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Headwaters welcomes first baby of 2025

Written By PAULA BROWN
 LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Headwaters Health Care Centre (HHCC) has welcomed the hospital's first baby of 2025.

Orangeville residents Alyssia Fullington and Giovanni Altrui said they started the new year off in "the best way possible" as they welcomed their son Alessio Gianni Altrui on Jan. 1.

Alessio arrived into the world shortly after 5:30 a.m. on New Years Day, weighing 7 lbs 11 oz. He is the first baby of 2025 to be born at the Orangeville-based hospital.

Alessio's arrival also marked a special occasion for the members of Headwaters Hospital, as his grandmother is a staff member at Headwaters, having worked in the hospital's emergency department for nine years.

Alyssia and Giovanni said the family connection to the hospital has "contributed to making this birth a memorable moment."

They added their appreciation to Dr. Jude Umeh for, "making us feel confident and at ease each step of the way".

According to Headwaters Health Care Centre, there were a total of 847 deliveries at the local hospital in 2024.

Headwaters Health Care Centre has four obstetricians with clinics adjacent to the hospital, located at 140 Rolling Hills Drive in Orangeville. Midwives registered with Midwives of Headwater Hills work alongside the hospital's Obstetrical Team of physicians and nurses to offer midwife-attended births.



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Food Bank hits fundraising goal for food rescue van

Written By PAULA BROWN
 LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Shelburne Food Bank, Shepherd's Cupboard, has reached its fundraising goal to purchase a food rescue van to help expand its efforts in tackling food insecurity in the community.

Ardith Dunlop, volunteer co-ordinator with the Shelburne Food Bank, told the Free Press on Jan. 2 that they surpassed their fundraising goal and collected more than \$100,000 in donations through their sponsorship campaign.

"We're beyond thrilled and grateful to the community and these companies for stepping up so that we could go over our funding mark. We're anticipating the arrival of the van and what it's going to mean in terms of both acquisition and assisting in the work of the food bank," said Dunlop. "This is such a necessary tool for us to be able to collect the food that's needed, and to do the food rescue that ends up helping us at the food bank. We really wanted to wrap up this campaign

so that we can focus back on what we're here to focus on, which is food."

Shepherd's Cupboard Food Bank and the Rotary Club of Shelburne celebrated the official launch of their sponsorship campaign in July at Trillium Ford in Shelburne. The goal of the campaign was to help raise \$100,000 to purchase a 2023 Ford E-Transit Cargo Van T-350 for the food bank.

The campaign saw local businesses choose from a selection of sponsorship tiers priced at \$20,000, \$10,000, \$5,000, \$2,500, and \$1,000.

In October the Shelburne Food Bank announced they had surpassed the halfway mark of the fundraising campaign with \$63,000 raised.

As the 2024 year came to a close, the Shelburne Food Bank received donations from four local organizations and businesses – Town of Shelburne, Compass Run For Food, TransAlta and Shelburne Centre for Health – which helped them surpass the fundraising goal.

"We were surprised that it came along as

it did. You typically get to the three-quarter mark [fundraising] and it's much harder because you think most people who we're going to jump on, have already," said Dunlop. "Right before Christmas there were a couple of really great emails that came through wanting to jump on and support. It was wonderful."

The Shelburne Food Bank has been floating the idea of purchasing a vehicle to help with pickups and deliveries of food for almost five years. Two of the biggest catalysts for the purchase are the rise of food insecurity in the community and the stress the demand has put on volunteers using their personal vehicles.

The Shelburne Food Bank uses a team of 10 volunteer drivers, who use their personal vehicles to pick up and transport purchased and donated food items.

According to the Shelburne Food Bank, in 2023 there were 936 trips taken by volunteers using their own vehicles.

Continued on Page 3

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Dufferin Community Foundation announces 2024 fall grant recipients

Written By PAULA BROWN
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Dufferin Community Foundation (DCF) has awarded its 2024 fall grants to five recipients.

The local community foundation announced in a press release at the end of 2024 that five charities have been awarded their first-ever Arts and Culture Fund and Environment Fund grants.

"We are so pleased to be funding these projects, some of which would not be taking place without these grants," said Michele Fisher, executive director of Dufferin Community Foundation.

The Arts and Culture Fund was awarded to four local charities - Dufferin Child and Family Services, Streams Community Hub, Caledon Meals on Wheels and The Brave Canoe.

The Arts and Culture Fund provides grants to organizations that advance the public's appreciation and awareness of the arts, community heritage and cultural traditions taking place within Dufferin County. Each charity receives a grant of \$2,000 to be used for programs, projects, public performances, forums and events.

"Arts and culture bring so many benefits to our lives. Thanks to these grants, local nonprofits are engaging seniors through the arts, amplifying young voices, and facilitating our understanding of Indigenous teachings. The sheer diversity of the programs is fantastic," said Fisher.

Dufferin Child and Family Services (DCAFS) will be allocating the funds toward GLOW, a 2SLGBTQ+ drop-in support group, to self-publish "Glowetry: The Word

Book", a collection of art and poetry created by the GLOW youth aged 14-18. The grant will allow the youth to make physical copies of the book and distribute free copies to libraries, schools and community organizations county-wide.

Caledon Meals on Wheels will use the grant to fund an interactive program for seniors in Dufferin County that highlights different art forms and cultural experiences while fostering social connection, mental stimulation, and appreciation for the arts. The program features four sessions with a focus on visual arts and painting workshops, dance and movements, and cultural storytelling.

The Brave Canoe, a community-based not-for-profit focused on bringing Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities of Dufferin County together, is looking to offer a three-session series in the new year which will feature interactive and foundational Indigenous teachings. The goal of the program, which will be open to all at low or no cost, is to strengthen community connections and cultural understanding and to provide insights into Indigenous worldviews.

Streams Community Hub will be utilizing the grant funding to help amplify the voices of local youth by purchasing upgraded microphones and audio equipment, which will be used by their Sing Song Club and Centre Stage programs. The new equipment will enhance the quality of recording sessions and live performances including concerts, recitals and theatre shows.

"This year, one of our goals is to increase the capacity for our theater program. We want develop the programming around drama on the stage a little bit more for young



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

FUNDING BOOST: Dufferin Child and Family Services music therapist, Emily Gilbert, and members of the GLOW group, receive a \$2,000 Arts & Culture grant from Michele Fisher of Dufferin Community Foundation to publish and distribute Glowetry, an art and poetry book created by local 2SLGBTQ+ youth.

people," said Juli-Anne James, executive director of Streams Community Hub. "This grant is going to help us to get some really significant equipment that is going to quite literally amplify the voices of our youth."

Dufferin Community Foundation also awarded the National Wildlife Foundation with an Environmental Fund grant, valued at \$2,500.

The Environmental Fund grant is aimed at organizations taking innovative approaches to community-based environmental management, including technological advances, environmental education and stewardship of land and natural resources.

"In the past, it has been tough to know who to call when you see an injured animal.

Now the National Wildlife Centre is opening a facility to serve wildlife in Dufferin County. We're proud to be supporting this with our second annual Environment Fund grant," said Fisher.

The grant money will be used at the new National Wildlife Centre, which is scheduled to open in January, to help provide critical medical care to over 200 injured, sick and orphaned wildlife in Ontario. The grant money will also be used to train student interns in wildlife medicine and inform communities about protecting wildlife.

To learn more about the grants and funding available to local organizations through Dufferin Community Foundation, visit www.dufferincommunityfoundation.ca.

Dufferin Muslim Centre fundraising for local mosque with dinner fundraiser

Written By PAULA BROWN
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Dufferin Muslim Centre will be hosting its first fundraising event in the hopes of raising donations to help build an official mosque in Dufferin County.

The Dufferin Muslim Centre will be hosting a dinner called the "Night of Unity," on Saturday (Jan. 11) from 5 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. at the Sayeda Khadija Centre in Mississauga.

"We have all the ambition, excitement and

hope that we will be able to, though it is our first event, have a positive initiative to serve the community as a whole," said Iman Altaf Nagal, director of operations of the Dufferin Muslim Centre.

The fundraising dinner is part of the Dufferin Muslim Centre's goal of raising \$100,000 by 2025, which will allow the centre to begin taking steps towards developing the mosque, including planning, acquiring permits and laying the foundation. The total cost of the new mosque is estimated at \$1.5

million.

The event will feature two prayer sessions as well as a speech from Imam Dr. Hamid Slimi, a spiritual leader who has been serving Muslims in Canada since 1997. Before dinner and beverages are served, attendees will have the chance to learn about the Dufferin Muslim Centre's plans for establishing the mosque in Dufferin County.

The Dufferin Muslim Centre, located at 506195 Hwy. 89, Shelburne, was founded in March of 2022 by Muslim community mem-

bers from Dufferin County. The goal of the centre was to build a place that was available for Muslim residents based in Dufferin County to worship.

Nagal said that after almost three years in the community, the Dufferin Muslim Centre is hoping to create a more permanent space to call home.

Tickets for the Night of Unity Dinner cost \$100 and can be purchased by visiting the Dufferin Muslim Centre's website at dufferinmuslimcentre.ca.

Shelburne Food Bank reaches \$100,000 fundraising goal for food rescue van campaign

Continued from Front

The food bank noted the repeated usage and heavy loads have resulted in a number of blown tires, breakdowns, and wear and tear on volunteers' vehicles.

The Shelburne Food Bank has also seen a rise in the number of clients accessing its service with a 600 per cent increase since 2017, when it served 41 families in the community.

According to statistics from 2023, the Shelburne Food Bank has 400 files con-

sisting of over 1,000 individuals from Shelburne, Melancthon, Mulmur and Amaranth. Of those clients, nearly 70 per cent are from the Town of Shelburne.

The Food Bank also noted in 2023 they served between 225 to 250 families each month of which, 41 per cent were adults, 37 per cent were children and 17 per cent were seniors.

Dunlop said the local food bank is expecting to see a continued rise in the number of clients throughout 2025.

"The food bank is faced with making

tough decisions in order to be sustainable for the 2025 year."

The additional funds that helped the food bank surpass its \$100,000 goal will be used to have the vehicle wrapped in sponsor logos, purchase vehicle insurance, and install winter tires.

"It will go into the account for the food bank and will be used towards whatever it is that the food bank needs," said Dunlop.

The Shelburne Food Bank Food Rescue Van is slated to be up and operating in the community sometime between January and February.

Charges laid against suspicious Amaranth man

A call to local police regarding a suspicious person in Amaranth resulted in charges relating to impaired driving, possession of an unauthorized weapon, property obtained by crime and drug trafficking.

Dufferin Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) officers were dispatched to a male who was standing in the middle of the road holding a dog on Jan. 2 around 8:30 a.m.

After a brief conversation with the male who was holding a dog, the officers began an impaired driving investigation, resulting in several charges.

Amaranth resident Brandon Wysocki, 25, has been charged with:

- Operation while impaired - alcohol and drugs
- Possession of a Schedule I substance for the purpose of Trafficking - Cocaine
- Possession of proceeds of property obtained by crime under \$5000 - in Canada
- Possession of a Schedule I substance for the purpose of Trafficking-Opioid (other than heroin)
- Possession of Weapon for Dangerous Purpose
- Unauthorized Possession of Weapon
- Driving motor vehicle with open container of liquor

The accused individual is scheduled to appear before the Ontario Court of Justice in Orangeville. His driver's license was suspended and his vehicle was impounded.

None of the listed charges have been proven in court.

Shelburne Public Library shares weekly news

Happy New Year!

Upcoming Events

Our Seniors Tech Tutoring appointments are available on Thursdays (5pm-7pm). It's the perfect opportunity to ask your tech questions in a friendly environment. Call 519-925-2168 to book an appointment.

Recommended read

Holly by Stephen King: Holly Gibney is a quirky, ethical, and intuitive private investigator. While she and her colleagues are investigating a missing person case,

presumably a murder, they uncover several related cases. The well-hidden and formidable adversaries in this novel may just be the match for Holly and her Team.

Why Jade Recommends it: I was under the impression that all of King's novels would fit best within the horror genre, but much to my surprise, Holly was more a mystery with a dash of horror. There's no doubt that the foes in this novel partake in some horrific activities, but those acts are only slowly revealed to us. At the heart of this story is a mystery, and a group of eclectic characters who try to solve it.

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OPINION

New Year's resolutions

Put that cigarette out, go for a two-mile jog, come home and read a book, call your best friend and visit with family, then spend the evening working on your new hobby.

That should take care of most of your New Year's resolutions if you've made commitments for 2025.

Add to that your itinerary for a trip to Iceland or the Galapagos Islands and your dream to 'swim with the dolphins.'

New Year's resolutions – what are they good for? Absolutely nothing.

I'm not sure where the idea of changing your lifestyle because the calendar says it's a new year comes from, but a year is just an arbitrary point in time. Jan. 1, really signifies nothing other than a point in space and time.

The ancients could have decided the new year started in July and we would be watching the ball drop on July 1.

This year, as always, there is a list that comes out and states the most popular New Year's resolutions. I'm not sure how it's actually created, because no one asked me. However, the list does seem reasonable.

Saving more money tops the list this year. This is understandable. With the inflation

over the past couple of years, everyone has less money in their pocket.

You can try saving more, but you're definitely going to pay in other ways. Whether it's giving up going out for dinner once a week or resigning your position as the bowling team captain to save the cost of lane fees, you may save money, but at the cost of entertainment or enjoying life.

Exercising more is number two on the list.

This is always a good one, but the easiest one to fail. Workout gyms love this resolution.

They make a ton of money from people signing up for the gym in January, then watch as that three times a week visit to the gym becomes twice a week, then once, then – wow, I haven't been to the gym in months.

Losing weight is always a popular resolution. But why do you need to wait until New Year's?

If you are overweight, you can start working on eating less and shedding pounds any time during the year.

Quitting smoking is always high on the list. When was the last time you saw someone smoking? It has become a hidden

addiction, no doubt about it.

You shouldn't smoke, but the tobacco companies are still taking in millions from people's bad habits.

This year, spending less time on social media made the list.

This is one EVERYONE needs to participate in. Some people used to refer to television as the 'idiot box' because you sit there just watching a screen.

The difference is that all television programs have an ending. Social media never stops.

We have become a society that is losing the natural ability to speak directly to people. It's too easy to stare at a screen and make comments, rather than sit down and have a conversation with a real person.

To do more for the environment has made the list this year. Good luck with that.

Everyone talks a good game, however, from the number of beer cans and coffee cups, sacks of garbage and household items dumped in the ditches in rural concessions, a lot of people simply don't care.

No one will ever admit they are the person who threw that coffee cup out of the window of the car, but they probably talk about saving the environment when at work

or at their community service club meeting.

Cutting down on alcohol consumption made the list, but it makes the list every year.

Considering the amount of beer sales in the province, I don't think too many people actually carry through with cutting back on alcohol.

Also, remember during the pandemic, the provincial government ordered many non-essential businesses to cease operation, however, the liquor store was exempt. That, says a lot.

There are plenty of other resolutions people hope to try in the new year.

Go ahead, give it a try – why not? Even if you fail, it was a least a goal for a while. Better to try, and fail, than not try at all.

My resolution this year will be to cut down my time on the golf course and spend that time doing something more meaningful.

Other than taking up the sport at a local 9-hole course for one summer when I was 14, when it was affordable to play a round funded by paper route money, I've never played a real game of golf in my life, so this should easily be accomplished.

BRIAN LOCKHART
FROM THE SECOND ROW



Iran: End of the line?

Six months ago, at the end of Iran's presidential election, I finished an article by speculating that the long-lived theocratic dictatorship in Iran may be a lot closer to its end than its beginning: "If you can plausibly say 'This cannot go on forever,' you are also saying 'Someday this will come to an end.'"

That observation was triggered by the fact that the 'reformist' presidential candidate, Masoud Pezeshkian, unexpectedly won the July election. The previous president had been killed in a helicopter crash, and the regime had fumbled in setting up a snap election to replace him.

Pezeshkian was the only token 'moderate' in a field of four candidates, but he managed to make it into the last two for the second round – and then, in the run-off vote, something remarkable happened.

Fewer than half the voters had bothered to show up for the first round of voting, because they assumed that the fix was in. Suddenly, however, the moderate candi-

date had a chance of winning – and seven million extra voters showed up for the second round and carried the 'reformist' to victory.

It was only a small victory, because Pezeshkian is very timid (otherwise he wouldn't have been allowed even to run), but more importantly because the Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, has been the real and absolute ruler of Iran ever since Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini died in 1989. It just showed that the public would prefer somebody else.

That doesn't count for much in a theocracy. It just allowed for a bit of speculation about the long-term future of the country. But a lot has happened in the Middle East since last July, and none of it has been good news for the Iranian regime.

First, the vaunted 'axis of resistance' that Iran had created to keep Israel on the defensive and boost its own power has been largely dismantled in the past six months.

Hamas in the Gaza Strip has been mostly destroyed, the Hezbollah organization that dominated Lebanon is disabled, and the recent overthrow of the Assad regime in Syria has eliminated Iran's strongest supporter in the region.

That was a homegrown revolt by Sunni Islamists backed by Turkey, and it's part of a broader decline of Shia power in the region's politics. Shia Iran no longer has any allies in the Arab countries that border on Israel, and there is little chance that it can win them back.

Worse yet for Tehran, the tit-for-tat missile strikes between Iran and Israel over the past few months showed that Iran's missiles for the most part cannot get through, while the Israeli air force could and did destroy most of Iran's air defenses. The country is virtually naked militarily.

Even more dangerous for the regime is the accelerating decline of the economy. It was undermined by decades of over-spending abroad to spread its radical religious message, but equally by under-investment at home since Iran's attempts to sponsor revolutions elsewhere led to stringent international sanctions against it.

The damage has been extreme. Iran's per capita gross domestic product in 1976, a couple of years before the Islamist takeover, was \$7,600. Now it is only \$5,700, despite all the oil and gas.

Per capita GDP in next-door Turkey, sim-

ilar in size, resources and population but with little gas or oil, was only \$1,270 in 1976. It is now \$13,000. Which one would you prefer?

Most Iranians don't know those exact numbers, but they do know roughly what happened and why – and the result, now unfolding for all to see, is a ruined economy.

Iran has the world's second-largest natural gas reserves and third-largest oil reserves, but the rot has gone so deep that it cannot even keep the lights and the heat on.

There were frequent brief power outages last summer, but this winter the electricity is going off for days at a time. Factories, steel plants, and the like are shutting down; schools and universities are teaching remotely. A lot of people are unhappy or downright angry, and they know who to blame.

There have been three episodes of prolonged mass protests against the regime (2009, 2019 and 2022), and despite the cold winter weather another one could be on the way now. Or not; these things are unpredictable.

But we can probably now say with some confidence: "Someday SOON this will come to an end."

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2024 YEAR IN REVIEW

REWINDING BACK TO THE TOP NEWS HIGHLIGHTS OF 2024

ATTENTION READERS!

For the first edition of the Shelburne Free Press in 2025, we're taking you through all of the highs and lows over the final six months of the year. The first half of our 2024 Year in Review, published on Dec. 26, shared some of the most significant stories impacting our readers from January to June. This week, we're publishing the second half of our Year in Review with all of the highlights from July to December. Now, without any further ado, here's a look at the year that was.

JULY

Shepherd's Cupboard volunteers recognized with awards from province

Volunteers from the Shelburne Food Bank, Shepherd's Cupboard, have been recognized for their time and efforts in supporting the local community.

Seven volunteers from the food bank were presented with certificates and pins celebrating their years of dedication to volunteering at a ceremony held in Barrie on June 19 as part of the 2024 Ontario Volunteer Service Awards.

The seven recipients from Shepherd's Cupboard Food Bank were Barb Elgie, Ovalet Yousef, Shelley Doney, Beth Brown, Phyllis Robinson, Diane French, and Gwynn McGhee.

The Ontario Volunteer Service Award is an annual award from the provincial government that honours adult and youth volunteers for their contributions and continued service at non-profits, schools, community centres, hospitals, libraries, and community associations.

This year the government recognized 6,650 community leaders at 45 local award ceremonies held between April and July.

Shelburne-Orangeville transit ends September

Shelburne residents who use the weekday transit system to travel to and from the Town of Orangeville will soon need to find new transportation.

Shelburne council plans to discontinue the bus service between the municipalities in September.

During its July 22 meeting, council received a report from Denyse Morrissey, Shelburne's CAO, about the future of the transit service.

The report came to council after town staff received a letter on July 17 from Kim Wingrove, CAO for Grey County, that indicated

the neighbouring county's intention to end the Grey Transit Route (GTR) pick-ups and drop-offs in Shelburne.

"This route is currently operating above capacity, which unfortunately prevents some Grey County residents from utilizing the service when they need it," Wingrove wrote. "As the GTR is funded by the Grey County tax levy, we have made the difficult decision to prioritize the availability of this service for Grey County residents."

The report noted that for the service to continue for Shelburne riders, a second vehicle of the same size and seating, which is 10 passenger seats, would be required for Route 2 and would need to be funded by the Town of Shelburne.

According to the report, the estimated cost to operate Route 2 for the four months starting in September would be nearly \$57,000. The service would cost a total of \$14,246 per month to operate and \$170,952 for one full year of service.

Shelburne Food Bank fundraising for van to help with deliveries

Shelburne's local food bank is looking to expand its efforts to tackle rising food insecurity in the community while also relieving the demands put on volunteers by purchasing a vehicle for the food bank.

Shepherd's Cupboard Food Bank and the Rotary Club of Shelburne celebrated the official launch of their new sponsorship campaign on Monday (July 8) at Trillium Ford in Shelburne. The goal of the campaign is to help raise funds to purchase a 2023 Ford E-Transit Cargo Van T-350 for the food bank.

The campaign sees local businesses choose from a selection of sponsorship tiers, each of which comes with different perks. The five tiers that businesses can pick from to sponsor the van include: Community Partner (\$20,000), Team Partner (\$10,000), Friend

(\$5,000), Fan (\$2,500), and Pal (\$1,000).

The fundraising goal for the sponsorship campaign is \$100,000.

Centre Dufferin rugby team congratulated for silver medal at OFSSA

The Centre Dufferin District High School (CDDHS) girl's rugby team has received recognition from the Town of Shelburne for their silver medal - finish at the Ontario Federation of School Athletic Association (OFSAA) tournament.

Shelburne Town Council presented the girls team with certificates ahead of their meeting on Monday (July 8) at Town Hall in commemoration of their achievement.

The Girl's Rugby program at Centre Dufferin District High School is in its third year, and for the last two years the team has returned from OFSAA as bronze medalists.

With many players returning for the 2024 season, the team of 48 girls set forward with one goal - make it to the OFSAA - finals.

The team started the season off strong with a win over St. James Catholic High School from Guelph during their home opener game on April 24. The CDDHS girl's rugby team carried the momentum throughout the rest of the regular season, remaining undefeated until their district - finals, where they took a loss against John F. Ross Collegiate.

The girl's rugby team went on to bring home a Central Western Ontario Secondary Schools Association (CWOSSA) championship after winning 29-0 over Holy Trinity Catholic High School in the - final game.

The win marked the third consecutive year that CDDHS has won CWOSSA.

The CDDHS girl's rugby team closed out the season by competing against teams from across the province at the OFSAA championship held in Courtice, Ont. from June 3 to June 5. The team beat out Napanee District Secondary School in the semi- - finals and concluded

the tournament with a silver medal after losing to Holy Cross Catholic Secondary School, who have been OFSAA medalists since 2006, in the finals.

AUGUST

Two Bacchus Motorcycle Club members, one associate facing criminal charges

An Orangeville man and an Amaranth man are facing charges in connection to crimes they allegedly committed with the Bacchus Motorcycle Club.

Two full patch Bacchus Motorcycle Club (MC) members and one associate were arrested and charged with a total of nine Criminal Code offences in connection with an auto theft investigation.

The Ontario Provincial Police (OPP)-led Biker Enforcement Unit (BEU) received information in June of last year that members of the Bacchus MC were in possession of stolen vehicles with fraudulent vehicle identification numbers (VIN).

On Nov. 16, 2023, BEU members executed search warrants in Burlington, Orangeville, Etobicoke, Hamilton, Mississauga, and Paradise in Newfoundland and Labrador. A search warrant was also executed at the Bacchus MC Clubhouse in Oakville.

Police recovered six stolen and re-vinned vehicles, ownerships, insurance, key fobs and fraudulent VIN plates.

Robert Janes, 39, of Orangeville, has been charged with possession of property obtained by crime over \$5,000 - three counts and fraudulent concealment - two counts. Alan Miles, 37, of Amaranth, has been charged with possession of property obtained by crime over \$5,000.

Continued on Page 6

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2024 YEAR IN REVIEW

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Grandfather-grandson duo fundraising for kids fighting cancer

A Shelburne resident and his grandson are hoping to make a difference for children facing cancer as they prepare to gear up and peddle their bikes in a month-long cycle challenge.

Throughout August, Michael Wright and his eight-year-old grandson, William, will be cycling the streets of Shelburne as part of the annual Great Cycle Challenge – a national fundraising initiative for SickKids Foundation.

“Kids should be living life, not – fighting for it,” Wright told the Free Press, explaining why he supports the initiative.

Wright initially joined the challenge last year with his grandson to help teach William to ride his bike without training wheels. The challenge eventually became a nightly routine for the duo as they attempted to reach their fundraising and distance goals.

Last year, the grandfather and grandson set the goal of raising \$500 and cycling a total of 100 km, and by the end of the month, they had raised more than \$1,200 and peddled roughly 250 km.

Coming off the success of the challenge last year, both Michael and William decided they wanted to take up the initiative for another go at it.

Inaugural Dufferin Film Festival showcases local talent with 16 original films

Filmmakers, writers, and movie buffs flocked to the Opera House in Orangeville on Aug. 9 and Aug. 10 to celebrate the inaugural Dufferin Film Festival (DFF).

Created by Kelly McDowell and Nick Rose, the Dufferin Film Festival looks to “create a platform where Canadian filmmakers and audiences can connect, inspire, and engage in meaningful conversations.”

The two-day film festival featured 16 original films that ranged in genres including comedy, dramas and documentaries.

The 16 films included: Heap, Beyond the Reins, For Roy, Handsy, Lakewood, Cancelled, Red String of Fate, On the Window-sill, Kofi, Prism, Good Girl, Cinching Saddles, Charlie, Triage, The Two of Us, and Waterman’s Ballad.

Two of the films showcased at the festival screenings – Lakewood and Handsy – were selected from a screenwriting competition hosted by the Dufferin Film Festival.

Small facility offering supportive senior housing marks grand opening

Seniors living in Shelburne now have access to a new supportive senior housing opportunity.

Golden Agers Take A Break Inc., a supportive senior housing facility located in a residential home on Colonel Phillips Drive in Shelburne, celebrated their grand opening on Saturday (Aug. 10).

The residential facility consists of five private rooms on the main and upper levels of the house for senior residents and an additional unit in the basement where Leslie-McKenzie and her family reside.

Each of the five rooms has its own name: Love, Hope, Faith, Happy and Believe.

While the rooms are available to all residents, Leslie-McKenzie explained that the room called “Love” is a master bedroom space marketed specifically for senior couples, and the room known as “Faith” has been designed with accessibility in mind.

Leslie-McKenzie will be operating the supportive housing facility for seniors and provide services that include transportation, medication administration, laundry, meal preparation, housekeeping, and emergency assistance.

The facility will also be utilizing the services of a recreational therapist, who will help run daily programs and activities for the seniors to help stimulate their brains and bodies.

seating, which is 10 passenger seats, would be required for Route 2 and would need to be funded by the County of Dufferin.

According to the letter to County Council, the cost to provide the service – five days per week would be \$13,500 per month plus HST and a fuel cost of approximately \$500.

Dufferin County Council approved a motion to provide subsidy funding for the Grey County Transit Route 2 in the amount of \$15,000 on a month-to-month basis for up to four months.

The goal of the subsidy funding is to continue the service until the County’s transit task force, who are expected to meet in early September, can begin exploring the feasibility of the service and explore other options.

New pickleball courts ready for play

The Township of Mulmur unveiled its new tennis and pickleball courts in Mansfield on Aug. 28, and they are now ready for public use.

The courts are located at Thomson Trail Park.

Made possible by a \$150,000 Capital Grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation that was first awarded in 2023, tennis and pickleball are sports that can be enjoyed by a variety of residents.

The grant will help the Township of Mulmur to diversify recreation opportunities for residents by funding the construction of this project which includes four new tennis and pickleball courts at the park.

Task Force. The task force’s goal is to add to and support existing primary care and physician services in Dufferin County and the Town of Caledon.

Over the –first three months, Dr. MacFarland will focus on initiatives to strengthen local physician recruitment, including developing strategies to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the current recruitment process for the local hospital.

The recruitment efforts will aim to address physician shortages in the community and needs within the hospital.

Shelburne to honour Alex Carter with memorial plaque at Greenwood Park

The Town of Shelburne is honouring one of its residents with a memorial plaque that will be installed at Greenwood Park.

Alex S. Carter was very involved in the community in various events and committees. He was especially involved with the Shelburne Soccer Club where he was the sponsorship director and spent countless hours visiting local businesses to ensure sponsorships so kids could continue playing the sport.

Alex was also on the Town Arts and Heritage Committee and involved with the Board of Education.

Alex passed away on September 27, 2023.

In honour of his contributions to the Town, a memorial plaque will be placed on a bench to remember him. The plaque and bench are in Briens Field at Greenwood Park in Shelburne.

SEPTEMBER

Orangeville-Shelburne transit receives funding

Dufferin County Council has approved a motion to fund the Grey Transit Route (GTR) that runs between Shelburne and Orangeville on a month-to-month basis up to the end of the year.

During their meeting on Aug. 22, Dufferin County Council discussed a letter received from Brian Milne, Warden of Grey County, regarding the discontinuation of the route as of Sept. 2.

In the letter, Milne said Grey County had made the decision to discontinue the stops in Shelburne due to over-capacity use from Shelburne residents.

The letter noted that for the service to continue for riders catching the bus in Shelburne, a second vehicle of the same size and

Local doctor helping recruit physicians in Dufferin-Caledon

A local family doctor is taking on the role of helping recruit more physicians to Dufferin County and the Town of Caledon.

The Hills of Headwaters Collaborative Ontario Health Team (HOHC OHT) announced in a press release on Sept. 17 that Orangeville-based physician Dr. Lydia MacFarland would be taking on the new role of physician recruiter.

In the new role, Dr. MacFarland will be tasked with leading the recruitment of new doctors as well as continuing efforts to support existing physicians.

The physician recruiter position was created through partnerships between local government representatives, family physicians, health providers and community members. They joined together to form the HOHC OHT’s Physician Recruitment and Retention

OCTOBER

Local children featured in Hallmark Christmas movie

Parts of downtown Orangeville have been made up of artificial snow and ice throughout September as film crews flip the community into the backdrop for an upcoming holiday movie.

But, this holiday season the Town of Orangeville won’t be the only one making an appearance on the silver screen.

Seven local youth – Logan Coombes, Alex Feret, Westin Amaya, Greysin Amaya, Sophie Lauria, Arianna Salonga and Noah Bayne – will all find themselves on screen as background characters in the Hallmark Christmas movie “Trading Up Christmas.”

Continued on Page 7

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The young actors hit the set located on Mill Street in Orangeville on Friday (Sept. 27) evening for the last scheduled day of filming. For the budding young actors, it was the first time they'd experienced stepping onto a movie set.

The seven youths in the movie were selected from a call put out by talent agency Bonkers Casting, requesting kids between the ages of eight and 12 years old in the local community.

"Trading Up Christmas" will premiere on the Hallmark Channel on Dec. 10 at 8/7c.

Shelburne girl to be featured in upcoming TVO Kids show

Shelburne residents young and old will need to set a reminder to turn on their televisions on Tuesday (Oct. 15) as one of Shelburne's very own makes her silver screen appearance in a new TV series geared towards teaching youth about the trades.

Akeylah James, a 13-year-old Shelburne resident, will be co-hosting an upcoming show on TVO Kids called "Trading Skills."

"Trading Skills" follows co-hosts Akeylah and Brody as they tackle a unique challenge in each episode. With the guidance of their friend Anna, they head out to meet skilled trades professionals who share their expertise with them. The duo then returns to their maker space to apply what they've learned and solve the problem using practical, hands-on skills.

The series, geared towards children aged 6 to 9, aims to introduce young viewers to the world of skilled trades, sparking early interest in hands-on careers. The show highlights a wide range of trades to showcase opportunities within the trades field.

Filming for the show began at the end of March and over the months, James has travelled to different communities in the Toronto area as well as Thornbury, Meaford and Sudbury.

Trades featured in the show include ironworker, Porsche auto technician, mining millwright, chocolatier, dairy herdsman, chef, arborist, steam-fitter, cabinetmaker, fruit grower, horticulturist, hairstylist, elevator repair technician, and welder.

Victim of armed robbery at gas station shot, faces life-threatening injuries

An armed robbery at a gas station in Amaranth earlier this week has resulted in life-threatening injuries for one individual.

Dufferin Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) is now requesting the public's assistance with their investigation into the shooting and robbery.

A masked individual entered an Esso gas station on County Road 109 in Amaranth with a firearm at roughly 11:30 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 7. OPP officers then responded to a report of the incident around 11:40 p.m.

"The individual discharged the firearm during the robbery and a victim sustained a life-threatening injury," said Dufferin OPP in a press release on Oct. 8. "The victim was transported by Air Ornge to a Toronto area trauma centre, where they remain in life-threatening condition."

The person who committed the robbery and shooting was wearing a three-quarter length winter jacket with a fur hood, black pants, black shoes, and a blue medical mask.

The investigation is ongoing by the Dufferin OPP Crime Unit under the direction of the Criminal Investigation Branch.

Person shot during armed robbery at gas station dies from injuries

Dufferin Ontario Provincial Police (OPP)

officers has elevated an armed robbery that occurred at a gas station in Amaranth to a homicide investigation.

Officers from the Dufferin OPP Detachment responded to a report of an armed robbery at a gas station on County Road 109 on Oct. 7, at approximately 11:40 p.m. A masked individual discharged a firearm during the robbery and a victim sustained a life-threatening injury. The victim was transported by Air Ornge to a Toronto area trauma centre.

The victim has been identified as Mehakdeep Singh, a 25-year-old from Amaranth and on Oct. 10, Mehakdeep succumbed to his injuries and was pronounced deceased.

The individual responsible for the homicide was wearing a dark-coloured, three-quarter length winter jacket with a fur hood, black pants, black shoes, and a blue medical mask.

The investigation is ongoing by the Dufferin OPP Crime Unit under the direction of the Criminal Investigation Branch, with assistance from the OPP Emergency Response Unit, OPP Canine Unit, in conjunction with the Office of the Chief Coroner and the Ontario Forensic Pathology Service.

Legion temporarily closes after president resigns

The Shelburne Legion, Branch 220, will remain closed throughout the majority of November following the resignation of their current president.

Chuck Arrand, Zone Commander for E-3 of the Royal Canadian Legion, told the Free Press that he received the resignation of Shelburne Legion President Judy McCarroll on Oct. 22, before their 7 p.m. monthly general meeting. Unable to elect a viable candidate, the Zone Commander was forced to enact a temporary closure of Branch 220.

Traditionally, when a local legion is unable to or fails to elect a president to oversee the branch it is closed permanently. The permanent closure means that the building, along with all of its assets, are sold and the revenue from the sale is donated to charities within the community it resides.

In the case of the Shelburne Legion, instead of permanently closing, Arrand was able to receive permission from Ontario Command to have a temporary closure for 30 days and allow for an election of a new president at their next meeting on Nov. 26.

Hockey fans throughout Dufferin County meet Mats Sundin at book signing

A sea of blue and white jerseys descended on one of Orangeville's local arenas as Toronto Maple Leaf fans and hockey fans alike gathered for a moment to meet NHL legend Mats Sundin.

Local book store, Booklore, hosted a special book signing event with Sundin on Oct. 23 at the Alder Arena as part of a tour celebrating the launch of his newly released autobiography, Home and Away.

Booklore sold 300 copies of Sundin's book ahead of the book signing, with a portion of the profits going to the Orangeville Wolves.

Home and Away, is an unfiltered look at Sundin's time playing hockey in Sweden and across North America.

Starting with his childhood growing up in the outskirts of Stockholm Sweden, Home and Away explores Sundin's experiences being drafted in 1989 at 18 years old to the Quebec Nordiques, his trade to the Toronto Maple Leafs in exchange for the highly popular Leaf captain, Wendel Clark, and the 13 season he spent with the team.

NOVEMBER

Shelburne Scouts celebrate 100-year anniversary

The 1st Shelburne Scouts Group has hit a milestone in their group's history as they celebrate 100 years of scouting in the local community.

The local scouting group commemorated the milestone on Monday (Nov. 26) at Centennial Hylands Elementary School, by bringing together current scout members, volunteers, and former scouts from the 1st Shelburne Scouts Group.

"I'm proud of this accomplishment that this group in Shelburne has been able to make, and especially for the number of years they have given back to the community," said Brenton Kennedy, group commissioner of the 1st Shelburne Scouts Group.

Established in early 1924, there is limited historical information about the formation of the 1st Shelburne Scouts Group and its formative years, with the loss of paper documents and members eventually leaving the program. Most of the information that is known about the 1st Shelburne Scouts Group is from the last four decades and comes from the stories of previous Scout Leaders and members.

The mission of Scouts Canada is to help prepare participating youth to become well-rounded citizens and individuals in their community. Local youth in the program experience a variety of outdoor activities including hiking and camping, while also learning skills such as how to start fires, building shelters, identifying fauna and flora, tracking animals, reading compasses, and how to survive if you're stuck in the wild.

The 1st Shelburne Scouts Group currently has nine youth in their Cub Pack Program and six youth in their Scout Troop Program.

CDDHS Royals senior boys win District 4 volleyball championships

The Centre Dufferin District High School Royals senior boys' volleyball team are District 4 champions after a stellar undefeated season.

The Royals went 10-0 in the regular season for a first-place finish before heading into the playoffs.

The Royals defeated Erin District in their morning semi-final game. The Royals won three sets to win the District championship.

The Royals will now go on to regional competition at CWOSSA and face other District champions for the regional title.

Shelburne man completes 11-hour Remembrance Day walk

When Steve McNeil hosts one of his marathon fundraisers, it typically starts with the tying of his skates and a swift glide onto the ice. This time, it began with the tying of his boots and one step in front of the next;

for more than 11 hours of walking.

The Shelburne resident arrived at Fiddle Park at midnight on Monday (Nov. 11) to partake in a gruelling 11-hour and 11-minute walk around the park's 1-kilometre loop in the hopes of raising funds for the Royal Canadian Legion.

A few months ago, McNeil started walking the Fiddle Park loop to help stay active after sustaining an injury to his shoulder. It was during one of his walks that he came up with the idea to organize the 11:11 Laps for the Legion Marathon.

"My career with Canada Post means I have Remembrance Day off and I thought about how I wanted to spend my day off. The public pays me to be off today, so this is my way of giving back," said McNeil.

As part of the marathon walk, he asked community members to donate \$11.11 to their own legion branches or more broadly, the Royal Canadian Legion.

"Across our country so many of our legions have closed over the last 10 or 15 years because of financial constraints. All I'm trying to do is raise some awareness for our legions and try to get more people to get involved and be volunteers like I am," said McNeil.

After completing more than 10 hours of countless laps of Fiddle Park, McNeil finished his 11:11 Marathon by walking to the cenotaph outside of Town Hall in Shelburne.

Mulmur's Pine River Institute wins 2024 Defender Services Award

Pine River Institute is receiving a boost to continue helping youth facing addiction and mental health struggles after winning the 2024 Defender Services Award.

The local organization announced in a press release on Monday (Nov. 25) that they had won the Outdoor Accessibility and Education Award category of the 2024 Defender Services Award. As the winners of the Outdoor Accessibility and Education Award, Pine River Institute is taking home the grand prize - a 130 Defender vehicle, \$25,000 USD and an additional \$5,000 USD for being in the top five finalists.

"It has been a long process to get to this win, filled with a lot of suspense and excitement. It was absolutely thrilling to be there and hear our name called and to be able run up on stage to accept this wonderful award," said Jill Palmer, executive director of development for Pine River, who was in California for the announcement at Destination Defender on Nov. 23. "This is an amazing win for Pine River, and it will really help propel us forward. A lot of people helped us get to this win."

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CHRISTMAS TREE COLLECTION

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

Christmas trees in the Town of Orangeville will be collected during the week of **January 13.**

Residents in **rural areas** must call 1.888.941.3345 ext. 1 a week in advance to be put on the list for collection the week of **January 13.**

Christmas trees in the urban areas of Grand Valley, Shelburne & the rural subdivisions will be collected during the week of **January 20.**

Do not bag trees for collection and ensure that decorations and tree stands are removed. Trees that are buried in snow will not be collected.



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

SPORTS

Centre Dufferin District High School hosts alumni week

Written By BRIAN LOCKHART

You may have graduated from Centre Dufferin District High School, but that doesn't mean you still can't be attached to your old school in some way.

The Shelburne high school hosted its alumni week from Dec. 17 to 20 and invited former students to return and relive some of their glory days on the school's sports

teams.

On Tuesday, the current Royals hockey team hosted a squad made up of former students on the ice at the Centre Dufferin Recreation Complex.

It wasn't hard for the alumni to put a team together. Many former students are hockey players and many of them still live in the area.

It was a well-played game by both teams

with a lot of talent on the ice and a good size crowd in the stands.

On Dec. 16 it was volleyball night. Current students and alumni met in the gym at CDDHS for a friendly match.

On Dec. 17, students and alumni returned to the gym for a basketball game.

Many former Centre Dufferin players returned for the night and looked pretty good during the warm-up.

A special ceremony was held to honour former student Aiden Oliver, who passed away suddenly in October. He was well remembered by both students and faculty at the school.

Alumni week has become a tradition at Centre Dufferin and many former students enjoy coming back to the school to see old friends and play some sports with the current students.



BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

TAKING TO THE COURT: The current Centre Dufferin District High School Royals basketball team take on the alumni team in the gym at CDDHS on Thursday, Dec. 19, during the school's alumni week. Several sporting activities brought former students back to the school for some fun competition.



BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

BATTLING IT OUT: The Centre Dufferin District High School Royals boy's hockey team take on the alumni team made up of former CDDHS students on the ice at the Centre Dufferin Recreation Complex on Tuesday, Dec. 17. Former students returned for alumni week and looked forward to playing the current Centre Dufferin team in a friendly game.

Leaders rise to the top moving into second half of Junior C hockey season

Written By BRIAN LOCKHART

With the new year, the Provincial Junior Hockey League is now moving into the second half of the regular season schedule with a lot of hockey still to be played before going into the playoffs.

In the North Carruthers Division, the Alliston Hornets continue to dominate the division going undefeated after 26 games. They

are the only team in the entire 62-team league that has remained undefeated for the season and they now have 52 points.

In second place in the division, the Orillia Terriers are having a good season with 22 wins after 26 times on the ice – good for 45 points.

The Stayner Siskins are in the number three spot with 40 points and a 20-7 record.

In the middle of the pack, the Penetang

Kings, Innisfil Spartans, and Huntsville Otters are separated by eight points.

The Midland Flyers are in seventh place with a 6-21 record. They are followed by the Muskoka Bears who have won only two games this season after 24 times on the ice.

Across the province, the other seven Junior C divisions have leaders who have moved to the top as the season progresses.

In the East Orr division, the Clarington Eagles are in first place with a 26-4 record and 53 points.

The Frankford Huskies are leading the East Tod division with a 23-6 record and 46 points.

In Niagara, the Dundas Blues are on top in the South Bloomfield division with a 23-5 re-

cord.

The Mount Forest Patriots are leading the North Pollock Division with a 24-7 record including two overtime losses.

The Norwich Merchants are in first place in the South Doherty division. They have a 23-6 record and 46 points.

The Essex 73s lead the West Stobbs division with a 24-2 record.

In the west end of the province, the Port Stanley Sailors are in first place in the West Yeck division with a 19-9 record and 40 points.

With a 42-game schedule for the regular season, there is still a lot of hockey to be played as teams enter the new year in an all-out battle to see who can come out on top.



BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

DOMINATING THE DIVISION: The Alliston Hornets are the top team in the North Carruthers Division of the Provincial Junior Hockey Team with 26 wins and zero losses. The Alliston squad defeated the Innisfil Spartans 3-1 on the ice at the New Tecumseth Recreation Centre on Friday, Jan. 3.



BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

TOURNEY ACTION: The Centre Dufferin District High School Royals senior girls volleyball team took on Norwell District Secondary School during a tournament day in the gym at CDDHS on Monday, Dec. 16. Each District 4 team played four matches throughout the day. The Royals took a 2-1 loss in this match.

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i'm lovin' it



ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

PIPER COYLE

Piper Coyle has been on the ice since she was two years old and loves playing hockey.

"I like the teamwork and having another family," Piper said of the camaraderie on the ice. "We're all really tight with each other and we all have really good chemistry. It feels like a second family to everyone."

Piper said she enjoys the aggressive nature of the sport.

"It's fun – especially when the game is more aggressive, it makes it more exciting."

Piper also plays on the high school girl's rugby team in the spring.

TEAM: CENTRE DUFFERIN DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS VARSITY HOCKEY

POSITION: DEFENCE

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Lots begin closing at 5pm on Jan 10th.

Preview: Fri Jan 10th, 10am – 4pm, or call for appointment on another day.

Pickup: Sat Jan 11th, 10am – 5pm. Call or text if you need more information.

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 438280 4th Line, Melancthon L9V 1S9 (North of Shelburne).

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 www.kiddfamilyauctions.com



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Does your heart beat for all things gas & oil? Get ready to fuel your passion with this auction, packed with petroliana, collectible signs, vintage tins, and more! Bid online and take home the treasures that ignite your collection.

Preview this collection on Jan 17th, 10am - 4pm, or call for an appointment on another day. Pickup and preview at our Home Office Base, 438280 4th Line, Melancthon L9V 1S9 (North of Shelburne). Lots begin closing at 5pm on Jan 17th.

Features: Gasboy of Canada LTD Supertest Gas Pump; Gilbarco Esso 2000 Farm Fuel Gas Pump; an outstanding selection of signs and tins including "Join The Swing To Pepsi-Cola" Tin Grocery Store Twine Dispenser; Five Roses Flour SSP Door Push; Pratt & Whitney Aircraft SSP Sign; Coca-Cola DSP Push Bar; White Rose Neon Light Up Wall Clock; as well as a selection of Motor Oil Cans from brands such as Supertest; L-Jay Tractor; Sunoco; White Rose; En-Ar-Co; Red Indian; etc.; Tobacco & Cigarette Tins; CDN & US License Plates; Pressed Steel Lincoln Toys; Schylling Tin Wind Up Cars; Tin Litho Collectibles; ERTL Trucks & Cars; a variety of Hot Wheels; Schwinn Typhoon Bicycle; and so much more.



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Please submit resume and salary expectations by email before **January 17, 2025** to:

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 Managing Director
 Lord Dufferin Centre Retirement Residence
 32 First Street, Orangeville, ON, L9W 2E1
 Email: dkholwell@lorddufferincentre.ca

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CARD OF THANKS

Betty Ida Mccabe

We are forever grateful for the love and support extended to us during our mother's passing, two weeks before her 96th birthday.

The prayers, visits and comforting words have been appreciated.

Special thanks to the 2nd floor staff of Dufferin Oaks, Jack and Thompson Funeral Home and Rev Gord Horsely for their loving care and support.

Thank you for all the charitable donations made in Mom's memory.

Shirley, Shiela, Mary Lynn, Ray and Betty Jo

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OBITUARY

BRONWEN HERLIHY

Lover of family, friends, and flowers, Bronwen always had time and energy to give. She was happiest when she could bring joy to others, which she did throughout her whole life. A wonderful Mother, Nana, and friend, she was thoughtful and generous with her time and her heart. A superwoman who seemed to know no bounds, she simultaneously worked, attended university, ran a small farm, handled a household, and raised a family! She passed away peacefully on December 22nd, 2024 with family by her side. She will always be missed, and we are so grateful for the time we had together - the world is a better place because you were in it. We love you.



A celebration of Bronwen's life was held at the Dods & McNair Funeral Home, Chapel & Reception Centre, 21 First St., Orangeville on Sunday, January 5th, 2025 from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm. Condolences may be offered to the family at www.dodsandmcnair.com

BETTY MCCABE (nee Tucker)
 DEC. 16, 1928 - NOV. 28, 2024

Died peacefully Thursday, November 28, 2024 surrounded by family. Loving wife of the late Ross and mother to Shirley and the late Dan Lynch, Shiela and Dennis Foster, Mary Lynn and Terry Bernard, Ray and Tara McCabe and Betty Jo and Dave Lee.

Cherished grandmother of: Patrick and Sue Lynch, Jeremy and Shannon Lynch, Christopher and Cheryl Lynch, Crystal Foster and Pete Kidd, Jessica Bernard-Wood and Allan Wood, Stefanie Bernard and Matt Vince, Tiffany McCabe and Vikas Vig, Jasmine McCabe and Kennie Pullen, Brandi McCabe and Gord Currie, Jade McCabe and Brent Reusch, and Foster, Rebecca and Avery Lee.

Proud great-grandmother of Abi, Clayton, Spencer, Daniel, Jordyn, Isla, Madalynn, Abigail, Asha, Nora, Landan, Raelyn, Erik, Archie, Charlie, Lydia, Kennedy, and highly anticipated twin girls.

The family received friends at Jack & Thompson Funeral Home, Shelburne on Monday, December 2, 2024 from 11a.m. to 1p.m. The funeral service followed in the funeral home chapel at 1p.m. Interment occurred at Shelburne Cemetery. If desired, donations to Dufferin Oaks or the Alzheimer Society would be appreciated.



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 THIS NEWSPAPER!**



2024 YEAR IN REVIEW

DECEMBER

Shelburne council approves 2025 budget

Shelburne Town Council has officially approved a five per cent tax rate increase as part of their 2025 budget.

During their meeting on Nov. 25, Shelburne Town Council received the draft 2025 budget report for the third time and directed staff to proceed with bringing forward a

by-law to adopt the budget.

"We are at that point in time, I think, where we're ready to move ahead with this," said Shelburne Mayor Wade Mills. "We've moved through each of the phases of our scheduled budget process, starting with the draft presentation to council, the public meeting at our last council meeting and here we are now; ready to go."

The estimated amount to be raised by taxation in 2025 is just over \$10.8 million, calculated by taking the total operating ex-

penses of \$13.6 million for 2024 and subtracting the revenues of around \$2.7 million.

Streams Community Hub receives \$50,000 for Miles of Smiles campaign

Streams Community Hub is one step closer to reaching its fundraising goal to purchase a passenger vehicle for its after-school programming after securing a \$50,000 grant.

The local youth-focused arts charity announced in a press release on Tuesday (Dec. 10) that they have received a \$50,000 grant from the Commonwell Mutual Insurance Group's Learning Engagement & Accelerator Fund (L.E.A.F.).

The money from the grant will go towards Streams Community Hub's Miles of Smiles Van Campaign, which looks to raise funds to purchase a 15-seater van to transport students from school to the hub for after-school programming

"This project is vital to removing barriers for families in our community to access our programming, without public transit children are often unable to access our site," said Juli-Anne James, co-founder and executive director of Streams Community Hub. "Our goal is to remove obstacles that prevent children and youth from accessing the resources they need to grow, learn and thrive."

Streams Community Hub has noted that getting to and from their after-school or camp programs can be challenging for families who don't have reliable transportation.

"The van is more than just a vehicle; it's an essential tool in our mission to remove the obstacles that prevent children and youth from accessing the resources they need to learn, grow, and thrive," said Streams Community Hub.

Mulmur Mayor elected as Dufferin County Warden

Mulmur Mayor Janet Horner has been elected as the 148th Warden of Dufferin County.

Horner was elected to the position, which she will hold for the 2025 term, during a Dufferin County Council meeting on Thursday (Dec. 12) at the Edelbrock Centre in Orangeville. She will be taking over the role of Warden from Melancthon Mayor Darren White, who held the position during 2024 as well as from 2019 to 2021.

Councillors casted their votes for the nominees via an anonymous electronic ballot. Coun. Lisa Post, the mayor of Orangeville, and Horner were both nominated for the position as the head of County Council. Horner was officially elected following an 8-7 vote.

With Horner's election as the 148th Warden of Dufferin County, she joins a small list of Mulmur council representatives who have been elected and served in the position.

The first Mulmur Council member to hold the role of Warden of Dufferin County was Colwell Graham in 1882. The last Mulmur council member to be elected as the head of County Council was Paul Mills in 2018.

Horner has served as the Mayor of Mulmur Township for the last six years, and prior to that she sat as a councillor for four years.

"I'm honoured, because it's my peers that have put their faith in me to be their spokesperson and speak on behalf of Dufferin County, in and outside of the county," said Horner. "When your peers recognize that you can do the job, that means a lot."

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