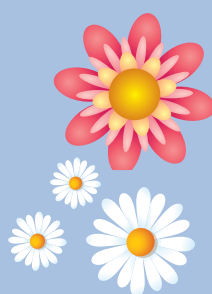


Happy Easter

Wishing all Christians in Dufferin-Caledon and across our country a blessed and peaceful Easter.



BUDGET 2023

On March 28, 2023, the Trudeau government tabled Budget 2023 to Canadians which included the following measures:

NEW GROCERY REBATE FOR CANADIANS

- Will give \$234 for a single adult to cover the rising cost of food.
- Canada's Food Price Report 2023 predicts that a family of 4 will spend up to \$1,065 more on food this year; that's \$598 more than the \$467 rebate they will receive.

Will this rebate make any difference for you?

YES NO

NEW CANADIAN DENTAL CARE PLAN

- The program will cost \$13 billion over five years starting 2023-24 with \$4.4 billion in ongoing costs each year.
- A large majority of Canadians already have dental coverage and will see no benefit from this program.

Will this proposed dental care plan benefit you or do you already have coverage?

ALREADY COVERED NO COVERAGE

NEW TAX-FREE FIRST HOME SAVINGS ACCOUNT

- Allows Canadians to save up to \$40,000, tax-free, to help buy their first home, starting April 01, 2023.
- Individuals can save a maximum of \$8,000 per year in a Tax-Free First Home Savings Account.

Will this help you or anyone you know?

YES NO

CANADA PENSION PLAN (CPP) INCREASE

- Payroll taxes on workers and small businesses will increase.
- A worker making above \$66,600 will be forced to pay an extra \$255 through the mandatory CPP tax this year, in addition to paying an extra \$50 through the EI tax, according to the Canadian Taxpayers Federation.

Can you afford losing \$305 from your earnings?

YES NO N/A

DEBT SERVICING

- The cost to service Canada's debt this year (2023-24) is projected to be \$43.9 billion.
- This is nearly double the costs in 2021-22, when debt servicing costs were \$24.5 billion.

Do you think that after this spending, your life is better or worse?

BETTER WORSE

You can complete this survey on my website at kyleseeback.ca/budget2023

Kyle Seeback, M.P.
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E-mail: kyle.seeback@parl.gc.ca

Free Income Tax Clinics in Dufferin-Caledon On Now

Community Volunteer Income Tax Program – Free Tax Clinic

Are you eligible?

Before visiting a tax clinic, please ensure you are eligible for this free service. You may be eligible for help at a free tax clinic if you have a modest income and a simple tax situation.

SUGGESTED INCOME LEVEL

FAMILY SIZE	TOTAL FAMILY INCOME IS UNDER...
1 PERSON	\$35,000
2 PERSONS	\$45,000
3 PERSONS	\$47,500
4 PERSONS	\$50,000

Simple tax situation

Your tax situation is simple if you have no income or if your income comes from any of these sources:

- employment
- pension
- benefits such as the Canada Pension Plan, disability insurance, Employment Insurance, and social assistance
- registered retirement savings plans (RRSPs)
- support payments
- scholarships, fellowships, bursaries or grants
- interest (under \$1,000)
- New – Covid-19 Benefits

Your tax situation is not simple (not eligible) if you:

- are self-employed or have employment expenses
- have business or rental income and expenses
- have capital gains or losses
- filed for bankruptcy in the tax year (or the year before, if that return has not yet been filed)
- are completing a tax return for a deceased person

Community Volunteer Income Tax Program

The Orangeville Public Library is Hosting
Free Income Tax Clinic for Modest Income Individuals
(see eligibility criteria)

Location: Train Station (tel. 519-941-0610)
49 Town Line, Orangeville, ON

When: Drop Off – Mon - Fri, 10:30 a.m. - 5:00p.m.

Starting – **Monday, March 6, 2023**

Last day for drop off – **Tuesday, April 25, 2023**

In-person Interviews: **Tuesdays & Wednesdays**
from 10:30 a.m. - 1:00p.m.

In-Person Interview & Drop Off Service:

- Bring personal identification
- Bring all tax slips, rent or property tax receipts, charitable donations & other related documents
- Bring COVID-19 Benefits Slips (CERB, CRB, CRSB, CRCB, etc.)
- New - Ontario Staycation receipts



For Drop Off Service Only:

- The interview will be performed by telephone
- Your documents will be returned to you by mail

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Happy Easter



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PAULA BROWN PHOTO

HONOURING DARLENE HASSALL: A local resident admires the artwork of Darlene Hassall, on display in the Shelburne Town Hall Gallery as part of a tribute exhibition for the late artist, who passed away in August of 2022. The town celebrated the opening of the exhibit on Sunday (April 2), which will be on display until May 7. Each piece of art is available for sale, with the proceeds going to the Heart and Stroke Foundation.

Exhibit honouring local artist launches at Town Hall

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

The Town of Shelburne is paying tribute to local artist Darlene Hassall with an exhibition looking back at her work.

Family members, past students, art collectors, and community members gathered at the Town Hall Art Gallery on Sunday (April 2) to mark the opening of the exhibit, titled "A Retrospective of Darlene Hassall Work in Oil."

"I'm quite thrilled that it's here, and we selected pieces we thought would look good in this space," Darlene's husband, Peter Hassall told the Free Press. "This exhibit gives the people in town a chance to see who she was and what she did, and hopefully give inspiration to go out and create something of their own."

The tribute exhibition of Darlene's work came about when former Shelburne councillor Lynda Buffett approached Hassall's husband about displaying her work in the town following her passing last year.

"I feel so good we did this in memory of Darlene and it's amazing to see so many people here," said Buffett.

While a resident of Shelburne for nearly

a decade, Darlene was originally from Montreal and attended Concordia University, where she graduated with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Graphic Design. She spent 40 years developing a career in business before making a return to her art in 2005 by painting during her spare time. In 2012, she became a full-time artist.

During her career as an artist, Darlene participated in over 30 juried exhibitions and 25 art shows. She also sat on the board and executive committees for local art groups and was part of the art in the School Program with the Dufferin Arts Council.

Darlene died in August 2022 at the age of 71.

Members of the local art community who knew Darlene, and admirers of her work, were in attendance for the exhibit's opening on Sunday.

Joan Hope, owner of Dragonfly Arts in Orangeville, where Darlene had her studio for a few years, spoke with the Free Press about Darlene as an artist and having her work once again on display.

"She was such a dynamic, wonderful artist, and as a teacher she was very creative and avant garde," said Hope. "She was very good about going to shows so I think

a lot of artists have seen her work, but for the community at large I hope they see her uniqueness."

Mono resident Anne Swift-Peters owns three of Darlene's paintings, including a piece from the "Masters Through My Eyes" collection, and was a past student of her art classes.

"It's really important to honour her and her talent, and it's good for people to be able to see her work, maybe for the last time," said Swift-Peters. "I liked her colours and the whimsy in a lot of her paintings. The way she looked at people, you knew who they were."

Darlene's work has often been described as whimsical, abstract and colourful.

"Her inspiration came from the world. She always walked around with a sketch book, and she'd look at something and draw it to go home and paint it," said Hassall. "She wasn't stuck to one genre of painting; it was just whatever she wanted to paint, she painted."

Each piece of Darlene's art in the exhibit is available for sale, with all proceeds being donated to the Heart and Stroke Foundation.

The exhibit will be on display at the Shelburne Town Hall Gallery, located at 203 Main Street East, until May 7.

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FEATURED ITEM

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Local hospital expanding to offer breast cancer screenings

Written By **JAMES MATTHEWS**
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Dufferin County residents will no longer need to travel far from home for breast cancer evaluations with Headwater Health Care Centre (HHCC) now designated as a certified Ontario Breast Assessment Centre.

The local hospital received the certification after obtaining a new mammography unit capable of stereotactic 3D biopsy and tomosynthesis.

"In consultation with our community, Headwaters is planning for our future and building capacity to support our growing community and the needs they've identified as most important," said Kim Delahunt, president and CEO of Headwaters Hospital, in a press release. "With a focus on quality patient-

tred care, together with our community partners, this investment of new technologies demonstrates our commitment to drive higher levels of quality across our teams and ensuring patient, staff, and caregiver safety."

The new machine will allow radiologists to perform mammography-guided procedures to detect abnormalities in breast tissue that cannot be seen with ultrasound.

"I am really excited and grateful for the expansion of breast health services that our hospital can offer patients in our community," said Dr. Grace Wang, chief of staff, vice president, medical affairs and surgeon. "Breast cancer affects one in nine women, and like many cancers, a key determinant to successful treatment starts with early detection and diagnosis. Our new breast assessment program will allow us to help more women and save lives."

Headwaters Health Care Centre has been part of the Ontario Breast Screening Program since 2018, offering screening and diagnostic breast imaging services. In collaboration with the Diagnostic Imaging and Surgical Departments, the local hospital now offers a dedicated breast Diagnostic Assessment Program (DAP).

The Diagnostic Assessment Program will improve the patient experience by streamlining access to examinations and procedures, shortening referral paths to breast surgeons, and enhancing patient support.

Breast health services that are offered at Headwaters include screening mammography, diagnostic mammography, breast ultrasound, image-guided breast biopsies, oncology referrals and enhanced patient support.

Headwaters Health Care Centre also has



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

LOCAL HOSPITAL: Headwaters Health Care Centre is expanding to offer breast cancer screenings.

onsite radiologists specializing in breast imaging, specialist care by breast surgeons and reconstruction surgery by plastic surgeons.

Yard waste collection starting next week across Dufferin County

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

Yardwork season is here, and the County of Dufferin has begun making the rounds to collect bags.

Yard waste collection started in Orangeville and rural areas at the start of the week, Apr. 3.

Beginning the week of Apr. 10 in the urban areas of Shelburne and Grand Valley and rural subdivisions, including Mansfield, Man-

sfield Ski Hill area, Horning's Mills, Bretton Estates, and Marsville will have collections.

A map of the yard waste collection areas can be found at dufferincounty.ca.

Yard waste collection will start on the Monday of each designated collection week and continue until the entire area is complete. The county said pickups might take a few days or require collection on a different day than the regularly scheduled waste collection days.

Residents are asked to place yard waste

at the curb by 7 a.m. on the Monday of their scheduled week to ensure the bags are picked up.

Those who live in rural areas are reminded that yard waste is collected on a monthly call-in basis. To be added to the list, residents must contact GFL at 1-888-941-3345 ext. 1 at least one week in advance.

Set of Requirements:

Residents must place yard waste in paper bags, open labelled containers or bundles. Dufferin Waste also provides yellow yard

waste stickers for personal containers, which can be received by contacting Dufferin Waste at 519-941-2816 ext. 2620 or emailing dufferinwaste@dufferincounty.ca.

Up to 20 bags, containers or bundles can be placed out for each collection. Each bag, container or bundle should not exceed 125 litres (33 gallons), 20kg (44lbs), or 1.25m (4 feet). Bundles must be secured with twines. Plastic bags are not permitted.

Yard waste will be collected until November.

Nominate your favourite Dufferin business for the 2023 excellence award

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

Dufferin County residents can nominate outstanding local businesses and non-profits that work to better the community.

The 2023 Business Excellence Awards celebrate the local businesses and non-profit organizations that work to benefit both the local economy and the well-being of the Dufferin community.

The awards are put on by the Dufferin Board of Trade. Nominations can be made on dufferinbot.ca before Apr. 20.

Nominations are submitted by community members who wish to recognize and celebrate local hardworking organizations. Winners are determined by judges from outside the area, with decisions based on how the nominee exemplifies the award criteria.

Nominations are open to board members and non-member businesses located in Dufferin County. Nominees are eligible for nomination in as many categories as applicable.

Nominators should show how their nominees live and breathe their corporate values, have survived the challenges of the past few years, and are making the community better by being part of it.

After nominations close, nominees are asked a few questions through an online survey to help tell their stories. Their responses



are sent to judges outside the local area for non-biased judging.

Nominees' logos and stories are also added to DBOT's website and social media to further promote these outstanding local businesses and showcase Business Excellence in Dufferin.

Nominees will be presented with a certificate of their nomination by municipal council, DBOT staff and volunteers. The award winners will be announced at a special gala on the evening of May 18 at Monora Park.

The Business of the Year category recognizes a local business for noteworthy accomplishments, long-standing contributions to Dufferin County, and significant community involvement.

The Businessperson of the Year Award is presented to a local business person that has shown leadership, community involvement and is a pioneer or mentor in the business community.

The Inclusivity Champion Award recognizes a local business or non-profit that provides equal access to opportunities and resources for people who might otherwise be excluded or marginalized, such as those having physical or mental disabilities or belonging to other minority groups.

The Responsible Business Award celebrates a local business or non-profit that demonstrates both social and environmental responsibility in its business practices. This organization is committed to making life better by being a good steward of the environment, a good employer, and a good business.

The Innovation Award is earned by a business or organization that is a trailblazer in our local business community and strives to achieve remarkable results.

There's a Community Builder Award that honours a for-profit business that demonstrates outstanding community involvement and embraces the notion of giving back with community investments that have resulted in an improved quality of life in our region and increased community well-being.

The Chairman's Award is given at the discretion of the DBOT board of directors chairperson. Nominations are not accepted for this award.

Shelburne man charged with first-degree murder remanded again

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

A Shelburne man charged with first-degree in the death of a Toronto woman has seen his case remanded once again.

Wazhir Gafoor made an appearance in Owen Sound court on Mar. 29.

Since 2021, Gafoor has been in the process of retaining counsel for his case. Criminal defence lawyers Anthony Bryant and Stephanie Marcade have previously assisted Gafoor with a Rowbotham application for state-funded counsel.

Officers from the Grey Bruce OPP responded to a death near Scugog Lane of the Northern Bruce Peninsula around 3 p.m. on Oct. 10, 2021, where the body of a deceased female was located in a wooded area. Gafoor was arrested and charged with first-degree murder by OPP officers a day later, on Oct. 11, in connection to the woman's death.

Police later confirmed the victim to be 36-year-old Christina Yadram of Toronto.

Gafoor will make his next appearance in court on Apr. 19 at 9 a.m.

Golden Egg Event

Fundraiser to Support:

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Drag show in support of Celebrate Your Awesome upcoming

Written By Sam Odrowski



In support of Celebrate Your Awesome, a unique event is coming to the Opera House on Apr. 15.

The Spring-Fling Draganza, hosted by Troy-Boy Parks, is taking over the theatre's main stage at 87 Broadway for a series of song and dance style performances from several drag kings and queens, kicking off at 7 p.m.

"If you've never been to a drag show and you're wondering what that's all about, a drag show is really just a celebration of a fun," said Beckie Morris. "It is big costumes, big hair, big makeup and big attitude."

The songs performed are generally chosen from contemporary pop culture with a particular meaning to the performer, and the show is very interactive with the audience.

"The energy you give to the performer comes right back at you... these performers are looking to engage with people specifically, and that brings a really interesting kind of dynamic and energy to the performance," Morris explained.

The Spring-Fling Draganza lineup includes TroyBoy Entertainment, Victoria Parks, Rachael Temptation, Sapphire Poison, Violet Seductions Parks, Ivory Towers and Heaven Lee Hytes.

Tickets are \$30 each, available at orangeville.ca, and Lavender Blue is catering the event.

Spring Fling Draganza is for all ages, as no alcohol will be sold, but organizers suggest individuals who are 14 and older attend.

"We had decided to make this one a dry event and to open it to all ages just to be more inclusive because there is an underserved LGBTQ+ population in Dufferin County that are under the age of 19," said Morris. "So, we really wanted people to be able to have a chance to come and see it, especially like the high school grades."

She told the Free Press Troyboy and his performers, who are hosting the Spring Fling Draganza, will dial back the language, innuendo, and suggestive content you'd typically hear at a regular show to make it suited for a 14+ crowd.

"If you feel it's appropriate, you can bring kids, but we really do leave that to each person's interpretation of what's best for them," said Morris. "What do you let your kids watch on TV? Use that as your guide."

With drag shows becoming more mainstream over the last few years, there has been a rise in protests against them and people expressing concerns about their appropriateness for younger audiences.

Morris stressed that no part of drag should make anybody feel uncomfortable. It is a celebration of being unique.

"This is not a political event, it's a celebration," she said. "This is a song and dance show that's meant to make people feel accepted and to celebrate people's individuality. Nothing more than that."

And if anyone would like to have a conversation about its appropriateness, Morris said the Celebrate Your Awesome team is happy to chat.

"If you don't understand, let's have a conversation about it," Morris said. "That's something that we hope we can we can develop within the community - people's willingness to just

have a conversation."

Meanwhile, a unique component of the event that will enhance attendees' overall experience is that it's happening at the Opera House.

"Drag has become a lot more mainstream over the last couple of years, which is wonderful, and there's frequent drag events in town, but what makes this one a little bit different is being able to support it in a theater. It's kind of the difference between watching a movie at home on Netflix and going to the cinema," Morris explained. "Being able to give a big stage presence, make the bass of the music so you feel it and doing a little light show - it's a ramped-up experience."

The Spring Fling Draganza is Celebrate Your Awesome's only fundraiser of the year, and all the money raised will go towards supporting the group's annual summertime event in downtown Orangeville.

Up to 273 tickets can be sold for the event, so act fast. It is already more than halfway sold out.

The event takes place at 7 p.m. on Apr. 15 inside the Opera House.

County of Dufferin calls on residents to get involved for Earth Month

Written By Paula Brown
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The month of April is Earth Month and Dufferin County is encouraging residents to celebrate by doing their part to take action in helping address the climate crisis.

"Through our Dufferin Climate Action Plan - a strategy to create a net-zero community by 2050 - we are building resilience to the current and future impacts of climate change in our community, but we cannot do it alone," said Dufferin County Warden, Wade Mills. "In honour of Earth Month, learn more about climate change, consider hosting a clothing swap party and enjoy our local Dufferin County Forest to raise awareness and create change around the issues impacting our planet."

To help residents get involved with Earth Month, the County of Dufferin has shared some activities and events that residents can do locally to help raise awareness about the climate crisis.

"This Earth Month, we are excited to provide learning opportunities about our planet and climate change for our community, and we invite residents to get involved in celebrating the earth throughout April," said Sonya Pritchard, Dufferin County's chief administrative officer.

Climate Action Art Workshop

Cassandra Brennan, a registered psycho-therapist and drama therapist, will be leading a workshop exploring how the process of creating something can spark self-discovery and open up new ways of contributing to climate change solutions.

The workshop is free for all ages and will take place on Apr. 22 from 2:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. at Alder Recreation Centre in Orangeville.

The event has limited spots available and can be registered for in advance at www.orangevillelibrary.ca/earthworkshop.

Visit the Dufferin County Forest

Celebrate Earth Month by visiting Duffer-

in County's local forest and seeing first-hand what trees do for the community and planet.

The Dufferin County Forest is a 1,066-hectare (2,636-acre) multi-tract forested area owned and managed by the County. It serves an important function in terms of erosion and water control, natural heritage protection, biodiversity, wildlife habitat, recreational opportunities, and support of the rural economy.

A number of ways residents can explore the Dufferin County Forest, including hiking, mountain biking and horseback riding.

A map of the County Forest tracts can be found at www.dufferincounty.ca.

Winds of Change mural at the Museum of Dufferin

Residents can explore the discussion of climate change through art by taking in Amy Shackleton's "Winds of Change" mural at the Museum of Dufferin.

Shackleton is a gravity artist who has spent the last decade creating works of art that bring nature back into cities. "Winds of Change" looks at the landscape of Dufferin County, ravaged by climate change, with impacts by melting glaciers, burning forests and rising water.

Clothes'ing the Loop on Textiles

Textiles are a significant contributor to the climate crisis, with over 10 million tonnes of waste ending up in landfills in North America, of which 95 per cent could be reused or recycled.

Keep textiles out of landfills by hosting a clothing swap party or by donating unwanted clothing, shoes, bedding, and more. Visit www.clothingloop.org to find businesses, donation bins and organizations accepting donations near Dufferin County.

To learn more ways to help reduce waste during Earth Month, Dufferin County residents can follow Dufferin Waste on Facebook and Twitter and download the Dufferin Waste App.

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
April 2	April 3	April 4	April 5	April 6	April 7	April 8
April 9	EASTER MONDAY	April 11	April 12	April 13	April 14	April 15
April 16	April 17	April 18	April 19	April 20	April 21	April 22

- Monday ZONE
- Tuesday ZONE
- Wednesday ZONE
- Thursday ZONE

Happy Easter!

There will be **no interruptions** to waste collections over Easter.



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Public Health unit promoting access to dental care for Oral Health Month

April is Oral Health Month. Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health has several programs to ensure residents of the region have access to care.

"Ensuring children and seniors have access to quality oral care is an important part of the overall health of our region," said Dr. Nicola Mercer, Medical Officer of Health and CEO. "Access to oral care contributes to increased self-esteem, as well as good overall health. I'm encouraging all residents of the region to know their oral health options."

WDG Public Health has dental programs for qualifying seniors and children/youth to support good oral health.

Public Health offers free dental care

through the Healthy Smiles Ontario (HSO) program to children and youth who cannot afford it. Healthy Smiles Ontario is a government-funded dental program that provides free preventive, routine, and emergency dental services to eligible children and youth 17 and younger from families with limited income.

The Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program is a publicly-funded program that provides access to oral health care services for low-income seniors, for both preventive (cleanings) and restorative (fillings, extractions) services. The program may help reduce unnecessary trips to the hospital, prevent certain chronic diseases, and increase quality of life.



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Subscription Rate:
\$51.00 + \$2.55 (GST)
per year (\$53.55)
payable in advance

Funded by the Government of Canada
Financé par le gouvernement du Canada



Second Class Mailing Registration Number 0153
Member of: Ontario Community Newspaper Association
Canadian Community Newspaper Association
Ontario Press Council, 80 Gould Street, Toronto M5B 1E9 (416)340-1981



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

"T.F.E. Claridge, Publisher 1903-1964 Fred M. Claridge, Publisher 1964-1974 Thomas M. Claridge 1974-2012 The Free Press and Economist was formed from the amalgamation of The Shelburne Free Press (est. 1875) and The Shelburne Economist (est. 1883) in 1928."

Parents must be held responsible

A few years ago, I was acquainted with some guys who had a cottage, and they invited me up there a few times.

It was just a party spot, which is fine, but these guys took their partying a little too far. They were notoriously reckless boaters.

It was nothing for them to head out on the lake with a case of beer and return quite intoxicated. A few times, when it was time for a 'boat ride', I told them to have fun and said I wanted to stay on shore and do some fishing.

The truth is I didn't trust them in a boat and didn't want to be part of it when they hit a rock or another vessel.

I warned them that getting caught drinking while driving a boat would result in criminal charges as well as losing their driver's license.

"There are never any cops on this lake," I was told.

The police aren't landlocked. They routinely go to different lakes and launch a boat and check out operators to see if they are obeying the laws required to operate a craft on the water. My thinking was, "If you guys get busted, you deserve it."

One weekend, they had more people up

there, including a couple with a one-year-old baby.

"Time for a boat ride," someone announced.

We piled into this boat, and the one-year-old was sitting on the mother's lap, wearing a little summer outfit.

As the skipper started the motor, I said, "You can't take that baby on a lake without a life jacket. One rouge wave and that kid will tossed overboard."

The mother suddenly had this look of realization about how much danger she was putting her child in.

She insisted the child be given a life jacket.

Suddenly I was the bad guy. I got the 'eye rolls' for making them turn off the motor and get an appropriate life jacket for the child.

I never went back up to that cottage. If I hear of a death on that lake due to reckless and stupid behaviour on a boat, I won't be a bit surprised.

I have never understood how parents can place their children in dangerous situations without giving thought to the consequences.

Last year, a family of Indian nationals froze to death in Manitoba in a quest to ille-

gally cross the Canada-U.S. border when temperatures dropped to -35 degrees. The dead included an 11-year-old and a three-year-old.

This past week, eight people drowned on the St. Lawrence River while trying to cross illegally into the U.S.

The dead included four Indian nationals from the same state the family who froze in Winnipeg were from and a Romanian family, including a two-year-old child and one-year-old infant.

One person is still missing. Likely, he is the boat operator. Police don't know if he's dead or in hiding because he realized his rickety boat resulted in eight deaths.

What makes this so frustrating is these people weren't desperately trying to flee a war zone where they were in imminent danger and had to take a chance to save their lives. They were illegally trying to cross a peaceful border between two peaceful countries.

They were definitely being aided in the quest for illegal entry.

You don't just cross the border and then stand around in the parking lot of a 7-11, hoping someone will come along and offer

you a place to live and something to eat – and a coat for your freezing child.

Human smuggling is a big problem. Not only do many people end up dead in various ways at the hands of these traffickers, but innocent children are also dying because they have parents who are both stupid and reckless.

You don't place a one-year-old in an obviously un-water-worthy vessel and try to cross a main waterway.

It's time to bring down the law on the queue jumpers who risk their children's lives in various ways by trying to cross the border illegally.

If you endanger the life of your child, and that includes the boaters I know who were going to take a one-year-old for a dangerous ride, you can be charged under child endangerment laws.

The same law should apply to parents who endanger their children's lives by placing them in dangerous situations and the traffickers who provide leaky boats and dangerous crossing points for a price, and no regard for the safety of innocent kids.



BRIAN LOCKHART
FROM THE SECOND ROW

Pakistan: Endless turmoil

Last year US President Joe Biden called Pakistan "one of the most dangerous countries in the world," presumably because of its potentially lethal cocktail of nuclear weapons and unstable politics. But somehow it staggers on endlessly, never resolving its permanent political crisis but never quite exploding either.

For the past five years the crisis has revolved around Imran Khan, a former cricket star and socialite playboy – at least 17 ex-girlfriends and five known or alleged children – who relaunched himself 25 years ago as a populist Islamic politician. He became prime minister with army backing in 2018 and was removed (again with army support) in 2022.

He is currently besieged by police and paramilitary forces in his house in Lahore but is protected by a cordon of his own supporters. "The government is petrified of elections," he said. "They're scared that we're going to win. Therefore, they're trying everything to get me out of the way, including assassination."

There was an attempt on Khan's life last year. The gunman only managed to shoot him in the leg, but he has every reason to fear being murdered: two Pakistani prime ministers have been shot to death, and one was hanged by the army after a military coup. Yet

his own rhetoric constantly invokes violence.

Just before he lost a military-backed non-confidence vote in parliament a year ago, he told his opponents: "I wish to warn you: If I am ousted from the government, I will be more dangerous for you." He has kept his word, and he is mobilising his supporters with constant claims that the military have sold out to anti-Muslim and anti-Pakistan forces.

He insists that he was "ousted because of a conspiracy to install America's puppets," and says that the government that replaced his, led by Shehbaz Sharif's Pakistan Muslim League (N), was "an attempt to impose the Indian-Israeli-American agenda on Pakistan and enslave Pakistan."

What that alleged joint agenda might be is hard to imagine, since the disastrous end of the US occupation of Afghanistan has demoted Pakistan to the bottom of the list of US priorities and Israel is busy elsewhere. However, the accusation resonates in Pakistan's domestic politics, and the army is angry at being painted as a traitor to the country and to Islam.

It is not yet clear whether this will end with yet another military take-over in Pakistan. (It would be the fourth since independence in 1947.) That would be no great tragedy in

itself: the country has spent half its history under military rule, and it was no more and no less dysfunctional in those periods than it has been the rest of the time.

However, the soldiers might find that foreign support for their rule is less available than it used to be. In particular a financial bail-out of the sort that was common in the past, and is urgently needed again, may not be forthcoming this time, because the old formula that Russia backs India and the US backs Pakistan no longer applies.

The Indians happily buy Russian oil and gas at a 40% discount, and New Delhi hedges its bets by staying neutral on the war in Ukraine. However, India now hobnobs with Australia, Japan and the United States in the 'Quad', a proto-military alliance aimed at containing Chinese power. In this new strategic context, who rules Pakistan is virtually irrelevant.

Absent any US pressure to bail Pakistan out, the International Monetary Fund is only interested in whether its loans will be repaid. From that perspective the current coalition, a military regime or a restored Imran Khan government are all equally unreliable borrowers, so the loan doesn't come through and Pakistan sinks deeper into poverty, debt and despair.

Of the three parts into which the Britain's former Indian empire was eventually divided, Pakistan is now indisputably the poorest. Gross Domestic Product per capita is only \$1,500 in Pakistan, compared to \$2,250 for India and almost \$2,500 for Bangladesh. The gap will grow even wider, because Pakistan's population is growing twice as fast as the other two.

To some extent Pakistan's poor performance is due to its perpetual arms race with far bigger India because of the territorial dispute over Kashmir, but it cannot be denied that a large part of the fault lies with the country's corrupt and chaotic politics.

Two extremely wealthy political dynasties, the Bhuttos and the Sharifs, have dominated civilian governments for decades. Imran Khan is an interloper, but about as helpful in terms of reforming Pakistan's politics as Donald Trump has been to America's. And the army is always the tail that wags the dog.

But none of it matters much any more, except to the long-suffering Pakistanis themselves.



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Doge Ram truck stolen in Shelburne, suspects escape police

Members of the Dufferin Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) are currently investigating a theft of vehicle in the Town of Shelburne.

On Tuesday (Apr. 4) shortly after 2:00 a.m., Dufferin OPP received a call for service at a residence on Armstrong Road in Shelburne for the theft of a vehicle. The complainant advised that their 2021 black Dodge Ram TRX, was just stolen from their driveway.

Officers secured video surveillance where two suspects, both described as male, white, are observed. One suspect is seen entering the pickup truck and driving out of the driveway. The second suspect is observed entering a blue Mercedes-Benz bearing Quebec marker FRF5622, driving away, following the truck.

Officers located the two vehicles eastbound on Highway 89, however the suspects both fled from the officers at a high rate of speed and for public safety officers disengaged. The investigation is continuing.

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

You can also provide information anonymously by contacting Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or submit your information online at <https://ontariocrimestoppers.ca/>.

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

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

- Ensure your vehicle keys are kept well away from doors and windows
- Use a signal blocking pouch/box - they can block your key fob from transmitting its code to the vehicle as the pouch is lined with layers or metallic material
- Turn off the keyless fob wireless signal at night (refer to your car manual for instructions)
- Use a steering wheel lock or car alarm - this could add a significantly delay or be a deterrent for thieves
- Consider a secondary audible car alarm - which works by using sensors placed in different points of your vehicle
- Park in the garage (if possible)
- Insert a car tracker - unusual activity is monitored, and car can be tracked using GPS if stolen

Police and its insurance industry partners also want to raise public awareness about the opportunities for criminals who intend to steal personal identification from unsecured vehicles. Licenses, insurance, vehicle ownerships, passports, as well as mobile devices or laptops, offer criminals the opportunity to further victimize individuals who do not lock their vehicles, or who leave their valuables in plain view.

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

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

Shelburne residents charged with drug trafficking following search

Officers from the Dufferin Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) seized a quantity of drugs and charged five individuals as a result of an ongoing drug investigation in Dufferin County.

On Wednesday (Apr. 5) members of the Dufferin Community Street Crime Unit (CSCU), with the assistance of Nottawasaga, Caledon, Collingwood and Orillia CSCU executed three, search warrants at various addresses in the Town of Shelburne. Officers seized a quantity of Cocaine, Fentanyl, Percocet tablets, drug paraphilia and cash. In addition to the seizure five individuals were arrested and charged with multiple offences.

As a result of the investigation, the following

was seized:

- Cocaine
- Fentanyl
- Percocet tablets
- Digital scales
- Cash (\$2294)
- Cellphone
- Debt lists
- Money counter

In addition to the seizure, five people were charged with the following offences.

- Justin DART, 52-year-old, of no fixed address has been charged with:
 - Possession of a Schedule I Substance for the purpose of Trafficking - Cocaine
 - Possession of a Schedule I substance for the

purpose of Trafficking - Opioid

• Failure to comply with release order
Gavin MCNEVAN, 21-year-old, of no fixed address has been charged with:

- Possession of a Schedule II Substance for the purpose of Trafficking
- Possession of proceeds of property obtained by crime - under \$5000

Ronald MCALLISTER, 60-year-old, from Shelburne has been charged with:

- Possession of a Schedule I Substance for the purpose of Trafficking - Cocaine
- Possession of proceed of property obtained by crime - under \$5000

Brent YOUNG, 57-year-old, from Shelburne has been charged with:

• Possession of a Schedule I Substance for the purpose of Trafficking - Cocaine
Shane FIZZARD, 37-year-old, from Grand Valley has been charged with:

- Possession of Cocaine

The five accused individuals are scheduled to attend the Ontario Court of Justice in Orangeville at a future date in May 2023, to answer to their charges.

Anyone with information regarding this investigation of any other criminal activity 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 ontariocrimestoppers.ca.

Police investigating vehicle theft from residence in Grand Valley

Members of the Dufferin Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) are currently investigating a theft of vehicle in the Town of Grand Valley.

On Tuesday (Apr. 4) Dufferin OPP received a call for service at a residence on Emma

Street south in Grand Valley for the theft of a vehicle. The complainant advised that their 2009 red Honda CRV, was stolen from a parking garage, sometime between Apr. 3, at 3:00 p.m., and Apr. 4, at 10:30 a.m.

The investigation is continuing. If you

have any information or video surveillance footage in relation to this theft, please call the Dufferin OPP Detachment at (519) 942-1711 or 1-888-310-1122. You can also provide information anonymously by contacting Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or

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

Dufferin OPP is committed to enforcement initiatives targeting this issue and will continue to educate residents on crime prevention strategies to minimize victimization.

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Police seeking information from the public that may assist in trucking yard robbery investigation

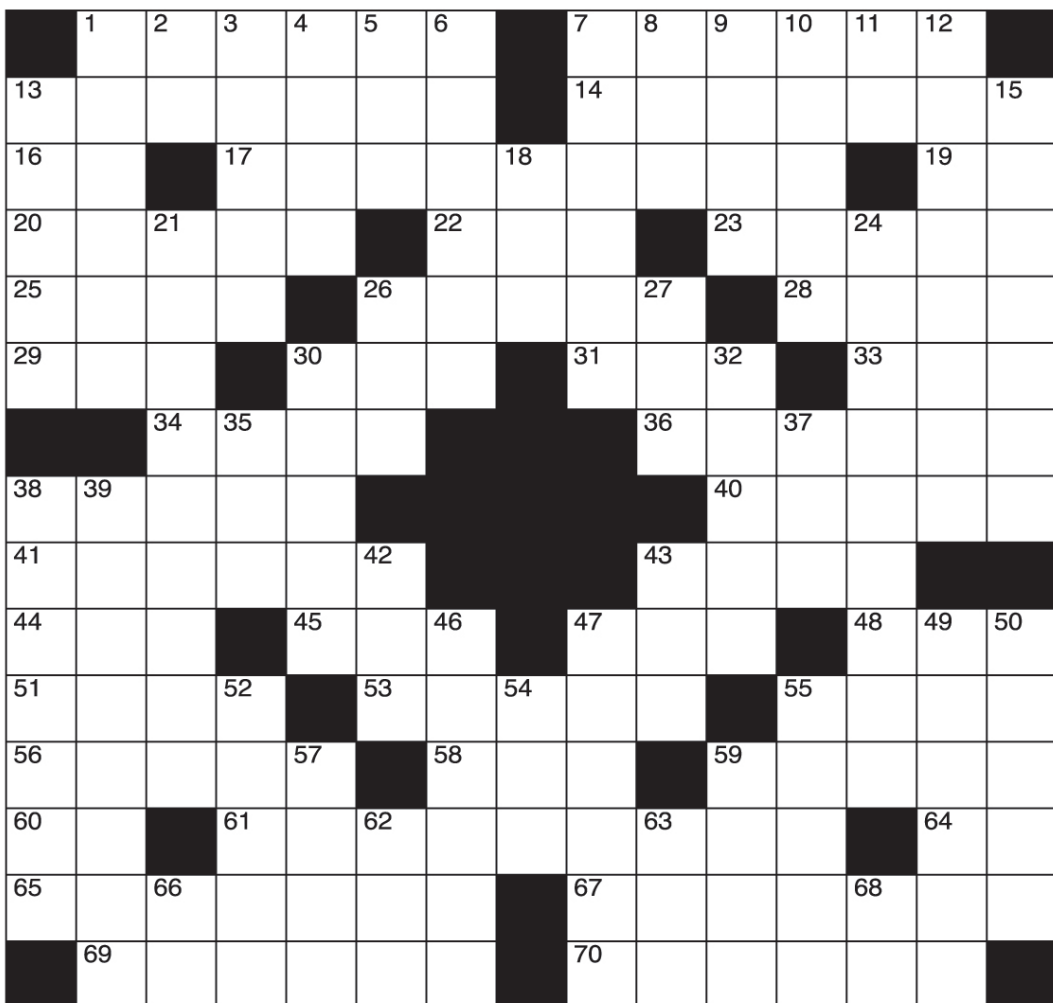
Officers from the Caledon Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) are looking for information that may assist with a robbery investigation.

On February 16, 2023, at approximately 1:00 a.m., a robbery took place at a trucking yard on Mayfield Road, near Humber Station Road, in the Town of Caledon. The victim reports being robbed by a group of males. The group operated various vehi-

cles including a white SUV, a black Ford Explorer, a red Peterbilt transport truck, and a black Hyundai Elantra. The victim left the yard in a black transport truck and was followed by the black Elantra, who attempted to have the victim stop by waving a flashlight and a handgun. The victim continued westbound onto Mayfield Road, to Highway 410, and drove to the nearest police station.

Anyone who may have witnessed the incident or have information that might assist with this ongoing investigation is asked to contact Caledon OPP at 905-584-2241 or toll-free at 1-888-310-1122. You can also provide information anonymously by contacting Peel Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or online at www.peelcrimestoppers.ca. When you contact Crime Stoppers, you stay anonymous, and you never have to testify.

CROSSWORD



CLUES ACROSS

- Colas
- Single-celled animals
- The rear car of a train
- Endangered
- It cools your home
- Helper
- "The First State"
- More aged
- Partner to cheese
- Type of wrap
- From a distance
- Satisfies
- "Dallas Buyers' Club" actor Jared
- God of battle (Scandinavian)
- Cooking utensil
- Soviet Socialist Republic
- Able to perform
- Big man on campus
- Second epoch of the Tertiary period
- Porticos
- Alban and Peter are two
- Gets up
- Humble request for help
- One-thousandth of an inch (abbr.)
- Unhappy
- Hint or indication
- A way to plead
- Digits
- Broadway actress Daisy
- Jewish calendar month
- Author Gore ___
- Peacock network
- White poplar
- Promotional material
- A period of calm
- Take too much
- Emit energy
- Something you can take
- Mended with yarn
- Inconsistent

CLUES DOWN

- Calm down
- One quintillion bytes (abbr.)
- One who pretends
- Hang glide
- Distinctive practice
- Mariner
- Peaks
- Queens ballplayer
- Geological times
- Twofold
- Atomic #13
- Tranquillizing
- Metric weight unit
- Indicates
- Unwanted rodent
- Partly cooked with hot water
- One who can be recommended
- Resembles a bag or pouch
- Midway between south and southeast
- Sets up for a photo
- California white oak
- More (Spanish)
- After B
- Decorated tea urn
- Island
- Car mechanics group
- Wordplay joke
- Cut a rug
- Prickly plant
- Speech in praise of a deceased person
- European buzzard
- Influential linguist
- West African languages
- Siskel's partner
- Skinny
- Oblong pulpit
- Consumed
- Small, mischievous sprite
- Powerful lawyer
- Indicates position

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SHELBURNE SPORTS

Sports registration day connects players to local leagues

Written By **Brian Lockhart**

Local sports organizations were available to answer questions and sign up players for the 2023 season during a registration day event held at the Centre Dufferin Recreation Complex on Sunday, Apr. 2.

Several clubs were represented, including Shelburne Soccer, Shelburne Minor Baseball, Shelburne Cricket Club, Shelburne Vets Lacrosse, Minor Ball Hockey, the Shelburne Golf & Country Club, and the Shelburne Public Library.

"Today we're doing registration for all the minor sports in Shelburne," explained Alex Carter, a member of Shelburne Minor Soccer. "In minor soccer we're looking at around 300 to 400 kids signing up for soccer this season. We have 40 teams including two travel teams. We have everything from U4 up to 17. The U4's is Timbits soccer and that's sponsored by Tim Horton's. U6 is sponsored by No Frills. We have McDonalds with us and they are sponsoring. All the companies, businesses, and restaurants in Shelburne - we're very grateful for their help and we managed to get support for all our teams this year."

While a lot of people turned out to register at the event, most clubs also have online registration.

Registration is still open and will con-



REGISTERING PLAYERS: Local sports clubs held a registration day at the Centre Dufferin Recreation Complex on Sunday, Apr. 2. Several groups representing minor sports were on hand to answer questions and sign kids up for summer sports. The Shelburne Cricket Club met with people interested in trying out cricket during the registration day at the Centre Dufferin Recreation Complex on Sunday, Apr. 2.

tinue once the season has started if there are teams that still require players and have openings.

"I would say we have around a third, maybe more, that came out and registered today," Alex said.

Most summer leagues start playing in the

last week of May.

"We start on May 30, and we have four divisions," explained Shelburne Minor Baseball president Amanda Philip. "Usually T-Ball and Beginner mix get filled up. We'll have 14 to 16 teams this year. We start with three to four year-olds in T-ball, and we go up to 15 years

old. We play at Hyland Park, that's where all of the diamonds are. Our season starts in May and goes to the end of August."

The event was a good opportunity to explore different sports in the area and see which one gained interest from different kids.



BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTOS

SIGNING UP FOR SOCCER: Shelburne Soccer is one of the biggest sports groups in Shelburne. Many people interested in joining the league stopped by the CDRC on Apr. 2 to learn more about the group and register.

Royal LePage hosts annual fundraising curling bonspiel in Shelburne

Written By **Brian Lockhart**

Royal LePage RCR hosted its annual curling bonspiel fundraiser at the Shelburne Curling Club on Thursday, Mar. 30.

Around 50 curlers participated in the event and came from Royal LePage offices in Shelburne, Orangeville, Newmarket, Bolton and Owen Sound.

Off to a good early morning start, the teams played two ends each, with the top teams meeting for a championship match at the end of the day. There was a total of ten teams from the various offices who took part in the bonspiel.

"It's all of our real estate offices here today to raise funds for the Shelter Foundation," explained Lynda Buffett of Royal LePage RCR. "Some of the curlers play more than others and some only play a couple of times each year. For real estate agents, we don't work regular hours, so for this event everyone just schedules their appointments around this day. We started around nine o'clock and we are going to four o'clock. We have an 80's theme for this event, and some of them are looking pretty wild."

The players all were on board with the 80's theme to make this a fun event. There



BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

BONSPIEL: Royal LePage RCR hosted its annual curling bonspiel at the Shelburne Curling Club on Thursday, Mar. 30. Funds raised go toward the Shelter Foundation. With an 80s theme this year, participants dressed for the occasion with a lot of colours and some pretty wild hair.

was a lot of colour and a lot of big hair.

The event is a fun day for realtors to connect with each other while raising funds for a good cause at the same time.

Easter Skate Eggstravaganza fills Centre Dufferin Recreation Centre

Written By **Brian Lockhart**

The Easter Bunny paid a visit to the Centre Dufferin Recreation Complex (CDRC) to attend a community event last Sunday, Apr. 2.

The Easter Skate Eggstravaganza returned to the CDRC for a fully day of activity this year after not taking place for a few years due to the pandemic.

Free skating was sponsored by Tim Horton's, Local Home Finder, and Select Mortgages.

Hundreds of people turned out to the Easter Skate Eggstravaganza and enjoyed being on the ice as well as other activities taking place.

There was complimentary hot chocolate and popcorn, treat bags for the kids, and face painting.



Children could also drop off their artwork for an Easter Colouring Contest.

While kids were having fun in the arena, local sports groups held a registration day on the second floor so kids could also sign up for summer sports while they were at the event.



PAULA BROWN PHOTO

COMMUNITY SKATE: Hundreds of residents turned out to the Centre Dufferin Recreation Complex for the Easter Skate Eggstravaganza on Sunday, Apr. 2. Everyone enjoyed skating and other activities at the centre to make for a fun day. The Easter bunny meets with skaters on the ice

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ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

ADAM HALL

Playing hockey eight years, Shelburne Wolves U15 LL right wing, Adam Hall, brings a lot of experience to his team.

"I like skating around the ice and digging for the puck," Adam said of why he enjoys the sport. "I like the fact that everyone on the team has to get together because you have to pass to be able to score."

When he's not on the ice, Adam plays third base on his Orangeville Bengals baseball team.

Adam has contributed a lot to help his hockey team achieve success this season.

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Dufferin Muslim Centre holds Ramadan event



RAMADAN PRAYER: Women at the Dufferin Muslim Centre pray during a Ramadan event on the evening of Apr. 1. For the holy month of Ramadan (Mar. 23 to Apr. 21), Muslims abstain from eating or drinking from sunrise to sunset to feel the plight of the poor, build self-discipline, and practice their faith. Every night Muslims join together at the Dufferin Muslim Centre at 506195 Hwy 89 to break their fast. Every family brings a dish potluck style and prayers are led by two upcoming huffaz.

GATHERING TOGETHER: Top photo: Shelburne councillor Lindsay Wegner (left) shares remarks inside the Dufferin Muslim Centre while the centre's director of operations, Althaf Nafal looks on with excitement. Bottom photo: Visitors and members of the Dufferin Muslim Centre assemble in the building prior to starting a prayer on Apr. 1.

LEADING PRAYER: Hafiz Abdur Rahman and Althaf Nagal lead a prayer inside of the Dufferin Muslim Centre for the holy month of Ramadan on Apr. 1. Municipal leaders from across Dufferin County attended. 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.

Local MP critical of deficit spending in 2023 Budget

Written By Sam Odrowski

The federal government tabled its 2023 Budget last Tuesday, projecting a deficit that's roughly \$10 billion larger than initially expected.

Federal spending this year will total \$497 billion, with a deficit of \$40.1 billion, up from the forecasted \$30.6 billion last fall. Overall, there's a \$43 billion spending increase.

Dufferin-Caledon MP Kyle Seeback, a shadow minister with the Conservative Party of Canada, recently spoke with the Citizen about the federal budget and expressed concerns about certain expenses.

"Budget 2023 was another missed opportunity for the Trudeau government to deliver much-needed relief for hard-working Canadians who continue to struggle with the cost-of-living crisis, created by this government with their out-of-control spending," said Seeback. "What Canadians received instead was higher taxes and inflationary deficits."

To address inflationary cost of living increases, Seeback said his party would create better paycheques for Canadians by lowering payroll taxes and scrapping the Carbon

Tax. Deficit spending that drives up inflation and interest rates would be reined in, and affordable homes will be created by removing government gatekeepers, freeing up land, and speeding up building permit approvals.

"Budget 2023 amounts to a \$43 billion bonanza of new inflation, debt, and taxes for Canadians. It failed to meet any of the priorities we outlined, leaving Canadians saddled with even more debt and inflation, worsening the cost-of-living crisis," said Seeback.

"I hear from constituents every day telling me how they are struggling to make ends meet, whether it's skipping meals to pay for their home heating bills because of the punitive Carbon Tax or being forced to live in their parents' basement because they cannot afford to rent or buy a home. The Liberal government's Budget 2023 only serves to compound those pressures for my constituents and Canadians across the country, making it that much harder to move ahead."

Canada's finance minister Chrystia Freeland said the 2023 Budget would "exercise financial restraint," but Seeback said the deficit does not reflect this.

Debt to GDP is going up because of defi-

cit spending, and the \$314 billion deficit from the 2020-21 fiscal year isn't being paid off, resulting in inflation and higher debt servicing costs.

And Seeback says none of this spending is making life measurably better for Canadians.

"Life's tougher for most people than it has ever been, after more than doubling the national debt," he said. "To me, it's a big problem."

The average mortgage payment and rent has more than doubled over the last year, while wages haven't kept pace.

"No one's income has more than doubled, and that's just that's just part of the equation," said Seeback. "Canadians are in dire financial straits after eight years of the Justin Trudeau Liberal government, and this budget really does nothing to fix that."

A part of the budget Seeback agrees with is free dental care for low-income families, although he says he needs more details on how it's designed and implemented.

He told the Citizen his main concerns with the budget are payroll deductions and Canadian Pension Plan (CPP) contributions rising. Seeback said the federal government is

now paying \$45 billion a year on interest payments for its debt, while it paid \$24 billion last year.

"Imagine what we could do with that extra 20 billion that is just paying interest, and that's 20 billion every single year," he said. "We're spending more money on interest on the debt than we spend on our armed forces, and our armed forces are in a terrible state. After eight years of this government, health care is struggling, what would \$20 billion a year do for health care across this country?"

Seeback added, "There's a consequence to all this spending, higher inflation, higher interest rates, higher government debt payments, all of which is impoverishing Canadians."

He said that small businesses barely received a mention in the federal budget, which amounted to "commitments from Visa and Mastercard to lower fees for small businesses."

"Budget 2023 is not about exercising fiscal restraint, as the finance minister claims. This inflationary budget only adds to the mounting pressures and crushing costs Canadians are already buried under by the Trudeau government's reckless spending," said Seeback.

Controversial figure to speak at local freedom rally

Written By Paula Brown
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Shelburne Freedom Rally will be hosting one of Ontario's most infamous anti-mask protestors and conspiracy theorists at their upcoming weekend protest.

In a Facebook post from Mar. 28, rally organizer Jeremy Glass announced that Chris Saccoccia, also known online as Chris Sky, would be guest speaking at the group's Apr. 8 protest.

"They contacted me and asked if they could come speak in Shelburne. We've always had an open mic for anybody to speak, that wants to come," Glass told the Free Press. "I thought that was a great thing because our whole purpose is to bring numbers to the street, bring people out, and join our cause."

Saccoccia rose to notoriety during the 'freedom' movement, which began as an anti-vaccine campaign and protest against COVID-19 restrictions, but it has since developed into a catch-all anti-government and pro-conspiracy group.

He is also known for a history of making

antisemitic, anti-black, Islamophobic, and homophobic comments.

According to the Canadian Anti-Hate Network, an agency that monitors and researches hate groups, Saccoccia quoted Adolf Hitler's Mein Kampf in a 2014 post on his Facebook page, adding, "Bang on, like he had a crystal ball into the future."

He has also been documented writing, "6 million Jews were murdered is the biggest lie created in the history of fake Jew history."

The Canadian Anti-Hate Network also noted Saccoccia's referencing of Black Lives Matter activists as "sub human."

When asked by the Free Press whether he was concerned about Saccoccia's history of racist comments, Glass said, "Absolutely not, because what we have in Canada is freedom of speech and that is why it has always been an open mic in Shelburne."

The Free Press reached out to Shelburne Mayor Wade Mills, who has expressed concerns with the ongoing 'freedom' demonstrations, which have occurred in the town's downtown core on a bi-weekly basis for the past year and a half.

"There's obviously ongoing concerns about the demonstrations, but this demonstration in particular with Chris Sky, I think perhaps takes it to a different level," said Mills. "We can't restrict somebody from coming into our community, but I do think it's important to say that he doesn't represent the views and values we try to champion in our community."

Shelburne Town Council recently held a meeting with Dufferin OPP to discuss the demonstrations and the community reaching a "critical boiling point" between residents and protesters.

The local detachment told council their job is "to keep the peace" and would not be taking a "heavy hand" to the protests.

The Free Press reached out to the OPP for comment on plans specific to the Apr. 8 demonstration.

"The OPP will act to preserve the peace, maintain public safety and investigate criminal wrongdoing, in accordance with legislated responsibilities and in the best interest of all involved," said Insp. Terry Ward, Dufferin OPP Detachment Commander, in an email to the Free Press, regarding the Apr. 8 demonstration.

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TEETER, KENNETH NELSON

Passed away peacefully at home on Thursday, March 30, 2023 in his 90th year. Beloved husband of 65 years to Carol. Loving father of Lee (Susan), Cathy (Don), Ione, Blair (Janette), Dan and Lori-Anne (Robert). Proud grandfather of 12 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren. He will be lovingly remembered by his extended family and friends. A Celebration of Life will be held on Sunday, April 9, 2023 from 2-4 p.m. in the Warrior's Hall of the Royal Canadian Legion, Branch #220, 203 William Street, Shelburne. If desired, donations to the Diabetes Association or Headwaters Health Care Foundation would be appreciated. Online condolences and donations may be placed at www.jackandthompsonfuneralhome.com



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