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PAULA BROWN PHOTO

SPREADING CHRISTMAS CHEER: Shelburne councillor Walter Benotto and Mayor Wade Mills indulged in some holiday spirit on Saturday (Dec.3) as they walked the Santa Claus Parade dressed as elves and handing out candy to local children. See more photos and a story on Page 3.

Family Transition Place holds vigil honouring victims of the École Polytechnique Massacre

Written By Paula Brown
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Family Transition Place (FTP) paid tribute to the 14 victims of the École Polytechnique Massacre on the 33rd anniversary of the shooting with a vigil calling for action against gender-based violence.

Staff, community leaders and residents gathered at the Family Transition Place building in Orangeville, located at 20 Bredin Parkway, on Tuesday (Dec. 6) afternoon for the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women.

"Some may wonder why we still acknowledge this day 33 years later, why don't we get over it and move on," said Lyn Allen, director of transitional programs and housing initiatives at FTP. "But we can't because every day we see images and headlines. We hear sexist jokes and lyrics; we see celebrities and sports figures acting in a way that perpetuates the idea that women are lesser than. We hear who being asked what they were wearing when they were sexually assaulted. We hear how radio hosts and famous film producers abused women while holding positions of power – we know about things closer to home and in our homes, which continue to put women at risk."

The École Polytechnique, also known as the Montreal Massacre, took place on Dec. 6,



PAULA BROWN PHOTO

HONOURING VICTIMS: Family Transition Place (FTP) marked the 33rd anniversary of the Ecole Polytechnique Massacre with a vigil on the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women (Dec. 6), honouring the 14 victims of the shooting and victims of gender-based violence.

1989 when a lone gunman separated the men from the women students inside the engineering school before opening fire; killing 14 women and injuring others.

The 14 women killed in the gender-based attack were Geneviève Bergeron, Hélène Colgan, Nathalie Croteau, Barbara Daigneault, Anne-Marie Edward, Maud Haviernick, Barbara Klucznik-Widajewicz, Maryse Laganière, Maryse Leclair, Anne-Marie Lemay, Sonia Pelletier, Michele Richard, Annie St-Arneault and Annie Turcotte.

During the memorial ceremony, FTP staff held signs with each of the 14 victims' names and read them aloud. Attendees were also given the time to speak about individual actions to combat gender-based violence.

"As we stand here today, we must reflect on the reality that 33 years later, gender-based violence is still a threat to women, to girls and to gender diverse people in Orangeville, Dufferin County, across the country, and around the world," said Orangeville Mayor Lisa Post.

Continued on Page 2

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Continued from FRONT

Family Transition Place holds vigil honouring victims of the École Polytechnique Massacre

"We all need to come together to work, because gender-based violence has no place in our community."

While the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women honours the École Polytechnique victims, it is also a day of action for gender-based violence; recognizing the women who have been killed through femicide.

Femicide is a term used to describe the action of a man murdering a woman because they're a woman, and who is often intimately well-known.

According to the Ontario Association of Interval and Transition Houses (OAITH), thus far in 2022 there have been 52 women and girls who have lost their lives to femicide. One of the victims was 65-year-old Shelburne resident Debra Neale, who was murdered on Jan. 8.

"It does both literally and figuratively hit closer to home. It reminds us that it's not out

there and that it's not other people, it's people our own community that we may have seen out in the community," said Allen. "It makes it all that much more critical that we don't separate and think of them as others, but that we recognize that they're in our community, and they need us. We need to keep doing everything we can to make sure that they're safe as they possibly can be."

A 44-year-old Orangeville man, wanted in connection to her murder, was later found dead in an abandoned vehicle in a secluded area near Hearst, Ont.

"Debra has been described as a devoted mother and grandmother, who would accept anyone as her own. Debra had a deep love for animals and music," reads the description on the OAITH femicide list.

The conclude the commemorative ceremony, attendees tied white ribbons to a tree outside of the FTP building as a commitment to end violence against women.



PAULA BROWN PHOTO

SENIOR WINNER: Andere Garabieta, a 15-year-old Centre Dufferin District High School exchange student, was awarded first place in the senior category of the Word of Mouth Monologue Competition. She also received the fan favourite award with over 800 votes for her performance as John from 'The Death of Me' by Norman Foster.

Winners announced in local monologue competition for youth

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

Streams Community Hub has announced the winners of their 2nd annual Word of Mouth Monologue Competition.

Twelve finalists, ranging from ages 8 to 17 years old, gathered at Grace Tipling Hall in Shelburne on Saturday (Nov. 26) to compete in a final performance of the Word of Mouth Monologue Competition in front of a panel of three judges.

"Word of Mouth gives young people an opportunity not only challenge themselves by putting themselves out there in a creative way, but to also give them an outlet to express themselves and to build courage, confidence, and self-esteem," said co-founder Andrew James. "Although it is called a competition, we share with our finalists the true competition is against yourself, and if you perform better than you did in your audition video, then you're already a winner."

The competition was divided into two age categories, 8-12 (junior) and 13-17 (senior), with the finalists performing a diverse work of monologues touching on a variety of topics including discrimination, neurodiversity, identity, bullying, grief, climate change and more.

Finalists for the Word of Mouth Monologue Competition were selected from a group of 22 contestants. Contestants were judged on a variety of criteria including introduction, characterization, movement, diction, projection, vocal variety, emotion, tempo, rhythm and focal point.

Nine-year-old Elizabeth Farkas placed first in the junior category with her performance of Marnie McPhee from 'The Remarkable Flight of Marnie McPhee' by Daniel Karasik.

"It was pretty extraordinary," said Farkas about her first-place win. "I really like acting and I thought it would be good to try. I'd say you should do it if you want to because it's really fun."

Centre Dufferin District High School (CDDHS), exchange student Andere Garabieta, 15, placed first in the senior category with her performance of John from 'The Death of Me' by Norman Foster.

"It's amazing and I'm very excited. I'm going back home to Spain tomorrow so this is the perfect goodbye to Canada," said Garabieta. "I've always loved acting and I dream of being an actress when I'm older."

Garabieta was also the recipient of the Fan Favourite award, receiving over 800



PAULA BROWN PHOTO

JUNIOR WINNER: Nine-year-old Elizabeth Farkas placed first in the junior category (ages 8-12) of the Word of Mouth Monologue Competition finale on Saturday (Nov. 26) at Grace Tipling Hall, for her performance of Marnie McPhee from 'The Remarkable Flight of Marnie McPhee' by Daniel Karasik.

votes on her audition submission.

Second place in the junior category was given to Callie Reed for her performance as Ojha from 'Sultans of the Streets, and second place for the senior category was given to Alexandria Fazekas for her performance of John from 'Selfie'.

First-place winners were awarded a \$1,000 grand prize, while second place was awarded \$500. The monetary prizes were sponsored by Crewson Insurance.

"Crewson Insurance has deep roots within the community, and we have always supported local children and youth. As soon as we found out that there was an arts and culture hub coming to Shelburne, we wanted to support it and we will continue to support it because the youth in this community are our future," said Jennifer Crewson, who presented the awards to the winners.

Streams Community Hub also revealed a new award called the Bravery Award, which recognizes the first individual to submit their audition for the Word of Mouth Monologue Competition.

Maya Abhimanu was the 2022 recipient of the Bravery Award.

Streams Community Hub will be sharing a public airing of the 2022 Word of Mouth Competition at a later date.

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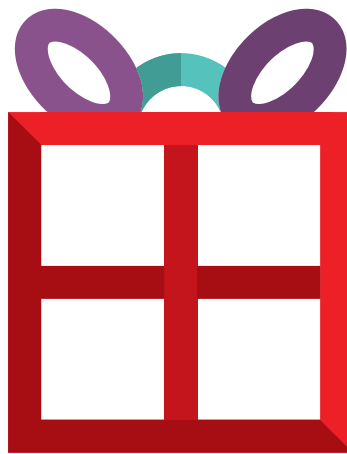
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PAULA BROWN PHOTOS

CHRISTMAS IS COMING: Santa and Mrs. Claus made a visit to the Shelburne community on Saturday (Dec. 3) to take part in the BIA's annual Santa Claus Parade.



FAMILY FUN: A local family braved the cold temperatures on Saturday (Dec. 3) evening as they waited to catch a glimpse of Santa Claus in the parade.

Shelburne Santa Claus parade spreads Christmas cheer

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

Shelburne families braved the frigid temperatures on Saturday (Dec. 3) evening as they lined the streets to catch a glimpse of the jolly man in a red and white suit in the annual BIA Santa Claus Parade.

"We're happy we're able to provide [the Santa Claus Parade] for the community," said Melissa Hooper, treasurer for the Shelburne BIA. "What feedback we have picked up was good and everything went off really well."

Starting from the Shelburne Agricultural

Community Centre, a total of nearly 30 floats decked out in the gingerbread theme were led by the Dufferin OPP and Shelburne Fire Department. The floats made their way down to Robert Street, passing in front of the long-term care homes and making a loop around Jelly Street, First Avenue and William Street.

Local resident, Trina Oldford attended the Shelburne Santa Claus Parade with her twin sister and watched as her daughter participated for the first year as part of Turn It Out Dance Studio.

"We look forward to it. It's Christmas so you have to do all these fun things to make memories," said Oldford. "I've been to a cou-

ple [parades] in the surrounding areas and I would say that the Shelburne one is at the top of my list. We enjoy it and for a small town it's well put together."

Scott Oakley shared that the 2022 Shelburne Santa Claus Parade would be the first for his seven-month-old son.

"We're out here enjoying the town and starting new traditions," said Oakley.

While adult attendees indulged in the social outing, for many of the children the big moment was catching a glimpse, a wave, or a hello from the guest of honour himself – Santa Claus.

Brothers Grayson and Oliver Swayze

shared their experience of the parade with the Free Press.

"I got to see Santa and all of the lights. There was a lot of cool trucks," said nine-year-old Grayson.

Noting that he'd seen all the "cool stuff", eight-year-old Oliver shared that his favourite part of the parade was seeing his friends.

The duo said their Christmas list to Santa Claus include Pokémon and a pony.

Another year down for the seasonal parade, the Shelburne BIA is now looking forward to next year's Christmas parade

"We look forward to hosting it again next year," said Hooper.

Humane Society holds holiday adoption campaign

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

The Ontario SPCA and Humane Society is trying to help all animals find their forever home this holiday season with a new pilot project that's part of their annual holiday adoption campaign.

The pilot project, called Adopt-it-Forward, looks to find loving homes for animals overlooked during adoption due to age or special needs, by giving donors the opportunity to pay the adoption fee for an animal.

"You can bring joy to animals in need this holiday season by making a donation to help give them the second chance they deserve,"

said Dawn Lyons, manager for the Ontario SPCA Orangeville & District Animal Centre. "As a registered charity, the Ontario SPCA depends on the generosity of donors to provide care and shelter to animals in need as they wait for a family to adopt them."

The new adoption pilot project is part of the Ontario SPCA's iAdopt for the Holidays campaign, which looks to find loving homes for as many animals as possible at Ontario SPCA animal centres across the province during the holiday season.

With many people enjoying time off during the holidays and being home together as a family, the SPCA said it is the perfect time to welcome an animal into your life.

According to the Ontario SPCA, last year

close to 600 animals from across the province found loving homes during the iAdopt for the Holidays campaign.

Individuals who have already adopted an animal can help by promoting the benefits of adoption by entering Ontario's Cutest Adopted Animal Photo Contest. Participants will be eligible to win weekly prizes, as well as a grand prize awarded to the pet with the most votes. Pet photos can be entered and voted on at www.iadopt.ca.

The Ontario SPCA and Humane Society's, iAdopt for the Holidays campaign will run until Dec.25.

To change an animal's life during the iAdopt for the Holidays campaign, visit www.iadopt.ca.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

HELPING ANIMALS: Ontario SPCA and Humane Society pilot project, called Adopt-it-Forward is helping animals overlooked during adoption find a loving home.







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You paid how much?

The country, and possibly the world needs a financial adjustment to get back on track.

It's no wonder so many people are still living 'at home' these days. Even with a decent-paying job, the prospect of going out on your own must be terrifying when you do the math.

Someone posted on my Facebook feed a few days ago, looking for a 1 bedroom apartment. They sounded a little desperate. They had a new job in a local factory, which pays minimum wage, even though the company advertises they are hiring with a big !!!!, like \$15 per hour and 'benefits' should make you excited at being employed.

A few people responded, saying they knew of a couple of places that were available. I took a look at the listing offered.

A typical one-bedroom basement apartment was renting for \$1,800 per month. That's \$21,600 per year.

Unless you are making really big bucks, you're not going to have much left after paying your rent.

Even then, if you are making enough money to afford it, is a basement apartment really your desired place to live long-term?

It wasn't that long ago that making \$20 per

hour was a pretty good wage. It would get you by after paying rent or a mortgage, pay for your car, food, some fun nights out and maybe a vacation.

That \$20, which is still a pretty typical wage, has been whittled down to practically nothing.

At \$20 per hour, if you are paid for a full 40 week, and many places deduct lunch and only pay you 37.5 hours, you will make \$800 per week. That's \$41,600.

Deduct between \$12,000 and \$13,000 for taxes and other deductions, and your actual take home pay is now in the high \$20,000s.

If you have a \$1,800 apartment, you are spending more than 50 per cent of your gross income just on a place to live. You're going to be left with maybe \$8,000 to afford a car – to get you to that \$20 per hour job, insurance, clothe yourself, and if you're lucky, buy some groceries so you can eat.

Even if you happen to have a partner who works, you're still not living large, by any means. Throw some kids into the mix, yes that happens, people still have children, and life can become pretty difficult.

On top of all this, trying to save money must be incredibly difficult. Many younger people have already been resigned to the fact that

they will never be able to afford a home.

Even if you are luckier and making what is now the average wage in Canada - \$28.38, that only comes out to \$59,800 for a 40 hour week. Factor in the same expenses and you still aren't going to spend a lot of money on free-wheeling activities, if you're the breadwinner.

The 1950s have been regarded by many as a golden age when even a minimum-wage job could easily provide for a family. It provided a house, meals, clothes, a car, a yearly vacation, and pretty much everything you needed – and it was all accomplished, usually, on one salary.

After all, Ward Cleaver provided nicely for the Beaver and Wally, and all June had to do was look nice every day.

The difference between then and now is consumerism. While you may have been able to afford a car in the 50s, that car came with the basics. Engine, seats, clutch, headlights, and windshield wipers – you were ready to see the country in your Chevrolet.

A typical house at the time was much smaller. You didn't have a big-screen TV or satellite, and you didn't have an automatic washer and dryer.

A modern automobile costs more because

there are a lot more features like air conditioning, onboard DVD, navigation systems, and the list goes on.

The reality is, the 1950's lifestyle would be considered a low standard of living in current times.

That being said, when it comes to basics - having a place to live - things are out of wack.

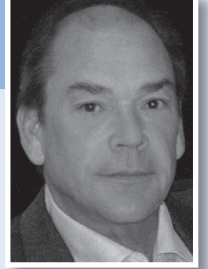
My parents, and most of their friends, bought a brand new house with a big lot when they were in their mid-twenties, at a price that was around twice my father's annual income, and a mortgage that was signed and locked in for 25 years. That meant their mortgage payments, typical of the time, were easily affordable for just about everyone.

Currently, with a typical salary, that ratio of salary to housing costs is now around 20 times, making it unattainable for many people.

The provincial government's 'million houses to be built' plan won't bring housing prices down. No developer is going to sell for less than what the current market will bear, so don't expect 'affordable housing' any time soon.

The entire economic system needs an overhaul.

BRIAN LOCKHART FROM THE SECOND ROW



China and Iran: tyrants in retreat

Retreat is one of the most difficult military operations, for two reasons. One, there is generally no plan for retreat, and there are lots of moving parts that can go wrong. Two, your opponent will be growing in confidence and ambition as you pull back and reveal your weakness.

Exactly the same logic applies to political retreats. One week ago, China's President Xi Jinping had absolutely no intention of abandoning his fanatical but futile goal of "eliminating" Covid-19, and Iran's Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, was still determined to suppress the anti-hijab protests at all costs (448 deaths so far).

Both countries have been ruled by self-selecting groups of ideologically driven men (they're always men) for a long time, and in both cases they have wound up with a single individual becoming de facto dictator-for-life. They are tyrants, in the technical, not-necessarily-pejorative sense of the word.

'Absolute' power of the sort held by Xi and Khamenei is always a bit of a con game: no one man can compel the obedience of millions of others by sheer physical force. Others must help him to create a facade of omnipotence and invincibility, and they ultimately have a say in how to preserve it.

Even the millions have a say, in the sense that they must tacitly consent to be ruled, if only because they fear the consequences

of defying the tyranny. If ever they run out of patience and lose that fear, the whole ramshackle edifice of power begins to shake. At that point, the enablers around the tyrant may start to panic.

They may first advocate a violent 'crack-down' on the protesting public: Ayatollah Khamenei's enforcers have been trying that for months, to no avail. Or, depending on how they assess the public mood, they may go straight to recommending major concessions to the popular demands.

Evidently, Xi or his advisers were spooked by some people chanting 'Down with Xi Jinping' and 'Down with the Communist Party' in the crowds that were protesting against Covid restrictions. As a result, practically all the Covid controls in place over the past three years have been abolished in less than a week.

This is not an orderly retreat to a prepared position. It is panic flight, and the consequences for the regime may be grave. As Dr Siddharth Sridhar, a clinical virologist at the University of Hong Kong, told the BBC: "A big mistake right now would be to say Omicron is harmless, now it's time to open up." But that's exactly what the regime is doing.

It's high time to end the incessant lockdowns in China, but the population is only partly vaccinated, with under-performing Chinese-made vaccines that have not been tested at all against the omicron variants of the Covid-19

virus. To end all controls in mid-winter, with the mass travel of Chinese New Year coming up next month, is just asking for it.

'It' is a wave of Covid infections that Bloomberg recently estimated could lead to 5.8 million cases requiring intensive care. That's fifteen cases for every ICU bed in China country, so Covid deaths could reach 1.5 million, according to an article in 'Nature Medicine' earlier this year.

There was a right way to do this. First, import more effective mRNA vaccines and spend six months inoculating everybody up to at least two doses, while eliminating only the silliest restrictions on public movement. Then gradually remove the rest over another twelve months, to avoid mass deaths due to an overwhelmed health system.

That is what a well-managed retreat from an untenable position would look like. This is the polar opposite, and we'll be lucky if Xi doesn't embark on some rash military adventure to distract public opinion from his deteriorating domestic position.

Whereas the Iranian regime, despite all the violence, is showing a certain tactical skill in retreating from its own untenable position.

The current protests began with a young woman being beaten to death by the 'morality police' for wearing her obligatory hijab (headscarf) too loosely. Many women in the cities are now not wearing hijab at all, and getting away with it – and last week saw a (perhaps deliberately confusing) announcement that the morality police have been "suspended".

This looks like managed retreat, even if the concession is untrue or only temporary. The Iranian regime has long experience in dealing with these waves of protest, and it has learned how to play the long game.

It could actually lose this time – the protests have lasted far longer than any previous ones – but you can at least discern a strategy behind the Islamic regime's actions. In China, not so much.

GWYNNE DYER OUR WORLD TODAY



Our Readers Write

Trudeau's spending

This letter is about and to a naive and disrespectful Liberal Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. This man should never be a leader.

On the day before the first Indigenous Day in this country he flew away on a holiday, a mistake he claims "No Mistake".

Then on the day before Memorial Day he flew to another country. How disrespectful can he be? I guess like father, like son.

On this occasion he donated millions of

taxpayers' dollars for some pie in the sky idea instead of using our money at home to help our veterans with mental health and health and other services they need.

Remember taxpayers this is your money. Not Trudeau's to spend how he pleases. Let's hold him accountable.

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Local man charged with possession of child pornography

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

Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) have arrested and charged a 28-year-old Shelburne resident following an online child sexual assault investigation.

Members of the OPP Child Sexual Exploitation Unit (CSEU), Dufferin County detachment and Digital Forensic Investigators executed a search warrant at a Shelburne residence on Nov. 30, where multiple electronic devices were seized for analysis.

As a result of the investigation, a local resident was arrested and charged with possession of child pornography.

The accused has appeared in a bail hearing and was released on numerous conditions.

Parents are reminded to take a proactive approach to help protect their children from online sexual exploitation by speaking with their children about internet safety. Parents and anyone interested in helping protect children can find resources to assist them by visiting www.cybertip.ca.

It is also recommended that individuals go

to www.protectchildren.ca and download the “Child Sexual Abuse – It Is Your Business” brochure from the Canadian Center for Child Protection as an important first step that could save a child.

Police are asking anyone who may have

information regarding this investigation or have information regarding Internet child exploitation to contact the OPP at 1-888-310-1122. Those who would like to remain anonymous can contact Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS) or at ontariocrimestoppers.com.

Watch out for ‘porch pirates’ through the holiday season

Dufferin OPP are reminding online shoppers to protect themselves this holiday season. There’s no doubt online shopping makes finding that perfect gift easier, but it’s also made it easier for thieves to steal your purchases right from your doorstep.

The good news is that you don’t have to be a victim if you follow a few simple steps aimed at sending the porch pirate away empty-handed.

- Request a signature on delivery.
- Ship the package to a trusted neighbour or relative who will be home.
- Arranged to have packages delivered to your workplace - if able
- Track your delivery online so you know when they’re slated to arrive and plan to be home when the package is delivered.
- Install video cameras and post signage to indicate surveillance is in effect.

• Request the package be left out of sight at a rear or side door.

• Choose in-store or curbside pickup.

• Shop locally, helping retailers in your area

If packages are stolen from your home, please be sure to report the incident to your local police and the company that delivered your purchase. Reporting the crime gives police valuable information about potential theft trends in your area. If investigators know there’s a problem, police can dedicate resources to problem areas.

To contact your local OPP detachment, call 1-888-310-1122 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477).



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David Neales, Artistic Director

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Thanks for shopping local! ♥

X CROSSWORD

PUZZLE 464

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14		
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ACROSS

- Brush's kin
- On the ____ (in flight)
- Grassy field
- Truism
- Wings
- “____ Which Way You Can”
- Stale
- Grimm heavy
- Grain
- Came in first
- Purge
- ____ Bator
- Reproductive cells
- Energetic
- Hand warmer
- Watch out!
- Apart
- Dripping
- Just

- Mind
- Punctuation mark
- Pokes
- Parasite
- Common phrase
- Sneaker feature
- Make tea
- Spasm
- Mexican entree
- Of a historic time
- Actress Merkel
- Mongolian dwelling
- Artist's workplace
- Fix
- Cowboy's ride
- Clothes
- Bristles
- Simmer
- One-deity believer
- 23rd Greek letter
- Gush

- Cut one's choppers
- Historical record
- Useful legume
- Kind of room, shortly
- Beguile
- That thing's
- Bird that gives a hoot
- Type of pickle
- Bald eagle's kin
- Legal thing
- Bloomin' necklace
- Earthen vessel
- Rod's companion
- Previous to, in verse
- Parabola
- Curdle

DOWN

- St. John's-bread
- Oil source
- Tropical bird

- Quilter's gathering
- Attorney
- Before long
- Talking bird
- Lemur's cousin
- Call forth
- Do sums
- Disgusting
- Aflame
- Desire
- Principle
- Had aspirations
- Perhaps
- Chromosome component
- Cartridge-box contents
- Alluvial deposit
- Throw out
- Sketch
- Young society woman
- Salt Lake ____
- Antipathy
- Extremely small
- Toboggan
- Vinegar container
- Hair dye
- Eaten away
- Walk in water
- Lively
- Drop off
- Bathroom feature
- Eccentric
- Dispense
- Holiday tune
- Shine
- Type of type
- Harness-racing horse
- Van Winkle's sound
- Wacky
- Mario Van Peebles film
- Warble
- Word of greeting
- Showy display
- Figure-skating maneuver
- South American weapon
- Water jug
- Great wrath
- Physician, briefly



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Branching Out Support Services celebrates three year anniversary supporting the neurodiverse community

Written By Sam Odrowski



Branching Out Support Services (BOSS), an organization that serves adults with neurodiversities in Dufferin County, marked its three-year anniversary last week.

The social enterprise, located at 5 First Street in Orangeville, officially opened its doors on Dec. 1, 2019, a few months before COVID-19 was declared a global pandemic.

While it presented challenges, slowing the initial growth of the organization, it has developed steadily and set itself up with the infrastructure necessary to grow sustainability into the future.

BOSS started out serving 10 families and now serves between 45 and 50, according to Kimberly Van Ryn, founder and owner of the organization.

"I think our growth was different because of COVID. It's hard to know what it would have been like," said Van Ryn. "I think COVID gave us some time to settle down and decide what we're actually doing here, and now we have three very well-established streams [of programming]."

The three streams at BOSS are the CommonFare Kitchen, one-to-one programming, and the adult day service, recently rebranded as Architect Programming, offering more choice.

Through the CommonFare Kitchen, two neurodiverse adults are currently employed with their first job ever. They are responsible for the kitchen's granola project, where they make, package, and sell bags of granola.

People who are neurodiverse have a difference in their brain, which could be a developmental disability, genetic disorder or acquired brain injury.

Van Ryn said BOSS's goal is to make sure neurodiverse people and their families feel supported locally.

"Our work in this community, Dufferin County, is to create opportunities where everyone can belong and make choices," said Van Ryn. "On a grander scale, Branching Out's work in the world is to set the highest example of service in developmental services that we possibly can."

When reflecting back, Van Ryn said one of BOSS's biggest accomplishments has been surviving COVID-19, as a new small business owner, and developing a clear direction to move forward in.

After launching a respite program that didn't have the uptake BOSS initially anticipated, it shifted its focus to the CommonFare Kitchen, which launched in the spring of this year and has been very successful. Van Ryn says it will continue to grow in 2023 and hopefully create even more opportunities for people who are neurodiverse to have meaningful employment.

Being able to offer training, education and advocacy in the community is another signifi-

cant accomplishment for BOSS.

"Being regarded and respected as a community partner, who can consult on issues of neurodiversity has been a very big step for us, to be recognized as up-and-coming leaders in this field," Van Ryn said. "I don't think we're there yet. I think we still have a lot of work to do internally to get there, but I think we're starting to see that recognition."

BOSS offers three teachable programs, online or in-person. The main boot camp course is Dimensions of Neurodiversity, where participants learn about neurodiversity.

Other programs focus on ensuring businesses are compliant with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, while fostering inclusion and belonging.

BOSS listens to feedback from the business they are working with and develops specific strategies to address any issues they're facing when serving neurodiverse people.

As a restaurant, having earplugs for people with hearing sensitivity or weighted utensils for people with Parkinson's or a brain injury can go a long way in making them feel comfortable, and attracting more customers.

"When neurodiverse customers are spending money, it's helping the businesses to make more money," Van Ryn said. "Neurodiverse people have money, and they need places they can get in the door so they can spend it."

Other work BOSS is engaged in includes developing a program on safe sexuality and relationships for people who are neurodiverse with Family Transition Place's Lotus Centre, which offers sexual violence counselling locally.

The program is teaching caregivers and support professionals what trauma looks like in a person with a neurodiversity and how to make their life more comfortable.

"In January/February, I'm going to be launching a neurodiversity and trauma training, which will be, as far as I can tell, the first of its kind ever," said Van Ryn.

She noted that rates of trauma and sexual assault are significantly higher in the neurodiverse community compared to the general population, making this work extremely important.

Through a Digital Main Street grant, BOSS launched its new and improved website this week, now up to provincial standards for accessibility.

"There are many features that people with differences in sight or hearing, or even motor

skills on the mouse, can change what the website looks like," said Van Ryn.

Visitors to the site with seeing problems can brighten or darken its contrast, adjust the background colour, increase or decrease font sizes and zoom in or out with ease.

Van Ryn told the Free Press that the website could be used as a training tool when doing advocacy or education with other organizations.

As a social enterprise, the support BOSS

has received from the community in Dufferin County has been very encouraging. Van Ryn says people understand the important role that social purpose businesses such as BOSS have in fostering a healthy community, and she's very grateful for all the support they've received.

"I could not repeat enough that we don't exist without the surrounding community and the support that we get from that community," said Van Ryn.

Co-op Corner: Shelburne Public Library

Written By Elizabeth Winter



PAULA BROWN PHOTO

The co-op corner series is back at the Shelburne Free Press. This week Elizabeth Winter from Centre Dufferin District High School shares a little bit about their experience and how the Shelburne Public Library is contributing to our community's future.

The Shelburne Public Library was built in 1911, through a Carnegie Foundation grant, and officially opened to the public on February 12, 1912. The library has a large collection of books, movies, eBooks and audiobooks. They also run a variety of programs, books clubs and events for all ages. The Shelburne Public Library has an incredible staff which includes the CEO Rose Dotten, Gord the head librarian, and the treasurer Brittany. Running children's programming there is Jade who is in charge of young adult and technical services, and the circulation assistants Trudy and Emma.

My job as a student assistant entails multiple maintenance and organizational tasks. I've learned to check books in and out, as well as cataloguing them and tidy up the spaces in which they are stored.

Other jobs include the preparation of multiple children's programs and activities. I hope to get the chance to continue designing decorations and signs for usage around the library, as well as help prepare for its upcoming silent auction.

There is also some special equipment I will get the chance to use, such as the sticker maker and the cricut machine.

There are many related professions even within a single library. For example,

CO-OP CORNER: Centre Dufferin District High School co-op student Elizabeth Winter (centre) is learning about how the Shelburne Public Library functions with the help of library staff members Jade Wyse (left) and Rose Dotten (right). Her role at the library is student assistant, where she mostly takes on maintenance and organizational tasks.

a treasurer can often be found in a public library to manage the budget. Authors are also essential to libraries, both for their written works and the business they can bring through book signings and readings. Other careers tied into the library workplace include Historians and Archivists, both of which utilize and contribute to the library's many resources.

The Shelburne Public Library runs many programs; Books and Babies, Lego Club, Story Time in the Children's Library and Rose's Book club. There is always something for everyone. The Shelburne Public Library also invites guest speakers to bring awareness to the incredible talent from both within and passing through our community. Many authors, artists, and community leaders are welcomed to share their stories and inspire others. If you're interested in any of the activities or services offered at the library, please look at their website at shelburnelibrary.ca.

Notice of Public Information Centre #1: Schedule 'C' Municipal Class Environmental Assessment Study Dufferin County Road 109/ 2nd Line Realignment, Dufferin County

THE STUDY

Dufferin County retained WSP Canada Inc. to undertake the Schedule 'C' Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (MCEA) Study to consider potential solutions to realign Dufferin County Road 109 and 2nd Line (Amaranth). 2nd Line is proposed to be realigned as the fourth leg of the Dufferin County Road 109 and Dufferin County Road 3 intersection. This realignment could precipitate a domino effect of impacting other intersections, namely Dufferin County Road 3 and Dufferin County Road 23, which is less than 100m south of the Dufferin County Road 109 and Dufferin County Road 3 intersection. The project will look to better understand the broader traffic impacts of the realignment and to confirm the best solution(s) for the study area.



THE PROCESS

This MCEA process will follow the planning and design process for Schedule 'C' projects as described in the MCEA Document (October 2000 as amended in 2007, 2011 & 2015), which is an approved process under the Ontario Environmental Assessment Act. As part of this process, two public events will be planned in the study. The first of public event is presented in this Notice and the second event will be held in Spring 2023. Once the study is complete, an Environmental Study Report (ESR) will be prepared and filed for a 30-day public review period. A Notice of Completion will be published in local newspapers and sent to the project mailing list to advise the public of the ESR review period.

PUBLIC INFORMATION CENTRE #1

Public Information Centre (PIC) #1 is being held to introduce the Study, present the problem/opportunity statement, project timelines, existing conditions, alternative solutions evaluation, preliminary design concepts, outline environmental studies being undertaken and next steps.

You are invited to attend and provide input at PIC #1.

Date: Thursday December 15, 2022

Location: Atrium of the Dufferin County Courthouse – 55 Zina Street, Orangeville ON L9W 1E5
Parking will be available within the Elizabeth Street lot, located at the back of the facility with accessible parking on Zina Street.

Time: 3:00PM to 7:00PM

The presentation materials will be shared online following the meeting.

GET INVOLVED

As the study progresses, the County will engage residents, stakeholders and businesses as part of any decisions that contribute towards shaping the Dufferin County Road 109/ 2nd Line Realignment and the Project Team's decision-making process.

You are encouraged to visit www.dufferincounty.ca/MCEA, where project information including study notices, background information, study updates, and the ESR will be made available as the study progresses. You can also submit comments and questions to the Project Team on the website.

Your input is welcome at any time during the study. If you wish to have your name added to the project mailing list or have any comments, questions, or concerns about the study, please contact one of the following Project Team members:

Brett Sears, MCIP, RPP
Senior Project Manager
WSP Canada Inc.
100 Commerce Valley Drive West
Thornhill, ON L3T 0A1
Tel: 289-982-4752
Email: dufferin109ea@dufferincounty.ca

Scott Burns, P.Eng., C.E.T.
Director of Public Works and County Engineer
County of Dufferin
30 Centre Street
Orangeville, ON L9W 2X1
Tel: 519-941-2816 Ext. 2601
Email: dufferin109ea@dufferincounty.ca

Information is being collected under the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. With the exception of personal information, all comments will become part of the public record.

This Notice was issued: December 1, 2022



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SHELBURNE SPORTS

Muskies support local school's breakfast and snack program

Written By Brian Lockhart

The Shelburne Muskies Senior hockey team is giving back to the community who support them by being fans and filling the stands during their home games at the Centre Dufferin Recreation Complex (CDRC).

The Muskies hosted a special night during their home game against the Petrolia Squires on Oct. 29.

Four local elementary schools were invited to come out and watch the exciting match-up. Students were asked to submit a ballot for their school during the game.

The school that had the most students attending the game won the contest and was awarded \$200 to go toward their breakfast and snack program.

Hyland Heights Elementary School had the most students attending and was the recipient of the donation.

Muskies players proudly wearing their jerseys arrived at the school and presented a cheque to school staff on Tuesday, Nov. 29.

The Muskies players and executive members are active in the community and have more events planned over the coming hockey season.

The Muskies will be hosting an autism awareness night when playing the Minto 81's at the CDRC, on Friday, Dec. 9. A portion of the proceeds raised at the game will be donated to Dufferin Child and Family Services' Behaviour Solutions.

The Muskies will host the Saugeen Shores Winterhawks. This will be the Muskies' Fight Cancer night, on Saturday, Jan. 7.

There will be raffles and a silent auction to raise money to be donated to the Headwaters Cancer Centre.

The Muskies are still looking to move up in the WOAA Senior League standings this year. They currently are in tenth place in the standings.

The squad will be back on home ice on Friday, Dec. 9, when they will host the Minto 81's.

Game time is 8:00 p.m.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

MAKING DONATION: The Shelburne Senior Muskies paid a visit to Hyland Heights Elementary School on Tuesday, Nov. 29, to present a cheque for \$200 to go toward the school's breakfast and snack program. The Muskies held a contest during a home game on Oct. 29, with the local school having the most students at the game, winning the prize. Shelburne Muskies players, Evan Spencer, Luke Richardson, and Brock Hare, present the cheque to Kiera Wallace, vice principal Jamie Wouters, and principal Sean Singh.

Stayner Siskins remain on top in local Junior C hockey league

Written By Brian Lockhart

Approaching the halfway mark in the 2022/23 regular season, the Stayner Siskins continue to lead the North Carruthers Division of the Provincial Junior Hockey League.

The Siskins are on a seven-game winning streak after suffering their only loss of the

season to Huntsville on Nov. 4.

After the weekend, the Siskins have an 18-1 record and 36 points as they continue to steamroll through the season.

In second place, the Alliston Hornets are gaining momentum as the season continues. The Hornets have also won seven games in a row, finishing up with two more wins

over Huntsville and Orillia over the weekend. That leaves them with 33 points – three points behind Stayner.

The Alliston squad now has a 16-4 record including one overtime loss.

The Schomberg Cougars are in the number three spot in the League with 24 points. The Cougars started off well and were in first place, then second, before dropping to number three in November.

The Cougars have a 12-6 record and are still having a strong season.

Three teams are close together in the middle of the pack in the standings this season.

The Orillia Terriers have 21 points and a 10-8-1 record.

With 20 points, the Innisfil Spartans are in the number five spot with a 10-10 record

and haven't been able to get on the plus side this season.

In sixth place, the Huntsville Otters are tied with Innisfil at 20 points. They have a 10-11 record so far for the season.

The Caledon Golden Hawks and the Midland Flyers are struggling this year. Caledon has a 5-15 record, and Midland has won only three games after 13 times on the ice this season.

In the basement, the Penetang Kings have won only twice after 19 games. With two overtime losses for a point each, the Club has six points recorded this year.

There won't be much of a break over the holidays this year as the North Carruthers Division goes right up to Dec. 23 and resumes with the first game of 2023 on Jan. 3.



BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

SCRAMBLE FOR THE PUCK: The Stayner Siskins continue to lead the North Carruthers Division of the Provincial Junior Hockey League with the Alliston Hornets close behind in second place. The Hornets take on the Huntsville Otters at the New Tecumseth Recreation Centre on Friday, Dec. 2.

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ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

HANNAH FOULGER

Playing school basketball since she was in Grade 7, Centre Dufferin District High School senior girls basketball team member, Hannah Foulger, brings a lot of experience and skill to her team.

Hannah said she likes how her team is 'inclusive' and how they work together as a team.

She helped bring her team to the District 4 championship final this year.

Hannah hopes to continue at the sport at the university level.



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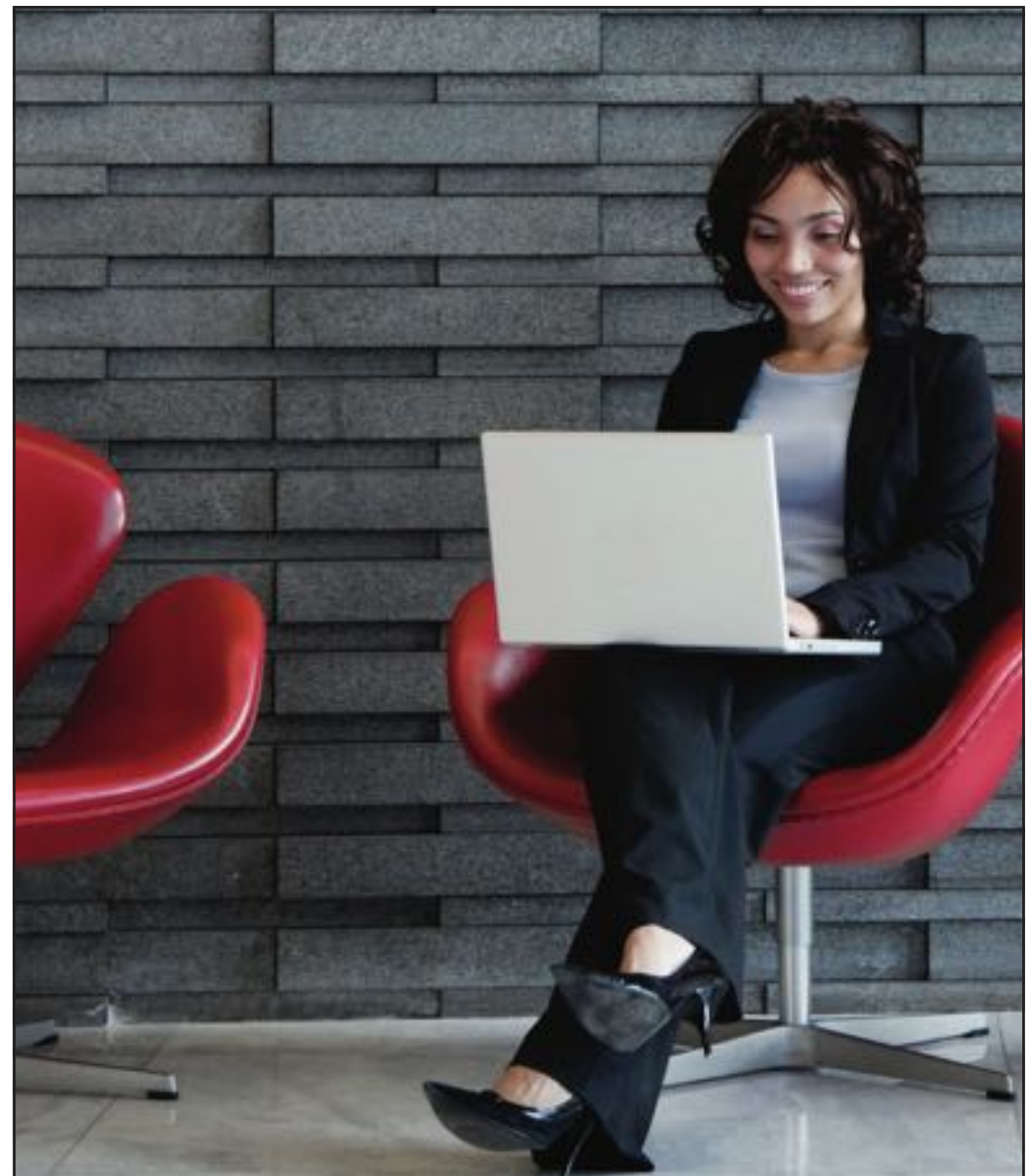
CHURCH

BADJEROS UNITED CHURCH Thank you to all the church and community people for their support to make our Apple Pie Fundraiser a huge success. We appreciate all who helped make pies and those who bought them.

BAKE SALE

ST. PAUL'S ANGLICAN CHURCH is holding its annual bake sale on December 10th from 10 am until 2 pm. Apple crisp and tea/coffee available for \$5.00. *Subject to change if stricter Covid regulations come into place. 437.247.9325

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Y	U	R	T	S	T	U	D	I	O	E	M	E	N	D
M	O	U	N	T	T	O	G	S	S	E	T	A	E	
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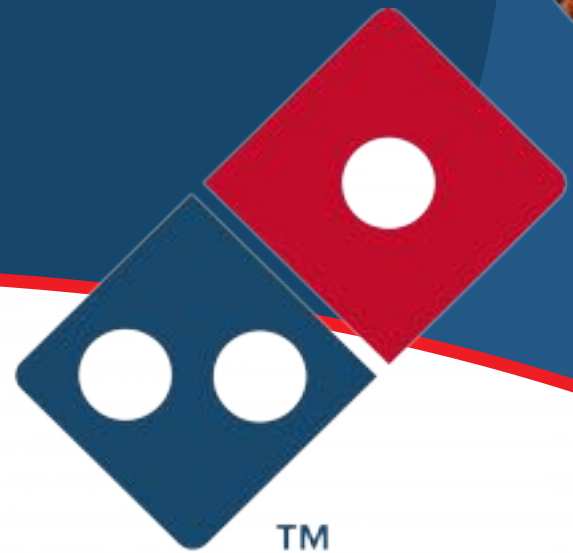
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