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PAULA BROWN PHOTO

BLACK HISTORY MONTH: Members of the Centre Dufferin District High School (CDDHS) Black Chapter took part in the fourth annual Dufferin County Canadian Black Association (DCCBA) Black History Month event at Grace Tipling Hall on Saturday (Feb. 24). The group performed two of their self written poems titled, *Enough Misconception* and *Allow Me to Re-Introduce Myself*. Pictured is DCCBA founder and event organizer, Alethia O'Hara Stephenson (left) and Black Chapter members; Gabby Spencer, Aaliyah Thompson, Sneyt Weldeab, Kamsy Ndiokwere, and Keneisia Daley.

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'Black history is Canadian history': Event at Grace Tipling Hall celebrates Black heritage

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

As February comes to a close for another year, Dufferin County residents had the chance to celebrate Black History Month together with a special event from the Dufferin County Canadian Black Association (DCCBA).

Patrons gathered at Grace Tipling Hall in Shelburne on Saturday (Feb. 24) for the annual DCCBA Black History Month event, "Celebrating Black Excellence: A Heritage to Celebrate; A Future to Build."

"This is an amazing event and occasion to be able to honour the legacy of Black Canadians and celebrate the rich history. We have a rich Black history throughout Dufferin County and we're able to talk about some of the struggles, but also the triumphs," said Alethia O'Hara Stephenson, organizer of the event. "Historically, the Black narrative is often missing so this is an opportunity to showcase the excellence in the community, to educate the broader community about

the contributions of Black Canadians and demonstrate how integrated we are as part of the Canadian mosaic; it's an opportunity to be part of the story."

The local Black History Month event was first held four years ago as a virtual panel discussion hosted by the Dufferin County Canadian Black Association and the Museum of Dufferin (MoD). Since its inception in 2020, the DCCBA's Black History Month event has continued to grow, with this year's event selling out with a 195-seating capacity in Grace Tipling Hall.

In 2018, the Town of Shelburne became the first municipality in Dufferin County to officially proclaim February as Black History Month.

"What I'm more proud of than that is what we've seen in the ensuing six years, moving from simple proclamations, which are largely symbolic, to seeing real advancements and real change," said Shelburne Mayor Wade Mills. "Having that culminate in an event like this, seeing so many people joining together from different background, different culture,

different histories, to celebrate Black History and recognize the fact that Black history is Canadian history, is something I find really heartening."

The Black History Month event featured a number of guests and performers including; Liberty Silver, Juno Award Winner; Capt. Kevin Junor, a retired member of the Canadian Forces; Amaya James, local author of the children's book *Afro, No*; and the Ronetta Dance Group.

Members from the Centre Dufferin District High School (CDDHS) Black Chapter performed their self-written poems titled, *Enough Misconception* and *Allow Me to Re-Introduce Myself*.

"At the end of the day, we as students are the future so it's important that we empower ourselves and empower other people, especially other students in the audience," said Gabby Spencer, co-head of the CDDHS Black Chapter.

Continued on Page 3

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FEATURED ITEM

Leading with authenticity: Damon Ealey shares his journey as Centre Dufferin’s first Black principal

Written By Danielle Williams

In the halls of Centre Dufferin District High School (CDDHS), Damon Ealey stands as a beacon of authenticity, integrity, and leadership. As the first black principal in the school’s history, Damon has demonstrated tenacity, courage, and a strong dedication to promoting academic success.

Damon has always aspired to be an educator, but it wasn’t until he embraced the leadership skills within him that he aimed higher and became a principal.

Although becoming a principal was never his original goal. When teaching at the Peel District School Board, the principal there, who also happened to be his old football coach, told him about how time-consuming the job would be. Taking that fact into consideration, he put being a principal on hold to spend more time with his family.

“The older I get, the more I like being in the presence of family and family friends,” said Damon.

Coming from a family of high achievers and exemplars of excellence, Damon’s upbringing instilled in him a deep-rooted commitment to integrity, fairness, and compassion. Surrounded by siblings who have carved their paths of success and impact, Damon draws strength from his family’s legacy.

He believes he is a good leader who doesn’t need to fake who he is to rise in position or status. He does not compromise and believes in fairness and equity, saying that everyone deserves the opportunity to be successful.

Mainly, he emphasizes that by hiring the right people and good teachers, the educational experience can be very different.

“If you have the right people, you can do almost anything,” said Damon.

His educational journey has taken him across continents, from starting his teaching career in 1999 to teaching in Toronto to teaching in Japan.

Damon’s worldview has sharpened his leadership and teaching abilities giving him a “super-set” of tools to manage the intricacies of the educational system.

Transitioning into the role of principal at CDDHS wasn’t without its challenges. Damon acknowledges the pressure he felt to prove his competence and earn the trust of the school community, particularly as a

“If you have the right people, you can do almost anything,”

—Damon Ealey, CDDHS’s first Black Principal

Black leader in a small town.

“The hard part of any small town and any smaller community is for all the people in the community to develop trust. It’s to cultivate the trust of a small community, and as a Black principal, many times it is an even harder ability because people have preconceived notions as to why you’re there. They’re questioning: Are you competent enough to be there? Are you there just because you’re black? Does this satisfy a certain percentage of the community? Or do you actually know what you’re doing?”

He added, “I think that the hard part in a smaller community, especially as a black principal, is that you have to prove, one that you know what you’re doing, and that you’re not just there because you’re black, and two that you’re not there just to consider the needs of black students.”

Despite these hurdles, Damon’s unwavering commitment to authenticity, equity, and fairness has propelled him forward.

His leadership philosophy lies in a commitment to integrity. Believing that true leadership stems from genuine connections and mutual respect, Damon prioritizes creating a safe and inclusive space where everyone feels valued and heard.

He believes most of his leadership qualities originate from when he was the quarterback for his football teams.

“Every person can be different sizes; every person has a different role to play; everybody has to work together at the same time to make something work; similar to rugby, if one person messes up, then the whole thing crumbles, so you have to move as a team,” he said.

Damon emphasized how his role was to encourage and boost his teammates to work as one to produce a winning outcome.

With a firm belief in the transformative potential of hiring the right people and shaping a curriculum that fosters global citizen-



DANIELLE WILLIAMS PHOTO

FIRST BLACK PRINCIPAL: Damon Ealey, principal at Centre Dufferin District High School, poses for a picture. Ealey, an educated leader in the teaching industry, is known for his authenticity and commitment to spreading equity throughout the school.

ship, Damon envisions a future where every student can thrive and succeed. Continuing to lead with integrity and passion, Damon is dedicated to building a legacy of authenticity, equity, and excellence that transcends generations.

“I hope to cultivate a culture of authenticity, authentic leadership, and authentic teaching relationships. If I inspire or instill in people that level of authenticity and level of safety, then they’ll carry that through their teaching.”



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Continued from FRONT

'Black history is Canadian history': Event celebrates Black heritage

"It's always very rewarding to see how people react to our poems and it's a great experience to create a name for ourselves and a presence in the community."

The foundation for formally recognizing Black History Month in Canada began nearly five decades ago with the formation of the Ontario Black History Society in 1978. The first-ever proclamation of Black History Month was issued in Toronto in

1979, following a petition from the Ontario Black History Society. The organization later went on to file successful petitions to proclaim February as Black History Month in the province in 1993 and nationally in 1995.

Rohan Thompson, director of people and equity for the County of Dufferin, spoke with the Shelburne Free Press about the significance of hosting an event such as

the one held by the DCCBA in honour of Black History Month.

"The importance of this [event] is that it takes up space," said Thompson. "When we're talking about equity, when we're talking about inclusion and talking about belonging, part of that is being able to take up space; to be seen and to be heard. That's what this event is doing. In the economy of equity and inclusion, it's important that we

hold space for those who typically don't get to hold space."

While Black History Month is formally recognized during the month of February, Dufferin County residents can be part of celebrating Black excellence all year round through various programs and events held by the Dufferin County Canadian Black Association.

Shelburne artist shares story behind his exhibit in Town Hall Art Show

Written By Paula Brown
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Works of art from local Black artists have been celebrated this February in a special Black History Month art show from the Town of Shelburne.

Shelburne-based artist Dave August Ellington has had his pieces of art on display at the Shelburne Town Hall Art Gallery throughout the month of February as part of a Black History Month exhibit.

"I'm very humbled by the opportunity given to me, it's really pulled on my heartstrings, how people have received the work. It's nice to get the reception and welcome," said Ellington.

Ellington spoke about his desire to be a

part of the Black History Month exhibit at the Town Hall.

"I definitely feel that art is a thing that unifies. It brings people together," said Ellington. "I wanted to have a representation of minority voice, the Black voice, that's open to sharing cultures and points of view, sharing experiences through art that help the community grow."

Ellington's interest in painting originally began as an appreciation of art and art history as a whole. In 2018, while facing a particularly difficult period of health due to a chronic illness, he began exploring his abilities to create his own works.

Ellington first started his art journey by creating abstract pieces, but after experiencing a lack of resonance with the art form, he chose

to delve into painting portraits. His first piece was a portrait of his mother, which he gifted to her.

"It's simply a matter of sitting there and trying to find a voice to express through paint and canvas," said Ellington. "When it comes to portraits, it's about studying the individual, watching their movements, mannerisms and figuring out the personalities. I find that when I paint people, especially people that I know, that they see themselves through my lens which is a wonderful feeling and experience. I think when you paint an image on canvas, there's energy and soul that is transferred through the hand, to the brush, to the paint and the canvas; all of that gets accumulated on the canvas and sort of presents itself as a story."

In the exhibit, Ellington has roughly a dozen

pieces of his work on display. One piece in particular that Ellington expresses pride in is a portrait of various Jamaican artists that have had significant impacts on the entertainment industry. Another of Ellington's favourites is a piece called 'Journey Home.'

"These pieces carry special meaning because they struck a chord on the inside when I was doing them. It's about our history, our journey and it all culminates together in where we came from, where we're going as a culture and people."

Having his works of art on display at the Town Hall, Ellington said he hopes has sparked a love of art for others. The Black History Month exhibit at the Shelburne Town Hall Art Gallery also featured pieces of work from Mono-based artist John Opoku.

Quilt raffle fundraising for personal care items at Family Transition Place

Written By Paula Brown
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Family Transition Place (FTP) is hoping to give one individual the comfort of a warm quilt, as they hold a raffle fundraiser to collect donations to support the personal-care needs of the women and children accessing their services.

The quilt, called 'From Tradition to Non-Tradition', was designed and created by Dufferin County resident Sandy Small Proudfoot, a graduate of Design from the Ontario College of Art (AOCA '89). The machine quilting was done by Mary Light of Temiskaming Shores.

"I wanted to bring the history of quilting together in one piece," explained Sandy Small Proudfoot. "When you think about quilts, they've got a long history of necessity, quilts were made for warmth. Now, they can reflect a feeling of love both in the making of it and the giving of it. This was some way that I could try to support Family Transition Place by raising funds directly for the victims coming into the shelter."

Speaking with the Free Press about why she wanted to make the quilt for Family Transition Place, Small Proudfoot said,

"Domestic violence is not a subject a lot

of people want to hear about. It makes people uncomfortable, but there are so many victims of domestic violence today that it is an epidemic."

Last year, Small-Proudfoot donated a quilt called "Travelling the Silk Road", which referred to a network of routes used by traders from Asia to various countries in Europe and eventually the New World.

"Sandy has used a medium that she is brilliantly talented in, coupled with her passion to raise awareness about domestic violence and coercive control. She is doing what she can to support the work we do in a really meaningful way," said Brennan Solecky, FTP director of development and community engagement.

"It is very special, aside from it being a beautiful piece of art, it can also be that source of warmth. They tell a story and they're beautiful and really healing. I think through anyone's journey that is accessing services or supports at FTP, it's very much the same. Everyone's got a story and while it may not be woven into the tapestry of a quilt, it's certainly something that can be carried with you for a lifetime, much like a quilt," added Solecky.

All of the proceeds raised from the raffle will go towards supporting the personal-care needs of the women and children

served by Family Transition Place.

Some of the items the proceeds will be used to purchase include shampoo, conditioner, feminine hygiene products, deodorant, toothpaste, and lip balm.

According to Solecky, Family Transition Place housed 74 women and 40 children in their shelter last year. The organization also saw a 23 per cent increase in all to their crisis line, which is equivalent to 4,768 calls.

"We are definitely seeing those calls go up, which is surprising. We're now seeing individuals that potentially really couldn't seek support before, who are seeking support now," said Solecky.

Tickets for the quilt raffle can be purchased at various locations including:

- Booklore, 121 First St., Orangeville

(until March 19 at 12 p.m.)

- Harmony Whole Foods Market, 163 First St., Orangeville (until March 19 at 12 p.m.)

- Family Transition Place, 20 Bredin Parkway, Orangeville (until March 20 at 10 a.m.)

- FTP's International Women's Day Celebration Event on March 8 at Hockley Valley Resort

The price for raffle tickets is \$10 each or \$20 for three.

The draw for the quilt winner will take place on March 20 at 11 p.m. at Family Transition Place, located at 20 Bredin Parkway in Orangeville. Ticket holders do not need to be in attendance to win.

For more information visit, www.family-transitionplace.ca.

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

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Fame through failure

It was May 26, 1975, when legendary daredevil Evel Knievel revved the engine on his motorcycle to get ready for his attempt to jump 13 buses at Wembley Stadium in London.

I was huddled around the television with my brother and dad to watch the attempt which was being broadcast live.

I remember my dad saying something like "he'll never make it."

Sure enough, Evel landed short, bounced off the motorcycle, skidded across the stadium, and was seriously injured – again.

After watching this, I remember thinking, this guy is the worst daredevil in history.

A daredevil is someone who takes big, but planned risks and comes out in one piece, to impress the crowd and live to do it again another day.

Evel was known more for his crashes than his successes. If you ever want to see bones breaking in slow-motion, look up Evel's attempt to jump the fountains at Caesar's Place in Las Vegas. It was another failed jump.

Evel became famous for failure, and yet he turned that around somehow, to his advantage, and presented himself as the greatest daredevil on the planet.

He once boasted that he had broken over 200 bones.

Do you think if you're doing a job where you

keep getting seriously injured, that maybe you're just not good at it?

It's surprising how many people have achieved fame through failure.

Eddie 'The Eagle' Edwards, was a ski jumper who competed in the 1988 Olympics in Calgary. He represented the UK.

The UK is not known for its Winter Olympic performances.

He managed to qualify for the Olympics as the only British entrant for the sport after competing at the 1987 World Championships.

However, he was terrible. It became a bit of a joke during the Olympics every time he was going to jump because he barely made it off of the jump and always landed short. I think people were expecting him to flap his arms to achieve some extra distance.

He finished dead last – but he became famous because of his failure.

The International Olympic Committee made changes in qualifying after the Calgary Olympics so this wouldn't happen again.

Even so, you've got to admire the man's determination.

Tonya Harding was an American Olympic figure skater. Unless you really followed figure skating, it was unlikely you had heard of her prior to an event that became international news.

In 1994, Harding was involved in a scandal after her husband conspired with a friend – a

local halfwit – to injure Harding's main competitor in the skating world by breaking her knee.

This clown couldn't even get that right and ended up just giving her a bruise.

Harding was never known for being what they call a 'darling' of the sport. She had a rough upbringing, wore garish makeup, wasn't particularly cute, and because of her homemade skating outfits, the judges often looked down on her and gave her low marks for presentation.

She was an excellent athlete but was shunned by the skating world for not being Dorothy Hamill cute, and not having affluent parents.

She achieved international fame because of the attack on her competitor. In the end, she lost the right to compete and her career was over.

She didn't win a medal in the Olympics, and that was a forgone conclusion after what had happened. It probably cost her millions of dollars in endorsements – but it made her famous.

A guy named Robert Overacker, achieved fame, for a least a few days, although he didn't live to read about himself in the newspapers.

In October of 1995, Robert decided to jet ski over Niagara Falls with a rocket-propelled parachute. He claimed his motivation was to

raise awareness for the homeless.

The chute didn't open, and Robert's fame came from a single photograph of him leaping from his jet ski at the brink of the falls.

You would think his friends would have told him, his plan was just not a good idea.

Another man, named Jessie Sharp decided he could kayak over Niagara Falls due to his skill as an experienced kayaker back in 1990. He was so confident, he made a dinner reservation at a downstream restaurant for later in the day.

Jessie didn't wear a life jacket and chose not to wear a helmet because he didn't want his face obscured from cameras recording the event, so he would be famous.

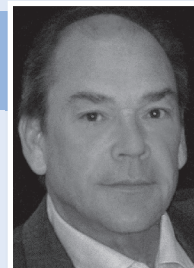
The photo of him plunging over the cataract did indeed make him famous – for a couple of days, and posthumously.

I'm pretty sure when he crested the brink of the falls and saw the house-size boulders below, his final thoughts were that his attempt was probably a mistake. His body was never recovered.

Some people just want to be famous, no matter what the cost.

If I ever became famous, I would hope it's for doing something right.

BRIAN LOCKHART FROM THE SECOND ROW



The gas-powered car era is coming to a close

Federal Environment Minister Steven Guilbeault stirred up a hornet's nest two weeks ago when he said Ottawa will stop investing in new large-scale road infrastructure projects.

Even before Guilbeault spelled out Ottawa's polarizing new policy, the federal government announced a few months ago that it was phasing out the sale of gasoline-powered vehicles by 2035.

The truth is we're now living through a period that can best be characterized as the last gasp of the gas-guzzling vehicle.

Even without government-imposed electric vehicle mandates, the future of the gas-powered vehicle is bleak at best. There are simply too many factors lined up against the continued production and sale of vehicles with internal combustion engines.

One of them is the growing concern about the amount of carbon emissions that come from vehicles.

Another factor is the price of gasoline, which I believe will skyrocket over the next few years. The coming price increase will be driven by various causes, including the gradual depletion of oil reserves and continued global instability resulting from regional conflicts.

However, the major cause for soaring gas

prices in the years ahead will be food shortages triggered by population growth, drought, soil depletion, and vanishing farmland.

What does food have to do with gasoline?

The price of fuel in Canada and the US is being kept artificially low by the increased use of ethanol, which is made mostly from corn, and then blended with gasoline. When drivers fill up their gas tanks, around 10 per cent of the fuel they're pumping comes from ethanol.

Approximately 40 per cent of the annual US corn crop, representing well over 100 million tons of grain, goes toward the production of ethanol for use as automotive fuel. But in a world grappling with growing food shortages, there will be zero tolerance for turning one of our biggest food staples into automotive fuel.

So, if this scenario pans out, as I expect it will, how will we get around?

I believe we'll move toward an increased reliance on public transportation – specifically, the light rail transportation you see in many large Canadian cities.

But I also think we'll see the widespread adoption of small electric vehicles, sometimes referred to as "micro-mobility" vehicles. These zero-emission, one-or-two-person cars are small and very affordable. Best of all, they only

cost around a dollar per day to charge, and they come with much lower maintenance and insurance costs.

Microelectric vehicles are also tailor-made for the tight confines of urban driving and could put a real dent in the traffic congestion clogging up most of Canada's big cities.

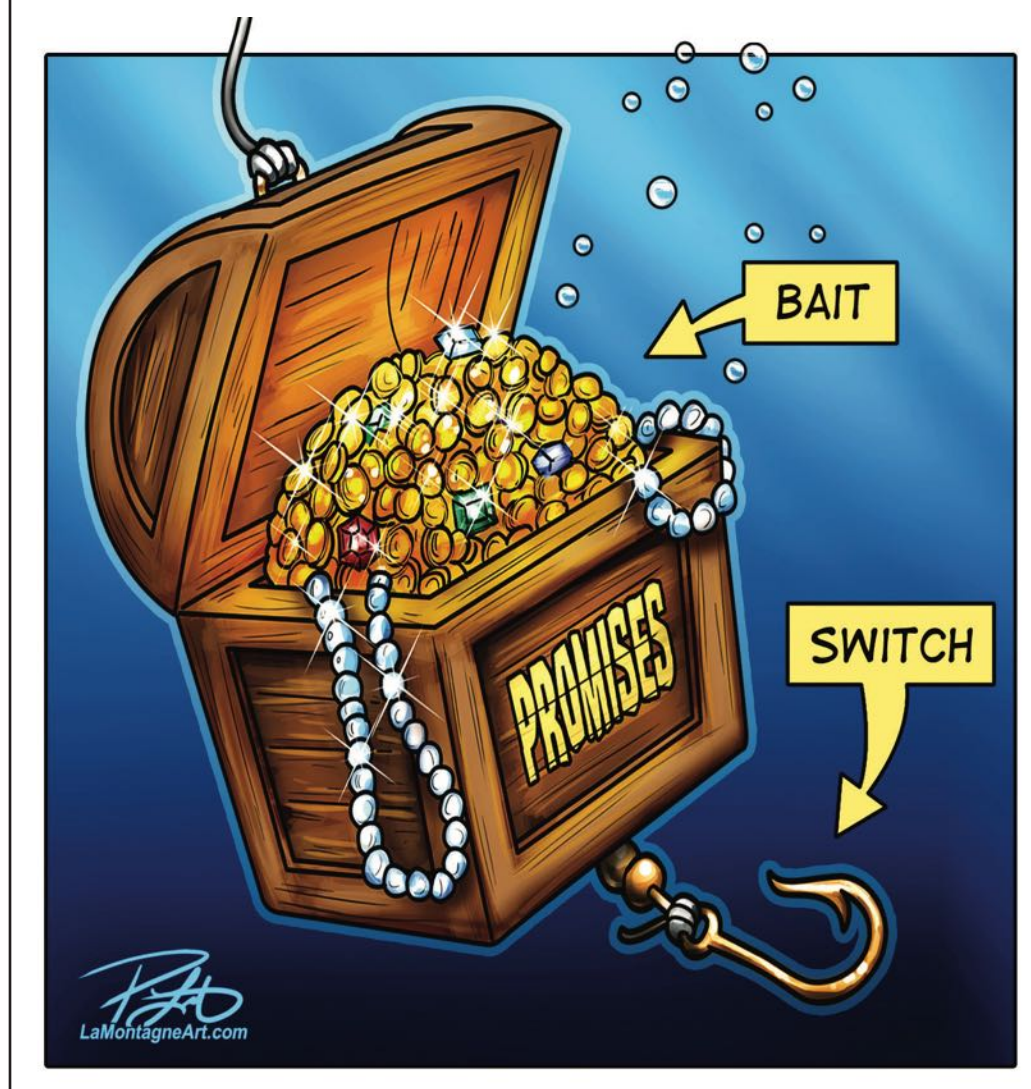
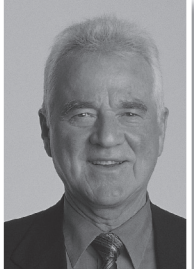
The biggest impediment to the large-scale transition to electric vehicles is the North American electric power grid, which isn't up to the task of powering millions of electric battery-powered vehicles. It will take decades and trillions of dollars in investment. The best and most environmentally friendly way to get there, in my view, is to build small nuclear power reactors across the country to boost the capacity of our electric grid.

Microelectric vehicles will get us to net zero carbon emissions a lot faster and at a much lower cost. I also believe that Canada can become a world leader in micro-mobility technologies and other green transportation solutions, but we have to first wrap our heads around the fact that the days of driving around on fossil fuels are about to end.

When it comes to transportation, we're going electric come hell or high water. We might as well start preparing for it.

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Grand Valley woman, 32, killed in Melancthon collision

Dufferin OPP are investigation a collision in the Township of Melancthon, which resulted in the death of a 32-year-old Grand Valley woman.

Members of the Dufferin Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) along with Dufferin County EMS, and Fire Services responded to a call of a serious collision involving two vehicles just after 11:30 a.m. on Sunday (Feb. 25). The collision occurred at the intersection of

Highway 10 and County Road 17 in Melancthon.

The collision resulted in one fatality, along with one person transported to a Toronto area trauma centre.

As a result of the collision, a 32-year-old, female from Grand Valley was pronounced deceased at the scene.

A 61-year-old male was air-lifted by Ornge to a Toronto area trauma centre with non-life-threatening injuries.

Highway 10 was closed for several hours while the Traffic Collision Investigation (TCI) team of the OPP investigates. The investigation is continuing and anyone who may have witnessed the collision is asked to contact the Dufferin OPP 1-888-310-1122.

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



Dufferin OPP stop driver in Shelburne, lay impaired operation charges

The Dufferin Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) have charged two drivers with impaired operation related offences. On February 21, 2024, just after 5:00 p.m., officers from the Dufferin OPP conducted a traffic stop in the area of Main Street East in the Town of Shelburne. Officers were quickly led into an impaired operation investigation.

A 33-year-old male, from Newmarket has

been charged with:

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

On February 22, 2024, just after 5:30 a.m., officers from the Dufferin OPP responded to a traffic complaint in the area of CTY RD 109 in the Township of East Garafraxa. Officers were able to locate the vehicle and

were quickly led into an impaired operation investigation.

A 59-year-old male, from Mississauga has been charged with:

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

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 charges have not yet been proven in court.

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.

Drugs seized, four people charged after search of Orangeville residence

Written By Sam Odrowski

Methamphetamine, fentanyl, psilocybin mushrooms and an assortment of stolen tools were recently seized by Dufferin OPP, when executing a search warrant in Orangeville. Four individuals were also arrested and several charges have been laid.

Dufferin Community Street Crime Unit (CSCU) members, along with uniform members of Dufferin OPP and the Caledon CSCU executed a search warrant at a home on Fourth Avenue in Orangeville on Feb. 22.

As a result of the search warrant, Jeremy Scott, 42, of Orangeville has been charged with possession of a schedule I substance (opioid), theft under \$5,000 and possession of property obtained by crime - under \$5000.

Kendra Neil, 30, who has no fixed address

was charged with theft (under \$5,000), possession of property obtained by crime (under \$5,000), and fail to comply with release order.

David Teggart, 46, of Melancthon has been charged with possession of a schedule I substance for the purpose of trafficking (methamphetamine), possession of a schedule I substance for the purpose of trafficking (cocaine), and possession of a schedule I substance (Opioid).

Karen Whiting, 47, of Orangeville has been charged with possession of a schedule I substance for the purpose of traffick-

ing (methamphetamine), possession of a schedule I substance for the purpose of trafficking (cocaine) possession of a schedule I substance (Opioid) - two counts, possession of a schedule III substance, and possession of proceeds of property obtained by crime (under \$5,000).

In addition to drugs and stolen tools, \$430

in cash was seized by police during the raid.

Anyone with information regarding this investigation of any other criminal activity is asked to contact Dufferin OPP at 1-888-310-1122 or Crime Stoppers to remain anonymous at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477). You can also submit your information online at <https://ontariocrimestoppers.ca/>.

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CLUES ACROSS

- Home of Iowa State University
5. ___-fi (slang)
8. Mottled green and yellow fruit
12. Capable of thinking and expressing oneself clearly
14. Sports broadcaster Eagle
15. Midday
16. Kinsmen
18. Cable network
19. Simpleton
20. Brunch beverage
21. Fed
22. European capital
23. Native inhabitants
26. Mechanical device
30. Rare geese native to Hawaii
31. Bedroom furnishing
32. The products of human creativity
33. Mass transit option
34. Made a mistake
39. Sacred sound symbol
42. Large N. American reindeer
44. Dull and flat
46. Partner to huffing
47. Written works
49. Monetary unit of Serbia
50. Midway between east and southeast
51. Peninsula of southwestern Asia
56. Widely used multiuser OS
57. Aggressive dog
58. Varnished
59. Hindu queen
60. Time units, abbr.
61. Farm animals
62. Capital of Latvia
63. Where golfers begin
64. Takes to civil court
1. One who graduated person
2. An inspired holy person
3. Electronic counter-countermeasures
4. A place to store things
5. Indian instrument
6. Spanish saloon
7. Whole number
8. Not fastened
9. Gives a boost
10. Lounges about
11. Interested in
13. Remove salt
17. Type of sword
24. Naturally occurring solid material
25. Gets involved without being invited
26. Feline
27. Bobby ___, NHL champ
28. "Kill Bill" actress Thurman
29. Hawaiian dish
35. Moroccan coastal region
36. Baseball statistic
37. Long period of time
38. Moved earth
40. Central Netherlands city
41. Take stock of
42. Central processing unit
43. Distinctive qualities one generates
44. Getting stuck
45. Loss of bodily movements
47. Veranda
48. Abrupt
49. What cats do
52. Expresses pleasure
53. Type of cheese
54. Professional STEM organization
55. Automatic data processing systems

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

SHELBURNE SPORTS



BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

CHAMPIONS: The Centre Dufferin District High School Royals junior boy's basketball team are champions after winning the final game 68-36 over Erin District High School in the gym at ODSS on Wednesday, Feb. 14. Team members, standing, from left: Stevan Latinovic (Coach), Paul Robinson, Tyson Robinson, Keron Augustine, Ryan Ferreira, Josh Pomeroy, Aiden Thomas, Yatin Nagar, Jaylen Scott Whorms, Elijah Amartey, Daniel Santos, and Drew Barfoot (Coach). Kneeling, from left: Cooper Ferguson, Gage Bourque, Brandin Szymanowski, absent: Kaeden Facey, and Charlie Day, celebrate the win.

CDDHS Royals juniors claim District 4 title with win over Erin

Written By Brian Lockhart

The Centre Dufferin District High School Royals junior boys basketball team are champions after winning over Erin District High School in the final District 4 game on Wednesday, Feb. 14.

The Royal had a good season and ended tied for first with Erin – both teams having identical 6-2 records.

In the semi-final round, the Royals knocked out the team from Emmanuel Christian High

School in a game that resulted in a 77-30 win for CDDHS.

The championship game got underway at 4 pm. in the gym at Centre Dufferin.

Things got off to a slow start with the Royals taking a 12-6 lead at the end of the first quarter.

At the half, the Royals had extended that lead to a 28-15.

The Royals kept up the pressure and really started scoring in the third quarter to widen the score gap to 52-27.

The game ended with a 68-36 win for Centre

Dufferin, and the Royals claimed the District 4 title.

“We started undefeated, then after the break we really slowed down,” said Royals power forward Josh Pomeroy of the season. “We got a couple wins in a tournament and that really got us pumped for the end of the season. It was a good season.”

Erin had a good season and was a good scoring team, so it was expected to be a close game.

“The last time we played them we lost by

20,” Josh said. “We made sure to come into this game with energy and had it all together – we didn’t want to lose. Now we have to get ready for CWOSSA – and practice.”

The Royals went on to compete at the regional level at CWOSSA where they were up against other championship teams.

Games will take place at Centre Dufferin as well as Westside Secondary School in Orangeville.

Read a full story on the CWOSSA results on Page 9.

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BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

SLAM DUNK: The Centre Dufferin District High School Royals junior boy's basketball team hosts Erin District High School in the gym at CDDHS for the District 4 championship final game on Wednesday, Feb. 14. The Royals left the court with a 68-36 win to claim the District 4 title, and will now go on to compete at the regional level at CWOSSA.

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Best Burger in the ‘Burne contest returns to downtown Shelburne

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

Do you think you know which restaurant in Shelburne has the best burger? Now is your chance to vote on it.

The Shelburne Business Improvement Area (BIA) is bringing back their “Best Burger in the ‘Burne” contest, which will allow Shelburne residents to vote for the best place to get a burger in Town.

The contest will begin on March 1 and will run until the end of April.

“The months of February, March and April are traditionally slower times for the restaurants and so we thought we’d have this con-

test in the hopes of creating some traffic, bringing more people to the downtown core and more people through the restaurants,” said Len Guchardi, Shelburne Council representative on the BIA. “The contest was fairly successful last year with a lot of the restaurants getting more traffic, which is the goal.”

The burger competition will have six local restaurants taking part including Beyond the Gate, Shannon’s Tap & Grill, Dufferin Public House, Main Street Café, Sunrise Diner, and Tipsy Fox.

Last year’s winner of the inaugural ‘Best Burger in the ‘Burne’ was the Dufferin Public House, located at 214 Main Street E.

Bringing the ‘Best Burger in the ‘Burne’

contest back for another year, the Shelburne BIA has decided to introduce some changes to the contest including how residents can submit their votes.

This year, the BIA will be accepting electronic ballots, which can be entered by scanning a QR Code at each of the restaurants. The Shelburne BIA will still be accepting written ballots, which can be dropped off at the Town of Shelburne office, for those who may be uncomfortable with the electronic process.

The local BIA has also announced that the contest will run for both the month of March and the entire month of April.

“It’s a little tough to expect somebody to

go through six burgers in four weeks so we figured we’d extend the contest for another month,” explained Guchardi.

The restaurant with the most votes at the end of the contest will be crowned with the title of ‘Best Burger in the ‘Burne’ for 2024 and will receive a plaque from the BIA.

Participants who complete their ballot voting for the best burger will be entered into a draw to win a \$100 gift certificate to any downtown business of their choice.

“We have six really good restaurants in the downtown core, and they all make a great burger,” said Guchardi.

The ‘Best Burger in the ‘Burne’ contest will run until the end of April.

Georgian’s Orangeville Campus to train RPNs as RNs with new program

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

Georgian College is offering a brand-new program to help students who already have their registered practical nurse (RPN) designation move into a career as a registered nurse (RN).

Georgian College announced in a press release on Feb. 21 that a three-year degree program would be available at the Orangeville Campus starting in fall 2024. This program will give registered practical nurses in the area the opportunity to obtain their nursing degree locally and remain in the community working as a registered nurse.

“We are thrilled to provide this pathway for career advancement to the RPNs in our local communities. This continues Georgian’s long-standing commitment to providing local nursing education designed to cre-

ate a robust nursing workforce to meet the health and wellness need of our local communities,” said Dr. Sara Lankshear, Associate Dean of Health, Wellness and Sciences for Georgian College.

The Honours Bachelor of Science – Nursing RPN to BScN Advanced Standing Pathway (Bridge) degree program will provide students with opportunities for careers spanning the health care sector, including hospital, long-term care, primary care, and community and home care health services.

The program, which will also be available at the Barrie and Owen Sound campuses, includes a clinical placement where students will get hands-on learning under the supervision of an experienced registered or licensed professional.

Students in the program will have access to practice on lab equipment that will look and feel like the equipment they will use in a modern hospital or clinic setting, prepar-

ing them for their clinical placements and careers. This equipment includes a newly renovated high-fidelity lab space and technology at the Barrie and Owen Sound campuses.

Orangeville students will be able to complete the majority of the program at the local campus, but will need to travel to Barrie or Owen Sound to participate in high-fidelity simulation learning.

In addition to access to industry-quality lab equipment, students in the new program will benefit from more industry connections, hands-on practice, and one-on-one training with small class sizes.

“We are excited that Georgian College’s new nursing pathway program will be offered in Orangeville. We are pleased to work in partnership to provide an opportunity for students to gain practicum experience at Headwaters Health Care Centre,” said Annette Jones, vice president of patient

experience and chief nursing executive for Headwaters. “Our hospital has a strong history of supporting education and training, and students will be able to access a wide range of programs and services.”

Practical nurses already registered with the College of Nurses of Ontario are eligible to receive up to one year of advanced standing.

Eligibility requirements include:

- Completion of a Practical Nursing diploma program from a recognized post-secondary institution with a graduating GPA of 75 per cent or higher;
- Registered and in good standing with the College of Nurses of Ontario
- Be entitled to practice with no restrictions

Registered practical nurses interested in learning more about the program or applying can do so by visiting www.GeorgianCollege.ca/HBNA.

Push-up challenge helps educate community on mental health while fundraising

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

The Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) Peel Dufferin has raised thousands of dollars in donations with a new fitness challenge that hopes to raise awareness about mental health.

Starting on Feb. 1, more than 370 residents from the Peel Dufferin region took up the challenge from CMHA to complete 2,000 push-ups over 23 days with the goal of raising funds for mental health services.

“We are proud to be part of this initiative,” said Shawna Bailey, fundraising officer for

CMHA Peel Dufferin. “We believe that it is another way to educate our community about mental health and physical activity.”

This year was the first year the Canadian Mental Health Association brought forward the fundraising initiative. The initiative initially started in Australia seven years ago and has raised over \$36 million for mental health.

According to CMHA, over 49,000 Canadians from 330 communities challenged themselves to complete 2,000 push-ups for the 20 per cent of Canadians who will experience a mental illness each year.

The initiative raised over \$2.4 million for

mental health nationwide, with over 44.8 million push-ups completed.

In Dufferin Peel, the competition raised over \$13,000 in funding, all of which will stay in the Peel-Dufferin community to directly help residents who may have mental health issues or substance use.

According to a 2022/2023 annual report from CMHA Dufferin-Peel, the local mental health organization served nearly 22,000 clients through their programs and service and received 58,772 crisis-based calls.

Speaking with the Shelburne Free Press, Bailey noted the importance of raising

awareness and funding for local mental health services.

“Knowledge and awareness are getting better, but people still need the reminder that they are not alone in what they are experiencing. New services are being added all the time to help support our community, but everyone still needs to be encouraged to talk openly and honestly about mental health,” said Bailey.

For more information about the services available with Peel Dufferin from the Canadian Mental Health Association, visit www.cmhapeeldufferin.ca.

Shelburne Public Library News

Tickets for our March Break events are now available! These programs are geared toward school-aged children, and always promise lots of fun. This year we have:

- Birds of Prey @ YOUR Library on Tuesday, March 12th @ 2pm—See live birds of prey up close and personal! This event is sold out!
- Fireside Munsch @ Grace Tipling Hall on Wednesday, March 13th @ 2pm—This is a high-energy show featuring four of Robert Munsch’s classic stories performed as one wacky storytelling play!
- Bumbling Bert @ Grace Tipling Hall on Thursday, March 14th @ 2pm—Supremely comical, silly, and ultimately entertaining, Bumbling Bert’s show always features dazzling magic and loads of audience participation.

Tickets are still available for Fireside Munsch and Bumbling Bert for a cost of \$4 each. Adults and children alike must have tickets.

Tickets can be purchased at the Library during open hours with cash.

Upcoming Events

Seedy Saturday, Saturday, March 2nd, 10am-1pm: Drop by YOUR Library and borrow seeds from our Seed Library! We have many varieties of herbs, veggies, and flowers available. You’ll also be able to chat with other community partners interested in growing, including The Town of Shelburne’s Community Garden Coordinators and the Shelburne & District Horticultural Society.

Staff Pick of the Week: The Women by Kristin Hannah

Why Rose recommends it: It’s been quite some time since I have debated staying up all night to finish a book, but The Women made me contemplate doing so this week. This Kristin Hannah book is hot off the press, and like the works that have come before it, you should keep tissues at hand.

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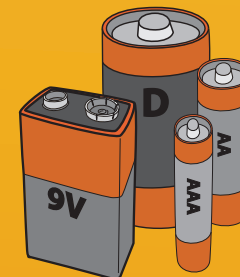
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OBITUARIES

**JOSEPH EDWARD BURTON
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It is with heavy hearts and many tears, that we announce the passing of Joe, after a courageous battle with GBM.



Beloved husband of Adine. Proud father of Cody (Michelle) and Cade. Adoring grandfather of Chloe.

Joe was a dedicated associate at Honda of Canada Mfg for 35 years. He enjoyed trivia, the outdoors, listening to many genres of music, playing baseball and caring for his feline fur babies.

Joe will be missed by many family members and friends. Many thanks to the care team and volunteers at Mathews House Hospice, who provided ongoing comfort, kindness and compassion for Joe.

To respect Joe's wishes, no services will be held.

In Joe's memory, donations to Mathews House Hospice would greatly be appreciated.

We love you, Joe! You are forever in our hearts and memories...❤️

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Together we can make a difference

Centre Dufferin Senior and Junior Royals compete at CWOSSA

Written By Brian Lockhart



The Centre Dufferin District High School Royals boy's junior and senior basketball teams competed at the regional CWOSSA competition held at CDDHS in Shelburne and Westside Secondary School in Orangeville on Friday, Feb. 23 and Saturday, Feb. 24.

Junior

The Royals junior team was entered in the AA division of competition at CWOSSA, held at Westside Secondary School in Orangeville.

On the first day of competition, the Royals won their first game against the Galt Ghosts with a final score of 79-64.

This gave them the right to advance to the semi-final round on Saturday, Feb. 24.

The Royals were eliminated when they took a 58-34 loss to Pauline Johnson Collegiate from Brantford.

The Junior championship was won by the team from St. James who won 72-63 over Pauline Johnson.

Senior

Senior boys AA competition was held at Centre Dufferin District High School in Shelburne.

The senior Royals played two games on the opening day of the competition.

In the first game, the Royals took a 47-34 loss to the Galt Ghosts, when Galt managed to pull ahead in the third quarter.

In the second game of the day, the Royals lost 73-37 to Bishop Macdonell and were eliminated from the competition.

The team from Makininnon Park won 64-62 over Bishop Macdonell in the final game and will go on to compete at OFSAA.



BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

END OF A GREAT SEASON: The Centre Dufferin District High School Royals senior basketball team takes on the Galt Ghosts in the gym at CDDHS during the opening day of the CWOSSA competition on Friday, Feb. 23. Royals forward Churchill Unugbro makes a wild effort to sink a basket during the third quarter. The Royals gave up a 47-34 loss in this game.

CDDHS Royals girl's hockey team going to District 4 championship

Written By Brian Lockhart

The Centre Dufferin District High School Royals girls' hockey will be going to the District 4 championship after winning their semi-final playoff game over the Westside Secondary School Thunder from Orangeville.

The semi-final game took place on Shelburne home ice on Wednesday, Feb. 21, at the Centre Dufferin Recreation Complex.

The Royals finished the regular season in first place with a 9-3 record and 18 points. They averaged almost five goals per game.

District 4 girls' hockey is played as a series of tournaments with the final tournament day taking place on Feb. 13 in Orangeville.

The Royals won two of three games on the final tournament day.

In the semi-final, the Royals dominated the ice and won 11-1 over Westside.

"We've been pretty strong, we work best when we're working as a team," said Royals forward Brooke Cunnington when describing the season. "We have a good bond, the team just comes together well. I think we have a good team. I don't know if I would have said we would have finished first, but I think we had strong team coming into this

season. Definitely playing against the better teams was a challenge. It was nice to push through."

The semi-final game started with a strong effort by the Royals, and they were leading 4-0 at the end of the first period.

"Today I think we all felt pretty confident," Brooke said of the semi-final game. "We've seen this team multiple times, and we were pretty far spread on the scoreboard, so I think we were all confident."

Going to the District championship will be a challenge, and Brooke said the team has to play their best to win the title.

"I think we all need to focus and take it seriously, because goofing off in the past has not been the best for us," Brooke said. "We just need to take it seriously and get our heads in the game."

The Royals will be up against Wellington Heights Secondary School in the championship game. Wellington Heights won their semi-final game 4-3 over Norwell District Secondary School to earn the right to advance to the championship.

The District 4 girls' hockey championships were scheduled for Wednesday, Feb. 28 at the CDRC.

The result was not available at press time.



BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

BIG SAVE: The Centre Dufferin District High School Royals girl's hockey team defends the net in their District 4 semi-final game against the Westside Secondary School Thunder from Orangeville at the Centre Dufferin Recreation Complex on Wednesday, Feb. 21. The Royals won the game 11-1 and will go on to compete in the District Championship. CDDHS will be up against Wellington Heights Secondary School in the championship final game.

Dufferin first responders to face-off in hockey game for good cause

Dufferin first responders are inviting the community to come out and witness and on ice rivalry.

On Saturday March 16, 2024, from 5:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m., members of the Dufferin OPP are co-hosting, with members of the Orangeville Fire Department, a charity hockey event located at Tony Rose Memorial Sports Centre at 6 Northmen Way in the Town of Orangeville.

Police and Firefighters will play for a purpose with all proceeds to benefit the Orangeville Foodbank and Dufferin Child and Family Services. The event is about community engagement and coming together to support a cause much greater than the game, but rather to support two organizations that work to support and uplift families and children in need within Dufferin County.

Taphouse Craft Beer + Kitchen will be there for food and beverage sales, a Chuck A Puck game will be played for the prize of Maple Leaf hockey tickets, and so much more. Tickets are available at the door on the night of the event, or ahead of time during business hours at both Orangeville Fire Department located at 10 Dawson Road, or the Orangeville OPP Detachment located at 390 C Line.



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