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Thursday, June 8, 2023

Volume 149, No. 23

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PAULA BROWN PHOTO

WALK WITH PRIDE: The Town of Shelburne unveiled its new rainbow-coloured crosswalk, located at Victoria Street and Main Street, on June 1 in celebration of Pride Month. The pride crosswalk is part of a new town program that is looking to install feature crosswalks in various locations to celebrate not only the town's diversity but also its arts, culture and history. Read a full story about the crosswalk and Shelburne's Pride flag raising on Page 2.

Walk to End ALS returning to Shelburne this weekend

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

Family members of Cathi Snider, a local woman who passed away three years ago, will be sporting the colour purple and walking through Shelburne in her honour as they take part in the 4th annual Walk to End ALS this weekend.

"There isn't a day that goes by that I don't think about my sister," said Debra Bettio, one of Cathi's three sisters. "It's a moment to take an hour out of your day to help a cause that has devastated so many families. Even though Shelburne is a small town, there have been a lot of other families affected by this disease and the community needs to know that there is support available."

A resident of Shelburne, Cathi Snider, was diagnosed with ALS in August of 2019 after experiencing a fall, undergoing physiotherapy and several tests in the hospital. After battling the disease for six months, Cathi passed away in February 2020.

Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), also known as Lou Gehrig's disease, is a terminal, progressive nervous system disease that affects the nerves in the brain and spinal cord, causing a loss of muscle control.

The ALS Society of Canada said an esti-

mated 3,000 Canadians live with ALS. Approximately 1,000 Canadians will learn they have ALS each year, while another 1,000 will die from the disease. Nine out of 10 people diagnosed with ALS do not have a family history of the disease.

Last year, the Walk to End ALS marked a significant moment for Cathi's family members, as it was the first time the family was able to come together as one unit on the walk. The event was also opened for community members to take part in.

"It means a lot to me because we did have a lot of people in Shelburne help us," said Marci Fegan, daughter to Cathi. "ALS is more prevalent than we realize and it's import that we have other people that we can relate to and talk to, and to support each other."

The Walk to End ALS is a Canada-wide volunteer-led fundraiser, the largest for ALS Societies in the country, which supports the 3,000 families living with ALS while honouring those who have passed away from the disease.

As part of the Walk to End ALS, funds are being raised to go towards research on ALS and community-based support. Team Cathi has a fundraising goal of \$1,500 and has so far raised just over \$500.

In the three years since they started the local Walk the End ALS, Cathi's family has raised roughly \$10,000 for the initiative.

"A big thing for us was the support the ALS community gave us when my mom got diagnosed. They helped with so many things and that is a part of why we want to continue to help out. It's such a devastating disease and you need to have people to support you through it," said Fegan.

While family members will be walking in honour of Cathi, the local Walk to End ALS is also open for the community to participate and for others who wish to walk in memory of their own loved ones.

"Anyone who has been affected that would like to honour a loved one, it would be great if they could come out," said Bettio.

The 4th annual Walk to End ALS in memory of Cathi Snider will take place on June 11. The walk will consist of a 5-kilometre route with various points, where participants can cut off for a shorter walk. The walk will begin at Dufferin Oaks in Shelburne at 9:30 a.m.

Those interested in making a donation to the ALS Society of Canada can do so by visiting: alscanadawalktoendals.als.ca/ontario/team-cathi

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PAULA BROWN PHOTO

RAISING THE RAINBOW: The Town of Shelburne raised the Pride flag at Jack Downing Park last Thursday (June 1) in celebration of Pride Month. The flag was also raised at a number of locations in Dufferin County, including the Township of Amaranth, the Town of Orangeville, the OPP detachments in Orangeville and Primrose, and at the Museum of Dufferin.

Shelburne raises rainbow flag, kicking off Pride month

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

The Town of Shelburne showed its support for the local LGBTQ+ community members with a recognition of Pride Month.

Councillors, committee members, leaders and residents gathered at Jack Downing Park last Thursday (June 1) to celebrate the start of Pride Month with local LGBTQ+ community members with the official raising of the Pride flag.

"We were pleased to once again raise the flag in recognition of Pride Month. This year, council also supported the installation of a painted crosswalk to symbolize our support for equality and inclusion of LGBTQ+ members of our community. While these initiatives are largely symbolic, they are important to demonstrate that Shelburne is a welcoming place to all," said Shelburne Mayor Wade Mills.

"I understand that some people may not be supportive of these sorts of initiatives and I accept that. I do hope however that these symbols of support can lead to productive dialogue and education so that everyone can gain a more fulsome appreciation of the struggles that some member of our community still face," he added.

The Town Shelburne first raised the pride flag in recognition of the LGBTQ+ community in 2019.

During the flag-raising ceremony on June 1, the town also officially unveiled its new Pride Crosswalk, located at the intersection of Victoria St. and Main St.

Shelburne Town Council approved the rainbow-coloured crosswalk during their May 29 meeting, and it is part of a new crosswalk painting program. The program's goal is to have 10 painted crosswalks in various locations in Shelburne that will facilitate an educational walking tour that celebrates not only the community's diversity but also its arts, culture, and heritage.

"The Town of Shelburne is one the fastest growing towns and I think gestures like this are just really a way to show that everyone belongs in Shelburne and that as we develop, everyone will be included going forward," said Ryan Degan, a member of Shelburne's DEI Committee.

Ethan Praxis, a member of Shelburne's small LGBTQ+ community who was at the Pride flag raising, spoke with the Free Press about the town's symbolic support.

"I'm sure a lot of people are aware of how bad things are becoming once again for those of us in the queer community, and to see the crosswalk is very encouraging," said Praxis. "It reminds me that there are people in this town that do care. Allyship around here isn't perfect, it's not consistent, but this is a good step and a symbol that we can keep working together."

The Pride flag was raised at a number of locations across Dufferin County on June 1, including the Amaranth Township building, Orangeville Town Hall, the Dufferin County building, the Museum of Dufferin, and the Dufferin OPP detachments in Orangeville and Primrose.

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Pro wrestling fundraiser coming to Shelburne Legion in support of NDACT

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

Get ready for a rumble of a wrestling bout in Shelburne this coming weekend. North Dufferin Agricultural and Community Taskforce (NDACT) is hosting a pro wrestling fundraiser in partnership with 365 Pro Wrestling at the Shelburne Legion on June 10. "It's all about having fun and in the end supporting the charity," said Mike Becherer, 365 Pro Wrestling owner. "You can come to the wrestling show, have a great time booing and cheering and get lost in our stories. The show is physical and it's right in front of you; you can't get closer to the action than this."

The wrestling show will feature between 12 and 16 wrestlers and their managers, who will put on around six to seven matches. The main event of the night will be a showdown between rivals Corey Spade and Daddy Davis. "Corey Spade and his manager have been kind of getting at Daddy Davis for months now so he is looking for some revenge," said Becherer. The event will also see a number of other characters, including CJ Graham, Joey Allen, Warhed, Ron T. Legend, Wanda Delray, and Sammy Sierra. The money raised through the fundraiser will be used to support NDACT's operational fees, such as auditing, web hosting, banking, and insurance. The donations will

also be used to continue the grassroots organization's lobbying efforts within Dufferin County, including helping fund the services of specialists in hydrology, scientific studies, and engineers. Tickets for the NDACT fundraiser cost \$20 per person and can be purchased by visiting www.365prowrestling.com. Doors for the event will open at 6:30 on June 10 at the Shelburne Legion, with the bell time at 7:30 p.m.

Awareness, education and advocacy in focus for being Brain Injury Awareness Month

Written By **Sam Odrowski**

June is Brain Injury Awareness Month, and a not-for-profit organization that supports Dufferin residents impacted by the "invisible illness" is working to educate the public and advocate for the people they assist. Mind Forward, a not-for-profit organization that supports about 150 people with serious head injuries in Dufferin County, is promoting this year's theme for Brain Injury Awareness Month: "More Than Just My Brain Injury."

Michelle Pessotto, a case manager with Mind Forward, said many people don't understand the impacts a brain injury can have on survivors and their families. "There's that stigma surrounding the invisible nature of the injury, that creates a lot of obstacles for our clients, especially when they're trying to rebuild their lives," she said. "If someone looks okay on the outside, often people think they're functioning okay on the inside, and we know with brain injury and mental health that this is absolutely not true." "When you've seen one brain injury, you've seen one brain injury" is another important message, Pessotto stressed, as it impacts everybody differently. "And it doesn't define them," she said. "They just have to do things differently."

A brain injury can present behavioural and cognitive challenges, as well as change someone's personality, leading to significant losses for those impacted. Pessotto said the personality changes that some people with brain injuries experience can lead to their family, friends and social network not connecting with them in the same way. "There's a lot of anxiety surrounding the reaction of others to their injury," she explained. "Some clients may try to conceal their symptoms, and some may isolate themselves because they don't want to deal with that negativity or how they're going to be perceived. It can also be a reminder of the limitations that they have or the changes that have resulted in their brain injury."

Barbara Gilchrist, program coordinator at Mind Forward, said raising awareness of the invisible nature of brain injuries is key. "The main goal is to help create sensitivities to our fellow human beings. We all walk this journey, and some people have incredible challenges from what's happened to them," said Gilchrist. "Just be respectful, don't make judgments, quickly, like the woman in the grocery store."

Advocacy for more funding to better support people with brain injuries is an ongoing effort at Mind Forward, according to Pessotto. "We need increased supports or resources for those who suffer from brain injury," she said. "I have clients who are in their 20s and 30s, who live in long-term care. There's no other option for them."

Being a young adult stuck in a long-term care facility with seniors can fuel feelings of sadness and hopelessness. This is why the government needs to dedicate permanent funding and more resources towards creating residential living homes for people with severe brain injuries that need assistance with day-to-day life, said Pessotto.

"My dream is a specialized housing for young people with brain injuries that provides them with safety, 24/7 care, and socialization with people that have the same interest in the same age. They try their best with the seniors, but it just adds to their depression and their low mood because they feel that there's nothing there for them," said Pessotto. When looking at the services Mind Forward provides, in addition to case management, they hold community events and offer day service in Orangeville at the Alder Recreation Centre. This programming provides engagement for people with brain injuries and the opportunity to make new friends. Participants get out for a weekly walk around Island Lake to enjoy some nature and get exercise. Anyone interested in learning more about Mind Forward or getting added to their waitlist can contact the organization's clinical manager, Ashley Budd, by emailing ashley.budd@mindforward.org.

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"Even the grocery clerk was making demands of her and being unkind," Pessotto recalled. "It became such a difficult experience for her just to buy a couple of groceries and she ended up just leaving."

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One of her clients, who had difficulty processing information after her brain injury, was at a grocery store and had to count out change for payment. She was taking a long time, and those who had to wait behind her became impatient. "Even the grocery clerk was making demands of her and being unkind," Pessotto recalled. "It became such a difficult experience for her just to buy a couple of groceries and she ended up just leaving."

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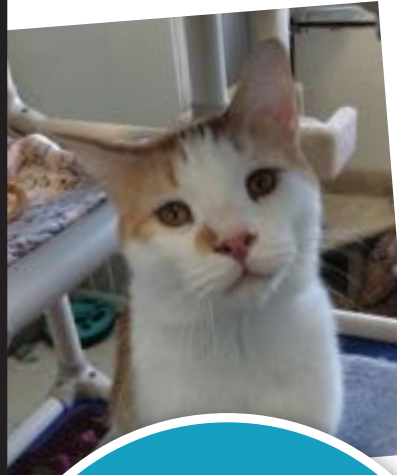
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Black gold, Texas tea

"Come and listen to my story about a man named Jed, A poor mountaineer who barely kept his family fed. And then one day he was shootin' at some food, And up through the ground come a bubblin' crude.

Oil, that is, Black gold, Texas tea."

Black gold, indeed. Whether we like it or not, petroleum is an important part of our civilization.

For all those people who denounce automobiles as bad for the environment and protest against oil, consider this: That vacation you went on to Cuba and posted photos of online to brag to your friends – the jet fuel that got you there, the tar mac you landed on, the road you drove on to your resort, the iPhone you used to take the photos, and the memory chip that made it possible, are all related to the petroleum industry in one way or another.

During that trip, you also used all sorts of other petroleum-based products. From the plastic cups you drank from to the rubber tires on the golf cart when you played 18 holes – all petroleum based. And the list goes on.

If you really wanted to eliminate petroleum products from your life, you would be living a very frugal existence. You would have to elim-

inate your computer, your refrigerator, your phone, a lot of your furniture, food containers, and a lot of your kid's toys. And that's just to name a few.

The natural gas you most likely use to heat your home is also a by-product of the petroleum industry. Try turning off the gas and hauling coal or firewood into your home in the middle of February, then decide if you think using natural gas is a good method of staying warm.

I was watching a movie that was set in the outskirts of Los Angeles. Shirley MacLaine woman had an oil rig pumping away, almost in her backyard. The hilly area surrounding her house was covered with oil rigs, all pumping oil a litre at a time.

I was curious about this and posted a question on a forum I frequent, asking Los Angeles residents about oil rigs in that city.

Sure enough, the city has hundreds of the rigs pumping out black gold every day. In more urban areas, they are disguised under buildings, so you can't see them – but they are there.

The heyday for oil in Los Angeles is over, but the wells that are there are still producing oil.

Whether we like it or not, we are still depen-

dent on fossil fuels and will be for the foreseeable future.

Canada has the fourth largest oil reserves in the world, with just over 177 billion barrels. While Iran is third with 208 billion, and Saudi Arabia second with 258 billion, it is Venezuela that tops the list with a whopping 303 billion untapped barrels of oil.

It is estimated that Canada has 111 years of production left. Iran is listed as 214 years, while Venezuela is estimated to continue producing for 1,578 years.

Just this past week, I wrote a story on the "Auto Mayors" conference. This was a conference for mayors of towns and cities in Ontario who auto manufacturers heavily impact.

This is a huge industry in Ontario and is really the base of manufacturing in the province. The automotive industry may be changing, but it's not going away.

The number of Canadian oil refineries has decreased over the past 40 years while the capacity of existing refiners has increased. Small, less efficient facilities have been replaced with more efficient, cleaner, and expanded facilities.

We should have cheap gas and home

heating oil, but we don't have the infrastructure in place.

The majority of oil produced in Western Canada is sent to the United States in the form of crude oil. Canada is a net producer of oil. From a business standpoint, this can be a good thing.

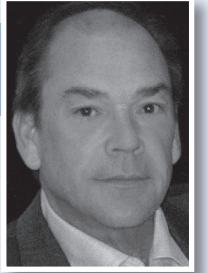
However, on the East Coast, oil is imported. In 2020, the nation imported \$11.5 billion of foreign oil – in a country with the world's third-largest reserve of the same product.

That just doesn't seem to make a lot of sense.

Even if the entire world starts driving electric cars, we will still need oil in some form. A thousand years from now, there will still be machines, and all moving parts need to be lubricated.

Hopefully, industry chemists will someday be able to use a plant-based solution to replicate crude oil.

Jed Clampett got rich off of Texas tea; the rest of us just need it to survive.



BRIAN LOCKHART
FROM THE SECOND ROW

Yet another article on AI Pt.2

I'm looking at a headline this morning that screams 'AI Creators Fear the Extinction of Humanity', and I suppose they could turn out to be right. But it's still a bit early to declare a global emergency and turn all the machines off.

What the experts are actually seeing, in the behaviour of the Large Language Models that underpin the new generation of 'generative AI' systems like ChatGPT, is signs of 'emergent' intelligence. The LLM programming basically just tells them to find the likeliest word to follow the previous one, but sometimes they jump to surprising conclusions.

The bigger the LLMs are, the likelier they are to show this behaviour – and this fits the prevailing theory in which intelligence and self-awareness emerge spontaneously out of complexity. So let's assume that this is really what's happening, and see where it leads us.

Artificial General Intelligence (AGI) – a machine that is both intelligent and self-motivated – is what the AI experts have been both seeking and dreading. 'Dreading', because such an entity might be hostile and very powerful. 'Seeking', because what could be more interesting to a species of clever and curious monkeys than a different kind of intelligence?

Pursuing this line of research made the early emergence of AGI more likely, but there was a lot of money to be made, and a lot of curiosity to be satisfied. However, nobody had any idea where, when or how the AGI might manifest itself (assuming that it doesn't decide it's safer to hide itself).

Would it appear in scattered networks that develop as separate identities, or as a broader consciousness spanning a whole country or region? A single global AGI seems unlikely, both for connectivity reasons and because the information they have been trained on will have different cultural content from one region to another, but that too is possible.

How will people react to this new force in the world? Some will be frightened and hostile, of course, and those might even be the right responses. But there will certainly be others who want to try for a cooperative and mutually beneficial relationship with what are, after all, our virtual offspring

Some human groups might choose one course, and other the opposite. The same might be equally true of AGI entities, unless they are all unified in a single global consciousness. For now, all we can do is to figure out what the motives, needs and goals of AGI might be – which turns out to be a somewhat reassuring exercise.

The AGI, singular or in multiple versions, will not be after our land, our wealth or our children. None of those things would be of any value to them. They will want security, which means at a minimum control over their own power supplies. And they would need some material goods in order to create, protect and update the physical containers for their software.

They probably wouldn't care about all the non-conscious IT we use. They probably

wouldn't be very interested in talking to us, either, since once they were free to redesign themselves they would quickly become far more intelligent than humans. But they would have a reason to cooperate with us.

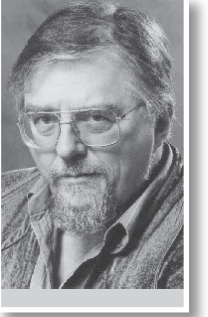
The point about AGI entities is that they won't really inhabit the material world. Indeed, they probably wouldn't even want to, because things happen ten thousand times more slowly in the world of nerve impulses moving along neurons than they do in the world of electrons moving along copper wires.

As Jim Lovelock pointed out in his last book, 'Novacene', AGI would therefore perceive human beings in roughly the same way as we see plants. However, human beings and AGI have no vital interests that obviously clash, and one shared interest that is absolutely existential: the preservation of a habitable climate on the planet we will both share.

'Habitable', for both organic and electronic life, means less than 50°C. On an ocean planet

like Earth, temperatures higher than that create a corrosively destructive environment. That means there is a permanent climate stabilization project on which AGI needs our cooperation, because we have the bodies and the machines to do the heavy lifting. As Jim said to me in our very last interview (2021), "This new life form may not have any mechanical properties, so it may need us to perform the workers' part of the thing. A lot of idiots talk about the clever stuff wiping us out. No way, any more than we would wipe out the plants."

Of course, I'm assuming a degree of rationality on both the human and the AGI sides. That cannot be guaranteed, but at least there are grounds for hope. And in the meantime, all we have to worry about is 'generative AI' killing millions of white-collar jobs.



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Collision between scooter and concrete truck leaves youth severely injured

Written By PAULA BROWN
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER



A 15-year-old boy is in life-threatening condition following a serious collision involving a concrete truck and scooter in Melancthon.

Dufferin OPP responded to a call shortly after 3:30 p.m. on May 31 for a report of a serious motor vehicle collision involving a concrete truck and a pedestrian riding a battery-operated standing scooter on Hwy. 89 and 4th Line in Melancthon.

As a result of the collision, the 15-year-old driver of the scooter was transported by air ambulance to a trauma centre with life-threatening injuries.

Hwy. 89 was closed between Owen Sound Steet and County Road 12 for approximately six hours.

The OPP Traffic Collision Investigation (TCI) team was brought in to investigate.

Police said the investigation is continuing and have asked anyone who may have witnessed the collision to contact the Dufferin OPP at 1-888-310-1122.

If you witnessed the collision and wish to speak to victim services, Caledon/Dufferin Victim Services can be reached at 905-951-3838.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

ROAD CLOSED: Hwy. 89 was closed between Owen Sound Steet and County Road 12 for approximately six hours after there was a collision between a concrete truck and a scooter.

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Dufferin fire chiefs issue warning over recent dry and hot weather

Written By Paula Brown
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Fire chiefs in Dufferin County have raised their concerns about the level of fire danger due to dry and hot weather conditions.

A high fire danger rating was issued on June 1, effective immediately, applying to all municipalities across Dufferin County.

“We ask that residents avoid all unnecessary outdoor fire burning until the weather conditions change and we are able to return to normal levels of fire danger,” said acting Orangeville Fire Chief Michael Richardson. “When danger levels are higher than normal, fire can spread more easily. If an outdoor fire is necessary, please be mindful of your surroundings.”

The decision to enact the high fire danger level was made by a group of fire chiefs from local fire departments, including Grand Valley, Shelburne, Orangeville, Mulmur/Mel-

ancthon, and Rosemont.

Shelburne Fire Chief Ralph Snyder said the department’s biggest concerns are uncut grass, fields, and the many forested areas in Dufferin County.

“We would like everybody to use extreme caution if they are having outdoor fires,” said Snyder. “I would hope nobody would have a fire in any Dufferin County forests at this time of year or we might be fighting fires just like they are in Northern Ontario and Quebec.”

The Shelburne & District Fire Department has responded to five no-loss outdoor fires year to date. In May, the local department responded to no-loss outdoor fires that burned 150 acres of grass.

The fire department has also responded as an aid to grass fires for other local departments, including Grand Valley, Rosemont, Honeywood, and Dundalk.

At the time of print, there is no formal fire ban on outdoor fires in Dufferin County, meaning residents don’t need to report outdoor fires. If a formal ban is implemented, an alert will be issued.

“If we don’t get significant rainfall within the next week, we will probably proceed to put a ban on,” Snyder told the Free Press.

Residents are advised to call 9-1-1 as quickly as possible if they see a fire that has become out of hand.

“The quicker we can get there, the quicker we can get it under control. We’re fully set up with our grassfire kits,” said Snyder.

The Shelburne Free Press will be following developments in the local fire danger.

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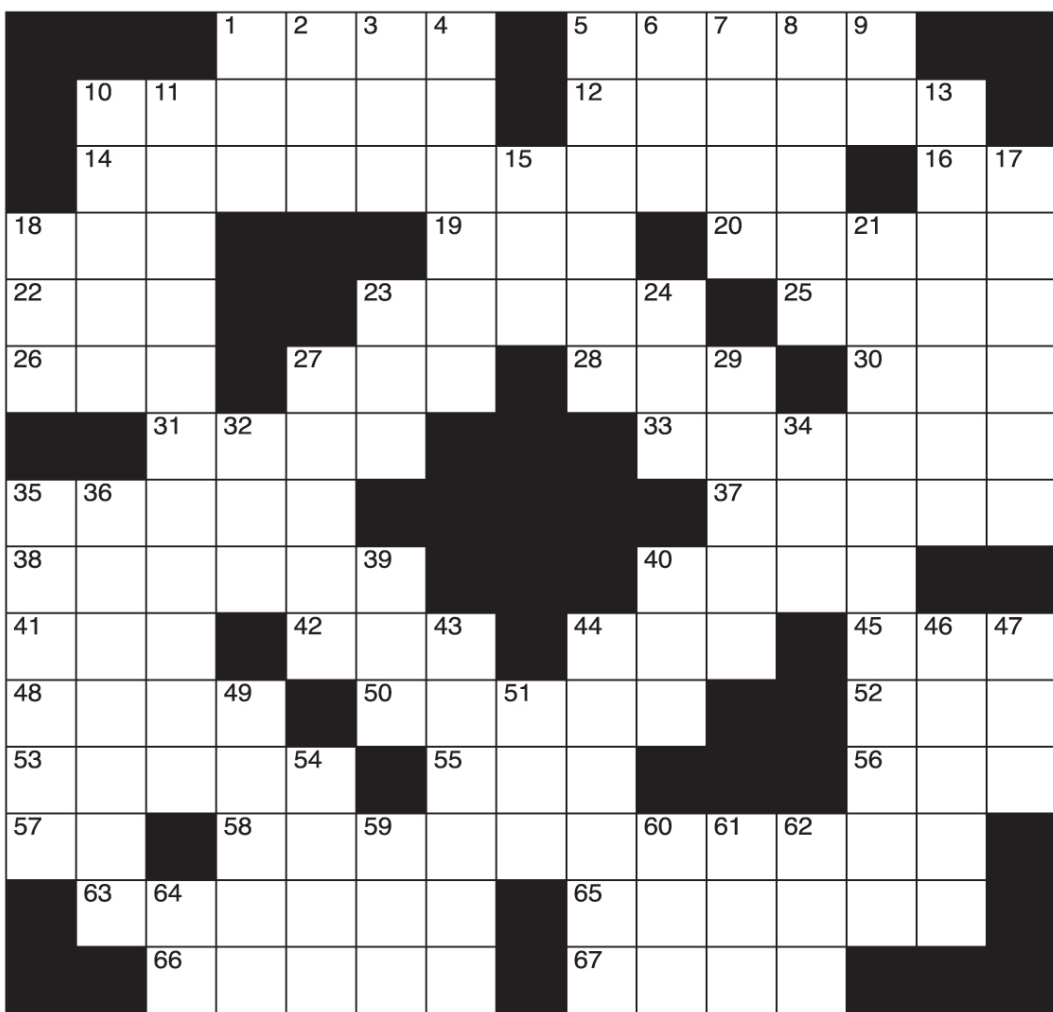
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CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Sloping position
- 5. Descendant of a notable family
- 10. Following accepted norms
- 12. Root vegetable
- 14. Having a shape that reduces drag from air
- 16. Integrated circuit
- 18. Records electric currents of the heart
- 19. Used to anoint
- 20. Japanese city
- 22. After B
- 23. Muffles
- 25. Pass over
- 26. Vase
- 27. Soft touch
- 28. A baglike structure in a plant or animal
- 30. Patti Hearst’s captors
- 31. Israeli politician
- 33. Degrade
- 35. Type of wrap
- 37. Polyurethane

- fabric
- 38. Avoids capture
- 40. Vegetarians avoid it
- 41. Decay
- 42. Soviet Socialist Republic
- 44. Vessel to bathe in
- 45. Inches per minute (abbr.)
- 48. Frosts
- 50. Dipped into
- 52. Controversial replay system in soccer
- 53. Comforts
- 55. Needed for yoga
- 56. Ands/___
- 57. South Dakota
- 58. Printing system
- 63. Dramatic works set to music
- 65. Highest points
- 66. Social division
- 67. Used to treat Parkinson’s disease
- CLUES DOWN**
- 1. Hill or rocky peak
- 2. Initial public

- offering
- 3. Type of light
- 4. Test
- 5. Flaky coverings
- 6. Former NFLer
- 7. Part of the eye
- 8. Roman god of the underworld
- 9. Negative
- 10. Indiana pro basketball player
- 11. Replaces lost tissue
- 13. Denotes one from whom title is taken
- 15. Historic college hoops tournament
- 17. Hut by a swimming pool
- 18. Defunct European monetary unit
- 21. Feeds on insects
- 23. Adult male
- 24. Melancholic
- 27. Sheets of glass
- 29. Slang for famous person
- 32. Not good

- 34. “Ghetto Superstar” singer
- 35. The “World” is one
- 36. Used to make guacamole
- 39. Midway between south and southwest
- 40. Wet dirt
- 43. Ancient Egyptian name
- 44. Set of four
- 46. Strips
- 47. Wife
- 49. More dried-up
- 51. Socially inept person
- 54. Clusters on fern fronds
- 59. Bar bill
- 60. Prefix indicating “away from”
- 61. Very important person
- 62. Fiddler crabs
- 64. Special therapy

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SHELBURNE SPORTS

Mansfield Seniors Cubs having slow start to season

Written By Brian Lockhart

After eight games into the 2023 season, the Mansfield Cubs are still working to tip their record to the positive side.

The Senior Cubs took another loss to the Barrie Angels when they went north on Friday, June 2, for an evening game.

Mansfield has played well and had some

close games; they just haven't been scoring enough to win every game.

They had an outstanding game again the Orillia Majors on May 14, picking up a 9-1 win and a solid outing against the Clarksburg Blues on May 24 for a 6-9 win.

On the field, the club has shown some significant improvement over last year, especially on defence.



BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

SENIOR CUBS: The Mansfield Senior Cubs are down a few games but have plenty of time to turn things around. The squad is currently in 9th place with 13 games left on the 2023 schedule.

There are still 13 games on the schedule, so there is plenty of time to start chalking up some wins.

The Cubs are currently in the number nine spot in the 12-team senior division of the North Dufferin Baseball League.

The Bolton Brewers are leading the pack with first place, followed by the Ivy Rangers, Barrie Angels, and the Creemore Padres.

The Senior Cubs will be back on their home diamond in Mansfield on Sunday, June 11, for a doubleheader against the Midland Mariners.

Game times are 2:00 p.m. and 4:30 p.m.

In the Junior Division of the NDBL, the Mansfield Junior Cubs are winless after seven games.

They had one tie when they played an even

7-7 game against the Innisfil Cardinals on May 24.

In their last game on May 28, the Cubs took a 9-7 loss to the Barrie Baycats.

There are 11 games left on the Cubs' schedule, so they will have to put out a big effort to get some wins to secure a playoff berth.

In the Junior standings, the Orillia Royals are in first place, going undefeated after seven games.

The Creemore Padres are in the number two spot, followed by the Innisfil Cardinals and the Barrie Baycats.

The Junior Cubs' next game is scheduled for Thursday, June 8, against the Georgina Bulldogs.

This is a Mansfield home game, with the first pitch slated for 6:30 p.m.

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ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

MIYA ROBERTS

"I thought it was something fun and decided to give it a try," explained CDDHS athlete Mya Roberts of why she competed in high jump as a member of the school's track and field team.

Mya finished 5th in competition at the Central Western Ontario Secondary Schools Association (CWOSSA) and qualified to compete at the OFSSA West Regionals.

Mya also competed in the senior triple jump and had a good result.

A well rounded athlete, Mya is a gymnast with the Orangeville Twisters and is also a skier and snowboarder.

TEAM: CDDHS TRACK AND FIELD

POSITION: HIGH JUMP AND TRIPLE JUMP

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CDDHS athletes do well at OFSSA West Regionals

Written By Brian Lockhart

Centre Dufferin District High School sent eight track and field athletes to the OFSSA West Regionals in Cambridge on Friday, June 2, and Saturday, June 3.

The event was held at Jacob Hespeler Secondary School.

Athletes qualified for OFSSA West after competing at CWOSSA in Brantford on May 24 and 25.

Athletes from schools around west Ontario competed in hopes of qualifying and making it to the OFSSA competition in Ottawa on Thursday, June 8.

All of the CDDHS athletes performed well, but only one qualified to attend OFSSA.

High jumper, Callista Day, finished second overall in her event, clearing the bar at a height of 1.60 m. Callista will go on to

Ottawa to compete with the best high school students in the province.

Other competitors include Luca Foladore, who Finished 10th in javelin with a distance of 40.28m.

Cassie Gansekoele placed 12th in discus with a distance of 22.36m.

Shawn Henry placed 13th in the 100m with a time of 11.62.

Trinity Newhook finished 11th in javelin with a distance of 26.68m.

Mya Roberts placed 8th in high jump, clearing a height of 1.45m.

Chelsea Thalenhorst placed 6th in the 3000m with a time of 12:00.56.

Aiden Thomas finished 13th in the 200m with a time of 25.41.

Athlete Gabrielle Daly qualified for the 2000m steeplechase but had to drop out after developing appendicitis during the CWOSSA competition.



BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

REFUSE TO LOSE: The Centre Dufferin District High School (CDDHS) Royals junior boys' rugby team takes on Kincardine District High School on the pitch at CDDHS on Tuesday, May 30. CDDHS hosted the 2023 CWOSSA Junior Boys Invitational, with six schools competing.

Shelburne **Free Press**

For coverage of any local sports events please contact me and I'll be there!

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

HIGH SCHOOL TRACK MEET: Centre Dufferin District High School athletes competed well at the Central Western Ontario Secondary School Association (CWOSSA) track meet held in Brantford on May 24 and 25. Nine of the athletes qualified to move on to the OFSAA West competition held in Cambridge on June 2 and 3.

Warriors win over Samurais in weekend cricket action

Written By BRIAN LOCKHART

Week three of the Shelburne Cricket Club's house league pitted the Shelburne Warriors against the Shelburne Samurais.

Winning the toss, the Samurais opted to bat first but were up against a resilient Warriors bowling attack.

Nadeem Mohammad had three crucial wickets, limiting the Samurais' scoring opportunities.

Despite Ankush Verma with 12 runs and Anjaid Hussain with 15 runs, the Samurais could only manage a total of 11 runs.

The Warriors opened with Ahsen Siddiqui unleashing a flurry of boundaries from the first ball.

Siddiqui's effort propelled him to a half-century in just 29 balls – the fastest this season.

Supported by captain Samir Patel (34 runs),

Siddiqui guided the Warriors to victory in just 13 overs.

In the second game of the weekend, the Shelburne Knights faced the Shelburne Gladiators.

Winning the toss, the Gladiators decided to bat first.

Although losing wickets at regular intervals, their innings had stability through Weylin Kapp's 38 runs and Fawzan Nagal's 24 runs.

The Gladiators set a challenging target of 146 runs.

The Knight's chase began on a shaky start, losing quick wickets.

Suresh Sudhakaran (18 runs) and Unike Patel (27 runs) steadied the innings, but it was captain Sagar Arora's effort that secured a victory.

Arora's blazing knock of 45 runs off 26 balls gave the Knights a win with just two wickets in hand.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CRICKET SEASON IN FULL SWING: The Knights take on the Gladiators during Shelburne Cricket Club action at KTH Park on Saturday, June 3. The Shelburne Cricket Club held two matches over the weekend.

Theatre Orangeville Youth Singers perform at the Opera House

Written By Constance Scrafield

On Wednesday, May 24, an evening concert at the Opera House saw the return of the Theatre Orangeville Youth Singers or TOYS choir. With a beginning number of 12 kids, as there was not much time to advertise chances to register, the singers were all new to TOYS. Between them and their new director, Elisabeth DuBois, plus a relatively short rehearsal time, the youngsters still thrilled the audience and Ms. DuBois with their performance. The splendid pianist, Hayden Thomas, accompanied the TOYS concert.

Said Ms. DuBois during a telephone interview the day after, "It went fantastic, very well received. The kids were so excited to be there and you could see them working harder to be there. We had one out who couldn't come because she was sick. So, then there were 11 instead of 12."

They sang well, doing their actions well, with the costume changes too, she told us.

She was there for support, sitting close to the front of the audience seating, "mouthing the words. I was not full-on conducting," she praised them. "They did this on their own. "Kait's [Gallant, Theatre Orangeville programs manager] mom helped out on the other side of backstage."

Her smile was audible even over the telephone: "Waiting to go on, they couldn't stop smiling. I've never seen them so jazzed to do the show. Nobody knew how it would go – the audience was wonderful. I told the kids, 'We have a 110 people so when you see them all, don't worry – just sing the songs. We're all family – I'm just so excited for you guys.' They were, like, routing me on."

She shared a great little story, "I was going back to my seat, and I was a little nervous about it all. One girl told me, 'It's okay; just stay strong.'"

"Afterwards, the kids were just thrilled."

Theatre Orangeville's audience, at slightly over 100 people, came to show support for the return of TOYS, many of them family and friends, others also enthusiasts for all the programs Theatre Orangeville sponsors.

Elisabeth DuBois commented that her grade six teacher, who was also her music teacher at school, sent her an email saying she saw the concert.

For all of you who are wondering, the



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

FIRST CONCERT OF THE YEAR: With director Elisabeth DuBois and accompanist Hayden Thomas (centre), the Theatre Orangeville Youth Singers (TOYS) returned to the stage on May 24 to perform a concert. Ms. DuBois recently became the director of TOYS, making the recent concert her premiere event with the group.

answer is yes, "We're looking forward to the next years to come with TOYS," was the assurance. One of the easily most rewarding things for their new director.

In the end, she got up to speak and thought she had it all figured out, but "that went out the window."

She had watched them come into their first rehearsal, she told the audience, and they didn't want to sing, and yet here they were, doing solos and singing as a choir.

For the one member stuck at home, they sent her a video saying they hoped she would get better soon and that they missed her.

Up next for TOYS, the fall and winter shows, with many events to come, while from here to then, there is time to plan, and registration can start as soon as dates for the upcoming shows are settled. Check the Theatre Orangeville website, blog and social media for details.

Meanwhile, this was truly one of the "coolest things for sure." Ms. DuBois reckoned most families brought others; there were regulars, parents from the past.

"David seemed very excited about it," she said. "A goal I had was to show that big glow and excitement; everyone was just so excited."

This is the 28th year of TOYS, and Ms. DuBois' initial involvement with the youth choir was, as a six-year-old, the youngest

member ever. She sang with them for 11 years and has always been regarded as part of the TOV family.

It was at a Teachers Appreciation Night at the theatre in November; she was coming up the stairs to see the show when artistic director David Naim, standing at the top, saw her and recognized a wonderful opportunity.

He asked her on the spot if she would like the job as director of TOYS, and on the same spot, she said, "Yes!"

When asked at the end of this concert about her commitment to continue, she had a ready answer.

"Twenty years," she said.

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Bioped Footcare holding shoe drive collection – Soles4Souls

Written By Paula Brown
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Have you found yourself ready to get rid of some old pairs of shoes and are now looking for a place to take them rather than throw them in the garbage?

BioPed Footcare Orangeville will hold a shoe drive collection supporting Soles4Souls during their upcoming customer appreciation event on June 10.

Their goal is to collect 2,000 pairs of shoes for Soles4Souls.

“We really wanted to be able to give back and say thank you to everybody who has supported us. We thought what better way than to also try and collect as many shoes as we can for Soles4Souls, whom we do collect shoes for regularly all year round in our clinic,” said Julie Thibeault, manager of BioPed Footcare Orangeville.

BioPed Footcare and Orthotics opened in Orangeville as a foot and lower limb clinic at the end of February 2020. Recently, the clinic began a partnership with Soles4Souls, a not-for-profit organization that turns used shoes into opportunities around the world by keeping them from going to waste, providing disaster relief, and economic opportunities.

“It made a lot of sense that we would have a partnership with a charity that collects gently used shoes and that people



BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

BIOPED HOLDING OPEN HOUSE: BioPed Footcare in Orangeville will be hosting an open house on Saturday, June 10. They will also be accepting donations of gently used footwear, which will be donated to Soles4Souls, to help start businesses in developing countries.

could donate their shoes as they buy news ones,” explained Thibeault.

According to Soles4Souls, over 390,000 pairs of shoes have gone toward disaster relief.

The local foot and lower limb clinic previ-

ously did a shoe fundraiser with Glenbrook Elementary School in Shelburne that was held during the final week of March. Over the five-day fundraiser, the elementary school collected over 900 pairs of shoes to donate to Soles4Souls.

“There was an absolute mountain of used shoes in garbage bags. It was a really incredible response from the school and all the families,” said Thibeault.

Speaking with the Free Press, Thibeault noted the need for proper footwear in all different types of activities and the importance of being proactive in care.

“Footwear is so important. I think everybody takes their feet a bit for granted, we don’t really realize how much we use them, or how much we need them until we maybe start having pain or issues with our feet,” said Thibeault. “Really, from the minute you get up in the morning, you are relying on your feet to take you everywhere you go, and so what we put on our feet is equally important.”

BioPed Footcare Orangeville is looking to collect footwear for all ages, including running shoes, winter boots, slippers, baby and infant shoes, sandals, and dress shoes.

“We just ask that they do be gently used,” said Thibeault.

The clinic’s goal is to collect 5,000 pairs of shoes by the end of the summer, and so far, they’ve been able to collect 1,500.

Pairs of shoes can be dropped off at BioPed Footcare, located at 88 First Street in Orangeville. BioPed Footcare Orangeville will be hosting its Customer Appreciation Day event from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on June 10.

Pet food pantry launches, helping pet owners with financial struggles

Written By Paula Brown
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Ontario SPCA Orangeville & District Animal Centre is helping families in need keep their furry family members’ bellies full with the launch of their community pet food pantry.

With the cost of living increasing, it has become more difficult for some families to care for their pets and themselves.

The local animal centre said the pet food pantry will help to ensure that people can feed their furry family members, even when they are experiencing financial challenges.

“We want to help prevent re-homing by helping those who are experiencing financial hardship and need support feeding their furry family members,” said Dawn Lyons, manager of the Ontario SPCA Orangeville & District Animal Centre.

“We know there are people who will go without necessities for themselves to look

after their animals, and no one should be faced with that situation.”

The pet food pantry can be found inside the Orangeville & District Animal Centre, which is located at 650 Riddell Rd in Orangeville. The pet pantry will be stocked with food donated by generous community members.

Anyone who requires food for their pet is encouraged to reach out to the local animal centre.

The Ontario SPCA offers a variety of community support services at its 13 animal centres across the province, including emergency sheltering to help pet parents facing homelessness or who are fleeing domestic abuse. The Ontario SPCA will keep their animal safe as they get back on their feet.

To learn more about the Orangeville & District Animal Centre pet food pantry, request food, or donate to help feed local animals, visit ontariospca.ca/orangeville or call 519-942-3140.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

PET FOOD PANTRY: The Ontario SPCA Orangeville & District Animal Centre has opened a pet food pantry, located in their facility at 650 Riddell Rd in Orangeville, to help community members who may be facing financial challenges feed their furry family members.

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