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END GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE: Family Transition Place (FTP) and the Town of Shelburne raised the Wrapped in Courage flag at Jack Downing Park in Shelburne on Nov. 23 in recognition of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women (Nov.25) and to begin 16 days of activism against gender-based violence.

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Dufferin County eyes 4% tax levy increase

Written By Paula Brown
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Dufferin County councillors are back at the table, crunching numbers as they begin deliberations over the 2024 budget.

Dufferin County Council met for a special meeting last Thursday (Nov. 23) to review the 2024 draft budget, give each councillor a look at the financial blueprint for the upcoming year, and determine the tax levy increase.

Aimee Raves, manager of corporate finance and treasurer of Dufferin County, presented an overview of the 2024 draft budget to councillors, which included a recommended tax levy increase of 7.45 per cent or \$49,018,000 in tax dollars.

The tax levy is the amount of money required to be raised from property taxes to fund the business of Dufferin County.

According to Raves' report, for the County to continue with its current services, also known as the status quo, the tax levy increase would be 7.36 per cent plus 1.81 per cent for additional costs for staffing, paramedic enhancement and the

physician recruitment program. Factoring in the assessment growth rate, which is at 1.72 per cent, would bring the status quo down to 7.45 per cent.

Raves noted that the tax levy increase is "high" and that staff had connected with other municipalities to see if they had similar increases.

"It seems that the average is about five per cent, which is reflective of what inflation has been," explained Raves.

A one per cent reduction in the tax levy is equivalent to \$448,996, so in order for County Council to lower the tax levy to four per cent, they would need to reduce the 2024 budget by 1.5 million.

To lower the tax levy increase, Raves provided council with three options, which included using more reserve funds, reducing capital levy contributions or changing the level of service.

"This is what it would take for us to continue doing exactly what we are doing now, as well as move forward all the plans approved by council," said Raves.

While faced with finding ways to lower the tax levy increase for 2024, Dufferin

County Council is also having to consider how to include the 2023-2026 Strategic Plan.

In June, Dufferin County Council approved their Strategic Plan, which will act as a roadmap to help guide plans for the future. The Strategic Plan highlighted specific goals in five priority areas, including climate and environment, community, economy, governance, and equity.

"Part of the strategic plan process does require us as staff to bring forward requests to council for the necessary resources to advance the initiative and goals in the plan," said Sonya Pritchard, chief administrative officer for the County.

Pritchard mentioned that the meeting to discuss the 2024 budget was to define the level of investment the County will provide to achieve the objectives in the Strategic Plan.

"Advancing the strategic plan does require investment, and the budget process allows you to set limits on objectives that have already been identified," she said.

Continued on Page 3

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Local monologue competition winners announced

Written By Danielle Williams

The winners of Streams Community Hub's 3rd annual Word of Mouth Monologue Competition have been announced.

Eleven participants between the ages of eight and 17 were chosen to perform live in front of an audience of judges and community residents for the competition finals at Grace Tipling Hall in Shelburne on Saturday (Nov. 25).

"[The competition] is a way to showcase the talent of the youth of Dufferin County and give them an outlet," said Juli-Anne James, Streams Community Hub's executive director.

A list of about 20 monologues written by Canadian playwrights, as well as some AI-generated monologues, were available for the contestants to choose from. Selected from a group of 26 contestants, the finalists were chosen by three judges during the competition's preliminary round. The competition was split into two age groups: junior, 8-12, and senior, 13-17.

The contestants were judged on a variety of different criteria points, including the intro-

duction, characterization, diction, projection, vocal variety, emotion, tempo, rhythm, focal point and focus.

The awards were distributed once the contestants concluded their performances, with some of the awards going to students of schools in Shelburne.

The first and second place winners for the junior category are 10-year-old Terrence-Jeffery Hall, coming in first with a performance of "The Great Chocolate Heist" and eight-year-old Maya Abhimanu in second place with "Lefty's Great Escape."

The senior category winners are 13-year-old Abigail Amsing in first place, who performed "Lefty's Great Escape," and 15-year-old Audrey Hawkins in second place, with a performance of "Becoming Me."

The Fan Favourite award was given to 10-year-old Jaisrayman Kaur, who performed "The Greatest Chocolate Heist" after receiving 9,212 public votes.

The newly introduced Bravery award was given to eight-year-old Lionna Hoy-Kenny with a performance of "Lefty's Greatest Escape."

Four awards were given out to conclude



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

WORD OF MOUTH: 10-year-old Terrence-Jeffery Hall, placed first in the junior category with a performance of "The Great Chocolate Heist". Ed Crewson presented him with his first place award which included a \$1,000 cash prize.

the competition. First-place winners in both categories received \$1,000, while the second-place winners received \$500. A Fan Favourite award was also given out by public vote, and the Bravery Award was given to the first person who submitted their monologue online.

Crewson Insurance Brokers' sponsorship has been particularly important in recognizing the critical role of community support. For the past two years, they have generously sponsored the cash prizes. During the event, Ed Crewson, the co-owner of Crewson Insurance Brokers, shared insights into the value of the competition. He also noted how it encourages youth to become better public speakers and convey information effectively.

"Effective communication is a building block of success for the community," said Crewson, expressing the benefit Streams Community Hub has in bettering the community.

If you want to see the monologue competition's final live performance, stay tuned for its airing online, which will be announced on Streams Community Hub's social media pages.

The video production team for the competition was led by a Streams program, highlighting the organization's strong dedication to being "youth forward, youth-led, and youth-focused."

"We're really just trying to keep it as consistent as possible and build on the success, we're hoping in 10 years this will be a national event to look forward to," said James.

As the competition grows in popularity, Streams Community Hub hopes to become a Dufferin County-wide event, bringing together participants from various communities in a celebration of creativity and self-expression.

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1920's New York comes alive in LP Stage Productions' *Bugsy Malone Jr.*

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

Travel back in time to 1920s New York – the era of rival gangs, flapper girls and prohibition – with the latest stage production from LP Stage Productions, *Bugsy Malone Jr.*

The non-profit theatre company opened their two-week production of *Bugsy Malone Jr.* at Grace Tipling Hall in Shelburne on Nov. 24.

The Paul Williams and Alan Parker musical is based on the hit 1976 film by the same name, starring a pre-teen Scott Baio and Jodi Foster. A parody on gangster movies, *Bugsy Malone Jr.* takes place in 1929 New York and follows a war between two rival gangsters, Fat Sam and Dandy Dan. Meanwhile, one-time boxer Bugsy Malone becomes Fat Sam's gang's last chance of surviving, but all he wants to do is spend time with his new love, Blousey.

"It's a really good show and the kids have really taken to it. I think it's because it's a new era, they don't know anything about and we've introduced them to it," said Alison Port, director and co-founder of LP Stage Productions.

A big component of producing the musical has been teaching local youth about an era of history that happened nearly 100 years ago. The actors in the musical have been tasked to learn about the history of specific words used in the show, including speakeasy, bootlegger, bread line, and prohibition.

"They've learned a little bit about the 1920s and of history along the way. This is a good thing because they understand what the show they're doing is about and why they're doing it," explained Port.

One scene Port said they look forward to audiences witnessing is the entering of the illegal speakeasy.

"We have flapper girls in fringe dresses and gangsters sitting at tables playing cards – it's a lot of fun," said Port.

Taking on the role of Bugsy Malone is 16-year-old Sophie Harmon.

"Theatre is a life changing experience. It helped me to be more confident and more social. I have made so many friends in Bugsy Malone and other shows. I really recommend getting into theatre for anyone, even if you are not confident speaking in front of crowds," said Harmon.

Andy Thompson will be portraying Dandy Dan, and Audrey Hawkins will play the part of Fat Sam.

LP Stage Productions' showing of *Bugsy Malone Jr.* is on a limited-time run, with final shows scheduled for the evening of Dec. 1 and Dec. 2 and a matinee on Dec. 3.

General admission tickets for the event cost \$18, with special tickets consisting of a dinner at Dufferin Public House and the show for \$50.

Tickets for the show can be purchased at the box office by calling 519-925-2600 ext. 0 or online through the link: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/bugsy-malone-jr-tickets-650901904117?aff=ebdsoporgprofile>.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

ROARING TWENTIES: Local youth actors transport audiences back to the 1920s with production of *Bugsy Malone Jr.* from LP Stage Productions.

Continued from FRONT

Dufferin County eyes 4% tax levy

"Without adequate investment progress, the goals will not occur. It doesn't mean there has to be maximum investment, but without some investment, progress will not occur, and lack of progress isn't neutral. It can have negative consequences either in the short or the long term."

Each Dufferin County Committee had the opportunity to present their budgets for the upcoming year during the 2024 Draft Budget meeting.

Throughout the meeting, councillors raised concerns regarding each committee budget and noted specific items to help lower the tax levy increase.

"I think we do ourselves a disservice if we don't try very hard to get down to that five per cent [tax levy] level at least and to find the 1.1 million in here," said Coun. Janet Horner, Mayor of Mulmur. "I'm not sure that

I can realistically go back to my community and say 'we got a big increase at County', it's just a lot for people these day."

At the end of the meeting, County Council was able to indicate five specific revisions to the budget that would reduce the budget by about 1.5 million and lead to a tax levy increase of 4 per cent.

Dufferin County Warden Wade Mills suggested allowing staff members a chance to update the 2024 draft budget with the recommended revisions before councillors voted to approve the draft.

A revised 2024 Draft Budget will return to County Council at their next meeting on Dec. 14.

The full 2024 draft budget overview and the breakdowns for each committee are available for public viewing on the County of Dufferin website at www.dufferincounty.ca.

Don't miss the deadline to send a letter to Santa at the North Pole

If your child plans to send a letter to Santa this year with hopes of receiving a reply, make sure they drop it in a mailbox by the deadline so they get a response before Christmas.

Canada Post is reminding families that they have until Dec. 7 to mail their letters to get a response before Christmas.

Canada Post cannot guarantee delivery dates, but Santa does respond to all letters he receives.

For teachers, if you plan to mail a class letter to Santa, make sure you do so by Dec. 1 so

a reply can be sent before the holiday break.

To make sure your letter is received at the North Pole, you should address all letters to Santa Claus. All letters from one family should be in the same envelope.

No stamps are required to mail a letter to Santa within Canada.

Include a return address on the top left corner of your letter and drop the letter in any Canada Post mailbox or post office.

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Wait just a moment

It was July 1863, shortly after the Battle of Gettysburg during the American Civil War, when U.S. President Abraham Lincoln wrote a correspondence to General George Meade, army commander, regarding his leadership following the battle.

The Confederate army had been defeated at the Battle of Gettysburg and was on the run. The Confederates were slowed in their retreat by flood waters that stopped them from crossing a river.

The battle itself was a massive event, with close to 200,000 soldiers from two armies taking part. At the end of three days, the casualty figures topped 50,000.

The Union army did not pursue the rebels with much haste. Several minor skirmishes took place, but for the most part, General Meade kept his troops in check.

The battle was a turning point in the war and left the Union army with a great advantage.

In a time when correspondence and communication took days to arrive and arrived by courier on horseback, instructions to battlefield commanders were delivered by letters and correspondence.

Upon hearing the results of the battle, and what happened afterword, Lincoln

was furious. It was his position that Meade should have pursued the fleeing Confederate army, cornered them at the swollen river, and finished them off.

He penned a letter to Meade detailing his disappointment at the General's decision, citing the fact that he still had 20,000 veteran troops and many more raw recruits that he could have used in the final attack.

Lincoln wrote: "He was within your easy grasp, and to have closed upon him would, in connection with the our other late successes, have ended the war – as it is, the war will be prolonged indefinitely. If you could not safely attack Lee last Monday, how can you possibly do so South of the river, when you can take with you very few more than two thirds of the force you then had in hand? It would be unreasonable to expect, and I do not expect you can now effect much. Your golden opportunity is gone, and I am distressed immeasurably because of it."

The letter was an attack on Meade's ability as a commander and questioned his choices to the point of saying he was incompetent to lead the army.

Then Lincoln did something, which was common for him. He filed the letter away.

A few days later, he re-read the letter, only this time under the light of some sober second thought.

He realized that Meade had just been through three days of a living hell, seeing 25,000 of his own men wounded or dying on the battlefield. The toll on him must have been enormous. It was no wonder he didn't order his troops to attack a fleeing enemy and witness yet another day of bloodshed in what would have been a massacre, with one army almost out of ammunition and their path of escape blocked.

Lincoln wrote a new letter to Meade. Only this time, instead of chastising him for a missed opportunity, he praised him for his success in the main battle.

A sober second thought is something we should practice daily. How often are words thrown around in anger or without thinking, leading to an even greater challenge?

Sports organizations are now urging players, coaches, and parents to follow this rule of thought.

They are urging people to think before saying something stupid.

Many sports are going through a tough time because of a lack of officials to referee games. People are just giving up

and don't want to do a job where they are verbally abused, or sometimes worse.

This past week, a hockey coach in Nova Scotia was charged after leaving the bench and physically assaulting a referee on the ice. This was during a game for players in the nine and ten-year-old division.

Not only is he going to be fined, maybe more, and have a record – this happened in front of a lot of witnesses – his involvement in hockey will be over. I can't see any league allowing this coach to ever be on the bench ever again.

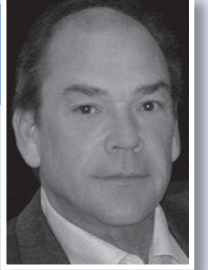
The ruckus was started after a hit on the ice. One parent in the stands decided to protest the hit by throwing a cowbell on the ice surface. Bad decisions all around.

Taking a moment to think about what you are going to say at the spur of the moment can have a huge impact on the rest of yours and someone else's day.

Once something is said, you can't take it back.

It's better to be safe than sorry.

BRIAN LOCKHART FROM THE SECOND ROW



An economic charter could keep Canada from drowning in debt

The latest economic and fiscal outlook from Canada's Parliamentary Budget Officer (PBO) indicates that the federal deficit will grow more than previously projected, up to \$46.5 billion in the current fiscal year. The PBO also said we'll continue to run deficits for the remainder of this decade.

In fact, according to a recent report by the Fraser Institute, Canada's overall debt is expected to grow by more than \$140 billion over the next five years. That means the government will pay a lot more in interest to service our ballooning national debt, in much the same way that many Canadians are paying more interest today for mortgages, credit lines and car loans.

The question we need to ask is why are we racking up this enormous debt? And why are we still generating massive deficits year after year, especially now that the pandemic is behind us?

If the reason we're running up the debt is to inject a powerful amount of financial stimulus to get our economy going again, it's clearly not working. And if it's not to get our economy working, then what is the government spending all this borrowed money on?

When government spending goes off the rails from time to time, the opposi-

tion often vows to restore fiscal sanity and return to balanced budgets. But if the opposition is successful and forms the government, there's nothing that prevents them from continuing to run deficits.

In other words, we have no effective checks on limiting government spending.

Why does this matter? It matters because fiscal mismanagement directly impacts our standard of living and the living standards of future generations. It can cause inflation, which corrodes the value of our savings and makes consumer staples like food, fuel and clothing more expensive while putting a big dent in consumer spending.

But if we had an Economic Charter of Rights and Responsibilities, which required the government to pay down debt, balance the budget and reduce spending on overhead, then we would have guardrails in place to keep the government from spending recklessly and driving us deeper into debt.

The two key charter responsibilities imposed upon the government, with clear-cut percentages and dates attached, would be the following:

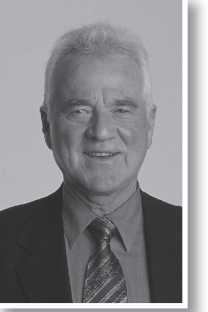
- Eliminate the debt and balance the budget – a commitment to get our fiscal

house in order and reduce our national debt by 5 percent per year for 20 years so that we will be debt-free within two decades.

- Cut red tape and over-regulation – a commitment to reduce government overhead by 5 percent per year over a ten-year period.

An economic charter of rights and responsibilities would protect the pocket-books of Canadians by preventing governments from mismanaging the economic affairs of the nation in much the same way that the Charter of Rights and Freedoms prevents overzealous governments from trampling on the democratic rights of Canadians.

FRANK STRONACH CREATING AN ECONOMIC CHARTER OF RIGHTS



The fact is our country is drowning in debt.

We need to cut spending, return to balanced budgets, and start paying down our debt.

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To learn more about the economic charter and how it could help Canadians, email me at info@economiccharter.ca. Or to learn more about the economic charter, please visit: www.economiccharter.ca.



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STK# B11583 • 42,543 KM • 3.5L V6, 9-SPEED AUTOMATIC, AWD, 7-PASSENGER, NAV, DUAL SUNROOF, HEATED/COOLED LEATHER, HEATED SECOND ROW, REAR DVD, TRI-ZONE CLIMATE, REMOTE START, POWER LIFTGATE, 20 INCH BLACK ALLOYS, HONDASENSE, REAR CAMERA, PARK ASSIST, 1-OWNER, CLEAN CARFAX!

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\$192 WEEKLY + HST 84 MONTHS WEEKLY LICENSING EXTRA
\$51,909 +HST/LIC
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C.O.B \$18,079

2022 CHEVROLET EQUINOX LT AWD



STK# B11645 • 32,010 KM • 1.5T 4-CYLINDER, 6-SPEED AUTOMATIC, CHEVROLET INFOTAINMENT 3, HEATED CLOTH BUCKETS, CLIMATE, 17 INCH ALLOYS, REMOTE START, REAR CAMERA, HID HEADLIGHTS, 1-OWNER, CLEAN CARFAX!

\$122 WEEKLY + HST 84 MONTHS WEEKLY LICENSING EXTRA
\$32,909 +HST/LIC
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C.O.B \$11,481

2022 BUICK ENCORE GX ESSENCE ST AWD



STK# B11656 • 30,900 KM • 1.3L TURBO 3-CYLINDER, 9-SPEED AUTOMATIC, NAV, PANORAMIC SUNROOF, HEATED LEATHER, REMOTE START, PARK ASSIST, FORWARD COLLISION ALERT, LANE DEPARTURE, DUAL ZONE CLIMATE CONTROL, BUICK INTELLILINK, 18 INCH SPORT TOURING ALLOYS, 1-OWNER, CLEAN CARFAX!

\$145 WEEKLY + HST 84 MONTHS WEEKLY LICENSING EXTRA
\$39,209 +HST/LIC
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C.O.B \$13,655

2022 MAZDA CX-9 SIGNATURE AWD



STK# B11541 • 26,291 KM • 2.5L SKYACTIV 4-CYLINDER, 6-SPEED AUTOMATIC, 6-PASSENGER, NAV, SUNROOF, BLUETOOTH, HEATED/COOLED LEATHER BUCKETS, HEATED WHEEL, HEATED 2ND ROW, REAR CAMERA, POWER WINDOWS/LOCKS/MIRRORS, 20 INCH ALLOY WHEELS, DUAL ZONE CLIMATE, BOSE, POWER LIFTGATE, LED LIGHTING!

\$174 WEEKLY + HST 84 MONTHS WEEKLY LICENSING EXTRA
\$46,909 +HST/LIC
\$0 DOWN
8.99% O.A.C.
C.O.B \$16,338

2020 CHEVROLET BOLT EV 2LT



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\$129 WEEKLY + HST 84 MONTHS WEEKLY LICENSING EXTRA
\$34,909 +HST/LIC
\$0 DOWN
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C.O.B \$12,158

2020 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE LIMITED X 4X4



STK# 23007AA • 68,616 KM • 3.6L PENTASTAR V6, 8-SPEED AUTOMATIC, 4X4, LIMITED X HOOD, GRANITE GRILLE/TRIM/ALLOYS, NAVIGATION, HEATED LEATHER, POWER LIFTGATE, PANORAMIC SUNROOF, REMOTE START, UCONNECT 4C, APPLE CARPLAY/ANDROID AUTO, ALPINE AUDIO, REAR CAMERA, PARK ASSIST, HID LIGHTING, 20 INCH GRANITE WHEELS, 1-OWNER, CLEAN CARFAX!

\$174 WEEKLY + HST 84 MONTHS WEEKLY LICENSING EXTRA
\$46,909 +HST/LIC
\$0 DOWN
8.99% O.A.C.
C.O.B \$16,338

2021 GMC TERRAIN SLE AWD



STK# B11731 • 42,290 KM • 9-SPEED AUTOMATIC, AWD, NAVIGATION, PANORAMIC SUNROOF, HEATED CLOTH BUCKETS, DUAL ZONE CLIMATE, 17 INCH ALLOYS, REMOTE START, POWER LIFTGATE, INTELLILINK, REAR CAMERA, REAR PARK ASSIST, GMC PRO SAFETY PLUS, ADAPTIVE CRUISE, 1-OWNER, CLEAN CARFAX, MACMASTER ORIGINAL!

\$129 WEEKLY + HST 84 MONTHS WEEKLY LICENSING EXTRA
\$34,909 +HST/LIC
\$0 DOWN
8.99% O.A.C.
C.O.B \$12,158

2023 BUICK ENCLAVE ESSENCE AWD



STK# B11778 • 22,454 KM • 3.6L V6, 9-SPEED AUTOMATIC, NAVIGATION, DUAL SUNROOF, HEATED LEATHER BUCKETS, TRI-ZONE CLIMATE, POWER LIFTGATE, REMOTE START, 7-PASSENGER, REAR CAMERA, 20 INCH POLISHED ALLOYS, BUICK DRIVER CONFIDENCE PLUS, CLEAN CARFAX, EX-DAILY RENTAL!

\$196 WEEKLY + HST 84 MONTHS WEEKLY LICENSING EXTRA
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2023 GMC ACADIA SLE ELEVATION AWD



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\$166 WEEKLY + HST 84 MONTHS WEEKLY LICENSING EXTRA
\$44,909 +HST/LIC
\$0 DOWN
8.99% O.A.C.
C.O.B \$15,641



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Elderly Melancthon man airlifted to hospital after serious crash

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

A 70-year-old man from Melancthon was airlifted to hospital following a serious accident in Shelburne on Tuesday night.

Officers from the Dufferin OPP along with Dufferin County EMS and Fire Services responded to a report of a serious collision involving a pedestrian on Main St. E at approximately 7:40 p.m. on Tuesday (Nov. 28).

The collision involved a single vehicle and a pedestrian.

As a result of the collision, a 70-year-old man from Melancthon was airlifted by

Ornge to a Toronto area trauma centre with life-threatening injuries.

Dufferin OPP provided an update on Wednesday (Nov. 29) that the pedestrian was in stable condition.

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

Main St. E in Shelburne was closed for several hours between County Rd. 124 and Greenwood Street.

The investigation is continuing and anyone who may have witnesses or has video of the collision in question is asked to contact the Dufferin OPP by phone at 1-888-310-1122.

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



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Christmas Community Collection returns

Dufferin OPP in partnership with Caledon/Dufferin Victim Services have kicked off their Christmas Community Collection.

Officers will be collecting new items for the entire family including, new unwrapped toys, winter accessories, pajamas, slippers, toiletries, cosmetics, gift cards, and cash to help those in need this holiday season. All donations collected will be distributed locally through Caledon/Dufferin Victim Services.

Officers will be attending and collecting donations at local retailers:

- Wednesday December 6th 10 a.m.- 2 p.m.,

at Canadian Tire located at 99 First Street in Orangeville

- Wednesday December 13th 10 a.m.- 2 p.m., at Walmart located at 95 First Street in Orangeville

Dufferin OPP's goal is to make this Christmas special for every child in Dufferin County.

adopt a cat

Yes! Adorable, loving, playful bonded pair alert - and yes one is missing an eye. Wanda and Fury are a five year old pair that deserve a happy ending after everything they've been through. They came from a colony of 90 cats, both very ill when they came in. Fury needed an eye removed, and Wanda was malnourished. We are happy to say they are beyond healthy and extra playful and loving. They get along very well with others.

Adoption fee is \$300 for both, including neuter/spay, vaccines, microchips, deworming and flea treatment. Foster-to-adopt an option as well.

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

Wanda & Fury

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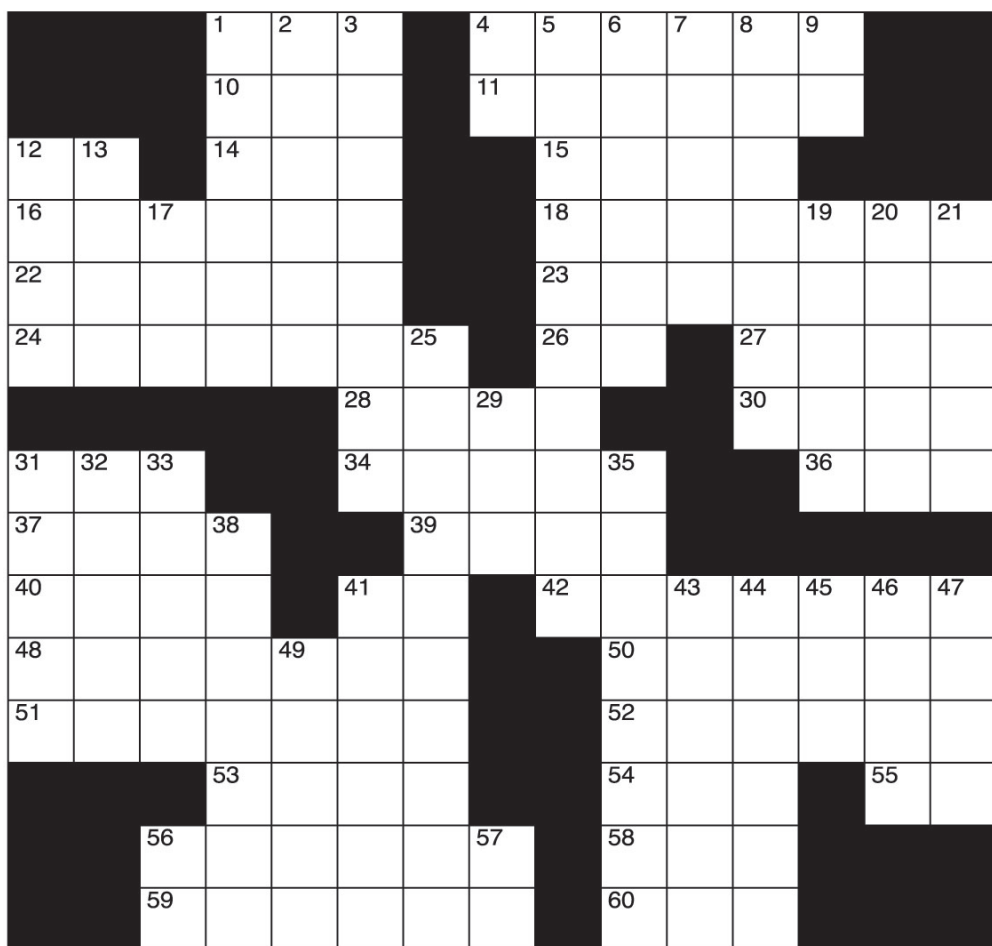
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CROSSWORD



- CLUES ACROSS**
- 1. Beats per minute
 - 4. Hindu deity
 - 10. Polynesian garland of flowers
 - 11. Not chained to
 - 12. Metric ton
 - 14. Tall, rounded vase
 - 15. Musical composition
 - 16. St. Francis of ___
 - 18. Discover the location of
 - 22. Compact group of mountains
 - 23. Mend
 - 24. Not current
 - 26. Atomic #64
 - 27. Young hawk
 - 28. Or ___
 - 30. Pouches
 - 31. Southern Thailand
 - 34. Mends with yarn
 - 36. Downwinds
 - 37. One of two equal parts of a divisible whole
 - 39. Italian archaeological site
 - 40. Cold appetizer
 - 41. Yes
 - 42. Peninsula
 - 48. Of that
 - 50. A way to divide
 - 51. Relating to the physical senses
 - 52. One who makes money
 - 53. ___ Spumante (Italian wine)
 - 54. Inconvenience (abbr.)
 - 55. South Dakota
 - 56. Snow sport
 - 58. The products of human creativity
 - 59. Change mind
 - 60. Born of
- CLUES DOWN**
- 1. Similar to the color of a clear unclouded sky
 - 2. Former name of Iran or tissue
 - 3. Made smaller
 - 4. Type of meter
 - 5. Revolt
 - 6. Killed with rocks
 - 7. Gregory ___, US dancer
 - 8. Nullifies
 - 9. Home to the Flyers
 - 12. Female parent
 - 13. Pre-1917 Russian emperor
 - 17. Outsourcing (abbr.)
 - 19. Regal
 - 20. Line
 - 21. Hermann ___, author of "Siddhartha"
 - 25. Clearing up
 - 29. No seats available
 - 31. Leaves of an Arabian shrub
 - 32. Groove in organ or tissue
 - 33. Not of this world
 - 35. Cooking device
 - 38. Forget
 - 41. Operational flight
 - 43. Actress Danes
 - 44. Poke holes in
 - 45. A way to discolor
 - 46. Shouts of welcome or farewell
 - 47. Pharrell's group
 - 49. Red fluorescent dye
 - 56. Jr.'s dad
 - 57. Electronics firm

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Shelburne Hamper Program ready to spread holiday cheer to families in need

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

The Shelburne Hamper Program is looking to give families in need in the community a helping hand this holiday season as they start collecting donations for the annual Holiday Hampers.

"It is upsetting that the need keeps growing, but we're happy that we're able to continue help people. We're very fortunate that there are very generous people in our community that can help make sure that everybody has what the need for the holiday season," said Bobbi Ferguson, chair of the local initiative.

Existing locally for over 50 years, the Shelburne Christmas Hamper program is organized and supported by the many service clubs in town. The program traditionally gives out "hampers" or boxes containing both staple and holiday-specific foods, as well as grocery gift cards for families to purchase a turkey, ham, or traditional favourites. Children are also given gifts, with those aged 12 and under receiving a toy and gift cards for ages 12-18.

Since starting with the holiday hamper program roughly a decade ago, Ferguson said they've seen a growing demand for services. Last year, the Shelburne Christmas Hamper helped over 170 families access their program.

"When I started, people were devastated and felt so awful that they didn't want to reach out for help. I think there's been this shift that they're not as embarrassed because it's becoming more and more obvious that it's not just a few people facing this," said Ferguson.

The Shelburne Hamper Program is accepting non-perishable food donations as well as monetary donations.

The program has provided examples of how accumulative cash donations are used, such as \$20 for stocking stuffers, \$50 for toys or gift cards for children, \$75 for a senior hamper, and \$150 for a large family food hamper.

"These are difficult times, more than most of

us have seen, but if you can help out at all we can certainly put your donations to good use," said Ferguson.

Registration for the 2023 Shelburne Christmas Hamper has been running during regular hours at the Shelburne Food Bank, Shepherd's Cupboard, throughout November. The Shelburne Christmas Hamper will also be holding additional registration dates on Dec. 6 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. and Dec. 7 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Mel Lloyd Centre, located at 167 Centre St. in Shelburne.

To find out more information about the local Christmas Hamper Program www.shelburne-christmashampers.com

Party Rockers Entertainment Youth Fundraiser Dance returns to Shelburne

Written By **Danielle Williams**

Party Rockers Entertainment dedicates itself to providing a fun and safe environment for today's youth to socialize and enjoy time with their friends. In 2002, Party Rockers youth fundraising dances began, and in Shelburne next month, they will be intro-

duced back to the community.

The first local dance is on Friday, Dec. 8. According to Marcus Lapworth, owner and operator of Party Rockers Entertainment, these youth fundraising dances not only provide entertainment but also an opportunity to meet new people and make lasting memories.

For children aged seven to 13, Party Rockers prioritizes interactive and supervised environments. They take pride in organizing each fundraising dance. Party Rockers Entertainment holds a warm heart, knowing the services they provide benefit those attending as well as local youth and sports organizations.

Money raised through dance ticket sales goes toward local minor sports teams and youth organizations.

"Giving back and investing in the future of our youth, and our events play a vital role in making a positive impact," said Lapworth.

Highlighting the numerous benefits of the dances for organizations, Lapworth said, "All would greatly benefit from this opportunity, not only in terms of raising money but also in creating awareness and engaging with the community."

As a DJ since 14, Marcus Lapworth shifted from late-night gigs to launch Youth Dances, inspired by childhood memories. Motivated by his nephew's hockey team fundraiser, Lapworth envisioned using the dances to raise funds. Beginning with the Shelburne Skating Club, Party Rockers Entertainment has been hosting dances in Shelburne since October 2002, growing with each collaboration.

Some organizations have been using Party Rockers for over 15 years.

"Our main objective is to continuously expand our services and reach," Lapworth said. "We are actively working towards adding more cities to our roster."

Organizations such as Orangeville Minor AA Flyers praised the fundraiser dance as a "great fundraiser and so easy to do," highlighting the positive experience for kids.



**Shelburne & District Firefighters Association
14th Annual Toy & Food Drive**

Please join the Shelburne & District firefighters as we collect new unwrapped toys and non-perishable food items this holiday season.

This years event runs from **November 16 — December 16**. All Donations can be dropped at the Firehall, Thursday and Friday nights from 7–9 p.m. and Saturdays from 12–4 p.m.



County launches food waste campaign

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

Dufferin County is calling on local residents to think more about the food they get rid of with their "Plan to Save, Reduce Food Waste" campaign.

"The average Canadian household throws away up to \$1,500 worth of food annually," said Melissa Kovacs-Reid, manager of waste services for Dufferin County. "Most of this food waste consists of health fruits and vegetables. By reducing your food waste, you can save more money and eat healthier in the process."

There are two types of food waste: edible and inedible. Edible food waste is food that could have been eaten but was thrown out instead. In contrast, inedible food waste consists of food that isn't usually eaten, such as apple cores, banana peels, eggshells, coffee grounds and bones.

To help residents reduce the amount of edible food they may be wasting, the County of Dufferin has shared some tips and resources on buying, preserving and using leftovers to the maximum for food savings.

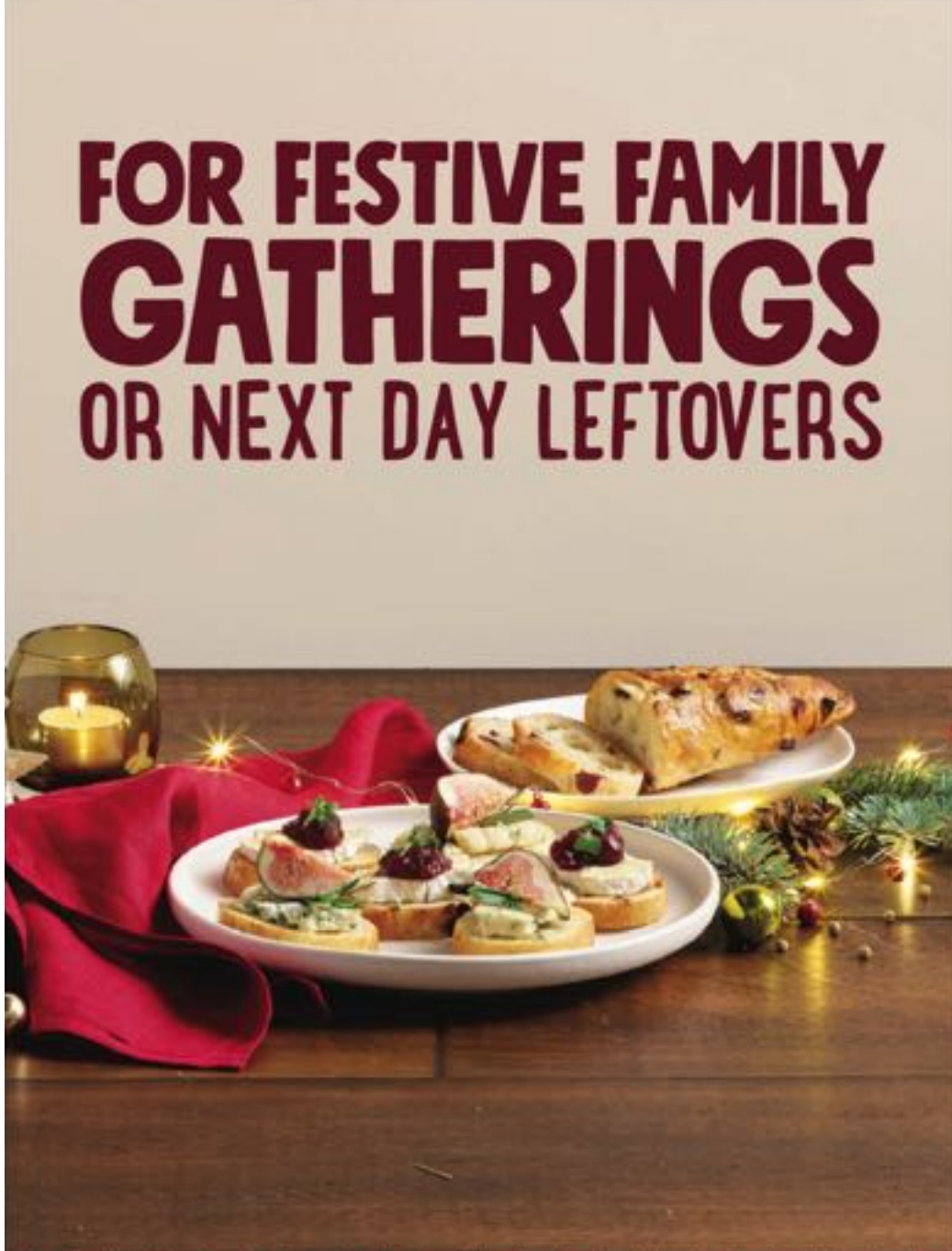
The first tip the County of Dufferin has for residents is to make a meal plan by creating menus for each day of the week. A printable meal planner is available on the County's website.

"Once you have your daily meals, create a shopping list and stick to it when you're at the grocery store so you don't buy too much."

The next tip is to preserve what you've bought by using your fridge properly to help groceries last longer. Each section of the fridge and freezer helps to keep food fresh. A guide to storing fruits and vegetables, as well as a refrigerator infographic, is available from the County.

The final tip from the County of Dufferin is to get creative with your leftovers by turning them into a new meal and avoiding food boredom. A variety of recipes for leftovers can be found on the Love Food Hate Waste website.

To learn more about the Plan to Save, Reduce Food Waste campaign, visit the County of Dufferin's website at - www.dufferin-county.ca/waste.



FOR FESTIVE FAMILY GATHERINGS OR NEXT DAY LEFTOVERS

Upcoming at Shelburne Library

From the Archives, Tuesday, December 12th, 2pm: Archivist Laura Camilleri will show some of the interesting finds from the Museum of Dufferin's archives! Stay tuned for registration.

Coffee, Conversation & Books featuring Barrie Shepley, Thursday, December 14th, 7pm: Join us in conjunction with Grand Valley and Orangeville Public Libraries at Mochaberry (177 Broadway) in Orangeville. Barrie Shepley is the author of Chasing Greatness, and will talk about the highs and lows of sports, what goes on behind the scenes, and how to stay true to yourself!

Holiday Hours
 December 27th : 10am-5pm
 December 28th : 10am-5pm
 December 29th : 10am-5pm
 December 30th : Closed
 December 31st : Closed
 January 1st : Closed
 January 2nd : Closed

THANK YOU, THANK YOU to our community! Thank you for your incredibly generous donations and thank you to all those who supported YOUR Library by purchasing the items!

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SHELBURNE SPORTS

Royals' make strong effort but take loss to Norwell

Written By Brian Lockhart

The Centre Dufferin District High School Royals boys' hockey team played a solid game when they were on the ice against the Norwell District Secondary School Varsity Reds at the Centre Dufferin Recreation Complex on Tuesday, Nov. 28; they just couldn't score.

The Royals were down 3-0 at the end of the first period.

Centre Dufferin got on the scoreboard early in the second period.

Norwell kept up the pressure and scored three more in the second frame.

The Royals got their second of the game in the third period but had little chance of closing the scoring with time running out.

Norwell scored three more in the third period to give the Royals a 9-2 loss in this game.

"I think we moved the puck well, and we were sending in pucks deep and going hard

in on them," said Royals' right-wing Cal Stevenson. "We were forechecking good. We let in a few bad goals."

Royals' defenceman Jared Marshall said he thought the team played well, but Norwell beat them on some of the small details of the game.

"I think they just outsmarted us, they were getting into the battles and beating us in the battles, beating us to the pucks. They were all over us," Jared said of the game.

The loss leaves the Royals with a 1-5 record so far for the season, with seven games left on the regular season schedule.

John F. Ross, from Guelph, is currently in first place in the District 4/10 standings. They are followed by Centennial Collegiate, Norwell District, and Orangeville District Secondary School.

The Royals will be back on home ice at the CDCR on Tuesday, Dec. 5, when they will host John F. Ross.

Game time is 2:15 p.m.



BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

LOSS AT HOME: The Centre Dufferin District High School Royals boy's hockey team takes on the Norwell District Secondary School Varsity Reds on the ice at the Centre Dufferin Recreation Complex on Tuesday, Nov. 28. The Royals took a 9-2 loss in this game. They have seven more games on the regular season schedule.

Lead changes again in Junior C loop, Alliston back in first place

Written By Brian Lockhart

It has been a wild season for the Carruthers Division of the Provincial Junior Hockey League, with first place changing almost weekly in a very competitive division this year.

After the weekend, the Alliston Hornets have moved back into first place after winning three in a row.

The Hornets won over Schomberg, Midland, and Caledon over the weekend to pick up six points for a total of 34 points.

That dropped the Stayner Siskins to second place by two points. However, the Hornets have played one more game than the Siskins this season and have a 17-4 record.

Stayner has a 16-4 record and 32 points.

First place has changed teams regularly since the start of the season, with four teams having held the spot so far this year. The Hornets have moved up from third place just a couple of weeks ago.

Orillia has also been in the number-one spot and was the top team last week before Alliston and Stayner pulled ahead.

Orillia has a 14-5 record, including one overtime loss and 29 points.

The Schomberg Cougars, who were in first place earlier in the season, are close behind

with 25 points and a 12-6-1 record.

In the middle of the pack, the Penetang Kings, Huntsville Otters, and the Caledon Golden Hawks are separated by one point.

Penetang and Huntsville both have 18, with Caledon right behind with 17 points.

Both the Innisfil Spartans and Midland Flyers are struggling this season.

Innisfil has won only three times after 20 games. Midland has managed to win two games all season. These two teams will be in a battle to make the last seed playoff berth this year.

The season has provided some exciting games for fans because, for the first time in several years, there has been no real dominant team in the league.



BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

HORNETS STING FLYERS: The Alliston Hornets battle the Midland Flyers at the New Tecumseth Recreation Centre in Alliston on Friday, Nov. 3. The Hornets won this game, then won two more over the weekend to move back into first place in the North Carruthers Division of the Provincial Junior Hockey League.

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i'm lovin' it



ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

CAL STEVENSON

"I've been playing hockey since I could walk," said Centre Dufferin District High School Royals right wing, Cal Stevenson, of his experience playing the sport. "And organized hockey, I've been playing since I was three or four."

Cal brings a lot of experience to his team, and said, "It makes you feel happy, I like being with the boys on the team, you meet new friends."

When he's not playing for his school team, Cal plays AAA with the Grey-Bruce Highlanders.

TEAM: CENTRE DUFFERIN DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL ROYALS BOYS HOCKEY

POSITION: RIGHT WING

Shelburne Free Press

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



brian.lockhart@hotmail.com

LESSON UP!

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