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PAULA BROWN PHOTO

FOOD FOR THOUGHT: Shelburne Home Hardware presented the Children's Foundation of Guelph and Wellington with a cheque for \$20,000 on Tuesday (Jan. 16) for the nutrition programs at five local schools. The money was raised through Shelburne Home Hardware's annual Donate A Plate fundraiser and was matched up to \$10,000 by owner Bill Gilliam. See the full story on Page 3.

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St. Paul's Anglican Church to shut down at end of month after 150 years of serving the community

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

One of Shelburne's founding churches is ending a more than 150-year-old chapter in history as they prepare to officially close their doors this month.

St. Paul's Anglican Church, located at 312 Owen Sound St. in Shelburne, will be closing its doors following a final service for the congregation on Sunday, Jan. 21.

"It's always sad seeing church close, but churches have closed for hundreds and thousands of years, and it's important that people focus on celebrating what this church has been to this community," said Marg Finlayson, People's Warden at the church. "I think of how many prayers of celebration and anguish that went up and also all the celebrations like weddings and baptisms; historically, churches have been community centres, and all of those moments have been part of the community."

The decision to close the church came in October of 2023 with a vote from church members after months of discussions.

"We did not do this lightly," said Finlayson. "We each went away and thought seriously about the gospel message and how we can continue to live that outside the walls [of the church]."

A number of factors played into the decision to close St. Paul's Anglican Church, one of which was the number of attendees for the weekend services. On average, the church sees around 12 to 15 regular attendees of the Sunday service.

"Many of our congregation has aged out, going into long-term [care] residences or subsequently passing away," said Finlayson. "People have also moved away."

The limited number of parishers also led to a decrease in funding, putting a financial strain on the church.

"It's been a long time coming," said James Gould, Rector's Warden. "We were hopeful that it would get better, but it never really did, so it came down to a financial decision; you have to be able to pay the bills."

The history of St. Paul's Anglican Church begins well before the church's construction, with the first Anglican worship services in the area held once a month in a



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

St. Paul's Anglican Church circa 1913-present

small log hall in Melancthon as early as 1855.

Construction of the first St. Paul's Anglican Church began in the summer of 1874 and was finished by Christmas of the same year. The first service was held on Jan. 17, 1875, led by Rev. J.J. Morton, with planks used to seat the congregation and a borrowed organ.

Continued on Page 3

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DOG LICENSE ADMINISTRATION CHANGING

Starting in 2024, the Town of Shelburne will be making it easier to purchase or renew dog tags!

The Town of Shelburne is delighted to partner with DocuPet, a world-leading pet profile, lost pet, and licensing platform. Pet owners will now receive a complimentary 24/7 lost pet service along with colourful and unique designer ID tags linked to a secure online profile when they license their dogs.

Residents will have the ability to order personalized tags online! Additionally the Town will update the licensing window from a calendar year approach to a 365-day model. Previously, dog licenses expired annually on December 31st, but through the new partnership with DocuPet, licenses are now valid for 365 days after purchase. This means that no matter what time of year residents purchase a dog's license, it will be valid for 365 days.

Stay tuned for more updates on the Town's social media and news articles visit shelburne.ca



PREVENT FROZEN PIPES

Due to the lower temperatures, please be aware that the pipes in your home may freeze if they are unprotected. Here are some steps to avoid frozen pipes:

- Ensure your indoor air temperature is kept above 8C in areas that contain water pipes and especially near the meter.
- Seal air leaks in your home and garage, especially in areas where pipes run.
- If there are water supply lines in the garage, keep outside garage doors closed.
- Insulate all outdoor water pipes with specially designed outdoor foam pipe covers available at building supply or home improvement stores.
- Shut off and drain pipes leading to outside faucets.
- For meters or water pipes located inside a cabinet, leave the cabinet doors open to allow warm air to reach them.
- If you're going away for an extended period, consider turning off the main water shut off valve and draining your water system out through a sink or tap in the lowest level of your home. Consider having someone check on your home regularly to make sure the heat is still on and that your pipes haven't burst.
- Call the Town Water Department if you have any questions or need assistance: 519-925-2600 x 231 or after hours 519-938-0124.

Visit shelburne.ca

WINTER REMINDERS

The Town would like to remind residents and visitors of the following winter maintenance guidelines:

- Do not shovel, plow or blow snow on roads or sidewalks. This causes unsafe road conditions and is also against the law. If you have cleared your driveway, but Snowplows have not cleared your street, be prepared for a windrow at the bottom of your driveway.
- Do not place your waste bins on snowbanks, icy surfaces, or on the road. Instead shovel a part of the curb area when possible to make room for waste bins, or place waste bins at the end of your driveway.
- Winter Parking restrictions are in effect. No vehicles are to be parked on any roadway between 12:00 a.m. and 8:00 a.m. every day.
- Stay safe and stay off Storm Water Management Ponds, they are not for recreation. Do not toboggan or skate on Storm Water Management Ponds.
- Always drive according to road and weather conditions. Roads and sidewalks that haven't been cleared may be slippery, please take extra time and caution when travelling.

The Town is committed to keeping all roads and sidewalks safe during the winter months and completes winter maintenance in accordance with the Ontario Minimum Maintenance Standards.

Staff make every effort to clear roads and sidewalks as quickly and effectively as possible and ask that residents please allow 24 hours after a snowstorm to make any clearing requests.

Visit shelburne.ca



FIRE HYDRANTS – KEEP THEM CLEAR

Please help keep your community safe and clear snow from fire hydrants and catch basins during the winter season.

In an emergency, every second counts. By clearing snow away from fire hydrants, they are visible and accessible to emergency services personnel.

Clearing snow away from catch basins will help to prevent street flooding and icy road conditions.

Visit shelburne.ca

REPORT A CONCERN

Contact the Town's Operations Team for issues regarding snow clearing, grass damage or any other maintenance concerns. Report A Concern online.

For more information visit shelburne.ca

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CALLING FOR VENDORS & SPONSORS

The Shelburne Canada Day Festival Committee is seeking Vendors for the July 1, 2024, event. Please join us for a fun filled family event on Canada Day at Fiddle Park.

Event Details
Date: Saturday, July 1, 2024
Location: Fiddle Park

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Continued from FRONT

St. Paul's Anglican Church to shut down at end of month after 150 years

The local Anglican church received its first resident rector in Rev. James Smythe in 1878, but the position was quickly left vacant following his death in 1879.

Discussions were held in 1910 with the idea of building a new and bigger church in the same spot as the original. The St. Paul's Anglican Church that sits in Shelburne to this day was constructed and completed in 1913.

In January of 1929, a fire broke out in

the church's furnace room, and the church sustained damage from smoke and water, but fire insurance allowed for repairs and replacement.

During Canada's Centennial year (1967), the Shelburne parish and Dundalk church were amalgamated.

The Shelburne congregation celebrated St. Paul's Anglican Church's 150th anniversary in 2023. Since its inception, the local Anglican church has seen over 30 reverends over-

see the congregation.

Over its many decades within the Shelburne community, St. Paul's Anglican Church has dedicated much of its efforts back to the community, including being a founding member of the Shelburne Food Bank, Shepherd's Cupboard, collecting for the Shelburne Rotary Christmas Hampers, being a part of Meals on Wheels, and volunteering with the local long term care homes and hospital. All of this while hosting pancake dinners, card

games, and bake sales,

While they plan to close the doors at the end of January, Finlayson and Gould say they plan to still be active within the community.

"Just because the doors are closed, doesn't mean that the people that were here aren't going to keep doing things in the community," said Gould.

The final service will be held at St. Paul's Anglican Church on Sunday, Jan. 21, at 3 p.m. with Bishop Susan Bell presiding.

Two public meetings scheduled for proposed boundary review of Primrose

Written By Paula Brown
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Upper Grand District School Board (UGDSB) will host two additional public delegation meetings regarding a proposed boundary review for Primrose Elementary.

During their meeting last Thursday (Jan. 11), the Dufferin County Council received a delegation on the boundary review process for Primrose Elementary from Ralk Mesenbrink, chair of the board.

"Normally we would hope that projections allow us to hold boundary review well in advance, ideally with the decision a full year before any changes to enrollment. However, the situation at Primrose is such we felt we had to act more quickly. In order to make decisions that can take effect in September 2024, we need to have a decision by the board in mid-February to accommodate staffing, changes to transportation and collective agreements," explained Mesenbrink.

In October of 2023, the Upper Grand District School Board announced in a press release that they would conduct a boundary review to address the accommodation pressures at Primrose Elementary School in Mulmur.

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

The proposed school to accommodate the boundary review is Centennial Hylands Elementary School, which has an enrollment of 413 students and the capacity to accommodate a total of 541 students.

According to the school board, Primrose Elementary has had an enrollment increase of almost 25 per cent, from about 470 students to 590 students, between October 2020 and September of 2023, without any significant residential development.

"Our current projections show enrollment to Primrose will continue to increase if no changes are made. At the same time, the enrollment at Centennial Highlands and Hyland Heights has not increased as much as we expected," said Mesenbrink.

Since the boundary review announcement, families of students at Primrose Elementary have raised concerns about their children having to relocate schools.

"They don't want to see another boundary

review that separates their kids from their friends only seven years after the last one, where they were forced to move from Centennial Hylands to Primrose," said Coun. James McLean, Deputy Mayor of Melancthon.

McLean also recommended starting Kindergarten students at another school before moving them as a cohort to Primrose Elementary in Grade 1, as a "less disruptive option that doesn't separate cohorts".

Concerns have also been raised by Dufferin County Councillors from Northern Dufferin municipalities, specifically regarding the lack of communication with the municipalities and the school board during the boundary review planning process.

"The thing that concerns me is that I started getting calls from concerned parents before I knew anything from our municipal staff, that this was going on," said Coun. John Creelman, Mayor of Mono.

"As municipal organizations and governments we have a ton of data that would be very beneficial for the boards to use to make better decisions, and that doesn't seem to be sought out recently," said Warden Darren White, Mayor of Melancthon.

Coun. Wade Mills, Mayor of Shelburne,

highlighted one specific area of Town information with potential benefit for the UGDSB in the boundary review planning process.

"While it may seem to those looking at the issue in an abstract sense that one easy solution would be to shift kids from an overcrowded school in a rural municipality into a school that isn't so overcrowded in the Town of Shelburne falls apart when you realize that at this point in time, in the short term, we don't have the additional wastewater capacity to be able to accommodate more kids that we hadn't planned on," said Mills.

The Upper Grand District School Board previously held a public meeting on the boundary review in November 2023, which saw around 3,000 people attend to provide feedback on the plan.

A presentation of the final boundary review report will be given to the UGDSB Finance and Facilities Committee on Jan. 23 at 7 p.m. Following the presentation, two additional public meetings will be held on Jan. 30 and Feb. 13 for final feedback on the plan.

Any approvals to the boundary adjustment by the Upper Grand District School will be expected to be implemented for the 2024-2025 school year.

Home Hardware donates \$20k to local school nutrition programs

Written By Paula Brown
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Students at Shelburne will have lots to eat following a large donation to the school nutrition programs.

Shelburne Home Hardware presented the Children's Foundation of Guelph and Wellington with a cheque for \$20,000 on Tuesday (Jan. 16) from money raised through their annual Donate A Plate fundraiser.

"No kid should go to school without breakfast. I like breakfast and I'm sure every kid likes it too. It was a good program that was underfunded when I first got here," said Bill Gilliam, owner of Shelburne Home Hardware. "You want to have kids focused and think straight, and in order to do that, they have to have enough food in their belly to keep the engine going."

The Donate A Plate Fundraiser was created by Shelburne Home Hardware nearly a decade ago with the goal of helping underfunded nutrition programs at the local schools. Each year, during the month of December, Shelburne Home Hardware collects donations from customers and contractors. Shelburne

Home Hardware also raises funds throughout the year through another event, such as the Ladies' Night, to help increase the total amount raised.

The total amount of donations is matched by Gilliam up to \$10,000.

Since its inception, the Donate A Plate fundraiser and Bill Gilliam have raised over \$135,000 to help nutrition food programs at the schools.

"The fundraising has consistently gotten better each year," said Gilliam.

The Children's Foundation of Guelph and Wellington is a local organization that looks to help struggling families by connecting them to experiences and supports to help enhance the well-being of children and youth.

Heather Verpaalen, program manager of student nutrition for Dufferin County, said the organization has seen an increase in the number of students accessing the nutrition service.

According to the Children's Foundation of Guelph and Wellington, approximately 1,100 students accessed the student nutrition programs between all five schools on a daily basis during the current school year.

Verpaalen added that the number of students accessing the program is not the only stat on the rise, but specifically the number of meals the students need on a daily basis.

"It's more than just a breakfast - we're now seeing kids needed a lunch and an after-school snack," said Verpaalen. "Honestly, without this donation from the Shelburne Home Hardware and Bill, our program would

be really struggling."

Schools in the Shelburne area that are a part of the Children's Foundation of Guelph and Wellington Food & Friends program include Primrose Elementary School, Glenbrook Public School, Hyland Heights Elementary School, Centennial Highlands Elementary School, and Centre Dufferin District High School.

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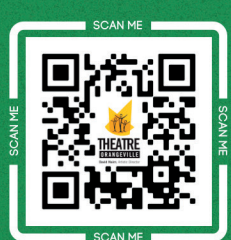

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND A COMPLETE LIST OF VENDORS
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"T.F.E. Claridge, Publisher 1903-1964 Fred M. Claridge, Publisher 1964-1974 Thomas M. Claridge 1974-2012 The Free Press and Economist was formed from the amalgamation of The Shelburne Free Press (est. 1875) and The Shelburne Economist (est. 1883) in 1928."

Stop talking about it

The word 'racism' is thrown about a lot these days.

In fact, it's in the news pretty much every day in one way or another.

The word 'racist' has become one which gets thrown into an argument at the drop of a hat by some people – especially those who are arguing some kind of agenda.

For many people, calling the other person 'racist' or accusing them of 'racism' is the knee-jerk reaction to any event, comment, or idea they don't like.

I've seen people on news shows accuse other people of being 'racist' when they are of the same race but from different parts of the world or of a different religion. It made no sense at all.

Just scream 'racism', and everyone is afraid to say anything after that for fear of also being accused.

I read a quote from noted actor Morgan Freeman, who said the way to stop racism is to 'stop talking about it.'

I researched the quote and found he said it

on a news show several years ago.

To stop talking about it may seem like a weak response at first, but when he explains what he means, it makes perfect sense.

"I'll stop calling you a white man, and you stop calling me a black man," he said to the TV host.

The media, in particular, is bad for pointing out a person's race when it comes to news stories – especially when race has nothing to do with the story. And they only point out the race when it is a non-white person.

A recent tragic incident in Florida resulted in the death of a football fan from Six Nations in Ontario. The man was a Buffalo Bills fan and travelled to Miami to watch them play the Miami Dolphins. An altercation after the game resulted in the man being shot and killed.

A CBC report on the incident began with the line, "An Indigenous man from Ontario was shot and killed in Florida."

What does the fact that he was Indigenous have to do with the story? Why point that out? The fact that an Ontario man was killed is the

story, not the fact that he was Indigenous.

He was there to watch a football game, not solicit funds for the Indigenous community or promote an Indigenous philosophy. He is the victim of violence that had nothing to do with his ethnic background.

If a white guy named Bob Smith, who attended a local Presbyterian church, was murdered, the story would not begin with 'Local WASP murdered.'

This type of labelling goes on all the time. As part of my job, I do a lot of research in many different areas. This includes historical research.

For some reason, articles and news reports always managed to include the fact that a person involved in the story wasn't white.

It could be something as simple as a UFO sighting, and the story will point out it was an ethnic minority who saw the flying saucer.

It always seems to say something like, "Fred Jones, an African-American man, saw the UFO over his farm on Monday night."

What does being an African-American have

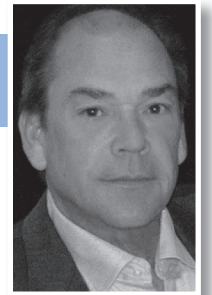
to do with the fact that a guy saw a UFO flying over his property? Isn't the story about a UFO and not a person's ethnicity?

And why is it also pointed out when a person is the first of their race or ethnic background to achieve something? Why not just congratulate the person on a job well done or valuable contribution without having to point out the person's race or ethnicity?

I can think of no other time you would mention race in some type of social setting.

When have you ever been to an event, and someone was introduced as "George, the brown guy," or "Bob, the white guy?" It simply doesn't happen, so why is it always mentioned in news stories?

To 'stop talking about it,' seems like a simple solution, but it would be effective in a lot of ways and eliminate a lot of problems – especially those where there shouldn't be a problem in the first place.



BRIAN LOCKHART FROM THE SECOND ROW

Canada's economic pillars are on shaky ground

Canadians are feeling increasingly pessimistic about their financial well-being – and for good reason.

A new national survey from Pollara released last week confirmed that nearly one out of every two Canadians said they expect their household income to drop this year, with a majority of Canadians saying they are "worried" about their personal finances.

What's keeping Canadians up at night? According to the survey, it's the high cost of groceries, which is taking a bigger and bigger bite out of everyone's paycheque. Many mothers and fathers throughout the country go to bed every night worried about having enough money to feed their families. That should never happen in a country as rich as Canada.

But it's not just higher grocery bills eating into the take-home pay of most Canadians.

Higher taxes are also making Canadians poorer. A whole slew of new taxes are

scheduled to take effect this year, including higher taxes for Employment Insurance and the Canada Pension Plan, as well as added taxes on gasoline and home heating.

If all those extra taxes weren't bad enough, we got news last week that the quarterly federal debt payment in Canada hit an all-time high. According to Statistics Canada, Ottawa spent over \$11 billion in the third quarter of the current fiscal year.

In plain terms, it means that ten cents out of every dollar of revenue the government collects is now going to pay interest on the debt. The national debt is a runaway freight train heading for the cliff – and few people are sounding the alarm. The worst part is that we have no plan in place for tackling the debt.

When you add all of these factors together, on top of a chronically feeble economy, it's hardly surprising that Canadians are growing poorer and poorer year by year.

And the reason why is that Canada's economic fundamentals are all on shaky ground.

As we head into the new year, deteriorating consumer confidence and lower consumer spending will hurt small business the most. It seems that small business always gets the short end of the stick.

When it comes to taxation or regulation or economic policies, the rules are almost always slanted in favour of big business. And yet it's small business that shoulders most of the load when it comes to creating jobs and developing new products and technologies. It's baffling that such a large, fundamental chunk of our economy is routinely neglected.

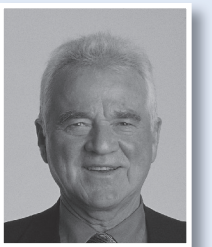
We need to create a more level playing field that unshackles small business and gives them the opportunity to flourish. And we need to firm up the other pillars of our economy so that Canadians can enjoy higher living standards.

A national economic charter of rights and

responsibilities would accomplish this. The charter would require government to pay down the debt over twenty years, reduce spending by a specific percentage each year, and cut red tape. It would also require the government to reform our tax system by making it simpler, more transparent, and fairer. In short, it would establish the strong, solid foundation necessary for our economy to grow.

An economic charter would also ignite our economy by giving millions of Canadians the chance to participate in profit sharing, by removing income tax and reducing the regulatory burden on small business so they can thrive and grow, creating new jobs and new wealth that will benefit all Canadians.

Until we shore up our crumbling economic pillars, the vast majority of Canadians can expect living standards to continue to erode.



FRANK STRONACH CREATING AN ECONOMIC CHARTER OF RIGHTS

Israel vs the ICJ: Is it a waste of time?

The two sides have had their day in court – one day each, actually. The seventeen judges of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) have now retired to consider what interim decisions they should make on South Africa's accusation that Israel's actions in the Gaza Strip amount to the crime of genocide. Is this just a waste of time?

The response of Israel's mass media and most Israeli politicians has been to treat the case as simple antisemitism, but the fact that the government hired top-flight international lawyers to defend itself before the court reveals a different reality.

The accusations of antisemitism are ridiculous. The court's other recent decisions were against Burma (for attempted geno-

cide against the Rohingya), against Russia (for falsely claiming that an alleged genocide by Ukraine justified the Russian invasion in 2022), and against Sudan's military regime (for slaughtering ethnically African tribes.) No Jews there.

Moreover, Israel is not exposed to any real risk of punishment. Even if the ICJ finds that South Africa has a good case, any action the court takes will be unenforceable if the United States uses its veto on the Security Council.

Yet by sending its lawyers to The Hague to contest the charges, Israel has effectively recognized the court's jurisdiction. Something real is at stake here, even if it is only Israel's reputation. The cynics think such things do not matter. The experts know better.

The people bringing the case before the ICJ are experts, too, and they are probably not just South Africans. There were almost certainly quiet discussions between leading members of the BRICS (the organization that aspires to become the international voice of the developing countries) before the task was given to South Africa.

It's a good choice, because South Africa has a) lots of very good lawyers; b) a legal system that remained largely uncorrupted even through the worst days of apartheid; and c) a population that can spot another apartheid-like political system (like that in 'Greater Israel') in a single glance.

Nevertheless, proving the crime of genocide is so hard that there are few convictions. It's usually fairly easy to show that people are being killed in large numbers, and even that it is being done in a negligent fashion, but the crime of genocide requires intent.

"It's not sufficient to show you killed people en masse," explained Nick Kaufman, a British-born Israeli lawyer with much experience arguing before international tribunals. "You have to show that the government's intent was to kill people en masse with the intent of wiping out their ethnic group wholly or partly."

'Intent' is hard to prove because it is impossible to read other people's minds. Very few people will say they are planning

a genocide, even if that is what they intend. It usually has to be deduced from the statements and actions of those in power.

Admittedly, Israel is a bit of an exception in this regard, in the sense that the extreme-right religious and nationalist politicians on whom Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's coalition depends for its survival do say the most amazing things.

Indeed, the South African lawyers could even quote Israeli President Isaac Herzog saying about the residents of the Gaza Strip: "It's an entire nation out there that is responsible. This rhetoric about civilians not aware, not involved, it's absolutely not true."

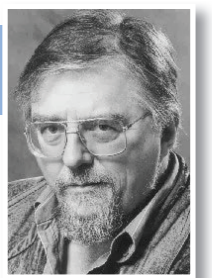
The lawyers referenced Netanyahu likening the Palestinians to the Israelites' biblical enemy the Amalekites, whom God ordered the Chosen People to destroy to the last man, woman and child, and Defense Minister Yoav Gallant's statement on "fighting human animals."

But even that does not prove intentional genocide: talk is cheap, and the court needs hard evidence. In fact, neither side actually expects a verdict of genocide – or cares much, given that past performance suggest that a final judgement is three or four years away. (The mills of justice grind slowly, etc...)

What both sides are very interested in is the interim measures that the court recommends in a few weeks' times, in order to limit the damage while it works towards a final conclusion. In the Russian case, for example, it ordered Moscow to stop the war in Ukraine at least until the case was settled.

Russia didn't obey that, of course, and since it has a Security Council veto it has suffered no legal consequences. The same is true for Israel, if the American veto still protects it – but what if the court says Israel has to stop the fighting, or at least protect civilians much better?

If President Biden is looking for an excuse to make the Israelis stop (and he probably is), this could be the pretext he needs.



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Stolen camping trailer in Shelburne recovered by police

Members of the Dufferin Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) have laid charges and recovered stolen property as a result of a stolen vehicle investigation 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 recreational trailer. Officers secured video surveillance where a Ford F 250 is observed entering the compound shortly after 6:00 a.m., on January 8 and then exiting approximately forty minutes later.

On January 10, 2024, members of the Dufferin Community Street Crime Unit (CSCU), Nottawasaga CSCU, and with the assistance of Dufferin frontline uniform members executed a search warrant at a rural property



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

in the Township of Melancton. Officers located the stolen recreational trailer. The investigation determined the Ford F 250 involved in the theft was also stolen from an address in Peel Region. Officers located and recovered both vehicles.

As a result of the investigation, Kyle COOMBES, 29-year-old, of no fixed address has been charged with:

- Theft Over \$5000
- Possession Property Obtained by Crime - Over \$5000 (two counts)

- Possession of a Schedule I Substance - other drugs
- Possession of a Schedule II Substance - other drugs
- Fail to Comply with Probation Order - (two counts)
- Operation While Prohibited under the Criminal Code
- Failure to comply with release order - (two counts)

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

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

Traffic complaint leads to impaired driving charges in Amaranth

The Dufferin Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) have charged one driver with impaired operation related offences as the result of a traffic complaint.

On Jan. 11, just after 3:00 p.m., officers from the Dufferin OPP responded to a traffic complaint in the area of CTY RD 109 and 2nd Line in the Township of Amaranth. Officers located the vehicle and driver and were led into an impaired operation investigation.

Helen RAINBIRD, a 64-year-old female, from Stratford has been charged with:

- Operation while impaired - alcohol and drugs
- Operation while impaired - blood alcohol concentration (80 plus)

Driving motor vehicle with open container of liquor

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.

"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 motorist to plan ahead when consuming alcohol or drugs. Use a designated driver, cab, ride-share, 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 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.

Orangeville man charged with impaired driving

Officers from the Caledon Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) have charged a driver on Highway 10 with impaired operation.

On January 8, 2024, just after 1:00 a.m., an officer on patrol on Highway 10 located a vehicle on the shoulder near Hurontario Street. During the interaction with the driver, grounds were formed that their ability to operate a motor vehicle was impaired by alcohol.

As a result of the investigation, Gary PALMER, 54, of Orangeville, was charged with:

- Operation while impaired - blood alcohol concentration (80 plus)

The driver's licence was suspended for 90 days, and the vehicle was impounded for seven. The accused is scheduled to appear at the Ontario Court of Justice in Orangeville on January 25, 2024, to answer to the charge.

These charges have not been proven in court.

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Kate

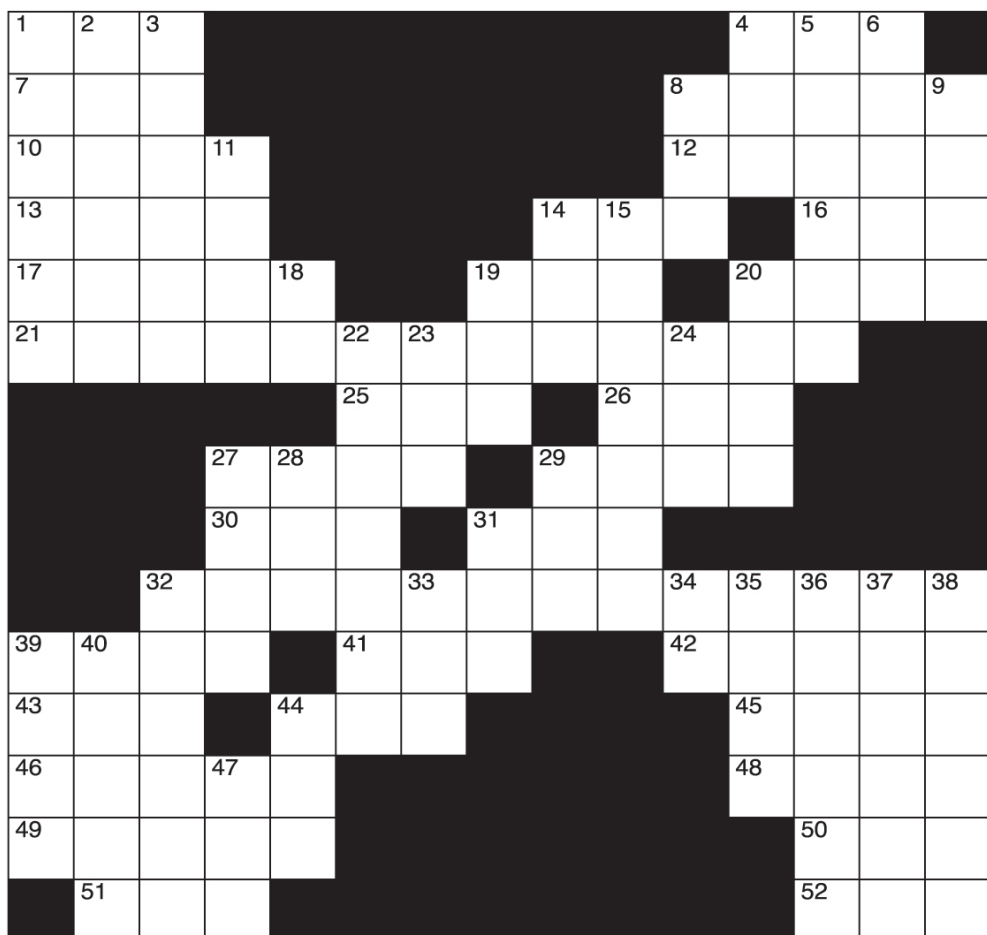
Kate is a 3 year old gal who is our greeter of the shelter. She is super friendly, silly and playful. Any time we turn around she is doing something hilarious or adorable. Kate would do best as an only cat or one of two cats as she prefers all the attention. Kate is spayed, vaccinated, dewormed, microchipped,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

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- Microgram
- Where golfers begin
- Each metropolis
- Coat with sticky substance
- Girl's given name
- Myth (Spanish)
- Ultrahigh frequency
- Former NBAer Jeremy
- Where rockers work
- Your consciousness of your own identity
- Soft-finned fishes
- Localities
- Paddle
- Union
- Member of religious community
- Small shrill flute
- Small constellation (abbr.) in the Milky Way
- They __
- College kid on vacation
- de Armas and Gasteyer are two
- Part of the human body
- A progressive grading
- Sound unit
- Noise some birds make
- Abba __, Israeli politician
- Portuguese city
- Be extremely, uncritically fond of
- Resembling old Norse poems
- Ask for out of extreme need
- Sino-Soviet block
- Midway between south and southeast
- CLUES DOWN
- An insane person
- __ Boothe Luce, American author
- Buttock muscles
- Men's fashion accessory
- "Hotel California" rockers
- Electronic communication
- Magnetomotive force (abbr.)
- Hostelries
- A way to resound
- Exclamation: yuck!
- A resident of Indiana
- Exclamation of surprise
- Make a mistake
- Boundary
- Antilles island
- It's used to make furniture
- Clod
- They indicate where places are
- Bobby __, NHL champ
- Prints money
- Honorable title (Turkish)
- Appetizers
- Midway between north and northwest
- Spanish be
- Breezed through
- Grilled dishes
- In a way, excites
- Change mind
- A French abbot
- Popular candy
- Partner to cheese
- Wood or metal bolt

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

SHELBURNE SPORTS

Shelburne Wolves U15 Rep team win over Huntsville in tough battle

Written By **Brian Lockhart**

The Shelburne Wolves U15 Rep team came out on top in their weekend game against the Huntsville Otters on the ice at the Centre Dufferin Recreation Complex.

It was a highly charged game that saw a few scuffles on the ice – especially in the last few minutes of the third period when the Wolves were trying to hang on to the lead and the Otters were trying to tie it up.

The Wolves went ahead 2-0 in the first period of the Saturday, Jan. 13 game.

At the end of the second frame, the game was tied at three, and the squads returned for a third-period battle to see who could get the edge and stay on top.

The Wolves scored the only third-period goal for the 4-3 win.

Wolves coach Jonathan Geiring said the team has had a lot of improvement throughout this season.

“I think it was a good game – a really good effort from the group,” Jonathan said after the game. “We also played last night. Our last game before the holidays was Dec. 20, so we had three weeks with no games.

We came right out of that and played two games back-to-back. I think our energy levels were a little better last night. We had a short bench with a couple of kids missing – a couple of injuries. We’re super proud of the boys and their effort.”

Jonathan said that the team is doing a good job of working together.

“We have a couple of kids on the team that this is their first year playing rep hockey, they’ve always played house league or local league, so that’s an adjustment for them. Some of these kids, it’s their first year playing contact hockey,” he noted.

“This age group – U15 – is the first age group where contact is introduced, so it’s a big adjustment for them. There’s a handful of kids who have never played with body contact before. For our progression, from where we were in September to where we are now, we’re a completely different team.”

The U15 Wolves have a 9-7-5 record for the season, and that includes tournament games this year.

They are currently in third place in their division.



BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

HOWLING WIN: The Shelburne Wolves host the Huntsville Otters at the Centre Dufferin Recreation Complex on Saturday, Jan. 13. The Wolves left the ice with a 4-3 win. A Wolves player storms the Huntsville net on a breakthrough.

Alliston Hornets lead North Carruthers Division by two points

Written By **Brian Lockhart**

The battle for first place in the North Carruthers Division of the Provincial Junior Hockey League continues to provide a lot of excitement for Junior C hockey fans as the regular season schedule heads into the final stretch.

After changing leads almost weekly at the beginning of the season, the Alliston Hornets are currently in first place, with the Stayner Siskins two points behind.

The Hornets won their Friday (Jan. 12) game

8-4 over the Penetang Kings in Penetang, then followed up with a 6-1 win over the Innisfil Spartans on Sunday, Jan. 14, on Innisfil home ice.

The Siskins won 4-1 over the Huntsville Otters on Sunday (Jan. 14) in Stayner.

Alliston has now won 26 games after being on the ice 32 times this season and has 52 points.

The Siskins have a 25-6 record and are two points behind with 50.

Not far behind, the Schomberg Cougars are currently in third place with a 21-8-1 record

and 43 points. The Cougars have had a good season and are a consistent team this year.

In fourth place, the Orillia Terriers have 41 points and a 19-8-2 record, including two overtime losses.

Both Orillia and Schomberg could be spoilers when the playoffs get underway.

In the middle of the standings, the Huntsville Otters have 27 points and a 13-16 record.

They are followed by the Penetang Kings with a 12-17-1 record, including one overtime loss.

The Caledon Golden Hawks are close behind

with 23 points and a 10-19-2 record, including one overtime loss.

The Innisfil Spartans continue to struggle this season, in eighth place with a 6-24-1 record.

In the basement, the Midland Flyers have won only two games this year and have no chance of making the playoffs.

The North Carruthers Division regular season will wrap up with the final game on Saturday, Feb. 24, before heading into playoffs.

With the competitive line-up of teams this year, fans will be looking forward to watching games when the playoffs get underway.

Wear the proper equipment when playing hockey: OMHA

Written By **Brian Lockhart**

Hockey is an inherently dangerous sport.

With sharp skates, a flying puck, and swinging sticks, there is always a risk of injury. That’s why always wearing the right equipment is so important to reduce the risk.

The Ontario Minor Hockey Association (OMHA) is reminding parents and players of the importance of always wearing proper fitting equipment to keep players safe on the ice.

Each piece of equipment plays a role in helping to protect a specific area of the body – and that means having adequately fitted gear when the sport is being played – not equipment a child will grow into.

Equipment should have a snug – not tight – fit and not shift when in motion.

If the gear is too large, it will shift around on the body, restricting movement and not fully protecting its wearer as designed.

Equipment like neck guards and face masks are unique to hockey. For goalies,

the throat protector must be fastened at all times.

In the OMHA, safety measures aren’t limited to players. Any on-ice participant, including coaches, is required to wear a fastened helmet. All it takes is one slip and fall to cause a serious accident.

Modern hockey equipment has evolved over time. At one time, goalies didn’t wear helmets or masks. As a result, there were horrendous, life-lasting injuries to goalies who were exposed to flying pucks and

sticks.

The same went for players who didn’t wear helmets. They were fully exposed to potential injury from sticks, pucks, other players, and falls.

The use of protective equipment has made the sport safer than ever, but only if the equipment is worn properly and regularly, so suit up the right way and stay safe.

On-ice officials have the authority to issue penalties to teams or players who don’t follow the rules regarding suiting up correctly.

Dates available for 2024



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Shelburne Library 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!

Staff Pick of the Week: Eve by Cat Bohannon

Eve is not only a sweeping revision of human history, it’s an urgent and necessary corrective for a world that has focused primarily on the male body for far too long. Picking up where Sapiens left off, Eve will completely change what you think you know about evolution and why

Homo sapiens has become such a successful and dominant species.

Why Molly recommends this book: In between mystical, magical tales with fantastic notions and seemingly impossible adventures, I like to read up on our own mystical, magical, fantastic and seemingly impossible history. I’ve renewed this book over eight times, even though I finished it in a respectable three weeks, because there is just so much to digest. However, to put it simply, this book turns centuries of male centred history on its ear, and defines our evolution in a completely different light. On top of that, Ms. Bohannon’s writing is funny, clever and uses relevant, current examples to illustrate her research; it seems to have something for everyone. If you’re not used to reading non fiction, and you don’t long for the days of textbooks you have to review, this book will change that for you. You’ll find yourself chuckling along with her, or saying ‘no way’ out loud. At least, I hope you will.

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Shelburne Health and Wellness Expo to return with focus on achieving goals

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

Shelburne residents will have the opportunity to learn more about the health and wellness services available in their community with an upcoming annual event.

The 6th Shelburne Health and Wellness Expo will be held on Saturday (Jan. 20) from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Centre Dufferin District High School (CDDHS) in Shelburne.

"I'm so excited to be able to bring both the businesses and the community together. A lot of times, our health, wellness, fitness, and mental health are pushed to the back burner, and when that happens, we don't actively seek out what we need in the community because it feels like too much work," said the event organizer Amanda Philip. "An event like this is a great opportunity to make time for yourself, so that your health can be brought to the forefront."

The Shelburne Health and Wellness Expo

was started in 2017 by co-creators Amanda Philip and Leanne Williams. The inspiration behind the annual health and wellness event came from a desire to highlight local health and wellness businesses after noticing repeated online recommendations to residents for services and practices located outside of the Shelburne community.

"It was surprising because we knew that these businesses were available in town. We thought that maybe Shelburne needed an event so that residents know they can get everything they need right here in town, especially now with the town growing exponentially," said Philip.

Each year, the local health and wellness event is held on the third weekend of January, specifically focusing on helping residents with the longevity of their health and wellness goals.

"We all know, Jan. 1, people make plans and a lot of times those plans might be really big. Perhaps we don't have the support sys-

tem in place to actually help us reach our goals and help us set ones that are achievable," explained Philip.

The 6th Annual Shelburne Health and Wellness Expo will feature nearly 50 vendors, demonstrations and workshops from a mix of registered practitioners, fitness professionals, holistic and alternative healers, health and wellness non-profits, and product sellers.

The workshops featured at the event will include Introduction to Plant Spirit Connection hosted by Elaine O'Sullivan; Demystifying and Managing PCOS and Female Brian Health Through Menopause presented by naturopathic doctor Dr. Nicole Roberts; Burn Belly Fat Eating the Foods You Love with Fannie Martin; Meditation for Beginners led by Jennifer Cluley; and Connecting With Spirit – A Medium's Guide with Tina Hinsperger.

A significant component of the expo is the focus on sharing a wide range of health

and wellness practices, including both traditional and alternative health businesses.

"As humans, we need to understand the entirety of what is happening to our bodies, and that absolutely includes spiritual or energetic components alongside Western medicine; it's important to offer information from as many aspects," said Philip.

The 6th Annual Shelburne Health and Wellness Expo will be held on Saturday (Jan. 20) from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Centre Dufferin District High School (CDDHS) in Shelburne.

Admission is free.

"Your health and well-being are worth the time it will take to come to this event. Everybody deserves to have good health, and this is one opportunity to find out how you can get support for that," said Philip.

For more information about the event, visit the Shelburne Health and Wellness Expo website at www.theshwe.com or email theshwe.info@gmail.com.

Local teen named Athlete of the Month for Special Olympics Ontario

Written By **Brian Lockhart**

Special Olympics Ontario has honoured local athlete Yasmine Wilson-Daponte as Athlete of the Month.

Yasmine, who lives in Shelburne, has been an athlete with the Special Olympics for 10 years. During that time, she has participated in numerous sports, including basketball, Bocce, curling, soccer, and swimming.

A well-rounded competitor, she has had great success in her sports.

The thing Yasmine loves most about Special Olympics is the opportunity to spend time with her friends while participating in the sports she loves. Yasmine said Special Olympics "means being able to play sports without any boundaries and without being

judged by her appearance or abilities."

One of Yasmine's most memorable moments in the Special Olympics was when she competed at the 2019 International Youth Games. She earned Gold, Silver, Bronze, and a fourth-place medal at the Games. She is very proud of this accomplishment.

Yasmine said she would like to express her gratitude to the donors and supporters of Special Olympics.

She said she "thanks them for not making fun of her and for the gift of sports which has allowed her to grow and thrive as an athlete."

Yasmine plans to continue with sports and work on her skill level and training to achieve greater success in the coming years.



**Special
Olympics
Ontario**



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Dufferin Arts Council joins DBOT and SPARC to offer more to members

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

The Dufferin Arts Council (DAC) is ushering in the new year with new added benefits for its members.

The local arts council announced in a press release on Jan. 15 that they'd become members of two organizations that will help provide more perks and services for their members.

"We're very pleased to be offering these new benefits and opportunities to our membership," said Warren Maycock, chair of the Dufferin Arts Council. "It's a wonderful way to be starting out the new year."

The Dufferin Arts Council has become a member of the Dufferin Board of Trade (DBOT), a community-building non-profit organization dedicated to helping local businesses.

This is done by helping them connect with other businesses and resources, advocating for business needs, promotion, and financial savings.

Perks DAC members now have access to include:

- Post organization or member events in DBOT's newsletters, which are distributed

to about 1,300 people plus on their social media

- To receive the DBOT newsletter, sign up at www.dufferinbot.ca

- A listing in the Business Directory; members can also have their own free basic listing

- Participate in any of the free Level Up Dufferin training programs

- A free, no-obligation quote for special non-profit Health Insurance Benefits through the Chambers Plan dufferinbot.ca/membership/membership-benefits/insurance-programs/

- Access the space rentals or special Business Support Services offered through the social enterprise, the BizHub.

The arts council has also become a member of Supporting Performing Arts in Rural Communities (SPARC), which is a network of producers, presenters, creators and community animators in rural and remote communities across Ontario.

Some of the services and benefits for Dufferin Arts Council members include:

- Community consultations
- Regional showcases
- Community Presenter's Network Small Venue Pitch Sessions

- Peer-to-peer chats and connections to SPARC social media

- Access to medical and health benefits (health insurance) via the Arts & Entertainment Plan

- Funding opportunities for creativity and cultural animation

- Newsletters

The Dufferin Art Council was formed in 1992 by a group of local residents who came

together to help support artists and the arts in Dufferin County.

Each year, DAC looks to raise money to fund projects that promote the development of artists and the arts in the community.

In 2022, the arts council celebrated their 30th anniversary.

To inquire about becoming a member of the Dufferin Arts Council, visit www.dufferinarts.com.

NOTICE

OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF DUFFERIN MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY

NOTICE is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of Dufferin Mutual Insurance Company will be held at the Shelburne Royal Canadian Legion, 203 William Street, Shelburne, Ontario, on Wednesday, March 27, 2024 at 1:30 p.m. to:

- Receive the Annual Reports (Chair, President & CEO, Financial, etc.)
- To Appoint Auditors and authorize the directors to fix the remuneration of such auditors.
- Ratify the Acts of the Board of Directors.
- Elect Directors (two for three years).

The Corporation's annual statement will be available on the Corporation's website (www.dufferinmutual.com) 21 days prior to the Annual General Meeting. A member of the Corporation may also obtain a copy by sending a written request to the Secretary of the Corporation at 802 Main Street East, Unit 4, Shelburne, Ontario, L9V 2Z5, at least 14 days prior to the Annual General Meeting.

Individuals interested in applying for a position on the Board of Directors are invited to submit their application. Application forms are available at the Corporation's Head Office and must be duly completed and returned to the same address. To be considered for the role, completed applications must be received by the Secretary of the Corporation no later than 4:30 p.m., on Tuesday, February 27, 2024. It is important for applicants to ensure that they meet the necessary qualifications as outlined in the Company By-Laws, which can be reviewed at the Company's Head Office.

As of the current date, the following individuals have been qualified and endorsed by the nominating committee to stand for election to the Board of Directors of the Corporation:

- Mark Hannon
- Guy Gardhouse

These candidates have met the necessary criteria and have been duly endorsed for consideration in the upcoming board elections.

The Company By-Laws may be reviewed Monday to Friday, between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. at the Company's Head Office, including the portion of the By-Laws that relate to Qualifications of Directors.

In accordance with Company by-laws, only information in the notice of the meeting may be transacted at the meeting.

By order of the Board of Directors,

Edward Forbes,
Corporate Secretary
January 16, 2024

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To reserve your spot in the Spring/Summer 2024 Edition, please contact Debbie Freeman

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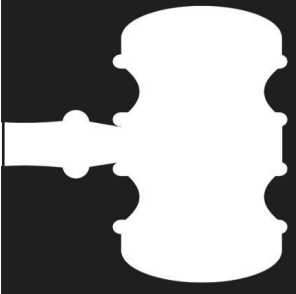
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CARD OF THANKS

CARD OF THANKS

The Sawden/Ellis families wish to thank everyone who reached out to us with cards, food, donations and attendance at our mother Vivian's funeral.

Also thank you to the staff on the 1st floor of Dufferin Oaks for their care, compassion and friendship.

The New Horizons Club for the lunch and the staff of Jack & Thompson Funeral Home as well as Rev Gord Horsley for the wonderful service.

**Brian & Laverne,
Sharon & Alf and families**

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE

CLOSING SERVICE FOR ST. PAUL'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

January 21st at 3pm
Bishop Susan Bell presiding.

Light refreshments to follow.

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

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THANK YOU

THANK YOU!

Our generous town helped 187 local families have a Happy Holiday.

Shelburne helping Shelburne



SHELBURNE

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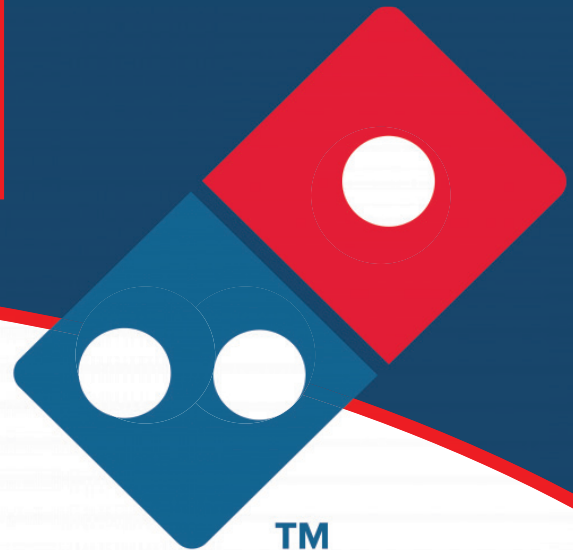


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