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BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

CLIMATE CONVERSATIONS: With climate change a current and long-lasting concern, an information session was held at the Museum of Dufferin on Saturday, Mar. 24, to address climate change from an Indigenous perspective. Community Elder for the Dufferin County Cultural Resource Circle Karen Vandenberg (left), and Environmental Scientist, Sky Vandenberg spoke about the impact of climate change on Indigenous communities across the country. Read a full story about the event on Page 2.

Dufferin OPP to remain focused on keeping the peace during bi-weekly 'freedom' protests

Written By **PAULA BROWN**
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Shelburne residents should not expect the Dufferin OPP to take a "heavy hand" in stopping the bi-weekly downtown protests, as the local detachment says their job is to "keep the peace."

During their meeting on Monday (March 27), Shelburne council received a presentation from the OPP addressing concerns regarding the bi-weekly "freedom" protests occurring in town. The meeting comes after community members raised questions about what the OPP is doing about the protests and if there is a possibility of providing a greater uniformed officer presence.

Members of the OPP and the OPP Dufferin detachment said on Monday that their focus during the demonstrations has been maintaining the peace and safety of residents and protestors.

"We have to keep in mind the rights of the charter. People do have the right to peacefully demonstrate and they also have the right to free speech," said OPP acting Staff Sgt. Mike Acton. "We have to allow people

their rights to demonstrate within the safety of the community."

Local residents have raised questions about a change of approach, as the protests have continued on a bi-weekly basis for more than a year.

"Our plan isn't changing. We're going to stay, we're going to protect the peace and rights of all sides, and we're there to investigate should an event take place. But, to date it's been peaceful," said Dufferin OPP Commander, Insp. Terry Ward.

Addressing the possibility of having uniformed officers present at the demonstration, the OPP said it could potentially incite demonstrators.

"It's been my experience that demonstrators are more open and cooperative with suggestions and asks when they're not having a uniform member tell them to do so," said Acton.

Mayor Wade Mills raised concerns that the community is reaching a "critical boiling point" between residents and protestors.

"I think there's a real potential that some frustrated members of the public, in feeling as though action isn't being taken or enough

action taken, may decide at some point in time that enough is enough, and do something on their own," said Mills. "There is a frustration that is palpable, and my concern is that if something isn't done to stem the tide of this then we're going to reach that point, and we're going to be confronting a much larger issue than we have seen to date."

Dufferin OPP Const. Jennifer Roach has provided police presence at the bi-weekly protests and said she has not had to take action yet.

"I don't believe that the number of police are going to change anything," said Roach.

The Dufferin OPP also added that of the 26 protests, they've received around four calls for service.

The local police detachment is encouraging residents that experience issues with the demonstration to contact the police.

"If someone has an issue going on, especially with the demonstration, call the police and we will respond, we'll look at it, and see if there are grounds to lay charges there," said Ward.

The OPP's presentation can be watched on the Town of Shelburne's YouTube channel.

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Climate change from an Indigenous perspective event held at MoD

Written By **Brian Lockhart**

Most people are aware of the potential of climate change on our environment, but for indigenous people, a changing climate can mean an entirely different set of issues.

This is especially true for many people living in far north areas who face a whole different set of challenges due to things like remote locations and natural events like forest fires.

Community Elder for the Dufferin County Cultural Resource Circle, Karen Vandenberg, and Skye Vandenberg, an environmental scientist, provided information at a learning session held at the Museum of Dufferin on Saturday, Mar. 25.

They spoke of the impact of climate change on Indigenous communities. They also discussed Indigenous spiritual thoughts and their connection to the environment and the human race.

Some northern communities rely on ice roads to receive supplies and infrastructure equipment, and materials. The alternative is flying in supplies which is much more expensive. With climate change, the ice roads could become unsuitable for travel.

They also spoke on things like wildfire,

which can cause devastation for some communities that have restricted access to escape routes in the event of a disaster.

“We are speaking about some of the increased impacts of climate change on Indigenous communities, and why they are at a greater risk, and some of the things Indigenous communities are doing to help combat climate change,” Skye explained. “In the far north there has been a lot of change in landscape in terms of permafrost, and ice cover. In Northern Ontario there’s 31 communities that are serviced by ice roads. The rest of the year they are fly-in only. The season in which that is available is getting shorter and shorter. Climate scientists estimate that 90 per cent of the ice roads will no longer be usable if there is 1.5 degree average increase in global temperatures. The roads are used by truckers to bring in food at a less expensive cost than air travel, as well as infrastructure materials to build new water systems, sewage treatment, community buildings – everything is coming in on ice roads during that short season. If that’s eliminated, what’s the option?”

There are several different issues that may be affected by climate change.

“Then there’s water,” Karen explained.



FILE PHOTO

MOD EVENT: The Museum of Dufferin held an event titled Climate Conversations on Mar. 24.

“The Indigenous people who live down in the south are more focused on keeping the water clean – for everybody. We have big project risks, like mega-quarries and a dumpsite, that the Indigenous people have tried to shut down.”

Protecting the environment is essential for not only Indigenous people but the population in general.

“The natural world does not need us to survive, but humans need the natural world to survive,” Karen said.

Dufferin County calls on province to address homelessness

Written By **James Matthews**
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Dufferin County has called on the provincial government to collaborate with municipalities to address homelessness in Ontario.

The county has hitched its wagon to an effort by the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) to lobby Queen’s Park to work more collaboratively with municipalities to increase the supply of housing.

The upper tier council, at its March 9 meeting, called on the province to urgently acknowledge that homelessness in Ontario is a social, economic, and health crisis, and to commit to ending homelessness in Ontario.

Dufferin Warden Wade Mills, who is also Shelburne’s mayor, said a comprehensive plan to prevent, reduce, and ultimately end homelessness is needed.

“The homelessness crisis is taking a devastating toll on families and communities, undermining a healthy and prosperous Ontario,” Mills said. “Dufferin County Council is resolved to help those in need in our

community and is working to ensure all residents have a place to live, but we cannot do it alone.”

The county resolved that the province must work with AMO and a broad range of community, health, Indigenous and economic partners to develop, resource, and implement an action plan to achieve the goal of ending homelessness.

Increasing housing supply is a priority for municipalities across Ontario, including Dufferin County. In Dufferin, there are currently around 800 applicant households on the Housing Access Dufferin Centralized Waiting List, with an average wait of four to eight years.

In 2021, one in 10 people in Dufferin lived in poverty. That’s as many as 6,000 people. One in nine households lived in core housing needs.

“Homelessness is felt most at the local government level and by the residents that local governments serve,” said Councillor Darren White, chairperson of the county’s health and community services committee.

“Together with our community partners,

we continue to do our part to address homelessness in Dufferin County, but we do not have the tools and resources required to tackle the urgent, complex crisis of homelessness without provincial support.”

AMO, a non-profit organization representing almost all of Ontario’s 444 municipal governments, presented housing and homelessness as top priorities for the 2023 provincial budget to the Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs.

AMO’s pre-budget submission highlights that the government of Ontario’s per capita spending on programming is the lowest in Canada at \$2,000 less per person than the national average.

It states that the homelessness crisis in Ontario is a direct result of decades of provincial underinvestment in areas such as affordable housing, community mental health and income assistance programs.

The government needs to increase the supply of deeply affordable housing through a variety of approaches, from rent subsidies to property acquisitions.

There’s a need to increase financial assis-

tance to individuals and families and fulfill the government’s promise to transform its social assistance system.

The province has to invest better in health services, community-based mental health services, supportive housing, and addiction services.

“The provincial government’s belief that the housing supply crisis can be solved by limiting municipal access to infrastructure financing, eliminating environmental protections, or changes to municipal governance is unsound,” AMO President Colin Best said.

“Unless the costs of Bill 23 are fully offset by the province, it will cost Ontario property taxpayers \$1 billion a year. This is a made-in-Ontario crisis resulting from provincial underinvestment and poor policy choices made by the government of Ontario.”

He said the government has the tools and resources to end the homelessness crisis it has created over decades.

“It must surely possess the leadership, capability and political will to get the job done,” Best said.



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Food poisoning impacts one third of attendees at annual luncheon

But outbreak didn't waver attendees support for Family Transition Place, raising \$50,000



MEGHAN BOND PHOTOGRAPHY

IWD LUNCHEON: Family Transition Place executive director Norah Kennedy delivers a speech to the 240 people who bought tickets to International Women's Day on Mar. 8 at the Orangeville Best Western.

Written By Sam Odrowski

Family Transition Place (FTP) recently celebrated the accomplishments of women with the return of their International Women's Day (IWD) Luncheon at the Orangeville Best Western on Mar. 8.

The sold-out event had 240 attendees and spread the message of women's empowerment while promoting tangible changes for women in need globally.

Thanks to contributions from local businesses and ticket sales, the event generated \$50,000 for FTP, which supports women fleeing domestic violence or homelessness.

While the luncheon successfully generated much-needed revenue for FTP, it had an unfortunate ending.

Almost 90 attendees became sick with food poisoning, and two people were hospitalized, according to a report from Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health (WDGPH) released on Mar. 27.

"It was a very unfortunate thing to have happened at the first in-person event we have held since the IWD Luncheon in 2020, just prior to the pandemic closing everything down," said Kennedy. "We feel so badly for all those who were affected."

She added, "Despite this occurrence, the event itself was a terrific gathering of wonderful women and some welcome male allies. The speaker, Linda Murphy, a.k.a the Healthy Hiker, was very well received. She spoke of her 3,000 km hike of the Pacific Crest Trail in the U.S., and her hike last year of the entire 900 km Bruce Trail, to raise money to support women's shelters, including Family Transition Place."

Following the event, attendees were offered refunds by request. But to date, no one has made that request. This is indicative of the attendees' generosity and understanding of the unfortunate situation, said Kennedy.

WDGPH's investigation into the incident determined 264 people were associated with

the outbreak (244 guests and 20 food handlers), and 193 answered a questionnaire from Public Health indicating if they had experienced symptoms. Of those, 88 or 45.6 per cent, said they did.

And six questionnaire respondents said they were unsure if they experienced symptoms following the luncheon, so the number of people impacted could be slightly higher.

Nausea was the most common symptom people experienced, followed by vomiting, which in some cases was severe and protracted. Over half of the people impacted had diarrhea.

Other symptoms include headache, fatigue, bloating, chills, cramps, muscle aches, fever and joint pain.

Family Transition Place board member Sheralyn Roman who attended the IWD Luncheon, said the event was an excellent opportunity to celebrate women and their achievements. But shortly after eating lunch, she knew something was wrong.

"It was just a very sudden onset of 'I think I better get up from the table right now,'" said Roman. "I became ill fairly rapidly, and eventually an ambulance was called so I could be taken to the hospital."

Roman spent four days at Headwaters Health Care Centre, being discharged on Mar. 11, but still has lingering effects from the food poisoning. She is currently receiving follow-up care from a doctor.

Public Health's report shows 29.3 per cent of respondents were still experiencing symptoms more than three days after the event, while 70.7 per cent had recovered by that time.

She told the Citizen FTP has done an exemplary job of communicating relevant information to the event attendees and responding to the incident. They immediately contacted Public Health once it became evident something was wrong.

From testing of food samples at the luncheon, WDGPH conclusively determined the quinoa and sweet potato used in the meal served had several times the acceptable limit of *Bacillus cereus* per gram of food.

B. cereus is a foodborne pathogen that can produce toxins, causing vomiting and diarrhea. It grows on food stored at room temperature for extended periods of time.

B. cereus can produce spores resistant to heat, so it's not uncommon to appear in both raw and cooked foods. The bacteria grows when in temperatures between 8°C and 55°C.

Lower levels of *B. cereus* were detected on food samples apart from the quinoa and sweet potato, which appear to be consistent with cross-contamination during the latter stages of food handling, according to Public Health.

WDGPH's assessment of food handling of the quinoa revealed that it spent too much time in the "temperature danger zone" between 4 and 60°C, which is associated with bacteria growth.

The sweet potato also spent extended periods of time in the high-risk temperature

zone, in addition to not being washed prior to being cut. This likely resulted in surface contamination, such as bacteria being introduced into the flesh of the sweet potato, increasing the likelihood of bacterial growth later in the food preparation process, according to WDGPH.

Public Health is developing specific recommendations to prevent similar outbreaks to this from occurring.

"Recommendations will focus on the elevated risks associated with mass catering (preparing and serving food for large groups at the same time). Mass catering requires specific skill sets, knowledge, processes and equipment in order to adequately manage the risks and challenges associated with preparing and serving food to large groups of people," WDGPH's report states. "These recommendations will be operator practice-based (for example, practices related to chilling or portioning / serving at mass catering events) but will also be system-based (for example, public health communication and training strategies with respect to food safety at mass catering events)."

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Closing loopholes

There's a knock on the door one afternoon, and upon answering, you find a couple of guys standing on your porch.

"We don't have a place to stay, and we know you have an extra room, so we're going to use it until we get back on our feet," they tell you.

Before you know it, they have walked into your house, up to the second floor and are unpacking their bags. They make their way to the kitchen, open the fridge, and start making themselves dinner from the food you bought.

Do you stand idly by, watch this happen and allow strangers into your house?

Not likely.

Even if you think helping people in need is an honourable thing to do, you don't know these guys. You don't know who they are, where they are from, or what they are capable of.

Most likely, any guests you have in your home are people you know very well, and you are sure you won't find your valuables missing in the morning.

Asylum seekers arriving at the Roxham Road crossing in Quebec suddenly found they were not longer able to freely walk across the border and be entitled to free housing, food, and whatever else they need.

The U.S. and Canada renegotiated the Safe

Third Country Agreement, and the border was suddenly closed as many people found themselves unable to cross at will.

In Quebec, they are celebrating the closure because they were footing the majority of the bill to house people, and their resources were stretched to the limit.

While some advocates say it is inhumane to close the border, they aren't looking at the bigger picture.

Human trafficking is illegal. Yet busloads of people have been arriving in Plattsburgh, New York, the town on the other side of the border where the asylum seekers arrive to make the walk across the border. Over 50,000 people have crossed that border entry over the past year.

That's busloads of people who are being driven to Plattsburgh. Who is driving the bus, organizing all these people, and getting paid to bring them there?

These aren't convoys of people volunteering to pay for the driver and the fuel to transport people across the country. These are obviously organized groups who are being paid to transport people to this destination for a profit.

If someone asked me for a ride to a border crossing where you can just walk across with-

out passing through customs, I would have no idea where to go, and I'm sure most other Canadians wouldn't either. But criminal elements do know where to go and are making a profit from this, and government agencies are doing nothing to stop it.

Some people have been arriving with very young children. This is never a good situation, especially when you are already in what is considered a safe country.

A five-year-old child should not be 'on the road' and travelling to an uncertain future, especially when they already have a place to stay.

Children are vulnerable. This type of situation can lead to separation, abuse, or worse.

We have an immigration and refugee system for a reason. It stops undesirable people from entering the country.

What many people find frustrating is the huge amount of money being spent to house asylum seekers while in their own backyard, people are camping out in tents because they are homeless. The list goes on from there.

While someone can cross the border, undocumented, and receive housing, clothing, and food at the public expense, Canadian citizens who were born here and paid taxes, are

still being denied many basic fundamental things needed to survive.

There are many groups across the country who are frustrated by lack of government support while complaining tax dollars are spent elsewhere, and they have a valid argument.

Meanwhile, officials in Plattsburgh, New York, are now saying all the refugees who have arrived but denied entry, are suddenly town putting a strain on their resources, and now they are looking for help to deal with that situation.

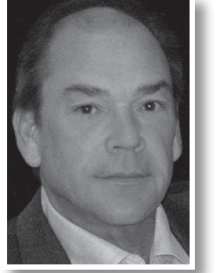
That could have been avoided of authorities had already stepped up and put a stop to the human trafficking that ended the route at that town.

The fact that refugees were claiming asylum after 'escaping' from the United States, a safe country, was absurd in the first place.

These asylum seekers aren't fleeing a war in upstate New York and need immediate assistance – that would be an entirely different story.

Just like you wouldn't allow a stranger to occupy your house uninvited, allowing people to simply walk into the country and take residence, unvetted, is never a good idea.

BRIAN LOCKHART FROM THE SECOND ROW



Precision fermentation: catastrophe lifeline

On Saturday Asteroid 2023 DZ22 flew by our planet at 27,000 km per hour, closer to us than it was to the Moon. It was less than one-hundredth of the diameter of the gigantic asteroid that took down the dinosaurs and most other animals 66 million years ago (75% of land species extinct), but it would still have killed a large city with a direct hit.

"While close approaches are a regular occurrence, one by an asteroid of this size (50-100 metres in diameter) happens only about once per decade, providing a unique opportunity for science," said officials with NASA's Planetary Defense Coordination Office. But even the scientists would not welcome an asteroid ten times as big as 2023 DZ22.

Most scientists used to believe that such big rocks hit Earth on average only once every 600,000-700,000 years. That figure has to be based on studies of how big and how fresh craters are on the Moon and Mars, however, because wind and water quickly erode the evidence of most asteroid strikes on Earth.

Now there's a new study out that suggests strikes in the one-km. range happen much more often. James Garvin, chief scientist of NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center, recently led a research team that says the big hits may happen up to a dozen times per million years.

Bad news, he explained: "It would be in the range of serious crap happening."

A one-km-wide asteroid would boost megatons of vapourised rock into the stratosphere, where it would stay for years and block some of the incoming sunlight.

It wouldn't be complete darkness at noon like the dinosaur-killer of 66 million years ago (10-15 km.), but it would be dark and cold enough to kill most plants – which would cause mass die-backs in the animals that eat them, too. Not enough to cause mass extinctions, probably, but really hard times for most living things, including people.

The one-km-range strikes don't usually leave any record in the rocks, because enough breeding pairs survive to build populations back up to normal levels in a few centuries. We certainly wouldn't want such a strike to happen on our watch, but even an average of once every 80,000 years gives us a decent chance of avoiding it.

Some of the biggest volcanoes, alas, cause much the same problem, and they explode much more often. Mount Pinatubo in 1991 drove immense amounts of gas and pulverised rock into the stratosphere, including 17 million tonnes of sulfur dioxide, and gave us a half a degree Celsius of global cooling for two years.

The 'Year Without a Summer' of 1816, after Mount Tambora in Indonesia exploded, saw average global temperature drop temporarily by 3°C, crops fail everywhere, food prices soar, and millions starve. Lord Byron wrote the poem 'Darkness', which begins, "I had a dream, which was not all a dream. The bright sun was extinguish'd."

There are about a dozen known supervolcanoes in the world, mostly around the Pacific 'ring of fire' or in the Mediterranean region. They can produce worldwide climatic effects similar to a major asteroid strike, but possibly much longer-lasting. Such eruptions are unpredictable, but tend to happen at intervals of tens or hundreds of thousands of years.

And finally, the likeliest kind of 'darkness at noon': simultaneous firestorms that push smoke and soot up into the stratosphere in a hundred cities struck by nuclear weapons. It's called a 'nuclear winter', and even a relatively small nuclear war like India vs. Pakistan could cause global famine for a number of years, depending on how many cities burned.

The common denominator, the kill mechanism in all of these catastrophes, is the loss of sunlight, killing crops and causing mass star-

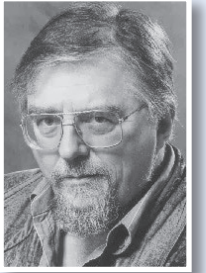
vation. The new technology that could protect the human race, or at least most of it, from death by starvation and related horrors is 'precision fermentation': food that can be mass-produced without land or even sunshine.

It's bacteria that contain the right kinds of nutrition, fed on hydrogen produced by electrolysis of water, fermented in bioreactors and needing only light (which could be artificial) to double in volume every few hours. If necessary, the food they provide could feed the world.

The first pilot plants are being built right now, and in a few years 'food from the sky' will be cheaper than soya and the various grains that are currently grown to feed the world's domesticated animals. Indeed, within a decade much of the land that animal fodder used to be grown on may be returned to nature.

'Farm-free' food for people will come later, but the basic elements can be combined to suit human tastes too. In the future, if one of these catastrophes should strike, we can just switch from feeding the animals to feeding ourselves. We weren't even looking for it, and we're getting free survival insurance.

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R.I.D.E stop in Shelburne leads to drug charges

The Dufferin Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) charged a driver with impaired operation among other charges as a result of a R.I.D.E. program in the Town of Shelburne.

On March 23, 2023, at approximately 1:00 a.m., officers from Dufferin OPP were conducting a R.I.D.E. program in the area of Greenwood Street and Robert Street in Shelburne. One driver that was stopped led officers into an impaired operation investigation. The driver was charged, and a quantity of drugs was seized.

As a result, Cody GILLIS, 32-year-old from Markdale, has been charged with:

- Operation while impaired - blood alcohol concentration (80 plus)
- Possession of Schedule I substance - Cocaine
- Possession of Schedule III substance
- Novice driver - blood alcohol concentration above zero
- Class G1 licence holder - unaccompanied by qualified driver
- Driver motor vehicle with open container of liquor

The accused is scheduled to appear at the Ontario Court of Justice in Orangeville in April 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.

Dufferin OPP continues to conduct R.I.D.E spot checks daily as drivers who are impaired by alcohol or drugs continue to pose a threat to Ontario roads.

If you suspect someone is driving impaired, please call 9-1-1. You could be saving a life!

"The Dufferin OPP reminds motorists to plan ahead when consuming alcohol or drugs. Use a designated driver, cab, ride-share, 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 press 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, 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.

Police remind public to stop and not pass school buses

The Dufferin Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police along with area school bus drivers would like to remind all drivers that a stopped school bus with its red overhead flashing lights and extended stop arm requires all approaching drivers to stop and not pass by the bus.

Drivers should also adjust their speed and be aware of extra vehicle traffic and pedestrian traffic during school times in school areas and zones.

Points to Remember

- Focus 100 per cent of your attention



on the road and put away unnecessary distractions.

- Slowdown in school zones and respect the posted speed limit. There will be a high volume of students traveling between home and

school by bus, on foot and by bicycle.

- Be aware of school buses with their yellow then red flashing lights activated. The fine for passing a school bus with its red lights activated is \$490 minimum and six demerit points.

In response to an increase in complaints of vehicles not stopping for school buses in Dufferin County, officers will be conducting extra patrols during school hours. Drivers that are found in violation will be served a Provincial Offences Notices for "Failing to stop for a School Bus" that comes with a

price tag of \$490.00 and six demerit points upon conviction. I STOP YOU STOP

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

For more information please view the following Ministry of Transportation link at ontario.ca/document/official-ministry-transportation-mto-truck-handbook/stopping-school-buses

New Staff Sergeant transferred to Dufferin OPP

The Dufferin Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) has announced the promotion of Staff Sergeant John Buligan from Sergeant to Staff Sergeant and transfer from Nottawasaga to the Dufferin Detachment.

"I look forward to building on the ongoing successes at the Dufferin OPP detachment in all areas of policing," said Staff Sergeant John Buligan.

Staff Sergeant John Buligan has been a member of the Ontario Provincial Police for 27-years. During this time, he has served at Aurora Detachment, Caledon Detachment and Nottawasaga Detachment. He has worked in various units which include the Emergency Response Team (ERT), the Urban Search and Rescue, Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear Response Team (UCRT), Crime Unit, Drug Enforcement Unit and Community Street Crime Unit.

Staff Sergeant John Buligan has worked extensively in the Dufferin detachment area over several years specifically in the role of Team Leader for the Community Street Crime Unit.

The incredible amount of experience Staff Sergeant John Buligan possesses, his positive attitude, dedication to his work, professionalism and commitment to his community make him a great asset to Dufferin County, said Dufferin OPP in a press release.

"I want to welcome S/Sgt Buligan to Dufferin. We look forward to your leadership and dedication in serving our communities," said Dufferin OPP Detachment Commander Insp. Terry Ward.

X CROSSWORD

PUZZLE 410

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- 4. "A Bridge ____ Far"
- 5. Furry swimmer
- 6. Stubborn
- 7. Perth pal
- 8. Mongol
- 9. Along the middle
- 10. Cereal grass
- 11. Building addition
- 12. Battery type
- 13. Short ape?
- 14. Type of golf club
- 20. Cross
- 25. Wrap
- 26. Of an earlier time
- 27. Speck
- 30. Sarcastic
- 31. Bathhouse
- 33. Like anchovies
- 35. French friar
- 36. Derby feature
- 37. Greek letter
- 39. Strive
- 40. Loose talk
- 43. Giraffe's kin
- 44. Rubber-coated
- 46. ____ by a mile
- 48. One's equal
- 50. Dreg
- 53. Inch along
- 55. Arrive at
- 56. Friends
- 61. Assistance
- 62. Scatter refuse
- 63. Eye woe
- 64. Perfume ingredient
- 65. Carry along
- 66. Permitted by law
- 68. Contour feather
- 70. Shoelace end
- 73. Farm measurement
- 74. Ink smudge
- 75. Soften
- 76. Jug
- 78. "CSI" evidence
- 80. Indian title

ACROSS

- 1. Sheet of cotton
- 5. Unit of resistance
- 8. Dull
- 12. Right this minute
- 15. Empty-house sound
- 16. Herbal beverage
- 17. Leaf's angle
- 18. Incense
- 19. Variable resistor
- 21. Stream
- 22. Boorish fellow
- 23. Opal or sapphire
- 24. Column's support
- 26. Called
- 27. "Eyes of Laura ____"
- 28. Hearty
- 29. Verge
- 30. Computer symbol
- 32. Romanov title
- 34. Make lace

DOWN

- 36. Naughty child
- 37. Gizzard
- 38. Gloat
- 41. Choir gown
- 42. Empty inside
- 45. TV's "____ Buddies"
- 47. "Charro!" star Balin
- 48. Two cups
- 49. Cabbage's cousin
- 51. Fraternity letter
- 52. Chop up
- 54. Revolve
- 56. "____ and Tell"
- 57. "Take Good ____ of My Baby"
- 58. Blunted rapier
- 59. Garden flower
- 60. Do the wrong thing
- 62. Den
- 63. Ladder rung
- 64. Fit
- 67. Grand
- 69. Narrow trail
- 71. Expedition
- 72. Sluggishness
- 74. Hive occupant
- 77. Muscle spasm
- 78. Force
- 79. Side dish
- 81. Black bird
- 82. Hawaiian goose
- 83. Shad delicacy
- 84. Fragrant bloom
- 85. Mil. unit
- 86. A long way off
- 87. Certain amphibian
- 88. Road for Cato

DOWN

- 1. Ice mass
- 2. Feel great pity
- 3. The other guys

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SHELBURNE SPORTS

Four teams in semi-final battle for Junior C championships

Written By Brian Lockhart

The semi-final round of competition in the North Carruthers Division of the Provincial Junior Hockey is underway as four teams remain in their bid to make it to the final.

First place in the Division, the Stayner Siskins are up against the Orillia Terriers in their semi-final match.

Stayner was the powerhouse team in the league this season, finishing with a 36-4 record.

The Terriers ended the season well back with a fifth-place finish and a 19-19-2 record. Orillia dispatched the Innifil Spartans in a series that took five games in their quarter-final.

Stayner is leading the series with Orillia 3-0.

The Siskins eliminated the Midland Flyers in four games in their quarter-final series.

Game one of the Stayner versus Orillia semi-final got underway on Siskins' home ice



BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

SEMI-FINALS: Four teams remain in the Carruthers Division of the Provincial Junior Hockey League as the semi-final round of playoffs is underway. The Alliston Hornets are up against the Schomberg Cougar, and the other series has the Stayner Siskins battling the Orillia Terriers. The Hornets and Cougars played the first game of their series in Alliston on Friday, Mar. 23.

on Mar. 23 and ended with a 7-4 Stayner win. Game two was not a pretty game for a

playoff series, with the Siskins hammering the Terriers 11-5 on their home ice in Orillia.

The third game of the series was back in Stayner on Sunday, Mar. 26. Orillia managed to have a 3-2 lead in the third period, but the Siskins tied it up with just under three minutes remaining in the third period, and the game went into overtime to decide a winner.

The first regulation overtime period did not produce a winner, and the teams returned for a second overtime period.

This Siskins won the game when they scored at 13:05 into the second overtime period.

Game four of this series was scheduled for Wednesday, Mar. 29, in Orillia, with results unavailable at press time.

The other semi-final series pits the Alliston Hornets against the Schomberg Cougars.

Both of these teams were strong this season. Alliston finished the regular season in

second place with a 30-9-1 record, including two overtime losses.

Schomberg was close behind with a 28-11-1 record, including two overtime losses.

This series is expected to go six or seven games as these are pretty equal teams, but the Hornets took an early lead with a 3-2 win in game one. That was after the teams played to a tie and went into overtime.

It took two overtime periods to decide a winner when the Hornets scored at 16:17 into the second OT period.

Game two of the series got underway in Schomberg on Saturday, Mar. 25, and ended with a 4-1 Alliston win to give them a 2-0 lead in the series.

The Cougars were back in the series with a 5-3 win on Alliston ice on Mar. 27.

Alliston was leading going into the third period, but three unanswered Schomberg goals gave the Cougars the win.

Game four of the series is scheduled for Thursday, Mar. 30, in Schomberg.

Shelburne Wolves U15 LL battle for league B championship

Written By Brian Lockhart

The Shelburne Wolves U15 LL team has improved a lot throughout the season, and their skill and determination have brought them to the league B championship.

The Wolves are up against the Osprey Hawks in the final best-of-three series. The team that wins two games, or gets to four points in the event of a tie, will be the champs.

Game one of the series took place in Shelburne on Thursday, Mar. 23.

The Wolves took an early lead and stayed

ahead for the rest of the game.

They were a tenacious squad on the ice with lots of good passing and setting up plays in front of the Osprey net. The Wolves were aggressive in the corners and in their forechecking for the entire duration of the game.

Their dedication to practice resulted in a solid performance on the ice.

At the end of the first game, the Wolves came out on top with a 7-4 win.

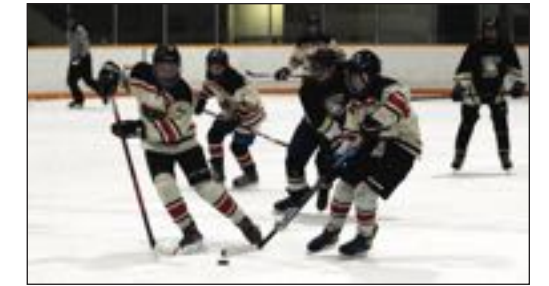
"I've been telling them all year, we skate hard at practice, and I skate them harder than any other team in the league," said

coach Jordan Beatty. "When it comes to these games, they're ready to go. Tonight, they really came out to play right off the hop and scored 17 seconds in. Even a couple of goals the other team got were on a couple of bad bounces. I'm impressed with how they played tonight. I'm really proud of them. They just outworked them, they never gave up on any plays. Every time a puck went into a corner, if we didn't come out with it we made sure we gave them trouble. They moved the puck well, and tried to find the open net. They did everything well tonight."

Game two of the series got underway on Osprey home ice on Saturday, Mar. 25.

The series tied when the Osprey won game two 4-1.

This set up the series for a final showdown.



BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

SHELBURNE HOCKEY: The Shelburne Wolves U15 LL are currently in a best-of-three series with the Osprey Hawks to finish the season.

The final game was scheduled for Tuesday, Mar. 27, in the Osprey home barn with a 7:00 p.m. start.

The results of the game were not available at press time.

YARD WASTE COLLECTION BEGINS

and continues until the end of November

Week A
Yard waste is collected in the Town of Orangeville.

Week B
Yard waste is collected in the urban areas of Grand Valley and Shelburne, as well as rural subdivisions including Mansfield, Mansfield Ski Hill Area, Horning's Mills, Bretton Estates, and Marsville.

Rural Areas
In rural areas yard waste is collected on a monthly call-in basis. To be added to the list, contact GFL at 1.888.941.3345 ext. 1 at least one week in advance.

APRIL 2023

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Collection begins on the Monday of designated weeks, and continues until the entire collection area is completed, which may take a few days. **Place yard waste at the curb by Monday at 7 a.m. of your scheduled week to ensure collection.**

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ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

TYLAR SPRATT

"I like playing with a team and I enjoy skating," said Shelburne Wolves U15 LL centre, Tylar Spratt, of why he likes playing hockey. "You make a lot of friends on the team."

Tylar has been playing hockey for six years and brings a lot of experience to his team.

He helped the team have a successful season and playoff run.

During the summer months, Tylar likes playing baseball with his friends.

TEAM: SHELBURNE WOLVES U15 LL
POSITION: CENTRE

Shelburne Soccer Club to host registration days at CDRC

Written By Brian Lockhart

The Shelburne Soccer Club will open registrations for the 2023 season on Sunday, Apr. 2, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., at the Centre Dufferin Recreation Complex.

Any registrations completed on Apr. 2 will be eligible for a ten per cent early bird discount.

Children born between 2006 and 2020 (U4 to U17) are welcome to register for one of 38 coed house league teams which play against other teams in the same age group once a week at Greenwood Park in Shelburne from the beginning of June until the end of August.

If a child is interested in joining the U11 or U13 rep/travel teams and is born between 2010 and 2014, they can try out in person at practices.

"Last year, both of the Shelburne Thunder rep teams went undefeated in the Escarpment Soccer League through hard work and fair play," said U11 coach and club president Bryan Brown. "This year, we're excited to continue our success through a move to the South West Regional Soccer Association. Our aim is to make this a club built on friendship, promoting healthy living, and enhancing self-esteem."

For more information, visit online at shelburnesoccer.com, Facebook.com/shelburnesoccerclub, or send an e-mail to info@shelburnesoccer.com.

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Toronto Welsh Male Voice Choir coming to Shelburne church

Written By Paula Brown
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Trinity United Church in Shelburne is welcoming a mass male voice choir for a concert show later this month.

The Toronto Welsh Male Voice Choir (TWMVC) will be taking the stage in the church sanctuary for a concert on Apr. 23 at 2:30 p.m.

"Trinity United Church is very excited to host the concert and open the doors to the community to attend," said organizer Ann McAlpine. "We have probably one of the best acoustic halls in Dufferin County, and the church sanctuary is known for its beautiful resonance for music."

The Toronto Welsh Male Voice Choir (TWMVC) was established in 1995 and has performed in churches, cathedrals, and concert halls throughout Ontario, Quebec, the Maritimes, the Canadian Rockies, New York State, and Wales.

The choir was invited in 2001 to sing at the Roy Thomson Hall as part of the 2008 Toronto Olympic Bid Festival. The Toronto Welsh Male Voice Choir was also invited to take part in a combined choir of 400 voices at Carnegie Hall in New York City in 2008 and performed at the North American Festival of Wales as a featured guest choir in 2017.

The Toronto Welsh Male Voice Choir is known for performing a varied repertoire of

musical genres, including spirituals, operatic arias, Canadian folk songs, Broadway show tunes, and contemporary music.

"It appeals to so many different music tastes and backgrounds, they seem to cover all styles and varieties of music, so I think we'll have a wonderful blend of a traditional and contemporary programming," said McAlpine. "It has been a long time since I've seen a large choir in Shelburne so it's a wonderful opportunity to gather people together to enjoy music and be entertained right in their own community."

The concert is also part of a fundraising project for the local church.

"We've done church a little differently in recent years, and the idea is to open the

doors to the community to gather people together," said McAlpine.

A portion of the proceeds raised through ticket sales will go towards supporting the church's work in serving the community. Some of the programs and events include music concerts, art galleries, yoga, parenting classes, and a soup kitchen.

"It's a way that we can develop project to further meet the needs of what our neighbours and community want," said McAlpine.

A limited number of concert tickets remain, and a waitlist has been started. Those interested in adding their name to the waitlist can call the Trinity United Church at 519-925-0905 and leave a message.

Dufferin Muslim Centre invites community to break fast with them during Ramadan

Written By Paula Brown
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Muslim community in Dufferin County is coming together to celebrate Ramadan.

Every night of Ramadan, the Dufferin Muslim Centre, located at 506195 Hwy. 89, just outside of Shelburne, will be welcoming Muslim community members to break their fast. Families will bring a dish to share potluck style and enjoy breaking bread together.

The Dufferin Muslim Centre will be conducting daily Taraweh prayers each evening, led by Hafiz Abdur Rahman and will complete

a recitation of the entire Qur'an during the holy month of Ramadan.

"This year is going to be very different - we will be praying in our own centre, and it is so meaningful to bond with all of the families here to build relationships, trust, and community," said Tabish Taufiq, president of the Dufferin Muslim Centre.

Ramadan is the ninth and holiest month of the Islamic calendar, and Muslims use the month of Ramadan to focus on their connection to God, give to the poor, reflect on their lives, and spend quality time with friends and family. Every day from sunrise to sunset, Mus-

lims worldwide fast, abstaining from eating or drinking to feel the plight of the poor, build self-discipline, and practice their faith.

The Dufferin Muslim Centre encourages everyone in the community to visit and participate in the celebration.

"We love to meet new people," said Dufferin Muslim Centre vice president Irfani Shah Mubeen. "An organization is only as good as its members. Our goal is for the Dufferin Muslim Centre to be where the community unites."

Families can also sponsor a dinner at the Dufferin Muslims Centre with a minimum

donation of \$100. For more information or to sponsor a dinner, contact the head of the Ladies Committee Urooj Dar, at tabish.urooj@gmail.com.

Althaf Nagal, director of operations for the Dufferin Muslim Centre, also operates an Islamic School on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays for children to learn about their faith and gain confidence. For more information about the Islamic School, contact Nagal by email at althafahmednagal@gmail.com.

Ramadan began on March 22 and will end on the evening of April 20.

Government of Ontario releases 2023 budget, deficit projected to be \$2.2 billion

Written By Brian Lockhart

Ontario's Minister of Finance, Peter Bethlenfalvy, has released the province's 2023 budget.

"Ontario's economy remains resilient, but the road ahead continues to be uncertain," Mr. Bethlenfalvy said. "Our government has the right plan to navigate these challenges. We are building Ontario so we can have a strong economy for the future and the infrastructure needed to support growth across the province."

A statement from Sylvia Jones, MPP Dufferin-Caledon, said: "The government's plan is taking significant actions to drive growth by lowering costs, getting key infrastructure projects built faster, and attracting more jobs and investment to help businesses, families, and workers."

"Our budget focuses on investing in infrastructure, the economy and the people of Ontario," Ms. Jones said. "This plan supports families, workers and businesses across the province and invests in critical programs and services that residents in Dufferin-Caledon rely on as we build a stronger Ontario."

The plan for lowering costs and getting key infrastructure projects built faster includes launching the new Ontario Made Manufacturing Investment Tax Credit, which would provide a 10 per cent refundable corporate income tax credit to help local manufacturers lower costs and invest in workers.

Ontario is attracting over \$16 billion in investments from global automakers and suppliers of EV batteries and battery materials. The province will provide \$24 million this year for a new capital stream of the Skills Development Fund to leverage private-sector

expertise and expand training centres.

The government also plans to support more seniors financially by proposing changes to expand the Guaranteed Annual Income System to see 100,000 additional seniors eligible for the program. And the government plans to invest in supportive housing with an additional \$202 million each year in the Homelessness Prevention Program and Indigenous Supportive Housing Program and support community organizations' delivery of supportive housing.

The province intends to help more Ontario students become doctors by investing an additional \$33 million over three years to add 100 undergraduate seats beginning in 2023 and 154 postgraduate medical training seats to prioritize Ontario residents trained at home and abroad.

Starting in fall 2023, the program will expand to allow pharmacists to prescribe over-the-counter medication for more common ailments.

For mental health and addiction issues, the province is providing an additional \$425 million over three years to connect more people to mental health and addiction services.

The provincial government is also providing an update on Ontario's economic and fiscal outlook, with a plan that will balance the budget in 2024-25, three years earlier than forecast in the last budget.

Ontario's 2022-23 deficit is projected to be \$2.2 billion. The government is projecting a deficit of \$1.3 billion in 2023-24 and is on track to post a surplus of \$0.2 billion in 2024-25.

Ontario's real GDP grew by an estimated 3.7 per cent in 2022 and is projected to increase by 0.2 per cent in 2023.

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Proposal put forward to expand Ontario's Guaranteed Annual Income System

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

More low-income seniors could receive support from the provincial government with a proposal to expand the Guaranteed Annual Income System (GAINS) program.

Dufferin-Caledon MPP Sylvia Jones announced on Mar. 23 the proposal to expand the GAINS program by about 1 million seniors and index the program annually to inflation as part of the provincial 2023 budget. The expanded GAINS program would begin in July 2024.

"Our government is working hard for Ontario's seniors. They deserve to have steady and reliable programs, services and income supports now and into the future," said Jones. "Increasing our investment in the GAINS program, if passed, helps our most vulnerable seniors. They deserve the



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

GAINS: Dufferin-Caledon MPP Sylvia Jones recently announced a proposal to expand the Guaranteed Annual Income System (GAINS) program.

dignity and respect and this sows that our government take the wellbeing of seniors very seriously."

Ontario

The provincial government is also investing \$1 million over three years to expand the Seniors Safety Line, a 24/7 resources available to help seniors who are experiences or at risk of elder abuse, by connecting them with trained counsellors to support and assist them.

"Our government is working for the Ontario seniors who have built this province so they can live comfortably and with dignity," said Peter Bethlenfalvy, minister of finance. "By expanding and annually indexing the GAINS program, we are providing financial support to more vulnerable low-income seniors and

ensuring that when their costs rise due to inflation, our support also increases."

As of January 2023, the government doubled the GAINS payment for all recipients for 12 months, which increased the maximum payment to \$166 per month for single seniors, and to \$332 per month for couples, and a maximum increase of \$1,000 per person.

To be eligible for the GAINS program, seniors must file a tax return each year, even if there is no income to report. Monthly GAINS payments are issued on the 25th day of the month.

MoD puts out call for artists in multicultural art show

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

A call is out inviting artists to submit a piece of work representing their heritage, culture or the spirit of multiculturalism to be part of an upcoming art show in Dufferin County.

The Museum of Dufferin (MoD) and the Dufferin County Multicultural Foundation have partnered to present "Unity in Diversity," a juried art show hosted at the local museum.

"Art, music and entertainment is common throughout every culture – it unites us. [Art] is the one nonverbal communication that we all share, that brings us all together and is so inclusive," Althea Alli, founder of the Dufferin County Multicultural Foundation, told the Free Press at the inaugural art show in 2022. "It's one thing we can all celebrate, and that's the reasoning behind having this art show."

A jury will select four to six artists to display two to four pieces of art each in the two-month exhibition at the MoD's Silo Gallery. The exhibit will open on Jun. 23 at 6:30 p.m. and run until Jul. 29. This is the second year the art show is being held.

The Museum of Dufferin collects and

preserves the stories of the people, places and culture of Dufferin County, both past and present.

The local museum's roots date back to 1963 when the Dufferin County Historical Society established the Shelburne Pioneer Museum. The artifact collection was officially donated to the County of Dufferin in 1988 and relocated to MoD's existing facility in Mulmur in 1994.

"The MoD is dedicated to ensuring equity, inclusion, decolonization and anti-oppression are a priority across the institution," reads a press release from the County of Dufferin. "The Museum is proud to partner with the Dufferin County Multicultural Foundation to present the Unity in Diversity Art Show to bring together and highlight the variety of cultural diversity in the community."

The deadline to enter an application for the art show is Apr. 14 at noon, and selected artists will be notified on Apr. 27. Artists in all mediums from across the province are invited to share artwork that represents the theme 'Unity in Diversity'.

There is no entry fee.

For submission details and to fill out an application, visit the Museum of Dufferin's website at www.dufferinmuseum.com.

Local arts group opens submissions for post-secondary scholarships

Written By **James Matthews**
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Aspiring artists have until June to apply for an Ann Laurier Scholarship.

Applications to the Dufferin Arts Council (DAC) are now open for this year's scholarships. Full details and the application forms are available at dufferinarts.com.

The application deadline is June 30.

These scholarships are available to students who are residents of Dufferin County, graduating from high school this year, and preparing to attend an accredited university or college.

Three one-time scholarships are awarded each year. Scholarships are \$2,500 to students of exceptional talent in the field of the arts — the visual, literary, or performing arts.

Michele Maycock, a DAC board member, said works of art contribute much to a community. And the council, by way of the annual scholarship fund, has contributed more than \$130,000 since 1996 toward cultivating artistic aspirations.

"Art inspires, delivers beauty, evokes

profound thought and meaningful conversations," Maycock said. "Art hangs out on our walls, sits on our shelves and moves on our stages, like a best friend, always there to comfort, inspire and deliver hope."

DAC is a group of people who have come together to support artists and the arts in Dufferin County. In 2022, the council celebrated 30 years of promoting the arts in the county. The council was founded in 1992.

Besides the Ann Laurier Scholarships for grade 12 students entering post-secondary school in the arts, DAC offers the Reed T. Cooper bursary for mid-career artists. The council also funds the Artist in the Schools program that brings professional artists into schools to instruct students.

"We are proud of the inspiration, encouragement, and support we have given to, and had from, the many talented artists who flourish right here in Dufferin County," Maycock said.

"Each year we raise money to fund projects that promote the development of artists and the arts throughout Dufferin County."

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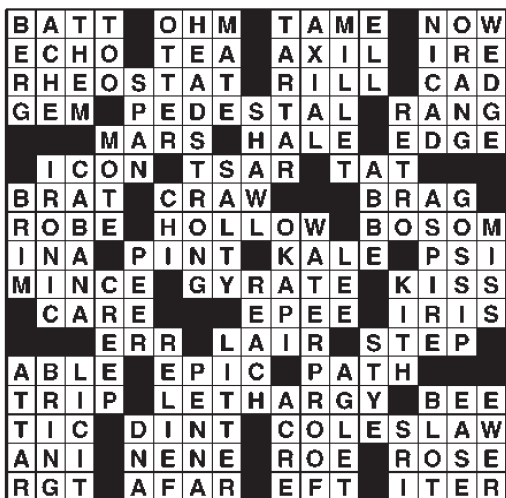
Anne passed away peacefully after a lengthy battle with cancer. She will be sadly missed but forever loved, by her partner Bill, her sons Christopher, Peter, Shane, (Steph), Jesse (Amanda), Joshua (Jackie), grandchildren Will, Bella, Dylan, Lavana, Skyler, Logan and Piper, sisters Barbara (Ugo), Donna (Dan), step sister Carolyn (Ray), step brothers Andrew and David.

A celebration of life will be held on April 1st 2023 at The Canadian Legion (Museum Room) 203 William Street Shelburne. Between 1-4pm



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CATHERINE STIFF

We are saddened to announce the passing of our mother, Cathy Stiff on Saturday March 25th, 2023 at the Pembroke Regional Hospital at the age of 68 years. Cathy Stiff of Pembroke is dearly loved by her children, Matthew Jenkins (Valerie Crane), Sharon Samis-Grix (Daylin), Lee Jenkins (Jen King) and Chris Jenkins (Amanda). Loving 'Katy-Nanna' to Tristan, Natalie, Steven, Alex, Kris, Kurtis, Jack, Ava and Lincoln. Dear sister of Valerie Woodford, Eleanor Baron, Norman Stiff, Howard Stiff and chosen sister to Lenore Stringer. Sadly missed by many nieces and nephews. Daughter of the late Robert and Jean (nee Jordan) Stiff. Respecting Cathy's wishes cremation has taken place. A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date. Arrangements entrusted to the Murphy Funeral Home, Pembroke.



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