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# Shelburne Free Press

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**1 Year In Review begins on Page 2**

**NEW YEAR NEW BABY:** Proud parents Ashley and Dan Powell, welcomed their third child, baby Maverick, into the world at Headwaters Health Care Centre on Jan. 1 at 8:56 p.m. The baby is Headwater's first of the year. Maverick weighs 6 lbs and 13 ozs. He is the Powell family's third son, following in the footsteps of his two older brothers, who were both born at Headwaters. In 2023, there were 861 deliveries at Headwaters. Read a full story on Page 6.

## Shelburne Fire aims to reduce carbon monoxide deaths

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

The Shelburne & District Fire Department and Enbridge Gas have teamed up to reduce fire and carbon monoxide deaths through the Safe Community Project Zero initiative.

Shelburne & District Fire Department has received 174 combination smoke and carbon monoxide alarms through Safe Community Project Zero. Safe Community Project Zero is a public education campaign with the Fire Marshal's Public Fire Safety Council (FMPFSC) that will provide more than 10,000 alarms to residents in 50 municipalities across Ontario.

"With the assistance of this grant, we can better ensure that all of the citizens in our catchment area are safe from the effects of fire and CO [Carbon Monoxide]. We'd also like to remind the public that without a working smoke alarm in your occupancy, you stand very little chance of survival in a fire," said Deputy Fire Chief Jeff Clayton.

In 2023, Enbridge Gas invested \$315,000

into Safe Community Project Zero, and over the past 15 years, the program has provided more than 86,000 alarms to Ontario fire departments.

"Properly maintaining fuel-burning equipment is the best way to reduce potential exposure to carbon monoxide, and an alarm is a critical second line of defence for protection. When we implement these strategies together, we protect our loved ones from carbon monoxide poisoning, also known as the silent killer," said Michael Nash, operations supervisor, GTA West Region, Enbridge Gas.

When properly installed and maintained, combination smoke and carbon monoxide alarms help provide early warnings to safely escape from a house fire or carbon monoxide exposure. Carbon monoxide is a toxic, odourless gas that is a by-product of incomplete combustion of many types of common fuels.

"Across Ontario there is a renewed focus on the importance of having working smoke and carbon monoxide alarms in your home. The objective of Safe Community Project Zero is to deliver these alarms

to areas where they are needed most," said Jon Pegg, Ontario Fire Marshal and chair of the FMPFSC. "It's a program that fire departments can adopt to help educate their communities about the requirement for all Ontario homes to have a carbon monoxide alarm if they have a fuel-burning appliance or an attached garage."

The Shelburne & District Fire Department is made up of one full-time chief and 32 volunteer firefighters who serve the communities of Amaranth, Melancthon, Mono, Mulmur and Shelburne.

In 2023, the Shelburne Fire Department responded to 18 structure fires, nine CO alarms with carbon monoxide in the home, and 18 false CO alarms as a result of faulty detectors, failed batteries or other undetermined factors.

"The firefighters here do a fantastic job and this partnership is a great way to get some of these devices out in the community, but perhaps more importantly, just to raise awareness of the importance of having working smoke and CO [Carbon Monoxide] detectors in your home," said Shelburne Mayor Wade Mills.

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# 2023 THE YEAR IN REVIEW

## Attention Readers!

For our first edition of the Shelburne Free Press in 2024, we're taking you through all of the highs and lows over the first six months of 2023. The first half of our 2023 Year in Review will share some of the most significant stories impacting our readers from January to June. Next week we will publish the second half of our Year in Review with all of the highlights from July to December. Now, without any further ado, here's a look at the year that was!

## January

### Feral Cat Rescue in Shelburne finds new permanent location

Feral Cat Rescue now has a new location for its feline shelter to call home. In a press release on Monday (Nov. 1) the rescue shelter, which is dedicated to re-homing feral cats, announced that owner, Sharon Morden, had purchased a piece of property on 7th Line near 260 Side Road in Melancthon, to build a permanent location.

After moving to various temporary homes throughout the community, Morden in the press release said the decision to purchase a permanent spot was made at the risk of being asked to move again which is both costly and stressful on the cats and volunteers. Purchasing the property in early March, the shelter recently submitted building permits to the County of Dufferin that were officially issued on Oct. 29.

Before the new shelter can become operational with cats being brought in, Feral Cat Rescue will need to undergo go a number of steps including constructing a driveway on the property, placing pads for portables, installing portables, septic and hydro services placed, and an inspection finalized by the County.

The largest cost for the feline shelter will be the installation of a septic system that is anticipated to cost around \$20,000. The shelter will be holding fundraisers to cover the cost.

According to the press release, Feral Cat Rescue is the only one of its kind in the province, providing sanctuary and rehabilitation to feral cats that do not do well in shelters.

Morden said the permanent shelter will be a place for the community to visit the cats, with a large outdoor enclosure planned, as well as walk the paths and garden on the grounds.

### Adopt a Charity winners named; Shelburne youth arts group selected

Dufferin Media has selected the winners of their 2023 Adopt a Charity campaign.

The local digital marketing company announced on Jan. 9 that Streams Community Hub, a youth arts-centered charity located in Shelburne, had been selected as the recipient of the 2023 Adopt a Charity campaign.

"It's always an honour to be recognized within our community and as a charity every little bit of support we can get goes a long way," said Andrew James, co-founder of Streams Community Hub. "We hope to utilize this support by furthering our communications and sharing more impactful stories about who we are and what we do."

Since 2018, Dufferin Media has held its annual 'Adopt a Charity' campaign, which offers marketing services at no charge to a nominated charity. The campaign selects one local charity and one international charity to support. Through the campaign, Dufferin Media will assist Streams Community Hub by increasing their online presence and exposure through social media marketing and management. Dufferin Media will provide three posts per week to three social media platforms, along with management and engagement for the 2023 year. The value of each monthly package is \$499.

"I am overjoyed to be able to once again help

non-profit organizations increase the awareness of the good work, they are doing by giving our time and skillset from a marketing perspective to allow them to better communicate with their audience and reach their goals," said Sarah Clarke, founder of Dufferin Media.

Founded in 2012, Dufferin Media is a team of online professionals that specialize in social media management, internet marketing, and public relations. Over the last decade, Dufferin Media has grown to service organizations both locally and internationally.

The international recipient of the 2023 Adopt A Charity is Allies, Inc located in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Previous recipients of the 'Adopt A Charity' campaign have included organizations such as Neighbourhood Information Post, All Paws Rescue, Million Dollar Smiles, and Dufferin Community Foundation.

## February

### Museum of Dufferin launches exhibit on meteorite that hit Shelburne 120 years ago

With the vastness of outer space, it's hard to imagine the small town of Shelburne being the centre of a historical event from space.

On a cloudy summer evening nearly 120 years ago, a loud rumbling noise was heard across Shelburne, but it wasn't immediately clear what caused it. The next day the mystery was solved with the discovery of a meteorite fragment, Shelburne's very own visitor from outer space. The Museum of Dufferin (MoD) has launched a new online exhibit called 'Fallen Star,' which explores the arrival, discovery, and study of what is known as the 1904 Shelburne Meteorite.

"We knew that the meteorite had a really cool story, and was probably something that many people would find interesting," said Sarah Robinson, curator for the MoD.

A digital exhibition for the Museum of Dufferin, "Fallen Star," was created as a way to allow the community to have a closure look at the piece of history from outer space.

"The fragment that we have in our collection is quite small - about the size of your pinky finger - and having an online exhibit meant that we would be able to include close up photos of it and let people see it in a way that they wouldn't necessarily be able to if we had it in a display case," said Robinson.

One of the areas of focus for the "Fallen Star" exhibit is the stories of the two local farmers, John Shields and George Johnston, who discovered fragments of the meteorite on their properties.

The first fragment of the meteorite was discovered beside John Shields' home on Aug. 14, 1904, weighing 12.5 pounds and embedded 18 inches into the ground. The second fragment was discovered two weeks later on Aug. 30, on George Johnston's farm. The second fragment of the meteorite was much bigger than the first, weighing almost 28 pounds and buried nearly 24 inches into the ground.

"Based on our research, we know that the meteorite falling on their properties was a significant point of pride for both farmers," said Robinson. "Their fragments were displayed in the window of the local hardware store; newspaper articles were written about them and even today, we know that their decedents know and love the story."

Landing in a rural village with a population of less than 1,500 in 1904, the fragments of the Shelburne Meteorite have been used to study and further research.

"In a way, the meteorite is a 'local celebrity,'" said Robinson. "Pieces of it have made their way around the world into some of the most famous museum collection in the world, from

the Smithsonian in Washington, D.C to the Museum of Natural History in Paris, France - even the Vatican Observatory in Italy has a fragment."

Those interested in finding out more about the "fallen star" can explore the MoD's online exhibit by visiting [www.dufferinmuseum.com](http://www.dufferinmuseum.com).

"The online exhibition is a fun, engaging read. It brings science and social history together, and puts our small community on the map in terms of historic discoveries," said Robinson.

### Amaranth barn fire results in death of livestock

A fire that broke out at an Amaranth barn has resulted in the deaths of several animals.

Dufferin OPP, along with crews from Orangeville, Shelburne and Grand Valley fire departments, attended the scene of a barn fire on 8th Line in Amaranth shortly after 6 a.m. on Feb. 2.

Police said the fire claimed the lives of several farm animals, but there were no humans injured. Shelburne Fire is continuing the investigation of the fire but has deemed it non-suspicious.

### Shelburne passes annual budget with one per cent increase

Shelburne Town Council has approved the 2023 budget, which will see a 1 per cent increase in the tax rate.

Carey Holmes, director of financial services and treasurer for the Town of Shelburne, presented a detailed report on the 2023 draft budget for the public during council's meeting on Monday (Feb. 13).

The 2023 draft budget recommended a 1 per cent increase in the tax rate, allowing for an overall tax levy increase of 5.3 per cent in tax dollars or \$460,751.

The homeowner tax impact for the 2023 draft budget, based on an average single-family home assessment of \$355,366, is a 1 per cent tax rate increase amounting to an additional \$26.12 per year, or \$2.18 per month on the town portion.

The estimated amount to be raised by taxation in 2023 is just over \$9 million, calculated by taking the total operating expenses of \$11.9 million for 2022 and subtracting the revenues of around \$2.8 million.

The total estimate for the 2023 general operating expenses is \$11,918,966, which is split up amongst eight expenditures, including police (\$3,138,862); operations and transit (\$2,278,896); general government and town hall (\$2,493,313); recreation and culture (\$1,225,861); planning and development (\$1,376,301); fire protection (\$638,425); council and committees (\$179,190); and other protective services (\$388,118).

The 2023 Draft Budget includes \$5,339,089 for capital projects. The capital projects include; \$3,869,796 for infrastructure, road projects, and capital equipment purchases; \$814,650 to be spent on parks and recreation splash pad, improved amenities, playground equipment, and capital equipment purchases; and \$654,643 towards gateway signs, economic development initiatives, Grace Tipling Hall revitalization and administrative equipment. Council also approved the request to use \$400,000 from the 2022 surplus to put into an equipment reserve to cover capital equipment needs for 2023 and 2024.

## March

### Physician Recruitment and Retention Task Force to address shortage

Hills of Headwaters Collaborative Ontario Health Team (HOHC OHT) has launched a Physician Recruitment and Retention Task Force to address the shortage of primary care physicians in Dufferin County and the Town of Caledon.

An inaugural task force meeting was held last Thursday (Feb. 23), with a number of community leaders and local politicians in attendance. The task force outlined priorities in recruitment and retention of family physicians and aims to work with government and community stakeholders in creating a plan to improve the way the community receives care.

"We are thrilled to be part of the Task Force, acknowledging the important connection

between primary care physicians, specialists and community partners in providing care to people across our communities," said Annette Jones, co-chair of HOHC OHT. "We see the benefits of a connected approach to encouraging health care providers to choose our region as their preferred place to practice. Our community has so much to offer."

The task force's goal is to initially focus on recruiting family physicians, with the objective of expanding its work to recruiting other health care providers and specialists to serve the community better.

"We know that having a regular care provider greatly improves health outcomes, reduces mortality, decrease hospitalizations and reduces healthcare costs. We look forward to working with HOHC OHT and other community stakeholders to address this shortage and ensure equitable access the health care is available to everyone in our community," said Orangeville Mayor Lisa Post.

In the last few months, there have been significant changes in the number of family physicians serving the Dufferin and Caledon area, with physicians moving their practices elsewhere, retiring or ceasing to practice altogether. The shortage has increased the number of patients seeking emergency care and urgent care clinics.

According to data from the Hills of Headwaters Collaborative Ontario Health Team (HOHC OHT), there are more than 4,000 people in the Dufferin and Caledon area who do not have a family physician. This accounts for about 5.3 per cent of the Dufferin-Caledon population.

"About one in 20 people within our OHT geographic catchment area don't have regular access to a primary care physician," said Lianne Barbour, executive director of Dufferin Area Family Health Team.

The task force estimates that 14 more primary care physicians are needed in Dufferin and 29 more in Caledon by 2031 to meet the needs of the communities.

### Indigenous exhibit unveiled at museum

The Museum of Dufferin (MoD) and the Dufferin County Cultural Resource Circle (DCCRC) have unveiled a new art exhibit featuring the works of Indigenous artists.

Artists, members of the DCCRC, local leaders and community members gathered in the Lodge Gallery at the Museum of Dufferin last Friday (March 3) to celebrate the new exhibit called, Our Story: Past & Present.

The exhibit features 20 pieces of art from four Indigenous artists - Sharon Rigby, Josh Morley, Josy Thomas, and Janice Toulouse.

Sharon Rigby is an emerging, self-taught Haudenosaunee/Anishinaabe artist from Akwesasne/Algonquin First Nations. Rigby's piece, Mashkiki Makak, envisions the ability to overpower the words contained in the Indian Act by weaving pages of it directly into the medicine basket.

Josh Morley is a self-taught Anishinaabe illustrator and screen printer from the Sturgeon Clan of Wabauskang First Nation and is based in Peterborough, Ont. Morley uses his work to raise awareness of environmental issues and sustainability and support the indigenous community. His series of five prints utilizes blacklight as a tool to encourage people to look beyond what they first see.

Josy Thomas began his journey as an artist at a young age, learning of the Longhouse Teachings from his grandfather while he carved traditional masks for ceremonies. He graduated from the Ontario College of Art & Design (OCAD) in 1998, and his latest solo exhibition, Twisted Spirit, was featured at the Leslie Grove Gallery in Toronto. Thomas' sculpture, Twisted Spirit, explores the struggles of Indigenous men and women today to keep up with the modern way of life and stay true to their traditional ways.

Janice Toulouse is a senior Ojibwe artist, member of the Garden River First Nation and was raised in both Serpent River and Toronto. Toulouse was the first Indigenous graduate from Concordia University in Montreal, where she earned a Master of Fine Arts in 1985. She taught painting and art history for over 20 years before retiring in 2017. Toulouse's painting, The Native Children's Hidden Bones, is dedicated to the Indigenous children who didn't make it home from residential schools.

Continued on Page 3

## adopt a cat



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# 2023 THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Continued From Page 2

## April

### Controversial figure to speak at local freedom rally

The Shelburne Freedom Rally will be hosting one of Ontario's most infamous anti-mask protesters 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.

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."

### Water main breaks on Main Street, flooding Shelburne's downtown

Shelburne's Main Street was closed for several hours following multiple water main breaks that caused flooding in the downtown core.

The Town of Shelburne announced the closure of Main Street in both directions, between William St. and Owen Sound St., due to the break on Tuesday (April 11) afternoon. The pressure from the water main breaks caused sections of Main Street to rise. The road was reopened on Wednesday (April 12).

Jim Moss, director of development and operations, told the Free Press on Tuesday that there were at least three breaks in the water main.

"Usually it's corrosion or frost related, and it doesn't help that frost is coming out of the ground right now," said Moss. "But, it seems to be over pressurizing from filling the new water tower."

According to Moss, the drawings the Town of Shelburne has dated the water main to the mid-to-late 60s.

The water main affected by the breaks is one of the main lines through Main Street.

### Shelburne Town Hall Art Gallery revitalization pilot project underway

The Town of Shelburne is looking to draw attention to the local art community with a revitalization pilot project of the Town Hall Art Gallery.

During their meeting on Monday (April 24), Shelburne Council received a report from chief administrative officer Denyse Morrissey regarding the exhibits pilot project.

The revitalization of the art gallery was based on recommendations from the Community Improvement Plan (CIP) and the Feasibility Study for Grace Tipling Hall on how to enhance the profile and use of the space.

The exhibit program was developed by town staff members as a pilot project that will run throughout 2023. The Town Art Gallery will showcase the creative work of local artists, including work by individuals, art organizations, instructors, and students.

The first exhibition to kick off the program was A Retrospective of Darlene Hassal Work in Oil, which began on March 31 and will run until May 7.

Since the launch of the pilot project, the town has booked an art exhibition for nearly every month.

Upcoming exhibitions include the Streams Town Art Gallery (May 19-July 9), Tracy Smith and Ellen Brakel (July 14-July 28), Brian Blakemand (Sept. 1- Sept. 22), Indigenous Art for the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (Sept. 30), and Unsung Heroes A Tribute to Veterans (Nov. 10-Nov. 24).

## May

### Red Dress exhibit honours missing, murdered Indigenous women and girls

The Museum of Dufferin (MoD) is paying homage to missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls and two-spirited people with a red dress display.

"This is the first time that we've done a Red Dress Day display and we hope to continue to do this into the future, and that this is something that other sites, or community organizations might join in and do as well," said Sarah Robinson, interim museum services manager.

The MoD's red dress display consists of around 30 dresses that were donated to the museum by members of the community during a callout back in March. The display is located on the front lawn of the museum and includes informational signage for those who drive a loop of the museum's driveway.

Red Dress Day was inspired in 2010 by Jamie Black, a Métis artist based in Winnipeg, who hung hundreds of empty red dresses in public places to represent missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls, raising awareness.

Red Dress Day is held annually on May 5, the National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG) and Two-spirited people. According to Statistics Canada, the rate of homicide of Indigenous women in 2014 was almost six times higher than non-Indigenous women.

As part of their recognition of Red Dress Day, the Museum of Dufferin had a special ribbon skirt created by Sharon Rigby, a local Indigenous artist. The ribbon skirt is on display inside the museum.

### Concert honouring Gordon Lightfoot coming to Fiddle Park

The songs of legendary Canadian singer/songwriter Gordon Lightfoot have been heard across the country for more than five decades and will continue to be heard in the Shelburne community this coming summer.

Leisa Way and her Wayward Band will bring their "Early Morning Rain" concert to Fiddle Park in Shelburne on August 13 at 7:30 p.m.

"It's a joy to be in our hometown area, so that the hometown crowds can come

see the concert. We love coming here, the audiences are always so warm and friendly. We look forward to every show, but to be in Shelburne will be special," said Way.

Written, produced, and performed by Leisa Way herself, 'Early Morning Rain' celebrates Gordon Lightfoot's legendary career through a comprehensive tour of his life and music told through stories and performance.

Way and her band originally debuted the 'Early Morning Rain' concert in February 2020, with a three-week sold-out run at Theatre Orangeville. Their plan was to tour the concert in 26 theatres throughout 2020, but those plans were delayed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Reworking the concert for reopening, Way chose to delve deeper into her own personal reasons for producing 'Early Morning Rain,' specifically speaking about her dad, who died in 1999 and was a Gordon Lightfoot fan.

"My dad couldn't carry a tune in a bucket, but when he was in his workshop he'd sing Gordon Lightfoot," said Way.

Way and her band reopened 'Early Morning Rain' on stage at the Orillia Opera House, in Lightfoot's hometown of Orillia, on May 6. The concert was held just days after news broke of Lightfoot's death at Sunnybrook Hospital in Toronto at the age of 84.

"It was overwhelming and powerful in many ways. We were more nervous than we've ever been because we knew the responsibility of giving Gord's fans a great send off for him," said Way.

## June

### Dufferin fire chiefs issue warning over recent dry and hot weather

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/Melanthon, 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.

### North Dufferin Agricultural and Community Taskforce signs quarry agreement with Strada Aggregate

North Dufferin Agricultural and Community Taskforce (NDACT) and Strada Aggregate have signed an agreement regarding an application to quarry below the water table.

The agreement between the local community advocacy organization and the aggregate producer seeking a quarry license was announced in a press release from NDACT on Tuesday (June 20).

"Normally a community finds out about aggregate development plans once an application is submitted, often resulting in years of conflict and strife between the parties," said Karren Wallace, chair of NDACT. "This is a new approach in that the community and the aggregate company worked together pre-application designing the manner in which they will engage through the lifecycle of the aggregate project."

The signed agreement gives NDACT input and decision-making into Strada's quarry application prior to being submitted. As part of the agreement, NDACT will not oppose the application until and unless the science shows the quarry could harm the environment.

The agreement includes six protocols designed to ensure collaboration and cooperation between the two organizations and the local municipality throughout all phases of the property development. The six major subject areas include communication, peer review, wells and natural resources, recreation fund, land assumption, and licence assumption.

In January of 2022, NDACT released a list of key terms and conditions they were requesting Strada Aggregate follow, including the hiring of a community trusted consultant, creating a substantial fund to aid in court costs for residents who may experience water problems, and committing to annual funding of 10 cents per tonne of their extracted aggregate to the Honeywood Arena.

The three terms and conditions were included in the signed agreement.

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North Dufferin Wellness Centre

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**519-925-1215** [hearrightcanada.ca](https://www.hearrightcanada.ca)

## CHRISTMAS TREE COLLECTION

JANUARY 2024

Trees must be out by 7 a.m. on the Monday to ensure collection during the designated week.

Christmas trees in the Town of Orangeville will be collected during the week of **January 8th.**

Residents in **rural areas** must call 1.888.941.3345 ext. 1 a week in advance to be put on the list for collection the week of **January 8th.**

Christmas trees in the urban areas of Grand Valley, Shelburne & the rural subdivisions will be collected during the week of **January 15th.**

**Do not bag trees for collection and ensure that decorations and tree stands are removed.**

**Trees that are buried in snow will not be collected.**



**Please note:** If you have any yard waste left over from the fall, you may put it out beside your tree for collection.



Shelburne's Newspaper Since 1875
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Resolutions

It's that time of year when people make their annual New Year's resolutions and vow to either stop doing something, start doing something, or do something better than they did last year.

It's also the only time of year you can work the word 'resolution' into a conversation. If you try asking someone what their resolution will be for June, you won't get quite the same response.

I'm not sure why New Year's became the time to try a new approach to life. If you really wanted to lose weight or quit smoking, why didn't you start the effort in the middle of August when the thought first came to you?

It's also the season some industries absolutely love - because they know your resolution will boost their sales whether you follow through or not.

The fitness industry will see a surge in memberships as people vow to finally get in shape. The reality is, those three weekly visits to the gym will become two, as you miss one, then vow to make it up the following week. You probably won't make it up and skip another one because you're busy. Then, one day, you will realize you haven't been to the gym in

three months, but the fitness club still has your registration money.

What that really means is you had no real interest in getting in shape in the first place, because if you did, you would have kept up the routine.

Every year, there is a 'top ten' list of New Year's resolutions that is published. Who knows if it is really accurate, but the activities listed all seem to be about right.

At the top of the list is 'exercise more.' This is an easy one to accomplish if you choose the right goal. Exercising more can be as simple as walking every day. You don't have to prepare for a triathlon if you want to stay in better shape.

Losing weight is always on the list of top resolutions. It's also probably one of the hardest goals to achieve. Most people you know who are overweight have had those extra pounds for years and will likely have them for many more.

Getting organized is on the list - but it doesn't specify whether it means to get organized in your personal life or at work. People who are highly organized tend to be more productive both at home and at work.

If you live life like a whirlwind, most likely, you always will.

Learning a new skill or hobby is a popular resolution. This is very achievable. If you have an interest in trying a new hobby, just do it. If you try it and decide it's not for you, you have lost nothing by at least giving it a chance.

Living life to the fullest is on the list. That sounds like a good plan, but having a full life has different meanings for different people. A large part of living large is having the funds to pay for all that fun.

However, if your current life is coming home from work and sitting in front of the television for four hours, you probably should explore some options.

Saving more money is a priority for many people. However, you're probably beat before you can even try this one.

Our current economy simply won't allow most people to save more money. On the flip side, if you're a spendthrift who blows a lot of money on frivolous things, you can reconsider how you spend your money.

Put out that cigarette and quit smoking - that's always a popular one. I read once that it is easier to kick a heroin addiction than it is

to quit smoking. Having a good support system through family and friends may help here. Also, try more activities where smoking simply isn't allowed while you're there.

Spending more time with family and friends is on the list. In some cases, spending less time with family may be the preferred goal.

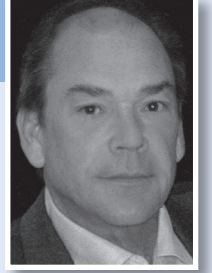
Travel more is another popular choice, but then again, it's back to the money situation. Not everyone has the funds to spend a lot of money on hotels and resorts. However, the good side is that you don't have to travel 1000 miles to make it a trip. Short trips can be just as much fun.

Reading more makes the list. I'm not sure if a librarian association suggested this resolution, but if you want to read more - then read more. It's not like it is going to require a lot of effort.

Resolutions are easy to make but difficult to keep.

If you make a resolution - good luck - if you don't, then just enjoy the ride through the next year.

BRIAN LOCKHART FROM THE SECOND ROW



Abandoning the Sahel

On Sunday, the last of 12,000 United Nations peacekeeping troops left Mali, ordered out by the military regime that seized power after two successive coups in 2020 and 2021. They leave behind them 310 Blue Helmets killed over ten years, and a country in chaos.

Also on Sunday, the last French troops left the neighbouring country of Niger. They had been sent there to fight the same Islamist rebels who were terrorizing Mali. Practically every regime in the region is facing a violent Islamic revolutionary movement based out in the northern, desert parts of the country.

The French are leaving now because France refuses to be "held hostage by putschists": that is, by the military regime that overthrew the elected president last July. The UN troops are really leaving Mali for the same reason, although they are more diplomatic about it.

French troops also left Burkina Faso recently after two military coups last year. The young Burkinabé officers, like their Malian and Nigerien co-conspirators, found it wise to blame the foreigners for everything that was going wrong, and the three sets of rebels have now created a defence pact called the Alliance of Sahel States.

The 'Sahel' is conventionally defined as the countries on the southern fringes of the Sahara desert, with limited rainfall and high temperatures. Most were French possessions during the colonial period, are con-

siderably poorer than most other parts of Africa, and have never had much luck with forging stable democracies.

Chad, next east from Niger, was already a dictatorship, although power passed from father to son after the long-ruling incumbent, Idriss Déby, stopped a bullet in 2021 while visiting the northern battlefield against the local Islamist terrorists there. Chad is the only part of the Sahel where there are still foreign troops (apart from Russian mercenaries).

And finally Sudan, the only Sahel country with an economy that rises above subsistence level, thanks to oil and gold. But it is now being torn apart by a country-wide civil war between two rival branches of the armed forces over the division of the spoils.

Six million people in Sudan are 'internally displaced' already, and 1.5 million have fled abroad. Yet nobody is sending international forces in to 'restore the peace' or look after the refugees, not even fellow Muslim countries. Not even rich Arab countries who could easily afford it: they know it's a lost cause.

There is no coincidence in all the regime collapses, military take-overs and international pull-outs: what was bound to happen in the Sahel countries is now finally happening.

All of these countries are semi-desert areas that can only support large populations along two major rivers: the Niger

for the more western ones, and the Nile for Sudan. But there's a limit to how many people they can support, and that limit was probably reached some time ago.

So how do you get from that (fairly neutral) fact to the current catastrophe? First, there's just not enough money coming in. No matter what it does, the state can no longer provide education, health care, or even security for its ever growing population, and people get more and more desperate. That's Phase One.

Then some of those desperate people turn to extremist ideologies - which in Muslim countries means Islamist fanatics. 'Islamic State - Sahel Province' (founded 2015) and various rival groups emerge, and various foreign forces arrive to help hold back the tide for a time. Phase Two.

Eventually those foreign rescue missions give up or are driven out, and any remaining democracies are destroyed by ambitious but ignorant soldiers. Phase Three, unfolding now.

What's Phase Four? Probably, in most cases, the Islamist fanatics win the battles and take over the state. They kill a lot of people, destroy libraries, smash historical mon-

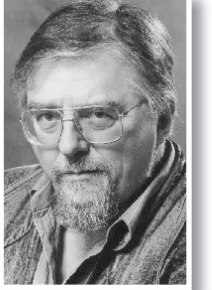
uments, pray furiously - but they will not figure out how to feed all those hungry people. They don't even see that as their job. Cf. Afghanistan.

And what will the rest of the world do? It will shun the Sahel states and seal them off from the rest of the world, just like we have done to Afghanistan. The African Union may try various rescue missions, as it has with Somalia, but in the end it will probably give up too.

Africa is not doomed. Its future, like that of most other places, depends on what it does next. Even Senegal, which is technically part of the Sahel, is not doomed. Having a coastline probably helps, but so does reasonably good government.

But the other Sahel countries probably are doomed. They have a lethal combination of extreme poverty, a very high ratio of population to usable land, and a very high birth rate that is showing no signs of significant decline. And we are seeing the final days of well-intentioned foreign interventions in Africa right now.

GWYNNE DYER OUR WORLD TODAY



Advertisement for Prime Minister Trudeau 2024 Calendar. Features a caricature of Trudeau and the text 'his last year?'

Advertisement for 'Letters to the Editor' featuring a laptop with the newspaper logo and the email address shelburnefreepress@gmail.com

Subscription advertisement for Shelburne Free Press. Includes pricing for 1, 2, and 3 years, contact information, and a subscription form.



## Vehicle crashes into garage door of residence on Christmas Eve

The Dufferin Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) have charged two drivers with impaired operation related offences.

On Christmas Eve (Dec. 24, 2023) just after 1:00 a.m., officers from the Dufferin OPP responded to a 911 call for service. The caller advised that a vehicle had drove through the front of a residential dwelling in the area of Parkview Drive in the Town of Orangeville. Officers arrived on scene and were led into an impaired operation investigation.

An 18-year-old male, from Brampton has been charged with:

- Operation while impaired - alcohol and drugs
- Failure or refusal to comply with demand
- Dangerous operation
- Mischief Over \$5,000
- Driving motor vehicle with liquor readily available
- Person under 19 years having liquor
- Novice driver - B.A.C. above zero
- Disobey stop sign - fail to stop
- Young driver - B.A.C. above zero

Later that same day, just before 8:00 p.m., officers from Dufferin OPP were conducting a R.I.D.E. (Reduce Impaired Driving Everywhere) spot check in the area of Orange Street and the Townline in the Town of Orangeville. A vehicle entered the

area and was met by officers. At this time, they were led into an impaired operation investigation.

Jeffrey BEHENNA, a 32-year-old male, from Orangeville has been charged with:

- Drive vehicle or boat with cannabis readily available
- Drive without proper headlights - motor vehicle
- Operation while impaired - alcohol and drugs

The accused is scheduled to appear at the Ontario Court of Justice in Orangeville to answer to the charges. Their driver's licence was suspended, and the vehicle was impounded.

None of the listed charges have been proven in court.

"Dufferin OPP continues to conduct traffic enforcement daily as drivers who are impaired by alcohol or drugs and who drive at excessive speeds continue to pose a threat to Ontario roads. We are committed to the safety of our community," said Dufferin OPP in a press release.

"The Dufferin OPP reminds motorists to plan ahead when consuming alcohol or drugs. Use a designated driver, cab, rideshare, public transit or stay overnight. Any amount of alcohol or drugs can impact your ability to make sound judgements. In a split second you could ruin your future, injure, or kill others, and tear a hole in the heart of



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**CHRISTMAS CRASH:** Christmas Eve wasn't so merry for the homeowners of a residence on Parkview Drive in Orangeville. A vehicle crashed through the garage door of the dwelling before officers apprehended the 18-year-old driver and charged him with impaired driving, mischief over \$5,000, and disobey stop sign, among several other related charges.

everyone who loves you."

If you have information about suspected unlawful activity, please contact the OPP at

1-888-310-1122 or Crime Stoppers to remain anonymous at 1-800-822-8477 (TIPS) or [www.crimestoppersdm.com](http://www.crimestoppersdm.com).

## Police seeking public's assistance with house fire investigation

Members of the Dufferin Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) attended a structure fire in the Town of Shelburne.

Dufferin OPP along with Shelburne Fire, attended the scene of a house fire on Second Avenue West on Dec. 30, 2023, at approximately 3:00 a.m.

The structure was completely engulfed in flames when emergency services arrived. Thankfully, there was nobody inside the

home at the time of the fire and no injuries were reported.

The Ontario Fire Marshal attended the scene and is continuing with the investigation alongside the Dufferin Crime Unit.

Police do believe that there were people in the area when the fire started. Investigators are looking for any potentially relevant dash cam footage, home surveillance video or photos from the area between 2:00 a.m. and 3:00 a.m.

If you have information regarding this fire or any other suspected unlawful activity, please contact the OPP by phone at 1-888-310-1122 or visit Crime Stoppers to remain anonymous at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS) or [www.crimestoppersdm.com](http://www.crimestoppersdm.com).

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



## Festive RIDE program ends with over 30 impaired related charges

Dufferin Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) have concluded the Festive RIDE (Reduce Impaired Driving Everywhere) campaign, and the results are in.

The Festive RIDE campaign, which ran from Nov. 16, 2023, until Jan. 2, 2024, was led by the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police (OACP) and involves a collaboration among Ontario police services to keep roads free of alcohol-impaired and drug-impaired drivers.

During the campaign, police officers were highly visible as they conducted RIDE initiatives 24 hours a day, seven days

a week. The results of the RIDE campaign show that drivers who are impaired by alcohol or drugs continue to pose a threat to Ontario roads.

- Officers conducted 259 RIDE Programs
- Total hours spent conducting RIDE - 738 hours
- 21 Drivers charged with impaired operation related offences
- 32 total impaired related charges

"Dufferin OPP would like to thank the concerned citizens who contacted police to report a possible impaired driver. These calls save lives and therefore we treat

them as a high priority. If you suspect an impaired driver, make that lifesaving call and dial 9-1-1," said Dufferin OPP in a press release,

"Members of the public are reminded to plan to not drive when planning to drink or consume drugs. There are many alternative options to remove impaired driving from the picture, such as a designated driver, taxi, rideshare, public transit or staying the night."

Festive RIDE is wrapping up however you can still expect to see Dufferin OPP officers out day and night ensuring drivers are driving sober.



## CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
13						14				15			
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49	50		51				52			53			
54		55				56					57	58	59
60						61				62			
63						64				65			
66						67				68			

### CLUES ACROSS

- Bleated
- Snakelike fish
- Database management system
- Russian-American violinist
- Wendy's founder Thomas
- Ancient Italian-Greek colony
- Negatives
- Rescued
- Self-immolation by fire ritual
- Assigns tasks to
- Island nation native
- Trade
- Detergent brand
- Famed NY Giant
- Before
- Split pulses
- Extremely angry; highly incensed
- Body part
- American state
- David \_\_, US playwright
- Move one's head

slightly

- Secret rendezvous
- Improved
- A place to exercise
- 18-year astronomical period
- Automobile
- You can take it
- A radio band
- Jaws of an animal
- Short-billed rails
- Chinese province
- Shameless and undisguised
- Horizontal passage into a mine
- Adult males
- Fail to entertain
- Dried-up
- City in north-central Utah
- Southern U.S.
- German river
- Oxygen
- Make law

(Chemistry)

- Gradually gets into document (abbr.)
- Overhang
- Christmas and New Year's
- Indicate time and place
- Nobel Prize winner in physics
- The voice of Olaf
- Fragmented rock
- They \_\_
- Master of Philosophy
- Backside
- Landmark house in L.A.
- An act of undue intimacy

- From which a later word is derived
- Equal to 10 meters
- Neither
- Computer language
- Sacred book of Judaism
- A woolen cap of Scottish origin
- A way to dedicate
- Challenges
- British Air Aces
- One who's been canonized
- Indicate time and place
- Nobel Prize winner in physics
- The voice of Olaf
- Fragmented rock
- They \_\_
- Master of Philosophy
- Backside
- Landmark house in L.A.
- An act of undue intimacy

*No one has more self-confidence than the person who does a crossword puzzle with a pen.*

# SHELBURNE SPORTS

## CDDHS boys' basketball teams leading the District

Written By **Brian Lockhart**

Centre Dufferin District High School Royals boys' basketballs are having another good season on the court, with both the Junior and Senior teams in first place in the District 4 Standings going into the new year.

### Junior

In the Junior Division, the Royals are in first place with a 4-1 record and eight points. The team has averaged 67 points per game this season while allowing an average of only 38 points.

The team went undefeated in their first

four games of the season before taking a 59-55 loss to Westside Secondary School from Orangeville on Dec. 20 in the gym at Centre Dufferin District High School (CDDHS).

There are five high schools entered in District 4 competition this year.

Erin District High School is in second place, followed by Westside, Emmanuel Christian High School, and Wellington Heights Secondary School.

The Royals have one more home game on the schedule once play resumes after the holiday break, followed by two road games.

Only the top four teams will advance to the playoff round, with semi-final games

slated for Feb. 12 and the championship final scheduled for Feb. 14.

The Royals Junior team will be back on home court for their next game on Wednesday, Jan. 10.

Game time is 2:30 p.m.

### Senior

The Royals Senior boys team is in first place in the District standings, going undefeated after four games.

The squad has averaged 59 points per game while allowing 32 points against for the season.

With only four high schools competing in District 4 this year, the Senior division has a

six-game regular season schedule.

Norwell District Secondary School is in second place in the District, followed by Westside Secondary School and Emmanuel Christian High School.

With only four high schools competing in the District, the playoffs will have semi-final games on Feb. 12, with all four teams playing and matched up according to their final standings.

The championship final is scheduled to take place on Wednesday, Feb. 14.

The Royals will be on the road for their final two games of the regular season, facing Emmanuel Christian High School and Norwell District.

## Battle for first place as Junior C hockey moves into the New Year

Written By **Brian Lockhart**

It has been a competitive year in local Junior C hockey, as first place changed several times during the first half of the season.

Schomberg, Orillia, Alliston, and Stayner have all been in the number one spot in the North Carruthers Division of the Provincial Junior Hockey League this year, although the points gap in the top four teams is starting to get a little wider.

With the season now half-completed, there will be a big effort from all teams as they try to secure a good position in the final standings before going into the playoffs.

The Alliston Hornets are maintaining first place with 44 points and a 22-6 record. The Hornets have played a consistent game this season but also had a few surprising losses, including a devastating 6-1 home-ice loss to the Stayner Siskins on Dec. 8, which frustrated both players and fans when they couldn't score against the visitors.

The Siskins are close behind in second place with 42 points and a 21-6 record. The Stayner teams have also been consistent this season but have taken a few surprising losses that cost them some points.

The Orillia Terriers are in third place with 38 points. The Terriers had first place for a couple of weeks earlier in the season but dropped down in the standings. They have been a strong team this season, producing some good results.

In fourth place, the Schomberg Cougars had an excellent start to the season and are still putting in a good effort. They have 17 wins after 26 games and 35 points, with a good chance of moving up in the standings as they still have 16 games left in the regular season.

In the middle of the pack, the Penetang Kings, Huntsville Otters, and the Caledon Golden Hawks are separated by five points. Penetang has 26 points, Huntsville has 25, and Caledon has 21.

Either of these teams could be the spoiler during playoffs.

The Innisfil Spartans are in the number eight spot with 14 points.

In the basement, the Midland Flyers have managed only two wins in 27 games and have no chance of making the playoffs this season.

The North Carruthers Division season gets back underway today (Jan. 4) after taking a break over the holiday season.



BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

**BATTLE FOR FIRST:** The Provincial Junior Hockey League is moving into the second half of the regular schedule as teams return after taking a break over the holidays. In the North Carruthers Division, the Alliston Hornets are currently in first place. The Hornets take on the Caledon Golden Hawks at the New Tecumseth Recreation Complex on Friday, Dec. 22, during their final game of 2023. The Hornets left the ice with a 6-0 win in this game.

## Headwaters Health Care Centre announces first birth of 2024

Written By **Zachary Roman**  
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The first baby to be born at our local hospital in 2024 was a boy.

On January 1 at 8:56 p.m. parents Ashley and Dan Powell welcomed their new son Maverick, weighing six pounds and thirteen ounces, to the world.

Maverick was born at the Headwaters Health Care Centre in Orangeville.

Maverick is the Powells' third son, and he joins his two older brothers in being born at Headwaters Health Care Centre.

In 2023, there were 861 deliveries at the Headwaters Health Care Centre. Headwaters has four obstetricians with clinics adjacent to the hospital, which is

located at 140 Rolling Hills Drive.

Heather Goulter, Headwaters Health Care Centre Communications Specialist, noted each piece of equipment used by the hospital's doctors and nurses is funded by community donations through the Headwaters Health Care Foundation.

"Thanks to the generosity of our local community, this includes new equipment for Headwaters' Obstetrical program," she said.

Goulter also shared the fact that midwives registered with Midwives of Headwater Hills have hospital privileges at Headwaters and work alongside Headwaters' Obstetrical Team of physicians and nurses to offer midwife-attended hospital births.



BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

**EXHIBITION PLAY:** During the holidays, most hockey leagues were taking a break so players could relax and enjoy the holiday season. The Shelburne Wolves U11 Rep team managed to get in an exhibition game with the Georgian Shores Lightning at the Centre Dufferin Recreation Complex on Saturday, Dec. 30. Both teams played well, but the Wolves had to settle for a loss.

## Shelburne CHURCH DIRECTORY

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Pastor; Rev. Gord Horsley

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Wed: 7:30 PM • 475461 County Rd 11, Amaranth

Pastor Daniel Elliott

Calvary  
Baptist Church

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519-216-6001

### BETHEL BIBLE CHAPEL

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Sunday Services - 9:45am Lord's Supper  
10:45am Family Bible Hour, Sunday School

Chapel 519-925-3910 or 519-278-0066

www.bethelshelburne.com - All Welcome!!

### Shelburne & Primrose UNITED CHURCHES

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No Service



TRINITY UNITED CHURCH  
200 Owen Sound Street, Shelburne  
Sunday Service & Children's Ministry • 11:00am

office: 519 925 0905

email: communications@shelburneprimrose.com  
www.shelburneprimrose.com

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Thanks for shopping local! ❤️



**PLEASE RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER!**

# CLASSIFIEDS


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 Email, or call us for pricing. Classified cut-off time is 12 pm Tuesday

AUCTIONS


OBITUARIES

**HERE ARE A FEW FEATURES FROM 2023. JOIN US IN MAKING 2024 ANOTHER GREAT YEAR!**

Visit us online for more at [www.kiddfamilyauctions.com](http://www.kiddfamilyauctions.com)



**January 13th – A January Gem Coins, Art & Jewels**



**February 3rd – Tools, Tools & More Tools!**




**March 24th – Highland Farms Auction**



**April 13-14 – 2 Day - Gas & Oil, Advertising & Toys**




**May 19th – New Home Builder's Sell Off Sale**



**June 16th – Reid's Heritage Homes – Staging Blowout**




**July 27th – Comic Book Craze & Sport's Collectibles**



**August 22-26 – 4 Day Straight Shooter Sale**



**September 29th – Vintage Toys & Collectibles**



**October 13th – Annual Fall Equipment Sale**



**November 3rd – Antiques, Collectibles, Quality Household**



**December 8th – Coins, Art & Jewelry Sale**

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 519-288-2228 • Dennis@kiddfamilyauctions.com • Lyn@kiddfamilyauctions.com

**JAMES "JIM" RALPH**  
 OCTOBER 6, 1935 - DECEMBER 23, 2023

Jim passed peacefully at home on Saturday, December 23, 2023 in his 89th year. Loving husband of Denise, dear father of Cathy (Kotsopoulos) and David (Ralph), stepfather to Pam (Taylor) and David (Bishop) and survived by his brother David (Ralph) and wife Janice. Jim will be fondly remembered by his grandchildren, great-grand children, many close friends and business associates.



Jim's was a life well lived, a kind and gentle man. During his 41-year marriage, he and Denise enjoyed travelling to many destinations with friends and golf buddies, including winters down south. Above all, the fondest memories are those of much love and laughter.

We will be forever grateful to the palliative care team for their kindness and support...amazing.

Jim was loved by many and will be missed by all. At his request, no funeral service will be held, however, a celebration of life will take place in the spring.

If there is a message Jim wanted to leave with us, it was to give friends and family a big hug and tell them you love them...while you still can.

Online condolences may be made at [www.imfunerals.com](http://www.imfunerals.com).

**SAWDEN, VIVIAN J.**

Peacefully at Dufferin Oaks on Tuesday, January 2, 2024 at the age of 94. Beloved wife of the late William Sawden. Loving mother of Brian (Laverne) Sawden and Sharon (Alf) Ellis. Devoted grandmother of Dana Ellis (Shivan) and Dean Ellis (Rayne), step-grandmother of Judi Nedza (Andy) and Patrick Nigh (Rita) and great-grandmother of Ledger Ellis. She will be lovingly remembered by her many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.



Family and friends were received at the Jack & Thompson Funeral Home, Shelburne on Thursday, January 4, 2024 from 12:30 - 2:00 p.m. The funeral service followed in the funeral home chapel at 2:00 p.m. Interment took place at Shelburne Cemetery. If desired, donations to Dufferin Oaks or the Heart & Stroke Foundation would be appreciated. Online condolences and donations may be placed at [www.jackandthompsonfuneralhome.com](http://www.jackandthompsonfuneralhome.com)

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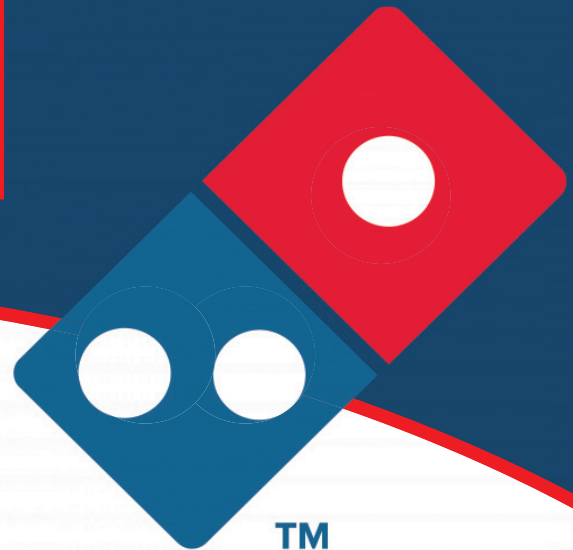


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