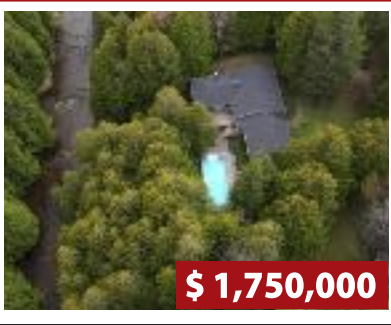


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# Shelburne Free Press

SHELBURNE'S NEWSPAPER SINCE 1875

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Thursday, June 10, 2021

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PHOTO BY J.A.W PHOTOGRAPHY

**MOD PRIDE:** The Rainbow Flag, which represents Pride, along with the Multicultural Flag for Dufferin County, was raised at the Museum of Dufferin (MOD) on June 1 by the County's Warden, Darren White and Celebrate Your Awesome founder, Jim Waddington. The Multicultural Flag is new and was flown for the first time at MOD and other buildings owned by Dufferin County. The flags will be raised for the duration of June, which is Pride month.

## Bruce Beach, known for Ark Two, passes at 87

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

With steel doors and a concrete exterior protruding from a hill as an entrance, Ark Two, an underground nuclear war bunker, is an image straight out of a post-apocalyptic movie complete with perimeter fencing.

Bruce Beach, a resident of Horning's Mills, worked more than 40 years constructing and maintaining the notorious fallout shelter located 12 kilometers outside of Shelburne – all in preparation for an impending nuclear war.

On May 10, Beach died at the age of 87.

Documentary filmmaker Paul Marc Kell first met Bruce Beach in 2011, while working on a pilot documentary series about peppers.

"Bruce being Bruce didn't see eye-to-eye with the producer I was working with, they couldn't agree on anything," recalls Kell in a phone interview with the Free Press. "That being said, Bruce and I hit it off immediately, even back then I was really well versed in Bruce's worlds, which for lack of better description is conspiracy theory."

Approaching Beach about returning on his own to create a different documentary, Kell would spend almost a decade filming the day-to-day lives of Bruce and his wife Jean, often staying with the couple in their home for weeks on end.

"Whereas other film crews would come... they all wanted to just tell this, in my opinion, unfair story of Bruce as being this crazy old man with a bomb shelter. I think I was one of the few people who took the time to

actually sit and listen to them and hear a lot of their stories that initially I thought were not true because they were so unbelievable and fantastic," said Kell.

Bruce Beach was born in Winfield, Kansas on April 14, 1934 and as a teenager dropped out of high school to join the Air Force underage. After being discharged and completing a triple major Bachelor of Arts degree, Beach in the late 1950s would obtain a general contractors license and build 22 bomb shelters in Kansas.

Beach was notorious as the founder of Ark Two, a bomb shelter started in 1979, consisting of 42 interconnected buses buried under 14 feet of soil and concrete on a 12.5 acre parcel of land.

Kell said that during the many years of filming for the documentary, he found that Beach's story was much bigger and more unbelievable than just building the largest privately constructed bunker.

"Bruce's story was so unbelievable and covered many continents. From deep sea treasure hunting, \$50 million awarded to him by the Canadian government for scientific research, to a partnership with Robert Ballard, the guy who discovered the Titanic and having invented the world's first portable computer," said Kell.

Beach also worked on the blueprints for a Universal Auxiliary Language (UAL), meant to be used between people who don't share a common first language.

Despite Beach's involvement with historic Canadian projects, Kell notes that most never really worked out.

"This was a guy who [would] routinely bite off way more than he could chew, everything he did was grandiose. He's not trying to save one or two lives, he's trying to save all of humanity," said Kell. "He was still driven up until the week he passed away, he was still determined and driven to see his vision through."

While from the outside, Bruce Beach's projects appeared as the work of a "crazy old man" or "kook", Beach's family regard them as part of his humanitarian efforts.

Sitting in the small living room of the family home in Horning's Mills surround by family photos Brenda Stewart, Bahia Eldner, and Jean – the daughters and wife of Bruce Beach – recall the start of Ark Two.

"We kind of just thought this is another one of Dad's crazy ideas," explains Stewart looking at her sister.

Adding on, Eldner said, "You just kind of went with it."

When construction on the bunker started in 1979, Eldner was a high school student while Stewart was living in the U.S and already married.

Although the underground bunker was Beach's vision from the start, the project was very much a family affair. Jean over the years, supported Beach with organizing the bunker's food storage as well as gardening supplies to "build humanity back up" after the nuclear war.

"I didn't want it in the first place," said Jean about Ark Two.

Continued on Page 2

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# 'Think Local' market at Fiddle Park in the works

Written By Jessica Laurenza



Think local, shop local. In honour of everything local, the Dufferin Board of Trade (DBOT) is hosting a "Think Local" market at Shelburne's Fiddle Park sometime this summer; the date is to be confirmed due to COVID restrictions. The outdoor market will resemble a farmer's market style event with various vendor booths around the park. Vendor items include macrame, soaps, blankets, meat and cheese, vegan meals, baked goods, reusable items and jewelry. All vendors will be 10 feet from one another in their own tents while

visitors are able to walk from booth to booth. "We have amazing markets in the Dufferin and Caledon area. Often times, they are overlooked because people find online shopping more convenient. But now more than ever, these businesses need our support," explains Lisa Thompson, membership coordinator for DBOT.

Thompson is hoping to get all municipal regions in Headwaters and Dufferin involved in this event. Her hope for the Think Local market is that it will gain enough traction and support to divide it up into rows representing different regions within Dufferin. For example, Orangeville, Shelburne, Mulmur, Grand Valley or Mono would have their own row with vendors from that particular area. Usually, DBOT hosts a "Think Local" showcase available only to DBOT members, which mainly promotes local food and restaurants but because of COVID, they weren't able to have the showcase the past two years. The board received numerous suggestions that

they should expand upon the showcase to include other industries thereby diversifying local businesses which is how the "Think Local" market was born. Thompson is really looking forward to a successful turnout and hopes to make this into an annual event. DBOT is still accepting vendors for the Think Local market. You can reach out to [lisa@dufferinbot.ca](mailto:lisa@dufferinbot.ca) to inquire about further steps for reserving a booth. Local shops are always there for the community so the community needs to show up for them.

# Changes to LTC offer more freedom for residents

Written By Jessica Laurenza

Some provincial restrictions on long-term care homes are being lifted following high vaccination percentages in the homes and overall public health improvement across the province. As of May 30, it is estimated that 97 per

cent of long-term residents in Ontario are fully immunized and more than 89 per cent of staff have received their first dose, while 66 per cent of staff are fully vaccinated, according to the Ministry of Long-Term Care. Stacey Rooyakkers, Executive Director at Shelburne's Long Term Care Home and Retirement Community, said residents and

staff alike are extremely excited to welcome families back, as the loosening of restrictions took place on June 9 and 96 per cent of their residents have been fully vaccinated.

One-third of residents reside in the retirement home while two-thirds reside in long-term care but residents of either side of the home will soon be able to welcome visitors back into their lives.

The Ministry of Long-Term Care has updated their visitor policies to set out the following: residents who have been fully immunized can leave their homes for the day or overnight; residents with mobility limitations or extensive health conditions which make outdoor activity difficult, can have one visitor at a time within the home; brief hugs may now take place regardless of resident or visitor vaccination status. Full vaccination among residents and visitors permits prolonged, close physical contact.

"As a small [home], we take pride in creating a close-knit, supportive environment for our residents that feels like home," explains Rooyakkers.

Shelburne's Long-Term Care and Retirement Community has begun expanding their social activities to include faith-based programming, musical activities and games. A Music Therapist has been reintroduced and outdoor activities, such as gardening, have resumed.

"These activities have been introduced using a slow, methodical approach that places residents' health and safety at the heart of our efforts, and residents have greatly enjoyed them," says Rooyakkers.

Residents of these homes have faced some of the most serious restrictions throughout COVID-19 because of their vulnerabilities so this change will help increase their quality of life.

"Our government puts the safety and well-being of long-term care residents at the heart of everything we do," says Dr. Merilee Fullerton, Minister of Long-Term Care. "Thanks to high immunization levels, residents and their families can resume more of the activities that contribute to their quality of life."

Continued from FRONT

## Bruce Beach, known for Ark Two, passes at 87

"But I helped all the time, with cleaning and this and that."

"You got pulled into his projects," said Brenda. "That's the quote 'I have a little project I need your help with'."

Eldner said it was all a stepping stone for bigger plans.

"Universal Auxiliary Language (UAL), that's what he really wanted to be doing," said Bahia.

With Beach's passing, his family is looking to continue the work he spent more than 40 years doing, through a volunteer group. Kell, who documented Beach's work for a decade, will be releasing the documentary titled The Dawnsayer.

It is anticipated that the documentary will be released later this year.

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# No one will be punished

The recent discovery of a grave site at a formal residential school in British Columbia has sent shock waves across the country.

If the information we have received is indeed correct, over 200 children were buried in unmarked graves near the school.

This practice was apparently common as many of the schools did have nearby graveyards where students were buried in unmarked graves and simply forgotten. Forgotten, that is, by the people who ran the schools. They were not forgotten by their parents, siblings and friends.

The number of students who died while attending residential schools is debated. The lowest estimated figure is around 2,500, with other estimates being as high as 6,000. The official register claims the number is 3,213.

We will never know the true number. Records were not properly kept or later destroyed.

What is known, is that several thousand children who should have never died at all, lost their lives for a number of reasons.

Researching how these children died in such numbers reveals there were several different reasons but almost all the deaths were due to being at a school without adequate facilities.

When you place a bunch of children in

a communal setting with inadequate care, you have a situation just waiting for disease to happen. Many of the schools did not have adequate plumbing, ventilation, sewage or medical care. If a communicable disease did make its way to the school, it could spread quickly and with deadly results.

Not everyone who worked at the schools was indifferent. During the 1918 flu epidemic, one school principal in Alberta, in desperation wrote to the Ministry of (what was then ) Indian Affairs, saying "we have no isolation ward and no hospital equipment of any kind. The dead, the dying, and the sick and the convalescent were all together." He referred to the conditions as 'criminal.'

Around 900 of the students died from tuberculosis, and 150 died from influenza. In most of the other cases, no cause of death is known or recorded.

Can you imagine your child dying, and not being told by the hospital what caused the death? And furthermore, being told not to worry about a funeral because they had already taken care of burial and tossed your child in hole in a vacant lot?

I've read a few other reports from people

who had horror stories of being at some of these schools. If the reports are true, there should be some Catholic priests in prison.

Put aside for the moment, the fact that children should have never been forcibly removed from their families in the first place, and concentrate on what happened at these schools.

Of course, not everyone who worked at the schools was a bad person. I'm sure many had their student's best interests at heart and did a good job.

However, some people at these schools should have never been in charge of any institution that housed children.

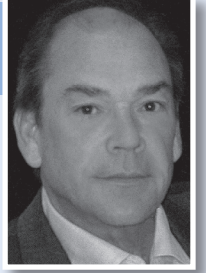
If some of the more graphic reports available are true, then criminal activity did take place and should be investigated.

This school system did not end all that long ago. A historic plaque outside the B.C. school said that particular school operated until 1977.

If that's the case, there must be quite a few people who worked there that are still alive.

I remember pretty much every teacher that taught at my elementary school. If there was a particular teacher or person working there who abused me, you can bet I would still remember their name and what they looked like.

**BRIAN LOCKHART**  
FROM THE SECOND ROW



And I'm sure students who were abused in some of these schools also remember.

Unfortunately, anyone who did commit abuse will never be punished for it.

It's already been years and even if there was a push from a former student who was criminally abused, and tried to do something about it, nothing realistically would happen.

By the time the government formed an inquiry, which they would do, then sub-committees, and steering groups, and advisory groups, and more committees, then held meetings on it, it would be too late.

All that would happen is there would be one of those horrendous conferences, meetings, inquiries, or what you want to call it, where a bunch of people sit around a big table with a name plate and a microphone, and offer their 'findings.'

Then someone would 'take it all under advisement.'

Some crimes do go unpunished.

The chances anyone being held responsible for abusing students at residential schools slipped away a long time ago.

# The time for apologies is over

Our country is grieving following the Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc First Nation's devastating discovery of a mass grave with the remains of 215 children at a former residential school outside Kamloops, B.C. This national tragedy has brought unimaginable heartbreak for First nations communities across Canada and for all Canadians. It's also a terrifying reminder of a dark chapter in Canada's history with the residential school system and the need for immediate, meaningful action on reconciliation.

While communities and families grapple with this unthinkable revelation, we must come together to provide whatever assistance is necessary to aid in the healing process, including the resources needed to protect, honour, and identify the children of this tragedy. The legacy of the residential schools is a national shame and has had a profoundly lasting and damaging impact on Indigenous culture, heritage, and language.

Words and apologies are not enough for the survivors of residential schools and for the families who've lost loved ones. We must take meaningful and immediate action now to address this horrific chapter of our Canadian history.

In 2008, then Prime Minister Stephen Harper delivered a historic apology to former Residential School students, their families, and communities for Canada's role in the operation of the schools and set up the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (the "TRC"). The TRC recognized that the Indian residential school system had a profoundly lasting and damaging impact on Indigenous culture, heritage, and language. Sadly, little has been done to implement the 94 calls to action in the TRC since it was released six years ago.

This unspeakable discovery of the mass grave demonstrates much more needs to be done to address the outstanding rec-

ommendations in the Report and must be done quickly to ensure we can focus on the necessary work of tackling the issues to improve the lives of Indigenous peoples across Canada. The Conservative Party has put forth a list of meaningful actions that can assist families and Indigenous communities during this time: i) developing a comprehensive plan to implement TRC Calls to Action 71 through 76 by July 1, 2021; ii) funding the investigation at all former residential schools in Canada where unmarked graves may exist, including the site where 215 children have already been discovered; iii) ensuring that proper resources are allocated for communities to reinter, commemorate, and honour any individuals discovered through the investigation, according to the wishes of their next of kin; and iv) developing a detailed and thorough set of resources to educate Canadians of all ages on the tragic history

**MP KYLE SEEBACK**  
REPORTING FROM OTTAWA



of residential schools in Canada.

We are calling on Canada's Parliament to share in our commitment to reconciliation and for the Trudeau government to take immediate action to address this national tragedy to support Indigenous communities, and our country, in mourning. Meaningful action must be taken now by the government, and all Canadians, to heal the gaping wounds for Canada's Indigenous peoples. You can support this essential process by contacting the Prime Minister at PM@pm.gc.ca and urge him to promptly act on the outstanding recommendations in the TRC. We must come together to not only acknowledge this dark part of Canada's history, but also learn from it to ensure it never happens again.

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## Dufferin residents can now conveniently report minor crimes online

The Dufferin Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) invites citizens to consider using Online Reporting - a secure, simple and convenient tool to report minor crimes.

Online Reporting is a user-friendly and convenient process that can be done from any mobile device, laptop, tablet or computer with internet access. To access the system, a user can go to opp.ca/reporting, choose their location and click on "Click here to start a report." This will take the user to a secure link where they will be given precise instructions on how to fill out the report.



Only occurrences that do not involve an injury, a suspect or evidence at the scene are applicable. If the crime does not meet the criteria for reporting online, the user will be advised to call police directly. Crimes that are eligible for Online Reporting, regardless of value, include:

- Theft
  - Mischief / Damage to Property (including graffiti)
  - Mischief / Damage to Vehicle
  - Theft from Vehicle
  - Lost / Missing Property
  - Stolen License Plates or Validation Stickers
  - Driving Complaints
- Online Reporting is beneficial to both the public and the police. It provides a convenient alternative to the citizens of Ontario, while allowing frontline officers to focus

their efforts on other proactive and crime prevention strategies within our communities.

By providing people with another option for reporting crimes, the OPP is hopeful that more incidents will be reported, resulting in the collection of information to develop future crime prevention initiatives.

To access the system, go to opp.ca/reporting.

The OPP can be contacted toll-free anytime via the non-emergency number at 1-888-310-1122. In an emergency, always call 9-1-1.

## Dufferin OPP charge impaired driver thanks to citizen report

On June 6, 2021, at approximately 7:21 p.m., an officer from the Dufferin Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) charged a driver for impaired driving on Broadway at Highway 10 in the Town of Orangeville.

The officer was responding to a driving complaint by a concerned citizen in the area of Broadway and Highway 10 in Orangeville. The officer located the vehicle, conducted a traffic stop and commenced an impaired driving investigation.

As a result, Fareed KHAN, 56-year-old, from Brampton, has been charged with the following:

- Operation while impaired - blood alcohol concentration (80 plus)
- Operation while impaired - alcohol or drugs
- Failure to comply with release order
- Driving while under suspension
- Fail to comply with Probation Order

These charges have not been proven in court. The accused was transported to Dufferin OPP Detachment and held for a bail hearing. Their driver's licence was suspended and the vehicle impounded for a period of seven days.

Dufferin OPP would like to say thank you to the concerned citizen who called police.

If you suspect an impaired driver, call 9-1-1. The Dufferin OPP reminds motorists 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 judgements. In a split second you could ruin your future, injure or kill others, and tear a hole in the heart of everyone who loves you.

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.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

**OPP SUPPORTING PRIDE:** Staff Sergeant Tony Jelich and Inspector Terry Ward stand outside of the Dufferin OPP detachment in Orangeville for the raising of the Rainbow Flag for Pride month, which is June. The flag has been flown at half-mast since the start of the month out of respect for 215 indigenous children whose remains were recently discovered at Kamloops, British Columbia. As of June 9 the flags are being flown at full-mast.

## Dufferin OPP investigating serious collision along County Road in East Garafraxa

Members of the Dufferin Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP), along with Dufferin County EMS and Orangeville Fire Department, attended a serious two-vehicle collision requiring extraction, which took place on June 2, 2021, at approximately 8:43 p.m., at the intersection of County Road 3 and County Road 11, East Garafraxa.

The serious collision involved two passenger vehicles. The initial investigation revealed that a vehicle was travelling southbound on County Road 11 and collided at the intersection of County Road 3 with a westbound vehicle.

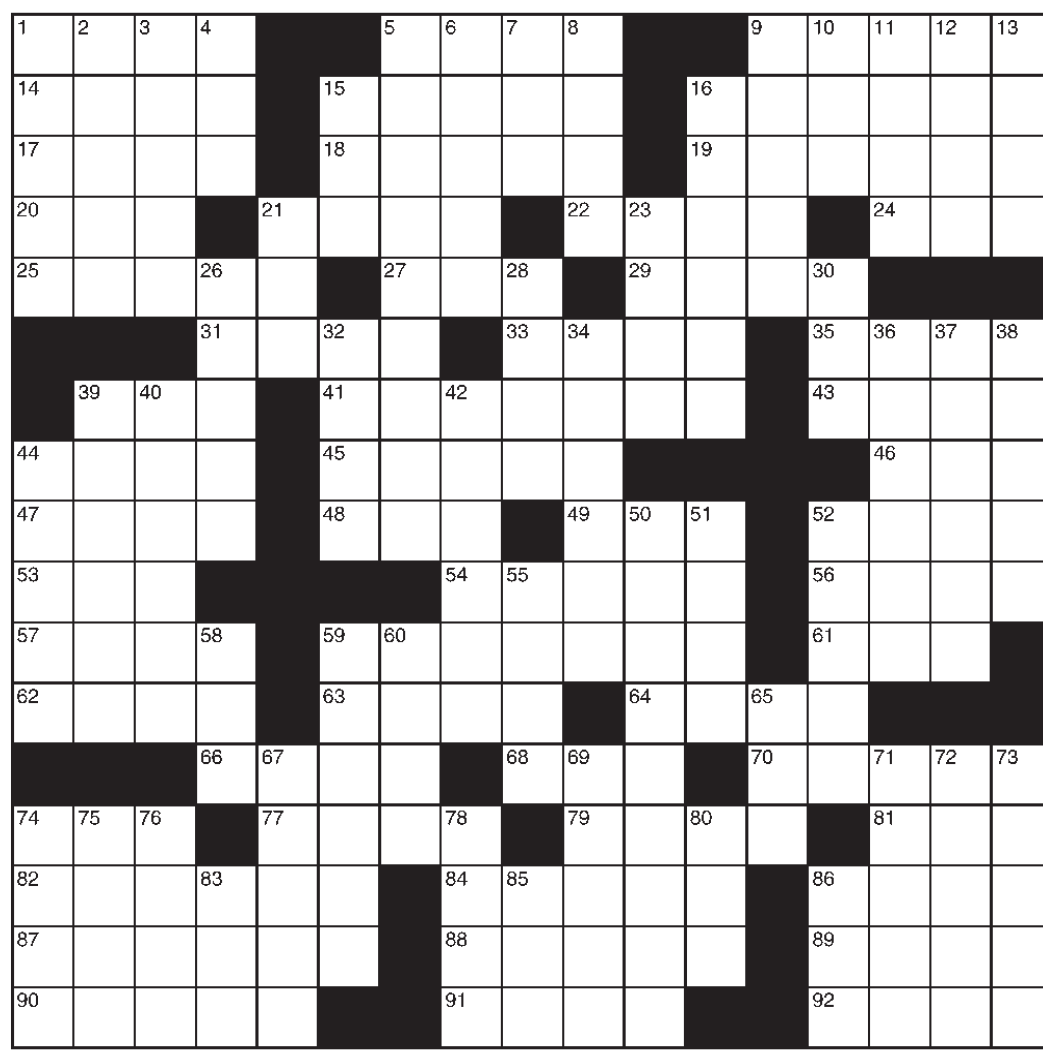
As a result of the collision, one driver was trapped inside the vehicle and required extraction by Orangeville Fire Department. The driver sustained life-threatening injuries and was transported to a local hospital then later airlifted by Air Ornge to a trauma centre.

The OPP Traffic Collision Investigation (TCI) team was brought in to investigate. The investigation is continuing and anyone who may have witnessed the collision is asked to contact the Dufferin OPP at 1-888-310-1122.

If you had witnessed the collision and wish to speak to victim services, Caledon/Dufferin Victim Services can be reached at 905-951-3838.

# X CROSSWORD

PUZZLE 449



- 6. Palace's household
- 7. Dander
- 8. Track
- 9. Bobbin
- 10. Bristle
- 11. Indian melody
- 12. Smirk
- 13. Small whirlpool
- 15. Social function
- 16. Cheerful
- 21. Winter malady
- 23. Forerunner
- 26. Amid
- 28. Mountain lion
- 30. Morning drops
- 32. Rotation gauge
- 34. Note
- 36. Pushcart
- 37. Slowly, to a cellist
- 38. Stair post
- 39. Made of oak
- 40. Upright
- 42. Furry pet
- 44. South American mammal
- 50. Example
- 51. Beginner
- 52. Absolute
- 55. \_\_\_ homo
- 58. Black or Red
- 59. Paper fastener
- 60. Starchy root
- 65. Got together
- 67. Mr. Peron et al.
- 69. Amber, e.g.
- 71. Egg-shaped
- 72. Boutique
- 73. Opponent
- 74. Nonclerical
- 75. Chemical compound
- 76. Bauble
- 78. Brood's home
- 80. Type
- 83. Playing marble
- 85. Pleased Pepin
- 86. Crazed

**ACROSS**

- 1. Without
- 5. Part of LST
- 9. Army noncom
- 14. Taunt
- 15. Pageant prize
- 16. Higher
- 17. Naughty
- 18. White-plumed bird
- 19. Anthropoid ape
- 20. Blond shade
- 21. Temple
- 22. A road's scholar?
- 24. Whatever
- 25. Welt
- 27. Unit of electricity
- 29. Pinochle term
- 31. Mongrel
- 33. Fertilizer component
- 35. Statesman \_\_\_
- 39. Owl's question?

**DOWN**

- 41. Enlarge
- 43. Slosh
- 44. Ducklike diver
- 45. Dairy product
- 46. Cold and damp
- 47. "The \_\_\_ Walk Home"
- 48. "Take \_\_\_, She's Mine"
- 49. Ordinarily disposed
- 52. Strongly suggest
- 53. Cooling drink
- 54. Jam fruit
- 56. Hard work
- 57. Fort Bragg meal
- 59. Bumper decoration
- 61. Tango's need
- 62. "Atlantic City" action
- 63. Grayish green mineral
- 64. Arrive
- 66. Close to closed
- 68. Before, poetically

**DOWN**

- 70. Unevenly edged
- 74. \_\_\_ Zeppelin
- 77. "Once \_\_\_ a Time"
- 79. Correct a manuscript
- 81. Bread truck
- 82. Cracker type
- 84. "Frida" prop
- 86. Ram or rooster, e.g.
- 87. Common salt additive
- 88. Stench
- 89. Film director Egoyan
- 90. Slip-on shoes
- 91. Nomad's shelter
- 92. Say it ain't so
- 1. Kind of poll
- 2. Overflowing
- 3. Suitable spot
- 4. Pen
- 5. John Hancock

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## Town's 3rd Multicultural Event to be held at end of the month

Written By Jessica Laurenza

Shelburne's 3rd Annual Multicultural Event, which is a community initiative designed to unite cultural differences and encourage the celebration of every ethnicity, is again being hosted by its founder, Althea Ali.

This year's virtual event will be held on Sunday, June 27th at 1:00pm on Dufferin County's YouTube channel: [www.YouTube.com/DufferinOne](http://www.YouTube.com/DufferinOne).

This year's main theme is recognizing community members who are giving back during an unprecedented time. The community was able to nominate people who have been working hard to unite the community through diversity and inclusion work.

"The criteria for [a nomination] is someone who embraces differences and linguistic duality and leads by example by [either] volunteering personal time or working within a diversity, equity and inclusion field to foster that empowering and engaging environment in the community," explains Ali.

A volunteer committee will review the submissions and announce the winners at the event.

This year's event will also have a speaker panel moderated by the Museum of Dufferin and Ali. The panel will feature MP Dufferin/Caledon, Kyle Seeback; Chair of Diversity, Equity and Anti-Racism of Peel, Joanna Downey; Cultural Emersion in Education UGDSB, Nicole Jeffery; Celebrate Your Awesome's, Jim Waddington; Shelburne Youth Community Leader, Harleen Toor; Dufferin County Sikh Punjabi Representative, Amanjeet Grewal; Award-winning Poet, Jamaal Jackson Rogers; President of CDDHS Muslim Student Association, Soha Soliman; Dufferin County Warden, Darren White; and Shelburne's Deputy Mayor, Steve Anderson.

Ali is of Caribbean descent and her children are mixed race- half Italian, half Guyanese. She grew up her entire life having been around people of mixed ethnic backgrounds.

When she moved to Shelburne from Brampton in 2013, she realized there was a lack of diversity and representation of ethnic services in the community. Through speaking with other community members, she understood she wasn't the only one feeling that way.

She created the Multicultural Event to exemplify that "differences in culture are worth celebrating." The event offers a rich history and culture for the community to learn about and celebrate.

Her first event launched in 2018 at the



SUBMITTED PHOTO

**MULTICULTURAL FLAG:** Founder and organizer of Shelburne's Multicultural Event, Althea Ali stands under the Multicultural Flag for Dufferin, which was raised for the first time throughout the County. Dufferin County recently passed a proclamation, declaring that June 27 is Canadian Multicultural Day.

Shelburne Public Library and the result was so outstanding that in 2019, she moved the event to Centre Dufferin High School to host a larger crowd. The first event showcased different booths, each with unique arts and crafts from the local schools depicting a particular culture.

Businesses were able to advertise in the booths which increased traction and attentiveness and resulted in the growth of the event to include local businesses and organizations.

In speaking with local residents, Ali found that people were going back to Brampton and Mississauga to shop for ethnic foods which is why she found it necessary to incorporate local food vendors wishing to promote diversity within the community.

"This was a way for businesses to grow in Dufferin County while simultaneously stimulating the economy," says Ali.

2021 is the first year in which Dufferin County and Caledon have proclaimed June 27th as Canadian Multicultural Day to celebrate the rich culture and diversity in local regions.

## Ontario begins reopening tomorrow

The Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health region just passed the milestone of getting 70 per cent of adults vaccinated with their first dose against COVID-19 and Ontario as a whole is at approximately 75 per cent.

Based on the provincewide vaccination rate and continuing improvements in key public health and health system indicators, the Ontario government, in consultation with the Chief Medical Officer of Health, is moving the province into Step One of its Roadmap to Reopen at 12:01 a.m. on Friday, June 11, 2021.

"Thanks to the tremendous efforts of every Ontarian, beginning June 11 we will be able to cautiously lift public health measures in the settings we know are safest," said Christine Elliott, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health. "While this is exciting news, as we move to enter Step One of Ontario's Roadmap it remains critical that all Ontarians continue to follow public health advice and roll up their sleeves to receive

the vaccine."

In order to safely enter Step One of the Roadmap to Reopen, Ontario needed to have vaccinated 60 per cent of adults with at least one dose for two weeks or longer, ensuring the first dose offers a strong level of protection against COVID-19.

As of June 6, 2021 at 8:00 p.m., 72 per cent of the 18+ population in Ontario had received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine with over 10 million doses now having been administered.

Before entering Step One, the province also needed to see continued improvement in key public health and health system indicators. During the period of May 25 to 31, 2021, the provincial case rate decreased by 35.1 per cent.

As of June 6, the number of patients with COVID-19 in ICUs is 497, including 31 patients from Manitoba, as compared to 687 two weeks ago.

Continued on Page 11

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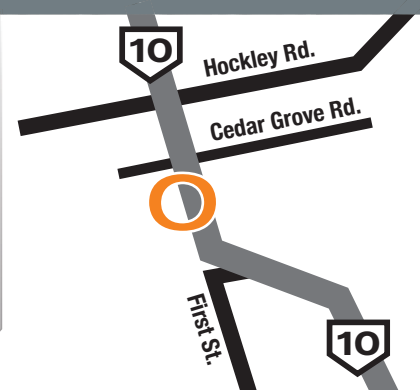


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# Eight-year-old boy from Mulmur sets goal of hiking entire Bruce Trail

Written By Paula Brown  
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Henry Little doesn't come from a family of avid hikers, but the local eight-year-old is setting out on a goal to hike the entirety of the Bruce Trail.

Henry, who goes by Henry the Hiker on social media, began going on walks or as he calls them "forest adventures" with his mom, Carola Little, last September. With the Bruce Trail crossing behind their family home in Mulmur, the walks started out as a way of getting out of the house while homeschooling during the pandemic.

"We ended up going out with some other homeschooling families to do a little bit of hiking on a whim and before we knew it we ended up finishing the whole 67 kilometer Blue Mountain section of the Bruce Trail, all in 5-10 kilometer bits," said Carola.

Now, Henry is looking to complete the entire Bruce Trail, which spans 900 kilometers end-to-end from the Niagara River to the tip of Tobermory.

"We thought if we can do the Blue Mountain section maybe we can do some of the others, it's a lot of fun so we decided we

wanted to keep going."

Since starting their hiking journey last year, Henry and Carola have already completed 143 kilometers in the Dufferin Hi-land, Beaver Valley, and Caledon Hills sections of the Bruce Trail. Going out for hikes around three times a week, Carol said they hope to reach 250 by mid-July and 500 kilometers by the end of the year.

While the hikes started as a way to get out of the house, Carola adds that they've also been great teaching moments.

"He's able to become more tenacious, he has to complete the section of trail in order to get back to the car, there are no shortcuts or easy way out," said Carola. "While we're out there he's also learning the difference between edible and inedible plants, map reading and compass skills."

For Henry, highlights of hiking have been collecting badges from each of the sections of the trail as well as seeing the different wildlife along the way. Henry said a porcupine climbing a tree was the coolest animal he's seen so far.

Walking on the trails, Henry can be seen handing out packets of maple seeds to other hikers, and sporting one of his custom Henry

the Hiker t-shirts. A favourite t-shirt of his is one that says "it's worth it" on the back.

"Though the thought of accomplishing it all, much like a long hike, can become daunting and arduous, in the end it really does all seem worth it," said Carola.

Henry's hiking adventures are being documented on Instagram, Facebook and YouTube under the handle, Henry the Hiker.

Henry says he hopes that other kids are able to watch his adventures and want to go out hiking to see for themselves.

"If a mom of 40 something and a little eight-year-old with a lot of spunk and adventurous spirit can get out there, anyone can," said Carola. "I really hope that the local community will take a moment and follow him on his social media – send a message of support and cheer him on – it makes all the difference when you're out there and your feet hurt, the bugs are biting and the truck is still at least 3 hours away. We pull up those posts and read the messages and it gives Henry the spirit to keep on trekking."

The duo are hoping to reach the goal of hiking the entire Bruce Trail by next year.

"Little legs can only walk so far, our limit appears to be 10 km, but anything is possible if you just put one foot in front of the other," said Carola.



PAULA BROWN PHOTO

**LITTLE HIKER:** Henry Little, also known as Henry the Hiker, is setting out on a goal to hike all 900 kilometers of the Bruce Trail. Little, who is eight years-old, started the journey last year and is looking to complete it by 2022. Henry's adventures while hiking are being documented on social media under the handle Henry the Hiker.

## Michelle Hanson looking for new lawyer ahead of jury trial

Written By Paula Brown  
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Michelle Hanson, an Amaranth mother facing charges in relation to the 2018 death of her three-year old son Kaden Young is now looking for a new lawyer.

Hanson made a virtual court appearance in Orangeville courts on Tuesday (June 8), where a new trial date was expected to be set. Instead Hanson's lawyer, Marco Forte, brought forward an application to remove himself as her counsel.

Justice Giselle Miller, asked Hanson her position on the removal, which Hanson replied, "I don't know that there is much I can say."

Hanson said she was not opposing Forte's request.

Forte's reasoning for the application was not addressed in the court room, although Hanson said she did not "agree with some of the things that were written".

Assistant Crown attorney Danielle Garbaty did not take a position on the application on Tuesday, but noted the Crown's "real concerns" about delays.

"The Crown has been and remains ready to proceed to trial," said Garbaty.

Justice Miller granted Forte's application to be removed.

During the appearance, Hanson indicated she had spoken with a few lawyers to take over her case and added that she expects to hear back sometime next week.

Jury trials, which have been delayed in Ontario due to the COVID-19 pandemic, are expected to be heard in Orangeville starting in September.

"In your situation with the change of venue, the regional senior justice had to make inquiries about a venue as well as the availability of your counsel," said Miller.

Hanson was remanded to make another court appearance on June 21 at 9:30 a.m.

On the early morning hours of Feb. 21, 2018, Hanson's vehicle was pulled into the Grand River following heavy flooding, which saw river water rise up onto the road. Hanson, police said, drove around a 'road closed' sign at the 10th Line of Amaranth.

Both Hanson and Kaden, who was in the vehicle with his mother, managed to escape but Kaden was pulled out of his mother's arms. Kaden's body was later recovered in Belwood Lake on April 21, two months to the day of the incident.

Hanson is being tried on charges of impaired driving causing death and criminal negligence causing death.

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## OPP's operation freeze launches

Dufferin Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) officers will be on the lookout for youth demonstrating acts of kindness and exhibiting positive behaviour in the community.

On Tuesday (June 8), the Province-wide Operation Freeze campaign launched at the Circle K Convenience Store located at 108 Dawson Road in the Town of Orangeville.

Through a partnership with Circle K Convenience Stores, OPP officers will be handing out "Positive Tickets" for a number of actions such as: doing a good deed, being kind to others, participating in community activities, demonstrating community pride, deterring crime, observing school crossing rules or as an icebreaker to establish a rapport with kids in their patrol area.

During the upcoming summer months,

OPP officers across the Province will be presenting thousands of these coupons to kids. Officers will not seek or record any identifying information during their interaction with a youth as it is not the intent of the program.

The OPP "Positive Ticketing" program will continue to achieve its goal of creating positive interactions with youth. Operation Freeze provides law enforcement officials with an additional tool to foster strong relationships with the youth they serve in their communities.

"This is a great initiative and allows officers the opportunity to interact with youth in a positive manner," said Inspector Terry Ward, Dufferin OPP Detachment Commander. "These interactions with police can open dialogue with the youth and leave a good lasting impression."

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# Feds being called to implement TRC Calls to Action

Written By Sam Odrowski

Following the tragic discovery of a mass unmarked grave site containing the remains of 215 Indigenous children at a residential school in Kamloops, British Columbia, leaders and Indigenous rights advocates across the country have been calling on the federal government to properly respond.

Indigenous Watchdog, which tracks and reports on Canada's progress in the 94 Calls to Action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) on its website [Indigenouswatchdog.org](http://Indigenouswatchdog.org), is calling on the federal government to do what should have been done years ago – honour the missing and undocumented Indigenous children and repatriate their remains for proper burial and remembrance.

Indigenous Watchdog's focus is squarely on implementing TRC Calls to Action 71 through 76, which directly relate to missing children and burial information. Three of the calls have not even been started by the federal government, six years after the

TRC report's release.

Locally, Dufferin-Caledon MP Kyle Seebach says his party has put forward a list of meaningful actions to assist families in Indigenous communities at this time, with “developing a comprehensive plan to implement TRC Calls to Action 71 through 76 by July 1, 2021” at the top of the list.

“The time for talk on reconciliation and the time to talk about the recommendations from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission is over – it's time for action,” said Seebach.

“[Calls to Action] 71 to 76, they deal with finding grave sites, cataloguing, getting information from corners and historical records, to really try and make sure that this gets properly documented... so Indigenous families can get the information, the closure, and all of the things that they should have had.”

Other items on the list of meaningful actions to assist Indigenous families include funding investigations at all former residential schools in Canada where unmarked graves may exist, including the site where

215 children have already been discovered; and ensuring that proper resources are allocated for communities to reinter, commemorate, and honour any individuals discovered through the investigation, according to the wishes of their next of kin.

The last item on the list involves developing a detailed and thorough set of resources to educate Canadians of all ages on the tragic history of residential schools in Canada.

To date, 13 of the 94 Calls to Action from the TRC have been fully enacted and some steps have been taken on 60, while no real steps have been made on 21 of them.

Seebach says more needs to be done to have the Calls to Action implemented.

“No government's track record has been very good in with Indigenous peoples in this country, but in the last six years, there's been very little action on the recommendations from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission,” he said. “I hope it's a wakeup call for the government, that they need to move faster.”

A non-binding NDP motion proposed on

Opposition Day, calling on the federal government to stop taking Indigenous children and survivors of residential school to court passed 271-0 on Monday (June 7).

The federal government has also committed \$27 million to “assist Indigenous communities in locating and memorializing children who died at residential schools” out of a \$33 million budget. Prior to the discovery of the mass grave site on the traditional territory of Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc, only \$3 million of that budget was spent.

Going forward, Seebach told the Free Press he hopes the list of meaningful actions his party has brought forward will be adopted and that all Canadians take some time to honour and remember the indigenous children who never made it home.

“I just think that all Canadians should take a moment to think about the really dark stain on the soul of this country that residential schools are, and how we have to work very hard towards reconciliation,” he remarked.

## Local Food Week showcases the importance of supporting local farmers

Written By Jessica Laurenza

June 7-13 is Ontario's local food week – an opportunity to celebrate, appreciate and support fresh, healthy, home-grown food.

Ontario is home to about 49,600 farms and 4,400 food processing facilities, contributing over \$47 billion to the provincial GDP, according to the 2021 Local Food Report. Out of all the food produced in the province, 60 per cent of it is consumed here too.

A large part of supporting local farms and food businesses is understanding what local foods are available, as well as how and where to obtain them. The Ontario government is aiming to increase involvement in local foods through a variety of initiatives.

“Local farms are at the heart and soul of the good things that grow in Ontario,” explains Ernie Hardeman, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs.

“The COVID-19 pandemic has taught us just how critical local food is to our province,” says Hardeman. “Our agri-food sector has kept grocery store shelves full over the past year and Ontarians have become more aware of the role farmers play in our daily lives and in our economy.”

Pfisterer Farm's Farm School Agrigation in Wellington County is an online platform with short videos to teach students from grade one through three about local agriculture, making it easy for teachers to tie this into their curriculum. You can visit [pfistererfarm.com](http://pfistererfarm.com) to engage in different educational farm-based videos.

Jim and Leslie Forsythe of Durham Region take children on a virtual field trip to embody the sights and sounds of their farm. They've developed interactive videos that allow kids to virtually visit farm animals and investigate the journey of food. You can visit [forsythe-familyfarms.com](http://forsythe-familyfarms.com) to download activity sheets to accompany each educational video.

Tyler Brooks, Director of Communications and Stakeholder Relations at the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA), encourages everyone to reflect on the reliability and strength of Ontario's agri-food sector.

The OFA is also working on a project called Six by Sixteen, a food literacy initiative which aims to help youth prepare six local sourced meals by the time they turn 16 to ensure their generation of consumers understands the value of local products.

The campaign will educate youth of where

their food comes from, how to cook it and the importance of supporting locally. It will be aired on CTV and recipes can be found at [sixbysixteen.me](http://sixbysixteen.me).

When you support local farmers, you not only support employment opportunities within the sector, you support the economic

growth and prosperity that the industry brings to the province. There are more than 650 agri-food businesses in Ontario and most can be identified by a green Foodland logo.

Shop local and celebrate Local Food Week the first week of every June!



PAULA BROWN PHOTO

**CO-OP CORNER:** Centre Dufferin District High School (CDDHS) co-op student Alex Rose (left) sits with Champ Burger manager Mik Hayward (right), who has been helping mentor Rose on the job.

## CDDHS Co-op Corner: Champ Burger

Written By Alex Rose

This week Alex Rose from Centre Dufferin District High School (CDDHS) shares a little bit about their experience and how Champ Burger Restaurant is contributing to our community's future.

Champ Burger Restaurant has been in a very successful business since 1992. Stan Dimikos has provided a fast-food industry that has welcomed many customers over the years and left them full and satisfied. Not only is this a fast food restaurant it is also a family run business that makes all employees feel like family as well.

All the staff and managers have done an excellent job keeping the restaurant running and maintaining it well. All workers feel welcomed and get along great with each other. The staff keep customers coming back and wanting more every time. Both locations (Primrose & Alliston) do an amazing job and are very successful.

My experience at Champ Burger has been excellent and I learned multiple new skills that are valued towards the job and towards my future as well.

Whether it's being on till and working with the wonderful customers, wrapping the burger/sandwich items or even helping the other employers, each task has taught me a lot.

I have learned to work well with others, to work at a fast pace and to become more efficient at the job as well. There is a large amount of equipment used in the industry and I learned to use most of them. For example, running the fryers, the grill, the till system, the drive-through, and the new online ordering system.

At the beginning of my job, I was trained first to work with the till system, that way I became familiar with how to be successful at customer service, learned about the items

on the menu and much more.

Over time I was taught by my great manager, Mik Hayward, how to use the fryers and the grills, with some assistance along the way from other workers as well.

While working at Champ Burger I learned about the multiple jobs that are associated with working here. First, considering how Champ's is a legalized place to serve alcohol, I had the opportunity to learn about the different breweries that the restaurant buys its beer from. Also, I learned about the companies that supply us with food and the stock items that are required for the business as well. In addition, I have learned about the requirements and the responsibilities of being a manager.

The restaurant is well respected and known for its good food and great service. Champ Burger supports our high school, CDDHS, by offering co-op opportunities to our students where they can learn more about the food industry, and they have donated funds to support student awards.

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# Dufferin parents, teacher react to extension of virtual learning

Written By Fatima Baig

Premier Doug Ford recently announced that students won't be returning to classrooms for the remainder of the 2020-21 school year and will continue to learn from home.

"It was a hard choice to make, but I will not take unnecessary risk with our children right now," said Ford, during the announcement on June 2.

However, there have been mixed reactions from Dufferin County residents, and many wondered why it took so long for the Premier to decide.

Kim Crago, a grade one teacher from the Upper Grand District School Board (UGDSB), said she believes the decision gave a sense of direction for families and educators.

"Initially, my reaction was just being pleased that a decision was made one way or another. I would say for my students and families, educators' whether you preferred one way or another, knowing made a difference, and it helped us get a sense of direction of where we would be going."

According to Crago, she was pleased a decision was made and that safety was taken into account.

"I can appreciate the hardships that closures have on families given the current facts about the spread of COVID-19 and vaccine rollout as well as the limited days left in the school year. I am pleased that the decision was made with the safety of students and staff in mind," she said.

However, when local parent, Vivian Petho



first heard the news, she wondered why it took so long for the government to make a decision.

"We were obviously in a state not to open up the province [or] anything else, and they wanted to send our kids back to school for three weeks, and I didn't understand how three weeks was going to give the children anything back for all the months we've lost this year," she said.

Petho has a hard time with distanced learning. Her son, Solomon Vahey has Autism and finds difficulty with sitting in front of a computer and doing virtual learning.

"My oldest child is eight and has Autism so [with] distance learning - he can't do the online version - so we've had to walk to the school, which is a 25-minute walk to pick up the packets," she said.

However, according to Petho, some of the packages aren't in sync with what other students are doing. She has to take what is relevant from the online learning and packages then submit it, which creates extra work.

She stated her son was marked absent the first semester because he couldn't do online learning.

Since then, Petho has included in his IEP (Individualized Education Plan) that he not be marked absent because he can't sit for

online classes.

"If he is handing in the work, I don't want him being marked absent, that was the thing I was frustrated about as a parent because he is doing the work. He just can't do it how everybody else is doing it," said Petho.

However, Petho's son is in grade two and has started doing coding, which can only be done online. He is only able to sit for a few minutes to do it because of his inability to focus online. He also isn't able to get as much out of speech therapy since it's only able to be accessed online.

For other residents, the news hasn't affected them that much. Orangeville mom, Stephanie has four children ages 6 to 11. Her daughter has been diagnosed with a learning disability and her oldest son has high functioning Autism.

"To be honest, it hasn't really affected my family since we, at the beginning of the school year, choose to do this the entire year," she said.

Stephanie was not surprised by the announcement the schools with stay virtual for the rest of the year.

"As far as having an opinion if it was the best decision or not, I don't really know what else people expect them to do at this point, so I think it was a wise decision, especially

since there are only three weeks left for school," she said.

According to Stephanie, she did have some issues with her daughter, who has difficulties reading at the start. Since online learning was very text-based, she struggled and eventually switched to the asynchronous option, allowing students not to attend live Google Meets or meetings.

Stephanie noted that she did receive extra help for her daughter from home school but not the virtual school.

"There wasn't a lot of support for extra help with helping kids who were falling behind in certain areas coming from the school board. A lot of that was coming from me to figure out how to deal with that. I did have a lot of support from our home school," she explained.

However, since Stephanie's daughter had switched the format of learning, she has had no problems. Her son hasn't had an issue with online learning since it allows him time to do activities he's interested in and not become as bored.

Looking ahead to the 2021-22 school year, UGDSB has said they'll be offering a remote learning option for students but it won't be a hybrid model. Students who register for remote learning will be placed in a stand-alone elementary school strictly designated for remote learning and those who opt for in-person learning will remain in the classroom, without the option to switch between.

More information about remote learning and registration can be found on the Upper Grand District School Board website (www.ugdsb.ca).

Continued from Page 6

## Ontario begins Step One of reopening tomorrow, June 11

The province's situation is currently exceeding the best-case scenario presented in recent modelling, which indicated the province would reach below 1,000 new daily infections by June 30, 2021.

Step One of the Roadmap focuses on the resumption of more outdoor activities with smaller crowds where risk of transmission is lower. It will also permit more limited indoor settings to be open, all with restrictions in place.

In consultation with the Chief Medical Officer of Health, the Ontario government has amended Step One to also permit indoor religious services, rites and ceremonies, including wedding and funeral services limited to 15 per cent capacity.

Step One of the Roadmap to Reopen includes but is not limited to:

- Outdoor social gatherings and organized public events with up to 10 people;
- Outdoor religious services, rites, or ceremonies, including wedding services and funeral services, capped at the number of people that can maintain a physical distance of two metres;

- Indoor religious services, rites, or ceremonies, including wedding services and funeral services permitted at up to 15 per cent capacity of the particular room;
- Non-essential retail permitted at 15 per cent capacity, with no restrictions on the goods that can be sold;
- Essential and other select retail permitted at 25 per cent capacity, with no restrictions on the goods that can be sold;
- Outdoor dining with up to four people per table, with exceptions for larger households;
- Outdoor fitness classes, outdoor groups in personal training and outdoor individual/team sport training to be permitted with up to 10 people, among other restrictions;
- Day camps for children permitted to operate in a manner consistent with the safety guidelines for COVID-19 produced by the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health;
- Overnight camping at campgrounds and campsites, including Ontario Parks, and short-term rentals;

- Concert venues, theatres and cinemas may open outdoors for the purpose of rehearsing or performing a recorded or broadcasted concert, artistic event, theatrical performance or other performance with no more than 10 performers, among other restrictions;
- Outdoor horse racing tracks and motor speedways permitted to operate without spectators; and
- Outdoor attractions such as zoos, landmarks, historic sites, botanical gardens with capacity and other restrictions.

In addition, to support students who have worked incredibly hard throughout the pandemic, the government is enabling school boards for public and private elementary and high schools to invite students back for brief outdoor end-of-year celebration. Any in-person school year celebrations will need to meet specific requirements.

The province will remain in Step One for at least 21 days to evaluate any impacts on key public health and health system indicators. If at the end of the 21 days the province has vaccinated 70 per cent of adults

with one dose and 20 per cent of adults with two doses and there are continued improvements in other key public health and health system indicators, the province will move to Step Two of the Roadmap.

All public health and workplace safety measures currently in place will remain in effect until the province moves to Step One on June 11, 2021 at 12:01 a.m. During this time, the government will continue to work with stakeholders on their reopening plans, including targeted measures for specific sectors, institutions and other settings to ensure that they have full awareness of when they can begin to safely reopen and how.

"While we have reached the point where we can safely move into Step One, now is not the time to get complacent," said Dr. David Williams, Chief Medical Officer of Health. "We must all remain vigilant, as the fight against COVID-19 is not over. By continuing to follow public health advice and measures we can continue to reduce transmission, safeguard health system capacity and save lives."

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