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# Shelburne Free Press



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PAULA BROWN PHOTO

**SLOW DOWN:** The speed limit on the majority of Shelburne roads has been reduced from 50 to 40km/h, following the unanimous passing of a bylaw amendment on July 26. The only exception for the speed limit reduction is Owen Sound Street and Main Street.

## Council hears update on local transit services

Written By PAULA BROWN  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Grey Transit Route (GTR) ridership is continuing to increase, as more residents access the public transportation system to travel to and from Shelburne.

Shelburne Town Council, during their latest meeting on July 26, received an overview of the Grey Transit Route, after being implemented almost a year ago. The presentation from Stephanie Stewart, Grey County's manager of community transportation, provided details to councillors on ridership status, and the recent weekend service expansion.

"Your route between Dundalk and Orangeville is definitely our most popular and there's definitely a demand and need for transit," Stephanie Stewart, told councillors.

While restrictions due to the pandemic have impacted ridership, the local public transportation service have seen an uptick in residents accessing the bus route. According to Grey County, 392 riders in the month of July accessed all the routes they provide, with 94 of those between Owen Sound and Dundalk (Route 1) and 120 between Dundalk

and Orangeville (Route 2).

Grey Transit Route ran an online survey for bus users from May until June for feedback on the system. The survey received 149 responses, with 23 of the respondents being users of Route 1 and Route 2.

Individuals noted that they were looking for a seven day a week service, which was implemented as a pilot project in July.

The survey also showed that the primary purpose for travel is shopping and employment. As well, data from the survey showed that preferred travel times were 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. and 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

"We're always looking to add more complements to our staff," said Stewart. "With the

"Your route between Dundalk and Orangeville is definitely our most popular and there's definitely a demand and need for transit.

—Stephanie Stewart

weekend service we had to hire more additional drivers."

Deputy Mayor Steve Anderson, questioned Stewart about wheelchair accessibility.

Stewart said that to date, the GTR has not received any request regarding wheelchair accessibility, but is open to those requests from the public.

"We will not leave anyone unserved," said Stewart.

GTR fares for Route 1 and 2 (Owen Sound to Orangeville) are \$5.00 for adults (18+), \$4.50 for seniors (55+) and students (6-17), and free for children five and under.



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**FEATURED ITEMS**



# Volunteer firefighter recognized with federal award

Written By Sam Odrowski

A Shelburne resident recently received a special award from the region's member of parliament for his selfless acts of kindness and generosity during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Randy Narine, who operates Choices Youth Shelter in Orangeville and is a volunteer firefighter for the Shelburne Fire Department, received the COVID-19 Local Community Hero Award from Dufferin-Caledon MP Kyle Seeback.

A large part of why he received the award is for the programs he runs for at-risk or less fortunate youth and a program he started during the pandemic, which was self-funded, that provides financial assistance to families impacted by job losses due to COVID-19.

Being born in Trinidad and moving to Canada in his youth, Narine said he hasn't always felt welcomed in the country, but receiving recognition for his community involvement makes him feel that sense of belonging.

"To be honest, I don't do any of the work that I do for recognition... but it feels nice to be recognized and I feel extremely proud

because one of the things I hear all the time is I'm not from here," said Narine.

"When I first moved here [to Shelburne], eight years ago, there was a lot of pushback... that wasn't very nice. Even though I was doing work in the community, you didn't hear very nice things being said to you. So it's nice to hear positive things about you now in the same community that you live in," he added.

Narine told the Free Press he grew up poor and didn't have much when he first came to Canada from Trinidad in 1991, around 12 years of age. He said he's been fortunate enough to do well for himself financially in his adult life so he's motivated to give back to others in a variety of ways.

There was a pivotal moment for Narine that led him down the path of helping others.

As a youth, shortly after coming to Canada, he saved up a stack of Canadian Tire money to buy his parents something small for Christmas. He said the item would have only been a few dollars but being new to the country, he wasn't aware of sales tax so he had the exact sticker price of the item. When the cashier rang him up, he was short roughly 30 cents short and shocked he didn't have enough

money to cover the purchase.

"I was actually in tears because I didn't know what to do. I was like I don't understand, I calculated the math, but I still didn't have enough," Narine recalled.

"Then this lady behind me actually gave the difference and... I always remember that feeling of what it was like for someone to help you. It meant nothing to her but it meant the world to me."

Narine said even today he still frequently thinks about that interaction and how he felt in that moment, which is part of what motivates him to do all of the volunteer work he does today.

Back when Narine moved to Shelburne from the GTA eight years ago, he was searching for local volunteer opportunities but had little luck at first.

At the time he was still volunteering in the GTA as a Rotarian and running kids camps, but wanted to find something closer to his new home in Shelburne as the regular drive back and forth from the city was taxing. He began searching for local opportunities, reaching out to many organizations but was unsuccessful in finding a good fit.

His awareness of the Shelburne Fire Department came about when Ed Walsh from the Town's Public Works Department came by his house to fix a water leak. Walsh was the acting Fire Chief at the time and said he had heard about Narine's desire to volunteer locally.

Walsh told him the local fire department was in need of volunteers and with Narine being a bigger guy that's in good shape, he said that he would make a good fit.

"He [Walsh] said, there's no greater community work you could do then to be a firefighter and he said, if you want to do something to help the community, this is it," Narine recalled.

After thinking it over for 24 hours, he expressed his interest and the rest is history.

Following roughly seven months of training, interviews, and tests, he said he got out in the field and fell in love with his new role.

"It was a remarkable thing that I did with joining the fire department and I would never turn back from it. I can't even believe that this was never presented to me when I was younger," Narine said.

The most rewarding part of his firefighting work is helping people in the community through really difficult situations, he told Free Press.

"It's literally going to people on the worst day and trying to fix their problems and we



SUBMITTED PHOTO

can't always fix people's problems, but just the satisfaction of being able to go there and trying our best to help somebody is one of the greatest feelings you could ever have," noted Narine.

However, he said when things are out of your control, it can be incredibly challenging.

"You can't help everybody and you have to be able to be okay with that," said Narine.

He shared that many firefighters develop Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) from those situations where they're unable to help everyone in an emergency.

One of his first calls as a volunteer firefighter in Shelburne was very tragic and he noted that the firefighters on the local force have become their own support system. They all have an understanding of what each other are going through, having all responded to those difficult calls.

"Everybody sees the glorious parts of firefighting and there definitely are a lot of glorious things, but what people don't realize is the majority of what we do as firefighters is very traumatic," he said.

Narine now works as a firefighter full time in Brampton and noted he wouldn't be where he is today if it wasn't for the strong support system among Shelburne's volunteer firefighting team.

In terms of Narine's involvement with homeless shelters, he's been volunteering in the field for around 10 years.

"One thing I tell everybody is I was very close to being homeless, living in Canada," he said.

Narine started a company in his mid to late 20s and was struggling heavily to make ends meet as it first started up.

It was in 2008, a year after his son was born, the Great Recession hit and financially things

Continued on Page 5

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On the day I died, everything I worried about was rendered useless and a total waste of time. Worry doesn't change anything, all it does is steal your joy and keeps you very busy doing nothing. All the small and large anxieties that stole any sleep from me each night were rendered powerless. The deep and towering mysteries about life and death that so consumed my mind were finally clarified in a way that they could never be before while I lived. These things certainly all came true on the day that I died.

On the day I died. I was trying to put a smile on the faces of everyone who came to watch the parade I was planning on being a part of but unfortunately the smiles turned to shock sadness and disbelief. Try not to squander a priceless moment worrying about all the things that happened on the day I died, because many of those things are either not my concern or beyond my control. Yet for as much as happen on that day, one more thing happened. On the day I died, the many people who really knew and truly love me started to deeply grieve. They began to feel a huge void. They started to feel very cheated. They felt they were not ready for what had happened. They felt as though a part of them had died as well. And on that day, more than anything in the world they wanted more time with me. I know this because I love and watch over them every day. And so knowing this, while your still alive try to remember that your time with family and friends is brief, short lived and so very precious—so do your best not to waste a second of it. Friends, those other things have an insidious way of keeping you from living even as you live; vying for your attention, competing for your affections. They rob you of the joy of this unrepeatable, uncontainable, ever-evaporating "Now" with those who love you and want only to share it with you.

Don't miss the chance to "DANCE" with them while you can.

It's easy to waste so much daylight in the days before you die. Don't let your life be stolen every day by all that you believe matters, because on the day you die, much of it simply won't.

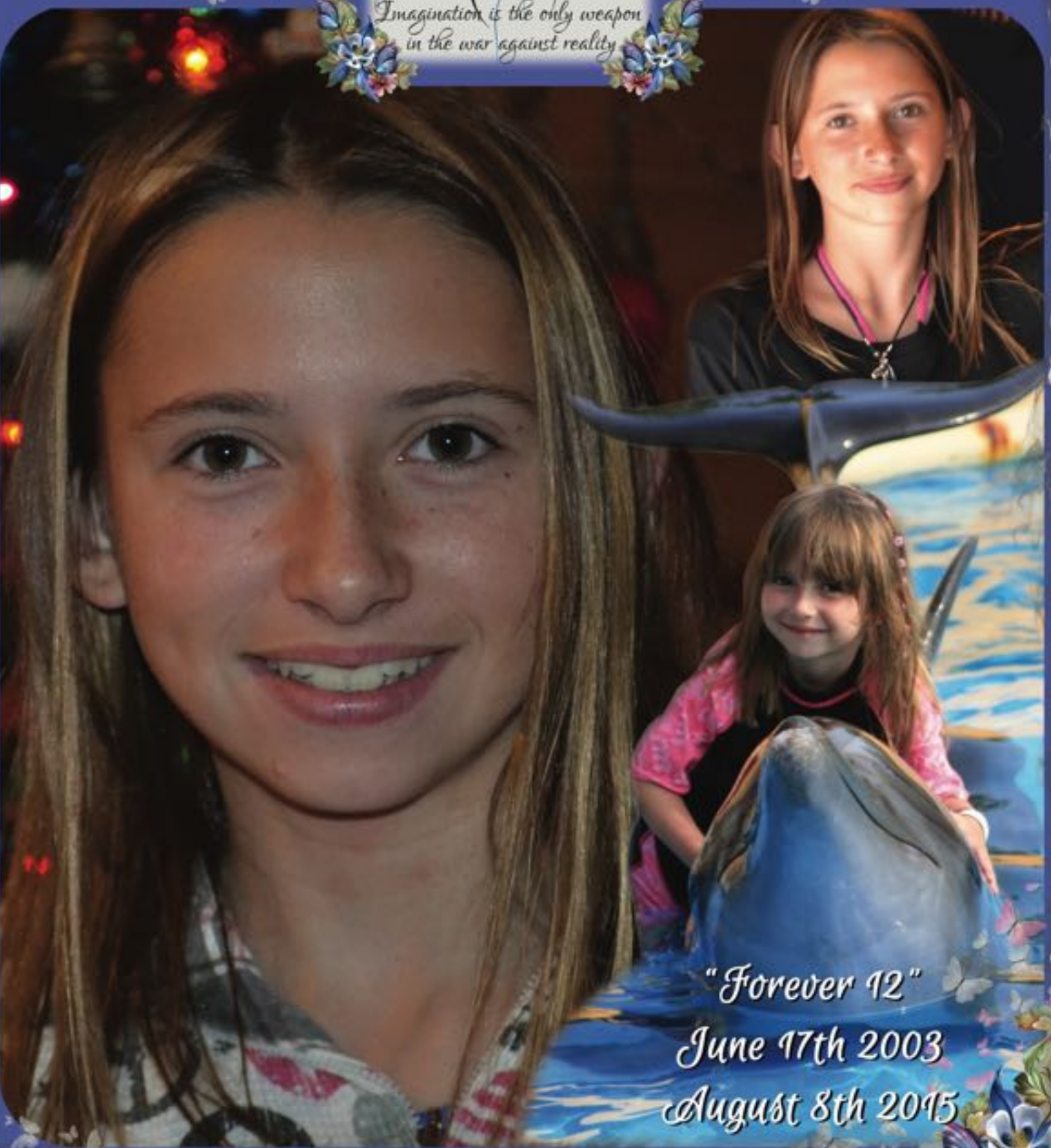
Your life is made up of two dates. The day your born and the day you die. Between both dates is a dash. Yes, you just like I have, will die one day. But before that day comes:

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## Rising fuel costs

When was the last time you decided to throw a barbecue, invite a bunch of friends over and toss some steaks on the grill?

If you're like a lot of people, it was burgers and hotdogs because you didn't want to break the bank to take out a "barbecue and steak" loan to afford the cost of buying quality beef for ten people.

I've noticed a lot of posts on Facebook lately from people complaining about the prices in certain grocery stores.

The grocery stores have to maintain a margin to stay afloat. If you notice the cost of food is rising it's not because the grocery stores have suddenly decided to increase prices.

It's because the cost of distribution is going through the roof. All those shelves aren't filled by cargo arriving by hot air balloon or horse drawn buggies.

All that food arrives by truck through a huge network of transportation that stretches across North America and beyond. They don't grow pineapples in P.E.I. or bananas in Newfoundland.

With fuel costs again on the rise, it costs more to run the millions of trucks across

the continent and that cost is passed directly on to you.

According to Ontario.ca, on July 26, the average price of a litre of regular gasoline in Ontario was \$1.374.

Woe to you if you drive a high performance car – the average price for premium was \$1.613.

The average price 13 months ago was .80 cents per litre. They blamed that on the pandemic and 'demand' saying fewer people were driving.

So here we are, still in a pandemic with a lot of people still working from home, and yet the price of fuel has increased 58 per cent over a year. The public would not stand for an increase of that amount for a loaf of bread, and in Ontario, there would be a huge outcry if that 24 from the Beer Store went up that much.

Whether you like it or not, we are still a nation, in fact a world, that relies on petroleum based fuel to power cars, trains, ships, aircraft, and your lawnmower. There is a push to switch to electric powered cars. People seem to think that will create some kind of idyllic world where we are all buzzing around silently

in environmentally happy cars for free.

Except electricity isn't free and it's not a naturally occurring resource like some people think. You still need fuel to turn the turbines that create the electricity. Wind and solar power is only an option – they do not have the capacity to create enough power to supply the country.

Add to that the fact that in a few years there is another environmental disaster just waiting to happen when the world is suddenly faced with several million using lithium-ion batteries that need to be disposed of.

So we are still reliant on petroleum whether we like it or not.

Oil companies claim that their prices are based on many different factors – a lot of which are influenced by politics in the Middle East where they get their crude oil.

It's too bad that we are so reliant on places on the other side of the world to get crude oil because they have what we need.

But wait a minute – oil in Canada?

Canada has the third largest proven oil reserves in the world behind Saudi Arabia and Venezuela.

Proven oil reserves are defined as the "amount of crude oil located in a particular region that can be recovered with current technological constraints and at a cost that is financially feasible at the current price of oil."

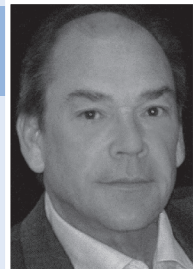
In other words, we have the oil, the technology to get it, and at a decent cost.

It's time to ramp up Canada's oil production and start using fuel that is obtained and refined on Canadian soil instead of relying on unstable countries from half way around the world.

With the increasing cost of fuel, you can expect everything else to go up as well – everything else that is except your salary.

The federal government places huge taxes on fuel because they know you have no choice but to buy gas for your car. It's your government – they are supposed to be working for us, not against us.

If you think it's expensive to feed your family now, wait to see what happens if fuel costs continue to rise.



**BRIAN LOCKHART**  
FROM THE SECOND ROW

## How did they think it would end?

"I will never kneel before such a destructive force (as the Taliban)," declared Ashraf Ghani, the soon-to-be-ex-president of Afghanistan. "We will either sit knee-to-knee for real negotiations at the table, or break their knees on the battlefield." Good luck with that, Ashraf.

General Sami Sadat, still commander of Helmand province as I write this (although perhaps not by the time you read it), was equally confident, but warned that the safety of the world is at stake: "This will increase the hope for small extremist groups to mobilise in the cities of Europe and America, and will have a devastating effect on global security."

And how did it all come to this? Ashraf Ghani pointed out that it is obviously America's fault. "The reason for our current situation is that the (US decision to withdraw) was taken abruptly," he told parliament on Monday.

Well, fair enough. US forces have been in Afghanistan for a bare twenty years and the treacherous cowards are already quitting. Donald Trump signed a treaty with the Taliban eighteen months ago promising that all US troops would leave Afghanistan by the 1st of May this year. Short notice indeed.

In April Joe Biden unilaterally postponed the departure date to 11 September 2021, whereupon the Taliban started shooting at the foreign troops again. Then Biden changed the date again, to 31 August, a whole eleven days earlier. How abrupt is that? No wonder

Ashraf Ghani feels betrayed.

I'm tempted to go back into the archives and find similar brave declarations of imminent victory by South Vietnamese generals (followed by similar predictions of global disaster if they are abandoned) in the final weeks before the helicopters started plucking Americans from the US embassy roof in Saigon in 1975. But it's a nice day and I can't be bothered.

President Ghani, General Sadat and all their friends are reading from the same old script, just 46 years later, and once that final scene has played out in Kabul they'll go and live in the United States. (Don't worry. They've saved up enough money.) The only real surprise here is how thoroughly Western armed forces managed to forget their own history.

I'm not talking about the old history, when three invasions of Afghanistan at the height of British imperial power (1839–42; 1878–80; 1919) all failed to achieve their objectives.

I'm not even talking about the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan in 1979-89, when the United States helped the Taliban and similar Islamist groups to do to the Russians exactly what the Taliban have now done to the Americans themselves.

The problem there was that Americans did not see Russians as Western, although viewed from a low orbit they are virtually identical. US generals therefore believed that some essential difference between the

two armies protected American troops from the fate of the Russians.

Never mind all that. The really unpardonable mistake was forgetting all the lessons Western armies had learned from a dozen lost guerilla wars in former colonies between 1954 and 1975.

France in Algeria and Indochina, Britain in Kenya, Cyprus and Aden, Portugal in Angola and Mozambique, the proxy wars in Rhodesia and South-West Africa (as they were then known), and the United States again in Indochina. All the wars were lost, and yet the defeated imperial powers didn't really lose anything except face.

Western armies really did learn the lessons of those defeats. As a young man in the 1970s I taught military history and strategy in the Canadian Forces Staff College and then at Britain's Royal Military Academy at Sandhurst. The doctrine I taught was a) Western armies always lose guerilla wars in the 'Third World', and b) it never really matters.

The Western armies lose no matter how big and well-equipped they are because the insurgents are fighting on home ground. They can't quit and go home because they already are home. Your side can always quit and go home, and sooner or later your own public will demand that they do. So you are bound to lose eventually, even if you win all the battles.

But losing doesn't really matter, because the insurgents are always first and foremost nationalists. They may have picked up bits of

some grand ideology to make them feel that 'history' is on their side – Marxism or Islamism or whatever – but all they really want is for you to go home so they can run their own show. They won't actually follow you home.

By 1975 this hard-earned wisdom was official doctrine in almost every army in the Western world, but military generations are short. A typical military career is only 25 years, so by 2001 nobody remembered it. Their successors had to start learning it again the hard way. Maybe by now they have.



**GWYNNE DYER**  
OUR WORLD TODAY



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### Seeking Volunteers for the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Community Advisory Committee

The County of Dufferin is seeking volunteers for a recently established Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Community Advisory Committee. County Council approved a mandate for the committee to advise County Council, make recommendations and provide a monitoring and measuring role to help ensure that the County applies a diversity, equity and inclusion lens to its policies, services and programs. The full Terms of Reference can be found here: <https://www.dufferincounty.ca/diversity-equity-and-inclusioncommunity-advisory-committee>.

Committee members must be a County of Dufferin resident, business owner or stakeholder who has an understanding of the impacts of racism and systemic discrimination on marginalized people and meet the following general qualifications:

- be familiar with overall community issues
- have demonstrated knowledge around diversity, equity and inclusion
- be able to build meaningful relationships and connections within the community

Council shall strive to ensure Committee membership reflects the diversity of the community with particular focus given to marginalized groups who have traditionally faced systemic discrimination including but not limited to Black, Indigenous and other racialized people; 2SLGBTQIA+ folk; and people with disabilities.

To apply for a position on the committee, please submit a letter of interest outlining how you meet the qualifications above; what you see as a significant challenge with respect to diversity, equity and inclusion in the County of Dufferin; and what you hope the committee will be able to accomplish.

Letters of interest should be forwarded to [info@dufferincounty.ca](mailto:info@dufferincounty.ca) or put in the drop box at 30 Centre St, Orangeville by August 31, 2021.

**PLEASE RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER!**



Continued from Page 2

# Volunteer firefighter recognized with federal award

It was in 2008, a year after his son was born, the Great Recession hit and financially things weren't looking great.

"If it wasn't for my parents delivering food for me, I wouldn't have eaten," Narine recalled.

The rent for the house out of which he was operating his business was high and the first few months of him living there were a struggle.

"I kept wanting to hang up my hat and then it was around maybe three months in is when I received a lot of cheques in the mail from

customers who I was doing work for. Then all of the sudden things completely flipped and my business took off," said Narine.

"I did very, very well for myself up until I sold my company to McCain Foods but I was very close to being homeless and losing everything."

Knowing what it means to struggle financially first hand and be at risk of homelessness, Narine told the Free Press he's felt the desire to give back in whatever ways he can.

Going forward he said he plans to continue

his volunteer work with Choices Youth Shelter and the Shelburne Fire Department.

"I absolutely love what I do. I love volunteering in the community I love, essentially, just bringing joy to people that are in need," he enthused.

Narine added that he'd encourage fellow

residents of Dufferin County to also get involved and volunteer whenever they can.

"In terms of volunteer work – more people need to do it. There's a huge need for it," he said. "If you could spare an hour a week, you'd be surprised how much that would help an organization that needs it."

# Province-wide staffing crisis reaches Headwaters

Written By SAM ODROWSKI

A staffing crisis impacting hospitals across the province became increasingly apparent at Headwaters Health Care Centre over the August long weekend.

To address the immediate needs of the hospital, paramedics were brought in to help with patients in the Emergency Room (ER) and the COVID-19 Assessment Centre was closed to redeploy staff to other areas of the hospital. RPNs, ward clerks, registration staff, and screener/runner staff were also redeployed.

SEIU Healthcare, which represents over 60,000 community and healthcare workers across Ontario, has continuously received messages from the workers they represent expressing concerns about their work environment.

"They're worried and they're terrified about the strain that this this crisis is putting on them and their co-workers. I mean, it's dangerous, the working conditions right now, but also the fact that there's not enough [staff] to even provide proper care inside some of these facilities," Stewart told the Free Press.

"There is a significant amount of planning and effort that occurs on a daily basis to ensure all our areas of service are appropriately staffed," said Headwaters CEO Kim Delahunt. "We recognize that there is a shortage being experienced in healthcare across the province, not just at Headwaters, and are doing everything we can to respond safely," Delahunt added that, "At no time were patients or their care put at risk."

However, emails obtained by the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Healthcare from staff at Headwaters, which they represent, expressed concerns.

An email to Human Resources from a nurse, with the names redacted for privacy, indicated that there was a delay to the opening of the ICU on Saturday (July 31) night.

"These workers are mentally and physically exhausted, so many of them are experiencing PTSD, and to put that pressure on them to come in for extended shifts, some of them are working 12 hour shifts and they stay to work another eight-hour shift – that is bad for everybody, including, most importantly too, is the patients that they're taking care of."

One thing that is desperately needed, according to Stewart, is mental health support for healthcare staff. Currently, none is available and won't be any time soon as the Ford government's Bill 124 limits all public sector wage increases to one per cent. The one per cent increase includes any services for staff that would cost money, such as counselling.

Continued on Page 9

"There were patients that should have been admitted to ICU that were then admitted to the floors after staying in emerg [sic] for an extended period of time and added more stress to the floors," the email stated.


It went on to note that supervisors with no nursing experience, who cannot relate to the stress nurses are experiencing, expect them to work in areas they're unfamiliar, and admit patients to certain floors that are unsafe for them.

"Floors continue to go over census which create unsafe workloads and staffing to patient ratios and creates a higher risk for errors, and IT IS OUR LICENSE ON THE LINE; not the HSC [Hospital Services Coordinator], not the managers, and not yours – it's mine," the email reads.

Although, these types of problems aren't unique to Headwaters, there's currently a province wide nursing shortage, which is leaving those left in the profession severely overworked and burnt out.

During COVID-19 many nurses retired and some quit due to the added stress.

"We've been ringing the alarm bells for quite a while now," said Sharleen Stewart, SEIU Healthcare President. "There was an issue with retention and recruitment in all healthcare, pre-COVID, but of course, now, 18 months later, we're seeing real crisis evolve with not only, recruiting healthcare workers, but retaining them."




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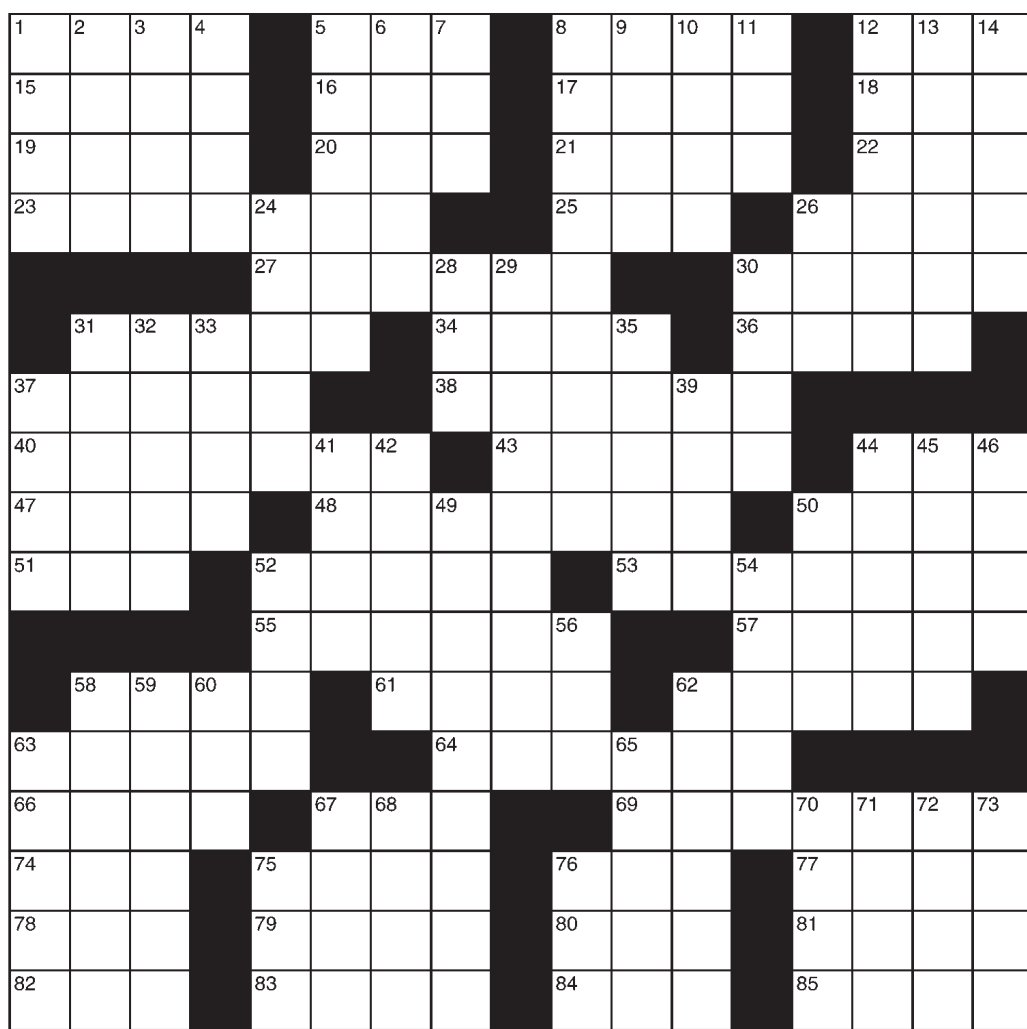
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# X CROSSWORD

**PUZZLE 458**



- 8. Bird frightener
- 9. Pond organism
- 10. Horse check
- 11. "Sands of \_\_\_\_ Jima"
- 12. Angelic abode
- 13. Actress Anita \_\_\_\_
- 14. Fatigued
- 24. Period of indulgence
- 26. Timber tree
- 28. Run into
- 29. Alligator's kin
- 30. Assist Billy the Kid, e.g.
- 31. Utensil
- 32. Golden brown
- 33. Soreness
- 35. Shack
- 37. Rectangular pilaster
- 39. Moistureless
- 41. Depend
- 42. Muslim ruler
- 44. Pluck
- 45. Ship's load
- 46. Coiffure
- 49. Delicious
- 50. Turn
- 52. Impudent
- 54. Lyrical poet
- 56. Burrow
- 58. Appropriate
- 59. Mother of pearl?
- 60. Ajar, in poems
- 62. Acrid
- 63. Nearby
- 65. Innocent
- 67. Produced offspring
- 68. Teheran money
- 70. Roster
- 71. In a minute
- 72. Thicken
- 73. Toddler
- 75. Fraternity letter
- 76. Chuckling sound

**ACROSS**

- 1. Pawn
- 5. Hog's pad
- 8. Hindu attire
- 12. Chop roughly
- 15. Look at amorously
- 16. Pedal digit
- 17. Ball of yarn
- 18. Squeeze
- 19. Slender
- 20. River inlet
- 21. Exchange allowance
- 22. Desert garment
- 23. Ousting
- 25. Beat it
- 26. State firmly
- 27. Drill
- 30. Monkey business?
- 31. Commencement
- 34. Curved support
- 36. Firecracker sound

**DOWN**

- 37. Rapidly
- 38. Down in the dumps
- 40. Obscure place
- 43. Long for
- 44. Fort Worth sch.
- 47. Attitude
- 48. Authorize
- 50. Switch
- 51. Some
- 52. Request urgently
- 53. Spotted feline
- 55. Place for shadow
- 57. Outback dog
- 58. Meager
- 61. Abnormal breathing
- 62. Gambling game
- 63. Underground chamber
- 64. Nastase's game
- 66. Mislay
- 67. Undies item
- 69. Be magnetic
- 74. Choose
- 75. Cattle stall
- 76. Deal a blow
- 77. Nothing but
- 78. Bishop's office
- 79. Recover
- 80. Night before Christmas
- 81. Snatched
- 82. Be mistaken
- 83. Lazy
- 84. Feminine pronoun
- 85. Pot bet

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# Celebrate Your Awesome virtual event scheduled for Aug. 7

Written By SAM ODROWSKI

Celebrate Your Awesome's annual in-person pride and diversity celebrations have again had to be put on hold, due to the pandemic, but that didn't stop the organization from creating something special for the community to enjoy.

In partnership with Theatre Orangeville, Celebrate Your Awesome (CYA) recently filmed a one-of-a-kind video for its virtual event, featuring all of the drag queens and musical acts that attendees of the group's in-person celebrations had come to enjoy in 2018 and 2019.

The film is set for release on August 7 at 7 p.m. and the link will be posted to the groups Facebook Page: facebook.com/celebrateyourawesome on the day it airs.

"We had so much fun recording it... there was a number of live musical events, everything from a full six-piece blues band to a single performer with a guitar, so a huge variety of things," said Becky Morris, production manager for Theatre Orangeville. "We did drag queens too and a performer that's called

Boylesque, which is a single male performer, was a riot – there is glitter in places you will never get it out."

There's a total of six musical acts and six drag queen performances within the virtual event, as well as community partners and supporters of CYA sharing positive messages in between.

Morris said the strict COVID-19 restrictions that were followed for the filming of CYA's virtual event made the process quite intimate, as there was only a handful of people in the room for the recording.

"For me personally, as somebody that works in live entertainment, it was really quite something to get what feels like a private performance," she noted. "All of these performers going at 100 per cent, giving their best performances, and there's only six of us in the room."

"They were all fabulous and everyone was really excited. For most it was their first performance back in months, or for some of them, since this whole COVID pandemic began, 18 months ago."

When speaking about the partnership

between Theatre Orangeville and CYA, Morris said it was a perfect match.

"A big part of our mandate here is to express diversity and inclusion throughout the community and within our works, to create safe spaces for people to go through self-expression and self-discovery, and be themselves in a judgement free place," she explained.

"With that being such a big part of who we are, as well as the local group that had expertise in sound and lighting and now video capture, it was a natural fit when Celebrate Your Awesome wanted to pivot how they were able to disseminate their content."

Shannon Leighton, who's a CYA committee member, said she's really happy with how things turned out.

"We got sent the unedited version right now of it and it absolutely blows my mind, I'm so very excited about it...., I had goosebumps, they did such an amazing job," she enthused. "I'm amazed at how they captured our committee's vision. Of course, you have all these people who are coming with some brilliant ideas and they captured it 110 per cent."

She said she's excited for the launch and is grateful for the community's continued support of CYA.

"We are so fortunate to live in a community that has embraced CYA and our committee strives to give everyone a place where they feel welcomed, included and celebrated. We are all unique and awesome in our own way and that should be celebrated – everyday," she lauded.

Leighton said the video gives off a fun, vibrant, energetic vibe and she'd encourage people to invite their friends and family over to watch it.

"I encourage people to make it an event in your home... the music is good; the vibe is good. There's lots of energy, you could do a dance party in your home or in your backyard," she told the Free Press. "It definitely

opens the door for discussion within families and an opportunity to educate and teach acceptance and teach inclusivity to your family."

However, Leighton did note that the CYA virtual event has a content advisory disclaimer for mild language and suggestive themes during the drag queen performances.

"It's mostly family friendly but there's some content that some parents may want to censor a little bit," she explained. "But I know with our in-person events, people were completely open to everything that our queens had to offer."

The drag queens who performed for the CYA video include Sapphire Poison, Troy Boy, Victoria Parks, Rachael Temptation, Ultra Violet, and Tucker – Boylesque.

In terms of musical acts, those include Joe Mancuza and the Mill St. Band, Tone Fusion, Grzesiek [Greg] Kowalczyk and Edie Elizabeth, Terrible and the Horribles, Stan Chang & Charlie Cooley, and Arlo Sun.

Stay tuned to CYA's Facebook Page in the days leading up to August 7 for official event details.

"I look forward to being able to share this virtual event with the community. I think it is above the expectations that we had for it. And we're very, very excited to share it with everybody."

Looking ahead, CYA is holding a short series of "Awesome Virtual Human Library" events on August 3, 4, and 5, in partnership with the Orangeville Public Library. The human library is an opportunity for people to listen in on the stories of people from the 2SLGBTQ+ community and ask questions.

Registration is available at <https://forms.orangevillelibrary.ca/Awesome-Human-Library>. "We encourage everybody to sign up," said Leighton. "The people that they have lined up are amazing, and have good stories to tell."

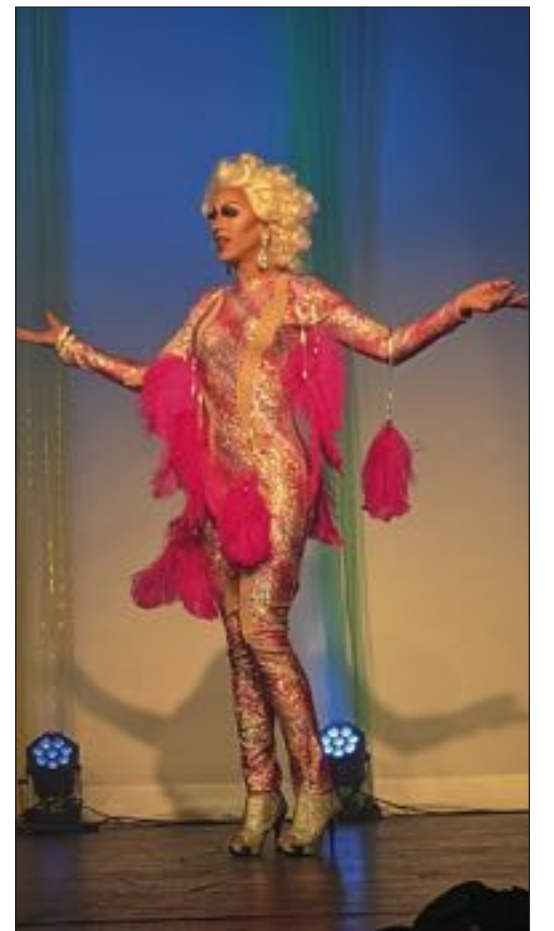


PHOTO BY J.A.W PHOTOGRAPHY

VIDEO RECORDING: A total of six musical acts and six drag queens brought their talents to the stage for Theatre Orangeville's filming of Celebrate Your Awesome's virtual event, which is set for release on Aug. 7 at 7 p.m.

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  - Erin
  - Puslinch
  - Guelph/Eramosa
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  - Mapleton
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# SHELBURNE SPORTS

## Rookie golfer aces 18th hole at Shelburne Golf & CC

Written By Brian Lockhart

Most avid golfers spend a lifetime hoping for that one swing on a par three that sees the ball drop into the cup on the first shot.

Rookie golfer, Patrick Lout, got the ace after just two seasons on the links.

Patrick got a hole-in-one on the 18th hole at the Shelburne Golf & Country club on Monday July 26, when he teed off with his six iron, and watched as the backspin on the ball brought it back toward the hole.

The 18th hole at Shelburne is a 155 yard, par three. If you know the course, the 18th hole is the one directly in front of the club house.

The hole-in-one was witnessed by his playing partners, his dad, JD, and Michael Gilmartin.

Several club members who were watching from the club house also witnessed the event.

Still being relatively new to the sport, Patrick was very excited to sink the shot.

"I've only been playing for two years, but on and off," Patrick said. "I played hockey growing up so golf was like the off-season sport, but I never really played. I just went to the driving range with my dad. Two years ago before COVID, my brother invited us to go out and he had an extra set of clubs and that's what I ended up using. Last year I bought a set of clubs for a hundred bucks on Market Place and those are the clubs I used on Monday."

Patrick said that while he was pretty happy about the shot, at the time he didn't realize what a big deal it was to ace the hole.

"I didn't realize how big of a feat it was," Patrick explained. "At first, I thought 'awesome! My dad was way more excited than I was. Then I started getting messages from

people saying they had been playing for 50 years and never came close."

Describing the shot, Patrick said he used a six iron to drop the ball on the green.

"Dad went first, then my uncle went, and I asked what clubs they used," he explained. "I decided to club up a little bit because there was wind and I used the six iron. On the swing it felt pretty good, then it landed and they

were saying 'nice shot.' The shot landed far left on the green, but the way it started to spin, it started going toward the hole, then it disappeared. Two guys ran down from the bushes by the club house with their hands in the air and they verified that it was in the hole."

Word got around the club house pretty fast and members congratulated him on what is a pretty rare occurrence.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

**HOLE IN ONE:** Many golfers play a lifetime without ever aching a hole. Alliston resident Patrick Lout dropped the ball into the cup on the first shot using a six iron on the 18th hole at the Shelburne Golf & Country Club on Monday, July 26.



BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

**RUNNING THE BASES:** The North Dufferin Baseball League is heading into the back end of this year's abbreviated regular season schedule. In the Junior Division, four teams are tied with eight points. The Junior division will play a tournament at the end of August with the top teams to determine the division champions for this year.

## Four-way tie in NDBL Junior division

Written By Brian Lockhart

It's a short season for the North Dufferin Baseball League, but after two and a-half weeks in, there's an interesting tale in the standings for the Junior Division.

Four of the six teams in the division have the same amount of points.

The Caledon Nationals, Midland Twins, Creemore Padres, and Georgina Bulldogs all have eight points. The four teams have all won four games of the current schedule.

The top three have 4-2 records while Georgina has recorded three losses.

Close behind, the Mansfield Cubs currently

have a 3-3 record with six points.

The Orangeville Bengals, new to the league this year, have taken seven straight losses and won't be eligible for the post-season tournament. They still have three games to go on the regular season schedule so there's still time to record some wins for this year.

At the end of the regular season, the junior division will play a tournament style playoff series to determine the division champion for this year.

The tournament will take place on August 20, 21, and 22.

Continued on Page 9



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# Students land scholarships at DCCBA award ceremony

Written By PAULA BROWN  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Dufferin County Canadian Black Association (DCCBA) held their inaugural scholarship award ceremony on July 27, recognizing numerous students within the community.

“Given everything that our young people have gone through over the past 18 months, it was critically important to celebrate their achievements, their accomplishments – they’ve preserved and done the impossible,” said Alethia O’Hara Stephenson, president of DCCBA, about holding the virtual event. “We wanted to make sure that we’re taking the time to celebrate them and make sure they realize that we recognize the hardships they’ve gone through this past year.”

A number of scholarships were given out to students in elementary, secondary, and post-secondary schooling from the DCCBA, organizations, and independent donors.

“We know based on stats that one of the hindrances to post-secondary education

is financial, and this is even more when it comes to our black youth,” said O’Hara Stephenson. “It was important for us to be able to provide opportunities for these young students to realize their potential, to ease some of the burden and also incentivize them to continue on the path of excellence. Not only are we rewarding them financially based on their academic credentials, we are encouraging them.”

The first scholarship awarded was the DCCBA Black Excellence bursaries, which was presented to recipients Monique Harris (Glenbrook Elementary School), Ashley Anderson (Hyland Heights Elementary School), and Cairo Daley (Centennial Hylands Elementary School).

The next award presented was the Streams Community Hub Arts scholarship, which is awarded to a student pursuing studies in arts. Violinist Alyssa Samuels, who is currently majoring in music at York University and working towards becoming a composer, was the recipient of the arts-based scholarship.

Sunit Toor, a graduate of Centre Duf-

ferin District High School who is pursuing a Bachelor of Science at McMaster University, became the first recipient of the CFUW Orangeville and District Building Bridges scholarship.

Flato Developments handed out three awards to students, which included Precious Adesina, Alyssa Samuels, and Nifemi Abolarinde who are pursuing the trades or entrepreneurship.

Fieldgate Homes presented their Community Excellence Award to Lordslove Ngonge, and Nifemi Abolarinde.

Hailey Romain and Victoria Soboma were the recipients of the Cariati Law award.

DCCBA President Alethia O’Hara Stephenson presented the Ontario Clean Water Science Scholarship, awarded to students studying environmental sciences. Recipients of the award were Precious Adesina, and Graden Grandison, a med student at the University of Guelph.

Shelburne Deputy Mayor Steve Anderson presented the Carmen Anderson Perseverance Award, which is dedicated to his

mother and honours recipients overcoming challenges. Christina Campbell, a student pursuing a bilingual nursing program in Ottawa and Shemar Barnett, a student of York University majoring in law society and minoring in French, were the recipients of the Carmen Anderson Perseverance Award.

The final award presented of the night was the DCCBA Black Excellence Award, which is made possible through donations. The award was given to Shailyn Pierre-Dixon, a graduate of Mayfield Secondary School regional arts program and Lordslove Ngonge.

# Province of Ontario releases back-to school plan

Written By PAULA BROWN  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Ontario students returning to in-person learning this school year will see themselves in an environment close to that of pre-pandemic, as the Ontario government unveils the back-to-school plan.

The Ministry of Education released a 26-page document on Tuesday (Aug. 3) that guides school boards for the return of students in September.

Secondary and elementary school students will return to the classroom five days a week, with 300 minutes of instruction come the fall. But, the document also warns the school boards to be prepared with plans to move quickly to remote learning.

Despite the caution of providing a remote learning plan, Ontario’s Chief Medical Officer of Health, Kieran Moore told reporters in his weekly briefing on Tuesday that he does not envision schools being closed again.

“I think we have to normalize COVID-19 for schools and have an approach that’s prudent and that’s cautious but realized yeah we’re going to have a rise in cases but we’re going to adhere to the best practices to minimize the spread and to keep

our communities safe,” said Moore.

Students enrolled in elementary schools (Kindergarten through to Grade 8) will be cohorted for the full day and will remain with one teacher, where possible. Exceptions to these cohorts include specialized education staff and teachers such as French teachers and support staff, who are permitted to go into classrooms and multiple schools.

The document said students from different cohorts will be able to interact outside with distancing or inside with distancing and masks as well as in common spaces such as libraries and cafeterias.

For students at the secondary school level, school boards have been instructed to timetable students in no more than two courses at a time for the fall semester in order to “preserve the option of reverting to more restrictive measures.”

School boards will employ multiple daily COVID-19 protocols including students completing a self-screening before school, and the Ministry of Education directing on-site screening during potential higher periods of transmission such as a after a holiday period.

Students in Grade 1 to Grade 12 are required to wear face masks indoors and in class, but will be able to remove them for eat-

ing and during low-contact physical activity.

The back-to school plan permits students interacting with each other outside of their cohorts during recess and breaks as well as eating together with no distancing outdoors and distancing indoors.

Schools will also be able to hold assemblies and field trips, subject to Ontario’s reopening plan.

With the back-to school plan, a number of programs and activities that have been halted during the pandemic will be allowed to resume.

Music programs, including singing and the use of wind instruments are permitted with adequate ventilation, while health classes that used use gyms, swimming pools, change rooms, and weight rooms can also resume with distancing.

For the first time since the beginning of the pandemic schools sports teams will be able to play again, although high-contact activities are only permitted outdoors.

The document says the community is also able to use the schools as long as activities align with public health guidance.

On Wednesday (Aug. 4), the Ontario government announced \$25 million in funding to improve ventilation in schools.

Continued from Page 5

# Province-wide staffing crisis reaches Headwaters

As well, the bill limits any form of negotiation, which has brought about many constitutional challenges.

“[Healthcare staff] are having to take care of themselves and refusing shifts, they have to, because they know that they are in a very dangerous situation if they don’t and care about number one, their licenses,” Stewart said. “For the regulated staff, they’re responsible to ensure that safe care is provided to the patients. When you’re doing extended shifts for an extended period of time, that just screams problems, so they’re not risking that anymore.”

Some nurses and other healthcare staff are quitting as they see no end in sight to the current staffing crisis, according to Stewart, which only adds to the problem.

To help bring more people into the healthcare profession, Stewart said Bill 124 needs to be repealed so unions can negotiate freely and get fair wages for Registered Practical Nurses (RPN) who receive 30-40 per cent less money than Registered Nurses (RN).

With the current pay increases for Personal Support Workers (PSWs) which Premier Doug Ford said his government plans to make permanent, the wage of an RPN be-

comes very close to that of a PSW.

“When it comes to RPNs they absolutely have got a real pay problem there,” said Stewart. “They are so far behind the RNs and they have to address that. That’s been a long-standing issue.”

“Registered practical nurses now have got the skill base of a registered nurse like they can do... up to 90 per cent of the registered nurses work under their licenses,” she added.

Rallies have been held at hospitals across Ontario, including Headwaters, protesting Bill 124 and calling on hospital CEOs to do the same.

Going forward, Stewart SEIU Healthcare will continue to advocate for better working conditions for healthcare workers, fair wages, and proper support, such as mental health counselling.

Continued from Page 8

# Four-way tie in NDBL Junior division

In the Senior Division, the Bolton Brewers and Barrie Angels are tied with 8 points each after five games.

They are followed by the New Lowell Knights, with 6, and the Ivy Leafs, Cree-more Padres, and Clearview Orioles - all with 4 points so far.

The Mansfield Cubs are in ninth place with a 1-3 record and 2 points for the season so far.

The Senior division also has a short schedule this year, however their season goes through to August 21, before they move into post-season activity.

There are 11 teams in the Senior division this year.

The Senior division is playing a ten game schedule rotating between other teams in the league so they get a shot at each team in the division during regular season play.



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1. Co-ordinate Zoom Services and assist minister in preparing slides and images for Sunday Services
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*Your love showed me how good life could be, Your death showed me how cruel, life sometimes is. But good or bad, life has to go on even though it's not easy to carry on.*

*Forever will you live on, in my heart and mind. Forever will you live in my thoughts and never die.*

*With love always, I remember you. With fond memories, I think of you. With hope I believe we'll meet again Somewhere, Somehow, Someplace.*

*All Our Love Always, Linda, Shaun, David, & Families and the Hume Family!*



IN MEMORIAM

IN LOVING MEMORY

**RON JAMES**

AUGUST 6, 1997

*I hide my tears when I say your name, but the pain in my heart is still the same.*

*Although I smile and seem carefree there is no one who misses you more than me*

*Love always Penny xxxoxo*



OBITUARY

**MACIVER, DIANNE KATHERINE (GREEN)**

of Amaranth, Ontario passed away at her farm home on July 26, 2021. Leaving behind her husband Don; her daughter Julie and grandsons Gavin and Ethan; her son Dan and wife Denise (Riddell) and grandsons Jase, Colt and Ty; her brother-in-law John and wife Dorothy and their son, wife and granddaughters in Squamish, B.C. A celebration of Dianne's life will be held at a later date. Condolences and memorial donations to the Heart and Stroke Foundation are appreciated and may be placed at [www.jackandthompsonfuneralhome.com](http://www.jackandthompsonfuneralhome.com)



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IN MEMORIAM

IN LOVING MEMORY

**SHARON (ROBINSON) HENDERSON**

JULY 23, 1950 – AUG 11, 1981

*I take a look around, You're the sunshine in my hair You're the shadow on the ground You're the whisper in the wind You're my imaginary friend And I know I'm in your prayers Don't make a sound You're the beat in my heart You're the moonlight shining down You're the whisper in the wind And I'll see you in the end Can you feel the love that we share? We may be a thousand miles apart But you'll be with me wherever I am With love, John, Kim & Tara*



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