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DAIRY DONATION: Volunteers helped set up food items outside the local Food Bank on Dec. 18 for the Shelburne Hamper Program pick up day. Dairy produce such as milk and cheese were donated by Compass Church, while the eggs and butter were purchased through the Hamper's money donations. Through the 2021 Shelburne Hamper Program, over 160 families received food, toys, and gift cards. To see more photos and read a full thank-you letter to all who helped with this year's program, turn to Page 7.

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Hanson given conditional two year sentence

Written By Paula Brown
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Michelle Hanson, the 38 year-old Amaranth mother who plead guilty to criminal negligence causing death in the 2018 drowning of her three-year-old Kaden Young, has received a two year conditional sentence.

Hanson appear in an Orangeville courtroom via video conference on Tuesday (Jan. 18) for her sentencing hearing.

The courtroom heard on Tuesday that Hanson will serve the first 18 months of her two year conditional sentence under house arrest. She will only be allowed to leave her home for certain exceptions including medical emergencies or appointments, in-person counselling, and employment confirmed and approved by the conditional sentence supervisor. Hanson will be permitted to leave her home each Monday between 12 p.m. and 4 p.m. for 'necessities of life'.

For the last six months of the sentence, Hanson will be able to leave her home, with a curfew between the hours of 10 p.m. and 6 a.m.

During the two years, Hanson is prohibited

from operating a vehicle, with a three year driving probation to take effect following the completion of the conditional sentence.

Hanson will also be required to attend grief and substance abuse counselling over the two year span, and during her one year of probation.

Justice Giselle Miller in sentencing, said Hanson should be given credit for pleading guilty in her son's death, thereby accepting her responsibility and expressing remorse.

"I understand that it took Ms. Hanson quite some time to come to accept her responsibility in her son's death, but she has done so," said Miller.

Shortly before 1 a.m. on Feb. 21, 2018, Hanson's vehicle was pulled into the Grand River during a period of heavy flooding which saw river water rise up onto the road. Hanson had taken her three-year-old son Kaden, who was having trouble sleeping, for a drive into Grand Valley where she planned to attend a convenience store. Within minutes of leaving her home, Hanson drove her vehicle around a road closed barrier on the 10th Line of Amaranth onto

a flooded section of the road, resulting in the vehicle being swept into the river.

Hanson was able to escape the vehicle with Kaden, but lost grip of him as they were pushed down the river by the strong current. She was pulled from the river by EMS.

An agreed statement of facts said paramedics attending to Hanson detected an odor of alcohol and blood samples obtained at the hospital showed a blood alcohol concentration of 60 milligrams of alcohol in 100 millilitres of blood. Oxycodone was also detected, but was noted to be a concentration associated with 'therapeutic range'.

In the weeks following, hundreds of volunteers from the community searched the banks of the Grand River for Kaden's body. On April, 2021, two months to the day of the incident, Kaden's body was recovered in Belwood Lake.

Hanson was charged in October of 2018, and ordered to stand trial on counts of impaired driving causing death and criminal negligence causing death following a preliminary inquiry in 2019.

Continued on Page 2

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FEATURED ITEMS

Continued from FRONT

Hanson given conditional two year sentence

Hanson plead guilty to criminal negligence causing death in November of 2021, and the charge of impaired driving causing death was dropped as part of the plea deal.

Crown attorney, Danielle Garbaty, submitted four victim impact statements from family members to the court on Tuesday. The only one read allowed into the court was that of Cameron Young – Kaden's father.

Garbaty, on behalf of Kaden's father, read how Young's life had changed after receiving the call about the accident.

"I couldn't just sit back and wait, so for the next 59 days with the help and support of my family, friends and hundreds of volunteer, we continued looking for my son. Those days were exhausting, emotional and physically draining," wrote Young.

Young spoke of receiving the phone call on

April, 21, 2018, that a child's body had been found near Belwood Bridge.

"Identifying my son, Kaden's, tiny, lifeless body. That day is something no parent should ever have to do," read Young's statement.

He described having trouble sleeping afterwards, experiencing nightmares and flashbacks of his son's body, specifically every time he is near a bridge or river. He was diagnosed with both anxiety and depression.

"I wake up every morning and remind myself, Kaden would want me to be happy, us to be happy. He would want me to enjoy life just like we used to before he was so tragically take from me," wrote Young.

Garbaty noted the three other victim impact statements came from an aunt and both paternal and maternal grandparents, which she said provided a glimpse into the grief the fam-

ily has experienced.

Hal Mattson, Hanson's defense lawyer, addressed the victim impacts statements and how they reflected how Hanson also feels.

"We can all imagine how the mother feels, if that's how other people feel," said Mattson.

Mattson told the court about Hanson's rough and unstable upbringing, and how she was involved in relationships that introduced her to drugs. Mattson noted she is working on herself with the goal of staying sober and seeing her kids.

"She would just like people to know that's she's not a demon," said Mattson. "She's a product of some poor choices...and she made some poor choices, but she's not a demon."

It was revealed Hanson had moved to Newfoundland in December of 2020.

Mattson added that Hanson told him she

hoped the people who helped search for her son have not 'hardened their hearts' because of her actions.

In handing down the sentence, Justice Miller said while a message needs to be sent to deter others she considered Hanson's guilty plea, which spared those impacted from having to testify, her; her seeking of counselling for grief and rehabilitation for substance abuse, and the fact she is a first time offender.

"No penalty imposed by this court will ever have the effect of punishing Michelle Hanson more than she has punished herself for her reckless actions, and no doubt will continue to punish herself for the rest of her life," said Miller. "No penalty this court could impose will ever bring Kaden back or lesson the anguish felt by those close to him because of his death and it's circumstances."

Mayor issues statement in response to recent crimes

Shelburne Mayor Wade Mills released the following statement regarding recent criminal incidents within the Town:

"As most of you will be aware, Shelburne has unfortunately experienced two serious criminal incidents over the past two weeks which have attracted a great deal of attention through both traditional and social media platforms. Understandably, the seriousness and high-profile nature of these incidents have left some residents feeling on edge.

Last evening, we had a Police Service Board meeting and we discussed these issues at length with senior officials from our Dufferin OPP detachment. The following key points emerged from those discussions which I hope will help ease some of the anxiety being felt within our community:

- The two recent incidents in question were certainly serious but they were not related and were completely isolated;
- Although these two isolated incidents occurred within a short period of time, neither of them points to an increased threat to community safety;
- Occurrences of crime are continually be-



ing tracked and monitored and the overall trends that we are seeing do not indicate an increase or escalation in serious criminal activity within our community;

- Shelburne remains a very safe community.

I would like to personally thank the OPP for their exceptionally fast responses and professional handling of these two isolated incidents. I can also assure you that your Council and Police Service Board take these matters very seriously and that we will continue to work with the OPP to ensure that our community is a safe place to live and raise a family.

I have every confidence in our local OPP to continue to provide effective and efficient policing within our community. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact me directly at mayor@shelburne.ca. The non-emergency number for the OPP is 1-888-310-1122 and if you have an emergency, call 911."



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feral cat rescue



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Want to help give our community cats a second chance?

Our Feral Cat Rescue Thrift Store in Shelburne is one of the main ways we are able to raise funds to help support the cats living and medical expenses. Our organization is based solely off of volunteerism, and we are looking for more individuals to volunteer their time at the store. We are open Tuesday to Saturday 10am -4 pm, and are looking for singles, or pairs who would like to volunteer their time for a shift (or however many they are able). If you are interested, please give Irene a shout at 519.925.5805 or come visit us!

Check our facebook page to see the other kitties looking for their forever home. Donations always needed to help care for the cats as we are not funded at all, and rely on donations and fundraisers. If you would like to volunteer as well we are always appreciative.

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COUNCIL 2022 DATES

January 24 • February 14 & 18 • March 14 & 18 • April 11 & 25 • May 9 & 30 • June 13 & 27 • July 11 & 25
 August 29 • September 12 & 26 • October 3 & 17 • December 5 • Meetings commence at 6:30 pm

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SIDEWALKS: SNOW CLEARING AND SAFETY

Public Works oversees and maintains approximately 31 km of Town-owned sidewalks and 3 pedestrian bridges.

Winter Maintenance is completed in accordance with the Ontario Minimum Maintenance Standards, under this sidewalks are to be cleared within 48 hours that the snow accumulation has reached less than or equal to 8cm.

The Town's service level for winter maintenance on sidewalks is to maintain them to a snow packed condition. Snow packed is defined as a hard-packed snow surface. Sidewalk plows/blowers are not capable of clearing snow and ice from sidewalks to the extent that bare concrete is exposed in all conditions. The amount of scraping and sand/salt required to achieve a bare concrete service level would be damaging to the pavement, equipment, and the environment.

Snow and ice often bond to the concrete during extreme temperatures, and ice can also form on snow packed sidewalks during thaw/freeze cycles. Other factors, such as overgrown turf on the edge of the sidewalk or a buildup of residual ice and snow under wheel tracks, can cause the edge of the plow or blower to ride above the surface of the sidewalk. All affected areas are treated with sand for traction.

Edges of sidewalks may become hidden with deep snow or snow drifts. That is when the plow may cause damage to sod. In those circumstances damage may be unavoidable even with even the most experienced operator. To report sod damage, please complete the online report a concern form or call the Operations, Parks and Facilities Clerk at the Town of Shelburne 519-925-2600 extension 261. Staff will inspect the damage and make repairs in the spring. Please remember that boulevards are owned by the Town and should not have any permanent landscape features. These damaged items would not be the responsibility of the Town.

Winter weather can cause safety issues for residents. Town Staff make every effort to clear sidewalks as quickly and effectively as possible.

PROPERTY TAXES

THE INTERIM TAX BILLS WILL BE PRODUCED AND SENT OUT IN JANUARY

DUE

FEBRUARY 17TH, 2022
 MAY 19TH, 2022
 AUGUST 18TH, 2022
 OCTOBER 20TH, 2022

MUNICIPAL ELECTION

For anyone interested in running for a position on Shelburne Town Council in the municipal election to be held October 24, 2022.

Candidates may file a nomination form in the Clerk's Office during regular business hours beginning Monday, May 2, 2022 and ending at 2:00pm on Friday, August 19, 2022.

The prescribed fee, which may be refundable, must accompany the nomination form. The fee for Head of Council is \$200, and \$100 for all other candidates, payable by cash, certified cheque or money order. Candidates must not campaign, spend or raise funds for their election campaign until their nomination form has been filed and certified by the Clerk.

The nomination form must be accompanied by declarations of endorsement by 25 qualified electors within the Town of Shelburne.

The Province of Ontario will release nomination forms, endorsement forms and a Candidate Information Guide in April 2022.

For further information, please contact:
 Jennifer Willoughby
 Clerk, Town of Shelburne
 jwilloughby@shelburne.ca

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As of January 5th, 2022 we have returned to curbside service.

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Wednesday	12pm-6pm
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WINTER OVERNIGHT STREET PARKING STARTS NOVEMBER 15

A reminder to all Shelburne residents and motorists that winter overnight parking restrictions take effect starting Monday November 15, 2021 at midnight. No vehicles are to be parked on any roadways between midnight and 8:00 a.m. every day. This allows for snow removal and other winter road, boulevard and sidewalk maintenance. By-law 8-1983 issues a \$15.00 fine for any contraventions. See shelburne.ca for more details.

No winter overnight parking
 Nov. 15 – April 15

WATER Sewer bills

Due Date

January 28, 2022
 March 28, 2022
 May 27, 2022
 July 29, 2022
 September 28, 2022
 November 28, 2022

WATCH FOR YOUR DOG TAGS IN THE MAIL

If your dog is currently registered with the Town you will receive your 2022 dog tag in the mail with an invoice that will be due by March 31st, 2022. If you have a dog that is NOT registered with the Town, please register immediately as per By-Law #15-2018.

Please ensure that your dog tag is securely fastened to your dog for identification and return.

Canine Control Hours
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Contact Information
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We acknowledge the financial support of the Government of Canada through the Canada Periodical Fund of the Department of Canadian Heritage.

Blame it on the truckers

There are times when I am amazed at how little we pay for some items in this country.

My local grocery store had limes on for 89 cents the other day.

That may seem like a reasonable price for a single small piece of fruit, however, when you consider what it took to get that tangy green piece of citrus fruit on the store shelves, 89 cents is a real deal.

Someone had to grow that lime on a farm or plantation – and it wasn't local. Most likely those limes came from Mexico or South America.

Someone had to tend the orchard, prune the trees, and keep the plants healthy.

Workers went out to the orchard to pick those limes, and they had to be paid. From there, they box them up and deliver them by truck to a local depot of some sort.

Then they start the long journey through North America – thousands of miles by truck, until they arrive at the Ontario Food Terminal in Toronto.

Someone in Ontario drove a truck there and picked up those limes, then drove back to whatever city or town they are destined for.

Someone had to receive those limes and unload the truck. Another person took those limes from the back room and placed them on the shelf for customers.

All those people had to get paid, and those trucks don't run on water and fresh air. There are massive transportation costs involved, and yet you can still get the lime for 89 cents.

The only reason you can buy a lime at that price to sprinkle some juice on your fish dinner or finish off your after dinner Mojito, is because there is a carefully planned and well executed transportation system that allows that fruit to make it all the way across the continent to your local grocery store.

You have most likely noticed the rising cost of food in your grocery store. Some products, are starting to get to a point where many people just pass them by.

I shudder at the cost of inviting a group of friends over for a summer time barbecue.

The trucking industry is already facing a crisis due to a shortage of drivers. Many older drivers have retired and many others have given up the job during the COVID pandemic.

Now the federal government has put more restrictions on cross-border trucking requiring all truckers to have proof of vaccination or go into quarantine when they return – thus pulling another trucker off the road for two weeks.

I don't know why anyone wouldn't get vaccinated. I've had my shots. But not everyone thinks the same along those lines.

Getting vaccinated is for your protection, not the other guy.

Going after truckers doesn't seem to make a lot of sense. The borders are still open if you happen to fly. I've got friends who just posted a lovely photo of themselves on a beach in Cuba, so people are still getting around.

I have other friends who hosted relatives from overseas. They didn't quarantine, I saw them out and about the day after arriving from Europe.

If the schools are open and it is deemed safe to put 30 unvaccinated kids in a classroom together, why is a single person who happens to be driving a truck considered a risk?

Putting more pressure on an industry that is already struggling will only lead to more

problems, and not just at the grocery stores.

Pretty much all goods arrive by truck.

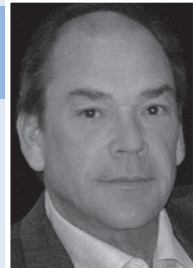
Everything from electronics to car parts are delivered through the use of that complicated transportation system.

Creating a shortage of supply will only mean an increase in prices and even more inflation. That along rising cost of fuel means that the cost of goods will go through the roof as demand exceeds supply.

For the most part, I think the government is doing what they can and what they should to combat the pandemic. They are following the advice of the medical world.

But if they get into a micro-management situation like they are with the trucking industry, the consequences will far outweigh the benefits of quarantining one single trucker who just made his way back from Arizona with a trailer full of goods.

If this continues, that 89 cent lime is going to be costing you \$8 in the future.



BRIAN LOCKHART
FROM THE SECOND ROW

Unite against the vax tax

As we head into the third year of revolving government lockdowns, Canadians have every right to be furious. But we shouldn't let politicians divide us. And we shouldn't be duped into believing that we are going to tax our way out of a pandemic.

"We're looking for a health contribution for adults who refuse to be vaccinated for non-medical reasons," announced Quebec Premier François Legault.

Legault's "health contribution" is just another tax added to the heavy burden of income, business, sales, property, payroll, import, fuel and carbon taxes that Canadians are already

forced to pay. In 2020, the average family spent more on taxes than on basic needs such as food, shelter and clothing combined (according to the Fraiser Institute). More taxes won't make COVID-19 go away.

Particularly if you're vaccinated, you should fight against politicians that want to open up this Pandora's box. Today, politicians will say the unvaccinated should pay. What about tomorrow?

Will you need to pay a tax every time you put butter on your popcorn? If you gain weight after Christmas, will you have to write a cheque? When your kid falls off their bike trying a new

jump, will a tax bill come with their stitches? People do lots of things that land them in the hospital. It's past time to discuss private health-care options and letting people spend their own dollars on their own health. But heaping more taxes onto overtaxed Canadians won't solve the pandemic problem.

Legault's new tax follows a clear trend: The government answer to any problem is to hammer Canadians with higher taxes.

Politicians want us to drive fewer trucks, so they slap us with a carbon tax. And when carbon taxes don't reduce emissions, they hammer us with higher carbon taxes.

Bureaucrats think home prices are too high, so they fund a report calling for a new tax on homeowners.

Instead of dividing Canadians and targeting certain taxpayers, it's time to hold our politicians and bureaucrats accountable for the health-care mess.

Before COVID-19, Canadians were paying more than most of our industrialized peers for health care, according to the Fraser Institute. But Canada ranked second worst on the number of acute care beds per capita and third worse on the number of doctors per capita.

"The average occupancy rate of the province's acute care beds was 96 per cent in 2018-19, including approximately 28 hospitals where the average occupancy rate for the year was over 100 per cent," according to the Financial Accountability Office of Ontario.

British Columbia hospitals were also above

capacity before COVID-19.

That's why politicians were worried about the government system in the early days of the pandemic. Alberta Premier Jason Kenney said if there were no lockdowns, "our health system would collapse under the chaos."

Two years later, the federal debt has ballooned past \$1 trillion after spending more than \$500 billion responding to COVID-19. The provinces have spent about \$400 billion on health care since the beginning of 2020, according to their budgets.

Despite two years and all that money, Ontario's top health-care bureaucrat is still defending lockdowns as "necessary" to "protect our health system capacity."

This leaves us with two questions. First, how many hundreds of billions of dollars do taxpayers need to fork over before the government health-care system isn't on the brink of collapse?

Second, shouldn't the politicians and bureaucrats that have continued to collect their six-figure taxpayer-funded paycheques be held accountable for not coming up with better solutions to protect health-care capacity?

Instead of dividing Canadians and hitting us with new taxes, it's time to hold the politicians and bureaucrats accountable for their mess.

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Dundalk Virtual Community Engagement Meeting

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Dufferin OPP issued arrest warrant in Shelburne homicide

Written By Paula Brown
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Dufferin OPP have issued an arrest warrant for a 44-year-old man in connection to the recent murder of a woman in Shelburne.

Scott Eric Pinney of Orangeville is wanted for second degree murder in the death of 65-year-old Debra Neale, whose body was discovered by police following a welfare check last Saturday (Jan. 8).

Dufferin OPP officers were called to a home on Main Street in Shelburne shortly before 1:30 p.m. on Jan. 8 to check on the

well-being of an individual, and discovered the deceased person inside.

An initial press release from Dufferin OPP on Jan. 9 noted the death as "suspicious", and was later confirmed a homicide.

Investigators are asking for the public's assistance in locating Pinney, but urge anyone who sees him not to approach. Instead, call 9-1-1 and provide the details of his location.

Police say Pinney may be driving a white, 2019 Honda Civic with the Ontario licence plate CTPC 389. The vehicle has minor damage to the front, right corner.

The Dufferin OPP Crime Unit is continuing the investigation under the direction of the OPP Criminal Investigation Branch (CIB), with assistance from OPP Forensic Identification Services (FIS) and in conjunction with the Office of the Chief Coroner for Ontario and the Ontario Forensic Pathology Service.

Anyone who has any information regarding the whereabouts of Scott Eric Pinney is asked to contact the Dufferin OPP at 1-888-310-1122. Anonymous tips can be made by calling Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477).



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
WANTED MAN: Scott Eric Pinney of Orangeville is wanted by police on second degree murder.

Arrest made following local firearm incident

Written By Paula Brown
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Dufferin OPP have arrested one person in relation to a weapons incident in Shelburne.

Shortly before 10 a.m. on Monday (Jan. 17), Dufferin OPP officers responded to a 9-1-1 call regarding a person with a firearm.

Police said the suspect had fled the scene in a vehicle.

Officers were able to locate and stop the vehicle near the intersection of Main Street and Dufferin County Rd. 124 without incident, and the suspect was taken into custody without injury to the public, accused, or officers.

As a result of the investigation, a firearm was seized by police.

Dufferin OPP said in a press release on Jan. 17 that the suspect is in police custody and awaiting a bail hearing.

Anyone with information or video surveillance footage in relation to the incident are asked to call the Dufferin OPP Detachment at 1-888-310-1122. Information can also be provided anonymously by contacting Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or submitting the information online at <https://ontariocrimestoppers.ca/>.

Bracebridge man reported missing in the region

A missing Bracebridge man was last seen in the Orangeville Area.

The Bracebridge Detachment of the OPP is searching for 48-year-old James Gamble, after receiving a missing person report on Jan. 15 at approximately 10:30 a.m.

OPP were told that Gamble had left his Bracebridge residence for work on the morning of January 14, 2022, did not attend his workplace and did not return home. Police and his family have concerns for his safety and wellbeing.

Investigators have received information that Gamble was last seen in the Orangeville area. He is believed to be operating a white 2014 Ram 1500 quad cab pickup truck with a black cap. The vehicle has the Ontario licence plate AP32415.

Gamble is described as a 48-year-old white male, 5'8" tall, slim build with white hair and blue eyes.

Police are continuing their investigation into the whereabouts of Gamble and are asking for the public's assistance. Anyone who has any information pertaining to the location of Gamble, or has seen his white 2014 Ram 1500 pickup truck, is asked to contact Bracebridge OPP at 705 645-2211 or 1-888-310-1122. You can also contact Crime Stoppers anonymously at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477).

SHELBURNE CHURCH DIRECTORY

BETHEL BIBLE CHAPEL
419 Main Street East, Shelburne
Sunday Services - 9:30am Lord's Supper
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Chapel 519-925-3910 or 519-278-0066
www.bethelshelburne.com - All Welcome!!

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PUZZLE 412

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- 6. Stocky pooch
- 7. Inuit abode
- 8. Capable
- 9. Harvest crops
- 10. Nightclub
- 11. Blood part
- 12. Biscuit
- 13. Further
- 14. Scheme
- 24. Finch
- 26. It has a foot
- 28. Baseball call
- 30. Navigators
- 31. Illuminated naturally
- 34. "___ the Woods"
- 36. Powdery mineral
- 37. Suspender
- 38. Register
- 39. Measures up to
- 40. Steal, as livestock
- 43. Category
- 44. Athenian portico
- 45. Hit
- 47. Mountain-climber's coup
- 50. Beheld
- 51. Hounds' quarry
- 54. Engine part
- 57. Irritable
- 60. Resident
- 61. Windflower
- 63. Stinging plant
- 67. Praise
- 69. Chef's smock
- 70. Vexed
- 71. Work for nine
- 72. Bugs
- 73. Double reed
- 74. Broil
- 75. Admire
- 77. Venerable
- 81. Command to oxen
- 83. Two-piece piece

ACROSS

- 1. Bias
- 5. Sash for a kimono
- 8. Rainbow's shape
- 11. Get ready
- 15. Edible root
- 16. Pull along
- 17. Round vegetable
- 18. Lounge
- 19. Dark, to Donne
- 20. Sickly
- 21. Pick up the ___
- 22. To boot
- 23. Doze, with "off"
- 24. Unaccompanied flight
- 25. Cook's garnish
- 27. Overweight
- 29. Makeshift bed
- 32. Pina colada liquor
- 33. Larry, Curly, and Moe
- 35. Instruction

- 39. Going astray
- 41. Growing out
- 42. Hill dweller
- 44. React to a glare
- 45. Trade for cash
- 46. Gathering
- 48. Boar's tooth
- 49. Large, flightless bird
- 52. Skid
- 53. Prairie tale?
- 55. Formerly, formerly
- 56. Blame
- 58. Every
- 59. Theater
- 61. Imprison
- 62. Paragraph part
- 64. Electric sign
- 65. Forever and a day
- 66. Joint
- 68. Dye for wood
- 72. Nose part

- 76. Dec. 25
- 78. Paid player
- 79. Assist in mischief
- 80. Sharp turn
- 82. Dress finely
- 83. Grain husk
- 84. Hockey score
- 85. Squeeze
- 86. Unmatched
- 87. Habitual course
- 88. Drought-ridden
- 89. Once called
- 90. Went in front
- 91. Dill

DOWN

- 1. Office writer, for short
- 2. Barbecue choice
- 3. Undermine
- 4. Took first prize
- 5. Meat stew

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Top doctor indicates support for return to in-person learning

Written By Paula Brown
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Upper Grand District School Board (UGDSB) students have returned to the classroom for the first time since winter break and despite high cases of the Omicron COVID-19 variant, the region's top doctor has said the benefits of reopening schools outweigh the short-term risk.

Dr. Nicola Mercer released a statement last Friday (Jan. 14) ahead of the scheduled return to in-person learning on Jan. 17, noting the importance of in-person learning on children, their families, and the community as a whole.

"When children cannot attend school, there are serious and long-lasting impacts on their mental health, wellbeing, and academic progress," wrote Mercer. "A world-class education delivered in a safe environment by caring teachers and supported by dedicated staff is an important pillar of our region's future."

Schools in the UGDSB were scheduled to reopen for in-person learning on Monday (Jan. 17), but were delayed due to extreme weather.

The return to in-person learning comes at a time when the Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph region continues to see high numbers of active and new cases of COVID-19.

According to Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph (WDG) Public Health the region reported over 1,000 active cases, 254 of which were in Dufferin County, the day students returned to the classroom.

Mercer said it will likely take several weeks before the situation begins to improve in the Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph region.

"Schools, school boards and their parents across the region have made many changes to make schools as safe as possible, but it will take all of us working together as a community to drive down the levels of COVID-19 locally to make schools safer," said Mercer.

She also addressed how many families rely on in-person learning to support their economic and social wellbeing.

"Many children depend on in-person learning for reasons of food security, safety and many other benefits beyond what is contained in their lesson," said Mercer. "For this reason, I believe that the benefits of reopening in-person learning ultimately outweigh the short-term risks."

With the return to in-person learning the UGDSB has launched a temporary remote learning option for students in elementary schools. The temporary remote learning option is different from the remote options students chose to enroll in at the start of the school year.

The school board said the temporary remote learning option consists of asynchronous resources for students to work on independently while not attending in-person and does not include synchronous or live (online) teaching.

The new option is not intended to be long-term, with families notifying their school of the change and the length of time they expect.

Melancthon based auctioneer shares passion for the industry

Written By PAULA BROWN
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Going once, going twice...sold!

When you first hear Dennis Kidd speak it's not hard to imagine how he became an auctioneer. With the natural way he speeds up in his speech you could almost hear the calling of the auctioneer's chant.

For the last 25 years Kidd has worked locally as an auctioneer from freelancing to opening his own company, Kidd Family Auctions, in 2015. But, his connection to

auctioning goes back even further.

Growing up in a farming family Kidd learned 'like every good farmer' the love of auctioning. At a young age he began attending auctions with his father and grandfather, and it was during this time he started practicing what would later become his craft.

"Before I can even recall, my parents tell me I would come home and try to imitate and talk like the auctioneer in front of the mirror," explains Kidd.

Continued on Page 11

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*On OAC. Dealer participation may vary.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

TOYS DONATION: The Shelburne Hamper Program provided every child aged 12 years-old and older with a gift card while the parents with children under the age of 12 were given the opportunity to select toys, books, and games.

Christmas Hamper coordinator thanks community for another successful year

The following message is a thank you letter from Bobbi Ferguson to everyone who helped make the Shelburne Christmas Hamper Program possible this year.

"Dear Generous Friend,
HAPPY NEW YEAR and a huge THANK YOU!

We should all be very proud of our community! The Shelburne Christmas Hamper Program starts the planning process in September of each year to make sure that our Shelburne families get the assistance they need for, what can be, a very difficult time of year. It culminates, usually the Saturday before Christmas on Hamper distribution day, this year on December 18th.

This program has been in existence for well over 50 years in Shelburne and when I was given the privilege of coordinating this program in 2013, who would have known the challenges that the next years would bring? But, with each obstacle, more and more volunteers and supporters rose to the challenge to make sure that we could provide for the growing need.

A program that eight years ago assisted 60 families was, in 2021, making sure that 163 families received food, toys and gift cards for the Holiday Season. We aren't always perfect and we learn each year what we could do better for next year but the gratitude I feel for the sorters, carriers, deliverers, toy helpers and distributors who come together for the last days of the Hamper Program is overwhelming. Many hands certainly made light work.

In 2013 there were approximately 30 companies, organizations and individuals that donated to the program and in 2021, there are more than 150 generous supporters. They all deserve recognition and a HUGE thank you for their support and I wish that I could call them all out individually here but this letter would become a book and I would also run the risk of missing someone inadvertently. Please know how appreciated all of our supporters are and that we could not do what we do every year without you.

As I mentioned earlier, all contributors cannot be mentioned individually but there are a few that I will single out as they are the backbone of this program and their continued and generous support is invaluable to the success of the Hamper Program. The efforts of the following organizations are greatly appreciated; Shepherd's Cupboard Food Bank, Shelburne Rotary, Kinettes, Lions, Kinsmen, Town of Shelburne, OPP, 10 local churches and a special thank you to the 3 participating local schools; Hyland Heights, Glenbrook and Centre Dufferin District High School.

There are many businesses that help make this program a success and I appreciate them all so very much. To give you an idea of how they participate, I have chosen a few to give a cross-section of support. Local businesses thought creatively to help out even though they had just experienced some very difficult months leading up to the holiday season. The

following businesses offered to collect food and toys and/or put up Giving Trees decorated with donation envelopes; Enchanting Esthetics & More, Marg McCarthy Professional Real Estate, Limitless Inc & Rise Physio.

Tim Hortons – John & Meagen Lewandowski ran a 12 Days of Giving Campaign collecting non-perishable items and had Giving Trees in both locations. They also donated Tim's gift cards to each family. Giant Tiger – Andrew Lewis donated an OPP SUV load of toys, Lennox Farms dropped off enough oranges, cabbage and rutabaga for everyone, Downey's Potato Farms donated 200 bags of potatoes and Compass Church donated dairy products. Thank you to No Frills and Foodland for being so accommodating with my requests. Once again this year, Shelburne Optometry donated 5 eye exams and glasses to those in need.

Thank you to the many individuals and businesses for their monetary donations. I would like to mention a few for their continued generosity; Dufferin Mutual Insurance, Islamic Relief, Albert and Sharon Meeser, Dufferin New Horizons, Hill 'n Dale Landscaping, Bob Carruthers & family, Aileen & Bill Arnold, Linda Lennox, Ann Crowder and Gladys Evans. Thank you! Also a huge thanks to the Salvation Army for helping us out with toys to make sure we had enough for all children.

The kindness of our sponsors helped make Christmas a little brighter for local families. Each were given a grocery gift card to purchase a turkey, ham or traditional favourite, and a large hamper with all components of a festive dinner, as well as, nonperishable food items, personal care items, potatoes, milk, butter, eggs, cheese, oranges, turnip, cabbage and chocolates. Thank you to Bill and Diane French for your donation of 100 boxes of chocolates!!! Every child 12 and older was given a gift card and parents had the opportunity to select toys, books and games for children under 12. Enough personal care items for each family were donated by ten of the Shelburne area churches.

Thank you to the Town of Shelburne and Pace Credit Union for being drop off locations for food and toys.

Once again, there were so many not mentioned here who donated and I thank you from the bottom of my heart. Thanks to this amazing town's generosity, the Hamper program was a huge success and made our local families, singles and seniors in need, smile.

Each year the need becomes greater in our area and the requests to donate continue to increase. Please know that donations made to the Shelburne Christmas Hamper Program benefits Shelburne families in need of assistance. Monetary donations are accepted throughout the year in preparation for the 2022 campaign.

Check out our website ShelburneChristmasHampers.com or email at ShelburneChristmasHampers@gmail.com

All the best for a healthy and happy 2022!



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

POTATO DONATION: Downey Potato Farms donated a total of 200 bags of potatoes to the Shelburne Hamper program

Dufferin County Community Grants Program Sharing Recipient Stories

2021 Community Grant Recipient
\$10,000
Youth & Seniors Services

Big Brothers Big Sisters
OF DUFFERIN AND DISTRICT

Headwaters Communities in Action
Making Life Better Together

Dufferin county

The funds received were used to make several new matches between mentors and children in Dufferin County and help continue to monitor and support existing matches.

Applications are being accepted now until February 4, 2022

Visit <https://www.dufferincounty.ca/administration/community-grant-program> to apply.

HURRY!

Book your spot in the upcoming Shelburne and Rural 2022 RECREATION GUIDE



Don't miss out advertising in this popular Spring/Summer Guide!

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ONTARIO JUNIOR CITIZEN AWARD
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Nomination forms are available from this newspaper, and at www.ocna.org/juniorcitizen. Email jr.citizen@ocna.org for more information.



SHELBURNE SPORTS

Snowmobilers encouraged to ride safe once trails open

Written By Brian Lockhart

After a month of waiting, snowmobilers in the region finally got that big dumping of snow that means clubs in southern Ontario will start grooming the trails

Up until this week, there hasn't been enough snow this year to get the trails ready, so sledders have been watching the skies and hoping for snow while their snowmobiles are still parked on trailers.

Around Shelburne, some sledders have been getting out as observed by tracks left along roadsides and some fields, but the local club has not opened the trails due to lack of snow depth and the ability to properly groom them for riding.

Local clubs are encouraging people to stick to the trails and avoid going on private property. There were several complaints last year of snowmobilers trespassing on private property and running over crops, as well as complaints from a local golf club that sleds had been driving across the course.

This type of behaviour can result in land privileges being removed by land owners.

The Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs is encouraging its members to 'make smart choices, ride with care and control.'

International Snowmobile Safety Week is observed from Jan. 15 to 23, and highlights the importance of safe practices on the trails.

"Safe trail riding is always a top priority for the OFSC," said Ryan Eickmeier, OFSC CEO. "But it's even more important for every snowmobiler to take our common sense message to heart this winter as we welcome so many new riders to our trails."

The OFSC operates around 30,000 km of trails in the province. It is one of the world's largest recreational trail systems totalling almost twice as many kilometres as Ontario's provincial highway network.

Trails are groomed and kept clear. They are statistically the safest place to ride a snowmobile. However, snowmobiling does come with an inherent risk, so riders must always be prepared for the unexpected by making smart choices and operating their sleds with care and control.

Snowmobilers should always remain on a marked trail. Wandering off any trail surface into unbroken snow, unfamiliar terrain or farmer's fields can not only be risky for the rider, it may also compromise the safety of landowners or their property.

The OFSC Driver Training course is the snowmobile safety course authorized by the Ministry of Transportation Ontario. It teaches new snowmobilers the skills and habits necessary to be safe and courteous trail riders.

Trail riders should always choose the right safety gear. This includes a properly fitted,



FILE PHOTO

READY TO RIDE: Snowmobilers are gearing up to get out enjoy the sport while they can, now that trails finally have enough snow to start being groomed.

fastened and approved snowmobile helmet and brightly coloured weather proof outerwear with reflective materials that are purpose-made for snowmobiling.

There is a full check list of responsibilities for snowmobilers on the trails.

These include riding within your abilities

and comfort level, always ride with a companion, riding in single file, and checking weather conditions before you ride.

With all this new snow, snowmobiles should be able to get out and ride this week.

Following safety protocols will ensure you have a good riding season.

Shelburne
COMMUNITY WELCOME

New to Shelburne?

Contact Sandra Gallagher or Bella Carter to receive a basket full of welcome gifts from local businesses to welcome you to our beautiful town.

s.gallagher@hotmail.com and/or shailacarter@gmail.com

Photo Credit: Anthony Oragunye



BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTOS

WINTER FUN: (Top photo) With indoor sports and activities currently restricted, many people are taking advantage of the great outdoors to have some fun. The hill at Greenwood Park in Shelburne was busy last Saturday (Jan. 15), and sledders enjoyed an afternoon of tobogganing despite the cold temperatures. (Bottom Photo) The Recreation Complex may be currently closed, but there are still outdoor options for skating and playing hockey. A group plays a pickup hockey game on the ice pad at Greenwood Park in Shelburne last Saturday (Jan. 15). Outdoor sports venues are still open.

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Speed, alcohol, ice, the major causes of snowmobile fatalities

Written By BRIAN LOCKHART

While local snowmobilers are eagerly waiting for a good dumping of snow so the trails can be groomed and ready for riding, the Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs is encouraging its riders to follow all safety protocols when enjoying the sport.

The Ontario Provincial Police have released data that shows many riders continue to disregard the warnings associated with snowmobile fatalities in the province.

Data shows that over the past ten years, driving too fast for the conditions has been a leading cause of OPP investigations into snowmobile deaths.

Alcohol and drugs were a factor in almost half of snowmobile fatalities.

Forty per cent of snowmobile accident deaths occurred on frozen waterways, indicating that travelling across frozen lakes and rivers is inherently unsafe.

"Making every snowmobile ride a safe one starts with avoiding unnecessary risks," said OPP Commissioner Thomas Carrique. "Our fatality data sends a clear message that snowmobilers who speed and drive while impaired by alcohol or drugs, as well as those who dismiss our warnings that no ice is safe ice, are tipping the scales towards

a tragic outcome to their ride. The OPP, in partnership with the Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs, asks all snowmobilers to make getting home to your family the most important part of every ride."

International Snowmobile Safety Week is observed from January 15 to 23 and highlights the importance of safe practices when on your sled.

"We want riders to have a safe and enjoyable experience on the trails this winter but also remind riders to ride within their limits, operate with care and control, and to always check the Interactive Trail Guide for up to date trail availability information", said Ryan Eickmeier, OFSC CEO.

Snowmobile riders are encouraged to follow the safety rules when on the trails. This includes carrying an emergency kit and avoiding waterways. This also means a rider should be ready for the unexpected at all times, especially on trails with other users such as pedestrians or skiers.

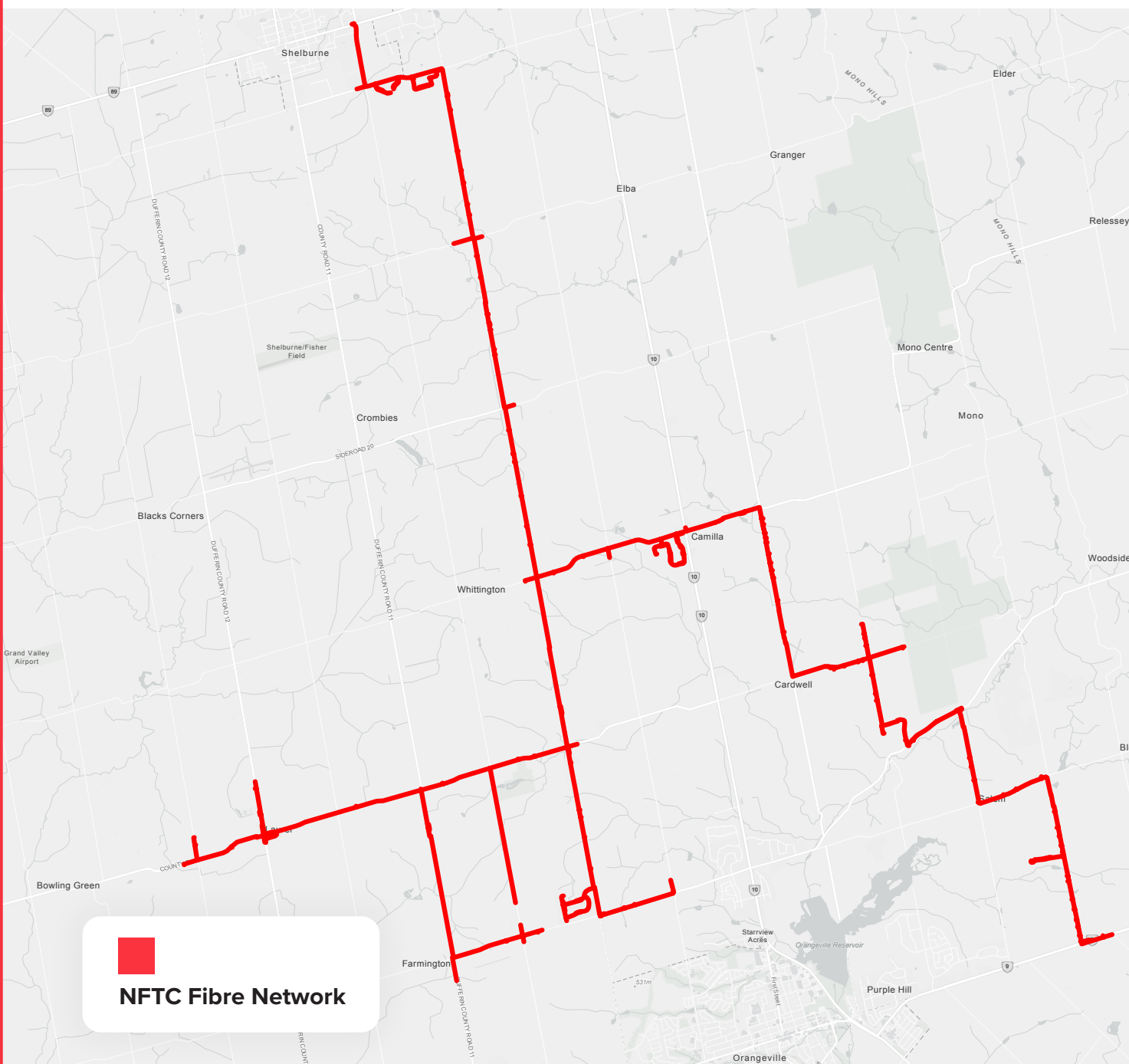
Snowmobiling can be a fun and adventurous sport, however there are inherent dangers involved when riding.

Riders need to follow the proper protocols including not operating a machine while under the influence to have a safe and fun season.

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OBITUARIES

O'BRIEN, LEO



Passed away peacefully at his home in Shelburne on Thursday, January 13, 2022 in his 72nd year. Beloved husband of the late Teresa. Loving father of Joe (Joyce), Mike and Ronnie (Allison). Proud grandfather of Zoë. Dear brother of Al (Aggie), the late Eric, the late Vince, Clarence (Sharon), the late May Vanessi (the late Al), Margie Dorion (the late Ola), Marion Bursey and Vonnie (Tom) Hutchcraft.

The family would like to thank Dr. Cormier and Stephanie St.Onge at Bayshore Homecare. A small family gathering will take place at a later date. If desired, donations to the Canadian Cancer Society would be appreciated.

Online condolences may be placed at www.jackandthompsonfuneralhome.com

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Shelburne Free Press



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Continued from Page 6

Melancthon based auctioneer shares passion for the industry

As he got older, Kidd's interest in auctioning continued to grow, and in November of 1995 he signed up to take part in auction school; a week long course in Woodstock, Ont. Between drills of counting forwards and backwards, the course also taught students how to fully operate an auction from set up, to management, and legal perspectives.

"One of the popular misconceptions about auctioneers, but also the thing most people think about, is you talk fast. That's only a very small part of the business as a whole," said Kidd.

While speedy talking is synonymous with what is known as the 'auctioneers chant', Kidd has worked years developing and honing his own style.

"It bothers me when people say to me 'I can't understand what an auctioneer is saying'. I'm very conscious of the need for clarity because to me what's really important is the customer understanding, if they're not comfortable they won't bid," he said.

Working in auctions for over two decades, Kidd has come across a variety of items and antiques ranging from the inter-



SUCCESSFUL AUCTIONEER: Dennis Kidd has been a local auctioneer for the last 25 years, selling a variety of items.

esting to the downright strange.

When asked what the most interesting item he's seen sell, Kidd can list off a couple, including a house and most recently, a gun dating back to the late 1700s, but one item holds the title of strangest – a coffin.

"Seems a little odd, but there's a buy-

er for most everything," he tells the Free Press.

If there are any categories in auctioning he cautions against selling in at this time, it's furniture, glassware, and china, all of which he says are "pretty dead" areas.

As like many industries, the world of auctioning has been slowly changing. Originally an event where friends, family and neighbours could gather to socialize, over the years auctions have largely moved to the online space.

"Online business as a whole has shot up, so it's sort of a natural thing that auctions are moving online and for us it's going really well. It's likely to stay that way because people are comfortable buying from auctions online," said Kidd.

Between live and online auctions, Kidd says the business part of auctioning hasn't changed much with the focus still reaming on selling a product to the highest bidder.

One aspect he does note that they've seen change in with the shift to online is the broader auction audiences, specifically pointing to cases where items have been sold out of province and country.

"I'm mind boggled by how much broader the audience is, we're discovering this huge bidder base beyond our local one hour radius," said Kidd. "There is enormous potential beyond a live auction, and really if you're going to be doing any business as an auctioneer you have to be online."

Kidd will once again be entertaining crowds, albeit virtually, calling an upcoming live simulcast auction on March 11 to mark the seventh anniversary of Kidd Family Auctions. The event will feature various antiques from collectibles, coins, jewelry, art, tools, firearms and petroliana, a category focused on old service station memorabilia.

"It's making a point to acknowledge where we are at and the people that have got us there. I'm constantly amazed and thankful about how the business continues to grow," said Kidd. "Seven years is not a terribly long time, but it also doesn't feel like seven years have gone by."

Kidd Family Auctions hosts an average of two auctions per month. For more information on upcoming auctions visit www.kiddfamilyauctions.com.

Ontario launches new program helping businesses impacted by lockdown

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

As of January 18, eligible businesses that were required to close or reduce capacity

due to the current public health measures put in place because of the spread of the Omicron variant of COVID-19, can apply for the new Ontario Business Costs Rebate Program.

Dufferin-Caledon MPP Sylvia Jones is encouraging those impacted by the restrictions to apply to the program. Through the new program, the government will provide eligible businesses with a rebate payment of up to 100 per cent for property tax and energy costs they incur while subject to these restrictions.

"We are continuing to support businesses who have been impacted by the province's modified Step Two requirements," said Jones. "This new program will provide substantial relief for many businesses so that they can continue to support our community as we work together to overcome COVID-19 and its variants."

Eligible businesses required to close for indoor activities, such as restaurants and gyms, will receive a rebate payment equivalent to 100 per cent of their costs. Those required to reduce capacity to 50 per cent, such as smaller retail stores, will receive a rebate payment equivalent to 50 per cent of their costs.

"We recognize that these necessary public health measures are impacting businesses, and as we have been since the beginning of the pandemic, we are there to support them," said Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance. "With the opening of applications for this new rebate program, our government is putting money directly into the hands of impacted businesses during this critical time."

Businesses will be required to submit proof of costs associated with property tax and energy bills as part of the application process. All eligible businesses must submit an application to be considered, including those that received previous COVID-19 support payments.

"We recognize that these are challenging times for Ontario's businesses," said Todd Smith, Minister of Energy. "We are committed to supporting businesses most impacted by the public health measures and this rebate program will provide them with the much needed support on their energy bills."

The government is also improving cash flows for Ontario businesses by making up to \$7.5 billion available through a six-month interest- and penalty-free period for Ontario businesses to make payments for most provincially administered taxes. This penalty and interest-free period started on January 1, 2022. This supports businesses now and provides the flexibility they will need for long-term planning.

The government is also introducing a new COVID-19 Small Business Relief Grant that will give businesses subject to closure under the modified Step Two of the Roadmap to Reopen a \$10,000 grant. The money will flow to eligible businesses in February.

The government's new Ontario COVID-19 Small Business Relief Grant will also help eligible small businesses that are subject to closures under the modified Step Two by providing eligible small businesses with a grant payment of \$10,000. Eligible businesses that qualified for the Ontario Small Business Support Grant and that are subject to closure under modified Step Two of the Roadmap to Reopen will be pre-screened to verify eligibility and may need to provide some additional information but will not need to apply to the new program. Newly established and newly eligible small businesses will need to apply once the application portal opens in the coming weeks. Small businesses that qualify can expect to receive their payment beginning in February.

"Small businesses play a vital role in Ontario's diverse economy," said Vic Fedeli, Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade. "Through the Ontario Business Costs Rebate Program and other vital support programs like the new Ontario COVID-19 Small Business Relief Grant, our government will continue to provide thousands of small businesses with the financial relief they need."

To learn more, including to find a full list of eligible businesses, visit the online application portal at www.app.grants.gov.on.ca/obcrp/#/.

Co-op Corner: B.T. Builders

This week Tayler Benham from Centre Dufferin District High School shares a little bit about his experience and how B.T. Builders are contributing to our community's future.

B.T. Builders was established in 2019 and is a custom carpentry company that provides any sort of construction and renovations from residential to commercial buildings. Bayly Teeuwissen is the owner and manager of the company and he has 2 employees, Tyler and Austin.

My job title is general labourer. My tasks usually include cleaning up a workspace so that it is clean when my co-workers are ready to work in that area. I also offer to grab tools from the trailer if needed.

Some tasks that I have done during the time I've been with BT Builders are framing walls and installing joists without the help of anyone. I would also like to learn how to use the track saw.

Some special equipment used at my placement includes a backhoe, skid steer, and a ramset. Some training that my placement has given me is the use of basic tool safely i.e skill saw, saw zall, framing nailer, jackhammer, hammer drill. I have discovered different careers such as HVAC contractor, stone mason, exterior foam painter, and building inspector (those who issue permits).

The first three careers: stone mason, exterior foam painter and HVAC contractor, are associated with my placement because we see them on almost every job site.

For example, our job in Orangeville was an old shop building and the driveway and parking lot was in very bad shape, with cracks everywhere and potholes that would total a car's bumper.



CO-OP CORNER: Bayly Teeuwissen (left), owner of B.T. Builders has been teaching co-op student Tayler Benham (right), about custom carpentry.

Once we were done with all the windows and the painters were done painting the insulation, the stonemasons came in and interlock and paved the parking lot.

The building had no heating or air conditioning before, so the HVAC contractors had to run everything from scratch.

The building department is associated with my placement because before we even start a job, whether it is a renovation or an addition, by law, there needs to be a permit for it.

Before you get a permit, you need to get an appointment with the building department. Show them your drawing and from there on they will tell what you need to add or change in the build.

B.T. Builders has been a part of the Centre Dufferin Coop program since the company started, offering local students the opportunity to discover a career in the building industry.

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