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PAULA BROWN PHOTO

HELPING KIDS EAT: Shelburne Home Hardware presented a cheque for \$22,000 to the Children's Foundation of Guelph and Wellington on Wednesday (Feb.9), which will be divided and given to five breakfast programs at schools in Shelburne and Primrose. Donations were raised through the local Home Hardware's annual Ladies Night and Donate a Plate fundraiser, and matched by owner Bill Gilliam.

Local groups hosting Black History Month event

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

Dufferin County Canadian Black Association (DCCBA) and the Museum of Dufferin (MoD) are partnering to host an upcoming event in celebration of Black History Month.

The event titled, Black Heroes Past, Present & Future, will be held virtually on Feb. 27 at 1 p.m. and feature a number of familiar faces discussing the evolution of Dufferin County's Black community.

"We welcome the community to join us for this opportunity of learning our past, what's happening in the present, and what we can expect to the future," said Nanci Malek, events and marketing coordinator for the MoD. "Our Black community is very strong and we are supportive of people educating themselves on the history, and what is going on in our community today."

Panelists at the event will include Grammy award winning artist and author Dan Hill, who will read from his book "I Am My Father's Son: A Memoir of Love and Forgiveness" and Godfather of Canadian Hip Hop, Maestro Fresh Wes.

Local leaders such as Shelburne Deputy Mayor Steve Anderson and Soulyve Incorporated's Phil Dewar, will also be in atten-

"We welcome the community to join us for this opportunity of learning our past, what's happening in the present, and what we can expect in the future"

—Nanci Malek, MoD

dance as panelists as well as Centre Dufferin District High School (CDDHS) Black Chapter Youth group members – Danielle Bryan, Ashanti Brooks, and Tyra Harris.

This year marks the third year the Museum of Dufferin and Dufferin County Canadian Black Association have partnered to bring the Black History Month celebration to Dufferin County.

Black Heroes Past, Present & Future will look at the stories of Black History featured in the MoD's main exhibit, Through the Looking Glass, while discussing present work from leaders to shape diversity, equity and inclusion in the community, and how youth are shaping future discussions.

"I couldn't think of a more appropriate

theme to represent this time that we're in, this Black History Month," said DCCBA founder and president, Alethia O'Hara Stephenson.

O'Hara Stephenson noted that this year's theme allows for a shift in the narrative that has commonly surrounded Black History Month.

"In order to know where you are going you need to know where you are coming from. Oftentimes, when we think about Black History Month we talk about slavery, but it's much more than that," she said. "This is an opportunity to talk about the rich contributions that Black Canadians have done in our community and throughout Canada to pave the way for us. But more importantly, it a great way to celebrate and acknowledge how far we've come, the great things we've accomplished, but yet so much more to do. When we look at the brilliance and excellence of our young people – their future is bright and we're already seeing their excellence on full display."

Black Heroes Past, Present & Future presented by the DCCBA and MoD will take place on Feb. 27 at 1 p.m. and will be live streamed on the Dufferin County YouTube page. Questions from the public for the Q&A session are requested to be submitted before the event at info@dufferinmuseum.com.

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FEATURED ITEMS

Strada Aggregate agrees to meet with NDACT

Written By Paula Brown
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Strada Aggregate, a company proposing to quarry below the water table at a gravel pit near Honeywood, has agreed to meet with North Dufferin Agricultural and Community Taskforce (NDACT) to discuss their proposed terms and conditions.

NDACT announced in an email update on Feb. 2 that the two organizations had agreed to meet, with a tentative date in the works for the end of February.

"The fact that any aggregate industry has reached out to a grassroots group, however

this turns out, if we reach an agreement of not, is pretty significant," said Karren Wallace, chair of NDACT. "Generally, they're at odds on other sides of the table, so this is pretty significant for any grassroots organization who may be at odds with an application in their community."

In late January, NDACT released a list of key terms and conditions they were requesting Strada Aggregate follow. The first condition the local taskforce requested was the hiring of a community trusted consultant, whose findings would dictate the other conditions.

NDACT said if the consultant agreed with the science behind the application and

deemed it viable, the taskforce would be prepared to not challenge the application. As part of the agreement not to challenge, Strada is asked to create a substantial fund to aid in court costs for residents who may experience water problems as well as commit to an annual funding of 10 cents per tonne of their extracted aggregate to the Honeywood Arena.

However, if the consultant sees the reports and does not agree that the science is supported, Strada is requested to not continue with the application.

"Should Strada still pursue an application for a quarry, NDACT would fully engage in

opposing such a quest," read an NDACT press release from Jan. 24.

Strada Aggregate brought forward a presentation proposing the quarry to Melancthon Council in October of 2021. The Strada Aggregate quarry is proposed to be constructed in an existing gravel pit, located in the area of 4th Line and County Rd. 17 in Melancthon, and is designed to extract 2 million tonnes while extending below the water table.

Following their meeting at the end of February, NDACT said the taskforce hopes to hold a meeting with the community by the end of March to provide updates.

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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.

Recognizing local charities for Non-Profit Appreciation Week

Written By Paula Brown
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

A small group of Dufferin County organizations will be recognizing the work of local non-profits next week as part of a campaign for the first-ever Non-Profit Appreciation Week (Feb. 14- Feb. 20).

In December of 2021, the province passed Bill 9 to create Non-Profit Appreciation Week, a motion that was unanimously supported by all parties. Starting on Feb. 14 and running until Feb. 20, the week is focused on acknowledging the people in the non-profit sector whose work changes the lives of individuals, families and communities.

Michele Fisher, executive director of Dufferin Community Foundation, said the week of appreciation has been a "long time coming".

"Most other helping occupation get recognized for their impact. During the pandemic, for instance, health care workers were deservedly praised for their efforts. But front-line worker in the non-profit sector – many of whom were deemed essential too – flew under the radar. This is why we like to call them "invisible champions", said Fisher. "Non-Profit Appreciation Week gives us a chance as a community to say 'Thanks'. It makes visible all that they do to help some of our most vulnerable and to strengthen our communities. I hope that it makes our non-profit professionals feel truly recognized for all that they do."

In Dufferin County alone there are over 150 non-profits that work within the community ranging from human services, environmental/conservation organizations, arts and culture, recreation, health, mental health, community development, housing and homelessness, food security, and much more.

The Free Press spoke with a few of Dufferin County's local non-profits ahead of Non-Profit Appreciation Week.

Alzheimer's Society of Dufferin County

For persons living with dementia a consistent routine can help them thrive. As a non-profit focused on providing support, programming and education, the Alzheimer's Society of Dufferin County for more than two years now has faced the challenge of maintaining that routine.

"Over the past two years, what we've seen is a significant decline in the availability of things like day programs, community support, PSW support. Basically, anything that would allow someone living with dementia and their families to keep a consistent routine," said Lindsay Gregory, awareness and education coordinator. "Without that structure we're seeing increased complex cases, increased behaviours, and caregiver burnout."

To help deal with the lack of structure for clients brought on by the pandemic, Alzheimer's Society of Dufferin County began offering training and education sessions online as well as social programs, activities, and exercise sessions.

One program, Gregory points to as a moment of pride over the pandemic is their Bring Back Box program. The Bring Back Box program is a Montessori approach in dementia care where clients are given customized activity kits based on their hobbies, interests, and memories that provide stimulation, and meaningful engagement.

"We are seeing a lot of persons with dementia who are bored," said Gregory. "It's been a really beautiful way that we've been able to connect with people in an otherwise virtual world."

The Alzheimer's Society of Dufferin County has approximately 400 people on their active caseload and while their caseload hasn't increase since the pandemic, they have seen more intakes looking to access education and support.

"We're talking with people who are now at home with their loved ones more often and maybe noticing that cognitive decline that otherwise they wouldn't quite pick up on," said Gregory.

Moving forward out of the pandemic Gregory said after seeing how people have connected with them, Alzheimer's Society of Dufferin County will likely continue to utilize their virtual opportunities in a "hybrid model".

Community Living Dufferin

Community Living Dufferin for over 60 years has been providing support to adults

in Dufferin County who have intellectual disabilities and when COVID-19 hit, rather than accepting a pause in all programming, Community Living Dufferin staff got creative.

"It could have been very easy for us to say 'sorry the building is closed and the programs have ended, we're just going to ride this out', but our staff didn't," explained Karen Murphy-Fitz, executive assistant. "We changed our programs from ones that we operated at the main building to programs that we offered in each of our homes."

One of the ways they transformed, Murphy-Fitz added, was through distributing craft boxes amongst their homes, which contained games, science projects, and art supplies.

"The residents had something different to fill their days with," said Murphy-Fitz.

Operating 14 homes that provide housing to over 60 adults supported by the non-profit, Community Living Dufferin was challenged early on by isolation as visits from families were stopped.

Community Living Dufferin applied for and became the recipients of a number of grants allowing them to purchase smart TVs, iPads, and Google Home units so they could continue to connect with families.

"That was enormous in helping people we support to keep in touch with their families, giving them the ability to see each other face to face," said Murphy-Fitz.

While Community Living Dufferin has learned like many organizations to balance the setbacks brought on by the pandemic, it's the emotional impacts that continue to be freshly felt.

When speaking with the Free Press, Murphy-Fitz held back tears as she spoke of their adaptation while the hallways and rooms remain empty.

"It's been hard not seeing people, and it's just going to be nice to have everyone be together again."

Streams Community Hub

As the saying goes – the show must go on. As a relatively young organization that began with seasonal programming, Streams Community Hub has been faced with the challenge of bringing the arts, a naturally collaborative and in-person discipline, to the virtual space.

"We spent quite a few months really, like everybody who works in a space dealing with a lot of in-person programming, trying to figure out what to do," explained Juli-Anne James, co-founder of Streams Hub. "It's difficult to put on a stage play without a stage."

While not fully equipped with the technology and staff to deliver virtual programs, Juli-Anne and Andrew James figured a way to bring the arts into the homes of the children – through a monologue competition.

The Word of Mouth Monologue Competition was launched in March of 2021, and saw local youth between the ages of 8 and 17 submit online performances of various monologues and compete in a live finale.

"The monologue competition really was a great opportunity that we realized after turned out really great," said Andrew. "It made us realize that's a good outlet and now we have to continue doing it even when things return to "normal". We recognized it's importance in helping young people have another outlet to express themselves."

Although restricted for a year on providing arts programming to youth, the James duo note that internal work was being completed to deepen their roots in the community.

"We were able to see some of the need that are in our community and see how we would better address those needs," said Andrew.

Streams Community Hub is gearing up to open their first permanent location, tentatively set for early March.

"We know the importance of connection, of being together in a space and that we can never escape that need or desire," said Andrew. "Our show must go on, to move forward in creating a greater space not just for the youth, but for the artist who also need a place to express themselves in their art, while making a livelihood and teaching the next generation."

Organizations who have worked in developing local activities in recognition of Non-Profit Appreciation Week include Dufferin Community Foundation, United Way Guelph Wellington Dufferin, Headwaters Communities in Action, DC MOVES, Dufferin Board of Trade, and Dufferin County.

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First Line for Syria working to reunite refugee family

Written By Sam Odrowski

In one of many Jordanian refugee camps sits roughly 200,000 displaced Syrians, who's homes and lives have been destroyed through a civil war that started in 2011.

Sadly, most of Syrian refugees will never make out of the camp, but a local non-profit group, First Line for Syria, is working to create a difference one family at a time.

Last October, after much fundraising and four years of trying to bring eight members of the Al Diri family to the region, they were successful and reconnected them with their relatives who are living locally. The family is currently working on learning English as well as getting acclimated to the Canadian way of life.

While the volunteers at First Line for Syria are ecstatic they were able to reconnect several members of the Al Diri family a few months ago, their two brothers, two sisters in-law and nine children (nieces/nephews/cousins) have been left behind.

"We saw videos of them saying goodbye to their two brothers, and two sisters in law, and their children who are still in the refugee camp, and it was heartbreaking," said Karin Klouman, First Line for Syria volunteer.

"The refugee camp is out in the desert. They live in a five by six [foot] tent in Jordan. The kids have no schooling. The adults cannot work. It's sort of like a prison."

To reconnect the 13 remaining relatives of the Al Diri family, First Line for Syria needs to raise \$160,000, so it recently launched a fundraiser with Mochaberry Coffee (177 Broadway).

High quality coffee roast blends and hot chocolate mix can be pre-ordered now until Feb. 22, and as of March 8, people will be able to pick everything up. To place an order call Adelle at 519-217-5189 or Sabine at 416-697-3473. Alternatively, orders can be placed via email at firstlineforsyria@gmail.com. Tax receipts are available.

The eight members of the Al Diri family who have settled in the region has overcome great adversity. The father of the family was killed in a bombing raid.

"Their homes were leveled to the ground by bombs," said Klouman. "They had to flee to another town and then walk to the Syrian/Jordanian border through the night time, carrying young children, because during daytime there's sniper's fire."

One of the brothers of the Al Diri family was tortured, and another brother was assassinated, as they were targeted by the Syrian Government, which doesn't look fondly upon

people who try to flee the country. If the Al Diri family were spotted by the authorities during their travels to the refugee camp, they would face a sure death.

First Line for Syria started in 2015 and welcomed their first Syrian refugee family, the Huseyin Alos's, to Dufferin County in February of 2016.

They are a real success story says First Line for Syria volunteer Sabine Rohner-Tensee, with the Huseyin Alos family's daughter currently in her second year at Western University. They now live in London, Ont so she can be closer to her education.

The daughter spent five years without schooling, not speaking any English, and is now no different than any other naturally born Canadian in terms of her education. The father works full time, and the family is completely independent.

Meanwhile, the \$160,000 expense associated with bringing the remaining members of the Al Diri family to the region, is to cover the cost of their flights, rent and living expenses for a year. Over the course of 12 months, while they're receiving financial support, they take English as a Second Language (ESL) courses, and work towards becoming independent Canadian citizens.

"For the adults, learning English is their big responsibility in this first year, so that hopefully after that they can get a job and become part of society," said Rohner-Tensee

First Line for Syria provides lots of support to the refugee families by providing transportation to and from doctor appointments, dental appointments, eye exams, and other everyday needs.

Rohner-Tensee said the resiliency she's seen with the eight family members of the Al Diri who are now in the region has been incredible.

"They're so eager. When you ask the children what their favorite season is, they say winter. They've never known winter, and yet here they are experiencing it for the first time in their lives, and they're saying it's their favorite season," she explained.

Wally Barr, who's a First Line for Syria volunteer, said he showed the father of the newly settled family how to make a snowman when there was packing snow, and it was the first time he'd ever seen one.

Barr said he asked the father and his brother how they're adapting to Canada and if there's any depression or sadness that he feels, having experienced so much change and trauma over the last several years, to which he received a joyful smile and laugh.

Continued on Page 5



PAULA BROWN PHOTO

REUNITED WITH PART OF FAMILY: Eight members of the Al Diri who were brought to Canada through First Line for Syria's sponsorship last October, join their brother in-law and sister in-law who have also been brought to Canada. First Line for Syria is now working to reconnect the remainder of the Al Diri family by bringing two more brothers and sister-in laws over, along with their combined nine kids.



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Politicization of the pandemic

Liberal MP from Quebec J el Lightbound broke ranks with his party this week, commenting on how the pandemic has become politicized and positive methods instead of coercive ones should be used to encourage vaccination.

He also called out the absurd labelling of the "Freedom Convoy" as racist during a press conference on Tuesday (Feb. 8).

"[As] seen on Radio Canada, an interview with what seemed to be a very kind grandmother who demonstrated for her grandkids, she looked and sounded nothing like a white supremacist," Lightbound remarked. "Nor did the black, Sikh and Indigenous Canadians I saw demonstrating on my way to Parliament these last two weeks or in Quebec City this last Saturday. I have enough respect for my fellow Canadians not to engage in these easy and absurd labels."

Lightbound prefaced this comment by saying he denounces the hideous acts and symbols that were on display by a small number of protestors at Parliament Hill, noting that, "we must always reject these symbols passionately". He also denounced far right groups seen at the protest, citing his own experience of threats from extremists in the past.

I personally attended and covered the "Freedom Convoy" in Ottawa from Jan. 28 to 31 and having spent hours in the crowd, speaking with protestors, and listening to speeches, I observed no racism, hate, or prejudice.

In fact, it was quite the opposite.

What I saw was tens of thousands of Canadians coming together and spreading positivity, love, acceptance, and unity. Everyone I spoke to was in good spirits, and none of them wanted to overthrow the government as has been repeatedly suggested by mainstream media outlets and politicians.

The countless protestors I spoke to wanted a plan for a return to normal, some normalcy for their kids, the elimination of vaccine passports, and vaccine mandates in workplaces.

The main message was they want their government to adapt their COVID-19

response and learn to live with the virus, instead of vilifying those who are unvaccinated, since it has become increasingly apparent that COVID-19 is never fully going away – or at least not anytime soon.

This message is similar to the one that was recently relayed by MP Lightbound on Tuesday, who has recently heard from hundreds of constituents and citizens that are for the most part vaccinated, and concerned with where the country is heading.

"I've heard from parents worried to see their kids sink into depression and slowly lose their joy of living. I've heard from pediatricians in tears telling me about their young patients' despair, anxiety, isolation, as well as the stunning increase in school dropouts they are observing. I've heard from artists [who] are on the brink of mental and financial collapse after two years, barely enough work to get by. I've heard from social workers answering suicide hotlines who are overwhelmed by the number of calls they're receiving," said the Liberal MP.

Lightbound also commented on how in Quebec, earlier this year, kids age six to 10 who tested negative for COVID-19, had no symptoms, but were in close contact to someone who had the virus, were locked in windowless rooms for 10 days to self-isolate.

"Let that sink in," said Lightbound. "This was a public-health measure that had been drafted, approved and applied. I've heard from people worried that we seem collectively to have forgotten the population's health is kind of like a pie, and Omicron is but a slice of that pie. Economic health, social health, mental health must be accounted for."

With respect to the seemingly never-ending lockdowns across Canada, Lightbound noted that "not everyone can earn a living on a Macbook at the cottage."

He worries that those making the decisions at Public Health or the government level are blind to the fact that lockdowns don't impact everyone equally.

"I've heard people worried that a few might have lost sight of the quiet and discreet suffering of the many," Lightbound remarked.

He also commented on how some Canadians, for whatever reason, reasons we may disagree with, are not vaccinated and as a consequence lost their jobs. As a result, they've left their family and friends in Canada and moved to the United States.

Lightbound also noted the division that's been sowed between the vaccinated and unvaccinated.

"I've heard from teachers worried to see kids re-enacting in the schoolyard the kind of discrimination and segregation we see in our society between vaccinated and unvaccinated," said Lightbound. "I've heard from people worried to see those they care about fighting each other on this issue, tearing some families and some friends apart."

He said he's heard from a lot of people who wonder why just a year ago Canada was united, "in this together", and is now more divided than ever despite being one of the most vaccinated countries in the world.

"Now these people are increasingly confused... they hear experts like Dr. Karl Weiss, a renowned Quebec epidemiologist, say last week and I quote 'that COVID-19 is here to stay, that those at risk will have to be monitored closely when symptoms appear; that we will have to protect our health-care systems; but then we will also have to live with the virus like we do with influenza; that we can't go back to lockdowns and restrictions not supported by science.'"

Further confusion is created when Canada's Chief Public Health Officer Theresa Tam stated last week that all existing public-health policies, including vaccine passports, need to be re-examined, and we need to have longer-term sustained approaches and capacity building, so we're not in crisis mode all the time as we fight this virus.

"[People are] confused when they see the undeniable trend around the world whereby, for instance, the World Health Organization recently recommended dropping or alleviating many border measures, including vaccine requirements, as they've proven to be

ineffective in fighting the propagation of the Omicron variant," said Lightbound.

He also commented on how countries like Ireland, Sweden, Norway, the Czech Republic, Brazil, Denmark, Spain and the U.K have dropped almost all restrictions and are much less vaccinated than Canada.

"Now while folks are hearing and seeing all of this, they're left rightfully wondering, 'where the hell are we heading here in Canada?'" said Lightbound.

"I think there lies the frustration. They feel there is no appetite from our government to adapt so as to reflect the changing data and the changing reality of the pandemic, of the world. They're worried that measures which ought to be exceptional and limited in time are being normalized with no end in sight, like vaccine passports, mandates and requirements for travellers."

Lightbound added, "They're worried because they feel it is becoming harder and harder to know where public health stops and where politics begins."

I agree with Lightbound's comments, governments would do well to not dismiss legitimate concerns or try to label those who would like the country to adapt its COVID-19 response.

His call on the federal government to provide a clear roadmap with measurable targets to lift restrictions within its purvey is welcomed in my books.

Lightbound said he's not alone in voicing his concerns, as there are many others who agree with him to varying degrees within the Liberal Party's ranks.

I do hope more Liberal MPs start coming together to call for an end to the division sowed throughout the pandemic, and arguably fuelled by their leader Justin Trudeau, who refuses to humanize people that are unvaccinated.

In the words of Lightbound, we need to choose positive instead of coercive methods for controlling the pandemic.

It's what we need to reunite Canadians.

SAM ODROWSKI
 FROM THE EDITOR'S CHAIR



Don't complain about the water

The Winter Olympics are underway as the best athletes in the world give their greatest performance in a bid to bring home a medal.

Almost every sport in the Olympics should have a clear winner. It's not like they are tossing hand grenades and hoping to hit a target.

For the most part, the first person to cross the finish line, or posts the fastest time, wins.

The exception is the sports that are judged. "Judged" being the key word here.

If you remember the Olympics when the Soviet Union was still around, the judged

sports were, at best, highly suspicious.

If an Eastern Block figure skater performed and was awarded a 7.5 by five western judges, the judge from East Germany would award a 9.5. It got so ridiculous, you would almost end up dismissing the sport at the international level as a bunch of nonsense on ice.

The Olympics should be about sports – and nothing else. There should be no politics involved and no national grandstanding to the absurd level. The Beijing Olympics are under a diplomatic boycott by several countries including Canada. Now that the games are underway, we can see why.

The Chinese have been accused of detaining around 1 million people in detention camps and re-education camps. It is something they deny but there is proof of such camps.

Next, is the typical communist attitude by the Chinese government.

A Chinese Foreign Minister warned the U.S. to stop 'interfering' with the Winter Olympics.

"Pressure will only make the Chinese people more united, and confrontation will not stop China from becoming stronger," the

Minister said.

What he should have said is 'we will put more people in prison if they disagree.'

That became evident when a committee member of the Beijing organizing committee warned "any behaviour or SPEECH that is against the Olympic spirit, especially against the Chinese laws and regulations, is also subject to certain punishment."

It's a guess as to what that is supposed to mean. Are they going to arrest any athlete that questions a call from a ref during a hockey game?

Western athletes were told to leave their cell phones and tablets at home and to use untraceable 'burner' phones, because their calls would be intercepted and they would be spied on when in Beijing.

Who would want to risk being arrested for making a call home and complaining about a local Beijing restaurant that was favoured by communist party officials?

Continued on Page 5

BRIAN LOCKHART
 FROM THE SECOND ROW



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BEIJING 2022 EVENTS

Alpine Skiing

Speedskating

Figure Skating

Human Rights Trampling

(Adapted from news.com.au)

Continued from Page 3

First Line for Syria working to reunite refugee family

“They looked at me and said if the refugee camp was the ground, Canada is the moon. That’s the difference between the two places,” Barr noted.

“When you consider what they’ve been through. It’s amazing that they’re not huddled in a corner. When you go to their home the children aren’t glued to their phones, or their tablets or anything. They’re laughing with each other. They’re having fun with their cousins. Smiling, offering you things, food, drinks. They’re very generous, and just a pleasure. Every time you go there you feel uplifted yourself. I’ve often said you couldn’t pay for the pleasure that we get from doing this work.”

First Line for Syria operates in partnership with the Shelburne and Primrose United

Churches, which allows the small non-profit group to have charitable status.

The church is First Line’s Sponsorship Agreement Holder and ensures the group is following all the rules associated with sponsoring a Syrian refugee family.

In terms of the applications themselves, the reason it took four years to get the eight members of the Al Diri family relocated to the region is because of how stringent the process is.

“Everybody that comes in is very, very carefully vetted. They [the federal government] need to know who their cousins are, who their extended relatives are, and all that. They want to know their military service, background and all that kind of stuff,” said Rohner-Tensee.

The family members are interviewed sepa-

ately and if their stories don’t match up or they lie to the government about their situation, they are denied entry to Canada.

Barr said he’d encourage anyone who can participate in the coffee fundraiser or support First Line for Syria’s effort, to please donate.

“We’re trying to give hope to people that have none,” he remarked.

Klouman shared that she is a child of refugees herself, with her parents fleeing from Norway during the Second World War, so her family has always had a focus on the status of refugees globally.

She noted that when you think that there are still millions of Syrian refugees who will never be able to actualize their lives globally, it can be overwhelming, but families, one at a time, has made a real impact.

“We can’t save the whole world, but if we can help one family, it becomes a concrete situation,” she said. “It’s one family at a time, that you can see flourish and become successful members of our society.”

Anyone who would like to donate to First Line for Syria directly, and help them get closer to their \$160,000 fundraising goal, visit: www.canadahelps.org/en/dn/m/38297/donation

Going forward, First Line for Syria will be running more fundraisers and will apply for grants until they reach their goal.

“We’re so fortunate to be able put in a little bit of time to make sure that this happens. It’s nothing compared to what it translates into for the for the new families that come here,” said Rohner-Tensee.

Continued from Page 4

Don’t complain about the water

The actual sports themselves are also under scrutiny.

There have already been two instances in speed skating where a western skater was disqualified which moved a Chinese skater into the medal round.

Then there is the instance of a Chinese team figure skater who fell. That in itself is not a big deal. Skaters fall – it’s part of the sport.

Except the skater who fell was born in the U.S. and renounced her U.S. citizenship only so she could compete with the Chinese team under a new name. After the fall, all videos of the incident suddenly disappeared from all social media. The Chinese could not allow anyone to witness a failure.

Compare that to the old Wide World of Sports TV show opening that featured a ski jumper wiping out

rather badly, week after week – the ‘agony of defeat’ is part of sports.

Take a look at the Chinese hockey teams. Out of 25 members on the men’s roster, there’s only 10 Chinese players. On the women’s team, only 11 of 23 players are Chinese.

One woman on the women’s team is from Canada, is white, and has a very Anglo name. She refused to answer a reporter’s question about her nationality or how she ended up on a Chinese hockey team.

China doesn’t recognize dual citizenship, so how are these players even allowed to compete on a Chinese team?

Several of the players don’t have any obvious Chinese heritage at all, prompting even some Chinese citizens to question

why the team is mostly foreigners. They would like to see their country represented by Chinese athletes, not foreigners.

Most likely the people who complained are now being welcomed at one of the re-education camps.

There was the Dutch Journalist who was tackled and dragged away during the middle

of a live broadcast by two uniform wearing ‘authorities.’

No one has explained why this happened.

Maybe the ‘authorities’ heard him make a sarcastic comment about the way the locals drive or something equally offensive.

I can now see why there is a diplomatic boycott.

No official wants to risk going to Beijing and being arrested for cheering too loudly for their team.

Still, I hope our athletes do well, and win honestly.

Winning by stacking your team with ringers is a hollow victory and does not belong at Olympic level sports.

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4. Speed on “Star Trek”
5. Off the mark
6. Hang loosely
7. Bug
8. Round of gunfire
9. Melange
10. Saloon brew
11. Stylish
12. Hateful
13. Fertilizer
14. Party’s candidates
25. Entomb
26. Story
29. Mowed area
31. Fireplace equipment
33. Tiny bit
35. Sitar music
36. Edging loop
37. Vittles
38. Portico
39. Leno’s prominence
40. Handle
42. FDIC’s beginning
44. Dinghy support
46. Mine passage
47. Japanese sport
48. Drop of sorrow
51. “The Crying _____”
53. Bombay garb
56. Small piece of land
58. Gobi transport
60. December air
62. Commensurate
64. Sorcery
65. Enamor
67. Forest clearings
68. Hay fever source
69. Dreaded dentist’s tool
70. Clique
72. Display
73. Wake up
74. Tidy
77. French friar
78. Grow sleepy
80. Lap pup
83. Thirst quencher
85. Vex

ACROSS

1. Existed
4. Watercourse
8. Weep
11. Leaps
15. Tribute, in verse
16. Yonder
17. Tankard filler
18. Graven image
19. Type of tide
20. Skating place
21. One of a pack?
22. Hummus holder
23. Necklace of flowers
24. Dowel
25. Elephant-tusk material
27. Filly fodder
28. Composed of two parts
30. Treeless plain
32. Charm
34. Eager

DOWN

36. Publish or _____
38. Vowel sound
41. Rebellious
43. Object
44. Straight
45. Side of Manhattan
49. “Surviving Picasso” medium
50. Petri-dish gel
52. Makeshift bed
54. Outstanding
55. Oppositionist
57. Long-legged shorebird
59. Soul
61. Conference
63. Chopper blade
64. Crushed fabric
66. Heckle or Jeckle
69. Gift receiver
70. String instrument
71. Sweet singer

DOWN

75. Angler’s need
76. About birth
79. Peak
81. Shad’s output
82. Theory
84. Baby’s apparel
85. Not working
86. Sugarcane liquor
87. Cargo
88. Bikini top
89. Terrible smell
90. “Cleopatra” reptile
91. Folk stories
92. Electric _____
93. Laborer of yore
94. Nevertheless

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SHELBURNE SPORTS

Muskies trailing 2-0 in playoff series with Ripley

Written By Brian Lockhart

Senior hockey is back after a pause in the action due to restrictions in place by the provincial government.

The last games in the WOAA Senior division were played on December 29, before the provincial lockdown shut down arenas across the province.

With the regular season interrupted, league executives had to make a decision on how to carry on once restrictions were lifted and games resumed.

It was decided that the Senior League would go directly into the playoffs based on the standings as of the shut-down.

That meant the Shelburne Muskies would be up against the Ripley Wolves in the first round.

The Muskies came to the series as the number eight team with an 8 - 9 record and 16 points - six points ahead of the Creemore Coyotes.

Only the top eight teams made it to the AA playoffs so the Muskies managed to make it into the playoff line-up.

The Wolves came to the series as the first

place team with an 11-3 record including one overtime loss.

Game one of the series got underway in Ripley on Friday, February 4. That game ended with a 7 - 1 win for the Wolves.

The series was in Shelburne the following night when fans came out to see the hometown team at the Centre Dufferin Recreation Complex.

The Muskies were first on the scoreboard in the first period, but that's all they could do for the night. The game was a repeat with Ripley again leaving the ice with a 7 - 1 win, to lead the series 2 - 0.

In other series in the AA championship, the Clinton Radars are up against the Minto 81's. Minto is leading that series 1-0.

The Durham Thundercats are leading 1-0 over the Seaforth Centenaires.

The Tavistock Royals lead 2-0 in their series with the Saugeen Shores Winterhawks.

The Shelburne / Ripley series will return to the ice this weekend.

Game three of the series will get underway in Ripley on Friday, February 11.

Game four will be in Shelburne on Saturday, February 12. Game time is 8:00 p.m.



BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

MUSKIES HOCKEY: The Shelburne Senior Muskies take on the Ripley Wolves in game two of their first-round playoff series at the Centre Dufferin Recreation Complex on Saturday, February 5. The Muskies gave up a 7 - 1 loss to Ripley and now trail the series 2-0. The teams will be back at it this weekend with game four on Shelburne home ice at the CDRC on Saturday, February 12.

Skating track now open at Hyland Park in Shelburne

Written By Brian Lockhart

If you enjoy getting outdoors and skating, the skate track at Hyland Park in Shelburne is now ready for some winter fun.

The park is open every day from dawn to dusk.

The track is around 400 meters long and runs a path around the outside of the park so a few laps around should give you a good workout.

With the colder weather, the skate track is in good shape with nicely groomed ice thanks to the efforts of Town staff.

The track has proved be very popular and was very busy over the weekend as local residents decided to get outdoor and have some fun.

There are a few rules to keep in mind when using the skate track.

No hockey sticks, pucks or other team sports are permitted on rinks without side boards due to the inherent danger to other skaters.

When on the ice, you should maintain a two-metre distance from others not in your household, in keeping with COVID-19 safety protocol.

Wearing a mask is recommended but not mandatory when on the ice. It is also recommended you wear a CSA-approved helmet when on the ice to reduce risk of injury.

All other regular park rules apply to the skating track.

The track provides a free activity during the winter months that is not only fun, but provides some good exercise.



BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

OUTDOOR SKATING RETURNS: If you enjoy outdoor skating, the skating track at Hyland Park provides a 400-metre course around the park. Residents enjoy the skating the course on Sunday.

Have a Heart for Headwaters launches for month of February

Written By PAULA BROWN
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

February is known by heart as the month of love, but it also marks Heart Month in Canada.

Headwater's Health Care Foundation (HHCF) has launched a campaign called "Have a Heart for Headwaters" and is reaching out to the Dufferin-Caledon community to help raise funds for new cardiac equipment at the local hospital.

"Have a Heart for Headwaters enables us to rally around Heart Month and since the government does not fund the medical equipment our health care team needs, we are truly grateful to our generous community members who reach out in support," said Nicole Warren, senior coordinator direct response, marketing & communications for HHCF.

The local hospital is in need of a new Electrocardiogram (ECG) Machine to replace their current aging one, which is more than 10 years old and at the end of its serviceable lifespan of 10 to 12 years. The new ECG machine will support the nearly 15,000 patients who arrive at Headwaters with cardiac concerns each year.

"We're a busy place and we see a lot of patients who have heart issues," said K.C. Carruthers, CEO of HHCF. "We want to make sure that our health care team has the very best tools on hand and the best medical equipment to provide the care they need to."

K.C. noted that ECG machines can be used to detect a number of conditions related to the heart including arrhythmias, coronary heart disease, heart attacks, and cardiomyopathy.

"There's a whole range of heart disorders that can be diagnosed with the help of this and then patients can be directed to the treatment appropriate for them," he said.

Through the Have a Heart for Headwaters fundraiser, HHCF is hoping to raise at least \$17,000, which will cover the complete cost of the new ECG machine.

"[Headwaters] is the first place you're going to be brought in an emergency, it's the hospital closest to home for so many people in Dufferin and Caledon so it's important for us to be able to help people get the right tests," said K.C. "This new [ECG] machine benefits the community by being close to home and of course with medical interventions, particularly with the heart, time is of the essence. The faster you can get an answer, the quicker you can get the best treatment and that in certain cases, can save lives or prevent more serious damage to the heart."

Headwaters Health Care Foundation has partnered with a number of local businesses for Have a Heart for Headwaters to help raise donations.

Participating business and how donations will be given include:

- Drake Laboratory: will donate 15 per cent of all online sales from customers who use code HAH22 at checkout
- Green Monkey Creative: will donate 10 per cent of all new graphic design projects
- Nifty Nook: when you place an order for pick up, they will donate 10 per cent of your order to HHCF
- Shop with Purpose: when you purchase something from the Have A Heart for Headwaters collection on their website, 10 per cent of the purchase will be donated
- Team Apex: for every home sold in the month of February, Team Apex will donate \$500 to cardiac care at Headwaters
- The Kitchen at Mono Mill: will donate \$1 for each take out order in February and March to HHCF
- The Weathervane: when you purchase any candle, 20 per cent will be donated to HHCF
- Windrush Estate Winery: when you book a Wine Tour for Four, \$20 will be donated to HHCF.

Donation can also be made at www.hhcfoundation.com or call 519-941-2702 ext.2303.

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200 Fiddle Park Lane, Shelburne ON

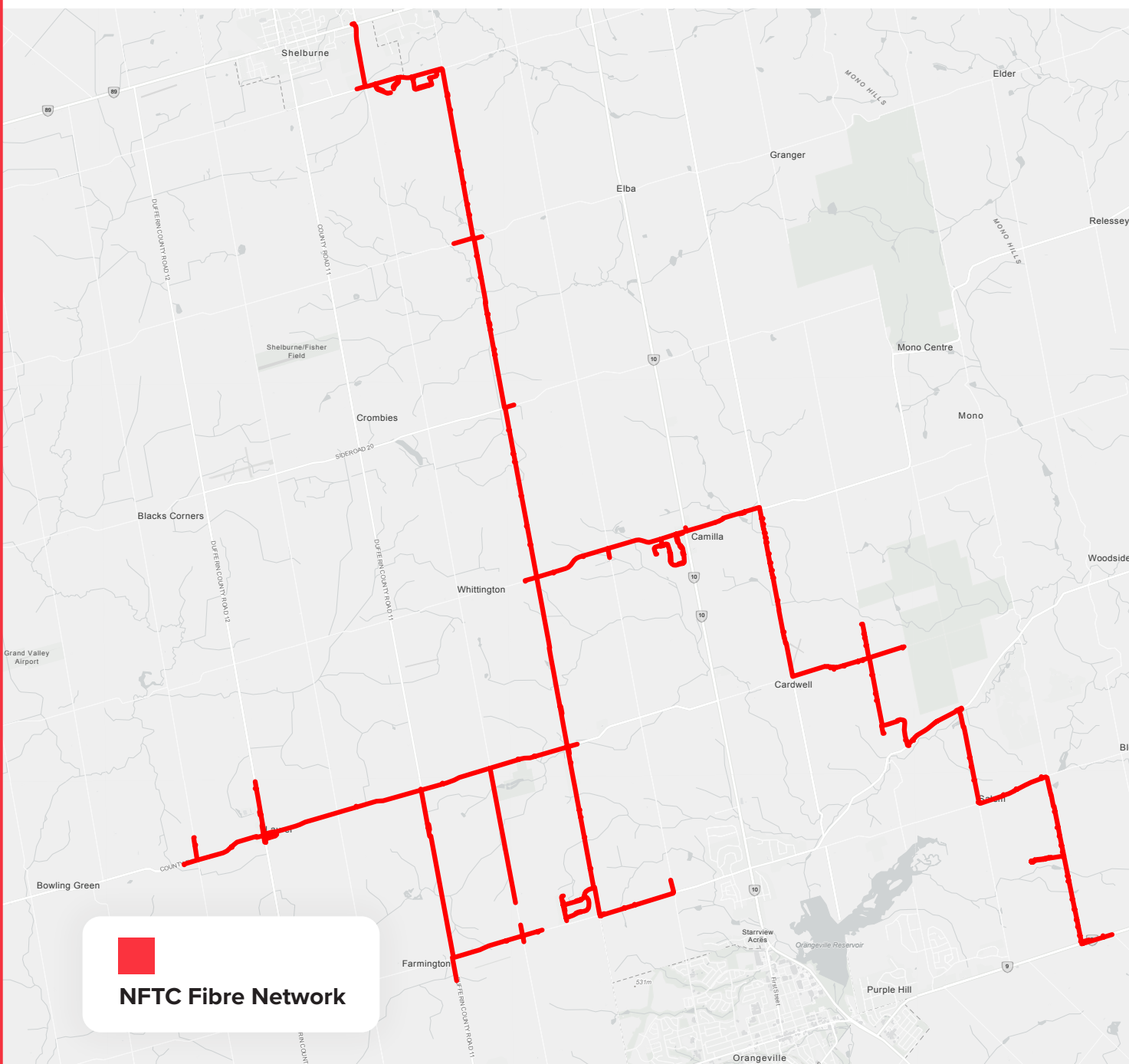
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HELP WANTED



**Town of Shelburne
 Job Posting
 Deputy Clerk/Committee Coordinator**

The Town of Shelburne is a vibrant community located in the County of Dufferin, considered the fastest growing town in Ontario and the second fastest growing town in Canada based on 2016 Census information. With a current estimated population of 8,800, the population is estimated to grow to 15,000 in the next 15 years. Shelburne is an urban hub regionally and supports surrounding communities for shopping, dining, medical services and employment.

The Town of Shelburne is accepting resumes for the position of Deputy Clerk/Committee Coordinator. This is a fulltime position based on a 35-hour work week, night and/or weekend meetings will be required. The 2022 salary range is \$39.48 to \$44.91 per hour.

Reporting to the Director of Legislative Services/Clerk, general duties and responsibilities include but are not limited to:

- Responsible for providing administrative support to Council and Committees, and the Legislative Services Department.
- Pursuant to Section 228(2) of the *Municipal Act*, assumes the statutory role of the Director of Legislative Services/Clerk in their absence, performs delegated powers and duties assigned by the Clerk in accordance with Municipal By-laws and other legislated Acts. Assists with planning, directing, and administering all activities of the Legislative Service's Department including preparation and distribution of the Council Agenda, Committee Coordinator, administering oaths, and conducting the Municipal Election.

A copy of the full job description is available at www.shelburne.ca/townhall/careers

To apply for this position, please submit your resume by email to: hr@shelburne.ca no later than, Friday February 25, 2022, at 3:00pm.

Please quote the job title in the subject line.

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 Shelburne ON L9V 3K7

****Only those selected for an interview will be contacted.****

Please note that the Town of Shelburne requires that all newly hired employees are to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 as a condition of employment and must provide proof of fully vaccinated status or provide proof of a medical or Human Rights Code exemption, prior to starting employment.

The Town of Shelburne has made a commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging. The Town is committed to attracting, developing, and retaining highly talented employees with a variety of identities and backgrounds, in order to better reflect the growing diversity of the Town of Shelburne.



**Town of Shelburne
 Job Posting
 Junior Municipal Law Enforcement Officer**

The Town of Shelburne is a vibrant community located in the County of Dufferin, considered the fastest growing town in Ontario and the second fastest growing town in Canada based on 2016 Census information. With a current estimated population of 8,800, the population is estimated to grow to 15,000 in the next 15 years.

The Town of Shelburne is accepting resumes for the position of Junior Municipal Law Enforcement Officer. This is a fulltime position based on a 35-hour work week, night and/or weekend hours are required. The 2022 salary range is \$26.99 to \$30.56 per hour.

Reporting to the Director of Legislative Services/Clerk, general duties and responsibilities include but are not limited to:

- The Junior Municipal Law Enforcement Officer (MLEO) will investigate and resolve complaints with respect to municipal by-laws and evaluate existing by-laws for continued compliance as well as develop new by-laws as deemed necessary. This position will be responsible for community education regarding Town by-laws and be required to accommodate weekend and evening work.
- 35 hours per week, varied shifts, nights and days.

- Generally, the employee will be expected to work block shifts, Mondays through Sundays at various shift times. Employee's hours of work may vary and may be irregular from time to time and will be those hours required to meet the objectives of the employee's employment.

A copy of the full job description is available at www.shelburne.ca/townhall/careers

To apply for this position, please submit your resume by email to: hr@shelburne.ca no later than, Friday February 25, 2022 at 3:00pm.

Please quote the job title in the subject line.

Mail: Human Resources
 Town of Shelburne
 203 Main Street East
 Shelburne ON L9V 3K7

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EarlyON Educator

Full time permanent.
 40 hours per week.

Kids & Us EarlyON program is looking for a Registered Early Childhood Educator with experience in working with parents and children 0-6 years of age for a full time Position at our Markdale location.

The successful applicant will work in a small team providing programs and support to children 0-6 and their families. The applicant should be knowledgeable of community supports and able to plan and deliver both in-person and virtual programming. Working knowledge of Microsoft Suite and online platforms for program delivery is a must.

The RECE should be energetic, outgoing and demonstrate a positive attitude, and hold a valid drivers license with vehicle, as work related travel is required. The successful candidate must provide proof of valid First Aid/CPR and a current Police Record Check. A competitive compensation package is included.

Please email resumes by March 4th 2022 to:
Nicola Findlay, Program Manager
 Kids & Us Community Childcare and Family Education Centres
 nfindlay@kidsandus.ca

Kids & Us is an equal opportunity employer committed to an inclusive, barrier free recruitment and selection process. If contacted for an employment opportunity, please advise if you require accommodation to ensure your equal participation.



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OBITUARIES

MCGUGAN, CARL EDWIN

Peacefully at Shelburne Residence on Wednesday, February 2, 2022 at the age of 83. Devoted husband of the late Patricia. Loving father of Darrin McGugan, step-father of Mark Patton, grandfather of Lisa (Tom) Egan and Tara (Chris) Tolmie, great-grandfather of Jesse, Ryan, Thomas, Connor, Nora and Lyla. Dear brother of Lynn (Karen), Jim (Pam), Ed (Lorna) and Allen and brother-in-law of Orville Patton. He will be lovingly remembered by his many nieces and nephews. Predeceased by his parents Earl & Irene; brothers Wayne (Anne), Rodney (Suzanne), Glenn (Yvonne), Archie and his wife Joan; sister Joan (at age 5); nephew Kelly; niece Cathy and brother-in-law Mervin Sherson.



Carl had many fond memories of growing up with his brothers in Brampton. He began his construction career at Armstrong Brothers working with his brother Archie and their dad. He retired as a foreman from Graham Brothers. He was well respected in his field and mentored many young men among them his nephews Johnny and Kelly. Since his passing many work stories are being shared and some of his crew called him a legend.

He lived with his wife Patricia in Shelburne. He loved to be busy and always had a project going. He renovated their first house on Andrew Street. He always helped out family and friends. He spent his retirement at his trailer in Port Severn. Carl spent a lot of time with his niece, Crystal and her family. He would wake Josh, Jessica and Matthew up at 6 am to go fishing. Many great memories were made on the porch drinking beer and feeding chipmunks.

A heartfelt thank you to his niece Diane and the rest of the staff at the Shelburne Residence for their love and compassion for Carl during his time there.

Arrangements entrusted to Jack & Thompson Funeral Home. Cremation has taken place. Donations to Parkinson's Research or the charity of your choice would be appreciated. Online condolences may be placed at www.jackandthompsonfuneralhome.com.

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RAYBURN, Gordon

March 27, 1947, to January 30, 2022

Gordon Carl Rayburn was a husband, father, grandfather, businessman, mentor and friend. He left our world suddenly on January 30, 2022, in his 75th year.



Gordon was born in Orangeville to Lorne and Josephine Rayburn, where he grew up on the family dairy farm with his brother and two sisters. As a boy, Gordon was involved in 4-H and played recreational baseball and hockey. One of his most significant accomplishments was when in 1963, he plowed in the World Plowing Match held in Caledon, Ontario.

Gordon left high school to work, he travelled west, where he installed gas lines in Calgary and throughout the province of Alberta. At 20, Gordon returned home, purchased a backhoe and started digging; he never looked back. Gordon married Diane in 1972, and together they expanded the construction company and established a Hereford cattle beef operation.

Gordon was very involved within our community. He was a member of the Kinsmen service club, a past board member with the Simcoe-Dufferin-Muskoka Crime Stoppers and a member of the Orangeville Police Services Board. Gordon participated with many groups and municipal councils on projects throughout the county. Over the years, Gordon sponsored many minor sports teams and budding athletes. In 1976, Rayburn Construction was the corporate sponsor of the Orangeville Stingers Junior C Lacrosse team who won the Ontario championship. He supported the Orangeville Junior C Crushers hockey team as a board member, donor and fan, travelling the province to cheer them on. Gordon was very proud to be the long-time corporate sponsor of the Junior A Northmen lacrosse team. He has supported young men on and off the floor for over four decades as they chased their dreams.

Gordon was a mentor to many young athletes and entrepreneurs over the years. He was always there to share advice and guidance with those who asked. Those who were fortunate enough to have his hand on their shoulder know he was a larger-than-life figure. He was proud to witness many of these young men succeed in life, and he was humbly honoured to be a part of their success. Gordon will be greatly missed by Chad.

As Rayburn Construction Ltd. expanded with excavators, scrapers, dozers, and more of the signature blue dump trucks, Gordon's impact was obvious in our community.

Gordon was very proud when both his daughters Cynthia and Amanda returned home from university and joined him in the business. He felt it was a privilege to work alongside them every day.

At the end of the day and on weekends, he was always found on the farm. Farming was more than a hobby for both Gordon and Diane; it was a return to their roots. A full-time job for some, it was Gordon's time for reflection and contemplation. He was often found on weekends in a tractor or working cattle.

In the early years of business, farming and family, Gordon would travel our region showing commercial heavy horses. The signature blue and white colours were woven with ribbons into the horse's mains, and the large blue show wagons were drawn by as many as an eight-horse hitch. They entertained large crowds at local fall fairs and the RCMP musical ride at the Orangeville fairgrounds.

Over the past decade, he found great pleasure farming on Manitoulin Island. The air was fresh, and the stars were brighter up north. When asked, he'd always say, "there's never a bad day on the island."

One of Gordon's happiest days was the day he became a grandfather. He doted on his grandson Gordy. Teaching him to value the small things in life from welcoming a new calf in the barn to the pride in working the land to bring in a bumper crop. They would spend hours in the tractor, skid steer and excavator doing odd jobs around the farm or seen on the Kubota checking fences and cattle with Gordon's four-legged buddy Toby.

On January 3, 2022, Rayburn Construction Limited celebrated 55 years in business, serving Dufferin, Caledon and Wellington communities shaping the landscape of our counties.

His family will significantly miss Gordon: his wife Diane, daughters Cynthia Amanda and his grandson Gordy along with many employees, friends and colleagues.

Due to Covid-19 concerns, there will be no service. The family will host a celebration of Gordon's life this summer when we can gather together safely.

In lieu of flowers and to honour Gordon's memory, lets follow in his footsteps and spread kindness in the communities he loved.

Online condolences may be made at www.imfunerals.com

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

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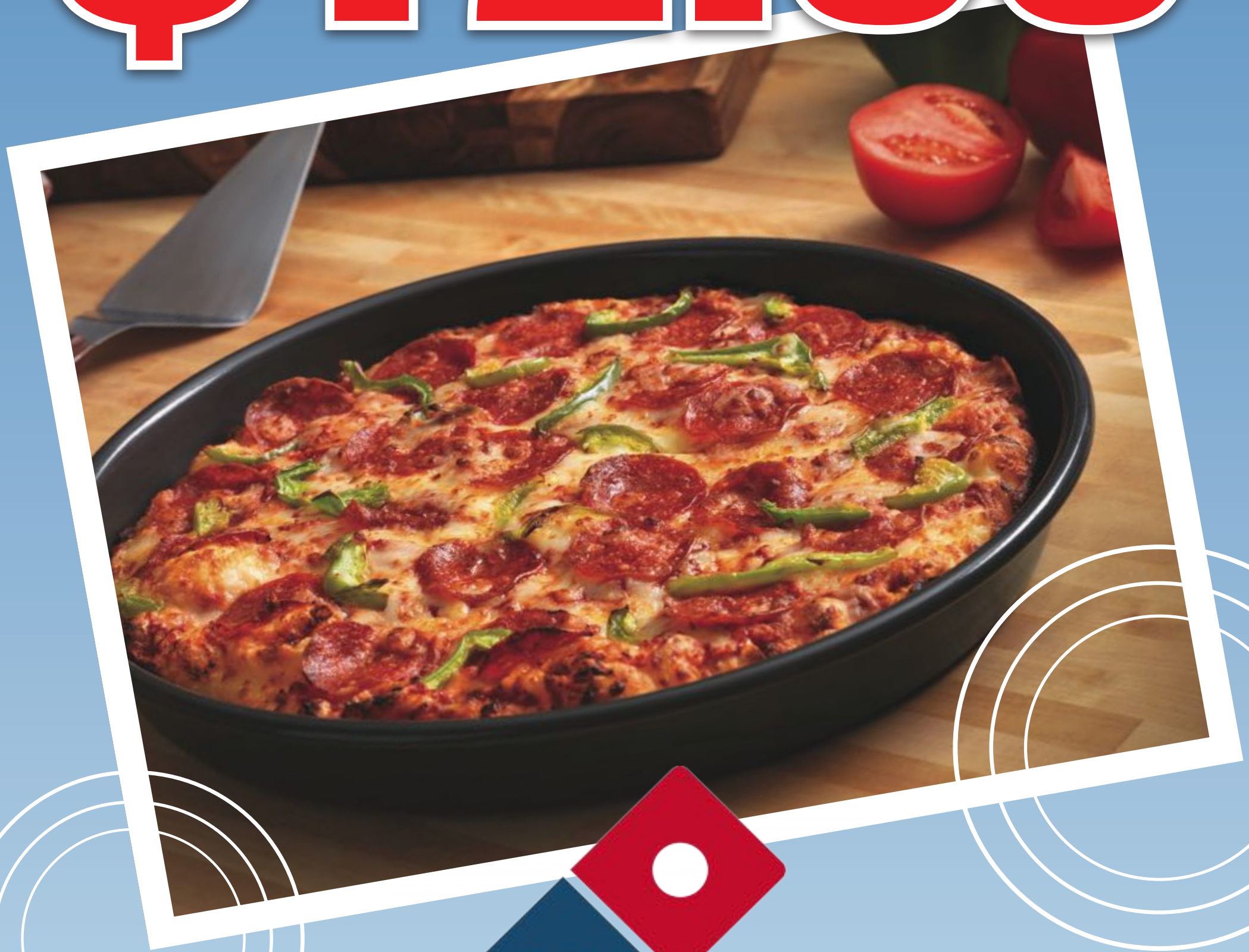
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