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JOSHUA DRAKES PHOTO

CANADIAN PATRIOTISM: In keeping with Canada Day traditions, The Royal Canadian Legion Shelburne Branch held its Canada Day BBQ, inviting members of the public and legion members to come out and enjoy hot food, drinks and live music. See more photos on Page 8.

Shelburne-born athlete wins Canadian U20 Javelin title

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

A local Shelburne Athlete launched her way to the top of the Canadian U20 Javelin title, securing the win after years of committed training and practice. Ava Campbell, born and raised in Shelburne, is now training in British Columbia and claimed the national title after qualifying with several personal-best performances earlier this season.

Competing in difficult rainy conditions, Campbell said her year-round outdoor training on Vancouver Island proved an advantage over many competitors who train indoors during the winter.

"The competition itself was, well, the weather was pretty bad," she said. "That was a bit of a setback, but kind of an advantage for me. Living on the island and living in B.C., we're pretty used to the rain, and my coach makes us train in the rain all the time, so that was a little bit of an advantage in my standpoint, because in Ontario, a lot of the girls don't train in the rain, because they have the option to train inside for the winter."

The victory was made even more memorable by the opportunity to witness some of Canada's Olympians who were present at the same meet, as well as returning to Ontario for the national championships.

Winning the Canadian title represents the realization of a goal that began during

her first year of high school. Campbell first picked up the javelin in Grade 9 after being encouraged by a teacher and coach who wanted more girls to take up the event.

"I started throwing javelin in Grade 9, and it's been a goal of mine ever since," she said. "My coach at the time was also my social studies teacher. She got me into throwing because she wanted more girls to throw, and at first I actually hated javelin, but over time, I've kind of known that I wanted to go farther with this and maybe try and hit the Olympics."

The move west marked a turning point in her development. Training under an Olympic-level javelin coach and benefiting from the ability to practice outdoors throughout the year helped elevate her performances to the national stage.

"In Grade 11, I moved out to B.C., and I stuck with Javelin, and that's when I met my Olympic-level coach, and I realized that I might be able to go farther with this," she said. "It's definitely been an adjustment to come out here, but I think it's had a really positive effect on not only myself, but on my athletic career as well, because I do get to train outside all year round, and not just in the spring and summer, which is really nice."

Along the way, she also learned the importance of balancing intense training with proper recovery after working through an injury during high school.

"I know Javelin is really harsh on the



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

body," she said. "It hits all your major joints, so doing that kind of thing has made me appreciate my body more, and respect the recovery aspect of it, and not just the training. My coach always says that rest and recovery is training too, which we've had to work on, but I'm getting there."

Campbell credits the consistent encouragement of her family in both Ontario and British Columbia for helping her stay motivated throughout her journey.

With the national title now secured, Campbell has her sights set on even bigger achievements. She now continues to work toward qualifying for international competition with the long-term goal of one day representing Canada at the Olympic Games.

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Streams Community Hub hosts annual BBQ and Open House

Written By JOSHUA DRAKES
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Streams Community Hub opened its doors to the public to visit and check out its facility and programs.

In keeping with its mission of community support, outreach, and education, Streams hosted its annual BBQ and Open House on Friday, June 26, in the evening.

Anyone from the community was welcome to attend, whether they were kids, their families, or just passers-by curious about the smell of BBQ. The event was an opportunity to both give back to the community that supports it and also showcase what Streams is all about.

Co-founder Andrew James said that this year's event may be the biggest yet, with a strong turnout. After previous years not agreeing on the weather, he said that 2026 delivered in every way. Moreover, the energy he observed in the crowd was exactly what he had hoped for. He observed total strangers talking like old friends, and new friendships between kids being forged throughout the day.

"Honestly, it might have been our best one yet," James said. "There's always a bit of nervous energy leading up to these things. You plan, you hope, you pray for good weather, but this year everything just came together. The sun cooperated, which, after a couple of rainy years, felt like a gift."

"But more than the weather, it was the feeling in the space. People lingering, kids running around, parents chatting with each other like old friends, even if they'd just met.



That's really what we're going for. Success for us is never about the size of the crowd – though we'll take it – it's about whether people felt at home. And they did," James added.

The turnout was also the biggest Streams has seen since the BBQ and Open House started three years ago. Throughout the evening, Streams estimated over 50 people came through to enjoy some BBQ food and tour the facility.

For those who were hungry, jerk chicken, beef sliders, hot dogs and more were available outside in the parking lot, offering a wide variety of food options along with drinks and sides. When guests finished eating, tours of the Hub ran throughout the event.

Streams received many new or first-time visitors who were eager to explore and learn more about what the community has to offer. Parents came with questions, wanting to know more, how they can get involved, and complimented Streams' ongoing operations. James recounted a specific family that



JOSHUA DRAKES PHOTOS

STREAMING SUCCESS: Streams Community Hub's annual BBQ and Open House brought out dozens of guests, both familiar and new to the organization, to learn more about its programs and creative spaces. Guided tours walked guests through what they had to offer, while hot food was served outside throughout the evening.

came out after seeing Streams' production of Finding Nemo.

"A mom had first come to see our production of Finding Nemo Jr. back in early June with her kids' school group, and she loved it so much she brought the whole family back to see it again that same weekend," he said. "They came out to the BBQ to get a better look at what else we do here. Dad and I got talking, and he made a point of telling me how much he appreciated having a space like this in the community."

James continued, "Somewhere safe for kids, somewhere with people who genuinely care about them. That's the whole reason we do this. Moments like that make every bit of the planning worth it."

With a strong community turnout and some good food, the BBQ and Open House was exactly what Streams had hoped for. New bonds were formed, questions were answered, and more people now know what the arts-based not-for-profit has to offer youth in the community.

County increases price for garbage bag tags, revenue to reach \$150,000

Written By JAMES MATTHEWS

It will cost Dufferin County residents more to put an extra bag of trash at the curb on garbage day, when the refuse is collected from their respective neighbourhoods.

Users of the collection system were permitted one bag of non-recyclable, non-compostable garbage each week. To enable the collection of a second black bag or third, and more, required a purchased tag that would be placed on each extra bag to cover collection costs.

Those \$2 bag tags you'd pick up at a grocery store or another vendor will now cost you \$3.

Councillor Darren White, who is also Melancthon's mayor and a former county warden, said he believes the bag tag rates should remain as they are.

"I don't think it should be increased at the moment for any number of reasons," White

said. "One (reason) is the economy."

He said it may be something to consider in the future.

"But right now is not the time to do it," White said.

A total of 52,903 bag tags were sold throughout 2025 by vendors and the county. By increasing the garbage bag tag fee, the number of bag tags sold per year may decrease if residents and program users decide to further sort their garbage and use diversion programs rather than purchase bag tags for additional garbage bags.

As you would in the ever-constant effort to stretch a buck and save money.

The actual bag tag revenue has been around \$100,000 per year, which would increase to about \$150,000 in revenue with an increase to the bag tag fee, according to a staff report to county council for its June 25 meeting.

"Increased garbage bag tag revenues

would help offset more costs of the waste services programs," according to the report. "By increasing the price per bag tag, it may also encourage some program users to properly sort their garbage so they don't need an extra bag."

And that would ultimately cut down on the number of extra bags generated. All the non-reusable trash has to go somewhere.

The county's bag tag fee has not been reviewed since it was imposed upon municipalities in 2013.

Coun. Todd Taylor, Orangeville's deputy mayor, said it is time the rates were increased. It's silly, he said, that the county hasn't done anything in that regard since 2013.

"It's absolutely asinine and it's irresponsible," Taylor said of the notion not to increase a tag price.

Coun. Philip Rentsch, Grand Valley's dep-

uty mayor, said inflation affects consumers and service providers.

"You have to take a big jump at some point in time," he said.

Scott Burns, the county's public works director, said the setup is adequately enforced and agreed with Taylor and Rentsch that the fees haven't kept up with the cost of running the system.

"This (tag price increase) is only for additional bags," Burns said.

Coun. Janet Horner, Mulmur's mayor, said the research is clear. More people will advance recycling efforts if garbage disposal costs more.

"The more money it costs you to dispose of your garbage, the more you try to do other things," she said.

"It seems the general consensus around the table is to increase (price)," said Warden Lisa Post, Orangeville's mayor.

Dufferin Film Festival announces diverse Canadian short film lineup for 2026

Written By SAM ODROWSKI

The Dufferin Film Festival (DFF) has unveiled its 2026 film lineup, with a three-day program running Aug. 14 to 16 in Orangeville.

The lineup features 19 Canadian short films spanning documentary, drama, comedy, horror and animation, and coming-of-age filmmaking, highlighting diverse voices and storytelling approaches.

The films delve into themes of identity, friendship, grief, family, belonging, memory, cultural heritage, resilience and personal transformation. The 2026 program spans whimsical animated adventures, powerful documentaries, psychological thrillers and heartfelt dramas, reflecting the depth and diversity of Canadian storytelling.

"This year's selections showcase an incredible range of voices, perspectives, and creative approaches. Each film offers audiences a unique window into the stories, experiences, and imaginations that make Canadian cinema so vibrant," said Marcus Feher, jury chair and film programmer.



Organizers say the festival remains committed to showcasing exceptional Canadian talent and connecting audiences through meaningful cinematic experiences.

"We are thrilled to welcome filmmakers from across the country, as well as local filmmakers to the selection of films for Dufferin Film Festival 2026," said Kelly McDowell, festival director and founder of DFF.

Details on additional programming, including workshops, networking events, filmmaker Q&As and special events, will be released in the coming weeks.

To view the full lineup and schedule, visit: dufferinfilmmfest.com/films

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OPINION

Customer service

If you have ever received bad customer service in a store, business, or any organization, you will probably remember it.

Customer service has a huge impact on everyone and affects a person's decision to return to a place of business, find somewhere else to shop, or even how they treat employees when they return to a service-type establishment.

A few years ago, I was at an event in a rural area of Dufferin County.

At the end of the event, as everyone was returning to their cars, one woman was walking around and greeting people. I had no idea who she was.

She came up to me with a big smile on her face and introduced herself as the NDP candidate in the upcoming federal election for that riding.

I was pleasant, said it was nice to meet her, shook her hand, then explained that I actually lived in another riding.

Her smile disappeared, she gave me a look of disgust, dismissed me with a wave of her hand, and said, "Then go vote there," before turning her back on me and walking away.

It doesn't take a political assistant or advisor to know the proper thing to say, which would have been something like "Well, I hope you consider voting NDP where you live."

Instead, this nasty woman just left a bad

impression of both herself and her political party.

No, she didn't win the election.

When I was first looking for a house to buy where I now live, I saw a 'for sale' sign in front of a property that looked pretty nice. I wrote down the name of the real estate company and the name of the realtor on the sign.

The next day, I called him to inquire about the home.

When I mentioned the property address, the realtor said, in a mocking tone, "Are you kidding? I sold that place the day after it went on the market."

He then went on to imply that, apparently, I wasn't too knowledgeable about the local market, again in a mocking tone.

When I hung up the phone, the only thing I thought was, "This guy must be the stupidest real estate guy in the world."

It was obvious I was looking for property.

If he had any brains at all, he should have explained that this property was sold; however, he had other listings he could show me and should have asked what I was looking for.

Instead, he lost a potential customer, a potential sale, and the chance that I would refer him to anyone else I knew who was looking to buy a home.

There used to be a small, old-school

gas station where I live that was run-down. It went through several owners over the years.

It was the type of station where they pumped the gas for you.

It was bought by a new guy with a surly attitude. I don't understand why such an angry, rude guy would place himself in a customer service environment.

Once, when buying gas, I told him what I wanted, and he tried reaching through the car window to snatch the bills out of my hand while I was still taking them from my wallet, before he even pumped the gas.

I instinctively pulled back, reacting with a degree of alarm.

His response was a surly, "Next time you come here, you pay before you get the gas."

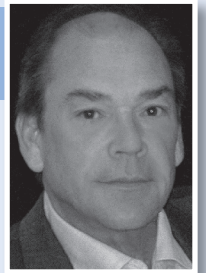
I believe my response was an expletive directed right at him, and me telling him there won't be a next time because the ESSO down the street provided better service.

Sure enough, within a couple of months, he was out of business, and the gas station was sold, again.

So many people had a bad experience just buying gas there; no one in town would patronize that station.

On the flip side, there is a local furniture and appliance store in town that also has another store selling mattresses.

BRIAN LOCKHART
FROM THE SECOND ROW



I needed a new mattress and went in to speak to the salesperson. She was friendly, knowledgeable, and did not try to put any pressure on me to buy a more expensive mattress.

When they delivered my new mattress, a woman with a clipboard was riding along with the delivery crew. I guess she was just monitoring deliveries.

As I was speaking to her in the driveway, the delivery team removed the old mattress and had the new one in place in only a few minutes. It was fast, friendly, and very convenient.

I was also in the market for new appliances, so I decided to try their appliance store.

I spoke to the salesperson. He asked me what exactly I was looking for.

He showed me a few models in the price range and size I needed. Again, no pressure, no double talk, just an honest approach to selling me what I needed.

Guess where I am buying several thousand dollars' worth of new appliances?

Customers are what keep a business running.

It only makes sense to treat your customers with dignity and honesty and provide a pleasant experience.

Venezuela: Things could change

Bad things happen, and some of them are nobody's fault. Big earthquakes in Venezuela are about a century apart (1812, 1902, 2026), so you can't blame the planners and the politicians for not being well prepared for this one. How high a priority should they have given to an event that will kill a few thousand people once a century in a country of 28 million people?

Besides, the only thing you can do to 'prepare' for earthquakes is to reinforce your buildings and infrastructure, and Venezuela couldn't afford to do that. Half the population lives below the poverty level. True, they are poor mainly because the regime is corrupt and incompetent, but even a better regime would spend its money on anti-poverty measures, not earthquakes.

So no shame there – but there's plenty of blame to share for the regime's failure to respond quickly and effectively

to the aftermath of the twin earthquakes only one minute apart. The chief threat in earthquakes is always collapsing buildings, and anybody who is still trapped under the wreckage after three days is almost certainly dead.

In Venezuela, that is probably several thousand people by now, and their bereaved relatives and friends will be keenly aware that in many devastated areas the state emergency services were conspicuously absent. Ambulances usually showed up, but there were no army teams with heavy machinery to dig out the trapped survivors. The regime has shown it is useless.

The country's new US masters have not covered themselves with glory either. "It'll be big, it'll be fast, and it'll be effective," US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said of the forthcoming American aid, and Washington committed \$150 million to the

task of recovery and rebuilding, but most of the foreign crews arriving in Caracas were not American.

The US Agency for International Development (USAID), once the largest funding agency for humanitarian and development assistance worldwide, would have had its staff in Venezuela within hours of the earthquakes, assessing needs and setting the wheels in motion. But Trump dismantled USAID a year ago, and nothing has taken its place.

If Venezuela is now really a US protectorate, as President Donald Trump claims, then he is doing a very poor job of protecting it. The US government may have offered \$150 million in aid for Venezuela in this emergency, but it has also sold at least \$8 billion of Venezuelan oil since it took control of the country's oil industry.

The only official statement about where that money ends up is Trump's claim that it will be "used to benefit the people of Venezuela and the United States" – but not necessarily in that order. The money is certainly all passing through American hands – first to a bank in Qatar, then to who knows where? – and it would be surprising if a lot of it did not stick to those hands.

Venezuelans have grown cynical about their own sub-Marxist 'Chavista' regime over the years, and they have always been skeptical about the intentions of the United States, but so far they have tacitly accepted the weird collaboration between Trump and Acting President Delcy Rodriguez. After all, it could be worse.

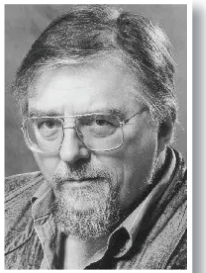
For the nationalists, at least there are no American troops on the ground. For the quarter of the population who still support the regime, whether for ideological or selfish reasons, it is still in charge, even if obliged to respect Trump's wishes and whims. And for everybody else, there is peace and the distant hope of a return to the country's former democracy and prosperity.

But not under the current management. This is a forced and unhappy alliance between two hostile organizations, neither of which cares about the welfare of ordinary Venezuelans, and each has shown that it cannot be trusted to act in their interests.

It is six months since the 'abduction' of President Nicolas Maduro by American troops (polite journalists do not use the word 'kidnapping'), and the deal between Trump and Rodriguez has faced very little challenge from the population. Perhaps they still thought Trump might be a liberator. Perhaps they still feared the regime too much. But this disaster may change all that.

A popular movement against the regime that has so badly failed to cope with the aftermath of the earthquakes is a real possibility now, although by no means guaranteed. If that happens, the regime will have no option but to respond with force – and it is very hard to see Trump sending in US troops to save the Chavistas. There could yet be a free Venezuela.

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COMMUNITY VOICES

Shelburne Food Bank continues to turn community support into meaningful action

As we move out of the spring season, we have been reminded once again just how the Shelburne community continues to show up in support of the local food bank. Over the past few weeks, we have seen that support firsthand through recent events that have helped raise both awareness and contributions for the work we do.

McHappy Day on May 6 was a great example of community support. McDonald's once again offered a portion of the day's proceeds to support the food bank, and we were happy to have volunteers there throughout the day helping out.

Several time slots were filled, and it was encouraging to see people willing to give their time, even for an hour, to support the cause. Events like this show how local businesses and community members can work together in a simple but meaningful way.

Also on May 6, the Freezer Fest event hosted by the Make It Sweet truck came to the food bank to serve ice cream to our and Family Transition Place's clients, along with volunteers. It was a nice way to add a bit of enjoyment to the day, and everyone who attended appreciated it. Donations were also collected during the event, helping to support the food bank further. It was a great turnout and a reminder of how thoughtful events can have a positive impact on the community.

In addition to these events, we were fortunate to receive several generous donations from local businesses and organizations throughout May and June. On May 11, Giant Tiger donated \$1,000 to the food bank. On May 20, the Orangeville & Shelburne Lions Club made a generous \$4,000 contribution. The following day, Scotiabank celebrated the



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

A COMMUNITY THAT CARES: Volunteers, supporters and clients take part in recent Shelburne Food Bank community events, including Freezer Fest with the Make It Sweet ice cream truck. Community events help raise awareness and support for the food bank's ongoing work serving individuals and families.

grand opening of its Shelburne branch with a \$1,000 donation to the food bank. On June 12, TransAlta also contributed \$1,000 in support of our work. These generous gifts help us continue providing essential food and services to individuals and families throughout our community.

Support like this helps us continue to provide food to individuals and families in our community who need it most. The need for our service is ongoing, and for many, the food bank has become an important part of getting through difficult times. Community-driven events like these play an important role in what we do. They remind people that the food bank is not just a place, but a network of people who care, with local businesses, volunteers and residents all working together toward the same goal of giving back to the community.

The Shelburne Food Bank was also pleased to take part in the Compass Run for Food, held by the Compass Community Church at Island Lake Conservation Centre on June 13. Each year, this event has generously supported our food bank through funds raised during the run. In return, we were happy to send volunteers to help out and be part of the day, and it has always been a great way to stay connected with members in our community.

This year, the food bank contributed to the event by handing out popsicles to participants. We are very grateful to Chapman's Ice Cream for donating the popsicles for the event. Small contributions like this help make the day more enjoyable for participants and are a great example of how businesses and community members continue to support the initiative!

The Compass Run is especially important as we move into the summer months. While

many think of food banks as busiest during the winter, demand for support does not decrease as the weather gets warmer. Events like this help us continue to help without interruption.

We are thankful for the continued support from individuals, businesses, and volunteers who contribute in so many different ways. Whether it's through attending events, making donations or giving their time, every effort helps. It's this kind of ongoing support that allows us to keep serving the community week after week.

We are grateful to everyone who took part in the COMPASS Run for Food or supported the food bank in any way they could. These events are not only helpful from a fundraising perspective, but also a great way to stay connected to the community.

Thank you to our community for your ongoing support!

DCAFS to host virtual workshop for autistic children in preparation of summer camp

Written By JOSHUA DRAKES
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Dufferin Child and Family Services (DCAFS) is helping autistic children get ready for a successful summer camp experience through a free virtual workshop designed to build confidence and reduce anxiety before camp begins.

The online session, titled "Ready, Set, Go To Camp!" will take place on Tuesday, July 8, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. The workshop is intended for families of autistic children and will provide practical strategies to help participants prepare for the transition into summer camp.

For many children, attending camp is an

exciting opportunity to make new friends, develop independence and participate in activities they may not experience during the school year. However, for autistic children, the unfamiliar routines, new environments and social situations that come with camp can also present unique challenges.

The workshop aims to help ease those concerns by giving children and their caregivers tools to prepare ahead of time. Participants will learn practical skills for navigating daily camp routines, meeting new people, communicating with staff and peers, and participating in group activities. By introducing these concepts before camp begins, DCAFS hopes to reduce anxiety while increasing confidence and readiness for the

experience.

The program is offered through DCAFS's Behaviour Solutions program and is available free of charge to eligible families. Parents and caregivers interested in participating are required to complete an online registration form that includes information about their child and autism diagnosis.

According to DCAFS, preparing children in advance can help create a smoother transition into camp, allowing them to focus on enjoying the experience rather than facing

uncertainty. The organization also hopes the session will provide parents and caregivers with practical strategies they can use to support their children before and throughout the summer camp season.

Registration for the July 8 workshop is now open through the Dufferin Child and Family Services website. Families are encouraged to register in advance to secure a spot in the free virtual session.

For more information, go to: dcafs.on.ca/event/ready-set-go-to-camp-6/



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SPORTS

Third inning costs Mansfield Cubs in recent game against Cardinals

Written By **BRIAN LOCKHART**

The third inning of the Mansfield Cubs' game against the Caledon Cardinals proved costly for the Cubs in their Wednesday, June 24, game on the diamond in Mansfield.

Cody Bryan started off on the mound for Mansfield in Wednesday's contest.

After scoring a single run in the first inning, the Caledon team came alive in the third inning and got the bats moving to score 9 runs to take command of the game.

That included back-to-back single home runs from Ben Larsen and Dalton Cooke.

The Cubs responded with their next at-bat, but couldn't make up the runs to challenge the lead.

Starting off, Tyler Sawyers singled to get on base. That was followed by another single from Dale Critchley.

A single from Ben Nicholson put two Cubs men on base.

Another hit brought in the first Cubs run of the night. A throw on a stolen base allowed another Cubs runner to score.

The inning finished with singles from Jackson Burek and Tyler Sawyers, but they couldn't capitalize, and the inning ended on a tag at second base.

At the end of the game, the Cardinals left the field with a 19-7 win.

The defending champion New Lowell Knights remain in first place in the NDBL senior division standings with a 10-1 record and 21 points.

The Orillia Majors are in second place, followed by the Ivy Rangers, Owen Sound Baysox, and the Barrie Angels.

The Cubs will be hosting the North Dufferin Baseball League (NDBL) All-Star Games on Sunday, July 5, at Mansfield Community Park.

The senior game will get underway at 1 p.m., followed by the junior game at 4 p.m.

The Cubs have two road games before returning to their home field.

They will be up against the Clarksburg Blues on the diamond in Mansfield on Wednesday, July 8.

Game time is 6:30 p.m.



BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

HIGH-FLYING TAG: Mansfield Cubs short-stop Ben Nicholson makes a flying tag after catching a wild throw during the third inning of the Cubs' game against the Caledon Cardinals on Wednesday, June 24, on the diamond in Mansfield. The Cubs gave up a 19-7 loss in this game.

North Dufferin Baseball League's all-star games happening this weekend

Written By **BRIAN LOCKHART**

It will be a chance to see some of the best baseball players in the region when the Mansfield Cubs host the North Dufferin Baseball League All-Star Game on the diamond in Mansfield this weekend.

The annual event features a senior game with players from all the league's senior teams, followed by a junior contest with two full rosters.

The All-Star Game has been part of the NDBL tradition since its introduction in 1963.

For the senior division, there will be a nine-inning game between the North Dufferin All-Stars and the current defending se-

nior champions – the New Lowell Knights.

Last season, the New Lowell Knights won the Strother Cup and will be the team to beat in this year's All-Star event.

This format was last used in 1986.

It will be a fun game to watch to see if the All-Star team can gel as a unit for a single game and give the Knights a real challenge.

Select players from the other 11 senior teams will be on the All-Star team roster for the game.

Scott Anderson from the Lisle Astros will be doing coaching duties for the senior All-Star team.

For the junior division, there will be a seven-inning game. The junior clubs have been divided into two teams, with players

from each team on both, so this game will pit regular-season teammates against each other.

The junior game is a lot of fun because of the mix of players; you never know what could happen.

There is free admission to watch the games, and it will be an enjoyable day for baseball fans to watch some exciting games and socialize at the park.

There will be a barbecue, snacks, and cold drinks available.

The North Dufferin Baseball League All-Star Game will take place on Sunday, July 5, at Mansfield Community Park.

The senior game will get underway at 1 p.m., followed by the junior game at 4 p.m.



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ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

FINN ARMATAGE

"I like playing with my teammates and having fun," said Mansfield Cubs U14 rep player Finn Armatage of why he likes playing baseball. I like being outside and getting fresh air and hitting the ball. Our team is really good, we have good bonding together. Everyone on the team has something to do."

When he's not on the diamond, Finn spends the winters playing hockey with the North Centre Predators in Rama.

**TEAM: MANSFIELD CUBS
U14 REP A/AA
POSITION:
PITCHER/RIGHT FIELD**



INCHES FROM HOME: There is plenty of action on local baseball diamonds as the schedules head into the summer. The Shelburne Baseball League had games at all the diamonds at Hyland Park on Tuesday, June 23. A player is out at home by just a second during a Senior Mix game between Team C and Team A.

BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

PLEASE RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER!




Shelburne reports increased planning efficiency through Asset Management Plan

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

The Town of Shelburne is making greater use of its Asset Management Plan as a key decision-making tool, with the document now helping guide everything from budgeting and long-term financial planning to infrastructure maintenance and capital investment.

Council received its first Annual Asset Management Review during its June 22 meeting. The annual review outlines how the plan has been incorporated into municipal operations over the past year while identifying areas for continued improvement.

According to the report, the Asset Management Plan has become increasingly integrated into the town's day-to-day operations and long-term planning.

Town staff said the plan played an important role in developing the Town's 2025-2034

Long-Term Financial Plan and the 2026 municipal budget by identifying when infrastructure will require maintenance, rehabilitation or replacement and helping determine future capital spending priorities.

The Asset Management Plan is Shelburne's long-term roadmap for managing and maintaining municipal infrastructure. It tracks the condition, value and expected lifespan of assets such as roads, sidewalks, water and wastewater systems, buildings, vehicles and equipment, helping staff determine when repairs or replacements will be needed.

The plan guides budgeting and long-term financial planning, enabling infrastructure to be maintained cost-effectively while continuing to provide reliable services to residents. In total, Shelburne maintains over \$163 million worth of assets, based on 2024 estimates. Wastewater, water and roads are the most expensive assets to maintain and replace.

The report also notes that municipal departments are increasingly relying on the Asset Management Plan as a reference for information such as asset inventories, expected maintenance schedules, and lifecycle costs.

Town staff say this has led to more consistent planning across departments and better coordination when making decisions about infrastructure investments.

Beyond budgeting, the plan also supports external reporting requirements, including annual updates to current replacement values submitted through the Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund, and improves consistency in how municipal assets are valued.

The review highlights several improvements made over the past year to strengthen the Town's asset management practices.

These include linking municipal assets to the Town's geographic information system (GIS), which helps refine how assets are or-

ganized in the inventory and increases the accuracy of infrastructure data.

Despite the progress, the report acknowledges that challenges remain.

Staff continue working to improve the quality and consistency of asset data, particularly replacement values and condition assessments. Rising construction costs, inflation, changing service demands and market conditions can also affect the timing of planned infrastructure work.

To address those challenges, the Town said it will continue to use the annual budget process and its Long-Term Financial Plan to regularly review and adjust infrastructure priorities, while keeping the Asset Management Plan at the centre of decision-making.

That approach is intended to provide flexibility for unexpected infrastructure needs while ensuring investments remain focused on maintaining reliable municipal services and protecting critical public assets.

Headwaters breaks record: Over \$700,000 raised at 2026 Headwaters Golf Classic

Written By **SAM ODROWSKI**

The 2026 Headwaters Golf Classic raised \$703,500 following a record-setting year in which the tournament expanded to two courses and nearly doubled participation.

The annual fundraiser, held in support of Headwaters Health Care Foundation (HHCF), sold out with 240 golfers at TPC Toronto at Osprey Valley on June 22. The tournament brought together community leaders, donors, sponsors, and volunteers for an unforgettable day of philanthropy and friendly competition.

"Expanding the Headwaters Golf Classic to two courses was an ambitious goal, but one our committee embraced wholeheartedly," said event co-chair Joan Waechter.

"The level of dedication, creativity, and teamwork from this incredible group made what could have been a complex undertaking feel seamless."

Waechter continued, "Seeing our community come together in such a powerful way and achieving this level of impact is something we are all deeply proud of."

The Headwaters Golf Classic remains one of HHCF's key fundraising events. This year's proceeds will support priority needs, including the early stages of the Emergency Department expansion and renovation, a project aimed at improving care for the region's growing population.

The tournament featured on-course activations, food and beverage stations and a range of interactive challenges. The event concluded with a cocktail reception that included a silent auction, live auction, and Fund-a-Need campaign.

The Fund-a-Need segment was highlighted by three leadership gifts of \$100,000

each, which helped drive the event's overall fundraising total.

Event co-chair Doug Warrington noted his appreciation for the many local businesses that provided funding to ensure its success.

"The success of this year's Golf Classic simply would not have been possible without the incredible support of our sponsors," he said. "Their generosity and commitment allowed us to expand to two courses and elevate every aspect of the day. We are deeply grateful for their partnership, and for the many organizations who continue to invest in the health of our community in such a meaningful way."

The 2026 Headwaters Golf Classic was supported by a range of presenting, event and contest sponsors.

Presenting sponsors were Crewson Insurance & Dufferin Mutual (North Course sponsor) and TPC Toronto at Osprey Valley. Melrose Paving Co. Ltd. sponsored the cocktail reception.

Eagle sponsors included Turtle Creek Asset Management, Scotia Wealth Management and Shelburne Home Hardware Building Centre.

Birdie sponsors were E. Hofmann Plastics, while Nortex Roofing served as the golfer's gift sponsor. Vehicle sponsors included Jaguar Land Rover Brampton, MacMaster Buick GMC, Orangeville Honda and Royal Chevrolet Cadillac.

Flynn Group of Companies sponsored the halfway house, while Toitures Trois Étoiles was the Caesar cart sponsor. Groupe Raymond sponsored the golf balls.

On-course challenge sponsors included Chartwell Retirement Residences, Hockley Valley Brewing Company, Lawrences Law-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

RECORD RESULTS: The 2026 Headwaters Golf Classic raised a record \$703,500 for the Headwaters Health Care Foundation during its sold-out tournament at TPC Toronto at Osprey Valley on June 22. The proceeds will support priority needs at Headwaters Health Care Centre, including the early stages of the emergency department expansion and renovation.

yers, Pacific Paving Ltd. and SDI Canada. Pacific Paving Ltd. also sponsored breakfast.

Caledon Build sponsored Nick Taylor's 72-foot putt contest.

"The success of the 2026 Headwaters Golf Classic highlights the power of community-driven philanthropy and reinforces the critical role donor support plays in advancing healthcare in our community," said HHCF.

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Take precautions during hot weather says Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health

Written By **SAM ODROWSKI**

Residents across the region are being reminded to take precautions, as Environment and Climate Change Canada has issued an Orange-level alert indicating a prolonged heat wave that may persist throughout the week.

Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health (WDGPH) issued a statement on Monday, June 29, asking residents to protect themselves from the heat and watch for signs of heat-related illness.

"High summer temperatures can lead to serious health concerns like heat exhaustion and heat stroke, which can be life-threatening," said Dr. Nicola Mercer, Medical Officer of Health and CEO of WDGPH. "It's important to check in regularly with family, friends and neighbours – especially the elderly, those with infants and young children, those with chronic health conditions and those who live alone – to make sure they are staying cool and well-hydrated."

Increased health risks are associated with prolonged heat exposure, especially when overnight temperatures remain high, and people have limited opportunity to cool down.

"Air quality can also increase the risk of extreme heat, as air pollution is often higher on very hot days. Residents should regularly check the Air Quality Health Index and Environment and Climate Change Canada weather alerts to protect themselves and their loved ones," reads WDGPH's statement.

Public health officials are encouraging residents to stay hydrated, seek out air-conditioned spaces, limit strenuous outdoor activity, keep homes as cool as possible and never leave people or pets in parked vehicles. Residents can also use WDGPH's ClimateSafe Map to locate cooling centres, drinking water, public washrooms, pools and splash pads.

Residents are also encouraged to check on family members, friends and neighbours who may be more vulnerable to extreme heat.

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Dufferin County paramedics extend contract with local hospital

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

The Dufferin County Paramedic Service added two additional months to its contract with Headwaters Health Care Centre.

The land ambulance service delivery contract between the county and the hospital in Orangeville was extended until Aug. 31.

Gary Staples, the county's chief paramedic, said a significant review of the existing contract was required. The current contract was

extended by two months to allow for the summer Dog Days to pass and to allow the county to forward the new contract for insurance and legal consultation.

"We are just trying to finalize that," Staples said.

Councillor Todd Taylor, Orangeville's deputy mayor, asked if the current upper-tier council could have a voice on the matter, given the October municipal elections and new terms in the offing for municipal and county councils.

Michelle Dunne, the county's clerk, said

CAO Antonietta Minichillo has the authority to sign cheques.

"If we are in lame duck, it's just anything over \$50,000 which this would apply to," Dunne said.

A lame duck period in Ontario municipal politics refers to a timespan from the nomination deadline to election day. Legislation prevents a council from taking actions at that time that might have bearing on the new council's role in making decisions. Lame duck also refers to the period between election day

and the new council's term beginning.

The percentage of councillors who ink their names to ballots also has a bearing on the lame duck declaration.

In a lame duck period, a council is restricted from the appointment or removal of municipal officers, hiring or dismissing employees, disposing of any real or personal property of the municipality with a value greater than \$50,000, and spending or incurring expenses more than \$50,000 that haven't been budgeted that year.



JOSHUA DRAKES PHOTOS

THE SHOW GOES ON: Thanks to a clearing of the weather, the Greenwood Park Canada Day celebration got started at 7 p.m. on July 1. Attendees sang O Canada, and members of the Shelburne Legion blessed the Canadian flag. Guests could enjoy live music, hot food and family-friendly activities, ending in a firework display. (Middle bottom) Earlier in the day, The Royal Canadian Legion Shelburne Branch celebrated the day with a Canada Day BBQ for members of the community to enjoy.



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REMINDER

LIVE AUCTION SALE

for the estate of **Doug Eveleigh**
Saturday July 4th, 10:00 a.m.

312513 Hwy 6, Durham, ON — From the town of Durham, come south on Hwy 6 for 9.1km to sale on East side of the road OR From Mount Forest, come north on Hwy 6 for 14.3km to sale.

** PARKING ON SITE **

Tractors/Combine: JD 5203 tractor, 2WD, canopy, 1 remote, 240hrs; JD 2130 tractor, W521 JD loader(new), cab, 1 remote, 6ft material bucket (new); Cub Cadet LTX-1142SE hydrostatic lawn mower, 42in cut; JD 3300 combine - not running. **Truck:** 2014 Chevy Silverado, 2WD, box liner, cloth interior, 4.3L V6, red, certified, 9200km. **Mach/Equip:** JD 450 seed drill, 17 run, fert, grass seed, grain, double disc, light kit, very good; Rock-O-Matic 546 stone picker; Smyth 12ft rock rake; Allied 6in x 34ft auger on transport, PTO drive; Ford 11.5ft tandem disc; Ford 14ft cultivator; 10ft packer & transport; 18ft pony harrows; Walco Whistler 5.5ft rotary mower; Agro Trend AT05DT dump trailer, 1 axle, grain door, 6ftx10ft, very good; Overum 3 furrow plow; Westfield 4in x 11ft auger, new motor; homemade 6ftx13ft trailer for equip moving; Martin undercarriage; JD manure spreader-for parts. **Haying Equip:** 9ft JD 1219 haybine, rubber rollers; JD 327 square baler with thrower; NH 258, rolabar hay rake with dolly wheel; 7ft Enorossi BFS 210H sickle mower - very good; 20ft steel thrower wagon, needs floor; 30ft bale elevator; lots to see. **Shop/Farm Rel:** Wallenstein BX60 3pth PTO woodchipper; yard trailer; lawn sweeper; floor model drill press; 8in bench grinder; table saw; Delta band saw; jointer; belt sander; pressure washer; (3)bags insulation: aluminum ext ladder; (2)aluminum step ladders; jet pump & tank; Stihl FS 250 grass trimmer; Ariens 11528 LE, 28in walk behind snowblower; (2)push mowers; milk house heater; work cloths; & more. **Household Items** (almost all new or like new).

Lunch Booth & Washroom Available Preview: Friday July 3, 1-6pm
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Items Information please call: Ken Rowe (519) 362-3499

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LIVE AUCTION SALE

for the estate of **Joe Kingdon**
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5482 Wellington Rd 29, Guelph, ON — From the city of Guelph, take Eramosa Rd (Wellington 124) north east 4.7 km to Wellington Rd 29 (stop lights). Turn & go north 1.5km to sale on west side of road OR From Arthur, come south on Hwy 6 for 19.4km to St. Andrews St in Fergus, then left onto Gartshore, then right onto Belsyde Ave E (Wellington Rd 18), then turn left & go to Wellington Rd 29. Turn right & go 13.9 km to sale on west side of road. ****PARKING ON SITE/ROAD****

Tractors, Skid Steer: Case IH 1494 loader(74L) tractor, 4x4, 1-remote; Case 2090, cab, 2-remotes, 4495hrs; Farmall 560, diesel, narrow front, set up for pulling, 1-remote; Case 1840 Uni-Loader skid-steer, 5430hrs; Farmall 460, gas, narrow front, 1-remote; Farmall Super M, narrow front; Case SC - not running **Trailer & 5th wheel Camper:** 8ft x 18ft trailer, beaver tail & ramps, steel deck, tandem; 2010 Regal River 29s, 5th wheel camper trailer, 8ftx32ft, 2 slides, awning, stored inside. **Mach/Equip (A)Antique:** (2)Killbros 350 gravity wagons, hydr fert auger, tarp; Sunflower 9412, no-till drill, 15ft, 24 run, straight grain, light kit; Geo Smythe 32ft land roller; Wilrich 2800 20ft cultivator, tandem on frame, single on wing, finger harrows; Geo White 300 gal sprayer, 32ft boom; 8ft 2- auger snowblower, hydr chute; Howse 6ft rotary mower; DMI 11 shank chisel plow; John Deere 230 disc, 20ft, tandem on base, singles on wings; homemade dump trailer 7ft x 11ft, pto drive; (2) 3 furrow drag plows (1 on rubber, 1 on steel) (A); MH 7F1 binder(A); Lobsinger Bros threshing machine 5016, 24 cyl, 36 body, on rubber, model Lion, 1950 (A); 8ft pull type cultivator (A). **Shop/Farm Rel:** Torches; tool boxes; floor jack; Ig Anvil; 13" floor drill press; hand tools, chop saw, air comp, battery charger; Powermig Astro power 110 mig welder; Poulan Pro chainsaw; Husqvarna 257 chainsaw; Stihl FS91R trimmer; multiple tractor weights - suitcase & wheel; log splitter; Snap-On 20.8x38 duals; Champion 9000 generator, 7200W; & lots more here. **HH:** Dining room suite (table & 6 chairs, buffet, hutch); couch; kitchen table & chairs; TV & stand; writing desk; toy tractors; bedroom suite; (2) hope chests; ping pong table; Jett Power Flo air hockey table; wicker set (chair, love seat, coffee table); Robert Bateman print & additional household items.

Lunch Booth & Washroom Available Preview: Friday July 10, 1-6pm

NOTE: Good clean sale. All items have been well looked after.

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Auctioneers: Kevin McArthur (519) 942-0264 Scott Bessey (519) 843-5083

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Public libraries face digital lending crisis says local library's CEO

In libraries, large and small, urban and rural, access to digital content like e-books and e-audiobooks has become an indispensable way library users learn, work, and interact. But as demand has skyrocketed, the price public libraries pay for that digital material is increasingly unsustainable.

Libraries are charged up to four times more for an e-book than if you, as a consumer, were to purchase it. Not only are libraries forced to pay such exorbitant prices, but they also don't own the material after purchasing it. Libraries are forced to license their titles, meaning access to these books expires after 12 to 24 months (or a certain arbitrary number of checkouts), which then forces libraries to repurchase e-books and e-audiobooks over and over again to meet demand. This is why the wait time can be months for very popular titles.

The Urban Libraries Council has identified this as "the e-book crisis," and together

with libraries across North America are advocating for change. Libraries need "The Big Five" publishers – Penguin Random House, Hachette Book Group, Simon & Schuster, MacMillan, and HarperCollins – to work with us to find a sustainable solution.

"Publishers, authors, and public libraries should be partners, but with the exponential growth in digital content demand, libraries are unable to provide and sustain access under current licensing models. The moment is ripe for large publishers to meet with libraries across North America, to hear our concerns, and address them, so we can continue building a mutually beneficial future for literacy and reading," said Brooks Rainwater, President and CEO of Urban Libraries Council.

Libraries want to better serve their patrons, not gain unrestricted access – but so far, the Big Five publishers have not worked with libraries for fairer terms. No model will

be perfect, and publishing is a business. Authors should be paid fairly. But that does not mean libraries must be treated unfairly.

What does this mean for patrons of the Shelburne Public Library?

Wait times for e-content in Libby by Overdrive will remain very long, and while Hoopla provides books, movies, and TV series instantly, its pay-per-use model is increasingly unsustainable. As a result, library administration has made the difficult decision to reduce borrowing limits from five items per month to four per month in Hoopla, and may need to decrease this further in the future.

How can you help us maximize our digital collection?

Return items early when you can, so more people can read the book while we have a license for it.

- When you see a hold available, check it out right away or schedule it to deliver later if you don't have time to read it.

- Use the preview function in Hoopla to determine if you want a book instead of borrowing it only to discover it wasn't what you expected, because every borrow costs the library money.

Libraries work hard to provide access for everyone. At Shelburne Public Library, we are committed to evolving our services to meet the ever-changing needs of our patrons. That's one of the reasons libraries stay relevant in the digital age. We know providing free access to both physical and digital content is invaluable to our patrons. As we continue working on finding a balance, please have patience with us and, most importantly, keep supporting your library by borrowing books, attending programs, and getting a library card.

This column was written by Shannon McGrady, CEO of the Shelburne Public Library, with credit to the research and advocacy of the Urban Libraries Council.

Six people charged with impaired driving within Dufferin County over 13 days

Written By SAM ODROWSKI

Dufferin Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) officers have charged six individuals with impaired driving-related offences from June 10 to June 22. The charges resulted from traffic complaints to police, motor vehicle collisions, and proactive enforcement efforts.

Charges laid for assaulting an officer, impaired driving

Officers were called to a campground on County Road 109 at approximately 11:03 p.m. on June 21 after reports of an intoxicated driver acting erratically within the resort, said the OPP in a recent media release. Police said the individual had left in a vehicle and returned before officers arrived, and that the person became uncooperative and belligerent when officers tried to speak with them.

Jessica Fish, 31, of Cambridge, was charged with operation while impaired (alcohol), failure or refusal to comply with a demand, driving with an open container of liquor, possession of unmarked cigarettes, resisting a peace officer, two counts of assault

of a peace officer, and dangerous operation.

OPP respond to hit-and-run

Officers responded to a fail-to-remain collision near Scott Street in Grand Valley at approximately 6:50 p.m. on June 10. Officers located a damaged vehicle matching the collision description and, after speaking with the driver, launched an impaired driving investigation.

Kevin Vandeerde, 24, of Grand Valley, was charged with operation while impaired (alcohol), operation while impaired with a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of 80-plus, failure to stop after an accident, dangerous operation, taking a motor vehicle without consent, and a novice driver BAC violation.

Amaranth collision results in impaired driving charges

Officers responded to a single-vehicle collision in Amaranth-East Luther Townline and 20th Sideroad at approximately 11:36 p.m. on June 22, OPP said. Police said signs of impairment led to an investigation.

Maggie Franz, 23, of Caledon, was charged

with operation while impaired (alcohol and 80-plus BAC) and driving with an open container of liquor.

Mono/Orangeville collision yields impaired driving charge

Officers followed up on a collision on Marshall Crescent in Orangeville at approximately 4:25 p.m. on June 21. The drivers had reportedly exchanged information at the scene before police were contacted. Police said officers later located one of the drivers at a residence on Highway 9 in Mono and observed signs of impairment.

Piotr Feret, 43, of Pelham, was charged with operation while impaired (80-plus BAC).

Dispute results in impaired driving charges for Shelburne man

Officers were dispatched to a residence on the evening of June 17 in response to a dispute that had occurred earlier that day. After speaking with the complainant, officers learned that the vehicle involved in the dispute was currently at a licensed dining establishment in the area of Colonel Phillips Drive

in Shelburne.

Officers subsequently attended the area and, just before 8 p.m., located a vehicle of interest and conducted a traffic stop, which led to an impaired driving investigation.

As a result of the investigation, Rick Pereira, 52, of Shelburne, was charged with operation while impaired (80-plus BAC), driving with an invalid permit, and obstructing a licence plate.

Milton man charged with impaired operation in Amaranth

Officers stopped a speeding vehicle on County Road 11 in Amaranth Township at approximately 7:30 p.m. on June 17, OPP said. Michael Shu, 36, of Milton, was charged with operation while impaired (80-plus BAC and alcohol).

All six people who were charged are scheduled to appear before the Ontario Court of Justice in Orangeville at a later date. Their driver's licences were suspended, and their vehicles impounded, police said.

None of the listed charges have been proven in court.

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