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# Shelburne Free Press

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PAULA BROWN PHOTO

**CHARITY HOCKEY GAME:** Dufferin OPP and the Orangeville Fire Department squared off on the ice on Saturday (March 15) at Alder Arena in Orangeville for a charity hockey game to raise funds for Dufferin Child and Family Services (DCAFS) and the Orangeville Food Bank. Dufferin OPP came out victorious with a 7-6 win.

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## NDACT's former Peer Reviewer shares concerns

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

The North Dufferin Agricultural and Community Taskforce (NDACT) has released Garry Hunter from his duties as their Community Trusted Peer Reviewer as the Strada Aggregate quarry application moves into the next phase.

The local group announced the decision to discontinue Hunter's services in a press release on Monday (March 17), stating their goal of "achieving clarity on the application has been achieved."

"NDACT and this community owe a huge thank you to Mr. Garry Hunter, who has been NDACT's Community Trusted Peer Reviewer on the Strada Aggregate's Inc project for almost three years now," wrote Carl Cosack, community liaison for NDACT. "The engagement with Strada's consultants proved challenging at best, yet Garry gave selflessly and patiently of his expertise to defend this community's interests on the hydro-geology file."

Hunter, who previously served as NDACT's Trusted Community Consultant during the failed Melancthon Mega Quarry Application from 2006 to 2012, issued his own press release on March 14 as a response to the ending of his term.

"My understanding is that I was terminated due to my strenuous objecting to Strada's filing of the Quarry Site Plan Application on January 31, 2025, and my direct request to Strada that the application be withdrawn and let the scientific process play out in accordance with the community engagement agreement, which I had supported throughout my retainer," Hunter wrote.

In December of 2022, NDACT and Strada Aggregate signed a Community Engagement Agreement, which outlined that if peer re-

views concluded the quarry would cause unreasonable adverse environmental effects, then Strada would not proceed with a formal application. If the studies showed the quarry would not cause unreasonable adverse environmental effects then NDACT would not object to the application.

In January, Strada Aggregate filed their application for a license to extract below the water table with the Ministry of Natural Resources; the first step in the Aggregate Resources Act (ARA) application process.

Hunter referred to Strada's decision to file a formal ARA Application prior to the hydro-geology review as "heavy-handed" and "a breach of the public trust."

In his press release, Hunter criticized NDACT for failing to "argue over the application being submitted" in order to preserve the community financial compensation of the agreement rather than water resource impacts.

"NDACT's deferral to Strada's breach of the Community Engagement Agreement combined with shooting of the messenger undermines the credibility of this agreement," wrote Hunter. "There can be little confidence that NDACT will not capitulate to Strada again with respect to protection of the Pine River Headwater and Horning's Mill Community Water Resources from the adverse environmental effects of the proposed Quarry Site Plans as filed by Strada."

The Free Press reached out to NDACT for comment in response to Hunter's criticisms.

"Everyone forgets that this is a first-of-its-kind agreement, there is no blueprint to follow. There were going to be surprises to the agreement and things we had not considered, but you learn as you go along," said Cosack. "We're way more equipped now as a community than we would have ever been without

the agreement. I make no apologies for having an agreement, and I make no apologies that it is not perfect."

As part of his role as Community Trusted Peer Reviewer, Hunter published his six major issues associated with Strada Aggregates' proposal to quarry below the water table.

- These concerns include:
- Dry weather groundwater and stream flows for the quarry are underestimated by two to three times.
  - The diversion of Pine River groundwater stream flows to the Boyne River.
  - Lack of consideration for water quantity management to maintain existing groundwater flows to the Horning's Mills community.
- Hunter additionally noted issues with:
- The site plan not including any drinking water quality performance criteria for quarry contact and non-contact contaminated water.
  - The site plans failing to incorporate geotechnical consultant contingencies.
  - A groundwater monitoring network not being met for long-term quarry needs.

According to Hunter, there have been four rejected submissions to the Strada Aggregate regarding local concerns with the site plan application.

"The comment from the first peer review did not get grasped in a timely fashion and it kept escalating that we'd make the comments over and over again without a resolution," Hunter told the Free Press. "I lost confidence that they were going to take this seriously, other than to put it to adjudication and ignore the comments."

The next steps in the process should include Strada Aggregate addressing the six main issues raised by Hunter in his report. Once Strada Aggregate has submitted its completed application, a notice will be posted giving the public 60 days to respond with letters.

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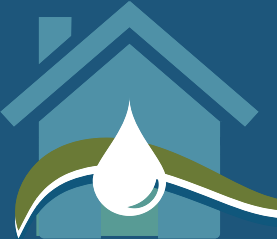
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- Exercise caution near stormwater management ponds.
- Sign up for flood alerts from local conservation authorities (NVCA / GRCA / CVC)
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# Automatic Speed Enforcement cameras officially authorized in Shelburne

Written By PAULA BROWN  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Drivers travelling through Shelburne will want to keep a close eye on their speed or they could find themselves facing a hefty fine.

Shelburne Town Council officially authorized the implementation of a new automated speed enforcement (ASE) program during their meeting on March 10.

“Speeding on roads remains a concern and it’s hoped that implementing this program will promote compliance with the Highway Traffic Act and will change driver behaviour,” said Jennifer Willoughby, director of legislative services for the Town of Shelburne.

Automated Speed Enforcement is a traffic calming program that captures an image of a vehicle when it exceeds the posted speed limit in a designated area. The image is reviewed by a Provincial Offences Officer, who then issues a ticket to the registered owner of the vehicle.

The automated speed enforcement program is part of the Town of Shelburne’s efforts to address speeding concerns on community streets, which have been raised by residents for many years.

More recently, the Town of Shelburne implemented traffic calming measures, including digital radar speed signs, enhanced crosswalk signage, expansion of designated/ marked on-street parking, flexible bollards for seasonal lane delineation, pavement

markings, and seasonal speed cushions.

In 2021, the majority of streets in Shelburne were designated as community safety zones, and Shelburne Town Council approved and passed a motion to reduce the speed limit in town, with the exception of connecting link roadways, to 40 km/h.

“It’s a response to a community that wants something to be done. The residents have shown us that those concerns about speed are legitimate based on some of the data we brought back,” said Denyse Morrissey, chief administrative officer for the Town of Shelburne.

The Town of Shelburne said they have not yet determined the official locations of the speed cameras but will base the areas on data collected from previous traffic calming reviews.

The Town of Shelburne will have a minimum of five cameras capturing data and maps will be placed with the locations on the Town’s website when they’re determined.

The threshold speeds that warrant a ticket have not yet been determined and will remain confidential. The cost of fines is in accordance with provincial standards.

The ASE cameras are only permitted for use in community safety zones or school safety zones.

“This is going to be a fairly aggressive campaign for us because of the nature of the data we have,” said Morrissey “Because we have a community that has basically four passages of entry, we tend to see local behaviour but also external behaviour from



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURE:** Shelburne Council has approved the deployment of automated speed enforcement (ASE) cameras in the community. The Town of Shelburne estimates it will begin the ASE program in September.

those coming through our town. We’re hoping that the presence of these units will decimate that kind of action from continuing.”

A 90-day public awareness period is required before starting the ASE program and an additional 90-day awareness signage must be posted each time the speed device is moved to a new location.

“We’ll keep them in a location for an extended period of time to determine if it changes driver behaviour. If it changes driver behaviour then we may look at relocating them,” said Willoughby.

The Town of Shelburne is expected to begin the automated speed enforcement program in September.

# Melancthon’s Kidd Family Auctions celebrates 10 years of bidding, buying and selling

Written By PAULA BROWN  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Going once, going twice – sold!

Kidd Family Auctions, located at 438280 4th Line in Melancthon, is celebrating 10 years of business.

“I find it hard to believe, on one hand, that this much time has elapsed. On the other hand, it feels like a while because of the things we’ve covered and the places we’ve been. It’s incredible to reach 10 years,” said Dennis Kidd, founder and owner of Kidd Family Auctions.

Coming from a family of local generational farmers, Kidd’s earliest experiences in auctioning come from his childhood.

“When I was a kid, my dad would take me along with him to the old farm auctions and I just found it fascinating. Watching and

listening to the auctioneer without any clue about the business,” he recalled.

Kidd graduated from the Southwestern Ontario School of Auctioneering in 1995 and later received his CPPA designation from the Canadian Personal Property Appraisers Group (CPPAG), to offer appraisal services. In February of 2017, he was appointed as a director of the Auctioneers Association of Ontario.

For many years, Kidd worked as a contract auctioneer for other companies, until early 2015 when he formed Kidd Family Auctions with a team consisting of three generations of Kidds.

In the early days, of the business they leaned into the entertainment aspect of auctioneering, hosting in-person events for crowds of shoppers, treasure hunters, and collectors to attend. Eventually, they intro-

duced a hybrid model with a live broadcast of the auction and after 2020 they made the switch to mostly online auctioneering.

The online switch meant that Kidd Family Auctions could open their auctions up to sell items not just nation-wide, but globally, including locations like the Czech Republic, New Zealand, France, England, Iceland, Sweden and the U.S.

“It’s pretty cool when you get to ship out of country and you think ‘how did they find us,’” said Kidd. “That specifically underlines the value of online versus live auctions for us.”

Since opening a decade ago, Kidd Family Auctions has grown from a generationally run business to a team of seven full-time employees and four part-time staff members.

The local auction company has also grown their collection of items and created specialized auctioning events around categories like Inuit Art, coins and currency, farming equipment, antique automotive and transportation pieces, and firearms.

“I could have never imagined it,” he said. “We’ve tried to evolve and raise the bar as

we go.”

Some of the biggest dollar-value items Kidd Family Auctions has sold over the years include a farm for around \$2 million, large farming equipment ranging between \$100,000 and \$150,000, a piece of artwork for \$26,000, and a firearm for \$18,000.

Recently, they also sold a misprinted \$5 Canadian bill for \$2,200.

“The thing that’s exciting with this business, is you never know what people have in their houses,” said Kidd.

As they celebrate their 10th anniversary, Kidd Family Auctions is looking ahead to the future and continues to host auctions. At the same time, they’re also reflecting on those who helped them reach the milestone.

“There are people who were with us from the beginning, who supported us and if they didn’t believe in us and trust us to work with them, we could not possibly be here. We often think about and wish we had an adequate way to recognize them,” said Kidd.

To find more information on upcoming auctions hosted by Kidd Family Auctions visit, [www.kiddfamilyauctions.com](http://www.kiddfamilyauctions.com).



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**GOING, GOING, GONE:** Kidd Family Auctions, located at 438280 4th Line in Melancthon, is marking a milestone in their business as they celebrate 10 years of auctioneering.

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- Do you often need to ask others to repeat themselves?  Yes  No
- Has someone close to you pointed out you may have a hearing problem?  Yes  No
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# OPINION

## Papers please

We've all seen the old World War II movies, where an SS officer approaches someone trying to board a train, or has simply been stopped at a checkpoint.

"Papers," states the SS officer.

Your papers had better be in order, or the rest of your day would be ruined.

It was a time in Germany when everyone was a suspect. You could easily end up in a concentration camp for not proving your loyalty or birthright.

It's a scary thought to think you can be stopped arbitrarily in the streets and have someone demand you prove who you are, and that you belong there.

When I was younger, friends and I went to a series of concerts in Niagara Falls, New York. They had a newly built convention centre and started bringing top-name bands of the era there to perform.

It was a fairly large venue that seated around 10,000 people.

On the night of the concert, we would simply walk across the Rainbow Bridge to cross an international border. The convention centre was easily within walking distance.

When we arrived on the American side of the bridge, the customs person would ask what we were up to.

They didn't ask for ID or proof of citizen-

ship. Usually, they would just ask to see our tickets.

Yup, Bachman Turner Overdrive appeared at the convention centre that night.

"Have fun guys."

We crossed an international border with no problem at all.

We were 16 years old. We didn't pose a threat. Obviously, we were returning home after the concert.

There was no need for extensive questioning, a demand for a passport, or the spies at Homeland Security, which didn't even exist at the time, to order us into a room for interrogation.

It was a border between two friendly countries that enjoyed over 150 years of peaceful coexistence, did not have armed guards on patrol with snarling attack dogs, and had no naval ships patrolling the waterways along the border.

Of course, most nations want to protect their borders to stop criminals and undesirables from entering. That only makes sense.

However, you can go too far when it comes to protectionism.

After 9/11, the US started operating interior checkpoints on interstates and secondary highways. There are 33 permanent

checkpoints in four states and 38 tactical checkpoints that do not have a permanent location.

According to the federal rules, no documentation is required for US citizens. What does this mean?

It means officers are determining if you are in the country legally by a snap judgment. If you 'sound' and 'look' American, you're good to go.

What if you're an American citizen who was born elsewhere and still have a trace of an accent? Papers please.

If you are a tourist, you need proper documentation. I guess that means a passport, to prove you crossed the border legally.

I saw a YouTube video of a Canadian tourist who was stopped at a checkpoint in Texas. When she said she was Canadian, the officer demanded to see her visa.

The woman informed the officer that Canadians don't require a visa to visit the US. He had to call a supervisor to verify this.

What a scary thought, that a border patrol agent didn't know this.

I've also seen videos of Canadians being stopped by police in the state of Georgia, only to be told they violated the law because to drive in Georgia you need

a State of Georgia driver's license.

In this case, the driver had to explain international law to the cop and explain most countries have agreements that a driver's license is valid on an international level.

Now the US is starting a program where all foreign nations who plan to stay in the US for 30 days or longer will be required to apply for registration and fingerprinting. Although, it has just been announced that Canadians will be exempt from the fingerprinting rule.

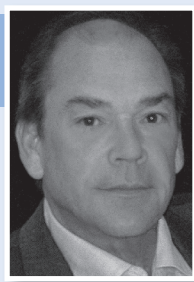
Fingerprinting is used by police agencies around the world to identify criminals. By being forced to provide fingerprints simply for travelling, the state is turning you into a suspect just by existing.

The new order gives police the option of stopping anyone who appears not to be an American.

If I grew up speaking French in Quebec, I would feel pretty nervous about crossing that border.

Securing your border is one thing – demanding papers and documents at will may just be the start of a new era of the state spying on its own citizens.

**BRIAN LOCKHART**  
FROM THE SECOND ROW



## Unpunished crimes

Everybody has heard the saying: "The mills of Justice grind slowly, but they grind exceeding fine." The saying is a promise that all crimes will eventually be punished – but it is a lie.

Most crimes everywhere have always gone unpunished. So while the arrest of former Philippines president Rodrigo Duterte by the International Criminal Court (ICC) last week for the 'crime against humanity' of mass murder was long overdue, it also came as a great surprise.

Duterte was elected president in 2016 on the promise that he would wage a 'war on drugs,' and he meant 'war' literally. Once in office he sent the police out with orders to kill drug dealers and drug users without trial or even arrest. The bodies were generally just left in the streets.

By the time the ICC opened its investigation in 2018, the death toll was already

at least 8,000 people shot to death by the police, mostly small-time users and dealers but including the usual quota of 'mistaken identity' cases. Far from denying his deeds, Duterte gloried in them and promised more of the same – and most Filipinos cheered. It is not a woke place.

When he finished his single legally permitted term in 2022, with up to 30,000 police murders to his credit, his popular approval rating was 88%, higher than when he took office six years before. And just to make sure nothing went wrong after he left office, a deal between the country's most powerful families saw his daughter Sara elected as vice-president.

But Filipino politics is a soap opera with guns, and what went wrong was the deal between Vice-President Sara Duterte and the scion of the Marcos clan, President Ferdinand 'Bongbong' Marcos Jr. (His father, Ferdinand Marcos, was the

president and dictator of the Philippines 1965-1986; his mother was famous for having 3,000 pairs of shoes.)

The deal was that Sara would run for president with Bongbong's support in 2028 and get her own six years in power, but she couldn't wait, or he decided to sideline her, or both. Thereupon, in the same family tradition of openness that led her dad to boast publicly about running death squads, she posted a video on Facebook about the hitman she had hired.

"This country is going to hell because we are led by a person who doesn't know how to be a president and who is a liar. Don't worry about my safety. I have talked to a person and I said, if I get killed, go kill Bongbong, Liza Araneta [his wife], and Martin Romualdez [speaker of the House]. No joke. No joke. I said, do not stop until you kill them and he said yes."

In Manila, this is definitely not a joke. Sara Duterte probably does have a couple of assassins in her contact book. So Bongbong's response, in addition to doubling his security, was to retaliate by handing Sara's father over to the ICC. A private jet delivered him to The Hague on March 12, and he was taken into custody by the court's chief prosecutor, Karim Khan.

All very entertaining, if viewed from afar, and it does mark a significant step forward for the ICC. Duterte is the first former head of state who is not from an African country to be brought before the ICC to answer for his crimes.

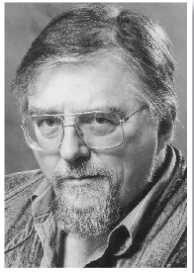
There were good reasons why all previous ones involved African regimes: the continent is home to one-third of the world's countries, most of its dictatorships, and most of its wars. Nevertheless, even competent, law-abiding African governments were starting to feel victimized, and it helps to have an Asian country on the list.

But more importantly, this is part of a much broader initiative to bring the rule of law to a domain where legal justice was previously unavailable. Where can individual citizens turn to get protection of their own rights (including the right to life) against the government of a sovereign state that does not obey its own laws?

Obviously, this enterprise is not doing very well at the moment. The ICC can do its research and issue arrest warrants even for serving heads of state like Russian president Vladimir Putin and Israeli prime minister Binyamin Netanyahu, but the most it can achieve is to make them cautious about travelling to countries that might actually execute the warrant.

Even retired mass murderers like Rodrigo Duterte are generally safe so long as they stay at home – unless they fall afoul of a successor government like his daughter did. If the ultimate goal is to build a global civilization that respects individual rights, and especially the right to life, then we are still a very long way from the Promised Land.

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# COMMUNITY VOICES

## Celebrating women entrepreneurs for International Women's Day

On March 8, the Dufferin Board of Trade proudly celebrated the many incredible women in business. International Women's Day is a time to recognize the progress made toward equality, honour the achievements of women, and acknowledge the challenges that still exist.

In my role, I've been fortunate to meet many inspiring women — leaders, innovators, and changemakers, who are shaping our community.

One moment that has stayed with me was during last year's Business Excellence Awards.



An award recipient reflected on her journey, saying, "The little girl I used to be would be so proud of the woman I've become." That powerful sentiment is something I remind myself of often, and I hope every woman— whether just starting out or years into her career — takes a moment to

do the same.

One day, you'll look back on all the things the world told you women can't do and proudly say, "I did it!"

While times are changing, we must not let the celebration of International Women's Day fade. This day was created to honour the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women and to continue advocating for gender equality.

This year's theme, "Accelerate Action," according to the International Women's Day website, reminds us that without proactive efforts, it could take generations — not just

decades — to achieve true gender parity.

The call to action is clear: let's work together to create change now.

So today, and every day, celebrate the women in your life.

A great way to show your support is by shopping at women-owned businesses. Did you know Dufferin Board of Trade has a Women-Owned Business Directory? Explore it on our website, [www.dufferinbot.ca](http://www.dufferinbot.ca), and find amazing local businesses to support.

Let's keep the momentum going — Shop local, Shop Canadian and Shop Dufferin!

## Dufferin OPP wins charity hockey game against Orangeville Fire Department

Written By PAULA BROWN  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Members from two local emergency services laced up their skates and squared off on the ice for a good-spirited game of hockey.

The Dufferin OPP faced off against the Orangeville Fire Department at Alder Arena on Saturday (March 15) in a charity hockey game to raise funds for Dufferin Child and Family Services (DCAFS) and the Orangeville Food Bank.

The event marked the second time the two emergency services have battled it out on the ice, with Dufferin OPP coming out on top this year in a close game, winning 7-6.

"Winning is definitely better than the alternative, however, it truly isn't about winning or losing. The truth is well won," said Dufferin OPP Const. Amy Pitton, an organizer for the event. "The community response was exceptional and the return that both community partners will see is why we host this event. We feel very lucky to have [the] support of Dufferin County."

"I want to thank the entire community for their incredible support at this charity event. The arena was packed, and your enthusiasm and generosity helped us raise significant funds for Dufferin Child and Family Services and the Orangeville Food Bank," said Orangeville Fire Chief John Snyder. "I am incred-

ibly proud of the Orangeville Firefighters and Dufferin OPP for their dedication to the community. Congratulations to the OPP on their narrow victory, and we look forward to another rematch next year."

Last year, Dufferin OPP and Orangeville Fire held the inaugural charity hockey game at Tony Rose Arena, with the local fire department walking away with a 6-2 win. The emergency services now have a 1-1 record and are already looking ahead to next year's rematch.

"Myself, along with all of the organizers from both Fire and OPP couldn't imagine not doing it again next year," said Pitton.

Pitton noted that the charity event enables first responders to go beyond the scope of their regular duties and give more to the community they serve.

"Responding to calls of service is our job, this however, gives us the opportunity to use our resources to engage with the community in a more positive way, while raising funds for two powerhouse community organizations," said Pitton.

At the time of print, funds raised through the charity hockey game were still being counted.

Dufferin OPP and Orangeville Fire set a fundraising goal of \$10,000, which is an increase from the \$7,500 raised last year.

"I am confident we came very close to our goal," said Pitton.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**CHARITY HOCKEY GAME:** Dufferin OPP and the Orangeville Fire Department squared off on the ice on Saturday (March 15) at Alder Arena in Orangeville for a charity hockey game to raise funds for Dufferin Child and Family Services (DCAFS) and the Orangeville Food Bank. Dufferin OPP came out victorious with a 7-6 win.

**April 4, 5, 6, 2025**

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# SPORTS

## Shelburne Wolves U15 LL team defeat Collingwood Junior Blues

Written By BRIAN LOCKHART

The Shelburne Wolves U15 LL team is putting in a good effort in the playoffs and had a win in their most recent game.

The Wolves played the Collingwood Junior Blues on the ice at the Centre Dufferin Recreation Complex on Thursday, April 13.

At the end of the second period, the Wolves were leading 2-0.

Collingwood scored in the third period but the Wolves got one more for insurance to leave the ice with a 3-1 win.

Wolves goalie JA Stevens had an outstanding game between the pipes.

The team has had a good season progressing through the year, gaining experience on the ice and building skills to become better hockey players.

Coach Kevin Goss said he has seen a lot of improvement in the team as the season went on.

“Our guys have had a tough year,” Goss said. “We’re a very young team. We have nine minors [with] only one major player, playing a lot of towns that have more major

players.”

On a U15 team, a minor player is 13 years old, whereas major players are one year older.

“So that was a really good, hard effort for our team tonight,” Goss said. “The biggest progression for this year is seeing them play as a team as far as passing, encouraging each other, and not getting down on each other. They are like night and day from the start of the season.”

Goss added, “We have mostly minor players and we’re playing a lot of teams that are a year older. That one year makes a big difference. But they are passing and playing like a team. Their feet are moving and their puck handling is a lot better. Their shooting is a lot better. Seeing them pass the puck around, that has improved – that has been their best progress for the year.”

Minor hockey starts playoffs with a round-robin format and teams will play different teams rather than a series for elimination.

The U15 Wolves have one game they must win to advance in the playoffs.



BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

**PLAYOFF MODE:** The Shelburne Wolves U15 LL team played the Collingwood Junior Blues on the ice at the Centre Dufferin Recreation Complex on Thursday, April 15. The Wolves left the ice with a 3-1 win.

## Alliston Hornets to compete against Terriers at Junior C Division Championship

Written By BRIAN LOCKHART

It's going to be an Alliston Hornets and Orillia Terriers match-up for the North Carruthers Division Championship of the Provincial Junior Hockey League.

Teams from across the province are now going into the final division championship series to see who will go on to battle for the provincial Junior C Schmalz Cup.

Eight Junior C divisions are now entering their final series after completing quarter-final and semi-final playoff rounds.

The Hornets will be entering the championship round as the first-place team in the North Carruthers Division.

They finished the regular season with a 40-2 record. Both losses came as a result of a shoot-out.

Alliston went on to eliminate the Muskoka Bears in four games in the quarter-final round, then dispatched the Penetang Kings in four games in a series that ended with a 6-2 win in game four on Friday, March 14.

The Terriers finished the regular season in second place with a 35-7 record including one overtime loss.

They eliminated the Midland Flyers in the quarter-final round in a series that lasted four games.

Going into the semi-final round the Terriers were up against the third-place Stayner Siskins.

The Terriers won game one of the series. They gave up a 7-4 loss in game two.

Orillia took the next three games, claiming

the series on Saturday, March 15, with a 9-3 win on home ice.

The series between Orillia and Alliston will provide a lot of exciting playoff hockey and attendance is predicted to fill the arenas for this series.

The dates for the North Carruthers championship series games had not been announced at press time.

In other PJHL division championships, the Clarington Eagles will meet the Georgina Ice in the East Orr Division championship.

In the Pollock Division, the Hanover Barons will be up against the Fergus Whalers.

In the East Tod Division, the Napanee Raiders have won their semi-final in six games over the Amherstview Jets. They will wait for the outcome of the Frankford Huskies and Lakefield Chiefs semi-final. That series is tied 3-3.

In the South Bloomfield Division, the Dundas Blues will meet the Grimsby Peach Kings.

In the South Doherty Division, the New Hamburg Firebirds will advance after knocking out the Woodstock Navy Vets in five games. They will play the winner of the Norwich Merchants and Wellesley Applejacks semi-final.

The West Yeck division still has two semi-final series to be decided. The Exeter Hawks and Port Stanley Sailors are tied 3-3. The Petrolia Flyers are leading the Mt. Brydges Bulldogs 3-2 in their semi-final series.

In the southwest area of the province, the Essex 73s will be up against the Lakeshore Canadiens for the West Stobbs Division title.



BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

**SECOND SWEEP:** The Alliston Hornets played against the Penetang Kings during Game Three of their semi-final North Carruthers Division semi-final series on the ice at the New Tecumseth Recreation Centre in Allison on Wednesday, March 12. The Hornets won the series in four straight games and will now face the Orillia Terriers for the North Carruthers Division championship. The Hornets also won the previous series against the Muskoka Bears in a four-game sweep.

These games will provide a lot of exciting playoff hockey for Junior C fans across the province.

The Alliston Hornets are back on the ice

at the New Tecumseth Recreation Centre on Friday, March 21, for Game One of the division championship series against the Orillia Terriers.

## North Dufferin Baseball Leagues hosts annual awards day ahead of upcoming season

Written By BRIAN LOCKHART

The North Dufferin Baseball League (NBDL) celebrated and recognized the outstanding accomplishments of players and teams from the 2024 season at its annual awards presentation held on Sunday,

March 9, in Lisle.

The big winner was Jack Larmer from the Barrie Baycats junior team.

Larmer won multiple awards including Best Batter (.556 average), best on-base percentage (.647), and most home runs with seven – the NBDL's highest amount

since 2006. Larmer was also named the Most Valuable Player for the junior division.

In the senior division, Ben Sterritt of the Bolton Brewers was recognized as Best Batter (.548 average) and had the best on-base percentage (.667).

Sterritt's teammate Brett Chater scored the most runs with 36 and was named Most Valuable Player in the senior division.

Bryan Post of the Owen Sound Baysox won his second consecutive home run title with seven home runs.

Baysox pitcher, Trevor Smith was named Best Pitcher.

Father-son duo for the Baysox, Don and Ryan Bartley, won the Coach of the Year Award.

Brett Beardsall of the Orillia Majors was voted Best Catcher. The Most Sportsmanlike Award went to Emerson Pendleton of the Mansfield Cubs.

Josh McBride of the Creemore Padres received the Best Pitcher Award in the Ju-

nior Division. Anson Dupuis was voted the Most Sportsmanlike Player.

A highlight of the event was the presentation of the prestigious President's Award to Pete Kinghan for his years of service and dedication to the NBDL.

Kinghan's career includes coaching the Creemore Braves junior team, the Creemore Braves senior team, and the New Lowell Knights.

Over 40 years, he has won 17 league championships and three provincial titles. He's also served 24 years as a league statistician with two stints as president in 2003 and 2014.

Kinghan is the eleventh person to receive the award since it was created in 1984.

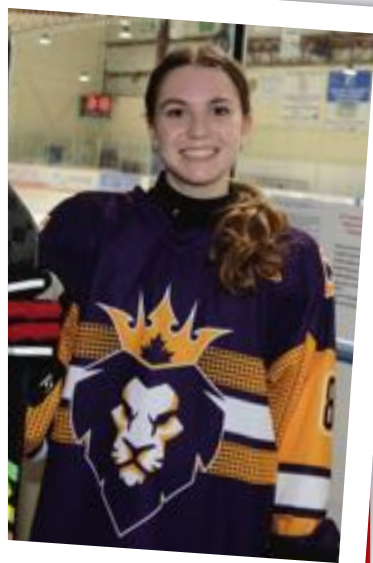
After the awards, the league membership met to begin planning for the 2025 season.

Current plans have a 22-game schedule for the 12-team senior division and a 17-game schedule for the eight junior teams.

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**ATHLETE OF THE WEEK**

**ABBY FLYNN**

Playing hockey since she was three years-old, Centre Dufferin District High School centre, Abby Flynn enjoys playing the sport she has been part of her whole life.

Abby said her dad first got her into the sport when she was at the Mite level.

“I like how competitive it is and I can just go out there and have fun,” Abby “You have to have your head up and make sure all your players are where they are supposed to be. You have to look out for each other.”

Abby helped her team with the District 4 championship this season.

A Grade 9 student, Abby said she plans on playing hockey all through high school.

**TEAM: CENTRE DUFFERIN DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL ROYALS VARSITY HOCKEY**  
**POSITION: CENTRE**



DAVID ANDERSON PHOTOS

**MOST VALUABLE:** The North Dufferin Baseball League held its annual awards day on Sunday, March 9, in Lisle. League president Chris Fafalios presented the Statistician's Award for the Junior Division to the most valuable player, Jack Larmer of the Barrie Baycats, at the North Dufferin Baseball League awards presentation.



**PRESIDENT'S AWARD:** North Dufferin Baseball League president Chris Fafalios presented the President's Award to Pete Kinghan at an awards presentation on March 9. Kinghan was recognized for his coaching prowess with the Creemore Junior Braves, Creemore Senior Braves and the New Lowell Knights. He also served 24 years as a league statistician and was on the executive for two terms, totalling six years.

# Salaries of Dufferin County Councillors disclosed in recent report

Written By PAULA BROWN  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Dufferin County Councillors racked up nearly half a million in salary and expenses in 2024 according to a recent report.

During their meeting on March 13, Dufferin County Council was presented with the 2024 Remuneration and Expenses Paid Report from Aimee Raves, the county's corporate finance manager.

According to the report, Dufferin Coun-

ty Councillors received \$460,114.95 in taxable remuneration, \$6,252.38 in mileage, and \$60,456.77 in additional expenses for a total of \$496,824.10 in 2024.

The largest salary for a County Councillor was paid to Melancthon Mayor Darren White, who served as the 146th Warden of Dufferin County. White was paid a total of \$94,942.57 in 2024.

Three Dufferin County Councillors received more than \$30,000 in 2024. Topping out at \$35,606.62 was Mulmur Mayor Janet

Horner, followed by Orangeville Mayor Lisa Post with \$32,510.74 and Orangeville Deputy Mayor Todd Taylor with \$30,276.17.

Grand Valley Mayor Steve Solomon was the Dufferin County Councillor to make the least in 2024 with a total of \$26,452.08.

The remaining 10 County Councillors were paid between \$29,500 and \$26,500 each.

The report to Dufferin County Council also made note of the attendance for meetings over the 2024 council period. During 2024, there were 11 regular meetings and six spe-

cial meetings for County Council.

Coun. Lisa Post and Coun. Philip Rentsch were the only two Dufferin County Councillors to miss zero meetings in 2024.

"I want to call out and give a hero biscuit to Coun. Post and Coun. Rentsch. To be able to be here for every meeting is noteworthy and impressive," said Councillor Taylor.

The Remuneration and Expenses Paid report including each councillor's salary for 2024 is available on the County of Dufferin website.

# Buy Local campaign gains traction at Dufferin County council amidst tariffs

Written By JAMES MATTHEWS

Orangeville council has added its collective voice to the effort to promote Canadian suppliers over companies south of the border.

Mayor Lisa Post introduced a notice of motion in February that she was to ask council to support Canadian businesses and the strengthening of the local, provincial, and national economy.

"Recent tariff actions imposed by U.S. President Donald Trump may have significant economic impacts on Canadian industries, businesses, and supply chains," she said in her motion.

"Municipalities have a role to play in supporting economic resilience by prioritizing procurement practices that favour Canadian companies and products wherever possible."

She called on municipal staff to review the town's procurement policies and procedures to ensure priority is given to Canadian companies and products.

Dufferin County made a similar move at the upper-tier level.

Councillor Wade Mills, who is Shelburne's mayor, asked that the county support his town's effort to make it easier for municipalities to shun American businesses.

"The threat of tariffs imposed by the United States on Canadian goods remains open and unsettled," according to the council resolution. "Federal and provincial leaders have encouraged Canadians to support Canadian businesses. Municipalities have significant purchasing power but have traditionally been prevented from giving preference to Canadian suppliers."

The resolution calls upon Ottawa and the crowd at Queen's Park to remove any barriers to allowing municipalities from preferring Canadian companies for capital projects and other supplies.

A copy of the resolution will be sent to a number of provincial and federal government ministers, boards of trade, and every municip-

ality in Ontario.

"Council also calls upon the federal and provincial governments to take immediate action to remove trade barriers between provinces," the resolution states.

Dufferin County's Community Development and Tourism Department is encouraged to develop a framework to support local businesses including a Buy Local campaign that

identifies and promotes local products and services.

"Council requests staff to review existing procurement policies and applicable laws to determine if there are existing mechanisms to allow the Town of Shelburne to offer a preference to Canadian companies for capital projects and other supplies," Mills wrote in the resolution.

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# Honeywood Arena makes finals for 2025 Kraft Hockeyville Competition

Written By PAULA BROWN  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Mulmur residents rallied together to show their love of hockey, and now their local arena has been announced as a finalist in the 2025 Kraft Hockeyville Competition.

Honeywood Arena was announced as one of four finalists in the 2025 Kraft Hockeyville Competition on Saturday (March 15), with the hope of winning \$250,000 for arena upgrades and the chance to host an NHL pre-season game.

"This is a huge opportunity for us if we win, but we've also already won as a community by creating a positive impact for our local residents and for our community. We've rallied and have all come together," said Jeanette McFarlane, a member of the Honeywood Fundraising Committee and lead organizer of the local Hockeyville fundraising team.

The 2025 Kraft Hockeyville Competition

started on Jan. 1 with the "Nomination and Rally" phase, which officially wrapped up on March 2.

Community members submitted nomination stories, sharing why the Honeywood Arena is important to them and the community, and how winning the competition would help enhance the space for future generations.

"It's where families head to after school and on weekends to make memories and to be part of the community. For kids, it's part of working towards whatever their on-ice dreams may be," said McFarlane about the arena.

The North Dufferin Community Centre (NDCC), commonly known as the Honeywood Arena, has been a long-standing fixture in the community for more than a century. The first rink was built in 1912 by Thomas Crawford but collapsed in 1921 under the weight of heavy snow. In 1948, a total of \$91,000 was raised to build a new arena,

which opened the following year.

The Honeywood Arena experienced another tragedy, on Jan. 24, 1965, when it burned to the ground. The arena was rebuilt and opened by Christmas 1965 following fundraising efforts from the community.

The Honeywood Arena has seen notable hockey players pass through their doors, including Bert Wilson, who became Honeywood's first NHL player, and Aaron Downey, who won the Stanley Cup with the Detroit Red Wings in 2008.

In a January press release announcing their participation in the annual event, the Township of Mulmur highlighted how the Kraft Hockeyville Competition could bring "much-needed" renovations to the Honeywood Arena.

"It's an aging arena in great need of repair and there's so many essential upgrades that we need to do," said McFarlane.

While McFarlane said there's a long list of upgrades needed for the 60-year-old arena,

the Kraft Hockeyville Competition prize money would be specifically allocated to projects that address equality.

Some of these upgrades include providing girls with change rooms, fixing existing washrooms and installing a proper water fountain for kids to fill up their water bottles.

The Top 3 Runner-Ups of the Kraft Hockeyville Competition will receive \$25,000 for arena upgrades and \$10,000 for equipment.

"We've won in so many ways, but this gets us closer to getting the job done and raising funds for the arena," said McFarlane.

Voting will open on April 4 at 9 a.m. EST and close on April 5 at 5 p.m. EST. Votes can be submitted at [www.krafthockeyville.ca](http://www.krafthockeyville.ca).

"Do it for the future generations to be able to have a special place in the community where they can continue with and live out their on-ice dreams," McFarlane concluded.

The winner of the 2025 Kraft Hockeyville Competition will be announced on April 5.

# Warmer temperatures cause flooding in Grand Valley, Amaranth, East Garfraxa

Dufferin County communities weathered flooding this past weekend as snow melt from warm temperatures and rainfall bring signs of the changing of seasons.

The Grand River Conservation Authority (GRCA) issued a flood warning message for Grand Valley as well as the hamlet of Waldemar on March 15, due to the combination of snow melt and rainfall.

The warning was raised to a "watch" by the Grand River Conservation Authority on March 16.

Several roads were closed on Sunday (March 16), in the communities of Grand Valley, Amaranth, and East Garafraxa. Roads closed due to flooding and potential flooding included:

- County Road 25 between Highway 89 and County Road 109.

- Water Street from Rainy Street to Melody Street.
- Emma Street from Water Street to Main Street.
- William Street from Water Street to Emma Street.
- Mill Street East to King Street
- Concession Roads 12 and 13 between Sideroads 24-25 and Sideroads 27-28
- 10th Sideroad between County Road 24 and 15th Line
- 10th Line Amaranth between County Road 109 and 5th Sideroad

The County of Dufferin announced in a press release on March 17 that cleanup from the flooding was in full effect to address reported issues in Grand Valley, Amaranth and East Garafraxa.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

# Dufferin OPP launch 'Lock it or Lose it' program to help residents protect possessions

Dufferin OPP officers are encouraging residents to secure their vehicles, homes, and belongings with the return of their "Lock It or Lose It" program.

The "Lock It or Lose It" initiative aims to reduce the risk of theft and remind the public about the importance of protecting their possessions

- Key Benefits of the Program:
- Reduced Theft Risk: By locking your

vehicles and securing valuables, you significantly lower the chances of theft in your neighborhood.

• Community Engagement: Dufferin OPP officers are engaging with the public, offering education on crime prevention, and building trust within the community.

• Peace of Mind: Knowing your belongings are secure helps you feel safer and more confident in your daily activities.

• Crime Prevention: This proactive program helps deter thieves, making it more difficult for them to target easy opportunities.

Throughout the program, Dufferin OPP officers will be out in the community, speaking with residents and educating them about simple steps to prevent theft, such as locking doors and securing valuables. Officers will also be conducting patrols to ensure that vehicles and properties are locked and

safe. Dufferin OPP is cautioning residents to not be alarmed if they see an officer "out and about".

"Taking a few extra seconds to lock your car or home can make a huge difference in preventing theft," said Dufferin OPP. "Let's all do our part to make Dufferin County a safer place for everyone. Stay alert, stay secure, and remember, Lock It or Lose It."

## NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL TO EXPROPRIATE LAND

### Form 2

Expropriations Act, R.R.O. 1990, Reg. 363

**IN THE MATTER OF** an application by the Upper Grand District School Board for approval to expropriate the following land:

**Fee Simple: All Right, Title and Interest in the land**  
Part of PIN 34108-0068 (LT)

Part of Lot 9, Concession 7 East of Hurontario Street, Part 1 on Registered Plan 7R-2750, Township of Mulmur, County of Dufferin, and more particularly identified as Part 1 on the attached reference plan dated December 5, 2024.

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that an application has been made for approval to expropriate all right, title, and interest in the land described above, for the purposes of an elementary school and ancillary uses.

Any owner of lands in respect of which notice is given who desires a hearing into whether the taking of such land is fair, sound and reasonably necessary in the achievement of the objectives of the expropriating authority shall so notify the approving authority in writing,

(a) in the case of a registered owner, served personally or by registered mail within thirty days after the registered owner is served with the notice, or, when the registered owner is served by publication, within thirty days after the first publication of the notice;

(b) in the case of an owner who is not a registered owner, within thirty days after the first publication of the notice.

The approving authority is:

Upper Grand District School Board  
500 Victoria Street North, Guelph, ON N1E 6K2

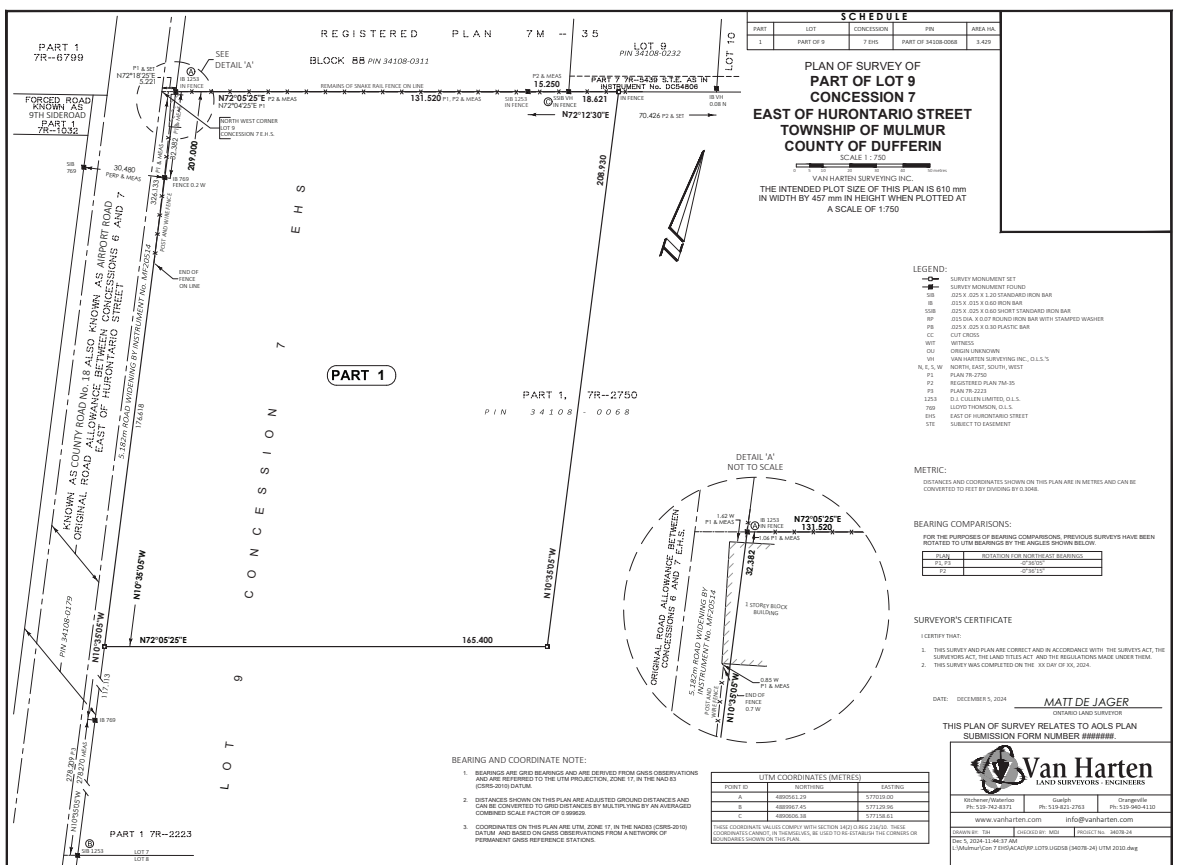
Name of expropriating authority:

Upper Grand District School Board

Peter Sovran, Director of Education and CEO  
I have the authority to bind the School Board

Dated at Guelph this 3rd day of March, 2025

This notice is first published on the 8 day of March, 2025.





# Former Dufferin County employee honoured with Forest Stewardship Award

Written By PAULA BROWN  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

A former Dufferin County employee is being recognized for her decades of dedicated work.

Caroline Mach, former manager of the Dufferin County Forest, was presented with the Forest Stewardship Award from Forests Canada during their conference in February.

The Forest Stewardship Award is presented to an individual for outstanding activities in private land forest management and strong support of forestry promotion, education and understanding.

“Having spent a long time working for the County, looking after the County Forest, and to have my work recognized is amazing. I feel really honoured,” Mach told the Free Press.

Mach graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Forestry from the University of Toronto in 1993 before being hired for a contract forest management planning position at the County of Dufferin. The contract became a full-time position managing the Dufferin County Forest, which she held until her retirement in the summer of 2024.

During her nearly 30-year career as manager of the Dufferin County Forest, Mach created two forest management plans, in-

cluding harvesting, ecosystem service values, and climate change implications. She was also instrumental in developing the Dufferin County Outdoor Recreation Plan and the “Dufferin County Forest – Our Forest, Our Future” corporate branding.

In addition to receiving the Forest Stewardship Award, Mach has been the recipient of the CIF Southern Ontario Section Tree of Life Award in 2024 and the John H. Sellers Award for outstanding promotion and awareness of professional forestry in Ontario in 2010. She also received the Fernow Award, presented by the Ontario Professional Foresters Association (OPFA) in 2003.

Mach was nominated for the Forest Stewardship Award by the current Dufferin County forest manager, Kevin Predon.

Jess Kaknevicus, chief executive officer for Forests Canada, told the Free Press in an email that Mach was selected for the award for the “decades of work she devoted to the Dufferin County Forest and the impact that she continues to make on the natural world.”

Forests Canada is a tree-planting charity, which looks to improve forest health, support ecosystem services, and foster community connection with nature while also creating and restoring forested landscapes.

For more information about Forest Canada visit [www.ForestsCanada.ca](http://www.ForestsCanada.ca).



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**GUARDIAN OF THE FOREST:** Caroline Mach, former manager of Dufferin County Forest, was presented with the Forest Stewardship Award from Forests Canada in February. The award is presented to an individual for outstanding activities in private land forest management and strong support of forestry promotion, education and understanding

# Keeping Dufferin Out of the Cold: Homelessness continues to impact local residents

It's been a long, cold, and very snowy winter in Dufferin County — the sort of weather that seems best for hot chocolate and catching up on your favourite show, snuggled up under your coziest blanket. But for some Dufferin residents, it's been a dark and difficult season without a safe, warm place to call home.

“People often believe that because Dufferin County is a smaller municipality, homelessness is not an issue here, but that is incorrect. It isn't always visible, in part due to a strong sense of community amongst our residents,” says Carol Barber, the County's housing program manager. “But people in Dufferin County need assistance, and there is a troubling lack of affordable housing available. Tackling homelessness is multi-layered—it's a crisis that many who are not experiencing it personally do not understand.”

As of Jan. 31, the County of Dufferin counted 59 people who are currently homeless in the region.

There are many social challenges impacting the community fabric of Dufferin and many other communities across Canada, including poverty, homelessness, food insecurity and

mental health and substance use challenges. The availability and affordability of housing is a major concern in Dufferin County, with housing becoming less accessible and affordable for many community members. The solution to this is not simple and will take commitment from all levels of government and local community organizations to solve.

“In January, the Government of Ontario announced funding for new Homelessness and Addiction Recovery Treatment Hubs, including one for Dufferin County – a huge step forward for critical services in our community,” says Caitlin Ward, the county's Dufferin Services Team manager. “But there is much more work that needs to be done to improve access to integrated care and address the root causes of homelessness and addiction in our community. Collaboration is going to be essential to providing the critical supports needed for people to find stability and a path forward.”

As part of the Dufferin County Equity Collaborative (DCEC), there is a Housing and Homelessness Sub-Committee with a goal that all members of the community will have equitable access to safe and attainable housing.

Active members of this work group include Dufferin County, Services and Housing In the Province (SHIP), Choices Shelter and Support Services, Family Transition Place and community members.

Local organizations, including Dufferin County, lower-tier municipalities, Family Transition Place, SHIP, Choices Shelter and Support Services, Canadian Mental Health Association, the Ontario Provincial Police and others are also working together to address housing and homelessness in the community.

These organizations are aware of the presence of encampments in Dufferin and, together, are focused on connecting individuals with the appropriate support services and ensuring the entire community is safe.

“There are many services available to help those experiencing homelessness and other challenges in our community, like housing allowances, assistance with first and last months' rent and support for rent and utility arrears,” says Barber. “However, we still must address the need for growing and diversified housing and collaborate with the provincial and federal governments to ensure that every-

one in Dufferin in need of a home has one.” From Dec. 1, 2024, to Feb. 9, 2025, Family Transition Place, an emergency shelter for women and children fleeing domestic violence, had 962 total bed stays.

Through the County of Dufferin's Out of the Cold Program that was offered over the winter, there was one bed stay in November, 17 in December, 25 in January and 42 in February. The Program has supported nine unique individuals, including three females, five males and one non-binary person.

At the Choices Men's Shelter, there were 452 bed stays during November, 474 in December and 425 in January. At the Youth Shelter, there were 91 bed stays in November, 54 in December and 58 in January.

“We are asking our community members to learn more about the complexities of housing and homelessness, to seek information to understand the challenges those most vulnerable in Dufferin County are facing, and to join us in calling on the Governments of Ontario and Canada to help us create meaningful change for those we serve,” says Ward.

NDACT and this community owe a huge 'Thank You' to Mr. Garry Hunter (Hunter and Associates) who has been NDACT's Community Trusted Peer Reviewer on the Strada Aggregate's Inc (Strada) project for almost three years now. The engagement with Strada's Consultants proved challenging at best, yet Garry gave selflessly and patiently of his expertise to defend this Community's interests on the Hydro-Geology file.

The Community Trusted Peer Reviewer's final six main issues were received by both NDACT and Strada which brought an end to NDACT's need for further services from Garry. As this Community knows, Strada filed its Aggregate Application with MNRF. Strada provided NDACT with written assurance that they would not pursue the next step (Phase/Step 2) of the Aggregate Resources Act (ARA) Application Process, until Garry's six major issues have been resolved. With due diligence he has brought the Hydro-Geology file to a point at which Strada, and their consultants, clearly know what needs to be addressed before pursuing Phase 2.

With great gratitude, NDACT released Garry from his commitment on Tuesday, March 11, 2025. We know he will always hold the best interest of the Community at large as his highest priority and we look forward to seeing Garry at many community events in the future.

Carl Cosack  
Community Liaison, NDACT

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# Theatre Orangeville presents 'Bed and Breakfast': Being 'out' in a small town

Written By **CONSTANCE SCRAFIELD**

The story of "Bed and Breakfast" begins in mild tones, a chance to meet Brett and Drew who live together as a gay couple in a tiny downtown Toronto apartment. We find them charming and amusing as they make plans for what comes next in their search to buy a house when they are interrupted by the news that one of Brett's favourite relatives – his Aunt Maggie – has suddenly died in a car accident.

The funeral is held near her home in a small Ontario town, where Brett spent many happy summer days as a child. After the funeral, his father informs Brett that she has left her house to him.

"Bed and Breakfast" is on at Theatre Orangeville now and running to March 30, with Adrian Shepherd-Gawinski as Brett and Warren Macaulay as Drew. Shepherd-Gawinski is returning to Theatre Orangeville after some years when he joined the cast for separate runs of Screwball Comedy and Queen Milli of Galt. Welcome to Warren Macaulay making his debut here.

The choices this inheritance opens to Brett and Drew take us on a journey to remember, whereas their latest offer to buy in Toronto was seriously outbid – out of the blue – they find themselves owners of their own home.

A boon they might feel yet, it is not in the city but as it is in a small town, attitudes toward their openly gay relationship might prove difficult.

Playwright Mark Crawford does not pull any punches about this; he writes the story with craft and humour, drawing us into loving this couple and accepting wholeheartedly who they are.

This very funny play is host to – count 'em – 21 characters whom we begin to meet as soon Brett and Drew arrive in Aunt Maggie's town. They vary in nature and approach; they are each quite comical but the magic is in the clever writing and the astonishing rapidity with which Shepherd-Gawinski and

Macaulay play every one of them. From the baker arriving daily with wonderful treats to the hopeless teenager who says, "I don't do." to everything, the scope and fun these multi-changes create have audiences ringing the hall with their laughter.

There are ladies in the cast – one of whom is pregnant and these two actors let us know with real clarity whom we are seeing, with each individual's stance, voice and look. No props assist in this whirlwind. All they have to keep the continuity are their skill and considerable talent.

The exchanges go on as the two men and the townspeople begin to become acquainted and even friends. Yet, with honesty, the playwright admits to the mixed feelings such a blend might realize, leaving Brett and Drew to wonder, to struggle on and off, whether they can stay in their new home or be better off back in the more cosmopolitan city.

What entices them to stay, in addition to the fact of actually possessing the place outright is the idea they have of turning it into a Bed and Breakfast place. There is much to be done by way of renovations but the growing reality that this could be their new business is exciting. They are keen to establish it in this small town, which pleases nearly everyone.

Then, there is a hate crime, an attack on their home, ugly words painted across a wall.

Between Brett and Drew and within the community are anguish and anger but to learn how they all deal with this, just the two of them carrying the debate among the many is to see comic skill at its best. Best to come and see this terrific show for yourselves.

As director, Stewart Arnott, along with Shepherd-Gawinski and Macaulay brought this play originally to the Lighthouse Festival Theatre in Port Dover. In addition to staging it this time here in Orangeville, where all the actors love to come, there is the joy of re-mounting it for Theatre Orangeville audiences, the chance to expand and even rethink some of the characters.

Bed and Breakfast is a somewhat compli-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**ON THE ROAD:** On stage now at Theatre Orangeville, Mark Crawford's "Bed and Breakfast." A heartwarming comedy about being 'out' in a small town. Starring Warren Macaulay (left) as Drew and Adrian Shepherd-Gawinski (right) as Brett. Playing now through March 30.

cated production with the large number of those characters being played only by the two actors. It is a lot to learn but doing it for the second time has given them the genuine pleasure of digging deeper into those voices, gestures and minds.

Arnott has done a tidy job of keeping the flow moving in a way that maintains cohesion while letting the comedy shine.

This time around, simple geometry encases the set of "Aunt Maggie's Bed and Breakfast," designed by William Chesney, whose bio tells of his creating set designs for more than 250 productions spanning a career of over forty years.

Essential to any production, the lighting

for Bed and Breakfast is designed by Wendy Lundgren, returning to Theatre Orangeville, while Tim Lindsay debuted as sound designer.

If seeing is believing, be sure to get your tickets for this show, for its dazzling feat of comic acting. When viewed at Theatre Orangeville's recent Starlight Gala, at the end, the audience positively bounced to their feet for a standing ovation.

For tickets, go to [www.theatreorangeville.ca](http://www.theatreorangeville.ca) or call the lovely folks at the Opera House Box Office at 519-938-7584. Please note this is a change from the box office's usual number.

They love visitors at 87 Broadway.

# Over 40 acts announced for 21st Annual Orangeville Blues and Jazz Festival

Written By **SAM ODROWSKI**

Excitement is growing for the 21st Annual Orangeville Blues and Jazz Festival, as organizers have released the official lineup for the three-day event that will return from May 30 to June 1.

The festival's founder and artistic director, Larry Kurtz, who hires the talent each year, said he's excited for the community to experience this year's lineup.

"We are especially proud to highlight an incredible roster of Canadian artists. With over 40 acts scheduled, the 2025 Festival will feature some of the finest talent in blues and jazz music," he enthused.

"Putting together the lineup is a balancing act. I try to include a variety of styles within the Blues and Jazz genres while supporting Canadian artists as much as possible. It's important to keep current with new musical acts but also bring back festival favorites while staying within our budget."

The TD Mainstage at Alexandra Park, TD Broadway Stage at the Broadway/Second Street intersection and Opera House Stage inside of Town Hall (87 Broadway) will feature several different headliners over three days. Some big names on the lineup include Harry Manx, Robi Botos, Steve Strongman, Kenny "Blues Boss" Wayne, and Lachy Doley.

"Our Saturday [May 31] headliner Lachy Doley is an award-winning blues artist from Australia. He plays Hammond organ and clavinet with a whammy bar to create a sound unlike anything you have heard before," said Kurtz. "It's quite amazing and he puts on a dynamic show."

Harry Manx, a world-touring musician from British Columbia who blends Indian

folk melodies with slide guitar blues, will be another headliner to watch out for, according to Kurtz.

"He plays an 18-string guitar called a Mohan Veena for a truly original sound," he said.

In the Opera House, Kurtz said to keep an eye on the Robi Botos trio, featuring Mike Downs on bass, Larnell Lewis on drums and Robi on the piano.

"Robi, who draws comparisons to Oscar Peterson, is widely considered a master piano player and is a multi-award winner," said Kurtz.

Other performing artists include Maple Blues Band, Raoul & The Big Time, Jay Douglas & The Allstars, Canefire, Johnny Max Band, Tia Brazda, Al Lerman & The Country Fried Band, Larry Kurtz & The Lawbreakers, Murray Kinsley & Wicked Grin, Erin McCallum Band, Rosie's Smokehouse Deluxe and Danny Boy Phelan.

In addition, Stan Chang, Jazz Society Band, Turbo Street Funk, Danny Marks, James Anthony Band, Mike McCarthy Band, Voodoo Pawnshop, CJ Lee, Dwayne Laforme, Gail Gunnis & The Dirty Roosters, Little Joe & The Werewolves, Campfire Poets, Soul Collective, Heather Katz, Itchy & Scratchy will be playing.

As well, The Supervoids, Traveling Wannabes, Puslinch House of Blues Band, Flashback, ODSS Jazz Band, The Shed Hawks, ODSS Teachers Band and Orangeville Community Band will be performing at this year's festival.

The celebration of blues and jazz music fosters a strong sense of community while transforming downtown Orangeville into the region's largest music festival and special event venue.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**READY FOR RETURN:** Festival organizer and founder Larry Kurtz is excited to perform and watch the more than 40 acts he's hired for this year's Orangeville Blues and Jazz Festival. Pictured here is Kurtz singing at the festival in 2022.

"On behalf of the Festival Board of Directors, staff, and volunteers, we are thrilled to present another three-day weekend of exceptional music and events for thousands of local residents and visitors," said Festival Board of Directors President Nancy Claridge.

"This incredible event is made possible with support from the Orangeville Business

Improvement Area, local businesses, the Town of Orangeville, government funding agencies, our featured performers, and the enthusiastic audiences who attend."

The festival has been on the Top 100 Festivals and Events in Ontario for 12 years in a row and has a reputation as one of the strongest medium-size blues and jazz events in the province.

The majority of events taking place within the Orangeville Blues and Jazz Festival are free of charge.

At no cost, attendees can enjoy the TD Broadway Stage, Classic Cars Blues Cruise, Blues & Bikes Show & Shine event, New Orleans-style Jazz March, Broadway Ramble, performer workshops at the Mill Street Library and pop-up street performances.

"New this year will be a beer garden on the street next to the Broadway Stage, which features great local talent," Kurtz said.

Weekend passes for access to the TD Mainstage and Opera House from Friday to Sunday are \$40. Single-day tickets for Friday or Saturday are \$20 each and a single-day ticket for Sunday is \$10.

Tickets can be purchased online at [ticket-scene.ca/events/51445](http://ticket-scene.ca/events/51445).

"In a time when many festivals are struggling, we want to ensure the festival remains a vital part of what makes Orangeville such a great place to live and work. The best way to show your support is to buy a ticket to the main stage," said Kurtz. "We know it is one of the best values for your money you will find anywhere."

He added that he would encourage members of the public to join the festival's fantastic team of volunteers.

Visit [orangevillebluesandjazz.ca/volunteer](http://orangevillebluesandjazz.ca/volunteer) to learn more.

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**TECHNICAL SUMMER STUDENT ASSISTANT**

Shelburne Public Library will receive applications until April 15, 2025, for its Technical Summer Student Assistant position.

The position involves supporting tech-based programming at the library during the summer. The successful candidate will plan and deliver technology-based programming for adults with wide-ranging skills. The ideal candidate will also support other programs, including our Children's Summer Reading Program, if necessary.

We are looking for highly motivated, enthusiastic individuals who can work well in a team environment where quality service and good communication skills are a requirement.

**Qualifications:**

- Enrolment in a post-secondary program. Second or third year students preferred
  - Experience working with adults and seniors
- A demonstrated proficiency with a variety of technology is essential
- A Police Record Check, including vulnerable sector screening, is required and a condition of employment

Resumes should include all educational and training information, work experience and references. The rate of pay for this position is \$18.00 hr. and the work period is from May 2025, to August 2025. This position will work approximately 30 hours per week and will include weekend and evening shifts.

Shelburne Public Library is an Equal Opportunity Employer - only those applicants selected for interviews will be contacted.

Please send your resume and covering letter to:  
**Rose Dotten, CEO**  
 Shelburne Public Library  
 201 Owen Sound Street, Shelburne, ON L9V 3L2  
 Or by email: [rdotten@shelburnelibrary.ca](mailto:rdotten@shelburnelibrary.ca)

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OBITUARIES

**HERBERT GORDON SERVICE**

Herbert Gordon Service, 66, of Melancthon, Ontario, passed away peacefully in his home on March 10, 2025, surrounded by his loving family.



Born on February 26, 1959 in Shelburne, Ontario, Herb was a devoted husband, dad and Grampy, always putting his loved ones first. He was a mechanic by trade and spent many years working from his shop, North Dufferin Auto. He sincerely cared for his customers and would go above and beyond to help them however he could. Herb was most often found in the shop, working on vehicles and various projects. He was a loyal friend to many, a quiet and practical man of few words. Herb will be remembered for his honest and simple life, for his trust and faith in God, and his unexpected sense of humour.

Herb is survived by his loving wife Hilda of 39 years, his children Kim and Shawn, Michelle and Tom, Tricia and Brandon, Mark, and grandchildren Eva, Meliya, Kaley, Eric and Dax who will forever cherish his love and guidance. He is also survived by his brother Edward and wife Jamie, sister Joyce and sister-in-law Dawn as well as his brothers and sisters-in-law Adrian and Gail, Dorothy and Niko, Betty and Roger, and Albert and Kristin. He was preceded in death by his father Eldon and mother Muriel, brother Robert, and sister-in-law Sandy, father and mother-in-law Bert and Siets, and brother-in-law Ed. Herb is remembered fondly by all of his nieces, nephews and extended family.

Herb's family would like to thank Ontario Health at Home and Bayshore Homecare Solutions for the exceptional care provided specifically from Kuldeep, Felix, Sue, Anneka, and Sidney and Lydia from Care Partners, amongst other providers who were devoted to his care. They would also like to thank Sandra Newman, a friend who stood by and provided spiritual guidance and caring support for Herb and his family through the difficult days of this journey.

A private funeral service will be held at the Jack & Thompson Funeral Home, Shelburne. Spring interment at Shelburne Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations in his honour may be made to the Matthews House Hospice, Bethel House Hospice or Headwaters Health Care Foundation. Online condolences and donations may be placed at [www.jackandthompsonfuneralhome.com](http://www.jackandthompsonfuneralhome.com)

Memories of Herb will live on in the hearts of all who knew him. He will be deeply missed but never forgotten.



OBITUARIES

**ARNO EDWALD BRANDT**  
 NOV. 13, 1948 – FEB. 12, 2025

With his family by his side Arno peacefully passed away on February 12, 2025. He was in his 77th year.



Beloved husband of Margo Brandt (nee Abbott) for 56 years. Father and Super Hero to his children Barbara, Brenda (Lynn Mitchell), Bobbi – Jean (Bill Curry) and Barry. Loving grandfather to 9 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren.

Arno is survived by his sister Ina Ehrlich of Elmira, Sister is Law Marianne Brandt of Fergus and Darlene (Jim) Moynihan of Elora.

Arno leaves behind a legacy of his entrepreneurial spirit and creativity in his custom Welding and Fabricating business, Brandt Welding and Manufacturing for over 45 years. He loved working on old cars. Building railings, racing pigeons and camping with family and friends.

The family would like to express their most sincere appreciation and gratitude to all his PSW's and nurses in Melancthon and Mount Forest. Also, to the Markdale Hospital and Louise Marshall Hospital doctors, nurses and so many more. Any donations can be made to the Louise Marshall Hospital, in Mount Forest.

We will be having a celebration of Life at Arno's residence in Melancthon, Ontario in early April.

Online condolences can be made at [www.imfunerals.com](http://www.imfunerals.com)



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**SUMMER STUDENT ASSISTANT – CHILDREN'S LIBRARY**

Shelburne Public Library will receive applications until April 15, 2025, for its Summer Student Assistant – Children's Library position.

The position involves supporting the children's summer reading program, story and craft sessions and events planned at the library during the summer. The ideal candidate will also be able to support other programs, including those with an ESL and technology focus.

We are looking for highly motivated, enthusiastic individuals who can work well in a team environment where quality service and good communication skills are a requirement.

**Qualifications:**

- Enrolment in a post-secondary program. Second or third year students preferred
  - Experience working with adults, seniors, and children
  - A demonstrated proficiency with the Microsoft Office Suite and graphic design programs considered an asset
- A Police Record Check, including vulnerable sector screening, is required and a condition of employment

Resumes should include all educational and training information, work experience and references. The rate of pay for this position is \$18.00 hr. commensurate with experience. The work period is early May, 2025, to end of August, 2025. This position will work approximately 30 hours per week.

Shelburne Public Library is an Equal Opportunity Employer - only those applicants selected for interviews will be contacted.

Please send your resume and covering letter to:  
**Rose Dotten, CEO**  
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# Shelburne Public Library shares upcoming events, recommended read

## Upcoming Events

Our Seedy Saturday is this weekend. On Saturday, March 22, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., you'll be able to stop by the library and select five packages of seeds to kickstart your growing season. You'll also be able to connect with many other community partners interested in growing and food scarcity. They include, the Town of Shelburne's Community Garden contact, mem-

bers of the Shelburne & District Horticultural Society, volunteers from Shelburne's Food Bank, Jen from the Erin Seed Lending Library, Dufferin Waste, Climate Action in Dufferin and more.

We even have some neat door prizes you can enter to win. Can't wait to see you there.

## Recommended read

**The Frozen River** by Ariel Lawhon:

Martha Ballard is a midwife and healer who bears witness to some of the most critical moments of life, death and suffering that unfold behind closed doors in her small community in the late 1700s. When a local man is found dead in the river, Martha's medical knowledge puts her at the centre of the investigation – and she soon starts unravelling a series of connected scandals in her community, which multiple powerful men are determined to conceal.

**Why Amy recommends it:** This book checked all my boxes by combining historical fiction with a murder mystery, and setting it in a gothic, wintery atmosphere. Add in a strong female protagonist who isn't afraid to fight for justice and defy expectations about the role of a woman in 18th century America, and you have a gripping read full of action and conflict. The story is inspired by the real-life diary of Martha Ballard, which makes it all the more incredible.

*Shelburne*  
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Shelburne Free Press Office, 109 Adeline Street, Shelburne

NO FRILLS, 101 2nd Line RR 1, Shelburne (by the mailboxes)

First Ave West (by train tracks/ new condo mailboxes)

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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**\$23.99 SAVE \$10 GLUTEN FREE**

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**Slow Cooked Beef Pot Roast**  
907 g/2 lb

Also available,  
**Pork Pot Roast** 907 g/2 lb  
**\$16.99 SAVE \$6**

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**9<sup>99</sup> each**

**SAVE \$5 each** **Mozzarella Sticks** 15-21 PIECES 454 g

**SAVE \$3 each** **Pizza Rolls** 8 PIECES 460 g

**SAVE \$8** **Cod Nuggets** 17-27 PIECES 567 g

**SALE** **Mini Franks in Pastry** 15 PIECES 279 g

**PARTY PACKS**

**SAVE \$5**

**12<sup>99</sup> each**

**Asian Party Pack** 38-46 PIECES 682 g

**Pub Party Pack** 32 PIECES 576 g

**NEW!** **Korean Appetizer Party Pack** 21 PIECES 482 g **LIMITED TIME ONLY**

**Indian Party Pack** 32 PIECES 740 g

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**19<sup>99</sup> SAVE \$6**

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**GAME DAY**

**9.99 each**

**Jalapeno Wontons** 12 PIECES 223 g

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**SALES** **Classic French Style Florentine**

**SAVE \$2 each** **Hot Honey Cheese Bites** 14 PIECES 280 g

**SAVE \$3 each** **Cauliflower Bites** 450 g

**SAVE \$4** **Cream Cheese Stuffed Jalapeños** 10-13 PIECES 360 g

**SAVE \$4** **Dry Garlic Pork** 50-70 PIECES 600 g

**SAVE \$2 each** **Artichoke Mac & Cheese Bites** 14 PIECES 280 g

**SAVE \$2 each** **Jamaican-Style Beef Patty Bites** 500 g

**SALE** **Spanakopita** 12 PIECES 340 g

**SALE** **Fried Battered Pickles** 10-12 PIECES 390 g

**NEW!** **Buffalo Chicken Dip** 450 g

**SAVE \$2 each** **Sausage Rolls** 26-28 PIECES 500 g

Also available, **Taco Shack Thick Cut Tortilla Chips** 360 g **\$4.99 SALE**

**SALE** **Double Chocolate**

**SALE** **Chocolate Chip**

**SALE** **Ice Cream Cookie Sandwiches** 6 SANDWICHES 600 mL

**SALE** **Vanilla Bean Pralines and Cream**

**SALE** **Cheesecake Bites** 15 PIECES 300 g

**SALE** **Nanaimo Bites** 15 PIECES 300 g

**SALE** **Stuffed Potato Skins** 6 PIECES 390 g

**MEAL DEALS UNDER \$30**

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**SAVE \$3** **16<sup>99</sup> Southwest Style Bistro Steaks** 2 STEAKS x 170 g/6 oz 3 Varieties

**25.98**

**8<sup>99</sup> Grilled Mini Potatoes** 500 g

**13<sup>99</sup> Supreme Scalloped Potatoes** 907 g

**29.98**

**15<sup>99</sup> Bacon Wrapped Chicken** 4 PIECES x 142 g/5 oz

**9<sup>99</sup> Taco Bites** 8 PIECES 480 g

**25.97**

**9<sup>99</sup> Chicken Quesadillas** 4 PIECES 500 g

**5<sup>99</sup> Shoestring Fries** 600 g

**SAVE \$3** **14<sup>99</sup> Smoked Beef Brisket in BBQ Sauce** 400 g

Also available, **Gourmet Buns** 6 BUNS 468 g **\$5.99 SALE**

**26.97**

**5<sup>99</sup> Onion Rings** 454 g

**14<sup>99</sup> Lightly Crusted Garlic and Herb Haddock** 4-5 PIECES 500 g

**25.97**

**5<sup>99</sup> Seasoned Potato Wedges** 600 g

**4<sup>99</sup> Seasoned Sweet Peas** 300 g

**13<sup>99</sup> Chicken and Pineapple Mini-Skewers** 20 PIECES 500 g

**29.97**

**8<sup>99</sup> Chicken Fried Rice** 680 g

**12<sup>99</sup> Sweet & Sour Chicken** 975 g

**29.97**

**7<sup>99</sup> Mini Vegetable Spring Rolls** 16 PIECES 384 g

**9<sup>99</sup> Penne Pasta Salad** 400 g

**5<sup>99</sup> Crinkle Cut Fries** 600 g

**18<sup>99</sup> Boneless, Skinless Chicken Breasts** 4-6 BREASTS 680 g/1.5 lb

Other size available,  
8-12 BREASTS 1.36 kg/3 lb  
**\$33.99 SAVE \$6**

**SAVE \$4**

**4-6 BREASTS 680 g/1.5 lb**

**MULTI-SERVE MEALS 907 g 13<sup>99</sup>**

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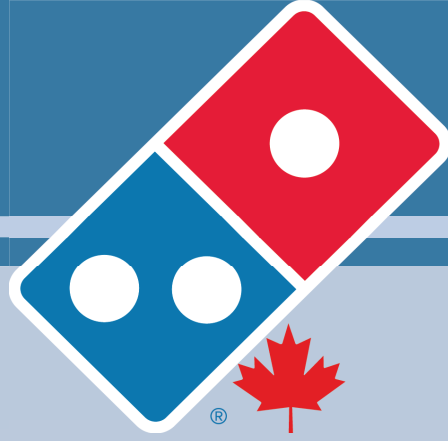
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