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JOEL KRAHN PHOTO

**IMPORTANT CONVERSATIONS:** Grace Tipling Hall in Shelburne featured an event for Black History Month on Feb. 22 with two guest speakers. Fifth-generation Black Canadian Tracy Lee took to the stage with her presentation, "And Then What Happened..." She recounted stories of her ancestors as they travelled to Canada through the Underground Railroad. Lee is a singer, speaker and actor who has been performing at community events, musicals and festivals since age three. She also sang for attendees during the event. Before Lee's presentation, Joy Akinkunmi, a Nova Scotia youth who invented an automatic pill dispenser for people with dementia, presented virtually.

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## Local resident requests bylaw exemption for birds of prey

Written By PAULA BROWN  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

A Shelburne resident is hoping to keep and train birds of prey after approaching Town Council about implementing an exemption to its exotic pets bylaw.

During their meeting on Monday (Feb. 24), Shelburne Town Council received a delegation from local resident Julien Wong Lun Hing Devonish requesting an exemption from the Animal Care and Control By-law.

The request asked for the exemption for "provincial licensed falconers" to keep and train birds of prey within the community.

"As falconry is provincially regulated, it is entirely possible for the township to make an exemption to the current ban on exotic pets for those who hold a valid provincial license," wrote Wong Lun Hing Devonish, in the delegation letter.

Falconry is a regulated heritage practice of training birds of prey to hunt wild game, including assisting in the conservation of wildlife and pest control. To practice falconry in Ontario, an individual must obtain an Apprentice Falconry Licence, which requires a small game hunting license, an apprenticeship under an experienced falcon-

er, and a completion of the Ontario Hawking Club Apprenticeship Program.

Wong Lun Hing Devonish informed Town Council that he currently owns one raptor and works with two others for animal control. He indicated that while he could potentially have ownership of two birds, he will likely remain with the one as "one is more than enough."

According to the Town of Shelburne, the Animal Care and Control by-law lists eagles, hawks, falcons and owls as prohibited birds to own.

In his delegation to Town Council, Wong Lun Hing Devonish noted that the exemption approach has been adopted in other municipalities, including the Town of Orangeville, City of Waterloo, and Town of Pelham.

Coun. Walter Benotto raised the question of where the bird would stay and where he planned to train with it.

"I have engineered plans to build a modular aviary to fit underneath my deck," explained Wong Lun Hing Devonish. "I have a property that I have permission to use on 2nd Line and I also have one in Melancthon I have access to. If weather does not allow me, we fly them using a long tether with a

weight, which allows us to control the bird."

Wong Lun Hing Devonish also noted that the Ministry of Natural Resources has requirements that prey birds be kept in an 8x8 enclosure with one window and double doors. He added that his planned aviary would be "fully enclosed".

Coun. Dan Sample inquired about falconry training within town limits and the liability of injury to the bird due to developments and construction occurring in the area.

"As a licensed falconer we always go and scout the area that we fly," said Wong Lun Hing Devonish.

Coun. Kyle Fegan raised the concern some Town residents might have for the safety of their smaller animals such as dogs and cats.

"There is a one per cent chance. You train your bird to target the prey you go after. A bird may not be the smartest thing in the world, but as a bird of prey it will look at what it's stooping into; big risk, little reward," said Wong Lun Hing Devonish.

Shelburne Town Council received the delegation and referred the matter to town staff for a report.

The report is estimated to return to Town Council in April.

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# Local youth to hike 800-kilometres of the Camino de Santiago in Spain

Written By PAULA BROWN  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

An 11-year-old Mulmur resident is heading out for the journey of a lifetime.

Henry Little, known locally as Henry the Hiker, will be taking on his biggest hiking challenge yet as he prepares to set out on a nearly 800-kilometre hike of the Camino de Santiago in Spain.

The Camino de Santiago is a hiking route consisting of many different trail networks. Throughout the Middle Ages, thousands of pilgrims walked from their homes to make the journey to the cathedral in Santiago de Compostela eventually paving the way for the more than 200 recognized routes across Europe that arrive together in the city.

Henry, along with his mother Carola Little, plan to hike a route known as the Camino Frances, also known as the French Way, which is the most famous of the Camino de Santiago routes.

The ancient pilgrimage trail spans rough-

ly 800 kilometres across northern Spain, starting in the town of Saint-Jean-Pied-de-Port in France and ending in the sacred city of Santiago de Compostela, where it is believed the remains of St. James are held.

In 2020, while quarantining due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Henry, who is an only child, began to go on daily explorations of a portion of the Bruce Trail that crosses through his family's property. During this time, his interest in nature and the environment peaked as he discovered animal tracks, different species of trees and plants, and insects along the trail.

Hiking regularly in five to 10 km increments, Henry eventually completed the entire 67-kilometre Blue Mountain section of the Bruce Trail, and with that sparked the desire to hike all 900 kilometres of the Bruce Trail, which spans end-to-end from the Niagara River to the tip of Tobermory.

From 2021 to 2024, Henry completed the Dufferin Hi-Land, Toronto, Beaver Valley, and Caledon Hills sections of the Bruce Trail, totalling just over 500 kilometres of the total 900 kilometres.

Since then, Henry has expanded his hiking bucket list, adding the goal of completing trails in every province and territory in Canada. He has now undertaken hikes in Ontario, Manitoba, and Alberta. In September 2022, he summited Tin Hat Mountain, a part of the Sunshine Coast Trail in British Columbia, known for being the longest hut-to-hut trail in Canada.

"My favourite part is the sites, like where there is a bench you can sit at and see amazing views. I love everything; the wildlife, the view, the waterfalls, the people and the adventure," said Henry.

The hiking bug continued when in the winter of 2023 Henry watched the movie "The Way," which documents a father's journey in walking the Camino de Santiago after the death of his son.

"He said we really wanted to go do it, so I let that ruinate for a little bit because it's one thing to say you want to do something and another to take it on," said Carola. "We discussed it a couple months later and he



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

SOAKING IT IN: Henry Little observes the beauty of Tin Hat Mountain in British Columbia.



LIFE-LONG HIKER: Henry Little at 7 years of age, earning his first Bruce Trail badge.

was still on board."

Initially discussing the 300-kilometre Portuguese route of the Camino, Henry was adamant about wanting to challenge himself with the 800-kilometre Camino Frances.

"It was the trail he saw in the movie and he wants to see those same sites in real life," said Carola.

To prepare for the hike, Henry has been training with Tyler Harron a fitness trainer at Trainer Games in Shelburne. The duo train together twice a week, focusing on compound lifting exercises for strength and high-intensity interval training for cardio.

"It's a lot of focus on making sure he has the strength in his legs and his core to be able to push through those 20-kilometre day hikes. Also making sure we have some gas in the tank by working his cardio and making sure his lungs get going and his heart gets beating," said Harron.

Just as important as training Henry for the physical aspects of the hike, Harron is also preparing him for the mental hurdles of the long journey.

"We all know he's done an amazing job with his hikes, and for something like this, being able to push yourself to those uncomfortable places is a challenge," said Harron. "It's about hitting that wall, yet you keep going because you've trained for it."

While Harron trains Henry to take on the challenge, he shares his pride in the 11-year-old's perseverance.

"Being able to train and have fun with him, to see his confidence building has been the most rewarding part of it all," said Harron. "To me, he's already won just by being willing to do this at 11 year's old and I'm going to get him ready the best I can."

Along the way, Henry has shared his hiking through photos and videos on his YouTube channel, Henry the Hiker. Henry plans to post updates daily on his Camino journey.

"I hope [the community] follows my adventure and for it to encourage others to get out and hike," said Henry.

To help minimize the cost of the hiking trip, Henry is running a sponsorship campaign where local businesses can provide a donation and have a badge of their logo sown onto the backpack he'll be using on the journey.

All proceeds raised through the campaign will go towards supporting Henry's journey, including lodging and food.

Henry will be leaving for Europe on March 26 and will take his first steps onto the Camino Frances on April 6. He will take roughly eight weeks to complete the roughly 800 km and will return home in mid-June.

Community members can keep up to date with Henry's journey by following him on Instagram, Facebook and YouTube at "Henry the Hiker."

To learn more about Henry the Hiker, visit his website - [www.henrythehiker.com](http://www.henrythehiker.com).

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# Everything you need to know about voting in the provincial election

Written By SAM ODROWSKI

The provincial election is taking place today (Feb. 27) and there are several different voting locations in the Dufferin-Caledon riding.

To find out where your polling station is, enter your postal code into "Voter Information Service" on the Election Ontario website at elections.on.ca.

The polls are open from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. and there are several voting locations in Orangeville.

The voting locations include:

- Tony Rose Memorial Sports Centre – 6 Northmen Way, Orangeville
- Alder Recreation Centre – 275 Alder Street, Orangeville
- Parkinson Centennial Public School – 120 Lawrence Avenue, Orangeville
- Westside Secondary School – 300 Alder Street, Orangeville
- Peter Elementary School – 46 Dawson Road, Orangeville
- Orangeville and District Seniors Centre –

26 Bythia Street, Orangeville

- Monora Park Pavilion – 500 Monora Park Drive, Orangeville
- Credit Meadows Elementary School – 220 Blind Line, Orangeville
- Island Lake Public School – 50 Oak Ridge Drive, Orangeville

There are seven candidates running in the Dufferin-Caledon riding.

Incumbent PC Party MPP Sylvia Jones, who has won the last five elections in the riding, is seeking re-election. She has been serving as the deputy premier and minister of health since 2022.

Sandy Brown, former mayor of Orangeville, is seeking election under the Green Party of Ontario banner.

Michael Dehn, mayor of Erin, is running for the Liberal Party of Ontario in the provincial election.

George Nakitsas, who worked for NDP leaders Jack Layton and Ed Broadbent for over 10 years, has put his name forward to represent the NDP.

Jeffrey Halsall is running as an Independent, Kris Eggleton is running as a New Blue Party candidate and Alexey Cherkashov is running as an Ontario Moderate Party candidate.

In the 2022 provincial election, the voter turnout was 41.67 per cent or 46,088 of the eligible 110,615 voters cast a ballot in Dufferin-Caledon. This was on par with the provincial turnout of 43.5 per cent, which was the lowest voter turnout on record since Ontario was founded.

This year, 6.14 per cent of eligible Ontario voters have taken part in advanced voting. In 2022, 9.92 per cent of voters cast ballots in early voting and in 2018 it was 6.8 per cent.

Roughly 10.8 million people are eligible to vote in Ontario.

The results of the 2022 provincial election in Dufferin-Caledon were:

- Sylvia Jones (PC Party) received 49.67 per cent of the vote
- Bob Gordanier (Liberal Party) received 18.81 per cent of the vote

- Laura Campbell (Green Party) received 14.13 per cent of the vote
- Tess Prendergast (NDP) received 10.77 per cent of the vote
- Andrea Banyai (New Blue Party) received 4.94 per cent of the vote
- Lil Nguyen (Ontario Party) received 1.28 per cent of the vote
- Erickumar Emmanuel (Moderate) received 0.23 per cent of the vote
- Kay Sayer (Public Benefit) received 0.17 per cent of the vote

All voting information in the upcoming provincial election can be found at elections.on.ca or by calling the Dufferin-Caledon Elections Ontario Office at 1-(833)-505-3408 between 10 a.m. and 8 p.m. from Monday to Saturday. The office is also open on Sundays from noon to 5 p.m.

The Elections Ontario Office is located at 695 Riddell Road, Orangeville, Unit 1D, next to Bolts Plus.

At press time a photo of Alexey Cherkashov was not available.



SYLVIA JONES, CONSERVATIVE PARTY CANDIDATE



SANDY BROWN, GREEN PARTY CANDIDATE



MICHAEL DEHN, LIBERAL PARTY CANDIDATE



GEORGE NAKITAS, NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY CANDIDATE



JEFFREY HALSALL, INDEPENDENT CANDIDATE



KRIS EGGLETON, NEW BLUE PARTY CANDIDATE

## Provincial election candidates square off at second debate held in Shelburne

Written By ZACHARY ROMAN  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Provincial election candidates for the Liberal, NDP and Green parties, and an independent candidate, attended a recent debate in Shelburne.

On February 20, the Dufferin Board of Trade held a debate at Grace Tipling Hall in Shelburne that was open to all candidates.

Sandy Brown, Green Party of Ontario candidate; Michael Dehn, Ontario Liberal Party candidate; George Nakitsas, Ontario NDP candidate; and Jeffrey Halsall, independent candidate attended the debate.

At the debate, the floor was open for residents to ask questions of the candidates. There were also questions from local organizations.

The Dufferin Federation of Agriculture asked what candidates would do to support farmers in Dufferin-Caledon if elected.

Nakitsas said the first thing he'd do is make sure the riding's farmland is preserved and spared from sprawling development and the proposed Highway 413. He also said he'd work to find new markets for Ontario agricultural products.

Halsall said more support should be given to events like farmers markets and that he'd focus on finding ways to encourage support of local farmers.

Dehn said tariff protections and strengthening the internal agriculture market would be key.

Brown said the Ontario Greens want to make an "Ontario Food Belt" to permanently protect agricultural land from non-agricultural uses like urban sprawl and highways. He said as Ontario is only 5 per cent farmland, it should not be losing it at a rate of 300 acres per day.

The Greater Dufferin Home Builders Association asked candidates if they still believe development charges are the right tool to pay for growth, and if not, what their party proposes instead.

Nakitsas said the government should be involved in creating affordable housing to fill the gaps the development industry is leaving.

Dehn said he would like to work with the federal government to eliminate GST on any new home purchase that's a primary residence.

Brown said if development charges are removed, property taxes will go up so it's not a simple fix. He said the Conservatives have ignored Dufferin-Caledon for too long and that he'd do more to advocate for infrastructure-enabling funding.

The Orangeville Food Bank asked candidates how they would ensure that people who access the food bank have sustainable, long-term access to resources that support

their well-being, ultimately helping them get to a place where they do not need to rely on non-profits.

Halsall said the solution lies in strengthening the economy so people have access to good jobs.

Dehn said he would look at a "regional living wage" as he said the provincial minimum wage does not work for all communities. He said the Liberals would double Ontario Disability Support Program funding and support the creation of tiny homes.

Brown said a housing-first approach is needed, and also said Ontario Disability Support Program funding should be increased. He said people should not have to choose between rent and groceries, and that the govern-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CANDIDATES DEBATE: The Dufferin Board of Trade (DBOT) hosted a debate with local candidates in the provincial election on Thursday, Feb. 20. From left, DBOT chair Doug Harkness, NDP candidate George Nakitsas, Independent Jeffrey Halsall, Liberal candidate Michael Dehn and Green Party candidate Sandy Brown, took to the stage at Grace Tipling Hall in Shelburne to discuss various issues.

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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

## This will only take a month

On April 12, 1861, Confederate forces opened fire on the Union-held Fort Sumter in Charleston, South Carolina.

Those were the first shots fired in the American Civil War, and from there, things escalated quickly.

However, no one involved realized the full scope of what was shaping up to be a long and costly war.

It was costly in terms of human lives, the money needed to pay for the war, and the destruction of property.

After laying waste to Atlanta, General William Tecumseh Sherman and his army began the 'March to the Sea,' where they deployed a scorched earth policy, and destroyed everything in their path to teach the enemy who was in charge and destroy the South's morale and willingness to fight.

At the start of the hostilities, both sides believed the entire war would be over very quickly.

The Union thought they could easily crush a secessionist militia, and the South believed they had the fighting spirit to win.

Both sides thought the war thought it would be over after one battle with the loser suing for peace.

In the North, the thought of an easy fight was so prevalent that some young men signed up for a 90-day hitch in the army, thinking it would all be over in the span of a

few months.

But the war lasted for about four years, ending in 1865.

What followed was the first modern 'total war.'

In 1914, the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria was the spark that started the First World War. A single act led to four years of one of the bloodiest conflicts in history resulting in almost 20 million dead and millions more casualties.

Europe had been a simmering cauldron of suspicion and hate for years.

When the war started, it was thought it was going to be a short event. Many happy soldiers donned their fancy cloth hats and headed to the Western front.

In August 1914, German Emperor Wilhelm II famously promised his departing troops that they would return before the autumn leaves fell.

His happy, war song-singing soldiers soon found out that having an artillery shell land in your foxhole resulted in many of your buddies, or you, being killed or maimed. The horrors of trench warfare saw the happy songs disappear as soldiers lived in disease-ridden holes with little hope of getting out alive.

The war raged on for four years and destroyed much of Europe.

Adolf Hitler, for some reason, thought he

could successfully invade Russia. Most of his generals were well aware of the challenges of trying to invade such a large country and knew they would be crippled when winter set in.

However, Hitler ordered the attack. While an estimated 24 to 27 million Russians died during World War Two, they never surrendered. A few years later, Hitler was probably rethinking his decision to attack, as Russian troops circled Berlin and he could hear the artillery shells exploding only a few hundred yards from his bunker.

Politicians start the wars. The generals plan the wars. Young soldiers are robbed of the rest of their lives and civilians die needless deaths.

Vladimir Putin is the latest politician, although in his case, 'crook' may be a better description, of a leader who misjudged the enemy.

Putin thought his army could easily invade and take over most of Ukraine – and he thought it could be done quickly.

It's another great example of a leader who didn't know his limitations.

His military losses are in the hundreds of thousands.

He has lost an incredible amount of military equipment including over 10,000 tanks, over 21,000 armoured personnel vehicles, 370 aircraft, 331 helicopters, 23,528 artillery

systems and 28 warships.

The losses are putting a strain on Russia's already shaky economy.

The Russian war machine can not replace lost equipment as quickly as they are losing it.

Russian citizens are starting to realize what is really going on as their sons are disappearing. Some towns are creating memorials for the lost family members and are stunned at the losses.

I met quite a few young Russian men over the past few years who had come here to play hockey.

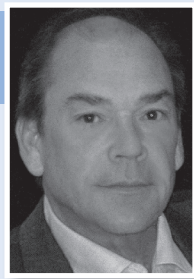
During playoffs, one team was suddenly short almost half of its rosters. When I asked about this, I was told the Russians all had to go back home because their visas were about to expire.

If they returned late, they would either find themselves in jail, or in the military, no questions asked.

I now wonder how many of those young men are dead after being blown to bits by a Ukrainian missile on some frozen farm field in Eastern Europe.

There's no such thing as a quick and easy victory in war.

**BRIAN LOCKHART**  
FROM THE SECOND ROW



## Burma on the brink

In classical civilizations, there was a continuing, unresolved debate about whether history moved forward or just went around in circles: was it linear or was it cyclical? But that debate was largely settled once human beings learned about their deeper past. It's linear.

Once every human being was a hunter-gatherer; now almost none of us are. Once nobody lived in groups more than a couple of hundred strong because bigger groups just fissioned; now most of us live in societies many millions strong. You don't have to call it 'progress,' but history certainly has a direction. Which is not to say that it's purely linear.

Just as rivers always flow downstream but may contain many eddies and whirlpools, history can double back on itself. The history of war has already done that several times. There is reason to suspect

that it may now be doing it again.

Before the rise of big civilizations, battles between the little human groups of pre-history were frequent, relatively low-intensity, but cumulatively very deadly. Everybody lived on the front line all the time, and early anthropologists estimated that 30 per cent of males (and 5 per cent of females) were killed in war in every generation.

The advent of mass societies brought much bigger battles, but they were less frequent and involved a much smaller proportion of the society. (The Roman army at its peak was just under half a million men; the Roman population at that time was around 50 million.)

A lot of people got killed whenever pastoral peoples like the Mongols broke into the civilizations, but medieval warfare in Europe and its parallels in China and India stayed relatively small until the 1600s.

Then Europe went crazy.

The Thirty Years War (1618-1648) began mainly as a religious civil war in the German-speaking lands, but it ended up as the 'war of all against all' and an estimated 8 million people died. That was about 12 per cent of Europe's population at that time, and it frightened the survivors into making new rules.

Starting in the mid-1600s, existing countries became 'sovereign', and in the next century and a half no major European state was carved up except Poland. Armies became small and professional, and war in Europe shrank back down to a marginal activity that scarcely impinged on the civilian sphere.

But then came the French revolution in 1789 and the Napoleonic wars that followed, with mass armies of volunteers, ideological conflict, and whole states being dismantled. Fast forward to the First World War, 11 million dead, and all the regimes on the losing side (plus several on the winning side) driven from power.

Then the Second World War, 45 million dead, and nuclear weapons by the end. Once again, all the regimes on the losing side destroyed. Time for another go at taming the beast – and amazingly, this time it really seemed to work.

It has been 79 years since the last nuclear weapon was used in anger, and the death toll in wars has fallen from a million a month in 1945 to under 100,000 a year in the early 2020s. But now it's going back up again – just a bit, maybe half a million in 2024 – but the trend line is worrisome.

Much more worrisome is the fact that

just in the past few years all the institutional and legal barriers we put in place to prevent or limit the spread of war have been sabotaged or abandoned. The keystone of the system, the United Nations, was crippled long ago by rival vetoes, but now the foundations are being dug up and cast aside.

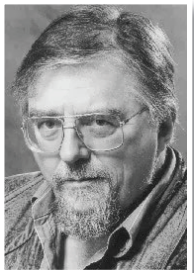
The bedrock on which the entire post-1945 system was built is the inviolability of borders. No changes to borders after that date will be accepted by the rest of the world if they were changed by force. Indeed, even attempts to change a border by force, whatever the justification, are illegal. Only voluntary, negotiated, uncoerced changes are acceptable.

That rule has enjoyed almost universal support in principle because all the players understood that this is the only way to end the endless cycle of wars. Nobody is actually obliged to go and fight some other country to stop it from breaking that rule, but their conquests will never be accepted by the rest of the world. So they might as well not do it.

That is the rule which is now being ignored by the greatest power in the system. Russia can claim that the 'old border' of the Soviet Union included Ukraine, and China can at least claim an ethnic link with Taiwan, but Donald Trump demanding to take over Greenland, the Panama Canal, Canada and the Gaza Strip is empire-building of the crudest sort.

If he gets away with that, it's back to the old ways again.

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# Family Transition Place recruiting volunteer board members

Written By ZACHARY ROMAN  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

A local non-profit that provides shelter, counselling and support services to those experiencing gender-based violence is recruiting members for its volunteer board of directors.

Family Transition Place (FTP), which serves all of Dufferin and Caledon, is looking

for people who want to help make a difference in their community and have a passion for advocacy.

While it's an asset, previous experience serving on a board committee is not necessary and all applications are welcome. FTP greatly values individuals' lived experiences, knowledge, and expertise.

FTP board members provide governance and financial oversight, consulting on strategic

priorities, and support in community engagement and fundraising efforts for the non-profit.

"FTP's board members believe that when a group of dedicated people with diverse skill sets work together in collaboration — sharing their hopes for a better future, one without violence, systemic racism, and hatred for the other — we can make a difference," reads an FTP news release.

Anyone interested in applying for a volunteer board position with FTP is asked to complete FTP's board of directors application. It can be found at the following link: [familytransitionplace.ca/get-involved/volunteering](http://familytransitionplace.ca/get-involved/volunteering)

Once the application form is completed, applicants are asked to send it to Kolleen Sykes at the following email address: [kolleen@familytransitionplace.ca](mailto:kolleen@familytransitionplace.ca)

# Residents to voice concerns over proposed mega quarry at community meeting

Written By PAULA BROWN  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Some Melancthon residents are hoping to put a stop to a proposed mega quarry.

Concerned members of the community will be hosting a community town hall meeting on Sunday (March 2) from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the Horning's Mills Community Hall, located at 14 Mill Street in Melancthon.

"We are asking the DeGasperis family to withdraw this proposal. It would be the first

below the water table blast quarry in Dufferin County. It will devastate a healthy rural community for no reason but developer profit," said Larry Taman, a resident of Melancthon.

Strada Aggregates (Strada) has been operating an existing 360-acre above-water sand and gravel pit in the area of 4th Line and County Rd. 17 in the Township of Melancthon since 2004.

Strada had initiated undertaking the field work and technical studies required to de-

termine the feasibility of developing a quarry that would extract and process consolidated dolostone bedrock below the water table within the same footprint of the existing pit.

According to Strada Aggregates, the proposed quarry is being designed to ship 2,000,000 tonnes per year from the site and will continue to use the existing entrance/exits and existing haul route.

"The risk and damage will be immense and irreversible – toxic silicates in our air,

disruption of our water supply, noise and fly-rock from explosions, devastation to the natural environment and upwards of 125,000 heavy truck journeys every year on the highways to and from the Toronto area. More mega quarries will follow," said Taman.

The community meeting is open to the public. Members of Melancthon Town Council along with neighbouring community organizations opposing the gravel expansion are expected to be in attendance for the meeting.

# Museum of Dufferin's juried photography exhibit to feature scenes of rural living

Written By PAULA BROWN  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Museum of Dufferin (MoD) is sharing the beauty of rural life through a new juried photography exhibit.

The new exhibit titled, "Life in the Country," features the works of 30 talented photographers and will be unveiled in the museum's Silo Gallery during a special event from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. on March 8.

"Life in the Country" looks to celebrate the simple yet profound stories that unfold in rural communities by highlighting both familiar and new scenes and unexpected views of the countryside.

The photography displayed in the exhibit brings rural life to vivid detail – from sweeping landscapes to intimate portraits and charming farm animals.

"We're hosting this exhibition to celebrate Canadian photography and the beauty of country living. In a world where we scroll through images on social media without much thought to the who, where, what, and why, this exhibit invites you to slow down, take in the photographs, and discover the stories behind them," said Sarah Robinson, cura-

tor of the exhibit.

The Museum of Dufferin received more than 500 photograph submissions for the juried exhibit before the exhibit was whittled down to the works of 30 talented photographers.

"It was a challenge for our jurors to select only 30 images for the exhibition," said Robinson. "Life in the Country celebrates the beauty and spirit of rural life through the work of 30 incredible Canadian photographers. The local Dufferin talent is especially impressive, capturing the landscapes, people, and moments that make living in our County so special."

During the exhibit's unveiling, the Museum of Dufferin will also give photographers awards for their submitted works. The exhibition awards are sponsored by The Rotary Club of Shelburne and several private community donations.

Admission to the event is free and open to the public.

For those unable to attend to unveiling, "Life in the Country" will be on display at the Museum of Dufferin until May 31.

To learn more about the art exhibit and other shows at the local museum, visit [www.dufferinmuseum.com](http://www.dufferinmuseum.com).



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

ON DISPLAY: Two of the photos on display at Museum of Dufferin as part of "Life in the Country" exhibit. Left: 'Golden Harvest at Lennox Farm' by photographer Elaine Li from Orangeville. Right: College/University Student Submission 'At Day's End' by Benjamin Strudwick from Shelburne.

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# Dufferin police issue warning: Snow forts and roadways do not mix

Written By SAM ODROWSKI

The Dufferin Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) is reminding residents that while building snow tunnels and forts is a fun winter activity, it can quickly turn dangerous if not done safely.

“With the recent snowfall and towering snowbanks, it is hard to resist the urge to dig in. But before you get too carried away

with your ‘snowy palace,’ remember the potential risks, especially near roadways and driveways,” said Dufferin OPP in a press release. “Snowplows and vehicles can unexpectedly move or collapse these structures, which could turn a day of fun into a winter disaster.”

The release continued, “We know it sounds like common sense, but every year emergency responders are called to situ-

ations where snow forts or tunnels near roads lead to accidents. Snowbanks along roadsides are not the ideal playground even though they may look like the perfect spot for a snow fort, but they are also prime real estate for snowplows and passing vehicles, who might not see your little one behind the snow piles.”

Dufferin OPP is asking the public to choose safe spots for snow fun, like back-

yards, parks, or other designated play areas.

“While the snowbanks may be calling your name, let’s avoid turning them into the ‘fort of doom.’ With just a little planning, we can make sure everyone stays safe and keeps having fun this winter,” said Dufferin OPP’s press release.

“Let’s work together to make sure winter is full of laughter, not emergencies. Stay safe and play smart this winter.”

# Stay away from bodies of water while snow melts, says Dufferin OPP

Written By SAM ODROWSKI

Warmer temperatures have swept across Dufferin County, melting portions of the large swaths of snow the region’s received through a colder and snowier than usual winter.

While many residents of Dufferin County may be happy to see higher temperatures, it’s important to note that the melting of snow does create risks.

The Dufferin Detachment of the Ontario

Provincial Police (OPP) is asking the public to exercise caution around local rivers and creeks as the weather continues to change.

“The OPP is reminding residents that the warmer weather is causing the ice on many water sources to weaken, leading to rapidly changing conditions,” said Dufferin OPP in a press release.

“Creeks and rivers are now unpredictable, and the base is extremely unstable. Authorities advise staying a safe distance from all

bodies of water to avoid the risk of falling through thin ice or being swept away by strong currents.”

Dufferin OPP is urging the community to remain vigilant and avoid all water activities until the ice has completely melted and conditions improve.

“Stay informed and ensure you and your loved ones are safe during this transitional period in the weather,” said Dufferin OPP’s press release.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

# Three deceased after head-on collision between vehicle and pickup truck on Tottenham Road

Written By SAM ODROWSKI

The Nottawasaga Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) are continuing investigations into a fatal collision in New Tecumseth.

On Feb. 14, 2025, at approximately 5:57

a.m., officers, New Tecumseth Fire Rescue and local paramedics responded to a collision involving a passenger vehicle and a pickup truck on Tottenham Road between 12th Line and 11th Line.

The investigation revealed that the vehicle and pickup truck were travelling in op-

posite directions on Tottenham Road before colliding head-on.

Sadly, the driver of the passenger vehicle, a 25-year-old male from Brampton, and two passengers, a 25-year-old female from Brampton and a 23-year-old male from Brampton, were pronounced deceased at

the scene. The driver of the pickup truck did not sustain any major injuries.

Tottenham Road remained closed for several hours to allow the OPP Traffic Incident Management Enforcement (TIME) team to process the scene and was re-opened at 5:17 p.m.

## CROSSWORD

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59					60				61				
62					63					64			

### CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Greek mythological figure
- 5. Small amount
- 8. Play a role
- 11. River in Georgia and Alabama
- 13. Water in the solid state
- 14. Ancient Greek sophist
- 15. Having a strong sharp smell or taste
- 16. Fleece
- 17. Writer/actress Dunham
- 18. Behave in a way that belittles
- 20. Comedienne Gasteyer
- 21. Zoroastrian concept of holy fire
- 22. Conceits
- 25. Slowed down
- 30. Nourishment
- 31. Midway between east and southeast
- 32. Fights

- 33. Comedienne Tyler
- 38. Standing operating procedure
- 41. Locks
- 43. Old
- 45. Song sung to one’s lover
- 47. Whale ship captain
- 49. Moved quickly on foot
- 50. Volcanic craters
- 55. Large musical instrument
- 56. Liquefied natural gas
- 57. Ethiopian town
- 59. Not closed
- 60. A team’s best pitcher
- 61. Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation
- 62. Disfigure
- 63. Prefix denoting “in a”
- 64. Sleep

### CLUES DOWN

- 1. S. American plant
- 2. Soul and calypso

- 3. Fruit of the service tree
- 4. Continent
- 5. Albania’s capital
- 6. Poisonous plant
- 7. Argues
- 8. Assists
- 9. Town in Galilee
- 10. Russian leader
- 12. Promotional materials
- 14. Wings
- 19. Not odd
- 23. Expression of creativity
- 24. Conceptualize
- 25. A digital tape recording of sound
- 26. Peyton’s little brother
- 27. Cost, insurance and freight (abbr.)
- 28. Difference in potential
- 29. Owner
- 34. I (German)
- 35. Chinese conception

- of poetry
- 36. The world of the dead
- 37. Sign language
- 39. Coincide
- 40. Religious observance
- 41. Confined condition (abbr.)
- 42. Polite interruption sound
- 44. Texas ballplayer
- 45. Type of sword
- 46. Abba \_\_, Israeli politician
- 47. Basic unit of a chemical element
- 48. Native American people in California
- 51. Swiss river
- 52. Hebrew calendar month
- 53. Easily swindled person
- 54. One point south of southwest
- 58. Small island (British)

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

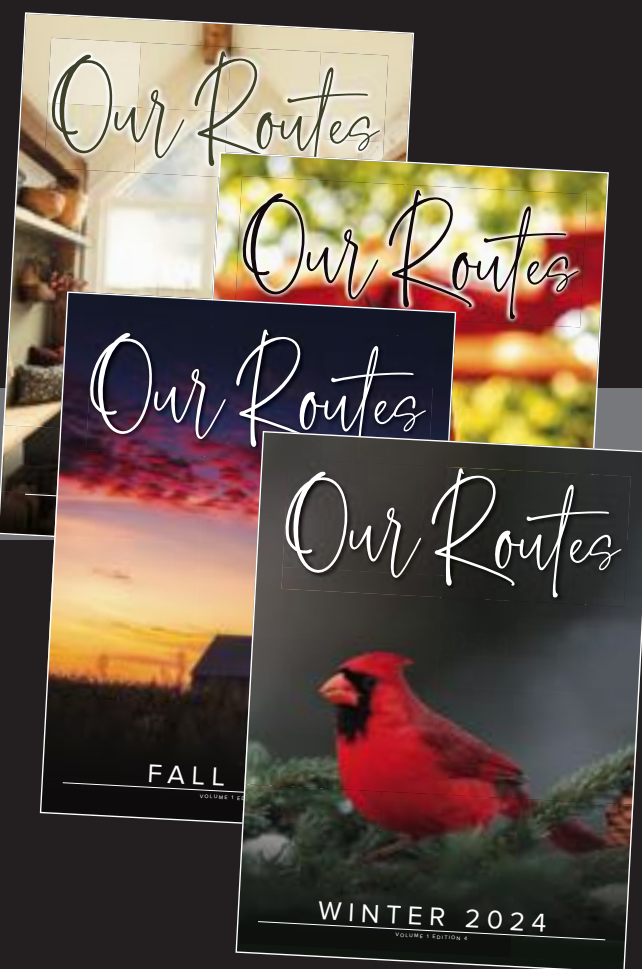
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# Local author reads her children's book exploring Canadian Black history

Written By PAULA BROWN  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Dufferin County residents had the opportunity to learn about a commonly forgotten story in Canadian Black History from a local author, focused on highlighting the experiences of people of colour.

The Museum of Dufferin (MoD), hosted local author and educator Suzette Daley on Saturday (Feb. 22) for two reading sessions of her children's book *The Lucie and Thornton Blackburn Story*.

The book follows the real-life story of Lucie and Thornton Blackburn, two freedom seekers who escaped enslavement in Kentucky and later founded Toronto's first taxi company, The City. After their deaths, the duo left behind a legacy of entrepreneurship, community and anti-slavery activism, which led Thornton and Lucie to be designated as

"persons of national historic significance" by the Government of Canada in 1999.

"It's important for me to highlight their story, their journey, their resilience and perseverance and what they've done for Canada over the years. It's also to highlight a story that has been undiscovered for many people," said Daley.

Daley was first introduced to the Blackburn story through the books *I've Got a Home in Glory Land* by Karolyn Smardz Frost and *Trailblazers* by Tiyahna Ridley-Padmore. After reading both books, Daley began writing her own version of the true story, but this time with a focus on regaling it to children.

"As an educator I wanted the younger generation to have a nice snapshot of these two stories. I created my book to tell it without giving them too much information," she explained.

Shelburne resident Janine Rose and her eight-year-old daughter Emma, were among the individuals who attended the reading sessions at the Museum of Dufferin.

"She comes home [from school] with so much information about different cultures, and I don't feel like we had as much exposure," said Rose, about attending the event. "It's good to have more knowledge and understanding of the different as-



JOEL KRAHN PHOTOS

**SHARING CANADIAN BLACK HISTORY:** Local author and educator Suzette Daley hosted two reading sessions of her children's book *The Story of Lucie and Thornton Blackburn*, at the Museum of Dufferin (MoD) on Saturday (Feb. 22). After her reading session, children enjoyed an archeological excavation simulating the 1980s dig at the Blackburn house in Toronto.

pects in the community."

Marcia Ortiz and her friend Ann Maree Day also attended the reading and noted they'd never heard the story of Lucie and Thornton Blackburn.

"It really is an awesome to hear the story of these two people and what they built," said Ortiz.

Speaking with the Free Press, Daley concluded that she hopes by sharing Lucie and Thornton's story that younger generations understand resilience and perseverance.

"If a couple coming all the way from Kentucky with nothing can come to Canada and start a taxi company we now celebrate today, then anything is possible," said Daley.



# Orangeville Art Group presents 'Shared Visions' exhibit at Gibson Centre in Alliston

Written By BRIAN LOCKHART

The Orangeville Art Group currently has an exhibit on display at the Gibson Centre in Alliston.

The art group held an opening reception on Sunday, Feb. 23, with an opportunity to meet the artists and see the work on display.

Featuring works in several mediums, the canvases range from pastoral scenes to farm views and abstracts.

While the group is based in Orangeville, some members live in other towns and enjoy participation in several art-based groups in the region.

The Gibson Centre is a historic building

in Alliston that has many art-related groups, performances, and even an in-house resident artist.

"The Orangeville Art Group is a very established group in Orangeville," explained the group's President and show coordinator, Genni Selby. "It started out as nine women who had a shared vision - which is what we titled our show - to form a group and start showing member's art, and also create an opportunity for people to show their work. It's also an opportunity for education for people interested in the arts."

Genni worked in the animation industry in Toronto for 30 years working on some very well-known animated shows.

Her artwork at the show features some

incredible, highly detailed scenes from horse farms she has visited.

Tottenham artist Pat Currie has works on display at the show. She brought several very different styles.

She has an abstract piece featuring 70s fashion, in which, if you remember the era, you can see the clothing style and it all makes sense.

"I'm doing a series of these ladies, and it's called 'Strutting Their Stuff,'" Pat ex-

plained. "This is the second of the series. The cape and boots, and all the decorations on their dresses are from the 70s."

Artists with work on display at the show include Felicity Berti, Freda Wrench, Genni Selby, Gillian Wharton, Judi Island, Kathleen Davies, Michelle Hudson, Milly Tseng, Pat Currie and SC Esguerra.

The Shared Visions exhibit will be on display at the Gibson Centre in Alliston until March 30.

## Sale of Land By Public Tender

Municipal Act, 2001



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**Take Notice** that tenders are invited for the purchase of the land(s) described below and will be received until 3:00 p.m local time on April 10, 2025 at 157101 Highway 10, Melancthon, Ontario, L9V 2E6.

The tenders will then be opened in public on the same day at 3:30 p.m local time at 157101 Highway 10, Melancthon, Ontario, L9V 2E6.

**Description of land(s):** Lot 95, Plan 23A; Melancthon [PIN 34153-0024 (LT)] Roll No. 22-19-000-005-10150-0000

**Minimum tender amount: \$7,644.71**

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Tenders must be submitted in the prescribed form and must be accompanied by a deposit of at least 20 per cent of the tender amount, which deposit shall be made by way of a certified cheque/bank draft/ money order payable to the municipality (or board).

**Except as follows, the municipality makes no representation regarding the title to, existing interests in favour of the Crown, environmental concerns or any other matters relating to the land(s) to be sold. Any existing Federal or Provincial Crown liens or executions will remain on title and may become the responsibility of the potential purchaser. Responsibility for ascertaining these matters rests with the potential purchasers.**

Pursuant to the Prohibition on the Purchase of Residential Property by Non-Canadians Act, S.C. 2022, c. 10, s. 235 (the "Act"), effective January 1, 2023, it is prohibited for a non-Canadian to purchase, directly or indirectly, any residential property, as those terms are defined in the legislation. Contraventions of the Act are punishable by a fine, and offending purchasers may be ordered to sell the residential property.

The municipality assumes no responsibility whatsoever for ensuring bidders/tenderers comply with the Act, and makes no representations regarding same. Prospective bidders/tenderers are solely responsible for ensuring compliance with the Act and are advised to seek legal advice before participating in this sale.

Transfers of properties that contain at least one and not more than six single family residences and are transferred to non-residents of Canada or foreign entities, are subject to the Province's Non-Resident Speculation Tax (NRST).

This sale is governed by the *Municipal Act, 2001* and the Municipal Tax Sales Rules made under that Act. The successful purchaser will be required to pay the amount tendered plus accumulated taxes and any taxes that may be applicable, such as land transfer tax and H.S.T.

The municipality has no obligation to provide vacant possession to the successful purchaser.

A copy of the prescribed form of tender is available on the website of the Government of Ontario Central Forms Repository under the listing for the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

Tender packages and further information about this matter is available online at [www.melancthontownship.ca/municipal-services/public-notices/](http://www.melancthontownship.ca/municipal-services/public-notices/) or you may contact:

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# SPORTS

## CDDHS basketball teams compete for District 4 championship

Written By BRIAN LOCKHART

Centre Dufferin District High School (CDDHS) Royals boys' basketball teams will be playing for the District 4 championships after a successful regular season and playoff run.

The championship games were scheduled for Feb. 19 but had to be postponed due to inclement weather.

### Junior

The CDDHS Royals junior boys' basketball team had a successful season in District 4 competition.

Finishing in second place in the standings, the team had a 6-2 record for the regular season.

They averaged 54 points per game during the eight-game regular season.

Defensively, they allowed an average of 38.6 points per game against them.

Their biggest game of the season was when they netted 57 points against Westside Secondary School on Dec. 18.

Going into the playoffs, the Royals were up against Emmanuel Christian High School in the semi-final game. The Royals left the court with a 51-25 to earn the right to go to the District 4 championship game.

In the final, they will be up against Erin District High School.

It is going to be a competitive final game. The Erin school is undefeated for the season and averaged just over 66 points per game.

The District 4 junior championship game was scheduled to take place in Erin on Wednesday, Feb. 26, with a 2:30 p.m. start.

Results of the final were not available at press time.

### Senior

The CDDHS Royals senior boys' basketball team finished the regular season in second place in the District 4 standings with a 6-2 record.

Averaging 59 points per game, the seniors had strong offensive posturing on the court.

On defence, they allowed 41.5 points per game against.

The team's biggest success on the court this season was when they scored 78 points against Westside Secondary School on Dec. 18.



BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

**TAKING THE SHOT:** The junior and senior basketball teams for the Centre Dufferin District High School Royals competed at the District 4 championships on Wednesday, Feb. 26. Both teams played Erin District High School in the final games. The senior Royals played against the Norwell District High School in a game earlier this season.

In the playoffs, the Royals won 61-36 over Norwell District High School in the semi-final game to earn the right to advance to the District 4 championship game.

They will be up against Erin District High

School in the final.

Erin finished as the top team in the District going undefeated in eight games.

The Erin squad averaged 69 points per game over the regular season.

The District 4 senior championship game was scheduled to take place in Erin on Wednesday, Feb. 26, with a 4 p.m. start.

Results of the final game were not available at press time.

## Provincial Junior Hockey League playoffs underway across the province

Written By BRIAN LOCKHART

The Provincial Junior Hockey League has now entered the 2025 playoffs with 63 teams battling it out on the ice across the Province.

Eight divisions are now in the quarter-final round of the division playoffs to see who will be this year's champions. Series are all best-of-seven competitions.

When the division titles are awarded, the championship teams will enter into the playoffs for the provincial Schmalz Cup.

In the North Carruthers Division, the Alliston Hornets are first to complete the quarter-finals. They eliminated the Muskoka Bears in a four-game sweep that wrapped up on Feb. 23, with a 12-1 win on home ice at the New Tecumseth Recreation Centre.

The Hornets finished the regular season

as the first place team with a 40-2 record for the season.

They will go on to meet the winner of the Penetang Kings and Huntsville Otter series.

The Penetang versus Huntsville series is tied at one. In Game One of the series, the Kings came out on top with a 4-3 win.

The series was even when Huntsville battled back in Game Two and left the ice with a 4-2 win.

Game Three of that series was scheduled to take place on Feb. 26.

The Orillia Terriers are up against the Midland Flyers in their quarter-final series.

Orillia finished the regular season as the second-place team in the Division.

Orillia is leading that series 2-0 after coming out on top in the opening game. Game Three was scheduled for Tuesday, Feb. 25.

The third-place Stayner Siskins are play-

ing the Innisfil Spartans in their best-of-seven battle.

Innisfil managed a 2-1 win in Game One on Feb. 20.

The Siskins evened it up with a 4-2 win in Game Two.

The third game of the series is slated for Feb. 27.

The league has produced some strong teams this season.

Alliston finished on top in the league

overall, with a 40-2 record and 84 points.

Other top teams included powerhouse Essex 73's, who finished with 75 points, and the Hanover Barons who also ended the regular season with 75 points.

There will be a lot of good hockey action once the Division champions square off in the battle for the Schmalz Cup with championship teams will face other champions who have never played against each other this season.



BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

**DOMINANT PERFORMANCE:** The Alliston Hornets take on the Muskoka Bears in Game Four of their best-of-seven quarter-final playoff series on the ice at the New Tecumseth Recreation Centre in Alliston on Sunday, Feb. 23. The Hornets won the game 12-1 to end the series with a four-game sweep. Three other North Carruthers Division quarter-final series are still being played.

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**ATHLETE OF THE WEEK**

**ISHAYU KOTHAMDI**

Centre Dufferin District High School power forward, Ishayu Kothamdi, has been playing basketball since moving to Canada in 2018.

"I like the sport because it's a cultural sport of Canada," Ishayu said of why he likes the sport. "I especially like playing with my team. They definitely motivate me to play better. Playing with them, we all connect."

Ishayu also plays on the school rugby team.

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# Shelburne Public Library shares upcoming events, recommended read

### Upcoming Events

March Break is just around the corner, and we have great entertainment planned for you!

Fireside Munsch: Wednesday, March 12, 2 p.m. at Grace Tipling Hall. Tickets cost \$4 each.

Comic Juggler Craig: Thursday, March 13, 2 p.m. at Grace Tipling Hall. Tickets cost \$4 each.

March Break Book Sale: Tuesday, March 11 to Saturday, March 15 at the Shelburne Public Library. We have many Children's books, as well as Young Adult and Adult Fiction ready for your to-be-read piles, just in time for March Break. Bring your bag and fill it for \$2!

Our Seed Library is still seeking donations! Help our seed library grow by donating spare, viable seed! Seed donations can

be dropped off at the Main Circulation desk during open hours. Please label your seeds with the variety, date it was harvested, and the location it was grown. For example: Snow Peas, harvested Fall 2024, Shelburne.

Our Seniors Tech Tutoring appointments are available on Tuesdays. 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 Unwedding by Ally Condie:** Ellery Wainwright is alone at the edge of the world. She and her husband, Luke, were supposed to spend their twentieth wedding anniversary together at the luxurious Resort at Broken Point in Big Sur, California. But now she's traveling solo. To add insult to injury,

there's a wedding at Broken Point scheduled during her stay. When Ellery discovers the body of the groom floating in the pool in the rain, she realizes that she is not the only one whose future is no longer guaranteed. Before the police can reach Broken Point, a mudslide takes out the road to the resort, leaving the guests trapped. When another guest dies, it's clear something horrible is brewing.

**Why Rose recommends it:** What a fast-paced and suspenseful read! The Unwedding has everything most mystery readers will want-- suspense, murder, love, and nature at its best and worst! Ellery is faced with tragedy on many fronts, but the underlying themes of love and resilience balance the tragedies nicely.

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**Royal LePage RCR Realty, 126 Main Street East, Shelburne**  
**Stewart Street** (Hyland subdivision by mailboxes)  
**Hornings Mills** (by the Community Centre)  
**Dean Road, Mulmur** (by news boxes)  
**Shelburne Canadian Legion** (front entrance on 2nd Ave.)  
**Superburger, 506269 ON-89, Shelburne** (Corner of Hwy 89 and 10)  
**Town Hall, 203 Main St E, Shelburne** (inside Town Hall)  
**Trillium Ford, 506168 ON-89, Mono**  
**CDRC, 200 Fiddle Park Lane, Shelburne** (Box inside lobby)  
**Foodland, 824 Ojibway Rd, Shelburne**  
**Caravaggio, 128 Main St E, Shelburne**  
**Autocare Plus, 710C Industrial Rd, Shelburne**  
**Roys Service, 635202 ON-10, Mono**  
**Dynes Senior Building, 301 First Ave E, Shelburne**  
**Town Milk & Variety, 516 Main St E, Shelburne** (near New Orleans Pizza)

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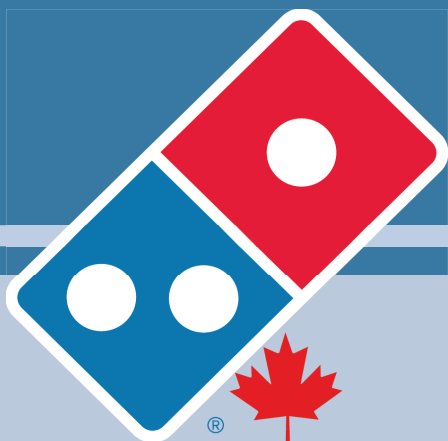
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