

# IMPROVING LIVES EVERYDAY!

LOOKING TO BUY OR SELL? CALL TODAY!

\*Not intended to solicit buyers or sellers currently under contract with a real estate brokerage



**MCCARTHY**  
— REALTY —  
BROKERAGE  
519.925.6948

MCCARTHYREALTY.CA



RYAN LATORRE\*\* MEG SCHAEFER\*\* MARG MCCARTHY\*\*  
KATIE PRINCE\*\* RAFIATANVEER\*\*  
SALES REP\*\* BROKER\*\* BROKER OF RECORD\*\*  
TOGETHER WE ARE:  
IMPROVING LIVES EVERYDAY!  
INFO@MCCARTHYREALTY.CA

# Shelburne Free Press

SHELBURNE'S NEWSPAPER SINCE 1875

www.shelburnefreepress.ca



.75(Tax) Mailing Registration No. 40005412 Thursday, January 11, 2024 Volume 150, No. 2

**COMPETITIVE COMMISSION • GREAT SERVICE**

**GO With CROWE.ca**  
REAL ESTATE

**kw HOME GROUP**  
KELLER WILLIAMS  
@gowithcrowe  
www.WeSellDufferin.ca  
www.8AcreOasis.ca

**3909 Concession 6 Clearview**  
Stunning 8 Acre Private County Home with Snowmobile and Walking trails through the forest. 4 bed 2 bath with separate side entrance, 3 Living Rooms and lots of space for multi family living!  
**\$1,199,900.00**

**#FiercelyLocal**

**Dave Crowe**  
REALTOR  
519-925-3766  
Dave@GoWithCrowe.com

**Claire Knight-Crowe**  
REALTOR  
519-993-6226  
Claire@GoWithCrowe.com

**JANUARY TO MARCH BRAKES**

It's true, we're giving you a brake.

UP TO \$100 BACK

**ROY'S SERVICE CENTRE**  
Just South of Primrose on Highway 10 • 519-925-2847

**ROY'S**  
Real Service. Real People. Real Results.

**CREWSON INSURANCE BROKERS**

Real Life Needs Real People.  
Personalized Insurance since 1985

We are proud to introduce as one of our insuring partners. **CAA**

110 Adeline Street, Shelburne  
519.925.3145 | crewsoninsurance.com



Year In Review begins on Page 2

**POLAR PLUNGE:** Residents of Grand Valley and the surrounding area plunged into the Grand River on Jan. 1 for the 33rd Annual Grand Valley Lions Polar Dip. The event raised a record amount of money for the Grand Valley Food Bank this year, with a \$5,709 donation. Read a full story on Page 6.

**Auto Care**  
complete automotive service & repair

**BUY 4** and get a \$50 Gift Card

710 Industrial Rd. Shelburne  
519-925-0044

**INAPPA AUTOPRO**

When you buy from a **small business** you're not helping a C.E.O buy a 3rd holiday home, you are helping a little girl get **dance lessons**, a little boy get his **team jersey**, a mom or dad put **food on the table**, a family **pay a mortgage** or a student **pay for college**.

Thanks for shopping local! ❤️

## Local resident to hold marathon skate fundraiser

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

Shelburne resident Steve McNeil, 62, is strapping on the skates and preparing to brave the winter cold for several hours this weekend as he gears up to skate for a cause.

McNeil will be taking part in his annual marathon skate fundraiser, called the 1926 Skate, on National Skate Day (Jan.14) at Nathan Phillip Square to raise awareness and donations for Alzheimer's.

McNeil took part in his first marathon skate in 2012, skating for 19 hours and 26 minutes in honour of his mother, Eunice, who was born in 1926 and had been battling Alzheimer's for 20 years. Following her passing in February of 2013, McNeil decided to turn his one-time marathon skate event into an annual fundraiser for Alzheimer's.

The first official 1926 Skate was held on Dec. 15 – his mother's birthday – in 2013 at Nathan Phillips Square. Since its inception, McNeil has taken part in 35 marathon skates, all of which have been 19 hours and 26 minutes long, across the country and has raised thousands of dollars for the Alzheimer's Society of Canada.

While for the last 12 years, McNeil raised donations and awareness for Alzheimer's, this year, he is expanding Marathon Skate to include all charities.

The decision to expand the event to

include other charities came from the passing of McNeil's wife of 33 years, Tina. On Jul. 1, 2022, the couple were watching the nightly news when Tina had a seizure, and after a visit to the hospital, she was diagnosed with glioblastoma, a form of brain cancer. Just 39 days after being diagnosed, Tina died at Sunnybrook Hospital in Toronto.

"My whole world perspective changed in 2022," said McNeil.

One of the last things Tina said to him was, "From bad comes good," and with that, McNeil began to think of ways to incorporate causes close to other people's hearts into his own event.

"I started the conversation with my best friend that I didn't think I could skate for just Alzheimer's anyone, and he told me, 'You get along with everyone, so why don't you skate for everyone,'" explained McNeil.

As part of this year's marathon skate, McNeil is asking people to donate \$19.26 to a charity of their choice on behalf of the skating event.

"It's a pretty cool feeling, knowing that somebody is going to help someone else through a donation to a charity and that they're going to make that donation on behalf of what I'm doing," said McNeil.

While skating for nearly 20 hours can seem intimidating for any regular person, for McNeil, it's the easiest part of the day.

"It's what I love to do and I've spent so



**SKATING WITH STAMINA:** Steve McNeil of Shelburne is taking part in his annual marathon skate fundraiser, called the 1926 Skate, on National Skate Day (Jan.14) at Nathan Phillip Square to raise awareness and donations for Alzheimer's.

much of my life with skates on my feet," he said.

McNeil will be on the ice at Nathan Phillips Square starting at midnight on Jan. 13 and will complete his 19 hours and 26 minutes of skating by 7:30 p.m. on Jan. 14.

To learn more about 1926 Skate For All Charities, visit www.1926skate.com.



**CARAVAGGIO I.D.A. DRUGS, SHELBURNE AND COMPOUNDING CENTER**

We customize medications to meet unique individual needs.  
Speak to our Compounding Pharmacist today!

519-925-2729

**BOOKING SPRING AUCTIONS NOW!**

**KEVIN** **SCOTT**  
**McArthur - Bessey Auctions**

Farm, Livestock, Estate, Home & Business Auctions with experience & consideration  
Please contact us at  
Kevin 519-942-0264 • Scott 519-843-5083  
mcarthurbessey@gmail.com  
www.theauctionadvertiser.com/KMcArthur

**GIANT TIGER**  
226 First Ave, Shelburne  
519-925-6857  
www.gianttiger.com

Mon - Fri: 8am-9pm  
Sat: 8am-7pm  
Sun: 9am-6pm

**JAGUARD OR SOLID CUSHION**  
\$7 EACH  
ASSORTED 17"X17" OR 18"X18"

**4 PACK LED BULBS**  
\$8 EACH  
ASSORTED

**CANADIAN STANDARD PILLOW**  
\$5 EACH  
20"X 28"

**FEATURED ITEM**

Expires Tuesday, January 16, 2024  
saveoneverything store  
Photos displayed may be different from actual items.

# 2023 THE YEAR IN REVIEW

## Attention Readers!

For this edition of the Shelburne Free Press, we are taking you through all the highs and lows of the last six months of 2023. The second half of our 2023 Year in Review will share some of the most significant stories impacting our readers from July to December. Without any further ado, here's a look back at the year that was!

## July

### Splash Pad at Greenwood Park opens to public

The local splash pad, known now as the Rotary Splash Pad at Greenwood Park, officially opened to the community on July 8.

"We're thrilled that the project is completed. It seems like it's been a long process, but \$300,000 takes some time to raise. Everyone in the community has been so supportive of this project, and it has brought the community together," said Sandra Gallagher, chair of the Splash Pad Committee. "It's been overwhelming, the support that we've received, and we thank everyone for participating."

For more than a decade leading up to the splash pad's inception, residents in Shelburne and the surrounding areas expressed the need for the outdoor water recreation feature.

In October 2019, members of the Splash Pad Committee met with Shelburne Town Council to present the project idea. The presentation outlined a draft of the projected design, potential locations for the splash pad, cost for the project, and fundraising.

The committee met again with council in early 2020, where the location for the splash pad was decided to be Greenwood Park. The Shelburne Rotary Club later entered into a contract with Park N Play Design to provide the equipment for the splash pad.

The splash pad was budgeted at \$700,000, with the committee raising \$300,000 of it through donations and the Town of Shelburne contributing the remaining \$400,000 and covering the annual operating costs.

Over three years, several fundraising events were held to help raise the community portion of the splash pads cost, including car washes, pizza giveaways, bottle drives, golf tournaments and cookie decorating. A number of local organizations and individual residents also made donations to help fund the project.

The Shelburne Splash Pad Committee and the Town of Shelburne celebrated breaking ground on the construction of the splash pad in January with a shovel-turning ceremony at the project's home, Greenwood Park.

"The opening of the Rotary Splash Pad at Greenwood Park this week is big news for our little community. This is something that was identified as a community priority at least as far back as 2009 and it's finally become a reality," said Shelburne Mayor Wade Mills. "Significant cred has to go to our Rotary Club and Community Splash Pad Committee partners who really led the fundraising charge and made this possible. This project really is a testament to what is possible when our community rallies around a cause and works together to realize a common vision. I am certain that this is an amenity which will be widely enjoyed for many, many years."

Since its opening, many families from the community have been out to enjoy the new outdoor recreational amenity.

While the splash pad is located within the Town of Shelburne, it has been also been noted how the new amenity provides a close

outdoor attraction for families in the communities surrounding Shelburne, including Mulmur, Melancthon and Amaranth.

The Rotary Splash Pad at Greenwood Park has several features, including an aqua cannon, five buckets, an aqua loop set, an aqua bash, and spray n wash.

Residents will be able to enjoy the local splash pad from between the hours of 9 a.m. and 8 p.m. from May to September.

### Shelburne youth headed to Germany for World Dwarf Games

A local teen will be representing Canada on the international stage as he heads to Europe to take part in a multisport competition.

Thirteen-year-old Shelburne resident Gabriel McHughan is gearing up to make his second appearance at the World Dwarf Games in Cologne, Germany later this month.

"I'm feeling good and I'm happy because I get to compete with my friends and hopefully win medals," said McHughan in a phone interview with the Shelburne Free Press.

McHughan is among 46 Canadian athletes between the ages of 7 and 62 with dwarfism, who will be representing Canada at the multisport event the end of the month. He is set to compete in 8 of the 10 events including badminton, basketball, boccia, soccer, swimming, track and field, table tennis, and volleyball.

While the number of events may seem overwhelming, the local teen has been training with friends and family members to prepare for the games.

"This year, I wanted to try new sports and also try to get more medals than last time," said McHughan.

He added that the events he is looking the most forward to is table tennis, badminton, and soccer.

McHughan first participated in the World Dwarf Games in 2017 when they were held in Guelph. At the time, he was the second youngest athlete to sign up to compete for Team Canada, and finished the games with a gold medal in floor hockey and two bronze medals in track and field.

The McHughan family was introduced to the games through being members of Little People of Ontario and the Dwarf Athletic Association of Canada, both organizations that help connect little people in Canada and Ontario. After learning about Canada's successful bid for the 2017 World Dwarf Games, McHughan was signed up to take part.

"He never has anybody like him to play sports with. He plays a lot of team sports, but he's the only little person so he has to overcome a lot more than other kids do. I wanted him to be able to experience what it was like to compete against athletes that are like him," said Crystal McHughan, Gabe's mother.

In an interview with the Free Press, she spoke about what it means to see her son compete in the World Dwarf Games again.

"He loves playing sports and to see him get to play against athletes that are like him, on an even playing field, it's amazing because they're all trying to do their best to win a medal."

The World Dwarf Games (WDG) began in 1993 with the inaugural event held in host city Chicago, Illinois and featuring 165 athletes from ten countries. The games are held every four years in an elected host city.

This year, the games are being hosted in Germany are expected to be the largest to date with over 530 athletes from 29 coun-

tries set to compete.

Despite the number of athletes and countries participating in the competition increasing over the last twenty-year, the World Dwarf Games continue to be less known compared to other multisport events such as the Olympics, Special Olympics and Paralympics.

What this means is the sponsorship dollars are not there and the athletes and their families often have to pay their own way – travel and accommodations.

The Dwarf Athletic Association of Canada (DAAC) is looking to increase public knowledge of the competition as well as raise money to help cover the costs.

"Unfortunately, it falls on the families to pay for it and we would love to have a bigger team going to Germany, but it's a lot of money," explained Crystal McHughan.

She also noted that for her and Gabe to attend the competition in Germany it cost them just shy of \$10,000.

Heading into the games the Free Press asked what Gabe's goals are while taking part in the competition.

"My first one is playing with my friends and doing the best I can. Number two is trying to win medals, number three would be having the most fun that I can have and number four is being there with my friends and family," said Gabe.

## August

### Woman, 31, killed in seven car collision in Melancthon:

A 31-year-old woman from Barrie was killed on Tuesday after a transport truck entered a construction zone in Melancthon and collided with a lineup of vehicles.

Emergency responders were called to the scene of a serious collision involving seven vehicles, one being a transport truck, on County Road 124, south of 20th Sideroad, at around 3:10 p.m. on Monday (Aug. 22).

The collisions resulted in several injuries, including one fatality. The woman, who was pronounced deceased at the scene, was travelling with her infant child, who was transported by ambulance to a local hospital. The infant was later transported by ambulance to a children's hospital with non-life-threatening injuries.

The initial investigation revealed that multiple passenger vehicles were stopped in the northbound lane of County Rd. 124 in a construction zone. A tractor-trailer entered the construction zone and collided into the rear of the lineup of vehicles.

A 67-year-old man was extricated from his vehicle by firefighters and transported to a local hospital with serious injuries. He was later air-lifted by Ornge to a Toronto area trauma centre.

A 45-year-old woman and a 28-year-old man were transported to a local hospital with non-life-threatening injuries.

County Road 124 remained closed for approximately 10 hours.

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

## September

### Dufferin Men's Shelter in crisis: Urgent funding requested to keep doors open

Dufferin County Council has declared the Dufferin Men's Shelter a 'project in difficulty' after receiving a request for emergency funding to keep their doors open for the remainder of the year.

During their meeting on Sept. 14, Dufferin County Council was presented with a business plan from Keith Ward, a Dufferin Men's Shelter board member, asking to obtain \$215,000 in urgent funding. Ward said the funding would allow the shelter to remain open through the winter and into Dufferin County municipalities' budget cycles.

"When we started, we could only guesstimate what the cost would be. No one else is doing this locally, it's not as if we have another comparator we could run out to and say 'please give us your numbers', we had to start from scratch," explained Ward. "We

have numbers from shelters elsewhere in the GTA, but they're much higher and we knew it would take some real-world experience to come up with some better numbers."

The Dufferin Men's Shelter, located at 59 Townline in Orangeville, was opened by the Choice's Youth Shelter organization in March 2023. The shelter provides local men aged 25 years and up experiencing homelessness an alternative to living on the street while connecting them with resources to transition to stable housing and gain independence. The shelter initially opened with 6 available beds but increased due to demand and now has a capacity of 20 beds.

According to Ward, the shelter, on average, sees between 10 to 13 men each night but has also seen as many as 15.

The County of Dufferin previously provided the shelter with \$163,000 in funding when it opened earlier this year.

In a Health and Human Services Committee meeting held by County Council on Aug. 28, Dufferin Men's Shelter director Erin Goodyear said the funding had been used to pay staff members' salaries and that it has no other forms of revenue. She added that the shelter only had enough funding to support continued operation to the end of September.

The shelter has fundraised to gather additional financial support, but Ward said with the shelter's uncertain future, it's been "impossible" to fundraise because there is no guarantee the service will continue.

He also noted the difficulty the shelter has faced in obtaining additional funding from other sources due to the lack of programs that cater to its demographic of solely serving men. With such limited support, the shelter relies on public funding and donations.

"Men are not an appealing population when it comes to shelters," said Ward. "There aren't programs out there that provide funding through other avenues as there are for women, for children, or for people subject to abuse."

number of councillors raised concerns about the cost of the operations, which requires a base funding of \$370,000 annually, and the possibility of additional funding requests from the group in the following months.

"There doesn't seem to be any long-term plan that isn't heavily or exclusively reliant on County funding," said Dufferin County Warden Wade Mills. "We're going to put some tax-based money at this to keep the lights on for a couple more months, but we're not really going to solve a problem."

Coun. Fred Nix, deputy mayor of Mono, raised concerns with the cost of operating the men's shelter, noting that the roughly \$152 per night cost is more expensive than putting an individual up in a motel for the night.

Coun. Darren White, also Melancthon's mayor, raised concerns about the sustainability of the men's shelter with the lack of revenue avenues within the business plan.

Dufferin County councillors also expressed concerns about what would happen should the men's shelter shut down due to a lack of funding from the County.

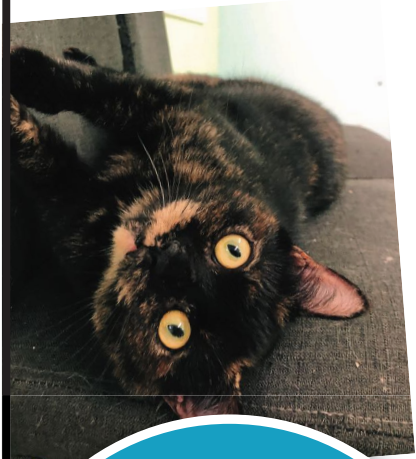
"I don't really care where the money goes, but if not this then what? There is a need for this service and it's growing," said Coun. Philip Renstch, deputy mayor of Grand Valley. "At the end of the day, this is the issue for this term so if you don't like this plan, give me a better one – I haven't heard one yet."

In response to the funding request, County Council voted to name the Dufferin Men's Shelter a 'project in difficulty.' The declaration has a limited time status and would see staff members work with the organization to provide appropriate governance and financial sustainability.

County Council approved a motion to provide funding up to \$116,000 to the Dufferin Men's Shelter based on the 'project in difficulty' model. The motion stipulates the funding would be given in monthly installments to reflect the monthly costs of operating the shelter. The motion also says a report must be given to County Council in a month to re-evaluate the funding.

Continued on Page 3

# adopt a cat



Kate is a 3 year old gal who is our greeter of the shelter. She is super friendly, silly and playful. Any time we turn around she is doing something hilarious or adorable. Kate would do best as an only cat or one of two cats as she prefers all the attention.

Kate is spayed, vaccinated, dewormed, microchipped, and flea treated.

Adoption fee: \$275

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.

Kate

**FERAL CAT RESCUE INC.**  
519-278-0707

## NEED A



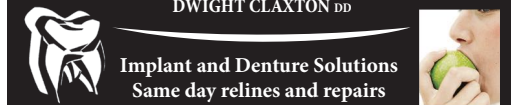
BODY SHOP?



GIVE US A CALL  
**519-941-8254**  
FIND US ONLINE  
**www.fixauto.com**  
199 C-Line, Orangeville  
(Across from the local OPP station)

## CLAXTON DENTURE CLINIC

DWIGHT CLAXTON D.D.



Implant and Denture Solutions  
Same day relines and repairs

**EAT • LAUGH • SMILE**

NO REFERRALS NECESSARY

FREE CONSULTATION

ELECTRONIC CLAIMS PROCESSING

121 FIRST STREET UNIT 2 A, ORANGEVILLE

**519-941-9510**

141 MAIN STREET WEST, SHELBURNE

**519-925-9511**

# 2023 THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Continued from Page 2

## October

### Upper Grand District School Board exploring potential reshuffling of students from high capacity schools

The Upper Grand District School Board (UGDSB) is exploring the plausibility of moving students from high-capacity elementary schools to ones with more enrolment space.

In a press release issued on Monday (Oct. 23), the school board said it would be conducting a boundary review in order to address the accommodation pressures at Primrose Elementary School in Mulmur.

The rural school, which is serviced by a private well and septic system, has an operating capacity of 377 pupil spaces. In recent years, Primrose Elementary has experienced an increase in enrolment, and the current number of students enrolled in the school is approximately 580.

During a regular meeting in July, Shelburne Town Council received a report from the school board regarding their draft plan for long-term accommodation at schools.

According to the report, the proposed school to accommodate the boundary review, Centennial Hylands Elementary School, has an enrolment of 413 students with the capacity to accommodate a total of 541 students.

While looking at the capacity of the elementary schools, Shelburne councillors at the July meeting also urged the school board to investigate a boundary review of Centre Dufferin District High School, particularly regarding students from Grand Valley.

"It's an awfully long way to be bussing students from Grand Valley to Shelburne, and I know traditionally it's been the case because there are limited options for secondary schools, but in my humble opinion that's one area where I think the school board should be looking at a boundary adjustment," said Shelburne Mayor Wade Mills.

Centre Dufferin District High School has a capacity of 798 students, and the school currently has 853 students enrolled. The enrolment at the high school is projected to grow to 895 by 2025 and 1,140 by 2030.

"This council in the last term has had a lot of complaints come to it that were not council related complaints due to the over crowding at the high school," said Coun. Walter Benotto. "When it's crowded things erupt, problems start existing and parents turn around and who do they blame - us - and we have no control over it."

A boundary review is a staff process that allows the school board to review a variety of options for resolving issues with overcapacity and underutilized schools or when determining a new school boundary.

Any approved changes to the school boundaries are expected to be implemented for the 2024-2025 school year.

## November

### Shelburne approves five per cent tax hike for 2024

Shelburne Town Council has approved the adoption of the 2024 Budget, which will see a five 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 2024 budget for the public during Town Council's regular meeting on Monday (Nov. 13).

"In the inflationary context with which we're in and everything else going on around us, I don't think a 5 per cent rate increase is unreasonable particularly when you look at

the number of things that we're undertaking next year; it's a fairly ambitious year and a fairly moderate increase to go with it," said Shelburne Mayor Wade Mills.

The five per cent increase in the tax rate will allow for an overall tax levy increase of nine per cent in tax dollars.

The estimated amount to be raised by taxation for 2024 is nearly \$9.9 million, calculated by taking the total operating expenses of \$12.9 million for 2023 and subtracting the revenues of just \$3 million.

The total estimate for the 2024 general operating expenses of \$12,944,252 is split up amongst eight expenditures: police (\$3,281,670); operations and transit (\$2,732,898); general government and town hall (\$2,739,043); recreation and culture (\$1,471,686); planning and development (1,326,688); fire protection (\$726,969); council and committees (\$195,720); and other protective services (\$469,578).

Some of the increase in expenses is the result of three additional staff positions in the town, which include a recreation programs special events coordinator, an operations analyst, and a utilities labourer. The town has also budgeted to purchase a new plow truck and parks and recreation pickup truck as well as increase reserve transfers to assist long-term capital assets.

Council was able to cut down the tax rate increase by nearly one per cent with the removal of the weekend transit service from the 2024 budget, which was estimated to cost \$91,200.

The homeowner tax impact of a five per cent increase for the 2024 budget, based on an average single-family home assessment of \$335,366, amounts to an additional \$132 annually or \$11 per month on the town portion for a total of \$2,769.83 for the year.

The 2024 budget addresses a number of capital projects, including \$101,311 for upgrades to the exterior of the Town Hall and a new server; \$2,891,099 for connecting link paving, roads needs, drainage cleanout and the cemetery expansion; \$1,415,000 to spend on new equipment and workshop expansion project; and \$4,043,967 to go towards projects identified in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

Nearly half of the capital projects for the 2024 budget will be focused on parks and recreation, leading to the financial plan being dubbed "the year of the park".

The 2024 budget totals \$8,451,377 for the listed capital projects.

Water and Sewer capital projects total just over \$2.5 million for 2024. The new projects associated with water include changes to Well #1 and developing a new Well #9, while the sewer capital project consists of the continued engineering design for the waste pollution control plant.

As part of the 2024 budget, it was suggested that Council use \$300,000 from the tax stabilization reserve to help lower the tax levy, which would leave the tax stabilization reserve with a total of \$214,299.27. The budget also recommended using \$150,000 from the 2023 estimated surplus in the reserve. The tax stabilization reserve is set up to help offset tax hikes during financially challenging years.

Shelburne Town Council unanimously approved the 5 per cent tax rate increase for the 2024 budget.

### Residents raise concerns about Strada Aggregate Gravel Pit at public meeting

Residents living close to the Strada Aggregate gravel pit in Melancthon had the oppor-

tunity to bring forward their questions and concerns on a wellness program created to protect their water quality and quantity.

Strada Aggregate hosted the public information session on Nov. 9 at the Horning's Mills Community Hall in Melancthon. The meeting was intended to advise property owners with wells and natural features within a three-kilometre radius of the gravel pit about the logistics of the WELLness Check Program.

"The turnout was great. The more people and the more questions, the better we can understand the concerns of the community and the better we can address those concerns," said Kevin Powers, community liaison for Strada Aggregate. "Meetings like this one are very important to us before we make our application, so that we can make our application better and ensure that it meets the needs of the people."

The WELLness Check Program is one of the key schedules in an agreement signed by North Dufferin Agricultural and Community Taskforce (NDACT) and Strada Aggregate back in June. The program will assist with understanding existing environmental conditions, monitoring those conditions, and ensuring the proposed quarry if approved for a licence, will have no adverse effects on the surrounding water wells and the natural environment. The program will also see that should there be an impact to a well or natural feature, Strada would finance solutions.

By participating in the program, residents will give Strada Aggregate a baseline to reference the quality and quantity of their water if, in the future, there are any impacts brought on by quarrying below the water table.

One of the biggest concerns raised by residents during the information session was the fact that many of them had not been included in the "target participation area", while their neighbours had been.

"We looked at publicly available water wells records and assessed where wells were installed based on those records. Some properties are shown to be installed in the same unit that we would potentially be taking water from on our property. There's the consideration that they could be linked and the potential impact for those," explained hydrologist Alicia Kimberley.

Those same residents also raised concerns about having to cover the costs to fix their wells or natural features, even if Strada is at fault.

"Even if you do not sign up for the program, if there is a problem with your well and it is the fault of Strada because of its quarry operation, Strada is obliged by this agreement to immediately provide you with a continuous source of water until the reason is discovered. If the reason is Strada, they are on the hook for the cost of everything, event finding you a new source of water," said Powers.

Speaking with the Free Press about the concerns raised by residents during the meeting, Powers said,

"Any concern is a fair concern, and we're happy to listen to them. A lot of people want to be involved in this program, and we're going to work with NDACT to determine whether or not to involve them more, but the more people that are involved, the better.

Strada Aggregate initially brought forward a presentation to Melancthon council in October of 2021, which noted their intention to submit an application for a proposed quarry. The Strada Aggregate quarry was

proposed to be constructed in an existing gravel pit, located in the area of 4th Line and County Rd. 17 in Melancthon, and designed to extract 2 million tonnes of aggregate while extending below the water table.

In June, NDACT and Strada Aggregate signed an agreement that gave NDACT input and decision-making into Strada's quarry application before being submitted. As part of the agreement, NDACT will not oppose the application unless the science shows the quarry could harm the environment.

The agreement between the grassroots organization and the aggregate company has been described as unprecedented by NDACT.

## December

### Melancthon Mayor elected as 147th Warden of Dufferin County

Dufferin County Council will be guided by knowing hands for the upcoming year with former Warden Darren White elected to lead council for 2024.

White was elected to the position, which he will hold for the 2024 term, during a County Council meeting last Thursday (Dec. 15). He is taking over the role from Shelburne Mayor Wade Mills, who chose to step back from the role after holding the position for the last two years.

The Warden is the head of Dufferin County Council and acts as the chief executive officer (CEO) for the County, leading council meetings, and providing representation at functions.

Concluding his election as the 147th Warden of Dufferin County, White was handed the floor to read the oath of office.

"It's certainly an honour to be nominated to fill this very important role," said White.

Speaking with the Free Press, White said one of the biggest areas of focus for the council will be addressing the demands of inflation.

"We have to find new innovative ways to deal with this. We can't sit back and wait for other people to help us because clearly, they're not coming. So, we have to do it ourselves. We have to look at best practices of other municipalities and other areas to find ways to fix things for everybody, so we can really be an equitable and just society."

The 2024 term will count as the fifth time White has served as Warden of Dufferin County. He was first elected to the position in 2017 and went on to serve as Warden from 2019 to 2021. Following the 2021 term, White chose not to seek re-election.

"We're going to be facing some pretty critical challenges over the next 12 months, and Darren certainly has experience in the role and a proven track record. I don't think there's anybody that would question his ability to fulfill this role and to do it well, so I felt very comfortable with somebody of his level of experience and capabilities to lead us forward over the next 12 months," said Mills, who nominated White for the position.

During the meeting, four chairs were selected to lead the standing committees of County Council.

Orangeville Deputy Mayor Todd Taylor was selected as chair on the Infrastructure and Environmental Services Committee, Mono Mayor John Creelman will again lead the General Government Services Committee, Orangeville Mayor Lisa Post will oversee the Health and Human Services Committee, and Mulmur Mayor Janet Horner will continue as chair of the Community Development and Tourism Committee.

the 6th annual  
**SHELBURNE HEALTH & WELLNESS EXPO**  
**SATURDAY JANUARY 20 2024**  
**10AM TO 3PM**  
 Centre Dufferin District High School  
 150 Fourth Avenue, Shelburne  
**FREE ADMISSION**  
**VENDOR FAIR | FREE WORKSHOPS**  
 THANK YOU TO OUR MEDIA SPONSORS

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND A COMPLETE LIST OF VENDORS  
 theshwe.com | Shelburne Health and Wellness Expo | @theshwe

**INTEREST FREE PAYMENT PLANS ON HEARING AIDS** **OFFER EXTENDED**

<b>3 MONTH PLAN INTEREST-FREE</b>	Payments monthly for the next 2 months.
<b>6 MONTH PLAN INTEREST-FREE</b>	Payments monthly for the next 5 months. *One-time \$59 administration fee waived
<b>12 MONTH PLAN INTEREST-FREE</b>	Payments monthly for the next 2 months. *One-time \$129 administration fee waived

First payment due on the day of the fitting, with subsequent monthly payments for the remainder of the term. \*Fees waived until Jan 31st, 2024.

**hear right canada**  
 Quality Hearing Care for Less  
 North Dufferin Wellness Centre  
 712 Main St. E., Unit 101, Shelburne  
**519-925-1215** [hearrightcanada.ca](http://hearrightcanada.ca)



Shelburne's Newspaper Since 1875
109 Adeline Street, Shelburne, ON L9V 3J8
519-925-2832 Fax: 519-925-5500
Email: shelburnefreepress@gmail.com

Simcoe York Group of Newspapers
A Division of London Publishing
Your Community Newspapers

GENERAL MANAGER: Doug Rowe
EDITOR: Sam Odrowski
PRODUCTION MANAGER: John Speziali
REPORTER: Paula Brown
SPORTS REPORTER: Brian Lockhart
SALES: Debbie Freeman, Cathy Walls, Heather Lawr
OFFICE MANAGER: Debbie Freeman
CIRCULATION MANAGER: Cephise Cuming



Funded by the Government of Canada



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

All original editorial and advertising material used in this newspaper remains the property of Simcoe-York Group of Newspapers and may not be reproduced without written permission.

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

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

Inherent liability

Near where I grew up, there was a large park with several hills leading off from the main parking lot.

It wasn't a public park, it was started and maintained by a local service group, but it was open to the public at all times.

During the winter, the hills were the most popular tobogganing spot in town. Mostly because the city really didn't have any other hills.

It was a great spot. The best run was when you could make it down the hill, across the great lawn, and make it all the way out onto the ice-covered pond.

If you were lucky, the ice was thick enough to hold your weight. On other days, you might crash through and get wet.

On a good snowy day, the park was packed with people launching toboggans and sleds down the hills.

Occasionally, someone would get hurt - it happens. If you're going to slide down a hill on an object with no method of steering, no brakes, and no roll cage, eventually, someone will collide with another sled, hit a tree, or flip over and do a face plant.

When you're a kid, you are ready to take that risk.

A few years ago, the park posted 'no tobog-

ganing' signs. A couple of years later, they started planting shrubs and trees on the hills so no one could use them for sledding.

The reason - insurance purposes. They were worried that if anyone got hurt, they could sue the organization that ran the park.

No doubt, it was a lawyer or someone involved in the insurance business who told them of this risk.

However, no one ever suggested that the liability of getting hurt should lie with the person taking the risk and sledding down the hill, not with the association, which just happened to operate a park with a hill.

There are all sorts of risks involved whenever you attend an event or participate in an activity.

If you like to go skiing, you are fully aware of the risks involved, which could include a fatal collision - it happens every season. If you like to attend motorsports, there is an inherent danger of a wheel coming off a race car and entering the stands and injuring or killing someone - I've seen that happen.

If you want to try jumping out of a perfectly good airplane with a parachute, you realize it is an inherently dangerous thing to do, and there is a very real risk of injury or death.

But people do all these activities anyway.

That's what makes life fun and exciting.

While I'm sure many of these activities have insurance policies of some kind, most warn you when you enter the facility that there is an inherent risk of danger, and they will assume no responsibility if you make a wrong turn on the slopes and hit a tree.

Having an insurance policy is something you may need but hopefully never use. It is common sense to have home insurance, car insurance, and possibly life insurance, depending on your current place in life.

However, the insurance companies now have it drilled into the public perception that you need to have insurance of some kind for everything you do.

Somehow, they have established that someone else is always responsible for your actions, and everyone must be insured against that.

You can't hold any kind of event without having some insurance coverage.

I've seen small markets insist individual vendors must be insured. But what is your coverage protecting you from?

If you're a vendor selling your homemade soap at a booth at a home show, what is the inherent liability you have to be protected from? If a person trips over their own shoelace in front of your booth and cracks their head on

the pavement, how is that your fault?

Yet people are told they need insurance coverage for this.

Several years ago, I was supposed to do a photoshoot from an aircraft for the company I was working for. A few days before the shoot, it was cancelled due to 'insurance purposes.'

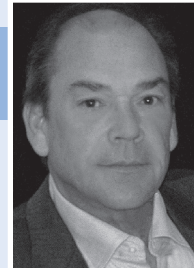
I wasn't too happy about it being cancelled, so at our next manager meeting, I asked what had happened.

When they said 'insurance purposes', I asked for clarification on that. No one could provide a reason, explanation, or reasonable conclusion as to what 'insurance purposes' really meant. They didn't know, yet they all bought into the concept that if you do something, you must be insured.

This is a great business model for the insurance companies.

They have created a system where people or organizations must pay premiums for policies where there is no actual risk, and the insurance companies know they won't ever have to pay on a claim.

Try that policy on customers in your own small company and see what happens.



BRIAN LOCKHART FROM THE SECOND ROW

Government bureaucracy is out of control and Canadians are paying the price

If you asked most Canadians if this country needs more bureaucrats, they'd probably say no.

Unfortunately, Canada's bureaucracy continues to mushroom in size, regulating and micro-managing more and more aspects related to how we live and work.

New figures published last week by the Public Service Commission of Canada show that the federal public service now stands at about 275,000 employees - an astounding 40 per cent increase from a decade ago - and that doesn't include another 85,000 civil servants working in affiliated government agencies.

If you then add in all of the civil servants working for provincial, regional and municipal governments across Canada, the total number of government employees in this country is around four million.

Why is that a problem?

It's a problem for two reasons. The first is that more bureaucrats equals more government spending - and that, in turn, leads to bigger deficits and more taxes.

But the other problem, which is perhaps even worse, is that more bureaucrats also means more regulations, permits and licenses. All of this red tape is strangling economic growth and progress, particularly for small business, and is one of the major reasons why our living standards are falling.

When I was CEO of Magna International Inc., I could always tell if one of our factories was struggling financially by the number of white-collar workers in the offices above

the factory floor. If you've got way too much administration up top, it doesn't matter how hard the employees on the factory floor work, your business simply won't be profitable. The same principle holds true for countries.

The fact is, we can't continue hiring more and more government workers year after year.

Government spending as a percentage of national GDP, or Gross Domestic Product, is closing in on 50 per cent. Back in the 1950s, when Canada's economy was booming, government spending as a percentage of GDP was just under 20 per cent. We had less government and a higher standard of living.

The government approach to small business in Canada back in the 1950s and 60s was also much more conducive to creating jobs and growth. Government would do whatever it could to get businesses up and running. Today, however, it seems that governments put more of their time and energy into hampering and blocking business.

Canadians are forking over more and more of their paycheques to finance a sprawling government bureaucracy that increasingly does not enhance the quality of our lives. On the contrary, it makes our daily lives more complicated and costly, and it makes operating a small business more difficult.

So, what's the answer?

We need to return to some bedrock economic principles that will get our country back on a solid economic footing - principles like not spending more than we take in, eliminating

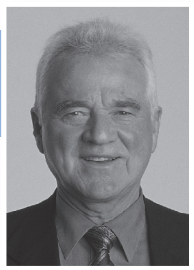
our debt, and unleashing small business, the engine of our economy.

The best way to do that is through the adoption of a national economic charter of rights and responsibilities.

Think about this: there are approximately one million small businesses in Canada. If we dramatically reduced the mountain of regulations and red tape holding them back, these

businesses would be free to expand and grow.

And if every small business in Canada hired just one single additional employee, we could create a million new jobs overnight. We would ignite economic growth on a scale this country hasn't seen in many decades.



FRANK STRONACH CREATING AN ECONOMIC CHARTER OF RIGHTS



WE HOPE YOU ENJOY READING THE RECREATION GUIDE. To reserve your spot in the Spring/Summer 2024 Edition, please contact Debbie Freeman

Published By: LP LONDON PUBLISHING CORP. 519.925.2832 debbie@simcoeyorkprinting.com deb.freeman@hotmail.com

Shelburne Free Press SUBSCRIBE NOW! Keep up with what's happening in your community. Have your community news delivered right to your home! 1 year = \$51.00 plus HST (\$53.55) 2 years = \$90.00 plus HST (\$94.50) 3 years = \$125.00 plus HST (\$131.25) We hope you enjoy your complimentary copy of our Newspaper. The charge is to cover postage. YES, I would like to subscribe to, or renew my subscription to: The Shelburne Free Press

# Dufferin OPP responds to a house fire in Shelburne

Dufferin OPP are asking for the public's assistance regarding a house fire in 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 structure 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.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

# Fatal horse and buggy collision occurs in Melancthon

Members of the Dufferin Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) along with Dufferin County EMS, and Fire Services attended a serious collision involving a passenger vehicle and horse and buggy in the Township of Melancthon. On Friday, January 5, 2024, shortly after 7:00 p.m., officers attended County Road 9 at 2nd Line in Melancthon for the report of a

serious collision involving a sedan and single horse and buggy. As a result of the collision, the driver of the buggy, a 21-year-old, male from Melancthon was transported to a local area hospital. The male was later transported by ambulance to a Toronto area trauma centre with life-threatening-injuries, where he sadly succumbed to his injuries.

A veterinarian attended the scene to provide care to the horse who received extensive injuries. The male driver of the sedan fled the scene however officers located the male a short time later. The investigation is ongoing with charges pending. Charges will be reported at a later date. County Road 9 remained closed for sev-

eral hours. The Traffic Collision Investigation (TCI) team of the OPP was brought in to investigate. The investigation is continuing and anyone who may have witnessed the collision is asked to contact the Dufferin OPP 1-888-310-1122. If you witnessed the collision and want to speak to Caledon/Dufferin Victim Services, they can be reached at 905-951-3838.

# Dufferin OPP investigating a theft of recreational trailer

Members of the Dufferin Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) are currently investigating a theft of a recreational trailer from a storage facility in the Town of Shelburne. On January 8, 2024, Dufferin OPP received a call for service at a storage facility on Victoria Street in Shelburne for the theft of a recre-

ational trailer. The complainant advised that their 2021 black Dodge Ram TRX, was just stolen from their driveway. Officers secured video surveillance where the suspect vehicle is observed entering the compound shortly after 6:00 a.m., on January 8 and then exiting approximately forty minutes later. The suspect vehicle is described as a Ford

F250 or something similar, Extended cab, four doors, tan, or gold in colour. A photo of the suspect vehicle has been attached to this release. The stolen trailer is described as a 2020 Alpha Wolf 26D Camping Trailer, white in colour, values at approximately \$41,000. If you have any information or video sur-

veillance footage in relation to this theft, please call the Dufferin OPP Detachment at (519) 942-1711 or 1-888-310-1122. You can also provide information anonymously by contacting Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or submit your information online at <https://ontariocrimestoppers.ca/>.

# Area business owner speaks out after break and enter

Written By Paula Brown  
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

An Orangeville business owner is looking to help other business owners avoid becoming the victims of crime after her store was broken into during the first weekend of the year.

Mistilee Desrosier is the owner of Mad Clear Out, a liquidation store located at 210 Broadway in Orangeville, that was broken into on the morning of Jan. 6.

Desrosier discovered the break-in after arriving at work later that day, around 9:30 a.m., and noticing the window had been smashed in with a brick. Security footage from inside the business shows a man entering the store just before 6:30 a.m. by smashing the front door with a brick and proceeding to take Desrosier's cash register.

The estimated cost of damage, excluding the repairs needed to the exterior door, is roughly \$1,800, which includes a \$1,600 cash register and \$200 cash that was in the register.

Desrosier opened her liquidation store in October of 2022 after moving to the Orangeville community and being laid off from her job.

The goal of opening the store was to provide residents with a shopping option with discounted prices, particularly during financially difficult times. The store sells a variety of items, from clothing to small appliances, toys, home décor, automotive, and beauty products.

"I work very hard to provide for my family, let alone help other people save money as well, because I know times are tough," said Desrosier. "I felt like a victim. I had been robbed of my pride and of my livelihood – it felt violating."

By sharing her story, Desrosier said she hopes she can help other businesses prevent their own break-ins.

"This can happen to anybody, so it's important for businesses to be aware, to better protect themselves," she said.

The Dufferin OPP detachment has shared some tips for businesses to think about when protecting and preventing possible break-ins.

### Deterrence

The safest property is one that doesn't attract criminals in the first place. To avoid attracting burglars, make sure that:

- Views of your property are as unobscured as possible, paying particular attention to landscaping
- Facilitate night-time surveillance by using lighting to draw attention to windows and doors that can be observed from the street or other active areas
- "Weapons of opportunity" such as small garden rocks or throwable objects are not lying about your property

### Detection

One of the most common reasons why security fails is that there is little chance of detection, or it occurs too late. For alarm systems to be effective, they should:

- Be encountered at the first and basic level of security (window or door lock)
- Detect and perimeter violation as it occurs and not afterwards (motion sensors used as a backup only)
- Eliminate the delay on the alarm condition at all entrance points
- Draw attention to the burglar through the use of audible sound devices and flash strobe lights
- Be tamper-resistant, including external signalling devices and phone lines

- Use technology that effectively manages false alarms without sacrificing security
- Be monitored by a remote security station

### Delay

Consider these factors before adding security to the perimeter of your property:

- The cost associated with properly securing the perimeter of your property

can be great as it is directly proportional to size

- The security of your perimeter is only as good as its weakest point
- Windows, doors, lock frames, and even roofs are all common entry points
- Bars will only slow down burglars who attack windows and should always be applied after the first layer of security with glass break sensors.



**FEB 8th TO 25th**

Doris & Ivy  
in the Home

feel-good  
comedy  
by  
**Norm Foster**





Norm Foster at his hilarious best!!

Call 519-942-3423 - OR -  
Visit [www.theatreorangeville.ca](http://www.theatreorangeville.ca) for tickets

## CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
14			15					16					
17			18					19					
20			21				22						
23						24	25				26	27	
		28				29				30			
31	32					33		34	35	36		37	
38				39	40						41		
42				43					44	45			
46		47	48					49		50			
51				52	53	54				55		56	57
		58							59				
60	61						62	63			64		
65						66					67		
68						69					70		

### CLUES ACROSS

- Defensive nuclear weapon
- Moved back and forth
- One-time coach of the Cowboys
- Last letter
- Cause to become less intense
- Genus of tree bugs
- Body art
- Romance novelist
- Be filled with love for
- City
- Make vivid
- Horses
- Mauna \_\_, Hawaiian volcano
- Atomic #18
- Shortly
- A type of prejudice
- Whirls
- Six
- Old world, new
- \_\_ Hess, oil company

- Talk
- Not off
- Begets
- Cars need them
- Computing architecture (abbr.)
- Of I
- Journalist, activist
- Wells
- Takes apart
- Lists
- Positively charged electrode
- Hard, colorless compound
- Inflammation of the peritoneum
- Trent Reznor's band
- Simply dry fruit
- "Ivanhoe" author
- Google certification
- French commune
- Medieval circuit courts
- Soviet Socialist Republic

- Indigenous people of Mexico
- Dietary supplement
- Having a particular sheen or luster
- Views
- Academic Bill of Rights
- Automobile
- When you anticipate arriving
- Beef or chicken intestine
- Conspiracy
- Blood disorder
- Long-time NBAer Shawn
- Time zone
- US, Latin America, Canada belong to
- Upton Sinclair novel
- What a cow does
- Cavalry-sword
- Ancient Greek war galley
- Stars
- Rebukes

- Billion year periods
- Some are in a bottle
- Tears down
- Lethal dose
- Humorists
- Midwestern US state (abbr.)
- Frameworks
- Rocker Billy
- More thin
- Habitual repetitions
- State of fuss
- Uneasy
- Chemical compounds
- More cognizant of reality
- A place to build
- Exclamation that denotes disgust
- Supplement with difficulty
- Very slick
- Hill or rocky peak

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

# Dufferin County recognizes National Alzheimer's Awareness Month this January with pair of events

Written By SAM ODROWSKI

Navigating a dementia diagnosis can be challenging.

To help, the Alzheimer Society of Dufferin County connects people living with dementia and their caregivers to support, knowledge, and a sense of community so they don't feel like they're facing the illness alone.

The organization hopes to be local residents' first stop when they find out that they or a loved one has been diagnosed with dementia.

The Alzheimer Society of Dufferin County provides access to dementia-friendly expertise and resources to help people feel understood and supported. They can also access education, caregiver support groups, Persons Living with Support Groups, and partnership education.

With January being National Alzheimer's Awareness Month, the local Alzheimer Society is working to enhance the community's understanding of the disease while fundraising for their programs.

A flag raising was held in Orangeville at Town Hall on Wednesday (Jan. 10) to mark the launch of National Alzheimer Awareness



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**SKATE & SCONES:** The Alder Recreation Centre will feature the Alzheimer Society's annual Skate & Scones event on Sunday, Jan. 14, starting at 1:30 p.m. The cost to skate is \$5 per person and all the money raised will help support the Alzheimer Society of Dufferin County.

Month, with local dignitaries in attendance.

Later this week, the community is invited to the Alzheimer Society's annual Skate & Scones event. It takes place on Sunday, Jan. 14, at the Alder Arena, starting at 1:30 p.m.

The cost is \$5 per person, with proceeds benefiting the local Alzheimer's Society directly.

"Please mark your calendars and save the dates so together we can become a demen-

tia friendly community," said the Alzheimer Society of Dufferin County in a press release.

More than half a million Canadians live with dementia today, and that number is expected to reach 1.7 million by 2050. The Alzheimer Society continues to work to support people living with dementia so their needs are met early in and throughout their journey.

The Alzheimer Society's First Link program offers services and information to people living with Alzheimer's or other forms of dementia, and caregivers. First Link includes information about risk reduction, living well with dementia, the latest research and advocacy efforts, and referrals to programs to help you manage the challenges that dementia can present.

"The goal of the Alzheimer Society's First Link® program is to ensure that people living with dementia and care partners have the right support and information, from the time of an initial diagnosis and throughout the progression of the disease," said the Alzheimer Society of Dufferin County in a press release.

To get connected to support, contact the local Alzheimer Society today at 519-941-1221 or visit [www.alzheimer.ca/FirstLink](http://www.alzheimer.ca/FirstLink).

## Polar Dip raises record amount for Grand Valley Food Bank

Written By Sam Odrowski

Over 50 brave souls took the plunge into the freezing Grand River to ring in the new year on Jan. 1.

And those participants ensured that the Grand Valley Lions 33rd Annual Polar Dip saw a record amount of money raised, with \$5,709 going to the Grand Valley Food Bank.

"It was an excellent day," said Randy McClelland, Lion Club member who helps organize the annual event. "There was no ice on the river this year and everybody seemed to have a good time."

With 51 people registered to take part in the

polar dip, McClelland said there's a growing number of dippers participating each year. In particular, there have been more young people joining in on the New Year's Day fun.

"They come back, and they're repeating it each year. They see that it's a fun event, and raises some money for a good cause," McClelland noted.

Last year was the first polar dip since 2020 due to the pandemic. The event had 48 participants and raised \$5,337.50 for the Grand Valley Food Bank.

Prior to the pandemic, around 30-40 people would participate.

McClelland said he'd like to thank the many

volunteers and community members contributing to the polar dip's success each year.

"We'd like to thank our community for supporting it. Obviously, it's not just the Lions Club doing it; it's a whole community that is working hard to make it happen," he noted.

The Grand Valley Lions Club holds several fundraisers throughout the year to enable their charitable donations to other not-for-profits like the Little Lions Learn to Skate program, Grand Valley 85 Air Cadets Squadron, Grand Valley Food Bank, and Headwaters Health Care Centre.

Coming up next is the Grand Valley Lions Krispy Kreme donut fundraiser, with prepaid

orders being accepted up until Jan. 21. The glazed donuts are \$12 for a dozen and can be reserved by emailing [randymcc@rogers.com](mailto:randymcc@rogers.com). Pick-up is at the Grand Valley Arena's south entrance at 90 Main St. N, Grand Valley, from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Jan. 25.

Proceeds from the donut fundraiser will go towards the Grand Valley Air Cadets and the Grand Valley Lions Club. For more information, call McClelland at 519-943-5471.

Looking further ahead, the Grand Valley Lions Annual Duck Race is taking place on May 25. Tickets will launch in the spring and be available at the Orangeville Lions Home Show from Apr. 5 to 7.

## Canicross comes to Dufferin County thanks to local athlete

Written By Paula Brown  
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The bond between a dog and their owner is a special one, and one local runner is hoping to help strengthen that connection through a growing outdoor sport.

Mono resident Shawn Sobon is the founder of Canadian Canicross Sports, an organization that looks to educate, promote, and develop racing events surrounding the sport of canicross.

Canicross is known in the running world as the sport of cross-country running with dogs. Runners utilize hands-free running equipment consisting of a belt and harness that allows the dog to run in front and pull them along, while also giving verbal commands for direction and speed.

An avid runner for more than a decade, Sobon first became acquainted with canicross in 2018 after adopting his family dog – Piper.

"When we got Piper, I had decided to bring her on runs with me, and it was through my

contacts in the running world that I learned about the sport of canicross," explained Sobon. "The thing I noticed immediately was the connection I had with my dog while we were running. It wasn't just me running with her or her with me; we were working as a team, and it was a really special experience."

Wanting to share a similar experience with other runners and their dogs, Sobon began looking at ways of promoting the sport and teaching people about it.

"The bond that we were creating, through doing the sport together, was unlike any bond I'd experienced with any dog I've had in my life," added Sobon.

His first step in sharing the sport came in 2021 with the launch of a six-week program teaching runners and their dogs the basics of canicross, including using verbal commands, special equipment, and healthy running practices.

He then went on to develop a series of racing events for runners and their dogs to take part in locally.

The first Canadian Canicross Sports race, called the Trails and Tails Classic, was held in November 2022 at the Mansfield Outdoors Centre. The event included a five-kilometre and 10-kilometre race distance as well as a fun run for those without special canicross equipment to participate.

Off the success of the first event, Sobon launched a second race in the spring of 2023 at Monora Park in Orangeville called the Muddy Paw.

The newest addition to the racing series is the Snowy Paws Canicross Race, which will be held at 9 a.m. on Saturday (Jan. 14) at Island Lake in Orangeville. The race will consist of the same distance format as the previous Canadian Canicross Sports races.

Each Canadian Canicross Sports race looks to make a charitable contribution to a dog-related cause. The Snowy Paws race will be making a donation to the Friends of Island Lake to help benefit the Island Lake Conservation Area.

Spectators are encouraged to attend the

canicross race at Island Lake to show their support for the two-legged and four-legged teammates and to learn more about the sport.

While participation in the local canicross races has been fairly small, with an average of 50 to 60 people per race, Sobon noted that the demand for the sport is there, with attendees from across the province, out of province, and even out of the country, travelling to participate in the events.

"The dedication of people who run with their dogs is pretty remarkable," said Sobon.

Speaking with the Free Press, Sobon added the benefits of canicross for both humans and dogs.

"Canicross has completely changed the way I look at running. Before, I was always focused on how far I was running, but now it's really all about my dog and their enjoyments. The days where I don't feel motivated to get out and run, what gets me out the door is my responsibility and dedication to my dog."

## Local hospital gets \$500k for Smart Headwaters campaign

Written By SAM ODROWSKI

A local family-owned business, e. Hofmann Plastics Inc., has pledged \$500,000 in support of Headwaters Health Care Foundation's Smart Headwaters campaign.

With this gift, the Foundation said it's proud to announce it has raised \$14 million to date

and is well on its way to achieving our \$18 million goal for Smart Headwaters.

These funds are being used to purchase a new MRI machine and other vital medical technology to enhance diagnostic capabilities, while elevating patient care.

"We're a family-owned company, so we truly understand the importance of com-

munity and supporting one another. It's our honor to be able to provide our community such great support through the Smart Headwaters campaign. We recognize the necessity of diagnostic imaging and are thrilled to make such testing more accessible for the residents of Dufferin-Caledon and surrounding areas," said the Kalia family (Paul, Sameer, and Vikram), owners of e. Hofmann Plastics Inc.

The \$500,000 donation will help to enhance the level of health care service that can be provided locally, and Headwaters Health Care

Foundation CEO, K.C. Carruthers noted his gratitude for the boost in funding.

"Hospital care depends on contributions and commitments from every corner of our community. We are so thrilled to see such a major investment in health care from a local Orangeville business. The Kalia family truly recognize the importance of ensuring exceptional care, close to home. Thank you, Paul, Sameer & Vikram Kalia, for your kind support of our community and our hospital," said Carruthers.

## Date set for inquest into Terry Baker's death

Written By Paula Brown  
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

A new date has been set for an inquest into the 2016 death of Terry Baker, an inmate who was serving a life sentence for her role in the torture and murder of an Orangeville teen, following months of delays.

Dr. Karen Schiff, the regional supervising coroner for the west region, announced in a Jan. 5 press release that the inquest into Baker's death had been scheduled to begin on Jan. 22.

Baker, who was serving a life sentence for her part in the 2002 murder of 16-year-old Robbie McLennan, died at St. Mary's General Hospital in Kitchener on July 6, 2016. She was transferred to the hospital from the Grand Valley Institution for Women after being found unresponsive in her cell.

In 2017, a coroner's inquest to examine the events surrounding Baker's death was announced by the then-regional supervising coroner for inquests, Dr. David Eden.

An inquest into Baker's death is mandatory under the Coroners Act. The inquest will ex-

amine the circumstances surrounding Baker's death, with the jury possibly providing recommendations aimed at preventing further deaths.

The inquest will begin at 9:30 a.m. on Jan. 22 and is expected to last up to 15 days. During that time the inquest will hear from approximately 18 witnesses. Dr. Eden will serve as the presiding officer, and Sidney McLean and Kristin Smith will be the inquest counsel.

The inquest will be conducted by video conference. Members of the public who wish to view the proceedings can do so live via [firstclassfacilitation.ca/office-of-the-chief-coroner/inquest-into-the-death-of-terry-baker/](http://firstclassfacilitation.ca/office-of-the-chief-coroner/inquest-into-the-death-of-terry-baker/).

Baker, who was 16 years old at the time of McLennan's murder in 2002, was convicted of first-degree murder in 2006 and handed a life sentence. Baker's then 20-year-old boyfriend, William Bronson Penasse, also pleaded guilty to first-degree murder in 2005 and was sentenced to life in prison without the eligibility for parole until 2030. Another 16-year-old – never identified under the Youth Criminal Justice Act – was convicted of second-degree murder and sentenced to 18 months.

### CHRISTMAS TREE COLLECTION

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 SPORTS

## High school hockey getting ready for District playoffs

Written By Brian Lockhart

With most teams having just three games left on the regular season schedule, District 4/10 high school hockey is preparing to move into the playoffs.

The schools have a 12-game regular season schedule this year, with nine high school teams competing this season.

The season was interrupted on Jan. 9, when all four scheduled games were postponed due to a winter storm. Those games will have to be rescheduled and played to complete the regular season schedule.

The schedule runs through to Feb. 7, before the playoffs start. The playoff schedule and dates have not yet been announced.

Hockey teams in the District are talented teams, with many schools taking advantage of the fact that many of their students play advanced-level hockey in leagues outside of school.

However, any player who plays at the Junior level cannot compete on a high school team.

With three games left on the schedule, the team from John F. Ross CVI in Guelph leads the standings with an 8-1 record after nine games. The team's only loss was to Orangeville District High School on Nov. 21, when that game ended 2-1.

Ross has averaged just over five goals per game this season.

In second place, Norwell District Second-

ary School has also taken only one loss this year, but they have only played seven games, so they have five more to go.

St. James Catholic High School from Guelph is in the number three spot

Orangeville District Secondary School is having a good season with a 6-2 record and 12 points and is currently in fourth place in the district standings.

Centennial Collegiate VI is on the plus side in fifth place with a 5-3 record. That includes one overtime loss.

Centre Wellington District High School is in sixth place with a 2-5-1 record.

Bishop Macdonell is in seventh place with a 2-6 record and five points.

The Centre Dufferin District High School

Royals are struggling this season, having won only one game after nine times on the ice. They also have one tie on their record.

Erin District High School is in the basement with a 1-8 record.

The playoff schedule and format have not yet been announced, but there are several options, including the top eight making a playoff berth or the top six, with the top seed getting a bye in the first round.

The CDDHS Royals have a road game against Norwell District on Jan. 11.

They will be back on home ice at the Centre Dufferin Recreation Complex on Tuesday, Jan. 16, to host the squad from St. James. Game time is 2:15 p.m.

## Tie for first place in PJHL's North Carruthers Division

Written By Brian Lockhart

It has been a competitive season in the North Carruthers Division of the Provincial Junior Hockey League, and once again, there is a tie for first place.

The Alliston Hornets picked up another two points on Friday (Jan. 5) night with a 7-1 win over the Penetang Kings and are again tied for first place with the Stayner Siskins.

The Siskins had a 7-3 win over the Innisfil Spartans in their last game on home ice.

Both teams now have 46 points and identical 23-6 records.

With the season half over, teams will put out their best efforts in a race to the final standings and a good berth when the playoffs get underway.

In third place, the Schomberg Cougars have played a solid season and currently have a 19-8-1 record – good for 39 points. The Cougars held first place for a few

weeks earlier in the season.

In the number four spot, the Orillia Terriers are having a good season, with 18 wins after 27 games. The Terriers were also in first place at one time last year.

In the middle of the pack, the Penetang Kings, Huntsville Otters, and the Caledon Golden Hawks are separated by six points. Either of these teams could be the spoiler when the playoffs get underway.

The Innisfil Spartans are holding on to eighth place in the standings with a dismal 6-22-1 record for the season.

In the basement, the Midland Flyers will have no chance to make the playoffs this season. They have won only two of 29 games played.

The North Carruthers Division regular season runs through to Saturday, Feb. 24, with the final game being played in Orillia.

The top eight teams will advance to the quarter-final round of the playoffs.



BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

MIDSEASON: The Hornets take on the Penetang Kings at the New Tecumseth Recreation Complex in Alliston on Friday, Jan. 5. The Hornets won this game 7-1.

## Ontario Lacrosse policy on non-sanctioned play put on hold

Written By Brian Lockhart

A policy put in place by the Ontario Lacrosse Association restricting players, coaches, and officials, who participate in events not sanctioned by the OLA, has been put on hold after a storm of controversy led to a petition against the new rules.

The OLA released a statement on December 29, that said players who participate in non-sanctioned events during specified periods in the year, "may be subject to forfeiting their membership for the remainder of the season, and will be deemed to be not in good standing with the OLA."

The OLA said the new policy was put into place because "non-sanctioned organizations do not support the development

of the OLA or its clubs. Furthermore, they operate with limited consideration of their impact on our association while attempting to leverage resources developed by the OLA."

The policy stated that the new rules did not include adult recreational lacrosse, elementary school, middle school, and high school teams, or college and university lacrosse teams, or recognized professional lacrosse leagues.

Almost immediately, there was backlash from parents of lacrosse players who said the new policy wasn't fair and limited players who participated in private lacrosse clubs to improve their skills.

A petition was started in opposition to the OLA policy

In addition to the petition, the group reached out to Lacrosse Canada with their concerns about the new policy.

Lacrosse Canada responded that it was unaware of the Ontario policy before it was created.

The national organization issued a statement saying, "Lacrosse Canada was not made aware of the OLA's non-sanctioned lacrosse policy prior to its release and does not feel the policy or its revision is consistent in executing our mission."

Lacrosse Canada went on to say it is

in contact with OLA executives to better align their vision for the sport.

As a result of the controversy surrounding the new policy, the OLA has now put the new policy on hold pending "in-depth discussions" that will be taking place.

### News from Shelburne Library

**Hours of Operation Survey:** We will continue to collect responses to our Hours of Operation survey until the end of day January 13th, 2024, so please take time to have YOUR say.

The survey can be filled out online at [www.shelburnelibrary.ca/or](http://www.shelburnelibrary.ca/or) in-person at the Library.

All responses are anonymous unless you choose to leave contact information.

#### Upcoming Events

**Researching Black Roots in Dufferin with MoD, Thursday, February 8th, 6pm:** Archivist Laura Camilleri will demonstrate some methods for researching Black Roots in Dufferin County. Stay tuned for registration.

**Library Literary Event: The Lucie & Thornton Blackburn Story with Suzette Daley, Sunday, February 11th, 2pm:** Local author, Suzette Daley will tell the story of Lucie & Thornton Blackburn, founders of Toronto's first taxi company, The City.

Their story epitomizes resilience, entrepreneurship, and community-building, and is one you won't want to miss!

**Coffee, Conversation & Books, Wednesday, February 21st, 7pm:** Join us in conjunction with Grand Valley and Orangeville Public Libraries at Mochaberry (177 Broadway) in Orangeville.

Our featured local author is to be determined, but details will be announced soon!



For all your advertising needs in the SHELBURNE AREA call **Debbie Freeman** at our Shelburne office: **519-925-2832** or **519-216-1021**



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



[brian.lockhart@hotmail.com](mailto:brian.lockhart@hotmail.com)

## PLEASE RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER!

# Shelburne CHURCH DIRECTORY

**ABIDING PLACE FELLOWSHIP**  
[www.abidingplace.ca](http://www.abidingplace.ca)  
 519-925-3651  
**SUNDAY SERVICE**  
**10:00AM**  
*Mel-Lloyd Centre, Entrance "F" Door, 167 Centre St, Shelburne*  
*Pastor; Rev. Gord Horsley*  
*Come and be Blessed*

**CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH**  
 Sun: 9:30, 10:30 & 1 PM • 553281 Dufferin Rd 16, Orangeville  
 Wed: 7:30 PM • 475461 County Rd 11, Amaranth  
 Pastor Daniel Elliott  

[www.atcalvarybc.ca](http://www.atcalvarybc.ca)  
**519-216-6001**

**BETHEL BIBLE CHAPEL**  
 419 Main Street East, Shelburne  
 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](http://www.bethelshelburne.com) - All Welcome!!

**Shelburne & Primrose UNITED CHURCHES**

**PRIMROSE UNITED CHURCH**  
 486281 30th Sideroad, Mono  
 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](mailto:communications@shelburneprimrose.com)  
[www.shelburneprimrose.com](http://www.shelburneprimrose.com)

**ALL WELCOME**

When you buy from a **small business** you're not helping a C.E.O buy a 3rd holiday home, you are helping a little girl get **dance lessons**, a little boy get his **team jersey**, a mom or dad put **food on the table**, a family **pay a mortgage** or a student **pay for college**.

*Thanks for shopping local! ♥*



# NFTC

[www.nftctelecom.com](http://www.nftctelecom.com)

## NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

1. Stop putting up with constantly buffering internet

2. Stop yelling at computer

3. Stop clearing snow off the satellite dish

4. Switch to NFTC Pure Fibre Internet + TV Services!





# CLASSIFIEDS

519.925.2832 • Fax: 519-925-5500 • email@shelburnefreepress.ca  
 Email, or call us for pricing. Classified cut-off time is 12 pm Tuesday

AUCTIONS

HELP WANTED



## Kidd Family Auctions Inc.

**JOIN THE FUN AND LET US TREAT YOU LIKE FAMILY TOO.**

HOPE YOU'RE ENJOYING THE SEASON.

**THIS IS THE KIDD FAMILY AUCTIONS UPCOMING SALE SCHEDULE! CONSIGN NOW. SALES FILL FAST. WILL YOU BE READY?**



JAN 12TH	TOYS & ADVERTISING COLLECTIBLES.
JAN 26TH	TOOLS, EQUIPMENT & MORE.
FEB 2ND	RARE BOOK SALE.
FEB 21ST-24TH	STRAIGHT SHOOTER SALE.
MAR 8TH	QUALITY NEW AND VINTAGE COINS / BILLS.
MAR 15TH	ANTIQUES, COLLECTIBLES AND QUALITY HOUSEHOLD ITEMS.
MAR 29TH	GAS & OIL, VINTAGE TOYS.
APR 5TH	LOCKED & LOADED SALE.
APR 12TH	FARM AUCTION FOR RON HODGKINSON.
APR 26TH	SPRING EQUIPMENT SALE.
MAY 22ND-25TH	STRAIGHT SHOOTER SALE.



## CALLING ALL KIDS!

We are currently seeking  
**NEWSPAPER CARRIERS**  
 MAIN STREET • MURIEL STREET • THIRD AVENUE  
 FOURTH AVENUE • WILLOW STREET  
 MARIE STREET • FLEMING WAY  
 FIRST AVENUE • OWEN SOUND STREET  
 SIMON ST AREA • CAROLYN & BERRY ST AREA

Call Debbie at **519-925-2832** for more information.

PUBLIC NOTICE

OBITUARIES

## NOTICE

**CLOSING SERVICE FOR ST. PAUL'S ANGLICAN CHURCH**

**January 21<sup>st</sup> at 3pm**  
 Bishop Susan Bell presiding.

Light refreshments to follow.

Current and former parishioners encouraged to join us for this significant event

### BENOTTO, LUCIANA "LUCY"



Peacefully with her family by her side at Dufferin Oaks on Wednesday, January 3, 2024 in her 82nd year. Beloved wife of 61 years to the late Italo. Loving mother of Steven (Lina) and Roy (Cathy). Proud grandmother of Amanda (Shawn), Crystal (Tom), Justin (Emily), Adam and Trevor and great-grandmother of Paige, Cierra, Thomas, Owen, Dylan, Cameron, Celena and Cole. Dear sister of the late Gianni Ragazon and sister-in-law of the late Clara, Lina and the late Renato. Lucy 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 Monday, January 8, 2024 from 12-2 p.m. The funeral service followed in the funeral home chapel at 2:00 p.m. Interment took place at Shelburne Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations to the Hospital for Sick Children or Dufferin Oaks Auxiliary would be appreciated as expressions of sympathy. Online condolences and donations may be placed at www.jackandthompsonfuneralhome.com

THANK YOU

## Thank You

We would like to sincerely thank everyone for the many inquires, visits, donations, cards and food brought to our home on the passing of Ralph Knowlton, beloved husband, father and grandfather.

It meant a lot to all of us.

Thank you,  
 Lucille, Scott & Kelsey

**PLEASE RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER!**

SERVICES

**HANDYMAN.** You need it, I can do it for a fair price. Call Terry. 519-925-4310

**CONTRACTOR REPAIRS,** restores, Jacks up, dismantles Farm buildings, Homes, Cottages Roofing, Siding, Doors, Windows, Beams, Posts, Piers, Foundations, Concrete work. Eavestroughing, Decks, Docks, Sheds. Fencing Installed or Replaced or Fixed. Brian Mc Curdy 519-986-1781 OR 519-375-0958

When you buy from a **small business** you're not helping a C.E.O buy a 3rd holiday home, you are helping a little girl get **dance lessons**, a little boy get his **team jersey**, a mom or dad put **food on the table**, a family **pay a mortgage** or a student **pay for college**.

Thanks for shopping local! ❤️



## SHELBURNE SERVICE DIRECTORY



647-618-6435  
 cristianocontracting@gmail.com

- Pool Construction
- Landscape Design
- Decks, Cabanas, Fencing
- Concrete Patios
- Interlocking Patios



## GARAGE DOORS

**ALL-MONT LTD. GARAGE DOOR EXPERTS**

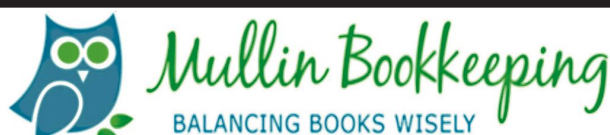


519-942-1956 • 1-800-957-5865 • www.allmontdoors.com  
 48 Centennial Road, Unit #20, Orangeville



INDUSTRIAL | COMMERCIAL | RESIDENTIAL  
 HOME AUTOMATION | GENERAC GENERATORS

1.800.231.9228 | 519.925.4037  
 www.delmarelectric.ca  
 ECR/ESA License Number 7001232



**Don't like doing your books?**

We offer comprehensive bookkeeping services, so you can concentrate on what you do best!  
 Serving clients in Feversham and surrounding areas

Tel: 705-444-4674 Email: susan@mullinbookkeeping.ca or info@mullinbookkeeping.ca



Tree Removal • Trimming • Stump Grinding  
 Land Clearing • Storm Damage • 24 hr Emergency Services

519-938-6996 branchmanagertreecare@gmail.com



**STANDT SHELBURNE TIRE AND TOWING INC.**

"Where Quality and Service is Our Priority"

Oluf Jensen Wreck Master Certified



**Book your Winter Tire Changeover now!**

525401 5th Sideroad, Melancthon, RR #4 Shelburne, ON L9V 1Y5  
 519-925-5002 • 519-925-2795  
 Email: shelburnetire@hotmail.com



**DOMINION LENDING CENTRES**

VALKO FINANCIAL LTD. Lic: 13047 211 Main St. E, Shelburne, ON • L9V 3K4  
 Independently Owned & Operated

**Carol Freeman** Mortgage Broker  
 519-925-6700  
 CELL: 519-938-6518  
 carolfreemanmortgages@gmail.com

www.carolfreeman.ca



## NEED TO Hire?

Call 519-925-2832 to advertise.



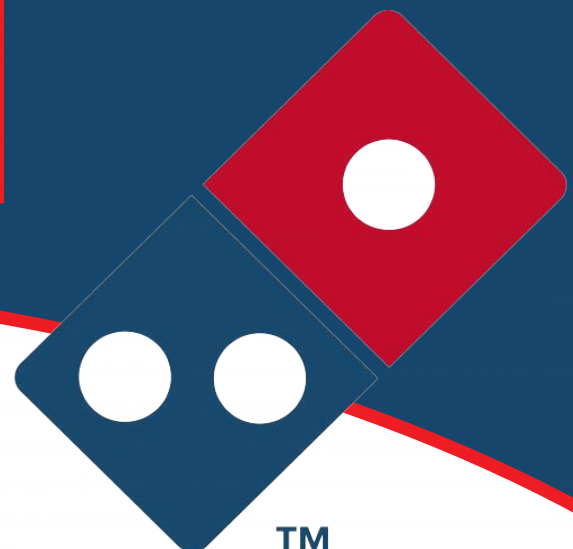


**BUILD YOUR COMBO**

**2 MEDIUM PIZZAS  
WITH 6-TOPPINGS  
COMBINED &  
1 CHEESY BREAD**

**\$24.99**

**ORDER NOW**



TM

**802 Main Street East, Shelburne**

**Call 519.925.2121**

**Domino's**

Pricing may vary by location. An additional charge may apply for premium toppings, sauces, extra cheese, and special pizza types including: Handmade Pan Pizzas, Thin Crust Pizzas, Gluten Free Pizzas and Feast Pizzas. Please refer to offer when ordering. Limited time. Prices, participation, delivery area & delivery fee may apply. Terms and charges may vary.