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PAULA BROWN PHOTO

STRUCTURE FIRE: Fire crews managed the remains of a large fire at an abandoned house at the intersection of Hwy. 89 and Hwy. 10, outside of the Shelburne Wednesday (May 12) afternoon. Four fire departments were called to the structure fire, but no injuries have been reported.

Four fire departments called to large structure fire

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

Four local fire departments responded to a large fire at an abandoned house at the intersection of Hwy. 89 and Hwy. 10 on Wednesday (May 12) afternoon.

Fire departments from Shelburne, Orangetown, Rosemount, and Melancthon/Mulmur responded to the call shortly before 1 p.m., where flames and smoke could be seen coming out of the upper levels of the structure.

"From the time we responded it was fully involved," said Shelburne Fire Chief Ralph Snyder. "We did a defensive attack, we've not been inside, it's not safe for our firefight-

ers to enter."

The burnt brick walls and chimney were all that remained of the abandoned house as crews waited for an excavator to arrive, demolishing the remaining structure.

Fire officials have not yet deemed whether the fire was suspicious.

"There is no power to the house and no real source of ignition today, I'll be calling the Fire Marshal to inform them," Snyder told the Free Press. "The circumstances make it a little suspicious."

A major grassfire was also started as result of windy weather.

Fire crews were using thermal imaging to search the inside of the structure, but Duf-

ferin OPP in the initial reports of the incident said there were no known injuries at the time.

Hwy. 10 was closed northbound and southbound between Hwy. 89 and 30 Sideroad.

Snyder told the Free Press the fire crews were expected to remain at the scene for a couple more hours.

"We are just controlling any hotspots and waiting on the excavator to tear it down so that we can do a more thorough search," said Snyder.

The Free Press will continue to follow developments in this story.

Jim Cuddy headlining charitable drive-in concert

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

Juno-award-winning musician Jim Cuddy, along with other local musicians are joining forces for an upcoming drive-in concert at the Mansfield Ski Club in Mulmur in support of suicide awareness.

On Monday (May 10), the Suicide Awareness Council of Wellington-Dufferin in partnership with Go With Crowe Real Estate announced the inaugural Music In the Hills Concert for Suicide Awareness scheduled for June 25.

"We really want to inspire the community, we want to inspire them to focus on the positive, to focus on looking after yourself, your family and community," said Claire Knight, who sits on the Suicide Awareness Council.

The Jim Cuddy Trio - featuring Ann Lindsay, Colin Cripps, and Jim Cuddy - will be headlining the event, which will also see performances from musician Woody Woodburn, and local singer-songwriter Sohayla

Smith accompanied by Tyler Reed and Adrian Smith.

"Having spent the better part of the last year at our place in Mulmur, I am so excited to be able to play some music in the neighbourhood," said Cuddy in an email to the Free Press. "It will be wonderful to play live again and be in the beautiful hills of Mulmur."

While the concert is bringing a light-hearted experience to the community, the event is also helping raise funds for suicide prevention and awareness initiatives from the Suicide Awareness Council of Wellington-Dufferin.

"I think it's paramount to really look after each other, to remind each that we are going through a difficult time, and it's okay to not be okay; that's a big thing that the Suicide Awareness Council really want to focus on," said Knight.

Knight notes that with the funds raised through the event, the council is looking to run initiatives focused on the mental health of those experiencing increased strug-

gles throughout the pandemic including seniors, youth, and first responders.

Provided the concert sells out, Knight said 50 per cent of what is made will go towards the Suicide Awareness Council, with 100 per cent of those proceeds directly supporting initiatives in Dufferin County.

In support of local businesses, 150 'swag bags' will be distributed to each vehicle containing information and gifts from sponsors. The council is still looking for local business to help sponsor the concert as well as a local restaurant to help support the musicians.

Tickets for the Music in the Hills Concert will be on sale May 15 at 9 a.m., with prices starting at \$100 per vehicle (two occupants), and \$35 for additional occupants purchased separately. Tickets will be limited to approximately 150 vehicles, and can be purchased through the concert's website (www.musicinthehills.ca).

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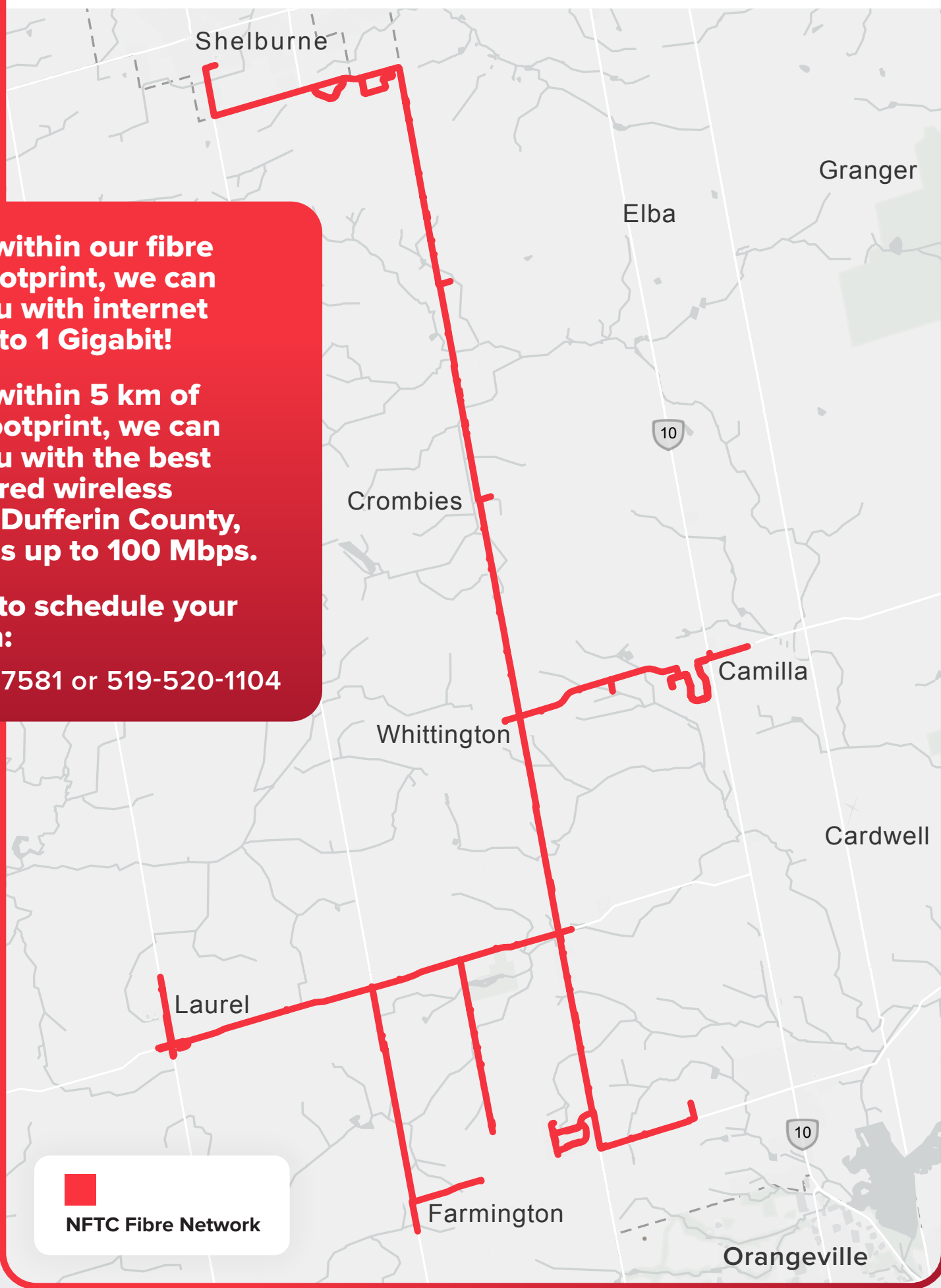
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Council approved budget increase for park revitalization project

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

Shelburne Town Council has approved increasing the budget for the Jack Downing Park revitalization project.

During their meeting on Monday (May 10), Council approved increasing the budget for the Jack Downing Park project to \$56,000, up from the original \$20,000, and the project was funded through the Town's parks and recreation reserve.

Jack Downing Park, located along Main Street in the downtown core, is named after Shelburne resident John Robert "Jack" Downing who passed away in 2014 at the age of 93. Downing, in 1998, advocated for the Town to purchase the vacant land where the park now sits in and raised over \$86,000 for the parks development. The park officially open in June 2000.

The revitalization project of Jack Downing Park was scheduled for 2020, to mark the 20 year anniversary, but has been delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The budget, while modest, was

“ The budget, while modest, was based on the partnership approach we were going to be taking, not only with the donation of products but the donation of labour in working with volunteers to build it.

—Denyse Morrissey, Town CAO

based on the partnership approach we were going to be taking, not only with the donation of products but the donation of labour in working with volunteers to build it," said CAO Denyse Morrissey. "Unfortunately COVID has seriously impacted those kinds of approaches particularly the use of volunteers, and as many may know the price of



lumber and wood has significantly increased in the last year to the point that a \$20,000 budget would not allow us to proceed with the scope park redevelopment we had envisioned."

Town staff have looked at concept designs for the park, predominately looking at replacing the pavilion which will cost between \$25,000 and \$35,000. A memorial to commemorate those in the community who have died as the result of COVID-19 is also included in the estimated redevelopment budget (\$5,000 to \$8,000).

According to the report, the estimated budget for the redevelopment is between \$43,000 and \$56,000, while the 2021 parks and recreation levy reserve has an estimated balance of \$82,152.

Councillor's debated whether to draw on the reserve or raise the funds through local development partners.

"If we are sure on the funding, I'm not sure why we have to wait and can't just draw and replenish," said Coun. Walter Benotto.

"When I look at this it's two and a half times the original budget, and I think we need to look at what that cost impact is, and take a further set back," said Coun. Shane Hall.

"There's only \$82,000 in that reserve, and if we are going to take it all up in this one park, what happens on other overruns?"

Council approved the increase in the park budget to \$56,000 and funding through the levy reserve, with the expectation the funding could be replenished through community contributions.

Shelburne's next Council meeting is scheduled for May 31 at 6:30 p.m. The meetings are accessible online by visiting the Town of Shelburne's Youtube Page: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCsar-MwF8CXrgP-be2EVxh-w/videos>

Dufferin small businesses offered rapid COVID-19 testing kits

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

The Dufferin Board of Trade (DBOT) has joined a province-wide initiative that looks to help local businesses better track asymptomatic cases of COVID-19 in workplaces.

Launched in Dufferin County last Thursday (May 6), the new program provides free kits for rapid COVID-19 testing to local businesses with 150 employees or less.

"It gives the business owners and the employees more of a reassurance that they're doing everything possible to keep their employees and our communities' safe," said Diana Morris, executive director for DBOT, about the program. "This doesn't take the place of wearing masks, social distancing, and sanitizing, but gives one extra level of protection to help prevent the spread."

Through the program employees are able to test themselves twice a week, every week, and have the result back within 15 minutes. If an employee's test is found positive or inconclusive, they're sent for further testing.

Recent information on COVID-19 suggests that one-third of cases are asymptomatic and over 50 percent of known cases are transmitted by an asymptomatic carrier.

The Dufferin Board of Trade says the program will drastically increase the opportunity to detect carriers early and reduce the spread of the virus.

The COVID-19 rapid screening program is part of the Provincial Antigen Screening

Program, funded by the provincial and federal government. The program launched last month as a pilot project in the Waterloo Region, in partnership with the tech company Communitech. As part of the Ontario Chamber of Commerce network, the DBOT was able to bring the project to Dufferin County.

The province has provided the DBOT with an initial 20,000 kits to distribute, but more will be reordered as needed.

"We have a contract to provide kits, at least until the end of August," said Morris.

Morris adds that businesses are able to return every two weeks to receive another two week supply of the kits.

Local small businesses looking to receive the testing kits will first have to fill out an agreement form found on the Dufferin Board of Trade website. A "screening supervisor", responsible for the program at their workplace, will be chosen by the employer and will receive training on the screening process.

Businesses will need to track results such as the number of tests, positive cases and negative cases, which are reported back to the province.

"We hope that businesses will see this as an opportunity to enable them, this is one more tool kit that they have, and use it to help their businesses, their employees, and the community," said Morris.

COVID-19 rapid screening kits are available to local small businesses as of May 7.

New director of education hired

After an extensive search, the Upper Grand District School Board is pleased to announce the appointment of Peter Sovran as the new Director of Education and Secretary-Treasurer, effective September 1, 2021.

Given the long-standing tenure of current Director of Education Martha Rogers, the search process for a new Director was a very large undertaking and the Board of Trustees is grateful for the assistance of Jordene Lyttle and Marilyn Gouthro of executive search firm Promeus during this process. The search involved consultation with stakeholders in the educational community including, but not limited to, union groups, senior staff, parent advisory groups, Student Senate, and community partners.

"On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I am happy to welcome Peter to the Upper Grand District School Board. He is eager to get to know everyone in our system and to begin our work together. Peter's range of experiences at both the board level and at the Ministry of Education will serve him well in his new position," said UGDSB Chair of the Board Martha MacNeil.

Sovran's career portfolio over the past 27 years has included a variety of senior leadership positions with the Hamilton-Wentworth, York Region and Toronto District School Boards and the Ontario Ministry of Education. He is currently an Associate Director at the Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board and is one of the longest serving Associate Directors of Education in the province. Prior to this role Sovran was an Executive Superintendent and a Superintendent of Student Achievement. He has served as a Senior Manager and Senior Policy Advisor with the Ministry of Education. Sovran has been an elementary school principal and vice-principal and has taught in all grade divisions, elementary and secondary, including adult education.

Sovran has a proven track-record of strategic, transformative leadership that has resulted in impactful changes to public education in Ontario with a particular focus on improving student achievement, well-being and equity of outcomes. His commitment to addressing the gaps in student learning



SUBMITTED PHOTO

that exist due to systemic and historic barriers was further cemented during his two years working with the Anishinaabeg of Kabapikotawangag Resource Council First Nations School in north-western Ontario.

"I am very humbled and excited about the opportunity to work with the dedicated trustees, staff, and community partners that serve the students of the Upper Grand

District School Board," said Sovran. "Together, we will ensure that UGDSB continues its well-established position as a leader in learning, service excellence, environmental literacy and is proudly reflective of the distinct communities in its boundaries."

"After 26 years of outstanding leadership from Dr. Rogers, our system is strong, stable, and thriving. Building on this solid foundation, we are looking forward to an exciting future for the UGDSB," said MacNeil.

Sovran officially commences the role of UGDSB Director of Education and Secretary/Treasurer on September 1, 2021. He will begin his transition process over the coming months.

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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."

Running with the pack

There is a photo and caption that has been making the rounds through social media over the past couple of years.

There's a reasonable chance you have seen it pop up on your Facebook page.

It is a well-done photo of a pack of 25 wolves, all in single file, making its way across a winter landscape.

As impressive as the photo is, it is the caption that explains what is going on that is interesting.

The caption explains how the wolves organize as a pack to remain safe.

The pack, the caption says, is led by the old and the sick, because if they were at the rear, they would fall behind and get lost. They lead the pace of the group as it moves across the snowy tundra.

In case of an ambush, this first group would be sacrificed.

Following the old and sick, are the five strongest ones – the ones who could fend off an attack and protect the pack.

The alpha male of the group takes up the position at the rear of the group where he can see everything and make decisions on what the pack will do.

The whole presentation is delivered like it's a page out of National Geographic and written by someone who's spent 30 years in the wild studying wolf behaviour.

I've seen many comments where people state how we can 'learn from the wolves.'

I'm not sure we can learn anything from wolves other than maybe how to violently kill a sheep in a pen.

While this wolf photo and explanation did make a big splash when it came out, a second look at this information just doesn't make any sense at all.

For starters, saying the strongest wolves take their place to protect from an ambush doesn't make any sense.

Wolves don't get ambushed – they ARE the predators. They don't have any natural enemies other than the occasional farmer with a 30.06 who is fed up with the wolves attacking his livestock.

Even a full-size grizzly bear wouldn't attack a wolf because it knows if it did, it would soon be dealing with an attack from several others wolves – they don't run in a pack for no good reason.

As for the alpha male running the group

and making decisions, there is no alpha male in a wolf pack. They're wolves – there may be a dominant one who tries to shove some others around, but that's true in any group of animals. Try throwing a couple of hamsters in a cage together and see what happens.

As for the sick and elderly, most animals don't care or realize that one of their group is sick. It's not like they are going to call for a doctor.

It didn't take much research to find out the entire description of this noble and brave wolf pack is a lot of nonsense.

One naturalist who has observed wolves for three decades said wolves don't travel in any kind of organized march – this group just happened to be running in a straight line because there is snow on the ground and the wolf in the lead is clearing the path and the rest follow suit through the easiest route.

It is this type of misinformation we seem to be bombarded with over the past few years.

It is becoming more and more difficult to figure out what is fact and what is

semi-fact, or just outright misinformation.

I guess this is what happens when anyone has the ability to place information on an international feed that can zip around the world in the blink of an eye.

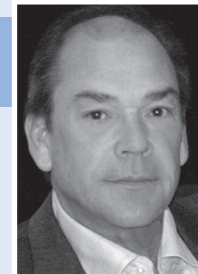
It's not all bad. You can learn a lot just by clicking on a video made by some guy half way around the world who decided to make a short film showing you his home town.

However, with so much misinformation out there, you might want to check your facts if you are doing research for something important. This must be really a must for students who are researching a paper.

You don't want to do sketchy research and produce a report saying one of Abraham Lincoln's favourite pastimes was playing Nintendo games – which I actually did read in one history story.

The old phrase 'don't believe everything you read' is probably truer now, more than any other time in history.

BRIAN LOCKHART
FROM THE SECOND ROW



Objective Allies: Netanyahu and Hamas

'Objective allies' generally don't even talk to each other. They don't have common values, their ultimate goals may be completely incompatible, they often hate each other. But they share some intermediate goal, and are clever enough to realise they can both get what they want by acting together in certain ways.

Sometimes those ways may even involve shooting at each other, but if acting that way brings a result that serves their various purposes, they are still objective allies. So Binyamin Netanyahu, still prime minister of Israel despite his parlous political position, and Hamas, the Islamist Palestinian organisation that controls the Gaza Strip, are objective allies.

Right now the missiles are flying and people are dying in both the Gaza Strip and Israel, and as usual it's hard to say who or what started it. Was it the Israeli air strikes that hit 150 targets in Gaza and killed around thirty people including nine children on Tuesday? Or the Hamas fighters who launched 130 of their homemade missiles at Israeli towns earlier in the day and killed three Israelis?

Or the Israeli police who fired stun grenades Monday night at Palestinian demonstrators taking shelter in the al-Aqsa mosque on what Israelis call Temple Mount? Or the Palestinian protesters who threw rocks and other missiles at the police every night during the last week of Ramadan? Or the founders of Hamas in 1987, or the authors of the Balfour Declaration in 1917?

Never mind who started it. The right question is: who benefits from what is happening right now? It's the same old 'objective allies' who have been playing this game for a quarter-century already: Hamas and Netanyahu. And yes, they do hate each other, but nevertheless...

Consider Netanyahu's position. For the fourth time in a row, he has just failed to get an election outcome that will let him create and lead a coalition government. He is on trial on serious corruption charges, and may go to jail if he does not remain prime minister.

The opposition parties that want to see Netanyahu gone now have a month to try to make a different coalition that excludes him, but they have a problem. The electoral

arithmetic means that their coalition must contain the United Arab List (UAL), one of the parties that represent Israel's 20% minority of Arab citizens.

No Arab party has ever been part of an Israeli government before, so putting this coalition together was already quite tricky. Doing it while Israelis and Palestinians are killing each other is impossible. UAL Chairman Mansour Abbas has already suspended the talks with his potential Jewish coalition partners.

If these coalition talks fail, Israel will have to have another election (the fifth in thirty months) next autumn. Netanyahu will remain prime minister in the meantime, and will then have another, fifth chance to get a durable right-wing majority coalition that will pass legislation safeguarding him from further prosecution.

I can't read Netanyahu's mind, but if he were a ruthlessly self-serving politician he would certainly find this little war politically useful. How about his alleged 'objective ally', Hamas?

Hamas needs a war right now less than Netanyahu does, but it's always up for one. Its business model is perpetual rejection of peace with Israel, in the expectation that divine intervention will one day deliver total victory and eliminate the Jewish state.

Hamas is therefore in permanent competition with Fatah, the rival Palestinian political movement that accepted the (now moribund) 'two-state solution' which envisaged Israeli and Palestinian states

living side by side. A little war with Israel now and then is good for Hamas's image.

The Hamas-Netanyahu 'objective alliance' is based on the fact that Netanyahu hates the idea of a two-state solution just as much as Hamas does. Indeed, they began by strangling that deal together in 1995-96, and most of the shooting since has been about keeping it dead.

The deal came out of the Oslo Accord of 1992, in which Israeli prime minister Yitzhak Rabin and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat agreed to move towards two parallel states living in peace.

Rabin was assassinated by a Jewish right-wing extremist, but everybody expected his successor, Shimon Peres, to win the 1996 election on a sympathy vote and go through with the Oslo deal. Instead, Hamas went on a terrorist spree, bombing buses in Israel to cause maximum casualties, in order to drive Israeli voters into the arms of the anti-Oslo Accords nationalist right instead.

It succeeded, and the right-wing candidate, ex-commando Binyamin Netanyahu, became prime minister instead and sabotaged the 'peace process'. It was never very likely to succeed, but Hamas and Netanyahu both act as objective allies whenever the corpse of the two-state solution threatens to rise from its shallow grave.

GWYNNE DYER
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Charges laid after single vehicle collision

The Dufferin Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) charged the driver of a single motor vehicle collision with impaired driving in the Township of Mulmur.

Dufferin OPP attended the area of County Road 21 and Second Line, in Mulmur around 3:57 p.m., on Saturday, May 8, 2021, for a collision investigation.

Officers located the lone driver and vehicle in a ditch. The investigation determined the driver to be impaired by alcohol. There were no injuries reported at the time of the collision.

As a result, Amber BLIGHT, 24-years-old of Tay Township, was arrested and charged with the following offences:

- Operation While Impaired - Alcohol and Drugs
- Fail to comply with an order made during a declared emergency
- Fail to Surrender Insurance Card

The driver received a 90-day driver's licence suspension and the vehicle was towed from the scene and impounded.

The accused is scheduled to appear in the Ontario Court of Justice in Orangeville at a future date in July 2021.

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

The Dufferin OPP reminds motorist to plan ahead when consuming alcohol or drugs. Use a designated driver, cab, ride-share, public transit or stay overnight.

Any amount of alcohol or drugs can impact your ability to make sound judgments. 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.

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



SUBMITTED PHOTO

STOLEN TRACTOR: Pictured above is an image of the John Deere Tractor that was stolen from a farm in Melancton on May 6. The theft was from a rural address on the 5th Line. Anyone with information regarding this theft is asked to contact Dufferin OPP at 1-888-310-1122 or Crime Stoppers to remain anonymous at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477). You can also submit your information online at <https://ontariocrimestoppers.ca/>.

OPP warn of telephone scams

The Dufferin Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) recently received numerous inquiries from citizens, regarding telephone calls requesting personal information.

Dufferin OPP is currently investigating several complaints of telephone scams. The caller will identify themselves as a representative of a Government agency, such as Service Canada, which has been the case in the most recent complaints. The caller requests personal information in an attempt to gain access to your personal accounts.

Typically the caller will ask you to verify your social insurance, credit card or banking account numbers. Do not provide these numbers. Official government agencies or financial institutions will never ask you for personal information over the phone.

For more information regarding ongoing scams in Canada or to report fraud, visit the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre at <http://antifraudcentre.ca/>. If you believe you have been a victim of fraud, call your local police at their non-emergency number.

Here are some tips to protect yourself:

- Don't be afraid to say no or hang up
- Watch out for urgent pleas that play on your emotions or intimidating high-pressure tactics
- Do your research and verify the legitimacy of the call
- If in doubt, hang up and call a publicly listed phone number for the company the caller claims to represent
- Don't give out personal information, such as your name, address, birthdate, credit card, banking or social insurance

Members of the Dufferin OPP are committed to public safety, delivering proactive and innovative policing in partnership with our communities. Officers value your contribution to building safe communities. If you have information about suspected unlawful activity, please contact the OPP at 1-888-310-1122 or Crime Stoppers to remain anonymous at 1-800-822-8477 (TIPS) or www.crimestoppersdm.com.

\$100,000 tractor stolen from farm

Officers from the Dufferin Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) are currently investigating the theft of a 2010 John Deere tractor 7430, which occurred in the Township of Melancton.

The theft took place sometime between Wednesday, May 5, at 6 p.m., and Thursday, May 6, 2021, at 9 a.m., from a rural address on 5th Line in Melancton. There is no suspect information at this time, however, the investigation is ongoing and any updates will be provided as information becomes available.

The stolen tractor is described as a 2010 John Deere model 7430, green in colour. The tractor was equipped with a 741 loader with a four-prong bale fork, black in colour. The machine is valued at approximately \$100,000.

Anyone with information regarding this theft is asked to contact Dufferin OPP at 1-888-310-1122 or Crime Stoppers to remain anonymous at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477). You can also submit your information online at <https://ontariocrimestoppers.ca/>.

X CROSSWORD

PUZZLE 445

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13	
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18						19					20				
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78						79	80				81	82	83	84	85
86						87					88				
89							90				91				

- 11. Spur
- 12. Nobleman
- 13. Coastal bird
- 15. Cuban music
- 16. Passage from a book
- 22. Spur wheel
- 24. Operate
- 25. Car info
- 26. Go astray
- 27. Likewise
- 28. Elicit
- 30. Heaven's ____ Gates
- 33. Rock back and forth
- 34. Indian nursemaid
- 35. Wide valley
- 36. Decorative jug
- 38. Fizzy beverage
- 39. Herring
- 42. Scuff
- 44. Mongolian dwelling
- 46. Sport
- 47. Money exchange fee
- 48. Silent okays
- 50. Inscribe
- 52. Express derision
- 55. Posh
- 57. Television sound
- 61. Mom and apple ____
- 62. Tourist lodging
- 63. Sum up
- 65. Develop
- 66. Nipped
- 67. Narrative poem
- 68. Shoelace tip
- 71. Miniature
- 73. Old Gaelic
- 74. Quarrel
- 75. Tusk
- 76. Nicklaus's cry
- 77. "____ Street" (film)
- 80. Unit of resistance
- 82. Adriatic, e.g.
- 83. Luck
- 84. Hook shape
- 85. Formerly named

ACROSS

- 1. Tenth
- 6. Miffed
- 10. Molding curve
- 14. Spam source
- 15. Rejuvenate
- 17. Hog
- 18. ____-ski
- 19. Coed
- 20. Draw a salary
- 21. Royal fur
- 23. Turn sour
- 25. Apportion
- 29. English horn
- 30. Pedro's dough
- 31. Nudge
- 32. Active hostility
- 33. "____ in Blue"
- 37. Grumble
- 39. Switch
- 40. Deviate from course

- 41. Soft-drink flavor
- 43. Gala
- 45. Malt beverage
- 46. Withered
- 49. Green, glassy mineral
- 51. Theater guide
- 53. Conscious being
- 54. Corpuscle's passageway
- 56. Knitter's material
- 58. Benefit
- 59. Agreement
- 60. Paradise
- 64. Flowering shrub
- 67. Michael Jackson album
- 69. Orange covering
- 70. Marathon segment
- 71. Creche figures
- 72. Mind
- 73. Wimpy
- 76. Succeed
- 78. Kind of admiral

- 79. Soup ingredient, possibly
 - 81. Pale
 - 86. Chanted
 - 87. Harassment
 - 88. Tenant's document
 - 89. Trim
 - 90. Pinochle term
 - 91. Expire
- ### DOWN
- 1. Social drink
 - 2. Ornery small fry
 - 3. Popeye is one
 - 4. Go hastily
 - 5. Different
 - 6. Final year student
 - 7. Sheepish
 - 8. ____ and shine!
 - 9. Holiday night
 - 10. Actress Merle ____

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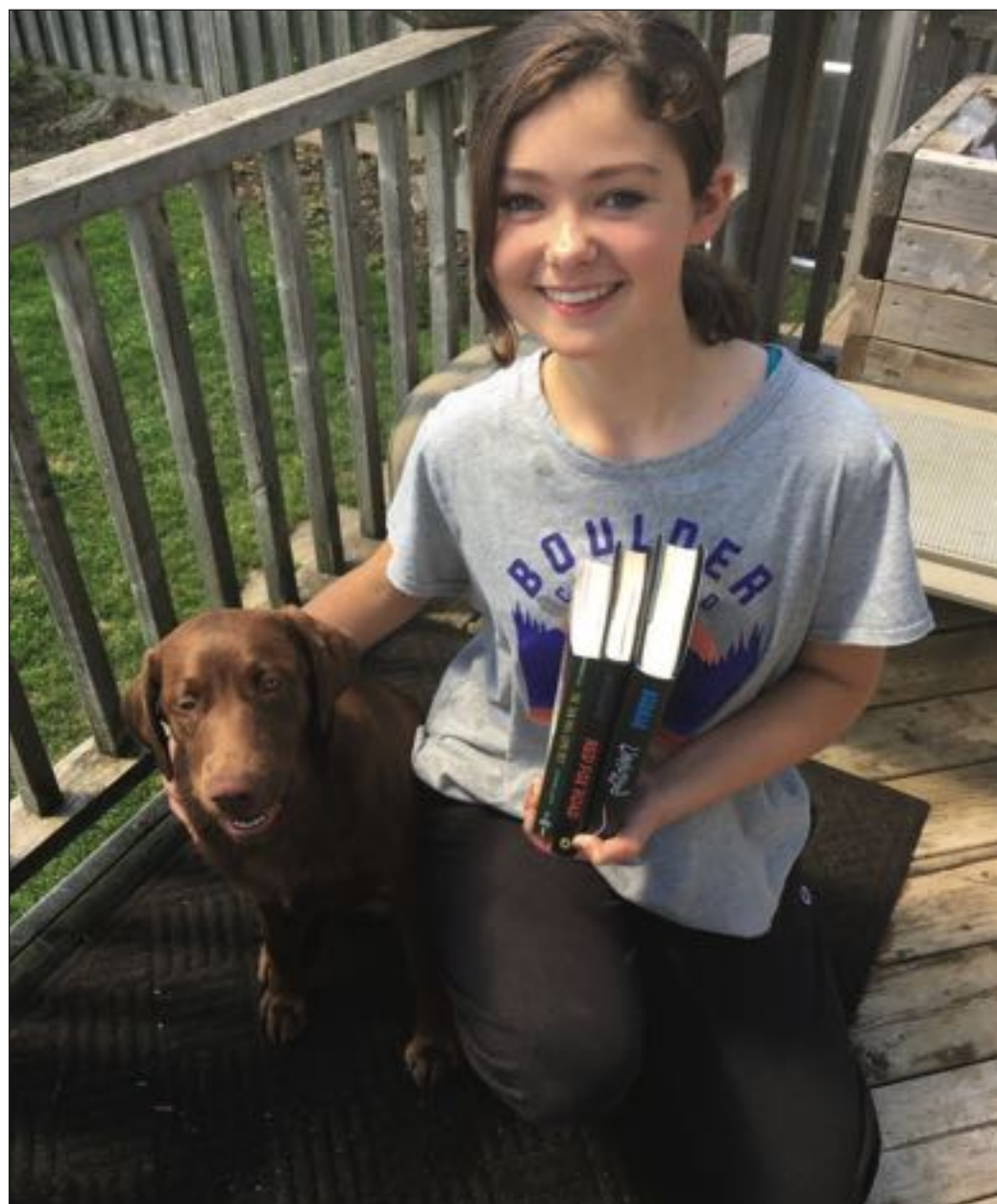
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Ontario's COVID-19 vaccine plan is helping to stop the spread and save lives. Thousands of people across the province are getting vaccinated every day.

As vaccinations continue, we need to stay the course to protect those we love. Wear a mask. Wash your hands. Keep your distance.

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



SUBMITTED PHOTO

ACTIVE READER: Brooke Allen, a sixth grader from Centennial Hylands Elementary School has been busy reading books through the pandemic and her recommended books made it onto the OLA Summer Reading List.

Local student helps with OLA committee

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

A Centennial Hylands student has helped curate a summer reading list for Ontario students, after being selected to take part in the Ontario Library Association (OLA) Kids Committee.

Brooke Allen, a sixth grader from the local elementary school, participated in a day-long virtual conference at the beginning of May, joining students from across the province to recommend and debate books to be included on the OLA Summer Reading List.

Brooke was selected to the Silver Birch age group of the Kids Committee after submitting an application for the Forest of Reading program.

"I wanted to be a part of the committee because ever since the lockdown started, I've started to read tons of books, and I've developed a joy for reading," Brooke tells the Free Press. "I thought it would be a good idea and I knew other kids would like my book suggestions."

Brooke has participated in two of Centennial Hyland's Forest of Reading programs, which she says also sparked her interest in applying to partake in the Kids Committee conference.

During the conference, Brooke was tasked with presenting three books by Canadian authors she had recently read, and explaining why they should be on the summer reading list.

The books she presented included *Unplugged* by Gordon Korman, *The Sun Will Come Out* by Joanne Levy, and *Red Fox Road* by Frances Greenslade. All three were

chosen to be part of the OLA summer reading list.

"I was really happy because it seem like everyone else liked what I said about the books, that made me feel really great," said Brooke. "You kind of go in your own world while you're reading these books, it's like you escape and all of them are positive."

When asked why she chose the three books to be the ones presented at the conference she said, "I found the story on the back really interesting, and I thought it would be a good choice for my age group."

Erin Allen, Brooke's mother and a school teacher, spoke with the Free Press about seeing her daughter participate in the conference.

"It was amazing because what I saw was my daughter, who like a lot of kids likes to be online, all of a sudden reading book after book after book. As teachers that's what we'd like to see, is that magic. I'm very proud that she read those books, that she participated in the conference, and I'm really thrilled that her books were chosen – I'm very proud of her."

Kristin MacDonald, is the teacher-librarian at Centennial Hylands and also runs the Forest of Reading program at the school. In a press release from the UGDSB, MacDonald noted the work Brooke put into presenting her list to the committee.

"This has been a great experience for Brooke and we are so proud of her effort and time she put into being part of this committee," said MacDonald.

Speaking to the overall experience of the conference Brooke said, "It was really fun."

Council delays agreement for proposed telecommunications tower

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

Shelburne Town Council has deferred signing a letter of concurrence for a proposed telecommunications tower, citing visual and location concerns of the tower.

"I'm certainly not opposed to the concept of this, obviously the benefits are there, but from my part this is the first time council has had an opportunity to see what is being proposed visually," said Mayor Wade Mills. "I wouldn't mind spending a little more time considering and doing some of our own diligence to see what other options may exist in what the structure looks like at the end of the day."

Council, at their meeting on Monday (May 10), received a presentation from Land Squared, on behalf of Shared Tower Inc., and a report from town planner Steve Wever on the proposed tower's location.

The new telecommunication tower is proposed to be built at 713 Industrial Rd., and is designed to be a 50-metre lattice tri-pole style.

As an independent tower, it will be available for co-location of cellular and wireless internet service providers. The tower's location looks to address the growing need for both cellular and wireless services on the eastern part of Town and the surrounding rural areas.

Located in an urban part of Shelburne, one of council's main concerns with the tower is the visual impact it will have.

"It is on the threshold of one of the major ways into Town and that is only going to become more apparent as the Fieldgate development goes in. I'm not sure this is the option we want being our welcome sign on the way into Shelburne," said Mills.

Mills inquired the possibility of moving the telecommunication tower to a different location, including the already existing structure for the old water tower as well as other styles that would look "more appealing" visually.

Prior to the current proposed location, two other areas in Town were discussed but found not suitable. Wever said the existing water tower was explored, but that it was determined that the height and the specific service didn't line up.

"Seeing as we are trying to keep it to the outskirts as much as possible, and the height is needed this is style that is the least visually impactful," said Dom Claros, transaction coordinator for Land Square.

Coun. Walter Benotto also questioned the height of the tower.

"The lower the tower the less opportunity there is for co-location," said Claros. "Our approach is to come up with a solution to have one tower that does the job for all the carriers in order to not have another application in a year or two."

Wever in his report noted that the questions that council had, were also one's staff had before making recommendations.

Council deferred signing the letter of concurrence until June 28.

Congregate Care groups plead with residents to stay vigilant

Written By Rob Belardi
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Congregate Care Settings Group of Dufferin and Caledon, like all members of the community, have felt the draining impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic for the last 13 months.

They know it's been the hardest year of everybody's lives, but they want to encourage people to continue to do their part to keep the community safe.

The group is made up of Abbeyfield Caledon, Bethell Hospice, Boston Mills Retirement Community, Caledon Community Services, Choices Youth Shelter, Community Living Dufferin, Dufferin Area Family Health Team, Dufferin Child and Family Services, Dufferin Oaks Long Term Care Home, Family Transition Place, Hospice Dufferin, Kerry's Place, Lord Dufferin Centre, Oliver House, Pine River Institute, Shelburne Long Term Care Home and Retirement Community, SHIP, and South Bridges Care Community.

Seeing firsthand how difficult it has been, together the Congregate Care Settings Group of Dufferin and Caledon penned an open letter to residents pleading that despite pandemic fatigue, the third wave is no time to stop doing what must be done to save lives.

"We have all heard the tragic stories of the front lines of health care—we know of the unprecedented exhaustion, pressure and trauma that nurses, doctors, paramedics, environmental services staff and allied health professionals are coping with," the letter reads. "The pressures on the health care system are enormous. What may not be as obvious, is the crisis unfolding within congregated (communal living) settings. Congregate care settings are organizations that house some of our community's most vulnerable people. This letter is being sent on behalf of a group of leaders of our community's congregated settings on behalf of those we serve.

"The pandemic has demonstrated once again that those most at risk in our community for contracting the virus are often the same people who are most at risk for—everything else. They are the marginalized, the disenfranchised, the homeless, the disabled, the elderly and ill. They are children and youth in transition or living with neglect or abuse. They are individuals who are differently abled or struggling with mental health, and those using substances to cope. They are women at risk, locked down in their own homes with an abusive partner.

They are essential workers in grocery stores, warehouses and manufacturing facilities who don't have sick benefits and don't have the social capital or support to refuse unsafe work during this pandemic. These are the people we serve and care for. They are the reason that we are awake in the middle of the night—hoping we can keep our respective facilities and services free from an outbreak—while we track daily case counts and trends, which can make us feel anything but hopeful.

"For the past year, at a minimum of twice per week, this group of leaders from our community's congregated care settings have been meeting—virtually, of course—as the pandemic has unfolded and evolved. The organizations represented at this virtual table shoulder a unique burden. We continue to work to keep the people we support safe from the risks they face in their everyday lives. We are now also working to mitigate the added risk of contracting the virus while living communally within the walls of our organizations. Over the past year, our work has changed. It had to. Not only have we had to learn, develop and implement new infection, prevention, and control protocols and to work together while wearing face masks and eye protection, but in order to effectively protect the people we support as well as our staff, we have had to adapt our facilities and service delivery. We can't give up or relax our steadfast vigilance. We are responsible for the safety and well-being of too many.

"Our fears are many, but one of the greatest is that our staff will get sick and be unable to care for people living in our organizations and accessing our services. We fear that if even one of the people we support becomes infected, the virus may spread, infecting other residents as well as our staff. We fear that if that happens, we won't have the resources we need to care for people in the way they need to be cared for. However, the biggest fear we have right now is that the more tired, frustrated, and angry we all become, the less willing any of us are to follow the rules. We know, however, that in not doing so, we will be condemning ourselves to a fourth wave and maybe a fifth of this pandemic. We want our work to be all about caring for the people we support and their families. We want to be able to do this in the way we know they need it—face-to-face, in-person and with unreserved compassion. We know the demand for our services isn't going anywhere but up—even when the pandemic is long behind us—so

we are holding out hope. We have to. It was Mahatma Ghandi who said, 'a nation's greatness is measured by how it treats its weakest members.' We believe in the greatness of our community, which is why we are asking for your help.

"We are asking you to dig in. To dig deeper. Despite being tired and frustrated, please consider your actions and the impact they may have on people who may not have the same resources and privileges that you do. Please help us protect the most vulnerable people in our community. Stay home as much as you can. Wear a mask. When it's your turn, get vaccinated. By doing so you are helping us save lives."

Norah Kennedy, a member of the group and the Executive Director of Family Transition Place—a shelter for women who experience abuse and unhealthy relationship—said she drafted the letter on behalf of the group with the goal of helping people understand how critical the situation is for these organizations.

"We've been meeting since the beginning of the pandemic a couple times a week because we're representatives of different organizations that are being referred to as congregated settings," she said. "We've been effected by the pandemic in a really specific and different way because though we're very different organizations and settings—everything from long-term care to shelters for abuse—but the thing that we really share in common is the fact that we're housing and sheltering really vulnerable people in close proximity. We know what happened back in the first wave with long-term care and retirement homes and how the virus swept through those facilities. We know what the risk can be and so, on our calls, we talk about what the issues are, what the trends are, what our concerns are, and how to mitigate them."

The restrictions and directives in place for congregated setting on how to keep people safe are extremely detailed and that has caused these organizations to shift from dealing only with the issues involving their clients to how to serve them in the safest possible way, says Kennedy.

"We're changing how our facilities operate and how our services operate so we're still giving them the support that they need, but trying to keep them safe from another danger," she said. "In my situation, safety has always been our number one concern at the shelter, but now we're adding the...increase of safety with health."

With all the effort put forth by these orga-

nizations to keep their clients safe, Kennedy says they were motivated to let the community know that their help is still needed to protect those who need it the most.

"What triggered the letter was a conversation we had a couple of weeks ago around how tired our staff are, how hard this has been for all of us, and yet we keep stepping up and trying to remain optimistic," she said. "We're really proud of the fact that the outbreaks in congregated settings—especially in our region—are actually really low. But we just wanted the opportunity to let the community know that everybody's actions, everybody's individual choices, have an impact on other people."

"Our point is that the people we're sheltering, and housing are some of the most vulnerable people in our community. These are the people that are going to be the most at risk in so many other things in normal times. As we've seen across the globe, the pandemic is hitting those communities that have been marginalized the hardest. It was an opportunity to ask the people of the community to look at the better side of their nature because we all know how tired and fed up we are and we all want to be out there with people again, but we need people to recognize the most vulnerable don't have the same opportunities that many of us do. We believe as a group that it's part of our responsibility to protect and care for those people in any way we can."

Kennedy says she worries people forget how poor choices in the community can lead to major impacts, especially on those without the same privileges that are more vulnerable, when relaxing around COVID restrictions.

"Most of the time people want to contribute to the common good and we're right there with everybody, we're tired and tired of having to be screened and putting on the masks and goggles," she said. "We all want to get back to barbecues with our families as the weather gets nice, but every time we take that risk, we convince ourselves that it's not us that it's going to happen to, it's somebody else and we'll be fine."

"Every time we take that risk, on the off chance we're not fine, that has a huge ripple effect. If one of my staff or a client comes in contact with somebody spreading it, that's just not one person, that's them, their family, all the clients they're in contact with, the whole staff, and their families. The ripple effect is not worth it for the brief moment of fun."

Yeah, we're TIRED OF



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CDDHS Co-op Corner: Creemore Village Pharmacy

Written By **Andrea Hotari**

This week Andrea Hotari from Centre Dufferin District High School (CDDHS) shares a little bit about their experience and how Creemore Village Pharmacy is contributing to the community's future.

The Creemore Village Pharmacy has been in business since 1878, and for the last 7 years owned by Jennifer Yaeck.

The pharmacy provides services like filling prescriptions, compounding and injections for their clients/customers.

They also provide home health care which includes rentals, wheelchairs, and compliance packaging. Creemore Village pharmacy is dedicated to helping and providing support towards your health-related concerns and needs.

My co-op placement at the Creemore Pharmacy was as a Pharmacy Assistant.

I filled and prepared prescriptions, as well as priced and stocked pharmaceuticals. Not only that, I also renewed prescriptions over the phone, learned about the human body and the effect of certain medications.

As I showed my dependability, I got to renew prescriptions on the computers and interact with customers more.

When starting at the pharmacy I received proper training from the Pharmacists and fellow workers on how to complete my tasks safely and correctly.

Other careers that are associated or related to this placement are Bookkeeping, Front Store Manager, Cashier, and Pharmacist.

These careers are all very important and are needed to run a pharmacy.

Bookkeeping helps out with the business side of the company.

The Front Store Manager makes sure that everything in the rest of the store runs smoothly.

The Cashier cashes out items to be purchased and the Pharmacist runs the pharmaceuticals.

A pharmacy cannot be open without a Pharmacist present, but it takes all of these jobs to make a pharmacy run smoothly.

The Creemore Village Pharmacy is very involved in the community. They provide bursaries for local students

“The Creemore Village Pharmacy was a great experience with wonderful people and has a very positive impact on the community.”

—Andrea Hotari



SUBMITTED PHOTO

CO-OP PLACEMENT: Creemore Pharmacy owner, Jennifer Yaeck (left) and CDDHS co-op student, Andrea Hotari, stand in front of the pharmacy's shelves, where Hotari has been providing services, such as filling prescriptions, compounding and injections for their clients/customers

going to colleges or universities.

They also sponsor local sports teams such as the Clearview Minor Hockey teams, and the Creemore Baseball teams.

Not only do they sponsor sports teams, they also sponsor the local Creemore school.

The Creemore Village Pharmacy was a great experience with wonderful people and has a very positive impact on the community.

Be sure to read the Shelburne Free Press next week to hear about another CDDHS student's experience doing a co-op placement in the community.

Town introducing fireworks by-law

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

only regulated fireworks with limited provision under the Town's noise by-law.

The Town of Shelburne is introducing a fireworks by-law, which will regulate the sale, use, and storage of fireworks within the Town.

The new by-law was given leave and enacted during a meeting of Shelburne Town Council on Monday (May 10).

“Staff in consultation with the Fire Chief Snyder have determined that it is necessary for the health and safety of Shelburne residents to introduce a fireworks by-law,” said Clerk Jennifer Willoughby.

The Town of Shelburne has previously

The new by-law will set out provision for selling fireworks, dates and times when fireworks can be used, establish classes of fireworks, and clarify the types of fireworks that can be sold, used, and stored by residents and business owners.

Coun. Walter Benotto speaking to the by-law, recalled a personal experience with a firework landing on a propane tank outside his home.

“I've been pushing for this by-law for a long time, it's been a concern to me,” said Benotto. “I'm quite willing to move this by-law forward.”

Mayors call for predictability on COVID lockdown

Mayors from across the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area are calling on the Province for greater “predictability” when it comes to Ontario's current stay-at-home orders.

The current stay-at-home orders are set to expire on May 20 and with numbers being what they are and health officials stating it is unlikely things will begin opening up by that date, lawmakers are seeking more answers from the Ontario government.

“Today, Mayors and Chairs from the 11 largest municipal governments across the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA) held their regular weekly meeting to discuss the ongoing response to COVID-19 across the Region,” they said. “The GTHA Mayors and Chairs are asking the Province to provide predictability for the current Provincial stay-at-home order and what is to follow. As the Victoria Day long weekend approaches, people and businesses have begun to ask perfectly reasonable questions as to where things will stand as of that time, so they can make plans of all kinds – business and

pleasure. “Accordingly, we think it is important that the Ontario government communicate clearly and as soon as possible whether or not its order will be extended further or modified based on public health advice.”

The uncertainty of when the stay-at-home order will be lifted – and, indeed, what will follow – is not the only question being asked of the Provinces. Calls are growing louder from municipal lawmakers – particularly Brampton Mayor Patrick Brown – to allow outdoor sports and athletic activities to reopen, citing lack of evidence that these outdoor pursuits are contributing to the still-high case numbers of COVID-19.

The Small Urban GTHA Mayors group consists of the Mayors of Aurora, Bradford West Gwillimbury, the Township of Brock, the City of Burlington, the Towns of East Gwillimbury, Halton Hills, King, Newmarket, Orangeville, the Townships of Scugog and Uxbridge, and the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville.

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THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF SHELBURNE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

UNDER SECTION 45(5) OF THE PLANNING ACT

Take notice that the Committee of Adjustment of the Corporation of the Town of Shelburne will hold a public meeting on:

MONDAY, MAY 31st, 2021

The public meeting is scheduled to start at 6:30 p.m., or as shortly thereafter as possible, and will be held in an online virtual meeting format, as outlined below. The purpose of the meeting is to consider the following planning applications:

COMMITTEE OF ADJUSTMENT

- Application for Minor Variance A21/03** – A representative for Erica Osborne, owner of the property located at 741 Halbert Drive, has submitted an application for a Minor Variance to request relief from Section 5.68 of Zoning By-law 38-2007 in order to construct a converted dwelling with a second dwelling unit in the cellar of the existing single detached dwelling. The application is seeking relief from the regulation which states that a dwelling unit shall not be located in the cellar of a dwelling.
- Application for Minor Variance A21/04** – Glen Schnarr & Associates Inc., on behalf of Shelburne Commercial Developments Limited, owner of the property located at 900 Main Street East (Block 216 of the approved Draft Plan of Subdivision File No. DPS18/01), has submitted an application for a Minor Variance to: request relief from the definition of Front Lot Line within Zoning By-law 28-2007 to establish the lot boundary adjoining Main Street East (Highway 10/89) as the Front Lot Line; to permit a minimum rear yard of 5.0m whereas Section 4.7 requires a minimum rear yard of 7.5m; and, to permit a maximum driveway width of 14.0m whereas Section 3.15.3 permits a maximum width of 9.0m.

Maps showing the locations of the subject properties are provided below.

Further to the COVID-19 Pandemic and the Provincial Orders that limit public gatherings, the Committee of Adjustment meeting will be held electronically through Zoom video conferencing and will be livestreamed. To participate in the meeting electronically through Zoom video conferencing, please contact the Secretary-Treasurer at jwilloughby@shelburne.ca to register in order to have access to the public meeting, no later than May 27th, 2021. Should you wish to view the proceedings, you will have the opportunity to view a live stream of the meeting on the Town of Shelburne's YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCsar-MwF8CXrqPbe2EVxh-w>.

For more information about this matter, including information about appeal rights, email planning@shelburne.ca or visit the Town's website at www.shelburne.ca.

Shelburne library shares what's new

Enjoy the Shelburne Public Library's convenient curbside pick-up service to access their entire collection and if you like, library staff will select a bag of materials just for you.

The local library's objective is to provide you with the service you need during these times.

Spring into Reading

Open to readers of all ages, we challenge you to log as much reading as you can between now and June 12th on the Beanstack app to win free entrance and a snack bag at the upcoming drive-in double feature movie night! You can download the Beanstack app from your app store, or use a browser to track your reading by going here: <https://shelburnelibrary.beanstack.org/reader365>

Did you know that Rose and Jade provide weekly, exciting library updates in addition to live reviews of their latest reads? Check out our YouTube channel to find your next great read.

Teen Scene

Teens celebrated May the 4th, an official day to celebrate Star Wars, by creating R2D2 and Darth Vader bookmarks this week. We've got more fun coming up for the rest of the month:

- May 11th- Tie Dye Pillow Case
- May 18th- Among Us Game- Live at 4pm
- May 25th- DIY Boba (Bubble Tea)

We are also receiving many new YA books each week, so make sure to keep your eye on the catalogue and place your holds!

Children's Programs

We are starting to plan for our TD Summer Reading Club. It will be a virtual program but still very exciting and lots of fun.

Just a reminder, 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.

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 - The perfect hope by Nora Roberts
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 - Star Wars: Thrawn ascendancy by Timothy Zahn
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 - The nature of fragile things by Susan Meissner
 - Great circle by Maggie Shipstead
 - Her last holiday by C.L. Taylor

Non fiction

- Collected: colour + neutral by Sarah Richardson
- Finding the mother tree by Suzanne Sirmard
- Doom: the politics of catastrophe by Niall Ferguson
- Sheet pan everything by Ricardo Media
- One pot, pan, planet by Anna Jones

Dunk Disposal launches bike drive

Written By Sam Odrowski

A new social venture aimed at assisting youth in overcoming employment barriers through intentional life skills development, on-the-job training, and paid employment in a bike repair store setting has come to Orangeville.

A newly established registered charity through Youth Unlimited, Heartbeat Bikes, is taking in used or broken bikes and bike parts, which are then reassembled and repurposed by youth, with the help of volunteers and mentors, before being sold back to the community.

Owner of Dunk Disposal, Cameron Dunkerly, has stepped to support the initiative with a bike drive, where he collects your used bikes or bike parts and drops them off to the Heartbeat Bikes shop, located on 10245 Kennedy Road, free of charge. As an incentive, he's also giving a discount on his junk removal services to anyone donating bicycles for the bike drive.

"We do our best to recycle and repurpose stuff whenever possible to keep as much out of landfills as we can," said Dunkerly.

"What we were noticing recently is a lot of bikes were being thrown out. Kids bikes, adult bikes, old bike parts, all kinds of stuff like that, was just being thrown out, and we really didn't have much that we could do with it except for just try and bring it to a recycler. But still, it was just a waste of a lot of good bikes."

When Dunkerly recently discovered Heartbeat Bikes, they quickly partnered up and he's been taking the used bikes to their shop ever since.

"We just bring everything that we get there... all the bikes that people just have

sitting around or don't use any more," he explained. "Heart Beat Bikes is a great partnership, a great local bike shop."

The rebuilt and repaired bikes through the program are being offered at various price points to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to purchase a bicycle. They also provide repairs at a fair price.

"It is our plan as this venture develops to develop a safe riders training, bike rodeos and increased community involvement to encourage more riders," enthused the founder of Heartbeat Bikes.

Dunk disposal has spearheaded initiatives in the past such as its community cleanup and food drive, but Dunkerly noted this is the first time his company has hosted a bike drive.

He encourages anyone who has an extra bike that's out of commission or no longer in use to give him a call at 519-217-7149 or contact him through dunkdisposal.ca, so they can support a great cause instead of letting their old bike turn to rust in a landfill.

"When it comes to the bikes, if it is just going to sit there unused, people may as well donate them so they can be repurposed and brought back to life and go through this whole cycle of helping the youth learn these awesome life skills and have job opportunities," Dunkerly noted. "We're offering the incentive of the bike pickup itself being free, but if they're looking for a full junk pickup, we're offering a discount on that as well."

Heartbeat Bikes is also looking for tools, accessories, safety gear and financial donations to support the program.

To learn more about Heartbeat Bikes, contact them by email at Heartbeatbikes2@gmail.com.

Stabbing suspect arrested by OPP

Members of the Dufferin Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) have made an arrest in relation to a stabbing incident in the Town of Orangeville.

On Friday, May 7, 2021, at approximately 3:30 p.m., Dufferin OPP officers, along with other emergency services personnel, responded to a report of a stabbing at a residence on Sherbourne Street in the Town of Orangeville. The victim was transported to a local hospital with minor injuries.

As a result of the investigation, a suspect has been arrested and charged with:

- Assault with a Weapon
- Uttering threats - Cause death or bodily harm

• Mischief Under \$5,000

The accused was released on an Undertaking and will appear before the Ontario Court of Justice in Orangeville in July 2021.

The name of the accused will not be released to protect the identity of the victim.

The charges have not been proven in court.

Anyone who may have witnessed the incident, or has any information, is asked to contact Dufferin OPP at 519-942-1711 or 519-925-3838. Should you wish to remain anonymous, you may call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477).



PAULA BROWN PHOTO

SPLASH PAD FUNDRAISER: Giant Tiger in Shelburne has become the latest location to house the Shelburne Splash Pad fundraising meter. The fundraising meter will mark the progress of donations for a splash pad project that the local rotary club has been working on over the last few years. Donations for the Splash Pad can be dropped off at Giant Tiger.

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Photo Credit: Anthony Oragunye

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Feds step in for assessment of GTA West corridor

Written By **Rob Paul**
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The federal government announced that they will be getting involved and leading the environmental assessment of the proposed GTA West Corridor, a.k.a. Highway 413, earlier in the month.

One of the most polarizing actions by Ontario Premier Doug Ford was the decision to revive and move forward with Highway 413.

The highway, if built, is set to run through Caledon, Vaughan, Brampton, and Halton Hills.

Originally proposed in 2003, but cancelled by the Liberal government in February 2018, the Ford government brought it back in November 2018 and have since received criticism from environmental groups and opposition from municipalities along the route.

Highway 413 would be an approximately 52-kilometre four-to-six lane highway built between the 401 and 407 at the Halton-Peel boundary and the 400 north of Vaughan with two extensions to connect the 410 and 427 with it.

In a statement on Monday, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Jonathan Wilkinson explained the decision for the federal government to step in.

"Canadians expect their governments to make decision based on science and evidence that support environmental protection and economic growth," said Wilkinson. "After careful consideration of the available science, evidence, and other relevant information gathered by the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada, as well as the Agency's recommendation to designate the GTA West project, I have decided to designate this project under the federal impact assessment process.

"The Impact Assessment Agency of Canada and other federal departments have identified clear areas of federal concern related to this project. My decision is based on their finding that this project may cause adverse direct or incidental effects on federally-listed species at risk, and the uncer-

tainty that officials have brought to my attention around whether those effects can be mitigated through project design or existing mechanisms."

With the federal government carrying out the environmental assessment, the Ontario government has to submit a project description. Upon submitting a project description, the Agency makes a determination in a two-to-three-month timeframe from when they receive the documents.

"Now that I have agreed with the advice of the Agency to designate this project, the proponent is required to submit an initial project description that, once accepted, will begin the planning phase of the impact assessment process through which the Agency will be able to decide whether a full federal impact assessment is required," he said. "The impact assessment process is grounded in science, evidence, and Indigenous knowledge, and our government firmly believes in the principle of 'one project-one assessment.' Should the Agency decide that areas of federal concern cannot be addressed and that a federal impact assessment is warranted, we will endeavour to work with Ontario to carry out a coordinated and predictable assessment that Canadians can have confidence in."

The province's main argument pushing for the highway to go forward is the worry over population growth and how that will impact travel with the current infrastructure.

The Ontario government says the Greater Golden Horseshoe's population will nearly double over the next 30 years with it currently at around 7.8 million and projected to be 14.8 million by 2051. They believe by 2031 highways in York and Peel will be overcapacity.

Ontario's Transportation Minister, Caroline Mulroney, said the provincial government has already begun an environmental assessment and put out a statement Monday in response to the federal impact assessment for Highway 413.

"At this point, it is unclear what the scope of a federal impact assessment would be, or whether a full impact assessment would be warranted, especially given the fact that

the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada has concluded that concerns surrounding environmental impacts 'are expected to be addressed through the federal and provincial regulatory processes that already exist,'" she stated. "Further, as recently as March 2020, the experts at the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada reviewed the evidence and declined to take further action on the GTA West project."

Concerns related to endangered species in the area that will be affected by the highway have been a driving factor in the federal government carrying out its own environmental assessment.

"The GTA West project is already subject to a robust provincial Individual Environmental Assessment, which is among the most stringent assessment processes on record. This project is intended to address the congestion and forecasted population growth for the people of Ontario. That said, we also believe in the principle of the 'one project-one assessment' and will work with the federal government to address their newly-founded concerns around the potential adverse effects on the Western Chorus Frog, Red-Head Woodpecker and Rapids Clubtail."

The key concerns with the highway are the environmental impact it will have with it paving over 2,000 acres of Class 1 and Class 2 farmland, as well as the effects it will have on the Credit River and Humber River, the billions of dollars it will cost taxpayers, and an expert panel saying it will only save commuters approximately 30 to 60 seconds per trip.

In response to the news that the federal government has designated Highway 413 for a federal environmental assessment, Environmental Defence—an agency dedicated to defending clean water, safe climate, and healthy communities who has long opposed the GTA West Corridor—released a statement.

"Environmental Defence applauds the federal government for stepping in to perform a thorough environmental assessment of the proposed Highway 413. This action is necessary due to the Ontario government's dan-

gerous plan to undermine the environmental reviews of this highway and race to its construction," the statement read.

"If built, Highway 413 will destroy critical farmland, portions of the Greenbelt, wetlands, forests, and endangered species. It would add millions of tonnes of carbon pollution and endanger the health of nearby communities with increased air pollution. The decision to build this highway cannot proceed without thoroughly considering and addressing these impacts, which a federal environmental assessment can provide."

Environmental Defence has been a leading activist group against the highway and over the last few weeks had been holding webinars with members of the communities that the highway would impact to provide information, answer questions, and empower local leaders to help make a difference.

"Minister Wilkinson listened to the concerns of local citizens along the proposed path of Highway 413, and the unanimous voice of local governments who supported this request for a federal environmental assessment," said Sarah Buchanan, Ontario Climate Program Manager at Environmental Defence. "Impacted people and governments don't want to see the province spend billions to destroy critical farmland, portions of the Greenbelt, wetlands, forests, and endangered species, when experts have told us it will only save an average of 30-60 seconds per trip."

Ecojustice is a non-profit environmental law charity that provides funding to lawyers to use litigation to defend and protect the environment and they've been supporting environmental groups—like Environmental Defence—throughout the process of protesting the 413.

"The federal environmental assessment will ensure a robust process for identifying and mitigating, where possible, any environmental impacts from Highway 413, and will ensure that climate change is adequately considered," said Ecojustice lawyer Laura Bowman. "We are confident that this added scrutiny will ultimately reveal that this highway is not in the public interest."

Dufferin municipality recognizes May 13 as Falun Dafa Day

Orangeville has proclaimed May 13 as Falun Dafa Day, following a request from the Falun Dafa Association of Canada.

This is the organization's 29th Falun Dafa Day Anniversary, celebrating the religious movement, which originated out of China, and honours the values of truthfulness, compassion and forbearance.

Falun Dafa, which is also known as Falun Gong, is a spiritual practice for the mind and body, utilizing meditative exercises and a moral philosophy aimed at the promotion of virtue. Tens of millions of people from diverse backgrounds in over 100 countries,

including Canada, practice Falun Dafa and for many people, it improves their mental, moral, and physical well-being.

Since 1999 major human rights organizations have documented the Communist Party of China's (CCP) antireligious campaign, which uses multifaceted propaganda to enforce ideological conversion and re-education of those who practice Falun Dafa. The campaign also includes the torture, forcible conversion, mass imprisonment, and murder of people who practice Falun Gong in China. It's estimated that hundreds of thousands or perhaps millions of Falun Gong practitioners

have been detained in re-education through labour camps or prison facilities for refusing to denounce the spiritual practice.

An investigation, initiated in 2006, found that those who practice the religion were murdered for their vital organs, which were then sold by the CCP. It's estimated that 65,000 practitioners of Falun Gong were killed for their organs.

Judicial authorities have described the campaign against those who practice Falun Dafa as a genocide. Courts in Argentina and Spain indicted senior Chinese officials for genocide and crimes against humanity over

the suppression of Falun Dafa in 2009.

Pixing Zhang of the Falun Dafa Association of Canada wrote into Orangeville Council requesting that they proclaim May 13 as Falun Dafa Day, noting that "after two decades of unspeakable atrocities, the Falun Dafa community, both within China and abroad, have endured with resolute non-violence and persistence to uphold freedom and universal values."

Zhang's letter notes that this has garnered worldwide recognition, including thousands of greetings and proclamations from governments and officials.

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