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READY, SET, SMILE: Shelburne Rotary Club members gather in front of a Shelburne Tim Hortons with their staff as they prepare to kick off the spring Smile Cookie Campaign, which runs from April 27 to May 3. The campaign is a collaborative effort between the Shelburne Rotary Club and the local Tim Hortons franchises. All proceeds from the campaign will help fund important community initiatives, such as Rotary's Backpack Program and Christmas Hamper Program. To ensure that your purchase of smile cookies supports causes in Shelburne, please purchase your cookies at the Tim Hortons off Highway 10 at the north end of Shelburne. The location on County Road 124 will be closed for renovations during Smile Cookie week. Turn to Page 5 for full story.

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Maple Madness marks Mulmur's 175th anniversary

Written By JOSHUA DRAKES
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

A community pancake breakfast celebrating 175 years of the Township of Mulmur drew a strong turnout as part of the municipality's ongoing anniversary events – combining local food, agricultural education and family activities under the “Maple Madness” banner.

On April 11, at 4M (Mikoliew Mach Mulmur Maple Company), guests were treated to a locally supported pancake breakfast event, as part of the ongoing 175 celebrations.

Held at the local farm, the event featured a maple-themed breakfast made with locally produced syrup, along with tours of a working sugar bush and sugar shack.

Caroline Mach, an organizer behind Maple Madness, said that the day was a truly collaborative experience between farmers and the township.

“We produced maple syrup at our farm,” she said. “They brought cooks and supplies and made pancakes, and we supplied maple syrup. We had somebody making maple taffy, and we were giving tours of both the sugar shack and the operation in the bush with the syrup lines.”

She said attendees could see firsthand how maple syrup is collected and processed, highlighting the agricultural roots that continue to define much of the area.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
MAPLE MANIA: Ken Mikoliew and Caroline Mach, owners of 4M Maple, organized the Maple Madness Event on April 11 at their farm in celebration of Mulmur's 175th Anniversary.

Continued on Page A2

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Maple Madness pancake breakfast celebrates Mulmur's 175th anniversary

Continued from Front

The favourable weather played a role in a very strong turnout. It was estimated that approximately hundreds of people attended throughout the day, a number that exceeded expectations and required additional supplies to be brought in as demand grew.

"We were extremely lucky, because it was probably the only sunny day we've had in the last two weeks," Mach said. "It was raining cats and dogs on Friday before that, and it was raining cats and dogs on Sunday after that. So that definitely played a significant part in the success of the event."

"We ended up having probably around 250 people come out. The township actually had to get more plates and more pancake mix because they ran out. So that was incredible, really a wonderful problem to have."

In addition to the meal and tours, the event included a number of family-friendly elements. Members of the Ontario Provincial Police were present in a community engagement capacity, interacting with attendees and providing a vehicle display for children.

A township booth offered merchandise tied to the anniversary, including clothing and memorabilia, while face painting added to the event's appeal for younger visitors.

Municipal representatives were also in



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

SWEET TIME: Around 250 people gathered at 4M Maple in Mulmur on April 11 to celebrate the township's 175th anniversary. Attendees enjoyed tour of the farm's sugar bush and sugar shack before enjoying a maple-themed breakfast.

attendance, including Mulmur Mayor Janet Horner and council members who assisted with food preparation for the breakfast.

The event drew not only local residents but also visitors from outside the township, reflecting broader regional interest in local, community-focused experiences.

With a combination of strong attendance, community involvement and favourable conditions, organizers are viewing the Maple Madness breakfast as a successful contribution to the township's anniversary celebrations.

The breakfast is one of several initiatives

planned throughout the year to mark Mulmur's 175th anniversary, following earlier programming such as a Family Day event.

Additional events, including a planned market later in the spring, are expected to build on that momentum as Mulmur continues marking its 175-year anniversary.

Free Ice Cream Day at Mel Lloyd Centre aims to bring joy and dignity to Shelburne families

Written By JOSHUA DRAKES
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

On Wednesday, May 6, a mobile café will roll up to the Mel Lloyd Centre in Shelburne with a simple mission: give away as much free ice cream as possible.

The event is being organized by Make It Sweet Mobile Cafe, a growing local business that operates multiple ice cream trucks and mobile cafés in the community, owned by Jenny Jelen.

For this initiative, Make It Sweet is partnering with the Shelburne Food Bank, which operates from the Mel Lloyd Centre. Family Transition Place (FTP) also has a satellite office at the centre. Make It Sweet's ice cream truck will park right outside the building and offer free ice cream to everyone – food bank clients, FTP clients, staff, and the general public. The goal is to create a welcoming atmosphere where anyone can enjoy a cone without feeling sin-

gled out or judged.

Louise Marcoux Phillips, with the Shelburne Food Bank, said that anyone and everyone is welcome.

"This is open to as many people who want to come as possible, not just food bank clients," she said. "If anybody feels like an ice cream cone, they can come and get one for free."

While every cone will be free, donations will be accepted. The event is designed to support the food bank and FTP by raising both funds and awareness, giving them a chance to reach more people who may need their services.

"Jenny is accepting donations, but of course, there is absolutely no expectation or pressure, just if you are able," Phillips said. "Part of the proceeds are going right to the food bank and Family Transition Place."

For the Shelburne Food Bank, the timing and format are especially meaningful. The

first Wednesday of the month is typically its busiest day, with dozens of clients coming through the doors. With demand continuing to increase due to a growing population and economic uncertainty, community support is needed now more than ever.

For those visiting a food bank, it can be an emotionally difficult experience, and maintaining dignity and privacy is crucial. By opening the event to the entire community and positioning it as a fun, public celebration, organizers aim to ensure that food bank users can enjoy the day without standing out.

"We want to make sure they feel comfortable and appreciated," Phillips said. "We have to do everything we can to protect their sense of pride and respect for themselves. No one will know where they're coming from, and that's really important."

The hope is that a simple ice cream cone can offer not just a sweet treat but also a moment of joy, normalcy, and connection.

It's meant to remind everyone that they are part of a caring and supportive community.



For more info on the Shelburne Food Bank, call (519) 925-2600 or go to shelburnefoodbank.ca.

For more info on Family Transition Place's satellite office in Shelburne, which focuses on counselling, outreach and support services, go to familytransitionplace.ca or call (519) 942-4122.

Six-year-old boy pronounced dead following pickup truck collision in Mulmur, toddler hospitalized

Provincial police say a boy is dead and a toddler is fighting for their life in hospital after a crash in southern Ontario.

Officers were called to the intersection of County Road 17 and County Road 19 in the Township of Mulmur, northwest of Toronto, earlier Sunday.

They say in a news release that a vehi-

cle carrying six people got into a crash with a pickup truck.

A six-year-old boy was taken to a local hospital where he was pronounced dead, while a 30-year-old man and a two-year-old child were airlifted to a Toronto area trauma centre with life-threatening injuries.

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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
- Town of Shelburne: shelburne.ca

Shelburne recognizes Rotary Club with flag raising and proclamation

Written By JOSHUA DRAKES
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Town of Shelburne honoured the local Rotary Club with a flag-raising ceremony and a formal proclamation recognizing the organization's long history of community service.

The event marked the club's founding date of April 22, 1938, and acknowledged nearly nine decades of contributions that have shaped local programs and supported residents in need. The Rotary's motto, "Service Above Self," framed the day's observance and underscored the group's focus on giving back.

Shelburne Councillor Len Guchardi presented a proclamation declaring April 22 as Shelburne Rotary Day in recognition of the club's sustained efforts and broad impact. He said the club's contributions are extensive and far-reaching.

"We are very lucky to have this rotary club here in Shelburne," said Coun. Guchardi. "They truly do so much for the town. They're very humble, selfless people. They are a great organization, and we're happy to have them."

He highlighted the club's leadership role in a wide range of initiatives, including support for the community kitchen, the local food bank, the acquisition of a cargo van, and the development of the splash pad.

Ongoing events and fundraisers – such as golf tournaments, pumpkin fest, and food drives – were cited as examples of the club's hands-on involvement and fundraising success.

Organizers and town representatives emphasized that the Rotary's strength stems from consistent community support. Sponsorships, volunteers, and regular donors enable the club to operate week to week, sell raffle tickets, and host events that generate funds and services for the community.

Rotary Club organizer Bill Waite said that the club is immensely grateful to be recognized and supported by the local community.

"We greatly appreciate the recognition we have received from the community and, of course, the town as well," he said. "We are grateful as well to get a lot of recognition where people step up to sponsor and support us and all our different events, whether we're selling raffle tickets to the golf tournament or smile cookies. But this one day is important to us, as 88 years ago, Shelburne Rotary was established."

Despite a decline in membership seen in



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

COMMUNITY SUPPORTER: The Shelburne Rotary Club was recognized by the Town of Shelburne for its persistent and dedicated community support and initiatives, with a flag-raising and a proclamation read by Councillor Len Guchardi on behalf of Mayor Wade Mills. Town officials joined Rotary club members, led by President Karen Webster, to officially raise the flag.

some community groups, the Rotary has maintained and even increased its output, attributing gains to technology adoption and a younger membership base.

The club's average age is now under 55, contributing to renewed energy and capacity to deliver programs.

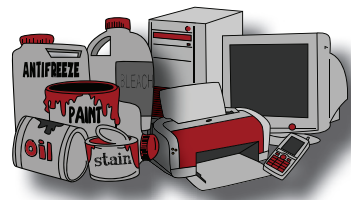
"We continue to do a lot of work in the community, raise a lot of funds, give back to the community, probably more than we ever have," Waite said. "So we're very proud, after 88 years, we're still here, and we're very strong."

The proclamation and flag-raising served both as recognition of past achievements and encouragement for the club's future work.

Town officials and residents were urged to continue supporting the Rotary through participation, sponsorship, and volunteerism to ensure the organization's legacy and continued benefit to Shelburne in the present and future.

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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.

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OPINION

Rumours

There was a time when the year 2000 was considered a futuristic date. For some reason, that number represented a time when science and technology would be so advanced that life would be very much different.

After all, the Space Family Robinson blasted off in the Jupiter II in 1997, and at the time, that date was considered well into the future.

Pretty much none of what was expected to happen ever happened. We don't have flying cars like the Jetsons, and no cities are encased in a giant glass dome.

Televisions have become much larger, thinner, and have better resolution, so that's a bonus.

Except for digital technology, life as we know it is just about the same as it was.

However, as the year 2000 approached, media reports started telling the public that there was a looming threat that computer scientists and engineers had missed when designing and building all this new digital technology.

Someone theorized that since computers were designed to recognize two numbers as a year, computers were going to have an issue when the calendar moved into the new millennium.

The theory was that computers would recognize '98' as '1998', however, they would not understand or recognize 00 as

a year, and possibly interpret those digits as 1900.

The looming situation became known as Y2K, and there was general concern worldwide that anything with a computer chip or digital clock would simply shut down when the clock clicked over to 00.

Hey, doesn't your car have computer chips? What about your TV, your digital alarm clock, and some of your kitchen appliances?

Will you wake up on January 1, 2000, to find your computer has had a catastrophic failure and has lost all of your valuable data? Maybe our car won't start because the computer chips failed?

Companies with a reliance on computer technology, especially banks, began scrambling for a fix.

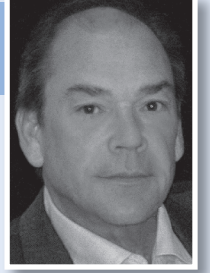
A lot of people were very worried. Then – nothing. Somehow, the computers all knew that the number that comes after 1999 is 2000.

Crisis averted. Everyone's car started in the morning, and automatic coffee makers started brewing java at 7 a.m.

When the COVID pandemic became well-known in 2020, no one really knew what to expect at first.

The government, rather quickly, announced that many businesses must close. Many others were severely restricted in how they could operate.

BRIAN LOCKHART
FROM THE SECOND ROW



It was quickly becoming a crisis situation – especially for people like restaurant owners or business owners whose functions included human contact.

Thankfully, thanks to the wisdom and apparent reliance on alcohol by those at Queen's Park, liquor stores remained open, and shelves were fully stocked.

For some reason, the pandemic resulted in a rumour that there was going to be a massive toilet paper shortage.

For those with common sense, they thought, why would a pandemic cause a toilet paper shortage?

It didn't matter. Some people believed the rumour and started buying as much as they could.

I recall standing in the checkout line at the grocery store, next to a woman who had two full shopping carts of toilet paper.

She looked angry and refused to make eye contact with anyone, because she knew her selfishness meant someone else could not buy the product, as she had cleaned out the shelves.

There never was a toilet paper shortage. Everyone got what they needed.

During the 1970s, several credible media sources said scientists were predicting that the earth was heading for a new ice age, and had the date to prove it.

That was a little worrying for people who prefer beach weather.

The ice age didn't happen.

A couple of decades later, it was predicted, again using scientific data, that due to global warming, coastal cities like New York would be going underwater by 2005.

Some people actually moved further inland to avoid the coming catastrophic floods.

Yet people have recently been posting duplicate photos of cities and ocean-side landmarks taken over 100 years apart, showing that sea levels in 1900 were exactly the same as they are now.

One religious denomination, over the years, has predicted several times the end of the world as we know it.

These predictions resulted in cult member selling their possession, failing to obtain insurance policies, and not pursuing post-secondary education. After all, why would you need a degree if you're going to be in heaven by midnight next Tuesday?

The predictions, of course, all failed. There will always be rumours, and rumours of rumours.

Sometimes you just have to let the chips fall where they may, and get on with life without worrying about what may or may not happen.

Death rattle of a superpower?

"We're offering a very fair and reasonable DEAL, and I hope they take it because, if they don't, the United States is going to knock out every single Power Plant, and every single Bridge, in Iran." Familiarly genocidal threats from Donald Trump, with the trademark mobster-style "NO MORE MR NICE GUY" at the end. Amazing how fast you get used to it.

There may be another ceasefire by the time you read this, or 92 million Iranians may be learning to live with no electricity, little food and no water. (In other rants he threatens Iran's desalination plants and its bridges, crucial for getting food to the cities.) In either case, the regime's leaders, all survivors of his assassination attempts, remain unyielding.

Trump regularly has "good conversations" with the civilian and Islamic Revolutionary Guard leaders, many of them entirely imaginary. But just beneath the

surface he's as frantic as a trapped rat, unable to understand why the Iranians won't give in although "they have no cards". (Wrong: they have weapons, patience, faith and, above all, favourable geography.)

He can't admit even to himself that Israel's Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu tricked him into this doomed enterprise, because that would be to admit he has been fooled. John Kennedy took the blame for the Bay of Pigs disaster and walked away. Trump cannot do either of those things, so he keeps reinforcing failure.

If this were just a personal and political disaster for Donald Trump and his associates, few people outside the United States would see it as a tragedy, and neither would about half of the American population. However, if it also involves a permanent decline in US power in the world, most Americans and many people

elsewhere would see it as an unwelcome change.

The key word here is 'permanent'. In fact, that collapse has already occurred, as witness the almost unanimous refusal of America's erstwhile allies to get involved in Trump and Netanyahu's 'war of choice' against Iran, but it is so recent that a recovery still seems possible. Maybe it is, and maybe not.

Economic strength was always the key factor in any system of states, with military power mainly determined by a country's industrial production. By that traditional measure the United States has long been in relative decline (it produced more than half the manufactured goods in the world in 1945, but only 16% now.)

However, the United States has remained the foremost power because it spends a lot on a very high-tech military (eight times China's spending) and it continues to lead in science, in finance and in intellectual property. Those more or less intangible assets are more easily lost, however, and they are what is currently at risk because of Trump's presidency.

In the past five centuries there have been three transfers of dominance in the European state system, which expanded over that period to include the whole world: from Spain to France in about 1620 (the Thirty Years' War); from France to Britain in about 1800 (the Napoleonic Wars), and from Britain to the United States around 1940 (peacefully).

On the current assumption that China is the next obvious candidate, a hopefully gradual and non-violent transfer should

occur in the next half-century, which would give both China and the rest of the world time to get used to the idea. But what if the United States falls out early?

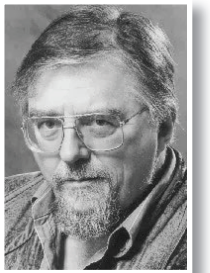
Trump has already seriously damaged America's reputation as a potential ally or partner, and he's not finished yet. Several American experts are already talking about the possibility of a civil war, and Trump himself came close to endorsing a coup attempt in January 2021. Countries that are fighting civil wars automatically lose the crown.

At the same time, China's claim to be the inevitable successor to the role of First Among Equals is rapidly being undermined by the demographic collapse that is already getting under way in the country. It will halve the population by the end of the century, and the economic damage will probably be as grave as the demographic effects.

The dark horse in the race is India, whose population will still be around 1.5 billion in 2070 when China's has already fallen below one billion, heading down towards 730 million by 2100. But that would only give India the prize if it manages to duplicate China's feat of 30 years of high-speed economic growth (10 per cent-plus annually), which is far from assured.

Let's face it. We cannot see even dimly that far into the future, and besides we should hope and work for a time when that kind of pecking order among the great powers is no longer major consideration in international affairs.

GWYNNE DYER
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Shelburne Rotary Club partners with Tim Hortons for 2026 Smile Cookie campaign

Written By JOSHUA DRAKES
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Smile Cookie Campaign will run from April 27 to May 3 in Shelburne.

The spirit of giving is coming back in tasty form, as Tim Hortons' annual spring campaign gets underway next week.

The Shelburne Rotary Club will once again partner with Tim Hortons for this year's Smile Cookie campaign, raising funds to support vital community programs as local needs continue to grow.

Caroline Mach, from the Shelburne Rotary Club, said the partnership is an important part of securing funding for community-focused programs and initiatives.

"This is the fourth or fifth year that we've had a partnership for the spring Smile Cookie Campaign, and it's fantastic for us because it's a great way of supporting some of our programs," she said. "In the past, we've supported things like the food bank or the splash pad with the money. This year it's going to be mainly going to the backpack program and the Christmas hamper program."

According to Shelburne Rotary, each of these programs requires several thousand dollars annually to operate, though the ex-

act amount varies with demand, which is rising every year.

Mach notes that the pressure comes from a combination of higher living costs and rapid population growth in Shelburne.

"In Shelburne, rising demand is caused by a combination of things," she said. "Prices are getting higher, and the population of Shelburne is going up, too. Those pressures sort of compound the issues we are dealing with."

With the town's wastewater plant now planned for expansion to accommodate even more homes, community support will only become more critical in the years ahead.

This year's Smile Cookie Campaign runs from April 27 to May 3. Each Smile Cookie costs \$2, with 100 per cent of the proceeds staying in the community to support local programs.

Shelburne Rotary encourages residents to take part by purchasing Smile Cookies throughout the campaign week, noting that every cookie sold helps support families and individuals right here at home. The Tim Hortons at 301 Col Phillips Dr. will be the location to visit, as the other Shelburne location off Highway 10 will be undergoing renovations.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BIG SMILES: Rotary Club of Shelburne members share some smiles from inside a cut-out for the spring Smile Cookie Campaign at Tim Hortons, running from April 27 to May 3. Funds raised through the campaign will support the local rotary club's charitable efforts in the community.



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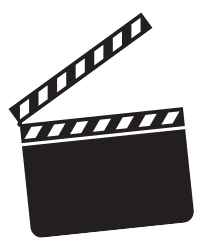
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Arts & Entertainment



LOCAL COMMUNITY EVENTS

Theatre Orangeville presents new play 'The Wedding Party,' a hilariously dysfunctional comedy running until May 3: review

Written By JOSHUA DRAKES
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Weddings, family gatherings – they hold the potential to reunite distant relatives, old friends, share memories, and make new ones.

They also have the ability to remind you as to why you don't speak to or see certain relatives anymore, for better or for worse.

The Wedding Party, Theatre Orangeville's most recent production, sought to put that on full display and bring some laughs to some potentially unpleasant memories, and it works in all the right ways.

The plot follows a marriage and joining of families from two very different social classes. On one side, you have the affluent family of the groom, who live and breathe money and privilege, and spend hundreds

of thousands of dollars on this wedding to make it exactly how they wanted it. On the other hand, the bride's family is not wealthy; they are average, working-class people who have never seen this much money on display. On the surface, it's friendly banter and smiles all around – initially, anyway.

Things quickly devolve as both families clash over how the wedding's finer details will be executed. They start to assert their own views on how the wedding should be carried out, according to their own visions of marriage and love.

The snide remarks, indirect sarcasm and insults start off extremely subtle, sometimes even flying beneath notice, and feel all too painfully relatable for those of us who have lived through similar situations.

Things continue to escalate as the play progresses, and the families begin acting against each other outright for influence and take cheap shots to satisfy their egos.

No one character is morally right, which makes it all the more immersive to see relatable, flawed human beings clash over a wedding that is not theirs because they feel inadequate or believe their way is right.

Despite the venom that you can feel coming off the stage, it's all done with great taste, as humour is close behind or layered in to make sure serious moments don't take away from the absurdity of the wedding. The story is funny, heartfelt and sometimes tough to watch, but it feels real, potentially a little too real.

What really sells the production is the extremely talented cast, who brought these characters to life in a way that sometimes you forget they are characters.

In particular, David Leyshon had a difficult role to play in portraying twins Jack Sr., the father of the



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

FUN TIMES: Watching two families go head-to-head over a wedding is traditionally an unpleasant experience, but Theatre Orangeville has made it a comedic spectacle. With plenty of laughs, heartfelt moments and chaos, *The Wedding Party* will strike close to home for some, and is a must-watch for the spring season.

groom, and Tony, the uncle. Both characters are radically different from each other: one is the rich, snobby brother, and the other is more rational and down-to-earth.

Leyshon did a phenomenal job giving these characters unique personalities, from Jack Sr's more uptight, arrogant demeanour to Tony's more grounded, casual attitude. Even when wearing the same clothing, Leyshon adjusted his posture, facial queues and voice where it was possible to almost immediately identify who was who at most points of the production.

These are characters you probably know in your own family, and despite it all, you can sympathize with both and understand their positions, flawed or not.

Another particular shoutout goes to Glynis Ranney and her portrayal of the mother of the bride, Maddy.

Maddy is a very flawed character, and egotistical in her own way, to challenge Jack Sr. But the one thing that prevails over everything is that she is a mother who believes she hasn't done enough for her daughter, and you can see it in everything she does.

While she fights over and over to have a role in the wedding, we notice it becomes increasingly about what she thinks is right for her daughter, not what her daughter wants or needs. As she becomes more intoxicated, Jack Sr's original decision to exclude her becomes more understandable by her antics, continually drinking and making foul remarks at the reception. Maddy is not the protagonist fighting for the right to speak as she first appeared at the start of the movie. Jack Sr, by consequence, isn't entirely unsympathetic, as his

choices are based on logic, though flawed.

Ranney delivers a very nuanced mother desperate to make the night go right, but her desperation only sours things further as she spirals and escalates.

Of course, the rest of the cast deserves equal praise for bringing these larger-than-life characters together, but with over a dozen characters coming across the stage, my word count couldn't sustain it. The cast, Emma Grabinsky, David Leyshon, Glynis Ranney, Tyrone Savage, Evelyn Wiebe and Kristi Woods delivered a completely immersive experience that brought with it plenty of laughs and some very believable faces.

I would be remiss if I didn't also complement the outstanding work of the set design for the production.

The production was visually stunning and looked like a perfectly recreated wedding reception. The detail was impressive, with each table furnished and set, and the room looked bigger than it was, thanks to perspective. The actors made fantastic use of the space; the room grew messier as drama unfolded and events progressed throughout the night.

Overall, *The Wedding Party* was a stunning wedding production that elegantly ran off the rails, reminding potentially more than a few of us about family events we'd rather forget, but at the same time, reminding us that family is precious, and that we would benefit from listening to them a little bit more.

It's funny, stressful, endearing and frustrating, and absolutely worth a viewing.

The Wedding Party is showing from April 16 to May 3 at Theatre Orangeville.



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Wednesday, April 29, 2026 at 6:30 p.m.
Registration: orangeville.ca/CandidateSession

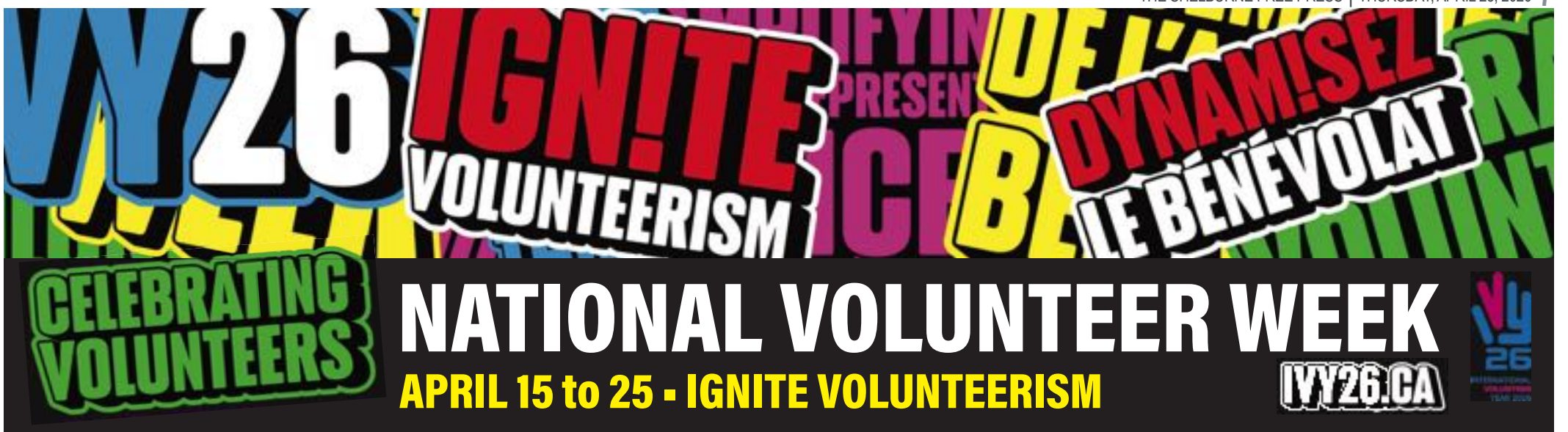
In person

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





Charities and non-profits across Dufferin County celebrate National Volunteer Week 2026

Written By **JOSHUA DRAKES**
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

National Volunteer Week 2026 runs from April 19 to 25, and groups across Dufferin County are recognizing the monumental role that volunteers play in local initiatives.

Celebrated annually in April, the week highlights the individuals who give their time, skills, and energy to support local organizations, events, and services.

Several volunteer organizations from across Dufferin County are taking the time to highlight the important roles their volunteers play in their operations.

Dufferin Community Foundation Executive Director Michele Fischer said that despite economic conditions tightening, the volunteer scene in Dufferin County remains strong.

"We are a community of caring people and charities celebrate their volunteers wherever possible," she said. "However, people are time-strapped and busy, and it can be much more challenging to find volunteers, especially those who are willing to take on leadership positions in non-profits."

"We are so fortunate to have a team of exceptional volunteers. They are smart, talented and committed to making an impact on our community. As with most charities, we work with very limited resources. It's fair to say that we would not be where we are without them!"

From community groups and non-profits to schools, healthcare organizations, and service clubs, volunteers are often the backbone of programs that residents rely on every day. Their efforts help deliver essential services, strengthen social connections, and enhance overall quality of life.

Lori Robertshaw, volunteer care coordinator at the Orangeville Food Bank, said that without their dedicated volunteer team, the

essential services they offer simply wouldn't exist.

"The Orangeville Food Bank's ability to support our community at such a meaningful scale simply wouldn't exist without our incredible volunteer team," she said. "Preparing and organizing food in the kitchen, coordinating deliveries and pickups across town, participating as a board member, and supporting special events like food drives — every role plays a vital part."

"The impact of the 250 volunteers at Orangeville Food Bank—Dufferin Food Share truly cannot be overstated."

Organization leaders said that Volunteer Week is more than a time to thank volunteers for their hard work, it's also a time to remind everyone how much work they really do, and what would be impossible without their continued support.

Ardith Dunlop, organizer with the Shelburne Food Bank, said that volunteer staff take a heavy load off small, charity-driven organizations, allowing them to focus on helping those in need rather than worrying about whether they even have money to operate.

"Volunteers are critical for the Shelburne Food Bank; if we didn't have the 75-plus volunteers we have, we wouldn't be able to open our doors," she said. "Volunteers build hampers, sort food, stock shelves, do food rescue at local stores, bag bread, make deliveries, interview clients, bag options, deliver hampers to clients' cars, attend meetings, write grants, sit on the board of directors, fundraise and the million of other things that are necessary for a food bank to run."

"Volunteers are absolutely essential in society today. They fill gaps that governments and businesses can't always cover. Without volunteers, many services would either shrink dramatically or become too expensive to sustain."

Nominated volunteers will be recognized at one of 30 award ceremonies taking place across the province.



She continued by saying how grateful FTP feels to have the volunteer team that they have. Their skills, dedication and leadership are deeply appreciated not just by staff, but those in need as well.

"To our volunteers — thank you," she said. "What you give goes far beyond your hours. You bring skills, compassion, and commitment that strengthen our organization and, more importantly, bring comfort and dignity to the women and children we serve. We hope you know how deeply valued you are, not just by our staff, but by every client whose life has been touched by your presence. We are grateful every day."

Volunteers work in almost every support sector in Dufferin County. Social support, food security, even firefighting relies on dedicated volunteers when duty calls. Organizations across Dufferin are making sure to take time to recognize those volunteers.

National Volunteer Week serves as a reminder that every act of service, small or large, frontline or behind the scenes, can make a meaningful difference.

Volunteers play an essential role in health and safety. Organizations like Family Transition Place (FTP), which provides shelter and support to those affected by gender-based violence, focusing primarily on women and children, also rely on a dedicated volunteer staff to operate.

Kelly Lee, manager of fund development and communication strategies at FTP, said that their volunteers play an important administrative role, beyond frontline support.

"Volunteers are the heart of Family Transition Place — from our Board of Directors and Finance Committee to those who help at fundraising events, staff our reception, assist clients with tax preparation, and provide wellbeing support to women and children fleeing abuse," she said.

"Each role is important, and together they help make our work possible and the lives of our clients more comfortable. They meaningfully extend our capacity and bring a richness to our programs that we couldn't easily replicate otherwise."

Annual Ontario Volunteer Service Awards recognize those who consistently make a difference in their community

Written By **SAM ODROWSKI**

Roughly 4.2 million people in Ontario volunteer, contributing to the fabric of the communities they live in.

To honour those who generously give up their time to help others, the Ontario government is recognizing nearly 5,000 people through its 2026 Ontario Volunteer Service Awards.

The annual awards celebrate the contributions and service of adult and youth volunteers, as well as not-for-profit organizations, schools, community centres, hos-

pitals, museums, libraries and community associations.

"The Ontario Volunteer Service Awards honour Ontarians who continue to show up for others through selfless, sustained service," said Graham McGregor, Ontario's minister of citizenship and multiculturalism.

"We thank them for their commitment to helping others, fostering a sense of belonging and strengthening community resilience across Ontario."

Nominated volunteers will be recognized at one of 30 award ceremonies tak-

ing place across the province.

The awards honour adult volunteers for continuous service in five-year increments and youth volunteers for their continuous service of two or more years.

Personalized certificates and distinctive lapel pins will be provided to award recipients, recognizing their service.

"The 2026 award recipients have demonstrated outstanding leadership through civic action, supporting a wide range of organizations and causes, including local after-school, community and food security programs," reads a press release

from the Ontario government. "These volunteers also serve as board members, engage in fundraising efforts and contribute to the enhancement of the arts, culture, heritage and recreation sectors."

Since the awards were started in 1986, more than 260,800 people have been recognized.

To learn more about the 2026 Ontario Volunteer Service Awards or to submit a nomination for next year, visit the Ontario Volunteer Service Awards webpage: ontario.ca/page/honours-and-awards-volunteering#section-1

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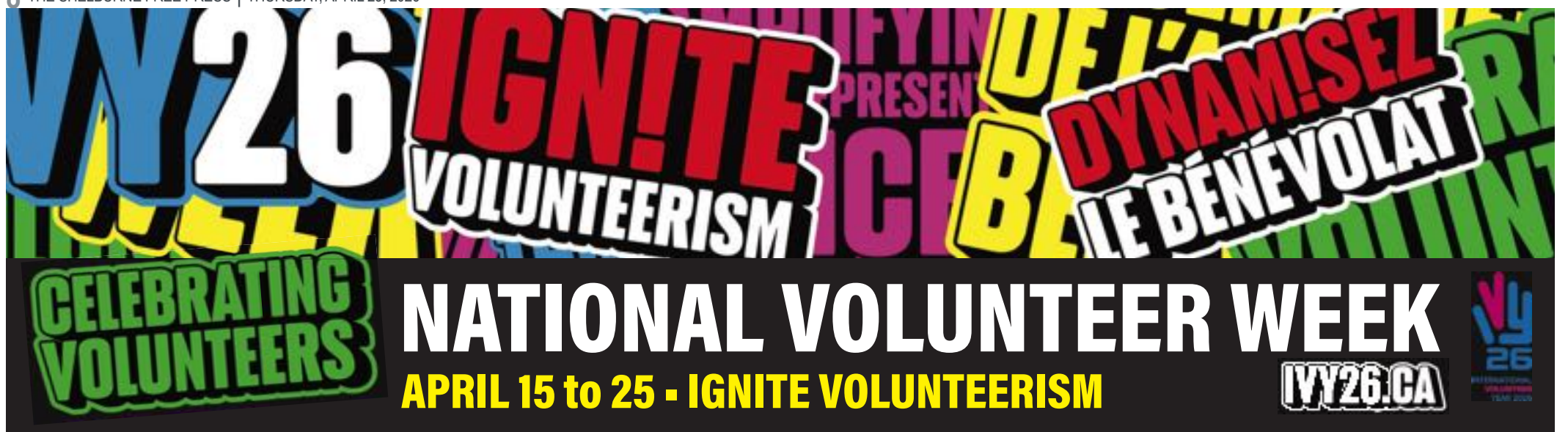
Share the Bounty is more than just a food program. It's a community built on care and connection. We rescue, redistribute and prepared meals, supporting local families, it is your time, your ideas, your passion that brings it all to life.

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We are deeply grateful for each and every one of you.

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Volunteers make waves during National Volunteer Week 2026

From April 20 to 25, communities across the country will come together to celebrate National Volunteer Week, a time to recognize the remarkable individuals who dedicate their time, compassion, and energy to strengthening our Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) communities. This year, we proudly shine a spotlight on the volunteers of the HOPE (Helping Our Peers by Providing Empathy) Program across Canada, whose commitment continues to make a lasting impact on bereaved CAF members and military families across Canada.

Their dedication to supporting bereaved CAF members and military families by providing compassionate peer support within the Program makes a difference in the lives of peers navigating grief. At the heart of the

Program are its volunteers, individuals who draw on their own lived experiences of loss to offer understanding, empathy, and encouragement to others walking a similar path.

Grief can often feel isolating. For many bereaved families, connecting with someone who truly understands their experience can be transformative. HOPE volunteers offer more than just support; they offer connection. Through listening without judgment, sharing personal insights, and simply be-



ing present, they remind peers that they are not alone.

We commend the volunteers for their commitment and willingness to give their support. Week after week, they answer calls, attend meetings, participate in training, and extend kindness in moments when it is

needed most. Their willingness to turn personal loss into a source of strength for others embodies resilience and generosity in its truest form.

During National Volunteer Week, we honour these individuals who “make waves” of positive change. To every HOPE volunteer across Canada: thank you. Because of you, countless peers facing grief have found comfort, understanding, and hope.

This week, and every week, we celebrate you.

Visit the HOPE Program website, to read stories of resilience and learn more about the volunteers and their journey to healing. Volunteers continue to shape the HOPE Program through their efforts and dedication in making a difference.

If you or someone you know is experiencing grief and seeking support, please do not hesitate to contact the HOPE Program.

How seniors can find a suitable volunteering opportunity in their community

Volunteering is a rewarding experience that engages people from all walks of life. While young adults and adults in middle age may find it hard to squeeze volunteering into their schedules, retirees are free of many of the professional and personal obligations that prevent younger adults from volunteering.

Retirees can reap some unique benefits from volunteering. Volunteering can provide retirees new opportunities to socialize, which can help them avoid feelings of social isolation and loneliness that many seniors confront after retiring. Volunteering also can provide an opportunity for seniors to utilize their professional expertise to the benefit of others.

With so much to gain from volunteering, retirees can start looking for opportunities in their communities. Many such opportunities exist, and the following tips can help retirees find the most suitable one for them.

- **Identify your motivation to volunteer.** Identifying why you want to volunteer can be a great first step. Many retirees who had long and distinguished careers in the professional arena aspire to give back by employing their expertise in new ways. For example, retired attorneys may want to volunteer with a nonprofit organization that provides free legal advice to those who cannot afford to hire their own legal representatives. Once retirees have identified why they want to volunteer, they can then

look for opportunities that align with that motivation.

- **Consider any potential limitations you have.** Some volunteering opportunities are physically demanding, which makes them difficult for retirees. Seniors may not be able to handle a volunteering opportunity that requires heavy lifting or one that asks volunteers to spend hours on their feet. Be honest about any physical limitations, and discuss any uncertainty you might have with your health care provider before committing to a volunteering gig.

- **Decide how much time you can volunteer.** Volunteering is often characterized as a rewarding experience that offers homebound seniors a chance to get up and go.

But some retirees already have active social lives, so it's imperative that prospective volunteers identify how much time they have to volunteer. Many organizations allow volunteers to determine how much time they spend volunteering, but others may ask more of volunteers in regard to a time commitment. For example, volunteering to organize community events may require a significant time commitment that some retirees do not necessarily want to make.

There are many great reasons to volunteer. Retirees considering volunteering can give the prospect ample consideration before they begin searching for the right opportunity to give back.

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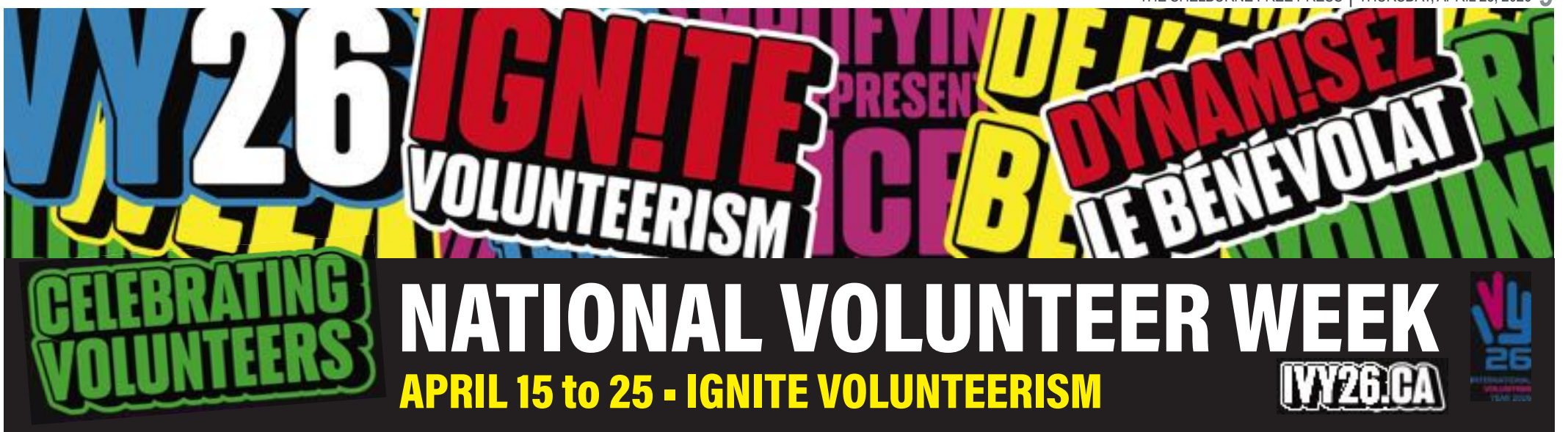
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Orangeville and District SPCA celebrates Volunteer Week, honouring the critical support provided by volunteers

Written By JOSHUA DRAKES
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Ontario SPCA and Humane Society Orangeville and District Animal Centre is marking National Volunteer Week by recognizing the contributions of community members who play a key role in caring for animals and supporting adoptions.

Among them is volunteer Jen Lipinski, who has spent the past three years working with cats at the local shelter.

After retiring early, Lipinski said she gravitated toward animal care, something that has long been part of her life. With a household already full of pets and past experience volunteering, joining the SPCA felt like a natural fit.

"I've always had cats and dogs in my house," she said. "I really wanted to spend some time doing things for myself, as opposed to things you have to do to make money. Before the SPCA, I volunteered at a farm rescue. When that kind of tied up, I came here."

At the shelter, Lipinski primarily works with cats in the adoption area, helping with daily care routines that include cleaning enclosures, feeding, and spending time socializing the animals. She said the role offers a sense of fulfillment that goes beyond traditional work, describing it as something she looks forward to each week.

"I work primarily in the adoption room,"

she said. "These are the cats that are ready for adoption, not in quarantine or anything anymore. I come in, and I check their feeding schedules and everything. Then I go and get my cart with all the stuff that I need, and I do a full cleaning of all their cages, and then give them their breakfast."

Her efforts, like those of other volunteers, also help prepare animals for adoption by improving their comfort levels and behaviour around people.

Lipinski said that volunteering allows her to help more animals than she could by adopting alone, emphasizing the impact of giving time rather than taking animals home. She added that there are many ways for people to get involved, from hands-on care at the shelter to fostering animals.

"A lot of people have said, 'I don't think I could do it, because I would end up taking them all home,'" Lipinski said. "I always say that when I come in here, I can help multiple cats, whereas if I keep taking them home, I have to be at home taking care of them, and then no one is here. I can help a lot more by donating my time."

Shelter staff from the SPCA say volunteers like Lipinski are essential to their operations.

Julie Woods, manager of the Orangeville and District Animal Centre, said the organization relies on volunteers for a wide range of roles.



JOSHUA DRAKES PHOTO

GIVING BACK: Jen Lipinski, an early retiree, always had a close relationship with animals. Looking for something more rewarding to do that gives back, she became an SPCA volunteer and now cares for the cats currently up for adoption. She feeds them, helps socialize them and takes care of their regular needs, a critical role vital for day-to-day operations.

"We just wouldn't be so successful with our adoptions without the volunteers," she said. "We have volunteers that help provide animal enrichment and care, like Jen, and we also have others, such as drivers to help us with transportation, and photographers too that help promote all the dogs and cats and other animals."

These efforts, she said, directly help animals find homes more quickly by improving their socialization and overall well-being.

With a steady flow of animals coming through the shelter, staff say community involvement remains critical.

As Volunteer Week is observed, the Orangeville SPCA is highlighting the ongoing need for volunteers and foster families to support its work and ensure animals continue to receive the care and attention they need.

For those looking to volunteer their time, go to <https://ontariospca.ca/volunteer/>.

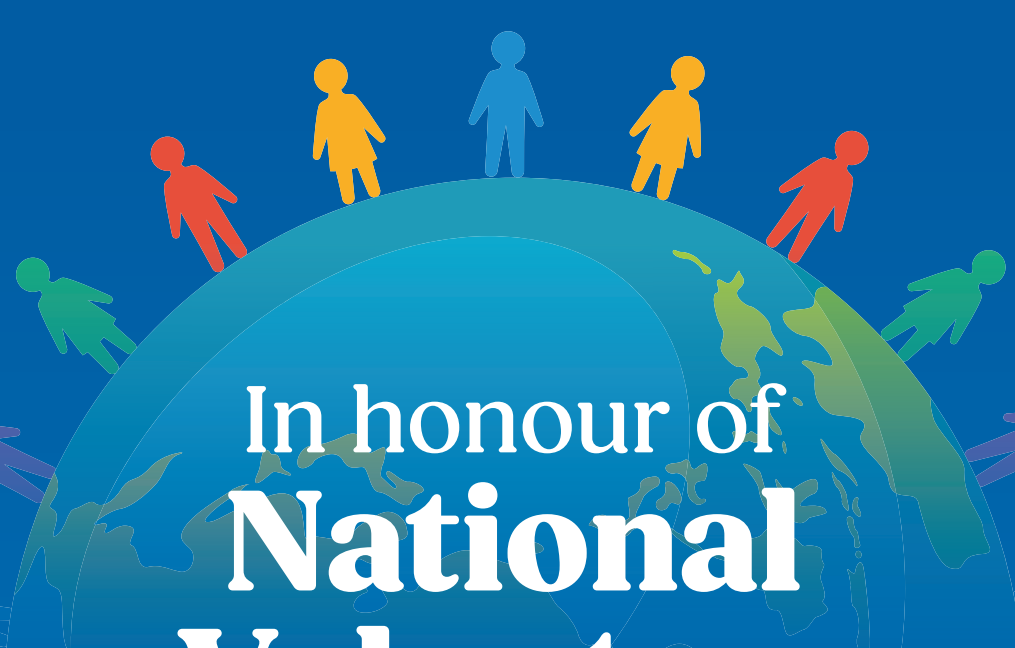
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Green Ribbons for Mike campaign boosts organ donor awareness in Dufferin County

Written By **JOSHUA DRAKES**
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Every April, Orangeville residents might notice a collection of green ribbons downtown. Not everyone might know what they mean. They are put up by the Green Ribbons for Mike initiative, a grassroots organ and tissue donation advocacy group.

Led by local resident Michelle White, the initiative was started by her late father Mike Steele, after whom the initiative was named, when he received a life-saving heart transplant.

"It first started pretty much from my dad," she said. "In 2009, he had a heart attack in January... By the time [it was] August of that year, he was on the transplant list, and in November of that year, he got his transplant."

"He wanted to really appreciate the second chance at life. The number one thing he wanted to do was to raise awareness, because of the fact that if somebody hadn't registered as an organ donor, he wouldn't have been there to appreciate it," White added.

In 2017, Mike began hanging large green ribbons in downtown Orangeville, hand-lettered with "Be a donor" during April's donor awareness month. In 2018, with the town's permission, the project expanded to cover more of Broadway.

That June, Mike died due to kidney failure linked to medication and cancer that had spread. White continued his awareness work and, in 2019, launched the Green Ribbons for Mike Facebook page to better connect people and share information and stories about organ and tissue donation.

This year, the campaign includes green ribbons on 64 lamp posts from Wellington Street to Centre Street, along Broadway, as well as in the windows of 22 businesses and

services.

Participants include the OPP, Dufferin County Paramedic Service, Headwaters Health Care Centre, and the constituency office of Sylvia Jones. Since 2021, the town has also held an annual flag raising and issued a proclamation recognizing April as Be a Donor Month.

"The town has always been so supportive of us," White said. "Every year, they're happy to hear from us again and are ready to set up a date to do this. Local businesses have been incredibly supportive too, just the number of businesses every year that pop up and ask for a ribbon. We have a couple that keep them up all the time."

The campaign now operates alongside provincial efforts by Trillium Gift of Life Network, emphasizing the need for residents to formally register as organ and tissue donors and to inform their families. White cites Ontario statistics: as of this April, 1,697 people in the province are waiting for a transplant, including 32 children aged 0 to 17.

"This is important, we really need people to register because it's literally life and death," White said. "With tissue donation too... you're talking about bones, tendons, ligaments, eyes, heart valves, skin. That's up to 75 individuals that one person can impact. One person can enhance that many lives through tissue donation."

Locally, Orangeville is 116th out of 170 communities in registration rates. The campaign highlights that prior practices, such as signing a driver's licence, are no longer sufficient; residents must register through official channels so hospitals can quickly confirm donor status for those who need transplants.

White also cuts through misinformation, identifying it as a factor for hesitancy.

"The biggest thing I hear from people is

they say, 'you know, well, I'm too old, I'm too sick,' but I say to let the doctors decide that," she said. "The doctors will not treat you less because you're a donor, either. That's not gonna happen. They're not gonna let you die so they can have your organs. That's not gonna happen. I hear that a lot, too."

White said that she continues to share statistics, personal stories, and resources via the Facebook page and hopes to collect more local accounts from donors, recipients, and families to support ongoing public education and increase registration rates in Orangeville.

Organ and tissue donations are lifesaving commitments, and the more people who are registered, the faster needed donations reach patients waiting.

For more information, go to facebook.com/greenribbons4mike.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

RAISING AWARENESS: The green ribbon campaign, originally started by the late Mike Steele, is a call to action to recognize the importance of organ and tissue donations. With over 60 now appearing in Orangeville for the month of April, the campaign has grown significantly over the years.



Grand Valley Circle K robbed, police seek public assistance in identifying pair of suspects

Dufferin Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) officers are investigating a robbery at a convenience store and are seeking the public's assistance in identifying the suspects involved.

On April 9, at approximately 11:55 p.m., officers responded to a report of a robbery that had just occurred at a Circle K Variety store on Main Street in Grand Valley.

Two male suspects entered the store and took a case of beer. During the incident, one of the suspects threatened the clerk.

Police are seeking public assistance to identify the individuals involved. Surveillance images of the suspects have been at-

tached to this media release.

Suspect descriptions:

- Suspect #1: White male with blonde hair, approximately 5'10"-5'11", wearing a black hoodie with a Hellstar logo.
- Suspect #2: White male with a black buzz cut, approximately 5'6"-5'7", wearing a black zip-up hoodie and a blue t-shirt with a Nike logo.

The investigation is ongoing.

If you or anyone you know can identify the suspects or has information related to this incident, please contact the Dufferin OPP at 1-888-310-1122, referencing occurrence number E260473674.

adopt a cat

Magic is 7 years old and head of the greeting committee. He loves to get his pets and runs to meet the volunteers. Magic is very playful and will spend hours with a wand toy. This handsome stud has a best buddy Rufus, who although isn't as outgoing, also loves his pets (yes you can adopt both!).

Magic is neutered, microchipped, dewormed, flea treated and vaccinated.

Adoption price: \$275

Check our facebook page to see the other kitties looking for their forever home. Donations always needed to help care for the cats as we are not funded at all, and rely on donations and fundraisers. If you would like to volunteer as well we are always appreciative.

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SPORTS

North Dufferin Baseball League getting ready for 2026 season

Written By BRIAN LOCKHART

The boys of summer are getting into training mode as they prepare for the upcoming 2026 baseball season.

The North Dufferin Baseball League (NBDL) senior season will get underway on Saturday, May 2, with the first game of the year between the Midland Mariners and the New Lowell Knights in Midland.

In the Junior Division, the Caledon Nationals will meet the Cremore Padres for the start of that division's regular season on Monday, May 4, in Cremore.

The Senior Division defending champions are the New Lowell Knights.

Returning for this season in the Junior Division, the Cremore Padres will be looking for their third straight championship year.

The NBDL has a full lineup of teams this season, with the regular season running through July 26 before heading into the playoffs.

This year's senior team line-up includes 12 teams – all returning teams from last season.

The line-up includes the Cremore Padres, Midland Mariners, New Lowell Knights, Bolton Brewers, Lisle Astros, Orillia Majors, Mansfield Cubs, Barrie Angels, Ivy Rangers, Clarksburg Blues, Owen Sound Baysox, and the Caledon Cardinals.

The junior team lineup includes the Barrie Baycats, Orillia Royals, Cremore Padres, and Innisfil Cardinals.

There are three new teams in the junior loop this season. These teams include the Caledon Nationals, Aurora King Jays, and the Owen Sound Baysox.

The North Dufferin Baseball League is one of the longest-running sports leagues in the country.



FILE PHOTO

READY FOR THE SEASON: The North Dufferin Baseball League is getting ready for the 2026 season. The Senior Division has a full lineup of 12 teams. The Junior Division has seven teams, including two new entries for this year.

Beginning in 1930, the League will soon be celebrating its 100th season.

The only interruption in play was during World War II, and 2020, when the COVID pandemic put a temporary stop to all sports

across the country.

The first league championship took place in 1930 between Shelburne and a team from Horning's Mills. However, the results of that game have been lost to history.

It's going to be an exciting season, and teams are now getting out on the diamonds to shake off the winter rest and get into playing mode for this summer.

Centre Dufferin girls' rugby team has a strong performance in season opener

Written By BRIAN LOCKHART

The Centre Dufferin District High School Royals girls' varsity rugby team put on a strong performance in its season opener against the Erin District High School Raiders on Monday, April 21.

The first game of the season was played on Centre Dufferin's home field, and the Royals left with a 47-9 win.

Playing in cool weather and strong winds, the Royals didn't let it dampen their spirits

and dominated the game.

Royals players bring a lot of experience to the District competition, with many players entering their first year in rugby.

"We played amazing today. A lot of the girls had their first actual regular season game today, and we brought some dominant play," said Royals' Abi Wilson after the game. "I think a lot of us felt very good about the game. You can't be too confident – but we were ready."

Teammate Brooke Bursey was playing her first high school rugby game and said she thought the team worked well together on the field.

"I think we did really good," Brooke said. "This was my first game and I feel like our whole team was really coordinated and did well communicating on the field and getting the ball around."

At the end of the game, a lot of the Royals' players were covered in dirt from the hard-hitting play on the field. Brooke said the dirt was an indicator of a well-played game.

"That's how you know you've had fun," Brooke said. "That's how you know you played your hardest. I like to go out there with a team, and I like to tackle."

Veteran Royals player Ridley Palmer is now in her fourth year on the team, and she said the team works well to bring new players into the sport every season.

"We've always done well, we've gone to

OFSAA every year," Ridley said. "The team is always strong. We've really lucked out with how strong our Grade 9s come in and how strong the new players are. Every year, we get a new group of wonderful people. We play it because we love the sport."

Going on the road for their next game, the Royals will be up against Centre Wellington District High School on April 27.

They will return to their home field on Tuesday, May 5, to host Guelph Collegiate. Game time is 2:30 p.m.



BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

STRONG START: The Centre Dufferin District High School Royals girls' varsity rugby team take on the Raiders from Erin District High School during the season opener on the field at Centre Dufferin on Monday, April 20. The Royals won the game 49-7. Royals' player Alyssa Gee storms through the middle during the second half of the game.

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ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

ABI WILSON

As a first year badminton player, Abi Wilson is enjoying playing her new sport.

"I like how it's a really fun sport – we have fun playing it," Abi said of why she likes playing badminton. "You have to be in the right position to receive the birdy because you don't know where they are going to hit it."

Abi will be going to regional CWOSSA competition after she and her partner won silver in District 4 competition.

A well rounded athlete, Abi also plays high school rugby and field hockey.

TEAM: CENTRE DUFFERIN DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL ROYALS BADMINTON

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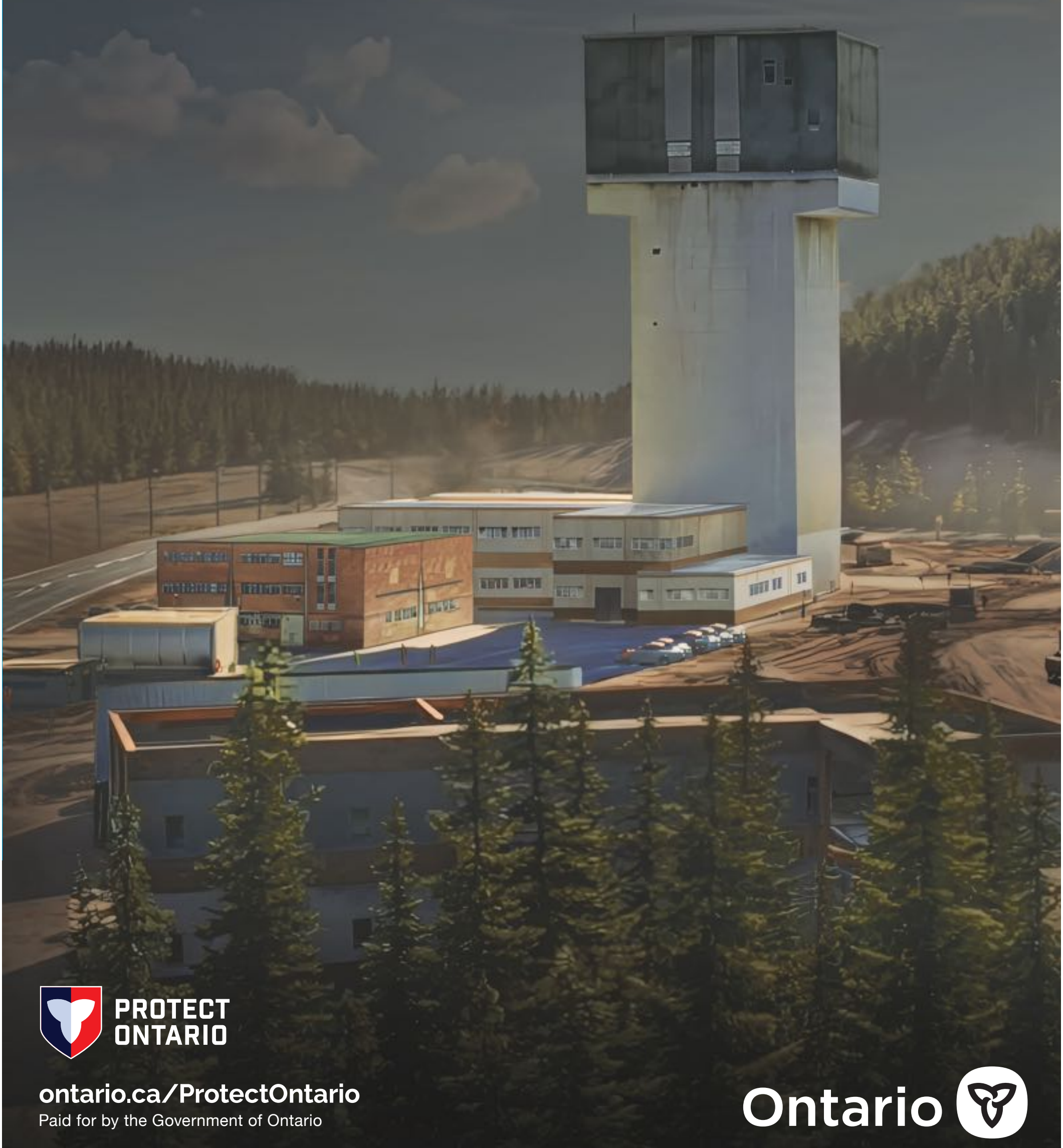
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Shelburne Public Library offers free Credit Valley Conservation and Ontario Park passes

Spring is a great time to explore the outdoors, and the Shelburne Public Library has just the incentive – park passes.

With your library card, you can borrow Ontario Park passes and Credit Valley Conservation passes. Available for a one-week loan period, these passes grant free day-use access to one vehicle and its occupants to over 100 provincial parks and all Credit Valley and Toronto Region parks (including Black Creek Pioneer Village). Borrow one

today to explore the beauty of our natural world.

Staff Pick of the Week: The Names by Florence Knapp

In the wake of a catastrophic storm, Cora sets off with her nine-year-old daughter, Maia, to register the birth of her son. Her husband, Gordon, respected in the community but a controlling presence at home, intends for her to follow a long-standing family tradition and name the baby after him. But when

faced with the decision, Cora hesitates...

Spanning thirty-five years, what follows are three alternate and alternating versions of their lives, shaped by Cora's last-minute choice of name. In richly layered prose, *The Names* explores the painful ripple effects of domestic abuse, the messy ties of family, and the possibilities for autonomy and healing.

Why Shannon recommends it:
I listened to the audiobook, and the powerful story and Irish narration pulled me in

immediately. To execute three different versions of a life for four different characters was such a feat - especially for a debut novel - that I am still marvelling at the sheer talent of Knapp. Each character in all three storylines is so intricately woven that the reader can't help but feel empathy and a deep understanding for the people they become and the decisions they make as a result.

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

Dufferin OPP keeping busy: Three people charged with impaired driving throughout the region

Dufferin Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) officers have charged three individuals with impaired operation-related offences following separate incidents.

On April 16, 2026, at approximately 1:10 a.m., Dufferin OPP officers were conducting a RIDE (Reduce Impaired Driving Everywhere) spot check along Broadway in Orangeville. A vehicle entered the checkpoint and was stopped by officers. Following a brief interaction with the driver, an impaired driving investigation was initiated.

As a result, Jessica Keam, 51, Orangeville, has been charged with:

- Operation while impaired - blood alcohol

concentration (80 plus)

- Operation while impaired - alcohol

On April 17, at approximately 9:22 p.m., Dufferin OPP officers responded to a report of a possible impaired driver in the area of Centre Street in Shelburne.

While officers were in the area, additional information indicated the vehicle was travelling at a high rate of speed southbound on County Road 11 in Amaranth. Officers subsequently located the vehicle in the area of County Road 109 and conducted a traffic stop. Following an interaction with the driver, an impaired driving investigation was initiated.

As a result, Lucas Black, 29, of Fergus, has been charged with:

- Operation while impaired - blood alcohol concentration (80 plus)
- Operation while impaired - alcohol
- Driving a motor vehicle with an open container of liquor
- Dangerous operation
- Owner operate a motor vehicle without insurance
- Drive motor vehicle - no currently validated permit

On April 19, 2026, at approximately 11:21 a.m., Dufferin OPP officers responded to a report of a possible impaired driver that had

previously been observed in the Caledon area.

Officers conducted patrols and located the vehicle in the area of Winterton Court in Orangeville. Following an interaction with the driver, an impaired driving investigation was initiated.

As a result, Raymond Massey, 36, from Orangeville, has been charged with operation while impaired – drugs.

The accused individuals are scheduled to appear before the Ontario Court of Justice in Orangeville. Their driver's licence has been suspended, and the vehicle has been impounded.



OBITUARIES - FOREVER IN OUR Hearts

In Loving Memory of

DONNA MAY VAN POELGEEEST

Donna May van Poelgeest (nee Horsley) passed away peacefully surrounded by family on April 12, 2026, in Hanover, Ontario.

The daughter of Edgar and Mona Horsley, Donna was born On March 15, 1940 in Shelburne, where she grew up on her parents' farm. She enjoyed a short career as a Bell telephone operator before Shelburne "went dial". She married Kees van Poelgeest on June 3, 1961 and began life as a farmer's wife, eventually settling on their farm east of Shelburne.



While busy on the farm, and raising four children, Donna also enjoyed working on crafts, was a very active member of the United Church Women and the Coleridge Women's Institute, lead 4-H homemaking clubs, volunteered at Dufferin Oaks and the local food bank, and babysat for many local families. When Kees and Donna retired, they moved to a house in town and enjoyed many years of travelling by motor home throughout Canada and the US, while Donna began to do some catering, including for the Christian Women's Club monthly meetings.

Donna is survived by her children Margaret van Poelgeest-Heintz (Ron), Marsha Zub (Timothy), Anthony van Poelgeest (Lesley), and Richard van Poelgeest (Sophie). Her grandchildren Helene, Victoria, Danny, Alexandra, Elijah, RaeAnwyn, Logan, Bella, Amanda, Gillian, Loic, Delphine, and Eloi, as well as her nine great-grandchildren, will all miss their Oma. She also leaves her brother Bruce Horsley (Anne), her sister Alinda Bishop (Art), and her sisters-in-law Tina Torrie, Plonie Tait, and Emily Arnold (Charlie). She is predeceased by her husband Cornelis (Kees) van Poelgeest, her parents Edgar and Mona Horsley, her parents-in-law Harmen and Jane van Poelgeest and her brothers-in-law Alan Torrie and John Tait.

Visitation will be held at Jack and Thompson Funeral Home in Shelburne on Saturday May 9, 2026 at 1pm followed by a funeral service at 2pm. A reception will follow at the Shelburne Curling Club from 3-4:30 pm. Donations in Donna's memory to the Alzheimer Society or the Cancer Society would be appreciated as expressions of sympathy. Online condolences may be placed at www.jackandthompsonfuneralhome.com

In Loving Memory of

RETA SHARON LANE (SEABORNE)

January 29, 1954 – April 16, 2026

In her 73rd year, Reta passed away peacefully surrounded by family at Headwaters Health Care Centre in Orangeville, Ontario.

Dear sister of Howard (Erlene), Wayne (Lois), Gary and Melvin (Marg). Dear aunt of Sarah (Brent) Stewart, Aaron, Nathan; Neil, Melanie (Tim) Coburn and James Whitehall. Great-aunt of Natalie and Emily Coburn and Georgia Stewart. Daughter of the late Glyn Albert Seaborne (1975) and Fern Minola Seaborne (2011).

In honouring Reta's request there will be no funeral. Interment at the Shelburne Cemetery. If desired, donations in her memory to Headwaters Health Care Centre - Respiratory Therapy may be made at hhcfoundation.akaraisin.com. Online condolences may be placed at www.jackandthompsonfuneralhome.com

The Seaborne family would like to thank the many friends and neighbours for their care kindness, thoughtfulness and support through the years.

Remembering your loved one

Placing an obituary in one of our newspapers is a meaningful way to honour the life of your loved one and share their story with the community that helped shape them — including friends, neighbours, and colleagues from every chapter of their life.

An obituary becomes a lasting tribute, preserving memories, values, and accomplishments for future generations. It offers a moment to reflect on a life well lived and the love left behind. Most of all, it invites a community to remember together, to grieve, and to offer comfort and connection during a time of loss.

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

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

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To view a comprehensive overview of the position, please go to <https://jobs.dayforcehcm.com/en-US/irss/CANDIDATEPORTAL/jobs/4103>

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- Order office/store supplies in a timely manner.
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QUALIFICATIONS:

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M&M FOOD MARKET

MAKE DINNER EFFORTLESS

LOWEST PRICE OF THE YEAR*

*Lowest price of the year is the lowest price of 2026 to date.

INCREDIBLE PRICE
14⁹⁹ **SAVE \$7**

Pork Pot Roast
907 g



Seniors Day Every Tuesday 10% off Regular Priced Items!

INCREDIBLE PRICE
24⁹⁹ **SAVE \$10**

Chicken Strips
27-33 PIECES 1.36 kg



BACK TO OUR LOWEST PRICE OF THE YEAR*

*Lowest price of the year matches the lowest price of 2026 to date.

INCREDIBLE PRICE
10⁹⁹ **SAVE \$7**

Fall Off the Bone® Back Ribs
1 FULL RACK OF RIBS 510 g - 680 g
CHOOSE FROM 4 VARIETIES.

Stuffed, Breaded Chicken 142 g
Choose from:
• Broccoli and Cheese • Kiev
• Parmesan • Swiss

SAVE \$1
3⁹⁹ each

Bistro Chicken®
114 g
Choose from:
• Ricotta & Spinach • Swiss

SAVE \$2
27⁹⁹

Cheesecake Variety Pack
12 SLICES 1 kg

Wonton

SOUPS
255 g - 400 mL
Other varieties available,
• Loaded Potato
• Broccoli Cheddar
• Tomato and Grilled Cheese

SAVE \$2
4⁹⁹ each

Mini Cream Puffs 250 g

Mini Eclairs 12 PIECES 200 g

Also available,
Caramel Cream Puffs 240 g \$4.99 **SAVE \$2**

Deep Dish Chicken Pie 907 g

Also available,
Deep Dish Beef and Vegetable Pie
907 g \$12.99 **SAVE \$9**

SAVE \$5 each

Italian Style Beef Meatballs
89-95 PIECES 907 g

PREMIUM ENTRÉES

Loaded Perogy Bake 907 g

Stuffed Pasta Shells 1.02 kg

SAVE \$2
17⁹⁹ each

Supreme Stuffed Peppers 4 PIECES 907 g

Braised Beef Pappardelle Pasta 850 g

Also available,
Butternut Squash Ravioli Bake 907 g
\$17.99 **SAVE \$2**

SAVE \$4

Haddock Tenders 8-12 PIECES 454 g

Sauce included

SAVE \$7

Supreme Homestyle Meat Loaf 600 g

SINGLE SERVES 275 g - 340 g

Chicken Teriyaki

SALE
4⁹⁹ each
CHOOSE FROM 21 VARIETIES.

NEW RECIPE!
Creamy Chicken Lasagna

Cabbage Rolls

Chicken Pad Thai

Homestyle Shepherd's Pie

MEAL KITS 840 g - 1.05 kg

Chicken Stir Fry

Lemon Herb Chicken and Pasta

Creamy Rosé Chicken & Pasta

Beef Lo Mein

SAVE \$2
19⁹⁹ each
CHOOSE FROM 7 VARIETIES.

NEW!
Creamy Tuscan Style Chicken and Pasta

Beef Stroganoff

IT'S BACK!
Beef Stroganoff

SAVE \$2
22⁹⁹ each

Chicken Fajitas

Chicken Fajitas

PARTY PACKS

Pub Party Pack 32 PIECES 576 g

SALE
16⁹⁹ each

Asian Party Pack 38-46 PIECES 632 g

Puff Pastry Quartet 32 PIECES 576 g

Indian Party Pack 32 PIECES 740 g

BREAKFAST STARTS HERE

Classic French Style Mini Quiche 16 PIECES 340 g 2 Varieties

9⁹⁹ each **SAVE \$2**

9⁹⁹
Croissant Breakfast Sandwich - Bacon, Egg & Cheese 2 SANDWICHES 260 g

Spinach and Red Pepper Egg White Omelette Bites 4 PIECES 227 g 2 Varieties

SALE
6⁹⁹ each

* MULTI BUY * Buy 2 for \$8 Individual price \$4.99 each

SAVE \$1.98

Blossoms 2 PORTIONS 230 g

MIX AND MATCH

Caramel Apple, Apple, Bumble

BETTER WITH BACON

17⁹⁹ **SAVE \$2**

Bacon Wrapped Chicken 4 PIECES x 142 g/5 oz

24⁹⁹ **SAVE \$2**

Mini Bacon Wrapped Chicken Fillets 14 PIECES 238 g

LIMITED TIME ONLY

Maplewood Smoked Bacon Wrapped Salmon 2 PIECES 284 g

SAVE \$2
17⁹⁹ each

Bacon Wrapped Scallop Medallions 9-13 PIECES 300 g

SAVE \$2

12⁹⁹

Bacon Wrapped Jalapeño Shooters® 12 PIECES 255 g

31⁹⁹ **SALE**

Bacon Wrapped Beef Top Sirloin Steaks 4 STEAKS x 142 g/5 oz

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

SAVE \$2

27⁹⁹

Herb & Garlic Chicken Breasts 5-9 PIECES 907 g

SALE

13⁹⁹

Garlic Shrimp 12-13 PIECES 340 g

SAVE \$2

17⁹⁹

Philly Beef Steak 4 PORTIONS 336 g

SAVE \$2

17⁹⁹

Montreal Smoked Meat 2 POUCHES x 200 g

SAVE \$2

19⁹⁹

Lightly Crusted Garlic and Herb Haddock 4-5 PIECES 500 g

12⁹⁹

Maple Butter Pork Chops 4 PIECES 500 g



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