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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BIG WIN: Mulmur resident Ian Casey has found himself with \$100,000 more in the bank after winning in the Jan. 9 Merry Millions Draw, a limited-time lottery game from the Ontario Lottery and Gaming Commission. Casey purchased his ticket at the Pioneer Gas Station on Airport Rd. in Mulmur. For the full story turn to Page 3.

Dufferin County Council looks at ways to reduce service delivery costs, considers amalgamation

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

Dufferin County Council is opening up discussions and exploring ways to save money regarding service delivery.

Dufferin County Council held a special meeting on Jan. 25 to discuss the roles of local and upper-tier levels of government, identify areas of duplication and propose ways to streamline service delivery.

The meeting was organized in response to a motion brought forward by Grand Valley Deputy Mayor Philip Rentsch during the November County Council meeting.

"It seems to me that there is a lot of opportunity to simplify how we do things, and I think for me, the first step is to look at the things that are done at both tiers and go, 'does this make sense?'" said Coun. Philip Rentsch, regarding his decision to bring the motion to Council. "I think there's good evidence over the last four years that there is a lot of money that we're spending that isn't giving us a return, and our job, at least I think my job,

is to get the best bang for the buck for our ratepayers."

"Things are doing good, but I think if there's a chance that we could do it just a little better, then we owe it to the taxpayers," said Coun. Steve Solomon, who seconded the initial motion.

During the meeting, the majority of Dufferin County Councillors agreed with the need to reevaluate service delivery and determine where duplications are occurring at the upper and lower tiers of government.

"We inherited these structures, and I think from time to time it makes sense to do an evaluation to see if it's still meeting the needs of Council, of staff, and of the ratepayers," said Coun. James McLean, Deputy Mayor of Melancthon.

One specific topic indicated as an area of discussion for the reevaluation of governance was the possibility of amalgamating into a single-tier government. The topic brought mixed perspectives from representatives of various municipalities.

"I think we have to be open to the idea

of amalgamation and have the conversation, put it on the table and see if it's an idea that could work, and if it's not let's take it off the table and see how else we can do a better job for our residents," said Coun. Lisa Post, Mayor of Orangeville.

Meanwhile, other County councillors had different viewpoints.

"Bigger is not better; bigger does not mean cheaper, and it does not mean more efficient. I think that clearly puts me in the grouping of those who would oppose a 'City of Dufferin'; I was against it years ago, I'm against it now. However, there are areas of duplication that I think we need to wrestle with and those are areas where we can achieve some efficiency and potential cost savings," said Coun. John Creelman, Mayor of Mono.

Dufferin County Council passed a motion to have Warden Darren White work with senior County staff members to bring back a framework for discussions around governance and service delivery by the next County Council meeting, which will be held on Feb. 8.

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Breakfast for Non-Profit Appreciation Week coming to Monora Park

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

A local committee of non-profit organizations is looking to recognize the efforts of workers within the sector locally during observation of the third annual Non-Profit Appreciation Week.

The special breakfast event, called Morning Glory, will be hosted at the Monora Park Pavilion on Feb. 15 from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m.

"We recognize that staff at charities and non-profits have been going through a very

challenging time over the last few years, and we wanted to do something that brought the non-profit community together, gave them a real boost, and helped enhance the sense of well-being," said Michele Fisher, a member of the planning group.

In December of 2021, the province passed Bill 9 to create Non-Profit Appreciation Week, a motion that all parties unanimously supported. Starting on Feb. 12 and running until Feb. 18, the week is focused on acknowledging the people in the non-profit sector whose work changes the lives of indi-

viduals, families and communities.

In Dufferin County alone, there are over 150 non-profits that work within the community, ranging from human services, environmental/conservation organizations, arts and culture, recreation, health, mental health, community development, housing and homelessness, food security, and much more.

The special breakfast event will include live food stations catered by Lavender Blue Catering and Maple Grove Farms and beverages from Sheldon Creek Dairy and Pita Pit. The event will feature entertainment from

Noni Thomas, music manager at Streams Community Hub, who will take attendees through a participative musical activity.

Tickets for the event cost \$25, and 40 tickets have been made available through sponsors for anyone working in the charitable non-profit sector in Dufferin County who may need help to afford the ticket price.

Registration for the event and ticket purchases can be done by visiting business.dufferinbot.ca/events/details/morning-glory-nonprofit-appreciation-week-breakfast-2513.

Renovations underway at Headwaters Health Care's hemodialysis unit

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

Patients receiving hemodialysis treatments at Headwaters Health Care Centre (HHCC) will be able to experience them in comfort with the construction of a newly renovated hemodialysis unit.

The local hospital announced on Monday (Jan. 22) that construction for the modernly renovated hemodialysis unit had begun.

"This renovation of our hemodialysis unit will ensure that our patients continue to have access to excellent care, close to home. Patient experience has been at the forefront, as we engaged them throughout the planning and design process," said Kim Delahunt, president and CEO of HHCC. "In partnership with the Headwaters Health Care Foundation and the generous support of our community, we are thrilled to complete this work."

Hemodialysis is a treatment that filters the blood of a person whose kidneys are not working normally. Hemodialysis treatments are life-sustaining for patients with end-stage kidney disease. Since treatments take up to four hours and are required three times per week in a specialized treatment chair, patient comfort is a priority.

The renovation to the Hemodialysis Unit was made possible with donations from the community through the Smart Headwaters fundraising campaign.

"The need for dialysis services is growing and the Foundation and donors are proud to see new renovations for the dialysis unit underway," said K.C. Carruthers, CEO of Headwaters Health Care Foundation. "Hemodialysis patients spend four to five hours, multiple times a week receiving treatment. We want their experience to be as positive and convenient as possible."

Key features of the renovated hemodialysis unit will include:

- A return to its original location on the hospital's main level within the Ambulatory Care wing. The unit will have direct access from a patient drop-off area adjacent to the hospital

- The capacity to expand to 9 stations, capable of treating up to 54 patients annually. To support the longer-term needs of the community, the unit will also have the capacity for a future expansion to 12 active stations that will serve up to 72 patients in total

- Brand-new water treatment room for water purification and a technical workroom to support monitoring and maintenance of the water treatment system and the hemodialysis machines

- New in-floor scale, designed to be level with the floor to ensure both safety and ease of use for patients

- New ergonomic treatment chairs with customizable features for each patient and a renewed layout to bring in more natural light

The hospital expects a few changes during the renovation construction phase, including the temporary closure of the Ambulatory Care patient drop-off parking, entrance area, patient waiting areas and clinic locations.

Patients with Ambulatory Care will continue to register at the Welcome Centre before proceeding to their appointment, while there is no change to registration for hemodialysis patients.

During renovation construction, Hemodialysis and Ambulatory Care patients will continue to be seen, and Headwaters says there will be minimum disruption to patient appointments.

Construction of the newly renovated Hemodialysis Unit is anticipated to be completed by summer 2024.

Shelburne Library shares what's new

There are new hours at the Shelburne Public Library starting Feb. 1.

Thanks to all who took the time to respond to our hours of operation survey. We have taken the feedback into consideration and are happy to launch a pilot project with the hours of operation below, effective Feb. 1st, 2024-May 31st, 2024:

- Tuesday: 10 a.m. – 7 p.m.
- Wednesday: 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
- Thursday: 10 a.m. – 7 p.m.
- Friday: 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
- Saturday: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Unfortunately our Ancestry Workshop scheduled for February 8th has to be cancelled. Thanks to all who were interested.

We are seeking donations for our Seed Library in advance of our Seedy Saturday event (details to be released soon). Please label seed donations with the variety and when it was harvested.

Upcoming Events

Library Literary Event: The Lucie & Thornton Blackburn Story with Suzette Daley, Sunday, Feb. 11, 2 p.m.: Local author, Suzette Daley will tell the story of Lucie & Thornton Blackburn, founders of Toronto's first taxi company, The City. Their story epitomizes resil-

ience, entrepreneurship, and community-building, and is one you won't want to miss! Registration can be found on our Programs & Events for Adults page.

Staff Pick of the Week: The Leftover Woman by Jean Kwok

Arriving in New York City from her rural Chinese village without money or family support, Jasmine Young, on the run from her abusive husband, desperately searches for the daughter taken away from her at birth, which forces her to make increasingly risky decisions.

Why Molly recommends this book:

The Leftover Woman, by Jean Kwok, while outside my comfort zone, this is definitely what many scholars would define as a page turner. Detailing the difficult transition moving from China to New York for Jasmine, a woman born during China's one child era, the Leftover Woman manages to pack in essential notes on Chinese culture and cuisine, and tells the stories of all types of women. In fact, the men in this book are the eye candy, the side pieces and the 'difficult' ones. Ms. Kwok has a powerful insight into many industries, her writing is crisp and concise and I recommend this one to anyone who loves a thrilling story with a satisfying ending.

Dundalk's new water tower allows for faster housing construction

Written By **Sam Odrowski**

The Township of Dundalk is growing.

And to accommodate new growth from developments, a new water tower was recently constructed.

The water tower is located just northwest of the Dundalk Community Centre (550 Main St E, Dundalk) and will service 2,150 future residential and commercial units within Southgate. Many of those units are part of the new communities Flato Developments plans to build in Dundalk.

The new water tower is operational and enables faster construction of Flato's projects.

The water tower's capacity is 4,000 cubic meters.

The project was commissioned in 2023 and improves the consistency of water pressure

for residents' day-to-day use.

The new water tower also increases fire flow pressure, which will help extinguish fires faster and lower homeowner insurance rates.

An unveiling ceremony with Southgate's mayor, deputy mayor, councillors and staff took place at the water tower last October.

For wastewater, Southgate's engineers are working on upgrading the present system to increase its overall capacity to support future growth. This work is targeted to go to tender later this year.

"Flato will continue in the future, as we have in the past, to work with the Township of Southgate by supporting the building of communities we work in, to create a great home ownership experience," said Nazy Majidi of Flato Developments.

New elementary school coming to Dundalk to accommodate future growth

Written By **Sam Odrowski**

The Bluewater District School Board is opening a new elementary school in Dundalk to help accommodate the town's increasing population from new housing construction.

Flato Developments, which is in the process of planning and building three new communities in Dundalk, has designated 8.2 acres of land for the elementary school to be built on.

Flato Developments decided to designate the lands for the school due to the high demand for a new school site in its location.

The school will have a capacity of roughly 400 to 500 students and service northeast Dundalk, particularly Flato's Glenelg project. Phase 2 of this project will see 155 residential units built, including 93 single detached and 62 townhouse units.

Phase 1 of the Glenelg project features 188 homes and construction is underway. Work is expected to be complete by the summer this year.

These multi-family and rental dwellings will enable more families to join the Southgate community.

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Dufferin County Interfaith Forum to host annual potluck dinner

Written By Paula Brown
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Dufferin County residents from various religious faiths will have the chance to converse with each other and further community connections at an upcoming cross-cultural event.

The Dufferin County Interfaith Forum will host its annual potluck dinner on Saturday, Feb. 10, at Trinity United Church, located at 200 Owen Sound St. in Shelburne, in recognition of the United Nations' World Interfaith Harmony Week.

"It feels so great to be able to do this [event] again. This is an opportunity to learn about each other, recognize our differences while appreciating our similarities, and accept each other. It only enhances the community for us to know each other," said Shaila (Bella) Carter, co-founder of the Dufferin County Interfaith Forum.

World Interfaith Harmony Week (WIHW) is an annual event that looks to promote harmony between different faith groups by recognizing their common values, sharing information, and building bonds.

The week of observance was first proposed at the UN General Assembly in September 2010 by H.M. King Abdullah II of

Jordan. It was unanimously adopted by the United Nations less than a month later. World Interfaith Harmony Week (WIHW) is observed annually during the first week of February.

World Interfaith Harmony Week was first recognized in Dufferin County in 2019, with a potluck dinner organized by Carter and the then Reverend of Trinity United Church, Dr. Candice Bist. The duo went on to develop a local monthly interfaith event called "Second Saturdays," which was held regularly until February of 2023.

"It was a wonderful event that really taught us about different ways of maneuvering around the world," Carter reflected on the event.

Carter initially planned to postpone hosting the 2024 interfaith potluck dinner following the passing of her husband, Alex, who was an instrumental member in organizing the event.

Speaking with the Free Press, Carter said she chose to revive the event in remembrance of her husband and their joint efforts to bring the community together.

"We were always intertwined in our work, always helping each other out. He would have wanted us to do it," said Carter. "For me, it's continuing the work we



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

PEACE & HARMONY: Representatives from various faiths in Dufferin County come together each February in recognition of World Interfaith Harmony Week to promote harmony and build ties.

used to do together – I can still feel he's on my side, doing this with me."

This year, the Dufferin County Interfaith Forum Potluck Dinner will be dedicated in memory of Alex Carter and Sikh Priest Gurmant Singh, who were both significant participants in the forum.

Various representatives from the local Muslim, Sikh, Jewish, Buddhist, and Christian groups will be present. Prior to the

potluck dinner, each will make a prayer from their religion, speaking on the 2024 World Interfaith Harmony Week theme of peace and harmony.

The 2024 Interfaith Potluck Dinner will be held on Saturday, Feb. 10, at 6:30 p.m.

Those interested in attending the 2024 Interfaith Potluck Dinner can RSVP by emailing the event organizer, Shaila (Bella) Carter, at shailacarter@gmail.com.

NDACT to host Well Registration Workshop to help residents

Written By Paula Brown
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

North Dufferin Agricultural and Community Taskforce (NDACT) is looking to increase the number of residents registered for a well program that aims to protect their water from a proposed quarry.

The Well Registration Workshop will be held on Saturday (Feb. 3) at the Horning's Mills Hall in Melancthon from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The purpose of the event is to increase the number of local residents within the targeted participation area to sign up for the WELLness Check Program.

"We want to be sure that the community that might be affected by possible water disruptions, should Strada apply for a licence and be granted one, are protected," said Carl Cosack, NDACT community liaison.

The WELLness Check Program is one of the key schedules in an agreement signed by NDACT and Strada Aggregate back in June of 2023. 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 natural environment. The program will also see that should there be an impact on 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.

"Strada has committed to follow the science, which we're really appreciative of. However, no matter what humans put their



minds to, one should expect that there are some unknowns and some things that are not foreseeable; we just have to presume that," said Cosack.

Speaking with the Free Press, Cosack said NDACT has seen roughly 25 residents register for the WELLness Check Program thus far, which he notes is "nowhere near enough."

"The Aggregate Resources Act does a really poor job of protecting communities and people, and makes a homeowner find the fault of water issues on their budget and timeline. Strada has agreed not to fol-

low that process. From a people point of view, that should be a big relief to them. If unforeseen issues crop up, there'll be somebody there right away," he said.

He added, "this process is like an insurance policy for homeowners. Hopefully, they will never have to call on it, but if they do, there is a system in place to make sure they don't run out of water."

During the workshop, members from NDACT will help residents through the paperwork required for the WELLness Check Program and be available to answer the public's questions.

"If you're looking at [forms] for the first time, it might be intimidating, so we will help residents fill out the paperwork, collect it and deliver it to Strada on their behalf," explained Cosack.

For more information about the NDACT and Strada Aggregate agreement, visit www.ndact.ca.

Mulmur man wins 100k in lotto draw

Written By Paula Brown
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Mulmur resident Ian Casey is starting the new year off in an extra 'merry' way.

The Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation (OLG) announced in a press release that the 57-year-old Mulmur resident won \$100,000 in the Jan. 9 Merry Millions lottery draw.

Casey was at home when he discovered his big win.

"I screamed, 'Oh my God!' and my wife came running because she thought I hurt myself. I was shocked and thankful," he said in the press release. "My wife came into the room, and I showed her my phone – she was calm and happy."

Casey is a skilled trades worker and has been a regular lottery player since he was

18. His favourite games are Lotto Max and Lotto 6/49, but the store clerk recommended Casey to try the limited-time game – Merry Millions.

The winning ticket was purchased at the Pioneer Gas Station on Airport Rd. in Mulmur.

Casey said he plans to share the win with his children, save some for his future and celebrate over a nice family dinner.

"This is awesome and amazing. My hands are shaking, and my mind is racing with all the possibilities that come along with a win like this," said Casey.

The Merry Millions was a limited-time OLG lottery game that ran from Nov. 21 to Jan. 9. The lottery game, which cost \$20, featured three \$1 million guaranteed top prizes, three \$50,000 early bird prizes, plus 402 additional prizes ranging between \$1,000 and \$250,000.

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The price of things

There's an old Warner Brothers cartoon that shows the logging industry chopping down a tree, putting the trunk in a lathe, and whittling it down to one toothpick, which is then delicately placed in a box with several others before the next tree becomes the next toothpick.

I guess it was a parody of the manufacturing industry. To me, as a kid, it was just funny.

The other day, I watched a YouTube video of how aluminum foil is made. It's not that much different from the cartoon.

After mining tons of bauxite ore, there is an entire process that makes aluminum.

A massive block of aluminum is placed under pressure several times and made thinner each time. The end result is a piece of aluminum so thin you can wrap your potato in it and bake it on the barbecue.

You can buy a roll of aluminum foil for around \$2.99.

We are currently experiencing inflation, driving up the price of almost everything. Food products are a main concern because we have to eat. You can stop buying other products if they are too pricey, but you can't skip the grocery store

and save money by grazing like sheep in the backyard.

Although things are going up, you can still look at the good side of living in a Western democracy that uses capitalism and free enterprise to do business.

That explains why you can buy a lemon at the grocery store for .99 cents.

Think about that for a minute. Someone bought the land and planted lemon trees. They waited for several years until the trees could produce fruit. They then have a growing season and employ someone to prune the trees and look after the orchard and a crew to pick the lemons from the tree. Once the lemons are ready, they are placed in a box and shipped.

But since lemons only grow in certain climates, they are shipped here from, most likely, Mexico or California. Either way, some truck driver put several thousand miles on his vehicle to bring them here.

The truck driver had to be paid, and the truck had to be fuelled.

Yet, after all that, you can still buy a lemon for less than a dollar.

Automobiles are getting pricey, especially if you feel the need to buy a high-

end luxury model with all the bells and whistles – or, in the modern sense, the one with the 5 Litre engine, 15 console touch-screen and self-driving capabilities.

However, the path to having an automobile roll off the assembly line is huge.

First, you need engineers and designers who have to create the automobile on paper – or whichever method they currently use.

Then, somewhere, someone is mining the ore to create the metal that makes a good part of each car. A supplier factory makes the individual components.

Someone has to put it all together at an assembly plant.

I drive by the Honda plant in Alliston on a regular basis. That place is huge. The electricity bill alone must be a fortune. It employs around 4,000 well-paid employees.

It costs millions just to operate that factory.

Yet, they still manage to sell a Civic at a reasonable cost.

One of the main reasons we can get goods at a reasonable price – is good old-fashioned competition.

If you're the only guy who makes a wid-

get, and it is a necessary product that most people need, you can make up your own price and demand people pay for it.

However, if another widget builder goes into business and has a better way to make and sell widgets cheaper, people will buy from him instead.

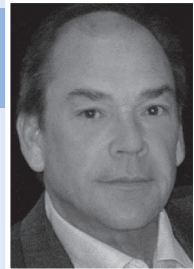
What would the price of a light bulb be if there was just one manufacturer? Considering a light bulb is a necessity, you would have to pay that manufacturer's price or live in the dark.

The only problem here is if two or more companies conspire to fix prices all around, and all demand an unfair price for a product.

This happens, but it is rare and can result in serious penalties for companies who do this.

Hopefully, inflation has started to plateau, and things should level off. Although, that doesn't do much good for people who don't get a cost of living raise every year.

Even so, be happy you live in a place where you can buy a lemon for less than the price of a small coffee.



BRIAN LOCKHART FROM THE SECOND ROW

How do we bridge the growing divide between the wealthy and the workers?

The rich get richer and the poor get poorer, goes the old saying.

But is it true? It certainly seems to be the case in Canada.

A new report published by Statistics Canada last week showed that the wealth gap in our country continues to widen. According to the report, the richest 20 per cent of Canadians account for nearly 70 per cent of the country's total wealth, while the bottom 40 per cent of Canadians represented a meagre three percent of Canada's wealth.

During the third quarter of 2023, high-income Canadians saw their savings grow while low-income households experienced a decrease in savings as they struggled to pay bills, make higher interest payments on loans and mortgages, and fork out more for higher food and gas costs. In other words, while the rich got richer, the poor got poorer.

Joel Kotkin, an urban studies professor from California, wrote about the growing divide in wealth in his 2020 book titled The Coming of Neo-Feudalism: A Warning to the Global Middle Class. Kotkin cites California as a striking example of a modern neo-feudal state.

According to him, California is character-

ized by an ultra-rich upper class composed of tech oligarchs – which he describes as a new aristocracy – and below them, at the bottom of society, are the new "serfs", a large and growing segment of the population that is property-less and poor.

California's middle class, meanwhile, is evaporating as people and companies flee the state's high taxes, crime and suffocating regulations.

Canada is looking more and more like a neo-feudal state, with a small number of very wealthy individuals and an increasingly expanding lower class of people whose incomes and wealth are shrinking year by year. And in between these two groups is the bureaucratic class, which serves the very rich and powerful and keeps the rest of the people under their thumb with countless rules and regulations that restrict nearly every aspect of their lives.

So, what is the best course of action to bridge the growing divide between the wealthy and the workers in Canada?

I believe that we need to move into a new phase of capitalism where workers become partners in profitability and share in the financial outcome of the businesses they work for.

It's a key plank in the economic charter of rights I've been promoting to get Canada's economy back on a solid footing and to increase the living standards of millions of Canadians. Everything, in the end, hinges on the health of the economy.

If we laid the foundation for a profit-sharing economy – one where workers are partners – then we can not only raise the incomes of millions of Canadians, but we'll also unleash a boom in corporate productivity and innovation.

To make that happen, we need small businesses and concerned citizens across Canada to band together and push for the adoption of an economic charter of

rights – a charter that consists of proven economic principles for creating long-lasting prosperity.

When a country's middle class begins to crumble and the great divide in income grows larger, it will only be a matter of time before the country also starts to fall apart.

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



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It's the Season for Freezin' – the Polar Plunge is back in Shelburne

Written By **Brian Lockhart**

There's nothing quite as refreshing as jumping into a pool of near-freezing water outdoors in the middle of February.

The 2024 Dufferin OPP Polar Plunge is returning to Fiddle Park in February, and you have the chance to enjoy an outdoor swim and raise money for a good cause at the same time.

You don't have to do it alone. You can form your own group based on friends or your workplace, and all enjoy the plunge together.

Not only can you come as a group, but you can choose a theme and dress up in costume for the event.

Just imagine your workgroup in super-hero-themed costumes leaping into the pool together and enjoying the sudden shock of plunging into ice-cold water in the middle of winter!

"We're doing it again on Family Day," explained organizer Constable Jeff McLean

of the Dufferin OPP. "It's a fundraiser under the Law Enforcement Torch Run banner for Special Olympics. People can sign up or donate, or sponsor an individual."

This is the first Polar Plunge since 2020 when the pandemic put a stop to large gatherings.

"Our goal is to get it back up and running this year and bring it back to the community," Constable McLean explained. "We're putting a pool that was donated by D&D Pools in Orangeville. We still have that pool and they are on board for coming in and setting it up. Registration for the event will start at 11:00 a.m and the plunging will start around 1:00 p.m. The last time we did it we had almost 400 spectators and around 76 plungers."

The Dufferin OPP Polar Plunge will take place on the Family Day holiday, Monday, Feb. 19, at Fiddle Park, 515677 Dufferin County Road 11, in Shelburne.

You can register online by visiting: Polar-Plunge.ca/Dufferin.



FILE PHOTO

TAKE THE PLUNGE: The Dufferin OPP Polar Plunge is returning to Fiddle Park in Shelburne for the Family Day holiday on Feb. 19. You can register to take the plunge or just come out as a spectator and watch the brave participants jump into a pool of frigid water.

Man charged with impaired driving after blowing four times over legal limit

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 January 27, 2024, just before 1:00 p.m., officers from the Dufferin OPP responded to a traffic complaint in the area of HWY 89 and Ojibway Road in the Town of Shelburne. Officers arrived on scene and were quickly led into an impaired operation investigation.

A 20-year-old male, from Hanover 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.

The Dufferin OPP reminds motorists to plan ahead when consuming alcohol or drugs.

Use a designated driver, cab, rideshare, public transit or stay overnight. Any amount of alcohol or drugs can impact your ability to make sound judgements.

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



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CLUES ACROSS

1. Become less intense

6. Variety of pear

10. Religion native to China

14. Type of tooth

15. Fitted out

17. Make every effort

19. Autonomic nervous system

20. Complete

21. Alternate name

22. River in France and Belgium

23. Miami's mascot is one

24. Turfs

26. Most cognizant of reality

29. Broad volcanic crater

31. Canadian surname

32. Satisfaction

34. Traitorous Greek mythological prince

35. Collide

37. Immune response

38. Feline

39. High opinion of

one's own appearance (abbr.)

40. Thin strip to align parts

41. Containers

43. Convicted American spy

45. Breathe noisily

46. Taxi

47. Pancakes made from buckwheat flour

49. Swiss river

50. I.M. __, architect

53. Have surgery

57. Formal withdrawal

58. Dutch and German surname

59. Square measures

60. 2,000 lbs.

61. Degrade someone

CLUES DOWN

1. Siberian river

2. Blessing

3. Substitutes (abbr.)

4. Principle underlying the universe

5. Work unit

6. Yellow edible fruits

7. Gemstone

8. A place ships dock

9. Evergreen tropical tree

10. Reality TV star Richards

11. Nonflowering aquatic plant

12. Stakes

13. Antidiuretic hormone

16. Make warm again

18. Light beams

22. Lethal dose

23. Terrorist group

24. Kids love him

25. Naturally occurring solid

27. German surname meaning "man from Saxony"

28. Popular cuisine

29. Partner to cheese

30. Type of horse

31. __ Diego

33. Defensive nuclear weapon

35. Most shrewd

36. It may be for shopping

37. Midway between south and southeast

39. A stock of foods

42. The bindings of books

43. Swiss river

44. Megabyte

46. Sammy __, songwriter

47. Dutch colonist

48. Clare Booth __, American writer

49. Sun or solar disk

50. Popular type of bread

51. Transfers of money (abbr.)

52. Association of engineering professionals

53. Young women's association

54. City

55. Niger-Congo branch of languages

56. Pointed end of a pen

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

SHELBURNE SPORTS



BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

ON THE ATTACK: The Shelburne Wolves U13 LL team takes on the Honeywood Hurricanes at the North Dufferin Community Centre in Honeywood on Saturday, Jan. 27. The Hurricanes came out on top in this game with a 6-5 win.

Shelburne Minor Baseball gearing up for 2024 season

Written By Brian Lockhart

The boys (and girls) of summer will be back on local diamonds playing baseball this year, and Shelburne Minor Baseball is looking forward to another outstanding season.

There was some controversy last year when the Town of Shelburne requested personal player information for anyone signing up to play on local diamonds, which almost

forced the club to move games elsewhere. That rule is still in effect. However, the club will be playing their games in Shelburne.

The club will provide player information in a hard copy to avoid hacking conflicts.

Baseball provides excellent physical activity and competition among youth and older players as well.

Players signing up for the season don't have to live in Shelburne. The club welcomes players from the surrounding town-

ships and towns who want to enjoy the sport.

Four divisions are playing this year. This includes teams for players aged three up to 15 years old, and all skill levels are welcome to come out and play.

Games are played on Tuesday evenings on the diamonds at Hyland Park in Shelburne.

Since this is a house league, all games are played in Shelburne, making it convenient for local families.

Registration for the 2024 season will begin in February. There will be early-bird pricing for registration in February. Many families may appreciate the savings.

Registration will start on Feb. 1.

You can visit the Shelburne Minor Baseball Facebook page to find the link for online registration.

Baseball is a terrific summer sport that is easy to play and enjoyed by the kids who participate through the summer.

North Carruthers Division making big changes next season

Written By Brian Lockhart

There will be significant changes in the North Carruthers Division of the Provincial Junior Hockey when teams return for the 2024-25 season.

Currently, the division has nine teams covering an area in central Ontario, including Alliston, Stayner, Schomberg, Caledon, Huntsville, Penetang, Midland, Orillia, and Innisfil.

The League has already announced the addition of one new team – the Muskoka Bears – who will join the division at the start of next season. The Bears are based in Bracebridge.

The Bears have already paid the \$65,000 franchise fee to the League.

The team is a not-for-profit, community funded and managed organization. Eight members of the management team and an additional five advisory committee members had a financial investment in the franchise.

Sponsors, donors and fans will be relied upon to provide all the funding necessary to operate the team.

When the North Carruthers Division returns next season, there will be a noticeable change in the line-up of teams.

Both the Caledon Golden Hawks and the Schomberg Cougars will be moving to the East Orr Division.

The Orr Division is east of both towns and includes teams from Clarington, Georgina, Uxbridge, Port Perry, Lakefield, Little Brit-

tain, and North Kawartha.

The PJHL confirmed the decision to move the teams to a different division.

“We have been reviewing our alignment for two years,” said Terry Whiteside, Commissioner of the PJHL. “We have 63 franchises, and the goal is to have seven divisions with eight teams and one division with seven teams. This way, all teams make the playoffs and all divisions would have to play the same number of rounds to get to the Schmalz Cup finals. Currently we have a division with six teams and two with nine. The ninth place team in this division doesn't make the playoffs.”

The League also considered travel time and current attendance when deciding to make these moves.

“We also looked at travel time when considering alignment,” Whiteside said. “In Schomberg and Caledon's case, their travel should be less in the Orr Division than it would be in the Carruthers Division. We hope to be able to work with the teams to develop rivals and increase their gate attendance. Neither team draws very well currently, in comparison to many other teams.”

Both Caledon and Schomberg have low attendance at home games compared to other towns like Alliston and Stayner, which have a solid local fan base.

The new team line-up will give the North Carruthers Division eight squads to start the next season.

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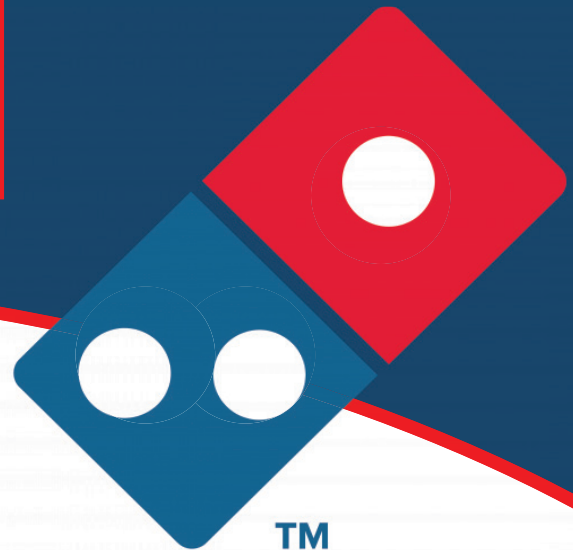


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