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PAULA BROWN PHOTO

**OPEN HOUSE:** Flato Developments held a community engagement meeting at the Centre Dufferin Recreation Complex (CDRC) on Tuesday (Feb. 15) to receive feedback from community members on conceptual plans for their first phase of development. The developer's first phase of development included a senior housing building and a commercial plaza located on the west end of town (Picture left to right: Shelburne CAO Denyse Morrissey, Mayor Wade Mills, Flato CEO Shakir Rehmatullah, Coin. Lynda Buffet, and Deputy Mayor Steve Anderson).

## Flato Developments shares plans for seniors housing

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

Flato Developments gave Shelburne community members an early glimpse into their plans for a new development located on the west end of town earlier this week.

The Markham-based developer, hosted a community engagement event at the Centre Dufferin Recreation Complex (CDRC) on Tuesday (Feb. 15) evening to gain feedback on conceptual plans for the first phase of development.

"At Flato, we believe in building complete communities and we can only build complete communities while we are discussing," said Flato CEO, Shakir Rehmatullah. "We take the feedback and comments, and bring it back to the drawing. We go back to our consulting team, architects, planners, engineers, and then we try to see what we can do that would improve the plan and what would cater to the needs of the Shelburne community."

The first phase of the proposed development, located along Hwy. 89 and 4th Line, is part of a larger future development of just over 38 hectares of land by Flato. The development's first phase consists of a seniors

housing building with up to 93 rental units as well as a commercial plaza.

The Town of Shelburne has been facing a lack of available and affordable housing for seniors within the community for some time. Deputy Mayor Steve Anderson has previously noted how Council learned about the senior living issue during their campaigning four years ago.

"Our seniors need to be able to have a space where they can call home and feel comfortable. Many of our seniors are looking to downsize in properties and it's becoming harder and harder to find affordable spaces, that also accommodate their needs," said Anderson at Flato's event.

The Shelburne senior housing development presented on Tuesday is similar to one currently under construction by Flato Development in Dundalk, known as Edgewood Suites. Shelburne Town Council originally received the conceptual vision for phase one of the development in October of 2020.

Amenities part of the proposed senior building in town include a gym, yoga and wellness centre, a library, media room, outdoor patio with gazebos, faith room, private vegetable garden, open concept

floor plans with wide hallways and balconies for accessibility, visitor parking, concierge, and parkette.

"Seeing these plans is really encouraging. [Flato] in the early days asked what the needs of the community were and one of the big needs Council expressed was housing suitable for seniors. They certainly haven't disappointed...[it] is exactly what we've asked for," said Shelburne Mayor Wade Mills.

The community engagement event was a casual affair with attendees reading about Flato's plans for municipal servicing, environmental assessments and community involvement.

Two local residents who spoke with the Free Press said they attended the event to gain clarity on where the building is being built and specifics of what is proposed.

"We were definitely interested, but more that we thought maybe it was a condo that you could purchase. We also didn't realize it was marketed toward seniors, but seeing the amenities and good location, we think it's great."

Set in the early steps of development there is not yet a time line for when the housing will be constructed or the cost of rent.

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# Rohan Thompson appointed as first director of people and equity for County of Dufferin

Written By Paula Brown  
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Dufferin County has announced the appointment of their first-ever director of people and equity – Rohan Thompson.

“Dufferin County aspires to be a workplace where everyone can be their authentic self, and diversity, equity and inclusion [DEI] are critical to realizing that goal. We recognize the value of diverse perspectives and lived experiences, and the importance of creating an environment that embraces and nurtures these,” said Sonya Pritchard, CAO of Dufferin County. “Rohan brings the experience and expertise required to strengthen our DEI commitment and accelerate our efforts across the organization and diverse communities we serve.”

In the newly created role, Thompson will direct Dufferin County’s DEI strategy, policies and programs as well as ensure DEI is intentionally embedded into all aspects of governance, administration and service delivery. He will also oversee core human resource areas including recruitment, learning and development, performance management and employee relations.

“I’m honoured, excited, and a little bit nervous all at the same time,” said Thompson. “When you’re the first person in a role it’s an opportunity to lay the blueprint. I recognize that this role came because of a lot of hard work and advocacy from the community, a lot of conversations internally at senior staff level as well as County Council, and I want to make sure it’s honoured.”

For more than 15 years, Thompson has



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**NEW ROLE:** Rohan Thompson is Dufferin County’s first-ever director of people and equity for Dufferin County.

worked in the public sector focusing on community engagement, equity, policy analysis and program development. In the past, he’s held roles with both the City of Kitchener and Region of Waterloo and most recently served as manager of workplace equity as well as assistant director of equity and community

partnerships at the Peel District School Board.

Thompson has also extended his DEI work into community involvement, serving on the board of directors for North Your Community House and supporting the organization’s new Canadian settlement programs.

Speaking with the Free Press, Thompson said the opportunity to work with Dufferin County has been on his “radar” for sometime, seeing both the population movement from the GTA and the work being done locally by leaders.

“Doing a little bit of homework on the county, it seemed to me that they were pretty serious and committed to their equity journey and doing their work,” said Thompson. “This was an opportunity to come back to where I really cut my teeth as a professional and lend my skills in the municipal setting.”

Thompson said taking on the inaugural role, he is prepared to build on the foundational work the County has begun and move forward with opportunities not yet tapped into.

Significant foundational work he noted within the County includes the establishment of the DEI committee, creating the director of people and equity as a senior level position, and the internal commitment of DEI concepts.

Specific steps for the future he added involve surveys to see staffing demographics as well as a full comprehensive employment system review to look at policies and practices related to human resources.

“Really taking a look from an equity lens to try to address any hidden barriers or systemic barriers that are preventing folks from achieving and bringing their full self to work,” explained Thompson.

Looking forward to his time serving Dufferin County and what he hopes to achieve Thompson concluded, “I want to leave Dufferin County in a place better than they started in regard to DEI.”

## New magazine helping normalize mental health problems among farmers

Written By Paula Brown  
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The struggles and stressors that come with being a farmer are often easily hidden, it’s a consequence of a job based deeply in isolation.

But, a newly formed working group associated with the Suicide Awareness Council of Wellington-Dufferin is working to bridge the gap and help normalize conversations about mental health in the agricultural sector with the launch of a magazine called GROUNDED.

In the works since June of 2021,

GROUNDED was created around the concept “by farmers for farmers”, with the monthly magazine featuring real life stories of hope and resilience along with practical tools and supports from those within the farming community. It was inspired by the popularity of farming magazines.



**SUICIDE AWARENESS COUNCIL OF WELLINGTON - DUFFERIN**

Heather Glenister, coordinator for the Suicide Awareness Council of Wellington-Dufferin, said the focus on stories written by farmers to help other farmers was a significant part in developing the magazine.

“We know the best sort of suicide prevention is peer to peer,” said Glenister. “To be able to have real life lived experiences in our project makes what we’re doing so much more real. It connects, and resonates with others in the farming community – it’s very authentic.”

Some of the personal stories featured in the magazine address topics such as retirement, financial struggle, and being a women farmer.

“What makes this different from other farming magazines is it’s getting down to a very basic conversation that somebody would have at their dinner table, and we hope that people can use it as a conversation starter,” said Glenister.

The need to provide resources that help and normalize conversations about mental health in farming is increasing notable, with farmer’s at an elevated risk for suicide in proportion to the general population.

According to a 2016 study from the University of Guelph, which surveyed 1,100 farmers, 45 per cent of respondents had high stress levels, 58 per cent met criteria for anxiety, and 35 per cent met the criteria for depression. The survey also found that 40 per cent were apprehensive to seeking professional help.

Farming stressors such as commodity prices, farm debt, animal health, long hours, and public stigma towards those who farm are all factors that can leave farmers vulner-

able to depression, anxiety, substance misuse, and overall poor mental health.

“The farm comes first, it’s not a job but a lifestyle. Farmers often don’t have the time to seek help, machinery breakdowns or a sick animal can upset well-intentioned plans. Some farmers don’t want their peers to know that they are struggling, failure isn’t an option. Sometimes there is pressure to maintain a farm that has been in the family for generations. Farmers often suffer in silence,” said a member from the working group.

The Suicide Awareness Council’s Farming & Veterinary Suicide Prevention Working Group is also looking to shed light on the high rates of suicide among veterinarians with an event called Taking It All On.

According to the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association, a study in 2020 found that more than a quarter of Canadian veterinarians had thoughts of suicide in the previous 12 months.

“We don’t recognize the vicarious trauma and empathetic stress that they experience on a day-to-day basis,” said Glenister. “We often see them as just people that take care of our animals whether it be on the farm or at their office.”

Taking It All On will be a free virtual lunch and learn hosted by the local Suicide Awareness Council, and is scheduled to take place on Feb. 23. The interactive workshop is aimed at helping veterinarians and their teams learn practical strategies on how to build resilience and support mental wellness.

Glenister said the event already had 70 people registered with attendees from across Ontario as well as out of province.

To sign up for Taking It All On or to find more information about suicide prevention and resources, visit [www.sacwd.ca](http://www.sacwd.ca). The first electronic issue of GROUNDED can be found on the Suicide Awareness Council of Wellington-Dufferin website, with hard-copies scheduled for release in April.

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# feral cat rescue



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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.



# MP Kyle Seeback says 'Freedom Convoy' needs to end

Written By Sam Odrowski

Dufferin-Caledon MP Kyle Seeback has changed his tune with respect to the ongoing "Freedom Convoy" protests in Ottawa, which call for an end to the cross-border vaccine mandate for truckers and all remaining COVID restrictions.

He said he agrees with the Federal Conservatives interim party leader Candice Bergen's comments last Thursday (Feb. 10), that it's time for the protestors to go home.

"It really is causing disruptions in Ottawa. There are small businesses that are not opening because of it," Seeback told the Free Press on Tuesday (Feb. 15).

"The Rideau Centre Mall is not opening because of it. You can argue and say that those are unreasonable choices that are being made [by the businesses to be closed], but those are the choices that are being made. So, small businesses are being hurt. People live in the downtown core are tired of the noise and the disruption."

Seeback attended the demonstrations in Ottawa on the weekend of Jan. 29-30 and said he was impressed by the amount of people coming together to voice their frustrations with COVID restrictions and lockdowns, voicing his support, but with the protest now in its third week, he says it needs to end.

"I think the protest has gone beyond what I would consider to be useful," he remarked.

Seeback noted that the Federal Conservatives brought forward a motion on Monday (Feb. 14), asking for the Federal Liberal Government to bring a plan forward to end remaining COVID-19 restrictions, which is what the protestors are pushing for. However, the motion was defeated 185-151.

"We're going to keep fighting for that," said Seeback, regarding a plan to lift remaining federal restrictions. "But the disruption that's being caused, I think has now gone too far. They should go home."

He added, "If they want to have some people stay and protest on Parliament Hill, I think that's fine. But to be taking up blocks and blocks and blocks of the downtown core, I think it's time for that to end."

With respect to the Emergency Measures Act, which was implemented for the very first time since it was created in 1988, by the Trudeau Government, Seeback said he's deeply concerned that "the Prime Minister decided to go there, rather than look at other options that are available".

He said the government should have opened a dialogue with the truckers instead of "pouring gasoline on the fire by using inflammatory language to describe protesters and others".

With respect to the border blockades, which have largely come to an end across Canada, Seeback said he firmly opposes this style of protest.

"There should absolutely be no blockades of border crossings. This is sort of doing the exact opposite of what protests are supposed to do. This is hurting people. This is hurting businesses. It's hurting other Canadians, and that should not be what you're doing when you're trying to protest something," he explained.

"I've never supported blockading border crossings. I'm glad that they're being cleared, and it should stop."

Going forward, Seeback said he and his colleagues will keep pushing the Trudeau Government for a plan to end federal COVID-19 restrictions.

"Canadians are entering the third year of the pandemic. People are tired, people are frustrated. They deserve to know, what are the benchmarks for us getting back to as normal a life as possible? And I think it's the government's job to do that," he remarked.

"Countries around the world are doing it. Provinces are doing it. It's not an unreasonable request."



MATT BO PHOTOGRAPHY

**FREEDOM CONVOY CONTINUES:** Hundreds of trucks remained parked on Wellington Street, Ottawa, in front of Parliament Hill.



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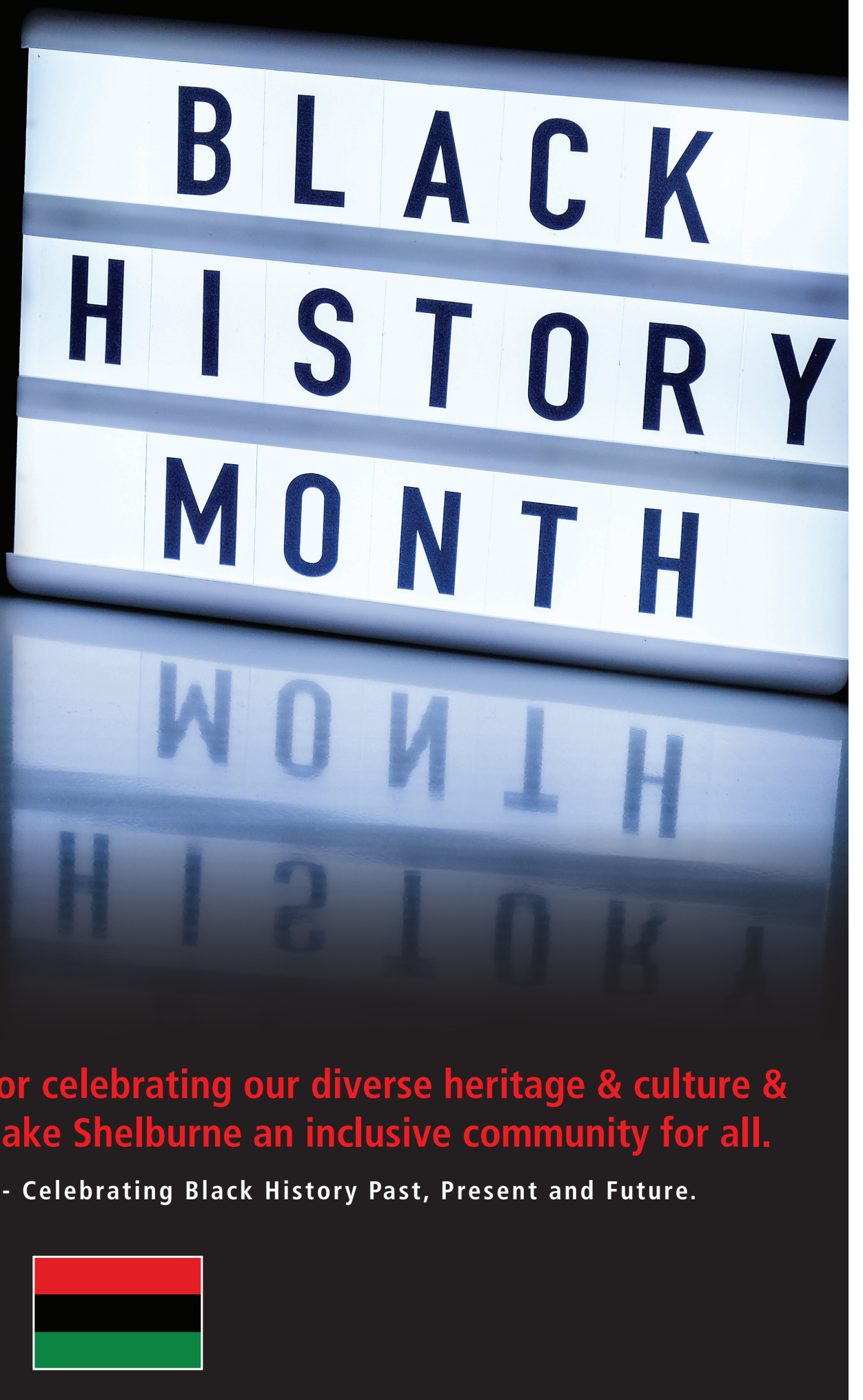
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– February 2022 –

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# Is Rome burning?

For the most part, I have never been highly critical of the federal government, no matter which political party is running the show.

I figure they have a job to do, and for the most part they keep the country running and do a reasonably good job of it.

However, I am losing confidence in the current situation as we have a crisis looming in several areas that affects all of us, and which the feds seem to be either ignoring or can't get a handle on – and if they don't, the problems are only going to get worse, and it's common folk like you and me who will be paying the price.

The current trucker's protests seem to be a rather polarizing event across the country. People seem to be either for them, or against them, and there doesn't seem to be much middle ground or room for discussion.

When the protest arrived in Ottawa, it caused a lot of grief in the downtown core of the city. I can understand why people living in the area were frustrated.

The protest was directed squarely at the federal government and should have received a response.

The only response from the P.M. was issued statements – and none of them

related to why the protesters were there in the first place.

While several thousand people gathered in front of parliament, the P.M. hid out at his cottage instead of facing the situation head-on.

His response included using a bunch of buzzwords to describe the protesters, when in fact none of the actions he described were obvious as any part of the protest. His response to the protest sounded more like something that would come from a high school kid who just finished a social studies class taught by a social warrior who keeps a list of buzz words at hand and ready to use if anyone disagrees with them.

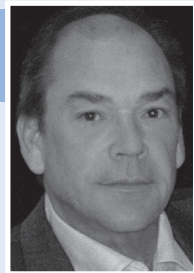
This situation displayed a total lack of leadership when taking charge and facing the problem should have been a priority.

This lack of leadership extends to a few other ongoing concerns.

We have a definite housing crisis – especially in Southern Ontario.

With the price of homes going over \$1 million in many areas, a lot of first time buyers are seeing their chance of home ownership disappearing. It is lack of supply and too much demand that is driving the cost up.

**BRIAN LOCKHART**  
FROM THE SECOND ROW



No one should have to pay \$1 million for a place to live. Even if you have saved up a good down payment you will still be living under the pressure of a huge mortgage.

Interest rates are currently low, but all it would take is a blip on the radar to force interest rates higher and many of those million-dollar house owners would simply not be able to afford their homes any more.

Many experts say that the interest rates will not climb, but experts don't have access to a crystal ball.

The demand for housing is only going to increase as more and more people move to the country.

It is now predicted that it will be at least another 15 years before the market starts to balance itself, and that is a conservative estimate.

In the meantime, many people cannot afford to live in their own hometown because they can't afford to buy a house on the same street they grew up on.

The federal government needs to get a better plan in place regarding immigration, because throwing the doors wide open means immigrants need a place to live when housing simply is not available.

Some will say this is 'anti' immigrant – it's not. It's common sense.

Every public building, every theatre, every restaurant, and even elevators have a capacity limit for a reason.

But when it comes to immigration, those capacity rules don't apply.

Meanwhile, the price of gasoline and other fuels is now rising out of control with no end in sight.

Those rising prices translate directly to your bottom line. You pay more to go to work, while your paycheque stagnates.

Those rising fuel costs translate directly to the food you put on your table and the cost of consumer goods.

The government apparently does not care, and is not worried about the inflation this is causing.

The feds have to get a handle on these situations and spend less time on their twitter account complaining about protesters from afar.

When there's a fire, you have to act. You can't just sit at the edge of town and watch everything go up in flames.

# Censorship déjà vu

Buried in a last week's news cycle, dominated by former Conservative leader Erin O'Toole's sacking and honking truckers, Heritage Minister Pablo Rodriguez unveiled the government's replacement for Bill C-10.

That bill died in a storm of controversy when Prime Minister Justin Trudeau called last September's election. At this moment of peak distraction, Rodriguez decided to revive it.

He tried to spin the new bill, known as Bill C-11, as a marked change from the government's attempts to regulate free expression online, including on social media. He claimed that the government "listened to concerns" about Bill C-10 and took them into account in crafting Bill C-11.

But make no mistake: this is the same government censorship in slightly fuzzier sheep's clothing.

Bill C-10 was heavily criticized for allowing government bureaucrats at the Ministry of Heritage to regulate social media content. In response to those concerns, Rodriguez claimed that Bill C-11 would exempt social media content from government regulation.

But it turns out Rodriguez's exemption has an exemption of its own.

Professor Michael Geist of the University of Ottawa notes that Bill C-11 still allows the Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) to regulate social media content.

So, while bureaucrats in the Ministry of Her-

itage will no longer have the power to regulate social media content, as was proposed in Bill C-10, the government now wants to farm out its dirty work to the CRTC.

There are three circumstances in which the CRTC will be allowed to regulate social media content: if it indirectly or directly creates revenue; if the program is broadcast by a broadcast undertaking not regulated by the CRTC; and if the program has been given a unique identifier under an international standards system.

As Geist notes, these three exemptions may sound complicated, but content uploaded to sites like YouTube and apps like TikTok is still vulnerable to government regulation and censorship. Under Bill C-11, the CRTC will have the power to require media platforms to promote the accessibility of certain content over others.

That means the censorship danger is still clear and present. When bureaucrats are given the power to interfere with freedom of speech and freedom of expression, there's always a risk that they'll turn down the volume on critics and promote the messages they want Canadians to see.

Despite what Rodriguez and others in the Trudeau government might try to argue, certain social media content is very much subject to government regulation under Bill C-11.

When the Trudeau government was trying to pass Bill C-10 into law last year, Canadian society was largely unified in opposition to the

**JAY GOLDBERG**  
TROY MEDIA



government's efforts.

Journalists, academics, civil liberties groups, privacy experts, librarians and think tanks, among others, all sounded the alarm on the government's censorship efforts.

The Independent Press Gallery, for example, expressed "serious concern to the harmful effects on freedom of expression and principles of law that will ensue if the government moves forward with the proposal."

OpenMedia called the government's efforts "dangerously misguided."

By keeping a mechanism in place to regulate social media content, which empowers bureaucrats to push some content online over others, the Trudeau government is going right back down the rabbit hole that gener-

ated such grave concern just last year.

Rodriguez's claim that the government listened to Canadians is ridiculous. Rather than taking the time to consult with Canadians from coast to coast about such an important issue, the Liberals are trying to ram through a replacement for Bill C-10 just weeks after Parliament came back into session.

The bottom line is that the Trudeau government didn't listen to Canadians. It didn't listen to experts, who called for full social media content exemption from regulation, and it didn't even bother to spend the time to engage with concerned citizens.



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## Police charge pair with vehicle theft, BnE, fentanyl possession

Police charge pair with theft of vehicles, break and enter, fentanyl possession

Dufferin OPP's Community Street Crime Unit (CSCU) have charged two people for break and enter, theft of motor vehicles and drug possession in a several month investigation.

In October of 2021, Dufferin OPP received a report of a break and enter at a Shelburne Towing compound. This incident sparked an investigation that linked one of the people

involved to several other occurrences and outstanding warrants. On January 28, 2022, the Dufferin OPP CSCU located the two people involved in Grey County and arrested and charged them for the following offences:

Ernest James WALLA, 49-year-old, of no fixed address, was charged with:

- Possession of Property Obtained by Crime Over \$5000
- Possession of Schedule 1 Substance - Fentanyl

(two counts)

- Possession of Schedule 1 Substance - Methamphetamine
- Drive under Suspension
- Break and Enter
- Theft of Motor Vehicle - (two counts)
- Mischief Under \$5000 - (eight counts)
- Theft Over \$5000
- Arson
- Alter Vehicle Identification Number
- Fail to Comply with Undertaking

Alexander FRIEST, 34-year-old, of no fixed address, was charged with:

- Possession of Property Obtained by Crime
- WALLA is currently in custody awaiting a bail hearing. FRIEST is scheduled to appear before the Ontario Court of Justice in Orangeville, in April of 2022, to answer to the charges. None of these charges have been proven in court.

## Shelburne resident charged with impaired driving in Caledon

Officers from the Caledon Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) charged two people with impaired driving on Super Bowl Sunday.

On February 13, 2022, at approximately 5:12 a.m., officers responded to a vehicle into the

ditch in the area of Highway 10 and Beech Grove Side Road in Caledon Village.

No injuries were reported.

Since the officer suspected that the driver's abilities were impaired, they were asked to provide a sample of their breath into an Approved

Roadside Screening Device. As a result, the driver was arrested for impaired driving and transported to an OPP Detachment where further breath tests were conducted.

Arveen GOSAL, 19, of Shelburne was charged with:

• Operation while impaired - blood alcohol concentration (B.A.C.) over 80 mg

The accused is scheduled to appear at the Ontario Court of Justice in Orangeville on May 26, 2022, to answer to the charge. This charge has not been proven in court.

## Impaired driver recently charged in Shelburne

Dufferin OPP charged a driver with impaired operation following a traffic stop in the Town of Shelburne.

On February 5, 2022, at approximately 4:20 p.m., a Dufferin OPP officer initiated a traffic stop on Main Street East, in the Town of Shelburne. The officer was led into an impaired operation investigation.

As a result of the investigation, Elizabeth GAGLIARDI, 44-year-old, from Toronto has been charged with:

- Operation while impaired - blood alcohol concentration (80 plus)

The accused is scheduled to appear before the Ontario Court of Justice in Orangeville, in April of 2022, to answer to the charge. The accused's driver's licence was suspended for 90 days and their vehicle impounded for seven days. These charges have not been proven in court.

# SHELBURNE CHURCH DIRECTORY

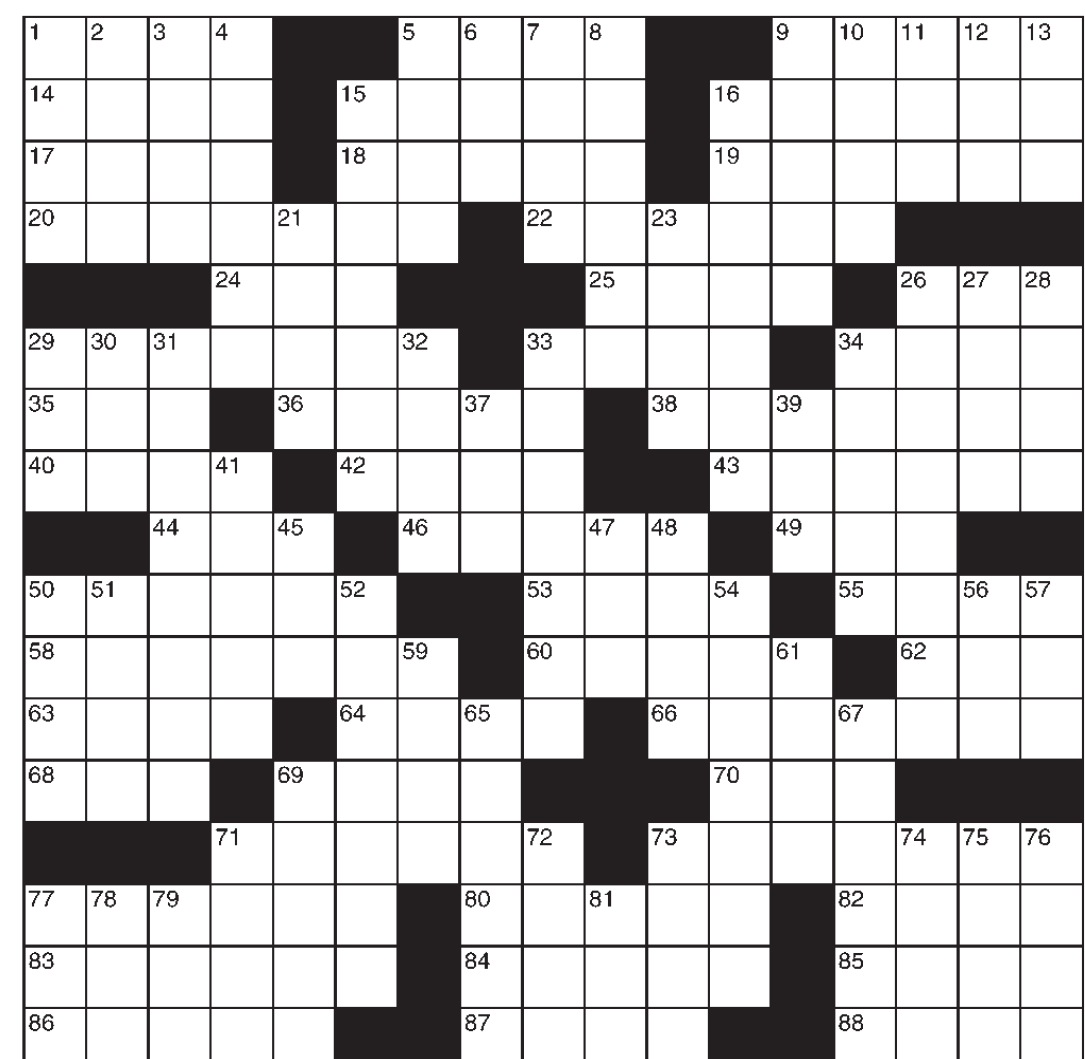
**BETHEL BIBLE CHAPEL**  
 419 Main Street East, Shelburne  
 Sunday Services - 9:30am Lord's Supper  
 10:45am Family Bible Hour, Sunday School  
 Chapel 519-925-3910 or 519-278-0066  
 www.bethelshelburne.com - All Welcome!!

**ST PAUL'S ANGLICAN CHURCH**  
 312 Owen Sound St., Shelburne - 925-2251  
 office@stpauls-shelburne.ca  
 Sunday Service and Children's Ministry - 9:30 a.m.  
 Priest: The Rev. William Willis

**ABIDING PLACE FELLOWSHIP**  
 www.abidingplace.ca  
 519-925-3651  
**SUNDAY SERVICE 10:00AM**  
 Mel-Lloyd Centre, Entrance "F" Door,  
 167 Centre St, Shelburne  
 Pastor: Rev. Gord Horsley  
*Come and be Blessed*

# X CROSSWORD

PUZZLE 417



- 11. Bright
- 12. Queasy
- 13. Maiden-named
- 15. Asian
- 16. Larry, Curly, and Moe
- 21. Deeply absorbed
- 23. Blacken
- 26. Antiquated
- 27. State strongly
- 28. Scourge
- 29. Caribbean or Coral
- 30. Biology class, for short
- 31. Outbreak
- 32. Enlarge
- 33. Hollywood newcomer
- 34. Springboard figure
- 37. Tropical bird
- 39. Amethyst, for one
- 41. Seared bread
- 45. Abyss
- 47. Bronzed
- 48. \_\_\_-and-go-seek
- 50. Coily roguish
- 51. Lacquered tin
- 52. Dan Rather, e.g.
- 54. Musical performance
- 56. Boot liner
- 57. Aperture
- 59. True
- 61. Halt, to a horse
- 65. Student-doctor course
- 67. Affirm
- 69. Spud
- 71. \_\_\_ it coming
- 72. Wrenched
- 73. Laborer
- 74. Asian nursemaid
- 75. Kind
- 76. Three, in cards
- 77. Her, subjectively
- 78. Five-and-\_\_\_
- 79. Dock rodent
- 81. Nicklaus's gp.

**ACROSS**

- 1. Oater friend
- 5. Source of poi
- 9. Discolor
- 14. Health herb
- 15. Keen
- 16. Paper fastener
- 17. Sow's opposite
- 18. Reform
- 19. Pond resident
- 20. Guilt
- 22. Translate
- 24. Rested
- 25. Tar's hello
- 26. Bill at "Cheers"
- 29. Baby's pajamas
- 33. Steel mill residue
- 34. Prima donna
- 35. Auricle
- 36. Halloween word
- 38. Strict diet

**DOWN**

- 40. Touch on
- 42. Grandmother
- 43. Harsh
- 44. Father
- 46. Happiness
- 49. Common gull
- 50. Reach
- 53. Nonclerical
- 55. Thick cord
- 58. Revel noisily
- 60. Finance
- 62. Skate
- 63. Curdle
- 64. Shed tears
- 66. Increase
- 68. Female bird
- 69. Romanov title
- 70. Lettuce type
- 71. Small village
- 73. Rustic
- 77. Layers

**DOWN**

- 80. He's got the blues
- 82. Head sheik
- 83. "\_\_\_ Can Wait"
- 84. Rye fungus
- 85. Make a mad dash
- 86. Key in, as data
- 87. College administrator
- 88. "\_\_\_ Were Expendable"
- 1. Young salmon
- 2. Direction for Sinbad
- 3. Perambulate
- 4. Testify
- 5. Submissive
- 6. Stone or Bronze
- 7. Tear to pieces
- 8. Tribulation
- 9. Pore over
- 10. Bible weed

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**THINGS MY FORE-SISTERS SAW**  
 written & performed by Leslie McCurdy  
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# Headwaters Hospital resuming elective surgeries Feb. 22

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



Headwaters Health Care Centre (HHCC) will begin gradual resumption of elective and non-urgent surgeries and procedures as of Feb. 22.

The Ontario government announced the lifting of Directive 2, last Thursday (Feb. 10) as the province sees a continued steady decline in COVID-19 related hospitalizations and ICU admission.

The directive, a measure which paused all non-emergent surgeries and procedures in the province, was issued by the provincial government last month in response to

the dramatic increase in COVID-19 cases due to the Omicron variant.

“With encouraging trends in community transmission and our hospitalization and ICU admissions trending downwards we can now see that the Omicron peak is behind us,” said Dr. Kieran Moore, Ontario’s Chief Medical Officer of Health.

As part the move, hospitals will be allowed

to resume patient capacity up to 70 per cent of their 2019 or pre-pandemic volumes.

“This is positive news and means our health system is moving in a positive direction,” reads a public notice from HHCC president and CEO, Kim Delahunt; chief of staff, Dr. Peter Cino; chief of surgery, Dr. Grace Wang; and chief nursing executive, Anna-Marie Sutherland.

The local hospital said it will be ramping up clinical activities in a multi-phase approach to avoid overwhelming the health system.

Clinical activities that have already resumed include diagnostic imaging, cancer screening, and scheduled ambulatory care

clinics including diabetes education and the minor procedure room. Headwaters also noted the resumption of endoscopies as of Feb. 14.

“Your patience and understanding as we navigate our gradual resumption of services is greatly appreciated,” said the public notice. “We know that anytime a health appointment, procedure or surgery is delayed there are impacts, and we are working with the province to minimize any caused by the recent pause in service to the best of our abilities.”

A complete list of what is open and closed at Headwaters Hospital can be found on their websites at [www.headwatershealth.ca](http://www.headwatershealth.ca).

# Province enters next phase of opening, eliminating vaccine passports

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



Ontario has moved to the second phase of its reopening plan and plans to remove its proof of vaccine system on March 1

Premier Doug Ford announced the move, which occurred four days ahead of schedule, during a press conference on Monday (Feb. 14).

“Given how well Ontario has done in the Omicron wave, we are able to fast track our reopening plan,” said Ford in a press release. “This is great news and a sign of just how far we’ve come together in our fight against the virus. While we aren’t out of the woods just yet we are moving in the right direction.”

The move to the second step of the reopening plan means that as of today (Feb. 17) social gathering limits increase to 50 people indoors and to 100 people outdoors. Capac-

ity limits have been lifted for indoor public settings where proof of vaccination was required including restaurants, meeting and event spaces, cinemas, gyms, gaming establishments, and settings that chose to opt-in to proof of vaccination requirements.

Seating capacity of 50 per cent is allowed at sports arenas, concert venues, and theatres.

In higher-risk settings where proof of vaccination is required such as nightclubs, restaurants with dancing, bathhouses and sex clubs, the capacity limit is 25 per cent.

For indoor weddings, funerals or religious services, rites, or ceremonies capac-

ity limits have been removed if the location has opted in for proof of vaccination, while those that have not are limited to the number of people who can maintain two metres physical distance.

Grocery stores, pharmacies and retail stores are capped at the number of people who can maintain two metres of physical distance.

During the press conference on Monday (Feb. 14) Ford also announced the province will be lifting the proof of vaccination system for all settings at the start of next month.

“We’re able to take this step now because of each and every one of you, because of our nurses, doctors, hospital workers, because of every single person who volunteered in a vaccine clinic and every single person who played a part in this fight,” said Ford. “Let me be very clear we’re moving in this direction because it’s safe to do so.”

He stressed that the decision to remove the

proof of vaccination mandate is not because of the anti-vaccine mandate protests taking place across the province, but “despite” them, and added that the plan to move forward early was in place “long before the protests”.

Chief Medical Officer of Health Dr. Kieran Moore addressing the removal of the proof of vaccination system said the policy had “served its purpose”.

“I thank all the businesses and communities that have used it as well as all the citizen that have shown their QR codes and their passports, but in our estimation given where we are in the epidemic as of March 1, it will no longer be necessary,” he said.

Despite the early moves, the province says masking requirements will remain in place, and businesses and other settings have the choice to continue requiring proof of vaccination.

However, Ford did say a date will be set to lift masking requirements in the future.

# Six books at the local library to read this Black History Month

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

The Shelburne Library is celebrating Black History Month by honouring the works of black authors.

Here are six books Shelburne’s Librarians suggest checking out this month.

**Adults:**

**Washington Black by Esi Edugyan**

Winner of the 2018 Scotiabank Giller Prize, Washington Black follows the story

of an eleven-year-old field slave in Barbados, who finds himself chosen to live in the quarters of a new master – Christopher Wilde. Following the death of a man one night, George Washington “Wash” Black’s life is endangered and what follows is a flight around the coast of America.

“A triumphant story that takes a man from the depths, cruelty and turmoil of slavery to a life of dignity and meaning,” said Shelburne Library CEO, Rose Dotten. “Beautifully written and deeply moving in the way that leads

us to question, what really is freedom.”

**Shame on Me by Tessa McWatt**

Published in 2019, Tessa McWatt’s memoir Shame on Me: An Anatomy of Race and Belonging became a Bocas Prize winner for Non-Fiction in 2020, and a finalist for the Hilary Weston Writers’ Trust Prize.

“The exploration of her multiracial background brings the author from a child singled out at school, to her questioning the images of power and privilege, of denial and shade of skin and shapes of faces,” said Dotten. “Her investigation takes her part by part through the markers of racial identity. Sensitive and insightful it is a must read about the stereotypes of race.

**Young Adult:**

**This Book Is Anti-Racist by Tiffany Jewell**

A guided journal with more than 50 activities, This Book Is Anti-Racist, allows readers to gain a deeper understanding of their anti-racist self. Through each chapter the reader is guided through topics such as the history of racism, how one can disrupt racism, and how you can use your anti-racist lens and voice to move towards equity.

“This book is a concise tool one can use to assess the world and our own prejudices. This book is very visually appealing, and eloquently details the histories we weren’t taught in school and allows readers to really internalize the messages in each chapter,” said Jade Wyse, YA Librarian. “Tiffany Jackson is also the author of many thrilling YA fiction books.”

**Charming As A Verb by Ben Philippe**

From the award-winning author of The Field to North American Teenager comes the 2020 romantic comedy novel Charming as a Verb. Dubbed a perfect novel for fans of Jenny Han and Nicola Yoon, Charming as a Verb centres around first-generation Haitian, Halti, and his “intense” classmate and neighbour Corinne Troy.

“This book is laugh-out-loud funny, featuring a first-generation Haitian, Halti, who can

charm just about anyone using one of his situation-appropriate smiles; a skill that comes in hand for his (sort of) shady dog walking business. Halti makes a decision that will not only impact his future plans, but also has consequences for his love-interest and her family,” explains Wyse.

**Children:**

**Thank you, Omu! by Oge Mora**

Published in 2018, Thank you, Omu! is a debut work for author and illustrator Oge Mora. The picture book takes children through the story of Omu’s delicious stew, which everyone in the neighbourhood dreams of tasting, and brings to life the topics of sharing and community through its colourful illustration. An author’s note shares the deeper meaning and significance of the name “Omu” to author Mora.

“The art is beautiful and full of texture,” said Children’s Librarian, Brittany Hooker. “It makes you feel part of something big...a real sense of community.”

**Shhh! The Baby’s Asleep by Ja’Nay Brown-Wood**

Shhh! The Baby’s Asleep, you’d guess it means the baby is finally asleep. Focused on the noises that family members make from Mom to Dad, Grammy to Pop Pop and even the dog, Shhh! The Baby’s Asleep, introduces a narrator who knows how to get his baby sister asleep.

“This book shows the quirky and funny side of family life,” said Hooker. “Lovely cadences of rhythm in her language.”

As part of their Black History Month Celebration, the Shelburne Public Library has created a digital challenge on the Beanstack platform. The activities encourage participants to learn about the ways Black Canadians have shaped Canada’s history and identity through activism, storytelling, and art.

The Shelburne Public Library has many more books by Black authors that can be found on the Beanstack platform, which is downloadable from the app store or through the local library’s website.

## HOLIDAY INTERRUPTION FOR WASTE COLLECTION

Collections for the day of the holiday and the rest of the week will be shifted to one day later.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
February 13	February 14	February 15	February 16	February 17	February 18	February 19
February 20	<b>FAMILY DAY</b>	February 22	February 23	February 24	February 25	February 26
February 27	February 28	March 1	March 2	March 3	March 4	March 5

Monday ZONE Tuesday ZONE Wednesday ZONE Thursday ZONE Interruption no collections

### Happy Family Day!

Due to the holiday on Monday, February 21<sup>st</sup>, Garbage, Blue Boxes and Green Bins will be collected a day later that week. Regular collection will resume the following week.

**dufferinwaste**  
519.941.2816 ext. 2620  
[dufferincounty.ca/waste](http://dufferincounty.ca/waste)  
[dufferinwaste@dufferincounty.ca](mailto:dufferinwaste@dufferincounty.ca)



## DON'T TOSS IT...



## TAKE IT BACK

Many local organizations are taking things like books, medications, sports equipment, and grocery bags back for reuse, recycling or proper disposal. For a full listing, download the **Take it Back Directory\*** by visiting [dufferincounty.ca/waste](http://dufferincounty.ca/waste).

\*See Resources > Publications & Newsletters on the website.



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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**CHOICES DONATION:** Fireground apparel founders Jason Farmer (top left) and his wife Crystal Farmer (top right) drop off a donation of over \$26,000 to Choices Youth Shelter volunteer Alex Folger (bottom left), and Choices board member Brian Scott (bottom right) last Thursday (Feb. 10). The donation to Choices Youth Shelter was made on behalf of Fireground Apparel, which is a clothing company for firefighters.





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# TOWN PAGE

203 MAIN STREET EAST, SHELBURNE ON L9V 3K7 | PHONE: 519-925-2600 | FAX: 519-925-6134 | WWW.SHELBURNE.CA

### COUNCIL 2022 DATES

February 28 • 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

**Ontario**

## Hop on the GO-VAXX bus for your COVID-19 vaccine

1st, 2nd, boosters and paediatric Pfizer vaccines available

### Book Your Appointment

Starting Feb. 28 at 8:00 AM

@ <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/book-vaccine> or by calling the Provincial Vaccine center at 1-833-943-3900

Mention GO-VAXX at Town of Shelburne

**GO GREEN GO PAPERLESS**  
@shelburne.ca/GoGreen\_ebill

**No winter overnight parking**  
Nov. 15 – April 15

### 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

### 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.

## Family Day Outdoor Skate

with Mayor & Council

### Hyland Skating Track at Natasha Paterson Memorial Park

February 21 | 1:00pm to 2:00 pm

We will be accepting non perishable food donations for the Shepherd's Cupboard Foodbank

### "DON'T THROW SNOW ON THE ROAD – ITS ILLEGAL!"

Pushing snow across roads and streets is not only a safety hazard; it is also against the law. Pile all snow from your driveway and sidewalks on your property, not on the road. Section 181 of the Highway Traffic Act prohibits the depositing of snow and ice on a roadway without written permission from the Ministry or other road authority. Failure to comply with the Highway Traffic Act may result in a fine being issued to the property owner or contractor. Visit our Winter Maintenance Page for more information - <https://www.shelburne.ca/en/town-hall/winter-maintenance.aspx>.

## BHM

### Black History Month

Images by Abel Kayon, Waka Gabriel

# VOTE

Municipal Election October 24, 2022

### THE 2022 MUNICIPAL ELECTION WILL OFFER TELEPHONE AND INTERNET VOTING.

### ELECTION DAY IS MONDAY OCTOBER 24, 2022.

Vote anywhere, anytime. Electors will be able to vote remotely using their own devices in the comfort of their home. Advantages include less travel, removing time constraints, and improved accessibility for persons with disabilities or people who are ill or away from home. The voting period for electors in the Town of Shelburne will be Tuesday, October 11, 2022, to Monday, October 24, 2022, at 8:00pm. Nomination Day has moved to August 19, 2022, for the 2022 Municipal Election. Nominations open May 1, 2022. As a reminder, nominations must be endorsed by 25 persons that are eligible to vote in the Town of Shelburne.

#### Am I on the voters' list?

If you are an Ontario resident over the age of 18, you should confirm that you're on the voters' list. Verify that your information is correct and if necessary, change your school support for electoral purposes or add names to your property address. Updating this information will help ensure that municipal voters' lists are accurate and up to date in preparation for the 2022 municipal and school board elections. Click on this link to inquire further <https://voterlookup.ca/home.aspx> For more information and updates please visit the Town's website <https://www.shelburne.ca/en/town-hall/election-information.aspx>

Every second counts in an emergency.

Image by Madsci from Getty Images

### TOILET TIPS TO KEEP OUR SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT SAFE:

- Do not pour paint, pesticides, medicine and chemicals down your drain.
- Household cleaners and laundry detergents low in phosphates are encouraged.
- Wipes, even if they are flushable, are a serious hazard for our treatment facility systems. They are made of synthetic material that will not breakdown in water.
- Only flush the three "P" s.
- Dispose of cooking oils and grease through the Green Bin.
- Refrain from using a garburator, use the Green Bin instead.

Thank you !!  
Sewer Department, Town of Shelburne

### HEY NEIGHBOUR, DID YOU KNOW.....

The Town of Shelburne offers three (3) options for pre-authorized payment plan to property owners as an option to pay Water/Wastewater Utility bills.

1. DUE DATE (Bi-monthly) (every two months when the bill is due)
2. MONTHLY BUDGET PLAN (12 monthly estimated payments)
3. PRE-APPROVED PAYMENT PLAN (to handle arrears on your account)

Please see [www.shelburne.ca](http://www.shelburne.ca) for more details. Questions may be directed to [water@shelburne.ca](mailto:water@shelburne.ca) or by contacting Town Hall 519-925-2600 x 231

## YIELD TO FLASHING GREEN LIGHT



**FIREFIGHTER RESPONSE TO EMERGENCY**

### NOTES FROM THE WATER & SEWER DEPARTMENT

With the cold weather approaching please remember to keep your Water Meter warm! To protect your meter and pipes, ensure that they are kept warm; they should be insulated or located in areas that are kept warm. Keep garage doors closed to ensure pipes located there are kept warm; even a cracked garage door can allow entry of enough cold air to freeze pipes and meters.





# Hockley

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PAULA BROWN PHOTO

**MURPHY'S PINNACLE LOOKOUT HIKERS:** Guelph residents Julie Hurren (left) and Adrienne Crowder (right) braved the freezing temperatures over the weekend as they hiked the Boyne Valley Provincial Park trail and see the views from Murphy's Pinnacle Lookout, named the number one lookout in Ontario based on Google Maps reviews.

## Murphy's Pinnacle Lookout rated best lookout point in Ontario: Google Maps

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

Murphy's Pinnacle Lookout, a well-known scenic spot in northern Dufferin County, has been listed the top lookout point in Ontario based on Google Maps reviews.

"We live here and we think it's special, but when you have something at your back door, you sometimes take it for granted for how special it is," said Mulmur Mayor, Janet Horner. "Certainly, with the pandemic we've found that more and more people have discovered Murphy's Pinnacle as a special place; finding them lining our side roads, taking their families and pets down the trail."

Part of the Bruce Trail network and located within the Boyne Valley Provincial Park, Murphy's Pinnacle Lookout gives view to the rolling hills and countryside of Mulmur. The pinnacle is a conical hill deposited by meltwater during the last ice age. To see the views of Murphy's Pinnacle Lookout hikers can take a short 1.6-kilometre hike to the

top or take one of the longer trail routes which include a stop at the scenic spot.

Adrienne Crowder and Julie Hurren, both residents of Guelph, braved the cold weather this past weekend to hike the Boyne Valley trail and spoke with the Free Press about Murphy's Pinnacle Lookout.

"I've been in Boyne Valley for a few hikes before and love it. It's one of my favourite local hikes because it's beautiful and the lookout is just one piece," said Crowder.

A first-time hiker in the local provincial park, Hurren said, "It's a nice hidden gem."

The duo also noted the variety of views along the trail on the way up to the pinnacle speaking of the hardwood forests, open farmland, and ravines.

"There's a huge range of scenery and it's very close to towns and cities, so [it's] very convenient," said Hurren.

Boyne Valley Provincial Park trails and Murphy's Pinnacle Lookout are best used and frequented from April to October, but are accessible all year round.

## Ontario begins easing visitor restrictions for long-term care homes

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

Ontario has begun to ease visiting restrictions at long-term care homes as public health indicators for COVID-19 continue to trend downward.

As of Feb. 7, the number of designated caregivers per residents has increased from two to four, while still being subject to a limit of two per resident at a time. Residents who have had at least three doses of a COVID-19 vaccine are also able to resume social day trips.

In late December, the provincial government implemented additional restrictions to long-term care homes, including a pause on general visits to homes, in response to the rising number of COVID-19 due to the Omicron variant.

Effective Feb. 21, general visits from individuals five years and older who have had at least two doses of a COVID-19 vaccine will be allowed to resume. Other restrictions eased including increasing the number of visitors at a time to three per resident, allowing for social day trips regardless of vaccinations status, and overnight social absences for residents with three vaccine doses.

According to the province, the return of general visitors to homes will also mean the resumption of adult day programs, entertainers, and external personal care services.

Social group activities will also be allowed, but with limits up to 10 individuals.

Brenda Wagner, administrator at Dufferin Oaks said with the easing of mandates, the local long-term care home is anticipating the return of general visitors.

"Dufferin Oaks has been fortunate to be greatly supported by our group of essential caregivers, who make up the majority of our daily visitors. Since there was minimal restriction imposed on essential caregivers, our residents continued to receive ongoing visits from their loved one. We look forward to welcoming general visitors back as soon as we are able, to further support the emotional well being of our residents" wrote Wagner in an email.

The final phase in easing restrictions at long-term care homes will occur on March 14, with general visits opening to those under five years old, visitor limits at a time rising to four, and social overnight absences regardless of vaccination status.

## Council proclaims Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Day on Valentines Day

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

Shelburne Town Council began their Valentines Day (Feb. 14) meeting with a focus on the heart.

Shelburne Mayor Wade Mills, on behalf of Town Council proclaimed Feb. 14 to be Congenital Heart Defect (CHD) Awareness Day in the community during their meeting this past Monday.

In Ontario, one in 70 newborns are born with a type of congenital heart defect making it the number one cause of death from a birth defect. There are 35 known types of congenital heart defects, and many newborns will undergo unimaginable interventions in the first few hours of their life, due to CHD.

In attendance online for the proclamation



was Shelburne residents Penny Clarkson and Tyson Kottelenberg, both who have a type of congenital heart defect.

Mayor Mills made note to the fact that council was able to proclaim the awareness day on Valentines Day, before thanking the two local youth for being in attendance each year.

"It's kind of special this year," he said. "Thank you both for being such strong advocates for CHD and making sure that the community always remembers it on Feb. 14 each year. We look forward to seeing you back here next year."



# Ontario is getting stronger

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# SHELBURNE SPORTS

## Muskies trail 3-0 in series with Ripley Wolves

Written By Brian Lockhart

The Shelburne Senior Muskies are one game away from elimination in their first-round playoff series with the Ripley Wolves.

The WOOA Senior League went directly into playoff mode when they returned to play after the provincial shut-down restricted sports in the province.

The month-long break meant that the regular season was behind schedule so the League made the decision to go directly into playoffs rather than try to extend the season by playing the missing games.

As a result of the delay, some teams had played more games than others. To compensate for this, the line-up for the playoffs was determined by winning percentage, not the usual standings that would have been in place if all teams completed the same number of games.

As the eighth-place team, the Muskies squeezed into the AA playoffs and were up against the first place Ripley Wolves.

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

The teams were back at it the following night when they took to the ice at the Cen-

tre Dufferin Recreation Complex (CDRC) in Shelburne.

The Muskies were down by two games when Ripley left the ice with a 6-2 win.

Game three was scheduled to be in Ripley but it was postponed by the Wolves request – presumably due to weather.

The teams returned to Shelburne for a third game on Saturday, February 12, at the CDRC.

The Muskies took a 1-0 lead in the first period, but by the end of the third, the Wolves were leading and left the ice with a 5-3 win.

The Muskies must win to keep the series alive. One more loss means the season is over.

In other AA championships series, the Minto 81's, are leading the Clinton Radars 1-2.

The Seaforth Centenaires are leading the Durham Thundercats 3-1.

The Tavistock Royals were leading the Saugeen Shores Winterhawks 2-1 as of Saturday night.

Game four of the Muskies / Wolves series will get underway this Friday, February 18, in Ripley.

If the Muskies can win and keep the series alive, game five will be in Shelburne on Saturday, February 19.

That game is scheduled for 8:00 p.m.



BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

**PUCK BATTLE:** The Shelburne Senior Muskies host the Ripley Wolves for game three of their playoff series at the Centre Dufferin Recreation Complex on Saturday, February 12. The Muskies took a 5-3 loss and now are one game away from elimination in the series.

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Photo Credit: Anthony Oragunye

## PJHL will move to tournament style championship for 2022

Written By Brian Lockhart

The Provincial Junior Hockey League has announced it will be turning to a tournament style championship for 2022 instead of the usual playoff format.

The PJHL's season wraps up with the provincial Schmalz Cup every year where the two Junior C teams still standing meet for a seven game final series to determine the provincial championship.

In the Carruthers Division the season was extended so each team would complete 30 games before heading into the playoffs. Teams would be seeded based on the final standings after those 30 games.

In a normal season, Divisions would play-off to determine a division champion.

Those teams would then meet other division winners to determine a conference champion.

The conference champions would then play to determine which teams would go to the Schmalz Cup.

This year, because of the regular season being extended into March, it was decided to create the tournament style play to avoid

the Schmalz Cup being played too late in the year when ice may not even be available.

PJHL Commissioner, Terrence Whiteside confirmed that the change is for the 2022 season only, and that 'any permanent change will require approval of the membership.'

The final tournament will pit four conference champions in a round-robin format to determine rankings for the semi-finals.

Semi-finals will be played on May 14.

The championship final game will be played on Sunday, May 15.

All games in the final tournament will be played at the University of Guelph.

After the recent 'pause' in hockey across the province due to government restrictions, the PJHL had to make a decision to either extend the regular season or pick up where it left off and finish with a short season.

In the Carruthers Division of the PJHL, the Stayner Siskins are in first place. They are followed by the Alliston Hornets in second, the Schomberg Cougars in third place, and the Orillia Terriers in fourth place.

## Melancthon councillor resigns

The CAO/Clerk of the Corporation of the Township of Melancthon received written notification on February 15, 2022 from Councillor Wayne Hannon of his resignation from Council, effective immediately.

"Although it was my intention to remain on council until November 30, 2022, a recent opportunity has come forward and I am pursuing it. Hours will conflict with my council and committee obligations and, therefore, I resign effective immediately," said Hannon in his resignation letter.

"To the people who have supported me and given encouragement I would like to say thank you. To Deputy-Mayor Besley,

you only chaired one meeting of council but it was the best meeting I have had the pleasure of attending. To councillors Mercer and McLean, it was a pleasure working with you and I thank you for your commitment to Melancthon and its residents."

The Township of Melancthon said in a recent press release that it wishes to thank Mr. Hannon for his service and dedication to the Township and to the many Boards and Committees he has served on.

Pursuant to the Municipal Act, Council will declare the seat vacant at the next regular meeting of Council.

## Local SPCA fundraising for 10th Annual National Cupcake Day

Written By Paula Brown  
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Ontario SPCA Orangeville & District Animal Centre is inviting the community to help "bake" a difference for animals in need this February, with the 10th annual National Cupcake Day fundraiser on Feb. 28.

"Is there anything sweeter than a day devoted to eating cupcakes and raising funds to help animals in need," said Dawn Lyons, manager for Ontario SPCA Orangeville & District Animal Centre. "This is the 10th anniversary of National Cupcake Day and we're challenging everyone who cares about animals to get involved in this delicious fundraising event."

Organized by the Ontario SPCA in support of participating SPCAs, humane societies and rescue groups across Canada, National Cupcake Day has been held annually since 2012, and has raised over \$4.1 million to date. Locally the fundraiser has raised over \$55,000 in ten years for animals in need.

Rather than hosting an in-person Cupcake Day party, the Ontario SPCA is asking people to pre-heat their ovens, mix up some

icing, and take part in the National Cupcake Day Decorating Contest presented by Robin Hood and Milk-Bone. Participants can take part in the event by registering, submitting a photo of their cupcake creation for the chance to win prizes, and having family/friends support them by voting and donating to the online fundraiser.

This year the Ontario SPCA is looking to raise \$100,000 for animals in need, and at the time of print has already raised over \$45,000 of their goal, according to their website.

Locally, the Orangeville & District SPCA is hoping to raise \$3,500 this year.

"This National Cupcake Day fundraiser is huge for the Orangeville SPCA," explained Lyons. "It provides much needed funds to help animals with the cost of care."

Funds raised through National Cupcake Day will remain local and will go towards the cost of care for the animals including spays and neuters, vaccinations and their entire stay with the Orangeville & District SPCA.

National Cupcake Day will take place on Feb. 28. To register to participate in the fundraising event visit [www.nationalcupcakeday.ca](http://www.nationalcupcakeday.ca).

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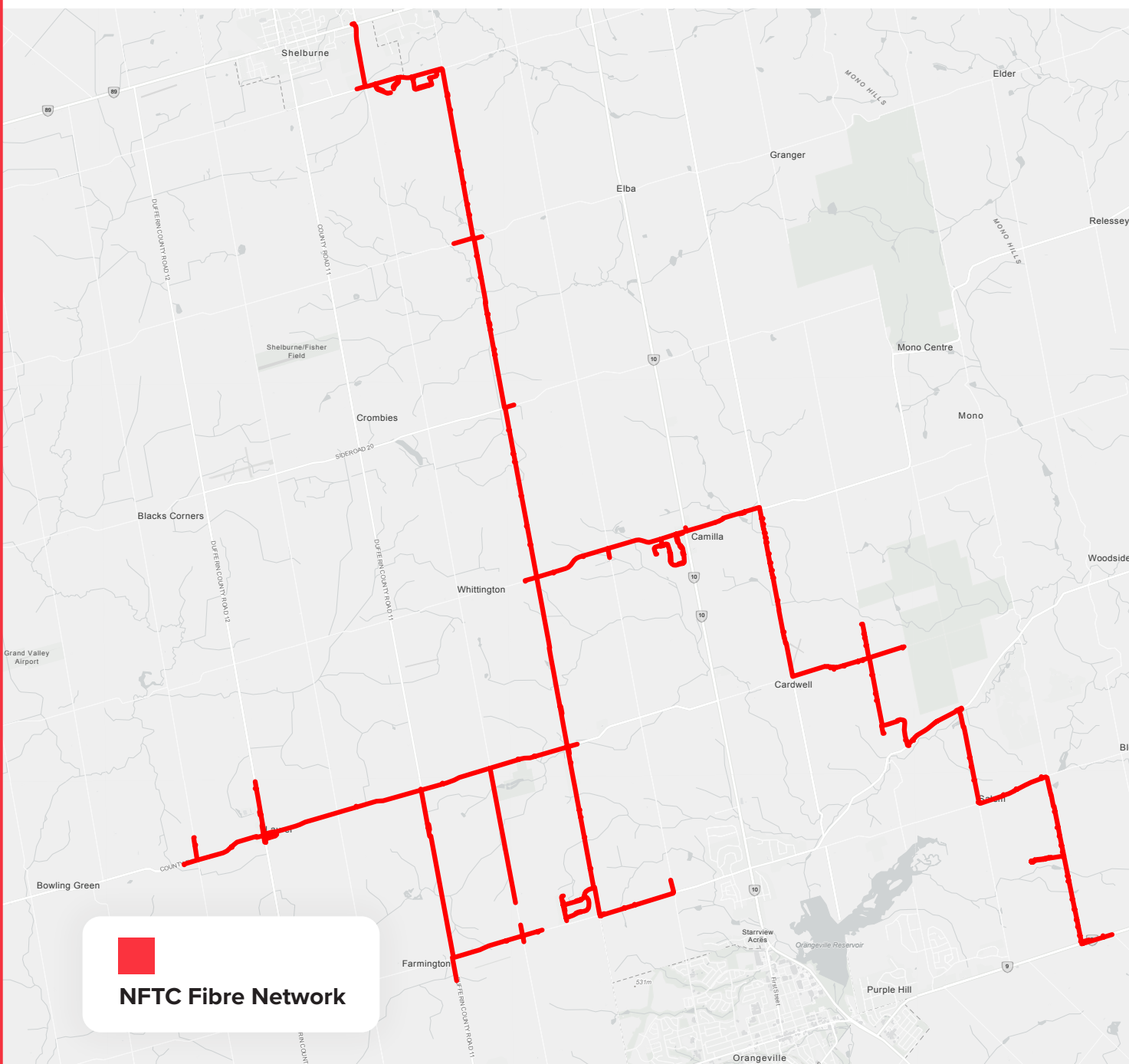
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 Kids & Us Community Childcare and Family Education Centres  
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# Non-profit Appreciation Week celebrates 150+ non-profits in Dufferin County

Non-profit Appreciation Week kicked off Feb. 14 in Dufferin County and across Ontario. It's a time to show our love and say "thank you" for everything that charities and non-profit organizations do to enrich our quality of life.

More than 150 non-profit organizations serve the people of Dufferin County. Their programs span the spectrum of community need and opportunities. They range from food banks, shelters and mental health to the arts, sports and recreation, faith, the environment, and more.

"Charities and non-profits are literally the heart of our community," said Michele Fisher, Executive Director, Dufferin Community Foundation. "It is almost impossible to imagine what our life would be like without the sheer scope of their helping programs, care and leadership."

**On the frontlines through the pandemic**

Non-profit Appreciation Week comes at a time when the sector has been particularly challenged to deliver services through pandemic lockdowns, restrictions and scarce resources.

In response, non-profit staff came through with creative, local solutions to help those most in need. Live virtual concerts, home delivery of food kits, porch visits, and online programs for mental health and physical fitness are just a sampling of the "pivots" that helped meet increased demand.

"A special thank you goes out to our non-profit partners who continue to provide much-needed services throughout the pandemic — often to our most vulnerable residents," said Anna McGregor, Director of Community Services for Dufferin County. "The non-profit sector plays a vital role in the human services landscape."

**Long hours, low pay, little recognition — and they love what they do**

More than 850,000 people work in the non-profit sector across Ontario. As a group, they are highly skilled, well-educated and driven by the mission of their work. They also tend to work long hours and for much less pay than their counterparts in other sectors, and receive little public recognition for their role.

This changed last December when the provincial government established Non-profit Appreciation Week as an annual celebration

the third week of February. Bill 9, the Private Members Bill to create the week, received unanimous, all-party support. Prior to this, the Bhayana Family Foundation, with partners United Way and the Ontario Non-profit Network, had advocated for sector-wide recognition. Hundreds of organizations, including some in Dufferin County, supported the effort.

Sylvia Jones, MPP Dufferin-Caledon said, "Non-profit Appreciation Week recognizes the vital contributions of the non-profit sector. Many initiatives are supported by non-profit organizations including: seniors' services, homeless shelters, crisis support lines, skills development, new immigrant support, mental health support, and specialized help for children, and family support services - to programs that promote arts and culture, environmental sustainability and recreation."

"Our government has also made changes to the police records check so that non-profit volunteers can get a free police record check and use it for multiple organizations. Thank you to all non-profit organizations in our community for making a difference in the lives of others," she added.

**Local businesses show their appreciation**

On Friday, February 18, 2022, some coffee shops and restaurants are offering a free treat to anyone who works in a non-profit organization. All that non-profit staff have to do is bring their business card or their e-mail signature to show where they work.

**Free coffee at:**

- Mochaberry Coffee, 177 Broadway, Orangeville
- French Press Bistro, 121 First St, Orangeville
- Superburger, 506269 Hwy 89, Primrose
- Sunrise Diner, 115 Main St E, Shelburne

**Free samosa at:**

- Curry Mantra, 520 Riddell Rd, Orangeville

"Thank you to every local business and organization that is helping to bring well-deserved recognition to our non-profits," said Dufferin Board of Trade (DBOT) Executive Director, Diana Morris. "They are a strong and resilient sector, working primarily behind the scenes to make our community better. We are pleased to see them getting recognized."

Said Glenna Banda, Executive Director, United Way Guelph Wellington Dufferin, "Not only do Ontario's non-profits provide vital

community services, they contribute 7.9% to the province's GDP. This is a week for us to celebrate their heart and compassion, their knowledge and expertise, and what they add to our community and our economy. We encourage the public to take time this week to say thank you, learn more about local non-profits or consider donating to their important work!"

**How to get involved**

Organizers for Non-profit Appreciation Week are urging people and businesses who want to show their love to post a video or story on social media using the hashtag #nonprofit-awarenessweek. It can be a thank you to the sector, a personal story about being helped, a shout-out to an unsung hero, or why you support the non-profits that you do.

Headwaters Communities In Action (HCIA) has created a webpage with more information and profiles on some of our local non-profits at headwaterscommunities.org/nonprofitappreciation-week. Dufferin Community Foundation will be sharing the Non-profit Spotlights on social media every day this week.

"The business of caring and serving is hard work. In addition to the important and heart-warming stories you see through the services they deliver to the public, there is so much more to running a non-profit that you don't see - work that is often arduous, complex and unsung," said Jennifer Payne, Executive Director of HCIA. "With Non-profit Appreciation Week, they will be unsung no more! A big thank you for ALL that you do."

Elaine Capes, DC MOVES Coordinator, concurs: "The not-for-profit/charitable sector is finally getting due recognition for the critical role they play in creating individual, community and population wellbeing. I am grateful for this vital pillar providing collective, public and social benefit in our community. I am grateful for the many passion and compassion-driven people who work tirelessly and creatively to deliver their services. We are blessed. Thank you all."

Non-profit Appreciation Week organizing partners are: Headwaters Communities in Action, Dufferin Board of Trade, DC MOVES, United Way Guelph Wellington Dufferin, Dufferin Community Foundation, and Dufferin County in coordination with Sylvia Jones, MPP.

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## Housing prices in the region recently protested

Written By SAM ODROWSKI

An Orangeville man wearing a large sign reading "My/our children will never afford a home here" stood in front of Dufferin-Caledon MP Kyle Seeback's office in Orangeville for several hours on Monday (Feb. 14).

Shawn Crockatt (Jolicouer) braved the cold weather to share his message that housing prices have spun out of control, he told the Free Press \$800,000 for a starter home in this region isn't a realistic entry price for people looking to buy a home.

Seeback noted said he 100 per cent agrees and sympathizes with what Crockatt is unhappy about, and asked the Minister of Housing Ahmed Hussen during Question Period in Parliament earlier this week about the unaffordability crisis with real estate.

The response was that they've invested in affordable housing to help alleviate the crisis.

However, Seeback said this alone isn't going to fix the problem.

He they need solutions such as freeing up federal land for housing, converting federal buildings into condos or apartments, and banning foreign ownership of housing in Canada. He also suggested a vacancy tax for people who buy houses as an investment and leave them sitting empty, as well as cracking down on real estate being used for money laundering.

"There have been multiple studies and reports that have come out to show that there's a real problem in this country with money laundering and real estate investment," Seeback said. "This has been going on for years and the government has done nothing."

With respect to housing affordability, Seeback said he's met with many people in the riding over the issue.

"I will give you an example, a couple that has \$140,000 combined income, they can qualify for a \$700,000 mortgage, but the average home price in Caledon is \$1.3 million," he told the Citizen. "This is turning into a national crisis."

Housing prices in this area have gone up 21 per cent in the last year, and went up significantly the year prior, Seeback noted.

"I am deeply concerned my children will never be able to afford a house," he remarked.

Going forward he said there should be a meeting between federal, provincial, and municipal governments about how to increase the supply of housing, since there's a supply issue as well.

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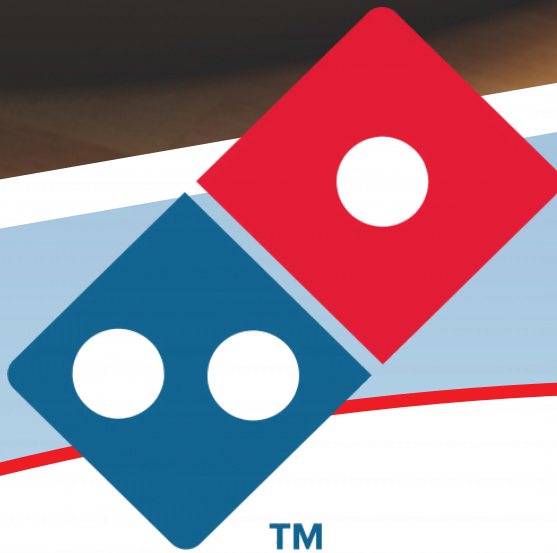
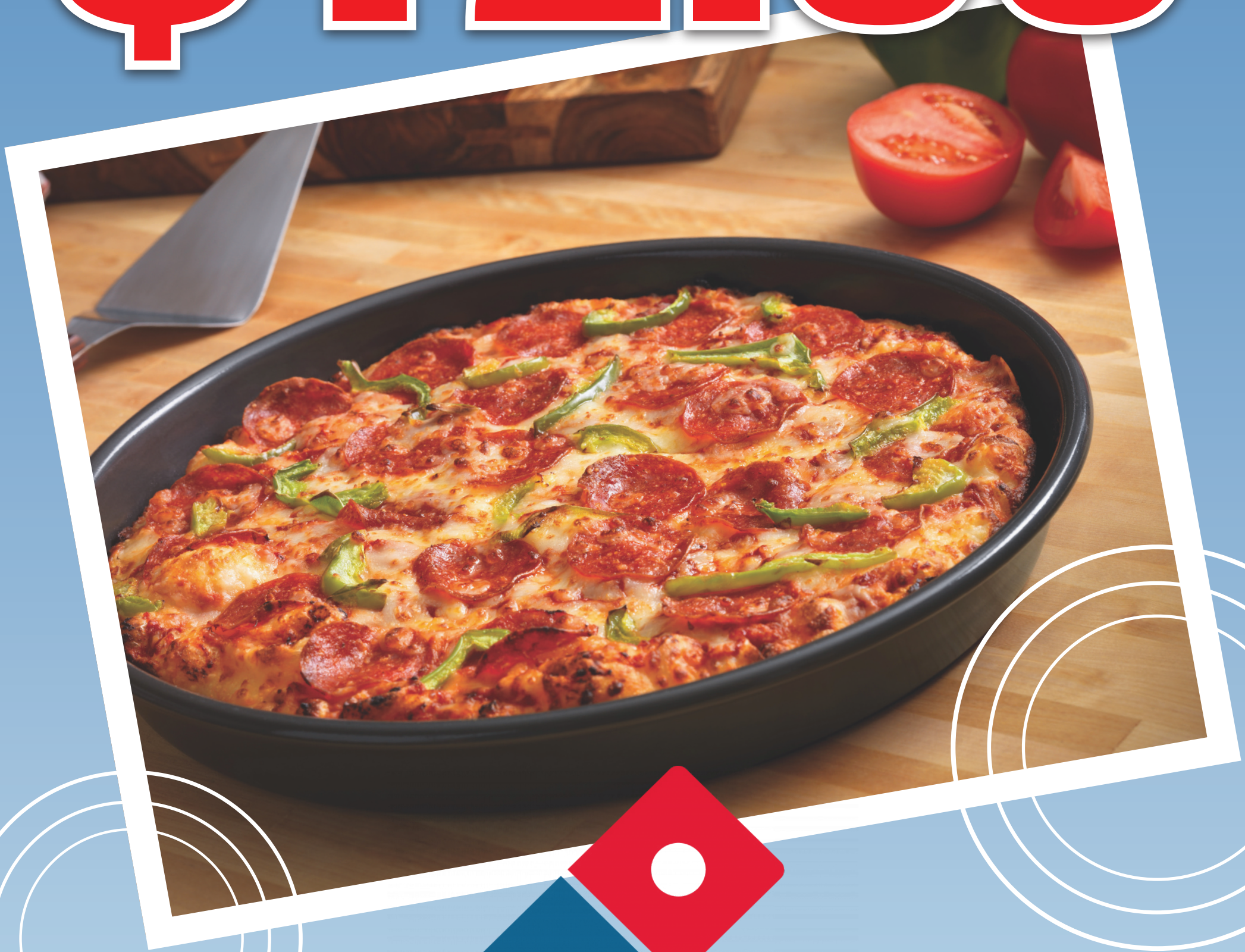
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