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BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

**DONATE A PLATE:** Representatives from five local schools and the Children's Foundation of Guelph and Wellington arrived at the Shelburne Home Hardware on Tuesday, Jan. 31, to accept a donation of \$20,000 to help with the school's nutrition programs. Local customers donated \$10,000 to the store's Donate a Plate initiative. That was matched dollar-for-dollar by the store for the final donation amount.

## Local breakfast program gets funding boost

Written By **Brian Lockhart**

A nutritious breakfast is a good way to start the day and allows you to concentrate on the tasks ahead of you.

For many children in the region, being hungry when they arrive at school can be a problem that causes a distraction and won't allow them to concentrate on their studies.

The Children's Foundation of Guelph and Wellington assists with breakfast, morning meals, snack, and lunch programs for schools in Guelph, Wellington, and Dufferin.

Home Hardware in Shelburne held its annual Donate a Plate initiative at its Steeles St. location in support of the breakfast program.

The store asked customers to donate any amount when they visited the store. Custom-

ers who donated could write their names on paper plates attached to the wall at the front of the store.

Customers donated \$10,000. That was matched by the store owner, Bill Gillam, for a grand total of \$20,000 donated to the Children's Foundation.

The store donated the funds to the Foundation on Tuesday, Jan. 31.

"Our staff worked hard to do this - it's called Donate a Plate," explained Sandy Haron, Home Hardware store manager. "People would come in and donate whatever they could afford. Their names went up on the wall on a plate. We raised \$10,000 from the community and Bill matched it dollar-for-dollar."

Representatives from five local schools, Primrose, Glenbrook, Centennial Hylands, and

Hyland Heights elementary schools, and Centre Dufferin District High School, arrived at the store for the donation to show their support and appreciation for the effort to raise funds to help their students.

"The \$20,000 will be split five ways and go directly to the schools and their expenses for food," explained Heather Verpaalen, Student Nutrition Program manager with the Children's Foundation. "Each school has a different program. It could be lunch, breakfast, or a snack - we call it the student nutrition program. Some schools may have three programs while others may only have one program."

The funds donated will help schools maintain their food programs and ensure every student is taken care of with their daily nutrition needs.

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## Family Day Skate being held at local rink

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

Shelburne families looking for something to do this upcoming Family Day weekend will have the chance to tie up their skates and hit the ice for some family fun.

Four local businesses - Go with Crowe Real Estate, Main Street Dental, Shelburne Optometry, and Shelburne Family Chiropractic and Wellness - have teamed up to host their first annual Family Day Skate.

"February can be the most blah month of the year and by this time of the year I think people are really feeling the long winter. We connect physical health with mental health

and we want to encourage families to get out and do something," said Claire Knight, one of the organizers for the Family Day Skate. "It's really important to give our community that opportunity and the encouragement to come out and have fun."

After years of planning and cancelling the event, this year will be the first one that the Family Day Skate is held. The four local businesses have joined forces to bring a variety of activities for family members to participate in while also enjoying a free skate.

"This is what we want to encourage in our community - businesses working together and people doing things within our own community rather than going to others

because it's all here," said Knight.

On top of a free two-hour skating session, the event will also include face painting, raffle draws, prizes, hot chocolate and popcorn. The Family Day event is open to all ages.

"We hope the community gets out for some physical activity, make memories with their families and enjoy being together within the community," said Knight. "It's really easy to feel down and sometimes the hardest part is showing up. We hope people show up and go 'that was such a great day'".

The free Family Day Skate will be held on Feb. 20 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Centre Dufferin Recreation Complex.

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# Non-profit workers being recognized with appreciation week

Written By Brian Lockhart

They are the people and groups working diligently in our communities supporting everything from housing, sports and recreation, child development, and community health centres to senior support and help for the homeless and people in transition.

Non-profit organizations support many local causes and fill many needs locally through their tireless work and help improve the quality of life for many people.

To celebrate these achievements, Non-profit Appreciation Week recognizes the nearly 850,000 workers in Ontario who work in the non-profit sector.

Non-profit workers have continued essen-

tial services through the pandemic making sure things like child care, long-term care, homeless shelters, and senior support have been able to provide services to those who need it in our communities.

Ontario's non-profit sector is the largest in the country. It has a \$65 billion impact on the economy, and in addition to its regular workers, it engages 5.2 million volunteers.

While the social contribution to our society is huge, many people are unaware of the work being done and the influence and impact that work has on the community.

"This is a chance for all of us in Dufferin County and across Ontario to recognize the people and organizations that work for the common good," explained Michele

Fisher, executive director of the Dufferin Community Foundation. "They're the ones who help people and run recreational programs. They're the ones who are doing protection of the environment and human rights. They do counselling and provide mental health supports."

The Dufferin Community Foundation is an organization that operates the Forever Fund. It receives funds through donations, then provides grants to deserving local non-profit agencies. The Foundation's goal is to raise \$10 million in its first ten years of operation. From that, they plan to provide \$400,000 annually to the community.

"We have an environment fund, an emergency support fund, an arts and culture fund, and others," Ms. Fisher said. "These are permanent funds, they are in perpetuity, so that means we will be able to give out funds this year and next year."

For a non-profit to be eligible for funding, they need to be a registered charity or sponsored by a registered charity.

To raise awareness of the non-profit

sector in Dufferin County, the Foundation is planning several activities to recognize the 'invisible champions' who work for non-profits.

This includes a radio show featuring stories about non-profit activities, posting on social media, and special opportunities for those working at non-profit organizations. On 'Thankful Friday,' on February 17, many local restaurants and food shops are offering a free treat to anyone who works in the non-profit sector in Dufferin County.

Non-Profit Appreciation Week is recognized by the Government of Ontario after an MPP introduced a private members bill in Dec. 2021 that was unanimously passed by all parties in the provincial legislature.

The week of recognition offers members of the public the chance to acknowledge the valuable work and contributions non-profit organizations make to the community.

Non-Profit Appreciation week will take place from February 13 to 19.



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## County looks for community input to guide strategic plan

Written By Paula Brown  
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Dufferin County is calling on local residents, businesses, community groups and stakeholders to share their input on plans for the community's future, as the county works on developing a new Strategic Plan.

The Strategic Plan will set the county's top priorities and create a vision for the community's future, including the work needed to ensure Dufferin County continues to be a great place to live, visit, and do business.

"Dufferin County's Strategic Plan for the 2022 to 2026 term of council will be the guiding framework to help focus our priorities and budget as county council and staff continue to work to make our community a great place to live, do business, play and visit," said Wade Mills, Warden of Dufferin County. "Whether you're a long-time resident, new to the community, a business owner or community group, we value and need your feedback."

Dufferin County is working with StrategyCorp to develop its strategic plan for the 2022 to 2026 term of council.

StrategyCorp's team will be gathering community input in-person on Feb. 24 at Centre Dufferin Recreation Complex from 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. and Grand Valley District Community Centre from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. as well as on Feb. 25 at the Orangeville Farmers' Market from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and the Alder Recreation Centre from 2:30 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Individuals can also provide their feed-

back by taking part in an online survey.

The online survey covers questions such as; what's best about living, working in or visiting the community; which issues are most important for Dufferin's future; where should the county focus its attention over the four-year term of council; and the level of satisfaction with the services provided by Dufferin County

"Community feedback is vital to help us determine where to focus our priorities," said Sonya Pritchard, chief administrative officer for Dufferin County. "We look forward to hearing from our community and creating a Strategic Plan that reflects the diverse values and opinions of all in Dufferin."

Those who provide their contact information at the end of the survey will be entered into a draw to win one of four \$50 gift cards to a local business.

To find out more information about the Strategic Plan or to have your say, visit [www.joinindufferin.com](http://www.joinindufferin.com). The deadline to participate in the online survey is Mar. 7.



### Correction

In the Feb. 2 edition of the Shelburne Free Press, the cutline on the front page photo was mixed up with the cutline of the photo on Page 6, captioned "PAN-AFRICAN FLAG RAISING." The front page photo shows the raising of the Pan-African Flag at the Museum of

Dufferin and incorrectly states it was at Jack Downing Park. The Page 6 photo shows the Pan-African Flag being raised at Jack Downing Park and incorrectly states it was raised at the museum. The Citizen apologizes for any confusion this error might have caused.



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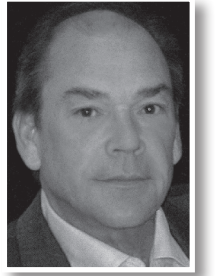


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# You can't ban everything

**BRIAN LOCKHART**  
FROM THE SECOND ROW



The Liberal government has now backtracked and stopped its efforts to ban hundreds of hunting rifles and shotguns, effectively making them illegal and turning owners into some kind of lawbreakers. Finally, some pressure on the government has resulted in what the people want – not what the government is forcing us to do.

When the amendments to Bill C-21 were first introduced, they were fluffed off by the government as some minor changes.

However, they weren't minor changes at all. The Bill caused considerable concern among the opposition parties, hunters, sports shooting groups, Indigenous groups, and even within the Liberal party itself.

The government claimed they weren't banning hunting rifles, when clearly they were – because there is a list of the firearms they wanted to ban.

It's pretty hard to convince someone you aren't planning on doing something when you have clearly written it down as an explanation of what you are planning on doing.

Lately, the Liberals have been referencing mass shootings in a foreign country as an excuse to try to take your firearms away from you.

We don't have a mass shooting problem

in Canada. We don't even have a shooting problem in Canada when it comes to legal gun owners.

Even some of those in the Liberal party realized they were heading down a slippery slope. If this amendment went ahead, millions of Canadians, who live outside of a couple of the major metropolitan areas, would never vote liberal again.

I'm sure Liberal MPs across the country were getting some pretty serious opposition from their local constituents.

The liberal government's attempt at banning firearms isn't a safety measure, it's a way of controlling citizens in this country.

If they were serious about public safety, they would take care of the criminals who have illegal guns and use them to inflict injury and death on public streets.

The recent killing of a police officer near Hagersville, Ontario wasn't carried out by a responsible hunter or target shooter on his way to a gun range or hunting outing. That shooting was carried out by a criminal with a criminal record and an illegal gun, which should have never been on the street in the first place.

You can have all the gun bans you want – but criminals don't care – they will still use and

carry illegal guns. That's why they're criminals.

While I don't agree with some of the rather free gun laws south of the border, where you can be standing in line next to a good old boy at a McDonalds in Texas who has a .45 in a holster on his hip, I think our current Canadian gun laws are fair, and no further restrictions are necessary.

Canadian gun control regulations go back over 100 years. Early in the 20th century, laws were put into place regarding carrying handguns in public. Those laws were amended in the 1930s to require a handgun permit.

This was a simple process. However, serious penalties were introduced if you decided to walk around town with your gun and were caught.

In the 60s, categories for 'restricted' and 'prohibited weapons' were introduced. In 1976, fully automatic firearms were put on the prohibited list. The 70s also introduced a new level of permits required, including Firearms Acquisition Certificates.

By 1994, the rules to obtain a Firearms Acquisition Certificate were amended to make the process more stringent.

After all these new requirements and regulations, there was no real reduction in violent

crimes related to guns. That's because legal gun owners were still responsible and met all the requirements to own a firearm.

The long gun registry was an attempt by the government to register every firearm in the country, including hunting and sport rifles and shotguns. It was a total failure. Many people simply chose not to register, effectively making them criminals for having something in their possession that they had owned for years.

The long gun registry was finally scrapped after costing hundreds of millions of dollars when the government of the day finally announced the program was a waste of money, ineffective at reducing crime, and targets law-abiding citizens instead of criminals who don't register their illegal guns.

The current firearm laws in Canada are adequate to keep the public safe, and legal gun owners, by far, comply with all regulations and safety protocols.

If the federal government is concerned about public safety, they need to redirect their focus on criminal activity, not spend time going after law abiding citizens just because they are an easy target.

# A bad case of cultural lag

**GWYNNE DYER**  
OUR WORLD TODAY



"I wish you a world without Babiš. Forget about Babiš. Try to live without Babiš," said former Czech prime minister Andrej Babiš on Saturday after his campaign for the presidency failed to convince the voters. "Stop waking up in the morning with hatred towards Babiš and falling asleep with hatred towards Babiš."

Just your standard billionaire populist having a massive public sulk after suffering political rejection, it would seem, and he certainly deserved to be rejected. It was a dirty, bad-tempered campaign in which a fake website and emails hosted by Russia's Yandex server falsely declared that Babiš's opponent, retired army general Petr Pavel, had died.

Babiš denied any involvement in that deceit, but his campaign tried to drum up fear of war between NATO and Russia and stressed that he was not aligned with the 'reckless' West.

Not only did he oppose NATO sending weapons to Ukraine to resist the Russian invasion, he said. Even if Russia invaded fellow NATO member Poland, he would not send Czech troops to help defend it (although it has a treaty obligation to do so under the NATO Charter).

"I am not going to drag the Czechs into war," read the posters that Babiš plastered all over

the country. "I'm a diplomat, not a soldier." But he's actually neither of those things, and most Czech citizens saw right through him.

Of course they did. Czechs lived under Communist rule for more than 40 years, and when they tried to throw it off in 1968, Moscow sent troops in to crush the peaceful revolt by force. That hasn't been forgotten, and they can clearly see the analogy with Russia is doing in Ukraine today.

So 57.3% of the voters cast their ballots for the pro-NATO candidate, Petr Pavel. He will replace the current, rather pro-Russian president, Milos Zeman, in March, and the Czech Republic's loyalty to its NATO alliance is assured. But what were the other 42.7% of Czech voters thinking?

They were not thinking: "Poor old Russians, under attack again by the evil forces of NATO. No wonder they had to invade Ukraine to overthrow the wicked Jewish Nazis who rule that stolen Russian territory and wage a genocide against its innocent Russian-speaking people."

There are very few 'useful idiots' left among the Czech population after several generations of close and mostly unpleasant contact with the ways of the Russian state. What most

of the people who voted for Babiš were really thinking was "Sorry about the Ukrainians, but I don't want my children to die in a nuclear war." And they were right too.

The Russian invasion of Ukraine was stupid and criminal, and it must be resisted. The doctrine of nuclear deterrence that is supposed to prevent that resistance from causing escalation into a nuclear war is necessary, but unreliable. The problem is war. Not just this or that war, but the entire institution.

Wars always used to be about territory, and they are older than mankind. Most animals defend their territories one way or another, and predators who live in groups generally defend them by force. That includes early human beings: practically all hunter-gatherer groups made alliances and fought wars to protect or even expand their territories.

It made sense for them, and it still made sense for the people who began living in larger groups called civilizations, because territory was the only real source of food, of wealth, and of power. We built ever bigger and more complex military institutions to protect and expand our lands, and the societies we live in today were the winners in that process.

However, for the past two centuries, since

the industrial and scientific revolutions, land has no longer been the principal source of wealth and power. Moreover, the level of destruction is so high that even the winner rarely makes a profit in the wars of the 20th and 21st centuries.

The military institutions should therefore be shrinking by now, but they are not. The number of casualties has dwindled over the past 75 years and no nuclear weapons have been used, but we are suffering from a bad case of cultural lag. It's not that people are unaware of the problem. The effort to replace the military 'balance of power' with civilian international institutions that would arbitrate between countries and prevent aggression began after the two world wars of the last century (the League of Nations and the UN) and continues today, but progress is very slow.

And what has all this to do with the outcome of the Czech election? Just that the arguments of the two sides, however partial and distorted they may be, are just one more round in a debate that is already more than a century old, and still nowhere near a conclusion.

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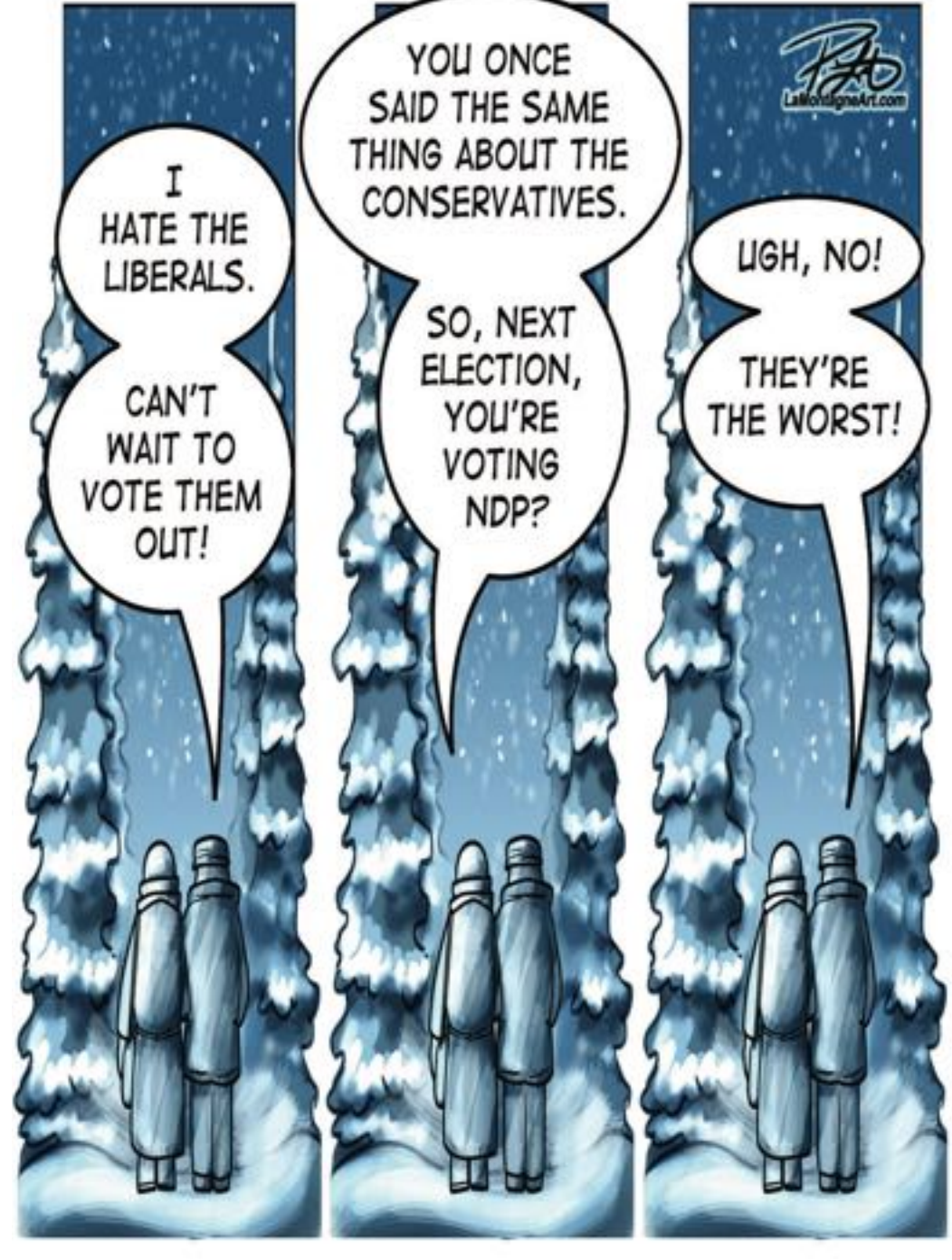
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# Amaranth barn fire results in death of livestock

Written By PAULA BROWN  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER



A fire that broke out at an Amaranth barn has resulted in the deaths of several animals.

Dufferin OPP, along with crews from Orangeville, Shelburne and Grand Valley fire departments, attended the scene of a barn fire on 8th Line in Amaranth shortly after 6 a.m. on Feb. 2.

Police said the fire claimed the lives of several farm animals, but there were no humans injured.

Shelburne Fire is continuing the investigation of the fire but has deemed it non-suspicious.

Police said anyone who witnessed the fire and wishes to speak to victim services can

do so by contacting Caledon/Dufferin Victim Services at 905-951-3838.

Anyone with information regarding the fire or any suspected unlawful activity is asked to contact the OPP at 1-888-310-1122 or visit Crime Stoppers to remain anonymous at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS) or www.crimestoppersdm.com.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**RURAL BLAZE:** A barn fire on 8th Line in Amaranth on Feb. 2 claimed the lives of several farm animals. Fortunately, no humans were injured.

## Multiple theft tools seized and charges laid from traffic stop

Members of the Dufferin Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) have laid multiple charges as a result of a traffic stop in the Town of Orangeville.

On Tuesday (Feb. 7), shortly after 2:30 a.m., officers from the Dufferin Detachment of the OPP stopped a driver for a traffic related offence on Fourth Avenue in Orangeville.

Once stopped, the officers were led into a criminal investigation which resulted in charging the driver and two passengers with multiple criminal charges.

Jason CHERENFANT, 29-year-old, from Montreal, Quebec, has been charged with:

- Possession of property obtained by crime under \$5,000
- Possession of break-in instruments
- Possessing automobile master key
- Identity theft - obtain or possess another person's identification

Mouhamed NDEAYE, 27-year-old, from

Pointe Claire, Quebec, has been charged with:

- Possession of break-in instruments
  - Possessing automobile master key
- Sylla ABDOULAYNE, 30-year-old, from Dollard-Des-Ormeaux, Quebec has been charged with:
- Possession of break-in instruments
  - Possessing automobile master key

The accused persons are scheduled to appear at the Ontario Court of Justice in Orangeville in March, 2023, to answer to the charges. These charges have not been proven in court.

## Tractor trailer with \$50k of cereal stolen from parking lot in Mono on Monday

Members of the Dufferin Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) are currently investigating a stolen tractor trailer from a parking lot in Mono.

On Monday (Feb. 6) Dufferin OPP received a call for service at a parking lot on Highway 10 at Campbell Road in Mono for the theft of a tractor trailer containing approximately \$50,000 of cereal. It was determined that the tractor trailer was stolen sometime between 8:00 p.m. on Feb. 5 and 9:15 p.m. on Feb. 6.

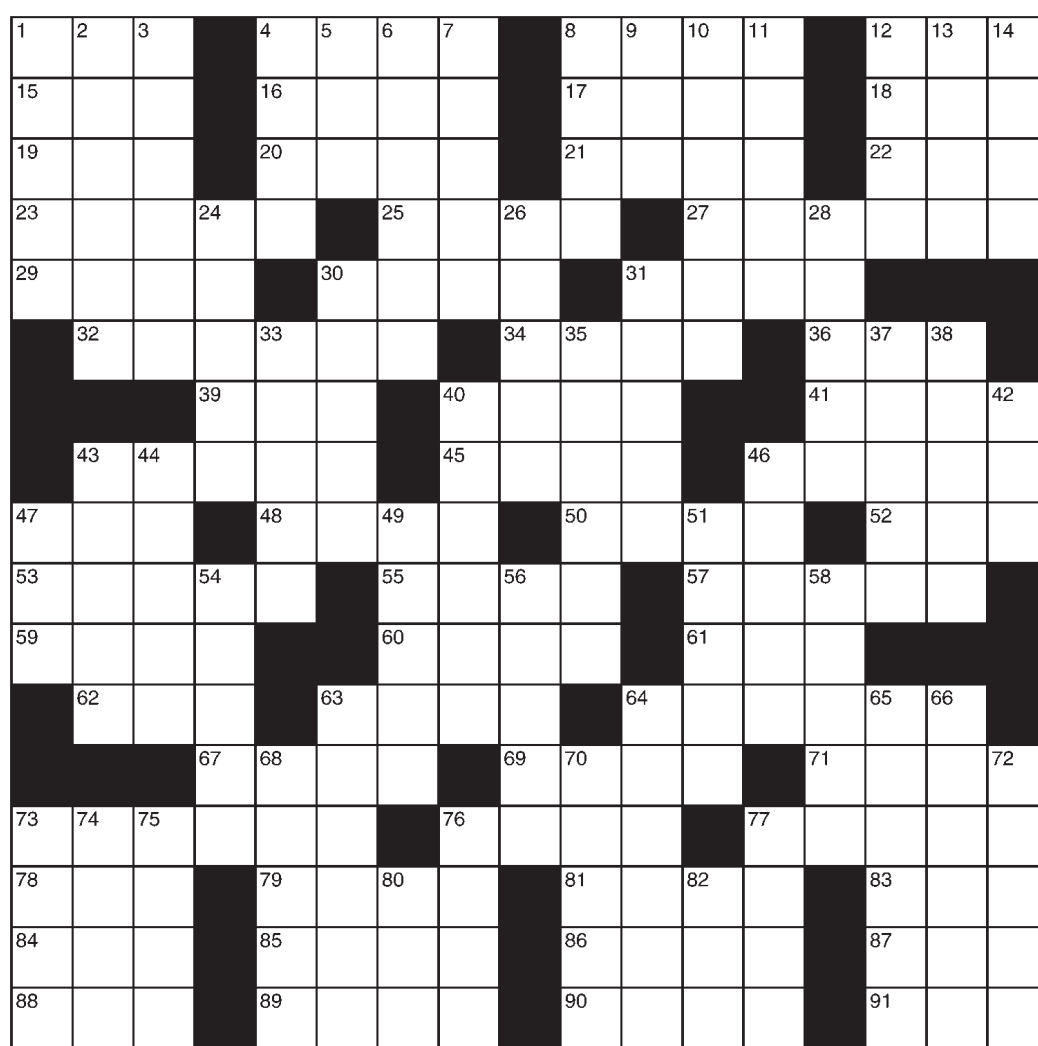
The tractor trailer is described as a 2019 Volvo VVN, white in colour. The trailer portion of the truck is also white.

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-TIPS (8477) or submit your information online at <https://ontariocrimestoppers.ca/>.

# X CROSSWORD

PUZZLE 472



- Influence
- Sarcastic composition
- Blow
- Cuckoo
- Gloomy
- Of the Vatican
- Exceptional
- Have being
- Cashew's relative
- Fortuneteller's card
- Repeat
- Require
- Wet, as morning grass
- Clara Barton, e.g.
- Find fault with
- Piece of wood
- Usefulness
- War hero Murphy
- Flush
- Soldier's lodging
- Electronic component
- More than prompt
- Bond
- Necklace of flowers
- Blunder
- Fashion
- Embrace
- Wind-creating device
- John Malkovich, e.g.
- Possessive adjective
- Remove pins from
- Prevent
- Christmas
- Drill
- On the beach
- Supply with oxygen
- Pantry
- Purple Heart, e.g.
- Bitterly pungent
- Call up
- Willing's partner
- Sneak a look
- Molding
- Encourage in crime
- Heal
- Vase
- Buck's companion

**ACROSS**

- Fuel
- Short breath
- Enthralled
- At the \_\_\_ of one's rope
- Chance \_\_\_ lifetime
- Wild ox of Sulawesi
- Geographical belt
- So-so grade
- Frequently, to Byron
- Not stiff
- Hitchcock's "\_\_\_ Window"
- Cut down
- Fishing net
- Infant
- Nary a soul
- Hose shade
- Feeling fit
- Sedan, e.g.
- Intense fear

**DOWN**

- Adjoin
- Helpful drink?
- Title for Gielgud
- Inside
- Irani coin
- Milestone
- Food shop
- Love greatly
- To and \_\_\_
- Persian title
- Indecent
- 551, to Romans
- Debate
- Surrender, as territory
- Comfortably informal
- Verb's counterpart
- Waste allowance
- Unclose, in verse
- Ribbed fabric
- Emily Dickinson, e.g.
- Of the stars

**DOWN**

- Arab bigwig
- Let up on
- Gather in a crop
- Highest point
- St. Louis landmark
- Incense ingredient
- Appeal
- Defeat decisively
- Traveled by bus
- Excitement
- Protective shelter
- Pasture measure
- Strong metal
- Downing Street number
- \_\_\_ out (barely make)
- Gave temporarily
- Monopoly card
- Before
- Honker

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# County seeking event submissions for Explore Dufferin Guide

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

Community groups, not-for-profits, and other organizations in the area have been invited to submit their events for inclusion in Dufferin County's new Explore Dufferin Guide.

The County of Dufferin is creating a tourism guide, which will be distributed to every household in Dufferin and showcases everything there is to see, do and experience in the community. The guide will highlight family-friendly activities, agritourism, nature and the outdoors, small-town charm, arts and culture, and more.

"Dufferin County is rich with opportunities for culture, fun and connection, and the Explore Dufferin Guide will house all this information in one convenient place, encouraging community engagement and participation, driving tourism and contrib-



uting to the community's cultural fabric," read a press release from Dufferin County.

Events can include:

- **Cultural** – festivals, parades, and other events that celebrate the history, traditions and customs of a particular group of people
- **Sport** – competitions and games such as marathons, charity runs or local sports leagues
- **Educational** – educate the public about a particular topic such as science fairs, lec-

tures, places of worship and seminars

- **Environmental** – events like tree planting, clean-up projects, and conservation efforts
- **Entertainment** – organized to entertain and engage the public, such as concerts, theatre performances, and comedy shows
- **Holidays** – celebrate national or local holidays and days of significance. Events can include gatherings and activities
- **Charity** – raise money or awareness for

a particular cause, such as a fundraiser walk or a silent auction

- **Business** – promote and support local businesses such as trade shows, networking events and open houses
- **Religious** – celebrate or commemorate religious holidays or traditions such as church services, mosques, temples or other religious gatherings

All events published in the Explore Dufferin Guide will be curated from the submissions provided and general community knowledge of county staff and stakeholders. Curation will be primarily based on which events, at the county's sole discretion, will most improve the social, economic, or environmental well-being of the community.

Events should be submitted by Feb. 20.

For more information or to submit your event, visit [www.joinindufferin.com](http://www.joinindufferin.com).

# Humane Society shares tips to help keep pets safe this winter

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

As winter weather fluctuates to colder temperatures, the Ontario SPCA and Humane Society reminds pet owners to take extra precautions to keep their animals safe.

"Canadian winter can be harsh and it's up to us to protect our furry friends from the elements," said Dawn Lyons, manager of the Ontario SPCA Orangeville & District Animal Centre. "By taking simple steps, you can ensure your furry family member is safe and comfortable during the cold winter weather."

To help pet owners keep their furry family members safe, the SPCA has shared seven tips on winter pet safety.

1. Supervise outdoor time – some dogs want to be outside, regardless of the weather, but even as little as 30 minutes can be too long for your furry companion in extremely cold temperatures. Even if your dog has a thick coat, keep an eye on them when they are outside playing to watch for early signs that they're cold, such as holding up paws or shivering;

2. Modify outdoor activities – Limit the length of time spent outside and choose walking routes that loop past your house in case you or your dog need to come in to get warm;

3. Leave pets at home – Leave your animal at home where they are warm and safe when you're running errands. Vehicles cool down quickly and don't hold in body heat, which

can lead to animals suffering from cold stress, hypothermia or frostbite;

4. Watch for cats seeking warmth under vehicle hoods – knock on the hood of your car or sound the horn before starting the engine. Cats hiding under hoods can be injured or killed by the fan belt;

5. Key paws clean – use a damp towel to wipe your pet's paws and underside if they've walked along salted sidewalks or roads. Salt and other chemicals used to melt snow and ice on roads and sidewalks can irritate and burn your pet's sensitive paws and can cause illness if ingested;

6. Clean up car spills – keep an eye out for antifreeze or other automotive leaks in your driveway. Antifreeze has a sweet taste that can be attractive to animals and can be fatal

if ingested;

7. Know who to call – if you have a concern about the welfare of an animal, contact the Provincial Animal Welfare Services team at 1-833-926-4625 or your local police service. If you see an animal in distress and are concerned the animal's life is in danger, call 9-1-1 immediately as this is an emergency.

As a reminder to pet owners, the SPCA wrote, "acknowledge your animal's unique needs – cats, puppies, and short-coated dogs are particularly vulnerable in cold temperatures. Some dogs, especially short-coated breeds, puppies and elderly dogs may benefit from a dog sweater or coat as an extra layer of warmth."

For more information and winter safety tips for pets, visit [www.ontariospca.ca](http://www.ontariospca.ca).

# Amaranth deputy mayor acclaimed as chair of Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority during Annual General Meeting

Written By **Brian Lockhart**

The Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority held its 2023 Annual General Meeting and held an election for the position of Chair and Vice Chair.

Gail Little, deputy mayor for the Township of Amaranth, was acclaimed as chair, while Bradford West Gwillimbury councillor Jona-

than Scott was elected vice chair.

"I am please to join NVCA for another term on the board and look forward to serving as chair for the current year," Ms. Little said. "It will be another challenging year, but overall, I applaud the passion and dedication of NVCA staff who continue to take on projects and work for the betterment of the environment in this watershed."

Ms. Little served as Vice Chair of the NVCA board along with outgoing chair Mariane McLeod. Together, they were strong advocates for NVCA through the changes to the Conservation Authorities Act and Bill 23, the More Homes Built Faster Act.

"I look forward to working with Chair Little, NVCA staff and other members of the board," Mr. Scott said. "Together we will continue to maintain and enhance a watershed that is resilient to climate change, and find a balance between development, the economy and environmental protection."

Fifteen new members appointed by their municipalities joined NVCA's Board of Directors at the meeting. Returning to the board are councillors Gary Harvey from Barrie and Ralph Manktelow from Mono.

"Thank you to everyone who served on the NVCA Board for the last four years," said Mr. Little. "Especially councillor Walter Benotto of the Town of Shelburne, who has been on the board for the last 22 years. I can't wait to share ideas and have discussions with all members, both new and returning. Only by working collaboratively as a group can we address the many challenges facing the watershed throughout the next term of council."

A total of 18 member municipalities from Simcoe, Dufferin and Grey County sit on the NVCA Board.

The board governs NVCA, a public agency dedicated to the preservation of a healthy environment through the protection of water, land and the future.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**NEW CHAIR AND VICE:** The Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority (NVCA) has a new board chair and vice chair. Gail Little was acclaimed and Jonathan Scott was elected, during the NVCA 2023 Annual General Meeting.

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

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# SHELBURNE SPORTS

## Junior Royals basketball teams undefeated so far this season

Written By Brian Lockhart

A hot season continues to evolve for the basketball teams at Centre Dufferin District High School (CDDHS).

Both the Royals' junior and senior squads are undefeated, with one game left in the regular season.

### Juniors

The Royals junior B-ball team travelled to Erin on Monday, Feb. 6, to take on the Erin District High School Raiders.

At the end of the first quarter, the Royals were leading 22-7.

They stayed ahead to finish the first half with a 33-14 lead.

The game ended with a 71-48 win for the Royals – their seventh win in a row – and the Royals Juniors are undefeated.

"I think we came out with a lot of energy, we showed them what our defence was," said Royals forward Josh Pomeroy. "It was passing mostly and getting to the right spots – it opened the floor for us. The key to our game is defence. We get a lot of steals, and we don't try and block as much – we use hands up, and that makes for less fouls."

The Royals juniors are in first in the District 4 standings, averaging 66 points per game.



**UNDEFEATED TEAM:** The Centre Dufferin District High School Royals junior boys' basketball team takes on the Raiders from Erin District High School on Monday, Feb. 6. The Royals won the game 71-48 and remain undefeated for the season.

Their final regular season game against Emmanuel Christian High School was held on Wednesday, Feb. 8, with results not available at press time.

### Seniors

The Royals senior basketball team are in first place in the District 4 standings going

undefeated after seven games.

The Royals took on the Erin District Secondary School Raiders in Erin on Monday, Feb. 7, for their seventh game of the regular season.

They came out on top with a 62-28 win to keep their undefeated record intact after seven games.

Averaging 67 points per game, the seniors are in first place in the District 4 standings.

The seniors played their final regular season game on Wednesday, Feb. 6, against Emmanuel Christian High School. Results were not available at press time.

The District 4 playoffs are slated to begin on Monday, Feb. 13.



BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTOS

**SEVEN IN A ROW:** The Centre Dufferin District High School Royals senior basketball team went to Erin to take on the Raiders at Erin District High School on Monday, Feb. 6. The Royals came out on top with a 62-28 win – their seventh in a row. The Royals are in first place in the District standings.

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**COACH OF THE YEAR:** Local coach and founder of the Shelburne Shocks Basketball Club, Sherwin Stephens, was honoured as U15 Coach of the Year at the Jane & Finch Classic tournament in December. Sherwin has done an outstanding job running the Club and supporting youth basketball in Shelburne. Shelburne Shocks is now back to a regular schedule after a disruption due to the pandemic.

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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.



# Provincial hockey playoffs shaping up with final standings

Written By Brian Lockhart

With only a handful of games left on the schedule, the Carruthers Division of the Provincial Hockey League final standings are starting to show the likely situation going into the playoffs.

The Stayner Siskins are pretty much guaranteed to finish in first place. The only way they wouldn't land in the top spot would be if they lost most of their remaining games and the second-place Alliston Hornets maintained a winning streak for the rest of the season.

That won't happen. The Siskins are the powerhouse squad this season taking only two losses after 31 games.

The Hornets should be able to maintain their second-place finish. They have been consistent and have only eight games left on the schedule. With 50 points, they are eight points back from first place.

In third place, the Schomberg Cougars have had a good season with a current 29-7-1 record. The Cougars have 44 points.

The Orillia Terriers, Innisfil Spartans, and Huntsville Otters are in fourth, fifth, and sixth place, respectively, but only separated by two points. All three teams will be making a solid effort in the final games in a bid to move up a notch in the standings for a better playoff berth.

Only the top eight teams will make the playoffs.

The Caledon Golden Hawks, Midland Flyers, and Penetang Kings have all struggled this year and are separated by five points.

The Hawks will most likely have a playoff spot, however, the Flyers and Kings – one point apart – could both possibly slot into the lowest seed position and make the playoffs if they manage to pull off a couple of wins and move up a position in the final stretch.

With the current line-up, the quarter-final round of playoffs won't likely take very long. A couple of the series will most likely be over in four games, five if one team has a good night.

The last game on the Carruthers Division schedule will be played on Feb. 26.



## Centre Dufferin's Co-op corner

Student: Rebecca Valade  
Placement: Rise Physio

This week Rebecca Valade from Centre Dufferin District High School shares a little bit about their co-op experience and how Rise Physiotherapy is contributing to the community's future.

Since December 2017, starting off as a smaller clinic, Rise was brought together to create new opportunities in Shelburne for locals to get the help they need. Rise Physio, over the years, expanded and became a multi-disciplinary clinic by June 2020. As it became a bigger company, more services were provided in this clinic.

Rise Physio offers manual therapy and assessments, acupuncture, dry needling, post-op rehab, pelvic floor physio and sports rehab. Since the beginning, Kathy Thompson has created this clinic to further provide her skills to benefit the community. Expanding the business, Kathy has brought in great physiotherapists and massage therapists to enhance the business for the better.

As a physiotherapist's assistant with Rise Physio, I have learned how to fully assess a patient and learn what a physiotherapist is looking for when a client comes in with pain. I have learned how to cup patients and what cupping is used for, as well as applying heat on patients and learning how different muscles and bones can affect other parts of the body.

As I continue this placement, I hope to keep having learning opportunities in how to treat a variety of issues, as well as documenting files and learning how to run the clinic. In the clinic,



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**ALL ABOUT DESIGN:** Centre Dufferin District High School student, Rebecca Valade (right) has been learning from Rise Physio owner, Kathy Thompson (left) for her co-op placement.

I have used many tools, such as cupping sets, acupuncture, heating pads and exercise equipment. As I use equipment, I have been told directions for how to use them properly.

Throughout my time here, I have learned about various other career paths I could follow. I can go into related careers like athletic trainer, rehabilitation counsellor, cardiovascular rehabilitation specialist, as well as being a chiropractor. These are just a few jobs that are related to physiotherapy that I could go into for many of the same needs.

Rise Physio contributes to the community by supporting races and being involved in the stands for when the race is over if people need manual therapy.

Rise has given back to Shelburne by helping out the high school and allowing students to have co-op placements that allow them to learn and seek information for their future.

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## ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

**TEAM: CENTRE DUFFERIN DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL ROYALS SENIOR BASKETBALL**

**POSITION: SMALL FORWARD**

### SHAWN HENRY

Playing basketball since he was in Grade 5, CDDHS Royals forward, Shawn Henry, brings a lot of experience to his team.

"I like the intensity, and meeting new people and making relationships with the coaches both on and off the court," Shawn said of why he likes the sport. "I like working on the fundamental, and going to basketball school as an extra curricular activity." Shawn also plays basketball outside of school with the Shelburne Shocks.

A well rounded athlete, Shawn is also a track and field athlete specializing in the 100 m and 200 m.

## Nonprofit Appreciation Week

### February 13-19, 2023

A week to recognize the "invisible champions" in our community who work at over 150 local charities and nonprofits in Dufferin County. We are grateful for their dedication, skill and ingenuity in helping people and creating a vibrant community.

Here are some ways that local businesses are saying thanks:

### Appreciation Yoga

Relax and restore with a yoga class by Simply Yoga, free for nonprofit staff in Dufferin County. Pre-registration is required. Visit [dufferinbot.ca/nonprofitweek2023](http://dufferinbot.ca/nonprofitweek2023).

Monday, February 13 - virtual session  
Thursday, February 16 - 12:15-1:00 p.m.  
at Shelburne Physiotherapy Centre

### Thankful Friday

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On **Friday, January 17<sup>th</sup>**, these businesses are offering a free treat to nonprofit staff in Dufferin County. Please show your business card or a letter showing you work at a nonprofit.

Visit [www.dufferinbot.ca/nonprofitweek2023](http://www.dufferinbot.ca/nonprofitweek2023) for more details.

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Nonprofit Appreciation Week is organized locally by Dufferin Community Foundation, Dufferin Board of Trade, Headwaters Communities in Action, DC MOVES, United Way Guelph Wellington Dufferin and Dufferin County.

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OBITUARIES

## KEELING, JIM

Passed away peacefully at St. Thomas Elgin General Hospital on Monday, January 30, 2023 at the age of 86. Jim Keeling was born to Elwood and Gladys Keeling on September 24, 1936. He married Shirley Ann Archibald on May 23, 1959 and together they had three children Brian (the late Robin, 2009) Keeling, Larry (Heather) Keeling and Diane (Don) Catt. They were blessed with four grandchildren James Keeling, Cindy (Josh) Caron, Dennis (Kaitlyn) Catt and Devin (Dana) Catt and two great-grandsons Lincoln and Archibald "Archie" Catt. Jim was predeceased by his siblings Leone Squirrel, Earl Keeling and Gloria Archibald.

Jim farmed in Amaranth Township all his life. He was a hard working family man with a great sense of humour and was always willing to lend a hand to those in need. He enjoyed going to dances and country music jamborees with Shirley. Jim was a self taught mechanical engineer, a member of the Shelburne Agricultural Society, and throughout his years built miles of fence in Dufferin County alongside his father Elwood and brother Earl. He will be dearly missed by all who knew him.

Friends and family were received at the Jack & Thompson Funeral Home on Friday, February 3, 2023 from 12-1 p.m. The funeral service followed in the funeral home chapel at 1:00 p.m. Spring interment will take place at Shelburne Cemetery. If desired, donations to Parkinson Canada, the Canadian Cancer Society or a charity of your choice would be appreciated. Online condolences may be placed at www.jackandthompsonfuneralhome.com

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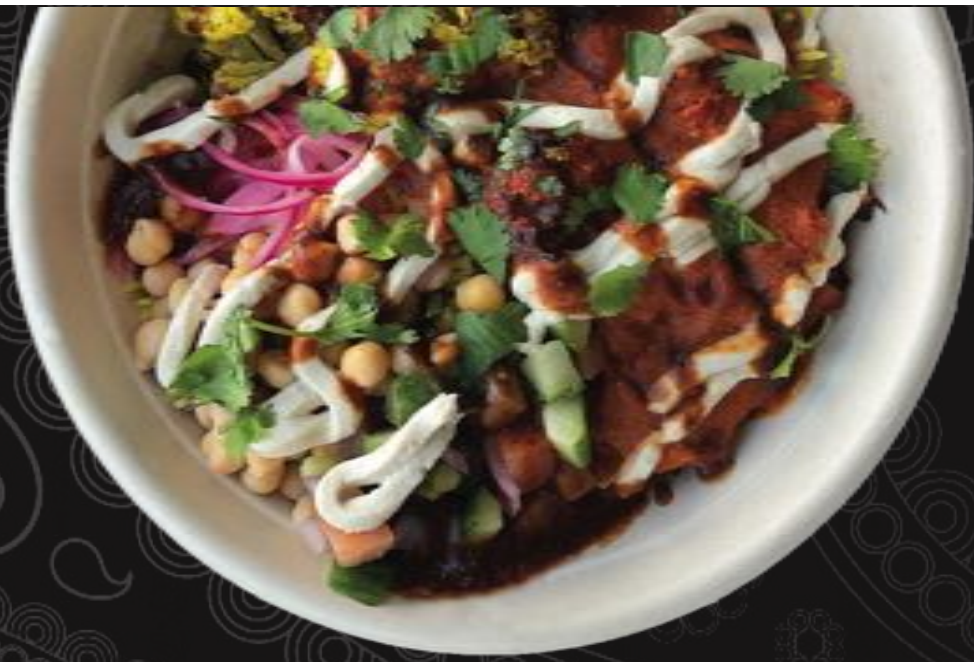
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