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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**CONSTRUCTION UNDERWAY:** Work is being done on the grounds of Headwaters Health Care Centre to build a new section that will house an MRI. The Smart Headwaters Campaign, which raises funds for the new MRI, recently received \$3 million through its matching gift challenge, thanks to a commitment made by the Morningview Foundation. Read more on Page 7.

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## County of Dufferin mulls 5.6 per cent tax increase in 2025

Written By PAULA BROWN  
 LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Dufferin County Council has been presented with a tax levy increase of 5.6 per cent for the 2025 budget.

During their meeting on Jan. 9, Dufferin County Council was given a presentation overview of the draft 2025 budget from Aimee Raves, manager of corporate finance and treasurer for the County of Dufferin.

Raves noted in the budget overview that the 2025 draft budget has been impacted by a number of external factors, including federal and provincial policy changes and funding, economic conditions and pressure in the labour market.

"These factors put not only direct financial pressure on the County, but also affect staff and resource capacity," Raves wrote in the budget document. "Expenses have increased significantly, mostly due to planned capital work which will require borrowing. Another large portion of the increase is offset by government transfers and a continued strategy to mitigate some of the remaining impact by applying reserves."

The total operating expenses for 2025 in the County of Dufferin is \$161,636,000.

"[It's] a significant jump over 2024, mainly due to the larger capital projects," explained Raves.

To maintain the status quo going into 2025, the County of Dufferin would require \$48,989,000 in tax levy, which would be an increase of 3.2 per cent or 1.5 million.

Dufferin County staff has a proposed \$1,841,000 in additions to the status quo tax levy. The additional included new staff positions valued at \$413,000, previously committed project valued at \$295,000 and new projects costing \$1,133,000.

The additions and the factoring in of growth leaves a proposed tax levy increase of 5.6 per cent, which is approximately \$22.40 for each \$100,000 of assessment.

During the meeting, Raves summarized major initiatives and projects supporting the County of Dufferin's Strategic Plan.

The projects were broken down into five categories:

### Climate and Environment

- Better Home Retrofit Program - \$2,030,000
- Climate Master Plan - \$250,000
- County Buildings Energy Retrofit study - \$200,000
- Electric vehicle charging stations for County fleet - \$625,000
- Long Term Waste Strategy Update and Audits - \$122,000

### Community

- Housing Strategy Implementation - \$685,000
- Upgrades and Capital Maintenance on Housing Stock - \$1,887,000
- Paramedic Services Master Plan - \$100,000
- Additional Paramedic shift in Shelburne - \$426,000

### Economy

- Advance Workforce Strategy for Early Childhood Educators
- County-wide Community Improvement Plan - \$80,000
- Investment Attraction Program - \$25,000
- Tourism Development - \$20,000

### Governance

- Review Committee/Meeting Structure
- Progress New Operations Centre
- Edelbrock Centre Improvements, Design Work - \$750,000
- Complete Digital Modernization projects - \$843,000
- Fundraising and Sponsorship Plan for the Museum of Dufferin

### Equity

- Begin Implementation of Older Adults Strategy - \$160,000
- Transit Improvements - \$246,000
- County-wide Community Improvement Plan - \$80,000
- Investment Attraction Program - \$20,000
- Indigenous Education Training - \$35,000

"We have a lot of different projects that we have on the go," said Raves. Raves noted that Dufferin County Council has options to reduce the tax levy, including increasing reserves, increasing expenses, postponing or removing specific projects, changing service levels, reducing contributions to capital, and applying more reserves.

Dufferin County Council will be holding a special meeting scheduled for Jan. 30 for further discussion of the 2025 Budget.



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**FEATURED ITEM**

# Shelburne to advocate for truck bypass with Ministry of Transportation

Written By PAULA BROWN  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Councillors and staff members from the Town of Shelburne will be attending a meeting with the Ministry of Transportation (MTO) to delegate about the potential for a truck bypass.

During their meeting on Monday (Jan. 9), Denyse Morrissey, chief administrative officer for the Town of Shelburne, gave council a verbal update on the upcoming delegation with the MTO. The meeting is scheduled to be held on Jan. 20.

Morrissey told Council that staff will ask the MTO to lead the engagement and facilitation to implement the next steps for a potential truck bypass for the Town of Shelburne.

"We, as a lower tier municipality, have gone as far as we possibly can go with this initiative," said Morrissey.

The need for a truck bypass in Shelburne has been a priority concern dating back to 2003. The Town of Shelburne last delegated the need for a truck bypass to the MTO in 2019.

"It's more than just the congestion, traffic and noise. It's the impact [to the] downtown health and wellness, and the viability of our investments being impacted," said Morrissey. "For a business who has to have a patio or would like to, it certainly isn't a great experience to sit there and enjoy a coffee or sandwich when you have this rumbling going past you."

While the delegation to the MTO has not

yet been made public, Morrissey did note during the Council meeting that they will be presenting four options to the Ministry of Transportation and will be requesting the MTO explore whether the route options can be reviewed for a truck bypass.

Alongside their 2025 delegation, the Town of Shelburne will also be submitting their delegation to the MTO from 2019 as well as the County of Dufferin Transportation Master Plan, which included the Shelburne truck bypass.

Concluding the update, Shelburne Mayor Wade Mills provided further insight into the expectations and outcomes of the delegation.

"Delegations at these conferences are 15 minutes from start to finish. These are

not meant to be conversations to solve all the problems. It is meant to get facetime in front of the ministry and say 'the issue hasn't resolved itself, it hasn't gone away', and to keep the dialogue going," said Mills.

Mills added his expectations from the meeting with the Ministry of Transportation.

"At this point, I think our 15-minute pitch is – going back in recent memory we have done everything the Province has asked us to do, in terms of moving this ball down the field. We're at the end of what we can do. [It's] time for the Province to pick it up and run with it."

Following the meeting with the Ministry of Transportation, the delegation document will be made public to the community through the Council page on the Town of Shelburne website.

# Big Brothers Big Sisters of Dufferin and District recognizes National Mentoring Month

Written By PAULA BROWN  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Dufferin and District is celebrating the efforts of their volunteer mentors as they recognize National Mentoring Month.

National Mentoring Month is an annual campaign recognized in January, which looks to acknowledge the positive impacts of mentoring relationships, raise awareness about mentoring opportunities, and encourage community members to volunteer.

"Our volunteers mean everything to us. They truly are the ones that are having the impact on children, and by extension, our whole community, through the power of their mentoring," said Nancy Stallmach, executive director of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Dufferin and District.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Dufferin and District has two key programs that volunteers can become mentors through.

The Community-Based Mentoring Program sees one child matched with an adult mentor, and the two meet once a week or every other week for a couple of hours. Big Brothers and Big Sisters works to match the 'big' and 'little' pairings with similar interests and encourages low-cost or no-cost activities. Some of the common activities include hiking, bike riding, playing at the park, baking, doing arts and crafts, or learning a new skill.

The local chapter also runs the In School Mentoring Program, which sees a volunteer mentor matched with a child at one of the schools in the Upper Grand District School Board (UGDSB). The mentor meets with the children once a week for one hour at the

school during the school year.

Within the schools, Big Brothers Big Sisters also runs "Go Girls" and "Game On," which are group programs that teach children about the benefits of active living, healthy eating, good self-esteem, and mental health.

"All of the children in our programs have faced adversity in some way, so these pro-

"Our volunteers mean everything to us. They truly are the ones that are having the impact on children, and by extension, our whole community, through the power of their mentoring."

Nancy Stallmach, executive director of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Dufferin and District

grams allow them to see a brighter future for themselves," said Stallmach.

As they recognize the efforts of their volunteer mentors throughout January, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Dufferin is also hoping to share the need for more volunteers for their mentoring programs.

According to Big Brothers Big Sisters of Dufferin and District, they served over 200 children in all of their programs throughout the year and have around 45-50 volunteers who are mentors.

"We're currently looking for volunteers throughout Dufferin County, particularly we have a higher need for male volunteers," said



SUBMITTED PHOTO

RECOGNITION: Big Brothers Big Sisters of Dufferin and District are celebrating National Mentoring Month throughout January and are recognizing the efforts made by their 45 to 50 volunteers.

Stallmach.

Stallmach added that they currently have roughly 15 children on their waitlist. The majority of them are little brothers waiting for a big brother match.

"Some of them don't wait long at all, but some of them are waiting a while, especially if they're boys in the Shelburne area. It's an unfortunate thing that they do wait a while before we can find a match for them," said Stallmach.

Becoming a volunteer mentor with Brothers Big Sisters does not require a specific

qualification and volunteers are only asked for a one-year commitment.

"A good mentor is someone who likes spending time with other people and is willing to listen to the child to get to know them," said Stallmach. "It's a very rewarding volunteer experience for anyone who would like to make a positive impact on a particular child and also the community."

Individuals who are interested in volunteering as a big brother or big sister can fill out an application form on the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Dufferin and District website

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# Local police officer challenges County Council to participate in polar plunge

Written By PAULA BROWN  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Dufferin County councillors have been challenged by Dufferin OPP to take part in the 2025 Shelburne Polar Plunge for Special Olympics Ontario.

At their first meeting of the year on Jan. 9, Dufferin County Council received a delegation from Dufferin OPP Const. Jeff McLean regarding the annual polar plunge challenge.

"I'd like to challenge everybody sitting at this table to jump in," McLean told Council. "I want to encourage those who did participate last year, whether it was donations or participating in the event, to come out again. If you jumped in previously, you know it's not really that bad."

The Polar Plunge for Special Olympics Ontario is an annual fundraiser that sees community members "freezin' for a reason" by jumping into a cold body of water to raise money to support Special Olympics athletes.

The money raised through the event is used to assist the athletes in a number of ways such as training and purchasing uniforms.

"It allows them to grow, it gives them the opportunity to fit in and become champions," said McLean.

According to Special Olympics Ontario – Dufferin, there are more than 50 athletes registered locally, who participate in sport

clubs year-round.

The local chapter of Special Olympics Ontario offers seven sports for athletes to participate in, including basketball, bocce, curling, snowshoeing, softball, swimming and track and field.

Last year, the Shelburne Polar Plunge for Special Olympics Ontario saw close to 80 "plungers" take part in the event and raised over \$18,000 for Special Olympics Ontario.

"It's amazing for such a small community to continue to raise this amount of money," said McLean.

As part of the event, Dufferin OPP hands out an award called the "Frozen Belt," which is given to the individual who raises the most money for the event.

"This year, we're officially announcing it. We'll be presenting it on stage at the event to make sure that whoever wins gets the recognition they deserve," said McLean.

McLean noted to Council that the 2024 recipient of the "Frozen Belt" raised over \$5,000 by himself, which contributed to their fundraising total of \$18,000.

The 2025 Shelburne Polar Plunge for Special Olympics Ontario will be held on Feb. 17 (Family Day) from 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Shelburne Fairgrounds, located at 377 William Street.

The Polar Plunge has been moved from its original location at Fiddle Park to coincide with the Town of Shelburne's annual free



FILE PHOTO

**FREEZIN' FOR A REASON:** The 2025 Shelburne Polar Plunge for Special Olympics Ontario is returning on Feb. 17 (Family Day) and Dufferin OPP Const. Jeff McLean is challenging Dufferin County councillors to take part.

family day skate, and allow residents to attend both community events.

"People can have the free family skate and then they can go watch people be uncomfortable by jumping in the pool," explained McLean. "We're not splitting the community;

it's walking distance basically everywhere in town.

Those interested in registering to take part in the 2025 Shelburne Polar Plunge or would like to donate to the cause can do so by visiting, [www.polarplunge.ca](http://www.polarplunge.ca).

# Ontario Liberal candidate Prendergast for Dufferin–Caledon withdraws from race

Written By SAM ODROWSKI

Orangeville councillor Tess Prendergast announced she is withdrawing as the Ontario Liberal candidate for Dufferin–Caledon in the next provincial election.

Prendergast, a French teacher and librarian, announced her candidacy on Oct. 20 of last year.

She put out a statement regarding her withdrawal on Jan. 7, where she noted that the recent passing of her father, shortly before Christmas, has been an immeasurable loss for both her and her family.

"As we navigate this challenging time, I have made the difficult decision to prioritize my family's well-being and step back from the responsibilities of a provincial campaign," Prendergast's statement reads. "This decision was not made lightly but reflects my belief that this campaign – and our community – deserve the full focus and dedication of its candidate."

The statement noted Prendergast's "im-

mense gratitude" to the Ontario Liberal Party, its local membership and everyone who has supported her in her candidacy.

"It has been a privilege to work alongside so many passionate and dedicated individuals who are committed to building a better future for Dufferin–Caledon and Ontario," the statement noted. "I have deep respect for the commitment and determination required to lead a successful campaign. While I step back from this role, I remain confident that the next candidate will bring the energy and vision needed to champion the values we share and work tirelessly for a brighter and more prosperous future for our community."

Prendergast will remain actively involved in assisting with a smooth transition to the next candidate for the Ontario Liberal Party to ensure the momentum that's been built will continue without disruption.

"This has been a profoundly difficult decision, but one I believe is in the best interest of my family and the campaign. I remain

committed to supporting the Ontario Liberal Party and the new candidate as they build on the progress we have made together,"

reads Prendergast's statement. "Thank you for your understanding and support during this time."

# Parking tickets issued on Dec. 27 in Shelburne overturned by council, eligible for reimbursement

Written By PAULA BROWN  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Shelburne Town Council has unanimously agreed to overturn parking tickets issued to residents for overnight street parking on Dec. 27.

During their first meeting of the year on Monday (Jan. 9), Councillor Dan Sample inquired about amending a previously passed motion, to allow for relief of tickets issued to residents on Dec. 27 for overnight parking on the street.

"I guess there was a bit of miss understanding on my part when I said give relief to include Boxing Day. When I mentioned Boxing Day, I assumed it would carry over to the morning of the 27th, not midnight of the 26th," explained Sample. "I wouldn't expect people to be at their relatives or family members and at 12 o'clock have to move their cars. I expected that night to be included, it wasn't, and I'd like to have it included and give relief to the tickets issued for that time frame."

Coun. Sample initially brought forward a motion at one of Council's October meet-

ings, which requested an extension of street parking until Dec. 1. Council passed the motion to grant relief for restricting on-street parking for the additional two weeks at their Nov. 4 meeting.

As part of the motion, Shelburne Town Council also granted parking relief from Christmas Eve (Dec. 24), Christmas Day (Dec. 25), Boxing Day (Dec. 26), and New Year's Eve (Dec. 31).

Jennifer Willoughby, director of legislative services, noted to councillors that a total of 37 tickets were issued on Dec. 27, of which 32 were for on-street parking.

In order to reconsider the motion, Shelburne Town Council needed a two-thirds majority vote to overturn and introduce an amended motion.

The amended motion extended the hours of on-street parking to include 12 a.m. to 8 a.m. on Dec. 27.

Council supported the overturning of the previous motion and the amendment unanimously.

Residents who have paid their tickets for the on-street parking infraction on Dec. 27 are eligible for reimbursement.

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2. When in a crowd or in a busy restaurant, is it hard for you to follow the discussion?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
3. Do you feel tired or irritable after a long conversation?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
4. Do you feel the need to turn up the volume on your TV or radio such that it is too loud for others?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
5. Do you often need to ask others to repeat themselves?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
6. Has someone close to you pointed out you may have a hearing problem?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
7. Do you find it difficult to pinpoint where a noise comes from?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

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# OPINION

## Get the needle

As part of my work, I do a lot of research. Some of that research is about local history. As such, I have spent considerable time at the sites of ghost towns, pioneer cemeteries, and abandoned or former churches in the region.

There is a small pioneer cemetery in Mono that hasn't been used in years, however, it is well-maintained and preserves the memory of those interred there.

There is one monument in particular that is rather sad. Five children in one family all died within a month of each other. They range in age from a toddler to a 14-year-old.

The obvious answer as to why five children in the same family would die in a short period is an epidemic of some kind.

The year was 1889, so there are several diseases that could have gone through the area. It could have been scarlet fever, cholera, the flu, typhus, diphtheria, or yellow fever.

At the time, little could be done to cure those afflicted by such diseases.

The idea of preventing illness by deliberately exposing a person to the disease in a small way has been around for centuries.

It wasn't until the late 1700's, that Dr. Edward Jenner created the world's first vaccine. He realized that milkmaids who developed cowpox sores, were immune to

smallpox.

Dr. Jenner reasoned that by contracting cowpox, a much milder form of the disease, their bodies created an immunity to smallpox.

He tested his theory by doing what any mad scientist would do, and convinced an 8 year-old neighbour boy, and presumably the boy's parents, to become his test subject.

It worked. Dr. Jenner had created the world's first usable and workable vaccine.

In 1980, the World Health Organization certified that smallpox had been eradicated globally.

Vaccination works - there is scientific proof.

At one time in North America, polio was a fairly common disease. Some people recovered, some developed lifelong disabilities, and some died.

However, due to vaccinations, the Americas were declared polio-free in 1994.

Vaccination uses a simple but effective technique to protect you from contracting a disease.

By introducing dead or weakened forms of infections, your body will naturally react by creating antibodies to fight the invasive virus or bacteria.

If you do get the real virus or bacteria later, your body will remember the invader

and know how to fight it, thus saving you from getting sick.

Have you ever been in a situation where a person with a raging cold shows up at work or some other event? Everyone around them will become uncomfortable knowing there is a risk they could catch that cold and experience their own week of sniffing, coughing, fever, misery.

While there is no vaccine for the common cold, a cold is not fatal.

Some people avoid vaccines for diseases that could be fatal. It makes no sense to avoid a person with a cold, but not have the foresight to receive a vaccination that could possibly save your life.

Disease in congregate settings has resulted in the deaths of millions of people as the disease can spread quickly through a town.

Schools are hotbeds of germs. There are several hundred, or possibly several thousand germ students showing up every day. A disease outbreak in a school can be a disaster.

That's why every jurisdiction in North America takes the advice of local health units and insists students be vaccinated for several common diseases.

The COVID pandemic delayed many students from getting their regular immunizations and health units are trying to

get everyone back on track.

A student who is not immunized may face a suspension from school.

The Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit has reported that there are currently 5,000 students in Grades 4, 5 and 6 who do not have complete immunization records in that region.

While this means that records have not been updated, it doesn't necessarily mean most of those kids haven't been vaccinated.

However, it indicates that many of them are missing the required vaccinations and are now posing health risks to themselves and other students.

It is a risk for children who are not vaccinated and run the risk of contracting a disease.

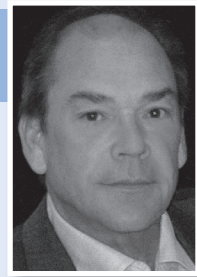
Some people insist there is a danger in having kids vaccinated.

However, the science does not agree with this.

What would you consider more dangerous - getting vaccinated or contracting the plague?

Those vaccinations, if available, would have likely saved five pioneer children from early deaths.

**BRIAN LOCKHART**  
FROM THE SECOND ROW



## Vintage tonnage

The name is brilliant: 'vintage tonnage'.

It evokes 17th-century pirate vessels flying the skull-and-crossbones, 18th-century ships-of-the-line bristling with cannons, or even 19th-century clipper ships in full sail bringing tea to England and America. The images are always romantic and often beautiful.

Whereas the reality is just hundreds of giant old rust-buckets.

The 'vintage tonnage' is the 'shadow fleet' of second-hand oil tankers that were spared from the ship breaking yards in 2022 because Russia lost its export market in Europe when it invaded Ukraine. There were plenty of potential customers for cut-price Russian oil in India and China, but no pipelines to get it there. It had to go by sea.

Unfortunately for Moscow, the US sanctions meant that shipping companies

that traded internationally and paid insurance on their cargoes were unwilling to risk action by the US Treasury and refused to carry the Russian oil. However, the Russians needed tankers and they were willing to pay well over the odds.

There was already a smallish shadow fleet of antiquated tankers carrying embargoed oil from Venezuela and Iran, but the sanctions on Russian oil exports expanded that fleet at least fourfold. Anybody with a tanker that could still float, however decrepit and unsafe, could make a pile of money by putting it at Moscow's disposal.

You'll have to reflag it with some country that doesn't care much about its reputation: current favourites are Gabon, the Cook Islands and Laos (which doesn't even have a coastline). Hire a crew from various low-wage countries, and don't

waste money on maintenance or insurance.

If yours is the tanker that picks up the oil in Russia, you'll need to transfer it to another one out at sea so the documents and the maritime tracking data don't mark the delivery as coming from a Russian port. (Yes, there's a risk of a big oil spill if you do a transfer in mid-ocean with ships that weren't designed for it, but the spill would be somebody else's problem.)

And after a few years you'll have made your pile. Scrap your ships or sell them on to some other chancer, and you're home and dry. You probably should not visit the United States, because the US Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control has a long memory - but maybe all will be forgiven once Donald Trump is in the White House again.

Is Trump really going to maintain the US sanctions on Russian oil sales when he admires dictators like Russia's Vladimir Putin? Isn't Trump the man who said he could settle the war between Russia and Ukraine in one day? Doesn't that imply he's just going to force the Ukrainians to accept Russia's peace terms?

Who knows? It's a fair bet that Trump himself doesn't know what he will do. And some of what the Biden administration has been doing in its final week goes well beyond just sowing poison pills to limit the future damage Trump will do.

At the last possible minute, true to form, the outgoing administration has finally done what it should have done a couple of years ago. It extended sanctions to the biggest Russian oil and gas companies, Gazprom Neft and Surgutneftegas, as well as 183 more named vessels that carry oil

as part of Russia's so-called "shadow fleet" of tankers.

At least 65 of them immediately dropped anchor, no longer able to deliver their oil to customers (including China) that are unwilling to breach the sanctions against specific named ships. Many more will doubtless follow once they have reached a safe anchorage. It will have a large and immediate effect on Russia's cash flow, which is already under serious strain.

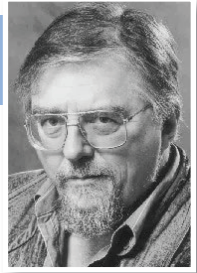
This is giving Trump considerable extra leverage against Russia if he wants to use it. Why would he throw it away by immediately ending the sanctions and putting the Russian economy on the road to recovery?

Trump's vice-president (still Vance, not Musk) may say he "doesn't really care what happens to Ukraine one way or the other," but the man himself hates looking like a 'loser' above all else.

Even if the Russians have something on him - remember that two-hour one-on-one meeting with Putin in 2018 with only translators present, from which Trump emerged looking like a whipped dog - Trump needs an imposed settlement on Ukraine not to look like an unconditional surrender.

Whatever happens with Trump, Putin and Ukraine won't happen overnight. It probably won't be pretty, but there will almost certainly be real negotiations about the terms before any ceasefire. (An actual peace deal seems out of the question.) Trump will need leverage, and the Biden administration is actually giving him some.

**GWYNNE DYER**  
OUR WORLD TODAY





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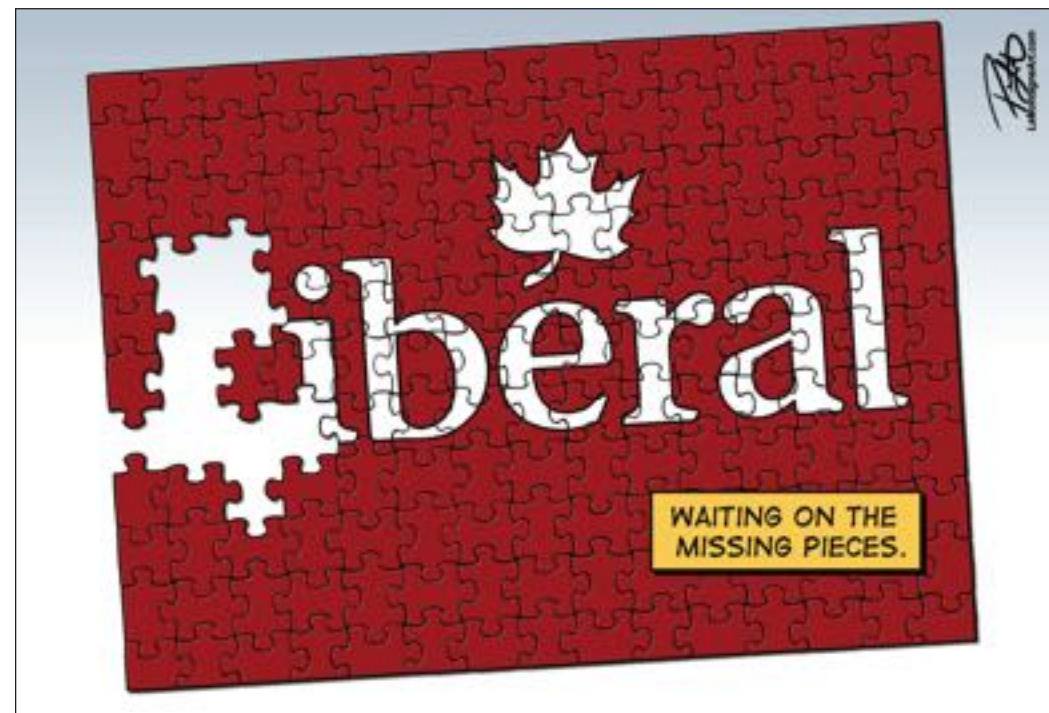
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# TOWN PAGE

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**COUNCIL 2025 DATES** January 27, February 10 & 24, March 10 & 24, April 14 & 28, May 12 (Virtual) & 26, June 2 (Virtual) & 23, July 14 & 28, August 25, September 8 (Virtual) & 22, October 6 & 27, November 10 & 24, December 8.

## WINTER SEASON MAINTENANCE

### WINTER MAINTENANCE – HOW YOU CAN HELP

We work hard to clear snow and ice from the roads. Sometimes, it can be difficult because of many reasons. Please wait 24 hours after a snowstorm before asking for snow to be cleared.

To help us remove snow quickly, you should:

- Don't park on the road. It makes it hard to clear snow. You can't park on the road from midnight to 8:00 am (By-Law #8-1983).
- Don't put garbage bins on the road, sidewalks, or snowbanks.
- Make sure your car doesn't block sidewalks or roads.
- Keep fire hydrants and drains clear.

- Don't put snow on the road. Put all snow on your property. You need to clear your driveway and the entrance.
- Be polite and give snowplows lots of space. They are working to keep roads safe.
- Be patient. We have a plan to clear roads. Main roads like Greenwood Street, Fiddle Park Lane, Simon Street, and Victoria Street will be cleared first. Then we will clear local streets, crescents, and courts.
- Be kind. Our staff works hard to clear roads and sidewalks as fast as they can.

If you have questions or concerns, contact [jkaske@shelburne.ca](mailto:jkaske@shelburne.ca) or call 519-925-2600 ext. 261.

## frozen pipes?

### FROZEN PIPES?

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

- Ensure areas that contain indoor water pipes are kept above 8°C, especially near the water meter.
- Keep garage doors closed if there are water supply lines in the garage.
- Open kitchen, bathroom and laundry cabinet doors to allow warm air to circulate around the plumbing.

- If leaving for an extended period of time have someone check your home regularly and see the advice of a plumber on how to safely protect your pipes while away.
- Call the Town Water Department if you have any questions or need assistance: 519 925 2600 x 231 or after hours 519-938-0124

Visit [shelburne.ca](http://shelburne.ca) for full details.

## BE A HYDRANT HERO

Keep hydrants clear of snow

Help keep our community safe this winter by clearing snow from fire hydrants and catch basins. In an emergency, every second counts. By keeping fire hydrants visible and accessible, you ensure that emergency services can respond quickly.

Clearing snow from catch basins helps prevent street flooding and icy road conditions, making our roads safer for everyone.

Let's work together to keep our neighborhood safe and sound!

For more information or visit [shelburne.ca](http://shelburne.ca)

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Report a Compliment or Concern

We want to hear from you!

[Report](#)

Visit [Shelburne.ca](http://Shelburne.ca)

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

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## WINTER PARKING NO PARKING DEC 1 - APR 15

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## SHOVELLED SNOW DOES NOT BELONG ON THE ROADS



# Dufferin police respond to two copper heists over four days

Copper appears to be a hot commodity in the County of Dufferin.

Dufferin Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) officers are investigating two incidents of theft where copper wire was stolen.

Officers responded to a Break and Enter at a property located on County Road 7 in Mono on Dec. 26, 2024, just before 8:30 a.m.

Damage was caused by unknown suspect(s) to attain copper wire from within the walls of the home on the property.

Just four days later, on Dec. 30, shortly before 11 a.m., Dufferin OPP responded to a theft of local cable lines near Highway 89, just west of Shelburne.

The technician who responded to fix the

cable lines advised the OPP of an increase in these types of theft across the province.

"Your Dufferin OPP are asking for the public's assistance in stopping these types of thefts that can have a negative impact on your home and its services," said Dufferin OPP in a press release. "Please be aware of any suspicious vehicles parked along the

sides of roadway late at night near cable lines in remote areas."

Anyone with information regarding this investigation 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 ontariocrimestoppers.ca.

# Homeless encampment in Orangeville catches fire, no injuries reported

Written By SAM ODROWSKI

Dufferin Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) officers, alongside Orangeville Fire Services, responded to a fire at a homeless encampment in Orangeville last Friday (Jan. 10).

Just before 4 p.m., Dufferin OPP responded to a fully engulfed homeless encampment near First Street.

No injuries were reported.

Orangeville Fire Services were able to put out the flames and confirm there were no safety concerns.

Dufferin OPP said it would like to thank the multiple members of the public who placed calls to emergency services in relation to this fire.

With cold weather posing many risks to

homeless people through the winter, they are encouraged to attend the Out of the Cold, run by Choices Shelter and Support Services at 20 Town Line.

The program operates from 9 p.m. to 8 a.m. on any evening where temperatures fall below -5°C.

This program partners with the County of Dufferin and the Town of Orangeville to try and assist in providing shelter to encourage people living unhoused to come inside, out of the cold.

Participants of the Out of the Cold program are provided with a bed, pillows and blankets. They also have access to showers and laundry. Dinner and breakfast are provided as well.

The program began on Nov. 1 and will continue until March 31.



# Drug trafficking, impaired driving, weapon-related charges laid against Amaranth

Written By SAM ODROWSKI

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 licence was suspended and his vehicle was impounded.

Charges have not been proven in court.

# Shelburne resident faces several charges after driving through RIDE spot check in Orangeville

Dufferin Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) officers recently charged a Shelburne resident with impaired operation related offences as the result of a RIDE program.

On Jan. 3, at approximately 11:30 p.m., Dufferin OPP officers were conducting a RIDE spot check in the area of Blind Line in Orangeville. A vehicle entered the area and

was met by officers.

After a brief conversation with the vehicle's driver, officers began an impaired driving investigation.

As a result of the investigation, Cory Mann-Maxworth, 31, from Shelburne, has been charged with:

- Failure or refusal to comply with de-

mand

- Personation with intent - intent to gain advantage (Identity Fraud)
- Operation while prohibited under the Criminal Code
- Driving motor vehicle with liquor readily available
- Fail to surrender insurance card

- Driving while under suspension
- Take motor vehicle without consent

The accused individual is scheduled to appear before the Ontario Court of Justice in Orangeville. Their driver's licence was suspended, and their vehicle impounded.

None of the listed charges have been proven in court.

# Mississauga woman charged with impaired driving in Melancthon after police receive traffic complaint

Dufferin Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) officers charged a Mississauga resident with impaired operation related offences as the result of a traffic complaint.

On Dec. 27, at approximately 12:20 a.m., Dufferin OPP officers received a traffic com-

plaint in the area of Highway 10 in Melancthon. Officers were able to locate the vehicle near the intersection of Highway 10 and County Road 17 and conducted a traffic stop.

After a brief conversation, the officers began an impaired driving investigation.

Samara Lobo, 23, from Mississauga, has been charged with:

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

The accused individual is scheduled to appear before the Ontario Court of Justice in Orangeville. Their driver's licence was suspended for 90 days, and their vehicle was impounded for seven days.

Charges have not been proven in court.

# Impaired driving charges laid against Etobicoke women following single vehicle collision in Mulmur

Dufferin Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) officers charged an Etobicoke resident with impaired operation related offences as the result of a single motor vehicle collision.

On Monday, Jan. 6, around 1:20 a.m., Duf-

ferin OPP officers were dispatched to the area of County Road 19 in Mulmur for a single motor vehicle collision.

After a brief conversation with the vehicle's driver, officers began an impaired driv-

ing investigation.

Nadia Stoeckl, 34, from Etobicoke, has been charged with operation while impaired - alcohol and drugs

The accused individual is scheduled to

appear before the Ontario Court of Justice in Orangeville. Her driver's licence was suspended for 90 days and her vehicle was impounded for seven days.

Charge has not been proven in court.

## CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11			
12				13					14		15				
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### CLUES ACROSS

- This regulates cortisol production (abbr.)
- People of northern Vietnam
- Employee stock ownership plan
- Regions
- The center of a city
- Hindu serpentine deity
- Roared
- Sun up in New York
- "Sir" in Malaysian
- Shrimp dish
- Muckraker Tarbell
- Apex
- Harmonic effects
- One of Babe Ruth's nicknames
- Groups in organic chemistry
- More pleasant-tasting
- Spring forward
- Noted writer
- Building occupied by monks
- "The world's most famous arena"
- Colorless liquid hydrocarbon
- Long or fast speech
- Things you can eat
- Substance in which magnetic moments are not aligned
- Actor Idris
- I (German)
- Taxes
- Indonesian island
- Nuisance (slang)
- Shawl
- Digits
- Moved on foot quickly
- "For goodness \_\_\_"
- Facial body part
- Russian river
- Urinate

### CLUES DOWN

- Partner to "oohs"
- Scaly water dweller
- Pueblo people of New Mexico
- Music producer Teo
- Greek mythological goddess
- Got together to discuss
- Acquires
- Involve
- Some are tomato-based
- Old Irish alphabets
- A sheet of glass in a window or door
- Blood poisoning
- A moon of Saturn
- Neither
- Sums
- They follow "A"
- Satisfaction
- People of southeastern Burma
- Small amount
- Guy (slang)
- Sound unit
- Midway between northeast and east
- Affirmative
- Almost at the top
- Extremely slow
- Pearl Jam's debut album
- Influential mid-century playwright
- Martens
- Approval
- Dallas-adjacent Texas city
- African nation
- Dark brown or black
- A place to get caught
- Large-headed, elongated fish
- Type of sword
- Scottish tax or levy

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

# New memoir shares story of Ballinger brothers taking nightlife scene by storm

Written By SAM ODROWSKI

Four brothers from humble beginnings in small-town Ontario change the nightlife scene of Toronto and New York City and eventually create one of the most successful nightclubs in North America.

It sounds like the synopsis of a Hollywood film, but it's the true story of brothers – Lon, Steve, Peter and Douglas – told in Lon Ballinger's 2024 memoir Party Boys.

The Ballinger family's story begins at a small farmhouse on a dirt sideroad between Shelburne and Dundalk. The brothers, along with their sister Gail, grew up in the community during the 1960s where they attended a one-room schoolhouse and later Centre Dufferin District High School (CDDHS) in Shelburne.

"We got a terrific work ethic from being raised up in that neck of the woods, and I think that work ethic is what helped carry us through," recalled Lon Ballinger.

The hard work ethic developed from growing up on a farm led the brothers not initially to the nightclub scene, but rather owning a Pizzeria in Orangeville and a laundry mat and variety store in Dundalk.

It wasn't until three of the brothers – Lon, Steve and Douglas – went on a planned trip in 1976 to experience their first disco.

"We walked in and the music was playing, the lights were flashing and we'd never seen anything like it before," said Ballinger. "I remember looking at my brother and saying 'we can do this' and that's what we did, because there was no one saying we couldn't."

In 1979, the Ballinger brothers opened their first club, located at 614 Coronation Blvd., in Cambridge, Ont. The club was called "Ballingers Danceteria and Videotheque" or more commonly shortened to "Ballingers."

After five years of success, the brothers

sold the Cambridge club and made the move to Toronto for their next business venture. While working on another business venture, the brothers discovered a building on the corner of Queen West and Bathurst, known as the Holiday Tavern. It was here that the brothers opened the Big Bop in 1986.

It was a much different time in the area of downtown Toronto, with very little nightlife on Queen Street west of Spadina.

The multi-floored Big Bop, with its wonky layout, decor and range of music, very quickly became a hit in the then quiet nightlife of Toronto as crowds lined up around the block to get in.

The success of Big Bop led to the brothers opening more clubs in Toronto including the Boom Boom Room, Rockit, Go-Go, and The World.

Coming off the successes of Cambridge and Toronto, the brothers set their eyes on the Big Apple, a place they'd once, as young boys, only dreamed of seeing by watching episodes of "I Love Lucy" on the television screen. In 1992 the Ballinger brothers purchased Webster Hall, located in the East Village of Manhattan.

"It really was the idea of being on the world stage. New York is the world stage. That's where all the attention is," said Ballinger. "We thought that if we could go down to New York City and we could do a great job, that we then would be the best nightclub guys in the world."

Built in 1886, Webster Hall is one of the oldest and most famous music venues in New York City and with it comes its storied history. In the early 1900s, the space served as a meeting space for the suffrage movement and an integral part of the early LGBT scene.

During the 1950s, the building became a recording studio for RCA Victor Records and

welcomed artists like Frank Sinatra, Elvis Presley, Ray Charles, Tony Bennett, Julie Andrews, Harry Belafonte and Liza Minnelli.

Under the ownership of the Ballingers, some of music's greatest artists graced the stage including Prince, Madonna, Metallica, Paul Simon, John Mayer, Ed Sheeran, Lady Gaga, and Whitney Houston.

"They all wanted to play there. They could have played anywhere, but they wanted to play Webster Hall because of its history."

Ballinger began writing his family's memoir in early 2022 and officially published Party Boys in April 2024.

He said he began writing the book as a way to document his life for his four grandchildren.

"I was sitting on the Hudson River and thinking about my life and how lucky I had been. I thought this was such an unusual story and I wanted to write it for my grandkids. I thought I should tell them where they came from, how we got here, and how we became these different kinds of guys."

While Party Boys at its core is a memoir of the Ballinger family's legacy in the nightclub industry, the book explores the ideas on how to create a successful business, the importance of family, and the reminder of the usefulness of simple kindness.

After nearly 40 years in the nightclub industry, of which 25 were spent in the New York scene, the Ballinger brothers decided



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**SUCCESS STORY:** Family was at the core of the Ballinger brothers legacy as they spent nearly four decades working together and focused on the dream of becoming the most successful nightclub owners in Toronto and New York City. Pictured left to right: Lorne (father), Gail (sister), Steve, Eleanor (mother), Lon, Peter, Douglas, and nephews Adam and Chad.

to sell Webster Hall in 2017 to AEG Presents and Brooklyn Sports and Entertainment (BSE).

Ballinger and his wife Lois purchased the historic hotel "The Stewart House," located along the Hudson River in Athens, New York, in late 2017. As we concluded our interview, Ballinger reflected back on the process of writing his family's history and sharing their journey from humble beginnings on a country farm, to eventually running one of the most successful music venues in the nightlife scene.

"It made me appreciate my life. It made me appreciate the people I met as I went through it," said Ballinger. "I found it really therapeutic and it helped me look back and appreciate all the little things that I might have found difficult at the time, but I realised how essential they were to make the journey complete."

Party Boys is available to purchase in paperback and audiobook through Amazon.

# Shelburne Health and Wellness Expo returning to Centre Dufferin this weekend

Written By PAULA BROWN  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

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

The Shelburne Health and Wellness Expo will be returning to the community for its seventh year on Saturday (Jan. 18) from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Centre Dufferin District High School (CDDHS).

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

"If we're not supporting the businesses who are local and providing services and products, they're not going to exist anymore," said Philip. "People are really surprised to find out what is available in Shelburne or within a short drive. It's really exciting to have an event for residents, where they can go and learn, meet people, interact and find professionals who can become part of their regular support system for their health and their family's health."

The 7th Annual Shelburne Health and Wellness Expo will feature nearly 60 vendors, demonstrations and workshops from a mix of registered practitioners, fitness professionals, holistic and alternative healers, health and wellness non-profits, and product sellers.

"We have an incredible mix of returning and new vendors," said Philip.

The workshops featured at the event

will include Growing Gratitude hosted by Tiffany McCabe; Meditation for Beginners presented by Jennifer Cluley; Taking Somatic Breathwork to a New Level hosted by And...Just Breathe; and Living Well with Osteoarthritis: Diagnosis, Treatment, and Management led by David Egbert.

With this year's event, Philip is looking to specifically highlight mental health services and products available to community members.

"We have a few mental health practitioners and people who are offering support services as vendors and one of our workshops is with an art therapist and focuses on mental health," she said.

A significant component of the expo is the focus on sharing a wide range of health and wellness practices, including both traditional and alternative health businesses.

"There is definitely a place for both types

of health in our community," said Philip. "As the years go by, people are feeling very disconnected from what it means to be human and realizing that implementing different strategies is helpful."

The 7th Annual Shelburne Health and Wellness Expo will be held on Saturday (Jan. 18) from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Centre Dufferin District High School (CDDHS).

Admission is free.

"Everyone deserves good health. They deserve to have good mental health and they deserve to be physically healthy. This is an opportunity to meet the businesses in our community who want to help you achieve your best health possible," said Philip.

For more information about the event, visit the Shelburne Health and Wellness Expo website at [www.theshwe.com](http://www.theshwe.com) or email [theshwe.info@gmail.com](mailto:theshwe.info@gmail.com).

# Headwaters Health Care Foundation raises \$3 million for MRI campaign with challenge

Written By SAM ODROWSKI

A campaign aimed at bringing an MRI to Headwaters Health Care Centre (HHCC) recently completed its largest matching gift challenge yet, raising \$3 million.

The hospital's foundation announced on Tuesday, Jan. 14, that the matching gift challenge for the Smart Headwaters saw extraordinary generosity thanks to the commitment made by the Morningview Foundation.

"This tremendous achievement is a pivotal milestone in the campaign to bring the first MRI machine to the Dufferin-Caledon region, a crucial step toward enhancing healthcare services for thousands of residents," said a press release from the Headwaters Health Care Foundation (HHCF). "The MRI will help improve the diagnosis and treatment of a wide variety of conditions, improving patient outcomes and reducing the need for patients to travel outside the region for critical imaging services."

K.C. Carruthers, CEO of the Headwaters Health Care Foundation, noted his excitement and thanks to everyone who helped raise the \$3 million.

"The response from our community has been nothing short of incredible," said Carruthers. "We are deeply grateful for the support of every individual, business, and organization who contributed to this challenge. Together, we have made a transformative impact on our healthcare system, ensuring that our loved ones will have access to the highest quality care right here at home."

The Morningview Foundation's generous pledge for the \$3 million matching gift challenge saw a great response from the community.

These contributions, combined with the matching funds, brings the Smart Headwaters campaign one step closer to reaching its \$18 million goal.

"We are thrilled to partner with the Headwaters Health Care Foundation on

this groundbreaking initiative," said Morningview Foundation. "The success of this matching gift challenge highlights the strength and generosity of the community, and we are proud to be part of such a meaningful project that will benefit so many."

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# SPORTS

## CDDHS girls' varsity team maintain first place in standings

Written By BRIAN LOCKHART

The Centre Dufferin District High School Royals girls' varsity hockey team maintained first place in the District 4 standings after the latest District tournament on Jan. 9.

District 4 girls' hockey is played in a series of tournament days throughout the season. Four of the five teams in the District play in the tournament with one team sitting out.

The latest tournament took place at the Alder Street Arena in Orangeville with four of the District teams playing three games each on game day.

The Royals came to the tournament with a 5-1 record.

In the first game of the day, the Royals were up against Westside Secondary School from Orangeville. The Royals played a solid game and left the ice with a 4-1 win.

In the second game of the day, the Royals faced Norwell District Secondary School.

This time, the Royals fell short and had to settle for a 4-1 loss to the Norwell team.

Their third game of the day got underway in the early afternoon with the Royals up against Wellington Heights.

After trailing 2-1 in the second period, the Royals tied it. Neither team could score to break the tie and the game ended 2-2.

"It was a good tournament, we battled hard," said Royals defence player, Catelyn Clark. "We were short players, and a lot of us were tired. It's very tiring to play three games in one day."

The Royals were missing five key players for this tournament due to injuries and other commitments.

"We played three games - we did play well even though we were short-handed," said Royals centre, Lauren Smith. "It's been a pretty good season, all the girls are bonding really well so we're playing really good. It's a good feeling to be in first place. Obviously teams are coming and gunning for us."

After the tournament, the Royals have a 6-2-1 record and are in first place.

Norwell District Secondary School is in second place with a 3-3-2 record. They are followed by Erin District High School, Wellington Heights High School, and Westside Secondary School.

The next District 4 tournament will take place on Thursday, Feb. 6, however, the Royals won't be playing in that tournament.

They will return to the ice for the final regular season tournament on Thursday, Feb. 13.

That tournament will take place at the Centre 2000 Arena in Erin.



BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

**STAYING ON TOP:** The Centre Dufferin District High School Royals varsity girls' hockey team played against the Wellington Heights Wolverines at the Alder Street Arena in Orangeville on Thursday, Feb. 9. It was a tournament day for District 4 hockey. The Royals had one win, one loss, and one tie game for the day.

## Last-place Muskoka Bears spoil Alliston Hornets' undefeated record

Written By BRIAN LOCKHART

The Alliston Hornets' 28-game winning streak came to an end on Friday (Jan. 10) night on home ice when they lost in a shoot-out to the Muskoka Bears.

While going an entire season undefeated wasn't a realistic expectation from fans, losing to the last-place team in the division provided a big surprise.

The Bears came to the game at the New Tecumseth Recreation Centre in Alliston as the bottom team in the Division with only two wins all season.

At the end of the first period in Friday's game, the Hornets were leading 1-0.

It was the second period that turned the game around when the Bears scored three unanswered goals to take the lead.

A fourth goal early in the third period gave the Bears a 4-1 lead.

Alliston fought back in the remaining time, scoring three goals in the second half of the period to tie the game and force an overtime period. When neither team could score in OT, the game went to a shoot-out to decide the winner.

Muskoka outscored Alliston 2-0 in the shoot-out to claim the 5-4 win.

Muskoka's goalie Connor Sampson stopped 66 shots during the game.

The Hornets remain in first place in the North Carruthers Division with 57 points - 10 points ahead of the second-place Orillia Terriers. They have been the dominant team in the division this season, and until Friday night, they were the only undefeated team in the entire 63-team Provincial Junior Hockey League.

In third place, the Stayner Siskins have 42 points and a 21-8 record.

The Penetang Kings have rallied this season moving to a 15-15 record including two



BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

**TAKING A STING:** The Alliston Hornets face the Muskoka Bears on the ice at the New Tecumseth Recreation Centre in Alliston on Friday, Jan. 10. The game was a huge upset when the last-place Bears won the game in a shoot-out to end the Hornet's 28-game winning streak.

overtime losses.

The Huntsville Otters and Innisfil Spartans are three points apart in fifth and sixth place.

In the number seven spot, the Midland

Flyers are struggling and have won only six games after 31 times on the ice.

The Muskoka Bears are in the basement with three wins and seven points.

The Division is now moving into the final stretch of the regular season with the final game being played on Feb. 17, before the teams get ready for the playoffs.

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**ATHLETE OF THE WEEK**

**CATELYN CLARK**

Playing in the defence position for the Centre Dufferin District High School Royals varsity girls hockey team, Catelyn Clark brings a lot of experience to the team.

She has been playing hockey since she was seven years old.

"I like getting to compete at the highest level with my teammates," Catelyn said of why she likes playing the sport. "What I like most about the sport is it's not an individual sport and you play with your teammates."

Catelyn said she is following her Dad who also played hockey.

**TEAM: CENTRE DUFFERIN DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS VARSITY HOCKEY**  
**POSITION: DEFENCE**



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Eligible candidates are invited to submit their resume to Emily Francis, Recreation Program Coordinator, Centre Dufferin Recreation Complex, 200 Fiddle Park Lane, Shelburne, ON L9V 3C9 Email: [cdrc@shelburne.ca](mailto:cdrc@shelburne.ca)

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(We thank all those persons who apply; however, only those selected for an interview will be contacted)

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# Malalai Halimi nominated as new federal Liberal candidate for Dufferin-Caledon

Written By ZACHARY ROMAN  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER



There's a new federal Liberal candidate for Dufferin-Caledon.

On Jan. 13, the Dufferin-Caledon Federal Liberal Association announced Malalai Halimi had been nominated as the Liberal Party candidate for Dufferin-Caledon for the next federal election.

Dmytro Basmat, Halimi's campaign manager, said Halimi's nomination marks a significant step in the association's efforts to strengthen the voice of the Dufferin-Caledon community in Ottawa.

Halimi is a business manager and entrepreneur who immigrated to Canada from Afghanistan in 2006, overcoming immense personal challenges.

She's now a business manager in the aerospace industry and is the founder of an Afghan-Canadian media network. Basmat said she's worked tirelessly to build economic growth while using her platform to create opportunities for others.

Halimi said her journey to Canada was not easy.

"It shaped who I am today," she said. "I am

committed to ensuring that Dufferin-Caledon's voice is heard, and that we have access to the support and opportunities we deserve."

Halimi stands for the Liberal Party of Canada's values like inclusivity, support for working families, and building a better country for future generations. Halimi said Liberal programs like the Canada Child Benefit helped her get back on her feet while rebuilding her life in Canada.

"I know the challenges that Dufferin-Caledon families face because I've lived it. And,

now, I have the opportunity to fight for them in Ottawa," said Halimi. "While Pierre Poilievre, Dufferin-Caledon MP Kyle Seeback, and the Conservative Party vow to cut the programs that so many Canadians rely on, I will support our Liberal team's priorities to help more Canadians get ahead."

Halimi is focused on Liberal Party com-

mitments like \$10-a-day child care, building nearly four million affordable homes across Canada, and delivering comprehensive dental and pharmacare plans to Canadians.

"I am honoured to be your Liberal candidate and excited to work alongside our community to build a stronger, more inclusive future for everyone," said Halimi.

## Shelburne Public Library shares weekly news

### Upcoming Events

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

Our Children's programs are back! From Story Time to LEGO Club, to our rotation of Tween activities, there's something for everyone. Check out our website for specific dates and times. Reminder: Children under the age of 12 must be accompanied by an adult.

### Recommended read

**A Psalm for the Wild-Built** by Becky Chambers: Centuries after robots gained self-awareness and vanished, a tea monk's life is disrupted by a robot fulfilling an old

promise to check in. The robot must find out what people need before returning.

**Why Britt recommends it:** A Psalm for the Wild-Built is an interesting mix of science and apocalyptic fiction. Sometimes apocalyptic fiction can be intense and heavy, but this first book in the Monk & Robot series is much more calm and reflective in nature. It's a relatively short read that flowed well— what better way to kick off your 2025 Goodreads goal?!

There's great world-building in this book, and the characters are well-developed, which helps readers really reflect on the central question— if we have everything we need or want, what else could we possibly need?

This would be a good choice for those who enjoyed the kids' series The Wild Robot, or TJ Klune's the Lives of Puppets.

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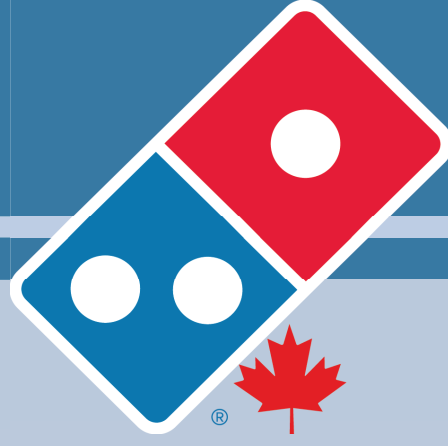
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