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PAULA BROWN PHOTO

LOCALS HELPING LOCALS: The Shelburne Food Bank celebrated the unveiling of their new food rescue van last Thursday (Feb. 13) at the Mel Lloyd Centre. Community members and local businesses helped the food bank purchase the van, which cost a total of \$100,000, through a sponsorship program and donations.

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Food rescue van officially launched in Shelburne

Written By **PAULA BROWN**
 LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Shelburne Food Bank has officially unveiled its new food rescue van.

Volunteers, sponsors, community members and dignitaries gathered at the Mel Lloyd Centre last Thursday (Feb. 13) for a special event celebrating the launch of the food rescue van and the sponsors who helped fundraise.

"This van signifies that people are recognizing that the need continues to grow, and food rescue is one of the ways we're going to meet the need," said Ardith Dunlop, volunteer coordinator for the Shelburne Food Bank. "It will definitely help us increase our food rescue, and therefore be able to give more as a food bank, and in a way be more sustainable."

The Shelburne Food Bank, along with the Rotary Club of Shelburne, announced the launch of a sponsorship campaign in July of 2024 to help raise the \$100,000 required 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.

According to the food bank, roughly 22 sponsors are featured on the van, and various donations from community members aided in crossing the donation finish line.

The Rotary Club of Shelburne was the biggest sponsor of the Food Rescue Van, providing \$20,000 in donations.

"When we heard about this campaign and the need for a food rescue van, the club did not hesitate to roll up their sleeves and help make it a reality," said Bobbi Ferguson, a member of the local Rotary Club. "Although the Rotary supports many causes locally and internationally, fighting food insecurity in our community is a priority. We'd also like to thank all the other sponsors who gave generously to help achieve the \$100,000 goal in record time. It's our extreme pleasure to see our logo displayed alongside the food bank's on this beautiful new van."

The Shelburne Food Bank has been exploring the idea of purchasing a food rescue van for multiple years due to 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.

"This rescue van will provide our dedicated food bank volunteers with a critical tool in their arsenal in the ongoing fight against food insecurity within our community, and

for that reason council was very happy to provide some funding support for this initiative on behalf of Shelburne ratepayers," said Shelburne Mayor Wade Mills.

While Mills noted that the unveiling of the food rescue van is a moment of celebration, he also highlighted it as a moment to call on action from upper levels of government to advocate more for food security.

"Unfortunately, the issue of food insecurity is not often given the attention that it deserves by upper levels of government, and the work to address this issue in most cases is left to community donors and dedicated volunteers. The issue of food insecurity requires an all hands on deck approach, which involves grassroots community as well as all three levels of government. Food Insecurity is an issue that impacts local communities the hardest, but it is a national epidemic that cannot be solved by local communities alone."

According to statistics from 2023, the Shelburne Food Bank has 400 files consisting of over 1,000 individuals from Shelburne, Melancton, 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.

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ALL-CANDIDATES DEBATE

PROVINCIAL ELECTION COVERAGE



Dufferin-Caledon candidates square off in provincial election debate

Written By PAULA BROWN
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Residents of Dufferin-Caledon had the opportunity to bring their biggest concerns to the candidates running in the local riding ahead of the provincial election.

Dufferin Board of Trade (DBOT) hosted the first of three provincial election debates on Tuesday (Feb. 18) at Theatre Orangeville (87 Broadway). The debate consisted of questions created by DBOT as well as questions from constituents.

Candidates present for the debate included Sandy Brown (Green Party), Kris Eggleton (New Blue Party), George Nakitsas (New Democratic Party), Jeffery Halsall (Independent), and Michael Dehn (Liberal Party).

Incumbent Conservative MPP Sylvia Jones was not in attendance for the Feb. 18 debate.

The Orangeville Citizen reached out to Jones for comment and received a statement regarding her absence.

"During this important campaign, I am focused on taking my message about protecting Ontario to constituents directly. I will continue to do what I have always done, meet with constituents, meet people in their homes by door knocking and attending events. Throughout this campaign, my volunteers and I have been speaking to thousands of people in their homes across Dufferin-Caledon."

During the debate, residents asked candidates about their positions on protecting farmland, long-term care living, food insecurity, housing affordability, and the threat of tariffs by U.S. President Donald Trump.

What will you or your party do to protect Ontario's farmland from urban sprawl and non-agricultural development and ensure land use planning policies will balance growth with the need to preserve farmland?

Nakitsas: Protecting our farmland is critical, but there are two threats. One is development, the other one is congestion; building highways like the 413 when you have alternatives like making the 407, which is empty [and] toll-free. Actually, create urban public transit rather than building new highways. In terms of development, we have to explore many other alternatives than destroying farmlands and Greenbelt. Legalizing fourplexes, looking at other measures such as these, that have been in demand, can minimize that threat.

Dehn: We have the Greenbelt added in the Town of Erin and I would continue to add to the Greenbelt, which protects land from severances. You cannot do a lot of development, but you can still do farming. The other thing I would look at is – secondary ag is pretty easy to develop, maybe it's time we re-look at protecting that just like it is primary ag.

How does your party plan to improve the quality of employment and worker protections in Ontario?

Brown: We have to create more jobs. We



PAULA BROWN PHOTO

DEBATING THE ISSUES: Candidates for the Dufferin-Caledon riding of the provincial election volleyed concerns from residents during a debate hosted by the Dufferin Board of Trade (DBOT) on Feb. 18 at Theatre Orangeville.

need to create more good jobs. I know locally, we've been supporting skilled trades and introducing youth skilled trades here. I think that's really the crux of the issue. We have to get people into good-paying jobs. We have to convince our young people that the career path in the skilled trades is a good one.

Dehn: I look at a living wage region by region in Ontario because it is different all over Ontario. The costs here in Wellington, Dufferin and Caledon are much higher than they are in London and Kitchener. So region-by-region living is a good start. What I started in the Town of Erin is looking at ground pits. Once they're done, they're done. Rehab them, put in slabs, tiny homes, municipal wells, municipal septic – owned by the municipality. There's no profit in these homes, but they're employment homes.

What are your individual party's plans to deal with Donald Trump's tariffs?

Eggleton: When Trump threatens things like tariffs, he does it for various reasons. He does it to get what he wants, to make a deal, or even to keep people focused on something else while he's doing something else. I think it's a good opportunity for us to work with our country and other provinces. We need to start taking away the border problems we have with inter-province trading. We can build relationships with other countries to not rely on the U.S. We rely very heavily on just the U.S and that's never a good business plan for anybody.

Halsall: I've said for years, we need to put Canada first and support our own. We have, I think, enough resources in Canada to be able

to sustain ourselves. I'm glad that now people are waking up to that because of this. I'm a big advocate for keeping things local, keeping things Canadian, and I think it starts with every one of us remembering that before you buy something on Amazon, look in your community at where you can buy what you need.

What is your plan to not leave a generation behind, or to put pressure on the generation coming after it to care for their parents?

Brown: We need to invest in home care so that we can age gracefully where we live, if possible. We also need to invest in long-term care. I was involved, as the mayor, in introducing development charges for long-term care here in Orangeville and we now have a new long-term care build happening here. We need more long-term care for sure and I think some of the new models that are coming out are fantastic.

Nakitsas: I was really excited when MPP Wayne Gates introduced a bill for home care support credit, which I think is critical because more and more seniors would like to live in their homes. We need to start building more houses too and part of our New Homes Ontario plan is directed at long-term care homes, because private homes have not had a very good record. We saw that during the pandemic so we need to find alternatives there, especially since they've been shutting down so quickly. Building non-profit municipal-type long-term care homes, I think, have been very critical. We have to stop the forced relocation of patients away from their families.

The Dufferin Board of Trade will be hosting another Provincial Election Debate for the Dufferin-Caledon riding tonight (Feb. 20) from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Grace Tipling Hall in Shelburne.

Ontarians will take to the polls on Feb. 27.

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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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Even in the midst of the chaos and confusion of the world today, you found it in your hearts to reach out and ask, 'How can I Help?'

You are remarkable, wonderful, compassionate individuals and together, we have supported over 1500 people in our community who needed help last year.

We wish to express our heartfelt thanks and gratitude to all of our Crisis Responders past and present. We could not do this important work without you.

Kindest Regards,
The Staff at CDVS

P.S. If you are reading this and would like to become a Crisis Responder, please visit www.cdvs.ca

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OPINION

A picture doesn't always say 1,000 words

There is a fairly famous painting that hangs in the Museum of Modern Art in New York.

It was created in 1948 by American painter Andrew Wyeth, and is titled 'Christina's World.'

It shows what appears to be a girl or young woman, in a dress, reclining in the middle of a field.

Presumably, her name is Christina.

There is a farmhouse off in the distance and she seems to be gazing up at the house.

The viewer may wonder what she is up to and why is she in the middle of the field.

The painting itself is rather unremarkable. It is done mostly in shades of brown, with a grey-coloured house. Even the open sky is a muted shade of blue.

The only real colour in the painting is Christina's dress, which is a shade of pink.

You can't really gather much information from the work of art, other than what you see.

But you have to wonder what the artist was trying to say.

Is the girl relaxing? Is she waiting for someone? Or is she looking up at the house and waiting for someone to come out and greet her?

It wasn't until years after first seeing

this painting I learned the real meaning of Christina's world.

Christina isn't a young woman or a girl – she was actually in her 50s when the painting was made.

She's on the ground because she has a degenerative muscular disorder. For some reason, she was firmly against using a wheelchair so she would crawl everywhere she went.

One day, the artist looked out of the window of his home at the neighbouring property and saw Christina crawling across the field on her way home.

He was inspired to capture this scene on canvas.

When you find out the real meaning of this work of art, the entire visual takes on an entirely different meaning.

A few years ago I attended a seminar at a local clinic that specializes in helping people with hearing loss.

There was a man there who described an experience when he was a kid.

He had an older uncle, who the guy described as a 'miserable person.' The uncle would attend family get-togethers, but not really participate.

He would sit by himself, not engage in any conversation, and seemed to be in a perpetually bad mood.

The guy I met, would avoid this uncle because as a kid, he was afraid of him. The rest of the family also kept a distance.

It wasn't until years later that this guy realized the real reason for his uncle's misery.

The man had slowly lost his hearing over the years. He didn't engage in conversation, because he couldn't hear anyone speaking to him.

Apparently, no one clued into the fact that his poor man was suffering in silence, and no one reached out to help him.

Quite often we are too quick to judge another person based on a single moment in time, or some other interaction that leaves you with a negative feeling about them.

However, do you really think that person who just cut you off in traffic really meant to do it? Or did they just not see you in their car's blind spot?

Is it worth blasting your horn and yelling insults at the next stoplight?

Maybe I watch too many YouTube videos, but it seems we have entered an age of entitlement where some people have lost the ability to be civilized.

You never know what someone else is going through, or what their life circumstances are.

Berating a cashier for giving you the wrong change, or yelling at a person serv-

ing coffee for making a simple mistake is just not acceptable.

A couple of years ago I was in the local grocery store when a local guy started reaching over the counter to grab some scratch lottery tickets. The kid behind the counter told him couldn't do that.

The customer started yelling at the kid. He called him a few names, ridiculed his youth and inexperience, and then made some threats about burning his house down.

I was about to yell out and tell the guy to knock it off when the guy standing beside me, I guess had heard enough. Maybe he knew the kid or remembered him from the store.

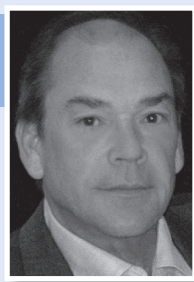
The guy was about 6'4" tall, and around 230 lbs. He calmly walked over to the offender, and quietly said something to him. I didn't hear what he said, but I'm sure it had something to do with putting the loudmouth's head through a wall or something.

The loudmouth stopped talking and exited the store like a scared rabbit.

Karen served, as they say. It shouldn't have come to that.

A picture doesn't always say 1,000 words, sometimes you don't know the real story.

BRIAN LOCKHART
FROM THE SECOND ROW



Different kinds of thieves

What's the difference between smash-and-grab raids and protection rackets? Not all that much from the legal point of view, but protection rackets have a lower level of risk and a higher rate of returns.

Take Rwanda, for example. President Paul Kagame is running no personal risks, but the Tutsi soldiers of the M23 rebel army, which essentially works for him, are fighting an actual war in the neighbouring Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

As in most African wars, civilians are dying in far larger numbers than the soldiers, but there is a real element of personal risk for the soldiers too. On the other hand, M23's soldiers are paid very well by local standards, and they have plenty of opportunities to loot.

If they also need a moral justification for their actions, as some may do, they can tell themselves that as Tutsis they are honorary victims of a genocide, although

the real victims were Tutsis living across the border in Rwanda. (The Tutsi ethnicity also lives on the western side of the DRC-Rwanda border, in the North Kivu and South Kivu provinces.)

The current task of the M23 army is to seize control of the part of eastern DRC that borders Rwanda and steal the rich mineral reserves of that region: gold, cobalt, and above all coltan, which is essential for smartphones and almost all other sophisticated electronic devices.

This region contains up to 60 per cent of the global reserves of coltan ore, and it's easy to steal and market. It's dug out by tens of thousands of small-scale operators working landscapes honeycombed with shallow digs, and once it reaches Rwanda, they mix it with locally mined coltan and market it as a Rwandan product.

Stolen coltan currently accounts for a secret but significant share of Rwandan

government income, but it's a typical smash-and-grab operation: lots of violence and a short-term perspective. At the moment they're doing well: M23 seized all of North Kivu last month, and has already conquered most of South Kivu this month.

Paul Kagame always sends some Rwandan soldiers along to back up the local thugs (4,000 Rwandan troops this time), but this is the third time in thirty years that Rwanda has sent its army into the eastern DRC to grab resources. Lots of people die, but it never lasts.

Whereas a protection racket is a long-term relationship: "Nice little shop/country you've got here. You wouldn't want to see it smashed/destroyed now, would you? Just have the cash ready every Friday and nothing bad will happen to you."

Or in Ukraine's case, just have half your mineral output loaded up for shipment every Friday and you won't be hurt.

"I want the equivalent of like \$500 billion worth of rare earths, and they've essentially agreed to do that," Donald Trump says he told the Ukrainian government last week. The truth is that Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky knew the mob boss would be coming round for his cut, so he offered to pay even before Trump asked.

It caught Trump on the hop, so the first number out of his mouth in reply was \$500 billion. That's almost five times the value of US military and civilian aid to Ukraine since the Russian invasion three years ago (\$116 billion), but it's far less than Trump could really screw out of a country with its back to the wall.

In a couple of days, therefore, Trump upped the demand hugely – but he followed Zelensky's suggestion that it should come out of Ukraine's future mineral wealth, since Kyiv currently has no spare money at all.

Trump said he now wanted 50% of Ukraine's future income from exploiting its reserves of rare metals and critical materials: titanium, uranium, lithium, beryllium, manganese, gallium, zirconium, graphite, apatite, fluorite and nickel. Half Ukraine's mineral income forever could be worth as much as \$5 trillion.

Zelensky didn't fall for that, so now they are in a negotiation. It's not just about the price Ukraine pays for survival, but also about what assurances Trump can give that paying off America will really guarantee Ukraine's survival.

The underlying difficulty is that the White House mob has farmed the enforcement work out to the Kremlin mob. The Russians may hate Ukraine enough to insist on destroying it even if Trump makes a deal with Zelensky – which is far from agreed.

That's the downside of protection rackets. It's a crowded field, and there are always other rival mobs trying to spoil your play or cut you out completely. Don Corleone had to deal with problems like this in his (fictional) past, and Don Kagame has been handling them successfully most of his life. Don Trump is new to this game, and we shall see.

GWYNNE DYER
OUR WORLD TODAY



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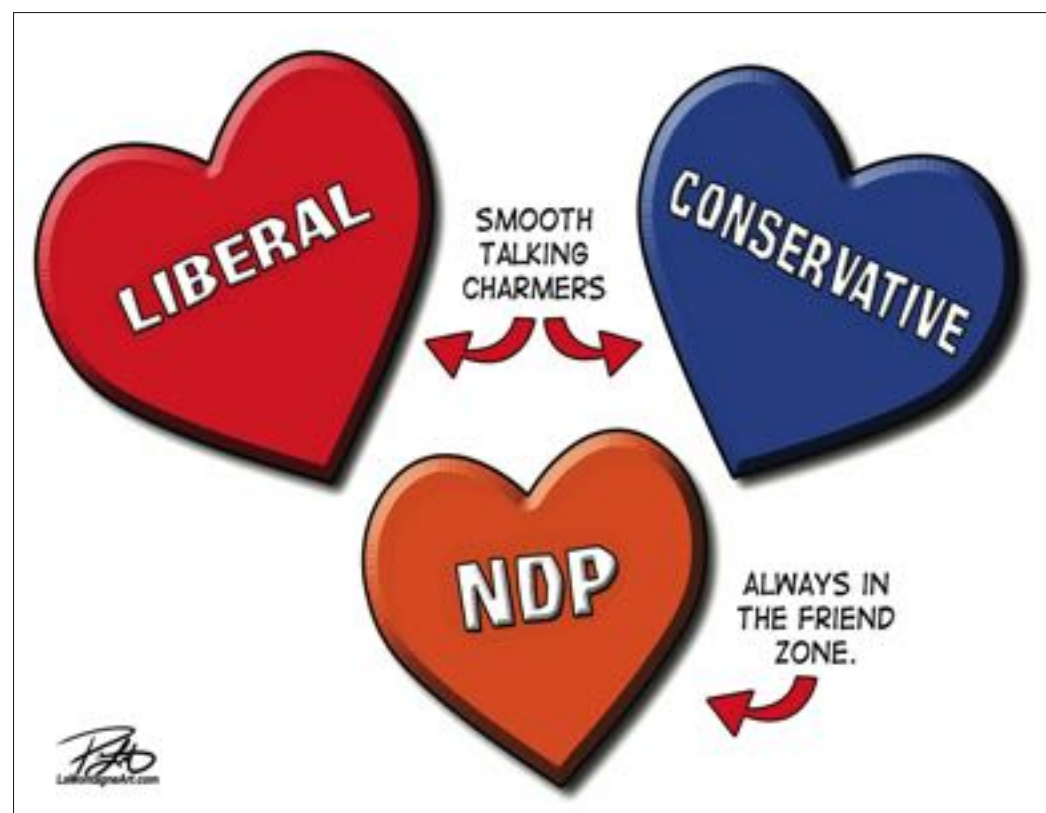
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COMMUNITY VOICES

Monthly Message: Celebrating Nonprofit Appreciation Week in Dufferin-Caledon

Nonprofit Appreciation Week (Feb. 10-14, 2025) is a time to recognize and celebrate the incredible work of nonprofit organizations in our community. These organizations provide essential services, support local initiatives, and make a lasting impact on the lives of many.

This year, we marked the occasion in a special way, highlighting the dedication and contributions of nonprofits in Dufferin-Caledon. We proudly celebrated 2025 Nonprofit Appreciation Week from Feb. 10 to 14.

To honour the week, we launched a series of engaging social media reels featuring a special proclamation from our very own



Town Crier, Andrew Welsh. With his signature presence and powerful voice, Andrew officially proclaimed Nonprofit Appreciation Week, bringing well-deserved recognition to the hardworking individuals and groups that support our community every day.

While filming these reels, our Town Cri-

er certainly knew how to draw a crowd. A few passersby stopped to say hello, curious about the excitement. Filming at the historic Orangeville Town Hall made it even more special, as people couldn't help but take notice of the lively proclamation taking place.

This celebration was made even more meaningful through our proud partnership with the *Dufferin Community Foundation* and *DC Moves*. Together, we continue to uplift and empower local nonprofits, ensuring they have the resources, support, and recognition they need to thrive. As Nonprofit organizations, by working together, we strengthen the entire Dufferin County re-

gion, fostering a community built on care, collaboration, and positive impact.

Nonprofits are at the heart of meaningful change, and we are incredibly grateful for their dedication and service. Nonprofit Appreciation Week is just one way to say thank you, but our appreciation extends all year long. Let's continue to support and celebrate these organizations that do so much for our community.

Your friends here at the Dufferin Board of Trade want to sincerely thank you for your hard work, dedication, and passion in driving positive change. Together, we make our community stronger.

Registration is now open for 2025 Walk for Alzheimer's happening at Island Lake

Written By SAM ODROWSKI

Registration is open for this year's Walk for Alzheimer's fundraiser.

The annual event takes place at the Island Lake Conservation Area in May and is held by the Alzheimer's Society of Dufferin County.

The five-kilometre walk is scheduled for Sunday, May 25, with in-person registration at 9 a.m. and the walk commencing at 10 a.m.

The Alzheimer's Society of Dufferin County's fundraising goal is \$60,000 this year, and event organizers are encouraging residents to take part.

"I think more than anything, this is a walk, it's a fundraiser, but really we want to make this a celebration," said Lauren Culver, manager of fund development at the Alzheimer's Society of Dufferin County. "We want to make this a bunch of people getting together, being able to celebrate their loved ones and celebrate each other, because it is such a hard job [providing care] for people."

Town Crier Andrew Welch will be at Island Lake to help kick off the walk and a light breakfast will be provided to attendees before they embark on the five-kilometre route.

Culver said the Alzheimer's Society will create a fun atmosphere after the walk is completed for people to enjoy.

"We're going to have a little bit more of a celebration at the end of the walk this year," she noted.

Following the walk there will be a food

truck setup and the lemonade truck that was there last year is returning.

A live band will be playing for the entire day and after the walk, which will help strengthen the celebratory atmosphere when the walk concludes.

Children can enjoy face painting and activities when the walk is complete.

Funds generated from the Walk for Alzheimer's have a direct impact on local people with the illness and their caregivers.

Every \$200 raised by the Alzheimer's Society of Dufferin County covers the cost of one behavioural support worker visit. A \$60 donation enables the not-for-profit organization to provide one customized Montessori kit to a person living with Alzheimer's or a dementia-related illness. A \$50 contribution can give access for one person to the caregiver support program.

"The money we raise is going to help us with our respite programs and being able to expand the portfolio of services that we have. [The Alzheimer's Society of] Dufferin County currently supports approximately 500 people/care partners. But we really want to be able to expand that to reach everybody who needs those services," said Culver.

"We have 1,500 plus people that we know of living with some form of dementia in Dufferin County, so there's definitely a greater need than what we have in a client base right now."

Culver added with increased awareness



FILE PHOTO

WALKING TOGETHER: Tess's Team took part in the 2024 Walk for Alzheimer's in support of the Alzheimer's Society of Dufferin County. The walk will be returning to Island Lake Conservation Area on May 25 to raise funds for people affected by Alzheimer's.

and funding, the Alzheimer's Society of Dufferin County hopes to provide support and resources to everyone in the region who is impacted by the disease.

"We really want to blow out our respite program this year as well, called 'The Social'... which is a place where people can bring clients, and we can spend some time with them to allow their care partners to run an errand, get their hair cut or go out and do something. It gives them some time back to themselves while we work with the clients," Culver explained.

Anyone interested in registering a team or as an individual for this year's Walk for Alzheimer's can do so online at alzgiving.ca/dufferinwalk2025.

Organizers are anticipating the walk will have around 200 participants.

"Come out as an individual or do a corporate team, group of friends, family team – teams can be anything," Culver said.

"The biggest thing is – it's just bringing a bunch of like-minded people together to have a really good day together and celebrate the people in their lives."

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Orangeville Blitz donates 150 stuffed animals to Headwaters

Written By PAULA BROWN
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Staying at a hospital can be a scary and difficult situation, especially for pediatric patients. However, a local hockey team is helping patients at Headwaters Health Care Centre (HHCC) feel a little more comfortable during their stay after donating teddy bears to the local hospital.

Members of the Orangeville Blitz hockey club dropped off more than 150 stuffed animals at Headwaters Hospital on Tuesday (Feb. 18). The plushies were collected through a “teddy bear toss” the Blitz held during one of their games in December.

“It’s important as part of a team in town to make sure we support everyone that we can. Over 50 per cent of our team is from the local area so it’s important for us and the players to have that community involvement. We’ve been able to touch so many different families within the community and many of these causes resonate with the players; they go through it themselves,” said Terry Sheppard, general manager of the Orangeville Blitz.

The Orangeville Blitz was originally based out of Erin but moved to Orangeville in 2023. The team regularly hosts events raising awareness for causes as well as com-

munity-focused events, including Hockey Fights Cancer, Veterans Night, Minor Hockey Night, and Mental Health Awareness Day.

The stuffed animals donated by the Orangeville Blitz will be distributed to pediatric patients at Headwaters Health Care Centre to help give them comfort while they are receiving treatment.

“We’re so grateful for the support of our community and the Orangeville Blitz,” said Kim Delahunt, CEO and president of Headwaters Hospital. “These donations will provide comfort and a sense of security to our pediatric patients during their stay at Headwaters. A hospital visit can be overwhelming for children, and simple acts of kindness, like the donation of a stuffed animal, can make a huge difference in a child’s healing journey.”

PAULA BROWN PHOTO

CUDDLY CAUSE: Orangeville Blitz’s members donated more than 150 stuffed animals to Headwaters Health Care Centre on Tuesday (Feb. 18) to be given out to pediatric patients. The donation was collected through a “teddy bear toss” that the team hosted during a December game. Pictured are Nicholas Moniz, GM Terry Sheppard, Juliann McArthur (from HHCC) and Logan Sheppard.



Independent candidate Jeffrey Halsall launches provincial election campaign

Written By CONSTANCE SCRAFIELD

Jeffrey Halsall is a late entry into the provincial election, taking place next Thursday, Feb. 27. Running as an independent candidate for Dufferin-Caledon, Halsall is very specific about what he hopes will begin here with a platform he calls “The Local Approach.”

The lifelong, Orangeville-based candidate, Halsall said in an interview earlier this week that he has learned through his door-to-door campaigning that there are “major complaints about increases in property taxes and with my ‘Local Approach,’ we can find what can actually happen to help people.

“They need to remind people [MPPs] they work for Dufferin-Caledon and they should work with people more to help with decision making.”

Asked if he thinks people need to be more involved with politics, he told the Citizen, “People who aren’t, it’s because they are complacent. When we knock on their doors,

people are cordial but that’s it. They don’t want to talk about politics.”

This is the job of The Local Approach, he added, bringing awareness of issues so that people know about them. He believes it is very important to be informed although that can be hard because there are so many opinions.

Halsall is trying to bring people together to make politicians account for what is wrong. He is hoping his Local Approach will unite communities to have a voice in how local issues are resolved. As he sees it, what happens at Queens Park inevitably trickles down to the municipalities, which is often the case. Halsall sees the discontent in people, as he himself feels frustrated and is trying to find solutions. He is a great fan of the grass roots idea.

Running in the election is providing a change in his life; it has made him realize he needs to stay informed and continue on The Local Approach to be involved as an advocate for the community. He acknowledges

this will be a learning experience.

While Halsall admits he is coming into the election very late, he wanted to do it anyway. “In this case, either way, I would have been very late considering when they called the election. I am in a good place but at the same time, if I could convince people to be less complacent that would huge,” he commented.

Halsall’s family, his siblings and parents, are enthused about what he is doing, helping him distribute his campaign flyer.

Truth is, for Halsall, the idea of running for office has always been his passion. Being involved with the Knights of Columbus, of which he has been a member since he was 18, is an important part of his life.

In high school, he was on the student council.

The Local Approach is a twofold platform. As MPP, Halsall would focus on advocating for Dufferin-Caledon locally, reminding people they are part of the community. When people say what they want most, they discover others have the same ideas and common goals. Then, they can all work together toward those goals

Working for the Helm Group since 2014, Halsall is the managing director for this business, which provides marketing and specialized support for small and medium businesses. They are now in their new office in the Mono Plaza on Highway 10.

“I really realize what community means and how we need to find ways that are af-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

ENTERING THE RACE: Orangeville resident Jeffrey Halsall is running as an independent candidate in the provincial election on Feb. 27.

fordable for small businesses, about what works and what doesn’t and that ties in with social structure too: what works and what doesn’t.

“I want to ask questions and muddy the water a bit. I am passionate about making government more accessible, accountable, and efficient. I believe in the power of community and am committed to fostering a stronger, more vibrant Dufferin-Caledon for generations to come.

“I’m excited to continue working for you.” he declared.

To contact Jeffrey Halsall, call or text 519-216-0570. You can also email him at howdy@jeff4office.ca.

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TOWN PAGE

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COUNCIL 2025 DATES February 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 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 for full details.

Report a Concern

Visit shelburne.ca

REPORT A CONCERN

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

For more information visit shelburne.ca

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!

Thank you.

The SDFD and Town of Shelburne Utilities staff thank all residents who take the time to clear the snow from their hydrants. Your efforts make a significant difference in keeping our community safe.

We kindly ask for your continued support and help in this crucial task throughout the winter season. Your dedication and assistance are greatly appreciated!

For more information or visit our Winter Maintenance webpage <https://www.shelburne.ca/en/town-hall/winter-maintenance.aspx>.

For more information or visit shelburne.ca

Visit shelburne.ca

ART FEENECH DESIGNS UNLEASHED

EXPLORE CREATIVITY
 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM Upstairs Shelburne Town Hall
 203 Main St. East Shelburne
 Closed for Lunch 12-1 pm
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WINTER PARKING NO PARKING DEC 2 - APR 15

Level of Service Questionnaire

WE WANT YOUR FEEDBACK

We need your help to shape the future of our town's services! Tell us what services matter most to you by filling out our questionnaire. Your input is important to know where to focus our efforts and resources.

Open February 6 to March 14, 2025.

Visit: haveyoursayshelburne.ca/level-of-service-resident-questionnaire

SHOVELLED SNOW DOES NOT BELONG ON THE ROADS



Dufferin OPP respond to, investigate several crimes in the region

Burglary tools, drugs seized in connection to theft investigation

Dufferin Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) officers recently charged two people with multiple drug and theft-related offences.

On Feb. 14, at approximately 6:30 p.m., Dufferin OPP officers responded to a theft at a grocery store on Broadway in Orangeville. The suspects had left the scene before police arrival. While patrolling the area, officers located the vehicle and suspects at a nearby gas station.

Upon speaking with the driver, officers observed the stolen groceries in the vehicle. Further investigation revealed a quantity of cocaine, fentanyl, and numerous break-and-enter tools.

David Edwards, 34, from Amaranth, has been charged with:

- Possession of Property Obtained by Crime Under \$5,000 - in Canada
- Possession of Break In Instruments
- Possession of a Schedule I substance for the purpose of Trafficking - Cocaine
- Possession of a Schedule I substance for the purpose of Trafficking -Opioid (other than heroin)

Scott Lemos, 38, from Orangeville, has been charged with:

- Possession of Property Obtained by Crime Under \$5,000 - in Canada

- Possession of Break In Instruments
- Possession of a Schedule I substance for the purpose of Trafficking - Cocaine
- Possession of a Schedule I substance for the purpose of Trafficking-Opioid (other than heroin)

- Fail to Comply with Probation Order
 - Theft Under \$5000 - Shoplifting
- Anyone with information regarding this investigation or any other criminal activity is asked to contact Dufferin OPP at 1-888-310-1122 or Crime Stoppers to remain anonymous at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477).

You can also submit your information online at ontariocrimestoppers.ca.

Dufferin OPP responded to residential fire in Grand Valley

The Dufferin Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) is currently investigating a fire that occurred in Grand Valley.

On Feb. 17, shortly after 7:30 p.m., Dufferin OPP, along with the Grand Valley Fire Department, responded to a residential fire at an apartment building located on Main Street in Grand Valley.

The investigation has determined that the fire was caused by an electrical issue within the apartment and has been deemed non-suspicious.

Anyone who may have witnessed the fire

and wishes to speak with victim services can contact Caledon/Dufferin Victim Services at 905-951-3838.

Members of the Dufferin OPP are committed to public safety, delivering proactive and innovative policing in partnership with our communities. Officers value your contribution to building safe communities.

Impaired driving charges laid against Amaranth man on Valentine's Day

Dufferin Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) officers charged a driver with impaired operation related offences on Valentine's Day (Feb. 14).

On Feb. 14, just before 4 a.m., officers from Dufferin OPP received a call for service reporting a suspicious motor vehicle in the area of County Road 12 and 5 Sideroad in Amaranth. Officers located and stopped the motor vehicle and spoke with the driver, which led to an impaired operation investigation.

Ralph Cowan, 70, of Amaranth, has been charged with:

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

- Adult Fail to notify change of address
- Adult Fail to notify change of address - licence

The accused is scheduled to appear at the Ontario Court of Justice in Orangeville to answer to the charges. His driver's licence was suspended, and his vehicle was impounded.

None of the listed charges have been proven in court.

Resident faces impaired driving charge after putting vehicle in ditch

An Orangeville resident was recently charged with impaired driving by Caledon Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) officers.

On Feb. 13, shortly after 11 p.m., officers responded to a vehicle in the ditch on McLaughlin Road, near Old Base Line Road, Caledon. During the interaction, grounds were formed that the driver's ability to operate a motor vehicle was impaired by alcohol and was subsequently arrested.

As a result of the investigation, Justin La Bine, 43, of Orangeville, was charged with:

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

The accused are scheduled to appear at the Ontario Court of Justice in Orangeville on March 6, 2025, to answer to the charge.

The listed charge has not been proven in court.

Amidst uncertain future for local Crime Stoppers branch, Dufferin County kicks in funds

Written By PAULA BROWN
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Dufferin County Council has pledged to provide \$10,000 in financial assistance to Crime Stoppers of Simcoe-Dufferin-Muskoka, following a report on their uncertain future.

During their meeting on Feb. 13, Dufferin County Councillors received a delegation from Tom Young, vice president of the local Crime Stoppers branch, and Leslie Woodley, police coordinator for the organization.

The delegation requested that the County of Dufferin explore options to provide funding to the Simcoe-Dufferin-Muskoka Crime Stoppers branch so the organization can remain operational. Without the funding, the organization is expected to close their doors as of Aug. 1.

"We're in trouble financially. We're not a police program so we have no funding from the police and we're not a government program so we have no funding from the government at any level," said Young.

"We all turn the news on and hear of something that's happened, and you hear 'call your local police or Crime Stoppers'. I can tell you unless something changes after August 1, this coming summer, that call the Crime Stoppers part won't be there anymore; we're that close. We had to set a date to fold the Simcoe-Dufferin-Muskoka

Crime Stoppers and it'd be a shame if we have to do that," he continued.

Crime Stoppers was created in 1976 in Albuquerque, New Mexico after Michael Carmen, a young gas station attendant, was robbed and murdered. Detective Greg MacAleese, the lead investigator on the case, had a local TV station do a re-enactment of the crime and the local gas station offered up a reward for any information that would lead to an arrest.

After six weeks of investigating, the police were able to make an arrest within hours of the re-enactment airing.

"Crime Stoppers works together with the police, the community and the media," explained Woodley. "It's a way to anonymously report crimes."

To date, there are 37 Crime Stopper programs within Ontario alone. According to Crime Stoppers of Simcoe-Dufferin-Muskoka, there have been more than 5,300 criminals arrested and more than 7,400 cases cleared since their inception in 1987.

Despite working in partnership with police and the government, Crime Stoppers does not receive any funding from them to support their efforts.

Young said that the cost to run the program each year is approximately \$70,000 and that they currently have roughly \$35,000 to maintain until the Aug. 1 close date.

"I don't want this program to fold," Young told Council.

Dufferin County would not be the only municipality providing funding support to maintain the Crime Stoppers of Simcoe-Dufferin-Muskoka.

Young told Dufferin County Council that the District of Muskoka provides \$10,000 a year to the local Crime Stoppers branch. He added that the Mayor of Midland and the Mayor of Penetanguishene are also advocating for \$35,000 out of Simcoe County.

The first draft of the motion was brought forward by Mono Councillor Fred Nix, who suggested funding \$15,000 through the county's rate stabilization reserve. Fellow councillors expressed concern about using the reserve rather than the community grants program.

"I won't support money coming from the rate stabilization reserve. If we want to do this that's fine, but let's find money that we've committed to the budget," said Coun. Philip Rentsch, Deputy Mayor of Grand Valley. "I would offer the community grants program just because we put it up so much and they opened their intake. I won't support taking from the rate stabilization reserve; we need to stop that."

"I'd much rather see something like this go through the formal process. We tend to do things on a one-off basis and I get that we get emergencies that come our way, but

we've got a little bit of time. I'm sure the organization doesn't appreciate a delay when they're under stress, but really, I'd prefer it went through the grant program," added Coun. Todd Taylor, Deputy Mayor of Orangeville.

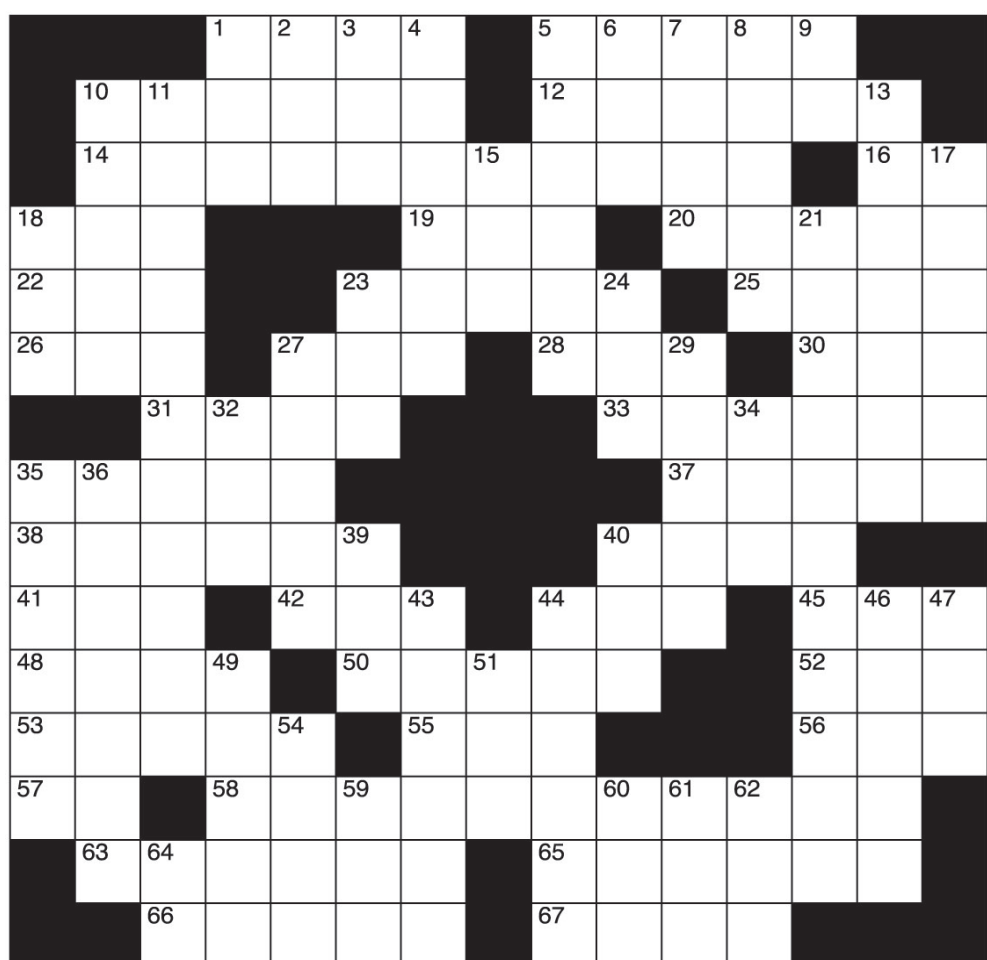
Other Dufferin County Councillors expressed their apprehension about using the community grant program to fund the support.

"I don't support this type of program being put through the community grant program for a couple of reasons. If we think this is something that should be funded in perpetuity then find a line in the budget and we'll put it in there. If we have to make an emergency contribution in year one and move it forward that's fine," said Coun. Darren White, Mayor of Melancthon. "The community grant program to me is not designed to be doing some of what it is, which is a regular source of funding every single year for the same organizations."

A final motion proposing Dufferin County Council provide \$10,000 in emergency funding for one year to Crime Stoppers of Simcoe Dufferin Muskoka was passed by majority vote.

The motion also included that the County of Dufferin will contact the chief administrative officers (CAOs) from the other involved municipalities to create a more "equitable" funding approach for future years.

CROSSWORD



CLUES ACROSS

1. Tropical Asian plant
5. Yankees' slugger
- Judge
10. Helps to preserve food
12. Plant disease
14. One who predicts
16. Equally
18. Burundian franc
19. Pouch
20. Arizona city
22. Surround
23. Hard, heavy timber
25. Witnessed
26. They __
27. French river
28. A way to drink
30. Small constellation
31. Peruse a written work
33. Type of hound
35. Plant of the goosefoot family
37. Evade or escape

38. A way to confine (abbr.)
40. Volcanic crater
41. Weekday
42. Women's service organization (abbr.)
44. Local area network
45. Sensory receptor
48. Posted
50. Tibetan pastry
52. Licensed for Wall Street
53. Very willing
55. Golf score
56. Consume
57. Touchdown
58. Tends to remind
63. In a way, smoothed
65. Poke holes in the ground
66. Herbaceous plants
67. Taiwanese river

CLUES DOWN

4. Prayer
5. Calculating machine
6. Keyboard key
7. Outburst
8. Man-eating giants
9. New Hampshire
10. Type of sword
11. Counting
13. Pants style
15. Political action committee
17. U.S. government legislative branch
18. Civil Rights Act component
21. Contractors take one
23. Spanish soldier
24. A person's brother or sister
27. Expressed pleasure
29. Song of praise
32. Shock treatment
34. Patti Hearst's captors
35. Counteract
36. Goes over again
39. Popular Dodge truck
40. Male adult
43. A part of a river where the current is very fast
44. Rope used to lasso
46. Become less intense
47. Subway rodent
49. Lead alloy
51. Japanese honorific title
54. Advise someone
59. Famous NYC museum
60. Ocean
61. Cathode-ray tube
62. Cologne
64. It starts with these two

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

Residents invited to attend seminar on economic development by County

Written By PAULA BROWN
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Dufferin County residents and business owners will have the opportunity to learn more about economic development with the launch of a new seminar series hosted by the County of Dufferin.

The County of Dufferin announced the launch of the new seminar series, titled Team Dufferin: A Series by Economic Development, which will explore the opportunities, challenges and nuances of business, investment and economic development in Dufferin County.

The first installment of the seminar series, called What Trump Means: Economic Development, Canada and the 47th President of the USA, will be held on March 5 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Edelbrock Centre in Orangeville.

The seminar will explore workforce challenges in Canada and their implications for economic development and investment attraction.

Guest speaker Brock Dickinson will also discuss the potential economic impacts of a Trump presidency on Canada, including trade policies, tariffs, and broader shifts in the global economy.

Dickinson is the Director of the University of Waterloo's Economic Development Program, where he provides professional training to economic developers nationally and internationally. Dickinson began his career with the United Nations, leading development projects in over 30 countries before returning to Canada to lead economic development agencies in Nova Scotia and Ontario. He co-founded MDB Insight, Canada's largest specialist economic development consultancy firm, supporting over 300 communities with investment attraction and job creation.

He was recently appointed Vice Chair of

the Board of Directors at Invest Ontario.

"This unique seminar is an opportunity to enhance your understanding of cross-border economic dynamics, and be part of an engaging dialogue that could shape Dufferin's collective response to the changing socio-economic landscape in Canada," wrote the County of Dufferin in a press release.

The event is free and open to the community, either in person at the Edelbrock Centre in Orangeville or online.

Residents interested in attending the first session of Team Dufferin: A Series by Economic Development can register online at www.dufferincounty.ca.

Green Party candidate Sandy Brown joined by party leader for healthcare announcement

Written By ZACHARY ROMAN
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Green Party of Ontario candidate for Dufferin-Caledon, Sandy Brown, recently shared his party's pledge to cancel Highway 413 and spend the money on health care instead.

Brown made the announcement alongside Ontario Greens' leader Mike Schreiner on Feb. 13 at Spirit Tree Estate Cidery in Caledon.

Advocacy groups like Headwaters Against Highway 413, Halton Hills Climate Action, and the Stop Highway 413 Now community group attended the announcement.

Brown said as Minister of Health, incumbent Dufferin-Caledon MPP Sylvia Jones has not supported the health care needs of the community, and Ontarians as a whole.

"There are over 15,000 people in Dufferin-Caledon who don't have a family doctor, and the riding needs to recruit 43 family doctors in the next six years to meet demand," said Brown. "As your MPP, I'll take real action to protect our communities and ensure that everyone has access to a family doctor so that rural Ontarians aren't left behind."

Schreiner said stopping Highway 413 is a pillar of the Ontario Greens' plan to "protect the people and places we love against Doug Ford's anti-Greenbelt agenda."

"That's why I'm announcing today that Ontario Greens would cancel Highway 413 and redirect the \$10 billion into desperately needed health care and mental health care," said Schreiner. "Sandy knows Ontarians can't afford to waste \$10 billion dollars on a highway that will pave over 2,000 acres of prime farmland and slice through the Greenbelt when people in our rural communities don't have access to healthcare."

The Ontario Greens plan to ensure all Ontarians have a primary care provider within three to four years by recruiting 3,500 more doctors in Ontario through more medical school positions and more residency opportunities for international medical graduates.

The Greens also plan to address health care staffing shortages by providing equal pay for nurses, doctors and personal support workers across all communities and health care settings; the party says this will benefit rural and remote communities.

Additionally, the Greens plan to cover mental health care for all under OHIP.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CAMPAIGN RALLY: Green Party of Ontario candidate for Dufferin-Caledon Sandy Brown addresses the crowd at a Feb. 13 announcement in Caledon.

Amyloidosis Awareness Month declared at recent Dufferin County Council meeting

Written By PAULA BROWN
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Dufferin County has proclaimed March as Amyloidosis Awareness Month to help bring awareness to the rare, incurable and fatal disease.

During their meeting last Thursday (Feb. 13), Dufferin County Council received a presentation from Keith Dares, a board member and secretary from the Canadian Amyloidosis Support Network (CASN), regarding awareness of the disease.

"I'm happy to report that our awareness efforts in Canada, in conjunction with other international organization efforts, are making a difference here and abroad. In the past year, since I addressed Council, there has been a lot of activity to bring amyloidosis into view in Canada," said Dares.

"We are achieving greater awareness, more clinicians are more informed about this disease and its symptoms, the time to diagnose is slowly becoming shorter, clinical trials are starting to take place and more treatments and drugs that help manage the disease are being approved for use. All of these achievements confirm awareness is vitally important and it makes a difference in the lives of our citizens who are challenged with this disease," he continued.

Amyloidosis is a rare disease caused by the accumulation of clumps of "misfolded" proteins, called amyloid fibrils, in organs and tissues in the body leading to organ impairment or failure.

Dares, who is an amyloidosis patient himself, explained that the amyloid fibrils

circulate in the bloodstream and become lodged in between smooth muscle cells. When the fibrils accumulate over time, they become a stiff plaque-like substance and cause organ impairments, which eventually leads to organ failure.

"It's a complicated disease," said Dares. "It's a systemic multi-system disease and depending on the type of amyloidosis it can affect individual or a combination of organs or tissues in the body."

According to the CASN, amyloidosis affects a small percentage of Canada's population with approximately eight in one million people diagnosed with the disease.

Due to the rarity of the disease, the diagnosis process varies, taking anywhere from six months to five years because symptoms of amyloidosis often present as other more common diseases.

Described as the "great masquerader," Dares added that it is suspected that due to the delay in diagnosis some patients die before even getting a diagnosis.

"Having a rare disease and being unwell for up to five years or more with limited life expectancy places a heavy toll on families, who must care and support patients through this process," said Dares. "To relieve these burdens, the successful pathway is very simple; awareness leads to early diagnosis, early diagnosis leads to sustaining treatments, treatments lead to better outcomes, prolong life and hopefully in the future [provide] a cure."

The Canadian Amyloidosis Support Network (CASN) is a federally registered, not-for-profit organization formed by amy-

loidosis patients that is committed to making a difference in the lives of amyloidosis patients and families by promoting awareness, offering patient support and funding research projects.

"Our project is to bring awareness of this disease to the general public and the med-

ical community in hopes that more people can be diagnosed earlier, treated earlier, and with treatments can resume some level of normalcy and balance in life until a cure can be found," said Dares. "Amyloidosis can only be treated if it's diagnosed, and that is why awareness is so very important."

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SPORTS

Centre Dufferin basketball teams going to District championships

Written By BRIAN LOCKHART

Centre Dufferin District High School Royals basketball teams will be competing for the District 4 championships after winning their semi-final games on Feb. 10.

Senior

The senior Royals earned their place in the championship after a 61-36 win in the semi-final game over the Norwell District Secondary School Varsity Reds in the gym at Centre Dufferin.

The Royals took a 14-6 lead in the first quarter, kept up the pressure for the entire game and were leading 29-12 at the half.

By the end of the third quarter, the Royals had a 25-point lead with a score of 47-22.

During the regular season, the Royals finished in second place in the District standings with a 6-2 record. They averaged 59 points per game.

"I feel like today's game was pretty good," said Royals forward Ishayu Kothamdi, after the semi-final game. "We started off slow but started building momentum and now we're going to play in the District Championship."

Teammate Ryan Ferreira said he thought it was a good game, but the squad was capable of doing better.

"It was good, but we could have played better. We'll practice tomorrow and get ready for the final game."

The Royals will face the first-place Erin District High School team in the final game.

The District 4 senior boys' basketball championship game was scheduled for Erin District High School on Wednesday, Feb. 19.

The tip-off was scheduled for 4 p.m., in the Erin gym.

The results of the game were not available at press time.

Junior

The Centre Dufferin District High School Royals junior boy's basketball team will be going to the District 4 championship after a 51-25 win over Emmanuel Christian High School in their semi-final game on Feb. 10,



BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

MOVING ON: The Centre Dufferin District High School (CDDHS) Royals senior boys basketball team took on the Norwell District Secondary School Varsity Reds during their semi-final playoff game in the gym at CDDHS on Monday, Feb. 10. The Royals won the game 61-36 and earned the right to go to the District 4 championship in Erin on Feb. 19.

in the gym at CDDHS.

The Royals junior team finished in second place in the District 4 standings with a 6-2 record. They averaged 54 points per game this season while allowing an average

of 38 points against for the year.

In the District 4 champions game, the Royals are up against the first-place team from Erin District High School.

Erin finished the regular season in the

top spot with an undefeated 8-0 record.

The District 4 championship game was scheduled for Wednesday, Feb. 19, in the gym in Erin with a 2:30 p.m. tip-off.

Results were not available at press time.

Martial artist from Art of 8 Martial Arts Academy wins Canadian National Title

Written By BRIAN LOCKHART

Local Muay Thai fighter and Kru at the Art of 8 Martial Arts Academy in Orangeville, Martello Jones, recently claimed the Canadian Title in Muay Thai fighting.

Competing in the cruiserweight division, he took the title after a bout on Nov. 23, sanctioned by the World Boxing Council.

The fight took place in Belleville and was a part of a full card for the night.

Scheduled for five, three-minute rounds, Jones dispatched his opponent in just under 40 seconds into the first round, winning the fight with a knockout to claim the title.

Jones faced his opponent earlier in the year at the world championships, however, he entered the fight with an existing injury to his ribs and decided not to continue after one round because of the risk of having a punctured lung.

Muay Thai is similar to kickboxing but also allows the use of other moves.

"To the uninformed, they would reference kickboxing as the closest sport to

Muay Thai," Jones explained. "Unlike kickboxing, Muay Thai uses knees, elbows, and the clinch. At the amateur level, it's very safe. We wear head gear, shin guards, and elbow guards so the chance of getting a cut or anything like that, is very small. At the professional level there are no safety pads worn."

The title 'Kru' is a Thai word meaning coach, teacher, or trainer.

Unlike other martial arts where someone is a 'sensei,' the title of Kru is given by students and others, to someone who has achieved a level of recognition and is given the title out of respect.

"It all depends on how much time and dedication you put into the sport," Jones explained. "Becoming a Kru really means becoming an instructor with a commitment. Kru is that I trained under, officially recognized me as a Kru after 12 years. I was teaching before that, but I never referred to myself or allowed anyone to refer to me as Kru, until my Krus confirmed that title upon me."

Jones has been involved in the sport for 14 years.

"It is a martial art that was born on a battlefield and the villages of Thailand," Jones explained.

In a country that has had more than its share of invaders, Muay Thai was developed as a way to fight them off.

"Now people train for fitness, the culture, and developing good solid defence skills," Jones explained. "Around one per cent will move on to compete. It is there that people try to win provincial or national championships and for North America and world titles. You compete based on weight class and experience."

The championship title fight was over mere seconds into the first round.

"The fight was amazing, the fight ended in 38 or 40 seconds," Jones said. "He was a dominant kicker – he kicked and I countered – he was knocked out cold."

Now that Jones is a champion, he admits he has a target on his back as other up-and-comers will be looking to take his title.

Jones owns and operates the Art of 8 Martial Arts Academy in Orangeville.

It is a 5,000-square-foot training facility located at the Orangeville Mall (150 First St., Unit G8A).



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

MUAY THAI CHAMPION: Muay Thai fighter Martello Jones recently won the Canadian Muay Thai Title in the cruiserweight division, after knocking out his opponent early in the first round at the Canadian Championships. Jones is the Kru (teacher) at Art of 8 Martial Arts Academy in Orangeville.

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HUNTER MEUNIER

Playing the sport since he was just three years-old, Shelburne Wolves U13 Rep centre, Hunter Meunier, brings a lot of skill to the ice when he plays with his team.

"It's fast paced," Hunter said of why he likes playing hockey. "I like moving the puck, that's so much fun. I like skating fast. I play with a good group of guys and we pass the puck a lot."

When the hockey season is over, Hunter is an avid golfer.

TEAM: SHELBURNE WOLVES U13 REP
POSITION: CENTRE



BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

TOURNAMENT PLAY: The Centre Dufferin District High School Royals senior girls volleyball team take on the team from Westside Secondary School in Orangeville during the final District 4 tournament day of the season held at Westside on Feb. 11. The Royals lost this match 3-0, and are now done for the season.

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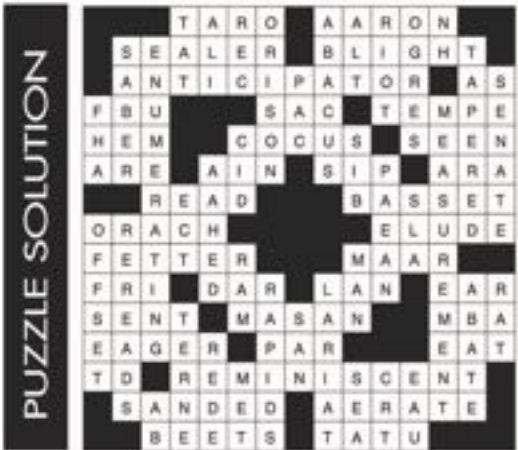
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Shelburne Public Library shares upcoming events, recommended read

Upcoming Events

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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.

Recommended read

"The Mighty Red" by Louise Erdrich: In Argus, North Dakota, a wedding inter-

twines the lives of Gary, Kismet, Hugo, and Crystal. Amidst personal struggles and love triangles, they face broader themes of time, climate change, and economic turmoil. The novel explores the complexities of ordinary people in a prairie community, highlighting their dreams, struggles, and resilience.

Why Molly recommends it: Erdrich's characters are living in a working-class town which grows sugar beets and, while Indigenous history is relevant to their lives, this story focuses mostly on the odd marriage between Gary and Kismet. I appreciate the vignette style to her chapters, making this an 'easy', if uncomfortable read.

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