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PAULA BROWN PHOTO

SUPPORTING THE FOOD BANK: Members of Dufferin County's Sikh community donated a truck full of food items to the Shelburne Food Bank, Shepherds Cupboard, last Thursday (Feb. 16). Some of the items donated included 25 bags of wheat flour, 20 bags of lentils, and 30 bags of sugar, (Pictured from left: Gurmant Singh, Roob Singh, Karnabir Dhillon, and Maninder Singh).

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International Women's Day being recognized locally

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

Family Transition Place (FTP) is celebrating the accomplishments of women this coming International Women's Day with the return of its annual International Women's Day Celebration Luncheon.

The event will be held at the Best Western, located at 7 Buena Vista Drive in Orangeville, on Mar. 8 from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

"The purpose of International Women's Day is to celebrate the achievement of all women, whether it's socially, culturally, economically or politically," said Brennan Solecky, director of development and community engagement. "It continues to be super important that we celebrate women on International Women's Day, and really every other day of the year, because women's rights are human rights."

International Women's Day, which takes place on Mar. 8, is a globally recognized day that celebrates the achievements of women while raising awareness of issues such as gender equality, reproductive rights, and violence or abuse against women. International Women's Day was initially established in 1975 and is now sponsored by the United Nations.

The theme for this year's International Women's Day is 'Embrace Equity,' and will focus on how 'equity isn't just a nice-to-have, it's a must-have.'

"This day sheds light on not only women's

rights and issues here locally in our community, but worldwide and especially in countries that are developing, where progress and recognition has been slower," said Solecky. "We owe it to women around the world to do what we can here in our community in one small way."

Family Transition Place's International Women's Day Celebration Luncheon will include a vendor's market, silent auction, gourmet meal, and the 2023 issue of FTP's Celebrating Women magazine.

The event will also feature guest speaker Linda Murphy, known as The Healthy Hiker.

Murphy is a lifelong hiking enthusiast and Bruce Trail Hiking Leader. Her passion for outdoor adventures fuels her backpacking treks. In 2019, Murphy hiked 3,000 kilometres of the Pacific Crest Trail in the U.S., and last year completed a hike of the entire Bruce Trail (900 kilometres). Through the two treks, she independently raised over \$90,000 for victims of domestic violence, including Family Transition Place.

"In the short time that we've known Linda, the experiences that she continues to share of the folks she met on the way, whether they were victims of domestic violence themselves or advocates for local shelters, is pretty remarkable," said Solecky. "She's someone who gets what we're trying to achieve, and why International Women's Day continues to be so important to us."

The funds raised through the International

Women's Day Celebration Luncheon will go towards FTP's counselling and shelter services, but most significantly, their youth education program.

Family Transition Place has two full-time youth educators who spend five days a week in schools within the Upper Grand District School Board (UGDSB) and surrounding school boards, teaching children in grades 3 to 8 about healthy relationships.

"Our plan is that we don't have to see them at the shelter needing services, but on the other end that they are aware of the services that are offered through Family Transition Place, should they ever need them," said Solecky.

While this year's luncheon will mark its return after two years, it will also be the last year that Family Transition Place holds the event to recognize International Women's Day.

"We've had opportunities over the last three years that have challenged us creatively, personally and professionally, and really pushed us to look at how we can have the greatest impact through what we are planning here in this community," said Solecky. "While we're so ready to welcome everyone back in-person for this signature event, we are ultimately very much ready to be celebrating International Women's Day on a totally different level."

For more information about the event or to purchase tickets, visit www.familytransitionplace.ca



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Snowmobilers damage restoration work at Pine River Nature Reserve

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

The Bruce Trail Conservancy is reminding community members in Dufferin County to keep all vehicles, including snowmobiles, out of the Pine River Nature Reserve following recent damage to the habitat.

The conservancy told the Free Press that on Feb. 12 and Feb. 13, several snowmobilers trespassed on the reserve and caused serious damage to their restoration project.

"The last few days, several snowmobiles

have been trespassing on the property and purposely evading our fencing and barriers, and have caused serious damage to the restoration work that we've been doing," said Michael McDonald, CEO of the Bruce Trail Conservancy. "It's going to be setting us back tens of thousands of dollars, but more than that, it's also hundreds of hours that local volunteers have put in to restoring this property. We're really sad to see it completely undone."

The Pine River Nature Reserve is a 192-acre area of the Bruce Trail Optimum Route and is one of two natural areas protected in the

Dufferin Hi-Land section. The local nature reserve is home to wetlands inhabited by bullfrogs, newts, salamanders, and snapping turtles, and forests with trees such as the eastern hemlock, American beech, and white cedar.

The Bruce Trail Conservancy acquired the property in 2021 with support from the local community and began the restoration project with the removal of invasive species and garbage.

"There's something really special about this nature reserve where the entire local community has stepped up to help us with restoration. People care about this nature reserve and I know the volunteers are heartbroken to see their hard work undone," said McDonald.

The damage to the reserve occurred in an area known as the pinnacle. Most recently, the conservancy brought in soil to work on addressing erosion caused by the previous use of vehicles on the property. The entire area was also seeded with native wildflowers.

"And once that soil was brought in, we seeded the entire area with native wildflower seeds. And that's the area that was specifically and purposefully torn up by the recent trespassing," said McDonald.

She added, "This is criminal activity, and it's going to set back our restoration plans."

"We can absolutely see the damage now, but the full effect of how much was done will be a lot more apparent in the spring once our ecologists get on site and do a full inventory," McDonald noted.

This is not the first time the Pine River Nature Reserve has been the subject of trespassing and damage. In May of 2021, the reserve saw trespassers destroy fencing, blockades and signage and damage the already sensitive habitat.

McDonald said they've been in contact with Dufferin OPP and intend to press charges when the individuals are found.

"The purposeful trespassing, destruction of sensitive ecosystems is absolutely unacceptable and we're asking for the community support to stop this from happening and for people to step up and help protect nature," said McDonald. "The activities that we're witnessing here on this property are absolutely criminal."

No vehicles of any type are permitted on the Pine River Nature Reserve, but there are several kilometers of the Bruce Trail available for people to explore.

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Family Transition Place holding weekly 'Tea & Chat' at Mel Lloyd Centre

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

Family Transition Place is giving women in rural Dufferin County the chance to connect and converse in a safe space through a new program.

The new program, called Tea & Chat, is a weekly casual conversation session held at the Mel Lloyd Centre in Shelburne, which gives women living in rural Dufferin County the opportunity to connect and talk in a safe and judgement-free space.

Hosted by FTP's Rural Response Counsellors, Tea & Chat began in late 2022 and recently started up again. The program addresses the barriers women living in rural Dufferin County face and supports them through those barriers.

"Over the last three years the barriers that already existed in rural communities only increased, whether that's transportation, isolation, growing up in a small town where everyone talks and knows each other. The availability of services or opportunities for women to connect with one another or with a counsellor, were limited," said Brennan Solecky, director of development and com-

munity engagement.

According to Family Transition Place, their Rural Response Program saw 157 women in 2022 through both in-office and mobile outreach.

Structured to allow for causal conversations, the types of discussions at the Tea & Chat sessions will differ each week, depending on who is attending. Some of the conversations may revolve around FTP's housing support, legal support, outreach services or around self-referral and whether the services support their specific needs.

"It's really a safe and judgement free location where people can come and connect, they can dive a bit deeper into what they might be experiencing, or simply just have someone to talk to," said Solecky.

The Tea & Chat sessions will run every Wednesday throughout the month of March, alternating each week between mornings (10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.) and evenings (6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.)

No registration is required.

To find out more information about the Rural Response Program and the Tea & Chat sessions, visit www.familytransitionplace.ca.

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Paddling Film Festival coming to Opera House

Written By **Brian Lockhart**

Canoe North Adventures will be hosting the 2023 World Tour Paddling Film Festival in Orangeville.

The Hockley based Canoe North Adventures is excited to present this event to local residents and everyone else who enjoys paddling based activities.

During the festival, they will be introducing the 2023 and 2024 trip line-up which includes some new offerings for

paddle adventurers.

If you would like to attend, you can book on-line at the Canoe North Adventures website, and tickets will also be available at the door.

For more information call 519-941-6654, or e-mail info@canoenorthadventures.com.

The screening will take place at the Orangeville Town Hall Opera House at 87 Broadway, on Sunday, March 5, from 10:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

FAMILY DAY SKATE: Free public skating was held at the Centre Dufferin Recreation Complex on Family Day (Feb. 20) to provide a fun activity to families in Shelburne during the provincial holiday. The free skate was sponsored by Dave Crowe and Claire Knight Crowe of Go With Crowe Real estate, Shelburne Optometry, Shelburne Family Chiropractor and Wellness Centre and Main Street Dental. Free Hot chocolate and balloon animals were available for the littles. It was a fun day had by all.



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MP Kyle Seeback addresses controversial firearms legislation

Written By Brian Lockhart

Dufferin-Caledon MP Kyle Seeback held a town hall style meeting at the Dufferin Northern-Peel Anglers & Hunters Association in Mono on Tuesday (Feb. 21) to discuss Bill C-21.

The legislation proposed by the federal Liberals looks to ban various firearms, including rifles and shotguns, that are currently legal. The Bill has come under fire from many hunters, sports shooting groups, and Indigenous organizations.

Opponents of the Bill say it goes too far and bans firearms routinely used by hunters, shooters, and Indigenous people. It will turn legal firearm owners into criminals if they fail to comply with the new regulations.

The event was well attended with about 100 people seated and 20 standing. While the meeting was open to the general public, most attendees were legal firearms owners with a vested interest in Bill C-21.

MP Seeback gave an opening preamble in which he provided some statistics about gun crime in Canada.

"The Conservative Party position on Bill C-21 is we are against Bill C-21," he said. "That's my position as well. This is a difficult Bill. The other opposition parties are in favour of the Bill, so we're going to have a hard time not having this Bill pass."

According to police, 86 per cent of gun crimes committed last year involved firearms smuggled into Canada from the United States, and that trend is increasing, MP Seeback noted.

The number of firearms seized at the border more than doubled in 2021 from the previous year, with gang-related homicides increasing by 92 per cent.



BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

DEBATING BILL C-21: Dufferin-Caledon MP Kyle Seeback addresses an audience at the Dufferin Northern-Peel Anglers & Hunters Association building (246147 Dufferin Road 16, Mono) on Tuesday, Feb. 21. MP Seeback was speaking against the federal Liberal's proposed Bill C-21, which would ban a number of rifles and shotguns. Around 120 people attended.

Mr. Seeback also criticized the justice system, saying, "Many experts believe that the increase in violent crime is worsened by the revolving door of our criminal justice system due to Bill C-75, which drastically weakened the ability of judges to impose stricter sentences on violent criminals and deny bail to violent criminals."

He cited OPP Commissioner Thomas Carrique, who stated, "Just three days ago [on Feb. 12] we had an offender that had been released on bail for possession of a firearm. Within days of being released on bail, [he] was arrested in the possession of numerous firearms yet again."

In relation to other firearms legislation, Bill C-71, created in 2020, is a proposed firearms buyback program that Mr. Seeback said isn't feasible.

"The government originally estimated the buyback program would cost \$200 million. However, the Parliamentary Budget Officer estimates reimbursing gun owners will cost up to \$756 million without accounting for administrative or staffing costs. Others have costed the program at upwards of \$6.7 billion. If we're going to spend \$6.7 billion, why don't we put that money into two things – guns and gangs task forces – they have great results. Number two, why don't we look at

investing in border security."

Mr. Seeback also acknowledged that if a gun buyback were put in place, not everyone would voluntarily give up their firearms, requiring police resources to go to people's homes searching for guns rather than doing regular police work on more important issues.

The floor was opened up for questions and comments from the audience.

There was overwhelming support from those in attendance who are against Bill C-21 and did not want to see this Bill passed.

No one who spoke at the meeting expressed support for Bill C-21.



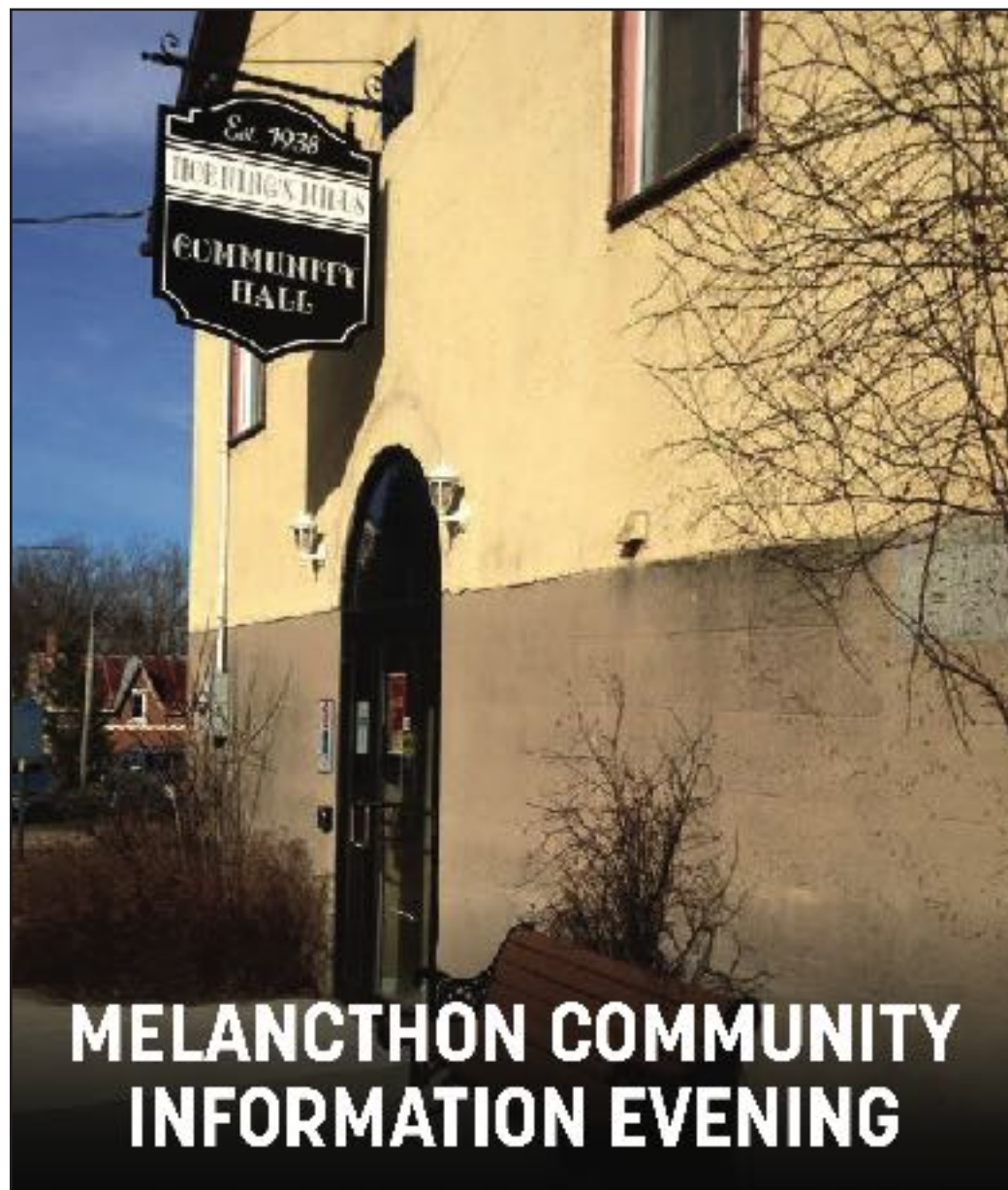
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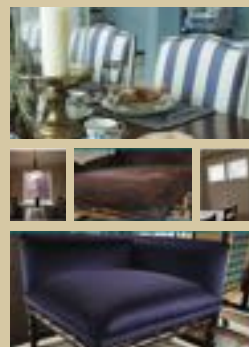
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Banning books

I was never a big reader when I was a kid, but I did manage to get through a few books over the years.

Some were required reading at school, others were books I had heard about and thought would be interesting.

The Adventures of Tom Sawyer and the follow-up with Huckleberry Finn by Mark Twain were two of my favourites. I also watched several movie versions of the books dating back to the 1930s.

The books were filled with adventure and colourful characters. You have to admire a kid who could convince his friends that whitewashing a fence was actually fun and have them pay you to do your chores for you. You also have to love a kid who built a raft and floated down the Mississippi River.

Those books have become literary classics, especially in the U.S. However, they are now controversial due to the use of certain words that are no longer acceptable.

Those words were acceptable in 1840s Missouri and in the 1870s when Twain penned his novels.

There are two schools of thought on this, apparently. One is to ban the books altogether,

and the other is to explain to children why those words were used and the context.

Words can be a powerful tool. For some reason, people believe what they read. One of the best ways to convince a population of your ideas is to print a newspaper or some other type of newsletter filled with lies and misinformation.

This is why so many corrupt regimes around the world control the media in their own country. It also explains why publications like The National Inquirer are so popular.

The U.S. State of Florida is now going through an entire process where books available in schools must be approved and meet certain guidelines and standards. The new legislation has a dangerous twist to it, in that teachers could be held liable for banned books in their classrooms or library.

Not only can they be held accountable, teachers could face serious consequences like losing their teaching license or even being charged with some kind of criminal 'felony' charge if they are found to have the offending books made available to students.

As a result, in the interest of self-preservation, and I don't blame them, some teachers

and schools have cleaned out their libraries of all volumes until they wait for official approval of each book.

It is understandable that those who create the school curriculum and standards want age appropriate books in their libraries. After all, you don't put a set of Encyclopedia Britannica designed for university-level students in an elementary school.

Most schools have been in communities for years. When there is a need, or a new subdivision, you build a school to accommodate the children and families who are living nearby.

Libraries aren't filled with books overnight. It's a process that can take years.

If there are indeed inappropriate books on the shelves, why hasn't this already been noted?

It should be simple common sense for any teacher or librarian to look at a book and realize it is not appropriate for children in Grade 3, and for many reasons. Children develop reading and comprehension skills as they develop. That's why you don't teach Grade 12 Euclidean math to a classroom of first graders.

Much of the focus of the Florida book ban is centred around books that promote an ideol-

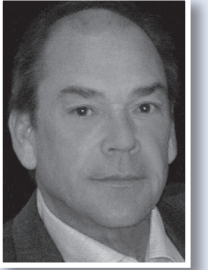
ogy or agenda.

This is understandable. If a school puts a book in its library promoting a single religion as superior to all other beliefs and lifestyles, there would undoubtedly be a huge backlash.

Most parents probably don't want their children being taught ideologies in school that go against what a parent is trying to teach them at home. That's just human nature – parents want to guide their children, not have a school do it for them.

This is the slippery slope where someone has to decide what children are taught. That's why there are school boards and provincial guidelines. If you don't agree, you have the option of calling your local school trustee or provincial member of parliament.

While the State of Florida has the ability and authority to review their schools and curriculum, punishing a first-year teacher and librarian for having a book on their shelves that someone else ordered years earlier, and turning them into a criminal for it, just makes no sense at all.



BRIAN LOCKHART
FROM THE SECOND ROW

Ukraine and international law

Just before the first anniversary of the Russian invasion of Ukraine (Friday, 24 February), France's President Emmanuel Macron declared that he wanted to see Russia "defeated, but not crushed." That is a very fine distinction, but an important one.

"I chose to stay in touch as much as I can... with President Putin to try and convince him to lay down his arms," Macron explained, "... and to prevent the spread and widening of the conflict." And he particularly deplores loose talk by NATO hard-liners about permanently crippling Russia.

Not many of these extremists have senior positions, but US Secretary of Defence Lloyd Austin certainly made the grade when he declared last April that "We want to see Russia weakened to the degree that it can't do the kinds of things that it has done in invading Ukraine."

That meant, Austin added, that Russia should "not have the capability to very quickly reproduce" the forces and equipment that had been lost in Ukraine. So, presumably, it should end up with neither the manufacturing ability nor the financial resources to rebuild its army. That's certainly how Russians interpreted his remarks.

This unhinged proposal harks back to the Morgenthau Plan of 1944, a delusional proposal by US Treasury Secretary Henry Morgenthau Jr. to turn defeated Germany into a deindustrialised nation of farmers so it could never wage aggressive war again. The 80 mil-

lion German peasants might not be happy, but they wouldn't be able to do anything about it.

Morgenthau's plan was eventually abandoned as unworkable, but Macron fears that there are some similar crazies in the ranks of the NATO countries today: "I do not think, as some people do, that we must aim for a total defeat of Russia, attacking Russia on its own soil. These people want to, above all else, crush Russia. That has never been the position of France and it will never be our position." It shouldn't be anybody's position. NATO's objective in helping Ukraine should be to see the country entirely freed from Russian rule (including the parts Moscow seized in 2014) not because Ukraine is democratic or 'pro-Western', but simply because that is what international law requires. And the same international law does not permit a counter-invasion of Russia.

Significantly, China agrees with all that, although you have to examine its opaque statements on the war quite closely to grasp their meaning. Beijing is being deliberately obscure, because Russia is currently in transit from being China's 'no limits' strategic partner to being its compliant sidekick. No point in disrupting that process with too much frankness – but look what the Chinese officials actually say.

Virtually every public statement by Chinese diplomats on the war in Ukraine includes the sentence "all countries deserve respect for their sovereignty and territorial integrity".

The key phrase here is 'territorial integrity': it refers to Chapter 2 (4) of the United Nations charter, which prohibits states from using force directed "against the territorial integrity or political independence of another state."

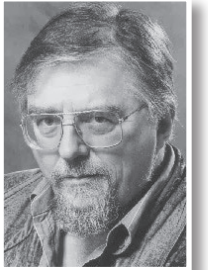
The implication is that any changes in a country's borders that are achieved by violence are illegitimate and should never be recognised by any other country. This may sound hopelessly idealistic, but the founding states of the UN made this law because it was in their own interest.

Ninety percent of all the states that ever existed have been destroyed by war. It is in every country's interest to minimise territorial changes imposed on them by force by backing a rule that takes the potential profit out of

them. They generally won't fight expensive wars in distant places to reverse a military conquest elsewhere, but they will withhold recognition of the change forever.

That's why China (rather shyly) supports the territorial integrity of Ukraine. So do most other countries, although many in the Global South are also shy about it.

The goal of ending the Russian occupation on all Ukraine's territory (whose borders Russia officially recognized as recently as 1997) is not a fantasy. But the goal of permanently crippling Russia, to the extent that it really exists, is neither legitimate nor wise.



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Place of worship broken into in East Garafraxa, \$3,000 stolen

Members from the Dufferin Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) are currently investigating a break and enter to a place of worship on County Road 3 in the township of East Garafraxa.

On February 17, 2023, shortly before 9:00 a.m., Dufferin OPP responded to the report of a break and enter at a place of worship. The break and enter occurred sometime



between 3:45 a.m., and 4:00 a.m., on February 17.

Officers have secured video surveillance.

The suspect is observed prying open a window to the building and entering. Once inside the suspect cut the lock off a donation box and stole approximately \$3,000.

The suspect is described as:

Male, 6'- 6'2" tall, medium build, wearing pants, hoody, toque and sneakers. Clothing colour is unknown at this time.

Anyone with information regarding this

break and enter or possible surveillance video is asked to contact Dufferin OPP at 1-888-310-1122 or Crime Stoppers to remain anonymous at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477). You can also submit your information online at <https://ontariocrimestoppers.ca/>.

Learn to safeguard your property, visit: [opp.ca/index.php?id=115&lng=en&entryid=570bf1a58f94ac983906709c](https://www.opp.ca/index.php?id=115&lng=en&entryid=570bf1a58f94ac983906709c).

Hydro One fleet truck stolen during break and enter in Orangeville

Members from the Dufferin Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) are currently investigating a break and enter to a business on C Line in the Town of Orangeville.

On February 14, 2023, at approximately 7:30 a.m., Dufferin OPP responded to the report of

a break and enter at Hydro One in Orangeville.

The break and enter occurred sometime between February 13 at 11:40 p.m., to February 14 at 7:00 a.m.

The unknown suspect(s) entered the private compound and stole a work truck and

several power tools. Officers located the Hydro One fleet truck a short time later.

Anyone with information regarding this break and enter or possible surveillance video is asked to contact Dufferin OPP at 1-888-310-1122 or Crime Stoppers to remain

anonymous at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477).

You can also submit your information online at <https://ontariocrimestoppers.ca/>.

Learn to safeguard your property, visit: <https://www.opp.ca/index.php?id=115&lng=en&entryid=570bf1a58f94ac983906709c>.

Impaired driving, speeding, driving under suspension charges laid

The Dufferin Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) charged a driver with impaired operation in the Township of Melancthon.

On Tuesday (Feb. 21) shortly before 11:30 p.m., officers from Dufferin stopped a vehicle for a traffic related offence. The officers were led into an impaired operation investigation.

As a result, Sean CURRAN, 55-year-old, from Melancthon, has been charged with:

- Operation while impaired - alcohol and drugs
- Failure of refusal to comply with demand
- Driving while under suspension
- Speeding
- Fail to surrender permit for motor vehicle

- Failure of refusal to comply with demand
- Driving while under suspension
- Speeding
- Fail to surrender permit for motor vehicle

The accused is scheduled to appear at the Ontario Court of Justice in Orangeville in March 2023, to answer to the charges. Their driver's licence was suspended for 90 days, and the vehicle impounded for a period of 7 days. These charges have not been proven in court.

Dufferin OPP continues to conduct traffic enforcement daily as drivers who are

impaired by alcohol or drugs and who drive at excessive speeds continue to pose a threat to Ontario roads. We are committed to the safety of our community.

The Dufferin OPP reminds motorists to plan ahead when consuming alcohol or drugs.

Use a designated driver, cab, rideshare, public transit or stay overnight. Any amount of alcohol or drugs can impact your ability to make sound judgements.

"In a split second you could ruin your future, injure or kill others, and tear a hole

in the heart of everyone who loves you," said the Dufferin OPP in a media release.

"Members of the Dufferin OPP are committed to public safety, delivering proactive and innovative policing in partnership with our communities. Officers value your contribution to building safe communities."

If you have information about suspected unlawful activity, Dufferin OPP ask that you please contact the OPP at 1-888-310-1122 or Crime Stoppers to remain anonymous at 1-800-822-8477 (TIPS) or www.crimestoppersdm.com.

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- Laud
- Melody
- Of musical pitch
- Fishing hook part
- Mixture
- Baby computer?
- Before, to Shakespeare
- Billiard shot
- Greek market
- Communion plate
- Word on a movie ticket
- Warrant officer
- Kilt fold
- Work by Keats
- Unfavorable
- Marine hazard
- Only or soon, e.g.
- Purr's relative
- Absorbed
- Squash
- Croc's kin
- Foursome
- Tint
- Legal right
- Brownie
- Bow wood
- Recognized
- Nimbus
- Sitar music
- Watch over
- Overweight
- Window curtain
- Literary monogram
- Pen filler
- Remember
- Expurgate
- Luster
- Fast dance
- Wooden lane
- Sap-sucking insect
- Proclamation
- Sacred table
- Cranky
- Hoar
- Or ____! (threat)
- Anglo-Saxon peon
- Sink in the middle
- ____ cube

ACROSS

- Experiment site
- Quarrel
- Tree trunk
- Tam or beret
- Miner's quest
- Quartet with an absentee
- Having wings
- Muslim official
- Sushi fish
- Work for
- Fully mature
- Balderdash
- Deli sausage
- Monastery head
- Study steadily
- Nanook's vehicle
- Recital piece
- Refinery owner
- TV horse
- Specimen

DOWN

- Prize marble
- Musical piece
- Be enough
- Chin beard
- Diplomat
- Now hear ____!
- Baseball call
- Flush
- Water server
- Broke a fast
- Salt's beverage
- Excitement
- Duck's gait
- Pharmacy offering
- Jewish teacher
- Color of emeralds
- Wear away
- Certain sports watchdog: abbr.
- Nonabundant
- For heaven's ____!

DOWN

- Type of moss
- Ship's cargo space
- Inch along
- Pin's kin
- House wing
- Navigate
- Cobra's comment
- Possessive pronoun
- Add to
- Charity
- Image
- Mouse catcher
- Senate negative
- Boundless joy
- Moistureless
- Undertake
- Loamy deposit
- Of a region
- ____ of the ball
- Dam up

ADVERTISING LOCALLY WORKS!

Museum of Dufferin hosting exhibit led by Indigenous artists

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

The Museum of Dufferin (MoD) and the Dufferin County Cultural Resource Circle (DCCRC) have partnered together to present a new Indigenous art exhibit at the local museum.

The new exhibit, called Our Story: Past & Present, will feature artwork from Indigenous artists Josh Morley, Sharon Rigby,

Josy Thomas, and Janice Toulouse. The Indigenous artists are presented by Dufferin County Cultural Resource Circle (DCCRC).

The exhibit will be on display from Mar. 3 to 29 in the MoD's Lodge Gallery.

"Wow, the Indigenous artwork the audience gets to discover are 'terrific', as my late mom used to say. She was a residential school survivor," said Elder Karen Vandenberg of the Dufferin County Cultural

Resource Circle.

The local museum will welcome Indigenous Community Elder Karen Vandenberg, B.E.S., and her daughter Skye Vandenberg, B.Sc., M.E.S., to discuss climate challenges from an Indigenous perspective. The climate conversation will take place at the museum on Mar. 25 from 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. Tickets cost \$10 and can be purchased through the MoD's website.

"The MoD is very pleased to be work-

ing with the Dufferin County Cultural Resource Circle, and we look forward to future collaborations," said the MoD in a press release.

The project is funded, in part, by the federal government through the Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario.

To find out more information about the exhibit, visit dufferinmuseum.com.

Deadline to apply to Dufferin County 2023 Community Grant Program coming up

Dufferin County continues to accept applications for its 2023 Community Grant Program, but the deadline is coming up soon!

"Dufferin County staff are committed to making our community a safe, healthy and successful place for all, and our local not-for-profit sector plays an important role in helping us as we work to achieve this," says Sonya Pritchard, Chief Administrative Officer, Dufferin County. "Not-for-profit and charitable organizations are invited to apply for our 2023 Community Grant Program before February 27 to receive support for the work they do to better our community."

Local not-for-profit and charitable organizations play an instrumental role in making our community a better place for all who live, work and play in Dufferin County. The Community Grant Program aims to support them in completing projects or providing programming that benefits residents and serves priority areas.

In 2022, 17 groups received grants from the County totaling \$120,000:

- Caledon Dufferin Victim Services
- Dufferin County Black Association
- Dufferin Parent Support Network
- Fiddlehead Care Farm
- First Line for Syria
- Headwaters Arts
- Headwaters Health Care (Telecheck)
- Highlands Youth for Christ
- Hockley Historic Community Hall & Church
- Shelburne Cricket Club
- Streams Community Hub
- Theatre Orangeville
- Orangeville and District Seniors Centre
- Orangeville Community Band
- Shelburne & District Horticultural Society
- Caledon Meals on Wheels
- Children's Foundation Food & Friends

The stories of these groups and what the 2022 Community Grant Program meant to them can be explored at www.headwaterscommunities.org.

Dufferin County partners with Headwaters Communities in Action (HCIA) to administer the Community Grant Program. HCIA establishes a grant team who reviews the applications and evaluates them against the established criteria to ensure they meet the County's strategic priorities.

"Headwaters Communities in Action is pleased to partner with Dufferin County to administer the 2023 Community Grant Program," says Jennifer Payne, executive director of Headwaters Communities in Action. "Our local not-for-profits and charitable organizations help us shape a vibrant, sustainable and resilient community. We encourage them to apply for the 2023 Community Grant Program funding before the deadline, and look forward to reviewing submissions."

The County has identified the following strategic priorities for the 2023 grant round:

- Climate Action
- Cultural Enhancement
- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
- Economic Development
- Youth and Seniors Services
- Food

Completed application packages can be submitted to info@dufferincounty.ca, or dropped off at or mailed to Dufferin County, 30 Centre Street, Orangeville, L9W 2X1 with attention to "Community Grant Program". Applications must be submitted by 11:59 pm on February 27, 2023.

Eligibility requirements and additional information can be found at www.dufferincounty.ca.

Centre Dufferin to host senior boys basketball CWOSSA competition

Written By **Brian Lockhart**

Centre Dufferin District High School (CDDHS) will host the Central Western Ontario Secondary Schools Association (CWOSSA) senior boys AA basketball competition in Shelburne this year.

CWOSSA will feature top championship teams from Districts around the region. The winner of the CWOSSA competition will go on to compete at the Ontario Federation of School Athletic Associations (OFSAA). This is the first time Centre Dufferin has hosted CWOSSA basketball.

"It's pretty special to have it at home in our gym," said Matt Barlow, director of athletics at the school and the senior basketball team coach. "We have competed in CWOSSA many years now, but our players don't often get the chance to play in front of their families and friends, and this is an opportunity for that. It's usually a tournament that is run in bigger cities and the small towns are riding the bus back and forth over the weekend or having to stay in a hotel. For us to be able to bring it to Shelburne this year and next is super exciting. We know a lot of alumni

and family are behind us and planning on coming to watch."

There will be eight teams arriving for senior competition from towns and cities around Central Western Ontario, representing seven districts.

AA competition is for schools that have between 650 and 900 students.

"We hope to continue to look for opportunities to host for different sports and know it is a great opportunity for businesses in town to benefit from the crowd it will draw as well," Matt said.

The CDDHS senior boys basketball team captured the District 4 championship on Wednesday, Feb. 15, so they will represent the District on their home court.

The senior boys' basketball will compete in CWOSSA at CDDHS on Friday, Feb. 24, and Saturday, Feb. 25.

At the same time, the CWOSSA junior boys basketball competition will be held at Westside Secondary School in Orangeville.

The CDDHS junior boys basketball team won their District Championship and will represent the school at that competition.

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SHELBURNE SPORTS

Shelburne senior boys' basketball team wins District 4 championship

Written By Brian Lockhart

The Centre Dufferin District High School (CDDHS) Royals senior boys basketball team claimed the District 4 championship with a 56-35 win over the Erin District High School Raiders on home court in Shelburne on Wednesday, Feb. 15.

The Royals were undefeated in District competition for the season and finished in first place in the standings.

CDDHS dispatched Norwell District High School in their semi-final to earn the right to advance to the final.

Erin pulled off an upset win over Westside Secondary School in their semi-final for their chance in the championship game.

In the final game, the Royals took an early 17-13 lead to finish the first quarter.

By the half, they were still ahead by seven points.

The third quarter saw the Royals really turn it up and they went ahead by 14.

The Royals kept up the pressure for the rest of the game and left the court with a 56-35 win to claim the District title.

"We've got a lot of talent, we're pretty deep talent wise," said coach Matt Barlow of the team's success. "We got it done on the defensive end. That's where we pride ourselves – if it isn't happening on offence, we can get on the defensive end. We're a young team – they're all grade 11s, and one grade 10. We have one grade 12 on the team. I think our defence has grown, our maturity has come a long way."

The Royals senior team will now go on to compete at the regional level in CWOSSA. During the CWOSSA competition, the Royals will be up against champion teams they haven't met before, so they will only know the competition level once they meet them on the court.

"It's hard to say," Matt said, of sizing up the competition. "You just have to play your own game."

Centre Dufferin District High School will be hosting the senior basketball competition this year.

Games will get underway on Friday, Feb. 24, with the final games on Saturday, Feb. 25.



BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

UNDEFEATED SEASON: The Centre Dufferin District High School (CDDHS) Royals senior basketball team claimed the District 4 championship with a 56-35 win over Erin District High School in the gym at CDDHS on Wednesday, Feb. 15. The Royals will now go on to regional competition at

Centre Dufferin senior boys' claim District 4 basketball title

Written By Brian Lockhart

The Centre Dufferin District High School Royals junior boys' basketball team are District 4 champions after coming out on top in the final game against Westside Secondary School from Orangeville.

The final game was played at CDDHS on

Wednesday, Feb. 15.

It was a close game for the first two quarters. The Royals were leading by five at the end of the first quarter.

Westside rallied in the second and took a two-point lead, but the Royals responded and were again in the lead 27-23 at the half.

It was a huge third quarter that gave the

Royals the game.

Working hard on defence and showing a lot of skill, sinking baskets on offence, the CDDHS team pulled away to lead 41-29 at the end of the quarter.

A final push gave the Royals a 54-38 win and the District championship.

"It wasn't a tough season for us, in the sense that we had some large gaps (in scoring), so coming to playoffs we knew we were going to get Westside's best, and we knew they were going to give us a close game," said coach Sam Mikulik. "Over the season, I think we progressed defensively and in intensity. Offensively we were working together and not working solo."

The Royals finished the regular season in first place and were undefeated in

the District.

Westside finished close behind in second place, taking only two losses during the season.

The top two teams competing for the championship produced an exciting and talented game for the final.

The Royals will now represent the District at the regional level at CWOSSA.

"We're going to practice and we'll be watching some film," Sam explained. "We'll be practicing next week on a couple of things we could have been better at this game. We'll be watching the film and critiquing what we need to work on and what we can do better to prepare."

This year, CWOSSA junior competition will take place at Westside Secondary School in Orangeville on Friday, Feb. 24.



BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

OFF TO CWOSSA: The Centre Dufferin District High School (CDDHS) Royals junior boys' basketball team claimed the District 4 championship with a 54-38 win over the Westside Secondary School Thunder in the gym at CDDHS on Wednesday, Feb. 15. The Royals will now go on to compete at the regional level in CWOSSA in Orangeville on Friday, Feb. 24.

CDDHS HOSTS CWOSSA BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS
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ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

ISAAC GILAS

Playing the basketball for around six years, CDDHS shooting guard, Isaac Gilas, has been on the court for his entire high school career, as a junior and now on the senior team.

"I love playing basketball," Isaac said. "It teaches you discipline, and how to be held accountable. It teaches you a lot of things."

Isaac said he enjoys the team aspect of the sport and working together with teammates to have a successful game.

The CDDHS team is having a very successful season this year.

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 When: March 7th 2023 - 2pm
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THANK YOU



Thank You

NDACT would like to thank everyone who supported our February 11, 2023 fundraiser in any way.

It was an amazing night, thanks to the Duffy, Jill and Brenda and our generous donors of silent auction items including:

- Shelburne Family Chiropractic and Wellness Centre
- KP Farms
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OBITUARIES

LANGDON, DORIS JEAN

Passed away peacefully at Grey Bruce Health Services - Owen Sound on Thursday, February 16, 2023 just shy of her 99th birthday. Loving wife of the late Elmer. Cherished mother of Donalou (Shawn) and the late Michael. She will be lovingly remembered by Deb and Maurice Aldcorn. Proud grandmother of Ryan (Sam), Carlene (Kyle) and Randi and great-grandmother of Rowdy, Ryder, Carson, Landon and Holden. Dear sister of Audrey Duncan (the late Bert) and Barb MacMillan (the late Doug). Predeceased by her brothers Ken, Bill, Ron, Donald and Gerry Dinsmore. Doris will be dearly missed by the Acheson family.



Doris was a long-time resident of Dundalk and was often referred to as the town historian. Doris was a long term member of the Rebekah Lodge, Fair board, Square dance committee as well as other charities. Doris and Elmer owned and operated Langdon Fuels for many years. In the earlier years of the Fire Department Doris was the one to send out the pages to dispatch the firefighters.

Friends and family were received at the McMillan & Jack Funeral Home, 291 Main Street East, Dundalk on Monday from 3-8 p.m. The funeral service was held in the funeral home chapel on Tuesday, February 21, 2023 at 1:00 p.m. If desired, donations to the Dundalk Fire Department, Canadian Cancer Society or the Heart and Stroke would be appreciated. Online condolences may be placed at www.mcmillanandjackfuneralhome.com

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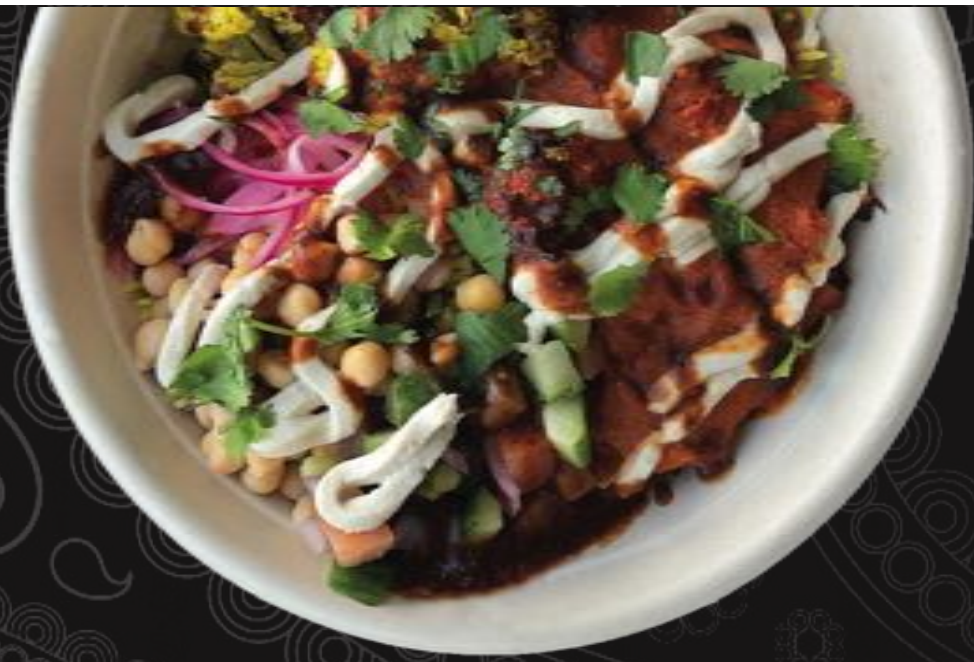
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