

Shelburne recognizes Autism Awareness Day with proclamation and flag raising

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The Town of Shelburne will mark April 2 as Autism Awareness Day, joining communities across the globe in recognizing World Autism Awareness Day and promoting a more inclusive society.

Mayor Wade Mills formally proclaimed the day on behalf of council, highlighting the need for autism awareness and support.

Autism impacts more than 135,000 individuals in Ontario, representing 1 in every 50 Canadian children and youth, Mills read from the proclamation. It not only influences the lives of autistics but also their friends, families, and communities. It's crucial for us to raise awareness and acceptance, provide support and promote a more inclusive society.

Autism is widely understood as a spectrum, meaning each individual experiences it differently from another. Needs, strengths and challenges can vary significantly and may change over time.

This diversity underscores the importance of tailored support and a broader public understanding of autism.

Research consistently shows that early and ongoing support can significantly improve outcomes and quality of life.

Many individuals require long-term access to specialized programs and community services to support their development, health and safety, while also helping families manage the emotional and financial pressures that can accompany care.

Concluding the proclamation, Mills encouraged all Shelburne residents to observe the awareness day and do their part to be more informed.

I, Mayor Wade Mills, on behalf of Council, do hereby proclaim April 2, 2026, as Autism Awareness Day in the Town of Shelburne, and urge all residents to participate in Autism Awareness activities, in order to become better educated about autism and create a better community for individuals and families affected by autism.

Globally, World Autism Awareness Day was established by the United Nations to highlight the importance of acceptance, inclusion and advocacy for autistic individuals. Communities are encouraged to host events, share information and promote understanding.

In Shelburne, residents are invited to attend a flag-raising ceremony at 10 a.m. on April 2 at Jack Downing Park, marking the community's commitment to awareness and inclusion.