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JOSHUA DRAKES PHOTO

SURPRISE CELEBRATION: Capt. Andrew Horvath may have entered the Shelburne Legion on April 9 to formally retire, but instead left a married man. With the legion Padre to officiate, Capt. Horvath and Capt. Diane Powers were married. It was the final night Capt. Horvath would be able to wear his uniform. He presents a ring to his now wife, Capt. Powers. Capt. Horvath might have closed one chapter of his life, but a new one is beginning at the same time. See Page 5 for full story.

Shelburne receives \$35 million for wastewater expansion

Written By JOSHUA DRAKES
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Town of Shelburne has received \$35 million in provincial funding to be put toward upgrades and an expansion of Shelburne's Water Pollution Control Plant.

The improvements are expected to increase wastewater treatment capacity, removing a barrier to new residential, commercial and industrial development.

Mayor Wade Mills said that, considering the high cost, the project would have been unfeasible for the municipality without provincial support, highlighting the importance of provincial funding allowing the work to proceed.

"The Town of Shelburne's housing development, as well as significant industrial and commercial development, will be unlocked with an expansion to the Water Pollution Control Plant," he said. "This has only been made possible due to this significant grant of \$35 million from the Province of Ontario."

The expansion is significant for a town of Shelburne's size. It will help prepare for growth, with the increased capacity expected to support the construction of up to 1,800 new homes in town.

Along with residential development, the project is also expected to support further commercial and industrial investment and development.

The funding is being provided to the town through the province's Housing-Enabling Water Systems Fund, itself a part of the broader Municipal Housing Infrastructure Program.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

MAJOR INVESTMENT: Thanks to cooperation between municipal and provincial partners, Shelburne has received a \$35 million provincial investment to upgrade its wastewater treatment plant. Mayor Wade Mills said the funding will enable further development in the town that was previously not possible without provincial assistance.

The Municipal Housing Infrastructure Program is a \$4 billion initiative focused on helping municipalities build and upgrade critical infrastructure systems, such as water, wastewater, roads, and bridges.

Since its introduction in 2024, the province said the program has helped build hundreds of thousands of new homes by ensuring communities have the infrastructure needed before development moves forward.

A major component of the program, the Housing-Enabling Water Systems Fund, focuses on improvements to drinking water

and wastewater systems, areas identified as bottlenecks in fast-growing municipalities like Shelburne.

Province-wide, investments through the fund are expected to help build hundreds of thousands of new homes.

Provincial officials said the program is intended not only to speed up housing construction but also to support economic development and help municipalities manage population growth, particularly as communities like Shelburne continue to expand rapidly.

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Museum of Dufferin to host Canadian author Antonio Michael Downing

Written By JOSHUA DRAKES
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

An upcoming literary event at the Museum of Dufferin will bring one of Canada's emerging voices in fiction to the region for an afternoon focused on storytelling, identity and community.

Scheduled for April 25 from 2 to 4 p.m., the event will feature author Antonio Michael Downing in a moderated conversation, followed by a book signing. Hosted at the Museum of Dufferin, the program is part of a broader effort to connect readers with writers in an intimate, community-driven setting.

Moderated by Shelburne Public Library CEO Shannon McGrady, the afternoon is designed to offer attendees not only insight into Downing's work but also an opportunity to engage directly with the ideas behind it. Tickets are available in advance, with organizers emphasizing accessibility and community participation as key elements of the experience.

Downing's appearance is part of ongoing initiatives in Dufferin County to bring literary voices into smaller communities, creating spaces where readers can engage with authors beyond the page.

Originally from Trinidad, Downing said that his early life and interest in reading and writing were deeply influenced by his grandmother, who introduced him to reading and storytelling at a young age.

"My grandmother was [the person] who really got me started," he said. "She raised me and gave me a lot of gifts, but the two that had the biggest impact were singing, which

she did a lot of, and reading. She was older, and her eyes were bad, so she taught me how to read at a really young age, so that I could be her eyes, and that kind of stayed with me ever since."

"It was just the magic of picking up this object made a paper, and reading these markings just scrawled onto it, and somehow that transports you to another place and another time. I was just hooked as a kid."

After her passing, he relocated to northern Ontario, an experience that profoundly shaped his perspective and creative direction. That transition, marked by a sudden shift in culture, climate and identity, continues to inform much of his work.

"Everything had changed, the weather, the people, the way we spoke," Downing said. "When someone says, 'Who are you?' Usually, we just start talking about where we're from, who raised us, what kind of food we like, and such. What if every single thing that was part of that was gone, but you still existed?"

"That's how it felt. That mystery of where exactly is the self, where does the self live, how do we feel, what makes us feel like we belong somewhere? That sense of identity, belonging, becoming, those things are the things I write about almost always, because it was such a big moment for me in my life," he added.

His novel, *Black Cherokee*, explores themes of identity, belonging and self-discovery through the story of a young girl navigating complex cultural roots. Spanning her formative years, the narrative examines the pressures of being asked to define oneself within rigid boundaries, while also question-

ing broader societal ideas about inclusion and exclusion.

"The story is about a young girl, and just like the title sounds, she's both black and Cherokee," Downing said. "She gets rejected by both sides, by both communities, and she has both communities asking her to choose one or the other. We meet her when she's seven, and we leave her when she's 18, and it's really about the choices she makes along the way of trying to figure out who she is and who she should be."

"Really, it's asking about a lot of the politics of our day. When you really get to the heart of it, it's about who's included and who's excluded. Just like she is being excluded from these communities she belongs to, we're often asking that about immigrants, are they really Canadian. We're almost constantly asking ourselves this in our politics, and this story is really a microcosm of this greater debate," he added.

For Downing, storytelling serves as a fundamental way of understanding both personal and collective experience. His work reflects an ongoing exploration of how individuals come to define themselves, particularly when faced with displacement or competing identities.

Drawing on his own experiences, he approaches writing as a means of making sense of life's uncertainties, using fiction to examine questions that are often difficult to address directly.

His rich storytelling will be on full display at the Museum of Dufferin on April 25, allowing guests to engage directly with Downing in a moderated setting, rounded off by a book



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

GUEST AUTHOR: Born in Trinidad, Downing was introduced to literature and storytelling by his grandmother, who taught him to read. After moving to Canada and reflecting on his sense of identity and belonging, Downing took his thoughts to paper, and became a writer fascinated with exploring concepts of identity, belonging and becoming. His latest book, *Black Cherokee*, explores that concept of identity as a way to address ongoing societal and political conversations in Canada and beyond. He'll be discussing the new book in a moderated conversation at the Museum of Dufferin on April 25, from 2 to 4 p.m.

To buy tickets, go to canhist.ca/small-town-big-ideas. Tickets can also be purchased at Booklore in Orangeville.

Dufferin Oaks Long Term Care earns highest level of accreditation for rehabilitation facilities

Written By JAMES MATTHEWS

Dufferin Oaks has earned the highest level of accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF).

Dufferin Oaks and Dufferin County Community Support Services (DCCSS) CARF's accreditation program in December 2025.

Dufferin Oaks was accredited for three years, which is the highest award possible. The process involved three surveyors, peer professionals with expertise in long-term care and community services, who completed interviews, documentation reviews, and virtual observations as part of a two-day survey.

Accreditation is a rigorous and comprehensive evaluation process that healthcare

organizations undergo to demonstrate their ability to meet established criteria and evidence-based standards set by an external accrediting body.

Achieving accreditation signifies that an organization is credible, reputable, and committed to maintaining continuous compliance with the highest standards of quality, safety, and service.

A number of strengths were identified through the accreditation process. It was noted that the home provides a warm, accessible, and community-connected environment that promotes independence and engagement.

Staff members, clients, and families alike identified Dufferin Oaks as a "workplace and facility of choice." Spaces in both long-term care and adult day programs include

natural light, greenery, and thoughtful design to enhance comfort and calmness. Shared private rooms preserve dignity while providing affordable accommodation options.

CARF recognized a strong and capable leadership team that fosters a positive culture, innovation, and high-quality care. Long-serving staff were highlighted as a major organizational asset contributing to stability, trust, and service excellence.

The county's adult day services demonstrate high levels of person-centred engagement with examples of meaningful peer support and tailored activities.

Residents described the space as inviting, comfortable, and socially supportive, noting that staff enable participation in meaningful activities.

Once accredited, the Ministry of Long-Term Care provides \$0.41 per resident day

for each year the home maintains accreditation. For Dufferin Oaks, that means \$23,944 per year in dedicated funding to support ongoing quality and operational excellence.

Councillor Philip Rentsch, Grand Valley's deputy mayor, said the small sum of money doesn't really make the accreditation worthwhile.

Brenda Wagner, the county's health and human services director, said they don't seek accreditation for the money that's received. They initially went through the process because it was required, but that changed when they saw the value of evaluation by external peers.

"It's a great opportunity to bring our stakeholders together," she said. "Our families, our residents, our staff to really come together and do that quality review and to weigh us against those standards that are out there."



FILE PHOTO

ACCREDITED ORGANIZATION: Dufferin Oaks recently received accreditation for three years from the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities.

Notice of Nomination Period for Interested Candidates

Are you thinking of running for office in the next municipal election?



The nomination period for candidates begins on **May 1, 2026** and ends on Nomination Day, **August 21, 2026**. Nomination forms may be filed in person by the candidate or by their agent during normal office hours. On Nomination Day, nominations forms may only be filed between 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

The 2026 Municipal and School Board Election will take place on **October 26, 2026**. The deadline to file the required Nomination Forms for the offices of Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Councillor and School Board Member is Nomination Day, August 21, 2026.

For more information, please contact your local municipal office at:

- Township of Amaranth: amaranth.ca
- Township of East Garafraxa: eastgarafraxa.ca
- Town of Grand Valley: townofgrandvalley.ca
- Township of Melancthon: melancthontownship.ca
- Town of Mono: townofmono.com
- Township of Mulmur: mulmur.ca
- Town of Orangeville: elections.orangeville.ca
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OPINION

Turn into the waves

When I was in my final year of high school, our entire Grade 12 class entered the gym to view the movie "A Tale of Two Cities."

The teachers set up a large movie screen and ran the film through a projector.

We were studying the classic Charles Dickens novel in English class, and this was a good way to really bring the story to life.

I believe it was the 1958 version of the film.

There were a lot of crying girls at the end of the film when Sydney Carton stands in front of the guillotine, and his overdub states: "It is a far, far better thing that I do, than I have ever done; it is a far, far better rest that I go to than I have ever known."

It was a great way to learn about something you are studying.

If there is one film I have always thought that should be shown in schools, it would be the 1954 classic, "The Caine Mutiny," starring Humphrey Bogart, Fred MacMurray, Van Johnson, Robert Francis, and José Ferrer.

It is a great film, and the final scene is where the lesson is taught.

The film is set on a fictional U.S. mine-

sweeper in the Pacific during World War Two.

A new commander is taking over the ship. Lt. Cmdr. Queeg, played by Humphrey Bogart, is an old-school naval man who believes discipline and order are needed on a naval ship.

When Queeg assumes command, his executive officers are not pleased with his style. They begin to take notes on his behaviour.

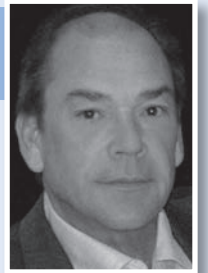
At one point, several of the executive officers request a meeting with the Admiral to ask for Queeg's dismissal. However, as they wait for their meeting, one of the officers notices the behaviour of the sailors on the aircraft carrier.

He realizes those sailors were acting how you were supposed to behave on a naval ship, not the way the lackadaisical and undisciplined crew of the Caine behave, and they change their mind about meeting the Admiral.

Queeg certainly has some quirky habits, and it is suggested he is losing his nerve as a combat commander in a war zone.

The executive officers question his command and always give him a hard time. This frustrates Queeg, who is trying to run the ship as a naval vessel should operate.

BRIAN LOCKHART
FROM THE SECOND ROW



During a severe storm in the Pacific, when the entire fleet is in danger, Queeg refused to turn the ship into the waves or take on ballast, even though his executive officers are insisting on saving the ship, because the ship has received no orders to do so.

The officer played by Fred MacMurray steps in and orders Queeg to stand down, and he takes command of the vessel – effectively committing a mutiny.

In the resulting court-martial, in which the executive officers are on trial for mutiny, their attorney paints a picture of Queeg as being incompetent and possibly mentally unstable. He hails the officers as heroes for taking command from a faltering Queeg and saving the ship and the lives of everyone on board.

The officers are found not guilty as a result.

It is after the trial, when the executive officers are celebrating their acquittal at a party, that the real drama unfolds.

Their lawyer enters the room and is infuriated by the sight of the men celebrating.

He tells them what really happened. The lawyer tells them that to save them from being found guilty, he had to 'torpedo' Queeg and deliberately destroy a man's reputation.

If the executive officers had behaved like real naval officers and respected Queeg's command, he tells them, then likely during the storm, Queeg would have respected their advice and turned the ship into the waves.

He calls Henry Fonda's character the real villain and throws a drink in his face.

It is a story of deflecting the truth and avoiding responsibility and accountability.

Our current federal government is doing this all the time. Instead of addressing the concerns of our country's citizens, they make announcements about unpopular policies and tell us we should be thrilled about the decision.

The government gladly gives your tax dollars to other countries while we have homeless people sleeping on the streets. Our borders are not secure, but they tell us that building more houses will fix that, rather than addressing the real issue.

Violent criminals go unpunished while law-abiding citizens are threatened with more gun bans.

Canadians are a little too complacent when demanding responsibility and accountability from their politicians.

Hungary: The tide goes out

Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk sent a message congratulating Hungary's newly elected prime minister, Peter Magyar, for having evicted long-serving populist leader Viktor Orban (aka 'The Viktor') from power. All the usual welcoming words, but Tusk's message ended with two slightly mysterious words in Hungarian: "Ruszkik Haza" – Russians Go Home.

There are no Russians in Hungary, apart from occasional visitors, so what was that about? It dates back to 1989, when a then-youthful student leader called Viktor Orban became an overnight national hero by giving a speech telling the Russians to end their 45-year-old military occupation and go home.

They did go home then, but their influence returned with Orban's return to the prime ministership. He had previously occupied the office as a conventional conservative in 1998-2002, but he practically invented modern populism – 'illiberalism', as he called it – for his comeback

in 2010. And this time the Russians were with him all the way.

Hungary's value to Moscow was its membership in the European Union and NATO, which enabled it to pass on all the information that its representatives had access to as members. Orban also blocked various EU decisions that Russia disapproved of, like his recent veto of a \$105 billion EU loan to Ukraine to replace the US aid that Trump cancelled.

That loan will now go through. Repairing the huge damage done by sixteen years of Orban will take a lot longer: the judiciary has been packed, the government is a kleptocracy, the media are 80%-owned by Orban's cronies, and the electoral map has been gerrymandered. But the main interest for non-Hungarians is the possibility that this is a communicable disease.

Populists all over the place clearly fear that it might be. Orban rose to power when Donald Trump was a property

developer, Italy's Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni was a junior minister, France's Marine Le Pen and Britain's Nigel Farage were fringe figures, and Germany's Alice Weidel was a financial consultant.

They all found time in their busy schedules to offer their support to Viktor Orban, and now they are strangely silent. It's like when your parents die: you realise that it's now you on the front line.

Last week, with Orban trailing badly, they pulled all the stops out. Trump, in his fifth intervention in support of Orban in six months, posted "I AM WITH HIM ALL THE WAY", and Vice-President JD Vance showed up in Budapest in person on the way to his equally unsuccessful performance in the 'peace talks' in Islamabad.

This is an unusual amount of attention to lavish on an election in a country of nine million people located in the unfashionable end of Europe. You only have to compare it to the attention that the world media gave to the 2023 election that brought Orban clone Robert Fico back to power in Slovakia.

That event got almost zero attention, whereas Sunday's election in Hungary got front-page coverage almost everywhere. The difference is entirely due to the fact that Orban's loss was seen as a defeat for the founding father for the populist strategy, at least in its current incarnation – and possibly a harbinger of the future.

The anxiety of some and the hopes of other have been stoked by the growing likelihood that the populist formula is failing in its natural homeland, the United States. Trump's own erratic behaviour is

part of the problem, but the economic dislocation caused by his war against Iran is an even bigger reason for them to fear defeat in the midterm elections next November.

The governing party losing control of one House of Congress in the midterms, or even of both, is a frequent feature of national politics in the United States, and it normally doesn't cause despair. It's a protest vote, and it's not even a reliable predictor of what will happen in the general election.

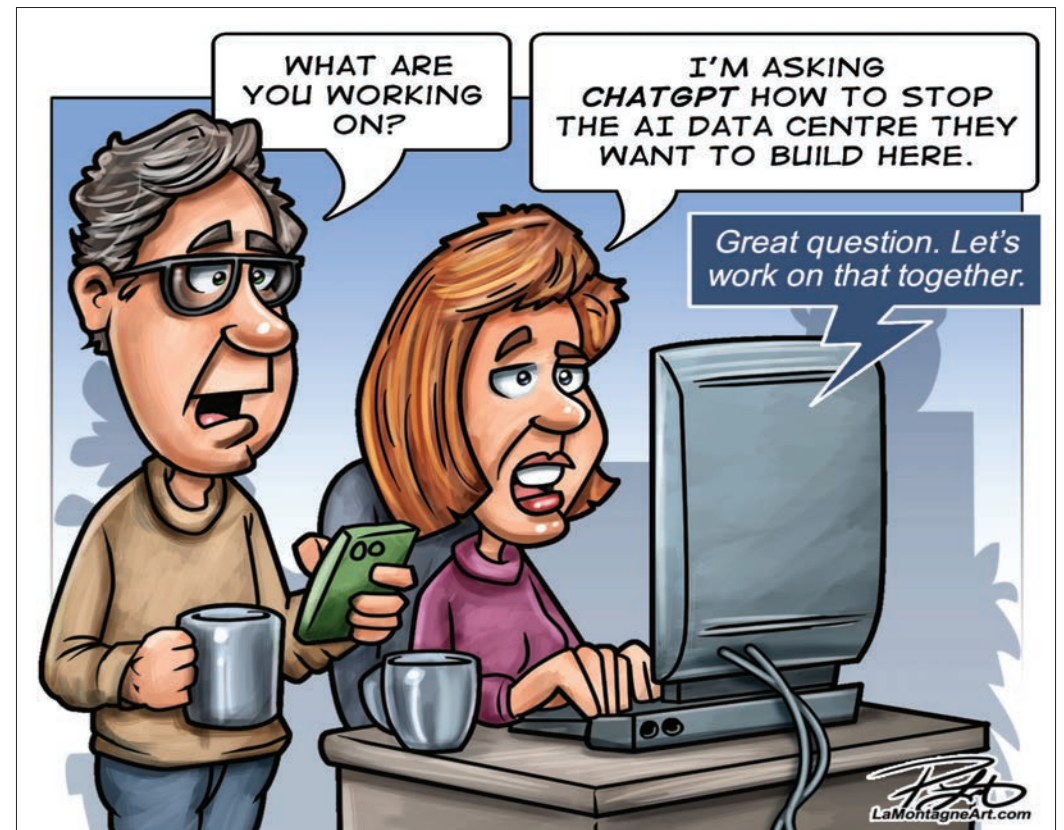
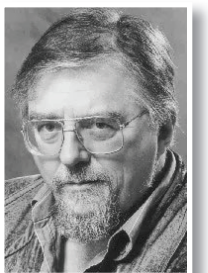
Yet Trump & Co. in the United States, and even more so their fellow travelers in Europe and far-flung outposts like Argentina, seem concerned that the wind has changed, even though nobody else has noticed it yet.

Maybe they are wrong, and this is only a minor setback in their inevitable march to power everywhere in the West. But protest-based mass movements have an average lifetime of 10-15 years, so a steep decline in the health and longevity of populist governments starting about now would not be untypical.

On the other hand, Trump's desperate antics as he seeks a face-saving way out of his war on Iran are prolonging an economic downturn that could end in a major recession.

Voters punish whichever government is in power when a recession arrives with complete disregard for the actual causes, so we could see old populist regimes go down even as new ones emerge elsewhere.

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 SALES: **Debbie Freeman**
 OFFICE MANAGER: **Debbie Freeman**
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COMMUNITY VOICES

Monthly Message: Nominations open for the Business Excellence Awards

Every local business has a story. It's the early mornings, the risks taken, the community supported, and the passion behind every product, service, or cause. These stories shape Dufferin County, and now is the time to recognize them.

The Dufferin Board of Trade (DBOT) is inviting the community to nominate outstanding businesses, nonprofits, and business leaders for the 2026 Business Excellence Awards. Nominations are now open and will close on May 1, 2026.



This is more than an awards program. It's a chance to celebrate the people behind the businesses we rely on every day. For nominees, it's a meaningful and "feel good" moment that brings recognition, builds pride,

and provides an opportunity to share their story with the community.

Nomination Categories include:

- Business of the Year
- Small Business of the Year
- Nonprofit of the Year
- Businessperson of the Year
- New Business Award
- Local Impact Award

Winners will be announced at the Awards Gala on May 21, 2026, at the Best Western Plus Orangeville Inn & Suites, featuring a

Casino Night theme and an evening dedicated to celebrating local excellence.

Supporting local businesses isn't just about where we shop. It's about investing in our community. Taking a moment to nominate a business or organization is a simple but powerful way to show appreciation and help shine a spotlight on those making a difference in Dufferin County.

To submit a nomination or learn more, visit: dufferinbot.ca/2026BEAs

From retirement to wedding vows: Shelburne Legion hosts double celebration

Written By JOSHUA DRAKES
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Andrew Horvath came to the Shelburne Legion Branch 220 for a retirement celebration, but left as a married man.

After years of dedicated and heartfelt service to the Royal Canadian Air Cadets in Shelburne, Capt. Andrew Horvath is retiring from his leadership role and returning to civilian life. Horvath had worked with the cadets for 10 years, putting off his retirement until he was forced to due to rules regarding service age.

That didn't mean they were going to let him go quietly, however. Horvath was honoured by the cadets, the Shelburne Legion, veterans and the general public on April 9 with a retirement ceremony held at Branch 220's building in town.

Capt. Horvath fought back tears as he addressed the room of guests and his cadets.

"I'd really like to thank all of you for coming," he said. "Thank you for all your support. You guys are my adopted sons and daughters. I'll be back as a CI (civilian instructor). I can't not come back and see all these smiling faces, especially the marksmanship team."

"Somebody's got to be here to distract you guys," Capt. Horvath added.

With half the building filled with the cadets he had worked so closely with for a decade, he and those in attendance got to see firsthand the legacy he would be leaving behind.

When Capt. Horvath assumed command of the unit during the COVID-19 pandemic, he faced some of the most challenging years

in the squadron's history. Under his leadership, the unit survived low attendance, on-line training, staff shortages, and even the threat of closure, eventually rebounding to the point where cadet interest exceeded available capacity.

That leadership was reflected in his deeply personal approach to command. Cadets consistently described him as both mentor and friend, someone who sits with them at meals, learns about their lives, and uses humour to keep spirits high. His personal approach has deeply impacted the lives of many cadets that he worked with.

Thankfully, however, he will not be gone for long. Squadron leadership made it clear that they are working to find a path to return him to the unit as a civilian instructor, so that he may continue working with them, even in retirement.

Even as he steps back from leadership, Capt. Horvath has been honoured by more than just the local cadets and legion branch. He received honours from the Canadian Armed Forces, Cadets and Junior Canadian Rangers, and even a letter from Prime Minister Mark Carney for his dedicated and thoughtful service.

The ceremony was full of laughs, good memories and the understanding that this wasn't a goodbye, just a break for the captain before he returns.

The good news didn't just end there.

Near the end of the ceremony, a special service was held. Capt. Horvath and Capt. Diane Powers were married, right there in the legion hall. The move was a shock to everyone; only the newly married couple and the involved Padre knew it was coming.



JOSHUA DRAKES PHOTO

NEW BEGINNINGS: Capt. Andrew Horvath may have entered the legion hall to formally retire, but he wasn't leaving on a low point. What could have been a sad goodbye became something significant – a new chapter in the captain's life. With a promise to return to the cadets as a civilian, Capt. Horvath marked his retirement with pride, joy and a commitment that shows no sign of stopping anytime soon.

Chris Skalozub, Deputy Zone Commander with the Royal Canadian Legion, congratulated them on their marriage, noting that it was truly an exception, something you don't see every day.

"Back in the old time when I served, you had to go and get the Padre and the acceptance of the base commander to get married because you were essentially in uniform," he said. "That's exactly why he did this wedding today, it was his last day in uniform. He's a married man now. It's fantastic. It looks good on them."

"They're the happy couple now, and that

gives them more incentive to keep on coming back and keep on working."

He continued by expressing his support for getting Captain Horvath back with the cadets.

"He doesn't have the rank anymore, but he's coming back as a civilian instructor next year, which is perfect, because he's still involved."

Capt. Horvath may have entered the legion to retire and close a chapter of his life, but a surprise marriage to end the evening proved it was not a goodbye — but a new beginning.

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by *Kristen Thomson*

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WWW.THEATREORANGEVILLE.CA

Immersive summer camp gives girls hands-on look at firefighting careers

Written By JOSHUA DRAKES
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Camp Molly is set to bring an intensive, hands-on firefighting experience to girls and non-binary individuals aged 15 to 18, offering a rare inside look at the modern fire service and the many careers within it.

Hosted by Orangeville Fire in partnership with the provincial Camp Molly program, the four-day camp is designed to build skills, confidence, and awareness of first responder roles, while helping young women envision themselves in positions traditionally dominated by men.

Firefighter Emily Marfleet, who is coordinating the camp, said it will serve as an introductory experience for attendees.

"We're hosting firefighting education for girls 15 to 18 years old, just to kind of give them an idea of what the fire service is like," she said. "They'll meet and see mentors that are already in the fire service, in a way that helps them see themselves in the service as well. They'll get a front row seat to see what being a first responder is like."

The camp's mission is twofold. First, it aims to expose participants to the full breadth of the fire and emergency services world, far beyond the stereotypical Hollywood image of riding a fire truck to a blaze.

Second, it is intended to develop leadership, teamwork, and personal resilience that will serve the girls whether or not they ultimately choose a career in emergency services.

"We're going to take them through all different kinds of firefighting skills, and they can kind of learn on that, do some team building, some networking, and really get a chance to grow themselves," Marfleet said. "They get to try out all the different avenues that are available to them."

Attendees can expect a diverse and packed schedule.

Planned activities include CPR and medical training with paramedics, an introduction to ambulance operations, and

exposure to dispatch and communications in emergency response. Participants will explore fire prevention and investigation, including examining burn cells to see how fires start, spread, and are analyzed after the fact.

Marfleet said they will also tackle core firefighting skills, including auto extrication, search and rescue, nozzle handling, and technical demonstrations.

"We're setting up and demonstrating burn cells so that they can see what a fire looks like and what they're looking for during the investigation after," she said. "Physical demonstrations like that can really help teach them what to look for and just how quickly a fire can spread."

Public education is part of the curriculum as well, with campers collaborating on a presentation, reinforcing both communication skills and fire safety knowledge.

Camp Molly in Orangeville is being delivered free of charge, with capacity for 35 participants. Interest has been strong, drawing applicants from Orangeville, Dufferin County, and beyond, with local sponsors helping cover meals and operational costs to keep the program accessible.

For those who attend all four days and are still very interested in pursuing a career in emergency services, Orangeville Fire Chief John Snider said that pathways will be available from Camp Molly onwards for those interested, thanks to local partners.

"We're expecting to be looking for volunteer firefighters again next year, as there's a few vacancies coming up," he said. "At the end of the day, you don't have to be on the hose or on the fire truck. There's a number of careers that don't involve the fire trucks that are great opportunities for everyone to explore."

"We have a private career college nearby called the Ontario Fire Academy, which is a great local opportunity to get the education and move into those other pathways. There is a lot to explore and a lot of variety there."

Day to day, Orangeville Fire responds pri-



SOFIA MINGRAM PHOTO

HANDS-ON TRAINING: Camp Molly is coming to Orangeville and will provide girls aged 15 to 18 with immersive firefighter training this summer. The program is being hosted by the Orangeville Fire Department and will help girls explore potential careers within fire services, in an inclusive and encouraging environment.

marily to medical calls, alarm activations, motor vehicle collisions, and structure fires, while also continuing to expand its capabilities, such as training for technical and rope rescues to meet local risks.

Public education and fire prevention are central pillars of its mission, making Camp Molly a natural extension of the department's commitment to community safety and to fostering a more diverse, future-ready fire service.

Camp Molly is set to serve as a unique opportunity for girls and non-binary individuals to explore their career interests in a safe, controlled environment, with the guidance of industry professionals and emergency service experts as they see real, hands-on demonstrations and education.

Colleen Adams, training officer with the Orangeville Fire Department, said that regardless of whether they continue down that path afterward, the camp aims to leave them more confident, more connected and more experienced.

"Even if they decide that they don't want to do this, it's another way to meet other people," she said. "It is a team-based environment. They will be able to push themselves, ultimately, this camp is going to give a lot of girls the opportunity to grow."

Female residents of Dufferin County between 15 and 18 are encouraged to register for Camp Molly, if interested in a career related to fire services.

To register, volunteer or learn more, go to: cammolly.ca

Dufferin County invites residents to Kickoff Open House for Official Plan amendment

Dufferin County is inviting residents to get involved as it updates its Official Plan to guide how local communities grow and evolve over the coming decades.

The Official Plan is the County's primary land use planning document. It sets out the vision, goals, and policies that shape where housing, jobs, and infrastructure are located, while also protecting farmland and natural

areas, supporting economic development and addressing climate change.

Official Plan Amendment Number Five will ensure the County's Plan reflects current conditions, aligns with provincial requirements and supports complete, resilient communities across Dufferin.

The County invites community members to learn about the project, ask questions

and share ideas at a Kickoff Open House on Thursday, April 23, at 6 p.m., at the atrium inside the county's administration building, 55 Zina St., Orangeville.

At the Open House, participants can learn about the Official Plan and what is being updated; Share what's working well in the community; and identify key issues, challenges and opportunities.

The County wants to hear from people across Dufferin, including residents, local businesses and employers, agricultural community members, developers and landowners, community organizations and service providers and any other interested parties across the county.

Community input is a critical part of the Official Plan update. There will be multiple opportunities to participate throughout the project, including open houses, online engagement, and targeted conversations. The County will continue to communicate with the community as the project progresses.

What is an Official Plan?

An Official Plan is a long-term policy document that guides land use and development.

It helps answer important questions, such as:

- Where should new housing and jobs be located?
- How do we protect farmland and natural heritage systems?
- How do we plan for infrastructure like roads, water, and wastewater?
- How can we build healthy, complete, and

climate-resilient communities?

All planning and infrastructure decisions in Dufferin County must conform with the Official Plan.

What's being updated in the Official Plan and why?

As part of this update, the County will:

- Update mapping and policies to strengthen protection of natural heritage systems
- Assess land needs to ensure there is enough land to support future growth
- Review and update policies to align with current provincial plans and legislation
- Incorporate climate considerations into how we plan for growth and infrastructure
- Ensure the Plan reflects local priorities and community needs

The Official Plan shapes decisions that affect daily life, how people move, where homes are built, how communities grow and how natural systems are protected. This update is an opportunity to:

- Plan for growth in a coordinated and sustainable way
- Protect the County's rural character and agricultural lands
- Support housing options and economic opportunities
- Build resilience to climate change and extreme weather
- Reflect the values and priorities of the community

Learn more about the project on the County's Join In Dufferin page at: joinindufferin.com/official-plan-amendment-five

VENDOR APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN

ORANGEVILLE CITIZEN

HOLLY FEST

We're decking the halls once again and inviting unique, passionate vendors to join us in making HollyFest even more magical in its second year. After an incredible inaugural event, we're excited to welcome new businesses and continue growing Orangeville Citizen's signature holiday shopping experience.

If you're ready to showcase your products, connect with an engaged community, join a festive tradition in the making, we'd love to have you at HollyFest and share in the magic!

Saturday, November 21, 2026 - 9am to 4pm; and

Sunday, November 22, 2026 - 10am to 3pm

Indoors at the Orangeville Fairgrounds,
247090 Side Rd 5, Mono

orangevillehollyfest.ca

2026 Candidate information sessions

Considering running for council?

Get the information you need to make informed decisions about running for municipal office.

Virtual

Hosted by Dufferin County's lower-tier municipalities and facilitated by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

Wednesday, April 29, 2026 at 6:30 p.m.

Registration: orangeville.ca/CandidateSession

In person

Hosted by Dufferin County's lower-tier municipalities and facilitated by Clerks on Call. Attend either date. Stay after the session to connect with the trainers and ask questions.

Wednesday, May 6, 2026 at 7 p.m.

Monora Park Pavilion,
500 Monora Park Pavilion Road, Mono, ON

Thursday, May 7, 2026 at 10 a.m.

Centre Dufferin Recreation Complex,
200 Fiddle Park Lane, Shelburne, ON



To apply to be a vendor at the show, scan the QR code, visit our website or email shows@ipcmedia.ca for a vendor application form. Apply before June 1, 2026 and be eligible for early acceptance on June 26.

Bethell Hospice kicks off fundraising for 16th Annual Hike for Hospice

Written By RILEY MURPHY
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Bethell Hospice is gearing up for its annual Hike for Hospice, with an early-bird draw and prizes galore.

Bethell Hospice's annual Hike brings the community out to celebrate and support the hospice and all the work it does throughout the year.

The Hike is part of the foundation's year-round efforts to raise funds and ensure that the hospice care and community programs Bethell Hospice provides remain free to residents of Caledon and surrounding communities.

As they enter their 16th year of the Hike, they've already raised over \$80,000, with their overall goal of \$255,000.

The Hike will take place on Sunday, May 3, to coincide with the beginning of National Hospice and Palliative Care Week.

The event will take place at Lloyd Wilson Centennial Arena, 1551 McLaughlin Rd, in Inglewood, starting at 8 a.m.

There is no cost to register; however, Bethell Hospice asks that each participant pre-register for the event and encourages everyone to take part in the fundraising fun.

Kelly Stronach, Associate Director of Marketing and Communications with Bethell Hospice, says there are already 33 teams registered, and with this year's early-bird draw, she noticed many returning names, as well as many brand-new teams.

This year, Stronach adds that many new and exciting things are coming to the Hike, such as Stones with a Story, where hikers are invited to paint or decorate a stone with their own saying or an inspirational quote, and then place it at the beginning of the Hike for others to see as they walk by.

On your return, you can collect your stone and take it home.

This year brings lots of fun for kids, with a new addition: face painting and other activities for all to enjoy.

Also, this year will be a marketplace, where people can browse items such as tea towels, aprons, jewelry, and more.

Returning is their Butterfly Wall, where attendees can personalize their own butterfly with a message or colour, either taking it with them or leaving it for Bethell Hospice's annual butterfly display for grief and bereavement.

Also returning this year are the beloved pet kits for hikers to bring their dogs on the Hike. Stronach laughs that there were probably over 70 dogs at last year's event.

Food-wise, hikers can expect a wide variety, including Tim Hortons, fresh fruit, veggie burgers, regular burgers from Harvey's, pancakes, and brand new this year: ice cream.

Stronach says that not only is the Hike a fun time, but it also provides space for people who have had a family member or loved one

at the hospice to meet other families they may have known there.

"It's a day to remember loved ones and to hike in memory of them. I always look forward to hearing stories about family and friends who were residents and the care they received at Bethell Hospice," says Stronach.

For this year's Hike, she reminds everyone to show up early to secure a parking space, register in advance to save time in the long run, and check out all the available activities.

This year's Hike is presented by Caledon Build.

The current top three fundraising teams at press time were Helpers with a Heart, Boardwalkers, and Walking on Sunshine, together raising over \$28,000 and climbing.

Registration can be done up to the day of the event, but it's better to be safe and register early.

To register your team, visit bhf.akaraisin.com/ui/hikeforbethellhospice2026.

Town of Shelburne to hold flag raising for anniversary of Shelburne Rotary Club

Written By JOSHUA DRAKES
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

A flag raising to honour the legacy and ongoing mission of the Shelburne Rotary will be held on April 22 at 10 a.m. at Jack Downing Park.

The flag raising will follow a proclamation from Mayor Wade Mills, highlighting the club's significant contributions to the town, from helping fight food insecurity to running youth community events.

"The club has shown by its actions and good works for the past 88 years that it is a significant asset to the community," the

proclamation states. "Providing leadership and funding projects and organizations that have greatly benefited the greater community and its citizens, as well as people around the world."

Established on April 22, 1938, the Shelburne Rotary Club has played a significant role in supporting both local initiatives and broader humanitarian efforts for 88 years.

The proclamation continues to cite the club's ongoing commitment to community service.

Among its notable contributions are involvement in the Shelburne Community Kitchen, support for the Shelburne Food

Bank – including the provision of a cargo van – and fundraising efforts for the Rotary Splash Pad.

In recent years, the club has also contributed to youth sports programs, seasonal initiatives such as Christmas hampers, and food security programs, including the Backpack Program.

According to a release issued by the organization, the club continues to operate with a membership dedicated to advancing its founding mission of community service.

"Today, we are a group of 15 men and women, building on what was started 88 years ago," the statement read. "We ac-

knowledge what that group started and are honoured to continue their legacy of community service."

Current members describe themselves as a diverse group of like-minded people.

who are committed to making a positive impact in the community, while continuing to promote the Rotary motto, "Service Above Self."

The upcoming ceremony and flag-raising will formally acknowledge the organization's historical and ongoing contributions. Members of the public are invited to attend and encouraged to celebrate Shelburne Rotary's legacy.

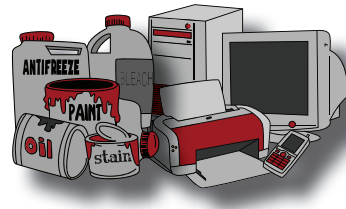


JANINE TAYLOR PHOTOS

HOT FLASHES TO HORMONES: On Friday, April 10, Shelburne Family Chiropractic & Wellness Centre hosted its Perimenopause to Menopause workshop at Shelburne Golf & Country Club. The evening, led by clinic owner and chiropractor Dr. Richard Magder, opened with a warm welcome and a touch of light-hearted humour. Keynote speaker Hannah Sine of Towne Fitness then shared her personal journey through menopause. The program concluded with main presenter Dr. Nicole Roberts, naturopath, who spoke to an engaged, sold-out crowd about perimenopause, menopause, and practical steps to support women's health through the transition.

hazardous & electronic waste event COMING SOON!

Date: Saturday, April 25, 2026
Time: 8am - 3pm
Location: Grand Valley Agricultural Society Lands
60 Main St. N, Grand Valley (beside arena)



- Hazardous waste** includes automotive containers, cleaning products, fluorescent lights, batteries, paints, pesticides, pharmaceuticals, syringes, and much more.
- Electronic waste** includes audio equipment, cameras, computers, home entertainment equipment, phones, and household electronic items, including lamps, alarm clocks, microwaves, toasters, and small appliances.
- Limitations** No waste from industrial, commercial, or institutional sources. No white goods/large appliances (including any appliances with freon). No garbage, or recycling. No unidentified/unknown materials. No drums of materials.

Visit dufferincounty.ca/waste for updates and a full listing of acceptable materials & limitations.

Future events: May 30, June 27, July 22, August 19, September 19, October 31.

See website for details on hours & locations for each scheduled event.

Dufferin County residents, including Amaranth, East Garafraxa, Grand Valley, Melancthon, Mono, Mulmur, Orangeville and Shelburne can attend any of these events.

Dufferin county 519.941.2816 ext. 2620 • dufferinwaste@dufferincounty.ca [dufferinwaste](https://www.facebook.com/dufferinwaste)

Spring Into Style!

CLOTHING SWAP & SHARE

Saturday, April 25, 2026
10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Sunday, April 26, 2026
12:00 pm - 4:00 pm

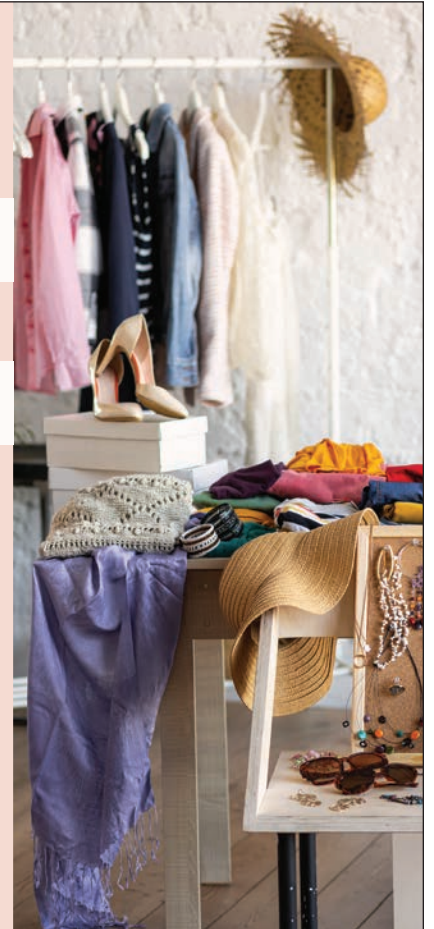
Grand Valley Public Library
4 Amaranth St. E, Grand Valley

Bring your unwanted spring and summer clothing/accessories to the event and look for something new to wear for free! Don't have anything to bring? Stop by anyway! All are welcome.

Clothing Drop-Off Options at Grand Valley Public Library:
Wednesday, April 22nd (10am - 6pm)
Thursday, April 23rd (10am - 8pm)
Friday, April 24th (10am - 6pm)
Saturday, April 25th (Before Noon)

All clothing must be clean and in good condition. Event guidelines: dufferincounty.ca/waste

This is a FREE event. Light refreshments will be served. Plus, get a chance to win prizes!



Dufferin county GVPL Grand Valley Public Library dufferinwaste

The 2026 dufferinwaste guide is coming!
Check your mail for your copy.



Contact Dufferin Waste if you don't receive a copy by May.

Dufferin county 519.941.2816 ext. 2620 • dufferinwaste@dufferincounty.ca [dufferinwaste](https://www.facebook.com/dufferinwaste)

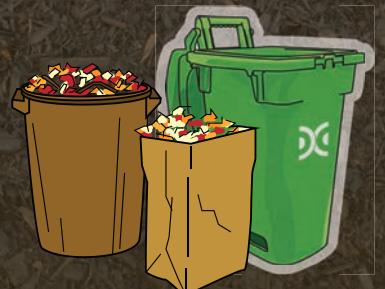
compost give away

Saturday, April 25, 2026

Horning's Mills Earth Day Event

9:00am to 12:00pm
14 Mill Street, Melancthon

Bring your own container.
Limit of one blue box-sized container per household.
First come, first served.



Do you participate in our Green Bin & Yard Waste programs?
Enjoy the end result! Your garden will thank you.
For more information, visit dufferincounty.ca/waste

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TOWN PAGE

203 MAIN STREET EAST, SHELBURNE ON L9V 3K7 | PHONE: 519-925-2600 | EMAIL: INFO@SHELBURNE.CA | WWW.SHELBURNE.CA

COUNCIL 2026 DATES April 27 (Virtual), May 11 & 25, June 1 (virtual) & 22 (Virtual), July 13 & 27, August 24, September 14 & 28, October 5, December 14

MAY 4 - 22

A Glimpse of Summer II

WENDY WILSON

INCOME TAX CLINIC

Hosted at YOUR Library:
201 Owen Sound Street, Shelburne

Sort out your taxes with help from community volunteers!

Saturday, April 18th 2026
12:00 pm - 4:00 pm

***Pre-registration required**

Parent Support
SHELBURNE Public Library

COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER INCOME TAX CLINIC

Shelburne Public Library
Saturday, March 28th, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Saturday, April 18th, 12 p.m. - 4 p.m.

FOR FAMILIES AND INDIVIDUALS WITH A SIMPLE TAX SITUATION AND MODEST INCOME

PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED

LIMITED WALK-IN APPOINTMENTS AVAILABLE

Info@constella-sa.ca

FREE ADMISSION
TOWN OF SHELBURNE EVENT

Honk & Explore

Touch a Truck

Details:

May 23, 2026
10:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Sensory Hour
No lights or Sounds
10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Operations Yard
124 Luxton Way

Activities Include:

- Vehicle Displays
- Meet Staff
- Free Popcorn
- Face Painting
- Button Making

Accepting donations of non-perishable food for the Shelburne foodbank.

Find your next job!

SHELBURNE, DUFFERIN & AREA

JOB FAIR

APRIL 23 | 1:00 - 5:00 PM

CENTRE DUFFERIN RECREATION COMPLEX
200 Fiddle Park Lane, Shelburne ON

Our Participating Employers

Sponsored by: **EmployNext** powered by SERCO

Community Partners:

FOR INFORMATION **SCAN ME**

HOW OLD ARE YOUR SMOKE AND CO ALARMS?

Check the date. All smoke and CO alarms, including hardwired ones, need to be replaced at 10 years old or on their expiration date.

Only WORKING alarms save lives!

519-925-5111
SDFD@shelburne.ca
114 O'Flynn St, Shelburne, ON L9V 2W9

STREETLIGHT OUT?

REPORT IT

Visit Shelburne.ca

SPRING MAINTENANCE EFFORTS

- Damaged Grass
- Gravel Surfaces
- Parks and Trails Cleanup
- Potholes
- Sidewalk Inspections
- Street Sweeping
- Stump Removal
- Line Painting
- Catch Basins

Visit Shelburne.ca



A People Place, A Change of Pace
SHELBURNE
 ONTARIO, CANADA

CONNECT WITH US
 shelburne.ca
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TOWN PAGE

203 MAIN STREET EAST, SHELBURNE ON L9V 3K7 | PHONE: 519-925-2600 | EMAIL: INFO@SHELBURNE.CA | WWW.SHELBURNE.CA

COUNCIL 2026 DATES April 27 (Virtual), May 11 & 25, June 1 (virtual) & 22 (Virtual), July 13 & 27, August 24, September 14 & 28, October 5, December 14

SAVE THE DATE

SHELBURNE, ROTARY & EC.DEV

GOLF TOURNAMENT

JUNE 4, 2026

EVENT SPONSOR

S. BURNETT & ASSOCIATES LIMITED
 ENGINEERING & ENVIRONMENTAL

SHOTGUN START AT 12:00 PM | CART ASSIGNMENTS 11:30 AM
 SHELBURNE GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB,
 COUNTY ROAD 124, MELANCTHON

scan ME!

GROW 2 GIVE

Grow hope by turning your garden into food for families facing food insecurity. Your backyard, balcony, or community plot can help nourish what matters most in our diverse community.

Every Pepper, Bean & Squash Makes a Difference

LEARN MORE

SCAN ME

Get on the voters list today.

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Centre Dufferin athletes compete at District 4 badminton championships

Written By BRIAN LOCKHART

Centre Dufferin District High School Royals athletes competed at the District 4 badminton championships on Wednesday, April 8.

The junior championships were held at Erin District High School, while the senior championships were held in Shelburne at CDDHS.

Events got underway at 9:00 a.m. and ran all day. The initial round-robin competition determined who would go to the final matches and qualify for regional competition at CWOSSA.

The top two finalists in each division advanced to regional competition.

The competition featured single boys and girls, doubles, and mixed doubles teams.

The play was fast and very competitive. The final medal rounds were especially spirited and well-matched as players fought to secure a good spot in the CWOSSA standings.

Six schools were in the tournament, including Centre Dufferin, Westside Secondary School from Orangeville, Emmanuel Christian High School from Fergus, Erin District High School, Norwell District Secondary School, and Centre Wellington from Mount Forest.

Royals' senior mixed doubles team, Nick Gibson and Abi Wilson, won silver.

Centre Dufferin senior doubles team Téa Bosiljevac and Ashley Valade won gold in their division.

Junior player Musa Taufiq also qualified.

All five players will go to the regional level to compete at CWOSSA.

"We had three round-robin matches, one quarter-final, one semi-final, and final match. The competition was really good, especially approaching the quarter finals," said Téa Bosiljevac after her winning match. "I think we thought we would win by way more than we did, but I think the competition was really good, compared to last year."



BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

MOVING ON TO REGIONALS: Centre Dufferin District High School Royals competitors Ashley Valade and Téa Bosiljevac play a set during the District 4 badminton senior championships held in the gym at Centre Dufferin on Wednesday, April 8. Ashley and Téa won the senior girls' doubles gold medal and will compete at the regional CWOSSA level.

Ashley Valade agreed there was a lot of good competition this year.

"Today's competition was really good," Ashley said. "Last year we were just starting out. This year, we knew what we were doing. It was so much more competitive. Last year was our first year playing badminton."

Ashley and Téa also play on the school's basketball and volleyball teams together, so they figured they had good chemistry and could play doubles in badminton.

"This is the district tournament to see who

goes on to CWOSSA," said Centre Dufferin coach and senior tournament organizer Patrick Clendinning, during the championships on April 8. "There are six schools competing here today. Both winners who compete in the final matches will go on to CWOSSA. The difference is, whoever wins will go on to be the number one seed. We have single girls, single boys, double girls, double boys, and mixed doubles. Most teams sent around 12 players, so there's close to 50 players here today."

Badminton is a sport that requires fast reflexes and good hand-eye coordination, and there is a lot of fast movement on the court.

The regional competition will feature the top players from the District competing against top players from other districts, making it highly competitive.

The CWOSSA competition will take place at Conestoga College in Kitchener, beginning with the Junior championships on Wednesday, April 15, followed by the Senior championships on Thursday, April 16.

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Stayner eliminated from PJHL playoffs after losing to Fergus

Written By BRIAN LOCKHART

Three out of four conference finals have been decided in the Provincial Junior Hockey League (PJHL) after weekend play.

Locally, the Stayner Siskens are done for the season after losing in a four-game sweep to the Fergus Whalers.

The final game was played in Fergus on Sunday, April 12, and ended with a 3-2 win for the Whalers.

The Siskens eliminated the Alliston Hornets in the North Carruthers division championship in a series that went six games. That series wrapped up on April 1 in Alliston.

Fergus will go on to play the East Conference winner once that series is finished in the Schmalz Cup semi-final.

The Frankford Huskies are currently leading the Uxbridge Bruins 3-2 in the East Conference.

Frankford had a solid 3-1 lead, but the Bruins got back into the series with a 3-1 win in Game 5 on Sunday, April 12, on Frankford's home ice.

Game 6 of the East Conference series was scheduled for April 14, with results not available at press time.

In the South conference, the Tavistock Braves have emerged as the 2026 champions after eliminating the Dundas Blues in a series that went four games.

The series ended on Saturday, April 11,

on Tavistock home ice with a 3-2 win for the Braves.

Tavistock will now move on to the semi-final round of competition.

They will face the Lakeshore Canadiens in the semi-final.

The Canadiens won the West Conference title by knocking out the Mt. Brydges Bulldogs in a four-game sweep.

Lakeshore had an easy series win, dominating all four games.

The two teams remaining after the semi-final round of the playoffs will compete for the 2026 Schmalz Cup Junior C championship.

It has been a long season with a lot of exciting small-town hockey around the province.

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NICK GIBSON

Playing badminton all through his high school years, Nick Gibson has achieved success in this sport. This year he will be going to the regional CWOSSA competition for the third time after winning silver in the mixed doubles qualifier tournament.

"I like the hand-eye coordination – it's just a competition of who can do the best," Nick said of why he likes playing badminton. "Agility-wise, it's really demanding. You have to be on your toes all the time."

A well-rounded athlete, Nick plays on the high school volleyball and lacrosse teams as well as hockey with the Shelburne Wolves.

TEAM: CENTRE DUFFERIN DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL ROYALS BADMINTON

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Big Brothers Big Sisters raises \$25,000 at annual bowling fundraiser

Written By JOSHUA DRAKES
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Supporters of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Dufferin and District gathered at the Best Western on April 10 to celebrate the organization's largest annual fundraiser, Bowl For Kids' Sake.

The themed event, held each year to raise funds in support of mentoring programs for local youth, brought together teams made up of workplaces, friend groups and families — highlighting the breadth of community support behind the organization's mission.

Executive Director Nancy Stallmach thanked event attendees for their continued commitment and emphasized the importance of mentorship.

"When we think about growing up, we all have memories of someone who made a difference in our lives, someone who took the time to listen, who gave us guidance, or just simply was there for us," Stallmach said. "That is our aim at Big Brothers, Big Sisters. Our goal is to ensure that every child has the chance to experience that kind of mentorship."

The bowling portion of the event marked the final leg of the fundraiser, with participants taking part in virtual Wii bowling

matches set up inside a rented hall at the hotel. The interactive format allowed large groups to compete and socialize throughout the afternoon. With live music, prizes, and a western cowboy theme, attendees wasted no time getting into the sports, going head-to-head against each other on the virtual lanes.

Stallmach noted that the annual fundraiser continues to play a critical role in sustaining programs across the region, helping the organization reach youth in need of guidance while enriching volunteers' lives.

"Last year alone, through our programs, we matched over 200 children with caring mentors. Your participation today helps us continue that and to operate in Dufferin County and provide our critical services to local children and families. Mentoring a child doesn't just change their life, it can also transform your own," said Stallmach.

The fundraiser concluded with the annual Bowl For Kids' Sake event held throughout the day, ultimately raising approximately \$25,000 in donations from the community.

With another successful year completed, organizers say the continued generosity of local supporters ensures that mentorship opportunities remain accessible to children and families across Dufferin County.



JOSHUA DRAKES PHOTO

WESTERN BOWLING: Supporters and sponsors of Big Brothers Big Sisters gathered at the Orangeville Best Western for a fun afternoon of virtual bowling as part of their yearly Bowl For Kids Sake fundraiser. Support this year was strong, with the organization raising \$25,000 in donations and contributions to be reinvested in connecting youth with mentors who offer guidance and support.

Dufferin County council considers extending warden term length to two years

Written By JAMES MATTHEWS

Dufferin County council tweaked some aspects of its procedures and practices.

A revamped procedural bylaw was accepted when council met on March 26. The revised bylaw modernizes council procedures,

aligns the document with current practices, and enhances clarity in governance. Key amendments proposed include establishing a two-year term for the warden and creating a deputy warden role.

All county councillors are eligible to serve as the warden, who is elected by fellow councillors in a vote.

It's believed a two-year term would afford the warden greater opportunity to advance strategic priorities, intergovernmental partnerships, and longer-term initiatives.

Under this structure, the warden would be elected for a two-year term at the inaugural meeting following a regular municipal election, with a subsequent election for warden occurring mid-term.

A formally established deputy warden would serve in a defined leadership and supporting role and be given the authority to act in the place of the warden when the warden is absent or unable to act.

The deputy's term would be concurrent with the warden's.

A new, earlier start time was suggested for evening council meetings, along with modernized and clarified procedures for delegations and enhanced requirements for notices of motion that have significant financial implications.

Beginning meetings at 6 p.m., rather than the current 7 p.m., will provide greater predictability for council, staff, and the public. About 73 per cent of evening meetings in the current term have already started before 7 p.m., so it is reflective of current practice.

"Collectively, these updates ensure that the procedural bylaw more accurately reflects current practices and provides a clear and effective structure to guide council proceedings in the next term," according to a report to council.

Councillor Todd Taylor, Orangeville's deputy mayor, lauded the suggested changes to procedure.

He further suggested that the practice of daytime council meetings be ended in favour of evening gatherings.

"We have no one here from the public (during day-time meetings)," Taylor said.

He has missed some daytime meetings because of work commitments during those hours, he said.

Coun. Gail Little, Amaranth's deputy mayor, didn't agree that the warden should be given a two-year term in the big chair.

"It's quite easy to have an election every year," she said.

Coun. James McLean, the deputy mayor in Melancthon, welcomed the proposed chang-

es. He said there's a learning curve and much work with the warden's position, so an extra year in the role would be of benefit.

"It usually takes, I would assume, six to eight months to get up to speed with all the different processes," he said. "You build up that time, that expertise, and then all of a sudden the warden has to go right into an election and we may not get the benefit of their full expertise."

Coun. Earl Hawkins, Mulmur's deputy mayor, came out on the side of Little. If councillors believe the warden is doing a pretty good job, all they have to do is re-elect that person in the fall.

"I believe the democratic way is a one-year term," he said.

Should council decide on two-year terms for warden, McLean asked if there could be a mechanism by which a person could be removed from the role if required.

"Is there an opportunity to do a recall?" he said.

Warden Lisa Post, Orangeville's mayor, said there was no such opportunity.

Darren White, Melancthon's mayor and a former warden, voiced his support for two-year terms.

"One year just doesn't work, and it's that simple," said White.

NOTICE

Hunting in the Dufferin County Forest

All users of the Dufferin County Forest are hereby advised that April 25-May 31 is the spring shotgun/archery season for wild turkey in 2026. Wild turkey hunting may occur only from ½ hour before sunrise to 7:00 p.m. During this time there will be a number of hunters using the Dufferin County Forest properties. Please use caution in the forest and wear bright-coloured clothing. There is no hunting allowed at any time in the following tracts: north portion of Amaranth, Hockley, Leening, Levitt, Little, Main, Mono, Thomson, and River Road. Suspected violations of the Fish & Wildlife Conservation Act should be reported to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry at 877-847-7667 (877-TIPS-MNR). Other inquiries should be directed to the County Forest Manager at (519) 278-1366.



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Shelburne woman wins \$100,000 through ENCORE in LOTTO 6/49 draw

Written By SAM ODROWSKI

A Shelburne resident is \$100,000 richer after winning ENCORE in a recent LOTTO 6/49 draw.

Lauralea P. of Shelburne won after matching the last six of seven ENCORE numbers in the Jan. 24 LOTTO 6/49 draw to win.

The win came as a bit of a surprise for Lauralea, who doesn't regularly play the lottery and only discovered her win several weeks after purchasing it at JP Gas & Variety in Mono.

"I forgot I purchased this ticket for almost two months," she recalled. "I was cleaning out my purse when I found it and my co-worker offered to check it using the OLG app on her phone."

"When the screen lit up and said, 'Big Winner,' I couldn't believe it. I froze like a deer in

headlights," Lauralea enthused.

She said it was a surreal feeling to win the \$100,000, and her coworkers are all very happy for her.

The timing of the win, however, made it even more remarkable.

"A few years back, I pranked my sons on April Fools' Day and told them I won the lottery," she said. "Funny enough, today of all days is April 1, and here I am at the Prize Centre after actually winning the lottery," said Lauralea, from the OLG Prize Centre in Toronto.

She said she plans to purchase a new dishwasher, take her two children on vacation, and invest the rest of her windfall.

"This experience has been amazing," Lauralea smiled. "I have so many wonderful people cheering me on who are so excited for me."



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
CASHED IN: Lauralea P. of Shelburne won \$100,000 in a recent LOTTO 6/49 draw.

Ontario SPCA partners with Meals on Wheels for pilot pet food delivery program

Written By SAM ODROWSKI

A new partnership between the Ontario Community Support Association (OCSA) and the Ontario SPCA and Humane Society (Ontario SPCA) is supporting seniors and their pets by delivering pet food alongside Meals on Wheels.

The initiative is being run as a pilot project with Meals on Wheels Sudbury and Meals on Wheels Cornwall. The two organizations have already completed their first pet food deliveries to local seniors, marking the beginning of what is hoped to be a long-term program.

"This collaboration brings together community support providers and animal welfare services to address a practical challenge

faced by many older adults – accessing pet food due to limited mobility, fixed incomes, or transportation barriers," reads a press release from Ontario SPCA. "By leveraging existing Meals on Wheels routes, volunteers can now also deliver pet supplies donated by the Ontario SPCA during their regular visits."

OCSA CEO Lori Holloway noted the importance of ensuring seniors and their pets are cared for.

"Meals on Wheels programs do far more than deliver food, they are a vital connection point into the community," said Holloway. "This partnership reflects how organizations can work together to respond to real, everyday challenges seniors face. It's a practical example of how community-based care

supports the whole person, not just clinical needs."

Similar comments were echoed by Jennifer Bluhm, vice president of community outreach at the Ontario SPCA and Humane Society.

"Pets are family, and we know the positive impact they have on people's mental and emotional health," said Bluhm.

"This partnership helps remove barriers so seniors can continue to enjoy the companionship of their pets."

The pilot pet food delivery program is already making an impact, with providers seeing firsthand how small supports can improve quality of life for clients.

"Pets can play a powerful role in reducing the isolation many seniors experience," says

Tammi Lear, executive director of Meals on Wheels Sudbury.

"Meals on Wheels Sudbury is excited to partner with the Ontario SPCA and Humane Society to help keep our seniors healthy, connected, and able to remain in their homes with their pets."

Data shows that pets can reduce loneliness and support mental well-being among older adults. Small, practical supports like pet food delivery can play an important role in maintaining health, preventing more complex needs over time, and improving client outcomes.

OCSA and the Ontario SPCA say they will continue working together to explore opportunities to expand the program with additional community partners across Ontario.

Dufferin Child and Family Services to hold open house for Autism Acceptance Month

Written By JOSHUA DRAKES
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

An upcoming community event aims to bring families together while promoting greater understanding and acceptance of autism.

Dufferin Child and Family Services (DCAFS) is hosting an open house on April 29 from 12:30 to 6 p.m. at its Behaviour Solutions site at 224 Centennial Road, Orangeville, as part of Autism Awareness and Autism Acceptance Month.

The free event is open to the public, with Tyler Brown, manager at DCAFS, encouraging community members, families, and caregivers to attend.

"The goal of the open house is to raise autism awareness, share information and

to celebrate our community," he said. "We are hoping that people take away a sense of connection and support, while also learning about where they can go to get information about services and to have their questions answered."

The open house will feature a range of interactive and inclusive activities designed to engage attendees of all ages.

Planned programming includes an art and fine motor station, a movement-based dance area, and a sensory room intended to provide a calming space for participants. A dedicated Minecraft-themed activity is also scheduled.

In addition to recreational elements, the event will provide opportunities for learning and connection.

Staff from DCAFS will be available

throughout the day to share information about available support and services, including those offered through its Behaviour Solutions program. Attendees will also have the chance to meet individuals and families who have accessed these services and hear about their experiences.

The open house is part of a broader effort during April to recognize Autism Awareness and Acceptance Month, which highlights the importance of inclusion, understanding and community support for individuals on the autism spectrum.

As part of the event, community members are also invited to contribute artwork reflecting what autism means to them. Submissions may be displayed at DCAFS locations and shared online as part of an ongoing awareness campaign.

Organizers say the open house is intended to combine education, creativity and community engagement, offering a welcoming environment for both those familiar with autism services and those looking to learn more.

"Community engagement through events like these can help by providing a venue for families to develop connections, build relationships and learn about new opportunities and services that are available," Brown said. "It also helps to promote knowledge and understanding within our community, while creating an environment that is safe for people to be who they are, judgment-free."

For more information on the open house, go to dcafs.on.ca/event/open-house-autism-awareness-autism-acceptance-month.

Shelburne Public Library invites the community to free Income Tax Clinic, shares staff pick

On Saturday, April 18, from 12 to 4 p.m., the library is hosting an Income Tax Clinic. Thanks to the Dufferin Parent Support Network and Constella Strategy and Consulting, this free clinic is for families and individ-

uals with a simple tax solution and modest income. Pre-registration is encouraged as space for walk-in appointments is limited. Contact the library to find out if you qualify.

In celebration of poetry month, the library

is hosting its first open mic event at 7 p.m. on Friday, April 24. The event will open with a performance from award-winning Canadian poet and author, Nicole Dalcourt. Dalcourt's work has appeared in *Writerly Magazine*, *Bangs*, *Sky Island Journal* and *Anti-Heroine Chic*. She is a member of the League of Canadian Poets and the Ontario Poetry Society.

Drop by the library to enter our draw for two tickets to the Small Town Big Ideas event on Saturday, April 25 at 2 p.m., featuring Antonio Michael Downing, one of Canada's most powerful new authors and host of CBC's *The Next Chapter!* Antonio Michael will speak to his debut novel *Black Cherokee* in conversation with library CEO Shannon McGrady at the Museum of Dufferin. Tickets are also available at BookLore or online via the Museum of Dufferin.

Staff Pick of the Week

These Memories Do Not Belong to Us by Yiming Ma is the Shelburne Public Library's Staff Pick of the Week.

The book is a hauntingly beautiful and profoundly prescient debut set in a future where China is the sole global superpower, and citizens can record and transfer memories be-

tween minds.

When a man inherits his deceased mother's *Mindbank* — a collection of memories from before, during, and after the global war that landed Qin atop the international food chain—he's unsure what he'll find inside, or whether the Party has gotten to her memories first, altering the experiences she left for him. Either way, he is adamant that he must share them with the world before they are destroyed forever, even if the cost of doing so is his own life. (Goodreads)

This novel was short, beautifully written, and thought-provoking. I loved how each chapter was a complete short story. The dystopian lens that Yiming takes feels eerily similar to what our news and social media feeds look like today. This novel creatively explores the ways in which governments and media manipulate history and control our collective imagination. *These Memories Do Not Belong to Us* encourages us to look for truth beyond what those in power are presenting to us, see beyond convenience and pleasure, and find the real stories about what makes us human.

This weekly article was written by the team at the Shelburne Public Library.

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If you would like to place an obituary in the Shelburne Free Press, or one of our affiliate newspapers, contact Debbie at debbie@lpcmedia.ca or 519-925-2832

In Loving Memory of
MYRTLE EVELYN MCCUTCHEON

Passed away peacefully with family by her side at Dufferin Oaks on Sunday, April 12, 2026 in her 95th year. Loving wife of the late Donald McCutcheon. Devoted mother of William (Delma) and James (Susan). Proud grandmother of Devon, Amanda (Liam) and Katrina (Draydon) and great-grandmother of Julius and Maeve. Predeceased by her parents Delmar and Hazel Stewart and her sister Ruth. She will be lovingly remembered by her extended family, friends and former students.

A Celebration of Life will be held in the Warrior's Hall at the Shelburne Legion, 203 William Street, Shelburne on Saturday, June 20, 2026 from 2-5 p.m. with a sharing of memories at 3 p.m. Spring interment at Shelburne Cemetery. If desired, donations to 4H Ontario, Dufferin Community Foundation – Mulmur Fund, Headwaters Health Care Foundation or Dufferin Oaks Auxiliary would be appreciated as expressions of sympathy. Online condolences and donations may be placed at www.jackandthompsonfuneralhome.com



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BUYING VINYL RECORDS - STEREO – 45's - Cash for antiques and collectibles-stamp-coins. Call James at 416-569-9976.

HOME RENOVATIONS

HOME RENOVATIONS - Kitchen/Bathrooms: tiles/wood/vinyl floors: plumbing / painting / stain / drywall: outdoor repairs – fences, decks. Call Alex at 519-938-7727.

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Jean I. Stewart

Formerly of Mulmur Township and Fergus, Ontario



Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, May 16, 2026 at the Graham A. Giddy Funeral Home, Fergus, Ontario.

Visitation from 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm, with a chapel service beginning at 1:00 pm.

www.grahamgiddyfh.com

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HELP WANTED

LANDSCAPER NEEDED - Must have G license - all riding push mower. Weedeaters. Call 519-217-1281.

VEHICLES WANTED

SCRAP CAR DISPOSAL – CASH PAID for Cars, Trucks, Vans – Big or Small. Call Joe at 647-294-2796.



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COME JOIN OUR HOME TEAM

Accounts Receivable Administrator FULL-TIME (\$20.00-\$25.00 per hour)

JOB DESCRIPTION:

The Accounts Receivable Administrator performs clerical and/or bookkeeping functions in the store. Responsibilities include maintaining records of receivables, preparing monthly statements, sending collections letters, tabulating sales records, etc. They may also work on special projects and additional duties as assigned by management. Administrative persons must perform all functions assigned to them with sufficient speed and accuracy to support store efficiency and a high level of customer service.

DUTIES / RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Balance cash on hand, floats and all daily records and prepare daily deposits.
- Process invoices and credits to charge customers and maintain accounts receivable records.
- Post and apply customer payments accurately
- Provide customers with accurate account information and balances in a timely manner.
- Prepare monthly statements and email/mail them to charge customers
- Monitor the aging of accounts and submit weekly status reports to the Dealer-Owner/Management
- Send collection letters by email and/or follow-up on delinquent accounts by telephone.
- Report accounts that should be denied credit to management, customer service associates and cashiers in accordance with company policy.
- Notify customers promptly when credit privileges are to be suspended/terminated.
- Follow legal, effective collection techniques, keeping delinquent accounts to a minimum.
- Answer incoming accounting related telephone calls.
- Maintain professional confidentiality of all store and customer records.
- Order office/store supplies in a timely manner.
- Work on additional duties and assignments as assigned by management.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Minimum 3 years Accounting/Bookkeeping experience
- College diploma in business administration/accounting an asset.
- Ability to work co-operatively in a team environment.
- Ability to communicate effectively with management, co-workers, and the public at large in person, over the public address system, and by telephone.
- Proficient with Microsoft Office (Word, Excel and Outlook)

BENEFITS:

- Competitive Wage
- Offer Extended Health Care Benefits (incl Health/Dental/Vision, Life, LTD)
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Pastor Gavin Sullivan

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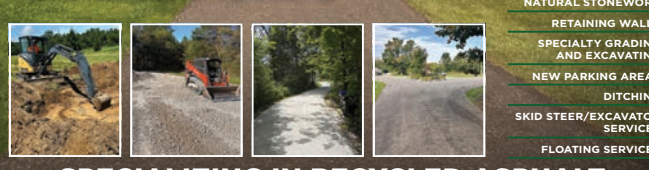
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INCREDIBLE PRICE **SAVE \$7**
17⁹⁹
Breaded Chicken Breasts
 8 PIECES 907 g
 Original
 Choose from 3 varieties.
 Also available, Chicken Breast Grills, 8 PIECES 800 g \$17.99 **SAVE \$7**
GREAT FOR THE GRILL!

INCREDIBLE PRICE **SAVE \$8**
24⁹⁹
Slow Cooked Beef Pot Roast 907 g

BACK TO OUR LOWEST PRICE OF THE YEAR*
*Lowest price of the year matches the lowest price of 2026 to date.
SAVE \$5
INCREDIBLE PRICE
9⁹⁹ each
Apple Butter Pork Tenderloin 400 g
Wagyu Beef Sliders
 9 SLIDERS x 51 g/1.8 oz

SAVE \$7
INCREDIBLE PRICE
14⁹⁹
Boneless, Skinless Chicken Breasts
 4-6 BREASTS 680 g
Seniors Day Every Tuesday 10% off Regular Priced Items!

MULTI BUY
Buy 2 for \$10 **SAVE \$3⁹⁸**
MIX AND MATCH
Soups
 255 g - 400 mL
 5 Varieties
 Individual price: \$6.99 each
 French Onion, Wonton, Tomato and Grilled Cheese

MEAL KITS 840 g - 1.05 kg
SAVE \$2
19⁹⁹ each
Beef Lo Mein
Chicken Stir Fry
NEW! Creamy Tuscan Style Chicken and Pasta
NEW! Chicken Parmesan & Spaghetti
 Other varieties available at \$19.99 each **SAVE \$2**:
 • **NEW!** Shrimp Fettuccine Alfredo • Lemon Herb Chicken and Pasta • Creamy Rosé Chicken & Pasta • Beef Teriyaki
Beef Stroganoff (IT'S BACK!) **SAVE \$2**
22⁹⁹ each
Chicken Fajitas

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

EVERYDAY LOW PRICE
Lasagna 907 g

24⁹⁹
Breaded Haddock
 7-10 PIECES 907 g

21⁹⁹
Battered Haddock
 6-9 PIECES 680 g

BRING THE SIZZLE
SAVE \$3
9⁹⁹
Lemon & Herb Chicken Skewers
 4 PIECES 300 g
 Also available, Island Style Chicken Skewers 4 PIECES 300 g \$9.99 **SAVE \$3**
SAVE \$2
17⁹⁹
Chicken Satay with Peanut Sauce
 20 SKEWERS 500 g
 Also available, Chicken and Pineapple Mini-Skewers 20 PIECES 500 g \$17.99 **SAVE \$2**
SAVE \$2
17⁹⁹
Herb and Garlic Shrimp Skewers
 4 SKEWERS 365 g
SAVE \$2
24⁹⁹
Beef and Bacon Skewers
 15 SKEWERS 360 g

ANY-OCCASION APPETIZERS
SALE **18⁹⁹**
Panko Shrimp 454 g
SALE \$7
19⁹⁹
Chicken Chunks
 17-28 PIECES 680 g
 WHILE QUANTITIES LAST
SALE **11⁹⁹**
Shrimp Tempura
 13-15 PIECES 340 g
SALE **8⁹⁹**
Spanakopita
 12 PIECES 340 g
SALE **11⁹⁹**
Jamaican-Style Beef Patty Bites
 500 g
SALE **8⁹⁹**
Beef Empanada Bites
 12 PIECES 240 g
SALE **8⁹⁹**
Mini Franks in Pastry
 15 PIECES 279 g

BBQ FAVOURITES
SAVE \$5
59⁹⁹
Bacon Wrapped Beef Filet Mignons
 4 STEAKS x 170 g/6 oz
 Other size available, 6 STEAKS x 113 g/4 oz \$59.99 **SAVE \$5**
SAVE \$3
19⁹⁹
Bavette Steaks
 2 STEAKS x 170 g/6 oz 2 Varieties
SAVE \$2
17⁹⁹
SmashHouse Angus Beef Burgers
 8 BURGERS x 113 g/4 oz
SAVE \$2
17⁹⁹
Cheddar & Bacon Stuffed Beef Burgers
 4 BURGERS x 170 g/6 oz
SAVE \$2
17⁹⁹
Sausages
 8-9 PIECES 900 g 2 Varieties
SAVE \$2
17⁹⁹
Frankfurters
 18 PIECES 1 kg

HEARTY DINNER PICKS
SAVE \$2
10⁹⁹
Maple Butter Pork Chops
 4 PIECES 500 g
SAVE \$2
27⁹⁹
Herb & Garlic Chicken Breasts
 5-9 PIECES 907 g
SAVE \$2
12⁹⁹
Pork Schnitzel
 5-7 PIECES 650 g
NEW!
12⁹⁹
Pork Osso Buco 600 g

ASIAN-INSPIRED FAVOURITES
SAVE \$2
15⁹⁹
Korean Style Fried Chicken 650 g
LIMITED TIME ONLY
SAVE \$2
9⁹⁹ each
NEW!
17⁹⁹
Pork Chashu Ramen 417 g
NEW!
14⁹⁹
Sweet & Sour Chicken 900 g
SAVE \$2 each
17⁹⁹
Gingered Beef 850 g
SALE **8⁹⁹** each
Vegetable Egg Rolls 10 PIECES 570 g
Chicken Spring Rolls 6 PIECES 432 g

SATISFY YOUR SWEET TOOTH
SALE **5⁹⁹** each
Cakes
 2 CAKES 228 g - 280 g
SALE **8⁹⁹** each
Cake Pops
 6 PIECES 216 g
NEW! Chocolate
9⁹⁹
Portuguese Style Custard Tarts
 6 PIECES 450 g
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