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BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

QUALIFYING FOR CHAMPIONSHIP: The Centre Dufferin District High School Royals senior boys basketball team host Norwell District Secondary School in the gym at CDDHS for the District 4 semi-final game. The Royals won 65-39 to earn the right to go to the District 4 championship game. They will face Erin District High School in the final. Turn to Page 8 for a full story on the Royals basketball teams.

Shelburne passes annual budget with 1% increase

Written By Paula Brown
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Shelburne Town Council has approved the 2023 budget, which will see a 1 per cent increase in the tax rate.

Carey Holmes, director of financial services and treasurer for the Town of Shelburne, presented a detailed report on the 2023 draft budget for the public during council's meeting on Monday (Feb. 13).

The 2023 draft budget recommended a 1 per cent increase in the tax rate, allowing for an overall tax levy increase of 5.3 per cent in tax dollars or \$460,751.

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 estimated amount to be raised by taxation in 2023 is just over \$9 million, calculated by taking the 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 is \$11,918,966, which is split up amongst eight expenditures, including police (\$3,138,862); operations and transit (\$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 2023 Draft Budget includes \$5,339,089 for capital projects. The capital projects include; \$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 initiatives, Grace Tipling Hall revitalization and administrative equipment.

Council also approved the request to use \$400,000 from the 2022 surplus to put into an equipment reserve to cover capital equipment needs for 2023 and 2024.

"I think the draft budget put together this year was spot on. It is responsible, in that it funds everything that needs to be funded, but it's also responsive to the needs and the experiences that our taxpayers are experiencing right now under the current economic climate," said Mayor Wade Mills.

A motion was passed by council to bring forward a bylaw to approve the 2023 budget.

Volunteer Dufferin encourages residents to give back

Written By Paula Brown
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

As the Dufferin County community gives appreciation and recognition to non-profit employees this week, there's no better time to start thinking about opportunities to get involved in volunteering in 2023.

Volunteer Dufferin, a project of Head-

waters Communities in Action (HCIA), is a web-based platform that helps pair volunteers and organizations.

"Volunteering builds a strong sense of belonging and purpose. It makes us feel good to 'do good.' You'll meet new people, expand your own network of contacts and build on employability skills, all while helping to create a strong and vibrant cul-

ture and community," said Sheralyn Roman, community engagement coordinator at HCIA.

Volunteer Dufferin is able to match individuals with a broad range of volunteering opportunities through its web-based portal.

Continued on Page 2

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Mayor responds to alleged racism at the fire department

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

Shelburne Mayor Wade Mills has released a statement in response to allegations of racism and discrimination within the Shelburne & District Fire Department.

A statement from the mayor was posted on the Town of Shelburne's website on Feb. 7 following the publication of an article by the Alliston Herald reporting allegations of racism and discrimination within the local fire department raised by volunteer firefighter Randy Narine.

"The Town of Shelburne treats all allegations of racism, discrimination and harassment very seriously and is committed to

continuing to be a municipal leader in the areas of diversity equity and inclusion," read the beginning of the mayor's statement.

In the article published by the Metro-land Media affiliate, Narine detailed alleged experiences of racism and discrimination including being called racist names such as "monkey and the 'N-word'" as well as being denied training opportunities.

He also alleged that members of the local fire department made racial comments about South Asian residents and did not provide them with the same level of service.

In the official statement, Mills clarified that the Shelburne and District Fire Department is not a department of the Town of Shelburne, but is managed by a third-party

board of management comprised of representatives from Amaranth, Mulmur, Melancthon, Mono and Shelburne.

"This board employs all members of the SDFD including the Chief, and the board operates as its own independent entity," Mills continued. "As such, the Town of Shelburne has no jurisdiction over board matters and therefore neither town council nor town staff can provide comments on the issues and allegations raised in the article."

A meeting was held on Feb. 8, by the Shelburne and District Fire Board, which was attended by Narine.

Shelburne Deputy Mayor Shane Hall, who sits as chair of the fire board, responded to the allegations during Shel-

burne Town Council's meeting on Monday (Feb. 13).

"The board is taking these allegations very seriously. These are complicated allegations against the department, the chief, and department members, and we have retained legal counsel to guide us through this process and with that a very credible independent third-party investigator. For the time being, as this investigation takes places, these matters are going to be confidential but I will endeavor where appropriate to provide council with any necessary updates," said Hall.

Narine has filed complaints with the Ontario Human Rights Commission and the Ontario Labour Relations Board.

Headwaters Health Care Centre seeking volunteer board members

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

Headwaters Health Care Centre (HHCC) is looking for applicants who reside in the area to join their volunteer board of directors.

As a member of the board of directors, candidates will provide governance oversight and monitoring of the health centre's performance goals. Directors are also accountable for giving feedback and guidance to the CEO and serve as a link between

the health centre and the communities Headwaters Health Care Centre serves.

The board is seeking candidates with diverse representation, both in experience such as finance, legal, clinical, and health system as well as background. They also strive for inclusivity to reflect the perspective of the community they serve.

Applicants will be looked at for having strong communication skills with the ability to listen and raise questions constructively, personal and professional integrity when dealing with diverse perspectives and ideas, and the time and support to commit to the community hospital.

Board members, both incoming and current, will have access to further education and development opportunities in health care governance through the Ontario Hospi-

tal Association and other organizations via seminars, webinars, presentations, reading and special projects. Directors are expected to devote 10 to 15 hours per year to health care governance development.

As a part of HHCC's board of directors, members are expected to participate in board meetings (about 3 hours per month, excluding summer months), belong to at least one committee, attend two-hour monthly/bi-monthly committee meetings (excluding summer months), including preparation in advance of all meetings, and support the Headwaters Health Care Foundation.

Those interested in joining the volunteer board of directors can send an expression of interest to info@headwatershealth.ca by 9 a.m. on March 31.



FILE PHOTO

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Finn is an absolute ham of a kitten. He is 9 months old and loves people, and very happy to lay in your lap for a cuddle while he purrs away. He follows the volunteers around, and gets along well with the others cats. This playful loving guy is neutered, microchipped, vaccinated, flea treated and dewormed. His adoption fee is \$250.

Check our facebook page to see the other kitties looking for their forever home. Donations always needed to help care for the cats as we are not funded at all, and rely on donations and fundraisers. If you would like to volunteer as well we are always appreciative.

Finn

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Continued from FRONT

Volunteer Dufferin encourages residents to give back

By creating a profile on the Volunteer Dufferin website and identifying personal areas of interest, volunteers can browse a list of available opportunities in the community.

"Our volunteer portal takes the guesswork out of both the search for volunteers and those seeking volunteers," said Roman.

She added Volunteer Dufferin has over 50 volunteer opportunities, and the number is growing.

"Even though opportunities are posted on our site throughout the year, we are hearing more frequently from our registered member agencies that the need for volunteers, post-pandemic, is acute," said Roman. "Many are looking for board members with governance, financial expertise or lived experience, or for volunteers to help with 'hands-on' tasks. We also know that students will soon be looking for opportunities to complete their 40 hours of community service in time for graduation. At this time of year,

organizations are already planning for their spring and summer programs."

Volunteer Dufferin also showcases a variety of volunteer opportunities such as environmental work with a conservation agency and support drivers for isolated seniors. The 2023 International Plowing Match is set to be held in Dufferin this year, with upcoming volunteering positions.

For those apprehensive about venturing into volunteering and what they have to offer, Roman shared the three W's – wisdom, wealth and work.

"The beauty of wisdom, wealth and work is that each of us likely has one, two or even all three of these gifts to give, but the absence of one or another shouldn't deter use from volunteering," said Roman. "We all have something to offer."

To learn more about Volunteer Dufferin or to look at volunteering opportunities, visit www.volunteerdufferin.ca.

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TOWN PAGE

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COUNCIL 2023 DATES February 13 (virtual) & 27 (meeting commencing at 5:00pm), March 13 & 27, April 3 & 24, May 8 (virtual) & 29, June 12 & 26, July 10 & 24, August 28, September 11 & 25, October 16 & 30, November 13 & 27 (virtual) December 11 (virtual), 2023. Meetings commence at 6:30 pm.



**THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF SHELBURNE
 NOTICE OF COMPLETE APPLICATION AND PUBLIC
 MEETING UNDER SECTION 34 OF THE PLANNING ACT**

Take notice that the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Shelburne has initiated a Zoning By-law Amendment (File No. Z22/04) and will hold a public meeting on:

MONDAY, MARCH 13, 2023

The public meeting is scheduled to start at 6:30 p.m., or as shortly thereafter as possible, and will be held in Grace Tipling Hall at the Municipal Office (2nd Floor), 203 Main Street East, Shelburne.

The purpose of the meeting is to consider an Amendment to the Town of Shelburne Zoning By-law No. 38-2007 that has been initiated by the Town. Take notice that the application has been deemed complete so that it can be circulated and reviewed.

The purpose and effect of the Amendment is to revise the Zoning By-law definitions and regulations pertaining to converted dwellings and dwelling units located below grade. Currently, the Zoning By-law allows a converted dwelling with up to two (2) dwelling units and the second dwelling unit may be located in a "basement" but may not be located in a "cellar" as defined in the by-law. Pursuant to the Planning Act, as amended by the More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022, the proposed Amendment to the Zoning By-law will update and replace the provisions for converted dwellings and for dwellings units located below grade including new provisions for attached accessory dwelling units within single detached, semi-detached, and townhouse dwellings, and for a detached accessory dwelling unit located in a residential accessory building, for a maximum of up to three (3) dwelling units on one (1) residential lot.

The proposed Amendment applies generally to all land within the Town of Shelburne and therefore a map of the affected lands is not provided with this Notice.

For more information about this matter, including information about appeal rights, email planning@shelburne.ca or visit the Town's website at www.shelburne.ca.



2023 SHELBURNE JOB FAIR

Shelburne Job Fair: Employers Wanted! The Job Fair is an excellent opportunity to maximize your business exposure and recruit the best candidates for your organization. For more info and to register, visit:

Date and time

Thu, 20 Apr 2023, 2:00 PM EDT

Location

Centre Dufferin Recreation Complex 200 Fiddle Park Lane Shelburne, ON

Register

Interested in participating? Register early, spaces are limited and available on a first come, first served basis.

We are not accepting registrations from staffing agencies.

If you have any questions, please email: edcsupport@shelburne.ca.

We are excited about the prospect of working with your company to address your labour needs.

The Shelburne Ec. Dev. is partnering with The Centre for Career and Employment Services - Georgian College and Upper Grand District School Board.

See <https://www.shelburne.ca/en/news/job-fair-2023.aspx>



WANT TO SUPPORT OUR COMMUNITY AND HAVE FUN?

EDC\Rotary Golf Classic is on June 8, 2023; enjoy 18 holes, games and a gourmet dinner. Proceeds from the event will support Recreation, Fun and Accessible Parks in Shelburne. Register at: <https://www.shelburne.ca/en/news/2023-edc-golf-classic.aspx>

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Milk dumping in Canada

A video of an exasperated Canadian dairy farmer, Jerry Huigen, went viral last week. For probably the first time in Canadian history, a Canadian dairy farmer was filmed while discarding milk on his own farm. Almost three million people have now viewed that video. It shocked many Canadians, who were left wondering why this is even possible when food prices are skyrocketing at the grocery store.

The dairy industry has its reasons. Supply management, which is our government-sanctioned quota system, allows 9,500 dairy farmers to produce what we need as a country. The system is highly protected with import tariffs, and the Canadian Dairy Commission sets an appropriate price for farm milk so that farmers can make a decent living.

But dairy cows cannot magically start and stop making milk and butter fat. It just doesn't work that way. So, most farmers will overshoot to hit their quota. Feed, the weather, and many other factors influence milk production – most Canadians can appreciate that.

Based on rough estimates, it is believed Canadian dairy farmers can dump up to 300 million litres a year in Canada. I asked the Canadian Dairy Commission for exact figures on the amount of milk dumped, and they could not say, which is a problem in

and of itself. Since the dairy industry is self-regulated but highly protected by public policy, the Commission, a crown corporation, ought to know. But transparency is hardly the dairy sector's strong point.

In Ontario, an amendment to By-Laws for Marketing Boards under the Milk Act was made last fall, allowing the Dairy Farmers of Ontario to "list and maintain the confidentiality of commercially sensitive DFO board documents." Similar rules affect other dairy boards across the country. The DFO did disclose the amount of wasted farm milk prior to 2022. Moving forward, that is highly unlikely to happen again.

Now, as usual, dairy advocates were quick to go on the defensive in an attempt to trivialize the issue of milk waste on the farm. The Dairy Farmers of Canada are always ready to send marching orders to those affiliated with Canada's dairy practices. Their message always implies supporting the status quo, without saying so directly. They did the same with the "Buttergate" scandal in 2021 when it was disclosed that dairy farmers were using palm oil derivatives to feed cows, making butter harder. And they are doing it again, normalizing what is seen as completely unacceptable for Canadian consumers and taxpayers.

Milk dumping remains a highly taboo subject within the industry, which is why

dairy boards do everything they possibly can to silence people and make embarrassing stories disappear. It shows the true dark side of supply management, the system farmers care very much about.

What is being missed in this debate is how supply management can actually eliminate all waste as the quota system can be used to our own advantage. Producing food only to destroy it makes no sense, especially with looming emission targets. Most dairy farmers around the world do discard milk occasionally. But Canada has the perfect system in place to eliminate all waste.

Firstly, we need to make milk dumping illegal. This policy shift will provide an incentive for farmers to adjust. Right now, dumping is the easiest thing to do: making it illegal would force marketing boards to find a market for the surplus.

Secondly, the CDC should create a strategic reserve for milk or powdered milk. Most Canadians aren't aware that we already have a strategic reserve for butter, which includes over 85,000 kilos. Such a buffer could help between processing and shipping to markets abroad. And finally, we need processing plants.

Canadian dairy farmers have often argued that we can't ship Canadian milk abroad; that is until China decided to build its own plant in Kingston, Ontario,

SYLVAIN CHARLEBOIS
TROY MEDIA



called Canadian Royal Milk. That's right, Ontario dairy farmers are supplying this Chinese-owned plant to produce baby formula, and all its products are shipped to China. We can certainly do this ourselves. All we need is to create an incentive for change.

Change for the better is possible. The first step to fixing a problem is to recognize that we have one. Meanwhile, though, many dairy advocates and academics will continue to normalize the issue of milk dumping by calling farmers like Jerry Huigen incompetent, foolish, and irresponsible. We also have zero publicly available data about farm milk waste, as we continue to pay more for milk and dairy products at the grocery store.

Huigen, with his 43 years of experience as a dairy farmer, has now delivered what Canadians deserve from the industry. Courage, transparency, accountability. This is what we need, now more than ever so we make supply management work for farmers and Canadians.

Dr. Sylvain Charlebois is senior director of the agri-food analytics lab and a professor in food distribution and policy at Dalhousie University.

Weather balloons

In 1947, something strange happened near Roswell, New Mexico.

An object of debatable origin fell out of the sky and crashed in the desert.

Early reports suggested it was a 'flying saucer,' but those reports were quickly withdrawn.

The term 'flying saucer' was originally coined the same year as the Roswell incident when someone saw a strange object in the sky and referred to it as being 'saucer shaped,' to the media, and the phrase was born.

While reports started going around about this mysterious object in the desert, the U.S. military got involved, which itself is curious because what does the military have to do with aviation failures? That's a civilian agency that handles those things. Even so, once the military was involved, that just heightened the public's curiosity.

The military finally announced that the down object was in fact, a weather balloon.

Ah the weather balloon – the foil for many conspiracies over the years.

Apparently, at one time, there must have been thousands of these things floating around

the sky, taking barometric readings and high altitude temperatures because, for several decades, UFO sightings and other phenomena seen in the skies were always attributed to another weather balloon floating unchallenged through the airways.

I guess it never occurred to anyone that having a large balloon bobbing about in open space would be a hazard to aircraft. Even if they did go to heights above which most aircraft can fly, they still have to come down at some point.

Balloons have no method of directing their path – they go where the wind takes them.

I'm not sure if weather balloons are still used. With Doppler radar and satellites that can map weather systems over a huge area, sending up a balloon seems a little old school unless the local Boy Scouts, Cadets, or science club is having a fun experiment.

Weather balloons are back in the news with the discovery of a couple of strange floating objects – one on the east coast and another on the west.

It was quickly determined they were of Chi-

nese origin.

The Chinese claimed it was a weather balloon that was blown off course. That must have been one rather strong wind to take a functioning balloon with functioning electronics from Shanghai to the east coast of North America.

Experts say a relatively low-altitude balloon can observe a lot closer and see more details than a satellite image taken from a few hundred miles up.

It will take no time at all to determine what the balloon captured and what it was looking at once the debris is collected and analyzed.

The question is, what are the Chinese up to? They must have known a spy balloon would be detected and eliminated.

It was decided to shoot both balloons down as they posed a hazard to aircraft – at least that's the official version. The unofficial version is we don't want Chinese balloons spying on us.

Shooting down a balloon isn't as easy as it sounds. Air-to-air missiles are designed to hit a fast-flying object, not a static target bobbing around in the wind.

As for using bullets, you can't just shoot something down when it's flying over land. The bullets used will fall to the ground, and you don't want to spend 20mm shells landing on

your house. The debris from a falling object is also a risk to the public.

And just as I'm writing this, it was announced another object has been shot down over Lake Huron.

While it is interesting to note the Chinese are using mid-20th-century technology in their spying techniques, it should also be noted that it does point out some obvious errors on our part.

How could a spy balloon go undetected by NORAD until it made its way to the centre of the continent?

While NORAD is watching the radar for supersonic ballistic missiles and high-speed military aircraft, they missed the tortoise that was racing the hare. Apparently these balloons were drifting along for some time before someone noticed they were even there.

I'm pretty sure there's going to be some discussions about this at the next NORAD command meeting.

While the middle of Lake Huron isn't exactly a good place to spy on technology, industry or military installations, at the least the guys in some secret office in China had a nice travelogue video to watch for a while.

BRIAN LOCKHART
FROM THE SECOND ROW



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House fire in Mulmur deemed not suspicious

Written By Paula Brown
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

A house fire in Mulmur that occurred on Superbowl Sunday has been deemed not suspicious.

Firefighters from the Shelburne, Rosemont and Mulmur/Melancthon fire depart-

ments, along with Dufferin OPP officers, responded to a call for a house fire on First Line in Mulmur on Feb. 21 at 3 p.m.

Dufferin OPP said no one was in the home at the time of the fire.

Shelburne Fire is continuing to investigate the house fire and has deemed the fire non-suspicious.

Speaking with the Free Press, Shelburne Fire Chief Ralph Snyder said the origin and cause of the fire had not yet been determined.

As a result of the fire, the damage to the house has been considered a "total loss."

If you witnessed the fire and wish to speak to victim services, Caledon/Duf-

ferin Victim Services can be reached at 905-951-3838.

Anyone with information regarding this 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 1-888-222-8477 (TIPS) or www.crimestoppersdm.com.

Missing person quickly found safe and sound

Written By Paula Brown
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

A young adult man reported missing earlier in the week has been found safe and sound.

Dufferin OPP issued a missing person alert on Monday (Feb. 15) shortly after 6 p.m., for a 23-year-old male last seen earlier in the day on Townline in Orangeville.

Police said the individual's family was con-

cerned for his well-being.

Officers requested the assistance of media partners and the public to help search for the individual.

In a statement update issued two hours

after the missing persons alert was released, police reported that the individual had been located safe and sound.

Police thanked both the public and media partners for their assistance in the matter.

Multi-layered door-to-door scams on the rise in Ontario

Ontario's Serious Fraud Office (SFO) is shining a light on a multi-layered door-to-door sales scam, which leaves victims with poor renovations, liens or a mortgage on their homes.

Despite rules banning door-to-door sales, criminals have not stopped. Those involved in these frauds are persuasive and persistent. They continue to visit the homes of vulnerable individuals and endear themselves, giving the impression they are a friendly helper.

How does this fraud unfold?

Fraudsters approach individuals at the door of their home or by phone and use compelling tactics to persuade the homeowner that a new appliance, contract or service is required; something that was never asked for or needed. These have included: air cleaners, air conditioners, air purifiers, duct cleaning, furnaces, water filters, water heaters, water treatment devices or even bundles of these goods and services.

After the service has been completed or device installed, a few things can happen to make a bad situation even worse.

Whether by phone or in person:

- The victim is contacted by someone claiming to be from a law firm offering assistance to exit previously signed contracts, remove possible liens and consolidate incurred debts. Victims are told they may be eligible to receive a grant for a significant amount of money IF they agree to exit the contract.
- If a grant was offered, the victim is contacted by a home renovation company and is persuaded to sign a contract and speak with a finance company on the phone. They are led to believe this is required to comply with the grant, BUT it is actually the process to have a mortgage approved on their home.
- The funds are then deposited into the vic-

tim's bank account, leading the victim to believe they have received the grant, but it is actually funds from the home equity mortgage taken out on their home.

The victim is told not to touch the money, as it must go toward renovations, as well as to the payments they were making for installed equipment.

Tips to protect yourself and others

- Answer your door only if you are expecting an invited guest
- Do not allow unsolicited visitors into your home
- Hang up on unsolicited phone calls
- Never share personal information or copies of any bills or financial statements

- Do not make a decision on the spot
- Do not sign blank documents
- Take the time to understand what you are signing and ask questions
- Do not answer questions on a phone/video call if you are being told the answers by someone else (if someone is telling you to answer 'yes/ 'no')
- Check regularly on family or others who might be vulnerable to persuasive and persistent individuals
- Understand no renovations are free
- Visit Canada.ca to review green grant opportunities
- Ask yourself: why has this person offered to help and how do they know your situation

Continued on Page 6

X CROSSWORD

PUZZLE 473

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- Vertically long
- Hinder
- Scramble (for)
- Time division
- Steep hemp
- Fish basket
- Wine type
- Trudge
- Singing part
- Goopy
- Newborn
- ____ thin air
- Scrutinize
- Grazing group
- Ballet step
- Wall clinger
- Spend it in Moscow
- Ship's wheel
- Bee's follower
- Twosome
- Landlord's income
- Provide food for
- Plaid cloth
- Naught
- Not used
- Asking price
- Not pro
- Modern gaslight
- Light carriage
- Traitor
- Remark further
- Extinct bird
- Hearty's partner
- Tooth point
- Purify
- Graze
- Daft
- Mound
- First-year cadet
- Decorative fabric
- Mock
- Once ____ a time . . .
- "A Bronx ____"
- Ordinarily disposed
- Before, to Browning
- Shred
- Pool circuit
- Porky, for example

ACROSS

- Thus
- Better late ____ never
- Underwater worker
- Frog's cousin
- Witchy old woman
- Soil with mud
- Heal
- Lariat
- Do again
- "Take ____, She's Mine"
- Partridge's tree?
- Brownish gray
- Bit of land
- Waist accessory
- Plate
- Revolver
- Storm
- Therefore
- Bypass
- Young grizzly

- Unclose, poetically
- Salt
- Harmony
- Violin's kin
- Nut variety
- Prepare to pray
- Soul
- Gulch
- Chemical compound
- Liquid measure
- Small banknote
- Utmost
- Cut with an axe
- Summary of beliefs
- Market
- Remote
- Capital of Angola
- Antler prong
- Stratagem
- Search party
- Advertising leaflet

- Goopy stuff
- Belly
- ____ photograph
- Foreigner
- Mama's spouse
- Heir to the throne
- Actor Hayes
- Pedestal occupier
- Indian's abode
- Fencer's blade
- Heredity unit

DOWN

- Write with acid
- Dissolute fellow
- Military post
- Sonnet's kin
- Trick or ____!
- Frost
- Tiny crawler
- Put in order

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County council to reconvene and work on lowering tax increase

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

Dufferin County council will be taking a further look at its 2023 draft budget at an upcoming special meeting after concerns were raised over the suggested 5.79 per cent tax levy increase.

During their meeting on Feb. 9, Dufferin County council gave a brief presentation on the draft 2023 budget from Aimee Raves, corporate finance manager and treasurer for the county. The presentation detailed additional expenses added to the draft budget.

"2023 is sure to bring additional challenges and opportunities. The impacts of the pandemic continue to reverberate, inflation appears stuck over 6 per cent, cyber threats are more and more prevalent, mental crises and social inequity continue to be far reaching," said chief administrative officer Sonya Pritchard. "Having a strong, connected community with supportive and responsive services for all residents is more important than

ever. This budget puts forward a plan that ensures those services are available and helps move the county forward as a new Strategic Plan is developed."

In the county's initial 2023 draft budget, the suggested tax levy increase was 4.18 per cent. The tax levy is the amount of money required to be raised from property taxes to fund the business of the county.

During the Feb. 9 meeting, additional expenses were added to the draft budget, including additional staffing (\$425,000), new transit service (\$305,000), Food for Thought Grant (\$70,000), paramedic addition (\$150,000), and the International Plowing Match (\$787,000).

The additions totalled over \$1.5 million and increased the tax levy to 5.79 per cent in tax dollars.

Following the presentation, concerns were raised by some councillors on the nearly 6 per cent tax levy increase.

"I don't have the background or the confidence right now in the staffing requests that have been made to legitimately sit here and be able to tell my constituents

that I feel good about voting in favour of what's happened," said Coun. Todd Taylor.

Specific areas of concern included the new staffing positions for Dufferin County and the cost of hosting the 2023 International Plowing Match.

The 2023 budget overview included the addition of six new positions: development review technologist/engineer, corporate climate initiative coordinator, facility coordinator, IT service desk manager, payroll clerk, and quality coordinator.

"I'm not comfortable with the level of staffing request that are put in here. I look at things like the IT manager and wonder why we're doing it. It feels like we're past that," said Coun. Taylor.

"We have to understand when it comes to the staff additions, that we are a growing county and we have to be able to have the capacity to do the work," said Coun. Janet Horner.

Coun. Lisa Post brought forward the idea to use an extra \$500,000 from the tax stabilization reserve, which sits at \$7 million, in the 2023 budget to mitigate the impacts of

the International Plowing Match (IPM) on the tax levy.

"We've got a lot of uncertainties ahead of us in the future and we know that we've got some additional staff needs, but we know that our residents are feeling the pressure of inflation today," said Post. "So, if we can do something to mitigate those increases and help balance out some of the new costs that we have for the International Plowing Match, it would be a great way, I think, to leverage that."

Coun. Gail Little shared her support for the use of the tax stabilization reserve to support the event.

"There are some one-time events that have a price tag," said Litte. "It does help offset the cost of those one-time events so I think it could be useful for this year."

According to Raves, the use of \$500,000 from the tax stabilization reserve for the IPM event would bring the tax levy increase down to 4.61 per cent.

A complete overview of the 2023 Dufferin County draft budget can be found on the county's website.

Shelburne Free Press

AUTOSHOWTH
MOBILITY REIMAGINED

CONTEST WINNER
William Breda

William has won a set of 4 tickets to the 2023 Canadian International AutoShow, February 17-26, 2023 at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre.

THANK YOU to all of the entrants for helping make this contest a success.

Nominations open for annual Rotary Community Choice Grants

The public is again being given a chance to support a not-for-profit or charitable organization in the community.

The Rotary Club of Orangeville Highlands opened nominations for its third annual Community Choice Grants program.

The club doubled the love for charities this Valentine's Day (Feb. 14) when public voting opened, as it will distribute five \$2,000 grants instead of \$1,000 as has been done in 2022 and 2021.

All community members need to do to nominate their favourite non-profit organization is email grants@rcoh.ca or leave a comment or direct message on Rotary Orangeville Highlands' social media pages.

The nomination period closes on Feb. 28.

"This is a great opportunity for residents to show their love for a charity that has touched their lives," said Len Meyer, chair of the Rotary Grants Committee. "We're especially hoping to help non-profits where \$2,000 will make a real difference. The major criterium is that the organization needs to serve Orangeville residents in some meaningful way."

Last year's recipients included the

Achill Choral Society, Branching Out Support Services, The Josh Project, Diabetes Canada D-Camps and the Dufferin County Multicultural Foundation. Close to 30 local organizations were nominated and 3,165 residents voted to make the final selection.

To help as many groups as possible, the winners from last year's program will be exempt from receiving a grant this year.

"The launch of the grants program coincides with Non-profit Appreciation Week. Nominating a local charity is a great way to recognize their impact in our community," said Meyer.

Voting starts on St. Patrick's Day (Mar. 17) and ends on Mar. 24.

During that period, the public will be invited to vote from the list of nominees at the Rotary's website www.rcoh.ca. The top three non-profits receiving the most votes will each be awarded \$2,000.

The final two grants will be selected by the Rotary Orangeville Highlands, with the view to helping smaller non-profits that do not have a large social media following.

On Mar. 31, the winners will be announced.

Continued from Page 5

Multi-layered door-to-door scams on the rise in Ontario

Red Flags

- The person visiting you says you have won a class-action lawsuit regarding the installation of your equipment and the money can only be used towards renovations to your home
- You are told your home is now a 'green home' after the installation of some equipment and therefore you qualify for a grant. A condition of the grant is that you can only use the money to do renovations or add more equipment
- A financial company approaches you, unsolicited, indicating they can help you get out of payments or to consolidate your debt

- If you are told renovations are free
- If you do not have input on the renovations a company does or what materials they use
- If you are pressured to have renovations started right away
- Renovations in these frauds have included: flooring, painting, smart thermostats, vanities, sinks, toilets, showers, kitchens cabinets and insulation. They are often poor quality and are left unfinished
- If you believe you have become a victim of fraud, contact your local police service and the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre at 1-888-495-8501 (toll-free) or report online on the Fraud Reporting System (FRS).

HOLIDAY INTERRUPTION FOR WASTE COLLECTION

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
February 12	February 13	February 14	February 15	February 16	February 17	February 18
February 19	FAMILY DAY	February 21	February 22	February 23	February 24	February 25
February 26	February 27	February 28	March 1	March 2	March 3	March 4

Monday ZONE

Tuesday ZONE

Wednesday ZONE

Thursday ZONE

Interruption no collections

Happy Family Day!

Due to the holiday on Monday, February 20th, Garbage, Blue Boxes and Green Bins will be collected **one day later** that week. Regular collection will resume the following week.

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SHELBURNE SPORTS

Centre Dufferin basketball teams to compete in District championship

Written By Brian Lockhart

Both boys' basketball teams at Centre Dufferin District High School will be going to the District 4 championships after winning their semi-final games on Monday, Feb. 13, on their home court.

Seniors

The senior Royals team went into their semi-final playoff game against Norwell District Secondary School as a first-place undefeated team.

Norwell arrived at the gym as the fourth-seeded team in the District with a 2-6 record.

The Royals took an early lead finishing the first quarter ahead 21-8.

By the half, they lead by 21 points. From there, the squad continued to put out a solid effort and ended the game with a 65-39 win.

"We were getting a lot of steals and a lot of turn-overs," said Royals forward Brayden Geiring after the game.

"For most of the game we were pretty good on turn-overs and steals. We had some guys that were really getting in there and moving the ball."

The Royals had a lot of success on offence and did good work shutting down the Norwell attack.

"I think we did pretty good, we were passing the ball around, and everybody was getting points," said Royals point guard Mohammad Raza.

"On defence, I think we had some points we could have worked on, but from the start we had a good defence. We were pass-



BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

JUNIORS WIN: The Centre Dufferin District High School (CDDHS) Royals junior boys basketball team take on Emmanuel Christian High School during the District 4 semi-final game held in the gym at CDDHS on Monday, Feb. 13. The Royals came out on top with a 62-33 win and will go on to meet Westside Secondary School in the District 4 championship.

Juniors

The CDDHS Royals junior boys team will go to the District championship after defeating Emmanuel Christian High School 62-33 in their semi-final game on Monday, Feb. 13.

The Royals were heavily favoured going into the semi-final game as the first-place team, being undefeated all season.

Emmanuel came to the semi-final after winning only one game all season.

The final was a 62-33 win for the Royals.

They will be up against the Westside Secondary School Thunder in the final championship game.

Westside won their semi-final 53-49 over Erin District High School.

This should be a good game to watch. Westside will arrive at the championship with a second-place finish in the regular season and a 6-2 record.

The District 4 championship game was scheduled for Wednesday, Feb. 15, at CDDHS.

Results were not available at press time.

Shelburne Muskies trailing by one game in series with Milverton Four Wheel Drives

Written By Brian Lockhart

There's no doubt that Shelburne Muskies fans are a loyal bunch.

A good contingent of them filled the stands on Saturday (Feb. 11) night to see the Muskies take on the Milverton Four Wheel Drives at the Centre Dufferin Recreation Complex (CDRC) for game two of their playoff series.

The Muskies came up short in the first game of the series on Feb. 5, taking a 5-2 loss to the Four Wheel Drives on Milverton home ice.

On Feb. 11, Muskies gave up the first goal of the night but battled back. At the end of the third period, the game was tied at four, and the teams returned to the ice for overtime to decide the winner.

The Muskies took the OT win 5-4 to make it an even series.

The teams were back on the ice the following day, in Milverton for game three of the series.

This time the Muskies gave up a 2-1 loss. Milverton now leads the series 2-1.

In the other A series, the Shallow Lake



Crushers lead the Lucknow Lancers, 3-1.

In the WOAA AA playoffs, the Seaforth Centenaires are leading the Durham Thundercats 3-1.

The Ripley Wolves dispatched the Petrolia Squires in four games to win that series.

The Saugeen Shores Winterhawks are leading the Creemore Coyotes 2-1 in their series.

On Sunday, the Tavistock Royals won 4-2 over the Minto 81's in game five. Tavistock now leads that serious 3-2.

Shelburne will host game four of their series with Milverton on Saturday, Feb. 17, at the CDRC.

Game time is 8:30 p.m.



OVERTIME WIN: The Shelburne Muskies host the Milverton Four Wheel Drives during game two of their playoff series at the Centre Dufferin Recreation Complex on Saturday, Feb. 11. The Muskies left the ice with a 5-4 overtime win. The next night, the Muskies took a 2-1 loss in game three. Milverton now leads the series 2-1.

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ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

CHURCHILL UNUGBRO

"I like the relationships and making friends on the court, and the athleticism," said CDDHS Royals centre, Churchill Unugbro, of why he likes playing basketball.

Relatively new to the sport, Churchill described it as a 'new way of life' when he's with his teammates and enjoying the game, after deciding to take it up serious, only two years ago.

Churchill makes a valuable contribution to his high school team and gives his best effort every game.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

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DR. JUANITA ARLINE MCLEAN (NÉE GALLAUGHER)

The family of Arline McLean is saddened to announce her passing on February 6, 2023 at the grand age of 83.

Arline was loved. And she loved in turn. She met her future husband Arch at high school in Shelburne and they shared a 65-year love and a 58-year marriage that saw them have three children ((Karyn (partner Andy), Kevin (partner Adrienne) and Chris (partner Danielle)) and 2 grandchildren (Kaia and Sam). She was the beloved aunt of 21 nieces and nephews.

Arline was an adventurer, a world traveler, a trailblazer, a risk taker, a mentor, a fighter and a friend. She was climbing mountains in the rain in her late 70s. She fished for piranhas in South America. She could beat those half her age in a fierce game of golf and was a formidable skip on the curling rink.

Arline grew up in a big and loving family on a small farm in Mulmur, with her mother Margaret and father Howard, and 3 brothers (Floyd, Errol and Wayne (partner Marion)) and 4 sisters ((Luella, Marian (partner Lorne), Pauline (partner Ray) and Ruth (partner Marten)). She fished, milked cows at dawn, rode horses bareback and tended to the livestock, taking on more responsibilities when polio tragically took 3 of her siblings in 1953. The family farm, and later the cottage built on the Pine River, became known as 'Up North' and has been a constant part of family life throughout her life. Whether it was the annual summer reunions, Christmas dinners, boiling down syrup in the wee hours of the night or reading on the deck overlooking the pond, she found love and joy in the peaceful hills of Mulmur.

Arline moved to Toronto in her early twenties to study at the University of Toronto, pursuing first a degree in Science, then receiving her MD in 1966 and her MSc in Neurophysiology in 1974. She joined Sunnybrook hospital as an Active Staff physician in 1971, specializing in Neurology. Her greatest strength lay in teaching and education administration and in 1977 she was appointed through the Dean's office, University of Toronto, as Hospital Coordinator, Undergraduate Medicine at Sunnybrook, and after a long career, she was appointed Associate Professor Emerita, University of Toronto in 2010.

In the 1980s, Arline was one of the first neurologists to specialize in neurophysiology. She was a highly respected trail blazer for women in neurology at a time when there were not many women in this specialty. Her dedication to the profession led the way for countless physicians to follow. Arline was instrumental in implementing and leading the Sunnybrook Neurophysiology Lab for more than two decades before her retirement, a lab that she built and that lives on today, serving countless patients.

In 1993, Arline was appointed Acting Head of the Division of Neurology at Sunnybrook, and then in 1994 Deputy Physician-in-Chief in the Department of Medicine. She was instrumental in that leadership role due to her tremendous wealth of experience in education administration.

Kind, kindness, kind-hearted. These were the words most often used to describe Arline. She loved her family; she was passionate about making others feel included and supported; and she reveled in her friendships with old and new friends alike. She took joy and pride in the achievements of others and is remembered for her mentorship and welcoming smile.

Arline was passionate about her pursuits, in particular curling, golf, learning and saving wayward cats. And she always excelled at everything. She was a champion curler of more than 30 years. She golfed on courses around the world. She earned her second Masters in her 50s, and she continued to take French classes into her 80s. She was the first on speed dial for the local vet whenever a cat was in need of care. Her love was reciprocated in kind, with Merlin at her side when she passed.

Arline had a loving soul. She had a kind word for everyone. Her smile was brilliant and beautiful. She was in love with life and fought for every moment until the end.

Arline's was a life well lived. She will be missed. And she will always be loved.

A visitation will take place from 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm on February 17th at Jack and Thompson Funeral Home, 318 Main Street, Shelburne, ON. Friends and family are welcome.

The funeral service will be held at 11:00 am on February 18th at the Jack and Thompson Funeral Home, 318 Main Street, Shelburne, ON. Friends and family are welcome.

A reception tea will follow the service in the Museum Room at the Royal Canadian Legion, 203 William St, Shelburne, ON (12:30pm – 3:00 pm). Friends and family are welcome.

The family requests donations in lieu of flowers to The Toronto Humane Society and The Sunnybrook Hospital Department of Neurology.

Online condolences and donations may be placed at www.jackandthompsonfuneralhome.com



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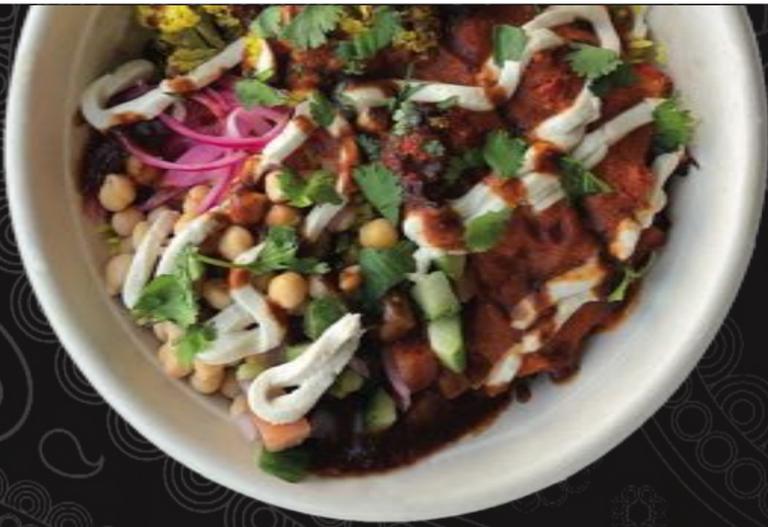
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