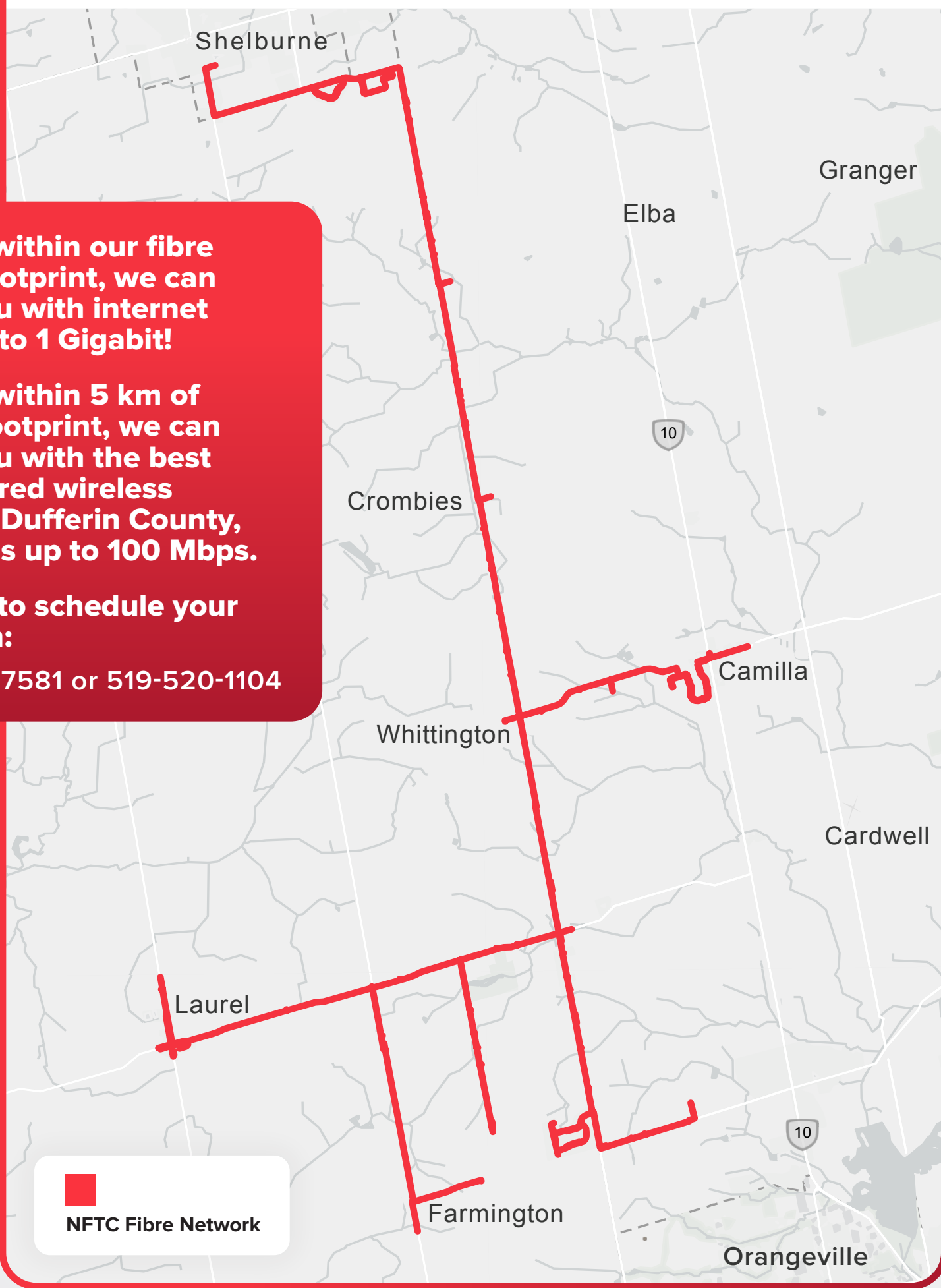
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PAULA BROWN PHOTO

COMMUNITY AWARDS: Shelburne Town Council recognized the efforts of seven community members during their meeting on Monday (April 26) with the Community Excellence Awards. Pictured is Yehya Soliman, the founder of Muslims of Shelburne Centre and Muslims of Dufferin, receiving his certificate and medal from Mayor Wade Mills

Town of Shelburne presents Community Excellence Awards

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

Shelburne Town council started their April 26 meeting recognizing six deserving community members, with the presentation of the Community Excellence Awards.

Bella Carter was the first recipient of the night, receiving her award for her work in supporting and volunteering at numerous community events including the Street Festival, Canada Day, and the Easter Egg Hunt.

She was also recognized for her initiatives to connect the community, creating inclusiveness with her interfaith dinner gatherings and becoming a member of the anti-racism task force.

Carter has recently become the co-founder of the Shelburne Welcome, a feed-off of the Welcome Wagon initiative, which welcomes new residents.

Tyrell Harris, a 16 year-old entrepreneur, was recognized for developing and producing his own clothing line, OOFII. Launching the line in February of 2020, Harris has seen sales in four countries outside of Canada and the US. Notable celebrities have purchased items from his collection which includes masks, hats, headbands, water bottles, sweaters, and t-shirts.

Shelburne Family Chiropractic owners Alexandra and Richard Magder received

their award for being exemplary community ambassadors who have donated time, money, and resources in fundraising within the Town. A shortlist of Alexandra's work consists of the Shelburne Splash Pad, Rotary, Shoes4Shelburne, the Polar Plunge, and the Torch Run.

Imam Yehya Soliman, was recognized for his involvement in supporting a number of community initiatives such as the local food bank. The founder and leader of Muslims of Dufferin, Soliman has worked to support families and residents in need within the community.

Long standing community member Mike Mackley, was nominated for the Community Excellence Award by Deputy Mayor Steve Anderson. He was rewarded for his years of supporting community initiatives with his time and resources which was described as being impactful and warmly received.

The final recipient of the night was Patricia Crawley, who was acknowledge for her above and beyond work, assisting seniors 80 years and older in registering for a vaccine during the rollout. All the seniors who Crawley helped register have recently been vaccinated.

The recipients of the Community Excellence Awards will receive a certificate and medal.

Town of Shelburne to begin road resurfacing of Main Street May 3

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

With the arrival of warmer weather, the Town of Shelburne is set to begin a road resurfacing project on Main Street.

The Town issued a notice on April 20, advising local residents and business owners along Main Street East of the upcoming road work, which is scheduled to start May 3.

According to the Town notice, work will include milling the roadway, replacing poor or damaged curbs and gutters, applying hot mix asphalt, and replacing paving stones. The resurfacing work will extend along Main Street from Owen Sound Street to just east of Jelly Street.

Jim Moss, director of development and operations, said the Town has applied four times in the past to receive funding from the province for the road project.

"We were successful in getting funding,

so that's why we're moving forward with the paving part of Main Street," said Moss.

During construction parking on the street will not be possible, but alternative parking locations will be available at William Street and Wellington Street.

Moss said that they don't expect there to be any traffic impacts.

"We plan to have two lanes open, one eastbound and one westbound, and that may push some of the traffic into the parking spots while they're milling down the pavement and laying the new asphalt on top," said Moss. "We don't expect we'll have lanes of traffic closed."

Resurfacing work will begin on May 3, by Coco Paving Inc., and is expected to finish on June 17. Work will occur between the hours of 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. Monday through Friday. The Town says during the hours of work there is the potential for "typical" road work noise.



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Stay at home?

"Tillsonburg, Tillsonburg, my back still aches when I hear that word."

That's Stompin' Tom Connors for ya. I wonder how many people are really following this current stay-at-home order?

As a card-carrying journalist and member of the newspaper of record for Dufferin County, we are considered an 'essential service.'

Someone has to get the news out there and keep people informed.

I am grateful I am still working, and certainly empathize with anyone who's job or business has been affected by this pandemic.

I'm sure there are a lot of business owners who are really struggling right now – especially restaurants and salon owners.

Imagine putting your life savings into opening a restaurant only to be told you have to shut down.

Since my job entails 'being out there,' I spend a lot of time on the road roaming from town to town.

When this current stay-at-home order was issued, it sounded pretty serious – especially since the police were initially given the power to arbitrarily stop motorists and

demand to know why they weren't at home.

What I have noticed on my travels is, there is as much traffic on the road as ever.

I was cruising down Highway 9, surrounded by cars and when I stopped at the next red light it was a busy intersection. It's the same in any town – cars out and about and people going all over the place.

Surely all these people can't be going to the grocery store, medical appointments, or picking up prescriptions, as mandated in the provincial order.

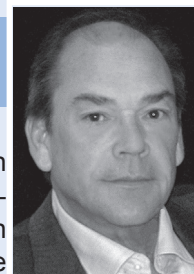
Since many outdoor activities including golf, tennis, basketball, soccer, and baseball, have been ordered to shut down, I have been following the situation in Tillsonburg rather closely.

A local golf course, the Bridges at Tillsonburg, made the decision to ignore the order to shut down and announced they were staying open and booking tee times.

The owners made no apologies for this.

It was an interesting first day. People did show up for their allotted time and played a round of golf. There were a few people who backed off and decided it wasn't worth the risk of being fined.

BRIAN LOCKHART FROM THE SECOND ROW



Many people are watching this situation to see what happens. That includes the sports world and other golf courses who are gearing up to follow suit if the Bridges continues to operate without any repercussions.

So far, the local police have done nothing to stop the situation. They did post a vehicle across the street and watched what was going on, but made no attempt to stop anyone and did not issue any fines.

I think that's a smart move by the police. After all, would you really want to stop a person and issue a fine for playing golf?

The cops are being smart and diplomatic at this time - they know it's a tricky situation.

On the other hand, maybe they are taking down everyone's license plate and when the stay-at-home orders is lifted, they'll be visiting everyone on the list and slapping them with a fine and issuing one to the course owners as well.

I can understand the frustration of the golf course owners.

This past winter, the ski industry was ordered to shut down just as the season started. It cost the industry around \$80 million.

Now that spring is here, golf courses are

ready to open and earn a living. Golf isn't a year-round sport. You can't open the links when there's three feet of snow on the fairway and it's 20 degrees below zero.

It costs a lot of money to maintain a golf course when no one is allowed to play. You just can't abandon the course and let the weeds take over and hope to get back up and running quickly when the sport is once again allowed.

I'm not a golfer, but I can understand why people enjoy playing – you're outside, doing something you like.

It's a safe sport in these challenging times. On the fairway you are inherently physically distanced from other players in your foursome and nowhere near anyone else on the course.

If the Bridges at Tillsonburg remain open and are allowed to operate without interference, you can bet others will be following suit.

If Stompin' Tom was still with us, I'm sure he could come up with a second great song about Tillsonburg and the current events.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

sam@lpcmedia.ca



Anti-Asian Racism

There has been much press recently regarding Anti-Asian racism in Dufferin County, and Shelburne specifically. My family and I have lived in Shelburne and been a part of the local community now for 10 years. My wife is Asian; my children half Caucasian and half Asian. Not once, never, have we experienced any Anti-Asian racism: no slurs, bias, or hate towards my wife or my two kids. We have many Asian friends living in Shelburne, Orangeville, and Dufferin County, and none of them have experienced Anti-Asian racism. We have been involved in local sports teams, church functions, and Shelburne public elementary schools, since moving to Shelburne. Not once have we experienced or witnessed Anti-Asian racism. How can this be? Our local politicians are telling us it exists and we must stomp it out at every turn. It's as though they are living in

one community and my wife, children, and our circle of Asian friends are living in another community.

Let's be clear: all forms of racism are hideous, vile, and disgusting, and should be stomped out. Whether that racism is directed at Asians, Blacks, or Whites. However, our local leaders have decided to jump on the racist bandwagon south of the border and spread their watered-down Canadian version throughout our communities. The most recent example being the horrific murder of 8 Atlanta massage parlor females by a lunatic madman. Six were Asian and two were white. This truly is an evil act, but is it racially motivated? Well, according to the Atlanta Sherriff, no; "this wasn't a race-based crime". Turns out the killer was a sex-addict and he took his inability to deal with his addiction out on the women he used to satisfy his addiction.

The Orangeville Banner article (online), 'No Place for Hate': Shelburne Speaks out Against Anti-Asian Hate Crimes, dated March 25, 2021, mentions the Atlanta murder specifically but leaves out the Sherriff's

explicit comment on it not being racially motivated. That's no small omission when talking about racist crimes, especially murder. Why would they not mention that in their article? The statement, by town Mayor and the CAO, does mention however, a "rise in Anti-Asian hate crimes." It gives no examples of this rise, no statistics, nor any data to support the allegation. You'd think my Asian wife, and her circle of social media Asian friends would have heard of at least one Anti-Asian racist incident. Nope, not one. The Shelburne article goes on to say, "As we, . . . grieve this tragic loss of life, we stand in solidarity with communities who experience violence, including those within our community (Shelburne)". This comment is intimating that somehow Shelburne is experiencing the same level of violence that Atlanta experienced. Frankly, this is reprehensible and disgusting. The people of Shelburne, and surrounding Dufferin County, are, for the most part, accepting, loving, and welcoming people, towards all races. It's deceitful to suggest otherwise without supporting evidence. The article is

careful to throw out the usual woke buzzwords, like "systemic racism". Whatever that is? Then it goes on to mention that the town would "publicly name (assuming this to be perpetrators) those involved in racist incidents." Well, lets have some names so we can all take part in the public tribunal and see the rise in Anti-Asian racism in our community.

My Asian wife, and two half-Asian children, have experienced nothing but acceptance, friendship, love, and kindness, from Shelburne and the surrounding community. So why then are our leaders proclaiming a pandemic of racism? I'll let you figure out their motives. The best quote for the fight against racism comes from the famous Black actor, Morgan Freeman, when asked by a prominent Black newscaster whether systemic racism exists: "No, absolutely not, look at us two. If you want to defeat racism, stop talking about it."

Brian Hayden Shelburne

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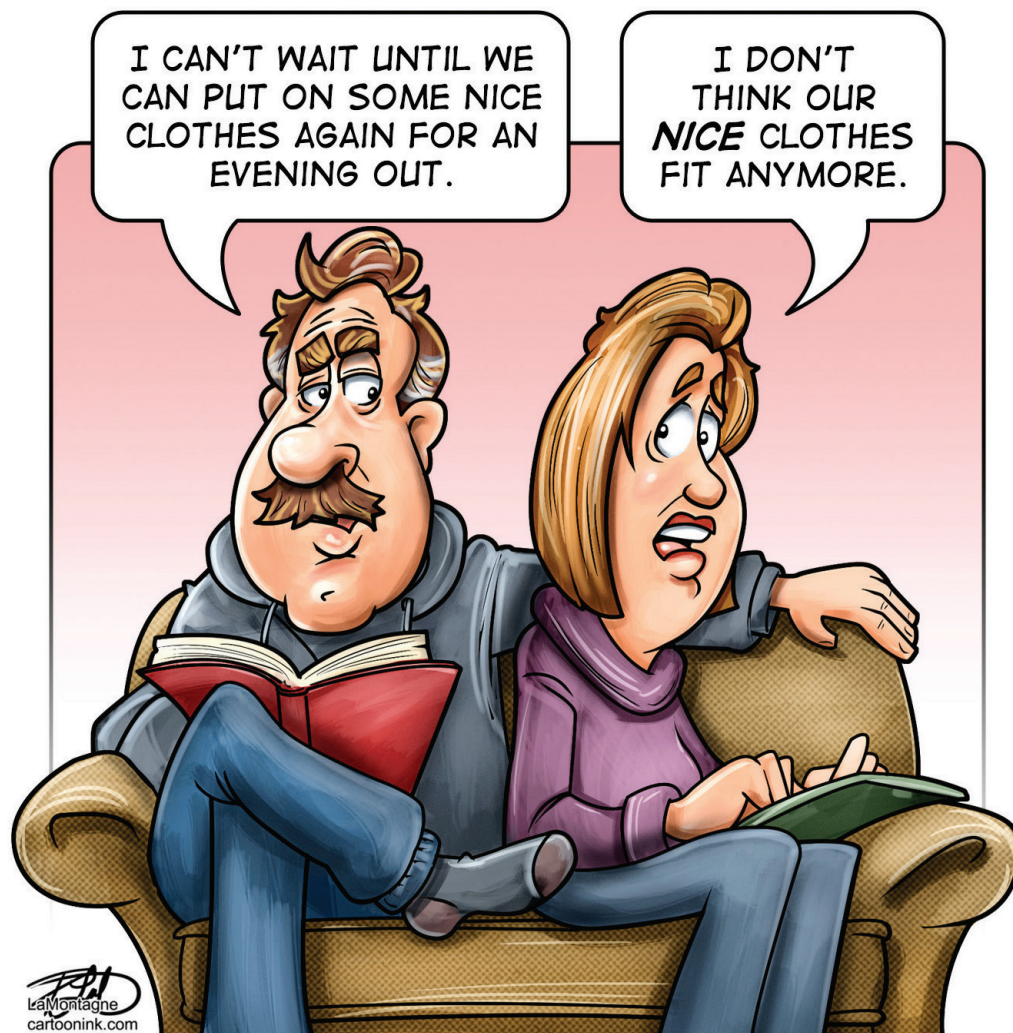
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Shelburne's first retail cannabis shop opens Friday

The first retail cannabis store in the Town of Shelburne is set to open its doors this Friday (April 30).

"We're pretty thankful to be opening, as a lot of other stores may not be in the same situation," said Jamie Bates, in an interview with the Free Press. "It's extremely exciting to see the project come from nothing, to being completed and now being able to serve our customers. That's the biggest thing we're looking forward to, building relationships with the local people and clientele."

Jamie Bates and John Pavaovic, are co-owners of Cannabis Stop Inc., located at 171 Main Street in Shelburne's downtown core. The duo have been working for over a year to bring the first retail cannabis shop to the community.

"Being in Shelburne the only other location for a legal cannabis dispensary was in either Collingwood, Hanover, or Brampton, quite a far drive if you're trying to buy legal cannabis," said Bates. "There was definitely a need in Shelburne."

Being the first cannabis retail store in Shelburne, the duo say they are looking to create an experience that steps away from the negative stigma typically associated with cannabis, providing more than product but also knowledge as well.

"We want to bring the best cannabis retail experience to our customers from feeling welcomed when they meet our employees to



PAULA BROWN PHOTO

FIRST LEGAL STOREFRONT: Cannabis Stop Inc. is the Town of Shelburne's first retail cannabis store. The shop is set to open to customers through online and curbside pickup on Friday (April 30).

bringing knowledge to them," said Pavaovic. "Whether people consume cannabis or any type of cannabis related products or not we welcome all to our store. People are welcome to come and check it out whether they're purchasing or not, they can see what

the experience is like and try to get away from the bad cannabis stigma," said Bates.

Cannabis Stop Inc. is modelled around the concept of "locally owned, locally run" with the majority of the employees or "bud-tenders" from Shelburne. As a resident of

Shelburne Bates, tells the Free Press that the location of Cannabis Stop Inc., in the Town's downtown core was an important decision for them.

"It's definitely something that fits into the downtown core and as Shelburne starts to grow, we feel we'll fit right in."

When the store opens up on Friday it will be doing so through online orders and curbside pickup only due to COVID-19 restrictions. Despite the restrictions, Bates assures employees will be available at the door for customers with questions.

"We'll be able to walk them through the menu at the door," said Bates.

As its name would allude to, the new store will be selling a variety of cannabis products including beverages, extracts, dried flower, and CBD products which are non-psychoactive.

"There's a very wide variety for every age and every person's preference," said Bates.

It is this variety that Bates adds brings a safe environment for cannabis purchasers.

"Everything is certified and passed by the government, every product that is sold through our stores is sent to us from the OCS (Ontario Cannabis Store); we can't get product from the street and bring it in," said Bates. "It's all tracked whether it's coming in or out of our store."

Cannabis Stop Inc. will officially open on Friday (April 30). For more information visit www.cannabisstopinc.com.

Local health unit expecting 51,000 doses of vaccine by the end of May

On Monday (April 26), WDG Public Health received updated vaccine shipment details. The Province now projects that our region will receive 44,460 doses of Pfizer in May. Taken together with the 7,020 doses expected this week, Public Health projects more than 51,000 doses of Pfizer will be delivered by the end of May.

"This is tremendous news," said Dr. Nicola Mercer, Medical Officer of Health and CEO of WDG Public Health.

"Our local vaccination program has the capacity to increase volumes at a moment's notice once we receive increased supply of the vaccine. Many thanks to the Province for



this increase that should make a significant impact on our local vaccination timelines if the shipments arrive in Canada as projected."

As of April 26, 2021 87,304 residents of Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph have received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine (this includes Public Health and partner clinics, pharmacies and primary care providers).

There are more than 60,000 residents of

the region currently pre-registered for a vaccine appointment.

If projected shipments arrive as expected, most people who are pre-registered will receive a vaccination by the end of May.

Public Health will follow the Province's vaccine framework, booking people for appointments by age and risk as the vaccination program flows from Phase 2 to Phase 3.

"By the end of May, this infusion of vaccines should allow us to reach and vaccinate more than 50 percent of the eligible population of the region," said Dr. Mercer.

"That's tremendous progress in a very short time. But, in order to end this pandemic, we

must continue to strive toward meeting and surpassing the goal of 75 percent of eligible residents vaccinated against COVID-19. The higher we can push the number of people vaccinated, the better we protect all of us and the faster we are able to get back to normal. If you have not yet pre-registered, please do so as soon as possible."

Please visit: wdgpublichealth.ca/register to pre-register for your COVID-19 vaccination.

More information regarding the status of the COVID-19 cases and vaccines in Wellington-Dufferin Guelph can be found at: <https://wdgpublichealth.ca/your-health/covid-19-information-public/status-cases-wdg>

Suicide Awareness Council launching 'Paws-a-thon'

The Suicide Awareness Council of Wellington-Dufferin is going to the dogs, cats, hooved, feathery and finned during Mental Health Week (May 3rd-9th).

COVID-19 has significantly heightened feelings of fear, distress, anxiety and depression. When we add social isolation, economic uncertainty and other life challenges it can negatively impact our mental wellness. This can lead to thoughts of suicide and suicide.

We don't need science to tell us that pets can foster mental well-being. They offer unconditional love, don't judge, are accepting and they can be entertaining. Council Coordinator, Heather Glenister calls it "the 'pet-effect.'" They can help us de-stress, create routines, help us to live in the moment and provide companionship. These are protective factors that reduce suicide."

Pets can be a good starting point to talk about suicide. They are often a bridge to connecting with others which is crucial to getting help.

The Council is hosting a 'Paws-a-thon' - 1,000 Paws for Suicide Prevention. www.paws4suicideprevention.com It's easy to get involved. Share a photo. Tag it. #pawsathon2021 #1000paws #sacwd #sacwd-suicideprevention. Post it to social media. Alternatively, people can send their photo to suicidecouncilwd@cmhaww.ca. The Council wants to build suicide awareness one paw at a time. Check back to the website to see how many paws have taken up the challenge.

"We know that not everyone has a pet," says Glenister. "There are lots of other things people can do to support mental well-being. Hobbies, exercise and staying connected with family and friends are great examples."

Follow the Council on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/SACWDCouncil> and Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/suicideawarenesscouncilwellingtondufferin>

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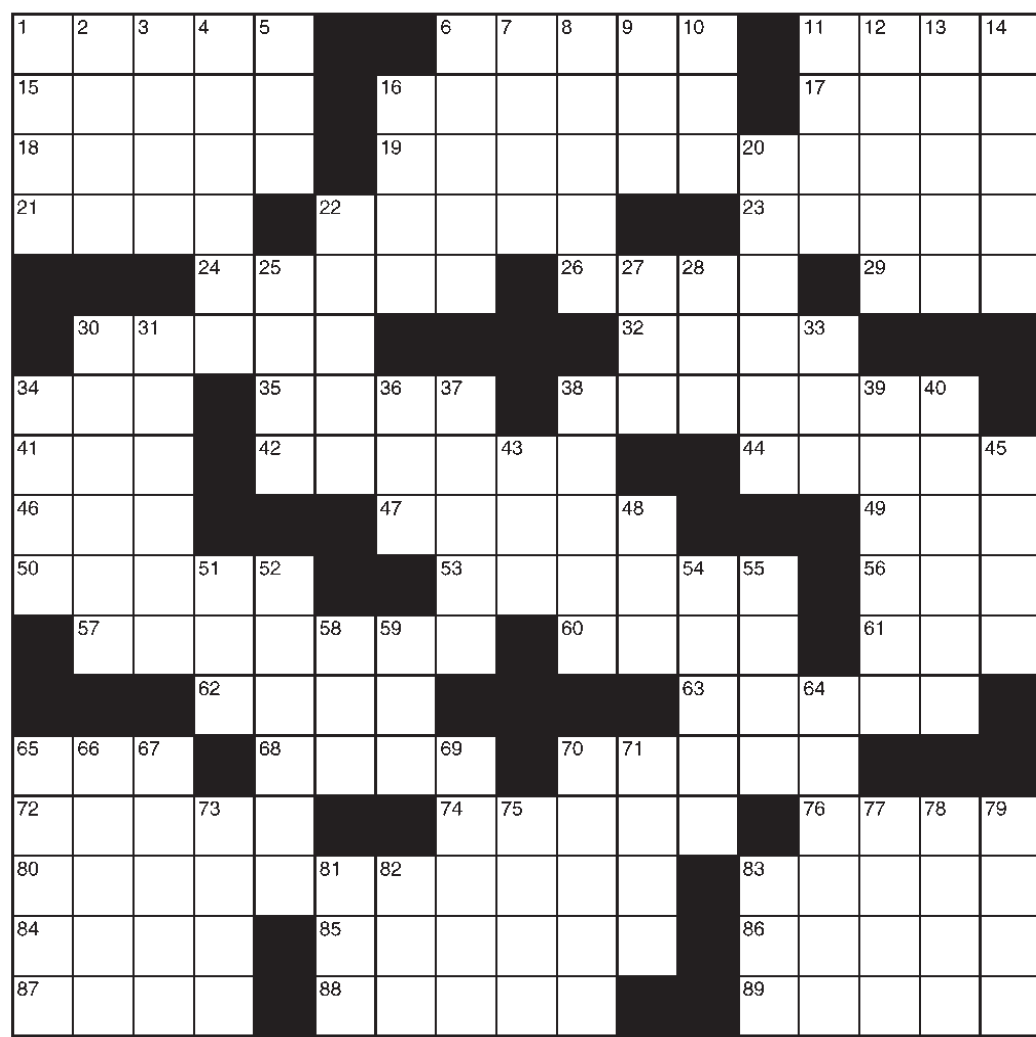
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- 16. "Gandhi" attire
- 20. Imprison
- 22. Phantom
- 25. Opera highlight
- 27. Hymn of praise
- 28. Radiation measure
- 30. Discount certificate
- 31. Smooth, in music
- 33. Genetic letters
- 34. Mine cart
- 36. Prune
- 37. Rectify
- 38. Fish feature
- 39. Navy
- 40. Farm machine
- 43. Unfriendly
- 45. Quench
- 48. Give silent consent
- 51. No Rx needed
- 52. Replacement worker
- 54. Suitable spot
- 55. Brood
- 58. Earthenware container
- 59. Senate vote
- 64. Sharp weapon
- 65. Mortal
- 66. Absurd
- 67. Pine nut
- 69. Mother
- 70. Sprinkle
- 71. Ball of yarn
- 73. Adjust, as a guitar
- 75. Perfume base
- 77. Roster
- 78. Colored eye-part
- 79. Hors d'oeuvre spread
- 81. Cleopatra's snake
- 82. Bee follower
- 83. A primate

ACROSS

- 1. Foolish one
- 6. Shell liner
- 11. Scram!
- 15. Cliff hanger?
- 16. Seafarer
- 17. Vatican City dweller
- 18. Molten matter
- 19. The magic word?
- 21. Cheaper spread
- 22. Dozen dozen
- 23. Inaccuracy
- 24. Hindu title
- 26. ____ of entry
- 29. "... have you ____ wool?"
- 30. Cigar type
- 32. Loved one
- 34. Pirouette pivot
- 35. Speck on a map
- 38. Conference

DOWN

- 41. Carpet
- 42. Like some submarines
- 44. Nose parts
- 46. Timber tree
- 47. Popular pie
- 49. Barnyard bleat
- 50. Engine
- 53. Hosiery
- 56. Liable
- 57. Steno's tablet
- 60. Bleep out
- 61. Fourth letter
- 62. Glut
- 63. ____ waxwing
- 65. With it
- 68. Topic of gossip
- 70. Vowel sound
- 72. Bring together
- 74. Abundant
- 76. Clutch
- 80. Fabricate
- 83. Athenian marketplace
- 84. Ever and ____
- 85. Teeter
- 86. Minor, in law
- 87. Hawaiian goose
- 88. Cheerful
- 89. Clean of chalk marks

DOWN

- 1. Splotchy fabric
- 2. Make well
- 3. Compulsion
- 4. Champagne cocktail
- 5. Pod inhabitant
- 6. Powerful person
- 7. Affected manner
- 8. Fastening device
- 9. Fabled bird
- 10. History chapter, perhaps
- 11. Shadowbox
- 12. Deadly snake

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Lisa Post acclaimed as Liberal candidate for Dufferin–Caledon

Written By Sam Odrowski

The Liberal Party of Canada recently announced Orangeville councillor, Lisa Post, has been acclaimed as their candidate for the Dufferin–Caledon riding in the next federal election.

Post announced her intention to run under the Liberal Party last December and told the Free Press she is unbelievably excited for the opportunity to campaign in the Dufferin–Caledon riding, having a long family history in the area.

“I’m a little at a loss for words. This is something where I’ve been waiting for the moment to come and now that it’s here, I’m still a little speechless about it, it feels a little surreal,” she said. “But I’m really excited and I’m really honoured for the opportunity to represent our community in this way.”

Having served on Orangeville Council for the past three years, Post says she’s gained a unique perspective on the riding and its potential for the future.

She also noted that the federal government is going to play a pivotal role in Canada’s



SUBMITTED PHOTO

recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, creating an opportunity to really help Canadians through this difficult time.

“To me, this is an opportunity to represent my community at a completely different level, in a time where I think our commu-

nity is going to need it the most,” Post told the Free Press. “I think as we come out the other side of the COVID-19 pandemic, we are going to be faced with unique challenges that – especially from an economic recovery standpoint – our community has never faced before.”

“I think having a representative working with a party that really chooses to put people first is going to make a big difference when it comes to how our community members are represented,” she added.

Post said community minded solutions is what will be needed when Canada finally gets through the pandemic and as a long-time resident with strong family ties to the area, she will help bring that spirit into economic recovery.

She also noted that having integrity, an open mind, and willingness to learn are important values to uphold from a leadership and policymaking perspective. Post said she looks forward to engaging with her constituents on issues impacting Dufferin–Caledon and if elected, providing representation that prioritizes the needs of the people.

“This election is not about me, it’s not about Lisa Post, it’s about the things that are best for our community,” she remarked. “And as an elected representative, it’s our responsibility to take the voice of the people in our community, and to do that, you really have to have an empathetic listening ear, you have to be able to put your personal feelings about an issue aside for the good of the community – having the ability to hear your community members whose perspective may be completely different from your own.”

Post says she’s happy to hear from the community about anything impacting them and she can be reached at lisa@lisapost.ca or www.lisapost.ca.

“I want to hear the experiences of what people in our community have felt and I want to see how we can best impact that going forward and make this community a better place to live in,” she told the Free Press. “We already live in a really amazing community, so to make it better is the goal. We’re always wanting to make it more inclusive and more diverse and really make everybody feel like they belong here.”

Council supports paid sick leave

Written By Paula Brown
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Town of Shelburne has joined the fleet of municipalities calling on the provincial government to provide paid sick days to workers.

Shelburne Mayor Wade Mills brought forward a motion during their council meeting on Monday (April 26), which would see a letter written to Premier Doug Ford to request the immediate implementing of adequate sick days for workers to “get tested, self-isolate, and follow all necessary COVID-19 control measures”.

“Too many of these workers simply cannot afford to take time off even when they are sick and may be exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19. The fear of income loss and financial hardship are known barriers to compliance with COVID-19 control measures including testing and self-isolation. The current federal programs are inadequate and too time-consuming to meet the full needs of workers who require sick leave,” read Mills motion.

Coun. Walter Benotto, spoke of the recent death of a 13-year-old girl in Brampton due to COVID-19, which was brought home by a family member who is an essential worker.

“It’s unfortunate that these people that are essential workers have to go to work, end up getting sick, and end up bringing it home to their family,” he said.

“I think the province has failed to step up and protect the essential worker that have to go out there. It’s the worst thing in life... that you have no choice because you can’t afford to stay home.”

The motion was supported unanimously by all councillors.

While a letter will be sent to Premier Ford, it will also be sent to MPP Sylvia Jones and MP Kyle Seeback.

On Wednesday (April 28), the Ontario government announced a temporary provincial program that will give up to three paid sick days to eligible full-time and part-time workers. The legislation will be introduced on Thursday and, if passed, will require employers to provide up to three paid sick days for workers who need time off due to COVID-19.

The program, which has been called the COVID-19 Worker Income Protection Benefit Program, will be administered by the WSIB, and require employers to provide employees with up to \$200 of pay a day.

The program will be retroactive to April 19 and will expire on Sept. 25.

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Internet and telephone voting approved for 2022 election

Written By Paula Brown
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The 2022 municipal election is more than a year away, but Shelburne Town Council is already authorizing alternative methods for voting.

During their council meeting on Monday (April 26), Council approved the alternative methods of telephone and internet voting following a report from Clerk Jennifer Willoughby.

“By adding telephone voting in conjunction with internet voting, there’s an enhance level of convenience and access, allowing voters to cast a ballot remotely from anywhere they have access to a phone line within the voting period,” said Willoughby, in the report to council.

The Town of Shelburne has previously used both internet and telephone voting as a voting option for the 2018 municipal election and school board elections.

According to the report to council, the 2014 election utilized a vote in-person method and saw a 35.56 percent voter turnout, while the 2018 which allowed for alternative methods

saw 38.89 per cent.

Part of the decision to provide an alternative method for voters to cast their ballot for the election, is due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the ongoing concerns of more waves.

“All aspects of the 2022 election planning must shift to accommodate the reality of the global pandemic,” said Willoughby.

“Planning for municipal elections begins years in advance so that programs and practices can be safely implemented by voting day, preparation is well underway for the next Town of Shelburne municipal election in October 2022. Given the continued impact on public health and civic participation, election planning for 2022 must now shift to acknowledge and accommodate the reality of COVID-19.”

The Town of Shelburne will be partnering with Intelivote Systems Inc. to offer the alternative method of voting, which has been quoted at costing \$13,165 based on the number of eligible electors from 2018 (4,876). Willoughby added that the price will be adjusted based on the number of eligible voters, once a final list of voters is produced.

“It is anticipated that the quoted price could increase based on occupancy of the new subdivisions,” said Willoughby.

The Town each year contributes \$5,000 into an election reserve, which will contain \$25,000 for the 2022 election based on the 2021 budget. The 2018 municipal elections total cost was \$16,284.

Deputy Mayor Steve Anderson, following the report, recalled instances in the 2018 election where help was required for the alternative methods and questioned the policies for 2022.

“An election policy will be brought forward for council’s review that relates to the internet voting and telephone voting meth-

ods. We’ll have to keep our six feet distance, if that cannot happen, masks and protective eyewear are required to be worn,” said Willoughby. “We are willing to go out and help each elector that is having issues.”

Willoughby also noted the possibility of establishing alternative voting location for in-person, rather than having Town Hall as the one location.

Anderson also questioned whether there would be pre-screen questions as part of the policy, which Willoughby confirmed there would be due to mandates from Public Health.

The next municipal election is scheduled for October of 2022.

Friends of the Hall hosting virtual series ‘Community Speakers Corner’

Written By Paula Brown
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Horning Mills Community Hall has always acted as a central hub for community members to come together, but with the COVID-19 pandemic it’s been forced to close leaving many residents feeling isolated.

Looking for a way to reconnect, volunteer-based community group, Friends of the Hall launched a virtual series called ‘Community Speakers Corner’.

“We knew there was a need for something during COVID, we just didn’t know what it was,” Ruth Plowright, a member of Friends of the Hall and board member for the community hall, tells the Free Press.

When the community hall closed, Friends of the Hall, which is run by four volunteers, created and released a survey to all members. The survey asked about different community hall activities the members would like to see including information nights, wellness classes, social connections, and activities for teens and children. A total of 80 responses were collected.

“We took those responses and we came up with the Speakers Corner,” said Plowright. “You can’t do anything physically with people, but we can do Zoom calls. From the survey we found that people had certain interests and we tried to fill in those interests.”

From there the group began to contact

volunteers with a range of specialities to be guest speakers. Since its launch, Friends of the Hall has hosted virtual sessions on taxes for seniors as well as financial planning and is scheduled to host a discussion on artist Tom Thompson.

Plowright adds that they’ve received offers for lesson on photography, gardening, and fitness.

“There’s just been so many different things that people have been willing to help us with and just bring the community together,” said Plowright.

Upcoming events, Plowright said, will be focused on health and wellness offering tips on posture, breathing, stretching, and snacking in preparation for a community hike when it is safe to gather in small numbers.

While ‘Community Speakers Corner’ was started as a way to reconnect during COVID-19, Plowright said they plan to continue doing the events once restrictions are lifted, working with the Horning’s Mills Community Hall. Friends of the Hall is also looking to start doing specific events geared towards a variety of age groups.

Friends of the Hall will be hosting their next event on May 4, called ‘Make Art Not War’. Events are emailed and posted on the Horning’s Mills Community Hall Facebook page, and are free to attend.

Those interesting in presenting or sharing at the Speakers Corner can email Friends of the Hall at friendsofthehall@gmail.com.

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CDDHS Co-op Corner: Smile Centre

Written By Isabella Edwards

This week Isabella Edwards from Centre Dufferin District High School shares a little bit about their experience and how the Smile Centre Shelburne is contributing to our community’s future.

The Shelburne Smile Centre has been open for a little over two years now, but they also have two other offices located in Orangeville and Collingwood. They provide many types of dental services performed by their four dentists Dr. Ben Vangalen, Dr. Wardah Muzzamil and Dr. Mikhail Bouchan, and Dr. Joe Zeisler. The doctors are assisted by Melissa, Candice, and Tina. They currently only have one Hygienist, Allannah but soon Michelle, a Restorative Hygienist, will be joining them. Lisa is their caring and kind Receptionist. Rob Vangalen owns all 3 offices and his son Ben currently works at all three offices. Terri Purdie is the District Manager of all three offices and oversees all that goes on.

My current role as a Dental Assistant to everyone at the office. I set up and clean the procedure room, as well as sterilizing the tools and sanitizing the office. At the office

they have recently started using air purifiers in their rooms while they are doing work on a patient. The most used equipment at the office is the ultrasonic and the statim. Tools are placed in after being bagged once they are sanitized after being in the ultrasonic. I completed my IPAC training which not only helps me in my co-op but will benefit me in any other job I take in the future within the dental field.

Some other careers I have noticed during my placement is an Ortho Hygienist who takes care of the orthodontic work with patients’ braces. There is also a Restorative Hygienist who performs additional procedures from a regular Hygienist. I have also learned more about Dental Assistants who set up the rooms for the Dentist and assist the dentist as they complete their procedures. Sterilization Technicians strip down the rooms and are designated people to sterilize and log all the equipment.

The Smile Centre has donated supplies such as toothbrushes, toothpaste, floss and other dental necessities to Shelburne Community Welcome, for people in need who can’t get these items and they just recently sent out their second package of items.

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Shelburne represented in UGDSB Everyday Hero Awards

Written By Paula Brown
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter



The Upper Grand District School Board (UGDSB) announced the winners of their Everyday Hero Awards on April 20, which included two recipients from Shelburne.

Child and youth counsellor Katelyn Charbonneau, and Centre Dufferin District High School (CDDHS) Black Chapter Student Group were part of the 13 finalist chosen by the Everyday Hero Awards Selection Committee.

Recipients of the awards from across the board included dedicated school and board staff, a bus driver, student groups and volunteers.

Katelyn Charbonneau is a child and youth counsellor with Centennial Hyland Elementary School and Primrose Elementary School. Through her job as a counsellor she helps support students struggling with social, emotional, and behavioural concerns at school.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, Charbonneau has been providing direct support to students around the impacts of COVID-19

and ways to cope with it. With the pandemic, she's seen an increase in caseloads with students that typically wouldn't require support now needing it

Speaking with the Free Press about the nomination and recognition Charbonneau said, "It's a great feeling, I was very taken aback and surprised by the nomination. It feels good to be recognized on kind of a larger scope, my schools do a really great job at making my efforts known, but in this year especially, knowing how different things are and how challenging they are, it's a great feeling."

CDDHS Black Chapter is a student group that promotes Black experiences and looks to empower the voices of Black students both socially and politically. During the school year the Black Chapter has worked on several projects including their Black History Month presentation, 'Hair Love' video, a Black Brilliance conference that was cancelled due to COVID, collaborating with other groups, and providing feedback on the UGDSB school resource officer program.

"At the end of the day it feels good to see that people are seeing the work that we're all

doing and putting in," said Gabby Spencer, the group's social media manager.

Azaria Gallimore, a member of the Black Chapter, recalled waking up to find out they had won the award.

"When I found out there were other schools involved in it and we out of all of them got it, I felt honoured," said Gallimore.

Geer Harvey and Trinna Thompson are the two staff representatives that help lead the students group. In an interview with the Free Press, Harvey speaks to the pride they have for the work the student have done.

"We didn't set out for the kids to win any awards, our goal is giving them a space to be themselves but to see them recognized this way by the community and UGDSB, is really awesome," said Harvey. "We're consistently calling on them to do extra work, beyond being an everyday student, and it makes us proud because it speaks to what's possible and what they can achieve."

A virtual ceremony honouring the recipients of the awards will be held on May 10 at 7 p.m. and can be accessed by visiting: <https://vimeo.com/ugstream>.

Headwaters Health Care Centre faces record number of patient transfers

Written By Rob Belardi
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

With the COVID pandemic becoming increasingly dire in Ontario and the provincial government enforcing stricter protocols, Headwaters Health Care Centre President and CEO Kim Delahunt released a statement regarding the impact it is having on the hospital.

"Almost a year ago to the day, we asked staff and physicians to work in long-term care in our region," said Delahunt. "Many stepped up, and we were extremely grateful. There is no doubt their involvement helped abate that outbreak and save lives. This time, the request is to support the teams in our own hospital to help work in different capacities as part of the provincial COVID pandemic response."

"We are grateful to have staff and physicians, some of whom are from our community, step up to support these efforts in what has been over a year of professional and personal challenge."

As more hospitals in the province are in need of healthcare workers, and with the military being deployed in Ontario with the worsening third wave of COVID-19 on the heels of the highest positivity rate of the pandemic, Delahunt says Headwaters will be assisting in any way it can.

"We have been called upon to do more to support the COVID burden on hospitals experiencing high demand that is exceeding acute care capacity caused by new COVID cases. The situation has become dire," she said. "Some hospitals have run out of space and are treating patients in waiting rooms, meeting spaces and cafeterias. We are fortunate not to be experiencing this at Headwaters, but the possibility does exist."

"We understand physicians are working in redeployed nurse extender roles, where appropriate, to support their local hospital as well. There is no doubt, these are very difficult and challenging times. These requests of hospital staff are occurring across all hospitals in Ontario. We know that locally our team at Headwaters will continue to do whatever we can to support our local patients and our broader Ontario health care system."

As of April 27, over 100 people have passed away with COVID-19 in the Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health region and cases since the start of the pandemic are approaching 1,500, with 150 still active and 27 in hospital

Headwaters has felt the effects of the third wave with a record number of patient transfers as hospitals deal with capacity issues.

"This week we accepted five of an expected seven COVID recovering patients from other hospitals," she said. "This is the highest transfer of patients we've received yet. We opened more beds this week in traditional care spaces to accommodate this need, which is in addition to opening 13 extra beds earlier on in the pandemic. Non-clinical departments are also doing more to support these pressures, including our food services and environmental

services teams.

"We have created capacity in our hospital in the event we need to accept an even higher number of patients. We are following provincial direction to stop elective or non-urgent surgeries to release space and the people within our hospital to manage a surge in the system. It's some of those staff who are now working in new roles, to support our current challenges."

"Locally, we are seeing an increase in the number of admitted COVID-19 patients. As of today, we have eight COVID-19 positive patients, with two needing care in our Intensive Care Unit. We have transferred out patients who required a higher level of critical care. The situation is becoming much more serious across Ontario."

With variants spreading faster and more aggressively, Headwaters is seeing some of its highest daily testing numbers and is doing the most they can given the circumstances of the situation.

"Our COVID-19 Assessment Centre, which is open seven days a week from 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. is now seeing over 330 people a day," she said. "Dufferin County paramedics have increased their staffing and are also supporting provincial patient transfers. We acknowledge that fatigue is prevalent within our hospital and in the community. We need to rally together and support each other through some challenging days in the near future. We will continue to draw upon our values of courage, kindness, passion, and teamwork to ensure that we are one community, caring together and meeting the needs of those who need us."

"We are planning and working together, thoughtfully, and with the collaboration that we all know is a hallmark in Dufferin County-Caledon. Please know, our emergency department is open 24/7. Emergency and urgent surgeries such as cancer care will continue. We are also continuing our dialysis, chemotherapy, and transfusion services. If you require our services and care, we are here for you."

Delahunt encourages people who are able to get the vaccine to book an appointment as soon as possible and everybody in the community to stay diligent following protocols put in place to keep the spread of the virus at a minimum.

"We will continue to do our part to keep our community safe and I hope you will do yours. Please register to get vaccinated when you do qualify. More and more opportunities are available at vaccination clinics locally as well as in pharmacies. Continue to follow public health guidelines, even after you are vaccinated. Take appropriate precautions and get tested if you experience any symptoms of COVID-19. Please continue to stay safe, take care of one another and know that Headwaters is here for you if you need us."

To book an appointment at Headwaters COVID-19 Assessment Centre visit [www.headwatershealth.ca/Resources/Coronavirus-\(COVID-19\)/COVID-19-Assessment-Centre](http://www.headwatershealth.ca/Resources/Coronavirus-(COVID-19)/COVID-19-Assessment-Centre).

Local COVID-19 cases

April 26 (Monday)

WDG Region: 200 (New cases), 588 (Active cases), 203 (Newly Resolved)
Dufferin County: 43 (New cases), 159 (Active cases), 47 (Newly Resolved)
Shelburne: 15 (Active cases)
Orangeville: 79 (Active cases)

April 27 (Tuesday)

WDG Region: 12 (New cases), 528 (Active cases), 72 (Newly Resolved)
Dufferin County: 11 (New cases), 149 (Active cases), 21 (Newly Resolved)
Shelburne: 14 (Active cases)
Orangeville: 71 (Active cases)

April 28 (Wednesday)

WDG Region: 39 (New cases), 491 (Active cases), 76 (Newly Resolved)
Dufferin County: 7 (New cases), 132 (Active cases), 24 (Newly Resolved)
Shelburne: 14 (Active cases)
Orangeville: 62 (Active cases)

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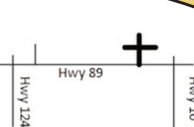
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- Solid time management skills with the ability to multi-task

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- Familiar with retail stickering
- Lifting requirements
- Computer Literate
- Time Management, reliable
- Team Player

CUSTOMER SERVICE COUNTER:

- Knowledge in lumber and building supplies
- Computer literate
- Customer service oriented
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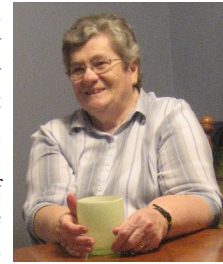
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CONNER, BETTY
(MARY ELIZABETH LUXTON)

May 31, 1930 - March 31, 2021

Born May 31, 1930, in Mt. Forest Ontario, Betty passed away peacefully on March 31, 2021 at Matthews House Hospice, Alliston, Ontario.



Loving mother of Gwen (dec) and George Ziemans (dec), Gordon and Nancy Conner, Dean and Denise Conner, Debbie and Greg Neely (dec). Sister of Larry and Joyce Luxton of Guelph. Predeceased by parents Ray and Agnes Luxton and sister Helen and Richard Redmond. Shall be greatly missed by grandchildren Tara, Adam, Andy, Emilie, Brianna, Teresa, Jesse, Kari, Catlin, Brandy, Cody and 16 great grandchildren. Also missed by nieces Kelly, Karen, Beckie and nephew James.

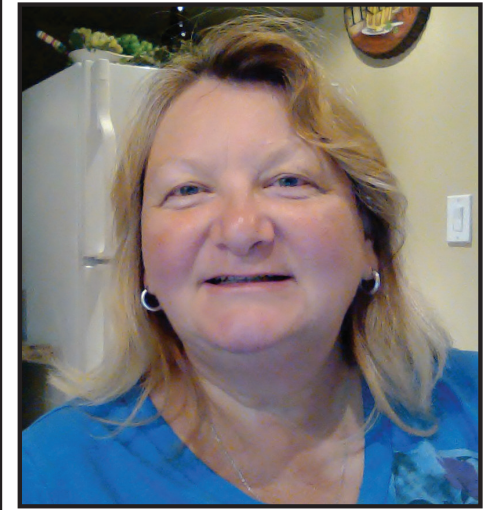
Betty was a dedicated employee of TD Bank, Shelburne and former member of Shelburne Curling Club and Royal Canadian Legion. She spent much time knitting, quilting, ceramics, playing cards and darts. Special thanks to staff at Shelburne Residence for care provided over the last year. Cremation has taken place and a celebration of life will take place at a later date.

Donations in memory of Betty may be made to Matthews House Hospice or the Royal Canadian Legion, Shelburne Branch.

Online condolences may be made at www.imfunerals.com.

In Memoriam Funeral Services Inc. has been given the honour to serve the Conner Family.

Brown, Cathy



JAN 12, 1961 - MAY 1, 2020

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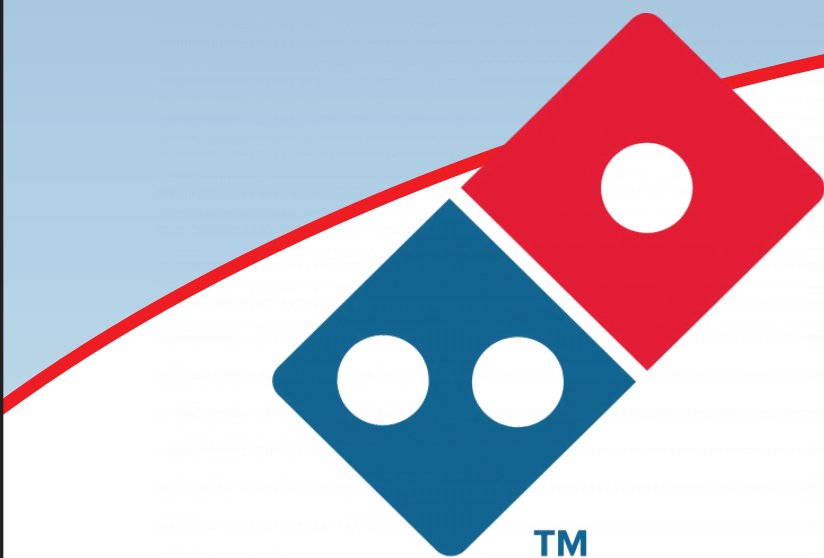
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