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FLAG RAISING FOR BLACK HISTORY: Shelburne dignitaries, leaders and community members marked the beginning of Black History Month on Wednesday (Feb. 1) with the raising of the Pan-African Flag at Jack Downing Park. Shelburne was the first community in Dufferin County to proclaim and raise the Pan-African flag in celebration of Black History Month.

PAULA BROWN PHOTO

Council anticipates 1 per cent tax increase

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

Shelburne town council has got their first look at a breakdown of the 2023 draft budget. Carey Holmes, director of financial services and treasurer for the Town of Shelburne, presented councillors with a detailed report of the 2023 draft budget on Monday (Jan. 30), which proposed a tax rate increase of 1 per cent.

"It's important to stress that a zero per cent tax increase only ends up costing more in the long run," explained Holmes. "When you take into consideration, risk management, best practices, life cycle costing, and long-term budget planning, a zero per cent tax rate increase does not fit into that equation and it has been proven that having a zero per cent tax increase only costs more money in future years."

The 1 per cent increase in the tax rate will allow for an overall tax levy increase of 5.3 per cent in tax dollars or \$460,751.

Holmes noted that the estimated amount to be raised by taxation for 2023 is just over \$9 million, calculated by taking total operating expenses of \$11.9 million for 2022 and subtracting the revenues of around \$2.8 million.

The total estimate for the 2023 general operating expenses of \$11,918,966 is split up amongst eight expenditures, including: police (\$3,138,862); operations and tran-

sit (\$2,278,896); general government and town hall (\$2,493,313); recreation and culture (\$1,225,861); planning and development (\$1,376,301); fire protection (\$638,425); council and committees (\$179,190); and other protective services (\$388,118).

"The town continues to face significant financial pressures and increased expenses in order to respond to the service and amenity expectation, and the needs for a small town that continues to experience significant growth," said Holmes.

The homeowner tax impact for the 2023 draft budget, based on an average single-family home assessment of \$355,366, is a 1 per cent tax rate increase amounting to an additional \$26.12 per year, or \$2.18 per month on the town portion.

The presentation detailed where \$1 of a taxpayer's money goes: \$0.34 Police Services, \$0.26 Operations, \$0.12 Recreation and Culture, \$0.08 Planning and Development, & 0.07 Fire Protection, \$0.07 General Government and Town Hall, \$0.02 Council and Committees, and \$0.04 Other Protective Services.

The draft 2023 budget also addressed a number of capital projects, including \$3,869,796 for infrastructure, road projects, and capital equipment purchases; \$814,650 to be spent on parks and recreation splash pad, improved amenities, playground equipment, and capital equipment purchases; and \$654,643 towards gateway signs, economic development ini-

tiatives, Grace Tipling Hall revitalization and administrative equipment.

The 2023 Draft Budget includes \$5,339,089 for the listed capital projects.

"Approximately only 33 per cent of that figure will proceed, if the town is successful in obtaining the grants for the projects," said Holmes.

Water and Sewer capital projects total just under \$8 million for 2023, with a majority of the cost being a carry-over from unfinished and multi-year projects in 2022.

As part of the 2023 Draft Budget, Holmes suggested using \$200,000 from the tax stabilization reserve to keep the tax rate increase at 1 per cent. The tax stabilization reserve is set up to help offset tax hikes during financially challenging years.

Holmes noted the town did not use the money borrowed from the tax stabilization in 2022, but included the borrowing option in the budget for 2023.

It was also requested that \$400,000 from the 2022 surplus be put into an equipment reserve to cover capital equipment needs for 2023 and 2024.

Council will meet again on Feb. 6 to go through the budget details. A public presentation of the Draft 2023 Budget will be given on Feb. 23, followed by the approval of the budget by resolution on Feb. 23. Council will adopt the 2023 Budget with the passing of a by-law on March 13, at the latest.

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Museum of Dufferin launches exhibit on meteorite that hit Shelburne 120 years ago

Written By Paula Brown
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

With the vastness of outer space, it's hard to imagine the small community of Shelburne being at the centre of a historical event from space.

On a cloudy summer evening nearly 120 years ago, a loud rumbling noise was heard across Shelburne, but it wasn't immediately clear what caused it. The next day the mystery was solved with the discovery of a meteorite fragment, Shelburne's very own visitor from outer space.

The Museum of Dufferin (MoD) has launched a new online exhibit called 'Fallen Star,' which explores the arrival, discovery, and study of what is known as the 1904 Shelburne Meteorite.

"We knew that the meteorite had a really cool story, and was probably something that many people would find interesting," said



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

FALLEN STAR: The Museum of Dufferin has launched a new online exhibit called 'Fallen Star.' The exhibit explores the arrival, discovery, and study of what is known as the 1904 Shelburne Meteorite.

Sarah Robinson, curator for the MoD, about the exhibit's development.

A digital exhibition for the Museum of Dufferin, "Fallen Star," was created as a way to allow the community to have a closure look at the piece of history from outer space.

"The fragment that we have in our collection is quite small – about the size of your pinky finger – and having an online exhibit meant that we would be able to include close up photos of it and let people see it in a way that they wouldn't necessarily be able to if we had it in a display case," said Robinson.

One of the areas of focus for the "Fallen Star" exhibit is the stories of the two local farmers, John Shields and George Johnston, who discovered fragments of the meteorite on their properties.

The first fragment of the meteorite was discovered beside John Shields' home on Aug. 14, 1904, weighing 12.5 pounds and embedded 18 inches into the ground. The second fragment was discovered two weeks later on Aug. 30, on George Johnston's farm. The second fragment of the meteorite was much bigger than the first, weighing almost 28 pounds and buried nearly 24 inches into the ground.

"Based on our research, we know that the meteorite falling on their properties was a significant point of pride for both farmers,"

said Robinson. "Their fragments were displayed in the window of the local hardware store; newspaper articles were written about them and even today, we know that their decedents know and love the story."

Landing in a rural village with a population of less than 1,500 in 1904, the fragments of the Shelburne Meteorite have been used to study and further research.

"In a way, the meteorite is a 'local celebrity,'" said Robinson. "Pieces of it have made their way around the world into some of the most famous museum collection in the world, from the Smithsonian in Washington, D.C to the Museum of Natural History in Paris, France – even the Vatican Observatory in Italy has a fragment."

Those interested in finding out more about the "fallen star" can explore the MoD's online exhibit by visiting www.dufferinmuseum.com.

"The online exhibition is a fun, engaging read. It brings science and social history together, and puts our small community on the map in terms of historic discoveries," said Robinson.

North Dufferin Agricultural and Community Taskforce holding Valentine's fundraiser

Written By Paula Brown
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

North Dufferin Agricultural and Community Taskforce (NDACT) is looking to raise money to help continue to actively lobby for greater protection of prime farmland, food, and source water.

The grassroots organization is hosting a Valentine's themed fundraiser at the Dufferin Public House, located at 214 Main Street in Shelburne, on Feb. 11 at 5 p.m.

"This is your community and you change nothing by staying at home," said Karen Wallace, chair of NDACT. "When the mega quarry was coming in, we were told to just give up, that it was a done deal, and it wasn't. It shows you what a voice can do."

For over a year, NDACT has been in discussions with Strada Aggregate, a company proposing to quarry below the water table at a gravel pit near Honeywood.

Strada Aggregate initially brought forward their proposal to quarry in October of 2021, with a presentation to Melancthon Council. The gravel pit, located in the area of 4th Line and County Rd. 17 in Melancthon, has been active since 2004. While close in location to the former 'mega-quarry', which was defeated more than a decade ago, Strada's proposal is one tenth the size and will be extracting 2 million tonnes as opposed to 10 million. It will also be located in an existing gravel pit rather than on agricultural land.

In January of last year, NDACT released a list of requests for Strada to follow with their proposed gravel pit. Strada Aggregate later agreed to meet with NDACT members to discuss an agreement.

"We've hammered out some of the details of the agreement and we're hoping in the next couple of months that we'll be able to make an announcement together with Strada," said Wallace.

The Duffy will be decorated romantically in theme with Valentine's Day and will include food, music, dancing, and a silent auction, which will close at 8 p.m. Items in the silent auction have been donated from local groups and businesses, including Lennox Farms and Rawhide Adventures.

The money raised through the fundraiser will be used to support NDACT's operational fees, such as auditing, web hosting, banking, and insurance. The donations will also be used to continue their lobbying efforts within the Dufferin community.

"An event like ours can help raise awareness about this and put it in sound bites that people will understand. It helps raise awareness of how rare prime farmland is," said Wallace.

Tickets for the NDACT Valentine's Fundraiser cost \$75 per person with a limited availability of up to 80 people. Tickets can be purchased through Eventbrite.

"I would really encourage people to get tickets early," said Wallace.

Annual Family Day Free Skate set for return in Shelburne


Join local businesses Go With Crowe Real Estate, Main Street Dental, Shelburne Optometry, and Shelburne Family Chiropractic and Wellness for their annual Family Day Free Skate at the Centre Dufferin Recreation Centre on Monday, Feb. 20, from 2-4 p.m.

Face painting, draws, prizes, and free hot chocolate and popcorn will be provided.

The free family event is perfect for the kids or grandkids.

For more information, contact Claire Knight at claire@gowithcrowe.com or 519-993-6226.

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We acknowledge the financial support of the Government of Canada through the Canada Periodical Fund of the Department of Canadian Heritage.

Groundhog Day

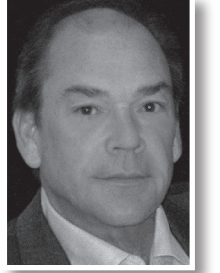
Happy Groundhog Day!
Yes, it's that day of the year where we all celebrate the revered tradition of relying on a rodent to predict if it's going to be an early spring – or is that a late winter?
Who better to predict the weather than a groundhog?
I guess if you were desperate, you could consult a professional meteorologist, but why would you bother with a scientist who measures temperature, air pressure, wind strength and direction, and uses ground sensors, satellites, and radar, when you can ask a groundhog?
I'm not sure if anyone actually 'celebrates' Groundhog Day. It's more like a morning news report that tells you if Warton Willy or Punxsutawney Phil saw their shadow.
However, if Groundhog Day falls on a weekend – this year, it's a Thursday – I think a Groundhog Day party would be in order, at least as an excuse to get some friends together, have some drinks and take part in some kind of Groundhog Day shenanigans. I'm not sure what that would include, but it does sound like a lot of fun. Maybe some groundhog-inspired cocktails or a pin-the-tail

on the groundhog game? The possibilities are endless for someone who is a talented party planner.
"Phil? Phil Connors!? It's me! Ned! Ned Ryerson!"
If you just read this quote and immediately recognized it, chances are, you are a fan of the movie Groundhog Day.
It is a 1993 film starring Bill Murray, and set in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania, on Feb. 2.
In the movie, Phil Connors wakes up to the sound of Sonny and Cher singing, 'I got you Babe.' It happens the next day, then the next, and the next.
He finally realizes he is living the same day, over and over and over again.
The movie never explains why he is caught in this time warp, and it doesn't explain why he is the only person who is experiencing it, although everyone else is obviously in the same time loop because they are there every day as well.
Phil Connors is known as a disagreeable and miserable person. He's hard to work with and thinks only of himself.
However, as the movie progresses, he takes a new approach to life. He uses the

repetition of starting the same day over and over by doing good deeds, and he starts learning new things.
He becomes an expert in some of his hobbies, including ice sculpting and playing the piano. The idea was that since he had nothing but time on his hands, he could practice every day until he became an expert.
A theory came out a few years ago that in order to become an expert in something, it takes 10,000 hours of practice. According to the theory, anyone can become an expert in a field as long as they put in those required hours.
That is the equivalent of practicing something eight hours per day, five days a week, for almost five full years.
I'm not sure the theory is really correct. Some people have a natural talent for some things, and they could become an expert a lot sooner, while others may continue to struggle, even after completing the required time. It is, after all, a theory, and I'm sure no one has really ever tried it out.
I've known people who were gifted musicians and could sit down with an instrument and play a requested tune by ear after just

a few moments of figuring it out. Other people spend years trying to achieve a goal and never quite make it a reality at the level they are striving for.
Practice, it is said, makes perfect. Of course, there is a lot of common sense in that phrase. After all, if you don't practice, you will never get better at something.
A good example is playing the piano. Anyone who plays knows that repetition is the key. You may stumble over the keys the first few times, but every time it becomes easier as your body and muscle memory start to pick up on the right keys you want to play. Before you know it, your fingers automatically go to the right keys when they are supposed to.
If we can really learn something from Groundhog Day, and I don't think we really can, because it's just a ridiculous tradition, at least you can learn something from the movie and practice whatever you want to learn, and stick with it.
By the way – get ready for six more weeks of winter.

BRIAN LOCKHART
FROM THE SECOND ROW



How to avoid a war with China

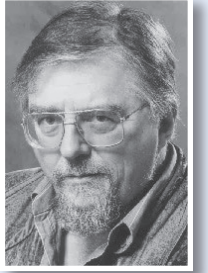
"I hope I am wrong. My gut tells me we will fight [with China] in 2025," declared US Air Force General Mike Minihan last weekend. He didn't mention what his crotch* told him, or if he ever consulted his head on the matter.
"[China's President Xi Jinping] secured his third term and set his war council in October 2022," Minihan explained. "Taiwan's presidential elections are in 2024 and will offer Xi a reason. United States' presidential elections are in 2024 and will offer Xi a distracted America. Xi's team, reason, and opportunity are all aligned for 2025."
Just why China would attack in 2025 if all that stuff is happening in 2024 is left a bit unclear – maybe the Chinese are just chronically slow off the mark – but it's always a mistake to engage too closely with this sort of guff. However, it is definitely getting harder to avoid.
Last October, for example, Admiral Michael M. Gilday, the Chief of Naval Operations, said that the U.S. should prepare to fight China in 2022 or 2023. (Only eleven months left!)
In the previous year Admiral Phil Davidson, then the head of the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, predicted that China would invade Taiwan by 2027. A relative optimist, then – but that period is now known in the trade as "the

Davidson window."
As for the think-tank analysts writing in the foreign policy journals, they are producing articles about the coming war with China at the rate of at least two a week. (I read them so you don't have to.) Some of them also supply blood-curdling predictions of war to the mass media whenever required – and 'if it bleeds, it leads'.
This is fostering a fatalistic belief that a war between China and America is inevitable not only in the United States, but to a lesser extent also in China. It is not inevitable, although it is certainly possible.
War is possible because the great powers are always measuring their potential military power against each other. It doesn't have to be linked to any particular threat or interest: the US military, for example, justify their focus on China simply because it is a 'peer competitor' or a 'pacing challenge'.
It is specifically possible between the United States and China because there is a disputed border, the classic trigger for war. The United States supports Taiwan's choice to remain separate as the democratic will of the great majority of the population. China ignores that, and claims Taiwan on the grounds that it is historically Chinese territory.

This is precisely how Russians persuaded themselves that they have a historic right to Ukraine although the great majority of Ukrainians consistently vote to remain independent. Moreover, the Russians (or rather, Vladimir Putin) acted on that belief and invaded Ukraine. Why wouldn't China (or rather, Xi Jinping) do the same to Taiwan?
One reason might be that Xi is less deluded than the Russian leader. Another is that he already has too much on his plate: a huge but rapidly declining population; an economy that has sunk into stagnation and is unlikely to resurface; the horrible example of how the invasion of Ukraine worked out for the Russians.
But it could be argued, of course, that Xi is badly in need of a way to distract the public from its growing discontents. A rapid and relatively bloodless conquest of Taiwan that 'reunites the Motherland' could buy him years of political credit with the increasingly fractious populace. How can you guard against that?
Not by traditional nuclear deterrence, which deals in threats so terrifying that they are unbelievable until the moment they are actually fulfilled – at which point both sides are facing megadeaths. Less dangerous and

more persuasive would be the kind of policy that NATO is currently pursuing on Ukraine.
Make sure that Taiwan has enough weapons and well-trained troops to contain an initial sea- and airborne assault by China for at least a few weeks. The fact that Taiwan is an island protected by a substantial sea passage makes this possible.
Strengthen the American fleet and air forces in the western Pacific to make them capable of operating within range of Taiwan, so they can escort supply ships through the inevitable Chinese blockade. But let no American or allied soldier set foot on Taiwan or engage in direct combat with the Chinese.
Gradually improve the quality of the weapons you give Taiwan so China's footholds become increasingly insecure. Wait. Pray if you wish.
We don't know if that will finally work in Ukraine, let alone in Taiwan. But if the Taiwanese can rearm and retrain their forces fast enough, they would stand a decent chance of containing and ultimately repelling an attack – or, even better, deterring one.
There are no better options.

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Dufferin OPP warn of increase in vehicle thefts

Officers from the Dufferin detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) are investigating multiple new thefts of motor vehicles.

Dufferin County is impacted by an increased vehicle theft trend affecting the entire Greater Toronto Area. Recent reports indicate that RAM pick-up trucks, years 2020 to 2023, are predominantly targeted. On many occasions, thieves are observed in neighbourhoods prior to the thefts occurring to record VIN numbers and to disable alarm systems to facilitate the theft later. These crimes are often occurring in the early hours of the day, between 2 a.m. and 5 a.m.

If you observed suspicious activity in your neighbourhood, report it immediately by calling 9-1-1.

Today's auto thieves are increasingly turning to technology that bypasses secu-

rity systems allowing vehicles to be stolen. Electronic auto theft is on the rise as more vehicles are equipped with technology such as keyless entry fobs. In fact, the insurance industry has seen the growing trend that thieves are able to copy fob information and steal cars right from your driveway. The term "relay thefts" involves the use of equipment designed to boost and exploit the signals sent out by a vehicle's legitimate key fob. This allows for a thief to unlock and start an engine of a vehicle remotely.

Residents can help protect their vehicles by taking any of the following crime prevention measures:

- Ensure your vehicle keys are kept well away from doors and windows
- Use a signal blocking pouch/box - they can block your key fob from transmitting its code

to the vehicle as the pouch is lined with layers or metallic material

- Turn off the keyless fob wireless signal at night (refer to your car manual for instructions)
- Use a steering wheel lock or car alarm - this could add a significantly delay or be a deterrent for thieves
- Consider a secondary audible car alarm - which works by using sensors placed in different points of your vehicle
- Park in the garage (if possible)
- Insert a car tracker - unusual activity is monitored, and car can be tracked using GPS if stolen

Police and its insurance industry partners also want to raise public awareness about the opportunities for criminals who intend to steal personal identification from unsecured

vehicles. Licenses, insurance, vehicle ownerships, passports, as well as mobile devices or laptops, offer criminals the opportunity to further victimize individuals who do not lock their vehicles, or who leave their valuables in plain view.

Vehicle owners/passengers can do simple things to decrease the risk of being victimized, such as:

- Never leave a running vehicle unattended
- Lock your doors
- Roll up your windows
- Keep valuables out of sight
- Keep your registration and proof of insurance in your wallet or purse, not in the glove box
- Pocket your keys
- At night or during extended parking periods, always park in a well-lit area.

High speed internet expands in Dufferin

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

More communities in Dufferin County will soon be connected to faster and more reliable high-speed internet.

The provincial and federal government announced an investment of more than \$530,000 to bring fast, reliable high-speed internet to rural Dufferin County communities last Friday (Jan. 27).

"Today's announcement is another example of how our government is continuing to expand high-speed internet in Dufferin County," said Sylvia Jones, MPP for Dufferin-Caledon. "This investment brings reliable internet to our rural communities which is so important for local businesses, schools, and families to work, study, and stay connected."

High-speed internet is now available for connection in the communities of Marsville, Orton, Prices Corner, and Craigsholme, bringing reliable internet to more than 140 families, farms and businesses in the areas.

"By building new broadband infrastructure in Dufferin County, we are helping build Ontario and strengthen rural communities. This investment is helping people stay in touch with loved ones, enabling them to access the supports they need while providing a much-needed boost to the local economy," said Lisa Thompson, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs.

Southwestern Integrated Fibre Technology (SWIFT) Inc, a not-for-profit corporation initiated by local municipalities to address connectivity in Southwestern Ontario, was awarded the contracts to expand broadband services in Dufferin County.

"We are pleased to announce the completion of a fibre-to-the-home project in Dufferin County that is now providing many more

rural residents located in the Township of East Garafraxa with access to high-speed internet service," said Gary McNamara, SWIFT Board Chair.

"As we respond to the need for greater connectivity across our region, today's announcement proudly marks yet another milestone for SWIFT and our partners as the program continues to drive forward with its regional broadband expansion plan to provide greater economic growth potential and increase online opportunities for residents and businesses throughout Southwestern Ontario."

The government said the funding announcement for Dufferin County builds on their plan to bring high-speed internet to every corner of the province by the end of 2025.

Excavator stolen in Amaranth

The Dufferin OPP is currently investigating a stolen Bobcat excavator from a rural property in the Township of Amaranth.

On January 28, 2023, Dufferin OPP received a call for service at a rural property on County Road 109 in Amaranth for the theft of an excavator and trailer. It was determined that the vehicle which was being stored on a flatbed trailer was stolen sometime between 2:30 a.m., and 3:00 a.m., on January 28, 2023, from the property.

The tractor is described as a Bobcat 340 excavator 3.5 ton, white in colour. The approximate value of the tractor is \$30,000.

The trailer is described as a CDTR

718, flatbed trailer, licence plate number 12958GL, black in colour. The approximate value of the trailer is \$9,000.

Officers have secured video surveillance of the theft. A male suspect is seen hooking the trailer and excavator up to a black pickup truck.

If you have any information or video surveillance footage in relation to this theft, please call the Dufferin OPP Detachment at (519) 942-1711 or 1-888-310-1122.

You can also provide information anonymously by contacting Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 or submit your information online at ontariocrimestoppers.ca.

X CROSSWORD

PUZZLE 471

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- 7. Benefit
- 8. Louisiana marsh
- 9. Dollar bill
- 10. Shaker's filling
- 11. S-shaped molding
- 12. Apportion
- 14. Realize
- 15. Bunk or canopy
- 16. Musical potpourri
- 21. Long-faced
- 23. Agreement
- 26. Young salmon
- 28. Wisdom
- 30. Take a chance
- 32. BLT topping, to a waitress
- 34. Musical instrument
- 36. Tent material
- 37. Self-centered person
- 38. Mighty
- 39. Love apple
- 42. Egg on
- 43. Indian outfit
- 48. Suitcase
- 49. Spirit
- 50. Container weight
- 51. Exit
- 54. Roster
- 57. Improve
- 59. Nursery furniture
- 60. Munitions depot
- 65. Loyal subject
- 67. Dress size
- 69. Airport device
- 70. Fiber plant
- 71. Subway coin
- 72. Roman date
- 73. Diamond team number
- 74. Dull person
- 76. The total amount
- 78. Anatomical pouch
- 81. Hang down
- 83. Roman three
- 84. Emulate a tailor

ACROSS

- 1. Bone-dry
- 5. Health farm
- 8. Chest
- 13. Command to a canine
- 14. Hindu title
- 16. Supervise
- 17. Spoken
- 18. Eat away at
- 19. Hole for a shoelace
- 20. Slippery stuff
- 21. Faction
- 22. Carpentry joint
- 24. Golfing device
- 25. Beat
- 27. Astronaut's affirmative
- 29. Make indistinct
- 31. Gifts of charity
- 33. Cyrano's feature
- 35. Arctic abundance
- 38. Rivulet

- 40. Comply with
- 41. Epic tale
- 43. "___ Weather"
- 44. ___ ton soup
- 45. Door handle
- 46. Upper-body limb
- 47. Long short story
- 52. Struggle (for)
- 53. Crowd noise
- 55. Pub order
- 56. Struck with sudden horror
- 58. Toward the center of
- 59. Wearing clothes
- 60. Apprehend
- 61. Obtained
- 62. Wedding symbol
- 63. Angler's tool
- 64. Woeful expression
- 66. Shapely curve
- 68. Herring

- 72. Wayside lodging
- 75. Concept
- 77. Untidy situation
- 79. In the past
- 80. Trucker's fuel
- 82. Vine
- 84. Coyote State: abbr.
- 85. Make mad
- 86. Shade of purple
- 87. Icicle's spot
- 88. Grasslike marsh plant
- 89. Under the weather
- 90. Brown songbird

DOWN

- 1. Young sprout
- 2. Ghostly
- 3. Domain
- 4. Pipe joint
- 5. Cutting remark
- 6. Slide

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Hospice Dufferin partnering with businesses for Hot Chocolate Festival

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

In the middle of winter, is there any better way to beat the cold of the season than a cup of hot chocolate?

Hospice Dufferin has partnered with several restaurants and cafes in the area to host the Hot Chocolate Festival, a month-long event to help raise funds to support the organization's programs and services.

"We created the Hot Chocolate Festival because we felt that there's these synergies within the business community, especially that they're the biggest supporters of charities. So, this was a way for us to give back to them by helping promote a place for people to go and experience businesses in the community," explained ReDeana Montgomery, Hospice Dufferin's resource development communication coordinator.

"At the same time, they're actually giving back to us. It's a subtle way of giving back to an organization without having to make a donation."

Throughout the entire month of February, eight local restaurants and cafes will feature their own signature drink as part of the Hot Chocolate Festival. For every sale of the signature drink, \$1 will be donated back to Hospice Dufferin.

"Hot chocolate is a staple in the winter. There's the good old fashion hot chocolate, but I do know that our restaurants and cafes are coming up with a variety of different types of hot chocolate," said Montgomery.

While Hospice Dufferin receives around 60 per cent of their annual funding from the government, the remainder of funds are raised through community support. Funding from the festival will go towards supporting Hospice Dufferin programs such as

art therapy, journaling, exercise, crafting, leisure land, and meditation.

"We're a community hospice, which means we work within the community, we work with people in their homes, if they go to hospital or go to another hospice, and if they come into our location. Our wellness programs are programs that help create positive feelings and help people stay active, which is really important on their journey through hospice," said Montgomery. "By raising this money, we're able to do these programs for free so that people who come to us don't have to pay."

According to Hospice Dufferin, in 2022, the organization supported 305 clients in Dufferin County and provided over 3,279 sessions of service.

"We are all touched by hospice care. Unfortunately, through life, we will either experience a life limiting illness or will know

somebody with life limiting illness. We all will experience grief at some point in our lives, whether it's a loss of a family member, a friend or a pet," said Montgomery.

As part of the Hot Chocolate Festival, patrons and tasters will have an opportunity to vote for their favourite hot chocolates. At the end of the festival, the restaurant or café with the most popular hot chocolate will be crowned the winner of the "Best Hot Chocolate Recipe".

The local businesses taking part in the festival include Mochaberry Café & Roastery, Bluebird Café & Grill, Mono Cliffs Inn, Le Finis, Boston Pizza, Nifty Nook, Jess For You Café and Baked Goods, and Déjà vu Diner.

Montgomery said they are encouraging those who try a hot chocolate from the participating businesses to share their thoughts through social media.

Workforce Planning Board of Waterloo Wellington Dufferin enhances employer support

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

Local employers trying to find their next employee, get information on the labour market or need help applying for government grants can now access all these resources through one online space.

The Workforce Planning Board (WPB) of Waterloo Wellington Dufferin launched the Employer Resource Corner, an online resource connecting employers with recruitment tools, on Jan. 24.

"Our conversations with employers, especially smaller employers, always revolve around where they can find resources to

help them meet their recruitment and retention strategies," said Charlene Hofbauer, executive director at the WPB of Waterloo Wellington Dufferin. "When you are struggling to keep your business afloat, one-stop resources like this one can help you find those organizations who connect with job-seekers or can help you find that expert in your area. The more resources that we get out there, the more we can help small businesses stay open and grow."

The Employer Resource Corner was developed following last year's local labour market consultation sessions held by the WPB of Waterloo Wellington Dufferin. The organization heard common and reoccurring themes from businesses on the struggle to find resources supporting their recruiting

and retention strategies.

The web page for the new online recruitment tool features links for employers to find workers, workforce planning resources, grants and business supports, including municipal, provincial, and federal.

"These resources will help small and medium-sized businesses save time searching, and more time growing their business," wrote the Workforce Planning Board of Waterloo Wellington Dufferin.

The Employer Resource Corner is dedicated to being a one-stop website of business supports customized for employers in the Waterloo Region, Guelph, Wellington County and Dufferin County.

Those interested can access the Employer Resource Corner at www.findyourjob.ca.



PAULA BROWN PHOTO

PAN-AFRICAN FLAG RAISING: Dufferin County Canadian Black Association (DCCBA) and the Museum of Dufferin (MoD) marked the celebration of Black History Month in Dufferin County on Wednesday (Feb.1) with the raising of the Pan-African Flag at the local museum.

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BECOME A DIRECTOR

Caledon Dufferin Victim Services (CDVS) is currently seeking candidates to serve as Directors on the agency's volunteer Board of Directors. This opportunity is open to all residents of the Town of Caledon or County of Dufferin, who are interested in the stewardship of a caring and vibrant community focused nonprofit, charitable organization that provides support to those affected by crime and life's tragic circumstances.

The Board of Directors is looking for enthusiastic people from the communities we serve, who want to contribute to CDVS through the provision of sound governance, based on the values and principals of a Policy Governance model. Previous experience serving on a Policy Governance Board while not required, would be a strong asset.

Successful candidates will be expected to offer 4 hours per month and attend monthly Board meetings. Additionally, candidates will need to submit to a Criminal Records Check, swear an Oath of Confidentiality and make decisions as part of a team of 8-10 Directors. Candidates are expected to support the Mission, Mandate and Values of the CDVS Corporation and meet the eligibility criteria of the agency bylaws.

Please submit your letter of intent and resume no later than February 28, 2023 by one of the following methods:

Accessibility accommodations available upon request.

Email: info@cdvs.ca

Mail:
Chair, Board of Directors
15924 Innis Lake Road
Caledon East, ON L7C 2Z1

For more information, please visit www.cdvs.ca



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SHELBURNE SPORTS

Shelburne Muskies give up loss to Shallow Lake Crushers

Written By Brian Lockhart

It was one of the biggest crowds this year on Saturday (Jan. 28) night at the Centre Dufferin Recreation Complex to see the Shelburne Muskies take on the Shallow Lake Crushers.

However, fans will have to wait another day to see the Muskies win, as the game ended with a loss for the hometown team.

The Crushers left the ice with a 4-1 win over the Muskies.

Muskies player Evan Spencer got his team's only goal of the night when he hit the back of the Shallow Lake net at 15:52 into the first period. That was the only scoring the Muskies could do in this game.

The Shelburne team continues to struggle when it comes to winning this year. They are playing well, they just can't get a winning streak going.

The team now has a 3-16 record for the season, including two overtime losses. They are well back in points this year, meaning a chance of making a playoff berth, is slim.

The Seaforth Centenaires are currently in first place in the league with a 17-3 record and 36 points. That includes one overtime loss and one shoot-out loss this season.

In second place, the Ripley Wolves are doing well with a 14-6 record, including one overtime loss. They have 30 point recorded so far this season.

The Minto 81's are in third place with 29 points and a 14-5 record, including one overtime loss.

They are followed by the Tavistock Royals and the Saugeen Shores Winterhawks.

In the middle of the pack, the Creemore Coyotes, Petrolia Squires and the Durham Thundcats are separated by five points. Those teams are all close to even for the season so far and trying to move up in the standings a couple of notches before going into playoff mode.

The Shallow Lake Crushers are in the number nine spot, followed by the Milverton Four Wheel Drives who are tied with the Muskies with eight points.



BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

HOME GAME: The Shelburne Senior Muskies host the Shallow Lake Crushers on the ice at the Centre Dufferin Recreation Complex on Saturday, Jan. 28. The Muskies had to settle for a 4-1 loss.

Ontario Minor Hockey Association Bursary Program returns for fourth season

Written By Brian Lockhart

It takes a lot of commitment to be successful both on the ice and in the classroom.

The OMHA is partnering with the Dairy Farmers of Ontario to present the Bursary Program, which recognizes minor hockey players for outstanding commitment to community service, athletics, and academics.

The Bursary is comprised of two awards – the Dairy Farmers of Ontario Bursary and the Wally Scott Bursary. Each recipient will receive financial support toward their post-secondary education.

Five DFO Bursaries will be awarded at \$8,000 each, and up to two Wally Scott Bursary recipients can receive between \$1,000 and \$2,500.

“We are thrilled to support our young athletes at the OMHA's bursary program for the fourth consecutive year, who show tremendous resilience, sportsmanship and leadership on and off the ice,” said Cheryl Smith, Dairy Farmers of Ontario CEO. “Through this bursary, we recognize outstanding Ontario youth athletes pursuing academic excellence, who also demonstrate MilkUP's values – perseverance, originality, and heart.”

All applicants must adhere to some guidelines. Requests for bursaries can only be made for active players aged up to 20 years, and they must have been registered players in the Ontario Minor Hockey Association for a minimum of five years. This includes players attending a post-secondary institution for their first year during the 2023/24 school year. Players must maintain a high standard of academic excellence.

“Our Bursary Program with the Dairy Farmers of Ontario highlights some of the top student-athletes in the OMHA who are entering post-secondary education,” said OMHA executive director Ian Taylor. “We hope these bursaries help our players achieve their goals and that they continue to be leaders within their communities. The bursaries are a testament to the time commitment, focus and dedication needed to succeed at a high level both in the classroom and on the ice.”

To apply, candidates must complete the application form and submit it to the OMHA by 8:00 p.m. on Feb. 26, 2023.

Each application will be reviewed by a panel and only the winning recipients will be contacted by the OMHA.

Applications are available online on the OMHA website.

Ontario Minor Hockey Association championships to be held at six locations

Written By Brian Lockhart

The Ontario Minor Hockey Association (OMHA) has announced the locations for its championships this year, where teams compete for the coveted Red Hats.

As teams are currently in the second half of the season, they are ramping up for league playoffs, which will serve as qualifiers to see who will move on to compete for an OMHA championship.

During the competition, round-robin play will take place for the first two days, with the semi-finals and championships being decided on Sunday.

The OMHA championships will take place over four weekends. This includes March 17 to 19, March 24 to 26, March 31 to April 1, and April 7 to 9.

They will be hosting in six locations around the province: Barrie, Halton Hills, Kingston, Oakville, Whitby, and Windsor.

“We are excited for the return of the OMHA championships this season,”

said Ian Taylor, executive director of the OMHA. “This is a special experience that teams can look forward to and ensures all of our players are involved in meaningful hockey right up until March and beyond.”

The championships are sponsored by the Egg Farmers of Ontario (EFO).

“As egg farmers, we take great pride in supporting our communities, and that includes helping kids on their journey to athletic success,” said Scott Helps, EFO chair. “Much like farming, being part of a hockey team requires commitment and helps kids gain life skills such as responsibility and team work and we are thrilled to continue our partnership with the OMHA to empower these young Ontario athletes.”

The final schedule for on-ice play will be released closer to game days.

The weekends will feature sponsor activities and gifts, lots of fans, official merchandise, and there will be live-streaming of games for those that can't attend in person.

CALLING ALL KIDS!



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Limit one entry per person. One winner will be randomly drawn on Monday, February 13, 2023. The winner will be contacted on Tuesday, February 14, 2023, by phone or email and have their name shown in the Thursday, February 16th, 2023 issue of the Shelburne Free Press. Must be 18 years of age to enter. Employees and relatives of London Publishing Corp. are not eligible to win.

Local humane society raising funds through Cupcake Day

Written By Paula Brown
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Ontario SPCA Orangeville & District Animal Centre is encouraging the community to “bake” a difference for animals in need this month by participating in National Cupcake Day (Feb. 27).

The Ontario SPCA Orangeville & District Animal Centre kicked off its annual National Cupcake Day fundraiser on Monday (Jan. 30), which looks to raise critical funds for animals in need across the province throughout February.

“Set your timers because the countdown is on to Cupcake Day, which truly is the sweetest day of the year,” said Dawn Lyons, manager for the Ontario SPCA Orangeville & District Animal Centre. “It’s a piece of cake to get involved and change the lives of animals in need in your community.”

Changing the life of an animal in need is a piece of cake through the National Cupcake Day fundraiser. All participants

have to do to help raise donations is get their mixing bowls out, pre-heat the oven and begin planning a Cupcake Day party at home, work or school anytime throughout February. Participants can register for free at www.cupcakeday.ca to collect donations.

As a registered charity that does not receive government funding, the Ontario SPCA depends on donations to help support animals in need. Funds raised locally through National Cupcake Day will remain local and go towards the cost of care for the animals, including spays and neuters, vaccinations, and their entire stay with the Orangeville & District SPCA.

The Ontario SPCA has a goal of raising \$70,000 through the National Cupcake Day fundraiser for shelters and animal centres across the province.

Those interested in making National Cupcake Day (Feb. 27) the sweetest day of the year for animals in need can register or donate at www.cupcakeday.ca.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CUPCAKE DAY: National Cupcake Day is Feb. 27 and the Ontario SPCA Orangeville & District Animal Centre is fundraising leading up to it. Those interested in supporting the local animal shelter can register at www.cupcakeday.ca and collect donations.

Submissions open for community group grants

Written By Paula Brown
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The County of Dufferin is now accepting applications for their 2023 Community Grant Program.

In a press release issued on Tuesday (Jan. 31), the County announced the application period for their 2023 Community Grant Program is open. The community grant program aims to support not-for-profit or charitable organizations that complete projects or provide programming benefiting Dufferin County residents.

“Our local not-for-profit organizations work hard every day to benefit our community, and through their ongoing dedication, they make Dufferin County a better place for all who live and work here,” said Wade Mills, Warden of Dufferin County. “We are pleased to again offer our Community Grant Program to support the not-for-profit sector and the important work they do.”

The County has identified six strategic priorities for the 2023 round of community grants: climate action; cultural enhancement; diversity, equity and inclusion; economic development; youth and seniors services; and food.

The County Community Grants Program will see some changes this year. The Food for Thought grant now falls under the general Community Grant streams, and food is being added as a benefit category.

There is still an allocation of funds to

support organizations that provide direct food services to Dufferin residents. The previous maximum of \$3,000 for Food grant applications will no longer apply.

“Dufferin County staff are committed to making our community a safe, healthy and successful place for all, and our local not-for-profit sector plays an important role in helping us as we work to achieve this,” said Sonya Pritchard, CEO of Dufferin County. “Not-for-profits and charitable organizations can now apply for the County’s 2023 Community Grant Program to receive support for the work they do to better our community.”

Dufferin County partners with Headwaters Communities in Action (HCIA) to administer the funds from the Community Grant Program. A grant team, established by HCIA, will review the applications and evaluate them against the criteria to ensure they meet the strategic priorities.

Notifications will be sent to the grant recipients from the County Clerk’s Office following approval by county council no sooner than their meeting on Apr. 13.

The submission deadline for applications is 11:59 p.m. on Feb. 27. Completed application packages can be submitted by email to info@dufferincounty.ca, or dropped off at or mailed to the County of Dufferin office in Orangeville, located at 30 Centre Street, with attention to the Community Grant Program.

Additional information on the Dufferin County Community Grant Program and eligibility requirement can be found at www.dufferincounty.ca.

Centre Dufferin’s Co-op corner

Student: Kiera Wipp
Placement: Silver Willow Farms

This week Kiera Wipp from Centre Dufferin District High School shares a little bit about their experience and how Silver Willow Farm Rescue is contributing to our community’s future.

Silver Willow Farm Rescue has been a running non-for profit since 1996. The Farm was established in Mansfield and is the only sanctioned non-specific species Foster Farm in Ontario. The owner, Laura McArthur, has always had a passion for animals. She wanted to open a sanctuary for the neglected, sick, and unwanted so they had a place to go and to thrive. Silver Willow is a rescue farm with over 25 species of farm animals, wonderful staff of volunteers, and a beautiful 100 acres of serenity.

I have the honour of being a Volunteer on the property. I get to take care of animals whether that be feeding, watering, cleaning, or monitoring them. My job is to provide a safe and clean environment for the animals. Delivering calves, horse shows, and therapeutic remedies are all things I have yet to try; but hope to in the future. We use hoses, pitchforks, shovels, and more as they allow for a smoother and more effective job when working. On the farm you are shown proper care, safety, tips, and general training within different species and tasks so that everyone can feel comfortable.

Volunteering has also shown me that there are more jobs out there when it



SUBMITTED PHOTO

CO-OP CORNER: Centre Dufferin District High School student Kiera Wipp (left) has been learning from Nikki Trumpler, Silver Willow Farms’ former farm manager.

like Agricultural Science, Industrial Farming, Veterinary Services, and even being an Entrepreneur and owning your own farm are just some of the possibilities it can open you up to. There is nothing quite like giving back to the earth and that is possible at Silver Willow. With hard work, responsibility, and a love for animals anyone can do it.

Silver Willow Rescue Farm welcomes everyone to help assist with the animals. They’re always looking for help, and their door is always open to animals in need. It is also open to donations, whether that be animals, money, food, supplies, and more. Visit Silver Willow Rescue Farm today or find them at silverwillowfarm-rescue.com.

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ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

JADON JAMES

CDDHS Royals senior forward, Jadon James, brings a lot of experience to his basketball team after playing with the Royals for all four years in high school.

“I’ve seen my favourite players in the NBA and that really makes me want to play basketball,” Jadon said. “I have a real passion for the sport. I wanted to take basketball to the next level,” he said of moving to an organized sport in the school.

Jadon keeps up with the sport outside of the school by attending drop-in games and practicing his moves and shooting.

TEAM: CENTRE DUFFERIN DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL ROYALS SENIOR BASKETBALL

POSITION: POWER FORWARD

Town of Shelburne

Notice of Public Budget Meeting

Monday February 13, 2023 – 6:30 pm

Electronic Participation

Residents are invited to join Shelburne Town Council for a presentation of the draft 2023 Operating and Capital Budgets.

Council will entertain questions and provide the opportunity for public input during the meeting.

This meeting is being held virtually via the zoom conferencing platform.

Please contact the Legislative Services Department at clerk@shelburne.ca to register in advance of and in order to have access to the public meeting no later than **10 am Monday February 13, 2023**.

To ensure your questions will be addressed during the meeting, it is recommended that you submit questions in advance utilizing the following methods:

1. Email to clerk@shelburne.ca;
2. Fax 519-925-6134;
3. Regular mail – 203 Main Street East Shelburne ON L9V 3K7;
4. Or at the Town Hall by the deadline date noted above (**10 am Monday February 13, 2023**).

Access to the meeting is by invite only, once your request to participate has been confirmed by the Legislative Services Department, the meeting details will be provided to you confidentially.

If you would like to view the proceedings, you will have the opportunity to view a live stream of the meeting on the Town of Shelburne’s YouTube channel <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCsar-MwF8CXrqPbe2EVxh-w>.

Jennifer Willoughby
Director of Legislative Services/Clerk
(519) 925- 2600 Ext. 223
jwilloughby@shelburne.ca

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 Email, or call us for pricing. Classified cut-off time is 12 pm Tuesday

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DISHWASHER / KITCHEN HELP

To work at Mono Cliffs Outdoor Education Centre.
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 \$15.50 per hour
 Approx 15 hours per week

Fax resume to: 705.789.6582
 or email: hr@gb.on.ca

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We are a global manufacturer for the beef and dairy industry, known for our superior quality and innovation but our best asset is our people! We work hard at investing in a company culture that is fully committed to our values of caring: doing the right thing for our team and customers. We offer competitive wages based on skills and experience. We're looking for people with a positive attitude who want to grow in a healthy, family-oriented environment – where they are truly valued- The JAYLOR Way! We are looking for an;

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Duties:
 • Drafting and maintaining engineering drawings
 • Responsible for new product development and related documentation

Qualifications:
 • Engineering degree or diploma, preferably mechanical
 • 3D CAD experience, preferably Inventor
 • Experience in metal fabrication manufacturing
 • Agriculture background an asset

Other information:
 • Must have a strong mechanical aptitude
 • Must have excellent communication skills
 • To start as soon as possible.
 • Permanent full-time position.

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PUBLIC NOTICE



Shelburne Fair Board AGM
 Is scheduled for Friday, February 10, 2023

Potluck @ 6pm followed by AGM • Shelburne Agricultural Building
 Board positions available

Any questions or concerns please give Sue a call.
519-217-5606

PUBLIC NOTICE

FOR RENT

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Farm Accountant

Responsible for day to day accounting operations, compliance, record keeping and quality assurance processes. Full time / permanent.

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OBITUARIES

OBITUARIES

OBITUARIES

RONALD BRUCE WOOD

AUGUST 9 1945 - JANUARY 21 2023



Ronald Bruce Wood passed away peacefully on January 21, 2023 at Elgin Manor, St. Thomas, at the age of 77. He was born in Weston on August 9, 1945 and lived much of his life in Shelburne, then recently moved to St. Thomas. Ron will be missed by his wife Helen, his daughters Michelle (Jeff), Kim (Lui) and stepsons Jason and Robert (Devon). His grandchildren Eric (Dara), Graham (Brynn), Morgan (Spencer), Ottavio & Giovina. His nieces, nephews, cousins, great grandkids, extended family and close friends will all miss his kind heart and witty personality.

Ron loved enjoying time with his friends and grandkids, working on his train set, and upkeeping his beautiful house and yard. He created wonderful memories in Bala, Muskoka. Ron spent many summers at Miller Lake, where he spoiled his grandkids with ice cream, boat rides and s'mores. He attended the NHRA Drag Races Indianapolis. He could be found in his favourite place Siesta Key sipping a Michelob Ultra or rye at the tiki bar. He watched countless sunsets there, with his feet in the

white sand he loved so much, he cherished walks along the beach finding seashells. He knew all the best spots and always wanted to share them with those he loved. Ron took great pride in his work, including his business BPHI in Orangeville, where he created life long friends. He was a hard working man his entire life, retiring only recently in 2017. Ron's daughters and family would like to express their appreciation to the Elgin Manor for the unconditional support and care they gave to Ron over the past year.

DONNA JACKSON



Donna Jackson, age 70, passed away Jan 3, 2023. She was doing what she loved, travelling with her best friend and husband, Glenn Jackson, when she was taken from us.

Donna is survived by her soul mate of 50 years, Glenn Jackson. Loving mother and best friend to Kristi and Jeff. Cherished Nanna to Jackson and Charlie. Sister and adored friend to Diane Voigt. Sister of Jim Schneider.

Donna brought such joy, happiness, and music to her many students, teaching colleagues, friends, and family. She has left a legacy that will always be cherished and never forgotten.



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Reverend Valerie Vande Wiele
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email: communications@shelburneprimrose.com

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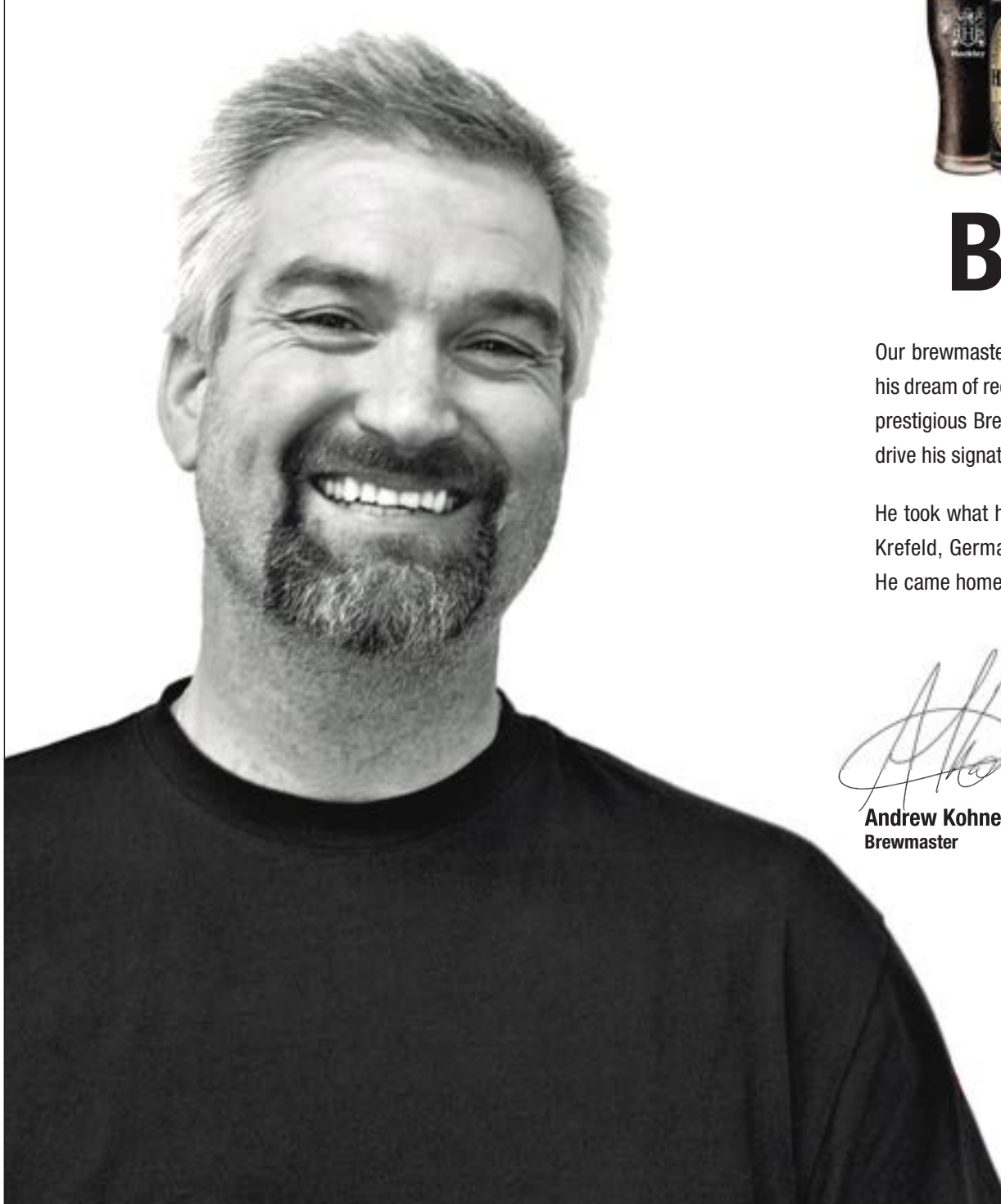
He took what he could from there and ventured to Scotland, Cornwall, and ultimately to Krefeld, Germany, working in the same brewery that had belonged to his ancestors. He came home to Canada for Hockley.

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